SBI Alumni Good News

Anita Kwong - SBI Alumni 2009 - 2011

Hello, my name is Anita Kwong. I am a graduate of Ed. W. Clark High School's Academy of Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology program, and I am now studying Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. It is my aspiration to become a doctor as my career one day.

I have been in this Summer Business Institute Program (SBI) for three years and I have to say that the SBI is definitely a program which provides today's students with opportunities for tomorrow. In the past three years, I have had the opportunity of working with the UNLV Psychology Department, Nevada Energy and the BEC Environmental Consulting Company. Because of the wonderful chances of working with these businesses, I have gained plenty of professional skills that will benefit me in the future. Some of the tasks I worked on include conducting research on contaminated source water protection, creating a database for documents, performing quality assurance/quality check for data, creating a catering portfolio for the company, etc. Not only is this a real life working experience, it is also a learning process at the same time. In addition to the job experience, another component of the program is mentoring. With the mentoring segment of the program, I had access to some of the most supportive and encouraging mentors, some of which I still keep in touch. They gave me useful guidance and advices for me to take into my first semester at UC Berkeley. In addition to the work experience and mentoring component of SBI, one of the most priceless opportunities I had in the program was being able to see top government officials such as President Barack Obama and Dina Titus in person. Furthermore, since I was in the program for three years, I was chosen to be the ambassador of the program. As an ambassador, I provide assistance for the SBI staff and help out with the Civic Engagement Project. Through this position, I obtain leadership skills in return. With all of the experiences I had, information I learned from the workshops, and all of the advice and guidance from my mentors through the program, I can proudly say that I am ready to embark onto the next stage of my career and I am confident that I will be successful with my future endeavors.

Doris Chan - SBI Alumni 2009

All our lives, we, as children, have been sheltered in one way or another. Most of us continue on with our daily lives with no knowledge of how the real world operates. There are those that have to learn how to deal with the harsher aspect of life but even they might not have the experience needed to be successful in society, in a professional setting, and with the slump our economy is in today, it is harder and harder for teenagers to find a job. However, the Summer Business Institute program (SBI) provides youth that opportunity. Hi, my name is Doris Chan and I am a student at UC Berkeley and SBI is one of the many stepping stones that lead me to where I am today.

Even though I was only in the SBI program for one year, the experience it provided me is priceless. I worked at the Helen Meyer Recreation Center where I interacted with children from a variety of

ages. Here, I was able to have fun and enjoy myself while at the same time learning how to act in a professional environment. It provided me with a set of professional skills (patience, customer service, etc) that I have utilized and will continue to utilized in the future. Also, the memories of the friendships that I made with my coworkers, with the children, and even with my supervisor makes me smile even to this day. As well as offering me a job, SBI provided me with a mentor, Ody (who is the best mentor ever!). Each week, Ody and I would talk about how our week went and what my plans were for the future. She was encouraging and supportive of my goals. She told me the obstacles that she had faced in the past, and those stories, her life, was another motivation for me to strive my hardest to reach my goals. And here I am, in the most prestigious public university in the world, UC Berkeley, and one of the many reasons is SBI.

Chantal M. Jones - SBI Alumni 2006 - 2008

Chantal M. Jones graduated in May 2012 with a bachelor's in Studio Art, Painting and African American Studies. She is the Mouer Award Recipient/Valedictorian for Arizona State University. Among 9,000 students (approximately 7,000 undergrads and 2,000 graduate students) only handful of students was selected to receive this award. Chantal was president of the Programming and Activities Board for ASU.

She has been accepted to the University of Southern California where she will pursue a master's in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs.

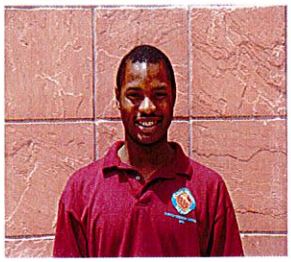
Joshua Jackson – SBI Alumni 2010 - Present

SBI Intern from 2010-Present, Joshua Jackson, was awarded a full ride scholarship to Washington and Lee University in Virginia. Joshua states "I want to thank Ms. Kaveida for everything! I can truly accredit my success to the wonderful SBI program and the efforts of you, the SBI staff, and everyone else in the program. Had it not been for you and the opportunities I was given through SBI, I would not be where I am today! Again, thank you and I look forward to next summer."

Nika Sewell – SBI Alumni 2011

SBI participant 2011 - present Nika Sewell was chosen as the only student in the state of Nevada to be a delegate for the United Nations Pilgrimage Tour. The tour is sponsored by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. Nika will be touring Philadelphia, PA, New York City, NY, Ottawa, Ontario, Kingston and Niagra Falls, Canada, Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, MD!

We salute you Nika!



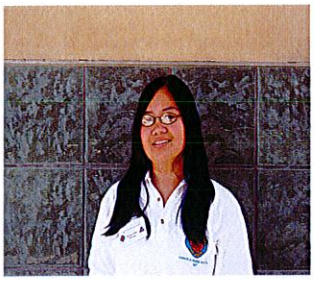
Alumnus Dashun Jacson – SBI Alumni 2009 - 2010

Commissioners recognized May 2012 as National Foster Care Awareness Month and presented a proclamation to SBI 2009-2010 Alumnus Dashun Jackson, president of the Clark County Chapter of Foster and Adopted Youth Together (FAAYT).

Manuja Gunaratne - SBI Alumni 2011

SBI Intern from 2011- Present, Manuja Gunaratne, was recently selected as the Nevada winner for a scholarship competition called AXA Achievement. Only Fifty-two students were awarded the scholarship, one from each state. Manuja was named the Nevada winner and was given a $10,000 scholarship.

Manuja states, "I am very thankful for the Summer Business Institute and what it has taught me. In addition to making new friends and gaining an intense education at the workshops and at the workplace, I built contacts and networks with great people. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the 2011 Summer Business Institute and for helping me make new networks."



Nicole DeVera – SBI Alumni 2007

Recent graduate from the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. last May 12 with a Bachelors of Science in Accounting. I'm currently in Las Vegas until mid-August before I officially move to Washington D.C. in order to begin my career as a Staff Auditor with Raffa (a Washington D.C. based accounting firm specializing in auditing non-profit organizations).

Reaching this milestone in my life, I can't help but remember and write to show my gratitude (once again) for being able to have the privilege of becoming a part of the SBI program. Until now, I credit SBI for being the jump start that I needed in order to reach where I am now. SBI has taught me a lot and through the years the financial planning skills, the life skills, and the networking skills that SBI has uprooted in me are the skills that I have been refining and developing as I continue to grow and mature.

I will always be grateful to everyone who was a part of SBI 2007 and is still a part of the program to this day. I can't imagine having gone this far without this program.

More power to everyone who makes SBI possible!