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### Summer Enrichment Final Report

Two continents, eight countries, and countless unforgettable memories—I couldn't think of a better way to summarize the last three months. With the help of the Alpha Sigma Summer Enrichment Scholarship, I had the opportunity to participate in two incredible programs this summer. The first was a two-week, Kenan-Flagler Global Immersion Elective during which I traveled to Indonesia and Singapore learning about business in Southeast Asia. I visited over a dozen companies and cultural sites while expanding my business knowledge and building a network of inspiring professionals. My second experience this summer was an international internship program that was also through the Kenan-Flagler Business School. I spent eight weeks interning at Accace, an accounting and advisory firm in Prague. On the weekends, I took advantage of the cheap travel options in Europe and visited a number of different cities across the continent. It was an experience I will never forget, and it would not have been possible without the Summer Enrichment Scholarship and the generosity of the Alpha Sigma Foundation.

I began my summer with the Southeast Asia GIE in Indonesia and Singapore, and the program profoundly changed my perception of the region. After visiting a wide variety of companies and meeting business leaders, I realized that Southeast Asia is not just an interesting place to visit; it is a region where I could realistically see myself living for a number of years. Last summer I had the opportunity to travel around Thailand and witness its incredible culture

and geography, but I did not have the chance to experience the business side of that world.

Now, after witnessing the business opportunities of the region, I have opened myself up to the possibility of living there.

One of my favorite aspects of the program was being able to meet with business leaders and expand my network. Two men in particular, the CEO of an online fashion company and the co-founder of a private equity firm, had a significant impact on me. Both men began their careers in investment banking, a career path I am considering, but they both took risks and decided to leave those jobs for new opportunities. I have never been particularly drawn toward entrepreneurship, but they made the excellent point that if you want to learn how to invest in companies—in a private equity or venture capital setting, for example—you should run one yourself for at least a few years and learn how companies actually operate. Both of their stories resonated deeply with me, and given the opportunities in Southeast Asia's growing economies, I would love to follow a similar path as them.

Traveling throughout the world's largest Muslim-majority country during the month of Ramadan also impacted me in a profound way. I had the opportunity to break the fast with a broad spectrum of communities—from university students to corporate executives to rural villagers. The religious traditions unify the country in a way that transcends class, status, location, or even ethnic background. Given the tumultuous religious environment and widespread intolerance within our own nation, I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to experience some of the traditions of Ramadan and break bread with Indonesians in their own homes. These cultural benefits combined with all of the business knowledge I acquired while traveling made the GIE a truly once-in-a-lifetime program.

Following my experience in Southeast Asia, I traveled to Prague to begin my internship. I spent the duration of my summer interning in the transaction advisory division of Accace, an accounting and advisory firm with offices throughout Central and Eastern Europe. My job responsibilities were somewhat limited by my inability to speak Czech, but I managed to provide value to the company in some ways. Given that I was the only native English speaker in the office, I often assisted in the preparation of documents and presentations for English-speaking clients. Additionally, I worked on several projects throughout the summer that covered a variety of responsibilities including acquisition due diligence, valuation modeling, transfer pricing documentation, market research, and financial statement consolidation.

The program was an incredible mix of professional experience and cultural development. On the weekends, I traveled across Europe and even met up with a number of other Sigmas—Will Batchelder ('21), Christian Gillespy ('21), John Lickteig ('21), and Drew Wayland ('21). I had never been to Europe before this summer, and I was blown away by the cities I visited. Without the help of the Alpha Sigma Foundation, I would not have been able to afford both programs, and I am beyond grateful for the Foundation's generosity. This summer was certainly one that I will never forget.