Semester Overview

Welcome to the Fall 2020 Official Shidler Global Leaders Newsletter! This semester looked a bit different due to the pandemic, but our resilient SGLs have been able to adapt to the new normal whilst continuing to grow and learn.

For the first time, all of our first and second years spent the semester on Oahu and had the chance to connect with one another through community service, professional development, and service to school events.

In this newsletter, you will get a glimpse into all of the activities our cohort was involved in throughout the semester.
On Wednesday, September 30th the Shidler Global Leaders (SGLs) and the Shidler College of Business Alumni Association hosted the annual Mentor Connect, but for the very first time it was held virtually via Zoom! The event consisted of thirty Shidler student leaders representing the nine Shidler undergraduate business clubs, as well as thirty business professionals, many of which are Shidler alumni who received either their undergraduate or MBA degrees. The SGL’s and other Shidler students got the unique opportunity to converse and network with some of Shidlers most successful alumni!

The event kicked off with opening remarks followed by being sent out into thirty minute breakout sessions which consisted of three Shidler students and three mentors. This presented the opportunity to get to know one another in a more intimate setting. It also gave students the chance to ask questions and receive advice from the highly accomplished and experienced professionals that were in their breakout sessions.

Following the first breakout room, we all came together to play a few games such as “gimme-gimme” and trivia before embarking on our next two breakout sessions. The night ended with all of 60 participants returning to the main zoom session to hear final words from our hosts. For many students and for some professionals, this was their very first time participating in a networking event that incorporated a virtual platform. This is something that is currently very relevant in the business industry especially during these uncertain times.
On Wednesday, October 15th the Shidler College of Business Office of Internships and Career Development held its first ever virtual career expo. The career expo which lasted from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM included over 30 companies, all with full time, part time or internship opportunities available. The event was also hosted over a different virtual platform, microsoft teams in order to allow for separate breakout sessions for each company.

During the Career Expo the Shidler Office of Internships and Career Development, had a technical support room to help with any issues that could arise during the event. Additionally, throughout the career expo and leading up to it, the Shidler Global Leader’s served as liaisons for each individual company. They helped the companies test the virtual platform, offer feedback from a student perspective and check in on the companies during the day off.

Overall this virtual replacement offered students the opportunity to connect with local and mainland companies. Companies also had the opportunity to offer different learning sessions to the students. Students were also able to receive one on one time in a way that was safe and allowed for connections to be formed.
What was once the annual scholarship luncheon at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort, the Shidler College of Business held its first virtual scholarship event. To ensure all scholarship recipients would be able to connect with their respective donors, the scholarship event was broken into two days, one on Monday, November 2nd and one on Monday, November 9th. The event began with a short program of speakers including Dean Vance Roley, our keynote speaker, Bob Clarke, and two scholarship recipients. Over 300 students and donors were then placed into smaller and more intimate breakout rooms, where participants were able to meet virtually and connect for the first time.

For the 2020-2021 academic school year, the Shidler College of Business awarded more than $825,000 in scholarships to 337 students. Amidst of a global pandemic, it is truly inspiring to see the many generous donors who continue to financially support and believe in the next wave of future business leaders. Although the scholarship event did not include the typical lunch and dining room setting this year, we were able to share gratitude and fully engage with donors within the comfort of our own homes. Not only were we able to further deepen our relationship with the donors, but we were also able to learn about the amazing work our peers were accomplishing this semester. Connecting with our donors is an incredible opportunity to show thanks for the many financial burdens that have become alleviated, especially during these difficult times. We are truly thankful for the Shidler College of Business for putting together a wonderful virtual scholarship program.
On the morning of Saturday, October 3rd, the Shidler Global Leaders, Inter-Business Council students, Shidler Graduate Students, and Shidler Alumni worked to assemble food care packages through the Hawaii Food Bank. This was an uncommon occurrence of diverse students, business professionals, and communities in the Shidler College of Business coming together to fight Hawaii’s hunger crisis, specifically in schools and underprivileged communities. Amidst a flurry of assembly, passing, and packing, alumni, students, and Shidler Global Leaders connected with one another. Proper safety precautions including social distancing, protective personal equipment, and hydration were implemented when able to create a safe space to give back to Hawaii’s communities in need.

The event was hosted at the Hawaii Foodbank Warehouse in Moanalua. With forty Shidler College of Business members working together, about 4,800 meal bags were assembled to be distributed! In these bags was a set of canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and starch to offer a balanced meal to keiki and their families.
The Shidler Global Leaders volunteered at HUGS Gift Wrapping service project on Monday, October 19th, 2020. HUGS is the abbreviation named for “Help, Understanding and Group Support”, which is a nonprofit organization that aims to provide support for Hawaii’s seriously ill children and their families. To practice safe distancing, we split up into groups of three during the event from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

At the event, each member uses their artistry to wrap presents decoratively. Some gifts were small and easy to enclose while others require more creative thinking. The donations are organized in boxes according to the various islands that HUGS serves in. As a whole, the SGLs had a merrymaking experience packaging presents with the supplies provided.

In brief, the service project allotted the SGLs an opportunity to help HUGS prepare for the holiday season. Everyone was delighted to give back to the community and hope the families enjoy the gifts. Even in unprecedented times, the members are happy to lend a contributing hand in community-based services.
Just before the Thanksgiving weekend, the SGLs participated in Oahu’s oldest and largest meal service for kupuna: Lanakila Meals on Wheels. The SGLs spent a few hours of the morning delivering meals to kupuna around Honolulu, helping to provide packages of frozen entrees, milk beverages, and packs of bananas. With all the SGLs carpooling into four separate vehicles to deliver the meals, each vehicle provided meals to various locations around Honolulu, utilizing the innovative Meals on Wheels app that directed what meals should be provided and where these meals should be delivered.

This particular event was hosted by Lanakila Pacific. What an experience it was to engage in this community service in the spirit of giving, especially before the holiday season. Knowing that 1 in 6 kupuna face hunger each day, and 44,000 kupuna are being threatened by hunger, the SGLs are honored to have participated in this event to help mitigate a long community issue here in our island community.
The SGLs volunteered four to five hours of their time on Saturday, December 5th and Saturday, December 12th respectively, to help give out care packages of 100% local food items to foodservice workers who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 virus. This Free Care Package program was sponsored by Y. Hata & Co. to contribute to their community during this especially trying time.

The SGLs divided themselves into two groups of seven volunteers to assist in both weekends of care package distribution. Each care package consisted of two boxes of food: one refrigerated, and the other chilled. Between both days, nearly 1,200 boxes of food (600 care packages in total) were distributed, totalling at about 600 boxes (or, 300 care packages) distributed each day.

The SGLs’ volunteer positions included: traffic controllers to guide the incoming cars toward the pickup location of their care package(s); loaders, who loaded the chilled and refrigerated boxes of food into the cars; and check-in personnel, who signed in each car-load and assured they were given the correct amount of care packages.

The SGLs were also able to serve their community alongside a few Shidler alumni who currently work at Y. Hata & Co. This provided an excellent opportunity to connect the past and present Shidler communities all the while paying forward our aloha, together. This was an impactful and well-planned event which had the reach to positively affect hundreds. The SGLs are very grateful to have had the opportunity to assist in Y. Hata & Co.’s efforts to feed those in need.
Personal branding is an essential skill as a business professional. For five weeks during the Fall 2020 semester, five of the first-year Shidler Global Leaders (SGLs) along with one fellow Shidler student gained vital personal branding skills through a workshop series hosted by former Starwood Hotels & Resorts executive and current Shidler Executive-in-Residence, Mr. Keith Vieira, in company with Richard Varley, Director of Internships and Career Development at the Shidler College of Business. Throughout the five weeks, the students became experts in creating an impactful first impression, developing and telling a meaningful story to captivate the interviewer, and understanding how to align our stories and values with the company’s vision and values.

Starting with our first session, it was clearly evident that each of us has our own unique stories that represent who we are. From growing up as an island boy on a farm, to living in various foreign countries as a child, these experiences helped us identify what our core story is and how we can use these experiences to showcase who we are today. During the first two sessions, we concentrated on what our brand is and how we are able to utilize that to further connect our core competencies and values to a company. Using these stories, Mr. Vieira and Mr. Varley taught us in the third through the fifth session how we are able to integrate them into situational interview questions.

One highlight from the workshop series was conducting a short interview, where each of us was filmed in the process. This allowed us to see ourselves from an interviewer’s perspective and assess aspects we could improve on, such as hand gestures, word habits, and eye contact. After completing all five sessions, we all agreed that this experience was invaluable. The skills we had learned will not only help us now but in the future as we strive to be business leaders of tomorrow. Thank you to Mr. Keith Vieira for sharing your expertise and taking the time to help each of us hone our interviewing and storytelling skills. Additionally, mahalo to Mr. Richard Varley for making the workshop series possible during these times and continue to provide valuable feedback throughout our time at Shidler!
Mentorship Program

Student Highlights

“The Shidler Global Leader Mentorship Program is a one-of-a-kind experience. My mentor, Jesse Cooke, has given me valuable insights into the qualifications a company looks for in a strong candidate. I have received guidance on steps I can take to achieve goals and even personal advice for situations specific to me. I am extremely thankful for the knowledge I have received from Jesse and will be looking forward to what is to come.” – Noah Okamoto, Spring ’21

"I was fortunate enough to be paired with my mentor, Lance Higa. Mr. Higa is the Senior Director of 'Ohana by Hawaiian, the regional subsidiary of Hawaiian Airlines. Throughout our meetings, he helped guide me to better understand the airline industry and how he got to his current role. He also taught me that having a growth mindset and doing what I truly enjoy is invaluable. I had a wonderful semester learning about his vast experience and sharing our common interest in the airline industry." – Brannon Kusumoto, Spring '21