KENAN INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP FELLOWS
2012 FAREWELL AND ROLLIE TILLMAN AWARD DINNER

UNC
FRANK HAWKINS KENAN INSTITUTE OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows

Vision
The Kenan-Institute Leadership Fellows program is a premier leadership development opportunity at UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Mission
Identify and develop proven leaders to serve and enable the success of UNC Kenan-Flagler students and Kenan Institute centers through a two-year leadership development program.

We will accomplish our mission by:

• Bringing together local and global thought leaders to share knowledge in order to drive business and economic growth and shape community solutions.
• Fusing Kenan Institute interests with the larger Kenan-Flagler community.
• Creating unique personal opportunities to network with distinguished local and global leaders.
• Developing leadership capabilities through the execution of projects that deliver results.

Current Initiatives:
• Kenan Institute Welcome Reception
• MBA Corner newsletter
• Kenan Institute Board of Trustees meetings
• Food for Thought
• Business Across Borders
• Leadership retreats
• Personal leadership mentoring
• Experience Weekend
• Kenan Institute centers outreach and support
Welcome
Geordy Johnson
UNC Kenan-Flagler MBA Class of 2013
Kenan Institute Leadership Fellow

Dinner

Opening Remarks
John D. Kasarda
Director
Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise

Award Presentations
Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows

Presentation of Rollie Tillman Outstanding Leadership Award
Rollie Tillman Jr.
Professor (retired) of Marketing
UNC Kenan-Flagler

Tribute to John D. Kasarda
Bayard Love
UNC Kenan-Flagler MBA Class of 2013
Kenan Institute Leadership Fellow

Closing Remarks
James W. Dean Jr.
Chairman, Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise Board of Trustees
Dean, UNC Kenan-Flagler
Greg Fontaine • MBA Class of 2012

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from the U.S. Military Academy in 2002, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. I served eight years as an aviation officer in the 82nd Airborne Division as platoon leader, assistant operations officer and company commander.

As a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, I completed one combat tour in Iraq and two combat tours in Afghanistan. I was humbled to receive the Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal and three Air Medals throughout my career.

I elected to part ways with the military and shore up my business acumen by attending Kenan-Flagler Business School. Having a passion for leadership, I was honored to be selected as a Kenan Institute Leadership Fellow. This position allowed me to shape my leadership philosophy and skill set under the tutelage and mentorship of Lingmei Howell, Kenan Institute staff and board members, and my fellow peers. The autonomy given to myself and my peers to develop our own vision, creatively explore mechanisms to achieve our vision and pursue these objectives through execution was integral to expand my leadership skills to a higher level. The experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and one for which I will be eternally grateful to the Kenan Institute community.

After graduation, I will be joining Bank of America’s Technology MBA leadership rotation program in Charlotte. I am excited to undertake a significant career transition and learn new business and leadership lessons in a large corporate environment. I am eager to work in the cyber security space and learn how to protect both consumers and businesses from unwanted penetration through cyber attack.
Laura Israel • MBA Class of 2012

I was born and raised in Marion, Ind., a small tightly knit town an hour and a half north of Indianapolis. I chose to pursue my passion in design at Ball State University, continuing my mother’s and grandmother’s tradition, where I majored in landscape architecture and had the opportunity to study sustainable design and architecture around the world in more than 30 countries.

Two summer internships landed me a full-time position after graduation at LandDesign, a land planning and civil engineering firm in Southern Pines, N.C. There, over the course of three years, I designed large-scale planned communities and high-end resorts while becoming a registered landscape architect and LEED GA certified. As I grew into a project management position, I realized that I lacked critical business skills to successfully manage larger projects and needed further education.

At UNC Kenan-Flagler, I discovered that marketing held enormous potential to combine my passions for creative and analytical problem-solving. During my time at the business school, I have had three goals. First, I have sought to leverage my creative and analytical skills into the field of design consulting or innovative marketing.

Second, I have hoped to develop my leadership capabilities, and third, I have desired to build a network of people of consequence.

To accomplish these goals, I have concentrated in both marketing and management consulting, led and participated in two STAR team projects, acted as a Leadership Coach and teacher’s assistant for both core strategy and marketing courses, and have been a member of the consulting, marketing and retail clubs – all in addition to my most active role as a Kenan Institute Leadership Fellow.

After graduation, I will be working as an associate brand manager for Darden Restaurants, owner of Olive Garden and Red Lobster, in Orlando, Fla. Ideally, I would spend my free time sketching passing pedestrians in quaint European villages. More realistically, though, I love to create graphic design, photography and sculpture. When I am not practicing art or design, I teach CrossFit, participate in multiple triathlons per year and enjoy cycling, swimming and volleyball. Finally, to relax, I enjoy lounging on my back deck with my husband, Chris, and our two black Labradors, Cleopatra and Ramses.
“The creativity, passion and initiative demonstrated by these Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows exemplifies the type of globally connected, locally committed leadership that I am confident will shape a better, more sustainable and more competitive world in the future.”

John D. Kasarda
Kenan Institute Director
Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows • 2012

Katherine O’Herron • MBA Class of 2012

After spending three years in Colorado, I returned to my home state of North Carolina to join UNC Kenan-Flagler’s Class of 2012. As an MBA student, I hoped to develop the technical skills that would allow me to effectively build my career, but joining the Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows program allowed me the opportunity to focus directly on integrating technical skills with the leadership capabilities that enable individuals to emerge as influential and respected leaders within organizations and communities.

After being selected as a Kenan Institute Leadership Fellow, we quickly hit the ground running, focusing on numerous projects that helped develop our abilities to lead teams and deliver results. Over the past two years, I have enjoyed organizing events, such as Business Across Borders, that allow Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows to develop a global mindset by engaging in discussions with thought leaders and business professionals from around the world.

Our Food for Thought Lunch Series with members of the Kenan Institute’s Board of Trustees also created unique opportunities for us to learn insights and advice as we embark on careers after business school. Amazingly, each of the programs available to the Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows assists in developing different aspects of our leadership capabilities, including viewing situations from various perspectives, motivating teams and respecting our communities.

The past two years have allowed me to learn an enormous amount about myself and my peers, and I will always appreciate the support I have received from the Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows and Lingmei Howell, director of outreach and our No. 1 advocate. With graduation quickly approaching in May, I am looking forward to settling in Winston-Salem, N.C., where I am excited to continue my education on leadership development and sustainable enterprises.
A
fter my sophomore year, I worked
with Kenan Institute Asia on the
Tsunami Recovery Action Initiative
project. In Thailand, I was inspired
by a business model that emphasized
capacity building and promoting
sustainable development
from the bottom up. This
project showed me how
to fuse global perspectives
in a localized context
and helped me develop
a more nuanced point of
view.

After the summer, I knew
I wanted to continue
working with the Kenan
Institute. I am privileged to have served
as a Kenan Institute Leadership Fellow
and I am excited to return to southeast
Asia this summer to support Kenan
Institute Asia’s Lao Encouraging and
Applying Democracy initiative.

Growing up globally, I knew that I
would forge an international path.
At UNC, I made it a point to pursue
global experiences. That motivated
me to work and study across four
continents during my time here. With
the help of the Kenan Institute, I’ve
been able to focus my perspective and
explore the complicated dimensions
of business across geographies. As a
Leadership Fellow, I’ve challenged
myself to leverage resources and
networks in order to better confront
global issues and continue formulating
a dynamic mindset. In the programs
I’ve worked on with fellow Leadership
Fellows, I’ve tried to channel this
learning to foster a dialogue between
undergraduates and the Kenan Institute
and also engage students in the global
dimension that makes the
institute such a robust
organization.

Next year, I am excited
to start my career with
Deloitte Consulting in
Washington, D.C., as a
human capital analyst.
The opportunities the
firm presents for growth
in an international sphere
align with my passions and many of
the skills I’ve developed as a Leadership
Fellow. I am confident this opportunity
will continue to push and challenge
me and that my experiences with the
Kenan Institute have positioned me to
truly make an impact.
My most memorable experiences while at the Kenan-Flagler Business School have been associated with the Kenan Institute. I have been an Undergraduate Business Kenan Institute Leadership Fellow for the past two years and I have strengthened many of my key skills, ranging from networking to project management.

When I received my phone call of acceptance from Lingmei Howell, I was more than excited that I would get to become a part of the new Undergraduate Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows pilot program. I, as many other undergraduate business students, had little knowledge of what went on in the building next to McColl. So, it was my mission to educate other undergraduates about the Kenan Institute and show them how they could get involved. We have developed a pilot research program that attempts to match undergraduates with center directors so that undergraduate students can gain a crucial exposure to the world of applied business research.

The relationships I established with MBAs, center directors and trustee members will undoubtedly carry on into my future career. Next year, I will be attending Kenan-Flagler’s Master of Accounting Program, where I will be concentrating in audit. I plan to work in the public accounting arena for five years and, hopefully, pursue a career in forensic accounting with a governmental agency, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission or Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am sure that the skills and qualities I developed while in the Kenan Institute Leadership Fellows program will continue to benefit me for the remainder of my life, and I hope that the programs we worked to establish will continue to bridge the gap between the Kenan Institute and the undergraduate business students.
MBA LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

2011-2012

Greg Fontaine
Laura Israel
Katherine O’Herron
Bayard Love

2012-2013

Natalie Birdwell
Nicholas Black
Geordy Johnson
Genny King

Undergraduate Business Leadership Fellows

Nikita Avdiushko
Dexter Blackwell
Monisha Kumar
Lindsay Newman

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact: Lingmei Howell, Director of Outreach
lingmei_howell@unc.edu • www.kenaninstitute.unc.edu