Gemini Shippers Association Academic Scholarship Awarded to ITM Major

We are pleased to announce that the Scholarship Selection Committee comprised of long-time ITM supporter, donor, and Lifetime Achievement Awardee ITM advisory board member, Sara Mayes, President of Gemini Shippers Association, Prof. Nick Barratt, Educator, ITM advisory board member and outstanding alumus 1997, and Michelle Weiss, International Enterprise Singapore, New York, Co-President, Organization of Women in International Trade, as well as exceptional ITM alumnus 2009, have chosen Estefania Garcia-Correa as the recipient of the 2014-2015 Gemini Shippers Association Academic Scholarship.

Gemini Shippers Association is a long-time supporter of ITM students, having donated more than $130,000 to the ITM program since 2005.

In her selection as the academic scholarship recipient, the committee recognized Estefania primarily for her outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements, her impressive presentation of her background, and her vivid description of how Coco Chanel inspired her to focus on the international fashion business and contribute to improving the lives of other people.

In his strong recommendation of Estefania, Prof. Guillermo Jimenez enthusiastically recognized her leadership as President of the Latin American Student Organization, playing a central role in organizing the Latin American Musical Celebration, which was supported by a grant from FIT’s Diversity Council. In preparing for the event, Estefania set up the slide presentation, executed paperwork for approval by Student Life, liaised with the Latin American student organizations at Columbia University and New York University for attendee recruitment, and personally baked a Venezuelan specialty cake to showcase diversified cuisine.

Leadership and service comes naturally to Estefania, having been President of the Model United Nations Club and Vice President of the Promoting Relations In Diversity through Education Club in high school. Upon arriving at FIT, she co-founded NY Entrepreneurs, a non-profit group that organizes casual events to foster the intermingling of students and industry. She also became the Votodones.sea representative in New York City to educe and facilitate Venezuelan citizens living in exile on how to vote.

Estefania volunteered at a Chelsea church, feeding the homeless with a friendly face. She was also selected to participate in the exclusive production team of Fusion Fashion show, the annual design competition between FIT and Parsons. She recently co-organized an annual conference held at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and called, Plan Pais, which seeks to analyze and educate students about the situation in Venezuela.

In addition to her impressive extracurricular accomplishments, Estefania is engaged in freelance work with three publications, writing for Examiner.com, The Source Magazine, as well as Jones Magazine and interviewing top executives like Jerome Lambert, CEO of Montblanc. She plans to intern at Computer Generated Solutions this summer to learn how to integrate telecommunications and technology with every step of the apparel production process. She also assisted in the stock organization of the Theory Sample Sale.

Ultimately, Estefania aims to use her international trade and marketing education to foster the empowerment of women in Latin America. Inspired by her own proposal to the Clinton Global Initiative,
she plans to found E.L.L.A., a non-profit organization, which empowers middle class women in the region, and hold a conference hosted by FIT and broadcasted live to public universities in Latin America while native industry professionals monitor students in that country. Students will be encouraged to submit applications for a fashion-related business demonstrating its benefits to their community. Applicants will be chosen and then industry professionals, faculty, and students will be recruited to conduct a three-week intensive course to help jumpstart their implementation and monitor their progress.

During her internship at Lanvin, Estefania realized the need for industry professionals who could understand both the Latin American and US markets. There she learned to work with Latin American clients, European manufacturers, and American managers in one setting. After attending another college’s Entrepreneurship in Latin America forum and listening to Colombia’s former President Alvaro Uribe and Mario Siman, the largest retailer in Central America, she immediately decided that international trade and marketing was the right path to attaining her future career aspirations.

Estefania is fluent in English and Spanish and conversant in French.

We hope that you will all join us in congratulating Estefania as ITM’s new Gemini Shippers Association scholar.