CGL/ICE Global Entrepreneurship Panel  
November 14, 5:00-7:00pm, Curley Exchange  
Villanova School of Business

5:00 pm  Global Entrepreneurship Panelist Presentations
5:45 pm  Q & A
6:00 pm  Breakout Discussion/Reporting
6:30 pm  Networking Reception

PANELISTS

Elizabeth K. Awalt ‘10 CLAS, Co-Founder and Co-President, The Starfish Foundation

Beth Awalt started volunteering at a young age – but never did she think that serving her community would lead her to start a non-profit in a foreign country. In high school, Beth served her community through projects with Key Club. Beth continued her service at Villanova University, volunteering on service break trips and weekly at a meal program. Beth also served with the Center for Peace and Justice, largely through the anti-genocide movement. After completing her degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Peace & Justice, Beth volunteered for a year in Ecuador.

In Ecuador, Beth volunteered at a vocational school for former street kids. Though many of them had the motivation to study, they lacked financial resources to be able to attend school once graduating. Though public schools in Ecuador are free, families often still struggle to provide all the necessary materials while living on minimum wage and trying to feed a whole family. The easiest solution is to not go to school. Upon returning to the U.S., Beth worked with immigrants and people experiencing homelessness at Catholic Charities. Now, she works for a Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Baltimore as the Communications Coordinator.

Outside of this work, Beth also co-founded The Starfish Foundation, a nonprofit that provides educational support for students in Ecuador through scholarship, tutoring, and leadership development. In five years, Starfish has grown from serving 28 students with 5 volunteers to supporting 120+ students annually, including assistance from 15+ employees and over 50 volunteers at any given time.  
http://www.thestarfishchange.org/

Beth volunteers extensively for HOBY, the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Seminar, a non-profit that empowers youth to be the best leader they can be. She also serves her community as a leader with the young adult ministry in her parish, as well as collaborating on various committees for interfaith action in Baltimore, improved College of Liberal Arts & Sciences programs for graduate students, and more. Beth has a heart for service and empathy for justice, which led her to co-found this non-profit. She believes in the power of youth, and she looks forward to continually seeing the ripple effect of the Starfish Scholars. elizabeth.k.awalt@gmail.com
Blandine Chantepie-Kari is an international strategist and has more than 10 years of experience advising companies on business development in the US, Canada, France, and beyond. She specializes in planning entry strategies to new markets, creating a network of business partners, and establishing a foreign branch. Early this year, she joined the European American Enterprise Council (EAEC), as Vice President, University & Entrepreneurship - Soft Landing Programs. In January 2014, Blandine, as the co-director of the French-American Chamber of Commerce, Philadelphia Chapter, created the Global Access soft-landing program for incubators and universities as a partnership with the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. Global Access supports the local community to welcome international businesses and foreign entrepreneurs as they invest and launch their enterprises in the United States. [www.eaecouncil.com](http://www.eaecouncil.com)

Previously, Blandine worked with the French company Claremont as the US Director of Sales & Business Development for the Medical and Railway Divisions. In 2005, Blandine joined the Montréal, Québec branch of Enterprise Rhône-Alpes International (ERAI), the French business development agency of the Rhône-Alpes region. After four years, she was transferred to the United States to open and manage their office in Philadelphia. Blandine received a Master’s Degree in Economics, majoring in International Management from the International School of Business and Management of Lille (IESEG) in France. She did her Master’s thesis at the University of Texas at El Paso - Border Studies Department. Blandine has experience in a wide range of industries, including Healthcare, Environment, Information Technology, Packaging, Customer goods, Defense, Transportation, Electrical and Electronics Manufacturing, Entertainment, Textile and Food.

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Sheryl Winston Smith, PhD, Visiting Professor, Villanova School of Business

Sheryl Winston Smith is Visiting Assistant Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship at Villanova School of Business. Her areas of expertise include: innovation, strategic entrepreneurship, corporate venturing, entrepreneurial finance, and the dynamic intersection of innovation strategy and competitive advantage. Her research has been published in top journals and presented widely at international conferences and policy organizations. She was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to study the impact of seed accelerators on innovation and entrepreneurial decision-making. As well, she has been the recipient of fellowships and grants including the Kauffman Foundation and the Rotary Foundation. Her research has received various awards including the Kauffman Foundation Best Paper Prize at the Strategic Management Society. She serves on the editorial review board of *Journal of International Business Studies*. She has held leadership roles in major professional organizations, including the Strategic Management Society (SMS) on the Organizing Committee and Track Chair in Knowledge and Innovation at the SMS Banff Special Conference and Representative-at-Large in the for the Knowledge and Innovation Interest Group; the Research Committee of the Entrepreneurship Division in the Academy of Management (AOM); and Chair of the Board Nominating Committee in the Industry Studies Association (ISA) and several terms as Track Chair in Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the ISA Conference.

Dr. Winston Smith received her PhD from Harvard University and her BS from Yale University. Prior to joining the faculty at Villanova, she was Assistant Professor of Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship at the Fox School of Business at Temple University. She carried out postdoctoral work in Finance at the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota and was a Visiting Scholar at the Sloan School of Management at MIT. She was also a visiting scholar at Bocconi University in Milan. Her research is grounded in deep professional experience in the private and public sectors. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Springside Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia, where she helped launch the Venture Incubator at the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. She is also on the advisory board of Mid-Atlantic Diamond Ventures (MADV), which facilitates early-stage financing for startups in the Mid-Atlantic region. [sheryl.winston.smith@villanova.edu](mailto:sheryl.winston.smith@villanova.edu)

For more information, please contact Kim Cahill, CGL Director, 610-519-3906, [kimberly.cahill@villanova.edu](mailto:kimberly.cahill@villanova.edu)