

Laying the Foundation for Global Experience: A Students Retrospective and Prospect

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”

A thirst for knowledge and passion to travel, Seth Heitzenrater plans to take the world. Following his final semester of coursework in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, he hopes to embark on a life-long journey around the world.

Seth’s vision for his life began when his father would return from his travels abroad with the Air Force. He would hear amazing stories about the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. At this young age, Seth knew he never wanted to stay in one place for a long time. “Water is full of life when it flows, not when stagnant.”

After finishing high school, Seth enrolled in his local community college to allow him time to travel while still living at home. He studied during the week and on the weekend took occasional trips to a variety of American cities. On breaks from classes, he took a road trip to Niagara Falls and embraced its splendor, sailed with friends on a yacht over New Years in the Caribbean, and traveled to California to see wine country and beautiful Northern California.

After finishing his first 2 years of college, Seth decided it was time to leave his hometown of Pittsburgh and live in a big city. Two weeks before classes were to start in Philadelphia at Temple, Seth moved his things into his new apartment, found a job at a Japanese restaurant called Morimoto and adapted himself to the great city of Philadelphia. Little did he know that he would be beginning a new start for himself and discovering his goal to spend his life in the tourism and hospitality field.

While in school at Temple, Seth had the opportunity to travel more around the US and abroad, taking trips to Portland, Oregon,

Southern California for sight seeing, and also living in Paris and traveling Europe for a month while studying abroad. After finishing classes this semester, Seth hopes to begin the journey of the next several years of traveling.

With the time now to decide on his internship for this summer and fall, Seth will have to decide where the world will take him next. This summer he has hopes of working in an externship over the summer and then beginning a rotational internship or management training program in the fall to complete his undergraduate degree. After doing this he hopes to work in a hospitality company, such as an upscale hotel property, meeting and events company or convention visitors bureau and moving around the globe as long as possible. He has thought about doing this for the next 10-15 years before pursuing his own personal business ventures, owning a simple company providing him with enough income to live comfortably and serve a global market. With the foundation laid and the experiences gathering, Seth Heitzenrater is setting himself up for not a career but a personally successful and fulfilling life.



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Diversity: Equality Forum

The Equality Forum is a national and international non-profit GLBT organization focusing on advancing civil rights through education. Producing documentary films, coordinating National GLBT History Month, and organizing the largest national GLBT civil rights forum are a selection of the activities the organization handles.

From April 26th to May 2nd, 2010, Equality Forum will host its annual summit in Philadelphia. The variety of activities including several panels covering topics such as sports, politics, history, and many more. The summit will also include different special events throughout the weeklong summit, including the International Equality Dinner on Saturday, May 1st and SundayOUT on Sunday, May 2nd.

The International Equality Dinner will be viewed this year as a civil rights celebration as two men, Ted Olson and David Boies, will be awarded a National Role Model Award for their work together in trying to defeat the Defense of Marriage Act and recognize same sex marriage under federal law. “The dinner has been in the planning process since last year, we hope we can bring the annual dinner to a different level this year,” says Seth Heitzenrater, Co-Event Coordinator.

The SundayOUT event will also be a great celebration for the community. Moving from its typical location of Olde City to Northern Liberties to the newly opened Piazza, the Equality Forum will turn pride festivals into something completely new. Offering quality live entertainment and moving away from Center City, promoting diversity in a new neighborhood that seems to accept it so well will impel others to follow suit. This will be true for all the activities with the organization into the future, Equality is for all. (*Equality Forum Summit 2010 will be held April 26th to May 2nd, for more information and to view the entire schedule please look at EqualityForum.com*)

Sweet Generosity in new Partnership



Seeking an outlet to be involved in the relief efforts for Haiti, Seth Heitzenrater partnered with his friend Kate Carrara, owner of the Buttercream Truck in Philadelphia. Together they decided to create a campaign to donate cupcakes to anyone who donated at least a dollar. A partnership was then formed with XIPWIRE, a new mobile tech company with a text messaging payment platform. With the three together, they hit Temple’s campus this week. Hoping to sell more than 300 cupcakes a day and to raise at least \$1500 this team hopes to provide all it can to the relief in Haiti. “I have always had a passion to serve,” says Seth, a Temple student in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management and President of TempleMPI (Meeting Professionals International). Creating a sense of service is also involved in this effort, this and other events are planned for the future to give back to the community and create a growing list of active and involved volunteers.