

Executive Summary

Between my interview in February and my first day of work on June 1st, the Atlanta-based Southern Center for International Studies underwent some major changes. The group of people I was to be working for had left the troubled Southern Center and were beginning work on starting the future World Affairs Council of Atlanta (WACA) by the time I arrived, which meant that, because of the entrepreneurial nature of the work, my day-to-day tasks varied greatly.

My principle project involved working personally with Alyssa Smith and Dr. Chris Brown, as well as indirectly with several business and economics professors from Georgia State's Robinson College of Business, to develop the Emerging Market Risk Index (EMRI) and, later, the World Market Risk Index (WMRI). The three of us were tasked with performing the "leg work;" that is, exploring the existing literature and data and putting that information into the report. Each week, we would meet with the GSU professors to update each other on the progress of the work and make the occasional conceptual change. Near the end of the my internship, I assisted Dr. Wayne Lord in preparing the literature review for the Global Strategic Leadership Forum, a gathering of executives to discuss the future of capitalism and corporate responsibility, to be hosted by WACA and the Robinson College this September.

The purpose of the forum, the EMRI project, and the development of WACA as a whole, was to get businesses thinking about the problems with education, water, malnutrition, and inequality so many emerging markets face, as well the effect of foreign businesses in this type of environment. I learned so much about working in both the non-profit and research worlds, and I have no doubt that the future World Affairs Council of Atlanta will have a positive and lasting impact on the city and the business world.