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Message from the Dean

It is with great pride that we present to you the first issue of the College of Business Insider. In this issue we are highlighting accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

The 3rd Annual Executive Forum was held on October 23rd, and it was a huge success.

Guest speakers included Lisa Huetteman on Leadership, Dr. Jonathan Ellen and Dr. Carmella Sebastian on the Business of Health Care, and Mrs. Giselle Weybrecht on Sustainability. We experienced record student turn out and positive feedback from the attendees. Many thanks to our sponsors: Walgreens, SunTrust, and DW Group.

Our MBA program is experiencing continued growth, adding 82 new graduate students to the fall semester. We offer a complete MBA program online, which proved to be popular among students who seek flexibility in their schedule.

Many opportunities are opening for our students, as local businesses collaborate through the Tampa Bay Technology Forum (TBTF) chapter at USFSP to find skilled IT workers. The College of Business has also strengthened its career services by assigning Professor Susan Johnson as the leader for internships and career services.

The student Entrepreneurship Club also had an exciting semester. Five participating students traveled to Chicago to receive a 2012 National Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization Status Simulation Challenge award. The Entrepreneurship faculty provided their own activities, which included the Mayor of St. Petersburg Bill Foster declaring November as ‘Entrepreneurship Month’ and Professor Bill Jackson working overseas in Iraq with the USAID program.

The Program of Accountancy had record enrollment this year, achieving an all time high for a single academic year.

We are proud of our accomplishments within the College of Business in 2012, and look forward to another eventful year in 2013. Happy Holidays and best wishes for the new year!

Maling Ebrahimpour, PhD
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Opening Minds. Expanding Opportunities.
2012 Executive Forum

The 3rd Annual Executive Forum was a success, due largely to the continued sponsorship of Walgreens, SunTrust, and DW Group.

The all day event included prominent business community members speaking about Leadership, the Business of Health Care, and Sustainability.

The Leadership section began with Lisa Huetteman, author of ‘The Value of Core Values: Five Keys to Achieving Success through Values-Centered Leadership.’

Lisa challenged the audience to think about how leaders and leadership styles can influence the entire organization.

The afternoon session began with Dr. Carmella Sebastian, the Senior Medical Director at Florida Blue, and followed with the President of all Children’s Hospital, Dr. Jonathan Ellen. They directed discussions and fielded questions about the future of Health Care, highlighting the ever-changing nature of the field. Both indicated a shift toward awareness of how business principles and healthcare programs intersect.

The evening session opened with Professor Shank, and followed with Giselle Weybrecht, author of ‘The Sustainable MBA: The Manager’s Guide to Green Business.’ Giselle used humor and thought provoking, real life examples to convey the message that businesses can be extremely successful even with a focus on sustainability.

MBA Program Update

This Fall 2012 semester, the College of Business welcomed 52 new graduate students to the USFSP MBA. The program continues to grow in size as students are drawn to the flexible course offerings ideal for working professionals, including the new Online MBA option. There are currently about 160 active students in the program in total, a 25% increase over the active student population a year ago. Looking forward, the October MBA Open House was another large success, bringing close to 100 prospective students to the USFSP campus seeking information about the program and its admissions requirements.

The Fall 2012 GMAT Prep course is currently in session and will continue through November 17th with all day Saturday sessions. Those students that submit a complete application to the USFSP MBA after the prep course, can have the cost of the course rebated to them. This has proven to be both an effective recruitment tool for the program as well as a great opportunity for prospective USFSP MBAs.

We’re excited to be sending a group of MBA students to Guatemala over Spring Break 2013. The focus of the trip is to engage MBA students directly with local Guatemalan businesses in a consulting relationship. This study abroad opportunity will help develop real world skill sets for our MBAs that are crucial in today’s global business environment.

Local Business Leaders Seek Student Internships

Several local businesses are collaborating to drive local growth of the technology workforce.

After a sharply focused analysis of how to fix the region’s mismatch between a thin supply of tech workers and the demand of large and small companies seeking specific IT skills, TBTF compiled a list of recommendations. Key findings show an immediate need for employees with skills in Java, .Net, Agile development, CRM, ERP, SharePoint, Security, as well as Cloud Computing and Sales Engineers. Future growth areas include business analytics, big data, desktop support, security, and computer and software engineers.

Local Business Leaders feel strongly that using TBTF’s recommendations is necessary to secure the future talent supply. They are currently creating TBTF chapters on all college campuses to market area businesses and provide internship opportunities to students.

For more information on the student chapter of TBTF at USFSP, contact Cherie Collins ccollin2@usfsp.edu
USFSP winners of $100,000 ‘Gig Tank’

The students founded a company called ‘Banyan’ which they coined in honor of St. Petersburg’s iconic tree. The three entrepreneurs created a sharing platform that allows medical researchers to share, update and store information, enabling researchers to collaborate in real-time. The system is currently being tested by 100 researchers from USF to Australia to India. According to one PhD student using the platform, “Scientific collaboration, sharing and publication has a lot of catching up to do with the software development world in terms of what has been enabled by the internet.”

The group walked away with a $100,000 prize, and plans to market their platform to universities and hospitals. They are currently seeking office space in downtown St. Petersburg, and are in talks to close a deal with a Chattanooga investment group that will contribute $300,000 to their business.

Three USFSP students, two recent grads and one senior, traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee for a three month long competition. The competition answered the question “What could you do with the world’s fastest internet?”

Student Spotlight

Yasen Angelov

CPA, Reilly, Fisher & Solomon, P.A.

Current MBA student Yasen Angelov has overcome amazing adversity. Born legally blind, he uses a guide dog and special equipment to learn. Despite all odds, he maintains a 4.0 GPA, and a positive, upbeat attitude. An active Beta Alpha Psi member, Yasen attributes his current job to his membership in the organization.

"Thanks to those friends from Beta Alpha Psi, I was able to get interviews because they were advocating for me even though I am legally blind.”

Yasen is a CPA and excels at the Tampa accounting firm Reilly, Fisher & Solomon, where he strives to master taxation.

“I believe that the biggest assets USFSP has are its faculty members,” says Angelov.

Alumni Spotlight

Millie Lytell

Audit Manager, Gregory, Sharer & Stuart, CPAs

“USFSP is a hidden gem of a school! It provided me with a wealth of opportunities to learn and experience new things, and the fact that it’s located on a beautiful harbor does not hurt either.”

“My favorite memories of attending USFSP are of the diversity of experiences I had each day. I graduated from the College of Business, however, I worked in the Marine Biology Department as a student lab assistant. Talk about getting exposed to a new world! Yes, my job did consist mostly of filling petri dishes and sterilizing tubes, but it was a fascinating window into a completely different world.”

“I feel lucky to have been exposed to so many new ideas and ways of thinking by a number of great professors in the College of Business. If it was not for the educational base I received from USFSP, my professional career would not be where it is today.”

“USFSP is a hidden gem of a school that provided me with a wealth of opportunities” says Lytell.
The Program of Accountancy continues to grow and remains a strong program at USFSP! We saw 106 graduates for the academic year ending May 2012, an all time high for a single academic year. We remain the largest program within the College of Business and one of the largest on campus. Our Program offers the bachelors degree in accounting and its MBA and 5th year offerings fully fulfill the Florida education requirements for being a Certified Public Accountant. We also enjoy AACSB International accreditation in both the College of Business and the Program of Accountancy.

Next Fall we introduce a graduate level course, Advanced Business Valuation that will be open to MBA students in the accounting concentration and will be taught by Dr. Debra Sinclair and Tim Bronza, CPA of Business Valuation Analysts. We look forward to enhancing our Forensic Accounting concentration with this area of growing importance to practicing CPAs and other professionals.

Our Beta Alpha Psi chapter has enjoyed another Superior rating due to its commitment to community service and other engagement with the campus and Tampa Bay community. Our chapter has produced the Outstanding Graduate award for USFSP five of the past six graduations!

Congratulations to Dr. James Fellows’ VITA class. Twenty six students took an IRS approved tax course, provided tax return preparation services around Pinellas County and gained valuable experience under Dr. Fellows’ tutelage.

We wish to extend our thanks to Gregory Sharer & Stuart, CPAs for their participation and support over the past twenty years! GSS and USFSP offers the ABCs of Ethics each May with benefits to the Beta Alpha Psi chapter. This corroborative effort benefits CPAs by fulfilling their biennial ethics requirements (4 hours of Ethics - USF St. Petersburg CPE Provider), as well as the students that participate in the planning, marketing and event day activities from Beta Alpha Psi. We look forward to continuing this event with Gregory Sharer & Stuart.

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Beta Alpha Psi

The Mu Gamma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi successfully hosted its annual banquet utilizing the beautiful new ballroom on the second floor of the Student Center.

Over 100 professionals, faculty, students and guests attended the dinner and induction of new members on Friday, November 9. Sponsoring firms included Baumann Raymondo, Becker, CBIZ Kirkland, Russ, Murphy & Tapp, Cregan & Co., Deloitte, Gregory, Sharer and Stuart, Lewis, Birch and Ricardo, and Reilly Fisher Solomon.

“The outside firms loved seeing the progress that the campus has made in the past few years,” says Gaukel.

For more information contact Patricia Gaukel @ pgaukel@mail.usf.edu
Delta Sigma Pi

Delta Sigma Pi is a professional business fraternity with over 300 collegiate and alumni chapters and over 226,000 members around the world. The fraternity focuses on supporting professional goals and personal aspirations of its members, providing service to the community, and providing financial assistance for scholarships, leadership development, and training as well as facilitating social activity among students, the community, and business organizations.

Entrepreneurship

It has been an exciting semester for the Entrepreneurship program. The USFSP Entrepreneurship Student Club received a generous sponsorship from Wells Fargo, allowing them to bring Ian Ippolito from vWorker on campus as the first in their lecture series, as well as upcoming activities, including attending Startup Weekend and sending 2012 National Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization’s Startup Simulation Challenge winners Michael Anadiotis, Lazar Anderson, Christopher Carpentier, Brown Charite and Mark Lombardi-Nelson to Chicago for the 2012 National Collegiate Entrepreneurs’ Organization Conference to collect their award.

Entrepreneurship faculty are also having an outstanding semester as Director William Jackson earns tenure and Associate Director Daniel James Scott was honored as one of Tampa Bay Business Journal’s 2012 Up & Comers, in addition to being voted one of Tampa Bay’s top three favorite local business speakers behind former Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio and current Tampa mayor Bob Buckhorn. Instructor of Entrepreneurship Nathan Schwager has signed a year-long contract with the Salvador Dali Museum to design and deliver courses and workshops on creativity and innovation in their world-class galleries and surreal interactive spaces.

On a final note, the Entrepreneurship program, College of Business, and entire university were applauded for helping lead the charge that allowed Gazelle Lab to present their Demo Day at the Mahaffey Theater last fall by earning a finalist spot for the Collaboration Award in Tampa Bay Technology Forum’s annual Industry Achievement Awards.

Higher Education in Iraq

Dr. Bill Jackson presented his unique and action packed 45 day experience working in Iraq with the USAID project on advancing Entrepreneurship curriculum in higher education. His tour of duty was part of a U.S. Agency for International Development project to promote basic business skills in Iraq’s struggling economy. Jackson shared insights with local university teachers about how to encourage business start-ups and entrepreneurial activity.

“There is no direct translation of the word ‘entrepreneurship’ in Arabic. Many young people look for opportunities to leave the country. Subsistence entrepreneurship—working to survive—was common. For all it’s woes, Iraq still holds potential,” says Jackson.

“For more information contact Debra Sinclair dsinclair@mail.usf.edu

Delta Sigma Pi Leadership Foundation

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Management Professors Scott Geiger and Dan Marlin participated in the Southern Management Association Conference in Fort Lauderdale and presented their research “Organizational Slack and Performance: An Examination of Retail and Wholesale Trade” (Aug 2012), which was also published in the proceedings.

Recently appointed as the Strategy Editor at International Journal of Emerging Markets published by Emerald.

Edited with Dr. Alain Verbeke the “Handbook of International Strategic Management” (2012) which just came out in print. The scholarly volume is published by Elgar.

We welcome your feedback. If you have comments, questions, or ideas, please contact us.

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