Dean’s Dash
Dr. Ross Dickens, Dean
College of Business and Global Affairs

This newsletter features multiple articles in which the student editors allow the featured students to “speak” to us in longer conversations that allow readers to gain more insight into the students’ ambitions and College/University experiences. I know our students routinely make me very proud.

The College recently learned of approvals to start multiple position searches (Accounting, Economics, Management, Marketing, and Political Science) as we seek to complete searches in Business Communication, Business Law and two Chairs of Excellence. The high faculty turnover for Fall 2016, will bring cause for excitement and anticipation.

However, the biggest celebration in the College is associated with the AACSB reaffirmation of the College’s accreditation status for the BSBA degree until 2019–2020. More information on that note will be forthcoming the Fall 2016 newsletter along with the results of April’s Captain’s Challenge. Our English intensive education program also had an initial visit as it works its way to possible accreditation.

I ask you to continue to send us updates like the ones this newsletter features as well as recommending students (and potential faculty!) to UTM and and CBGA. The accomplishments of our students show we are continuing to make great strides toward student-focused excellence.

Sincerely,
Ross Dickens
CBGA Dean

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UT Martin Students Put Bill before State Legislature: Advance to Committee Review

MARTIN, Tenn. – Any driver who has traveled between speed limit signs and checked the speedometer with concern may have their fears eased through the efforts of students from The University of Tennessee at Martin.

Jordan Long, of Martin, is a freshman political science major at UT Martin. He is also the current speaker pro tem of the senate for the 2016 Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature and vice chairman of the TISL transportation committee. Long, with the help of fellow UT Martin student Marabeth Kennedy, a junior from Franklin, wrote and presented a bill to regulate a maximum distance between speed limit signs on state-owned highways and interstates.

“It is crucial for drivers to know the speed limit for their safety and the safety of the vehicles around them,” said Long. “We wrote this (bill) to ensure that there will always be a reminder of the speed limit coming up.”

Ten TISL bills per year are delivered to the state legislature for consideration, and Long’s legislation was included after a unanimous vote by the TISL transportation committee and the signature of TISL governor John Domanski, also a UT Martin student. Long was not content to sit and wait, however, and found official sponsors for the bill in the Tennessee House of Representatives and Senate.

Sen. Paul Bailey (R-Dist. 15) and Rep. Raumesh Akbari (D-Dist. 91) agreed to sponsor the bill, now known as SB2179, which was officially introduced to the House and the Senate January 21. It passed first and second considerations and has since been sent to committee in both assemblies.

“This year the House of Representatives had a 10-bill limit per representative, so it was special to have our piece picked up even when there was a limit,” said Long. “It shows us that even though we are college students, we all have a voice that makes an impact.”

Those who would like to follow this bill’s progress through the legislature may do so online: http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=SB2179

Pictured in the replica of Tennessee Gov. Ned Ray McWherter’s office located in UTM’s Paul Meek Library (l-r): Marabeth Kennedy; John Domanski; and Jordan Long

CBGA: Student-focused excellence!
CBGA Grad Secures First Job: Thanks Finance Professors for Guidance

Christopher Mullins, a CBGA finance graduate, recently secured his first job on his career trajectory and wrote the following thank-you message to Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, Professor Finance at UTM:

“I wanted to reach out to you and thank you for all of your guidance and knowledge from the last few semesters. I have gotten a job! I’m currently employed with Ipreo Private Capital Markets and have been with the firm for 3 weeks. Ipreo is a FinTech company that offers several buyside/sellside software products used for financial valuation purposes and financial reporting. My official title is Client Support Specialist. I am responsible for troubleshooting issues our clients have with using our iLEVEL software. The iLEVEL software is a robust system that our clients use to upload financial data and build highly customizable reports whenever the need for reporting arises.

Without the knowledge and advanced understanding of finance that I received from you, Dr. [Nell] Gullett, and Dr. [Ty] Perry, I would not have the skills necessary to understand the information I deal with on a daily basis. I can’t thank you enough for all that you’ve done! Thanks again for your guidance and mentorship.

I am thoroughly enjoying my new job. I had zero clue that I would end up working for a FinTech type company, but would like to emphasize the role that networking and LinkedIn had in finding this opening. Former UTM grad (and close friend) Jon Meacham received an email from a recruiter who targeted him based on his LinkedIn profile. He forwarded the information to me and I was able to sell myself as a viable candidate for the job, even though I lacked the ‘résumé experience’ they were initially searching for, due to my understanding of fundamental and technical analysis and my ability to communicate effectively during the interview process.

[Some advice to] recent/soon-to-be graduates, LinkedIn should no longer be considered a ‘suggestion’. Interview skills and the ability to confidently speak with potential employers are absolute MUST HAVE skills, especially for people like me who have limited financial experience on a résumé. I would seriously stress these two things to students [getting ready] to graduate. I was able to secure a wonderful job based almost solely on my ability to convince them [recruiters] that I was the right choice for the job.”

*Note from Dean Dickens: Chris’ thank-you note was appreciated, but more importantly, the College took this idea seriously and used Experiential Learning Fee Funds to allow each graduating senior to have professional headshots made to use on his or her LinkedIn page.

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The CBGA political science students embarked on a delegation’s trip to the National Model Congress in Washington, DC, from February 25–27, 2016. Once again, UTM had a fantastic showing and earned a number of awards for participation.

Over the three days, students engaged in a mock Congressional session complete with students acting as members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Throughout the weekend, students acted as individual congresspersons in Committee meetings as well as in floor sessions complete with debates, amendments, and detailed approximations of actual Congressional procedural rules. Despite almost 50 bills being introduced during the conference, only three were passed by both houses and signed into law by the acting president. Two of those three were bills written and sponsored by our students. In addition to that high honor, our delegation received an “Honorable Delegation” award for the student’s excellent performance.

The following students participated, with awards listed as appropriate:

The CBGA Delegates Attend National Model Congress in DC, Garner Awards

Pictured (l to r) are Rikki Erwin, Breydon Horton, Justin Morgan, Anderson Starling, Drew Cagle, Dezie Gude, and Jordan Long

Major: Distinguished Senator Award; Jordan Long, Freshman Political Science Major: Distinguished Representative Award; Justin Morgan, Senior Political Science Major: Honorable Representative Award; Breydon Horton, Freshman Political Science Major; Dezie Gude, Junior Criminal Justice Major; Drew Cagle, Sophomore Political Science Major.

PBL members wrap up a successful year.
Pictured (l to r): Laribeth Bondurant; Victoria Falcon, Amber Cunningham, Savannah Walker, McKenzie Pressnell; Josh Dyer; Von Griffin; Joshua Hillah-Ayite; Kavonna Cooper; and Dr. Leland Smith.
CBGA Accounting Majors Travel to Nashville for Educational Adventure

CBGA accounting majors traveled to Nashville on March 16, 2016, for an informational trip and accounting adventure. Twenty-three accounting majors went on the trip accompanied by Dr. Richard Griffin, Professor of Accounting; Ms. Jennifer Schlicht, Administrative Support Asst. for Dunagan COE; and Ms. Darlene Adkins, Lecturer in the CBGA accounting program.

The students’ first stop was to the office of the Tennessee Society of CPAs in Brentwood, TN, where Aleshia Garrett talked to the students about the new student membership initiatives and TNSCPA scholarships. While students were there, those who were not members were allowed to sign up as members since the student membership fee has been discontinued. In addition, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy sent two representatives from the Center of Public Trust to talk about professional ethics. During the NASBA session, students learned about the new certification in ethical leadership program.

Following lunch at Demo’s, students visited the Tennessee Department of Audit, where Clare Tucker and three UTM alumni spoke to the students about obtaining employment with the state audit department and the importance of demonstrating honesty when applying for a job. Students were allowed to view actual audit reports issued by the department of audit and get an understanding of the job description for an entry-level position. The timing of the students’ visit was opportune because one CBGA student actually attended a job interview with the Department of Audit while on the trip.

O’Brien Presented Research in San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 2016

Sean O’Brien, a senior political science major, pictured above, presented his research for his University Scholars Senior Project at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in January 2016. The conference offered students an exciting occasion for intellectual exchange and professional development in a relaxed and beautiful setting.
Faculty scholars honored at this year’s CBGA 2016 Spring Honors Banquet are as follows: Sarah Candeloro, Taylor Hatcher; Mohsin Aleirani, Twyla Pratt, Asha Jenkins, Erica Brimm, Preston Frazier, Zachary Bell, Lael Kittle, Emily McCartney, Rebecca Lund, Amanda Young-Bechard, Mark Graubner, Josh Dyer, Alisha Saleem, Kayla Ford, Paul Wortham, Nathan Daniels, Lisa Warren, Kelsey Gregory, Ryan Stevenson, Justin Morgan, Timothy Corcoran, Olivia Fernandez, and Chase Thweat. (continued on page 7)
University Scholars

Christopher T. Ables  Emily C. McCartney
Brian M. Affolter     Sean P. O’Brien
Sydney F. Lintner    William A. Sanders
Rebecca E. Lund      John A. Warner

Who’s Who Among American Colleges & Universities

Dorothy J. Boyle     Marabeth G. Kennedy
Dimitric C. Brown    Sean P. O’Brien
Mark C. Graubner     Bethany M. Orban
Miranda N. Rutan

Phi Kappa Phi

Juniors       Seniors
Dorothy J. Boyle Mohsin Aleirani
Sarah E. Candeloro Zachary Bell
Madison L. Crow  Kelsey Gregory
                  Morgan K. Laman
                  Twyla K. Pratt
                  Alisha Saleem
                  Abdulrahman A. Zendah

Faculty: Dr. Kevin Hammond

Scholarship Recipients for Spring 2016

Brown/Hill Scholarship
Carrie Turner – $1,750
Megan Vinyard – $875
Meredith McMasters – $875

Mitchell Scholarship
Larry Johnson – $500

Usery Scholarship
Chase Thweatt – $500
Kayla Ford – $500

Vawter Scholarship
Hannah Wood – $750
Emily Reeves – $750
Jake Blakely – $750
Brandon White – $750

Retired Accounting Faculty Scholarship
Tara Adcock – $500
Kelsey Gregory – $500
Aaron White - $500

Outstanding Students and Awards

Upper Division AFEPS
Rebecca E. Lund
Emily D. McCartney
Jordan H. Long
Forrest B. Hutcherson
Taylor S. Martin
Amber L. Cunningham
Dorothy J. Boyle
Sarah E. Candeloro
Miranda N. Rutan
Morgan C. Fitzgerald
Breydon D. Horton
Selena Chavez
Ziya Gao
Alicia R. Cooper
Whitley B. Lance
Caleb A. Giles
Daniels Recounts Experiences

Nathan Daniels, senior international studies major from Savannah, Tennessee, appeared on Campus Connection for the Skyhawk women’s basketball game vs. Murray State. Nathan was a press intern for Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill in fall 2015. He talked about his internship and other experiences that have prepared him for his May 2016 graduation and the professional world beyond.

Pratt Appears on Campus Connection

UT Martin senior business student, Twyla Pratt of Parson, TN, was featured on Campus Connection at the Skyhawk men’s OVC semi-final basketball game. Pratt was among a group of six UTM students who attended Super Bowl 50 as part of the university’s sport business program, directed by Dr. Dexter Davis.

Perry, CBGA Student, Named to Henry County Chamber of Commerce

April Perry, co-owner of Perry’s Barbecue with her husband Patrick, has joined the Board of Directors of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, 2508 East Wood Street, Paris, Tennessee. Perry is a graduate of the Chamber’s Small Business Basics class and has been a member since the opening of her business.

The 18 member Board of Directors oversees the operations of the Chamber, reviews financials and creates an annual program of work for the organization, which is over 50 years old and has over 400 members.

“April Perry is a tremendous asset to our Board and we are honored by her service,” according to Chamber President Tony Lawrence, Paris Parks and Recreation.
Meet the Editors

Editors for this addition of the CBGA newsletter include senior business communication students (pictured below, l–r) Asha Jenkins, Jonathan Crawford, and Jordan Sinclair. These students were responsible for completing write-ups, photography, and editing of articles.

Graubner Grabs Scholarship

Dr. Bob Smith (above, left), interim chancellor, and Dr. Mahmoud Haddad (above, right), Professor of Finance, attended the April 26 meeting of the Memphis Chapter of Financial Executives International, where Smith served as the guest speaker. Mark Graubner (center), a senior finance major from Nolensville, received one of the organization’s annual $2,000 scholarships.

April Golatt, CBGA business student, received the Soybean Innovation Award at the recent Collegiate Business Concept Pitch contest on April 27, sponsored by the Northwest TN Entrepreneur Center. Third place winner was Victoria Falcon (below). Both students are enrolled in the MGT 304 class under the instruction of Dr. Brandon Kilburn, in which students were encouraged to enter the contest and allowed to practice their pitches in class.

Student Travel Opportunity

Australia Trip

This 15-day, faculty-led program offers students up-close contact with Australian culture and its connection to business and tourism. The trip includes field trips, guest lectures, and visits to sites of historic and cultural significance. For information, contact Dr. Melanie Bruce, mbruce8@utm.edu
National Exchange Student, Nathan Gutmann Receives Internship Due to Experience at UTM

Former UTM business and National Exchange Student, Nate Gutmann, a native of Adams, Massachusetts, recently received an internship with the Massachusetts Golf Association. Gutmann received the internship opportunity due to having served in an internship at “Golf Week Amateur Tour National Championship” in South Carolina in October of 2015 with CBGA Sports Business Assistant Professor, Dr. Dexter Davis.

In a message to Davis, Gutmann wrote:
“Being part of the National Student Exchange Program (NSE) was by far the best experience of my life. I was able to narrow down to four schools when I was picking where I wanted to study. . . . I was told that our school has a good relationship with UTM, so I trusted that word and went to UTM. The NSE gives students the opportunity to study anywhere within the United States. With that being said, my semester at UTM was nothing but excitement and opportunities to broaden my horizon. Being away from home for the first time was a shock to me, but that [experience] gave me the opportunity to figure things out on my own and have that ‘go get it’ attitude. The business [college] at UTM was outstanding! I learned a lot from the department there [that] has carried over to this spring semester here at MCLA where I [currently] attend. I was able to meet a lot of amazing friends who made the experience that much better. They always say, “People are friendly in the South,” and they really are!

My internship with Dr. Dexter Davis was truly a great experience for me. It was my first real internship in the sports industry and I could not have asked for a better mentor for it. It opened . . . my eyes to how the industry runs inside and out and how hard it is to keep everything running smoothly. Being in Hilton Head [SC] led me to being an intern for the Massachusetts Golf Association in Norton, MA. I will be conducting course ratings, assisting in the organization and administration of tournaments throughout the state of MA, [completing] data entry, communication, and memberships. Most of the things I will be doing this summer, I had experience with in Hilton Head. The people at MGA were impressed with my internship in Hilton Head and it was all good news from there. UTM has literally changed my life and I will always be thankful for the opportunity I was given.”

Pictured: Nathan Gutmann

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