

COB Lion Pride

#BestInClass

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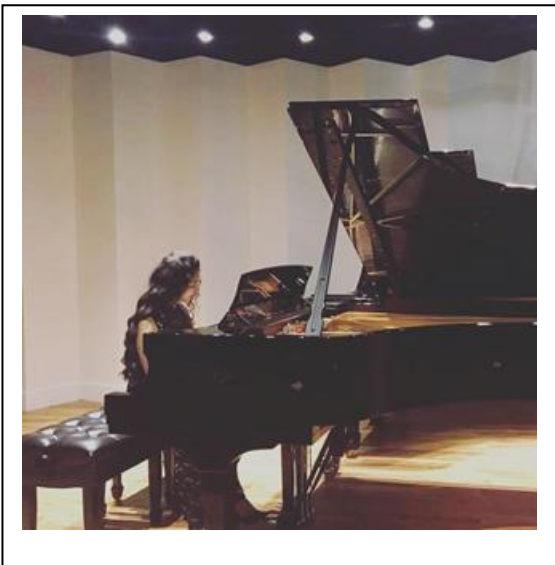
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Remember this feeling?

It's that moment, right after walking across the stage at graduation, when you know that you can tackle whatever life brings your way. It's the euphoria of significant accomplishment earned through years of hard work and sacrifice that cannot be diminished by the prejudices of the world. For College of Business students, it is the recognition that they are leaving us as career-ready professionals prepared to add value in a global business environment. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and generations of business alumni who are proud to be Lions, we wish our new graduates every success! Our reputation grows each day through our talented and hard-working alumni who add value to local and global economies; your success is our success! Go Lions!



From Grit to Greatness – Pianist AND Accountant!



People often ask me “WHY? Why a business degree?” And I always answer the same way – because it is one of the best-rounded educations that one can pursue! This month’s student spotlight shines on Abigail Pioquinto, a young woman whose passion is music, but who sees the value of business acumen and is also pursuing a minor in Accounting.

The daughter of immigrants, Abigail is a first generation college student who seeks to encourage Hispanic youth to appreciate classical music and she hopes to one day organize a mission trip with a team of musicians to perform and teach music in developing countries. Although Abigail has a natural gift for music, she decided to pursue a minor in accounting after her realizing that she could help her father who had started his own business. Feeling the entrepreneurial pull, Abigail also appreciates that if she is to start and grow a successful independent piano studio, accounting skills are a must for any business owner.

The truth is that one’s passion may be architecture, law, or even playing basketball. Whatever the skill set or field, everything has a “business” side to it. The College of Business transforms lives and provides the transferable skills associated with success in life. All majors need apply!

Innovation First International + COB Interns = Career Ready

Innovation First International and its subsidiaries (VEX Robotics Inc., RackSolutions, Inc., and Innovation First Labs, Inc.) are leaders in the educational robotics, robotics toys, and rack mounting industries. Headquartered in Greenville, TX, IFI is also a College of Business internship partner who has employed numerous interns and hired several students for permanent positions after graduation.



Every semester dozens of students from all College of Business disciplines gain valuable work experiences in diverse organizations across Texas. Sixty-seven percent of interns currently earn college credit for their efforts, too. If your organization has an internship program, or would like to initiate one, please reach out to me. Whether you need one student or several, your opportunity could be the foundation of a business student's career!

SBECON Hosts Lunch & Learn



On Wednesday, May 16th 45+ representatives of businesses and economic development organizations from around the region converged on the Texas A&M – Commerce campus for a professional Lunch and Learn. Professional futurist, Jeff Wacker offered his insight on the major socio-economic trends that are affecting our businesses and our lives. As with any gathering of our business community, one of the best parts of the meeting was the conversation that ensued. Jeff's presentation aligned with the College of Business's goal to serve the region through supporting the sharing of cutting edge ideas and focusing attention on small business, entrepreneurship and economic development for the region.

A huge "thank you" to the numerous Economic Development Corporations who helped to sponsor the event – Commerce EDC, Greenville EDC, Farmersville EDC, and the Sulphur Springs EDC. Our next event will be held in the fall – details forthcoming!



Oh, The Places You'll Go!!

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose!" –Dr. Seuss

Please help us show College of Business students the many places that our alumni have gone by sending us a copy of your business card! Even better – jot your degree and graduation year on the back, too! We hope to create a huge inspiration board showing that Lions have been successful everywhere across many domains!

Thank you in advance for dropping in the mail to my attention!

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There's No Place Like Home

Here's a shout out to the A&M Commerce alumni who currently teach in the COB! We're proud of all of our faculty, but our students sometimes get the benefit of a "two-for-one," where in addition to learning the material, they also see an A&M Commerce graduate with a successful career. Not surprisingly, these faculty often receive superlative teaching evaluations too! We're thankful that these Lions have returned "home" to their alma mater to share their hard-earned knowledge with the next generation of business...Keep up the great work: Cheryl Scott, Mick Trusty, Scott Wheeler, Elva Resendez, Scott Sewell, Joe Shipman, Jared Pickens, Dale Funderburk, Jay Garret, Kendra Ingram, Lloyd Basham, and Sonia Taneja.

Our people are amazing...



Dr. Sandra Gates receives the C.W. Leftwich Imagination in Teaching Award



Dr. Jay Garrett receives the Madeline Justice Excellence in Teaching Award



Dr. Chuck Arize receives the John Humphreys Academic Excellence Award



Melissa Haynes receives the Staff Employee of the Month Award



Tammie Bellotte retires after 10 years of service to the College of Business

Faculty & Students Excel

I continue to be WOWED by the exceptional faculty and students in the College of Business! Although one would expect them to be prolific authors, many are also engaged in helping students expand their horizons beyond the walls of a classroom!



Finance students receive case competition award at University West Florida



Business Analytics students attend ISACA Lunch



Accounting students attend Beta Alpha Psi Regional Meeting



Numerous students presented research at the TAMU annual Research Symposium. All graduate assistants collaborate with faculty as part of their positions in the COB.

Welcome Dawn Gomez to Career Services

The College of Business would like to introduce everyone to the new Coordinator of Career Services – Dr. Dawn Gomez.

Dr. Gomez comes to TAMUC COB with over ten years career development and placement experience, and she encourages all COB students to avail themselves of COB Career Services early and often. She is also available to work with our alumni as they seek to pursue career transitions, new positions, or just want to freshen up their networking skills.

Programs include career counseling and assessment, resume preparation, mock interviewing, comprehensive job search, networking, internships, and the Distinction of Professional Development (DPD).

If you are interested in the our Career Services offerings or if you have internships or permanent positions you need to fill and would like to fill with our students, email Dr. Gomez at COBcareers@tamuc.edu.



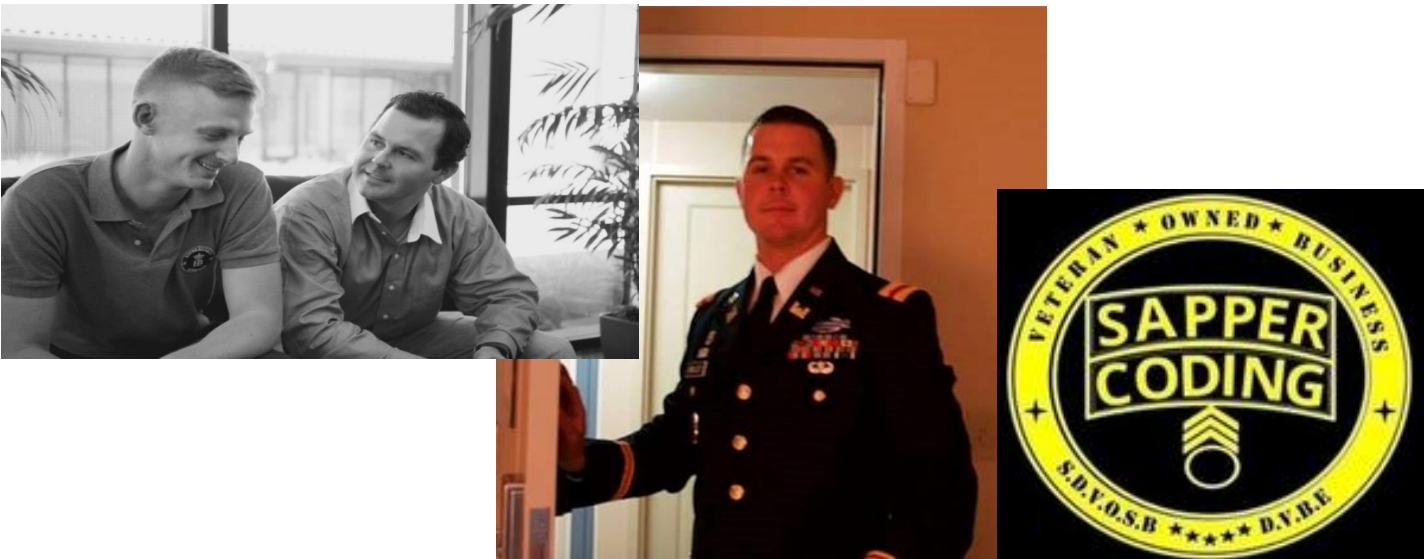
Student & Veteran Spotlight

The best part of my job is the people...faculty, staff, students, and alumni. My goal with the newsletter is to give you a glimpse of what makes the College of Business such a special place to be right now.

“Veterans Still Serving” is the mantra that Loy O’Kelley lives as he seeks to serve veterans and the business community. A 13-year, multiple combat tour veteran born and raised in TX, O’Kelley joined the army straight out of high school. By earning his undergraduate degree while serving, he ultimately attained his goal of becoming an Army officer; and served 18 years before retiring due to sustained injuries.

Today O’Kelley is an entrepreneur pursuing his MBA with a minor in Finance. He and his business partner, John Bradley (also a veteran), have opened a software development company, [Sapper Coding](#), focused on promoting veterans in the technology industry, creating websites, mobile applications, and providing full-stack web development training to veterans, spouses, and families to assist in transitioning to successful civilian positions.

Thank you, Loy O’Kelley, for your service to our country and your continued service to the business community and other veterans. We are proud that you chose the College of Business at A&M – Commerce to be your academic home. HOOAH!



Hold these Dates!

I know that summer is just beginning, but in the College of Business we are already hard at work planning for the coming academic year. Please put the following dates on your calendar and plan to participate!

- 🚩 Every home football game – drop by the COB tailgating tent
- 🚩 Saturday, October 27th: Homecoming – College of Business 5k Fun Run/Walk
- 🚩 Saturday, December 1st: Scholarship & Internship Banquet

Interested in helping sponsor our Banquet? We would love to have your assistance as we honor our best students!

End of the School Year

WOW! I blinked and the next thing I know, my first academic year at A&M – Commerce was gone! Looking back there were many successes for the College of Business team and our students. We made significant progress on our strategic plan including meeting many of you at College and University events, raising scholarship funds for our students, moving our new Finance Lab toward a summer ground-breaking (look for pictures next time!), and graduating hundreds of career-ready business professionals. Watching our students walk across the stage at graduation, I couldn't help but feel Lion Pride for all that they have done and the great things yet to come.

If you would like to become more engaged in the College and its life, please reach out to me. I try to interact with alumni every month and would welcome sharing a cup of coffee with you and/or visiting your company. I enjoy getting to meet with you and appreciate your willingness to help spotlight the "best kept secret" in Texas higher education. We all know that a superlative business education is available from A&M – Commerce's AACSB accredited College of Business; it's time everyone else does, too. Please, help me spread the word!

As I conclude this newsletter, I truly only have one thing to say. Thank you! I try to approach every day with a heart of gratitude for the many blessings in my life. Any success I have as the dean of this college is a direct result of the team of faculty and staff and their hard work, the alumni who advertise the quality of our programs through their many successes, and the philanthropists who make meaningful investments in our future. I am grateful to all of you for your contributions to our mission and your continued support of the College of Business. Your benevolent investments in our college – scholarships, donations to our Excellence Funds, professorships – all pave the way for a sustainable College of Business that will continue transforming lives for future generations.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months and hearing your story of Lion Pride!

Cheers,

Shanan Gibson, Dean
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