Dear Tiger,

I wish I had time to put together Deans’ Notes more frequently. By the time I can find time to chronicle activities, the list of great and exciting things occurring in the Fort Hays State University College of Business and Entrepreneurship (COBE) gets long! It is great to have so many positive things happening in your college. I also know that I sometimes overlook accomplishments because there are so many achievements worth celebrating.

The 2016-2017 school year came to a very positive conclusion with a new record for graduation size. We have also seen excellent student job placement and can attest to quality teaching and learning. We will miss this year’s graduates.

Let me share other highlights:

**FHSU COBE Student Selected for Kansas Woman’s Leadership Institute**
Whitney Tilley, a FHSU Senior in Management, Minor in Organizational Leadership, has been selected as part of the third class of the Kansas Women’s Leadership Institute. This is a six week event held in Washington, D.C. and facilitated by the University of Kansas.

**FHSU Students Selected to Part of National Millennial Think Tank**
Fort Hays State University College of Business and Entrepreneurship was asked by Bill Imada, Chairman & Chief Connectivity Officer of IWGroup, to be a part of a national group of Millennial College students and faculty advisors in January. The group of students and advisors conduct WebEx discussions with CEO’s, CIO’s, and VP’s of some the most prestigious organizations in America. The purpose, according to Imada, is for companies to understand today’s Millennial. Today’s generation has very different views and uses much different technology and media to gather information to make informed choices.

Imada’s background is marketing and he began by wanting to understand the younger generation and how they determine where, when and what to purchase. This has grown into conversations on marketing, jobs of the future and current internships. Mr. Imada’s idea has afforded the group the opportunity to talk with executives from Warner Bros, the Deputy Secretary of U.S. Department of Commerce, executives from DoSomething.org, the CFO of the Golden State Warriors and many others.

The Fort Hays State University student team consists of Mr. Amadou Berete (MBA Student), Ms. Ashley Nease (Marketing, now MBA student), Ms. Lucy Loyall-Pratlow (Social Work) and Mr. Parker Holterman (Management Major). The advisors for the FHSU Millennial Group are Dr. Emi Moriuchi, Mr. Henry Schwaller and Ms. Merri Incitti.
The group has been given the opportunity to travel to New York City this summer to meet other executives face-to-face. Parker Holterman will be attending on behalf of the FHSU Millennial Think Tank group.

**FHSU Media Studies Students Again Win Record Number of KAB Awards**

Media Studies students blew away the 2015 record number of awards in the Kansas Association of Broadcasters college and university competition by winning 10 1st place and 2nd place awards in 2016. Universities and community colleges across Kansas compete in this competition – including the University of Kansas and Kansas State.

Fort Hays State University Media students are dominating this competition. 2016 winners include:

1st Place, DJ Personality for Radio or News Anchor for TV - DJ Tank, Tim Abrams.
1st Place, Station Promotion Announcement - The Wave, Season 2 Premiere, Ricky Kerr.
1st Place, Sports Play-by-Play - FHSU v. SBU Women, Tiger Sports Network (TSN) Production Team.
1st Place, Entertainment Program - Local Spice Episode I - Sake 2 Me Sushi, Marshall Slough, Kaycee Bethman.
1st Place, 60 Second Commercial- PSA or non-commercial donor announcement - Kansas CASA with Bill Snyder, Tyler Parks.
1st Place, Station Promotion Announcement - Mineral Water Bowl, Tyler Parks.
1st Place, Complete Sports Feature - Transfers (FHSU Football), Tyler Parks.
1st Place, Sportscast - FHSU vs. UCM Feb. 4, 2016, Tyler Parks.
1st Place, DJ Personality for Radio OR News Anchor for TV - KAB Anchor Performance, Garrett Sager.
1st Place, Sports Play by Play - UCO vs FHSU, Garrett Sager.
2nd Place, 30 Second Commercial- PSA or non-commercial donor announcement – Voting, Ricky Kerr.

**MBA and BBA Students Continue to Score Impressively on ETS Major Field Test**

Fort Hays State administers the Major Field Test in Business to graduating MBA and BBA students each semester. The Major Field Test was developed by leading educators, nationally, to assess the skills of graduating students. In addition to factual knowledge, the test evaluates students’ abilities to analyze and solve problems, understand relationships and interpret material. The following students placed among the top graduates in the nation:

**Top 20% Scores on BBA ETS Major Field Test:**

MBA graduates Felicia Mincks, Kansas City, KS; Marc McCrary, Hutchinson; Nikolous Rempe, McPherson; and Kunwar Shahrukh, Lahore, Pakistan; scored in the top 10 percent (90th percentile) nationally on the ETS Major Field Test. MBA graduates Tim Westfahl, Wichita; Olivia Seirer, Manhattan; Mycal Miles, Douglass; Stephanie Goolsby, Waldo, FL; Bryce Owens, Aurora, CO; Kai Wang, Xingyang, China; and Juan Hou, San Diego, CA; scored in the top 20 percent (80th percentile).
Top 20% Scores on the BBA ETS Major Field Test:
BBA graduates Matthew McWithey, Winfield; Brian Griffith, Walla Walla, WA; Charles Clark, Topeka; Vinicius Menslin, Curitiba, NE; Jenna Maas, Frankfurt; Chetera Campbell, Riverside, CA; Minda Smith, Peyton, CO; and Jason Hardy, San Diego, CA; scored in the top 10 percent (90th percentile) nationally on the ETS Major Field Test. BBA graduates Shannon Adams, Hays; Kara Hunziker, Hays; Michaela Kuhn, Hays; Gabrielle Makatura, Lakewood, CO; Lisa Smith, Halstead; Beth Breitinger, Mount Pleasant, SC; Dana Conrad, Greensburg; Kelly Grismore, Alma, NE; Laura Johnson, Dacula, GA; William Fox, Minooka, IL; Carolyn Garrison, Dallas, TX; Zach Minnis, St. John; Kevin Street, Lincoln; Casey Roy, North Platte, NE; and Isaac Williams, Hutchinson; scored in the top 20 percent (80th percentile) nationally on the ETS Major Field Test.

Scholarship Awarded to Students
The COBE hosted its annual scholarship reception on Friday, April 29, 2016 in the Eagle Communications Hall at the Robbins Center. COBE awarded 178 scholarships to College of Business and Entrepreneurship majors totaling $117,600 and 31.5 full-time graduate tuition assistantships were given to COBE graduate students totaling approximately $315,000. Students and their parents, donors of the scholarships, and faculty participated in this event.

Scholarships make a difference in the lives of students. Students are very appreciative and thankful. Scholarships are possible due to the support of alumni and friends of the university. On behalf of the college and its students, I want to thank everyone who donates to scholarship funds. “Thank you!”

Faculty Member Recognized Nationally
Angela Walters who earned FHSU’s Edmund Shearer Advising Award last spring – has been named one of the NACADA 2016 Award Winners! This is a national level recognition for outstanding faculty advisors. Angela will be recognized at the NACADA conference in Atlanta this fall.

FHSU Entrepreneurial Challenge & Kansas Entrepreneurial Challenge
The second annual FHSU Entrepreneurship Challenge wrapped up in April and proved to be even more successful than the previous year. The output from the event was excellent with each team putting in great effort to ensure that they got the most from their startup experience.

This year’s event was put together by Andres Torres, Entrepreneurship Coordinator; Dmitry Gimon, Informatics Professor; and Mark Schneweis, Informatics Graduate Assistant. Students came from a wide variety of majors.

Torres said, “There were students from Finance, Web Development, Computer Science, Graphic Design, Biology, Management and Marketing between others. The combination of all these minds together brought a great output.”

Six teams competed in the challenge each one providing their own idea for a product, event, or app. The ideas varied from video translation services and 5K events to CO2 emission trackers and medical record organizers. The winner of the challenge was the team CO2LLECT, which presented a product that allowed for the testing of CO2. The product’s purpose would be to test
the quality of air in households, and use the data collected to find ways to improve it. The team consisted of members Cory McCurry (Biology), Camille Caron-Bedard (Graphic Design), Marcos Silva (Informatics), and Michaela Diericks (Marketing). This team competed at the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge at Kansas State University and earned second place in the state-wide competition.

The FHSU competition this year gave away a total of $1,750 in cash prizes distributed as follows $1,000, $500, and $250 for the top three teams respectively.

**COBE Holds Reception Honoring Kyle Staab, Kansas Top CPA Score**
On May 2, the COBE and the Mapes and Miller accounting firm held a reception honoring Kyle Staab. Staab earned the top score CPA exam score in Kansas for the 2015 testing period in which he completed his final exam. Kyle works for Mapes and Miller in its Phillipsburg office. This is the third time in five years that a FHSU Accounting graduate has commanded the top score in the state.

**Accounting Students Continue Participation in Service-Learning Opportunities**
Service-learning is an educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service in order to provide a pragmatic, progressive learning experience while meeting societal needs. Service-learning provides students with practical opportunities to apply classroom learning to support or enhance the work of local agencies that often exist to effect positive change in the community. Accounting students in the Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting continued their participation in two notable programs this year. These programs are great opportunities for students to enhance their skills and apply what they have learned in the classroom to real life situations.

**Kansas Cavalry, Inc. DBA Team Kansas**
Team Kansas is a group of private business leaders, economic development professionals, and state officials who work to attract companies, investments, and jobs to Kansas. The organization collaborates with the Kansas Department of Commerce and the State of Kansas to share the state’s story with businesses and entrepreneurs from around the world.
Drew Clarke and Matt Frank, senior accounting students, under the supervision of Cole Engel, instructor of accounting, worked with the Team Kansas/Kansas Cavalry organization to compile financial statements and informational returns and reports to maintain the organization’s non-profit status.

“Each year students from the Fort Hays University Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting review the financials for the Team Kansas/Kansas Cavalry organization and prepare all necessary paperwork to be filed,” said Mary Perez, program coordinator for Team Kansas/Kansas Cavalry. “Over the years the students provided our organization with thorough and valuable feedback which helped streamline the accounting process. I found the students to be very professional and detailed.”

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**
The Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting offers free income tax preparation each year through the VITA program. The volunteer tax return preparers are FHSU students majoring in accounting and supervising FHSU faculty members from the Department. Twenty-eight students, under the supervision of faculty members Charlie Gnizak, Cole Engel, and Misty Schartz, participated in the program this year.

A total of 165 tax returns were prepared at no charge to the taxpayers during the program this year. At an estimated average charge of $120 per return, the program saved local taxpayers approximately $19,800 in filing fees. Tax returns are prepared on-campus in McCartney Hall Computer Labs using tax software provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

Low-to moderate-income ($54,000 and below) citizens are eligible to receive assistance from qualified FHSU students. VITA volunteers are qualified to prepare: Form 1040EZ, 1040A, and 1040; Schedule A (Itemized Deductions), Schedule B (Interest and Dividends), and Schedule EIC (Earned Income Credit). Program limitations do not allow volunteers to prepare any of the following: Schedule C (Business Income), Schedule D (Capital Gains), Schedule E (Rent Income & Royalties), Schedule F (Farm Income), and foreign student returns.

**COBE Student Awards**
Annually, the College of Business and Entrepreneurship honors an outstanding graduating senior and graduating MBA student in recognition of high personal standards of leadership, scholarship, professionalism, and personal conduct. The senior awardee is Felix Albl, Kleinmachnow, Germany The MBA award winner is Eric Ladd, Topeka, Kansas.

**Rumpel Recognized and Remembered**
Long-time Accounting faculty member Joan Rumpel who passed away in May 2015 from cancer, was recognized by the FHSU Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity (AKPs) through two fund-raisers. AKPs adopted the Cancer Council of Ellis County as its local philanthropy. Members organized a benefit concert with the Jared Daniels Band on April 15 at Fire and Ice (alumni will remember this as the former “Home Party Club”). The event raised $800 which was presented to the Council in honor of Joan.
The AKPSi chapter was also given an autographed MIAA Lady Tiger championship shirt that was originally meant for Rumpel. The chapter framed the piece and sold it to the Golden Q, where it is now displayed inside the front door. Proceeds from the sale were deposited into the Joan Rumpel Memorial Scholarship Fund.

**FHSU Entrepreneurs Featured**
The March 29 Entrepreneur Direct featured four young Hays area entrepreneurs who have started three Hays based businesses. Each of these businesses has a market footprint well beyond the immediate community. The presenters were: Lance Bickle and Dallas Haselhorst, co-founders of Sicoir Computer Technologies; Joseph Boeckner, founder of Joe Bob’s Outfitters, a storefront and on-line retailer of guns and shooting supplies; and Dustin Roths, founder of Diamond R Jewelry, Diamond Broker of Kansas.

*Entrepreneur Direct* is a speaker series that features successful entrepreneurs in an informal setting accessible to students, faculty and the public. The program is intended to connect students with successful entrepreneurs who have stories and advice to share. A panel asks questions about entrepreneurship and encourages questions and interaction with the audience. Video of the presentation can be viewed at: [https://vimeo.com/169112117](https://vimeo.com/169112117)

**DECA Chapter Takes Lead in Helping Kansas High Schools With Professional Dress**

Professional dress is not frequently taught in high school, which often leaves graduating students lost in how to properly dress and prepare for interviews or the professional work place. Felix Albl, a senior from Lansing who is the president of the DECA chapter at Fort Hays State University, decided to do something about it.

Albl said he thought about what would work best to engage students and teachers, "instead of using the typical stuff that is sent to high schools such as pencils and pens or anything that can be easily thrown around and forgotten."

After some serious thinking, they hit on the idea of posters.

"When I was in high school, I used to always look at the posters around school," said Albl,

They decided the posters would showcase students demonstrating how to properly dress for an interview.

"We wanted to showcase a variety of students from different ethnic groups that would allow students from different minorities to identify with the students on the posters and feel like they can also succeed," said Albl.
To get started, Albl had to figure out where the funding for the project was going to come from. Once they had funding, they started with a photo shoot where six students of different ethnicities modeled clothes that were both business casual and professional.

Each package also included a letter to the teacher on what the posters were meant to be and the challenge on how to use the posters in different ways or display them with the hashtag fhsbizdress that would be used to post the pictures on Twitter. The winner of the challenge will receive an FHSU-themed prize.

Lauren Solzman, a senior from Highlands Ranch, Colo., was one of the students who modeled for the posters. She said she really enjoyed the experience of making the business dress posters.

"When we first started the process, I wasn’t sure exactly what it was going to entail, but once we got started I saw the vision coming together," said Solzman, "It was nice to see businesses in the community as well as the College of Business working together to complete this project."

Solzman also said she wished there had been examples like the posters to look at when she was in high school. "I'm glad that we're able to give this to students to help them understand business attire a little better," she said.

Thank you
Thank you for your support and involvement. It is exciting to have students, faculty, administrators and alumni working together to truly make great things happen! Have a great summer!

Sincerely

Mark Bannister
Dean