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Dear Tiger,

The spring semester has started with a great deal of energy and excitement as we head into the second half of the academic year. This is a shorter set of Dean’s notes, but I want to make sure students, alumni, and friends are aware of the upcoming *Entrepreneur Direct* presentation and another high set of rankings.

**FHSU’s Entrepreneur Direct Lecture Series to Feature Shipping and IT Entrepreneurs**

Since Fort Hays State University started its Entrepreneur Direct Speaker Series in 2010, it has featured a wide variety of entrepreneurs from legendary entrepreneurs near the end of their careers to young entrepreneurs who only recently started businesses. On February 22, 2018 the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship will present two successful mid-career entrepreneurial businessmen who are leading substantial large-scale businesses. John Tavlarios and Jim Brull will present in the Robbins Center’s Eagle Communication Hall from 10:30-11:45 a.m. on the Fort Hays State University campus. The presentation is open to the university community and the public. It is free of charge.

John Tavlarios is the Chief Operating Officer of Gener8 Maritime, Inc. Gener8 engages in the transportation of international seaborne crude oil and petroleum products and has operations around the globe. Tavlarios has worked in varying positions related to international shipping and marine operations for over 30 years. Past positions include President and founder of Halcyon Trading Company, a consulting firm specializing in international business development with a particular emphasis on the international oil industry. Tavlarios’ wife Linda Murphy Tavlarios is a Hays native and 1981 Fort Hays State University Political Science graduate.

Jim Brull is one of four managing partners and co-founder of Centroid [www.centroid.com](http://www.centroid.com). The company provides IT Consulting, Managed Services and Cloud Services for mid-market to enterprise accounts across the USA. Centroid is regarded as one of Oracle’s top partners in the ecosystem. Centroid has won numerous awards in the industry from its customers and from Oracle. It has distinguished itself as one of Oracle’s Top 25 Go-to Partners across North America out of 4500 partners.  Centroid has strategic relationships with Oracle, Gartner and Equinix, HID Security. Brull is a Stockton native who received his BBA in Marketing from Fort Hays State University in 1989.

**U.S. News and World Report Rankings**

The most conventional of academic rankings is the *U.S. News and World Report* set of rankings. **The January 2018 rankings placed the FHSU undergraduate online Bachelor of Business Administration 35th out of 346 institutions**. Kansas State was 74th, Wichita State, 174, and Pittsburg State 234 (the University of Kansas does not offer an online undergraduate degree in business).

**Computer Networking Degree Ranked #3**

Rankings continue to come in rating FHSU’s Robbins College of Business & Entrepreneurship program among the top in the country. In December, Fort Hays State University’s online Bachelor of Science in Information Networking Telecommunications Computer Networking earned the No. 3 spot on TheBestColleges.org’s list of the 10 best online bachelor degrees in networking administration in the nation for 2017. <http://www.fhsu.edu/news/2017/12/fhsu-earns-no.-3-ranking.html>



**Proud of You!**

Fort Hays State University’s Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship is proud of its current students, alumni, faculty, staff and many friends. Working together we are making great things happen. Stay in touch!

Sincerely,



Mark Bannister, Dean
Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship

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"If you want one year of prosperity, grow grain.  If you want ten years of prosperity, grow trees.  If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people."  Old Chinese Proverb

