

Dear Tiger,

The early summer has arrived.  It was a wet spring and the Fort Hays State University campus is beautiful.  You can see why it has been described in national publications as “one of the most beautiful campuses in America.”

As Dean, I am excited about the opportunities the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship is offering its students and the impact it has on Kansas and beyond.  As your read the newsletter below, you will see that we have faculty and students in leadership positions nationally and we have student groups and programs that are rated #1 in the nation.  Alumni are excelling in a wide variety of professions.  Some of these alumni are sharing their experiences with the campus community.

**Alpha Kappa Psi**

This link connects to photos of the induction of W.R. and Yvonne Robbins into FHSU’s Zeta Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi on April 26, 2017.  Congratulations to the Robbins Family and to Zeta Pi for its outstanding new honorary members.

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMjB1ucQw4FjXVzYa3NolzlYQQrkvi_l-s1F2yJxfZpkadQ_S-Lh0uC6Lucg5yDqQ?key=QVp4ZF90SUZJRUoxNXVUZkszcENVandITFdSY2l3>

**Digital Media Students Keep on Rolling and Winning Awards**

Digital Media Production and Journalism students from the Department of Informatics (INF) at Fort Hays State University grabbed six 1st place awards, six 2nd place awards and four Honorable Mention awards at this year's Kansas Association of Broadcasters annual Student Seminar.

Todd Elsen, executive producer of the Tiger Media Network (TMN), said, "Students from the Digital Media Program in the FHSU Department of Informatics have a proud history of performing well in the annual KAB competition. The program continues to grow by leaps and bounds and students’ dedication to the craft is once again recognized as high quality by industry professionals."

Students from Fort Hays State have a long history winning KAB awards in radio, television, sports announcing, and documentary categories. The addition of the state-of-the-art facilities at Hammond Hall have positioned students to further improve, and the quality of their work is validated this year at local, state, as well as national levels of review.  These awards are often “door openers” as students apply for jobs.

Ron Rohlf, Audio Production faculty who coordinates the submission process, is not surprised about this year’s showing, “...which includes a first for FHSU: two awards earned nationally, meaning two INF media production students would walk the red carpet in Las Vegas this April at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)/Broadcast Education Association (BEA) convention. I can't express how proud I am at this moment! Suffice it to say... congrats to all!”

This year's award winners from Fort Hays State:

Undergraduate Radio

1st Place – **Documentary**, *OpDoc:  Traditional College Experience*, Kadrae Smith, Mulvane senior.

1st Place **– Promotion Event/Activity**, *#CollegeRadioDay Concert with KFHS Radio*, Kadrae Smith, Mulvane senior

1st Place – **Research Paper**, *Copyright Infringement and Plagiarism in Video Games*, Tim Abrams, Derby senior.

2nd Place – **Entertainment Program**, *Anime Podcast*, Kadrae Smith, Mulvane senior.

2nd Place – **Research Paper**, *Public and Private Influences on the First Amendment and Independent Journalism*, Richard Kerr, Wichita senior.

Honorable Mention **– DJ Personality for Radio OR News Anchor for TV**, *The Battlefield*, Tim Abrams, Derby senior.

Undergraduate Television

1st Place **– Public Affairs Program**, *One on One with Ulises Gonzalez*, Richard Kerr, Wichita senior

1st Place – **Entertainment Program**, *Local Spice, Episode 3, Breathe Coffee House*, Cooper Slough, Goodland senior.

2nd Place – **Hard News Package**, *Protest Coverage*, Tim Abrams, Derby senior.

2nd Place – **Documentary**, *Kansas City Coffee Culture*, Cooper Slough, Goodland senior.

Honorable Mention – **Entertainment Program**, *The Wave, No Host, No Problem; Season 2, Episode 3*, Tim Abrams, Derby senior.

Honorable Mention **– Promotional Audio OR Video**, *FHSU Learning Communities Promo*, Richard Kerr, Wichita senior.

Intern/TV

1st Place – **Enterprise News Package**, *The Joy of Simplicity*, Cooper Slough, Goodland senior

Honorable Mention – **Promotional Audio OR Video**, *Handcrafted Hays, Popt! Gourmet Popcorn*, Cooper Slough, Goodland senior

NAB/BEA

1st Place – **Audio OpDoc,** *#FailCampusCarry*, Paul Kirkwood, Garfield senior   
Honorable Mention – **Promotional Spot (less than :90)**, *#LegendsNeverDie Teaser*, Richard Kerr, Wichita senior

**Collegiate DECA**

The 2017 Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference was held in Anaheim, CA in Mid-April. Felix Albl (BS 2016 and current MBA student) was one of five Executive Officers for the International organization who planned the conference and facilitated professional development academies for members/participants.

Collegiate DECA is an international organization of more than 15,000 emerging leaders and entrepreneurs who are college students nearing entry into the workforce.  Collegiate DECA provides these students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge they have gained in the classroom to real-world problems in competitive events (case studies, simulations, and prepared business events), as well as through activities in their local communities.

**Support and Leadership of Kansas High School DECA**

The Department of Applied Business Studies (through the Business Education program) were contracted in September2016 by the Kansas Department of Education to manage Kansas DECA for the agency.  The goal of this partnership was to increase student membership, foster a climate of professional development for advisors, and to build post-secondary relationships that would benefit Kansas DECA members and advisors.

March 5-7 marked the first Kansas DECA State Career Development Conference since the relationship between the Kansas Department of Education and the Fort Hays State University was finalized.  Conference activities served over 1,000 high school students, advisors, and chaperons—the largest known to date.  In addition, 45 post-secondary schools from three different states participated in the inaugural “College Fair” offered during the conference.

Kansas DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.  Kansas has over 40 local chapters in a wide variety of schools and communities across the state.  Students in Kansas have been actively involved in DECA since the 1940’s.

**We are #1!!!**

Programs in the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship continue to receive the top ranking possible for their distance learning degrees.  We believe these also reflect the strength of on-campus faculty and students.

Yahoo Finance has ranked the FHSU BBA in Marketing as #1

<http://www.nonprofitcollegesonline.com/best-online-bachelors-in-marketing/>. This is a big deal!  There are hundreds of on-line programs in marketing!

Human Resources MBA has named the FHSU Master of Professional Studies in Human Resource Management as #1 in a listing of the 50 best online master’s in Human Resource degree programs.  The site stated that in order to be considered, each school must be an accredited school with online programs aligning to the Society of Human Resource Management’s recommended guidelines for a quality HR education. Degrees were then ranked by their average graduate tuition rate as indicated on the NCES College Navigator database website.  Fort Hays State University, ranked 1st, was recognized in part for offering elective coursework including employment law, conflict management, and project management.

<http://www.humanresourcesmba.net/best/online-hr-masters/>

**And Darned Close to #1**

Fort Hays State University was recently ranked 2nd in the ranking of the best online Bachelors in Business Administration degrees for 2017.  The ranking was created by consulting the NCES College Navigator database to find schools that offered online Bachelors in Business Administration degree programs.  This ranking was in part based on rankings received from major publications like Forbes magazine, The Princeton Review, and U.S. News and World Report. It additionally considered the most affordable schools based on tuition information from College Navigator.   
<http://www.bestdegreeprograms.org/top-schools/top-online-bachelors-in-business-administration-bba>.

**In the Hard Fought MBA Rankings, We are Rated #1 in Kansas**

Fort Hays State University ranked 47 among hundreds of programs in College Choice's recently released Best Online MBA Programs.     This ranking is above that of any other Kansas university.  KU may trounce FHSU in basketball exhibitions, but it is nice to rank higher than KU in academic areas!

<http://www.collegechoice.net/rankings/best-online-mba-programs/>

**Professor Stacey Smith Recognized**

Stacey Smith, Chair and Associate Professor of Applied Business Studies, received Fort Hays State University’s top teaching award in May.  She was recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Pilot Award.  Faculty are nominated for this award by graduating senior students.  Nominees are considered by a panel of peers, alumni, and current students.  Only one faculty member from FHSU’s more than 300 full-time faculty is recognized with this award annually.

**Professor James “Skip” Ward Recognized**

Dr. James (Skip) Ward, Associate Professor of Applied Business Studies, received the Educator of the Year Award from the Association of Business Information Systems (ABIS) in Little Rock Arkansas on March 10.  This award was in recognition of his service to ABIS as Secretary, Vice President and Program Chair, and President. The role of the Vice President and Program Chair is to take responsibility for the planning and execution of the national ABIS conference.

**Entrepreneur Direct Series Presents Niche Entrepreneurs Coleen Ellis and Todd Sandoval**

Fort Hays State University has produced entrepreneurs who are scattered across America and beyond.  There are those in major industries and then there are those who have developed their own niche. On February 28, the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship showcased two alumni entrepreneurs who have started their own niche businesses. Each of these entrepreneurs has taken a unique need and built an innovative business around that idea. Coleen Ellis, a pioneer and world leader in the field of pet loss, opened the first standalone pet funeral home in the United States.  Todd Sandoval is an innovator who is focusing on the niche market of premium, handmade American baseball gloves while using his expertise as a Consultant and Online Marketing and Technology Director for Proven Winners.  You will enjoy this video of their presentations:  <https://vimeo.com/207297895>

**Insight into International Business**

The faculty Internationalization Committee of the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship organized a major event entitled “Going Global – Challenges and Reward,” to support the understanding of leading and working in a global business on April 12th, 2017.  The April panel held included Bruce Jacobs, Royal Dutch Shell, Terra Eck (alum), Group Controller, Koch Ag & Energy Solutions, LLC, Josh Cech (alum), Chief Technology Officer for S&T Communications, and David Williams, HR Manager, Downstream Shell Oil.  All four presented in fundamentally different ways, which students cited as an eye opener given the international experience in the room. The International Panel can be viewed and appreciated by following this link:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWAmEkw_5rY>

**FHSU Leads the Way with Kansas Insurance Certificate**

A 2017 Fort Hays State University graduate is the first recipient of the Kansas Insurance Certificate, a new program sponsored by the Kansas Insurance Education Foundation (KIEF), the Kansas Board of Regents, and the Kansas Insurance Department.

Jordan Klima, a Hoisington (KS) High School graduate, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance on May 13 when he graduated from FHSU. He also received certificates in accounting and the new Kansas Insurance Certificate.

The Kansas Insurance Certificate program began in 2016 through a collaboration among KIEF, the Kansas Insurance Commissioner’s Office, and several Kansas higher learning institutions. The 12 credit hour certificate gives college students the opportunity to gain a broad understanding about insurance and demonstrates   knowledge of general insurance coursework to prospective employers.

**MBA Students Among Nation’s Top Graduates**

Eight MBA (Master of Business Administration) students graduating this spring from Fort Hays State University will be exceptionally ready for the challenges of a dynamic business environment, according to results from a national test taken by MBA graduates across America.  The students, graduating spring 2017, are listed by percentile:  
  
**99th percentile:** Matthew Chalupa, Overland Park  
**98th percentile:** Alex DeCarvalho, Hays  
**90th percentile:** Adam Brening, Lincoln, Neb., Matthew McQuin, Wamego  
**80th percentile:** William Dietz, Lawrence, Bruce Eldridge, Ely, NV., Jenna Maas, Frankfort, Josh Wasinger, Hays.  These scores place them among the top graduates in the nation. FHSU administers the ETS Major Field Test in business to graduating MBA students each semester. The test was developed to assess the skills of graduating MBA students nation-wide.  We are pleased with the knowledge and abilities of our graduates.

**FHSU Hosted Kansas Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge**

In May, in the midst of the run to finals, FHSU hosted the Kansas Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.  Director of Entrepreneurship Henry Schwaller acted as the local host for this event executed by Network Kansas.  You will be impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of these high school students.  I hope that a number of them are future Tigers!

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9z3hl8chz4olrbz/YEC%20V3%20%28new%20title%29%20.mp4?dl=0>

**Alumni and Employer Speakers Add to Classes**

Each semester, RCOBE faculty are pleased to invite alumni and employers from a variety of industries to campus to speak.  Representatives from accounting firms, banks, insurance companies, IT and communications companies, HR consultancies, and others spoke this spring.  These presentations help students gain an understanding of expectations of employers and of opportunities as both interns and graduates.  We appreciate this interaction and support.

**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.  You can be proud of your college and university!

Sincerely,

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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

