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Dear Tiger,

I am pleased to reach out to you from Fort Hays State University’s Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship (RCOBE).  We have exciting events that you are encouraged to participate in - as well as news to share.

**FHSU’s Entrepreneur Direct Series to Feature Couple Entrepreneurs**

Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to the next installment of the Entrepreneur Direct Speaker Series.  Fort Hays State University will showcase a special type of team. It will feature two married couples who have built successful business entrepreneurial careers and personal lives. They will present their stories on November 7 from 10:30-11:45 a.m. in the Eagle Communications Hall of the Robbins Center. The couples are Rick and Gail Kuehl of Hays and Gail and Cindy Boller of Norton.

Rick and Gail Kuehl opened their first McDonald’s restaurant in 1979 in Hays, Kansas. They have continued to grow their organization, and currently own two restaurants in Hays, and one restaurant in Russell and WaKeeney, Kansas. Their philosophy is *people first* as they work with a team of 210 employees. They believe in giving back to the communities they serve, and are supporters of education at all levels. Early in their professional careers they also owned three radio stations and founded Media-Net, Hays’ first Internet provider.

Gail Boller founded Natoma Corporation in 1982 in Natoma, Kansas. Two years later, he moved the company to Norton, Kansas. Natoma Corporation is a world-class contract manufacturer that is ISO, AS 9100 certified & ITAR compliant. The company’s primary customers are aerospace, medical, and energy related. Natoma Corp’s assets were sold to Natoma Manufacturing Corporation in April 2017. Owners of Natoma Mfg. Corp. are home-grown “Nortonites”. The company currently employs over 80 people.

In 2009 Cindy Boller, working with a partner, founded Destination Kitchen, a unique retail kitchen store in Norton. Destination Kitchen is a destination for delectable desserts, California Roasted Peets Coffee, a top line of teas and an exciting menu of baked goods, sandwiches and lunch items. Destination Kitchen provides essential tools and gifts for the home cook.

*Entrepreneur Direct* is a speaker series conducted by Fort Hays State University’s Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship that features successful entrepreneurs in an informal setting free 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.

**Kansas Startup**

Kansas Startup is a 48 hour event where people come together to work on new, creative ideas. Kansas Startup at Fort Hays State University will be held on November 10, 11 & 12! With the support of facilitators, mentors and judges, Kansas Startup participants move a great idea from concept to a fully developed product, service or organization in one weekend.

You bring your ideas and a laptop and we provide everything else! For more information contact Henry Schwaller at hschwall@fhsu.edu. To register go to:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/kansas-startup-2017-tickets-38232854497>

**Tigers Earn Second Place in Kansas Collegiate Case Study Competition**

Fort Hays State University team members, Hayden Hutchison (Management), Jared Willhoft (Finance), and Cameron Klaus (Finance) earned second place at the Kansas Collegiate Case Study Competition on Friday, September 29.  The inaugural Kansas Collegiate Case Study Competition was held on the Kansas City, Kansas campus of Cerner.  It was organized by the University of Kansas Undergraduate Business Council and sponsored by Cerner.  Faculty members Michael Martin and Russell Casey were the team’s sponsors.  Other faculty who assisted with the team or local competition were Tom Johansen, Stacey Smith, James Ward, Mary Martin, and Mark Bannister. Universities competing included the University of Kansas, Emporia State University, Pittsburg State University and Kansas State University.



The Fort Hays teammates jointly earned a $500 scholarship prize for winning the university’s local competition on September 22. This scholarship and travel funding for the team and faculty sponsors was available due to the generosity of supporters of the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

**Accounting Professor Cole Engel Recognized with Global Faculty Advising Award**

Dr. Cole Engel, Assistant Professor of Economics, Finance and Accounting at Fort Hays State University, was selected as an Outstanding Advising Award Winner in the Faculty Advising category as part of the 2017 NACADA Global Awards Program.

NACADA’s faculty academic advising category is for individuals whose primary responsibility is teaching but who spend a portion of their time providing academic advising services to students. Engel received his award at a ceremony and reception on October 11 at the NACADA Annual Conference in St. Louis.  More information about this award can be found at:

<https://www.fhsu.edu/news/Accounting-professor-Cole-Engel-recognized-with-global-faculty-advising-award/>

**Everybody’s Business Learning Community Study Abroad** **Experience**

In May of 2017, 23 students and 3 Fort Hays State University faculty participated in the International Knowledge Exchange program in St. Maarten to continue our work with local entrepreneurs.  At the entrepreneurs’ request, we extended our time on the island this year and each student group had the opportunity to work with two separate entrepreneurs on two separate projects.

Student projects were widely varied and included assisting entrepreneurs with organizing ideas and innovations through the process of creating a mind map, initiating and/or expanding social media marketing efforts, performing bookkeeping duties, building accounting systems, developing marketing plans, building/revamping websites, redesigning logos, providing assistance with branding, and designing/laying out a tiered system of planting to maximize crop yield.  While the students were working with the entrepreneurs, the faculty supported student efforts and engaged in individual consulting sessions with local entrepreneurs designed around faculty expertise.

 

St. Maarten is truly a beautiful and diverse island, and even during our short time there, the students developed a better understanding of cultural differences, the challenges of international business and the importance of entrepreneurship on the island.  Our friends and partners on the island were again astonished by our students’ work ethic, enthusiasm and knowledge base, reinforcing that this program is truly a knowledge exchange.

Our second year on St. Maarten was a resounding success and we were invited to return in 2018, as the list of entrepreneurs eager to work with our students continues to grow.  We gladly accepted the invitation and developed a plan to target one of our entrepreneur’s most pressing needs, media, by including a group of students from our Informatics department on next year’s trip.  Much of St. Maarten was damaged by the hurricane Irma in September of this year.  However, our partners have already reached out to us, confirming our 2018 trip and assuring us that appropriate lodging would be available, as they value our students and the partnership with Fort Hays State University.

**Two More Undergraduate Degrees Ranked #1 in U.S.**

**Affordablecolleges.com has ranked both Fort Hays State University’s Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and Economics and its Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing #1. The organization noted:** In a review of schools across the nation, FHSU’s program stood out in both quality and affordability.  <http://www.affordablecolleges.com/rankings/affordable-online-bachelors-economics-degrees/>

<http://www.affordablecolleges.com/rankings/affordable-online-bachelors-marketing-degrees/>

**MBA Receives High Rankings from Yet Another Group…**

SR Education Group an education research publisher ranked the Fort Hays State University’s Master of Business Administration Concentration in Finance 3rd among Master’s degrees in Finance, 14th overall for MBA programs, and 9th for Master's Degrees in Sports Management! The full lists are available here:

* <http://www.onlineu.org/most-affordable-colleges/finance-masters-degrees>
* <http://www.onlineu.org/most-affordable-colleges/sports-management-masters-degrees>
* <http://www.onlineu.org/most-affordable-colleges/mba-degrees>

**Record Enrollment**

This fall, Fort Hays State University recorded a new record enrollment of 15,100 students.  This number was up 442 students from 2016.  Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship enrollments were up 216 students.  FHSU has the largest on-campus freshman enrollment in its history consisting of 990 students.  People across Kansas are still getting used to FHSU being the third largest university in Kansas – trailing just the University of Kansas and Kansas State University in student population.

**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,



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

