Dr. J. Lee Brown, Interim Dean of the College of Business and Economics (CBE), welcomed students and faculty to the Spring 2018 semester, with great pride and enthusiasm. The focus of the CBE continues to be on providing students with ‘access to success’.

The CBE’s undergraduate and graduate programs prepare students for some of the fastest growing and most rewarding career options available—from marketing managers and financial professionals to business information systems specialists. This preparation is offered through high quality, caring faculty, with leading edge technology, and broad academic support systems. Access to the experience that employers seek is provided through internships, real-world projects, entrepreneurship support, career skills training, and professional certifications.

The CBE continues to be one of the most affordable AACSB-accredited business programs in the nation, with many online and evening classes available. In the pages which follow, you will see examples of the successes our students and faculty continue to achieve.
LaShea M. Shipp is a junior with a double major in Accounting and Banking & Finance. She is President of the Accounting Society and President of the National Association of Black Accountants at FSU. She is also a member of Bronco Women, the National Council for Negro Women, the FSU Honors Club, and a Student Government Association volunteer.

LaShea serves as an MBA program assistant and was a student ambassador for the Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute. As a Freshman, she attended her first national conference, and learned the value of networking with professionals in the field. She values the knowledge gained from participating in seminars, recruitment fairs, and internships, all of which she feels are essential preparation for career success. She also plans to obtain an MBA degree.

LaShea serves: as a mentor for the Queen in Me Mentoring Program; as a tutor at West Mecklenburg High School; and as a volunteer with feeding-the-homeless programs and VITA. As a Peer Coach for FSU Career Services, she is reaching back to help students prepare for post-graduation success. LaShea feels that “Serving as Chancellor for a Day is my way of making my HBCU and my family proud, while being a direct voice for the students.”

Bryan Darden, an MBA Accounting student taking International Accounting with Professor Robert McGee, has passed the CertIFR [Certificate in International Financial Reporting] exam. This certification exam is offered by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants [ACCA], the oldest and largest accounting certification body in the world. Its certifications are recognized in more than 100 countries.

Bryan works at State Employees’ Credit Union in Charlotte, NC. Darden joined the UNCFSU MBA program in the Spring 2017 Semester and will be at UNC Charlotte for the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program beginning this Fall.
Stephan Ruppert

FSU School Year: Class of 2018
Majors: Accounting and Banking & Finance

Interests/Goals: I am interested in taxation, costing, and budgeting. My goal is to have my CPA by the end of next summer shortly after graduating from NC State. I would really like to gain experience from the Big 10 or Big 4 if I can, but I would also like to experience working for the government in companies and organizations like Kearney and Company, and (DFAS) Defense Finance and Accounting Services and get my CDFM (Certified Defense Financial Manager).

Favorite memories: Accounting Society and NABA (National Association of Black Accountants) trip this past fall. I would like to especially thank Mrs. Renelle Brown and Dr. Lynn Bible in particular for coming along with the students to Atlanta. I would like to also thank Dr. Ulysses Taylor because he was one of the main reasons why I decided to attend FSU. He really sold me on the double major program. Finally, I would like to thank all of the faculty who teach at CBE and all of the students as well. Aside from the academics, my interests also included playing indoor soccer at the school gym.

ALEXIS JACKSON OFFERED FORENSIC ACCOUNTING POSITION WITH GRANT THORNTON

FSU School Year: Class of 2017
Majors: Accounting and Banking & Finance

Interests/Goals: My goals are to obtain my CPA, become a partner at a public accounting firm, earn my doctorate in Accounting, and eventually become an accounting professor. I am interested in studying and traveling abroad. I have studied in Shanghai, China and plan on interning in South Africa this summer. Recently, I was accepted in the MAC (Masters in Accounting) program at Wake Forest University.

Favorite memories: My favorite memories are attending the Southern Region NABA Conference in Atlanta, GA every year. My senior year I interviewed with four companies while there, and I received two internship offers from Grant Thornton and KPMG. While at Fayetteville State I throughly enjoyed taking classes with Professors Williams, Brown, Taylor, Tadros, and Bible. These professors ensured that all students, not only understood the course material, but they also provided invaluable career advice and made sure that all students had the tools to be successful in life.

Aleksis Jackson
Josh Swarts

FSY School Year: Class of 2018

Major: Accounting

Interests/Goals: I have the goal of successfully completing a master of business administration (MBA) within the next couple of years upon graduating from FSU. I am interested in applying the managerial accounting skills learned here at FSU in my upcoming role in a big data team.

Recently, I was accepted at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte MBA Program.

I am very thankful for the FSU Accounting Society for partnering with NABA and giving me the opportunity to attend NABA’s fall 2017 conference. I am truly grateful to Ms. Brown for having the foresight to coordinate with the career services to help prepare me for the hiring process. I also have very fond memories of Dr. Souissi and Dr. B. Adivar classes and the unique lessons learned. Recently, I accepted an offer with Wells Fargo in their Enterprise Finance Talent Program. This is a 12-month leadership program where I rotate into different departments every 4 months.

Allison Averitt

Major: My major is Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. Being the first in my family to attend college, the ability to take what I learn and help my parents’ company heavily influenced my decision. Since that initial decision, the classes that I’ve taken here at FSU have deepened my interest and passion for marketing.

I’ve been on the Chancellor’s list since Spring of 2016, and was inducted into the Charles W. Chesnutt Circle in Spring of 2016 as well.

Interests/Goals: The niche that most appeals to me is helping small businesses compete with larger companies through the use of guerrilla marketing tactics and design, with user engagement in mind. Marketing, in turn, allows me to explore several of my other interests, including design, psychology, and sociology. My greatest passion, though, is learning. Wherever I go after graduation, the love of learning that I’ve cultivated during my time here is sure to accompany me.

While I’ve received several internship offers, I’ve decided to continue my search for the perfect fit. I’m also considering applying for the MBA program here at FSU. Additionally, my entrepreneurial classes have inspired me to set the transformation of my parents’ graphic design company into a small business advertising agency as a goal. In the meantime, I serve as a tutor for Business Law and a graphic and web designer for Image Graphics, Inc.
My goal for the end of my sophomore year was to land a summer internship in North Carolina. I have been on several other internships in California but my main focus this year was to explore the options that I have here in North Carolina.

The College of Business and Economics has administrators who exposed me to several internship opportunities and led me through the application process. In fact, I had the opportunity to meet Bell Partners, Inc. at the FSU career fair that included a segment specifically designed to connect business majors with corporations. I was impressed by Bell Partners and we stayed in touch. This experience ended with me having multiple internships offers and landing the internship I wanted in my home state with Bell Partners, Inc.

This summer I will be shadowing different departments and learning more about Bell Partners and their operations. I’m excited to see what the summer of 2018 has to offer.

Adrianna Seeney, a senior business administration major from Durham, NC, was chosen as this year’s Grand Prize Winner during the 2018 Intercollegiate Athletic (CIAA) Scholarship Essay Contest. The contest was sponsored by the CIAA, Food Lion, and Coca-Cola. The contest was open to any student from a CIAA institution. Students had to write an essay on the following topic: How has the History of your CIAA Institution Influenced You as a Student? CIAA officials and judges stated that Adrianna’s essay “exhibited the level of content, style, and excellence that sets the standard for the contest.”

As a Grand Prize Winner, Adrianna was given the opportunity to attend a variety of events during the basketball tournament from Feb. 27 to March 3 in Charlotte, NC. She also received the following items: $5,000 scholarship grant; two nights hotel accommodations; $500 for travel expenses, and two tournament passes.
The FSU Chapter of the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) participated in the 2018 SAM International Business Conference in Arlington, VA. This year the SAM members competed in the Team Management Case Competition and the Extemporaneous Speaking Competition. The conference also recognized chapter, student, and faculty advisor accomplishments. CBE students Rai-Jhan Davis, William “Ben” Rogers, and Lerona Pollard competed in the events.

The Extemporaneous Speaking Competition is a new student event at the SAM International Business Conference. This event allowed students to showcase their analytical and speaking skills under significant time constraints. FSU Senior Lerona Pollard came in first place in the Extemporaneous Speaking event. The judges were impressed with her ability to clearly and succinctly address a current business-related problem and provide a viable solution. She received an offer to work with the Ryder company.

The chapter received the second-place trophy for the Campus Chapter Performance Award. The Campus Chapter Performance Award was designed to reward SAM chapters for outstanding chapter sponsored events, student enrichment initiatives, and practicing good management skills.

Additionally, SAM members were recognized for their academic excellence and chapter participation at the conference. Rai-Jhan Davis received a SAM Regional Outstanding Student Award. William Acox received both the SAM Regional and National Outstanding Student Award. This very selective award is based on the student’s GPA, extracurricular activities, and chapter service to determine the winners. Finally, Dr. Christopher Torrance received honors as an Outstanding Faculty Advisor. The SAM Board of Directors select only three SAM chapter advisors to receive this annual award. We are very proud of our CBE students’ ability to represent FSU on an international stage and their continued dedication to academic excellence.
A team of three Fayetteville State students won honorable mention (4th place) in a nationwide contest sponsored by the Society of Financial Services Professionals (SFSP). The contest required the students to interview numerous financial professionals and to produce a formal research paper titled “An Exploration of Three Career Paths in Financial Services.” The students were invited by the SFSP to present their research on a Royal Caribbean cruise to Key West and Cozumel, Mexico, from March 12th through 17th. While on the cruise, the students also had the opportunity to network with a wide variety of financial services professionals. The team consisted of MBA students Bryan Darden and Gina Proffitt and undergraduate student Rose Darenberg. The following professionals were interviewed for the paper and all were very generous with their time:

Ashley Austin, AFC®, ATFA  
State Employees’ Credit Union

Michael L. Best  
Global Wealth Management at Merrill Lynch

Dana Haglund  
Ellie Mills Insurance Agency State Farm

Dan Heiman  
State Farm

Lewis Hershey, Ph.D.  
Eastern Michigan University

Mary Lib Perry, CLU, ChCu, AFC  
State Employees’ Credit Union

Kalele K. McEachin  
The Stanfield McCarthy Group at Morgan Stanley

Davis Simmons, CFP®, ATFA  
State Employees’ Credit Union

Peter Simms, CFP®, ATFA  
State Employees’ Credit Union
Fayetteville State University students were invited to the second annual HBCU Battle of the Brains held at the world renowned SXSW (South by Southwest) in Austin, TX. They are: (As pictured above from L-R) College of Business and Economics graduate students Susan “Rose” McMillan; Sogand Teybaniiez; Mescelelne Petitlubin; undergraduate student, Heather Vivian; Jessica “Renea” Blocker; and Matthew Rogers. This was FSU’s first invitation to the competition as only seven teams competed last year. Drs. Nikolai Wenzel, Mehdi Kobdeh, and Oluwatope Mitchell mentored the team before and after the competition.

HBCU Battle of the Brains and Hackathon is a competition pitting teams from HBCUs around the country against one another in a 24-hour challenge to create and pitch a feasible, marketable solution to a real-world business problem with a technology component. This year’s challenges included providing solutions to reaching millennials for Home Depot and the NFL, as well as finding an alternative to the “normal” collegiate experience for individuals facing time restrictions or financial difficulties. The competition was challenging as 23 teams of students competed, 4 from North Carolina universities alone.

Home Depot was one of the major sponsors of the event, graciously providing students with the space for the 24-hour challenge and welcome reception at their Home Depot Austin Technology Center. At the welcome reception Thursday night, students got their first look at the competition. Mingling with the other students helped create an atmosphere of comradery and fellowship, but the teams came to compete and compete they did! Shortly after arriving Friday morning teams were assigned individual rooms to work on their solutions. Advisers were strictly forbidden; however many high-level executives from sponsoring companies walked around and worked with students to identify problems and ask questions to further the student’s solutions. Working overnight students created a business plan, website, presentation, and elevator pitch to be reviewed by judges. Seven teams were then selected to pitch their ideas at SXSW to judges with little sleep or time to practice their presentations.

This year’s first place winners from Florida A&M won $25,000. Second place went to Morgan State University with a prize of $15,000. Third place was Grambling State University for $10,000. All teams that won did an amazing job with solution development and presenting.

Although Fayetteville State's team did not win the competition, they all agree that the experience was well worth it! Not only did the teams get to compete in the Battle of the Brains, but were granted access to many of SXSW’s best panels, interactive showcases, and a brunch with top HR personnel from sponsoring companies such as Home Depot, the NFL, Home Away, and Dell. A highlight of the experience was attending panels with guest speakers Tiffani Smith-Anoa’i, an executive vice president at CBS Entertainment, and actor, producer, entrepreneur, Darryl Bell.

This event was truly a work of the heart for sponsors. Gregory Gibson Jr., the founder of HBCU Battle of the Brains, relayed that many of the staff go unpaid for their efforts, but are extremely grateful to give HBCU students the experience and opportunity of competing, while meeting hiring personnel from various companies. Student having participated this year look forward to mentoring next year’s Fayetteville State team!
Three students from FSU (Mikayla Raines, Brandye Cropper, and Rai-Jhan Davis) attended the AEI Eastern Region Policy Summit at the University of Virginia on February 24-25, with Professor Steven Phelan, AEI Co-Advisor. The opening dinner featured former Vice President Dick Cheney interviewing his wife, Dr. Lynne Cheney on her recent book, “James Madison: A Life Reconsidered”. The couple spoke extensively on the paradoxical attitudes of the founding fathers towards slavery and the tours available on the topic at nearby Monticello (Jefferson's home) and Montpellier (Madison's home). This prompted the FSU students to request an impromptu visit to Monticello on Sunday to take the tour!

The next day was filled with several sessions, including “The Populist Challenge to the European Union” and “The Statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln”. The students particularly enjoyed the session on “America’s Marriage Divide” and the Career Panel. Overall, the summit was a valuable experience for FSU students to network with students from around the country and gain exposure to a diversity of ideas.
On February 26, 2018, Fayetteville State University, in partnership with the Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF), and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), announced Forward Cape Fear, a program providing emerging entrepreneurs and existing small business owners with significantly improved access to funding through training and mentorship support programs.

The program will focus on underrepresented populations in Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Robeson, and Sampson counties in North Carolina. Participants will be required to complete coursework on key business success factors and core competencies shown to be critical for entrepreneurial success and are required to perform market tests to confirm viability of their proposed business models.

After successful completion of the program through pre-screened and pre-qualified cohorts, entrepreneurs will be eligible for consideration of start-up microloans in the amount of $500 – $2,500 from CSBDF. Existing business owners seeking funding to expand operations or improve profitability can gain access to pre-loan guidance, consultations tailored to their specific business needs, and be recipients of larger working capital loans averaging $25,000 each.

Heading the program is FSU alumnus and Director, Malika Mercer. Ms. Mercer returns to Fayetteville State University from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, having begun her career in higher education as a staff member in the College of Business and Economics in 2005, later serving in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“It means so much to return ‘home’ to serve the institution and community that has played a pivotal role in my growth, both academically and professionally. I am deeply appreciative to Interim Provost Dr. Pamela Jackson and Interim Dean Dr. J. Lee Brown, for entrusting me with this opportunity and look forward to collaborating with campus and community constituents to raise awareness of economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities for underrepresented populations.”
The After School Scratch coding program in Smith Recreation Center for children between the age of 8 to 11 is now in session. The program funding is from the Google Community Tech Grant, which had a successful launch in summer 2017.

The after school program teaches children the basic principles of computer programming using the 'child-friendly' Scratch programming development environment. Funding for the youth coding programs came from a Google community tech grant awarded to Dr. Bee Yew and Interim Provost Pamela Jackson.

Volunteers for the After School program are Nelson Soriano (Smith Recreation Center Supervisor), Tamara Hewitt (Hoke High School), Mikala McNeill (FSU Social Work major), Antonesha Perez (FSU Computer Science major) and Jona (Cross Creek High School).
What to Bring:
- Proof of identification (photo ID)
- Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for you, your spouse, and/or dependents
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for all on the tax return
- For married filing joint, both spouses must be present
- All Forms W-2, W-2G, 1099 and 1098
- A copy of last year’s federal and state returns
- Proof of bank account and routing information if choosing direct deposit of refund (e.g. voided check)
- Total paid to daycare provider and their tax ID
- Health insurance exemption certificate, if received
- All Forms 1095 Health Insurance statements

One-on-one Tax Return Preparation Services (VITA/TCE)
Each year, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free, face-to-face tax help to people with low-to-moderate income. IRS-tax law certified volunteers provide this free service with electronic filing to all people who qualify. All you have to do is bring your documentation, and we’ll do the rest.

Please bring your health insurance information, Tuition Statements, all your tax information and the information you have from the left column. Please beware that if you forget to bring your Picture ID and/or SS Cards we will not be able to assist you until you have them.

Fayetteville State University VITA Site
Open Tuesday-Thursdays from 3pm-8pm
Open select Saturdays: 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 4/14 from 10am-3pm
SITE IS CLOSED FROM 3/10-3/17 for University break

Get more details on VITA and TCE by going to www.irs.gov and typing VITA in the search box and clicking on “Free tax return preparation for you by volunteers.”
The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is a program that provides free tax assistance to undeserved communities for low-to-moderate income families or individuals, the disabled, the elderly, and limited English speaking taxpayers. This program has been made possible through the volunteer efforts of accounting faculty and students.

In order to become a certified volunteer, the students were required to complete 15 hours of training and pass a variety of certification exams. We have 11 students who passed the exam and are certified IRS VITA volunteers, and 10 of those students have actively been volunteering: Briana Brown (Vice President), Shajntara Rhodes (Secretary), Tia White (SCREP Reporter), Anatica Wilson, April McCailey, Autumn Davis, Arquistta Vaughan, Jacquanesha Leak, Lerona Pollard, and Walter Exume. These students have been led by accounting faculty members: Mrs. Renelle Brown (FSU VITA Site Coordinator), Drs. Nancy Kangogo, Mohsen Souissi, and Mr. Richard Sincerbeaux.
The Fayetteville Technical Community College’s Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Small Business (CIESB) and the Center for Empowerment and Development (CEED) cohosted Fayetteville’s fourth annual Foodtrepreneur Forum, on Thursday, March 15, 2018. The conference and expo focused on the rapidly growing opportunities for food trucks and other mobile food service options, such as pushcarts and pop-up coffee bars. The event started at 8:00 a.m. in the Tony Rand Student Center Multipurpose Room at the FTCC Campus located at 2201 Hull Road.

FSU PROFESSOR MITCHELL DISCUSSES RESOURCES AT FSU AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AND OBSTACLES IN FOOD TRUCKING MARKETING

Dr. Ohwotope Mitchell at the center along with other participants of the event
The Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) presented Dr. Christopher Torrance, chapter advisor of the Fayetteville State University (FSU) Student Chapter of the Society for Advancement of Management, with the 2018 Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award. As a recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Advisor award Torrance has demonstrated a commitment to management excellence, mentoring and the development of his chapter members in the management discipline. He was selected for his dedication to creating lasting networking connections with the University’s surrounding business community and providing opportunities for chapter members to professionally develop themselves through his mentoring, career guidance, and a generous sponsoring of chapter members national dues.

The SAM Society Awards Program was created to acknowledge superior contributions and accomplishments in the management discipline by students, faculty, and practitioners. The Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award is given to an outstanding individual who through their role as a chapter advisor has demonstrated effective leadership, mentoring, and personal professional development of collegiate members within the society.

The Society for Advancement of Management is the world’s oldest management society, formed in 1911 to provide a place for discussion and promotion of Frederick Winslow Taylor’s principle of scientific management. A non-profit organization run and advanced by hundreds of volunteers; members come from a variety of disciplines — production, finance, marketing, accounting, research and development, entrepreneurship — but share a common bond of interest in becoming stronger managers. SAM builds bridges among academicians, practitioners, and students not only to better share management expertise but also to develop and promote new management ideas.

By: FSU Public Relations, March 28, 2018
The FSU College of Business and Economics is home to the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) which serves three states in the U.S. Small Business Administration’s District IV. FSU has a long history of serving America’s military and veteran communities. Through the VBOC, FSU offers training to U.S. veterans transitioning from active duty to civilian life with the dream of starting their own business.

**Veteran Entrepreneurship & Access to Capital Program**

In January 2018 the VBOC partnered with Carolina Small Business Development Fund to announce a new initiative with JPMorganChase & Co to increase veteran entrepreneurship lending. VBOC sponsored an introductory educational program at which attendees learned about resources and programs available for veteran-owned small businesses.

**Entrepreneur Boot Camp for Veterans (EBC)**

The Entrepreneur Boot Camp for Veterans (EBC) was founded by the VBOC in conjunction with the FSU College of Business and Economics in 2010. The EBC is offered each spring with a graduating class of approximately twenty-five veteran entrepreneurs. Taught by experienced presenters, small business owners, and other professionals, the EBC is a week-long immersion class that covers the fundamentals of a small business start-up using the business model canvas.

This year’s EBC was held March 12 – 16, 2018. During this event a pitch competition was introduced, sponsored by the Carolina Small Business Development Fund. Three winners were chosen to win seed money to assist with starting their business.

**January - March 2018 Events**

The VBOC held 40 training events from January 1 to March, 2018, attended by 744 veterans, spouses, guard, reserves, and family members.
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2018 Bronco Idea Challenge**

**WHAT:** 2018 Bronco Idea Challenge

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018

**WHERE:** Shaw Auditorium, SBE Building

**TIME:** 5:00 PM

**Idol Singing Contest**

**WHAT:** Idol Singing Contest

**WHEN:** April 5, 2018

**WHERE:** Shaw Auditorium, SBE Building

**TIME:** 6:30 PM

**Life After . . .**

**WHAT:** Life After . . .

**WHEN:** April 18, 2018

**WHERE:** CBE 145

**TIME:** 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

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