

Spring 2019 Issue



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This newsletter is dedicated to competitors who do more than the minimum and instead raise the bar; this semester exemplified in scores of students perhaps most notably the College's PBL champs!

REFLECTIONS ON COMPETITORS

"I think what Virginia State gives is access and opportunity. Virginia State does not give a guarantee to success, but it gives opportunity and access to that success if a young person is willing to do the work that it takes to be successful."*

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

"We are securing our position as a preeminent university."

Dr. Donald Palm, Provost

"The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business celebrates competition and champions all of our competitors in recognition that the world is ever increasingly challenging."

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean

2019: THE SPRING SEMESTER IN PICTURES



Destiny, D'Angela, and Destiny show off their academic awards at the College's awards event for Honor's students.



Sadonia Sylvester joins Aurelia Donald and Sharon Taylor for a pic.



Aisha Wann participated in a Goldman Sachs conference in Salt Lake City.



Marcus Jones is with alum Shemicia Bowen at Mayor Stoney's bday party.



Liz Mosley and Shaylan Ferguson are sorority sisters.



Alani Hayes is hard at work.



Kia and Danika are always smiling in the College.

Alumnus Avery Saunders returns to guest teach.

Monique Daniels networks with Denny Morris.



Amira Sine networks in Richmond.

Charly, Guy, and Ashley share a conversation.

Kyla and Marcus network at conference.

Chanel is a leader.

Besting the competition

Fourteen students this semester in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business participated in the Virginia Future Business Leaders of America Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference and Business Competitions in Richmond. The College placed 1st place in eight competitions, 2nd place in ten competitions and 3rd place in three competitions. The students competed against teams from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Longwood University, James Madison University, George Mason University and the University of Richmond.

For the last three years, the students have been advised by Dr. Aurelia Donald (Professor in Management Information Systems) and Mr. Louis Dabney (Professor in Management). This year's group of students included Christopher Fisher (Marketing major) who shared, *"This was an awesome experience. It was great to use the topics covered in class in project examples. It brought the topics to life."*

The students next stop is San Antonio in June where they will be competing on the national level. Go Trojans!!

Ten Under 10

Congratulations to Jhadee Gordon (Accounting major and 17 grad) and Chelsea Jackson (Management Information Systems major and 14 grad) for being among ten Virginia State University alumni honored at the inaugural Ten Under 10 celebration. Reserved for the top ten graduates of the University within the last decade, the ladies represent the College most ably. Both regularly return to campus to give back and are among our biggest cheerleaders!

An accountant at KPMG, Jhadee just last year was awarded her citizenship. She is relocating to Atlanta. An Enterprise Security Architect at the Virginia Department of Transportation, Chelsea works in Richmond.



Halls of Power

By now, most folks familiar with Virginia State University know that students in the College of Business each semester are afforded opportunities to interface with hundreds of business leaders. Yet what persons may not know is that they are also networking with scores of elected officials. From state legislators to City Council members, the Commonwealth's public servants are spending a lot of time with the College's students. For the College, the objectives regards the same as when networking with business leaders; refining soft-skills, augmenting career awareness, and developing real-world skills. For the students, they are learning that many of the same lessons apply to the public sector leaders as they do the private sector champions; risk-taking, challenging orthodoxies, writing new rules, branding, and above all else that relationships are everything!



A doctor in the making?

For the past seven years, Marcus Hubbard was often the first person that transfer students met when arriving in Singleton Hall. His interpersonal skills, attention to detail, and commitment to young people became his hallmark of excellence. An academic advisor, staff liaison to the College's Student Advisory Board, and the individual responsible for proofreading this publication; Mr. Hubbard was highly regarded by his colleagues but more importantly his students. Now, Mr. Hubbard has set his sights on a change in moniker, i.e. Dr. Hubbard. Effective this summer, Marcus will depart the College to return to James Madison University to earn his doctorate. We wish him well and miss him already!

RVA Fashion Week

For the second year in a row, the College participated in the highly acclaimed RVA Fashion Week attended by thousands of persons in Richmond. Comprised of scores of models, dozens of designers, and plenty of venues; RVA Fashion Week this semester included the College's Tamairah Marshall (Accounting major). Said of the experience of walking the runway in front of hundreds of eyeballs where the slightest mistake is amplified for all to see, Tamairah just sighed and said, *"It's a cakewalk vis-à-vis my accounting homework."* For a different reaction, Jonathan Young (Director of Corporate Relations) said of all of the VSU participants, *"Virginia State University is a brand that constitutes excellence not only in the boardroom but also on the runway, in the classroom, on the ballfields, and in the laboratory."* Already for next year, the College has some ideas for how to leverage all of our models to augment that brand that says excellence!

Graduation, In their own words

On May 19th on the campus of Virginia State University graduates of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business celebrated the culmination of a lot of hard work and determination. Said Tiffany Tucker (Management/HR major) *“A non-traditional student and a mom, I took a big risk in going back to school but did it ever pay off!”* Chanel Brown (Marketing major) contributed *“I am not sure where the last four years went!”* Angelina Smith (Management major) shared *“I am so proud to be the first in my family to graduate from college.”* Myia Jones (Marketing major) said, *“I had the opportunity because of VSU to study abroad in China, Germany, and Costa Rica.”* Micah Bullard (Accounting major) remarked, *“I am so grateful to the College of Business and all of the faculty, staff, students, and alums who preceded me.”*



Top Honors

Kyla Frank (Management major) won the Track Event Outstanding Performer at the CIAA Track and Field Championships in Bowie, Maryland. Kyla has been racking up awards both academically and athletically since her arrival. A rising senior, the best is yet to come!

For More News

To learn more about the College of Business, click here: <http://business.vsu.edu/>

Keep it clean

Students in Career Launch each semester are obligated as a part of the curriculum to give back. Giving back has included tutoring children at elementary schools, working the polls, and this spring leading an Appomattox River clean-up. Departing from the trailhead just across from campus, students with the assistance of equipment loaned from VSU Facilities picked up what amounted to five large bags of trash. Also of note, Dr. Alex Weimer’s students participated in an Earth Day ribboncutting of the new VSU overlook.



Student Advisory Board

Organizations are defined by providing stakeholders opportunities to lead; it is why the College leans on the Student Advisory Board. Congrats to the group’s newly elected Chair, Christine Bautista (Management Information Systems major) and Vice-Chair, Diamond Fayton (Marketing major).

Cinderella

Thanks to the generosity of Morgan Stanley and more specifically our friend Hugh Steiner, students this semester were afforded the opportunity to attend a sold-out performance of Cinderella by the Richmond Ballet. Diamond Fayton (Marketing major), Samantha Hurt (Accounting major), Tamia Reese (Marketing major), Manny Saunders (Management/HR major) and Destini Woods (Management/HR major) were wondered and dazzled by the scores of ballerinas and the charm of the big set production



with so many moving parts. The best part of the evening however may have been the reception after the event. An opportunity for the students to network, they did not disappoint. Diamond said, *“It was nice to go out for a night on the town.”* Tamia added, *“I felt like a celebrity.”* Samantha, who wore a Cinderella like dress, commented, *“Everyone kept talking about me and asking if I was a part of the production. I think that was a compliment!”*

Valentine’s Day

As hard as students work in the College of Business they deserve some fun and to be celebrated and because in Singleton relationships are a priority; the College hosted for Valentine’s Day our friend Sharone Reid along with her company Focus & Fabulous. For free, students took turns in the photo booth celebrating their relationships and who mattered most to them this Valentine’s Day. It should be said, every semester students find their sweethearts in Singleton Hall!



An Interview with a Student



Tamairah Marshall is a senior Accounting major from Tidewater.

Career aspiration is to be a Chief Financial Officer at a fashion company.

Tamairah models, is a leader in the National Association of Black Accountants, and interns in the VSU Budget Office.

Regarding your future, what are you most excited for subsequent VSU? I believe in order to live your best life you must strive to consistently learn. I plan to grow through every experience, life lessons, and blessing learned. I am most excited for my future growth.

An Interview with Faculty/Staff



Portia Robinson is the Information Technology Manager for the College and is responsible for an inventory of approximately \$1 million

Place of origin: Gaston, North Carolina

Education: Bachelor’s Degree from St. Paul’s College

What do you like most about your job? Helping students; between my 22 years in Northampton Public Schools and my nearly 20 years here I have been doing it for nearly 42 years.

What advice would you give a freshman? Identify resources including getting to know your Dean, faculty, and advisors. Take advantage of the open labs because even students with their own computers can benefit from our technology in the building.

An Interview with an Alumnus



Frednesha Sanders is a 2016 Management graduate

Employment: Consultant at Deloitte

Frednesha's Website: <https://fredneshasanders.com/>

What did you say in being crowned Miss Charlotte? Thank you HBCU Times. I am a proud graduate of Virginia State University. I

love it, love it, love it!

Frednesha will compete in the Miss Corporate America Pageant to be held in Orlando in June.

An Interview with an Industry Stakeholder as reported first in Richmond Times Dispatch



Nancy Thomas, CEO of Retail Merchants Association

Place of Origin: Long Island, New York

A true NY pizza snob*

Loves to bake*

* As recorded at <https://www.retailmerchants.com/>

The Richmond Times Dispatch recognized Nancy as a 2019 “Strong Voice” for Women and reported Nancy saying, “You never know where you are going to find some of life’s most important lessons.” “Live within the boundaries of today, the present. The future is not for us to know. For more of the interview, click here: https://www.richmond.com/news/local/rt-d-strong-voices---a-celebration-of-the-power/collection_ba4d81b0-035f-51ac-85b2-e4b87e2612f1.html#9

An Interview with an Industry Stakeholder



Sharone Reid owns Focus and Fabulous Events and Photo Booths and regularly sets up shop on the VSU campus

Education: Bachelor's in Marketing from Howard University

Place of Origin: Queens but raised in Richmond

Why do you collaborate with us? My son is a member of the Class of 2022, a Music Education major. My passion is business students as I am product of HBCU business school. My advice to the business students is the same for my son, i.e. study, keep your GPA high and explore every opportunity that is presented to you while in undergrad. Seek out internships and make networking second nature.

What is your website? <http://www.focusandfabulous.com/>

Why did you start your business? I always wanted a business that people lined up for and walked away with a smile. The event industry is very exciting and owning a photo booth rental company allows me to be a part of peoples most important moments in their lives i.e. weddings, birthdays, grand openings of their business, graduations, etc.

Industry Reflections, In their own words

A portfolio of over 600 companies that collaborate with the College in some regard in a year aids the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. What is enclosed herein is just a small sample of what they are saying.

"I left the campus yesterday very impressed with the VSU business program and with the caliber of your students" said Brian Donohue (Director of Governmental Relations in Virginia for the American Cancer Society). Faby Argandona (Staffing Specialist at Dominion) said, *"I'm impressed!"* Allyson Wells (Communications Manager at Virginia Credit Union) remarked, *"I have to tell you how impressed I am by Project Shadow and your students. They represent polished, motivated young professionals and are setting the standard of how to start a successful, professional journey."* Nancy Brady (Employment Specialist at HumanKind) added, *"I truly enjoyed myself last night and was so impressed by all of the students-their enthusiasm, their effort and their sincerity. They did as much for me as I hope I did for them, thank you."* Martha Dodd-Slippy (Realtor with Wilkie Real Estate) conveyed, *"It is always my pleasure to visit the students at VSU."* Of the experience of guest teaching, Imani Groce (Risk Analyst at Union Bank & Trust) said, *"It was a great experience!"* Debbie Reading (Director of Business Development for Dunlop & Partners) opined, *"Again, the kids were great and well prepared."* Jennifer Barbin (Director of Business Development at Wildfire) added, *"Fabulous time (as always). Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in shaping our future!"* Robin Green (President of Ascend Performance by Sandler Training) contributed, *"It's always a pleasure to meet your students."* Floyd Miller (CEO at Metropolitan Business League) added, *"Excellent students."* Linda Melton (VP at Fulton Bank) shared, *"I think this was one of the best groups ever. I really enjoyed the students."*

The truth is that there is not enough space available to incorporate the hundreds of compliments that industry bestows on our students in a semester. It should be noted however that the praise is not a one way street. For just a small sample of what students are saying about industry, see below.

"I met a lot of interesting people. I've met everyone from business owners to vice presidents to recruiters. Over seventy amazing people taught me a great deal of things pertaining to business," said Mychala Walker (Management minor). *"Week after week, we were exposed to"* *"industry partners who spent their evenings trying to prepare us for life after college"* said Monique Daniels (Accounting major).

In a semester the College hosts on average over two hundred and fifty companies on campus and in a term scores of students depart the grounds to participate in networking events. From dinners to conferences to breakfasts, the College's students are interfacing with thousands of professionals in the region.

Telling our Story

In The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business we understand that a picture is worth a thousand words and because the College is so very intentional about telling our story and bragging on our students we lead in regards to social media posts and views. In fact, this semester alone more than 100,000 views have been recorded relevant to the College's social media posts. To follow the College, contact us at jyoung@vsu.edu



CarLotz

Like every year students in the College of Business participated in the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce's events including the annual dinner and like every year the undergraduates found reward in doing it. This year however was particularly inspiring for the students who had the pleasure of meeting Aaron Montgomery who delivered the keynote address at the annual dinner. One of the founders of CarLotz, Montgomery shared his personal story relevant to success. Khadia Richardson (Management major) conveyed her thoughts, *"He never lost my attention because of both the content and the delivery."*



Natural Black Velvet

For the second year in a row, the College participated in the highly selective Tom Tom Festival's intercollegiate entrepreneurship competition. This year's team was comprised of captain Amaya Moses (Management major), Jahard Cooper (Management/HR major), Diamond Fayton (Marketing major), Marcus Jones (Management major), Tamia Reese (Marketing major), Sydney Sears (Management major), and Alex Wade (Management Information Systems major). The pitch regarded Amaya's company, i.e. Natural Black Velvet. A hair solutions company, Natural Black Velvet is made of natural products and aims to compete with larger shampoo companies. At the event, the College's students were crowd favorites and even won a lot of praise from their competitors including schools like William & Mary, UVA, Virginia Tech, VCU, etc. One judge was overheard saying, *"VSU brought the energy!"* Despite not winning the \$20,000 prize the students were already plotting their return to Charlottesville next year to take on entrepreneurship students from around the Commonwealth. Said Amaya, *"We are going to start preparing this summer."*



Superintendent of Schools

The College hosted Jason Kamras (Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools) in the classroom this semester and the former National Teacher of the Year demonstrated why he took the nation's top honors.

Honor Society

Reserved for the top 10% of students in business colleges, Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) is an Honor Society for scholars in institutions accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This semester's class of inductees was particularly large demonstrating the academic excellence in the College. What is more, students are expected to exhibit ethical decision making, leadership, and honor. The College's faculty liaison for the organization, i.e. Ms. Sharon Taylor said, *"BGS is an honor for all recipients."* New inductee Ashley Davis (Management major) remarked, *"I am on track to graduate a semester early and to be recognized for my hard work and to be bestowed the medallion really meant a lot to me. I feel very privileged to join such an elite group of business students."* Another new enrollee, i.e. Onzae Carter (Management Information Systems major) said, *"I am truly honored."*



The “Wann” and only

Only in her first year in the College, Aishata Wann (Accounting major) is an example of what is possible for even new arrivals. Aishata, or as she prefers Aisha, has arguably accrued more conference invites for any student in the College in a year. Specifically, Aisha earned offers from Goldman Sachs for visits to both New York and to Salt Lake City. Additionally, Aisha received offers from J.P. Morgan for conferences in New York. This summer, Aisha was offered internships at both Ernst & Young and at KPMG choosing the former. A devout person of faith, Aisha attributes her good fortune to her maker. *“God is the Greatest,”* says our “Wann” and only.



Moguls in the Making

Guy DeWeever (Marketing major), Tiara Jasey (Management major), and Corey Vickers (Marketing major) earned the opportunity to compete in the Moguls in the Making competition held in Detroit. Put on by Big Sean, a Detroit rapper and entrepreneur, along with Ally Financial and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund’s Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program; the initiative aims to find the best and brightest entrepreneurial minds among publicly-supported historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Dr. Dan Roberts (Director of the University’s Honor’s Program) noted, *“He couldn’t be more proud of the students and that it allows them to refine their skills and to network with extremely influential business leaders.”*

More Pictures



Fitting for a Philanthropist

Arguably no living alumnus has done more for The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business than Mr. Marvin Allmond (Owner of Allmond & Company). So, it’s fitting that the Singleton Hall auditorium was dedicated to the man who has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars, hired nearly two dozen graduates, and consistently sponsored students to attend professional conferences. Altogether, Mr. Allmond has perhaps impacted more young professionals’ lives than any other of the Colleges’ alums. So, what do you give a man who has given so very much? The College decided on a plaque on the wall memorializing Mr. Allmond’s contributions and reminding all that success is defined not by what you get but rather what you give. Guy DeWeever (Marketing major) said, *“Mr. Allmond is truly a humble, fascinating, and intelligent man. It was an honor to not only meet him but also to be a part of his dedication ceremony.”*



Reginald F. Lewis Day

The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University celebrated its namesake on Friday, February 15th as part of the College's Black History Month programming. The College hosted Mrs. Loida Lewis (Attorney, CEO of TLC Beatrice, and Philanthropist & Chair of the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation) along with Mr. Linwood Hart (Businessman, Author, Former Friend & Roommate of Reginald F. Lewis) for the inaugural Reginald F. Lewis Day. Comprised of a panel conversation, film presentation, book signing, and reception; the event was attended by nearly one hundred persons including students/faculty/staff/alums. Said Sadonia Sylvester (Accounting major) of the event, *"That was the best panel conversation that I have attended."* Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun (Dean) added, *"We are eternally grateful to Reginald F. Lewis and Loida Lewis along with the Lewis family and friends for all of their invaluable support."*

One the most successful businessmen in the 1980s, the College graduate helped set up Wall Street's first African American law firm before purchasing Beatrice Foods making him the first African American to own and operate a billion dollar business in the United States. His life cut short because of cancer, his foundation made a donation of \$1.5 million to Virginia State University, the school's largest donation to date. In turn, the College of Business became the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business.



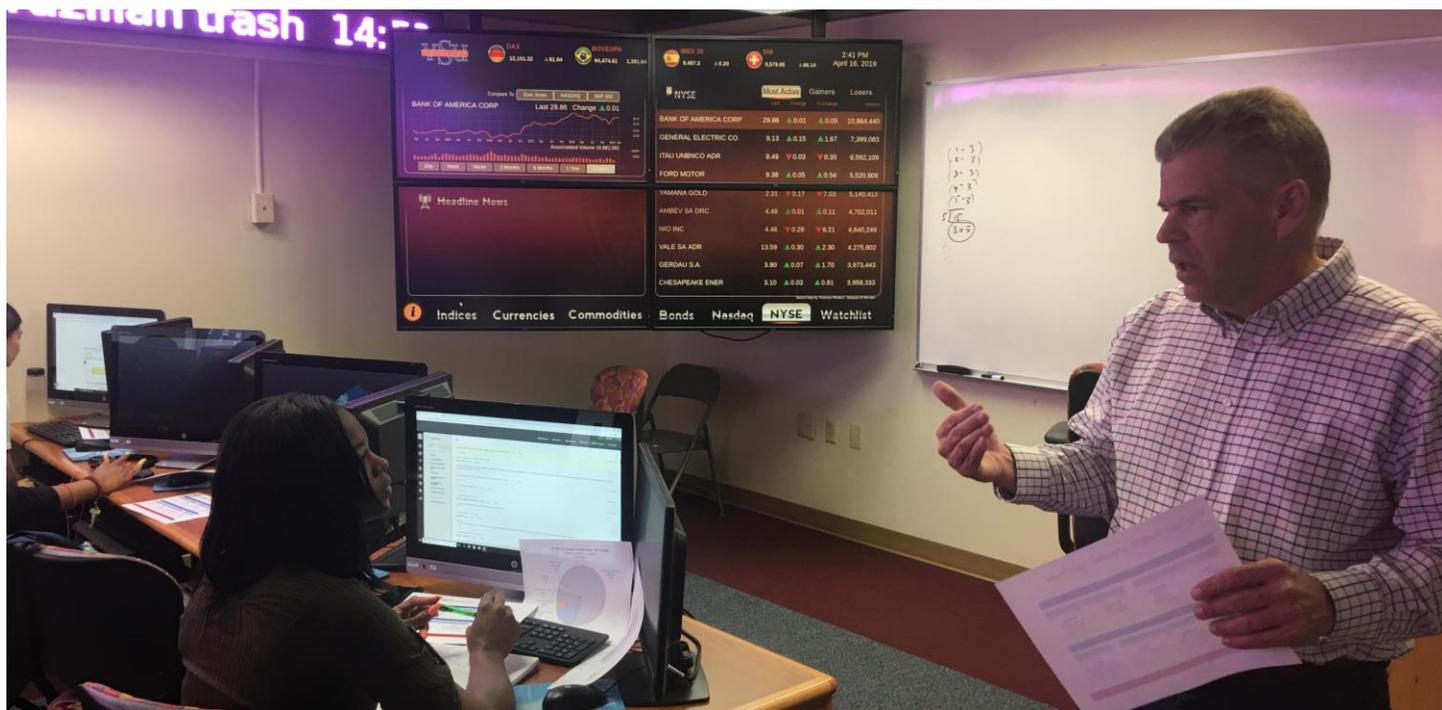
Thank You

Student Accomplishments

Check out our students' spring 2019 semester accomplishments at <http://business.vsu.edu/news/2019/05/spring-2019-student-accomplishments.php>

Speaker of the House Teaches

The Honorable Kirk Cox is one of the most powerful persons in Virginia responsible for running the House of Delegates as Speaker. Yet as much as he enjoys legislating, his first passion is teaching. Retired after thirty years teaching high school students, Speaker Cox seems unable to give up his first love. It is perhaps why the Delegate guest taught this semester in the College. Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun (Dean) said, *“Our students had the opportunity to be taught by one of the persons responsible for making decisions about the future of both Virginia State University and of Virginia as a whole. That was not lost on any of our young professionals and we are grateful to the Speaker for all of his contributions.”*



Alumni Advisory Board

In May, the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business Alumni Advisory Board convened on campus in Singleton Hall and was provided valuable information by President Makola Abdullah. The Alumni Advisory Board members continue to contribute their time and treasure to the College and students.



Mr. Marvin Allmond is a member of the Alumni Advisory Board.

Global Business Research

Congratulations to Dr. Hari Sharma (Chair of Accounting and Finance) on being appointed Editor of the Global Journal of Accounting and Finance. It is quite the prestigious honor!

Message from the Dean

The end of a semester and particularly in spring is a bit of mixed feelings not just for the students, some of whom are graduating, but for the faculty and staff too. In the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, we are very intentional about relationships. So, when a group of young professionals cross the stage we are joyous for their accomplishments but we are in a way sad to see them go. This year is no different but because of their commitment to success we are confident in their future.



Indeed, our graduating seniors' accolades are impressive and include jobs at places like Deloitte, CoStar, KPMG, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Cintas, and the Virginia Housing Development Authority. In their tenure in the College, they were featured on television, volunteered countless hours in the community, accrued tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships, studied abroad, and lifted up their underclassmen.

Regarding the latter, the cupboard for the College is hardly bare! Students returning next academic year to resume their studies are like their predecessors achieving in a big way. This summer for example they will intern at Altria, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Prudential, Thomson Reuters, KPMG, Johnson & Johnson, Union Bank & Trust, Retail Merchants Association of Richmond, Ernst & Young, Virginia Department of Transportation, Dominion, Toyota, etc.

Altogether, students in the College are doing very well but none of their accomplishments would be possible absent the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff. I have never seen a more dedicated group of persons commit to their students even when requiring long hours and going above and beyond. From accompanying students to conferences out of town to gifting opportunities to attend dinners and lunches to rehearsing speeches over and over with students for a competition to visiting local schools to recruit, faculty and staff are demonstrating leadership. What is more regards the countless "after-hours" tutoring, the late-night phone calls to provide solace to a student in a time of grief, the congratulatory notes, or the impromptu happy birthday sung in the hallway. A special thanks is owed to Mrs. Denise Allen, Dr. Mark Kunze, and Mr. Marcus Hubbard who are all adjourning their service to the College.

As Dean, I am often commended for the College's many accomplishments but I have to remind persons that I am very fortunate to work with so many terrific professionals. I am grateful for the tremendous support provided by our alumni, industry, and University leadership. I cannot say that my job is easy but they truly make it easier. For that and for another amazing semester, thank you!!!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun



Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun (Dean) along with Dr. Makola Abdullah and Provost Donald Palm celebrate the College's Future Business Leaders of America Phi Beta Lambda champions.