College of Business Celebrates Business Week

The second annual Business Week celebration took place September 14 – 19 with a variety of events that attracted alumni and business professionals to campus and encouraged faculty and students to celebrate the message that [Business is more than you think]. The week started with a Career Transition Camp for all UNR Alumni and a Faculty and Friends of the College of Business reception. The Business Student Council invited speakers to come to campus throughout the week to discuss with students a wide variety of topics such as global initiatives in commerce, the role of government in business, and the synergistic relationship between business and the arts. One of the highlights of Business Week was a Business Major and Resource Fair where business professionals participated in career roundtable discussions with over 500 students. To round out the week with a little fun, the Business Student Council hosted a welcome back barbeque, students organized on the quad to spell out the word BUSINESS, and the Beta Alpha Psi accounting fraternity organized a Hug High School clean up day where students, alumni and Corporate Partners joined together to clean up and paint the Hug High campus.

2009 National Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Conference

The Nevada Small Business Development Center is hosting a major conference November 2 - 5 that will bring together representatives of some 15 federal agencies with attendees from small, innovative, high technology companies from across the nation. The SBIR and STTR Programs make $2.3 billion available for products meeting specific needs of the agencies participating. The conference features a wide variety of topics related to the funding through the SBIR and STTR Programs and other sources. It features one-on-one meetings with the agencies, speed networking, as well as sessions and workshops related to proposal and corporate development. It is anticipated that
between 500 and 800 attendees will be present. For further information contact Dr. Fritz Grupe (fritz@unr.edu, 775-813-7407) or visit www.unr.edu/sbir-sttr2009.

Student Success

College of Business Implements Prestigious Scholar Leader Program

The College of Business kicked off a new scholarship program that gives select incoming pre-business majors a four-year scholarship along with opportunities to grow their leadership skills through participation in student and professional organizations, service projects and internships. Scholar Leaders will be invited to attend networking events with alumni and College of Business Associates, participate in corporate visits, and plan community service projects. This year’s Scholar Leader students include: Shyla Pheasant, Christian Alvarado, Jeff Goyer, Brett Schaffner, Taryn Gomez, and Mallory Fisher. Through a generous donation from the Mallory Foundation, the College was able to launch the Scholar Leader program. If you are interested in learning how you can support the Scholar Leader program at the College of Business please contact Kristen Kennedy at (775) 682-6490.

Faculty News

Tosun and Parker Recognized for Excellence in Research and Teaching

The College of Business prides itself on its outstanding academic faculty. This is exemplified by Dr. Mehmet Tosun, Assistant Professor of Economics who was named Beta Gamma Sigma’s Researcher of the Year, and Dr. Elliott Parker, Professor of Economics who was awarded the BJ Fuller Excellence in Teaching award.

Dr. Tosun was named the Beta Gamma Sigma Researcher of the Year because of his important contributions to the study of the economics of population and demographic change, international political economy and economic growth. He was recently invited to become a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), based in Bonn, Germany, which is a premier research organization specializing in labor economics and international migration research. 

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feels great to win the award,” says Tosun. “Of course, it's particularly an honor to be among a group of distinguished researchers in our College...such an award motivates you do more and better things in the future.”

The BJ Fuller Excellence in Teaching award is given out each year to one professor who demonstrates a commitment to students and community service. Dr. Parker has been a dedicated faculty member of the College of Business for nearly 18 years. In that time, he has published over 50 academic papers and articles and has taught 12 different courses in Economics. He recently won the Board of Regent’s Academic Advisor award for his distinguished record of student advisement and is currently the UNR Faculty Senate Chair. His overwhelming commitment to teaching and research is why students and alumni chose Dr. Parker for this year’s BJ Fuller award.

Investing in Excellence

Youngest CoB Alumnus to Establish a Scholarship

Ross Armstrong graduated with a degree in economics only two years ago. He just started his third year of law school at Willamette University and is already giving back to his alma mater through a scholarship for economics majors.

CoB: What was your experience like at the College of Business at UNR?

Armstrong: I knew I wanted to go to law school before I decided on an undergraduate major. The Economics Department had a pretty clear pathway to law school through its B.A. degree. The courses suggested by the department for students interested in law school were helpful in the beginning to grasp the logic required for the study of law. My experience in the College of Business was augmented with my participation in the Honors Program, allowing me to do addition research and study with topics that interested me. My senior thesis "An Economic Interpretation of Nevada’s Constitution" blended economic theory with the foundation for Nevada law.

CoB: What did do after you graduated?

Armstrong: After graduation I went directly to law school. I just finished my second year at Willamette University focusing on law and government and plan on returning to Northern Nevada after
graduation. I have a legal internship with the Oregon Lottery working in administrative law.

CoB: Why did you decide to set up a scholarship for economics students?

Armstrong: The cost of the application process [for law school] was somewhat surprising to me so I wanted to do something to make the process a little easier for students thinking about law school. A business background is surprisingly helpful in law school and from what I hear about the practice of law; I wanted to create an incentive to get more economics students thinking about the study of law.