Business Leadership Academy Adds to the Commitment for Diversity

This past summer, 17 first-year freshmen students from Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma were housed on the University of Arkansas’ campus as members of the Business Leadership Academy. The Business Leadership Academy (BLA), sponsored by The Center for Retail Excellence (CRE) and the Office of Diversity Programs in the Sam M. Walton College of Business, is a unique concept that creates an awareness of the selective career choices and opportunities that exist within the marketing, retail, and business industries. The University of Arkansas and the Sam M. Walton College of Business have placed a major priority on the recruitment of the “best and brightest” under-represented students to form the nucleus of the marketing workforce for the new decade. As this country and the entire world become increasingly diverse and interactive, highly trained and broad-minded young professionals become essential. The Business Leadership Academy (BLA) was developed to help respond to this anticipated human resource need.

Specifically, the Academy is an attempt to provide under-represented first-year freshmen students with:

- Basic information on the significance of the marketing industry with a focus on retail;
- Awareness of career opportunities in the public and private business and retail sectors;
- Exposure to the different areas of marketing and how marketing interfaces with other business disciplines;
- Exposure to the various disciplines of business;
- Essential knowledge of the benefits and functions of team building and cohesiveness; and
- Dynamic mentors to help students in their transition from high school to college.

In conjunction with participation in BLA, students also attended Freshmen Orientation together, adding to the advantageous nature of this program. The average GPA and ACT score for the inaugural BLA class were 3.67 and 25, respectively. Various company tours within the Northwest Arkansas area, lectures and presentations from Walton faculty and staff, and a major business project were among the educational activities that were integrated into the BLA curriculum to provide a rewarding experience.
Tyson Foods, Inc. Sponsors Mentoring Program

The Business Leadership Academy Mentoring Program (BLAMP) is an initiative to better assist freshmen students with their transition from high school to the University of Arkansas, providing BLA students with resources, professional contacts, and academic support to help facilitate participating students in becoming successful Arkansas alums. To achieve these goals, the mentoring program requires the students to participate in the following activities:

1. Schedule monthly visits to the Office of Diversity Programs to discuss successes and challenges and, if needed, a plan of correction.

2. Schedule an appointment to discuss the mid-semester grade report and, if needed, necessary steps for corrections.

3. Attend workshops sponsored by a corporate partner of the Office of Diversity Programs.

4. Attend both a cultural event and dinner with a corporate partner.

5. Serve as an ambassador for the recruitment of students for the 2011 Business Leadership Academy.

In addition to providing academic and social opportunities for students, Tyson has also dedicated funds to provide select BLA students with competitive scholarships to assist with the cost of tuition. The renowned business education at the Walton College combined with on-going relationships with Tyson will create unique opportunities for both Tyson Foods, Inc. and Business Leadership Academy students.

Diversity Programs rewards students for academic achievement

The students of the Walton College have been busy during the past several months pursuing study abroad opportunities, internships, and scholarships. This year’s list of scholarship recipients has grown, and continues to grow as the students achieve greater success both in and out of the classroom. Scholarship recipients are listed below:

Conoco Phillips Scholars
Martin Antoine
Canisha Bone
Terrance Boyd
Talesha Christian
Nicole DeOrnellas
Brandon Dismute
Nicholas Glover
Soon Kweon
Michael Nero
Pearlyna Tyous

Anita Walker
Anitra Wilson

Ernst & Young Scholars
Tatiana Britten
Ranesha Critton
Chasity Farver
Nicholas Glover
Brenden Sherrer

Gladys and Troy C. Alley Memorial
Alice McMillan
David Noudaranouvong

FedEx Freight Scholars
Lauren Weems

John Johnson Scholars
Olivia Tran
Ashley Foster

Minority Business Scholars
Denzel Turntine
Gabriel Cuillier

Retail Diversity Scholars
Edgar Barrales
Lauren Dockery
Kathryn Finke
Chelsea Flowers
Dania Herrera
John Hill
Alexzandrea Hollinshed
Dylan Kearney
Rachel Mooreland
Allison Norris
Keli Roy
Clara Ugabde

Are you interested in scholarships? The 2011 New Freshman Scholarship Applications are now available on the scholarship website at scholarships.uark.edu. This includes all prestigious and new freshman scholarships. Students applying, between November 16, 2010 and February 1, 2011, will be considered for scholarships as funds allow.
Student Success is a Priority in the Office of Diversity Programs

With crisp breezes blowing and busy class schedules, our students here at the University of Arkansas commit to receiving an Arkansas degree through hard work and dedication. We are proud to recognize our distinguished scholars who represent our campus with pride and honor.

The Chancellor’s list honors students who earned a 4.0 GPA for the respectively listed semester. The Dean’s list honors those individuals who are ranked in the top 10 percent of each class.

Chancellor’s List - Fall 2009
Sharnelle Allen
Siqi Feng
Ashlyn Gourd
Jin Kyoung Kym
Peter Lee
Mason Luedeker
Rohit Mittal
Brent Norniella
Bryce Norniella
Jared Pearman
Afshar Sanati
Colton Squyres
Stacy Tan
Victoria Vela
Michael Whitfield

Dean’s List - Spring 2010
Michael Beard
Sawyer Burnett
Kyle Coleman
Matthew Denton
Ashlyn Gourd
Jin Kim
Mason Luedeker
Rohit Mittal
Timothy Nguyen
William Ogg
Jared Pearman
Tyler Soo
Stacy Tan
Lizett Trujillo
Victoria Vela

Chancellor’s List - Spring 2010
Michael Beard
Sawyer Burnett
Kyle Coleman
Matthew Denton
Ashlyn Gourd
Jin Kim
Mason Luedeker
Rohit Mittal
Timothy Nguyen
William Ogg
Jared Pearman
Tyler Soo
Stacy Tan
Lizett Trujillo
Victoria Vela

Dean’s List - Spring 2010
Michael Beard
Sawyer Burnett
Kyle Coleman
Matthew Denton
Benjamin Gasca
Ashlyn Gourd
Jin Kim
Mason Luedeker
Jonathon Miller
Rohit Mittal
Timothy Nguyen
William Ogg
Jared Pearman
David Poemoceah
Tyler Soo
Stacy Tan
Lizett Trujillo
Victoria Vela

Spring 2010 Graduates
Sharnelle Allen
Dikemba Balogu
Lisa Briney
Douglas Brown
Camron Browning
Chantry Burch
Sawyer Burnett
Tony Chau
Che-Hao Chen
RiSondra Deans
Jasmine Ervins
Ashlyn Gourd
Doricco Henry
Lana Hong
Marsha James
Clarence Johnson
Bryce Jones
Robert Latin
Braylen Mack
Ari Masli
Cedrick McBeth II
Michael McLean Jr.
Stephanie Nguyen
Jiger Patel
Jared Pearman
Sydney Pearson
Raphael Reina
Tyler Sheppard
Sam Skeen
Jarred Sneed
Colton Squyres
Nicholas Stephens
Kobe Storay
Pachee Thao
Ashleigh Toatley
Diane Tran
Kyle Wagner
Kevin White
Chelsey Young

Summer 2010 Graduates
Bennjamin Banks
Michael Beard
Daniel Castellanos
Blair Cocanower
Disaan Cooper
Christa Cross
Cecilia Figueroa
Mollie Garza
Terrick Green
Sade Hayman
Shanelle Hoehn
Pamela Jackson
Igor Marques
Kara Martin
Jessica Navarro
Prince Nwachukwu
Rex Pablo
Anoop Prasanna
Sasha Ray
Peter Skarda
Zachary Steelman
Yudith Torres
Lucas Vinze
Silas Hunt Scholars begin their journey

Silas Hunt Scholars are recipients of the Silas Hunt Scholarship, which is awarded to students from underrepresented communities. Silas Hunt Scholars have demonstrated outstanding academic leadership qualities and potential. These students represent different ethnic minorities, first-generation college students, underrepresented counties in Arkansas or display interest in a field that does not attract many members of a particular ethnicity or gender. The Silas Hunt Scholarship Program helps students to find their niche and pursue their goals.

The following are the 2010 Silas Hunt Scholars:

Gabriela Caceres
Martin Antoine
Stephany Beltran
Kathryn Finke
Ashley Foster
Jessica Galan
Kendraya Hampton
John Hill
Kyleigh Johnson
Dylan Kearney
Ryan Marchewka
Rachel Mooreland
Allison Norris
Tyler O’Guinn
Juan Perea
Riley Perez
Clara Ugbade
Carolina Valdizon

Razorback Bridge Scholarship helps Walton students

The first group of Arkansas high school students to earn Razorback Bridge Scholarships has officially embarked upon their collegiate career at the University of Arkansas. A total of 24 students from various underrepresented populations across the state have been chosen to receive the renewable scholarship, and enter an academic program specifically designed to enhance their educational experience and performance.

The Razorback Bridge Scholarship program was established by the university and is sponsored by the Office of Diversity and coordinated by the University of Arkansas Multicultural Center. The program was enhanced by a $400,000 gift to the university from alumnus Richard E. Greene. His gift will fund six Camden E. and Dortha Sue Greene Foundation scholarships, named in honor of his parents. In addition to the scholarship, Greene’s gift will provide these students with funding for trips to visit significant historic sites. The remaining students will receive Richard E. Greene Razorback Bridge scholarships. All 24 scholarships are for $3,500 a year, renewable as long as the student remains academically qualified.

Financial support is only part of the Razorback Bridge program. The students will be provided with many educational resources to guarantee that they have the best opportunity to be personally, socially, and academically successful at the university. Those resources include regular meetings with peer and faculty mentors; introduction to academic resources that can ensure high academic achievement; and professional development to help prepare students for life beyond college.

The program will also enable Razorback Bridge students to develop valuable relationships with student and faculty mentors, providing the students with a comfortable and welcoming environment. The academic and social aspects of the program are designed to increase the chances that the students will succeed and stay at the University of Arkansas.

Razorback Bridge Scholarship recipients from the Sam M. Walton College of Business include:

• Edgar Barrales, from Springdale, a graduate of Springdale High School, plans to study international business.
• Canisha Bone, from Little Rock, a graduate of John L. McClellan High School, is enrolled as an accounting major.
• Chelsea Flowers, from Little Rock, a graduate of Episcopal Collegiate School, is enrolled as a finance major.
• Dania Herrera, from Gentry, a graduate of Gentry High School, plans to be a general business major.
• Jaquelin Sandoval, from Springdale, a graduate of Springdale High School, plans to study business economics.
Walton Students continue to excel in all areas

Diego Beekma, a Senior International student from Bolivia majoring in Finance, was selected to serve as a Sam M. Walton College of Business Student Ambassador for the 2010-2011 academic year. Each year, the Undergraduate Programs Office selects 10 outstanding junior and senior business students to represent the college as Student Ambassadors. Walton College Student Ambassadors work with the Undergraduate Programs Office in hosting and recruiting prospective students during individual campus visits, large recruitment events, and many other activities. Beekma mentioned that his previous work within First-Year Experience (FYE) as well as his memories of freshmen year and his transition to college encouraged him to apply for the student ambassador position. As an ambassador, Beekma hopes to represent the University of Arkansas to the best of his ability and to ensure that all prospective students and parents receive a pleasant welcome. He also plans to share all tips and tricks he has discovered during his tenure here at the University of Arkansas. Beekma knows that every experience in life is a lesson learned and hopes that this position will aid in his progress toward overcoming his uneasiness when interacting with large groups.

Kysha McNeal, a Senior Finance major, was selected to serve as a Sam M. Walton College of Business Student Ambassador for the 2010-2011 academic year. McNeal noted that the idea and opportunity to reach out to prospective students aided in her attraction to the student ambassador position. McNeal knows from first-hand experience what it feels like to be excited and confused about attending college and choosing a major, which is why she felt the ambassador position would be a great opportunity to assist parents and students by answering questions and giving advice from her experiences. Students, parents, and guests should expect to receive respect and honesty when interacting with McNeal, who hopes to positively affect both the students’ and parents’ decisions about attending the University of Arkansas and being a member of the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

Kaleah Thomas, a Senior Marketing major, was selected to serve as a Sam M. Walton College of Business Student Ambassador for the 2010-2011 academic year. Thomas says that she was led to apply for this position as a way to influence both prospective freshmen and transfer students in their perceptions of the Walton College and of their college career in general. As an ambassador, Thomas maintains a highly-energetic and optimistic mindset while being a personable Ambassador who is eager to transfer knowledge to all guests. Thomas wants to share all that she knows; expecting prospective students to leave knowing the different pitfalls to avoid, how to establish long-term, beneficial relationships with faculty and staff, and the multitude of resources the Walton College offers. Thomas was also appointed to the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) CEO position at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. Thomas credits SIFE’s mission and community outreach services as being instrumental in her attraction to the SIFE CEO position. By utilizing SIFE’s growing influence this year, Thomas believes SIFE can develop some projects that reach new levels, allowing them to make a remarkable impact in the Northwest Arkansas community. In the end, Thomas mentioned that her job as SIFE CEO is complete if she effects positive change among SIFE’s future and leaves a positive legacy.
Gina Alley, a Senior International Business major, explored the country of Brazil this past summer through the study abroad program, “Business Seminar in Brazil,” sponsored by the Sam M. Walton College of Business. This particular study abroad experience provided students with insight into the economic, business, political and cultural environment, and trends in Brazil. Focusing mainly on the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Recife, within this four-week program, students were introduced to key issues in the Brazilian/American economic and business relationship. Alley mentioned that her attraction to study abroad in Brazil stemmed from her wanting to experience diverse cultures outside America. After studying the culture for so long through Walton College classes, Alley decided to turn words from a textbook into hands-on learning and excitement. Alley and other Walton College students also took advantage of the multiple field trips to businesses, cultural and historical sites, and government institutions within the country.

Alice McMillan, a Junior Marketing major, explored the country of Ghana this past summer through the study abroad program entitled “Ghana: Discovering the Truth Behind Africa’s Past.” This particular study abroad opportunity was sponsored by the Department of African American Studies within the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. McMillan’s purpose for choosing this particular study abroad was to gain a better understanding of the history of her race and to develop a greater appreciation for individuals who live a completely different lifestyle from herself. McMillan mentioned that learning about different cultures and gaining professional experience through traveling is a challenge that she is willing to face. All funding for this study abroad opportunity was covered through scholarships from the Department of African American Studies within the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

Jared Sneed ’10, was selected by members of the Walton College of Business Dean’s Student Advisory Board last semester to deliver the Student Commencement Address during the May 2010 Walton College of Business Commencement Ceremony. Sneed decided to audition for the opportunity after being nominated by another graduating senior from the Walton College of Business. During his undergraduate career, Sneed highlights include studying abroad in Greece, serving as a mentor for International Students, and being a member of the Razorback Marching Band. Sneed mentioned that his speech was written with the hopes of appealing to all in attendance, reflecting upon not only the changes his class faced, but also the accomplishments made. Sneed is currently pursuing his Masters of Accountancy here at the University of Arkansas.