

Internship program benefits businesses, students

Earning extra cash, course credit and work experience is typically a daunting task for college students to accomplish in one semester – unless, of course, they're lucky enough to land an internship.

The College of Business Administration's internship program helps connect eager students with employers needing extra help and, potentially, trained new employees. While most of the college's cooperative agreements are with organizations located in Houma, Thibodaux and surrounding areas, students have worked throughout southeast Louisiana and out of state. Several of the college's partnering businesses have a long history of accepting Nicholls interns; others are newcomers, impressed by the caliber of students the college produces.

"As a 1982 graduate of Nicholls, I was personally excited to see BP invest in the young adult students at Nicholls State University through an internship program," said Al Ledet, facility manager of BP Preservation & Maintenance Facility. "The program with Nicholls is a 'win-win' for Nicholls and BP. Students have an opportunity to learn and explore the oil industry, and BP has access to quality workers. The students receive credits toward their degree in addition to earning a competitive wage for part-time work."

Student interns also gain a better understanding of business, increase their marketability through networking opportunities, enhance their ability to make better career decisions, earn compensation and academic credit, and better appreciate their remaining coursework. Some internship programs, such as those at Gallagher Insurance and Lowe's, allow summer interns to spend part of their internship at the organization's home office or training facility, which are located in various parts of the country.

"I strongly feel that this experience will better prepare me for searching for a future job," Jacob Charpentier, MBA student, said of his internship at Seacor Marine. "The experience gained by working on a daily basis for a Fortune 500 company has given me invaluable intangibles. My level of perceived preparedness has increased ten-fold."

Scott Olivier, a computer information systems senior, said his internship at BP Preservation & Maintenance Facility has helped build his confidence both in the diversity of his skills and in his ability to

land a good job after graduation.

The program also benefits employers by providing them an effective means to locate and train motivated students for immediate employment. Partnering organizations also have the opportunity to preview students' abilities, create pipelines for potential employees, decrease their cost-per-hire and enhance their recruitment and retention outcomes.

"We needed more help in the office, so we looked for someone to start learning and flow into the company after graduation," said Caroline Boudreaux of Morris P. Hebert Inc.

While some organizations, such as Morris P. Hebert Inc., are looking for potential employees, students said they appreciate the opportunity to gain experience, even if they are not offered a permanent job upon graduation.

"Many employers look for applicants who have some type of previous experience. With this internship, I not only obtain that experience, but I also receive credit hours toward graduation," said Samantha Tran, accounting senior interning at M. Bergeron and Company. "It has helped me to better

understand what employers will expect from me as a recent graduate. I enjoy working for this company, and I do hope that it leads to a long-term position. However, if it does not, I will still be excited to discover what else is out there."

To participate in an internship, students must be in good academic standing, and the internship must be approved by the student's department head. Students may earn three hours of credit in accounting, computer information systems, economics, finance, management or marketing, depending on their major. Students who do not need course credit may also participate for the experience.

Employers who choose to hire a student intern must sign a cooperative agreement stating that they will follow all policies and procedures of the internship program. These include developing a plan of work that exposes the intern to a complete flow of information and activities, providing the intern a minimum of 150 work hours, designating an intern supervisor in the organization, agreeing to be contacted twice by the internship instructor and

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Interns Scott Olivier (center) and Ryan Rivault (right) hard at work with Al Ledet at BP Preservation & Maintenance Facility.

Greetings from Dean Shawn Mauldin

Alumni and friends of the College of Business:

Since its founding in 1959, the College of Business Administration has transitioned into a business school with a full array of undergraduate and graduate degree offerings accredited by AACSB International. The college continues to move forward with new and exciting curricula, initiatives and opportunities for students – all of which contribute to a high quality business education.

Several factors have contributed to the success of the College of Business. First, our distinguished faculty members continue to be recognized for outstanding teaching, dedicated service and scholarly activities. Second, small class sizes, personal attention and exceptional teaching provide an environment conducive to efficient and effective learning. Third, the academic preparation of business students continues to improve as a result of the university's movement to a selective admission policy. Finally, the quality and successes of our alumni and friends like you make a positive and lasting impact on the college.

This is your business school, and I hope you are as proud of it as I am. I want to thank you for your extraordinary commitment to the College of Business. If you would like to learn more about the opportunities to give back to the college, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Shawn Mauldin
Dean



Mauldin

Message from the Alumni President

It's hard to believe that I, along with my fellow officers and board members, have been leading the College of Business Alumni Association for over two years. We have been quite busy trying to uphold the standards set by previous officers and board members while also aiming to make enhancements necessary to keep up with the many improvements in the College of Business. Through fundraisers, such as brick and bench sales, and networking opportunities, such as our Homecoming social and casual get-togethers, the association has been able to continue fulfilling its mission to maintain the college's high standards by recognizing its academic record and keeping our campus a place where students – both past and present – want to be.

Our officers and board members want College of Business alumni to take advantage of the services we provide and participate in the projects we sponsor. We currently meet once a month and encourage you to join us to share your input. You can also e-mail your feedback and suggestions to org-cba@its.nicholls.edu. For those interested in contributing to the college's beautification, monogrammed bricks and benches can still be purchased by contacting me at (504) 382-3474 or Sue Adams at (985) 448-4171.

I would like to thank my fellow officers, board members and the College of Business faculty and staff. We all have a lot going on in our lives, whether it's preparing for the CPA exam, welcoming a new baby, starting a new job or undertaking a major project. While we can't give our full attention to every alumni association project, we all contribute a little – which adds up and makes a big difference to the College of Business. For all you do, thanks!

Katina Samanie
BA Alumni Association President



Samanie

In an effort to maintain quality and strive for continuous improvement of our programs, we will be asking a limited number of alumni to complete a short survey about their educational experiences here. If you receive a postcard requesting your input, please participate.

YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US.

Doug Hill defines leadership

The most overused leadership cliché is that one has to be born a leader, said Douglas E. Hill, a senior partner with Edward Jones. He prefers the old adage, “Where there is a will; there is a way.”

Hill promoted and discredited several more popular leadership theories during his presentation, which was sponsored by the Finance Club and MBA Association in conjunction with the 2007 Bayou Sales Challenge.

“Don’t go to work for the highest salary you can get. Go to work doing something you have a passion for because if you have passion for it, chances are you will be very successful,” Hill advised.

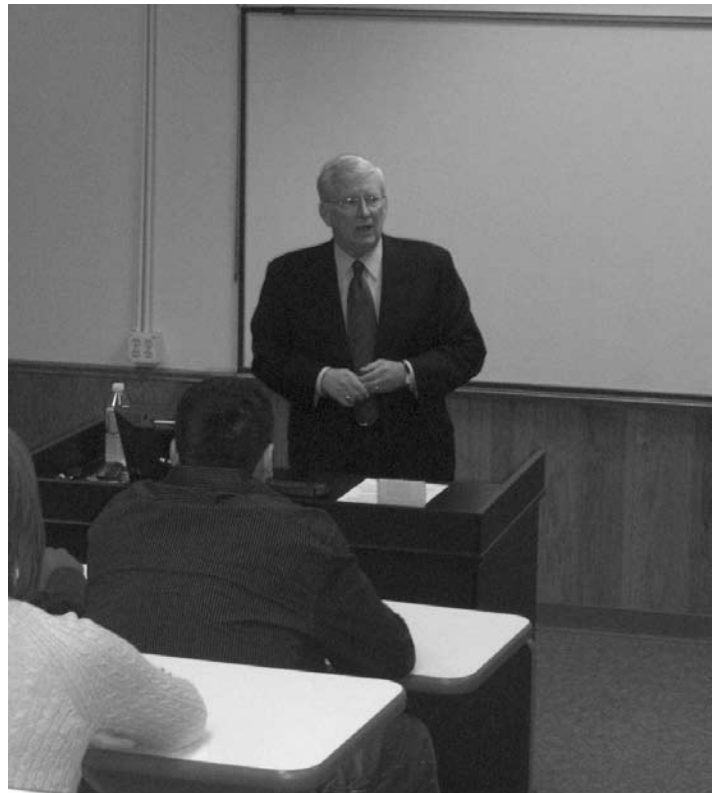
“When you get to the top, make sure you surround yourself with people who want to see you succeed. When you make a mistake, admit it.”

Hill, a Kansas State University alumnus, joined the Edward Jones staff in 1968 and became chief operating officer in 1998. He was responsible for the firm’s entire sales force, as well as its products and services. Hill served as the firm’s managing partner for two years before becoming a senior partner. He assists the firm’s leadership in Canada and the United Kingdom and is a former two-term member of the board of directors for the Securities Industry Association.

Hill defined a leader as an ordinary person who, when put into an extraordinary situation, rises to the occasion. One doesn’t have to be the smartest person, from the best family or attend the best graduate school, he said. Instead, leaders have to have the will to succeed and perceive themselves as leaders.

Hill listed five traits he believes leaders must possess, which include confidence, character, a sense of duty, a strong value system and ethics.

“You can’t hoot with the owls and fly with the eagles,” Hill reminded the audience.



Future growth dependent on endowment

The College of Business Administration Capstone Fund is a fundraising initiative to build a \$1 million permanent endowment. The interest earned on the endowment will be used to provide scholarships and financial aid for deserving students, attract and retain excellent faculty in all disciplines, improve technology in classrooms and laboratories, and maintain AACSB International accreditation. Through the generous support of alumni and friends, commitments currently total \$536,000. To learn how you can contribute to the future growth of the College of Business, please contact Dr. Shawn Mauldin at (985) 448-4170 or shawn.mauldin@nicholls.edu.

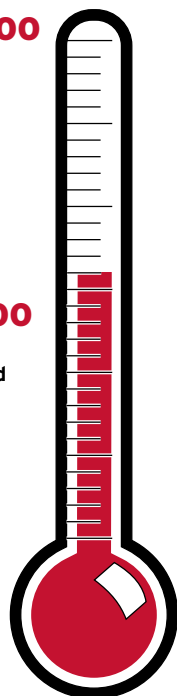
Business Capstone Fund Phase I

\$1,000,000

Goal

\$536,000

Collected
or Pledged



Internship, from page 1

completing an evaluation of the student intern at midterm and the end of the semester.

“The internship program provides significant career experience to help build attractive resumes for the graduates,” Ledet said. “Our interns learn many aspects of operating in the oil industry safely and efficiently. They are additionally involved in our continuous improvement programs. Their fresh ideas are encouraged and lead to real improvements across our operations.”

This spring, 25 business students are interning in various organizations. The college’s internship program has placed students with State Farm Insurance, Ameriprise Financial Services, Social Security Administration, Beyer Stagni & Co. CPAs, Northwestern Mutual, Lowe’s, Gallagher Insurance, Seacor Marine, Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office, Thibodaux Regional Medical Center, BP Preservation & Maintenance Facility, Offshore Specialty Fabricators, Reeco Rental & Supply, Lafourche Arc, Lafourche Parish Government, Financial Investment Services, Bayou Country Children’s Museum, Rouse’s, and many other firms. For additional information, please e-mail ba-intern@nicholls.edu.

Mock interviews prepare students for real questions, situations

The Nicholls chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management teams up with the Office of Career Services every fall to sponsor mock interviews that prepare students for upcoming job interviews.

Using the Sales and Interactive Training Laboratory in Powell Hall, students are subjected to realistic interviews conducted by human resource professionals. The mock interviews are recorded using the lab's audio/video equipment and control room, allowing students to see themselves from an interviewer's perspective. Participants answer interview questions, watch the DVD and learn from their mistakes in a positive environment without the risk of ruining their chances at a job opportunity.

Each professional interviewer strives to pose questions that are typical for the type of position each student is seeking. During the 30-minute interview, students also practice asking questions about the vacant position and hiring company. At the end of the interview, the HR professional briefly critiques students on their performance, including their personal appearance, eye contact, body language and responses.

Participants then take their interview DVDs to another room where they view their performance with another HR professional. While watching the video, the professional provides students in-depth critiques and suggestions on how to improve their

interviewing skills. Participants not only hear but also see their strengths and weaknesses. The DVD and written comments from the professionals are theirs to take home to review.

The annual mock interviews began as a service by SHRM for business students. Kristie Tauzin Goulas, director of career services, liked the idea and offered to co-sponsor the event if it were open to all Nicholls students. The Office of Career Services supplies the DVDs, and area HR professional volunteer their time, making the event free to students. Those who have taken advantage of the opportunity have found the experience to be nerve-wracking, but very much worth it.

College welcomes students back

The spring 2008 semester started with a cold front but was warmed up by the First Annual College of Business Administration Welcome Back Day on Jan. 16.

The event provided students an opportunity to socialize with their fellow classmates, meet business faculty and staff members, join organizations, get career tips and learn about the Nicholls MBA program from current graduate students. Participants visited informational booths and tables set up by the Office of Career Services, Counseling Center, Finance Club, Society for Human Resource Management and Delta Sigma Pi. Sponsorships from Papa John's, Coca-Cola

and Wal-Mart provided students with free pizza, soft drinks, cookies and door prizes, including three \$20 Colonel Cash gift cards.

The CBA External Relations and Communications committee, consisting of a group of business faculty members, developed and organized the event and secured sponsorship support. Additional faculty and staff members pitched in, including Dean Shawn Mauldin, who even carried the ice. Through such events, the college hopes to continue recognizing the importance of students and their engagement with faculty, student organizations, campus services and the community.



Kit Williams, faculty member, (center) visits with business students as they enjoy pizza at Welcome Back Day.

Alumni Donors

The College of Business Administration thanks the following alumni who recently donated to the CBA Annual Fund:

Shelley Bourgeois

Matthew Brodnax

Sonya Buccola

Craig Cheramie

Jace Duet

Faye Harris

Dr. David Manuel

Dr. Melissa Melancon

Ryan Scott

Jerry Walker

Sonia Zeringue

First EMBA cohort shares experiences

The 10 professionals who comprise the first Nicholls EMBA cohort are diverse in occupation and experience but alike in their mission – to earn an MBA and gain a competitive advantage without taking time off from work.

The EMBA is offered in a hybrid format with coursework divided between interactive classes held every other Saturday and online assignments. The format was designed to allow flexibility for students such as Cathy Kohmann, director of laboratory services at Terrebonne General Medical Center.

“I chose the Nicholls EMBA program because the location is so convenient for me, and primarily because the schedule fit my work schedule,” Kohmann said.

David Gordillo, factory product support manager at John Deere in Thibodaux, enrolled in the program not only because of the attractive format but also for the opportunity to learn relevant business practices that he can apply at work the next week.

EMBA students each have a minimum of three to five years of full-time professional experience in fields such as engineering, accounting, nursing and manufacturing. Bobbie Smith, accounts payable manager and assistant treasurer at Danos & Curole Marine Contractors is trying to convince a co-worker to choose the Nicholls EMBA program over options at other state universities and online institutions.

“I recommend the program because you are learning not only from the teachers, but also from the well-rounded and experienced students,” Smith explained. “There is a wealth of knowledge to be discovered.”

Kohmann agreed. “The faculty has been great. The program is a lot of work but well worth it. My favorite part is the sharing of experiences and getting to know the rest of the class well.”

In addition to Kohmann, Gordillo and Smith, EMBA students in the inaugural cohort include Adam Baird, project engineer for Marathon

Petroleum; Tracey Broadtman, project scheduler for Marathon Petroleum; Lou Estay, director of surgery at Terrebonne General Medical Center; John LeBoeuf, director of training and development for Piccadilly Restaurants; Joshua Luft, director of safety and human resources for Nondestructive & Visual Inspection; Anne Lugenbuhl, market analyst at Marine Systems; and Jared Toups, aftermarket director for Oil States Skagit SMATCO.

The next EMBA class will begin in January 2009, with applications due in the MBA office by Dec. 1, 2008. Applications are available online at www.nicholls.edu/emba/apply-today or from the MBA office in 104 White Hall. An informational session about the EMBA will be held June 12 at 6:00 PM in the Theodore Louis Duhé Building at 235 Civic Center Blvd. in Houma. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Chuck Viosca, assistant dean for graduate programs and special projects, at (985) 488-4241 or by e-mail at chuck.viosca@nicholls.edu.



Kohmann



Gordillo



Smith



EMBA Information Session

June 12, 2008

6:00 PM

Theodore Louis Duhé Building
235 Civic Center Blvd.
Houma, LA

Alumni Association Homecoming Social Fall 2007



Please join us
at the
Alumni Association
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in fall 2008!

Where are they now...

Dustin A. Price (B.S. '07, Marketing), Sales-Tubular System, Hunting Energy Services.

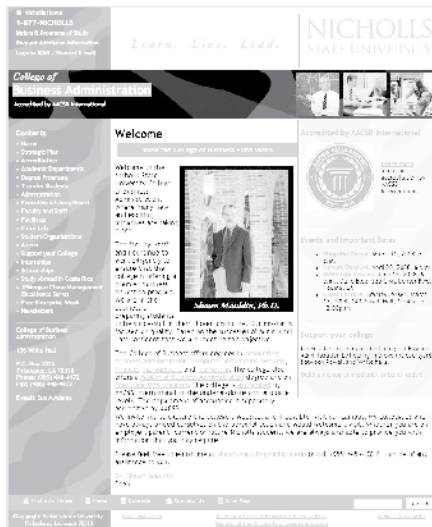
Joseph Chustz (B.S. '06, Computer Information Systems), database administrator and programmer, Wink Companies.

Byron L. "Buddy" Ledet, Jr. (B.S. '01, Management), financial advisor and registered representative, MetLife.

Richard J. Folsie Jr. (B.S. '99, Finance), general adjuster, Travelers Insurance.

Brian B. Allen (B.S. '78, MBA '90), director of internal audit, Project HOPE.

William "Bill" Bush Jr. (B.S. '74, Industrial Management; MBA '95), president, American Track Generations.



Please visit the newly updated College of Business website at www.nicholls.edu/business for important updates and events. There is a link to the BA Alumni Association page.

Tell us how you are doing!

Help us keep up with what College of Business Administration alumni are doing by filling out this form and returning it to the address below. We'll use the information in the upcoming Inside *The College of Business Administration* newsletter. You can also visit the website at www.nicholls.edu/business and update us using the link provided.

Please print or type:

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Degree/Year graduated _____

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Employer _____ Job Title: _____

Your news: _____

Clip form and return to: Alumni News, P.O. Box 2015, 106 White Hall, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA 70310.

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Spring 2008

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Stephen T. Hulbert, University President • Shawn Mauldin, Dean • Sonya Premeaux, Associate Dean

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of Pete Fountain, an elderly man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit and pointing towards the camera while holding a clarinet. The background is a waving American flag. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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