School of Business Visiting Executive—Elton Wright

April 1 brought Elton Wright to Chowan’s campus with the School of Business Visiting Executive Program. Mr. Wright is the Regional General Manager with Lowe’s, managing the Garsburg Regional Distribution Center. A native of Winston-Salem, he is pleased to be back in North Carolina. His career in transportation and logistics has spanned multiple decades, working with some of the largest names in transportation and retailing. A graduate of Christ School in Arden, North Carolina, he earned both bachelors and graduate degrees at Wake Forest University.

Elton Wright spoke with students in Dr. Babyak’s Leadership class (BUS 440), networked with a small group of students at a luncheon with faculty, and captivated his audience with his talk in Vaughan Auditorium entitled ‘The Challenges of Leadership: Preparing for Inclusion and Motivation of the Diverse Team’. His interactive presentation highlighted the many facets of diversity in the workforce and the opportunities for improved outcomes.

Phi Beta Lambda members compete at NCPBL State Leadership Conference

Four PBL members, Kinsey Modlin, Christina Thomas, Antoinette Lawhorn, and Jerry Hughes, along with Chapter Adviser Patsy Taylor, attended the 60th Annual North Carolina Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference in Charlotte, NC April 10-12, 2014. Each of the four members participated in two competitive events while Mrs. Taylor served as an Event Administrator for two events. Members also attended a variety of leadership workshops centered on the 2013-2104 theme “PBL- Excellence in Action.”

During the conference, Chowan’s Mu Zeta Chapter received several recognitions including:

- Largest Chapter Membership - First Place – Eastern Region; Largest Chapter Membership Increase - Third Place – Eastern Region; Largest Chapter Membership - Fifth Place - State;
- First Place – Eastern Region; NC PBL Professional Division Foundation, Inc. members affiliated with the chapter Contribution to NC PBL Professional Division; Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Fund and General Operating Fund; Increased Chapter Membership over the Previous Year.

During the Annual Awards Program on the evening of April 12, Chowan’s members were recognized for placing in the top eight in their events.

Below is a breakdown of their recognitions. Congratulations on a job well done!

- Christina Thomas – Public Speaking (Fourth Place) and Marketing Concepts (Fifth Place)
- Antoinette Lawhorn – Organizational Behavior and Leadership (Third Place) and Management Concepts (Sixth Place)
- Jerry Hughes – Organizational Behavior and Leadership (Fifth Place)

Additionally, Mrs. Taylor received a certificate for her 21 years of service as a local chapter Phi Beta Lambda adviser. Since it was first chartered at Chowan in 1966, the Mu Zeta Chapter of PBL has been an academic organization offering students an equivalent to their high school’s Future Business Leaders of America.

For more information about Chowan’s PBL chapter contact Patsy Taylor at taylop@chowan.edu.
Xavier Woods-March 2014 Student of the Month

Xavier Woods was no stranger to college when he arrived at Chowan from Kinston, North Carolina, two years ago. He attended Lenoir County Early College High School. There students are allowed to take college courses during their high school years. He graduated twice in two days – one evening he graduated from high school and the next day he graduated from Lenoir Community College with an Associate degree in Liberal Arts. Xavier had to develop study habits early to succeed with the heavy load of college courses as a high school student.

The head start on college has helped Xavier to become a very active member of the Chowan community. While Xavier is an outstanding student in the classroom, he is also very involved in campus life at Chowan. He serves the university as a Presidential Ambassador.

He works as an RA, a Bounce Back Coach, and a student worker in the Admissions Office. He is a member of Alpha Chi, Phi Beta Lambda, and Sigma Beta Delta.

As demonstrated by his busy schedule, Xavier believes it is important to work hard and earn your way in life. He credits the values instilled by his grandparents, Elijah and Marsha Woods, for much of his success. Their examples taught him to live life to its fullest, setting goals that he could work to achieve.

Xavier definitely lives life to its fullest. He has a third-degree black belt that he earned in fifteen years of training in martial art. He also has a “need for speed.” When he was a junior in high school, he began a project, with his grandfather’s help, to restore and modify a 1992 Ford Mustang. Together, they spent a year working to restore it and speed it up by adding a 400 HP engine to it. Xavier is proud of his work to produce a fast car that is his own unique creation – no one else has one that looks or performs like it.

Xavier will finish his studies at Chowan in December and will graduate with a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. He hopes to one day be an operations manager where he can apply all the skills he has learned in the classroom. His scholastic record and his hard work will hopefully lead him to the perfect job.

Congratulations, Xavier! The School of Business is proud to recognize you as March’s Student of the Month!

Chowan Computer Club Presents...Chowan BLU

Members of the Chowan Computer Club demonstrated a prototype supercomputing cluster at the Chowan University Student Research Conference on Tuesday, April 22. Presenters were Duane Murphy, Christopher Hargrove, and Dalton Henson. The title of their presentation was “Chowan BLU: Proof of Concept Cluster Computing.” BLU is an acronym for Business Legacy Unit.

The students built a Beowulf cluster using old Dell Optiplex 520 Pentium 4 computers running the Linux Mint operating system. These computers by themselves are very slow by today’s standards. A cluster is a group of computers linked together to share processing. Our cluster consisted of three computers – one master and two slave nodes – sharing one monitor, mouse, and keyboard.

To demonstrate functionality, students demonstrated testing for a connection between the three nodes using Ping, and viewing the processes on the slave nodes from the master node. They then ran a program to calculate Pi.

For more information about the Chowan Computer Club, contact Duane Murphy, club president, at ccc@chowan.edu, or Dr. Griffin at griffa@chowan.edu.

Business Faculty Serve as Guest Speakers in BUS 150

Dr. Andy Babyak, Assistant Professor of Management shared his management expertise. Mr. Tom Eisenmenger, Instructor of Information Systems, spoke to students about the world of information technology. Assistant Professor of Accounting, Shannon Williams, enlightened students about the world of accounting, while Dr. Linda Miles, Dean of the School of Business and Professor of Finance shared information related to the world of finance, particularly focusing on personal finance.
Natalya Kamenshchikova is a junior in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. She is from Novosibirsk, the 3rd largest city in Russia, which is located in the middle of Siberia. When asked how she found Chowan University from the middle of Siberia, Natalya laughs and says that there is a company in Moscow that takes playing videos of athletes and then tries to match them with collegiate programs. When reviewing her options, a family friend who teaches in Michigan guided her toward the tennis program at Chowan. Her family was supportive of her plan to come to Chowan; she hopes they will attend her graduation next May. She has only returned to Russia a couple of times since she arrived in Murfreesboro.

Natalya began playing tennis in her hometown when she was 10. All while only 13, she went to Germany to attend a tennis academy for 8 months, followed by a year at a tennis academy in Switzerland. She was on her way to a career as a professional tennis player when a knee injury forced her to stop playing tennis for 8 months. After that long period off the tennis court, she was pleased to see that her knee responded well to her re-entry into the sport.

Natalya explains that universities in Russia do not have outside activities or sports teams. She wanted to come to the United States to study and play intercollegiate tennis. She has definitely made her mark in the CIAA; Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year in her freshman year, followed by Player of the Year designations in both her sophomore and junior years. She anchors the Chowan Women’s Tennis Team in the #1 singles spot. The members of the Chowan Tennis Team (men’s and women’s) are her “best friends ever.” “The entire team is like a family; we hang out together and support each other. (For more on business students in CU Tennis, see the article in this edition of Update.)

Natalya enjoys her studies and states that she is “excited about management.” BUS 380, Human Resource Management, introduced her to the area of management that she sees as her career path. Upon graduation from Chowan, she hopes to intern in human resources and then attend graduate school. She appreciates the opportunities she sees for herself in the United States.

Reflecting upon her time at Chowan, Natalya says she likes to go to classes to listen to her teachers and learn something new. The teachers in the School of Business “love to teach.” When asked what she would say to other students, Natalya replies, “do what you like and follow your dreams.”

Ace Hardware is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year. Stores across the nation were asked to compete in a cake design contest and the top 15 winning designs would be recognized on Ace’s national website. Contest guidelines instructed participating stores that the “cakes” would be made and designed of products sold in their stores, not the typical flour, eggs, and milk. Creativity was a key component.

After a little brainstorming with Patsy Taylor, Faculty Adviser, and Roy Sharp, Manager, of the Ace of Murfreesboro, PBL members

Kinsey Modlin, Antoinette Lawhorn, and Kelsey Schlake put together an impressive creative display.

Congratulations on a job well done!
School of Business Students Receive Awards

The School of Business held its Annual Awards and Graduate Recognition Ceremony on March 19. Recognized were students who achieved the President’s List and Dean’s List for the Spring 2013 and Fall 2013 semesters, along with the recipient of School of Business High Honors for Spring and Fall 2013, Students of the Month, Dean’s Student Advisory Council and Phi Beta Lambda members.

Troy Dicks is the recipient of the O’Neil Award, presented annually to the student who best demonstrates professional attitudes and behavior. The award was created by Mrs. Elizabeth L. Francis-Brown, a former business faculty member, in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William O’Neil.

Ashley Rhue is the recipient of the Howard Award, presented annually to a returning business student who demonstrates competence in business communication, including both written and spoken English. The award was created by Ellen Howard Brown and named in memory of her brother, Wade Hampton Howard.

At the Chowan University Awards Day Convocation on April 23, School of Business students received additional recognition.

Bryce Pauley is the recipient of the Cheryl Joy Hobday McElheney Business Award, presented annually to the outstanding graduating senior in the School of Business. The recipient has achieved academically, been active in extracurricular activities, and is selected by the business faculty. The award is given in memory of Cheryl Joy Hobday McElheney, a distinguished Chowan alumna and generous supporter of the university.

Duane Murphy is the recipient of the Drs. Vaughn and Miles Outstanding Business Student Award, presented annually to a top student in the School of Business who will graduate within the next two years, has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or greater, made significant contributions in service and citizenship, and is selected by the business faculty. The award was created by Dr. Miles, Dean of the School of Business, and her husband, Dr. Richard Vaughn.

Christopher Hargrove is the recipient of the Outstanding Student in Economics Award, which is presented annually to a student who has completed a minimum of two economics courses at Chowan with the highest average and has interest in the field of economics.

Natalya Kamenshchikova is the recipient of the Most Outstanding Female Athlete Award. The annual award is made possible by the late Mrs. Dorothy H. Brown of Murfreesboro, a Chowan alumna and devoted friend of the University. (See Natalya’s Student of the Month article in this issue of Update.)

Thomas Champ received the Excellence in Leadership – Officer Award, which is presented to the club officer who best demonstrates leadership abilities and commitment to the organization. The award recognizes his leadership in the Men in Progress organization.

Dana Williams received the Excellence in Leadership – President Award, which is presented to the president of an organization that best characterizes excellence in leadership, shows commitment to the organization and possesses the dedication to serve. The award recognizes her leadership in the Residence Hall Council.

Nicola Khouri is the recipient of the Merit Award, presented to a graduating senior judged to have achieved at a high academic level in spite of obstacles which would have deterred or defeated a less determined or devoted individual. In addition, he received the Senior Ambassador Award, acknowledging student ambassadors for their outstanding service to the University.

Tijuan Jackson received the R. Clayton Lewis Outstanding Resident Assistant of the Year Award, presented to the Resident Assistant who has best fulfilled his or her responsibilities of the position. The recipient is evaluated on his or her performance and achievements in leadership, job effectiveness, community service, extracurricular activities and academic excellence.

Nicola Khouri was named the Best All Around Student, an honor bestowed upon a graduating senior who has achieved academically, excelled in extracurricular activities, exhibited leadership ability among his or her fellow students, sought to attain the ideals – academic and otherwise – for which the University stands.

Don’t go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.”

Mark Twain
Three School of Business students received CIAA accolades for tennis this year. Natalya Kamenshchikova is the CIAA 2014 Women’s Tennis Player of the Year, for the third consecutive year. In addition, the CIAA Men’s Tennis Rookie of the Year Award went to Farid Hajizada, while the CIAA Women’s Tennis Rookie of the Year Award went to Natalia Andrade.

6 of the 14 members of the Chowan Tennis Team are School of Business students. Graduating senior Pedro Aiala, junior Ivan Doubograev and freshman Farid Hajizada anchor the men’s team. The team finished as runner-up at the CIAA Men’s Tennis Championship, falling to Shaw University. The strength of their season earned an invitation to the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Tournament in Bluefield, West Virginia, where Shaw again defeated the team. While Pedro Aiala leaves the team upon graduation this May, Doubograev and Hajizada will be back again next year.

All 3 of the School of Business students on the women’s team will be returning next year. Junior Natalya Kamenshchikova, sophomore Jessica De Backre-Dali and freshman Natalia Andrade helped lead the women’s team to win the CIAA Women’s Tennis Championship, a first for Chowan. Their first place finish advanced them to the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Tournament in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where their season ended at the hands of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania team on its home courts. With such a strong season, plus returning 6 of the team’s 7 players, the university is looking forward to next year’s competition.

Some of the recruits for next year’s tennis team have toured the School of Business – we look forward to having more of our students on the court in the fall.
Sigma Beta Delta Inducts 12 New Members

Sigma Beta Delta is an honor society for students of business, management, or administration. The principles of the society include wisdom, honor, and the pursuit of meaningful aspirations. The society recognizes these three qualities as being important for success in the academic realm as well as providing guidelines which will lead to a fulfilling personal and professional life distinguished by honor and service to mankind.

Chowan University’s chapter of Sigma Beta Delta inducted new members at the School of Business Awards Day and Graduate Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, March 19.

New Members Are:

Sarah Capps
Victoria Davis-Gillis
Courtney Diamond
Troy Dicks
Paige Hamilton
Christopher Hargrove
Dion Kee
Ashley Rhue
Kelsey Schlake
Breyanna Tillman
Brittany Ward
Fernando Zuniga

Dr. Gladys DeJesus
Faculty Marshall- Graduation 2014

Student wins NCACPA scholarship

Kinsey Modlin, a sophomore accounting major, has been awarded scholarships from the North Carolina CPA Foundation, Inc. and the James L. McCoy Fund.

These scholarships are awarded each year by the North Carolina Association of CPAs to deserving accounting students who are pursuing a career as a Certified Public Accountant. Congratulations, Kinsey!
2014 School of Business Graduates

Pedro Henrique Costa Aiala, Governador Valadarez, Brazil  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management, *Magna Cum Laude*

Jason William Ampy, Sutherland, VA  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management

Hunter Thomas Bracy, Ahoskie, NC  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Accounting

Stephen Blaine Callis, Cobbs Creek, VA  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management

Dakorion Javaughan Desamme, Riviera Beach, FL  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Information Systems

LeNeir Renee Hill, Montross, VA  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing

Bradley Ryan Kennon, Chesapeake, VA  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management

Nicola Jamal Khouri, Ramallah, Palestine  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Accounting, *Summa Cum Laude*

Antoinette Cheris’e Lawhorn, Suffolk, VA  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management

Wykia Trevonne Manning, Williamston, NC  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing

Bryce Patrick Gresham Pauley, Richmond, VA  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Accounting, *Magna Cum Laude*

Elliot R. Smalls, Raleigh, NC  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing

Jaqwese Lamar Williams, Paterson, NJ  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management

Gretchen Casandra Young, Manassas, VA  
  Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management

School of Business 2014 Graduates and Faculty After Ringing the Bell Ceremony