

School of Business **UPDATE**

Volume 29, Issue 4



March—May 2020



PBL Chapter and Members Recognized for Participation in 2020 NCPBL Online Awards Program

Phi Beta Lambda members Jarod Curley, Brianna Johnson, Lavonda Mitchell, as well as Chapter Adviser, Patsy Taylor were prepared to attend the annual NC Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference April 2-4, 2020 in Charlotte, NC, but the COVID-19 pandemic changed their plans. After much discussion, the NCPBL Executive Council, the State Awards Program Committee, and the Professional-Division Foundation Board put plans in place to provide a 2020 NCPBL Online Awards Program. On Saturday, April 25, Jarod, Brianna, and Lavonda participated in the online testing along with students from other members of PBL chapters from across North Carolina.

All three members represented CU's chapter well, placing in the following areas:

- **Jarod Curley:** Project Management (2nd) & Future Business Executive (3rd)
- **Brianna Johnson:** Marketing Concepts (4th)
- **Lavonda Mitchell:** Management Concepts (7th) & Organizational Behavior and Leadership (7th)

Additionally, PBL chapters from across the state were recognized for their accomplishments. Chowan's chapter received the following **statewide** recognitions:

First Place – Largest Increase in Local Chapter Membership

Second Place – Largest Percentage of Increase in Local Chapter Membership

Third Place – Largest Local Chapter Membership

Gold Star Chapter

Chowan's chapter also received the following **Eastern Region** recognitions:

First Place – Largest Local Chapter Membership, Eastern Region

First Place - Largest Increase in Local Chapter Membership, Eastern Region

First Place - Largest Percentage of Increase in Local Chapter Membership, Eastern Region

Chapter Participation in Virtual Competitive Events, Eastern Region

Congratulations to Chowan's Phi Beta Lambda Chapter! For more information how you can get involved with PBL, contact Patsy Taylor, Chapter Adviser.



(L to R) Jarod Curley, Brianna Johnson, Adviser Mrs. Patsy Taylor, and Lavonda Mitchell (Photo taken in November 2019)



Six Sigma Certification

Students in Dr. Griffin's BUS 363 Operations Management earned White Belt Certification in Six Sigma. The Six Sigma Methodology is a set of business tools, statistical theory, and quality control knowledge that helps improve business procedures. There are four basic levels of certification: White Belt, Yellow Belt, Green Belt, and Black Belt. White Belts support change management in an organization and engage with local problem-solving teams that assist projects.

Individuals certified in Six Sigma are knowledgeable in dozens of different methods that can be applied to streamline business processes, improve employee acceptance, reduce costs, and increase revenue—all of which lead to a better bottom line, no matter the industry.

The ability to add Six Sigma Certification to one's resumé proves commitment to improving business acumen, analytical skills, and work output.

The students pictured below are: Rafiq Abdul-Wahid, Sarah Busam, Tyrell Freeman, Cristian Fuentes, Chris Hernandez, Katie Houston, Keitra Lloyd, Jordan Nicholson, Amber Turman, Courtney Vinson, and Kaitlyn Waterman. Congratulations!

SIX SIGMA WHITE BELT

Certification that



Has satisfactorily completed and has demonstrated proficiency in the curriculum set forth by the Council for Six Sigma Certification to be awarded the title of Certified White Belt.



Managing Director

Certification Number: _____
Certification Date: _____

Shannon Buchanan – Student of the Month March 2020

Shannon Buchanan has been chosen student of the month for March 2020. She is from Virginia Beach, VA. Her major is Bachelor of Art in Business. She decided to come to Chowan University because of the small campus as well as the small class sizes. The size of Chowan was appealing to her because she could tell it was a close-knit community, which allowed greater focus on her undergraduate education by her professors.

She feels that Chowan was a good choice because she had access to individual attention for academics. She also thinks Chowan was a good choice because, as a senior about to graduate, she saw familiar faces everywhere she went, which made it feel like home. Some of her favorite places at Chowan include the Helms center, McSweeney hall, Green Hall, and White's Crossing. As an athlete, the Helms center was her second home. She was in that building every day after class, and it allowed her to escape from the stress of academics for a few hours. McSweeney hall and Green hall are her favorite buildings on campus because all her classes were located in these buildings. They are the quietest academic halls in her opinion and the learning environments were very peaceful. She also had access to all her professors in



one building if she needed help with anything. Whites Crossing is another place that she loved on campus, since this is where she lived. She stated that "Having my own place to go back to at the end of the day is something that I was so grateful for. Whites crossing was my home away from home for the last three years."

Shannon has been very busy during her time at Chowan. She has been on the Chowan women's softball team. While playing softball she has earned the following: 2016-2017 CIAA conference champion, 2017-2018 CIAA conference champion,

2017-2018 CIAA Pitcher of the year, and been a part of the 2017-2018 CIAA first team all-conference and 2017-2018 CIAA all-conference team. She is also a member of the Pi Gamma MU Social Science Honor Society and Kappa Pi International Art Honor Society.

When asked what advice she would give freshman, she said "I would tell the incoming Freshman to just remember why you are there. Coming to college is big, but don't lose sight of getting that education. I would tell them to get involved in clubs and sports if possible. Along with getting involved, I would also tell them to get to know their professors. Getting to know your professors will help you in the long run because you will probably have the same professor for multiple classes depending on your major. I would also tell them to pick a major that they truly enjoy." For the next stage of Shannon's life, she is looking to find a job. She is not sure what she is interested in doing yet but states she will search until she finds something that she truly loves.

We know that Shannon will be great at whatever she chooses. She is a bright and caring young lady. We are so proud of her. We wish her all the best and an amazing future!

Congratulations to our Graduates!

"Congratulations to our School of Business graduates. It has been my pleasure to watch you grow into your potential and be a small part in your educational experience. You have my prayers as you go forward in your lives. I am so proud of you."

- Ms. Debbie Joyner

"Congratulations graduates! Best of luck to you as you start this new chapter in your life. May God bless you all."

-Mrs. Patsy Taylor

"Congratulations, graduates!! Four months ago, none of you anticipated that your final semester at Chowan would coincide with a difficult, historic world event! Despite the hardship and uncertainty, you focused on doing what you had to do. Now, your perseverance and dedication have paid off - you will soon be graduates of this fine University! My best wishes to you all!! "

-Mr. Tom Eisenmenger



"To our graduating seniors: I am truly saddened that we cannot celebrate you and your achievements together right now. Nonetheless, take pride in what you have accomplished and know that we are proud of you! We will truly miss you, but we wish you all the best in your future endeavors! P.S. As you navigate the job market, if you need help writing a cover letter and/or resume, you know my email! :) "

-Dr. Sarah Reed

"While the power to do hard work might not be a superpower, but in today's world it is the closest thing. Best of luck to all graduates."

-Dr. Joe Edenfield

"Congratulations Class of 2020!! Although we didn't have our normal spring celebrations and good-byes, you can be assured that I will remember all of you. You have faced adversity and kept moving forward to graduate. You are Chowan Strong. I am so proud of all of you and wish you a life full of success and happiness."

-Mrs. Shannon Williams

Keitra Lloyd – Student of the Month April 2020

Keitra Lloyd left her home in Nassau, Bahamas and set out for Chowan University to become a member of their inaugural women's swimming team. She had prepared for this trip for much of her life, beginning each day with swim practice from 5-7, then school from 8-3, followed by another swim practice from 4-6. She was determined to reach her goals and Chowan was the place to help her do that.

Moving so far from home to a different culture and climate was quite the experience for Keitra. It was challenging to be away from family for such long periods of time. Since she was used to the warm weather of the Bahamas, she had been forced to face the colder October weather of North Carolina during her first semester. It was quite a shock to her. She also missed the fresh seafood she was accustomed to in the Bahamas. She was used to large filling dinners with her family and had to adjust to American food, pizza, French fries, and burgers, which she termed "play-play food," she considers it more like snack food than a dinner meal.

Although it took some adjustment, she used the opportunity to meet new people and get involved at Chowan. The close relationships with other students and professors that Chowan offers helped her become an outstanding student. She found the material in business classes interesting, especially project management. Swimming



remained a big part of Keitra's life, just now she was swimming daily in Murfreesboro. She achieved many of her athletic goals at Chowan, breaking the record for the 200' Butterfly in pool. She was also awarded membership in Chi Alpha Sigma, recognizing her athletic and academic achievements.

Keitra comes from a business-minded family and she "really likes numbers." Her father served as a manager of Royal Bank of Canada in the Bahamas and her mother worked in human resources at the Police Headquarters. She grew up listening to them talk about their careers and knew

she'd follow in their footsteps. It's no surprise that she settled on a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management and a minor in Accounting. She hopes to find a job in financial services with a commercial bank shortly after graduation.


Keitra credits a lot of her success in college to her mother, Petrell. She has been a constant source of encouragement by her actions and her advice, always knowing the right things to say to help Keitra stay calm and focused. After Keitra's father, Keith, passed away during her sophomore year, Petrell continued to support her family, with Keitra and her older brother in college and her younger brother at home. Her strength and determination has been an inspiration to Keitra and helped her to keep going.


Keitra is a great example for underclassmen. She has worked hard and overcome all the challenges that college can create. When asked to provide advice to underclassmen, Keitra says, "stay focused, don't be distracted." She extends this message to her fellow student-athletes, noting that time management and an afternoon nap is key to handling all the stress of their hectic schedule.


The School of Business congratulates Keitra on her selection as the Student of the Month and wishes her success and happiness in her future.

Past Graduates

In April, in preparation for virtual SOAR, Dr. Taylor had the opportunity to interview three School of Business Graduates about their current positions and how the School of Business Contributed to their success:

	<p>Tyler Bembry Amazon, Inc. Area Manager/Shift Manager (begins July 6, 2020) <i>"Chowan has been a huge part of my success. I would tell any new student to choose the School of Business."</i></p>
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	<p>Qeashaunda Johnson Deloitte Risk & Financial Advisory Consultant <i>"The School of Business was the best!"</i></p>
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	<p>Josh Nicholson MBA Program, Nottingham Trent University Concentration: Strategic Change and Consultancy <i>"You get a lot of help, support, and feedback from your professors, which is what I most liked about the School of Business at Chowan."</i></p>
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School of Business Award Recipients



Courtney Vinson

Cheryl Hobday McElheney Business Award

The McElheney Award is 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 alumna and generous supporter of the university.



Cody Wells

Dr. DeJesus Outstanding Student in Economics Award

The Dr. DeJesus Outstanding Student in Economics Award 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. This award was created in honor of Dr. Gladys DeJesus, Distinguished Professor of Economics and a long-time faculty member in the School of Business.



Julieta Lecce

Drs. Vaughn & Miles Outstanding Business Student Award

The Drs. Vaughn and Miles Outstanding Business Student Award is presented annually to recognize a 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.



Kevin Taylor

O'Neil Award

The O'Neil Award is presented annually to the student who best demonstrates professional attitudes and behavior in the classroom and other aspects of campus life. The award is sponsored by Mrs. Elizabeth L. Francis-Brown, a former business faculty member. The award is in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William O'Neil.



Margarita Lopareva

Howard Award

The Howard Award is sponsored by Ellen Howard Brown and named in memory of her brother, Wade Hampton Howard. The award is presented to a returning business student who demonstrates competence in business communications, including both written and spoken English.

School of Business Award Recipients



Tyler Bemby

Order of the Silver Feather & Senior Ambassador Award

The **ORDER OF THE SILVER FEATHER** is an honorary service fraternity, the purpose of which is to give recognition to those students who have been especially outstanding in their service to the campus community and whose loyalty to Chowan University has been extremely noteworthy

The purpose of the **SENIOR AMBASSADOR AWARD** is to acknowledge student ambassadors for their outstanding service to the University.



Serenity Nichols

Excellence in Leadership Officer Award

The **EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP OFFICER AWARD** is presented to the club officer who best demonstrates leadership abilities and commitment to the organization.



Brianna Johnson

Senior Ambassador Award

The purpose of the **SENIOR AMBASSADOR AWARD** is to acknowledge student ambassadors for their outstanding service to the University.

SGA Elected Officers 2020-21



Kenneth Wilkerson

SGA President



Alexis Riddick

SGA Senior Class President

A Few Words from Our Graduates:

"I want to start off by saying thank you to each and every professor that has believed in me and encouraged me to push as hard as I could in order to get where I am today, I truly could not have done it without them. I also want to say Congratulations to all of the Seniors, we have FINALLY made it! To the rest of you who will be returning to Chowan in the Fall, do not take your time as a college student for granted, it will go by much faster than you think. Get involved, make friends, and most importantly, strive to do the best that you possibly can and make the most of it."

-Courtney Vinson

"Although my senior year was cut short, I would like to thank all my professors for working with me and encouraging me in this crazy time. I appreciate my classmates for constantly challenging me in the classroom and in discussion boards. Chowan will always hold a special place in my heart. "

-Sarah Busam

"If you're not first, you're last. Leave everything in the classroom."

-Denzel Hines

"I would like to say thank you to all my professors and classmates who made my college career happy and interesting. I really enjoyed these past 4 years at Chowan University and being part of the School of Business. I would like to advise the underclassmen to continue working hard to make their goals and dreams come true."

-Jose Zuniga

"I just want to say thank you to all the professors and the staff in general for a real eye-opening experience at Chowan. Thanks for continuing to believe and push me even when I didn't have the will power to do it for myself. Thank you for the support that you all have given throughout the years. It is greatly appreciated and it has not gone unnoticed. For all the upcoming seniors and new freshman it is very easy to get distracted and lose track, but try to stay on track and ask for help if you need it or guidance because there are people there that really care and are willing to help. Finish strong and good luck every one!!

-Samone Morgan

"I want to thank everyone who played a role in my success here at Chowan. It's been a long 4 years but, it was worth it. I thank all my friends and especially my professors. But, a special thank you goes to Dr. Reed she's a phenomenal professor who saw nothing but the best in me. To everyone else from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU ! "

-Leon Brown

"Thank you, to the hard working faculty members and professors who help me in graduating from Chowan University. Thank you to my classmates who became my friends, through your support I was able to become a better student. And to aspiring business leaders and entrepreneurs seeing this letter, chase your aspirations and goals and don't let anyone change them! Prove all who disbelieve in you wrong.

-Tyler Bemby

Final Thoughts on 2019-2020:



To the Professors and Ms. Joyner: Thank you for a wonderful year! I am blessed to work with a caring and compassionate faculty and staff that always has the students' best interests at heart. Your dedication to your job is obvious when I walk the halls at 6:00 p.m. and find you are still there—helping students, preparing for classes, and grading papers. When we shifted to online, you continued to do this, many of you working both the day and night shift, as suddenly leaving work at 6:00 p.m. seemed like an early evening! We worked together to continue to provide the services that our students expect, and I commend each of you for all you have done this year, and especially during the past two months.

To the Graduates: It seems like just yesterday you arrived on our campus. I have enjoyed getting to know all of you as I have watched you reach new heights while continuing to strive to reach your next goal. I regret that we are not able to join together in May to celebrate your achievements, but I hope you know that we are all very proud of your accomplishments and will all be cheering you on during the graduation broadcast.

This semester has taught me so much about your resilience. Even though the final two months of your education was a completely different experience than you anticipated, you refused to let the circumstances of the world impede your progress. You overcame challenges and uncertainty to continue to push forward.

Lou Holtz once said, "Show me someone who has done something worthwhile, and I'll show you someone who has overcome adversity." Your progress this spring is a testament to your ability to overcome adversity, and may you look back on this time in your life and remember the positive part of this experience. I hope you remember the bonds you built, the lessons you have learned, and, most of all, remember you have the ability to climb any mountain once you make up your mind to do it.

Continue to persist in the face of adversity and continue to make changes where changes need to be made. I wish you all the best in your future! Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your educational journey! Most of all, congratulations on a job well done! We look forward to hearing about the many successes that await you, so please do not forget to keep in touch!

Congratulations again,
Dr. Taylor



Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
With Concentration

Tyler Lamont Bemby
Management

Donald Keith Boone
Accounting

Taylor Christopher Bostic
Management

Sarah Arlene Busam
Management

Patrick Fitzgerald Egan
Marketing

Tyrell Anthony Freeman
Management

Cristian Alexander Fuentes
Management

Daniel Victor Ivanouski
Management

Brianna Kelsey Johnson
Accounting

Adi Kaliakperov
Management

Mitchell Levi-Lewis
Marketing

Keitra A.E. Lloyd
Management

Marco Antonio Lujan
Accounting

Kevin William Taylor
Marketing

Courtney Dalton Vinson
Management

Cody Neil Wells
Accounting

Bachelor of Arts in Business

Asia Denia' Alexander

Wyatt Beakler

Khari Ameer Branch

Leon Naheem Brown

Shannon Renee Buchanan

Jayvon Latre' Bunche

Kevon Alan Godfrey

Samantha Christine-M. Griffin

Denzel Michael Hines

Courtney Noelle Lee

Samone L. Morgan

Alisia Renee Morris

Immanuel Iman Perry

Jose Ruben Zuniga

Choose faith in your future.



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