The Division of Business is a part of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center Greater New Orleans Region (LSBDC GNOR) which was named the top Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in the nation, earning the U.S. Small Business Administration’s SBDC Excellence and Innovation Award. LSBDC GNOR is a collaborative partnership of Xavier University of Louisiana, Loyola, University New Orleans, and Delgado Community College. Mr. Erik Waters is the division’s SBDC consultant. In this role he finds solutions to assist businesses wherever they may be in the development process. He may need to assist start-ups requiring a business plans and education on how to get started, or an existing business needing capital, strategic planning services, or certification assistance.

According to Mr. Waters “The partnership with Xavier University further enhances the SBDC’s services to the community by connecting educational resources and student entrepreneurs with experienced consultants and business owners.” This relationship fosters the growth of entrepreneurship by providing access to training and business development services that can help students explore, plan and develop their own businesses. Mr. Waters works closely with the Division of Business’ Entrepreneurship Institute (EI). The Xavier SBDC supports the EI in programs ranging from social entrepreneurship to student business plan competitions. They also engage financial institutions to deliver credit information and other services valuable to budding entrepreneurs.

Mr. Waters has really enjoyed working with students. “My first experience was with the clean water project through the Sales for Social Impact program with 3M. My participation in refining the students’ efforts and preparing them for competition was empowering for the students and myself as well.” The Xavier SBDC is a key part in executing the division’s mission and values by engaging existing business owners and helping those future business owners who hold the talent and drive to find and create opportunity, solutions, and success for themselves and the communities in which they live.
Dr. Cary Caro participated in a Professional Development in International Business (PDIB) Program showcasing the sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices of Denmark and Sweden. The program was sponsored by the University of Minnesota Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), the Copenhagen Business School, and the Nordic Centre for Sustainability.

Dr. Caro presented the abstract, “From the Old to the New: Institutional Determinants of Implicit to Explicit CSR Transformation” at the prestigious Sustainability in a Scandinavian Context Conference. The abstract is a working collaboration with Dr. Richard Peters, of the Division of Business, and Dr. Peggy Golden from Florida Atlantic University.

“As a result of this conference, I will expand the International Business course this fall to include special topics in sustainability and CSR. This will include a special research collaboration with Virginia State University to explore the sustainability practices of students in HBCU’s.” Cary Caro

As part of the PDIB Program, Dr. Caro had access to world-leading Scandinavian corporations and practitioners to discuss progressive sustainability and CSR strategies. Corporations that were visited included: IKEA, the Swedish furniture design company; the Carlsberg Group, the most sustainable beer bottler in the world; Volvo, the Swedish large truck manufacturer; Maersk, one of the largest shipping companies in the world; and, Novozymes, a company that specializes in the production of enzymes who aims to replace many of the harmful chemicals used in many products. These visits afforded participants the opportunity to increase their awareness of the current CSR practices of the various organizations, and engage in discussion about the research needs of the various corporations.

Dr. Richard Peters traveled to Baoding, China and Salzburg, Austria this summer to develop partnerships with the Division of Business and further his research agenda and division mission of corporate social responsibility. Baoding, China, is home of our Confucius Institute partner school Hebei University. Dr. Peters spent ten days in Baoding fostering ties, through lecturing, dialogue, observation and cultural immersion.

“The area of social responsibility provided an initial platform for me to engage faculty and students in China. I taught graduate students about social responsibility, especially from a western perspective, and discussed my research on the cultural implications of and to social responsibility with Hebei’s business professors.” Richard Peters

While lectures and presentations kept him largely in the classroom, he was still able to visit and experience some of the many historic sites of China like the majestic Great Wall, Tienemen Square and the Forbidden City. In Salzburg, Austria, Dr. Peters attended the Salzburg Global Seminar focused on Social Responsibility and Sustainability. Educators, government officials, and others met over four days to discuss contemporary issues and create a plan of action to promote social responsibility and sustainability across the globe.

Dr. Amanda Helm traveled to Brazil this summer to explore partnerships with John Deere’s Brazilian headquarters in Indiutiba, Unicamp, a top Brazilian federal university in Campinas, and Zumbi Dos Palmares, Brazil’s only historically black college in Sao Paulo. As part of the Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (JAPER), the Brazilian government provides scholarships to attend U.S. HBCUs. Xavier welcomed 8 new Brazilian students to campus this fall, and is exploring a mutual exchange program with Unicamp.
During the summer, while completing the Introduction to Business class, the Business Achievers received guest lectures from executives and toured the Audubon Zoo while being briefed on all aspects of Zoo operations.

Global Knowledge cont.....

While visiting Zumbi, Dr. Helm participated in a symposium discussing sustainable energy issues along with visitors from HBCU Florida A&M.

“It was exciting to see the African-American and the Afro-Brazilian students connecting with each other around such a critical topic. I was surprised to see large photos of Obama and other American black leaders displayed prominently at Zumbi. I had never thought before how the election of a U.S. black president could be so meaningful for people of African descent worldwide.” Amanda Helm

Zumbi President Prof. Jose Vicentes credited a previous exchange program with Xavier University with inspiring Zumbi’s expanding international exchange program.

Summer Internships

Javon Mead spent this summer in Houston, Texas at PricewaterhouseCoopers as a Start Intern. The program is geared towards high-performing students from traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups within the professional services industry. Each intern is assigned a peer mentor (associate in the firm), a career coach (manager in the firm), and a relationship partner (partner in the firm), to serve as a guide and aid in giving their protégé a better idea as to what line of service they wish to pursue prior to the end of their internship. Javon spent 7 weeks inside the firm, learning the various lines of services (Advisory, Assurance, and Tax), while also working in the Internal Firms Services. Upon successful completion of the program, the interns are offered a client service internship in the line of service of their choice in the following Fall, Spring, or Summer.

This summer Kara Everhart was a 2013 UNCF Gateway to Leadership (GTL) intern with 14 other HBCU students at Macquarie U.S. Macquarie is a middle-market Australian investment bank which has recognition as an investment bank that invests along-side its clients. Kara’s summer began with the Gateway to Leadership opening ceremony in Washington D.C. which provided workplace etiquette tips and an introduction to her career coach. The program used a platform called CareerCore which provided assignments and an experienced person in the industry to assist in all area’s of professional development. Most of her work was on actual deals that could make or break budgets. While juggling her duties as a GTL intern she was required to participate on a team project developing a retirement plan. The rest of her time was in New York City with the Macquarie Capital Industrials Group.

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Representatives from the Division of Business accept reaffirmation of accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs at the annual ACSSP conference. On hand for the occasion were: (L-R) ACBSP Board of Commissioners Chair Dr. Anthony Negbenebor, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Dr. Joe Ricks, Dr. James Bartkus, Mr. Mark Quinn, and ACBSP Director of Accreditation Steve Parscale.

For more information on the programs offered by the Division of Business, please email us at business@xula.edu or call us at 504-520-7505. Or visit us in building 40 (Xavier South) room 325

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