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- Harvey Settles and TAMUCC Focuses

To set yourself apart from the rest, and to gain valuable work experience, consider an internship in your senior year. Work with a faculty member to identify and write the proposal for a specific opportunity, and then make an appointment to work with Shawn Elizondo (shawn.elizondo@tamucc.edu, OCNR 328) to fill out the forms required to earn credit toward graduation. If you have any questions concerning the internship process, please feel free to contact Shawn.

UNIVERSITY GRANT FOR HARVEY RECOVERY EFFORTS

Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Corpus Christi last August. With sustained winds of more than 120 miles per hour, this Category 4 storm devastated South Texas coastal communities, especially Rockport-Fulton, Port Aransas, and Bayside. After more than six months of removing a million cubic yards of debris, these communities are now on the road to recovery. The College of Business, its Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, and its South Texas Economic Development Center have joined forces in providing assistance to local government officials, businesses, and other community stakeholders with a goal to speed up the post-Harvey recovery process and to plan for future storms. Funded by the federal government, this project will involve both faculty and students, who will work with businesses and officials in those affected communities.

MISA continues to deliver lectures from industry professionals that help to cement the ever changing perspective of IT. In March, TAMUCC had the honor of hosting Mitrankur "Mit" Majumdar, an executive from InfoSys. Mit delivered a compelling seminar on the future of IT including: AI, Cloud integration, Internet of Things, process automation, new perspectives on platform economies, flattening the Org Chart, and Gen Z retention.

Later in the semester IT Director Jeff Vlach of the Texas State Aquarium spoke about the details of working in IT, asking the experts, starting from scratch, mastering the foundation, and weighing the costs/risks.

Both guests of the university brought out more than 30 students in attendance coming from multiple College of Business programs.
If you are a new major or new minor in either of our two disciplines – economics or management information systems, welcome! You’ll learn a lot from your classmates and faculty. We believe in using group projects and interactive learning to help you succeed. And we are not disappointed.

Many of you are planning to take jobs after college, and others of you are planning to enroll in graduate and professional schools. Please let your faculty help you succeed in either. Get to know us, and let us get to know you. Ask our advice, ask for recommendations, and ask for our help.

The MISY major has continued to attract more and more students, attesting to our excellent faculty and curriculum revisions. Our MISY students are competitive in the job market.

In both ECON and MISY, we are blessed with award-winning faculty, and we have new ECON faculty. Please get to know these dedicated teacher-scholars.

Your faculty are impressed by you! We see your hard work, self-discipline and enthusiasm in our classes. Best wishes for the rest of this term and the remainder of your undergrad time here at TAMUCC!

I have had the honor of serving as chair for the Department of Decision Sciences and Economics for almost three years. I find it to have been an excellent way to serve the university just before retiring. We will soon be selecting a new department chair, and I am confident that our new leadership will allow the department to reach new heights in serving our students, the university and our professions.

This semester, SEA has hosted several different events:

- Two meet-and-greet sessions for students wishing to learn more about the economics major and minor, on Wednesday, March 21st at noon, and on Thursday, March 22nd at 12:30 PM. Pizza and drinks were provided.
- A showing of the movie Freakonomics, 5:30 to 8:00 PM on Thursday, March 22, in OCNR 145
- ODE-SEA Economics Awards Ceremony — Every spring the Student Economics Association (SEA) hosts an awards ceremony to honor the top economics students. This spring the event will be held on reading day, May 4, at 6 p.m. Those being honored include students being inducted into the Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) honorary society, based on their academic achievements; they will receive honor cords to wear at commencement. Other awards include BBA 1st Place Senior, BBA 2nd Place Senior, BBA Outstanding Junior, Outstanding Economics Minor and the Economics Faculty Award.

Congrats to new SEA officers:
President: Joshua Warner
Vice President: Cecilia Pozos
Secretary: Alexis Wilson
Treasurer: Alexander Espinosa
Public Relations: Alexander Espinosa

A field I am intrigued by is User Interface Design (UX) and analyzing how it can have an impact on business. Recently I had the opportunity to learn more about the professional application of Website Development and put in practice the knowledge that I have gained from my Website Development class by completing an independent IT internship for Ginger Café and have had the privilege to have Dr. Robert Cutshall sponsor me. Ginger Café is a local Mediterranean restaurant that were in need of a fully functioning website and I decided to take the initiative to create a website to gain more experience and assist them in attracting more customers. Creating this website has taught me the importance of identifying the customer needs and applying it to a website design prior to jumping in to create the final product. I also learned that bootstrap can be used to design the entire webpage and how to apply it to each webpage. I came to an understanding that websites do not need to be big, elaborate, and flashy, they just need to get the point across and still be user friendly. This experience has definitely fired my interest in Information Technology and has showed me the challenges that IT professionals face in their daily lives.

By Laraine Shawa
Dr. Mohan Rao
Dr. Mohan Rao, Associate Professor of Operations Management, earned tenure this year. His service to his profession this year was serving as the President of the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute.

Dr. David Hudgins
Dr. David Hudgins received the College of Business award as Professor of the Year last August, based on his excellence in teaching, scholarship and service in the last academic year.

Dr. Marilyn Spencer
Dr. Marilyn Spencer, chair of the department, was honored with the Texas A&M University System’s Regents Professor Award in 2017, based on her contributions to students, the community and her profession in the 23 years she had already served the university.

Dr. Deniz Gevrek
Dr. Deniz Gevrek received the College of Business award for Excellence in Research last August, based on her research productivity in the last academic year. This semester she is on Faculty Development Leave, and, as such, she has been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin and at Deakin University in Australia.

Dr. Chuleeporn (Nikki) Changchit
Dr. Chuleeporn (Nikki) Changchit, Management Information System Professor, was nominated by the University for the Piper Professor Award in 2017. She was also awarded the University’s Teaching Excellence Award in 2016 and the Outstanding Online Educator Award in 2015. She also serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Organization Computing and Electronic Commerce (JOCEC) and the Journal of Electronic Commerce in Organizations (JECO).

ALUMNI UPDATE
One of our economics alumni, Amanda Torres, is now working at the City of Rockport as Community Planner. Previously, she worked at the City of Aransas Pass.

Dr. Veysel Avsar, Associate Professor of Economics, joined our faculty this past fall, moving from Montana State University. This year he has taught both Principles of Macroeconomics, and the capstone course in the major, Introduction to Econometrics. His favorite research topic is international trade. His papers have appeared in well-known economics journals such as World Bank Economic Review, Economics and Politics, Applied Economics, Economic Modeling and Kyklos.

Dr. Ahmed Hashmiwu was recently hired and will join our faculty in Fall 2018 as Assistant Professor of Economics. He is moving from the University of Massachusetts Boston. His current research interests are in fiscal policy, monetary policy and open economy macroeconomics.

Monica Silva joined the College in the fall. She graduated from the College of Business with a degree in Accounting. For a part-time job and to gain valuable work experience, consider working as a student assistant. Work with Career Services to identify a specific COB faculty member, and then interview for the job. If hired, you’ll work with Monica Silva, in OCNR 341, monica.silva@tamucc.edu, to fill out the required forms.
The internship experience and opportunity I had with the Corpus Christi Football Club was outstanding. It was a great chance for me to better expand my knowledge and experience towards my professional career, by using knowledge that I have learned from my major. I was grateful to have been given a chance to work with Corpus Football Club, as I have always wanted to see what goes on behind the scene of a soccer club. In the process I was able to meet so many wonderful people who I worked with and now consider family that made it an amazing experience. From the knowledge that I have learned from school I was able to help work on the Corpus Christi Football Club website and was hired to be the Website and Technology officer at the club. I also helped organize and prepare presentations to help out with the events for starting up the club. This helped me gain more knowledge not only on working on websites but video editing and computer analysis visualization.

By Eisen Shawa

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Undergraduate Research Projects Are Win-Win-Win!

Undergraduate research, service learning, collaborative assignments and projects, and writing-intensive courses are four of the 11 High-Impact Practices (HIPS) listed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. There is a tremendous opportunity for HIPS in Decision sciences. Decision sciences includes MISY, ORMS and OPSY. These are excellent areas for applied research. We can have research projects in Analytics, IT/DSS/ES applications, and performance evaluation and improvement to name a few. These projects could be service-learning and collaborative projects. We have faculty with expertise in these areas and are willing to mentor students with the high-impact practices.

Dr. Mohan Rao, for instance, recently collaborated with two students on research projects that led to conference presentations, publication in proceedings and a publication in an A+ journal. One of the two students traveled to Washington, DC, and made a presentation of her research. The university partly helped her travel expenses. There are excellent opportunities to present the research work. Once it is presented regionally, it can be further improved and presented nationally and can be published in proceedings and/or refereed journals. Here are the regional opportunities:

1. **TAMUS Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium.** The next symposium is on November 1-2, 2018 at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX (15 miles south of Amarillo, TX). The due date for abstract submission is June 1, 2018.
2. **International Conference on Western Hemisphere Trade.** This is an annual conference in April at Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX. It is too late for this year, but there is always next year.
3. **Southwest Decision Sciences Institute (SWDSI)/ Federation of Business Disciplines (FBD) Conference.** This is the best option for the presentation and publication of our research in this region. This is an annual conference in early March just a week before the Spring Break. The next conference (March 2019) is in Houston. In March 2020, it will be in San Antonio, and in March 2021, it will be in Galveston, TX. So, basically these conferences are within the driving distance. SWDSI has monetary awards for the top three student papers. The upcoming SWDSI conference in Houston is its 50th annual conference. That means it is a Golden Jubilee celebration. The SWDSI leadership is expecting a great turnout for the conference. They are encouraging faculty in this region to submit their own research, but also to encourage other faculty and students to submit their research papers. SWDSI has a goal of 300 submissions. Let us have a goal of 15 submissions from our department and college to SWDSI conference in Houston. If you are interested in this or need more information, please contact Dr. Mohan Rao at mohan.rao@tamucc.edu. He has just completed his term as the President of SWDSI with a highly successful conference in Albuquerque and is currently serving as the Past President of SWDSI.