

# AUM COB NEWSLETTER

*A publication of Auburn University at Montgomery  
College of Business Dean's Office*



## Dean's Message – Dr. Ross Dickens

I guess all newsletters contain much information that we consider “brag-worthy.” Still, this version could be labeled the “Brag Edition” instead of Spring. Inside are our “brags” on student interns, honor society inductees, new jobs, national conference participants, COB students of the month, scholarship winners, and more. We also pass along congratulations for faculty recipients of promotion and/or tenure. To wrap it all up, we provide a little about the events we have been conducting on campus to try to make things seem a bit more normal in our COVID-19 world and recognition for COB programs.

I hope you enjoy learning about all the things we think are “brag-worthy.”

### In this issue:

- 2- Student News
- 3- Collegiate Leader
- 4- Beta Alpha Psi
- 5- Honors Day
- 6- Recognition
- 7 & 8- Students of the Month
- 9- Happenings
- 10-One More Brag



**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

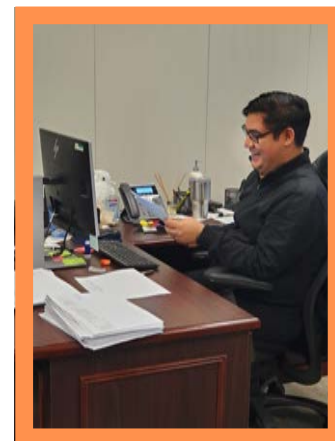


**AACSB  
ACCREDITED**

# Student News

## Interns

AUM Accounting majors Kenneth Bell and Oscar Lopez Morales (pictured to the right) were recently hired as interns by the Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering.



## Phi Kappa Phi

Phi Kappa Phi is offered to the top 7.5% of second-semester juniors and top 10% of seniors and graduate students.

The following students were inducted in December to Phi Kappa Phi:



Alexa Bigger (Accounting)

DeQuisha Bryant (Accounting)

Steven G. Hickes (MAcc)

Courtney L. McDonald (Marketing)

Joshua T. Williams (Marketing)

View more here: <https://www.aum.edu/student-affairs/clubs-organizations/#1578463110687-c8bbd1d8-7742>.

## Student Recognition

Joe Williams, MAcc student, accepted a position with the FDIC beginning at the end of March. He is a Financial Institution Specialist/Bank Examiner within the Atlanta Region in the Division of Risk Management Supervision working in the Hoover, AL field office.

## G.A.M.E. Forum

Eight College of Business students attended the G.A.M.E. Forum, March 25-26. The G.A.M.E. Forum is the largest student-run financial conference globally and is usually held in New York City. The Forum offers the opportunity for students to discuss and debate financial practices with industry leaders. The College of Business paid the \$25 conference cost per person, and students submitted reflective papers on what they learned from attending. Students who attended the forum are Tomas Boly, Keone Donkou, Joy Kalu, Donna Kim, Jamiah Marshall, Prakhar Singh, and Julia Simoes. Special thanks to Dr. Tewhan Hahn for organizing.

# College of Business

## National Collegiate Leader



AUM School of Accountancy is proud to announce that the Association of Government Accountants has recognized another accounting student at the national level. Accounting major, Tafadzwa "Taffy" Njanike, was recently chosen as one of the eight national finalists for the 2021 Association of Government Accountants National Collegiate Leadership Program. As a finalist, Taffy attended the National Leadership Training (virtual) at the end of February and has an invitation to several young professionals and early career events to network with national leaders from across the United States. Taffy will also be assigned a national mentor to help make connections with other leaders during these events. Taffy is very involved in several activities in the School of Accountancy and on the AUM campus. We are excited to see her recognized nationally for her leadership and academic accomplishments. Congratulations, Taffy, on representing the AUM School of Accountancy and College of Business at the national level!



# Beta Alpha Psi Induction Ceremony



All accounting majors who have completed Intermediate Accounting I and earned an A or a B in this class, and have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, are invited to apply for membership in the Xi Gamma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi.

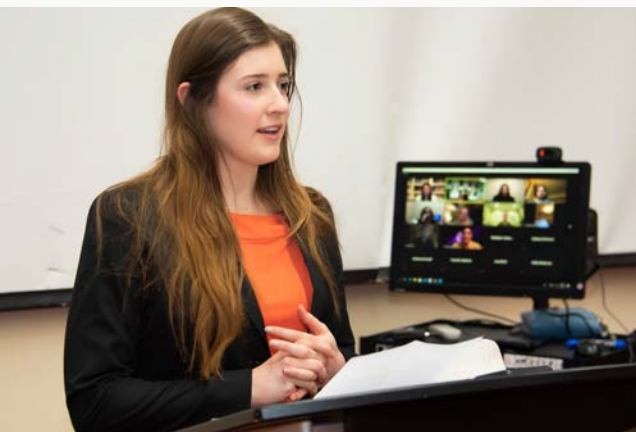


Beta Alpha Psi is an international honor society for accounting majors. As stated on the Beta Alpha Psi International website, "Beta Alpha Psi is recognized and respected by the business community as a premier collegiate organization. The reputation of Beta Alpha Psi can open doors to outstanding career opportunities in the fields of finance, accounting, and information systems. Potential employers know that when they see Beta Alpha Psi on a resume, they are getting the best!"



We recognized the following inductees during our induction ceremony on February 8, 2021:

Alexa Bigger  
Sara Davis  
Jasmine Downs  
Hayden Ford  
Samar Khan  
Madison Maddox  
Oscar Lopez Morales  
Tafadzwa (Taffy) Njanike  
Tiffany Reid  
Trey Vaughn  
Taylor Wilkerson  
Abigail Williams



View more here:

<https://www.aum.edu/student-affairs/clubs-organizations/#1578463110687-c8bbd1d8-7742>.

# College of Business Honors Day



Above: Anna Carlsson delivers the Student Thank You speech.



Above: Dr. Ross Dickens presents Andrea Morgan with the Helping Hands Endowed Scholarship.



Above: Dr. Ross Dickens presents Abigail Williams with the Alabama Society of CPA's Montgomery Chapter Scholarship.



Above: Dr. Ross Dickens presents Mr. Ken Heitkamp with the Outstanding Business Leader Award.



Above: Dr. Ross Dickens presents Jack Wright with the Alabama Society of CPA's General Scholarship.

College of Business Honors Day was hosted on April 16, 2021. This event recognized many undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff for their extraordinary accomplishments over the last year. The College of Business awarded over 60 scholarships thanks to our generous donors.

We would like to recognize the following community award recipients: 2021-2022 Outstanding Young Alumni Award: Brandon Johnson, 2021-2022 Outstanding Alumnus Award: Holley Pierce, and 2021-2022 Outstanding Business Leader Award: Ken Heitkamp.

We share a few pictures from the event.



Above: Dr. David Ang delivers Information System awards.

# Recognition

Auburn University at Montgomery has multiple online programs that earned high rankings – high enough to be called U.S. News Best Online Programs – as shown here:  
Online Bachelor's #102

Online MBA #135 Nationally

Online Grad Education #132

You can view the information here: <https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/auburn-university-at-montgomery-OBUS0027/mba>

## Tenure and Promotion

Venessa Funches (Business Administration) was promoted to Professor in Spring 2020.

Scott Lane (Accounting) was awarded tenure in Spring 2020.

Dong-Yop Oh (Information Systems) was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure in Spring 2021.

Foster Roberts (Business Administration) was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure in Spring 2021.

Walter Smith (Accounting) was awarded tenure in Spring 2021.





# Spring Students of the Month

## January

### Cooper Howard



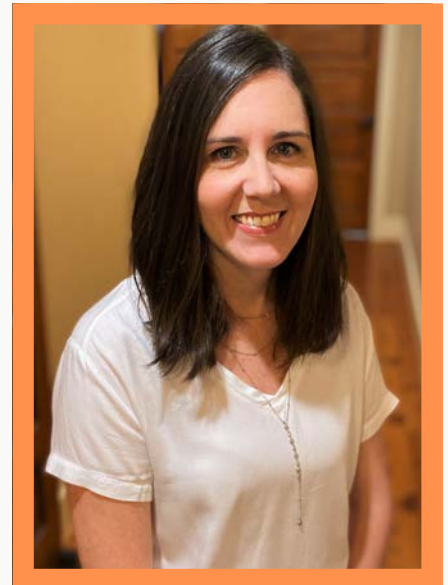
Cooper Howard is a senior BSBA Information Systems major and a member of the AUM Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. His high academic achievements have also been recognized while being a member of the AUM Men's Soccer Team. He is a three-time qualifier for the Gulf South Conference Academic Honor Roll (2017, 2018, and 2019) as well as a two-time recipient of the Division 2 Athletics Directors Association Academic Achievement Award (2018-2019 and 2019-2020).

## February

### Julie McDaniel

Julie McDaniel is currently a student in the Master's of Healthcare Administration program and plans to graduate this December. Julie is the Billing Manager for Blue Lake Anesthesia Solutions in Birmingham, AL, and has worked in anesthesia billing and coding her entire career. She is pursuing this degree to further her career with Blue Lake. Julie is also a certified medical coder and involved with her local American Academy of Professional Coders chapter.

She has served as Secretary, President, and is currently serving as Vice President. Julie lives in Birmingham with her husband and two children.



# Spring Students of the Month



## March

### Benjamin Morrow

Benjamin Morrow is a senior Management major at AUM, graduating in Spring 2021. While attending school, he also works as the Director and Head Coach at Titans Gymnastics and Cheer in Wetumpka. After graduation, he plans to continue his career in the gymnastics world as a coach and director. In his spare time, he enjoys running and playing video games with friends.

## April

### Alba de la Torre

Alba de la Torre is a Marketing and Finance double major with a minor in Information Systems. She was born and raised in Madrid, Spain, and plays tennis for AUM. Tennis has long been a part of her life, and she hopes to bring the business world and tennis together, as she pursues these two passions.





# What's Happening Around Clement Hall?

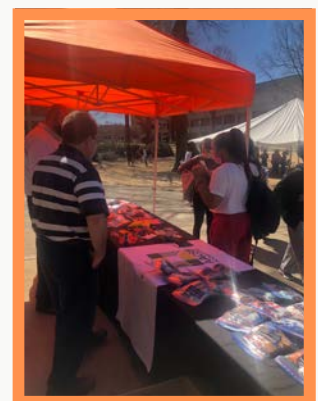


## Snacks and Swag

Students enjoyed snacks and swag provided by the College of Business on January 26th while learning about opportunities within the college.

## Homecoming

The College of Business provided goodie bags to students during the week of February 21st to celebrate Homecoming.

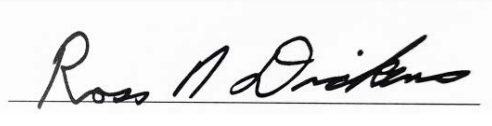


## One More Brag

In April, Fortune ranked the COB's Online MBA program as #63 in the nation! This ranking is the best in the state for public universities. We are thrilled given that our fully online program has been in existence for only a year. If you are interested in earning an MBA or want to share with someone who is exploring, here is the link to learn more about our program: <https://www.aum.edu/master-business-administration/>.

## Let Us Hear From You

We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your continued support. Please let me know if you have any information (such as internship or job leads for our students) you think useful.



Ross N. Dickens  
Dean and Professor of Finance  
rdickens@aum.edu



<https://www.facebook.com/AUMBusiness>



<https://twitter.com/aumbusiness>



<https://www.instagram.com/aumbusiness/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/aumbiz>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4489281/>



**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

