The University of North Alabama’s College of Business MBA program has been recognized twice in a leading international publication. CEO Magazine’s 2017 Global MBA Rankings places UNA’s Executive MBA program within the top 30 worldwide and ranked the institution’s Online MBA Program within the top 50 in the world.

CEO Magazine has been showcasing top business schools from around the globe since it first launched in 2008. In 2012 the publication launched its annual Global MBA Rankings that profiles MBA, Executive MBA, and Online MBA programs.

“We are very proud of the reputation and growth of our MBA program and are grateful for this acknowledgement,” says UNA College of Business Dean Greg Carnes. “Knowing that CEO Magazine uses a ranking system weighted entirely on fact-based criteria we feel the programs we offer are exceeding the expectations of our students both domestically and internationally.”

CEO Magazine looked at data points including the quality of faculty, international diversity, class size, accreditation, cost, and other factors in determining their rankings. This year the magazine reached out to business schools across North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the BRICS.

UNA surpassed well-respected schools such as Pepperdine, Baylor, University of Florida, and Copenhagen University in Denmark in the rankings for their Executive MBA program. For their Online MBA program, UNA surpassed schools such as Birmingham University in the UK, SBS Swiss Business School, and Rochester Institute of Technology.

Summer semester is well underway at UNA. Fall registration is open with classes beginning August 23.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA ON COLBERT AND LAUDERDALE COUNTIES

Dr. Doug Barrett and Dr Keith Malone of the Institute for Innovation and Economic Development and the Department of Economics and Finance authored the 2017 Economic Impact Study for the University of North Alabama.
After a long period of planning, the Robert H. Steele Center for Professional Selling was officially named by UNA President Kenneth D. Kitts at a ceremony on Thursday, April 27. Robert Steele ’78, an entrepreneur, former professional football player, and former State Representative from Georgia, was on hand to accept the proclamation from Kitts in front of a large crowd of well-wishers.

Among those in the crowd were members of Steele’s family, business colleagues, administrators and faculty, civic leaders, a good representation of Steele’s Phi Gamma Delta fraternity brothers, and students who have a keen interest in the world of professional selling. One student, Tommy Smith, was tapped to come to the podium and give the welcome for the event. Smith is a Marketing major with a concentration in Professional Selling who graduated in May.

In his welcome address to the guests Smith stated, “I am confident that my involvement in the Center for Professional Selling has provided me the opportunity to grow not only as a student, but also as a person and a business professional. The knowledge and experience I have received from this program has proved to be invaluable.”

Smith went on to say that the professional selling learning experiences he gleaned from his concentration has already proven its value. After receiving four offers for career positions he was happy to announce that he has accepted a position with Gartner, Inc. in Ft. Myers, Florida starting May 22. Gartner is a leading information technology research and advisory company that delivers technology-related insight for its clients. It has consistently received accolades from publications such as Forbes, Fortune, and Glassdoor for its employment opportunities, innovative growth, and industry admiration.

“Today was a great opportunity to meet Mr. Steele and thank him personally for his gift supporting the Center,” stated Smith. “As a student, I admire his career history and his generosity to his alma mater.”

President Kitts recognized Steele for his gift which is the largest of its kind to the Center for Professional Selling. He also stated that Steele’s generosity positions the Center to impact generations of UNA students.

“Robert is an exemplary alum of the University of North Alabama,” said Kitts. “Professional selling has been Robert’s passion and with his height of success, he exemplifies all that the Center for Professional Selling represents.”

In his remarks, Steele stated that he didn’t simply want to write a check, that he wanted to be involved in the creation and sustaining of the Center. This was welcome news to Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the College of Business where the Steele Center is housed. Carnes noted that Steele has been involved in writing the mission and vision statements for the Center and plans to be a hands-on contributor to building the infrastructure of the newly formed initiative.

The naming of the Robert H. Steele Center for Professional Selling is the second time in one year that Steele’s named has been placed in perpetuity at the University. In October 2016 he was inducted into the University of North Alabama Athletic Hall of Fame.
On Monday, May 1, UNA’s College of Business inducted 25 students into their newly installed chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. The induction ceremony honored the College of Business’ top Junior, Senior, and MBA students.

Beta Gamma Sigma is the premier business honor society and is only available to those business schools who have received AACSB accreditation. UNA was able to install a chapter last week after being awarded accreditation from the agency. Beta Gamma Sigma replaces the Delta Mu Delta chapter which served as the honor society prior to accreditation by AACSB.

“We are excited that this new chapter was installed when several UNA representatives were at the AACSB International conference,” said Dr. Jana Beaver, co-advisor of the Society along with Professor Rebecca Hamm. “We will continue to recognize our Delta Mu Delta honorary members and members at our Beta Gamma Sigma ceremonies. Delta Mu Delta has been an outstanding honor society in business for us to be affiliated with and we are grateful for many successful years. We are enthusiastic about the future of Beta Gamma Sigma at UNA.”

MBA Graduate Students in the top 20% of their class initiated were Randy Bagley, Zack Crowell, Molly Duncan, Kaitlin Eckl, Stacey Henshaw, Jennifer Hogan, Jessica Middelton, Benjamin Stanley, and Jonathan Wilson.

Undergraduate Seniors in the top 10% of their class initiated were Comfort Agyn-Birikorang, Emma Duplantis, Holly Franklin, James Gasque, Gabriela Gomez, Veronica Gomez, Cody Jordan, Seth Tatum, Patrick Twesme, Samuel Wallace, and Katelyn Yeager.

Undergraduate Juniors in the top 10% of their class initiated were Derek Brown, Tori Carman, Jordan Cooper, Reagan Couch, Alexander Gould, and Thad Hogan.

At the College of Business Awards and Appreciation Banquet held on April 10, four awards were presented to faculty members:

Faculty Advising Excellence Award to
Jana P. Beaver
Associate Professor, Management

Faculty Research Excellence Award to
Robert W. Armstrong
Professor, Marketing

Faculty Service Excellence Award to
J. Doug Barrett
Professor, Quantitative Methods

Faculty Teaching Excellence Award to
Jason S. Watson
Assistant Professor, CIS

NEW BUSINESS SOCIETY AT UNA INDUCTS 25 STUDENTS

HAPPY CAMPERS AT UNA

This year’s UNA summer STEM camp included a mini-Big Idea competition where campers were asked to formulate an idea for a project that could help their community. High school and middle school participants worked with College of Business and College of Arts and Sciences faculty and UNA student mentors to hone their ideas for a final presentation and the awarding of prizes.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
una.edu/business/campaign-giving.html
The University of North Alabama College of Business students had a successful trip April 7 and 8 to the annual Phi Beta Lambda State Conference. 14 College of Business student chapter members traveled to Birmingham to compete with collegiate institutions throughout the state and 13 earned an award. Students were allowed to sign up for two competitions each. The students returned home with eight 1st place trophies, nine 2nd place certificates, and three 3rd place certificates.

Depending on the category of their individual competitions, students competed by writing papers, role playing, creating business plans, or developing a product or project in a production test.


Third place winners included: Brad Carter, majoring in Computer Information Systems, won 3rd place in Cyber Security, Candace Doss, majoring in Finance, won 2nd place in Financial Concepts. Abby Sides, majoring in Accounting, won 3rd place in Accounting Principles.

“The hard work our students put in to this conference is evident in the recognition they received at this state event,” said Jill Simpson, Instructional Designer and Technologist for UNA’s College of Business and faculty co-sponsor of Phi Beta Lambda. “They have made both me and the University very proud.”