Dear CBE Friends,

Happy New Year!

Quiet retrospection is good for the soul after a busy semester. As always, I am amazed as I look back and review the accomplishments and high level of activity within the College. It is my pleasure to share with you some of the highlights that reflect our student successes, faculty research activities, alumni interactions and important initiatives.

Our Lehigh alumni play an important role in extending the learning experience beyond the classroom. Fred Schaufeld ’81, this year’s Gruhn Speaker, returned to campus and shared his knowledge and experience with our students. His heartfelt advice and discussion of managing luck and foiled plans resonated with the students, staff and alumni in attendance.

Just like our successful alumni who are recognized as influential business leaders, many of our students distinguish themselves both on campus and beyond. For example, David Morency ’18 is a Presidential Scholar who will graduate from the Integrated Business and Engineering honors program with dual majors in finance, and industrial systems and engineering. He is the first Lehigh student to be selected for the prestigious Schwarzman Scholarship, which will provide him the opportunity to pursue a Master’s degree in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing. I have every confidence that David’s undergraduate experience, coupled with this wonderful opportunity to study in China, will prepare him to lead in an increasingly complex, geopolitical 21st century business environment.

Our MBA students are just as impressive. Shokirbek Marimov, a 1-MBA student is an entrepreneur at heart. In addition to his studying full-time for his MBA, he finds time to work on his co-owned app that can be found in Apple’s App Store. Cashable is an application that creates a marketplace for buying and selling unwanted gift cards. With 200 users of Cashable, the app is growing daily.

We start with great students and provide them the tools they will need for success in the workplace. Critical to this effort is the faculty that are accomplished researchers as well as excellent teachers. Researching current business issues serves to inform classroom discussions and provide industry guidance and expertise. I am proud to report that our business faculty continue to publish in high-quality journals, as well as serve as industry experts in the popular press. Most recently, in a December New York Times article about the legality of hospitals’ high billing rates for out-of-network patients, research conducted by George Nation III, professor of finance, was referenced.

The College is committed to ensuring that our students are ready for the challenges of an ever-changing complex global work environment. After a rigorous review of the current undergraduate curriculum, and subsequent recommendations for change by the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee, the College faculty approved a redesigned undergraduate core curriculum that puts stronger emphasis on business analytics, business communications and leadership. With these changes to the business students’ experience, they will graduate with a competitive advantage in the workplace.

I appreciate your interest in the College and look forward to another activity-packed spring semester.

As always, I welcome any of your comments or feedback.

Warm regards,

Georgette Chapman Phillips
Kevin L. and Lisa A. Clayton Dean of the College of Business and Economics