Dear Burroughs Family,

This issue of the business school's newsletter is our second one and reflecting on its content, I am certain that we as a school are on an upward trajectory. Although Benedict College has offered programs and courses in business for many decades, we were elevated from a department to a school only 20 years ago.

Over the past two decades, our unit’s name has changed multiple times from the School of Business and Economics to the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Economics to the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship. Despite the name changes, the one constant over the years has been high-quality from the teaching to the curriculum to the students, faculty, and staff to the alumni.

I am so proud of the changes that we have made in the last five years – the addition of the finance major, the addition of the entrepreneurship concentration, and the addition of the College’s first graduate program, the Master of Business Administration. Our school’s portfolio of experiential learning opportunities (e.g., internships, service-learning projects, and external competitions) is broader than it has ever been, and our footprint on campus has expanded with the opening of the Women’s Business Center, the BC Retail Marketplace (formerly, the BC Bookstore) and the Burroughs Enterprise, Startup, and Technology (B.E.S.T.) Innovation Lab.

As a school, we are lean; we are nimble; we are innovative and well-equipped to be the destination for any serious student seeking an exceptional HBCU business education within the state of South Carolina. Everyone should stay tuned because the best of The BEST is yet to come!

Dr. Tracy Harrell Dunn
Your Dean
BURROUGHS BEST

Scholarship Winners

Shanice Francis - a senior accounting major from Freeport, Bahamas and James Jordan - a senior business administration (marketing) major from Vineland, New Jersey - were awarded $2,000 scholarships from the Risk Management Association. The purpose of the organization is to attract and develop future leaders in the financial service industry.

According to Monique Donahue, the Director of Professional Development and Academic Markets at RMA, the organization received many applications overall. Her hope is that the scholarships will lead talented and diverse candidates closer to a rewarding career in banking.

Outstanding Senior - Commencement 2022

Kenyon Gray was given the Outstanding Senior Award for the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship at the Baccalaureate Service on May 4. Mr. Gray was recognized for the scholarship and leadership.

He was a member of the Benedict College Honors Program and as a freshman was a member of the inaugural class of Founder’s Scholarship recipients. Throughout his matriculation at Benedict, he held consistent placement on either the President’s List or the Dean’s List. Additionally, he was a UNCF Scholarship Ambassador and an active member of Phi Beta Lambda, the oldest and largest business student organization in the United States.

Mr. Gray had a long career of leadership on Benedict’s campus. Starting in his sophomore year, he was elected Sophomore Class SGA Representative as well as Mr. School of Honors. In his junior year, he held the position of treasurer and social committee chair of the Benedict Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda as well as the business manager for the Student Government Association. In his final academic year, he continued in his roles with Phi Beta Lambda in addition to serving as the president of the Student Government Association.

He was an active contributor to the fabric of Benedict College community from his annual participation in pre-homecoming campus clean-up and beautification starting his freshman year to his collaboration this year with other SC HBCU SGA presidents and SC Representative Deon T. Tedder to advance HBCU Day, which became law when it was signed by Governor Henry McMaster. Now the third Tuesday in February will be the day in which the HBCUs in SC will be recognized and appreciated for their contributions.

Mr. Gray graduated with a 3.93 GPA, having completed two internships at KPMG, a multinational accounting and auditing firm. After graduation, he returned to KPMG for his final internship in San Francisco, CA. Over the summer he travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark to participate in the KPMG Global Advantage Program. This fall he starts the Master of Accountancy program at the University of South Carolina, Darla Moore School of Business.
MBA Student Highlight

Bradon O’Connor was named to the 2022 D2CCA Baseball All-South Region team. Mr. O’Connor ranked 2nd in the NCAA Division II batting average (.454) and 6th in the nation for on base percentage (.551). He broke the record for the NCAA Division II single season stolen base average (97 total).

Recently, Mr. O’Connor signed a professional contract with the Rocky Mountain Vibes of the Pioneer League. The Pioneer League is an independent baseball league in partnership with Major League Baseball (MLB). The team is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

CFA Scholars Induction Ceremony

On April 20, 2022, the Burroughs School celebrated the induction of the inaugural cohort of the Center for Financial Advancement (CFA) Scholars at the CFA Gold Coat Ceremony. The scholars completed a yearlong curriculum covering credit, money management, and home ownership. The program also prepares the scholars for internships and careers in mortgage and real estate companies. The students are now eligible to become program ambassadors. Dr. Tracy Washington, chair of the Accounting and Finance Department, serves as the faculty advisor. Also, pictured below is Gwendolyn Garnett, the program director for the Center for Financial Advancement.

Cheyanne Powell, president, senior accounting major from Destin, Florida
Randall Curry, vice-president, senior accounting major from Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Jaida Daniel, secretary, senior finance major from Fort Washington, Maryland
Simone Bryant, senior business administration (management) major from McCordsville, Indiana
Heyveon Clemons, (’22 graduate), accounting, from North, South Carolina
Shanice Francis, a senior accounting major from Freeport, Bahamas
Jlyn Hilton, senior business administration (management) from Sumter, South Carolina
Devaughn Johnson, senior business administration (entrepreneurship) from Henderson, Nevada
Taylor McNeil, junior business administration (management) major from Waldorf, Maryland
Emori Mitchell, senior finance major from Pittsburg, California
Ebony Taylor, senior business administration (management) major from Freeport, Bahamas
Dimaggio Williams, senior finance major from Freeport, Bahamas
Tyrus Young, a junior finance major from Memphis, Tennessee

Pictured back row left to right: Randall Curry, Cheyanne Powell, Taylor McNeil, Simone Bryant, Ebony Taylor, Shanice Francis, Dimaggio Williams, Devaughn Johnson, Tyrus Young, Heyveon Clemons

Pictured front row left to right: Ms. Gwendolyn Garnett, Dr. Tracy Washington, Dean Tracy Dunn
CFA PITCH Competition

The Center for Financial Advancement (CFA) PITCH Competition was held virtually in March. The following CFA Scholars represented Benedict College against NC A&T:

- **Randall Curry**, vice-president of the CFA Scholars, senior accounting major from Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- **Cheyanne Powell**, president of the CFA Scholars, senior accounting major from Destin, Florida
- **Tarondi Bethea**, junior finance major from Florence, South Carolina
- **Taylar McNeil**, junior business administration (management) major from Waldorf, Maryland

According to the faculty advisor, Dr. Tracy Washington, “Our students did a great job.” Taylar McNeil was the only team member to advance beyond the preliminary round to the finalist round.

In Her Footsteps Honoree

At the 3rd Annual in Her Footsteps Luncheon, **Mya Cyibar Schofield**, a senior business administration (management) major and the 79th Miss Benedict College, was recognized as an In Her Footsteps Young Rising Leader. Ms. Schofield is the former Student Government Association President (2020-21). She was involved with the Benedict College’s Student Ambassadors serving as the president as well as a member of the Benedict College’ Honors Program. Ms. Schofield was chosen to represent Benedict College at the White House HBCU Initiative Competitiveness Scholar Program, which is the highest opportunity for an HBCU scholar.

Ms. Schofield, a native of Atlanta, GA, completed a summer internship at the U.S. Senate on Aging Committee with Senator Tim Scott in Washington, D.C. as well as Target Corporation in Lugoff, SC. This fall she begins her studies as a graduate student at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

National HBCU Business Deans Roundtable Student Summit

Senior accounting majors, **Kasey Cooper** and **Randall Curry**, represented the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship at the first National HBCU Business Deans Roundtable Student Summit. The event was hosted by Deloitte at Deloitte University in Texas.
Burroughs Students Intern at SC RSIC

The South Carolina Retirement System Investment Commission invests and manages all assets held in trust for the participants and beneficiaries of the five state defined benefit plans, which includes $41 billion of assets. The RSIC’s CEO and Burroughs Business Advisory Board member, Michael Hitchcock, invited interested Burroughs majors to apply for the RSIC internship program.

Two Burroughs students were selected for the internship program - Marcus Alexander II, a sophomore business administration major from Homestead, Florida, and Tyrus Young, Jr., a CFA Scholar and a junior finance major from Memphis, Tennessee.

“We are so grateful to Mr. Hitchcock for creating this opportunity for our business students. We appreciate the way that RSIC has sparked student interest in investment management through site visits to their offices and now this internship program,” says Dr. Tracy Dunn, dean of the Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business & Entrepreneurship.

BC’s First Student Retail Incubator Tenant

Edbonie Benefield, a senior business administration major from Columbia, South Carolina, is a student entrepreneur. She has owned her business - QweenClaws - since 2019. Ms. Benefield is a licensed nail technician, who in addition to providing manicures and pedicures, also sells nail press-ons as well as luxury accessories like handbags and jewelry.

Her business was featured in the BC Retail Marketplace (formerly, the BC Bookstore) during AY 2021-22. She can also be reached through social media (Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest) and her booking site - https://qweenclaws.square.site.

When asked about her experience as a student business tenant in the BC Retail Marketplace, she said, “Being in the bookstore allowed me to grow and develop my business in many ways. I was able to expand my clientele and work closely with other business owners. It gave me a place to display my merchandise. I also received mentorship from Ms. Renee Joye who is part of Benedict’s Women’s Business Center. Having the space was fun and educational. I’ve gained so many different business skills as part of the retail incubator within the BC Retail Marketplace.”

Ms. Benefield’s advice to other BC student entrepreneurs is to network. “Networking is so important along with hard work. It has given me so many different opportunities. Get your name out there. It doesn’t matter if the market is saturated; the market doesn’t have a YOU! The world is so big yet so small; you never know who you will service or meet. Just keep networking.”
BURROUGHS PROGRAMMING

Burroughs Student Innovation Hub

The Burroughs seniors enrolled in BA 432 Senior Capstone operated the Burroughs Innovation Hub, where they completed consulting projects for clients of the Benedict College Women’s Business Center. The course taught by Prof. Michele Dugar operated as a digital marketing agency delivering Google My Business profile services for their clients at no cost.

The student marketing consultants helped their clients leverage the power of Google business profiles to grow their business.

According to Prof. Michele Dugar, “Today almost half of all Google searches show local search results. This means getting to the top of the page requires a winning Google My Business profile. The Burroughs Innovation Hub’s student marketing consultants are senior business majors who were trained in doing just that.”

This service was available FREE to business owners that applied.

Accounting Summer Bootcamp

For five Saturdays during Summer 2022, Prof. Anissa Truesdale led 10 business students through an academic bootcamp to prepare for the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) examination. The bootcamp will continue through Spring 2023. Students are being prepared to complete the examination by the end of June 2023.

“I am beyond impressed by the commitment and drive of these students. Their willingness to give up five Saturdays during their summer break to study accounting is not only rare but is a true testament to the caliber of students at Benedict College,” says Prof. Anissa Truesdale.

The following accounting majors completed the entire bootcamp including a comprehensive 8-hour practice exam at the end of the bootcamp:

Kasey Cooper, senior
Shanice Francis, senior
Jahaveed George, senior
Cheyanne Powell, senior
Tashna Stephenson (’22)
**B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab Launches**

The Burroughs Enterprise, Startup, and Technology (B.E.S.T.) Innovation Lab launched on Benedict’s campus in January 2022. It is funded through the Relentless Challenge Grant awarded by the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Office of Innovation. The mission of the Lab is to serve as a source and resource for the development of high-growth student entrepreneurship endeavors at Benedict College. Its goal is to establish the foundation necessary to achieve this mission and thereby create the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at Benedict College necessary to foster high-growth student entrepreneurship.

Burroughs Enterprise, Startup, and Technology (B.E.S.T.) Innovation Lab supports the creation and development of high-growth student entrepreneurship endeavors through its programming. Currently, students can earn service-learning hours through participation in the Lab’s seminars that teach design thinking, team-based projects that solve real world problems, and a Founders Lecture Series that inspire interest in startups.

The B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab is open to all Benedict College students regardless of major. The first two cohorts of students to participate in the Lab’s programs consisted of non-business majors as well as business majors.

The team project in the spring involved a trip to Austin, Texas to participate in the HBCU Battle of the Brains. Over spring break (March 9-13), the BC team competed against 23 other HBCU teams for prizes and bragging rights. Student teams competed in a 24-hour, cross-discipline competition to determine finalists. Finalists “pitched” their comprehensive solutions to determine the fifth annual HBCU Battle of the Brains Champion. The students also participated in company tours (e.g., Expedia, Amazon, Dell) and career development workshops.

- **Ashanique Moore** - a junior computer science major - was selected for an internship with Dell as well as a Dell Success Scholarship recipient.
- **Anony Walton** - a senior business administration (management) major, was the team captain, from Detroit, Michigan.
- **Madison Roberts**, a junior studio arts major from Nassau, Bahamas
- **Bradon O’Connor** - a Benedict College MBA student and BC Undergraduate alumnus (computer engineering major) from Colorado.
- **Vivica McBean** - a junior business administration (management) major from Gloucester City, New Jersey
- **Anastasia Hammond**, a senior electrical engineering major from Columbia, South Carolina

The team project was to address the lack of diversity at the NFL. The team proposed a recruiting platform that would connect HBCU athletes and HBCU non-athletes to the NFL. The team’s pitch deck included a description of the platform as well as the budget and implementation plan.
The Founders Speaker Series included the speakers below:

**March 2022**

**Chris Heivly** is one of the nation’s leading experts in how to turn startups into multimillion-dollar companies. At a time when the nation’s economy is shifting from a reliance on large corporations to smaller, more innovative organizations, he has been dubbed the “The Startup Whisperer.”

Mr. Heivly currently serves as one of two managing directors of The Startup Factory, the largest seed investment firm in the Southeast. Under his leadership, the firm has made 35 investments in just three years in emerging technology companies. More than 60 percent of TSF’s portfolio has gone on to raise follow-on capital, more than double the industry average for similar investment programs.

**Phil Croskey** is the CEO and co-founder of MD Energy Advisors with more than 20 years of executive and managerial experience to his roles. In 2010, Mr. Croskey also co-founded PointClickSwitch, a proprietary online platform powered by MD Energy Advisors that helps residential customer in deregulated energy markets save on utility costs through comparison shopping.

Prior to starting MD Energy Advisors and PointClickSwitch, Mr. Croskey was director of real estate development at the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), where he was responsible for projects totaling more than $3 billion for the City of Baltimore. Before joining BDC, Mr. Croskey was a member of the management team of MBNA America (now Bank of America) with roles in marketing, sales, finance, and risk mitigation.

**April 2022**

**Starlitt Miller** is a business consultant, workflow strategist, and accounting advisor based in Columbia, SC, and an Intuit QuickBooks Online Advanced ProAdvisor. She is the owner and founder of Star Accounting and Business Solutions (SAABS) where she helps small businesses all over the U.S. run smoothly, scale quickly, and increase profitability.

In this role of entrepreneur, Ms. Miller spends her time trouble-shooting, implementing better practices, connecting existing tech solutions, and consulting with small businesses with the goal to help them save time and increase efficiency without sacrificing real financial data for their businesses. With a performing arts and accounting background, her perspective is both creative and analytical. She has worked to mesh these two worlds during her career, which was one of the guiding forces that led her to entrepreneurship.

In her spare time, she enjoys DIY craft/decor projects, unplugging at a beach, traveling, connecting with others, participating in performing arts, having fun with her daughter, and sketching up dreams for the future. She is a creative and problem-solver by nature, so she is constantly looking for ways to creatively improve her surroundings (even when she is not consciously doing so). She is passionate about helping others learn more about who they are (their strengths, limitations, and gifts), so that they can thrive, give more to the world, and understand the power that the arts can provide to non-arts environments.
Entrepreneurship Week 2022 Activities

Monday - Student Business Showcase - Campus Pop-up Shops featuring the following student entrepreneurs
- **Octavia Williamson**, social work major, K. O. Munchie Craze,
- **Brandon Robinson**, sport management major, Hustle-over-Handouts
- **Terrencia Miller**, biology major, R Mula Cosmetics
- **Judah Fashe**, business administration (marketing), Mogul Forever

**Wednesday** - MasterClass sponsored by the B.E.S.T. Innovation Lab
- **Starlitt Miller**, owner and founder of Star Accounting and Business Solutions (SAABS)

**Thursday** - BESTofBC Campus Idea Pitch Competition
- 12 Finalists Selected
  - 5 Winners
    - **Cheyanne Powell**, accounting
    - **Mia Douglas**, mass communications
    - **Ashanique Moore**, computer science
    - **Bernadine Ulysses**, finance
    - **Taylar McNeil**, business administration (management)
- 7 Runners-Up
- 3 Winning Teams
  - 1st Place - $300
    - **Judah Fashe**, business administration (marketing)
  - 2nd Place - $200
    - **Simone Bryant**, business administration (management) and **Edbonie Benefield**, business administration
  - 3rd Place - $100
    - **Roxi-Ann Williams**, finance, and **Shervin Stampp**, business administration (management)

**Friday** - Tiger Den Pitch Competition
- 11 Finalists Selected
  - 3 Winning Teams
    - 1st Place - $300
      - **Judah Fashe**, business administration (marketing)
    - 2nd Place - $200
      - **Simone Bryant**, business administration (management) and **Edbonie Benefield**, business administration
    - 3rd Place - $100
      - **Roxi-Ann Williams**, finance, and **Shervin Stampp**, business administration (management)

Burroughs at Harambee Festival 33

In Harambee’s Children’s Village, the business school offered a Financial Literacy Hut. Visiting children received a free financial literacy coloring book. This endeavor was organized by **Dr. Melvin Miller**, chair of the Business Administration Department, and **Dr. Tracy Washington**, chair of the Accounting and Finance Department.
BURROUGHS ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

The Burroughs School was proud to welcome home Ayanna Murphy, Esq., Class of 2016, on March 17 as the keynote speaker at the Founder’s Day Convocation commemorating the 152-year history of Benedict College. Ms. Murphy (pictured to the right) is an assistant district attorney in the Worcester County Office in New York.

The Burroughs School celebrates the inaugural group of accounting alumni entering the Darla Moore School of Business’ Emerging Leaders Program. As part of this program, Heyveon Clemons, Mr. Benedict 2021-22, Kenyon Gray, SGA President 2021-22, and Angela Lalwani will earn a Master of Accountancy degree in one year.

The Dean’s Office was proud to receive a visit from Bishop Harry Seawright, a business school alumnus and grandfather of Cameron Seawright, a sophomore business administration (entrepreneurship) major from Swansea, South Carolina. Mr. Seawright is also the co-chair of the Burroughs Student Advisory Board.

Bishop Seawright is a successful entrepreneur and author. He owns a commercial cleaning company, a property management company, and a consulting company. Additionally, Bishop Seawright has 45 years of ministry experience. He says, “I credit God and Benedict College with much of my success.”
**VB Dowdy** joined the Burroughs faculty on January 4, 2022. Professor Dowdy is a highly accomplished and motivated accountant with 30 years of industry experience. She has performed a variety of professional accounting duties that involved preparing, maintaining, analyzing, verifying, and reconciling reports and records; evaluating financial and budgeting processes; and establishing and maintaining internal control safeguards; preparing and presenting testimony for a regulatory agency; supervising and training junior accountants; presenting oral and written presentations internally and externally.

She also has experience with designing and implementing audit programs, grant writing, developing accounting procedure manuals, and computing taxes as well as advising against tax liabilities.

Professor Dowdy earned a BS in accounting from South Carolina State University as well as an MBA and a Master of Management degree from Webster University.

Her affiliation and awards include Life Member of NAACP, Jack and Jill of America Inc., voted Mother of the Year 2005, and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was selected Member of the Year by Gamma Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was a recipient of the Living the Legacy Award presented by the Columbia Section of the National Council of Negro Women. She is a charter member of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., serving as the Treasurer.

She served as Regional Treasurer for the South Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Regional Financial Secretary. Currently, she serves as the Parliamentarian and the Bylaws Committee Chairman for Gamma Nu Omega Chapter.

Professor Dowdy was born and reared in Hopkins, South Carolina. She has two children, Travis and Cheriece, and two grandsons, Cameron and Travis, Jr.

She is a member of First Nazareth Baptist Church. One of her favorite scriptures she strives to live by daily is Philippians 4:13 KJV: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

**T Harrell Dunn**, dean and professor, earned an Entrepreneurship Center Management Certificate from the International Business Innovation Association in May.

In June, Dr. Dunn delivered a presentation -“Pushing Innovation Beyond the B-School Walls: A Case Study” - at the National HBCU Business Deans Roundtable Summit at Deloitte University. Later during the conference, she was elected to the organization’s board as an executive officer. She was also appointed by the incoming president as the chair of a special task force focused on membership engagement.

**Ashford Chea**, associate professor, earned the credential of Professional Certified Marketer (PCM) by passing the American Marketing Association’s PCM Marketing Management Exam.
Raymond Lee, associate professor, is featured on a WIS-TV segment offering some advice on how to navigate inflation in the current economy.

Victor Oyinbo used a mini-grant from the Career Pathways Initiative to pilot changes to the school’s gateway course for all business major – BA 130 Introduction to Business. In the pilot test, final exams were replaced with group projects and a group presentation that included highlights from their case study analysis and service-learning project as well as a pitch deck for a new venture. According to Dr. Oyinbo, “the students develop soft skills through the group project like teamwork and communication. The project challenged them, but they excelled. The plan for upcoming academic year is to roll out the changes to all sections.”

Anissa Truesdale joined the Burroughs team in January 2022 as the coordinator of accounting programs, accreditation, and grants. Professor Truesdale is no stranger to Benedict College. During her first tenure, she served in the roles of accounting instructor as well as the interim department chair of the Economics, Finance, and Accounting Department.

Prior to returning to Benedict, she served at the Director of Financial Reporting/Controller for Newberry College in Newberry, SC. Reporting directly to the CFO, Professor Truesdale led the accounting department and was responsible for the college’s annual audit, preparation of the college’s financial statements and worked closely with the President and his Council in the preparation of the college’s budget.

Professor Truesdale also spent over 13 years in various accounting and financial roles with Springs Global, US, Inc., a textile company formerly headquartered in Fort Mill, SC and has over 20 years of teaching experience at various institutions throughout the southeast.

Professor Truesdale holds a BS in accounting from Clemson University, a MS in Accounting from Texas A&M University, and a CPA license in North Carolina. She is a member of the Lancaster (SC) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and currently resides in Newberry, SC.
BURROUGHS PARTNERSHIPS

UofSC MACC Program

Three Burroughs accounting majors have been accepted into the Master of Accountancy Program at the Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina. Heyveon Clemons from North, South Carolina, Kenyon Gray from Vallejo, California and Angela Lalwani from Dumfries, Virginia, will begin their studies in August as the inaugural class of Emerging Leaders Program.

The Emerging Leaders Program is a new initiative that strives to increase diversity in the program. The students will receive financial support that covers tuition and fees as well as a stipend. A key feature of the program is the use of mentors. Each student will be assigned 3 mentors – one from Benedict, one from the MACC program, and a professional mentor.

The MACC is a 30-credit hour program that can be completed in 1 year. Interested Burroughs students should attend the informational session that will held during the Fall 2022 semester.

BURROUGHS LOCAL SUPPORTERS

John Cole, Ph.D., founding dean of Benedict’s business school, recently visited Benedict College.

We thank our local supporters from the Columbia Startup Community for their donations to our entrepreneurship program.

Pictured left to right: Dean Tracy Dunn and Dr. John Cole

Pictured left to right: Jeff Spencer, founder, Playfora, and Dean Tracy Dunn