

# The School of Business is 'on the move'

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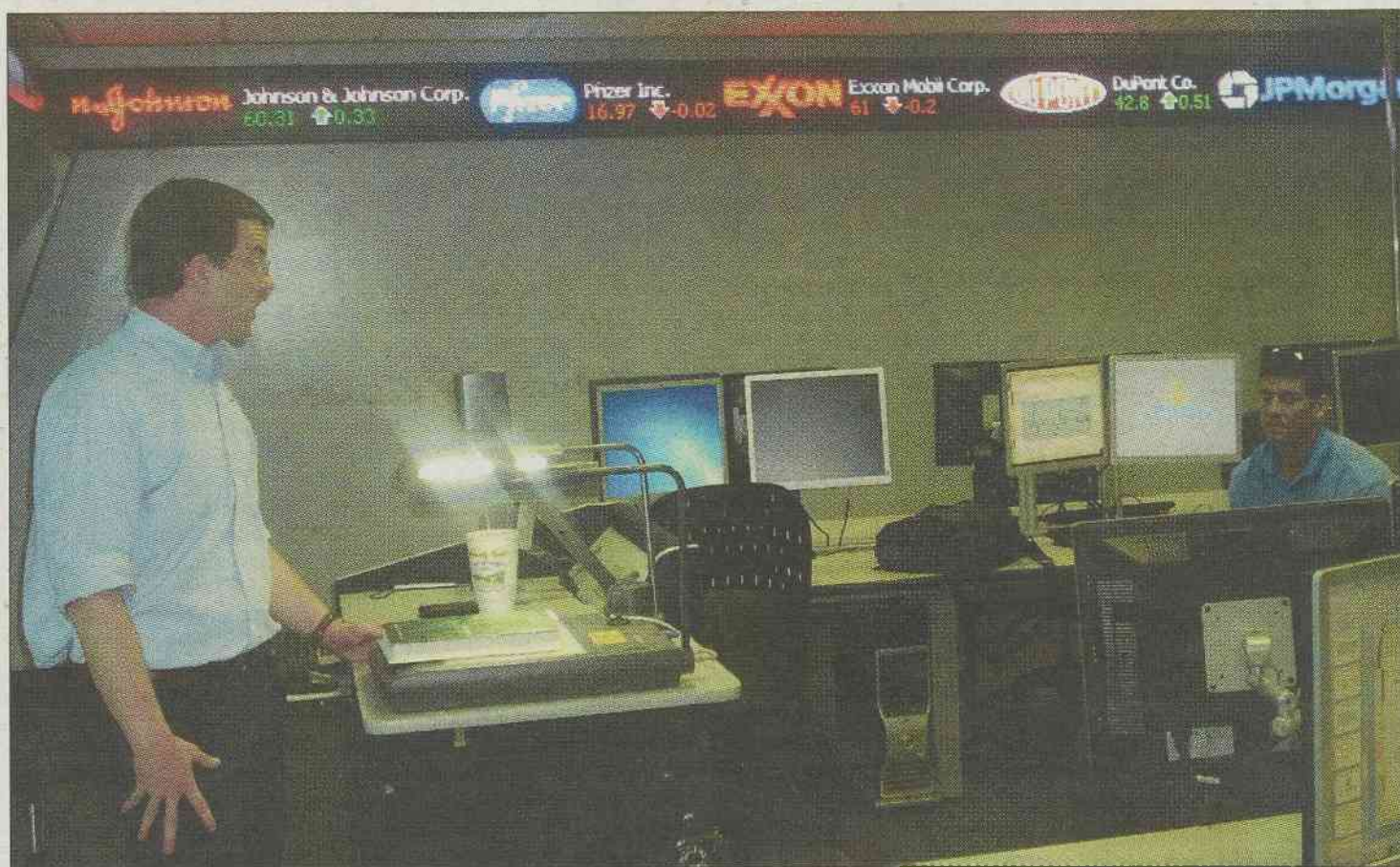
June 2010 was a remarkable month for the School of Business and Economics at Fayetteville State University.

SBE has already surpassed several universities with the accolades it has received; from its ranking in the *Princeton Review*, to receiving the highest accreditation that less than 5 percent of business schools worldwide receive. In June, SBE added to its amazing feats by unveiling a new mock trading room.

The trading room places FSU in the same lists as other top universities in the UNC system, including: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University, and The University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

This \$250,000 trading room offers business, finance, accounting, and marketing majors a hands-on experience into the power driven field they aspire to enter.

Technology is the key to the future, and no one agrees with this statement more than the Dean of The School of Business and Economics, Dr. Assad Tavakoli. *The Voice* sat down with Dean Tavakoli to get his thoughts on the new trading room, and the improvements SBE is making.



Voice photo by Shanté Elliot

The new trading room floor, shown here, features a colorful stock market ticker that runs around the top edge of the room. It provides real-time financial information for students and is just one of several upgrades to The School of Business.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**The Voice:** Why will this trading room help FSU students gain an educational advantage?

**Dean Tavakoli:** The trading room offers FSU students a hands-on experience

**TV:** Who is allowed to use the trading room?

**DT:** FSU students at large. We encourage non-business students to use the room and the programs it offers; like the stock market game, and to participate in research.

**TV:** One of the newest faculty members on board with SBE is renowned professor Edward Stringham. How will his expertise benefit the school?

**DT:** Professor Stringham is an internationally known scholar. He has been interviewed by CBS, and has written two books. The School of Business will benefit by his con-

nection with the university. Fayetteville State will forever be associated with a great scholar.

**TV:** What's next for SBE?

**DT:** We are on the move. We want a 3-D lab-classroom, with three-dimensional training. We want to become the premier business school in the region. We are doing this by offering courses through Fort Bragg, and by

earning prestigious rights like being the only business school in the region to earn complete accreditation.

The unveiling of the trading room is just one of many steps SBE has made to improve. Dean Tavakoli believes that the School of Business "is on the move" and is becoming one of the top sought after majors at FSU.

## Commuters depend on each other for balance

What exactly is a commuter? Who are commuters here at Fayetteville State University? How do commuters affect me?

These are some of the questions I'm sure a lot of people don't really ask but at the same time have at least had a few thoughts about. The third question should come up a lot when you think about your academic career. I know it did for me when I first started school again. I thought about staying on campus when I first began college but it wasn't for me. Instead, I rented a place and figured I'd prefer driving to school and then heading back home rather than staying on campus all the time. Making such a simple decision put

me in the same category of commuters as the majority of students here at Fayetteville State University. This idea has become something that crosses my mind daily.

According to the commuter student web site, a commuter is a student who attends classes on campus but resides off campus. But honestly, being a commuter means more than that. For those 4,350 of us who make the daily commute to and from campus (and struggle to find a parking spot in between), the experience is unique all in its own. Commuters must learn to balance studying, school activities, school work, a "real-world" job, and maybe even a family with

that daily commute to FSU. Many commuters drive long hours just to come to get their education. Some of my fellow commuters who I share classes with, must rush to work after their last class of the day because they still work full-time as well as manage a full-time school schedule. The most important part to note is that we all manage it and still have some time to have fun.

Being a commuter may not sound terribly difficult, but it is a challenge that one has to learn to balance well. A daily commute forces you to become responsible and to manage your time smartly.

Fortunately, we find support and understanding in our fellow commuters and professors, making it bearable to carry the multitude of

tasks. Other than the daily struggle to find a decent parking space, I find that being a commuter feels ok. Being a commuter means more than just driving to and from campus. It means added responsibility and it helps many students learn accountability and become more well-rounded as they learn to manage their time wisely.

Commuters attend classes and do work just like everyone else. The thing that some fail to realize is that sometimes, as commuters, we can't just drop what we're doing and meet up to discuss a project or just hang out. Nine times out of 10, we have other places to run.

What if you're a commuter student finding it hard to adjust on campus? There are plenty of ways

to get the support you may need.

There is a club for commuters called A.U.T.O.S. that is dedicated to serving your needs. Ashley Miller is the coordinator for commuting and adult services. Both the club and Ms. Miller are available to provide support for commuter students and to help give them an equal footing with those who reside on campus.

Being a commuter doesn't have to be stressful or unpleasant. It just means understanding that we are on the run most of the time and need a little understanding and sensitivity to our situation because well, we are students too. We just have to travel a little further to get to class.

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COMMUTER BLOG