

August 2020 Newsletter



Building
opportunities
through
education.



A message from our director

Greetings from the Grant Center!
We hope you are well. It has been a strange few months for the world, without exclusion. If you had been reluctant to embrace technology, the Coronavirus Pandemic has forced your hand.

We cherish our interpersonal relationships, but we have replaced those with Zoom calls and all other forms of electronic communication. Some of the changes may be temporary, but the uncertainty of this is great.

Much of our world is physical, requiring proximity. Now we associate proximity with greater health risk. What is the economic effect? The state of South Carolina's April net taxable sales were \$1.2 billion lower this April compared to April of 2020, a decline of 17 percent. Horry County's April 2020 net taxable sales were \$323 million lower than last April, a 52.3 percent decline. That loss of revenue affects government services, in addition to businesses and households. Gross retail sales show an even greater economic cost. The state lost an additional \$2.6 billion in spending on gasoline, housing, medicine, food for home consumption, and other goods and services not taxed. That is just the month of April.

The unemployment numbers also reflect this loss of economic activity. Horry County's unemployment rate soared to 22% for April of 2020. Fortunately, for many there were government funds to replace lost income, but those funds were temporary, and as the taxable sales data indicate, there is less government revenue to pay for these benefits.

In spite of these hardships, our work at the Grant Center for Real Estate and Economics continues! Join us for virtual events, seminars, guest lectures, and more as we start the 2020-2021 academic year!

Best to you and your loved ones,

Robert F. Salvino, Ph.D.

COVID-19 Announcement: Fall 2020

Coastal Carolina University will begin the Fall 2020 semester on Aug. 19 (as scheduled) with online instruction, delaying in-person instruction until Sept. 8.

These decisions, according to University President David A. DeCenzo, have been made with the best interest of CCU's students, faculty, and staff in mind.

The Grant Center has no upcoming events at this time. As we plan for virtual alternatives, we will communicate this information with faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders. Additionally, the next Waccamaw Economic Outlook (WEO) report can be expected in our September newsletter.

REAL ESTATE CLUB

Like the Grant Center, the Real Estate Club is planning meetings and events virtually at this time. Additionally, the Grant Center has introduced a new benefit for Real Estate Club members: sponsored admission cost to join one of nine professional international or national real estate organizations of the student's choice. This benefit is limited to a certain number of students; more details will be communicated to members of the club.

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A message from the president, Alexis Sweet:

I would love to announce the new Executive Team for the 2020 - 2021 academic year!

President

Alexis Sweet

Vice President

Michael Tylicki

Secretary

Makenzie Kramer

SGA Representative

Marlon Steadman

Finance Chair

Brian Nixon

Public Relations Office

Zachary Earnest

Director of Development

Jack Marchant

Public Relations Office

Zachary Earnest

Director of Development

Jack Marchant

I would also love to recognize myself and Michael Tylicki for working with international real estate professional, Felice Tufano from Barcelona, Spain, as our CoBE team consulted ideas on how to integrate the American brokerage system into Spain's culture and economy. We presented this to his company, Proyecto Casa, over the summer.

As an overview of the last year; despite a hurricane evacuation and COVID-19, we were still able to have many successes. We achieved growing our club from 6 members to 28 members. We created a new logo, new educational club materials, attended the Economic Growth and Real Estate Summit, Argus training, Real Estate Awards, and Adam Smith Week at the College of Charleston.

Currently, the new executive team is writing up a new constitution, designing t-shirts, and planning speakers, conferences, and events for next year. We would love for more students to join the club as it will help grow their network and confidence!

This year,

Organization Kick-Off Day.

**will be held virtually
on Tuesday, August
25th from 10:00 a.m. -
3:00 p.m.**

This is a way to recruit new members and provide them with information on the club.

We will have a Zoom/Microsoft Teams link that students can join to get to know us and ask questions.

Join the CCU Real Estate Club on Coastal Connections today!

Dues are \$5 per semester.

Three undergraduate and one MBA student selected as CCU's Real Estate Scholars for 2020-2021

Coastal Carolina University's Grant Center for Real Estate and Economics has selected four students for its **Real Estate Scholars** program for the 2020-2021 academic year. The students are Shane DeThomasis, a finance major from Albany, N.Y.; Lionel Martin, an MBA student from Charlotte, N.C.; Alexis Sweet, a management major from Lake Villa, Ill., and Kelsey Wohlford, a marketing and management major from Princeton, W.Va.



**Shane
DeThomasis**



Lionel Martin



Alexis Sweet



Kelsey Wohlford

Since 2016, four students have been admitted into the program annually upon the recommendations of a committee composed of the director of the Grant Center and the dean of the Wall College based on academic standing and responses provided in the application essay. Students accepted into the program are eligible for scholarships and are required to complete research, mentorships, and other work within the fields of real estate and economics.

"We are excited to welcome three new real estate scholars to our program and one returning scholar from last year," said Robert Salvino, Ph.D., director of the Grant Center. "These scholars will serve important roles as officers and committee chairs in our growing CCU Real Estate Club."

Sweet returns to the program for a second time after working with the Grant Center to revitalize the Real Estate Club in 2019-2020.

"My experience with the Grant Center has been incredible," said Sweet. "I have gained priceless knowledge, connections, and skills. It is an honor to work with such a great team of passionate individuals."

Under her guidance as president of the club, student membership increased and the Grant Center witnessed more participation in real estate programming at CCU.

"I look forward to the challenges we will face this year as I can ensure the Grant Center will continue inspiring students and doing amazing things for the community," she continued.

In addition to the undergraduate scholars, Martin, who earned an undergraduate degree from CCU in 2011, will be the first graduate student to join the program after the introduction of the commercial and investment real estate concentration in the MBA program last spring. His professional experience will help guide the program and Real Estate Club to greater achievements.

"The students have an interesting year ahead, navigating these times with online meetings, events, and trainings," said Salvino. "They will do well."

To be considered for the Real Estate Scholars program, an applicant must be enrolled in the commercial and investment real estate minor or MBA concentration through the E. Craig Wall Sr. College of Business Administration for the upcoming year and have demonstrated participation in leadership or extracurricular activities within the last two years.

The Real Estate Scholars program scholarships are made possible through a generous donation from Tony and Carrie Grant, the benefactors and namesake of the Grant Center, and provide students with more than monetary support. Unique programs and opportunities for scholars include: membership in the CCU Real Estate Club; sponsored student memberships in two professional real estate organizations of their choice; mentoring from faculty and employers, including those on the Grant Center's advisory board; internship and research opportunities; and collaboration opportunities within CCU's speaker series, events, training workshops, and discussion groups.

Read more about our scholars here.



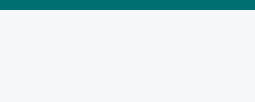
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