From the Dean’s Desk….  

I recently had the opportunity to reacquaint myself with an old friend - - The Way of the Shepherd. It is an easy read with an engaging narrative, making simple yet profound points we would all recognize. A great reminder! The point that resonated again was this statement: “…leadership isn’t just professional; it’s personal.” Isn’t it always! Developing relationships, understanding motivations, recognizing the differences - - all contributing to the diversity that makes up the body of Christ in the workplace. It is hard work but so rewarding. And leaders must set the example. Living lives of authenticity and integrity creates the dynamic allowing the sharing of hearts before asking for a hand. Onward friends.

“Be sure you know the condition of your flocks; give careful attention to your herds.” Proverbs 27:23
“During my final semester of college, I completed an internship with Encore Multimedia. It would be dishonest of me to say it was not challenging. Within the internship, I learned quite a bit within the fields of marketing and management. In addition to that knowledge base, the experience provided me with the opportunity to further develop my skills of flexibility and innovative thinking. By the end of my internship, I came away proud of what I had accomplished and the impact it had on my education as a business major. Every business major should definitely complete an internship, not because it is required but because it WILL help you. Whether the experience is pleasant or unpleasant, it will give students a grasp on aspects of business and organizations that will prepare them for the future. I know my internship had a positive impact on my learning experience.”

“A main aspect of my work is to make sure all the public service announcements, media messages, and marketing messages are free from spelling error and have correct dates and logos. I also help to coordinate the Saucy Sprint Taco Bell race at the bottom of the 5th inning, insure that all messages are showed at the precise times, and create the videos for Wild Plays by Houston Zoo which is a series of bloopers played in front of the Astros Fans. Some of my everyday work includes preparing videos, advertisements, and messages for public view. GAPS is a very convenient way to go to school while working odd and strenuous hours. My initial thought was to take the semester off and graduate fall 2012, but GAPS made it possible for me to graduate on time. If anyone works a full time job or has other duties such as family, kids etc. I encourage them to try GAPS.”

Lucas Trevino
Class of 2012

Liberty Gallagher
Class of 2011

Cullen Griffin
Class of 2012
Finance and International Business professor, Dr. Castro was selected to participate in the Fulbright Scholarship Program beginning July of 2010. This honorable opportunity enables 800 United States’ administrators and professors to partake in seminars, conduct research, and lecture to students around the world. For five months Dr. Castro traveled to four Latin American countries including El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and his home country, Honduras.

Prior to his arrival, Dr. Castro was anxious to witness the economic differences between all four countries and also hoped to come back with an awareness of the poverty, financial development, and gang violence in these nations.

Dr. Castro spent most of his time in El Salvador teaching a Financial Strategies class at the National University of El Salvador. The course content was centered on different companies and cases regarding their finances. Typically the students study cases that take place in America, but Dr. Castro decided to challenge his students and used Central America cases instead. Dr. Castro managed to set up fourteen cases for future classes to study. These companies included local banks, electrical companies, computer services, automobile service, shoe companies, and plastic manufacturers. Further developing and improving the course content is what Dr. Castro considers his greatest accomplishment.

During his time abroad, the LeTourneau professor mentored five other professors at the university, gave a presentation at the Federal Reserve Bank of El Salvador, and met with the Vice President of Statistical Analysis for the Federal Reserve Bank. Because the facilities at the university did not have internet connections, at night he would meet with his students at the local Wendy’s restaurant and review the course material. Dr. Castro noted that El Salvadorian students saw their professors in an informal way compared to American students. They were more willing to interact with their teachers on a personal level. It is easy to see that Dr. Castro accomplished so much for the Fulbright Scholarship Program during his time in Latin America. If chosen again, he would like to travel to Spain or Chile.