

# THE BUSINESS COUNCIL BUZZ....

The Official Newsletter of the Business Council of the  
Leon Hess Business School

The Leon Hess Business Council held their Fall Meeting on October 14, 2022 at Deal Golf & Country Club.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the "transfer of the gavel" from John DiNapoli who served as Chair for the last two years to Deb Clay - incoming Chair.

John DiNapoli & John Paoella served their last meeting as Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. They both served the Dean, School of Business, faculty, and students with distinction.



*Dean Raj Devasagayam, Deb Clay, Council Chair, John DiNapoli, Former Chair*

Dean Raj honored Chair John DiNapoli for his service to the Council and his country. Time and time again John DiNapoli has risen to the occasion and shown a willingness to serve. His service to our country spanned over three decades as he retired as a Brigadier General in the Army National Guard in 2016.

The Leon Hess Business School and Monmouth University as a whole is thankful for his service to this institution and the country. Chair DiNapoli has left an incredible and lasting impact on this organization.

Fall 2022 Edition



## **OFFICERS:**

Deborah Clay  
Chair  
Kenneth Young  
Vice Chair  
Thomas Cardinale  
Treasurer

## **MEMBERS:**

Jemal Beale  
Glenn G. Bellomy  
Ryan Campbell  
Brian Carolan  
Natasha Maximoff Chandler  
Charles Corsentino  
Dennis Devery  
John DiNapoli  
Philip Dunn  
Philip Forlenza  
Rick Gumina  
Sheldon S. Horowitz  
Raymond Klose  
Russell Kommer  
Ryan Lanier  
William MacDonald  
Erin Moran  
Gloria Nilson  
John Paoella  
Jena Piscatelli  
Richard L. Ricciardi  
Joseph Rice  
Christine Schaeffer  
Lawrence Shapiro  
Michael Troy  
Andrew Young

## **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

Alexander Daudier  
Jenna Hersh  
Christine Nadramia  
Nicole Puccio  
Joseph Tuzzio

## Dean Highlights New Platform for Students Called HESS ENGAGE:

Dean Raj shared his vision for the future of the Business School and praised the Council as a vital part of its mission. The efforts of the Leon Hess Business Council directly impact multiple objectives of the new strategic plan.

The Dean also highlighted HESS ENGAGE launched by Dr. Janeth Merkle, Assistant Dean. This new platform is designed to engage students an innovative way showcasing their skills and boosting involvement.



*Dean Raj highlights The Outlook article on 'Hesse Engage'*

Business students can earn points by demonstrating competency in certain skill sets. The students with the most points are featured on a leaderboard providing for healthy competition and recognition. HESS ENGAGE also serves as a way business students can enhance their educational experience and differentiate themselves in the job market.

## Council Aligns Efforts to Business School's 5-Year Strategic Plan:

Chair Deb Clay highlighted the strategic focus of the Business Council efforts moving forward. Priorities in academic year 2022-2023 will emphasize student engagement, faculty support and curriculum advancement. Clay added, "The external perspective Council members provide offer valuable insights on market demand and evolving business skills needed to succeed in a changing business environment." Chair Clay introduced Ken Young as the Council's new Vice Chair citing his contributions and dedication to the business school.



*Ken Young, Vice Chair, Deb Clay, Chair*

The Chair also shared a new committee operating structure for the Council creating greater efficiency and focusing Council funding and key initiatives directly with the strategic plan of the business school.

[Click here to view the new committee operating structure.](#)

### EMERITUS:

Karl D. Gordinier Jr.

### IN MEMORIAM:

Joseph Adelhardt (2010)

### STAFF:

Raj Devasagayam, Ph.D.  
Dean

Gilda Agacer, Ph.D.

Associate Dean

Janeth Merkle, DBA

Assistant Dean

Richard Ricciardi, MBA

Corporate Relations Officer

Sharon Hartmann

Assistant to the Dean

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gala at the Great Hall, December 3, 2022

Summer Social - TBD Spring

Day at The Races - TBD Summer

### BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Friday, December 9, 2022

8:30am-10:00am

Friday, February 24, 2023

8:30am-10:00am

Friday, May 5, 2023

8:30am-10:00am

## Impact of the Executive Mentoring Program:



*Deb Clay, Executive Mentor, Tanner Purdy,  
2nd-Year Finance & Real Estate Student*

A primary activity of Business Council membership is to participate in the Executive Mentoring Program (SEEMA). Tanner Purdy, 2nd-Year Finance & Real Estate Student, discussed the impact of his mentor-mentee relationship. Tanner shared that his relationship with Deb Clay helped him build managerial, networking, and critical thinking skills. Deb Clay encouraged all Council members to get involved in the program. If you'd like to become an Executive Mentor, please [click here](#) to sign up for the program.

## Faculty Presentations:



*Dr. Michaeline Skiba*

Dr. Michaeline Skiba discussed her article co-authored with Dr. Joseph Palazzolo, "**Alumni Panels Teach Skills That Matter,**" that was recently published in the prestigious AACSB Journal. Dr. Skiba highlighted the work involved in putting the alumni panels together to obtain the data for this outstanding research paper.

"Successful alumni have the ability to encourage business students to think about and pursue what is important to them in their professional lives. We believe that when we expand traditional courses beyond the confines of the classroom, we will give students the chance to hear about what really happens in today's work world."



*Dr. Tjeerd Boonman*

Dr. Tjeerd Boonman presented his research on REITs titled, "Drivers of U.S. Office REIT Returns and their Volatilities." It was a timely topic given today's economic climate. Dr. Boonman received financial support to conduct his research for this project through the Business Council's Faculty Research Grant Initiative.

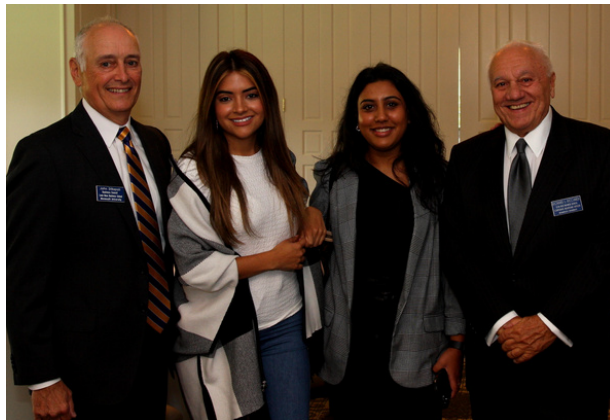
Dr. Boonman summarized his findings for investors this way. REITs have lower volatility in returns when they are larger in size, lower debt to equity ratio, higher asset turnover, higher operating margin, better expected rating by investment analytics. REITs have higher returns when stock turnover is high, risk aversion (VIX) is lower, stock return (S&P500) is lower.

The Business Council will begin to evaluate candidates for 2023 Summer Research awards in early 2023.



## Welcome Alumni & Students:

The Leon Hess Business Council welcomed several alumni to the meeting. These alumni are exemplary young professionals who are making their mark in their respective industries. Celeste Leon, KPMG, and Poojah Shaw, Spotify, are both Executive Mentors in the SEEMA Program. As young professionals, they provide relevant advice to students about the successful transition into successful business careers.



*John DiNapoli, Former Chair, Celeste Leon, Sales Enablement Lead, KPMG, Poojah Shah, Content Accountant, Spotify, Richard Ricciardi, Chair, Membership Committee, Business Council*

The Council also welcomed business students representing Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Fraternity, Enactus, and Monmouth Future Business Leaders Club (MFBL).



*Dr. Janeth Merkle, Advisor, Emily Finnegan, President, MFBL  
Dustin Ho, President, Enactus, Emilia Porier, Vice President,  
Enactus, Natalie Fuquene, Treasurer, Enactus*

## Committee Recognized For Successful "Day At The Races" Event:



*John Paoella, Former Vice Chair, Dean Raj, Samy Camacho, Jockey, John DiNapoli, Former Chair, Deb Clay, Chair, Joseph Williams, Chair, Catholic War Veterans*

John Paoella brought his love for both Monmouth and the race track together in a new event called "Day At The Races". John Paoella congratulated the committee for planning and executing a successful day at Monmouth Park Race Track. Council members, family, and friends enjoyed an exciting day of racing and fellowship. John Paoella (JP), Committee Chair, offered a big thank you to Deb Clay, Ken Young, Joe Rice, Richard Ricciardi, and Tanner Purdy for their dedication and teamwork.