

# THE BUSINESS COUNCIL BUZZ....

The Official Newsletter of the Leon Hess Business School's (LHBS) Business Council

More than 65 attended the May 5 Business Council meeting, an event that attracted Council members, LHBS leadership & faculty, Career Development, University Advancement, student leaders and guests.



*Business Council members and guests view presentation from Chair Deb Clay.*

## 2022-2023 Student Awards & Scholarships

The Business Council recognized student excellence with \$1,000 awards in four new categories:

- **The Student Leadership Award** recognizes excellence and a commitment to leadership and involvement on campus and in the community. This year's recipient, Tanner Purdy, is a sophomore Business Administration major concentrating in Finance & Real Estate, a radio show host and an office assistant in the Leon Hess Business School supporting the Business Council. Also serving as a Resident Assistant and a leader at multiple community service fundraising events, Tanner was a senator in the Student Government Association for which he was recently elected student body president.
- **The Resilience & Resourcefulness Award** recognizes a student who has overcome adversity and demonstrated an ability to persevere through difficult circumstances. This year's recipient, Calleigh Booth, is a Business Administration major concentrating in Leadership & Organizational Development toting a 3.96 GPA. The Junior was lauded for her strength and optimism.

End-of-Year Meeting



### OFFICERS:

Deborah Clay  
Chair  
Kenneth Young  
Vice Chair  
Thomas Cardinale  
Treasurer

### MEMBERS:

Jemal Beale  
Glenn G. Bellomy  
Brian Carolan  
Natasha Maximoff Chandler  
Jeremy Deck  
John DiNapoli  
Philip Dunn  
Philip Forlenza  
Rick Gumina  
Sheldon S. Horowitz  
Raymond Klose  
Russell Kommer  
Jonathan Leifer  
William MacDonald  
Erin Moran  
Gloria Nilson  
Jeana Piscatelli  
Richard L. Ricciardi  
Joseph Rice  
Nick Scarabino  
Christine Schaeffer  
Lawrence Shapiro  
Ryan Wetzel  
Jay Whalen  
Michael Troy  
Andrew Young

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Alexander Daudier  
Jason Horowitz  
Christine Nadramia  
Nicole Puccio  
Pooja Shah  
Anthony Vazzana

- **The Social Impact Award** recognizes a commitment to the community and empowering others to make a difference throughout the world. This year's first recipient, Dustin Ho, is a senior Business Administration major concentrating in Economics & Finance. The second recipient, Mariana Marques, is a senior Business Administration major concentrating in Marketing & Management. Both students have been actively engaged in the Enactus organization and instrumental in the creation of Mentoring Beyond Borders, a program addressing career development disparities in the Philippines.
- **The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Award** recognizes and celebrates entrepreneurship. The first recipient, Julia Carlucci, is a senior Business Administration major concentrating in Small Business Management & Entrepreneurship. Working with the Center for Entrepreneurship, Julia has taken her business idea forward and was a finalist in the HAWKTANK business pitch competition. The second recipient, Dylan Sara, is a senior Business Administration major concentrating in Management & Decision Sciences. He co-founded Division One Fitness, a fitness media company reaching millions of followers globally. This venture, which included fellow student business partners, Griffin Thomas and Ben Zakowski, led to a win at the 2023 HAWKTANK.

Separately, Samantha Basso was recognized as the 2023 recipient of the Business Council's Scholarship in memory of Joseph W. Adelhardt, former Business Council chair and active Monmouth University supporter. A junior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, Samantha enrolled in the five-year business program to obtain an MBA and is an intern for AIG's Multinational Intelligence Team.

The 2022-2023 Business Council Awards & Scholarships Program was planned and managed by our Student Engagement Committee.



*Terrific work by Committee Chair, Joe Rice '86 (second from right), along with Sheldon Horowitz (left), Mariana Marques '23 (second from left) Michael Troy '10 (right), John Paolella and Ryan Lanier.*

**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:**

**Summer Social**

June 23, 2023

Great Hall, Erlanger Gardens

**BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

8:30am-10:00am

Great Hall Auditorium

**Friday, December 1, 2023**

8:30am-10:00am

Great Hall Auditorium

**Our new website is live:**

[www.monmouth.edu/business-school/business-council/](http://www.monmouth.edu/business-school/business-council/)

Find the latest Business Council information on meetings, initiatives, event photos and more.

## Enactus Leverages Business Council Funding to Uplift Disparities in Low-Income Countries

Executive Board members Dustin Ho and Emilia Porier provided an overview of the Enactus organization and key initiatives this student-led group implemented throughout the academic year. Dustin explained that Enactus is aligned with the United Nation's sustainable development goals around quality education, reducing inequalities and economic growth. The keystone initiative this academic year has been Mentoring Beyond Borders, a collaborative engagement with Bulacan State University in the Philippines. Emilia shared metrics around the outcome of workshops with extremely positive experiences and takeaways from both Filipino and Monmouth students. Both Dustin and Emilia recognized the value of the Business Council's support as well as the efforts of Dr. Janeth Merkle, the organization's business school advisor.



*Emilia Porier, Dustin Ho '23, NatalieFuquene, Mercedes Concepcion '23 broadened their entrepreneurial spirit to include the Philippines.*



*Dustin Ho '23 recognized for his contributions to Mentoring Beyond Borders*

## Center for Entrepreneurship Hosts HAWKTANK Business Pitch Competition

Alison Gilbert, who leads the Center for Entrepreneurship, provided an update on the Center's efforts to help Monmouth University and regional startup communities tap into and fulfill their entrepreneurial potential. This academic year, the Center has supported 30 entrepreneurs across 22 businesses. The Center was awarded \$640,000 in federal grant funds to support social entrepreneurship, minority-led entrepreneurial programs, bootcamps and workshop programming. In April, the Center hosted HAWKTANK, a business pitch competition that greeted 150 guests and awarded six finalists \$5,000 each.



*Griffin Thomas '23, Dylan Sara '23, Alison Gilbert, director, Center for Entrepreneurship celebrate the HAWKTANK win.*

Winners of HAWKTANK 2023 were Dylan Sara, Griffin Thomas and Ben Zakowski, founders of Division One Fitness, a fitness media company that educates and entertains millions of individuals around the world. Griffin and Ben are also student athletes competing on the men's soccer team. Division One Fitness content is featured on multiple social media platforms and draws more than 350,000 followers, 10,000,000 + likes and 100,000,000 + views attracting recognizable brands and partnerships including ESPN FC. Future plans include merchandising, training programs and fitness shops.

## Dean Raj Lauds Business Council Contributions and Looks Forward to 2024

Dean Raj Devasagayam expressed his personal gratitude for the Business Councils' efforts and impactful contributions during the 2023-2024 academic year.

[\(Reference handout, "Business Council 2022-2023 Highlights" presented by Chair, Deb Clay\).](#)

The AACSB accreditation team will be visiting April 7-9, 2024. This accreditation is an important credential and differentiator among business schools. Business Council participation in the visit will include sessions with the accreditation team and Steering Committee members. More to come as planning evolves in the upcoming months.



*LHBS Dean Dr. Raj looks ahead to accreditation.*

## The Business Council Welcomes New Members



*Jeremy Deck, Vice President.  
Employee Benefits  
at USI Insurance Services*



*Nicholas Scarabino, Managing  
Director, Corporate & Investment  
Bank Escrow Services at JPMorgan*



*Anthony Vazzana '16 '17M,  
Sales & Financial Planning  
Manager at KIND*

Membership Committee Chair Richard Ricciardi inducted three new members to the Business Council (shown above from left to right): Jeremy Deck, Vice President, Employee Benefits at USI Insurance Services; Nicholas Scarabino, Managing Director of Corporate & Investment Bank Escrow Services at JP Morgan; and Anthony Vazzana '16 '17M, Sales & Financial Planning Manager at KIND.

Jeremy had a distinguished 24-year career serving in the U.S. Army prior to his career in the insurance industry. One of his most rewarding and impactful assignments was serving at the U.S. Military Academy. It was there that Jeremy had the opportunity to interact directly with cadets and help develop the Army's future leaders. The veteran, who earned an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina and an MBA from the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina, feels that this opportunity with the Business Council will allow him to again mentor and coach young future business leaders.

Nicholas is looking forward to becoming an Executive Mentor and helping our business students attain their goals and fulfill their aspirations. He has had a successful career at JP Morgan and is anxious to bring his skillsets and business acumen to the Business School. Nick, who feels that giving back is one of the most important things a person can do, earned a BA in Finance from Pace University. His youngest daughter is a graduate of Monmouth University and is enrolled in the MBA program.

Anthony '16 '17M, is confident that his expertise in financial analysis, budgeting, forecasting and team leadership with three different companies will enable him to be a valuable asset to the Business Council. He has previously been involved in the Executive Mentoring Program and will continue in that capacity. As a former high school baseball and soccer coach, Anthony feels that mentoring students has always been a passion.

## Career Development Center - Upcoming Fall Employer Events

Starting on September 26, the Career Development Center will host two signature events for students and alumni. Please share the below information with your employer network and encourage them to participate. Registration for students and alumni will open in August. More details coming soon.

### 1. Meet the Accounting & Financial Services Firms

- Tuesday, September 26, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- OceanFirst Bank Center - Eyas Lounge (Hall of Fame)
- **Employer Registration**

#### Overview:

This networking event provides an opportunity for students to learn more about career opportunities within the accounting and finance fields, as well as network with representatives to develop future contacts and employment prospects. All accounting and finance majors, alumni and other students interested in learning more about these fields are encouraged to participate, regardless of graduation date. This event attracts many alumni working in these fields who return to Monmouth to support current students.

### 2. Fall 2023 Career & Internship Fair

- Wednesday, October 4, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- OceanFirst Bank Center
- **Employer Registration**

#### Overview:

Monmouth's largest career event of the year, this in-person fair attracts 100+ companies across all industries and provides a great opportunity for employers, alumni and students from all class years and majors to connect and explore career opportunities. Employers must have at least two open, college-level internships or full-time positions to participate in this hiring event.

If you have interest in more information on participating, please contact Jeff Mass, Director of Employer Engagement at [jmass@monmouth.edu](mailto:jmass@monmouth.edu)

## Check Out Updated Membership Directory on Website

Our Business Council web pages have been updated with our most recent member directory, upcoming meeting and event dates, digital newsletters, photos and more. You can also now follow the Business Council group on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Thanks to Ken Young, who chairs the Communications Committee, and support from Nicole Puccio, Pooja Shah and Andrew Young for this amazing modernization of our digital presence.

[Click here or the picture to access the updated membership directory.](#)



MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY

LEON HESS  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Business Council  
2023 Membership Directory



*Sheldon & Jason Horowitz welcome Catherine and Nick Scarabino to the Business Council.*



*Deb Clay, Chair, Business Council, reports to attendees on key contributions of the Council.*



*Business Council members and guests enjoy networking breakfast prior to the meeting.*



*Emilia Porier, Vice President, Enactus, highlight international efforts via the Mentoring Beyond Borders Program.*



*Deb Clay and Richard Ricciardi '86M welcome students to the event.*



*Richard Ricciardi '86M and Deb Clay with award recipient, Tanner Purdy.*



*Richard Ricciardi '86M, Jeremy Deck, Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean, Leon Hess Business School, Deb Clay, Chair, Business Council.*



*Nick Scarabino is welcomed to the Business Council by Dean Raj Devasagayam*