

THE BUSINESS COUNCIL BUZZ....

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

Business Council Meeting features Panel on Leadership



Panel participants (from left to right): Tanner Purdy, John DiNapoli, Ginny Boggess, Jeana Piscatelli, Patrick Leahy

Established leaders shared unique perspectives and insights in a Business Council panel discussion focused on “Leadership Trends in 2024 & Beyond”. The panel was moderated by Natasha Chandler, Monmouth alumni, Business Council member and Senior Client Partner at Korn Ferry, a global organizational strategy and management consulting firm.

Natasha kicked off the session by sharing leadership trends published by Korn Ferry’s Research Institute on the shifting dimensions of what great leadership looks like in corporations and industries. The slides shared which highlight these trends can be accessed via this link. [BC presentation - leadership.pptx](#)

The panel was comprised of distinguished leaders across diverse industries and settings. Panel participants included Tanner Purdy, President, Student Government Association, John DiNapoli, Business Council member and retired general officer US Army National Guard, Ginny Boggess, Head Women’s Basketball Coach, Jeana Piscatelli, MU Board of Trustees & Head of Treasury Management at OceanFirst Bank and President Dr. Patrick Leahy, President Monmouth University.

Panelists shared personal experiences and valuable insights around leadership challenges including balancing interests of multiple stakeholders, shifting dynamics of remote work, importance of culture, managing teams and emerging new skills in demand.



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Message from the Chair



I hope the new year is off to a great start for everyone. As the fall semester comes to a close, it's a great time to recognize a few notable Business Council efforts and impact these programs are having on students of the Leon Hess Business School.

First is our student scholarship and awards program. This academic year we have enhanced our student financial support to more than \$50,000 with 3 annual scholarships, 2 endowed scholarships and 6 awards. This fall, 4 business school students were awarded Business Council scholarship funds helping to offset tuition expense.

Another fall semester highlight is the Executive Mentoring Program. This year's offering was expanded to integrate career development team support and tailored programming based on where students are in their career journey. We've seen a jump in participation with more than 85 students working directly with 40 business executives in both group and 1x1 mentoring settings.

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As we look ahead to spring, our Council operating committees are in full swing with a robust agenda including implementing our annual student award program, selecting faculty grant recipients, and supporting 3 new initiatives: the "Professor in Residence" pilot, "Monday Mixers" and the "Dress for Success" student closet.

"Many hands make light work". If you have interest in getting more involved with any of our key programs, please email me at dclay@monmouth.edu and I'll get you appropriately connected.

Thank you for the generous gifts of your time, talents and resources which are instrumental in changing the experience and lives of students. We are making a difference!

Deb

Dean's Corner

The Leon Hess Business School is scheduled to undergo a regular AACSB continuous improvement review on April 7-9, 2024. Dean Raj and the business school leadership team have been preparing required documentation and evidence demonstrating the LHBS is meeting and exceeding accreditation requirements.

Dean Raj expressed excitement around the upcoming peer review team visit in April and the chance to share the many student and faculty accomplishments aligned with AACSB standards and the LHBS 5-year strategic plan.



The contributions and impact of the Business Council has been recognized across many of the AACSB standard areas including strategic management and innovation, learner success and thought leadership.

Business Council initiatives such as the professor in residence pilot, student scholarship support, executive mentoring and faculty summer grant programs provide important strategic contributions.

Important Dates:

February 23rd, 2024
Business Council Meeting

March 21st - 22nd 2024
MU Giving Days

April TBD, 2024
Business Council Sponsored Student
Etiquette Dinner

May 3rd, 2024
Business Council Meeting

June 10th, 2024
MU Golf Outing

Thursday, June 6, 2024
Business Council Summer Social
Deal Country Club

Check out the Business Council's Social Media

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.



2024 Business Council Membership Campaign Underway:

Business Council Members,

All members play an integral role in supporting the Business Council's mission and strategic initiatives. We depend on the generous contributions of Business Council members to cover our annual operating expenses and support our key programs.

Member invoices for 2024 have been sent via email. Payment options have been expanded this year to accept secure online credit card transactions. Scan the QR code below to access the online payment application.

With your continued support and leadership, the Leon Hess Business School will further its development as a regional leader in business education.

Thank you for your generosity,

Pooja Shah, Business Council Treasurer

Scan the QR code to access the online credit card payment option.



Member Spotlight – Pooja Shah

Pooja was born and raised in Tinton Falls, NJ where she still makes her home today. Her older sister and parents still live in the area as well as a large extended family of many cousins who are scattered around the state. Pooja graduated from Monmouth University in 2019 taking a job at BDO as an audit associate. In 2022, she moved to Spotify to pursue a role as Content Accountant where she manages the royalty payout process for content consumed on the platform. Pooja loves the culture of the company and the focus on exposure to new and emerging music and artists. She is currently into “Indie Pop” as a genre, but also enjoys a variety of styles; and working at Spotify there is no shortage of music to appreciate.



Having joined the Business Council in 2023, Pooja remembers attending the Business Council meetings as a student representative of Beta Gamma Sigma. She noted the value of being exposed to professionals outside of the classroom and “wanted to be a part of it” after graduation. Earlier this year, Pooja agreed to take on the role of Treasurer for the Business Council and joined the Steering Committee as part of this critical role.

Pooja's hobbies include travel, reading, cooking and dining out. She loves to experience the flavors of different cultures and was recently in Cancun over the holidays.

The New Inductees for the Business Council



Michael Venezia, Assistant Vice President of Global Banking and Markets at Bank of America; Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean, LHBS; Anthony Vazzana, Sales Finance & Planning Manager at KIND; Richard Ricciardi, Chair, Membership Committee, Business Council (Photo 2).

Business Council Inducts New Members

Richard Ricciardi '86M, Chair, of the Membership Committee, had the privilege of inducting two new outstanding associate members to the Business Council (shown above).

Michael Venezia '19 '20M, is an Assistant Vice President for Global Banking & Global Markets at the Bank of America. Michael received his Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in Finance and his Master's in Business Administration from Monmouth University while matriculated in the Honors/5-Year MBA Programs. While at Monmouth, Michael was a Student Services Peer Tutor and an Honors School Peer Mentor. Michael is looking forward to transferring these skills to becoming an Executive Mentor in our Executive Mentoring Program.

Anthony Vazzano '16 '17M, is the Manager for Sales Finance & Planning for the Kind Snacks Corporation. Anthony obtained his B.S. in Business Administration graduating with high honors with a double major in Finance and Economics. Anthony earned his Master's in Business Administration while matriculated in the 5-Year MBA Program at Monmouth University.

Anthony strongly believes in the importance of community involvement as a former high school baseball and soccer coach (both men and women soccer), mentoring students has always been a passion for Anthony. He now looks forward to transferring those skills to becoming an Executive Mentor in our Executive Mentoring Program.

Anthony recently married Nicole Puccio '16 '17M, also a member of the Business Council making them the 1st married couple to serve together on the Council.

We continue to look for new associate and full members as we grow our superb team of qualified and experienced business professionals who are passionate about Monmouth University and helping our business students thrive! Please reach out to Richard Ricciardi, Chair of the Membership Committee, to discuss any prospective candidates you would like to introduce.

New Leon Hess Business School initiatives

Dress For Success Student Closet



Cameron Aslanian, President Phi Beta Lambda and Emily Finnegan, Past President, Beta Gamma Sigma, Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Richard Ricciardi '86M catching up on the "Dress for Success Initiative"

The Leon Hess Business School will be introducing a Dress for Success Student Closet, a new initiative aimed at addressing clothing and security amongst our students.

This initiative will be a joint effort between the corporate relations officer, Phi Beta Lambda (future business leaders of America) and Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society, they will be tasked with doing the clothing drives, supplying, and manning the "closet."

This dress for success student run clothing closet will link students with the corporate world and create an equal playing field. This is a terrific opportunity to eliminate barriers for students so they can pursue their highest goals in the corporate world.

Monday Mixers



Faculty and students maximizing their networking opportunities.



Professor Anna Sadovnikova, Marketing & International Business and a student appreciating the Blue Hawk Music compliments of Professor Joe Rapolla.

The addition of Monday Mixers, held at the Leon Hess Business School, has been a resounding success as it brought together a diverse group of participants, including students, faculty members, and private industry professionals. This networking event provides a valuable platform for attendees to connect, exchange ideas, and build meaningful relationships. This event is marked by an atmosphere of camaraderie, facilitated by pizza and refreshments, which fosters a relaxed and conducive environment for networking and collaboration.

The Monday Mixer at the Leon Hess Business School demonstrated the school's commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry. By bringing students, faculty, and professionals together, this event not only facilitates networking but also opens the door to potential career opportunities and mentorships. This event underscores the school's dedication to nurturing the professional growth of its students and strengthening its ties with alumni and industry partners. The Monday Mixer continues to serve as a valuable initiative that fosters a vibrant and connected business community within the school.

New Leon Hess Business School initiatives

Professor-In-Residence Program

The Professor-In-Residence Program is a pilot groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering meaningful collaboration between academia and the corporate world. This innovative program had its initial launch this past Fall Semester. It featured the participation of four professors from our faculty (one for each Department).

The purpose of the program is to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application in the board room as well as the classroom. The professors immersed themselves in the daily routines of executives from the LHBS Business Council, which entailed shadowing these executives as they navigated the intricacies of their respective industries.

This was a joint effort between the Corporate Relations Officer and the LHBS Department Chairs. Their task was to select faculty members who possessed expertise relevant to the Business Council's diverse fields. By matching these faculty members with their corporate counterparts, allowed for dynamic and mutually beneficial partnerships that enrich the educational experiences of our students and the professional development of our faculty.

The Professor-In-Residence Program, will engage our students, through class assignments and guest lectures by the corporate executives demonstrating how academic knowledge can be applied in the ever-evolving business landscape.

One of the highlights from the Professors-In-Residence programs was Dr. Mikhail Sher, Professor in Management & Leadership visited Michael Troy, Chief Development Officer at Troy Container Line LTD and a member of the Business Council. During their time together at Troy Container Line, Dr. Sher discussed supply chain issues and their practical implementation with Mr. Troy along with coordinating and applying these real-world applications into the class lectures. Michael accepted Dr. Sher's invitation to address his Operations Management class where he interacted with the students regarding what they were learning and how that was applicable to the daily operations of his company.



David Howell, Director of Development, with students, Haider Husaini, Justin Cormey, and Tanner Purdy



Sheldon Horowitz, John DiNapoli, Rick Gumina, Phil Dunn, Russel Kommer enjoying some time together



Samantha Basso, Ivana Luna, Daniella Walano, Natalie Fuquene prior to the program



Our five panel participants are joined and welcomed by Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean, LHBS, and Deb Clay, Chair, LHBS Business Council. Natasha Chandler, Senior Partner, Korn Ferry was the moderator



Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean, LHBS, enjoying a group of business student leaders



Patrick Leahy, President, Monmouth University, speaks on leadership during the panel discussion



Dr. Gina McKeever and LHBS students take time a moment during breakfast for a photo



Two of our esteemed members on the Board of Trustees, Jeana Piscatelli, Karyn Cusanelli