



Dr. Paul Grimes



KELCE
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Pittsburg State University

Kelce Connection

pittstate.edu/business • WINTER 2023-2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Kelce Connection. The past few months have brought both reflection and anticipation to the Kelce College of Business as we celebrate our past and plan for the future. This academic year marks our 45th anniversary as a separate academic unit of Pittsburg State University and our 25th year as an accredited member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Originally founded as the Kelce Center for Business and Economics, we have evolved to become the leading business college in our service region by providing high quality educational programs that benefit not only our students, but their employers and their communities. Our affiliation with AACSB is secured by our commitment to continuous improvement in delivering career-ready business programs that are mission-focused to improve the lives our students and to promote the well-being of our state and region. Only the top six percent of business schools in the world achieve and maintain AACSB accreditation. We are proud to be part of that group. Enjoy our recent news and keep in touch: cob@pittstate.edu

Kelce hires an Internship and Career Readiness Coordinator

The Kelce College of Business has recently hired Melissa Weed as the internship & career readiness coordinator for all students within Kelce. This position provides academic oversight in coordination with disciplinary faculty for credit-bearing internships.

Melissa will work with employers to develop and structure appropriate internship positions and experiential learning opportunities that provide rewarding professional experiences for degree-seeking business students, provide students with information about internship opportunities, assist in matching employers with student interns, and ensure all internship requirements are met for the granting of course credit.

Internships are one way to bridge the gap between school and a full-time position after graduation. Internships provide insight into a field that you might be interested in entering – the experience can help you decide if you want to pursue full-time work in that particular field. Pitt State’s Kelce College of Business plans to help students cross that bridge and gain the experience they need to thrive in the real world.

For students, having this opportunity provides real-world experience, networking, career exploration, and the opportunity to participate in an internship for class credit.

If you have any questions about internships or would like to be involved, please contact Melissa Weed at maweed@pittstate.edu.



Melissa Weed

Gorilla Rising- a new Educational Enterprise District

Pitt State is launching a bold new initiative – Gorilla Rising. This project will establish a new Educational Enterprise District in the Block 22 downtown neighborhood and strengthen the



connection between the central business district and our main campus. A new facility for the Kelce College of Business will become the keystone anchor of this district. The district will also include other university public outreach centers and expanded student housing options in the historic Besse Hotel. This new location will provide us with creative new avenues for expanding our programs and curricular initiatives, including internship options with local businesses and living-learning communities for those students who chose to reside within the district.



Students who attended the FBLA National Competition from left to right: Matthew Schmidt, Amanda Becker, Olivia Davis, Wyntr Jacobs, Hannah Evans, Sarah Clausen, Jackie Poroj, and Jamie Manning.

Eight students in the Kelce College of Business attended and placed at the Future Business Leaders of America National Competition

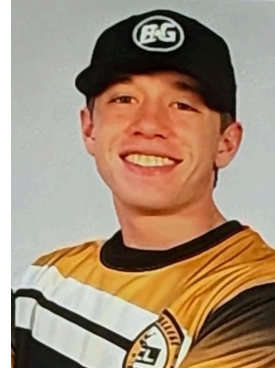
Earlier this year the PSU chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) hosted the state leader conference. There students competed in tests, projects, and presentations. In order to advance to nationals students had to place within the top three in their events. Pittsburg State had twenty-one students qualify for nationals and eight students attend the national conference.

Among these students was a group that became National Champions for their winning project, Integrated Marketing Campaign. The team was comprised of Amanda Becker, Sarah Clausen, and Wyntr Jacobs.

Their project's focus was to increase student involvement in on-campus organizations by analyzing factors that influenced participation and then designing an advertising campaign to motivate and inspire participation. They created posters, postcards, brochures, and social media materials, and then presented them to a panel of judges.

They, along with five other students, also racked up wins in other events at the national competition, held in Atlanta, Georgia.

- Business Ethics: Hannah Evans, 2nd place
- Entrepreneurship Concepts: Matthew Schmidt, 3rd place
- Business Presentation: Sarah Clausen and Wyntr Jacobs, 4th place
- Finance Case Competition: Matthew Schmidt and Jamie Manning, 7th place
- Accounting Case Competition: Amanda Becker and Hannah Evans, 7th place



Trip Baker- National College Cornhole Championship

Recently, Trip Baker, a Marketing/Management major from Eldorado, Kansas, competed in the National College Cornhole Championships (NCCC) that took place last year in

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The NCCC accepts the best collegiate players and teams from all across the country to represent their college in hopes of winning scholarship money to go towards their studies.

Trip represented Pittsburg State University on ESPN2 as he made the final four in the college singles and competed in the final matches. He finished second-ranked overall in the state of Kansas for the season and “saw some good finishes at some national tournaments that shot my name up the national open standings amongst other competitors nationwide.”

He also received the news in early August that he has earned professional status in the premier league for professional cornhole, the American Cornhole League, for the upcoming season which then gives him the chance to travel and play in pro-only events with higher purses.

When asked why he competes, he said “Cornhole has been a great competitive outlet for me as a former athlete; I’ve met some great people and earned valuable business experience through marketing myself to obtain sponsorship deals to help me pay entries and travel expenses as I compete.”

Trip will compete in the new season that begins October 6 with the first ACL Open that takes place in Rock Hill, South Carolina. After that, he will travel across the country almost every weekend for the majority of the year. Kelce College of Business roots for Trip as he makes his way around the country competing!





Women@Work members from left to right: Sarah Clausen, Carmen Kent, Katie Theis, and Natalie Hibbard

Women@Work wins a new organization recognition award

This past spring Women@Work received the 2023 Horizon Award at Pittsburg State's 27th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet. Women@Work is an organization working to create awareness, educate, and provide resources to women to help shatter the glass ceiling in the workforce.

This award recognizes the best new student organization on campus for involvement and participation. Some of the activities that Women@Work hosted this year were a networking luncheon that connected students to women in business, introductory golf lessons at the Crestwood Country Club, hosting lectures on managing finances, a reciprocity event with other women focused organizations on campus, and volunteering at events like the Big Event!



MBAA students Wyntr Jacobs and Sarah Clausen

Two MBA students studying in La Rochelle, France

This semester, two MBA students Wyntr Jacobs and Sarah Clausen are participating in our dual degree program with our partner Excelia Business School in La Rochelle, France. While in La Rochelle they will be completing their Masters in Management with an emphasis in Luxury Brand Management. They will complete a semester of classes followed by a six-month internship and a thesis. Upon completion they will receive their MBA from Pittsburg State as well as a Masters in Management degree from Excelia Business School.



Ashish Dodlolla, Wei Sheng Fang, Lenaig HERRISON De Beauvoir, Maximilian Perry, Giovanna Pastore, Dorian Pierson Leal, Meghna Singh, Enzo Folletete, Ullas Satish, Robin Pourcet Diffembach, Tanishq Sandal,

International Students in Kelce

Kelce welcomes 12 new international MBA/Dual-degree students for the Fall 2023 Semester! India, Australia, France, Nepal, Taiwan, Paraguay, and Germany are all represented. Gorilla nation is global!



Four Kelce Students travel to Taoyuan City, Taiwan for an International Business Camp

We had the pleasure of sending four Kelce students to Chung Yuan Christian University located in Taoyuan City, Taiwan for a three-week International Business Camp. Carmen Kent (MBA), Tucker Jessip (Senior), Zeli Estes (Senior), Sarah Clausen (MBA).

The CYCU program included lectures on Taiwan's economy, company visits, and cultural tours. Students visited many companies including Toyota, Taipei Urban Intelligence Center, the Office of the President, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company.

MBA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This semester we chose to highlight two students that have shown great potential both in and out of the classroom. Their hard work and involvement reflects well on the Kelce College of Business. We are proud to have these students representing us and are excited to see what they accomplish in the future.



Carmen Kent

I chose PSU for its exceptional community and opportunities. The welcoming, tight-knit environment at Pittsburg State University and the College of Business immediately made me feel at home. This sense of belonging extends beyond classrooms, fostering

meaningful connections with peers and faculty.

Pitt State's commitment to growth has shaped my academic journey, allowing me to explore interests, develop leadership skills, and gain invaluable knowledge through clubs and organizations.

Looking ahead, I am considering furthering my education, inspired by role models and mentors in Kelce.

Choosing Pitt State has been rewarding, building a strong foundation for my professional future in a supportive and enriching environment.



Peyton Smith

I chose Pitt State because it wasn't too far from home, and I had many connections to the school. Many of my immediate and extended relatives are alumni from Pitt so I was eager to see what Pitt State would have to offer for me and my journey.

Being at Pitt State, I have really enjoyed the relationships that I have formed with faculty and students, as well as the great atmosphere.

I have the privilege of working for Pittsburg State University as a graduate assistant in my free time, where I've learned valuable professional skills such as customer service, data entry and operating policies & procedures.

After I graduate, I am relocating and pursuing a career in accounting!

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Gage Watkins

This summer, Management/Marketing student Gage Watkins landed an internship with Critical Electric Systems Group (CESG).

As the internship went on, my responsibilities expanded. It began with

tasks such as handling change orders and counting light fixtures within the construction drawings. Eventually, I took on additional responsibilities including drafting requests for information documents, sending emails, and making phone calls

to more vendors."

"It felt great to get my feet wet in an industry I wasn't studying, but have always had in the corner of my eye."

Vice President of Operations for CESG Tim Shafer said "This is a great way for students to dip their toes in the water without a long-term commitment. For employers, this is a great opportunity to connect with the most ambitious young talent that already has an interest in your type of business. You don't have to go find them or be victim to what is available when you put out the 'help wanted' sign. What a great investment opportunity for your company."

If you are interested in finding an internship or looking for interns within Kelce College of Business, reach out to our Internship and Career Readiness Coordinator, Melissa Weed, at maweed@pittstate.edu.



Faculty Spotlight- Mary Kay Wachter,

Mary K. Wachter is a full-time instructional professor of management and marketing. She has been a faculty member at Pittsburg State University since 1986. She teaches undergraduate courses in Marketing, Management and Business Statistics and a graduate course in Consumer

Analytics. Her degrees include a BBA from Pittsburg State University and an MBA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her current research interests include marketing digital communications, sports marketing, and experiential learning in marketing education.

She currently serves on the PSU Steering Committee for Higher Learning Commission Open Pathway Quality Initiative. She is also a member of the PSU Retention Performance Management team in affiliation with the Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. She is a past recipient of the PSU Outstanding Faculty Award, the Kelce College of Business Excellence in Teaching Award, and Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

"As a PSU faculty member, I have the honor of witnessing the transformational power of education every single day -- seeing that spark in a student's eyes, not only when they learn something new, but when they achieve a goal that they didn't know they could reach. It is a privilege to help students believe in themselves and to watch them grow and become our future leaders in business and society."

- Mary Kay Wachter



Kelce Board of Advisors Spotlight- Nancy George

Nancy (Schifferdecker) George is a PSU graduate who has put into action her belief in giving back to her alma mater. She is the chair and longtime member of the Kelce Board of Advisors that consults with the Kelce

College of Business leadership team to align the College's academic programs with the business community's needs, enhance students' learning opportunities, and provide other advice. Nancy became involved in the advisory board to gain governance skills, network with professionals outside of the banking industry, and contribute to a strong educational culture for future generations. She accepted the position of board chair to put her organizational, analytical, and interpersonal skills to use in a new way and to further her contributions.

During her tenure on the Kelce Board of Advisors, Nancy has spoken to student organizations and classrooms, served as a business partner interacting with students at Business Etiquette luncheons, and participated on a panel helping a team of Pittsburg State students prepare for the 2022 CSBS Community Bank Case Study Competition. She has promoted the Kelce College during its accreditation visits, and joined efforts to meet fundraising goals for the Kelce College of Business facilities project. She has been involved with the development and growth of Women@Work on the Pittsburg State University campus, and was the recipient in Spring 2023 of the inaugural Bakel Spirit Award in honor of her support of this initiative.

Kelce College of Business 2023 Outstanding Faculty Awards for Teaching, Research and Service



Earlier this year we awarded three professors with our outstanding faculty awards.

Dr. Kristen Maceli a professor of marketing received the Excellence in Service award.

Dr. Gail Yarick an associate professor of accounting received the Excellence in Teaching award.

Dr. Connie Shum a professor of finance received the Excellence in Research award.

Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you for your contribution to Kelce.



Business graduate chosen for Distinguished Service Award

A public reception was held at the Wilkinson Alumni Center on March 30 to honor the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award, Lindsay Young (BBA '05, MBA '09), who has played an instrumental role post-graduation in service to Pittsburg State as a volunteer, mentor, and member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Young is a native of Girard, Kansas, and a graduate of the Kelce College of Business, having earned a bachelor's degree in management followed by a master's degree in business administration.

Since graduating, she has worked in a variety of areas as a business and marketing consultant. With strong

ties to the construction world — her husband, Aaron, is a graduate of PSU's School of Construction — she continues to serve Pittsburg State through fundraising efforts in support of the School of Construction. Since 2006, she has played an integral role in growing the annual PSU Construction Alumni Golf Tournament in Wichita by finding teams, identifying sponsorships, securing prizes, handling registration and check-in, and managing other details.

Traditionally, the event sells out with 36 teams and 144 golfers and since 2010, has raised more than \$320,000 for the PSU Construction Alumni Association, which provides scholarships for our students in the School of Construction. She and Aaron regularly attend Gorilla Gatherings in Northwest Arkansas, and she has begun volunteering as a student mentor for Pittsburg State's Women@Work, a new organization in the Kelce College of Business.

Professionally, she is the founder and owner of NU Marketing, LLC. As a strategic marketing consultant, she primarily serves the Four State Area with strategic marketing plans for architectural, engineering, construction, manufacturing, and medical businesses.

"Receiving the Distinguished Service Award at Pitt State is extremely humbling," Young said. "I have enjoyed serving my alma mater in many ways over the years and look forward to continuing my service. Giving back is important to me and staying engaged keeps me connected to Pitt State!"

Young is the daughter of Marlin Carson (BBA '78) of Frontenac, Kansas, and the sister of Grant Carson (BST '07) of Girard. Her late mother, Ellen Shipman Carson (BSN '78) was a nursing professor at Pittsburg State for many years.

Kelce Student Engagement and Support Center Opens

We are thrilled to announce the establishment of the Kelce Student Engagement and Support Center, a dedicated hub that will oversee the development and implementation of programs and services to promote the academic and professional success of students within the Kelce College of Business. Located 102 Kelce, this center will play a pivotal role in fostering a vibrant and thriving community of business students.

Leading the charge as the Director of Student Relations and Engagement is Holly Kent. Holly brings a wealth of experience to this new role, having served in University Development at PSU for more than 17 years. Her passion for working with students and her commitment to their success made her the ideal candidate to spearhead this initiative.

When asked about her new role, Holly expressed her excitement and dedication to the cause, saying,

"I am thrilled to be a part of this exciting venture within the Kelce College of Business. Our goal is to empower our students and provide them with the resources and support they need to excel academically and professionally. I look forward to working closely with our students and faculty to create an environment where every student feels supported and can reach their full potential."

"The Kelce Student Engagement and Support Center is poised to become a cornerstone of support and growth for our students. We are excited to see the positive impact it will have on our Kelce College of Business community. We invite everyone to stop by 102 Kelce and meet Holly Kent and her team as they embark on this exciting journey to elevate student success to new heights. Together, we will build a stronger, more successful future for all Kelce College of Business students."

- Dr. Paul Grimes



Kelce Accounting Alumni Wins National Accounting Award

Colin Webber has achieved excellence as an athlete as an All-MIAA distance runner for the Gorillas and as the Pitt State record holder in the indoor 800m. But he's also achieved academically, and this summer was one of 50 students in the nation to earn a prestigious national award for his outstanding performance on the CPA exam — an exam taken by 67,000 people.

The Elijah Watt Sells Award is granted to CPA candidates who earn a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the CPA exam, and who pass all four sections on their first attempt.

It was established by the American Institute of CPAs in 1923 to recognize outstanding performance on the CPA Exam, and named for one of the first CPAs in the U.S. — one who played a key role in advancing education within the profession.

“I certainly owe a great deal of gratitude for several excellent teachers and coaches at Pitt State that have prepared me for success,” said Webber, who transferred to Pitt State in Fall 2017 to major in Accounting and to join Pitt State’s winning Cross Country and Track & Field teams.

Extended NCAA eligibility after the pandemic prompted Webber to return for another year after graduating to complete the new Master of Professional Accountancy program, or MPAcc.

But he wasn’t finished.

The MPAcc program inspired him to attend graduate school, so he decided to complete Pitt State’s MBA program. “The courses proved to be very helpful for the CPA exam,” Webber said.

All of it proved helpful to employment: Webber quickly landed a job at Ernst & Young in Kansas City.

Professor David O’Bryan described Webber’s accomplishment as “amazing,” as the CPA exam is rigorous. “He was a joy to have in class,” O’Bryan said.

Webber also was an MIAA Academic Excellence Award recipient, an MIAA Scholar Athlete, and a member of the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

AICPA Vice President Mike Decker said Webber and the other 49 were to be “commended for an exceptional performance that very few individuals achieve.”



Enactus USA makes difficult decision to end operations

In early July, the Enactus United States Board shared some difficult news with our PSU Enactus team: “Given ongoing financial challenges rooted in historic issues and delays & cancellations of important funding from within our global network and external partners, the Enactus Board of Directors last week made the challenging decision to end most day-to-day operations of Enactus Global and Enactus United States”.

Last year, our PSU Enactus team focused on three main projects: an annual bike drive in partnership with Pittsburg Area Young Professionals, FutureNow: Finance in partnership with Communities in Schools, and the Pittsburg Community Garden. PSU Enactus will not be working on these projects in the future; however, many other student and community organizations have come together to support such projects for future years to come.

Our PSU Enactus team would like to say thank you to all of our alumni and supporters who have contributed to so many projects over the years.





Online MBA Program Expanding its Market

The Online MBA program is now accepting applications from recent business degree graduates who have earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) or comparable business degree within the past three years. The Online MBA program will continue to accept applications from graduates with at least three years of managerial experience and an earned Bachelor's degree (any discipline). Our AACSB-accredited online MBA program gives students more career options, higher earning potential and the confidence to advance in a professional business career.



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AS 12 MONTHS



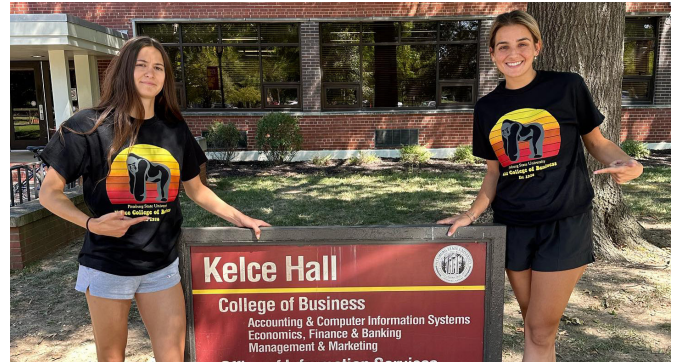
\$11,850*
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For more information and to apply visit:
degree.pittstate.edu



MBA Students Allary Liberatore and Katelyn Radell

Kelce is turning 45

This year the Kelce College of Business will be celebrating its 45th anniversary. Kelce Hall, previously known as College High, was established after a sizable donation by Gladys Kelce. Kelce gave a \$500,000 donation in honor of her husband to renovate the building for the Kelce College of Business, which was named in her honor.

This fall we paid tribute to our beginnings by creating a throw back t-shirt design inspired by the '70s rising sun logo. These shirts were handed out at the annual Kelce Picnic to welcome students back onto the campus.



Evan Blanchard, Bryn Neria, Dario Caceres, Paige Oliver, and Zeli Estes. Not pictured: Kate Radell and Tyler Wittman.

Meet the Kelce marketing team

These individuals will be creating marketing materials, posting on social media, and helping with events and recruiting for Kelce.

Please keep us informed

Stay in touch by sending your contact information and news updates to: cob@pittstate.edu

If you are an alumni of Kelce we would love to have one of your business cards!

Please address them to Kelce College of Business 1701 South Broadway Street, Pittsburg KS, 66762

Stay Connected!



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Your gift makes a difference

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Thank you for your support.

