

# Business and Economics Review

*The Bruce R. Thompson Center for Business and Economics prepares Allegheny College students to succeed in a diverse, global economy.*

## Executives in Residence Urge Students to Take Advantage of Every Opportunity

**Keith and Elizabeth McCullough White '83** journeyed to campus to serve as this year's **Business and Economics Executives in Residence**. The 1983 graduates talked with students, faculty and staff about the ups and downs of managing their work/life balance throughout their 40 year marriage while navigating their professional careers.

The Whites spoke to classes in both the Business and Economics and Biology Departments, met with the CBE Fellows, Wealth Management and Women in Business and Economics Clubs, and presented a Lunchtime Learning Lecture entitled, "Using Our Liberal Arts Experience to Build Successful Executive Careers Together."

During their presentation, the Whites offered students with these suggestions for business and personal success:

- Take advantage of every opportunity
- Push yourself academically
- Don't let your studies get in the way of your education — get involved on campus
- Work for a small struggling company because you can learn a lot
- Learn something about project management,
- Make the best choices for you and your family



*The Whites enjoy a quiet moment with students after lunch.*

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## 2023 Executives in Residence

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CBE Fellow Andrew Strobel '24 commented, “The Whites were super interesting, and I really appreciated the opportunity to meet and engage with them over their visit.”

### 2023 Executives

**Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough White '83, Ph.D.** is a highly experienced and entrepreneurial biopharmaceutical C-level executive with a unique blend of business and scientific experience, and a diverse skill set gained through leadership roles covering corporate strategy and operations, business development, drug development, commercial planning and development, global brand management, communications, program and portfolio management, and intellectual property strategy in start-up to large companies.

**Keith White '83** has 30 years of experience in financial services with TD Bank, PNC Bank and Citibank, along with an “informative” five-year detour with a start-up. As a SVP at TD Bank, he leveraged his expertise in combining traditional commercial lending and credit with new age risk management practices in modeling and data governance to deliver on complex and high-profile projects and positions. Keith’s PNC Bank experience was primarily on the credit side of commercial lending with concentrations in Large Corporate, Media and Communications Finance.



*Keith and Elizabeth White*



*The CBE Fellows join the Whites after their Lunchtime Learning presentation — from the left Andrew Strobel, RJ Swanson, Keith White, Elizabeth White, Megan Dennis, Rutendo Mavunga, Reece Smith and Meredythe Baird.*

## Spring Lunchtime Learning Lectures

### Understanding the Continuing War in Ukraine from a Political Science Perspective

Associate Professor Lena Surzhko-Harned, Ph.D., Penn State Behrend provided a clear view of the Russian war in Ukraine from the perspective of a political scientist - this event, organized by our intrepid group of students from Ukraine, was as informative as it was insightful.

Dr. Surzhko Harned, is an associate teaching professor of Political Science. She is also the associate director and a faculty affiliate of the Public Policy Initiative at Penn State Behrend. Her primary research interests are in the field of comparative politics.

She is the author of several papers dealing with issues of nationalism and ethnic conflict, identity politics, electoral politics, comparative democratization, and political behavior in the post-communist states of Eastern Europe. Her co-authored book, *Post-Soviet Legacies and Conflicting Values in Europe: Generation Why*, was published in 2017 and examines the intergenerational conflict and consequences in post-Soviet Ukraine and Russia.



*Ukrainian students with Professor Surzhko-Harned*

### Cryptocurrency Melt Downs: FTX, Sam Bankman-Fried and Corporate Governance Failure with Michael Young '78

Michael Young enlightened the Allegheny community on how the cryptocurrency failure was actually quite predictable due to the absence of corporate governance. Always insightful, Michael is a frequent guest to Quigley Hall to address questions of ethics and financial oversight.

Named by Accounting Today as one of the “top 100 most influential people in accounting,” Mike Young has spent 40 years on the development and application of the laws and practices of financial reporting and regulation. As a senior partner of New York’s Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, he served as a member of FASB’s Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council, assisted Congress in drafting amendments to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, testified before congressional and other federal government committees on financial regulation, advised the White House on financial regulatory developments, assisted in drafting state law on financial regulatory issues, and served on a variety of committees regarding financial practices and regulation.



*Michael Young and the CBE Fellows — from left: Rutendo Mavunga, Lucia Jueguen, RJ Swanson, Michael Young, Andrew Strobel, Reece Smith, Megan Dennis*

## The Board of Visitors Offer Practical Insights for Life Beyond the Classroom



Members of the Board of Visitors on campus during the spring 2023 semester from left: President Ron Cole '87, Devone McLeod '13 (Co-Chair), Anne Linaberger '84, Anne Rumsey Gearan '85, Evelyn Nedved Pendleton '87, Trish Smith Lawless '92, Lauren Lambert Odrechowski '10, Eileen Gallagher Webb '06, Diane Sutter '72 (Chair), Assistant Professor Tim Bianco, Stuart Armstrong '81, Professor Tom Nonnenmacher '90, Naveed Ismail '12; missing: Stacy Corbin '89.

**When the arrival of the Board of Visitors is announced each spring, many students ask “who are the Board of Visitors?” ... but what they are actually thinking is “what does that mean to me?,” “do I have to go?” and most importantly, “can I get extra credit?”**

The answer to all of these questions is that students who participate in the Board of Visitors day of activities come away with actionable information about how to approach getting the most out of their time at Allegheny and starting a satisfying career. They make valuable connections and learn what’s happening in the world outside the classroom.

### Here’s what happens

Each year, the Board arrives in Meadville to engage with students in a variety of activities. The programming is designed to help students use their college experience to achieve their career goals and investigate trending topics in

employment, economics and work/life balance. According to CBE Co-Director and Asst. Professor of Economics, Timothy Bianco, “members of the Board of Visitors serve a three-year term with the possibility of reappointment to two additional terms. The Board of Visitors members were students themselves, and now understand what they wish they knew before starting their careers. “

He continued, “Devone McLeod, the Vice Chair of the Board of Visitors and the upcoming 2023 Executive in Residence, suggested that we consider a new set of topics for the morning symposium for 2023. We tasked the CBE Fellows, the Women in Business and Economics Club, and the Wealth Management Club with choosing original topics, and it was a huge success. Next year, we’ll continue to rely on feedback from students and Board of Visitors members to guide these topics.”

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# Board of Visitors

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The day is divided into three main events, each designed to capture opportunities for alumni/student engagement and learning.

## Morning, the Symposium

This year’s symposium featured a variety of topics:

- “Determining your Strengths and Utilizing them in the Workplace”
- “Breaking barriers: Navigating the Job Search to find an Inclusive Workspace”
- “How to Cope and Be Smart with your First Salary”
- “Transitioning from College to Career.”

## Noon, the Networking Lunch

The Board then re-convened in the Tillotson Room in the Patricia BushTippie Alumni Center for a popular lunch with students that combines good food with good conversation and a “speed networking” session managed by the CBE Fellows.

Individual Board members are invited to host a table; in turn, they introduce themselves to students and let them know something about their professional lives and their career paths. After introductions, the students rotate in small groups to each table, getting the opportunity to practice their elevator speech and make connections with board members.

## Afternoon, the Executive Roundtable

Global news and events swirled around the 2022/2023 academic year leading Diane Sutter, Board of Visitors Chair, and CBE Co-Director, Tim Bianco, to re-imagine the Executive Roundtable as three distinct panel discussions with three specific topics:

- How have Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Initiatives Affected the Business Landscape?
- Global Economic Outlook: Soft or Hard Landing?
- How has Generation Z Changed the Workplace?

At the end of this year’s event, students not only knew who the members of the Board of Visitors, but how much there is to learn about the world outside of the classroom. Our special thanks to the Board of Visitors for participating in this high energy schedule of events.

[Learn more about the Board of Visitors and who is currently serving on the Board at this link.](#)

*The Board of Visitors annual event is supported by the Earl W. Adams, Jr. Endowment, established by Allegheny College Trustee William H. Brown, Jr., Allegheny Class of 1980, in honor of Professor Earl William Adams, Jr. – teacher, mentor and friend.*



# Allegheny Students Honored for Scholarship in Economics

**Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE)** is the international honor society in the field of economics. The primary purpose of ODE is to recognize outstanding academic achievement in economics, especially at the undergraduate level.

## How do students qualify?

Students are invited to join the society each Spring if they meet the academic criteria set by the international organization. The minimum requirements for admission are completion of 12 credit hours of economics courses, attainment of a GPA of 3.0 or better in economics courses, and an overall GPA of at least 3.0.

## Why study economics?

This year, Professor Emeritus John Golden provided the opening remarks. He told students the history of economics, the benefits of the discipline and the many career trajectories made possible by the study of economics.

He explains:

“Given the wide-ranging diversity of interests among economists, it is no surprise that this discipline provides undergraduates with many subsequent career options. Many find employment in the private sector, especially in banking. For those interested in working in this industry, consider taking a course in finance.

Internships are helpful in exploring post-undergraduate careers. You may enjoy a subject intellectually, but perhaps would find a daily routine and/or colleagues not to your liking. Better to find out sooner — via an internship — than later.

Another employment possibility is a non-profit organization devoted to a cause in which you truly values such as green energy solutions or fighting poverty. An additional career option is to become an entrepreneur who creates their own business in either the private or non-profit sector.”



During our Spring 2023 event, we welcomed the newest members of the Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society:

Robert Amsdell	Patrick Hogan	Reece Smith
Bergas Anargya	Dagny K. Javes	Margaret L. Todd
Tergel Buyanbat	Kenneth C Johns	Patricia J. Todd
Jenna E. Halenda	Lucia Jueguen	Preston Turk
Carter J. Hassenplug	Kevin Lee	Isabelle R. Wakefield

## 2023 Zingale Big Idea Competition Announces Ten Winners

On Saturday, April 29, the 2023 Zingale Big Idea Competition at Allegheny College announced ten winners, including the top award to team Grand Slam AI, an artificial intelligence analysis used to improve a tennis player's style with personalized coaching.

"What was remarkable about Grand Slam AI is not only the fact that they developed a working product, but gave a winning presentation, left the Zingale Big Idea Competition, traveled to Pittsburgh, and helped Allegheny win the PAC tennis conference championship," said Chris Allison, co-director of Allegheny's Bruce R. Thompson Center For Business & Economics.

The event featured 24 teams of 44 students from five institutions – Allegheny College, Westminster College, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, and Robert Morris University. The winners shared \$32,500 in prize money, generously and completely funded by Lance '77 and Karen Zingale.

"What is so important about this competition is not only to reward the winning teams and individuals but to ensure that all 44 student participants learn something that will help them be even more successful as they launch their ventures and careers," says Lance Zingale '77, retired executive vice president and general manager of Sykes Enterprises.

*The Zingale Big Idea Competition is a student-focused seed-funding business pitch presentation competition. It is designed for new business ideas that have yet to receive funding. The contest emulates the experiences seen on the popular TV show "Shark Tank," but with more heart. The distinguished Zingale Big Idea judges do more than evaluate business models — they offer constructive feedback, coaching, and encouragement.*

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*The Grand Slam AI team presenting their Big Idea for an artificial intelligence analytics app that can be used to improve a tennis player's style with personalized coaching.*

# 2023 Zingale Big Idea Competition

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## The Winners!

### 1st Place: GrandSlam AI,

Julien Voisey, Kobe Coleman, and Chance Hager (Allegheny College)

### 2nd Place Tie: ALMA,

Mykyta Kovbasa, Daria Kutova, and Mariia Hlyten (Allegheny College)

**INTELI-KEY**, Nicholas Tysiachney (Allegheny College)

**Breakthrough Investments**, Reece Smith (Allegheny College)

**Honorable Mention:** Flow,

Tergel Buyanbat, Kevin Lee, Ochirsaikhan Davaajambal (Allegheny College)

### Non-Profit:

**1st Place: Wheat**, Oleksandra "Sasha" Shafran, (Allegheny College)

**2nd Place Tie: Batanai**, Rutendo Mavunga, (Allegheny College)

**Trades Rebuilt**, Brianna Dunlap and Jonas Clark (Westminster College)

### Small Business:

**1st Place Tie: Abby's Arch**, Abby Cannon, (Westminster College)

**ICEY Aesthetics LLC**, Isis Philibert, (Duquesne University)

*The Zingale Big Idea Competition has been made possible through the generous support of Lance & Karen Zingale.*



## Welcome 2023/2024 Class of CBE Fellows

CBE Fellows are a select group of motivated students that function as a leadership team to support CBE programming and act as student ambassadors. Activities are structured to enable students to include this position on their respective resumes as a valuable work experience. To qualify for this position, students must have a keen interest in both business and economics, maintain a good academic standing, and regularly attend all CBE activities.



CBE FELLOWS

This spring, we congratulated our returning Fellows for a job well done, and welcomed our newest Fellows to the team:

- Meredythe Baird '24
- RJ Swanson '24
- Lucia Jueguen '24
- Andrew Strobel '24
- Rutendo Mavunga '24
- Reece Smith '24
- Graham Kralic '25
- Zula Stenger '25
- Nicholas Tysiachney '25
- Colin Elder '25



# 2023/2024 Center for Business and Economics Fall Calendar

- September 27-28, Executive in Residence, Devone McLeod '13
- September 29 - October 1, Blue and Gold Weekend + CBE Fellows Reunion
- October 4-5 - Beyond Zero Special Event
- October 7-10, Fall Break
- October 19, Tom Held '83 “My Career In Big Pharma and How To Break In”
- October 20, City Trip to Pittsburgh & Career Fair
- October 24, Gator Day - CBE Fellows Business and Economics Summer Experiences
- November 14, Lunchtime Learning, jobs and internships for International Students
- December 9, Financial Literacy Challenge

## Career Education

- PLS Logistics, Direct Hire Interviews
- FDIC Career, Info Session & Office Hours
- First National Bank, Direct Hire Interviews
- Sarah A. Reed ,Direct Hire Interviews-
- United States Army of Civil Engineers, Referral-based Hire Interviews
- IRS Campus Information Session & Office Hours
- Allegheny Pittsburgh Career Fair & Networking
- First Bank of The Lake, Direct Hire Interviews
- Erie Insurance, Dire Hire Interviews
- PNC, Direct Hire Interviews
- Idaho National Laboratory information session
- Net Health, Direct Hire Interviews

### Adulting 101/ Financial Literacy Competition Workshops

*All sessions held in Quigley Auditorium 12:30 -1:15 pm*

*lunch is provided*

September 21  
October 12  
October 26  
November 9

*Adulting 101 is a certificate program offered to students through a partnership with the Center for Business and Economics and the Maytum Center for Student Success*

*Our calendar is constantly changing, for all of our department updates, follow us on LinkedIn at our Business and Economics Showcase page: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/center-for-business-and-economics> Please check regularly as events are added or modified Questions? Email [bryan@allegheny.edu](mailto:bryan@allegheny.edu)*

Thank you for reading our latest news. Please let us know how we are doing—We love hearing from you.

- ⇒ Professor Tomas Nonnenmacher, Department Chair—[tnonnenm@allegheny.edu](mailto:tnonnenm@allegheny.edu)
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