It has been a busy and exciting time since returning home to Pittsburgh this past August to serve as the Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean of Pitt Business. I have already had the pleasure of meeting many of you and look forward to connecting with more members of our extended community — alumni, parents, recruiters, supporters, and friends of Pitt Business — in the coming months.

It has been inspiring to learn about the rich history of Pitt Business, the exceptional accomplishments of its alumni, and the remarkable momentum established under the leadership of Dean Arjang Assad. This edition of the magazine celebrates our community’s achievements during Dean Assad’s tenure of the past seven years and the strong foundation that has been laid for continued growth in quality, impact, and reputation.

You will read about innovations in our existing programs and the launch of bold new ones. We recognize outstanding faculty achievements, say thanks for decades of service, and, on behalf of our students, faculty, and the launch of bold new ones. We recognize outstanding faculty achievements, say thanks for decades of service, and, on behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, and corporate partners — we will propel Pitt Business into the future.

The ability to fulfill our collective aspirations for Pitt Business ultimately depends on the ongoing and generous support of alumni, parents, and partners. Every gift of time, talent, or treasure has a meaningful impact and helps us to reach our goals. I encourage you to make a commitment to Pitt Business and, on behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, extend heartfelt thanks to those who have already come forward. Together, we will develop the professionals that the business world needs for tomorrow.

Gene Anderson
Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean

Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration
University of Pittsburgh

Disclaimer: Some photos in this publication were taken during Covid-19 community levels that did not require the wearing of masks indoors.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN
HAIL TO DEAN ASSAD
Accomplishments through leadership and collaboration

Throughout the course of Arjang Assad’s seven-year tenure as Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean, both the undergraduate and graduate programs achieved immense success, ranging from new programs to increased talent to unprecedented rankings and career success for graduates.

This reflection comes as his tenure, which began July 1, 2015, ended June 30, 2022. He announced in September 2021 that he was stepping down and returning to the Pitt Business faculty. He was succeeded by Gene Anderson (see the related story on page 12), effective August 1, 2022.

“I am deeply humbled and moved by the many kind words I have received on my tenure as dean and the expressions of good wishes for the future,” Assad says. “I will be forever grateful to all who have written or contacted me to wish me well on what follows my transition. Thank you.”

LEADER IN BUSINESS EDUCATION

Among his accomplishments, Dean Assad increased the school’s research and teaching capabilities by recruiting 40 percent of the current full-time faculty. He enhanced our position as a leader in business education, making it an increasingly attractive and affordable choice for students worldwide. They then enter the workforce with a rank of No. 1 in “Breadth of Alumni Network in the World” (Economist MBA Ranking 2019).

His strategic partnerships on the healthcare front in Pittsburgh led to the addition of an Executive MBA in Healthcare program, joint programs with the Health Sciences schools, and a “Healthcare Leadership Series” in a collaboration with the Medical School on a non-degree program.

He launched the first online offerings at Katz and championed initiatives leading to the unprecedented growth in reputation and rankings for the College of Business Administration. Most recently, he championed the new Executive Doctor of Business Administration (see the related story on page 10).

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranked No. 10 in publics and No. 28 overall (Poets&Quants)
- Admissions are at an all-time high
- Integration of Business Analytics into curriculum — Business Analytics Major and Minor approved in 2022
- Ranked No. 2 among U.S. public business schools for “Getting Grads the Jobs They Want” in 2019 (Poets&Quants)

GRADUATE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Full-Time MBA ranked among Financial Times’ Top 100 worldwide and Top 20 among U.S. publics for eighth straight year (2022)
- Created online Part-Time MBA program now ranked No. 5 (Fortune, 2022)
- Executive MBA and Executive MBA in Healthcare ranked among Financial Times’ Top 100 worldwide and 8th among U.S. publics for 2021
- Redesigned MBA/Master of Science Programs and introduced an Integrated Learning Model
- New Executive Doctor of Business Administration to begin Fall 2022

Send best wishes to Dean Assad via aassad@katz.pitt.edu
FRITS PIL APPOINTED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR

For the first time in over three decades, a Pitt Business professor has received the University’s special faculty rank of Distinguished Service Professor. Frits Pil, professor of Organizations and Entrepreneurship, research scientist, and the Henry E. Haller Jr. Faculty Fellow for Distinguished Service, earned this distinction. As Chancellor Patrick Gallagher noted in his letter awarding the rank, this appointment “constitutes the highest honor that the University can accord a member of the professoriate.”

SUPPORT FOR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

Pil’s service within Pitt Business is extensive. He developed a mentorship program for junior faculty, a teaching effectiveness program for graduate students, and faculty training on new instructional approaches — well before the pandemic hit. He has organized training for faculty and staff on recognizing mental health challenges of students and facilitating access to help. He has played an integral role in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts, organizing training sessions and working closely with the University’s Office of EDI on the school’s customized certification program for faculty and staff.

At the University level, Pil was an inaugural Provost Fellow for Faculty and has contributed to major University efforts including most recently the University’s Middle States re-accreditation, the Momentum Funds, the Plan for Pitt, and key initiatives to address the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic.

Pil is renowned for his research on knowledge creation and transfer, with numerous publications in top academic journals as well as key practitioner outlets, including California Management Review, Sloan Management Review, and Harvard Business Review. He is an exceptional teacher, with 15 teaching awards over the past decade for his courses on negotiations, conflict management, and creativity. Congratulate Frits Pil via fritspil@pitt.edu

ELISE BOYAS WINS ASSAD TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Her quality of teaching, positive impact on students, and collaboration with other faculty are among the reasons Elise Boyas was named the inaugural winner of the Arjang A. Assad Teaching Excellence Award. Boyas, clinical associate professor of Business Administration, was announced in June 2022 as the recipient. She was chosen from six nominees by the Teaching Excellence & Assessment Committee composed of faculty members from each academic area in Pitt Business.

Boyas joined the Pitt Business faculty in 2009, teaching a wide variety of courses in financial and management accounting at both the graduate and the undergraduate levels. Previously, she taught at Robert Morris, Walsh, and Rutgers universities. She began her professional career in accounting, including as a senior auditor. She has received multiple teaching awards at Pitt, including the undergraduate Student Impact Award and Outstanding Instructor awards for Part-Time MBA, Full-Time MBA, Executive MBA, and Master of Science in Accounting.

“I established this award to advance the teaching innovation and dynamic climate that has been established here at Pitt Business,” says Assad. “Congratulations, Elise. I am honored to have my name associated with you as the first recipient.”

Assad hired about 40 faculty members during his tenure as Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean from 2015 through July 1, 2022. He established this endowed award to reward exemplary teachers. Pitt Business has continued to fundraise to add to the endowment Assad established through Pitt Day of Giving contributions by alumni, employees, and other supporters.

Congratulate Elise Boyas via eaboyas@pitt.edu. To support the award, please visit give.pitt.edu/pittbusiness and select Arjang A. Assad Teaching Excellence Award from the designation options.

THE NOMINEES

The following were the nominees by academic area:

- Accounting – Boyas
- Business Analytics & Operations – Professor Prakash Mirchandani
- Finance – Clinical Assistant Professor Andrew Washburn
- Information Systems & Technology Management – Associate Professor Narayan RamaSSubbu
- Marketing & Business Economics – Associate Professor Eugenia Wu
- Organization & Entrepreneurship – Associate Professor Deborah Good

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Congratulate Elise Boyas via eaboyas@pitt.edu. To support the award, please visit give.pitt.edu/pittbusiness and select Arjang A. Assad Teaching Excellence Award from the designation options.
NEW FACULTY HIRES

The hiring of new faculty strengthens the student experience along with current and new research tracks:

Charles Hadlock will fill the Laughlin Chair in Finance. He was the Frederick S. Addy Distinguished Chair in Finance at the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. Background: PhD in Economics from MIT and Bachelors in Economics and Mathematics from University of Michigan. Email: cahadlock@katz.pitt.edu

Richard Burgess, Assistant Professor of Organizational Behavior & Entrepreneurship; Background: PhD in Business Administration, University of North Carolina.

Krista Foster, Clinical Assistant Professor in Business Analytics & Operations; Background: PhD in Business Analytics & Operations; previously Assistant Professor at University of Notre Dame. Email: kfoster@pitt.edu

Ashley Gomez, Assistant Professor of Organizations & Entrepreneurship; Background: PhD in Behavioral and Social Sciences, Brown University. Email: agomez@katz.pitt.edu

David Klimowski Gomez, Visiting Assistant Professor in Marketing & Business Economics;

Background: PhD in Economics; Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, Stanford University. Email: dklowski@katz.pitt.edu

Hongjun Ye, Visiting Assistant Professor in Marketing & Business Economics; Background: PhD in Marketing, Drexel University; previously Assistant Professor at Clarkson University. Email: hongjun.ye@katz.pitt.edu

Anna Daniellova, Visiting Associate Professor in Finance; Background: PhD in Finance, Indiana University, Bloomington; previously Associate Professor of Finance and Business Economics, McMaster University. Email: adaniellova@pitt.edu

An ongoing search continues for a Two-Year Visiting Professor in Finance. National recruitment of diverse faculty progressed with interviews of Latinx and African American candidates.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

The school will miss some of its most cherished senior faculty members due to retirements. The following faculty members have significantly impacted Pitt Business through their exemplary leadership, research, teaching, and engagement with students:

Josephine (Jo) Olson, Professor of Business Administration; 51 years of service

Olson, who joined Pitt in 1971, taught courses in managerial economics and international economics. She conducted study trips to Europe and Latin America and worked closely with various Pitt global studies centers. From 2006 through 2014, she was director of the International Business Center. She also served as director of MBA Programs and associate dean.

John Prescott, Chair of Strategy; 40 years of service

Prescott, who joined Pitt in 1982, held numerous leadership roles, including director of the Doctoral Program and Organization and Entrepreneurship area. In 2017, he received Pitt’s Provost Award for Excellence in Mentoring. He designed the first MBA course in competitive intelligence (CI) and won an economic education award for the first web-based CI course.

Rabikar (Rabi) Chatterjee, Professor of Business; 26 years of service

Chatterjee, who joined Pitt in 1996, focused his teaching, research, and consulting in customer-focused development and management of products. He received the Katz Excellence in Teaching Award for the MBA and Executive MBA programs numerous times and was twice voted Distinguished Professor of the Year by Executive MBA Prague classes.

From Geologist to Investment Banker

Fulfilling experience at a part-time pace

Elliott Kim (MBA ‘22) enrolled as a part-time MBA student and turned it into a fully rewarding experience, both personally and professionally. The Katz program enables working professionals to increase their skills and network, while investing in career advancement — with online and on-campus options. These students typically enroll in 6.0 to 7.5 credits at a time with a customized schedule that can accommodate family, work, and financial obligations for completion typically in two to three years.

Thanks to this flexible approach, Kim was able as a part-time student to transition from working as a geologist in the oil and gas industry into an investment banking career, working full-time at RedShift Advisors. He is currently an associate at Cascade Partners, an investment banking and private equity firm based in Detroit that serves middle market businesses.

CAREER CREDIBILITY

As a part-time student, Kim set the pace that was right for him — and took full advantage of the opportunities available. This included participation in many of Pitt’s co-curricular experiences. He took first place in the 2019 Kuzneski Innovation Cup, second place in the 2019 Crane Case Competition, and first place in the 2021 McKinsey Cup.

“During my time at Katz, I had the chance to travel across the country, interact with business leaders, and work on meaningful and challenging projects...”

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FACULTY UPDATE

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MY MBA JOURNEY
Virtual and real experiences

When I arrived in Pittsburgh mid-pandemic, we were fully virtual, and this brought a unique challenge to collaboration and networking with new people in a new city. My solution was to get involved on campus as a student leader by serving as a member of the Katz Student Executive Board (SEB) and vice president of the Business Technology Club. While serving on the SEB, there was an opportunity for select members to work with KPMG, and the African American Director’s Forum (AADF) to examine African and the African American Director’s experiences. I connected with employees at Intel person in Chicago and virtually where I witnessed my case studies from the classroom playing out in my work meetings. By incorporating independent studies into my curriculum centered around my experiences at Cisco, I fully integrated my internship and education experiences as one. The experience-based education I received taught me what it meant to be a product manager and an MBA.

In the Fall of 2021, I was able to attend the National Black MBA Association conference both in person in Chicago and virtually where I connected with employees at Intel who invited me for an interview. The opportunity offered felt like a culmination of my journey from an industrial engineer arriving at Katz to become an MBA graduate.

My technical background, business acumen, problem-solving, leadership, and interpersonal skills felt sharpened, and I knew I was ready to be a catalyst for change in a new role and experience a new place. I am excited to announce I accepted Intel’s offer to join their Sales and Marketing Rotational Program in Chandler, Arizona, this fall.

The following are excerpts from a LinkedIn post by Jerome Eric King II about his experience in the Katz MBA Program leading up to his graduation in April 2022:

LEADERSHIP ENRICHMENT

Corporate, academic, and nonprofit organizations that recognize the strategic value of investing in talent development partner with Katz on leadership enrichment, succession planning, and special rates for the programs, which include:

Executive MBA: The future-ready focus blends traditional MBA curriculum with the knowledge for tomorrow’s increasingly global economy. Topics like data analytics, diversity and inclusion, advanced delivery methods and global challenges create a well-rounded educational experience.

Executive MBA in Healthcare: Experienced healthcare professionals engage with world-renowned faculty, physicians, and administrative leaders in the classroom. The curriculum incorporates a healthcare context, i.e., statistical analysis, economics, and policy, into traditional MBA coursework.


Executive Doctor of Business Administration: Starting in Fall 2022, this new program is for professionals seeking to advance in business or government roles that would benefit from rigorous research skills in analyzing business problems or individuals interested in research-oriented teaching positions. (See related article on page 10.)

Enochs said the decisions in her current role are technical in nature and “can have large impacts on the performance of the business and the lives of its employees.” She added, “I believe the education and experience from the Executive MBA will result in better decision-making, allowing me to contribute to Koppers’ performance goals and will be foundational in my transition to executive leadership.”

For more information, email executiveprograms@katz.pitt.edu

Who’s ready to lead? Scan here to make a referral:

REACHING WORLD-CLASS POTENTIAL

Coursework supports on-the-job decisions

She relies on her experience at Koppers, Inc., along with her chemical engineering degree from Pitt, and now her Executive MBA coursework at Katz.

“As a working professional, I’ve had opportunities to use what I’ve learned in my coursework almost immediately,” Enochs says. “The program’s design allows students to not only learn the concepts, but their application in the ‘real world.’ Each member of the cohort brings valuable experience and perspective.”

The need for leaders who can leverage the capabilities of their organizations through strategic, operational excellence and evidence-based decision-making is greater than ever. That’s where Katz’s executive programs can make a difference.

“Through degree and non-degree programs and services, and our dynamic faculty, we engage with leaders and their organizations in thought leadership, talent development, and research,” says Kim Abel, executive director of Executive Degree Programs and the Center for Executive Education.

To be completed one weekend per month for 19 months, the executive programs emphasize experiential-based learning. They feature a dynamic network of talented executives with cross-industry or healthcare focuses. Students have 12+ years of experience and a track record of managing or leading others.

The future-learning outcomes of Katz’s executive programs are clear:

1. Courses offer the experience of a graduate business education at the highest level.

2. The executive programs are designed to enrich the learning and career experiences of Katz MBAs who embark on their own unique journey brick by brick. To connect, look for King on LinkedIn.

8 | Pitt Business Magazine - FALL 2022

For more information, email executiveprograms@katz.pitt.edu

Who’s ready to lead? Scan here to make a referral:

9
A s a Katz MBA student, Steven Renfro Jr., (MBA ’15) strengthened key skills and evolved as a business professional, observing the thought process of others when problem-solving. Over the past 12 years, he has thrived in accounting, finance, and marketing management roles for various corporations across multiple industries, solving a wide range of business problems along the way.

With such a successful career, what comes next? Renfro, the senior brand and marketing manager at Quidel Corporation, has chosen the new Executive Doctor of Business Administration (EDBA) program at Katz to propel his career to the next level.

“A doctorate in business will separate me from the pack when applying for an ‘A doctorate in business will separate me from the pack when applying for an’ Executive Doctor of Business Administration (EDBA) program at Katz to propel his career to the next level. With such a successful career, what comes next? Renfro, the senior brand and marketing manager at Quidel Corporation, has chosen the new Executive Doctor of Business Administration (EDBA) program at Katz to propel his career to the next level.

“I view this program as a potential accelerant to reach my career goals sooner than later,” he says. “Because I am familiar with the rigor of an MBA from Katz, I am confident the EDBA program will be no walk in the park and will arm me with the knowledge and skills needed to solve super complex problems.”

HYFLEX MODEL AND WEEKDAYS

The San Diego resident is part of the inaugural class, which started in the Fall 2022 semester. The program follows the “hyflex” model, which provides face-to-face classes that can also be attended online, synchronously. Classes are held during the week, allowing weekends off for students—a unique feature.

“The program offers immersive experiences and courses, taught by Katz’s highly ranked faculty members, to help professionals with eight-plus years of experience develop exceptional analytical and leadership skills, which are in demand now more than ever,” says Dennis Galletta, academic director of the program.

“Many statistics courses spend time on mathematical proofs of statistical procedures. Our faculty will focus on how to conduct the statistical procedures and draw conclusions from their calculations, taking a more practical yet equally rigorous approach to study problems they are facing currently in their full-time jobs,” says Dennis Galletta, academic director of the program.

“Our students will be merging work and school together to make double use of their time.”

PROBLEM-SOLVING

Another highlight of the program, which is an associate academic member of the Executive Doctorate Business Administration Council, is the immersive 12-credit capstone Practicum Research Project. “The project is designed for students to work on an issue from their current employer since it is a part-time program,” says Jeffrey Inman, EDBA program director. “They will work with a faculty advisor to design a research question and lay out a plan to study the problem, and then develop the methodology, collect data, and write up the entire project, along with recommendations and an implementation plan.”

For more details, email: executiveprograms@katz.pitt.edu. Information sessions are scheduled for October 19, November 16, and December 14, 2022.

Scan to register:

EDBA PROGRAM DETAILS

Hyflex Format: in person, online, or combination

Program Length: 3 years (part-time)

Credits to Graduate: 45 (with transfer of 27 credits from a qualifying master’s program)

Tuition: $45,000 per year (aid is available)

Courses Taught by: chaired and full research faculty

Practicum Research Project: tackle a real-work issue with faculty advisor

LEARNING BY DOING

New center focuses on putting theory into practice

Itt Business has long emphasized that learning by doing enables students to put into practice the theories discussed in class. The newly created Center for Integrated Learning will more effectively bring together interdisciplinary faculty experts and external local, national, and global partners to drive research, experiential learning, and community-based work for students.

Sara Moeller, associate dean of Graduate Programs and Executive Education, said the new center’s goals include “a more cohesive organization of our primary principles.”

“We want to stretch our value proposition to pre-admission and post-graduation, provide a suite of opportunities for individual and corporate engagement, and, as a result, further establish Pitt Business as business experts,” she added.

The center recently received a $771,359, three-year grant through the federal Build Back Better Regional Challenge program. The grant will fund 27 projects for integrated learning experiences related to robotics and autonomous technology involving more than 110 graduate students.

STRATEGY: THREE KEY ELEMENTS

While the center will initially focus on Katz’s graduate programs, it will promote learning excellence throughout Pitt Business. The strategy is focused on enhanced consolidation of these three elements in a student’s experience:

Integrated Curriculum

Core courses are coordinated to serve as the foundation, i.e., economics and accounting courses share the same case study or challenge question. The Integrated Learning Academy challenges students to analyze an industry-specific issue while “Game Changers” are condensed courses to explore a topic disrupting business in a faculty member’s area of expertise.

Experiential Curriculum

Examples include Consulting Field Projects that partner students with a client organization and get support from a faculty mentor and an executive coach to learn management consulting through a real-world problem. The “Six Sigma: Theory and Practice” course put students in teams guided by a Black Belt mentor. Other courses engage companies with needs related to commercializing new technologies, customer journey mapping, and data analytics, among others.

Beyond the Classroom Experiences

For additional ways to engage with business professionals and work on real-world challenges, the Katz Invitational Case Competition (the 2022 topic was equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace), Super Analytics Challenge (2022 topic: hunger and food security), and Bridge Program (for experience-rich internships) are among the annual opportunities offered to students.

“This new center will drive instructional innovation by extending and enhancing partnerships across academic units, public-sector employers, nonprofit, and private industry,” says Moeller. “This will ensure that our learning objectives are relevant and the knowledge and skills are transferrable to help our students succeed in today’s business world.”

For more details about the new center, scan here:
Please welcome Gene Anderson, the eighth Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean to lead the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration. A national search was conducted to hire Anderson, who started August 1, 2022, as he returns to southwestern Pennsylvania.

In this Q&A, Anderson shares his thoughts on this new position, priorities for Pitt Business, and the important role that alumni play in the school’s success.

Q: What are you most excited about in your role as dean?

A: I’ve admired Pitt for a very long time. I don’t have a degree from Pitt, and that’s one of my failings, but I have many colleagues and friends who attended. They have always sung Pitt Business’ praises. As a native Pittsburgher, I also have a natural affinity for the University and the city.

The commitment of Pitt Business to shaping a better world through business resonates deeply with me. There’s also the closely related opportunity to advance business, development, and innovation throughout the region and beyond. I’m excited about bringing together distinctive aspects of Pittsburgh and Pitt Business in ways that create transformational learning opportunities for students and high-impact research opportunities for faculty.

Being able to have an impact on the region’s ongoing transformation means a lot to me on a personal level. My parents met in Pittsburgh. We lived here until I was a teenager. I know that it is a special place with a rich history and a remarkable spirit of resilience and renewal.
Q: What are your short-term and long-term goals for Pitt Business?

A: Pittsburgh is at an inflection point. As the city’s world-class public research university, Pitt can play an important role in continuing the current positive momentum and spreading its benefits broadly. Pitt Business is in a unique position to bring together the strengths of Pitt with the strengths and needs of Pittsburgh. Done in the right way, Pitt Business can become a “go to” school for the kind of business leaders that our world needs — inspired to shape a better world through business by what they’ve been a part of during their time with us at Pitt Business.

In the near term, the most important goal is to get to know Pitt Business, Pitt, and Pittsburgh even better. I’ll be spending a lot of time connecting with students, faculty, staff, and alumni. These meetings and conversations will help me to learn about the aspirations and perspectives of community members, to test out and refine new ideas, and to convey my values and approach to everyone.

Other early priorities include identifying and appointing a new associate dean for our College of Business Administration, moving forward with faculty and staff hiring, and finding ways to maintain a sense of community on campus in this endemic phase of Covid-19.

Q: If you were not in academics, what type of career would you have pursued?

A: I started out as a math and computer science major. If I hadn’t graduated into a recession, I probably would’ve ended up in the tech sector writing code in some back room somewhere. Hard to imagine anything more satisfying than building and improving higher education institutions, though. The significance, breadth, and long-lasting nature of the impact you can have as an academic leader, and especially of a professional school, is unparalleled. I feel like I have the greatest job in the world.

Q: What are the keys to the school’s future success? How can alumni help?

A: The success of Pitt Business is closely tied to the success of Pitt and Pittsburgh. We’re all in this together. The city can be our classroom and laboratory for pursuing our community’s purpose of shaping a better world through business. Working together with alumni, businesses, and community partners, we can create transformational learning experiences for our students and high-impact research opportunities for faculty — and help advance business and innovation throughout the region in the process.

Our alumni will be our most important partners. By being the business school for Pittsburgh, we can develop the ideas and professionals the world needs today, and the leaders it needs for the future — and be the best in the world at what we do.

Q: How do you want to engage and interact with alumni?

A: I want to learn about our alumni’s perspective on Pitt Business, and their hopes and aspirations for its future. I want to better understand how we can support them, too. We have a series of alumni events on the calendar, so I’m looking forward to meeting alumni in person. We’re also looking forward to seeing those who come back to visit campus, especially during Homecoming, October 3 through 9, 2022.

In the meantime, I invite alumni to get in touch via email (genea@pitt.edu) or Twitter (@PittBizDean). Scan here to connect with me on LinkedIn.

Visit business.pitt.edu/magazine2022 for Dean Anderson’s thoughts on diversity and inclusion, effective leadership, and how Pittsburgh has changed since his childhood.
ne could say Abhishek Mehta is invested in investments. Since his graduation from the College of Business Administration (CBA) in 2005 as a finance major, his career journey has always focused on growth potential for the future. In 2014, he founded Blue Lotus Investments, where he is chief investment officer, to support entrepreneurs in a wide range of industries. Mehta is keenly aware that higher education is a financial commitment that some cannot bear on their own. It’s the reason why he became the first CBA graduate to create an undergraduate scholarship for the school.

“It was clear that our achievements, including mine, are the result of many helping hands. I wanted to be one pair of those hands for someone,” Mehta says.

**FOR THE LOVE OF PITT**

During their education, many undergraduates find their passion — and some also find the love of their life. Julie and Justin Webb met at Pitt in the early 2000s as CBA students and later married. Julie, who serves as vice president and director of risk services at MPB Financial Services Group, was invited to share her story with students at the Redefining Women’s Leadership Conference hosted by Pitt Business. She was so impressed by the student leaders in attendance that she and Justin decided to create a student resource fund through the “Gifts of Impact” campaign. The funding will be used to support students with professional development, such as conference fees, expenses associated with alumni and corporate site visits, stipends for unpaid internships and books, and online competency training, to name a few examples.

“Financial support from a scholarship enabled me to stay in Pittsburgh and experience a great internship the summer before my senior year,” she says. “The professionalism, intellect, and kindness of the students I met inspired me to give back.”

We are incredibly grateful to all the alumni, faculty, and friends who made an investment in CBA’s future. If you would like to join them in supporting Pitt Business students and the program, contact Amy Schroth at amyschroth@pitt.edu

**BENEFITS FOR YEARS TO COME**

Mehta was inspired to start this scholarship, named in honor of his parents Shashikala and Kishor S. Mehta, by the ‘25 Gifts of Impact’ campaign created by the Pitt Business Philanthropic and Alumni Relations team to commemorate CBA’s 25th anniversary. The gifts will benefit students, faculty, and alumni for years to come. Mehta’s scholarship fund, for example, will support students from diverse backgrounds who may otherwise be unable to enroll in CBA.

“Even if one alum is moved to help the journey of someone younger, that would be great,” he says.

The “Gifts of Impact” could be of any amount to any undergraduate-related designation by the donor, based on what was most meaningful to them. The 25 donors invested in a wide range of initiatives that include scholarships, faculty support, study abroad opportunities, and resources that provide students with professional development experiences. Through these opportunities, students gain hands-on, valuable transferable skills, including critical thinking, leadership, adaptability, and a global mindset.

**THANK YOU, 25 GIFTS OF IMPACT DONORS!**

Kirsten R. Albert, CBA ’01 and Shawn Albert
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Julie M. (Barefoot) Webb, CBA ’05 and Justin T. Webb, CBA ’05
Jessica T. Woodhouse, CBA ’02, MBA ’09
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*Denotes faculty
** Denotes retired faculty
We are proud to recognize the following for their professional achievements, leadership, and service to Pitt Business, the University, and the community at large:

**JOHN ALGIE (BSBA ’03, JD/MBA ’09)**
**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOREE**
Algie is a partner at Davis+Gilbert in New York City. He represents privately held companies in domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions and other transactions across many industries, including entertainment, professional sports, marketing, and technology, and was named a Best Lawyers in America “Ones to Watch” 2023 for Corporate Law. Algie is currently a Pitt Alumni Association director. He is also a director emeritus for the Pitt Business Alumni Association and emeritus member of the College of Business Administration’s Alumni Advisory Board.

**BEN L. FRYREAR (MBA ’64)**
**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD HONOREE**
Fryrear retired in 2000 as president and chairman of Aerospace Optics, Inc., which was later renamed Applied Avionics. After serving in the U.S. Army, Fryrear worked as a chemical process operator and supervisor in the Coors Porcelain Company’s Atomic Energy Division. He also worked at Alcoa Research Labs, Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, McCall Publishing, and Conit Engravers. Fryrear’s generous support of education at high school and college levels includes Pitt Business where a fund for faculty development, a research fellowship for doctoral students, and the Ben L. Fryrear Chair of Marketing are all established in his name.

**ROSALIE MYERS (MBA ’98)**
**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD HONOREE**
Myers is the vice president and finance manager at PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. She is also the past vice president, treasurer, and secretary of PNC’s Pittsburgh African American Employee Business Resource Group and co-caption of PNC’s Finance recruiting team for Pitt. Born and raised in the Caribbean, she now resides in Pittsburgh where she serves as the finance chair and board member of the Fund for Advancement of Minorities through Education, treasurer and board member of the Pitt Black MBA Network, and member of the Pitt Business Alumni Board. She also served in the U.S. Army Reserves and completed the ROTC program at Pitt.

**VENKAT RAMASWAMY (MBA ’91)**
**INTERNATIONAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD HONOREE**
Ramaswamy is vice chairman of Edelweiss Financial Services Limited and has three decades of experience in the financial markets. He has been one of the driving forces in transforming what was once India’s first new age boutique investment bank to a leading independent financial services company. Skilled in building and maintaining large institutional relationships, Ramaswamy has led the company’s Alternative Asset Management Business to become among the largest in India over the last five years.

**SYMONE J. REDWINE (BSBA ’04)**
**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OUTSTANDING ALUMNA AWARD HONOREE**
Redwine practices law as a partner of Esquire Litigation Group. She has worked as an attorney at numerous firms, such as McCarter & English, LLP; Waters & Kraus, LLP; and her own law firm, The Redwine Law Firm, that she started alongside her aunt in 2012. While her primary focus is personal injury and wrongful death law, she is also committed to social justice, launching in 2017 a cutting-edge expungement division of her firm, called “My Record is Clean,” to expunge and seal Texas criminal records. She also provides legal analysis on TMZ and BuzzFeed News along with witty legal commentary on her YouTube channel, “Girl, Is That Legal?”

**JOHN P. SURMA**
**H.J. ZOFFER MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD HONOREE**
Surma is the retired chairman and chief executive officer of United States Steel Corporation. He started at the company in 2002 as vice chairman and chief financial officer. He was previously a partner at Price Waterhouse LLP and held senior management positions at Marathon Oil Company, Speedway SuperAmerica LLC, and Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC. He was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President’s Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations and served as vice chairman. He has served as board chairman of the National Safety Council and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and is a board member of UPMC and the Allegheny County Parks Foundation.

**KPMG**
**CORPORATE APPRECIATION AWARD HONOREE**
KPMG firms operate in 145 countries and territories and, in FY21, collectively employed more than 236,000 people, serving the needs of business, governments, public-sector agencies, not-for-profits, and, through KPMG firms’ audit and assurance practices, the capital markets. KPMG is committed to quality and service excellence, bringing its best to clients and earning the public’s trust through its actions and behaviors both professionally and personally. In a world where rapid change and unprecedented disruption are the new normal, KPMG inspires confidence and empowers change throughout all of its work.
COMPETITOR, LEADER, AND COMMUNITY ASSET

Kenny Pickett (BSBA ’20) gives his all on and off the field

Record-setting Pitt quarterback Kenny Pickett, a 2020 College of Business Administration graduate, was chosen as the first quarterback in the 2022 NFL Draft with the selection by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Pickett, who has an undergraduate degree in marketing and was pursuing his master’s degree in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business before the draft, has been a leader on the football field and in the community. The quarterback led the Panthers to the 2021 Atlantic Coast Conference Football Championship, became Pitt’s first ACC Athlete of the Year winner, and was a finalist for the national Senior CLASS Award, which encourages student-athletes to use their platform to make a positive impact in communities.

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

Pickett’s approach reflects the Pitt Business mission: We prepare our students to take business beyond the classroom and be catalysts for change. He is joining with other students and alumni who find creative ways, large and small, to help others and improve society.

“In Kenny Pickett, the Steelers are not only getting a tremendous quarterback, but also one of the finest leaders and toughest competitors I’ve ever been around,” Pitt head coach Pat Narduzzi says. “Beyond the field, Kenny is already such a wonderful asset for the Pittsburgh community. He greatly values the importance of giving back as he showed with his NIL efforts. This is just a huge victory for the Steelers and Pitt.”

The NCAA’s new name, image, and likeness (NIL) policy has enabled student-athletes to pursue sponsorships and, for some, to give back in the community. Pitt’s Athletic Department introduced “Forged Here,” in collaboration with the Center for Branding at Katz and other partners, to equip student-athletes with the knowledge and resources necessary to maximize their brand and platform. Pickett’s NIL partnerships included collaboration with a trucking company and an apparel company to produce “Pickett’s Partners” t-shirts. All proceeds are given to another partner — the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania. Growing up in New Jersey, he spent many days at one of the nonprofit’s locations.

In Pittsburgh, he visited summer day campers and distributed t-shirts to the starstruck children.
TOP 10 POWERHOUSE

Record Rankings, New Major and Minor

The College of Business Administration is becoming a national powerhouse. For the first time ever, the school was ranked among the Top 10 public undergraduate programs by Poets&Quants and No. 1 for helping students achieve their dream career.

For the 2021–22 school year, there was a record-high 4.18 average GPA for incoming students. Of graduates, 96 percent were placed in their first choice of company or graduate school, earning on average $64,000 — a new high as well. Applications for the Fall 2022 class were nearly 80 percent higher than last year.

“This is an exciting time for our undergraduate programs with new records in applications, student qualifications, and student outcomes,” says Lawrence Feick, interim associate dean. “Our success is a direct result of the efforts of our entire community — our alumni, students, faculty, and staff. Thank you to everyone for their continuing efforts that have made us a premier undergraduate business program.”

NEW THIS FALL

The College of Business Administration continues to adapt to the changing world of business. The first major curriculum review since 2011 involved faculty, staff, students, alumni, and corporate partners. It resulted in significant changes for Fall 2022 that include:

- Three required foundation courses on data analytics
- Updates to the Managing in Complex Environments course
- Enhanced Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion content in multiple courses
- New business analytics major
- New business minor to make our programs and world-class faculty more accessible to students across the University.

FINDING THE DREAM CAREER

Recent graduate David Turnbo is a prime example of the transformative impact of the undergraduate program. Turnbo (BSBA ’22) came to Pitt to pursue physics and left with a finance degree. His first job is in New York City as an investment banking analyst for Bank of America.

He found his passion for business by joining Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity, and Panther Equity, a student-run investment fund. In those groups, Turnbo met students who shared his interests. He also held multiple internships, including one at Bank of America, that prepared him for his first job.

“My journey through college has shown me that it is okay not to get things right on the first try. What matters is that you put yourself in a position to learn more about your interests and goals,” he says. “Talking with different students is how I learned about career paths that suited me. Along the way, I’ve had a lot of guidance from these organizations, which grew my appreciation for mentorship.”

Alumni: Do you have time to help answer student questions? Join our Alumni-Connect Program to share your experiences. Contact Career Development Director Chris Meaner at cmmeaner@business.pitt.edu

DINNER FOR DIMES

Business for a Cause

The members of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) were able to use business as a force for social good through the “Dinner for Dimes” event after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

PBL is a student-led business organization that focuses on professional development and service. In 2011, the Pitt chapter of College of Business Administration students started this event to support the March of Dimes. The dinner brings together area professionals with Pitt students for networking and to raise money for the health of all moms and babies.

The March 2022 dinner planning “started from scratch” since the event was last held in 2019, says Kasey Verna, (BSBA '23) PBL’s vice president of service. The work was led by two members of the executive board and 11 committee members who each took on a different role.

“We had first-year students through seniors working together to cover tasks from finding a location for the event, determining catering, and staying in contact with professionals who were attending the event,” says Verna, who is majoring in human resources management.

The results from three months of teamwork and preparation paid off — in a big way. The dinner was held at Pitt’s Energy Innovation Center and well-attended by area professionals and students. Besides the networking, Pitt PBL raised more than $3,700 for March of Dimes, winning the Western and Central Pennsylvania March for Babies National Service Partner Challenge.

“I loved this event because it was an extremely unique and personal networking opportunity for professionals and students,” says Verna. “It isn’t often that you get to eat dinner with a recruiter to hear about their personal experiences at a company. We also got to hear from a March of Dimes sponsor family.”

More than 25 student-run organizations develop students’ hands-on leadership skills and get them directly involved in the community. Career Development Director Chris Meaner (cmmeaner@business.pitt.edu) has more information for alumni who want to get involved.

Committee Members

Back row (left to right): Garin Martik, Ryan Tinkelman, Jarrett Johnson, Dylar Kohl, Maggie Yu, Brooke Eyler, Bailey Kush

Front row (left to right): Erick Shufeldt, Isabelle Layding, Kasey Verna, Ellie Wright, Allie Zahorchak, Cate de Hoogh

Poets&Quants 2022 Rankings

- #10 overall
- #1 for Leading to a Dream Career
- #3 for Networking
- #5 for Quality of Teaching
WHY AACSB MATTERS

Pitt Business faculty and staff are working diligently to earn reaccreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. This process, which occurs every five years, will include a detailed report about the school and culminate with an in-person visit in April 2023 by a peer review team from other business schools.

The AACSB describes it as a “rigorous external review of a school’s mission, faculty qualifications, curricula, and ability to provide the highest-quality programs.” Accreditation is voluntary, and only five percent of business schools have earned this distinction.

INTERNATIONAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

The accreditation represents the international seal of approval for business programs that ensures the educational needs of students are met through high-quality, continuous improvement and excellence in education. According to the AACSB, many of the top global corporations will recruit only from business schools that hold its accreditation.

The AACSB’s current review standards are focused on three areas: Strategic Management and Innovation; Learner Success; and Thought Leadership, Engagement, and Societal Impact.

Results of the Pitt Business reaccreditation are expected in Fall 2023 and will be reported on the school website and social media accounts.