



The Department of Business and Economics Bulletin

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From the Department Chair



Dear business and economics alumni and friends,

Great things are happening in the Business & Economics Department, and we're excited to share them with you. The best part of our department has always been its people, and that includes you. Whether you're one of our alumni, a current student, a family member, or a friend of the department, thank you for staying connected with us.

This year marks an exciting milestone as we welcome three new majors, Business Administration, Marketing, and Sports Management, to join our programs in Economics and Finance.

As we've grown, one thing has become even more clear: our alumni are an important part of our story. Your conversations, advice, and encouragement have helped us create programs that prepare students for meaningful careers and successful futures. We've appreciated every opportunity to hear your ideas, and we know there are many more conversations to come.

Thank you for continuing to support our students and our department. Whether you mentor a student, speak in a class, host an intern, attend an event, or simply stay in touch, you make a real difference. We can't wait to continue growing together.

Jennifer VanGilder - Professor and Chair, Department of Business and Economics

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Congratulations to our graduates!

Congratulations to the 153rd graduating class of Ursinus College — we wish the following business and economics department students continued success in all of their future endeavors!

Michael Adams, Marko Balic, Sean Barrera, Skyler Bogdan, Christopher Bryant, Abby Burkholder, James Cage, Matthew Callahan, Anthony Cerulli, Katherine Ciuffreda, Patrick Collins, Adreanna Cunningham, Francesco D'Avella, Colin Deal, Tyler Dinan, Melinda Eglinton, CGraham Eilberg, Jonathan Eisenhooth, Michael Farley, Veronica Filippone, Mitchell Garber, Reed Grant, Tyler Griffith, Jack Halloran, Keelie Hancock, Wyatt Hart, Gabriel Heaney, Isabella Hill, Lars Homan, Zoe Horan, Cole Jackson, Malachi Kea, Andrew Kmett, Jason Lacianca, Donald Lattanze, Deane Leader, Jaycie Miller, Jacob Millett, Nicholas Nocito, Steven Olexy, Reda Oueldaissa, Kyle Paccio, David Piotrowski, Emma Quinter, Connor Rancher, Kyle Rosenfeld, Luke Shissler, Mia Sideris, Jonathon Small, Julia Smith, Adam Sovari, Sean Spinosa, Ethan Staurowsky, Harrison Sweitzer, Jesse Teller, Mohamed Toure, Tyler Vesco, Meghan Vizian, Noah Parchinski, Max Shilstone



Compton/Rose Prize

The Compton/Rose Fund was established by Barbara Rose Compton, 1969, and Robert L. Compton, Jr., 1968, in memory of their late parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Compton, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur B. Rose. This award is given each year to two outstanding graduating seniors, one male and one female. The winners for 2026 are **Kyle Rosenfeld** and **Mia Sideris**.

This year's Compton Rose recipients represent the very best of the Business & Economics community through their dedication, accomplishments, and the positive impact they have made on those around them.



Mia Sideris has made her mark through her combination of academic excellence, leadership, and genuine kindness. An Economics major with minors in Computer Science and Data Analytics, Mia has excelled both inside and outside the classroom. She has served as an econometrics teaching assistant, a sought-after tutor and academic coach, a Summer Fellow, and a member of the Whittian Honors Society. Beyond her academic achievements, Mia has also been a medal-winning member of the Track and Field team and an honor student. Known for her radiant positivity and willingness to support others, Mia will begin her professional journey as a Data and Innovation Intern with American Heritage Credit Union.



Kyle Rosenfeld has distinguished himself through his dedication, leadership, and commitment to those around him. A Finance major with minors in Accounting and Management Studies, Kyle is an honors student and serves as one of the Chief Curriculum Officers for Endowment within UCIMCO, where he has gained valuable experience in investment analysis and financial decision-making. Described by his professors and peers as kind, supportive, motivated, intelligent, and a

pleasure to have in class, Kyle has also demonstrated his leadership and teamwork as the starting second baseman on the 2026 second-place Centennial Conference Baseball team. Following graduation, Kyle will begin his professional career as a full-time Sales Analyst with BlackRock in the San Francisco office.

Mia and Kyle embody the qualities celebrated by the Compton Rose Award: academic achievement, leadership, character, and a commitment to making a difference in their communities.

CoSA and APEX Day

In a special tradition each April, classes are rescheduled to make way for the Celebration of Student Achievement (CoSA), a day filled with hundreds of student-led talks, poster presentations, and performances from across all academic fields. This year also marked the inauguration of APEX Day, an additional occasion to showcase students' accomplishments through experiential learning projects.

This year's [CoSA](#), on April 23rd, and [APEX Day](#), on May 7th, were resounding successes. Both events provided a valuable stage for student presenters to share their work and experiences with friends, faculty, and staff, while also allowing attendees to discover the wide array of impressive projects their peers are undertaking and the opportunities that foster such achievements. Business and Economics students were prominently featured, showcasing everything from internship takeaways to in-depth research, truly embodying the spirit of the Ursinus community in celebrating diverse student accomplishments.



Internship Spotlight

Julia Vogel

This summer, Julia Vogel interned with **The Murray Legacy Group** at **Morgan Stanley**, where she gained hands-on experience in wealth management. Julia primarily worked with the team's Corporate Executive vertical, helping organize client accounts, prepare materials for share distributions, and assist with equity compensation and stock plans. She also contributed to sales and business development projects, organization initiatives, client service tasks, and marketing efforts that supported the team's day-to-day operations.



Julia shares, "one of the most valuable parts of the internship was sitting in on client meetings and getting to observe how financial advisors build relationships, communicate complex financial concepts, and create personalized financial strategies." Through this experience, Julia was also exposed to the collaborative nature of wealth management and the importance of providing exceptional service to clients.

Two colleagues in particular stood out as especially influential: Sammie Staudt and David Drea (an Ursinus alumnus). Sammie, the team's Business Development Associate, introduced Julia to the business development side of wealth management and showed her how much effort goes into strengthening client relationships. Julia recalls: "Watching her balance client service with business development gave me a broader understanding of what it takes to build lasting relationships in the industry." She adds: "It was also inspiring to work alongside Ursinus College alumnus David Drea. Seeing someone who graduated from Ursinus and has built a successful career as a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley was motivating and gave me a great example of the opportunities that can come from a strong work ethic." Julia also valued David's willingness to answer her questions and explain concepts, helping her better understand the work, noting that his guidance and willingness to share his knowledge made a lasting impact on her experience.

Reflecting on her time at The Murray Legacy Group, Julia shares: “This internship confirmed my interest in pursuing a career in wealth management. It strengthened both my technical knowledge and professional skills while giving me confidence in working with clients and collaborating in a professional environment.” Further, by gaining a better understanding of financial planning, executive compensation strategies, and the importance of building long-term client relationships, “This summer not only reinforced my passion for the industry but also gave me a valuable experience that I will carry into my future career.”

Stephen Mullen

Throughout the summer, Stephen Mullen interned with the asset management team at **Great Valley Advising Group**, gaining hands-on experience across a range of investment projects. His work included performing equity research for two new stock models and revising three existing ones, as well as conducting international ETF, mutual fund, and fixed income research.



Stephen also delivered several presentations, covering topics such as a SWOT analysis of GVA, sales improvement techniques, and proposed model changes; and contributed to a major compliance project, offering him a broader view of RIA functions. Overall, he had expanded his toolkit to include valuation methods, key financial ratios, and portfolio construction concepts, while also sharpening his skills in qualitative reasoning, communication, and public speaking.

The internship proved equally valuable for the relationships it fostered. Mentor Eric Parnell offered extensive guidance on equity research and asset management; Stephen reflects warmly on the experience: “It was an excellent opportunity to be so close to his abundance of financial knowledge, as well as his leadership of a team.” Colleagues Evan Coffey and Kate Templeton also left a strong impression, offering daily feedback and walking Stephen through their decision-making processes. “They gave me critical feedback on tasks and were able to walk me through how they made decisions daily.”

Among the highlights of the internship, Stephen points to the chance to sit in on meetings with fund providers: “The coolest part about the experience was to sit in on meetings with fund providers and hear about their market updates and economic evaluations. As they are experts in the industry, it was very informat[ive] to hear from their perspective about how all types of assets fit into different market conditions dependent upon the economy.” Ultimately, the experience has set Stephen’s sights firmly on a career in asset management. “This internship drove me to pursue a career in asset management,” he says. “I enjoyed the work and can see myself proceeding down the career path.”

Stephen’s advice to fellow students is straightforward: “Never be afraid to have a conversation with an alumnus in their desired industry, or anyone in their desired industry in general. There are always things to take away from having an insightful conversation, and these can provide lots of guidance.”

Summer Study Abroad: Economics in Transition

Three decades after the Fall of the Berlin Wall, students in the **Economics in Transition** course travel to Europe to investigate the lessons learned from humanity’s recent experience with communism and its aftermath.



This summer a group of students, led by Dr. Jennifer VanGilder and Professor Amanda Cooper, traveled to Europe to investigate formerly socialist countries undergoing political, economic, and cultural transformations.

The class traveled to Berlin and Prague to spend an intensive three weeks understanding the inefficiencies of a state-directed economy and the challenges and opportunities in devising new institutions and policies to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial economy. This faculty-led study abroad course combines the learning objectives of an economics course on 'Economies in Transition' with an Experiential Learning component achieved through traveling, exploring, and interacting with local individuals, communities, businesses, and organizations.



Special Program Updates

New Majors

Starting with the class of 2026, we are excited to offer three new majors in the department. In addition to our robust Economics and Finance majors, we have expanded our program to include a major in **Marketing** (formerly a major concentration), and two new offerings: **Business Administration** and **Sports Management**.

These majors will prepare students to pursue a wide variety of career and academic pathways, equipping them with the skills and experiences they need to stand out in a competitive job market.

Bloomberg Lab Grand Opening

Wall Street is now on Main Street and we couldn't be more excited. Following our Grand Opening in January, the Bloomberg Lab at Ursinus is officially up and running on the lower level of Myrin Library, featuring 12 state-of-the-art terminals where students analyze real-time financial data. Through hands-on e-learning courses covering financial markets, career paths, and sustainable investing, students across all majors are already diving in, earning Bloomberg certifications in Finance Fundamentals, Market Concepts, Spreadsheet Analysis, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG).



UCIMCO

The Ursinus College Investment Management Company ([UCIMCO](#)) continues to provide students with an exciting, hands-on opportunity to experience the world of finance while managing a portfolio that has grown to more than \$220,000 on behalf of the College. Open to students from all majors, UCIMCO allows participants to explore financial markets, analyze companies and industries, develop investment strategies, and build the communication skills needed to confidently share their ideas.

Beyond the numbers, UCIMCO is about student growth and experience. Through collaboration, mentorship, and real-world decision-making, students gain valuable skills that prepare them for careers in finance and many other fields. At the end of the spring semester, UCIMCO students shared their research and investment recommendations with alumni, supporters, and members of the campus community during the annual investment presentations. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the students' hard work, recognize graduating seniors, and highlight the continued success of this unique student-led organization.



We are grateful to our alumni and friends who continue to support UCIMCO and help make experiences like this possible. Our Business & Economics alumni are an important part of helping students learn beyond the classroom, and we would love to find more ways to connect your expertise with our students. We are looking for alumni who are interested in serving as guest speakers, hosting company visits or field trips, participating in our Business & Economics Networking Event on October 22, or creating short, five-minute curriculum videos that introduce students to foundational finance concepts.



If you are excited to share your experiences and help students build their knowledge and confidence, we would love to hear from you. Whether you can contribute in one way or several, your involvement can make a meaningful difference. Please email jvangilder@ursinus.edu to learn more or get involved.

Economic Ambassadors

Economic Ambassadors are a group of student ambassadors who are passionate about economic ideas and are selected to work alongside faculty advisors to help organize and promote community-wide events. Their goal is to foster an interdisciplinary conversation that incorporates diverse perspectives. Events and participation are open to anyone across the College who is interested in political economy.



This semester, the group was pleased to offer a timely discussion on [U.S. Foreign Policy in Venezuela](#), featuring guest speakers Ángel Alverado and Ursinus College's Hugo Montesinos-Yufa.

Business & Economics alumni, we'd love to hear from you!
Send us your latest updates to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

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