A Message from the Chair

We have had such a great year that I feel privileged to write this message because of the great things I have to say about the Department of Business Administration. The highly qualified, diversified, talented and energetic faculty stand out. We offer the following undergraduate programs: Accounting, Business, Business Information Systems (BIS); the following Minors: Accounting, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, Healthcare Informatics, Insurance, Social Informatics; the following Concentrations: Labor Relations and Human Resource Management. In addition, we offer two post graduate programs: The Master's program in Accounting and the Master's Program in Organizational Management.

The pride of our Department is our students. They are hardworking, attentive, industrious and painstaking. The Liberal Arts curriculum that is embedded in each program, in addition to each program initiative, helps to develop our students’ critical thinking ability and ability to pay attention to details and ignites their creative activity and great interpersonal skills.

This academic year, our faculty and students participated in diversified scholarly activities in different states of the U.S. and different countries of the world: Italy, Austria, Philadelphia, New York, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New Jersey, Virginia, Illinois, Florida, Texas, Utah and achieved several publications in peer reviewed outlets. Some students engaged in exchange programs in some Universities overseas Spain, England, Ireland, Italy, France, Greece, Australia, Thailand, South Korea and Costa Rica. The Internship opportunity in each program helps to connect our students to the real world to practice what they have learnt so far and experience a real-world environment before graduation. Employees’ feedbacks on these internships are great.

This year has been particularly exciting. In addition to normal classes and students' clubs' activities, we hosted the following events: A panel discussion on 'A Decade Later since the US Financial Crisis and Economic Recession', the Annual Accounting Banquet, the Business Student and Alumni Networking event, our Annual Finance Reception and the BIS banquet and our two Honor Society receptions- Delta Mu Delta and Alpha Mu Alpha and students inducted into a third, Upsilon Pi Epsilon.

Dr. Fatma Pakdil is the recipient of the prestigious 2018/19 Connecticut State University System (CSU) Research Award. Fatma Congratulations!

You will view some photos of these events in the next pages of this Newsletter.

This academic year, we are graduating 203 students with the Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting, Business, Business Information Systems and Finance programs, with additional students graduating in our department minors. We are so proud of you. Thank you so much for working with us, undergoing all the rigor of attending classes, doing and submitting assignments, taking all the tests and exams, doing the individual and group presentations, engaging in service learning projects and fulfilling all the requirements of your program. There is no doubt in our minds that you will make us proud in the real world. Congratulations!

On December 31, 2019, Jean Stencel, who served as Secretary to our Department for 42 years, retired. We thank her for her great service and wish her a happy retirement.
Our new Secretary is Gwyneth Carrell. She joined us from University of Connecticut where she served in the Event Services Department for the past eight and half years. Even though she has been here barely two months, she hit the ground running to help improve our efficiency and operation procedures in the office. We are indeed lucky to have her.

Dr. Ronald Lowy, Professor in Management, will retire in June 2019, after decades of excellent service to the Department and the University. We thank Dr. Lowy for his service and wish him a happy retirement. We and the students will truly miss you.

To all the administrative staff, I say, “Thank you” Karen Crowley, you did a great job organizing the student workers and getting the job done during the period the Department did not have a full-time Secretary. To all our student workers: Peter Ereshena, Buddy Kaiyala, Sophia Tsikitas, Leanny Hernandez, Kate Pietrazek, Elizabeth Forsythe, Kristin Lynch and Tarah Bernard; Dr. Clifford, thank you for allowing your student workers to help in this regard. Thank you all. To all faculty, it has been my pleasure and a privilege to be your Chair for this academic year. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and for your enthusiastic support for the initiatives Dr. Suki Grandhi, the Assistant Chair, and I introduced this academic year. We would not have achieved all these without the support of all the program Coordinators, all Chairs of Departmental committees, and all faculty. Dr. Stefania Farace, thank you for overseeing the production of this Newsletter.

Great job!

Have a great summer. Spend time with family and friends and come back refreshed for the 2019/20 academic year.

Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor  
Professor of Finance and Banking & Chair  
Department of Business Administration  
Eastern Connecticut State University

We offer the following undergraduate programs:  
Accounting, Business, Business Information Systems (BIS);  
the following Minors: Accounting, Business Administration,  
Business Information Systems, Healthcare Informatics,  
Insurance, Social Informatics; the following Concentrations:  
Labor Relations and Human Resource Management.
The Accounting Program

The Accounting program at Eastern is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to excel in their future careers. Through classroom experience as well as the accounting clubs at Eastern (Eastern Accounting Society and Institute of Managerial Accountants Student Chapter), the program integrates essential concepts such as writing, public speaking, accounting technology, and critical thinking to prepare students to effectively handle imposed pressures in the professional business environment. Not to mention, Eastern accounting students have won national and statewide, highly competitive awards and scholarships. The Accounting faculty at Eastern work diligently and closely with students to promote a commitment to ethical and academic value. The faculty have also developed and maintained relationships with accounting and CPA professionals in a variety of industries, providing students endless opportunities for internships or full-time careers. By emphasizing the relevance of experiential learning, accounting students are able to demonstrate high leadership qualities, making Eastern students the favorite of accounting firms' recruiters year after year. Eastern accounting students have interned with some of the best national and regional public accounting firms, along with government agencies and private industry corporations. Our students believe that value of an Accounting degree from Eastern is immeasurable as it sets up every student for success after graduation. For more information on the undergraduate and graduate Accounting programs, please visit http://www.easternct.edu/business/accounting-major/

by Elizabeth Forsythe

The Business Program

The Business Administration Program at Eastern Connecticut State University is designed to be interesting, challenging and rewarding. The courses available prepare students for managerial roles in businesses and nonprofit organizations. Students develop an understanding of how businesses operate, what their thorniest challenges are, and how to solve complex problems. Business students gain project management and consulting experience through community engagement projects for local businesses and non-profit organizations, designing custom business solutions while developing their professional skills. Since Eastern is Connecticut's public liberal arts university, each area of study is grounded in the liberal arts but provides extensive exposure to business concepts and applications. Students develop a broad set of business skills and learn to be creative thinkers and strong communicators. Business majors must maintain a 2.7 GPA. This helps ensure that students studying business are well prepared to launch business careers, start a business or attend graduate school.

Students have a wide variety of options to become involved in academic and non-academic student activities. Eastern’s collegiate chapters of the American Marketing Association and the Society for Human Resource Management provide valuable pre-professional experience and opportunities to compete at the state and national levels. Also popular with business students are the Women in Business Club and the Entrepreneurship Club. Eligible students may join the following honor societies: Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society in Business and Alpha Mu Alpha, the national honor society sponsored by the American Marketing Association.

Graduates of Eastern's Business Administration program have found employment at The Hartford, Pratt and Whitney, Yale University, Guilford Specialty Group, Phoenix, the Hartford Courant, CIGNA, Travelers, the Mohegan Sun, and IBM, among others. Our graduates have been accepted at such graduate schools as the University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Massachusetts, Quinnipiac University and Florida State University. Graduates also have the opportunity to advance their education by adding a minor to their program of study or continuing their education at Eastern with a Master's Degree in Accounting or in Organizational Management. For further details visit: http://www.easternct.edu/business/business-admin-major/

by Sophia Tsikitas
The Business Information System Program

On Monday April 8, 2019 I had the opportunity to interview Dr. Alex Citurs who is a professor and coordinator of the Business Information Systems (BIS) Program. In the interview I was able to gather information about what the content, goals, and post graduate opportunities are of the BIS program. Dr. Citurs is not only the coordinator for the BIS program but also has extensive experience in the information systems/technologies and insurance industries, which gives him the ability to know what employers are looking for and thus fully help students studying BIS.

The BIS program is designed in a way to give students the best means necessary to succeed with both business and information technology skills, whether that be the job market and/or graduate school with many BIS employers paying for graduate school of their BIS hires. When asked about the strengths of the BIS Program, Dr. Citurs responded saying, “The strengths of the BIS program are founded on small class sizes, real-world relevant courses, off-campus IS/IT projects, with industry experienced faculty, with a flexible array of courses to match the needs of students entering a variety of fast-growing, high-paying biz-tech career areas.”

A major goal of the BIS Program is to provide students with a competitive edge in the job market, and Dr. Citurs and the rest of the BIS faculty are here to help!

Dr. Citurs mentions the large number of great high paying job openings in the information systems job market in Connecticut and across the country with regards to students saying, “The BIS major or minor combines well with other majors and minors, thus giving BIS students a competitive edge in the job market. Our BIS Program draws upon a strong active group of BIS alumni and employers that routinely volunteer as guest speakers, student mentors, and actively recruit current students for internships and career positions.” Dr. Citurs encourages students who are in the BIS program to stay engaged with classes, get involved with the BIS-Association of Information Technology Professionals Student Chapter, and look for opportunities to connect with alumni and faculty.

Already for this upcoming summer, BIS students have landed paid internships at companies such as Aetna, Cigna, General Dynamics, Pfizer, Travelers, UTC, Voya and two fast growing Internet of Things (IoT) companies for example in the career path areas of business/systems analysis, business intelligence and analytics, agile project management, software development as well as technology innovation. As you can tell the BIS program has much to offer with regards to preparing students for success in the real world. The BIS Major requires an internship of all BIS majors, which is coordinated by the BIS Program Coordinator, Dr. Alex Citurs. For more information on the BIS undergraduate program, please visit http://www.easternct.edu/business/business-information-major/ by Buddy Kaiyala
**The Finance Program**

The overall objective of the finance program is for our students to obtain a good knowledge of investments, banking, the stock market and real estate market, accounting, and finance, along with the understanding of the business, legal, and economic environment in which financial decisions are made. Students should prepare to study courses such as Investment Analysis, Real Estate Finance, Bank Management and Financial Management. Along with these and others, students would also take electives for the program such as Money and Banking, Financial Institutions and Markets, Personal Finance Planning, International Financial Management, Wealth Management, Financial Derivatives and insurance.

It is a mandatory requirement in the finance program that our students take part in internships, during their senior year. This helps them to practice what they have learned so far. Some of these internship opportunities are in all the companies in the financial services sector, such as financial institutions, brokerage firms, insurance companies, financial advising firms, stock exchanges. Other opportunities are in the financial management offices of non-financial firms, government establishments and NGOs, include: Webster Bank, Aetna, Merrill Lynch, People's United Bank, Merit Insurance, United Health Group, and many more. The program will play a big role into the internships that they choose to take part in due to the simple fact that they will be able to practice what they were taught about in class.

To prepare to be a successful undergraduate student you must take that first step by enrolling in the right classes as soon as you can because with our appreciated intimate nature of our small classes, they tend to fill up quickly. Along with that, students should come prepared into the course with a readiness to work hard and better themselves into the best finance students they can be.

Dr. Chukwuogor, Chair of the Department and finance program coordinator, strongly encourages anyone that has an interest in pursuing a career in finance to come to Eastern and take part in this program. Dr. Chukwuogor says: “We have highly qualified faculty with diverse experiences that range across different cultures and continents around the world. From the internships we have had students actually get hired full-time and/or have great references from them because of the great work and knowledge that they have displayed during enabled their internships. Our Alumni can most definitely tell new and current students how much they have benefited from the course along with their internships, at some of the many events we do where all of our students (past and present) can come and discuss the program and trade off questions they may have for one another. It is always great to speak with the Alumni and hear about their current work in the financial service sectors such as being employed at Pepsi Co, Merit Insurance, MassMutual, People's United Bank, and beyond. From the interactions with the Alumni, some undergraduate students even decide to go to graduate school because they were inspired by what they heard from those that they spoke with.” Dr. Chukwuogor concludes: “It would be an opportunity missed if prospective students interested in pursuing a career in Finance, didn't participate in this undergrad program. For further details about the program, please visit: http://www.easternct.edu/business/finance-major/ by Leanny Hernandez

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**Internship Program**

As the Business Department continues to grow, more students are seeking to develop their business skills outside of the classroom in a practical setting. This academic year we saw a record number of students register for the BUS/FIN 490 internship course with Prof. Linwood East. Our continued success with this program depends upon our faculty’s continued efforts to provide our students with a strong theoretical foundation in business and liberal arts teaching, which can then be used in a hands-on setting. As this semester comes to an end it is rewarding to know that the work I am engaged in will help students make connections for internships which will indeed further their career choices. I am excited to work each year with these bright and enthusiastic students and look forward to hearing from successful alumni due to the opportunities this program has provided them. See you in the Fall!

by Karen Crowley

![Image](finance-professor-and-students.jpg)

**Finance Professor Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor explaining in her Bank Management class banks’ investment portfolios and active investment strategies**

![Image](karen-crowley.jpg)

Karen Crowley, UA/Internship Coordinator crowleyk@easternct.edu
**GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

**The Master of Science in Accounting**

Eastern Connecticut State University is proud to announce its master’s in accounting program. The program may be completed in one year. We are very excited to announce that it will be online this coming Fall 2019. Whether you are looking for a career change or career advancement, Eastern’s MS in Accounting program is the place for you. The MS in Accounting applicants must complete the online Graduate Admission Application. **Here is the web link to the application:** https://easternct.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FApply

The contrast between the Eastern’s MS in Accounting program and other competing programs is revealing. For example, within the context of the University’s mission as the state liberal art university, Eastern’s MS in Accounting provides a flexible curriculum to accommodate students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. While other programs provide quality programs, the Eastern’s MS in Accounting program is known for its curricular innovation, and the faculty is committed to providing outstanding instruction and advising. Our unique program provides a combination of 30 required credit hours in accounting (i.e., accounting for not-profit organizations and Governmental units; Advanced/corporate taxation; international accounting; Assurance Services; Accounting info systems and financial reporting; and current topical issues in accounting), financial management, managerial economics, and organizational behavior. Master of Science Degree in Accounting’s students will receive thorough, rigorous, and specialized education in accounting. Students will be challenged to develop strategies to overcome challenges, to showcase leadership skills, and to communicate ideas in a scholarly style. In fact, Eastern’s MS in Accounting can be done in sort of piece-meal if you want to-- the units are pretty much self-contained and don’t really depend too much on other units in the program. Accordingly, new courses begin nearly every term; so potential students can enroll and get started right away. **by Prof. Mohd Rojoub**

**The Masters of Science Degree in Organizational Management**

The Masters of Science degree in Organizational Management (MSOM) is a degree for supervisors and mid-level managers. Professional work experience is a pre-/co-requisite for the program. Sharing and reflecting on that work experience with classmates is integral to the educational experience. Therefore, the program is designed for working adults, offering classes mainly in the evenings and sequenced for the student who takes one or two courses per semester.

The MSOM program focuses on individual behavior, group dynamics, organizational processes and structure, and the interactions of all of these within an organization. Its small-classroom environment develops the student’s capacity for transformative leadership. Students acquire leadership and partnership skills through the program’s reflective practice that places them outside their “comfort zone.” The MSOM program is designed especially for those in supervisory and management positions, enabling them to deal better with the dynamics of complex organizations. Faculty in the Organizational Management program have strong academic and professional credentials. They are drawn from Eastern’s Business Administration, Psychology, and Communication Departments. Classes in the MSOM program are small and interactive. Many involve group projects; all assume regular attendance and participation. While there are no online courses in the program, faculty take full advantage of Blackboard; Eastern’s online course delivery interface, to provide assignments, discussion boards, links to resources, and other course materials. In general classes are offered once a week on weeknights to allow for in-depth class discussion, to accommodate working adults’ work schedules, and to minimize commuting time for students.

Most classes are offered on our Willimantic campus, but when demand dictates, we offer classes at other locations. Students of any academic discipline are encouraged to apply to the program. An undergraduate business degree is not a prerequisite -- in fact most of our students do not have business degrees. Because the program is geared toward those with several years work experience who are currently in a supervisor or manager role, we do not encourage students to join our program immediately after completing their undergraduate degree. **For further details, please visit:** http://www.easternct.edu/business/organizational-management-master/ **by Dr. Wayne Buck**
Panel discussion on “A Decade Later since the US Financial Crisis and Economic Recession”

On February 5th, 2019, the Business Administration Department organized a panel discussion on “A Decade Later since the US Financial Crisis and Economic Recession” in the Johnson Room of the Smith Library. The panel event’s guest speaker was Dr. Jeffrey Fuhrer, Executive Vice President & Senior Policy Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the panel discussants included Eastern faculty members Dr. Brendan Cunningham (Economics), Dr. Candice Deal (Accounting), Professor Randall Peteros (Finance) with the event being moderated by Business Administration Department chair and Finance Program Coordinator Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor.

The event began with Guest Speaker Dr. Jeffrey Fuhrer giving a presentation on the factors that lead to the US Financial Crisis as well as the policies implemented by the Federal Reserve to mitigate its effects and try to improve and shorten the recovery. Dr. Fuhrer also dispelled some common misconceptions pertaining to the Financial Crisis.

After Dr. Fuhrer’s presentation, panelists assembled giving their perspectives on the different aspects of the Financial Crisis. They subsequently tackled questions asked by both Dr. Chukwuogor and students in the audience. Dr. Deal spoke on the ripple effect of the Financial crisis on developing countries, likening the ripple effect to her home country, The Bahamas. Dr. Cunningham brought out the issues with imperfect information between different parties and stakeholders within and between financial institutions and organizations. Professor Peteros talked on the business practices and implications leading up to the crisis and those leading up to the recovery period. The potential of another crisis and the long-term consequences of one was a topic especially of interest and was extensively discussed by the panelist.

After the formal panel discussion, everyone in attendance was able to partake in complementary pizza and soda. This also allowed time for students to meet face to face with panelist or with other students and faculty to further discuss the ramifications of the crisis and potential scenarios and of future economic crises.

By Peter Ereshena
25th Annual Accounting Banquet

The 25th Annual Accounting Banquet occurred on Thursday, April 25th in the Student Center’s Betty R. Tipton Room. The event hosted more than 200 Eastern administrators, accounting students, accounting alumni, accounting community leaders, emeriti professors and current faculty for an evening of reflection and recognition of Eastern Accounting Program’s success.

The banquet began with welcoming remarks from our President Elsa Núñez and Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Salka. “It is the personal and professional connections made or celebrated in this room tonight that make this an amazing group … Through Dr. Rujoub’s leadership and the inspiration of our founders, this accounting community is truly a family.” Said President Elsa Núñez. Speaking on the high quality of liberal arts education at Eastern Connecticut State University, she added “here at Eastern we don’t produce ‘accountants’; we produce liberally educated people who happen to be accountants. Beyond your talents and skills, the foundation of your career is your character.”

Guest speaker and accounting alumni Jason “Jay” Handel, CPA ’04, Vice president of Finance with Jacobs Vehicles Systems Corporation, spoke on the topic of “Transitioning from Public Accounting to Private Accounting.” “The event overall far exceeded my expectations! It was wonderful to see how far the program has come, and how great the campus looks,” said Jay. The reaction to Jay’s presentation was overwhelming. He not only entertained us but impressed us with all his knowledge and experience in this area. We were indeed fortunate to have had Jay as our guest speaker.

Following dinner, scholarships were awarded to exceptional accounting students. Velicidy DeAndrade of Preston, CT was awarded the Blum-Shapiro scholarship; Blake Kozloski of Stratford, CT was awarded the O’Connor Davies scholarship; McKenzie Seymour of Orange, CT was awarded the Fiordella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP (FML) scholarship; Maricruz Landeros Hernandez of Lenoir, NC, and Ashi Patel of Mystic, CT were awarded the Founders of Accounting scholarship; and the following six students were awarded the Rujoub Family scholarship: Katrina Wheeler of North Granby, CT, Suzie Kim of Hartford, CT, Elizabeth Forsythe of Killingworth, CT, Oliver Thomas of New Haven, CT, Allyonna Soler of Plainfield, CT, and Jason Kilguss of Tolland, CT.

Throughout the evening, alumni and present students praised the department’s faculty—not only for their expertise, but also their character. “All of my professors have been very helpful. They supplement bookwork with real-life examples,” said a senior majoring in accounting, “and they stress the need to have integrity and be ethical.”

The accounting banquet was a great success this year! Thanks to everyone who attended and supported us in any way! Our 26th Accounting Banquets will be on Thursday, April 23, 2020. I hope to see you then. by Mohd Rujoub

BIS Program First Banquet – Friday, May 10, 2019 – 6:00 to 9:00 PM – Johnson Room Library

The First BIS Program Banquet was held on Friday, May 10, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Smith Library - Johnson Room. Current Eastern students majoring in BIS or pursuing BIS related minors along with BIS Program associated alumni and faculty were invited to this event. The Eastern BIS Program Alumni that were at the banquet are currently employed at over 35+ different biz-tech companies throughout Connecticut and beyond in a variety of business-related information systems and technology roles.

The event started with greetings from the ECSU Administration and welcome message from Dr. Chiaku Chukwougor, Chair Department of Business Administration, which was followed by the banquet dinner being served to a capacity crowd, with the majority being BIS Program Alumni. The dinner was followed by a special recognition of Emeritus Professor John St. Onge, Founder of the BIS Program and a short presentation on Tech Trends & Talents by Prof. Erick Hussey and Dr. Alex Citurs, highlighting the great career opportunities open to BIS students in the biz-tech career sector as evident by the career positions and accomplishments of the alumni at the banquet. The evenings program concluded with awards and recognition given to current students by Dr. Citurs, current BIS Program Coordinator, and Peter Ereshena, current President of the BIS - Association of Information Technology Professionals Student Chapter.

The BIS Program looks forward to hosting additional returning BIS Alumni, current students and BIS Program friends at next year’s BIS Program Banquet when it will be held in the larger Betty Tipton Room of the Student Center on Friday, April 17, 2020. The BIS Program faculty are proud of the successes of the program’s alumni and current students. by Alex Citurs
Business Student Alumni Network Event

On March 20th about 100 people gathered in the Betty Tipton Room at BSANE, the Business Program’s first annual student-alumni networking event. The event was developed jointly by the Business Program and Alumni Affairs. In addition to students and alumni, it was also attended by Eastern faculty and staff. Current students enjoyed connecting with alumni, winning door prizes and trying delicious hors d’oeuvres. The biggest treat for alumni was catching up with old friends and professors and making new friends.

The highlight of the event was when alumni, stationed at tables scattered around the room, were joined by students and faculty in discussions about career paths, lessons learned, and the challenges that organizations currently face. As the discussions wrapped up, the student-alumni-faculty groups at each table were asked to share advice or suggestions with the entire room. Although at some tables, it was the alumni who shared gems of wisdom, at other tables current students acted as spokespeople for their group.

Several alumni remarked that they were surprised at the numerous ways in which the campus had improved since they graduated, with new structures sprouting up, older buildings remodeled, and landscaping making the campus more attractive and student-friendly. Some alumni made it clear that they would love to be invited to next year’s student-alumni networking event.

The alumni who attended are listed below, along with brief biographical information.

- Taylor Brandariz, a 2011 Eastern graduate, is the Vice President of Operations at Drupal Connect.
- Chelsea Adams Craig, a 2007 Eastern graduate, is a Philanthropic Officer with U.S. Trust, Bank of America.
- Laurie Clinton, a 1986 Eastern graduate, is the Director of Human Resources for the Hartford Health Care Behavioral Health Network.
- Tim DeVivo, a 1989 Eastern graduate, one of family owners of Willimantic Waste Paper Company, Inc.
- Michael Marchus is Vice President and the Area Retail Leader for KeyBank in Northeast CT. Although not an Eastern alumnus, when Michael learned that this event was being planned, he asked to attend so he could meet Eastern students and alumni.
- Deborah McCrackan, a 1978 Eastern graduate, is a member of the Storrs KeyBank team.
- Chris Robitaille, a 2013 Eastern graduate, is in Medical Device Sales with Abbott Laboratories.
- Dylan Ross, a 2014 Eastern graduate, is an Application Development Manager at Cigna.
- John Rubano, a 2000 Eastern graduate, is the Senior Eastern U.S. Division Manager at Medtronic.
- Devin Shea, a 2009 Eastern graduate, is the Director of Marketing for Target Sports USA.
- Khrystyna Stefak, a 2011 Eastern graduate, is a Digital Marketing Project Manager at Cigna.

Craig Erwin, Eastern's Business Program Coordinator, thanks alumni, students, staff, faculty, Alumni Affairs, and Eastern and Chartwells' employees for working hard to plan, publicize and execute this inaugural event, ensuring that it was successful and memorable. Please plan to attend next year’s event. by Craig Erwin
On the evening of March 26, 2019, the Finance Program held their second annual End of Year Alumni, Employer, and Student Reception. The event is special in its achievement of acknowledging the work of Finance students, connecting current students with Eastern alumni and employers, and motivating students to discover their strengths as well as their career goals. While enjoying complementary refreshments, guests were welcomed by the Eastern Finance Club President, Gregory Platosz, who commenced the evening’s reception. Interim Dean, Dr. Elizabeth Scott, provided additional welcoming remarks and introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Andrew Simmons, a Lead Analyst at the Bank of New York Mellon. Mr. Simmons graduated from Eastern’s Business Program in 2006, and attributes much of his success in his industry to his experiences at Eastern. Mr. Simmons spoke on the importance of his role in his organization, emphasizing that communication, client relationships, and leading by example are essential qualities to excel in the finance industry. Mr. Simmons’ closing remarks left students with the advice to take computer courses, participate in volunteer activities, and use club experiences as a chance to network. Following, Eastern student Melat Assafa presented her research, “The U.S. Banking Sector Performance (2008-2018): A Case Study of Morgan Stanley Bank.” Ms. Assafa’s engaging presentation examined how the financial crisis and economic recession affected the banking industry, specifically the performance of Morgan Stanley Bank. Three representatives from Travelers then spoke about their various roles in the finance industry and how their education impacted their careers. Mr. Ryan Eck, FMLDP, Middle Market Finance; Mr. Ryan Jaswell, PMDP, Managing Director; and Ms. Aubrey Vaughan, IOLDP, Operations Manager. The three speakers provided insight on the recruiting process after college and described what a career atTravelers meant to them. Following the guest speakers was a sit-down dinner catered by Chartwells. During the meal, Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor, Coordinator of the Finance Program as well as Chair of the Department of Business Administration at Eastern, presented Academic Excellence Awards to senior finance students in excellent academic standing. AnnRichelle Akko, Kristi Ayers, Dylan Bagg, Eduardo Bonilla, Dustin Dube, Nicholas Hanley, and Samuel Watson were recipients of this impressive award. Dr. Chukwuogor provided closing remarks for the ceremony and thanked everyone for coming.

by Elizabeth Forsythe and Kate Pietraszek
Led by Faculty Mentor Dr. Fatma Pakdil, BUS 363 and BUS 350 undergraduate project groups worked with local businesses and analyzed several topics in Fall 2019. “We collaborated with companies located in our community by focusing on their problems, issues, and projects so students could see the real life applications and practices of topics covered in the courses” quotes Dr. Pakdil. In addition to the examples and practice questions analyzed in class, having a real case with various topics to work on was more challenging and showed students what they can expect after graduation. These community-based projects highlight Eastern’s commitment to “Liberal Arts Practically Applied”.

Seven undergraduate student projects were presented in NEDSI 2019 conference and three posters were awarded honorary mentions. Emily Vieten, Kaitlyn Hohman, Alexandra Maistrelis, Nicole Silva, Jenna Moreira, and Daniel Huacho received honorary mention awards.

The project titled “Feasibility of Implementing ECT in Eastern Connecticut” conducted by Megan Cole and Jacqueline Scanlon received third place award in the undergraduate student poster competition in NEDSI 2019. Megan and Jacqueline analyzed if Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) would be feasible in Eastern Connecticut region. Despite ECT being a treatment option for decades, little research had gone into the economic feasibility of implementing such a treatment in hospital settings in the United States. The project team collaborated with Natchaug Hospital in the project.

The students, Alexandra Maistrelis and Nicole Silva, focused on process mapping of CT Scans and MRIs services provided in the radiology department at UConn Health Hospital in Farmington, CT, during the project titled “process analysis in radiology services at a university hospital”.

The students, Jenna Moreira and Daniel Huacho, worked on analyzing an EEG (electroencephalogram) Laboratory at UConn Health Hospital in Farmington, CT. The goal of the project was to identify where the potential wastes might have occurred and to minimize the amount of time an outpatient would spend in the EEG process.

The students, Emily Vieten and Kaitlin Hohman, focused on process mapping of the services provided in the radiology department at UConn Health Hospital in Farmington, CT, in the project titled “process mapping in radiology services using DMAIC process”.

Students Alexandra Maistrelis, Nicole Silva Jenna Moreira, Daniele Huacho, Megan Cole and Jacqueline Scanlon enjoyed presenting their collaborated projects with Dr. Fatma Pakdil to members of the Science community.
BIS-AITP Students Compete and present at National IS/IT Research and Collegiate Conferences in Texas

On Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019, students of Eastern Connecticut State University and members of the ECSU BIS-AITP Student Chapter embarked on a trip to Galveston, Texas where they competed and presented at the United State Information Technology Collegiate Conference (USITCC) and (Information Systems Education Conference) ISECON conferences. BIS major students, Buddy Kaiyala, Peter Ereshena, and Kurt Sturmer made the trip to the conferences, accompanied by their faculty advisor, Dr. Citurs.

At the conference, the BIS students took part in the competitions on Thursday, April 4th. Kurt Sturmer competed in the Microsoft Office Solutions Contest, while Peter Ereshena and Buddy Kaiyala competed in the Database competition. The competitions lasted until around 10:30 pm, Thursday evening. Friday, April 5th Dr. Alex Citurs gave a research presentation on Agile vs Traditional Software Development at the ISECON conference.

On Friday, Peter Ereshena, Buddy Kaiyala and Dr. Alex Citurs also gave a joint research presentation on Information Systems/Information Technology Student Recruitment and Retention in IS/IT majors. The research presentation audiences were faculty members and judges from many different universities from across the United States. The ECSU research presentations to faculty and students were a success.

After their presentations and contests were over, they attended other presentations and technology seminars as well as checked out the conference exhibits. After the last seminars on Saturday were over, the Eastern BIS students were able to see the surrounding area and talk with fellow competitors and presenters at the conferences. The final scheduled conference event was the Awards Banquet on the evening of Saturday, April 6th, where First, Second, Third and Honorable Mention awards were given out to students from colleges and universities from across the country that had competed the previous days. The BIS students are all looking forward to competing and presenting at next years’ USITCC and ISECON national conferences.

by Buddy Kaiyala
CREATE Conference at Eastern Connecticut State University

Eight of Dr. Doncho Petkov’s students participated this year with five poster presentations. Senior BIS student Rebekah Brankato produced the best research paper in the capstone class on IS Strategy BIS 461 on Current Issues in Document Management research. Andrea Ferrigno, a senior in Health Science, developed the best project in BIS 362 Healthcare Informatics on Analysis of Three Hospital Information Systems. Three teams of two students each in BIS 370 Systems Analysis, who got best results in the project on applying Work System Method for business analysis also prepared posters for CREATE: Velicidy DeAndrade and Shannon Fagan, Mike Zisk and Madi Flattery, and Liz Tucker and Emily Graham. ECSU is the only university in CT that teaches the Work System Method by S. Alter which is the best existing methodology for conducting analysis of a business problem before embarking on a new Information Systems development project.

Eight of Dr. Stefania Farace’s students in BUS 428 Marketing research participated with two poster presentations. Students Itzel Aguilar, Melinda Zekiri, Alyssa Syren, Alyssa Oesting presented their poster titled: “Understanding customer reviews credibility”. Students Amanda Heffernan, Megyn Asselin, Lauren Mondak, Adam Hayes presented their poster titled “Analyzing college student motivations for caffeinated drinks consumption”.

Three of Dr. Sukeshini Grandhi’s students participate with three poster presentations. Anastasios Kilimos presented a project titled “To Use or Not Use: An Exploration of Cognitive Biases in Social Media Non-Use and Reversion”. Melat Assefa presented a project titled “User Experience of Mid-Air 3D Touchless Gesture Technology: A Systematic Literature Review Protocol and Preliminary Findings” and Madison Flattery presented a project titled “Bridging the Tacit Knowledge Gap: Insights for Knowledge Management in an Educator Preparation Program”.

Four of Dr. Fatma Pakdil’s students participated with poster presentations in CREATE this year. Megan Cole presented her project titled “Feasibility of Implementing ECT in Eastern Connecticut”. Jenna Moreira presented her project titled “EEG Laboratory Performance Analysis Using DMAIC Process”. Emily Vieten and Kaitlin Hohman presented their project titled “Process Mapping in Radiology Services Using DMAIC Process”.

by Stefania Farace, Sukeshini Grandhi, Fatma Pakdil, and Doncho Petkov
On Tuesday April 23rd, 2019 the Business Administration Department held induction ceremonies into the Alpha Mu Alpha and Delta Mu Delta Honor Societies. Eleven marketing students were inducted into Alpha Mu Alpha and twenty-four students were inducted into Delta Mu Delta. These students were honored for their outstanding scholastic achievements in the fields of Marketing for Alpha Mu Alpha, and Business Administration (DMD) including Accounting, Business, Business Information Systems, and Finance. Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor, Chair of the Business Department, presided over the ceremonies and Dr. Scott, Dean of Professional Studies gave the keynote address. Dr. Branko Cavarkapa, who has served as the faculty advisor for Delta Omega chapter for 11 years also addressed the inductees and their families. Dr. Emiliano Villanueva, faculty advisor for AMA, also presented AMA certificates to the inductees. by Karen Crowley

Congratulations to the following students inducted into Alpha Mu Alpha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Town/State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reinert Angle Jr.</td>
<td>Brooklyn, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Boudreau</td>
<td>Guilford, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Brook</td>
<td>Willimantic, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel DellaBianca</td>
<td>Bristol, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Fagan</td>
<td>Putnam, CT</td>
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<td>Samantha Hudak</td>
<td>Milford, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleen Kane</td>
<td>Waterford, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avril Levesque</td>
<td>Adams, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jillian Parker</td>
<td>Grisworld, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jen Porpora</td>
<td>Fairfield, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AnaMaria Skarzynski</td>
<td>Guilford, CT</td>
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Congratulations to the following students inducted into Delta Mu Delta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Town/State/Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melat Assefa</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Beazoglou</td>
<td>West Hartford, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicklas Brink Metge</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoe Buntz</td>
<td>West Hartford, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Burchard III</td>
<td>Coventry, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor Cintron</td>
<td>Pawcatucket, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madeline Colegrove</td>
<td>Monroe, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Culberston</td>
<td>Quaker Hill, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velicity DeAndrade</td>
<td>Preston, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Deschamps</td>
<td>Norwich, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Forsythe</td>
<td>Killingworth, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Gagnon</td>
<td>Andover, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Hanley</td>
<td>Norwich, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Heffernan</td>
<td>Glastonbury, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzie Kim</td>
<td>Mansfield Center, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connor Lucca</td>
<td>South Windsor, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew McMerriman</td>
<td>Brooklyn, CT</td>
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<td>Debbie Mlinek</td>
<td>Coventry, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristen Munson</td>
<td>Somers, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Nguyen</td>
<td>Windsor, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jake Pendl</td>
<td>Cromwell, CT</td>
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<td>Brandon Sylvester</td>
<td>Manchester, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katrina Wheeler</td>
<td>North Granby, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel Wu</td>
<td>West Hartford, CT</td>
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Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society

On Wednesday, May 1, 2019 the Business Information Systems (BIS) Program and Department of Computer Science (CS) held the induction ceremony into the Connecticut Alpha Chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE). Nine students majoring in BIS along with seventeen students majoring in Computer Science Students and two dual majoring in BIS-CS were inducted into Alpha Mu Alpha. These information systems and computer science students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements.

At the ceremony, addresses to the inductees and their families were given by Provost Dr. William Sulka, Dean of Professional Studies Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Dean of Arts and Sciences Carmen Cid, Computer Science Department Chair Sarah Tasneem, and Business Information Systems Program Coordinator Dr. Alex Citurs. The induction ceremony was followed by a reception.

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Natnael Belay</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebekah Brancato</td>
<td>Guilford CT</td>
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<td>John Burchard</td>
<td>Coventry, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dustin Dube</td>
<td>Andover, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Guinan</td>
<td>Manchester, CT</td>
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<td>Donna Nguyen</td>
<td>Windsor, CT</td>
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<td>Erick Smith</td>
<td>Manchester, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Vieten</td>
<td>Andover, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Wheeler</td>
<td>Somers, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Zisk</td>
<td>Berlin, CT</td>
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Reversed Career Fair, April 23, 2019

Sponsored by Business Information Systems, Business Administration Department

The following students supervised by Dr. Doncho Petkov participated in the career fair with their projects:

- Velicidy DeAndrade, Shannon Fagan (all Juniors), “Systems Analysis of Kaitaia Publishing Utilizing the Work System Method”, Minor in BIS and Majoring in Accounting (DeAndrade) and Business Administration, Marketing-Fagan)
- Velicidy DeAndrade, Shannon Fagan, Emily Graham, Liz Tucker, (all Juniors), “Systems Analysis and Design of the Medallion Theatre Ticket Sales System”, Minor in BIS and Majoring in Accounting (DeAndrade) and Business Administration, Marketing-Fagan)
The following Faculty were awarded with the CSU AAUP Research Award in 2018-2019:

- Dr. Branko Cavarkapa’s proposal entitled: “The Role of Leadership in Global Marketplace” was awarded $2,112.
- Dr. Stefania Farace’s proposal entitled: “Consumer Message Sharing in Social Media” was awarded $2,112.
- Dr. Sukeshini Grandhi’s proposal entitled: “Hand in Hand: An interdisciplinary approach to understanding the user experience of gestural interactions with technology” was awarded $4,500.
- Dr. Fatma Pakdil’s proposal entitled “Implementing Statistical Process Control in Monitoring Healthcare Processes with Lean Management Perspective” was awarded $2,112.
- Dr. Niti Pandey’s proposal entitled “Women and the Early American Labor Movement” was awarded $4,500.

The following Faculty were awarded with the CSU AAUP Research Award in 2019-2020:

- Dr. Stefania Farace’s proposal entitled “Analyzing Video Content in Social Media” was awarded $5,000.
- Dr. Sukeshini Grandhi’s proposal entitled “The Lure and the Risks of Genetic Testing: Understanding people’s willingness to obtain and share personal genomic information online and its implications for design.” was awarded $2,370.
- Dr. Fatma Pakdil and Dr. Steve Muchiri’s proposal entitled “Implementing Statistical Process Control in Monitoring Healthcare Processes with Lean Management Perspective” was awarded $7,500.
- Dr. Emiliano C. Villanueva’s proposal entitled: “Quality Upgrading in Exportable Agricultural Commodities: A Comparative Analysis of the Swiss and Argentine Wine Industries” was awarded $2,370.

CSU-Research Award Dr. Fatma Pakdil

Dr. Fatma Pakdil is a Professor in Business Administration. She joined the Department of Business Administration at Eastern Connecticut State University, in August 2015. Dr. Pakdil earned her MBA in 1996 and Ph.D. in Business Administration in 2002 from Uludag University. She has extensively researched Corporate Performance Management Systems in Healthcare Organizations and published widely in academic journals and books.

In the 2018/19 academic year alone, she published five articles in peer reviewed journals and made one peer reviewed conference presentation.

Dr. Pakdil is the recipient of the 2018/19 CSU-Research Award. The Department of Business Administration is very proud of her. Congratulations!

By Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor, Chair, Department of Business Administration

Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals (AAFP) and the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)

Dr. Mohd RuJoub, professor of accounting at Eastern Connecticut State University, was awarded by the Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals (AAFP) and the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award for Educators. The IMA awarded Prof. RuJoub on November 3, 2018, at the IMA Student Leadership Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO. For further details on this great achievement, please visit: http://www.easternct.edu/pressreleases/2019/01/29/eastern-accounting-professor-receives-ima-faculty-leadership-award/.
Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor published an article titled “U.S. Equities Price Rebound and Volatilities Causation 2009 to 2017” in North American Journal of Finance and Banking Research, ISSN 1933-3501, Volume 8, Number 8, October 25, 2018, pgs. 1-19.


Dr. Sukeshini Grandhi and Osatuyi, B. published their article titled “If you build will they use it? Understanding the challenges in patient-centered e-health adoption” in Journal of Information Technology Theory and Application, Vol. 19, Issue 4.

Dr. Sukeshini Grandhi published an article titled “Fool Me Once, Shame On You... Then, I Learn. An Examination of Information Disclosure in Social Networking Sites” in Computers in Human Behavior. This paper is co-authored by Osatuyi, B, Passerini, K., Ravrini, A.

Dr. Stefania Farace published an article entitled “User-Generated Systems of Signs and Meanings in Product Customization: Taxonomies and Research Directions,” Mercati e competitività, Vol. 2, pp.61-83. Her co-authors Maria Antonietta Raimondo and Gateano Miceli are from University of Calabria, Italy.

Dr. Fatma Pakdil published a book titled “Performance Leadership” in 2016. Her co-author is Dr. Karen Moustafa Leonard (University of Arkansas Little Rock).

Dr. Fatma Pakdil published an article entitled “Validation of qualitative aspects of the Lean Assessment Tool (LAT),” Journal of Manufacturing Technology Management, 29(7), 1094-1114. Her co-authors are Pelin Toktas (Baskent University, Turkey) and Karen Moustafa Leonard, University of Arkansas Little Rock).

Dr. Fatma Pakdil published an article entitled “Validation of qualitative aspects of the Lean Assessment Tool (LAT),” Journal of Manufacturing Technology Management, 29(7), 1094-1114. Her co-authors are Pelin Toktas (Baskent University, Turkey) and Karen Moustafa Leonard, University of Arkansas Little Rock).

Dr. Fatma Pakdil published an article entitled “Building a Graphical User Interface for Concrete Production Processes: A Combined Application of Statistical Process Control and Design of Experiment,” Arabian Journal for Science and Engineering, 44(5), 4373-4393. Her co-authors are Barıs Simek (Çankırı Karatekin University, Turkey), Yusuf Tanel İç (Baskent University, Turkey) and Ali Bilge Güvenç (Aselsan, Turkey).

Dr. Branko Cavarkapa will present his paper entitled “Relationship between brand awareness and consumer loyalty,” at the annual conference of the European Academy of Management and Business Economics in Seville, Spain, June 2019. This project is co-authored with Maria Luisa Medrano from the University of Ray Juan Carlos, Madrid, Spain.

Dr. Chiaku Chukwuogor’s project entitled “The U.S. Real Estate Recovery from the Financial Crisis and Economic Recession: A Decade Later,” was presented at the NEDSI, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 3 to April 6, 2019. This paper is co-authored with Audrey Foster.


Dr. Stefania Farace research project entitled “Patterns in Motion: How the Visual Pattern shown in an Ad Influences Product Evaluations” has been accepted for presentation at the Marketing Science Conference in Rome, Italy, June 20 - 22, 2019.

Dr. Suki Grandhi’s extended abstract on Supporting Online Dating Decisions with a Prompted Discussion Interface Extended was presented at the ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work. New York: ACM Press. November 3rd-7th, 2018, New York City’s Hudson River (Jersey City). This project is co-authored with Zytko, D., Regalado. V., and Jones Q.

Dr. Fatma Pakdil presented her project entitled “Monitoring Length of Stay Through Control Charts: A Comparative Case Study On Diabetic Patients” at the NEDSI Conference, April 4-6,2019, Philadelphia, PA. This project is co-authored with Dr. Nasibeh Azadeh-Fard.

Dr. Doncho Petkov presented a refereed paper titled “An experiment on the impact of critical thinking instruction on the understanding of problems in IS implementation projects” at the EDSIG conference on IS education in Newport, VA in November 2018. It was co-authored with Dr O. Petkova. Dr. Petkov continued this year his work as an associate editor for The International Journal of Information Technologies and the Systems Approach (IGI Global) and as a member of the editorial boards for Systems Research and Behavioral Science (Wiley) and IS Education Journal and Journal on IS Applied Research.

Dr. Emiliano Villanueva won an Eastern’s Faculty Development Grant in Fall 2018 that allowed him to present his research entitled “The Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile of European Wine Consumers at the Beginning of the 21st Century” at the 34th Business & Economics Society International Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina.


Dr. Emiliano Villanueva presented his research paper on European wine consumer demographics entitled “Wine Consumer Profiles: European Producers & Importers Countries are Different” at the American Association of Wine Economists (AAWE) 12th Annual Conference at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, in June 2018. His co-authors for the paper are Sebastian Castillo and Maria García-Cortijo, both from the University of Castilla (Spain).

Dr. Emiliano Villanueva was invited to join the 3rd Wine & Hospitality Management Workshop, at Cornell University, NYC Campus, and will present his research project “Rhode Island and Connecticut Wineries Tourism Strategies: a Managerial Survey” this June 2019. His co-author for this research project is Juan Ferrer, from the University of Zaragoza (Spain).

Dr. Emiliano Villanueva will present his research on Connecticut and Rhode Island wineries competitiveness at the 35th Conference of the Business & Economics Society International (B&ESI), in Vienna, Austria, next July 2019.


AACSB Conference

The Business Administration Department participated to the AACSB Conference “Redesigning the Undergraduate Curriculum Conference,” held in Providence, RI, May 5-7, 2019.
GOOD-BYE AND WELCOME

Good-bye, Prof. Ron Lowy

Dr. Ronald Lowy, Professor in Business Administration, announced his retirement from Eastern Connecticut State University effective June 2019. Dr. Lowy has had a distinguished career at Eastern, filled with excellence in teaching and service to the Department and to the University. Ron joined Eastern in 1989 and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses.

He was Chair of the Department of Business Administration several times; 1994, 2000 to 2003, 2006 2008, and 2014 to 2016, and has contributed to many of the Department’s curriculum changes.

He was very active in service. He served five terms as Senate President: 1992 to 1993, 1993 to 1994, 1995 to 1996, 1996 to 1997, and 2003 to 2004 and was Vice President from 1997 to 1998. He Co-Chaired the ECSU task Force on Support Services from 1995 to 1996 and served in several other committees in the Department and in the University. He Co-Chaired the Committee on the Future of Eastern from 2007 to 2008. Despite this busy schedule, he had time to serve in the Board of the Red Cross, Willimantic Chapter from 1995 to 1996 and act as Advisor to Willimantic Homeless Organization.

Professor Lowy takes great pride in sharing the work and life experience he had prior to his academic career. He feels it was beneficial to his hundreds of students that are successful Alumni and current students.

Did you know that Dr. Lowy started his career in a structural steel fabricating plant? Another fun fact about Dr. Lowy is that he is a trained commercial airline pilot, who upon working for Eastern Airlines honed in skills in martial arts and utilizing those skills, opened three martial arts studios! Dr. Lowy owned and operate the first ever Disco Tech in Palm Beach Florida, where people danced the night away at the Magic Time Machine.”

How did Dr. Lowy also fit in to his own “time machine, owning Grove International Steel, one of only six global companies permitted to manufacture pumping rods for the oil industry? Those years in industry have provided a wealth of experiential learning to many students over the years who were lucky enough to have him teach and mentor them. His scholarly path carried him from BSBA at Slippery Rock University, obtained his MBA from Case Western Reserve University, and his PHD at Kent State University (Strategic Management). Dr. Lowy initially taught at Cleveland State before joining us here at Eastern.

We greatly appreciate Dr. Lowy’s dedication to teaching and service. He will be missed not just by his colleagues in the Department, but by his students, and the entire University community.

Please join us in wishing him a great retirement at a retirement reception in his honor, scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2019, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the Student Center Café.

by Chiaku Chukwuogor, Sophia Tsikitas, and Gwyneth Carrell

Good-bye, Jean Stencel

After 43 years at Eastern Connecticut State University our Secretary, Jean Stencel has retired. Jean was an integral part of Eastern and a legend here on campus. She provided invaluable support to two departments, Economics and Business Administration, with the latter being the largest department on campus comprising of approximately 20-25% of the student population.

Jean was extremely knowledgeable and dedicated to her job. She assisted faculty and students in any way she could, often going above and beyond for them. We are so grateful for her many years of service and dedication to this University. Enjoy your retirement Jean! You earned it!

Welcome, Gwyneth Carrell

We have a new addition to our office here in Business Administration. Gwyneth L. Carrell comes to us with a plethora of skills in the customer service and hospitality industry. Gwyneth is a former teaching staff member of the University of Humberside, Grimsby campus where she taught restaurant management at the FE level in the United Kingdom. This was also Gwyneth’s Alma Mater where she earned her Bachelors in Hospitality and Tourism management.

Gwyneth grew up working for her parents in their retail establishment which is where customer service and the importance of good customer service in relation to a successful business was instilled in to her.

Gwyneth lists in her vocations; wedding planner, banquet manager, restaurant re-brander and property manager. Gwyneth’s latest role was in the Event Services department at UConn which is part of Student Affairs. She and her team were responsible for taking care of reservations for the 800 student organizations and 300 departments on campus which last year, resulted in over 28,000 reservations and multiple venues.

Gwyneth is excited to have joined us here at Eastern. Just in the short time she has been here with us in the Business Administration department she has reflected on how welcoming and polite the Eastern community is. She is thoroughly enjoying working on the Academic side of the house and is making it her mission to get to know everyone on campus.

Gwyneth looks forward to collaborating with the student staff in the Business Administration office to give them much skills and knowledge to make them a well-rounded candidate in their job search post time at Eastern. by Karen Crowley
IN CONCLUSION

I would like to thank everyone for a job well done on this Newsletter. Dr. Chukwuogor for your guidance on a new exciting experience. To Gwyneth Carrell and Karen Crowley, you have been very dedicated to this Newsletter and did a great job organizing the student workers. Thank you to all our student workers who interviewed program coordinators and wrote about the programs: Peter Ereshena, Elizabeth Forsythe, Kristin Lynch, Leanny Hernandez, Buddy Kaiyala, Kate Pietrazek, Tarah Bernard, and Sophia Tsikitas. Thank you, Leigh Balducci and Briana Shore at University Relations, your design skills and expertise took this Newsletter to a whole new level.

Stefania Farace
Professor of Marketing and Newsletter Coordinator
Department of Business Administration
Eastern Connecticut State University

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