

Employability Plan

Business Information Systems Program

Activities 2023-2024 Year

1) How will you ensure that all your majors are aware of the most common jobs and graduate study programs that stem from your major?

There are a variety and combination of ways that in the Business Information Systems Programs keep the students aware of the most common jobs and graduate programs. These include:

- A) Through the Senior capstone courses of BIS 461 – Seminar on Information Systems and Business Strategies
- B) More importantly through the programs' clubs' meetings and events [the BIS-Information Technology Students of America Club (BIS-ITSA)].
- C) Special Employer-Alumni Events such as the Biz-Tech Career Conversations as well as the Advanced Manufacturing, Ops & IT Info Session.
- D) Student Advising Sessions when registering for courses for the upcoming terms as well as other one-on-one career advising sessions.

2) How will you identify top graduate skills and subject knowledge that employers/grad schools seek that relate to your major(s)?

We use a variety of ways BIS major programs utilize recommending curriculum from their respective professional associations (for BIS, the IS2020 recommended curriculum a joint recommended curriculum guideline by the Association of Computer Machinery (ACM); Association of Information Technology professionals (AITP); and IT Education Foundation]. For BIS, Dr. Citurs attends the ISECON (Information Systems Educators Conference) and ITSA/AITP Conference sessions on trends in IS/IT education. Plus, BIS faculty maintain ongoing regular communication with our employers and alumni, who tell us what they see for both for upcoming trends and current needs. We also utilize online career sites such as sites like CareerOneStop.org by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Indeed; Monster.Com, Burning Glass, CareerOneStop.org, etc., to spot out job and skill set growth trends as well as current internship and job openings in Connecticut and neighboring states or the home states of individual students in our program's majors or minors.

3) How will you ensure that course syllabi include information on the skills training embedded in the course?

We have been working at utilizing the new College of Business syllabus template and then adopting it for each specific course to make sure it incorporates the stressed student learning outcomes, high impact practices as well as platform tools used in the course.

3) How will your department ensure that department majors have the opportunity to engage in-person with representatives from industry, agencies, professional organizations, etc., to hear up-to-date information and personal perspectives on job trends, employer needs, best preparation for career success and job-seeking strategies?

- A) The University-wide Fall and Spring Career Fairs,
- B) Company information and career development program sessions held by the student clubs,
- C) Take advantage of company visits and job shadow days,
- D) Industry placement company contact information (i.e. Kelly Tech Services, TKSystems, and Robert Half Technology) shared with students during student club meetings and individual advising sessions.
- E) Classroom guest speakers like in BIS 375 - Ecommerce; BIS 490 – BIS Internship class, etc.
- F) More informal interactions at Student-Alumni social events such as the BIS Program Banquet, the BIS-ITSA Fall Social, as well as other casual student-alumni events,
- G) Please see Appendix A – 2023-2024 for the BIS Program – BIS-ITSA Club Event write-ups. For example, the “How to Succeed in an Internship” event.

4) How will your department provide a resumé template(s) for department majors that are appropriate for different career and graduate school destinations?

This is done every semester through the programs’ clubs’ events such as the BIS Program and BIS-ITSA Resume Prep Workshop conducted by Dr. Citurs a week before the BIS-ITSA Club Alumni-Employer Representatives Writing Workshops. (See Appendix A)

5) How will your department organize a system of training for all majors that includes: 1) cover letter writing, 2) resumé creation and refinement and, 3) LinkedIn profile development?

If the BIS major students are not able to attend the programs’ clubs’ career preparation events which go over creating-refining resumes, cover letter writing, and setting up a LinkedIn profile, it is done either through individual student advising or in the programs’ internship classes such as BIS 490 – BIS Internship course. For example, in the BIS 490 course, we also go over setting up GitHub portfolios.

Additionally, we encourage students to attend workshops held by the Center for Internship and Career Development before receiving more tailored discipline specific advice through our special Business Information Systems program and club events. At our program events with employers and alumni, the students are given individual advice on how to make their resumes stand out for specific types of internship and career positions.

8) How will your department help students prepare for professional interviews?

It is primarily through the student clubs in our programs that we help prepare students for the multiple rounds of interviewing that students will go through for accounting and biz-tech positions. For example every semester, the BIS-ITSA Club organizes mock interview workshops with alumni and company representatives, where the students are exposed to questions that are behavioral, team-organizational practices as well as technical skills and problem-solving. (See Appendix A for the Mock Interviews with Alumni & Reps write-ups)

9) How will your department ensure that the department webpage includes careers and graduate school advice, success stories, testimonials and useful links related to employment and graduate school?

The department program coordinators work with University Relations in the development and posting of success stories, testimonials, and other academic, career and employment advice. Some of this is done in conjunction with the help of the programs' student club members.

10) How will your department share department alumni information with Alumni Affairs?

The Business Information Systems Program Coordinators have a long strong relationship with Alumni Affairs. We share information back and forth about alumni events and the event write-ups, alumni testimonials, and alumni information through spreadsheets. We respect the wishes of our program alumni on either sharing or not sharing their personal information such as cell phone numbers, personal emails, and information on their family members such as spouses, kids, etc. Thus, we are trying to preserve the long-term trusting relationships with our alumni that we have worked hard to buildup and maintain over the years.

11) How will your department explore new ways to define and create experiential learning opportunities for majors and minors (internships, research, global field course, community outreach event, etc.).

Experiential learning opportunities have been built into multiple courses in the BIS programs. Plus, through the programs' clubs' experiential and service-learning projects (BIS-ITSA Club – national competitions and projects with local non-profits on tech resources and skills.) The BIS Program requires that students to either a paid or unpaid internship working the biz-tech units of businesses and organizations. Additionally, work is being done to modify the BIS 461 BIS capstone course to incorporate team system development projects, working with local area non-profit organizations. Both the Accounting and BIS Programs have a longstanding community engagement tradition.

Measurable Outcomes and Key Performance Indicators

In order to document and assess the efficacy of the Employability Plan, key performance indicators are identified below with 3-year and 5-year benchmark targets. The organizational units and personnel that are responsible for measuring the performance outcomes are also indicated.

	Key Performance Indicator	2024	Target 2026	Target 2028	Responsibility
1	Percentage of seniors who have: 1) completed a resumé; [club advisors – Dr. Citurs; and incorporated into BIS 490] 2) completed a LinkedIn profile; [club advisors – Dr. Citurs; and incorporated into BIS 490] 3) been trained in cover letter writing; [club advisors – Dr. Citurs; and incorporated into BIS 490] 4) mock-interviewed and received feedback on their performance; [Club Faculty Advisors & program alumni] 5) created a post-graduation plan. [Faculty Advisors also in BIS 490]	100% of SRs. 75% of JRs.	100% of SRs. 100% of JRs. 75% of SOs.	100% of SRs. 100% of JRs. 100% of SOs.	Employability Liaisons (EL), or if no EL, then Academic Departments and OCS
2	Number of academic departments providing employability and graduate school guidance on their department website, including an employability handbook, resumé template(s) and common career destination information. _____	13	15	19	Employability Liaisons (EL), or if no EL, then Academic Departments and OCS
3	Number of academic departments providing alumni and/or other professional networking opportunities. <u>NOTE: See Appendix A for writeups of a number of these events.</u>	12	14	16	Academic Departments
4	Number of students completing experiential learning activity*. NOTE: for BIS SRs 100% if internships are included.	50	60	70	Academic Departments and Office of Dean of Analytics
5	Number of students using in-house and on-line OCS resources, especially ECN.	50	60	70	OCS
6	Percentage of juniors and seniors attending OCS workshops, presentations and campus-wide Career Events.	50	60	70	OCS and in some cases, EL
7	Percentage of seniors who have provided information on their first professional destination following graduation. [Note: Have some of information already, but will have more in Sept-Oct]	70	80	90	Institutional Research
8	Percentage of graduates who are documented to be employed or attending graduate school within 6 months after graduation. [Same as #7]	70	75	80	Institutional Research

*The full range of 'experiential learning activities' needs defining.

Appendix A: Some Department Employability Event Writeups

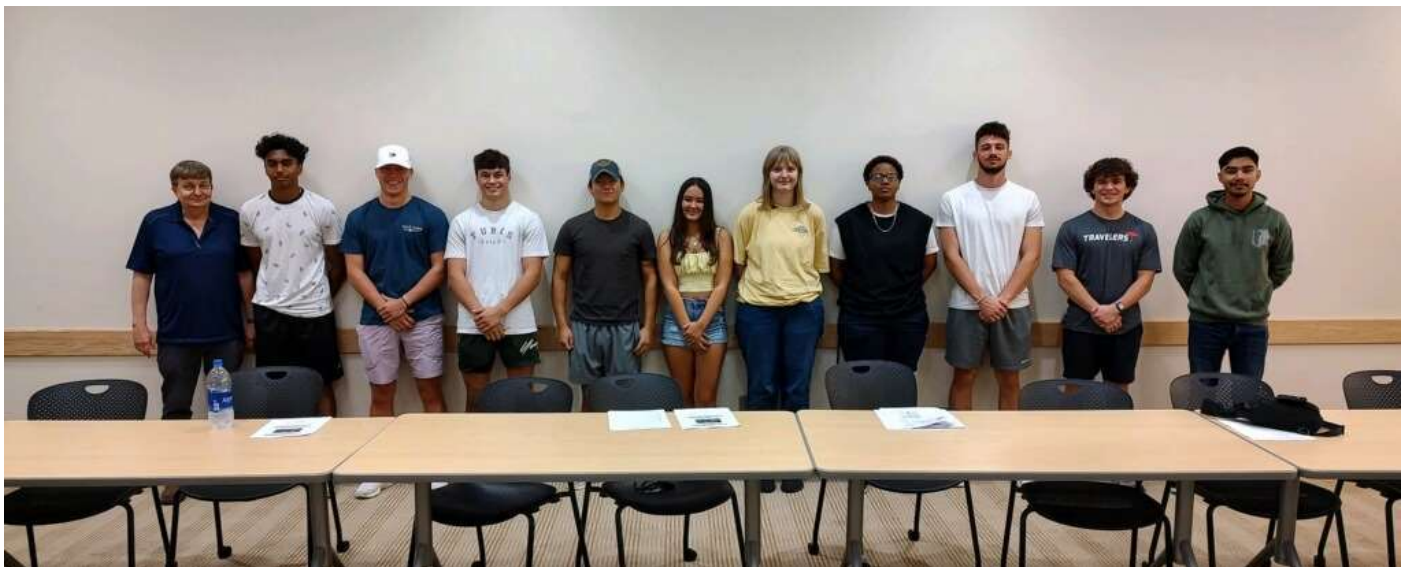
Warrior Welcome Weekend

Information Sessions for

College of Business and BIS Program

The 2023 Warrior Welcome was a three-day event spanning August 26-28 which was designed to help students acclimate themselves to campus and prepare for the start of classes. All new first-year and transfer, residential and commuter students were required to attend. The events planned included several socials, tours, shows, and meetings.

Following Peer Mentor Meetings on the Monday the 28th, the new students were required to attend meetings specific to their academic major. The Business Information Systems Program's Information Session was held in Student Center 221. The BIS Info Session focused on informing new students about the BIS major, its requirements, coursework planning, career opportunities, and relevant minors that complement and enhance other academic and career fields. Dr. Citurs introduced himself and the BIS faculty and discussed their areas of teaching and research specialization. Each new BIS student had an opportunity to introduce themselves and ask questions of the BIS faculty or the current BIS Students present. The students were then invited by Drew Cavar and Marcos Hernandez (BIS-ITSA Club current President & President Emeritus respectively) to the upcoming BIS New Student Meet and Greet Reception on Wednesday evening where they could enjoy pizza and soda while meeting other BIS students and alumni with similar school and career interests.



BIS-ITSA Fall 2023 Student Meet and Greet

At the start of the Fall 2023 Semester, on August 31st from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, the BIS-ITSA club hosted a 'Meet and Greet' to welcome incoming freshmen into the BIS Program and introduce them to the BIS-ITSA club. This session was not only open to new students and current BIS students, but it also welcomed anyone with an interest in the promising and ever-growing field of Business Information Systems. During this event, many students with a wide variety of majors and from all different walks of life got to enjoy pizza and soda in the Webb faculty lounge, while getting to meet both members of the club and BIS faculty. In addition, they were able to learn about both the events that the BIS-ITSA club hosts, and the countless career opportunities within the field of BIS. Above all, students who were new to the field of BIS got to network and gain important insights and knowledge from both upper-level BIS students and prior BIS alumni who are currently working at Travelers Insurance.



BIS-ITSA Club Fair Thursday September 7th, 5:00 – 7:00pm

Student Center Patio

The 2023 Fall Student Club Fair was held on Thursday September 7th. During the event, several BIS E Board members stood at the stand, along with a variety of BIS club students promoting the BIS club trying to spread its popularity. Matt Bielaczyc, Rachel Hughes, Brandon Steen, Colby Dubois, Andrew Cavar and Sam Hurlburt all attended the club table to speak and attract more attention to our BIS ITSA club! The BIS ITSA club offers a variety of events that anyone can attend which was a key talking point during our club fair. The Resume Writing Workshop is a big event where Eastern Alumni join us in sharing helpful resume writing tips and tricks to make your resume look superb.

The BIS ITSA club offers a lot of diversity accepting all students who are willing to join. The end goal of the club fair was to help inform Eastern students of what we are capable of and the amazing opportunities that come with being in the BIS ITSA club. This ended up being very successful, as we had over 30+ names sign up for the BIS ITSA email list which will inform all students of upcoming BIS events and more!

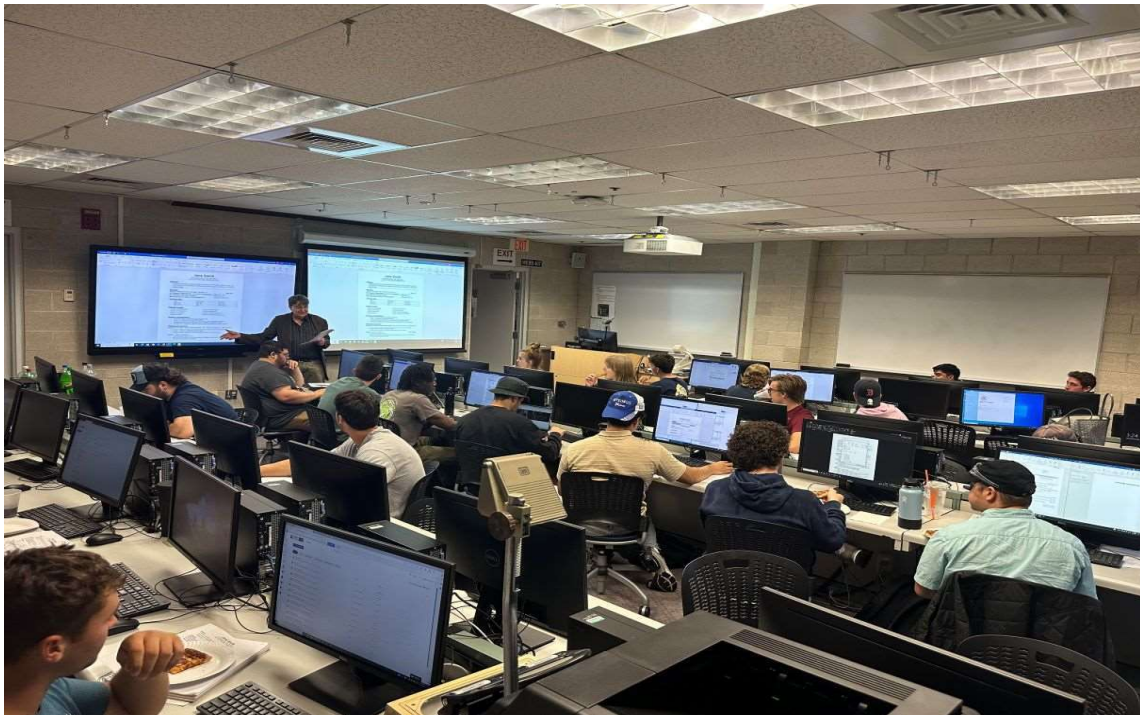


BIS-ITSA Resume Preparation Workshop

On Wednesday, September 13th, 2023, the BIS-ITSA club hosted a resume prep workshop. Members of the club, as well as non-members with an interest in the field of biz-tech had attended this event. Dr Citurs, head of the BIS Program, educated students on the importance of a resume that stands out, and gave many key tips on how to craft the perfect one.

Those in attendance were able to gain many important insights from Dr. Citurs, as he has both much experience in the field of biz-tech and has connections with several major companies who agree that the resumes of biz-tech students at Eastern are top-notch. The purpose of this workshop was to provide students with a strong foundation for building their resumes, and to best prepare them for when company representatives visit the campus to provide feedback on September 20th.

During the presentation, Dr. Citurs stressed several key points, such as using many of MS Words features like changing vertical spacing, using a clean and simplistic font and format, and using tables to showcase the skills learned in class. In addition, Dr. Citurs also mentioned important coursework to present on one's resume, and emphasized the importance of academic honesty when it comes to creating a resume. This workshop is held every semester in mid-September.



BIS-ITSA Social – Friday September 15th – 6 to 8:30 – Fine Arts Center Lobby

The BIS Program and BIS-ITSA Club organized a social on September 15, 2023, from 6-8:30 PM in the Fine Arts Instructional Center Lobby. The event consisted of current BIS students, BIS alumni and three guest speakers. This event allowed current BIS students to network with alumni to learn about different career options in the field of Business Information Systems and technology roles. Attendees were fortunate to hear from three guest speakers from The Hartford, Travelers Insurance, and IBM. During the event, guests were treated to a buffet dinner consisting of pizza, soda, and an assortment of cookies.

The social began with opening remarks from Dr. Citurs to talk about the growth of the BIS program and future outlooks. Dr. Citurs is constantly working with alumni from numerous employers along with IS national standards to adapt the program to meet the skill requirement needs biz-tech companies are looking for to make Eastern BIS Program graduates more appealing for the ever-growing field of biz-tech.

Following introductions made by Dr. Citurs, the Operations, Technology, Data and Analytics Leadership Development Program lead, Adele Kostek (Fig. 1), spoke about the benefits of The Hartford's OTD&A Leadership Development program as well as how integration of agile scrum is being used in technology and business project management as well as analytical projects across The Hartford and industry.



Figure 1 The OTD&A lead at The Hartford, Adele Kostek sharing the importance of agile skills in project management and analytics.



Figure 2 Data Engineer at the Travelers and BIS alumni Connor Chute sharing the vital skills he learned in the BIS program and how he leveraged them to improve fraud detection at Travelers Insurance.

Closely following Adele, Travelers Business Insights and Analytics Data Engineer, and BIS alumni Connor Chute (Fig. 2) spoke about how he leveraged what he learned from the BIS program to improve fraud detection in insurance claims. The skills he found most impactful were his analytical problem-solving and data skills learned in Business Analytics, BI, and Business Database Management.

Both Adele and Connor stated how they appreciated that the ECSU BIS Program was flexible with the curriculum by adding new and updated classes to improve and provide important relevant skills needed in industry. For example, the BIS program added a Data Wrangling class to learn about data pipelines in business data processes and analytical flows, while addressing business data rules and data quality.

The featured speaker of the night was Andrew Hicks. Andrew is on the Z Advanced Technology Team at IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY. Andrew is an IBM Master Inventor with over 100 patents to his name that focus on developing new technologies to utilize in the near future in the realms of Enterprise Computing, AI, and Quantum Computing. During Andrews presentation he focused on Generative AI, large language models and their limitations due to inverse scaling (too much data) and declining AI model quality over time, sustainability in tech and business, and Quantum Computing. Andrew also brought up a good money-making opportunity through solving inverse scaling problems for cash prizes.

Moreover, Andrew emphasized the importance of the liberal arts classes that he took during his undergrad education. He leveraged and applied those skills to set himself apart from the other engineers at IBM because every engineer at IBM is expected to know how to be a good engineer. What made Andrew unique was his ability to integrate additional liberal arts skillsets such as drawing and presenting with skillsets such as those from engineering, technology, and business to be able to develop high quality patent designs, documentation, and presentations. Andrew also discussed how sustainability and economic business viability must be incorporated into technological innovations and adoption by the business-tech world and society.

Andrew finished the presentation talking about quantum computing trends in the coming years. Helium-3, necessary

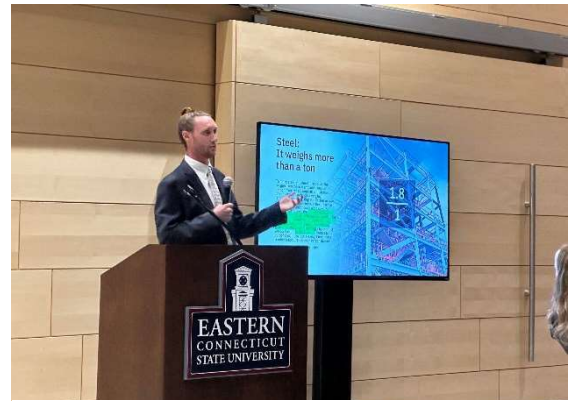


Figure 3 Featured speaker, Andrew Hicks, giving a presentation about Generative AI Large Language models, Sustainability, and Quantum Computing.



Figure 4 A BIS – ITSA audience of alumni and students in the Fine Arts Center Lobby listening to Andrew Hicks give his presentation on Generative AI, Large Language models, Sustainability, and Quantum Computing.

in quantum computing, is scarce on earth, but is abundant on the moon surface. He spotlighted how scientists have teleported light protons long distances using lasers to facilitate non-interceptable encryption codes. He got us thinking about how advancements in technology can impact the world.

The event concluded with announcement of upcoming BIS-ITSA events and ongoing discussions of the topics covered during the evening. Many people wanted to talk with Andrew, and he obliged by talking to everyone.

The Hartford Info Session Wednesday, September 20th

On Wednesday, September 20th, The Hartford Insurance came to speak with us about their Early Career Development Program. The info session was very helpful to any Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior as The Hartford had something to offer for all of them. The Hartford has the “Freshman Experience” program that allows Freshman to apply and build their personal brand. Freshman are able to gain insights to position themselves for future internships and full-time jobs.

Plenty of BIS club students attended the info session that was held in the faculty lounge where we were all informed of the “Elite 50 Internships 2022 Winner” by The Hartford! The Hartford was recognized for this because of how their internship offers so many incredible things. Unique aspects of the program, meaningful work assignments, training and mentoring, compensation and perks, executive level exposure and so much more. This relationship that has been built over the years with The Hartford has established a foundation between Dr. Citurs, and the Eastern students within the BIS program.

Another thing that was mentioned by The Hartford was one of their popular LDP programs called Tech and Data. In this program, you can rotate in areas including application development, cyber security, and compliance, data analysis and engineering and software and environmental engineering.

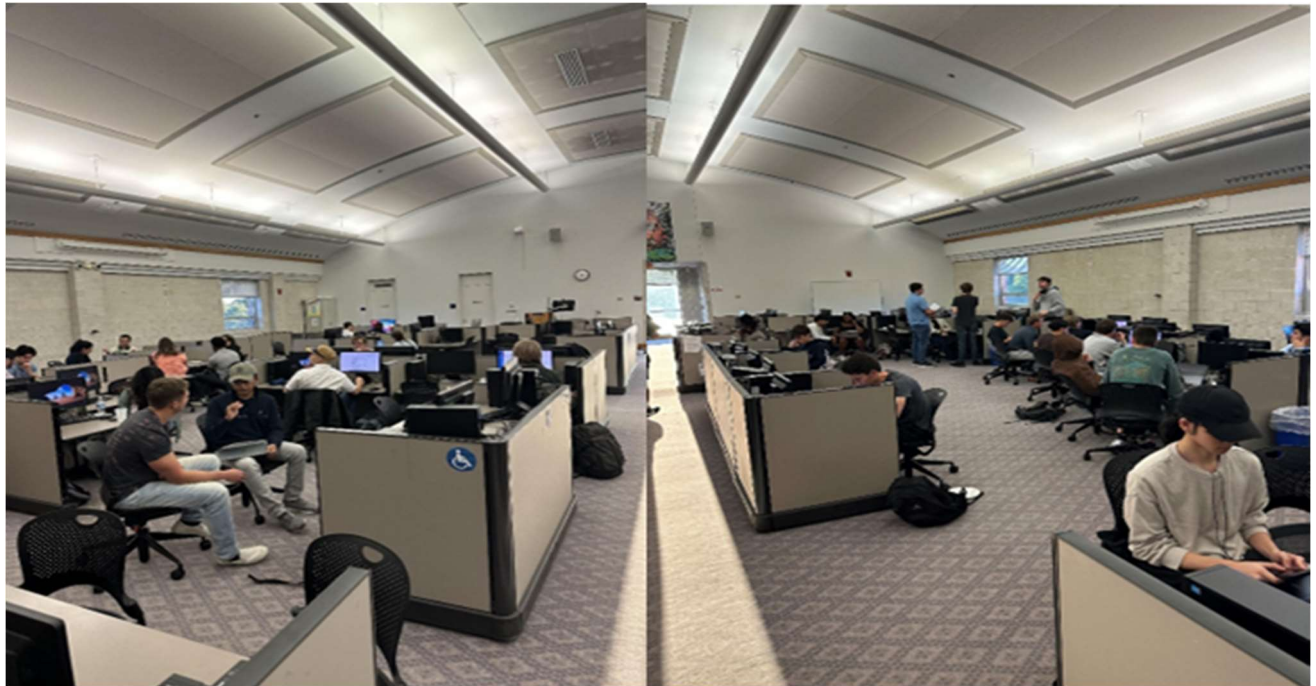
We were joined by several employees from The Hartford, including Donna DeFelice, Kyra, Izzirah, and alumni Greg Platosz (Finance and BIS dual-major) and Al Viglione (Economics and BIS dual-major). All of them gave useful advice and insight on their career paths on how much of a great company The Hartford is and all the program areas they offer. Such as, Actuarial, Claims, Enterprise Risk Management, Finance, Investment Management, Operations, Product and more! Throughout those programs, you will get regular coaching, mentoring and feedback from other employees throughout your 10–11-week Internship over the Summer!





BIS-ITSA Resume Writing Workshop

On September 21st, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30, Eastern's BIS-ITSA club hosted a resume writing workshop, geared towards students within the fields of BIS, CS, and Data Science. This event featured prior Eastern Alumni from several major companies within CT such as Travelers, The Hartford, and Cigna. Those in attendance were able to receive assistance for crafting the perfect resume for the internship/job application process. Each student who attended was able to sit down one-on-one with one or several alumni and were given personalized feedback on the strengths of their resumes and what could be improved. Some of the specific feedback given included formatting steps to both enhance the students' highlights and make them look more professional. In addition, important points such as adding important Bus-Tech keywords and showcasing extracurricular activities and projects were stressed by the alumni.



Writing an ideal resume is an incredibly important part of earning a career within the field of Bus-Tech, as it gives students a chance to display their best attributes and really stand out when applying for both internship and job positions. The BIS-ITSA Club and the alumni host this event every semester, and it helps prepare students for a meaningful career within the vast and everchanging world of Bus-Tech.

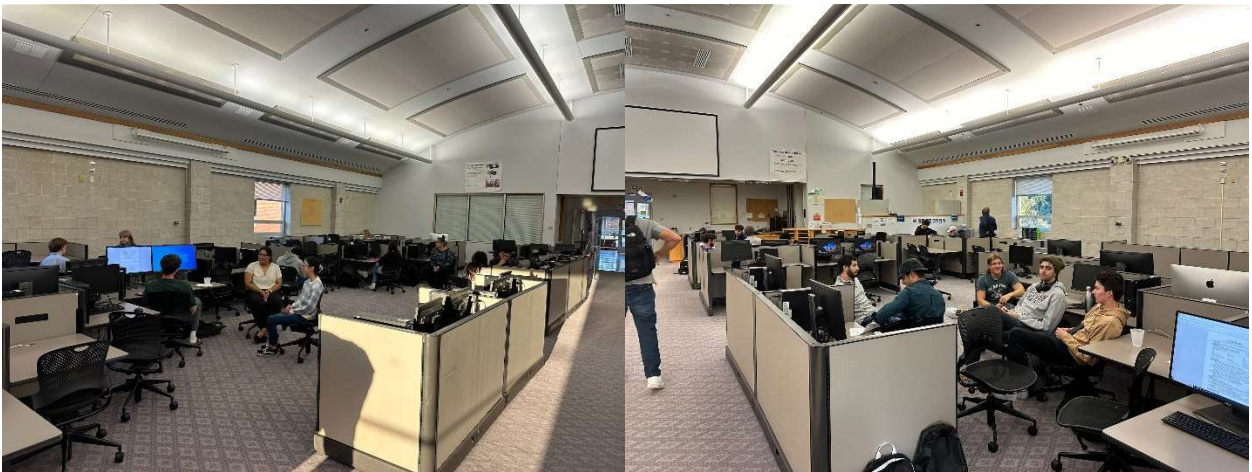


Mock Interviews with Alumni and Company Reps

On Wednesday, September 27th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, the BIS-ITSA Club hosted a mock interview event with Eastern alumni. Alumni that attended this event worked for large insurance companies such as Travelers and The Hartford. This event is held annually by the BIS-ITSA Club to prepare students for both business and technical interviews. Many of the alumni that came have interviewed potential employees at their own respective companies, so the questions asked were directly from real interviews.

The event kicked off and students were split off into different parts of the lab for one-on-one mock interview sessions. These one-on-one sessions consisted of resume review, questions about the companies, behavioral interview questions and most importantly, feedback from the interviewers. These mock interviews allow students to recognize and learn from their mistakes so that the same mistakes are not made in real internship and career position interviews. This event, for some students, may have been the first time they encountered having to answer behavioral interview questions, which has become an important and common first stage interview technique in the biz-tech field. All students were able to complete one interview.

This educational event creates an opportunity for Eastern's Business Information Systems and Computer Science majors and minors to practice their interviewing skills, while getting to know representatives from some of the top companies in Connecticut. Mock interviews will remain a part of BIS-ITSA's annual events so that biz-tech students now and in the future can be better prepared for important job interviews.





BIS/ITSA - Travelers Business Insights and Analytics (BI&A) Internship and Career Program Info Session

On Thursday, September 28th, from 5:30 to 7:30, students both involved and interested in the field of BIS attended the Travelers Business Intelligence and Analytics Leadership Development Program in Webb 358 (the faculty lounge). This session featured representatives from Travelers Insurance who were also prior BIS Alumni, and they shared valuable information regarding the details and prospects of this popular and highly sought after program. The representatives included: Daytona (DJ) Rizzo (BIS) - Information Delivery Engineer, Hunter Vetterkind (BIS) -Data Engineer, and James Conlin (CS and BIS) – Data Engineer.

Those in attendance were able to get insider information on the workings of the program and were exposed to the five unique fields within the program (Business analyst, Data Engineer, Data Management, Geospatial, and Information Delivery). Seeing as each representative was a prior alumnus at Eastern, they were also able to share valuable insights on the courses and skills from the BIS program that benefitted them most in their jobs/internships. Some of the classes that were mentioned were Rapid IT Development Management (BIS 437), Big Data Programming (CS 343), Business Database Management (BIS 373), Business Intelligence (BIS 447) and Data Visualization (BIS 449). Alongside the skills acquired from their coursework, they also discussed some of the desirable technologies and skillsets that are currently in use within the program. Some of these technologies mentioned were Python, SQL, AWS, and Snowflake. Skillsets that were mentioned included business analytics, data wrangling, database management, and project management.

Overall, the presentation was a valuable insight into one of Traveler's most popular internship programs for those interested in BIS, and showed students an insider's perspective on what they can expect and learn from the program. After the presentation, students spent the last hour asking questions, and pizza and pop were provided. This event takes place every fall semester.



Bus/Tech and IT Career Conversations

On Tuesday, October 4th, 2023, the BIS-ITSA club along with Eastern's Office of career success hosted the Bus/Tech career conversations in the Johnson room of the library. This event welcomed students majoring in fields pertaining to business and technology to sit down and converse with both representatives and prior alumni from major companies within the area such as Travelers, the Hartford, Cigna, the State of Connecticut, Mass Mutual, General Dynamics (Electric Boat), Raytheon (Pratt & Whitney), Cloudera, Amwell, Intelliflo, & Hartford Healthcare. This event was a great success; Over ninety students attended it, and many of them even stayed to converse with multiple alumni and representatives to learn about different career fields.

The event grouped the different career paths into their own tables, and students got a certain amount of time to visit each table and learn about that career area and the prospects it holds. There were 9 career area field tables that students could learn about, these included:

- Cloud Apps and Ecommerce
- Network Administration, Tech Support, & Cybersecurity
- Operations & Supply Chain Techs
- Financial Tech
- Business Intelligence/Analytics, Data Engineering, & AI
- Healthcare IS/IT, Healthcare Info Management
- Database Administration, SQL & Enterprise Architecture
- Business/Systems Analyst, Tech Consultant
- Project Management, Scrum Masters, & Agile Coaches

The event encouraged students to rotate tables every 12 minutes, but students could stay at each table if they liked. The event was conducted in a come-and-go format, with Chartwells providing food.

See additional photos on the next page:





Majors and Minors Fair 10/11/23

On Wednesday October 11th, Eastern organized a Majors and Minors fair to allow Freshman and Sophomores the ability to walk around and visit a wide variety of tables to gain insight into possible majors to take with accompanying minors during their time at Eastern.

Throughout the Evening, the upperclassmen of the Business Information Systems Program and Dr. Citurs spoke with multiple freshman and sophomores to share the strength of the program, such as the skills you learn and the importance of building a strong network. The BIS program was also able to show the multitude of events the club puts on each semester to allow students to build their network with alumni in their career areas of interest.

Moreover, Dr. Citurs was able to organize and put together many different Eastern-in-4 plans with other programs that pair well with the BIS major. These plans included the BIS major with accompanying double majors with Computer Science and Data Science and minors such as marketing, management and operations and supply chains. This way, the students can be aware of what classes they need to take and when.

All-in-all the majors and minors fair was a big success for the BIS program. Students were able to meet alumni, speak with current students and get an idea of how their time at Eastern will play out.



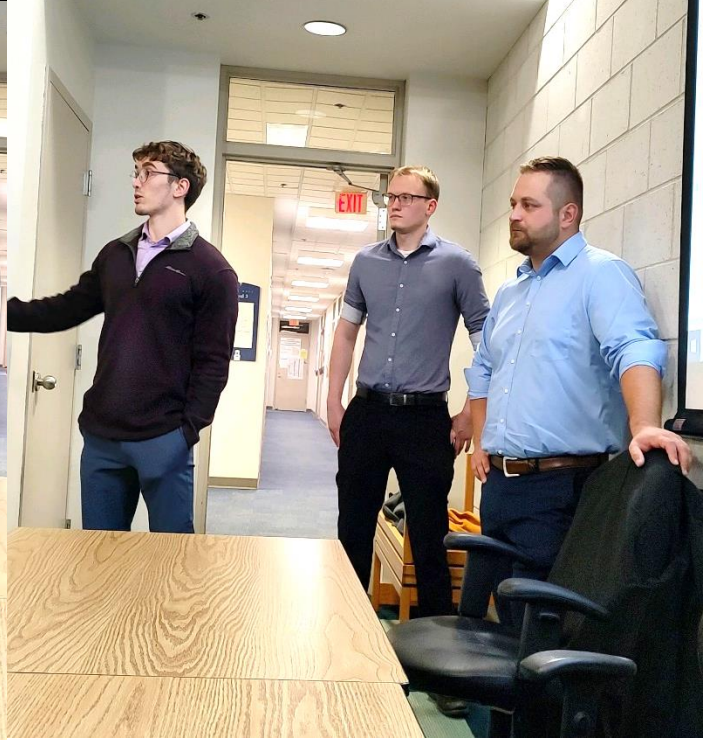
CT Advanced Manufacturing, IT, and Operations Alumni Employer Discussion

On Wednesday, November 1, 2023, from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, The BIS-ITSA club hosted an event which invited prior alumni employed at major manufacturing, IT, and Operations companies within Connecticut to discuss the tasks and environments that constitute their careers, and the courses and skills they acquired at Eastern that helped them stand out and succeed. Guest speakers included Mike Trapp, a supply chain manager at Pratt and Whitney, Henry Bigl, a business intelligence developer at SPIROL, and Ryan Conley, a communications systems engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat. In addition to talking about their roles at these companies and how their education prepared them for it, they also gave important insights into how to best prepare oneself for a future career.

Some of the key takeaways for preparation were to diversify one's skillsets. Mike mentioned that one should put themselves into uncomfortable situations that one is not familiar with, such as joining clubs or courses that they have not had prior experience. That way, one can broaden their skillsets and see how they function outside their comfort zone. Henry went into detail on specific courses at Eastern that he applies to his role, such as Enterprise Resource Planning (BIS 430), Rapid IT Development Management (BIS 437 - agile) and Business Database Management (BIS 373). Ryan stressed the importance of being adaptable in one's role and possessing soft skills alongside technical skills, as his job entails communicating and working alongside people outside of his specialization, such as electrical and software engineering.

Most importantly, all of them stressed the importance of technical skills such as being able to work with large amounts of data in terms of cleaning and querying it and having soft skills such as communication and the ability to work under pressure. Overall, the come n' go event offered a unique and insightful perspective on the opportunities within the field of advanced manufacturing for BIS students. The guest speakers stayed for over half an hour after the event to answer questions, and everyone was able to enjoy pizza and pop.





BIS-ITSA Resume Preparation Workshop

On Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, the BIS-ITSA club hosted a resume prep workshop. Alongside current members of the club, this event also welcomed non-members and students who are not BIS majors, but have an interest in the fields of biz-tech. This event was conducted by Dr. Citurs, the head of the BIS program, who gave a presentation on the importance of building a quality resume and provided many helpful materials and tips for making it stand out!

Those in attendance were able to gain many important insights from Dr. Citurs, as he has both much experience in the field of biz-tech and has connections with several major companies who agree that the resumes of biz-tech students at Eastern are top-notch. The purpose of this workshop was to provide students with a strong foundation for building their resumes, and to best prepare them for when company representatives visit the campus to provide feedback on February 7th.

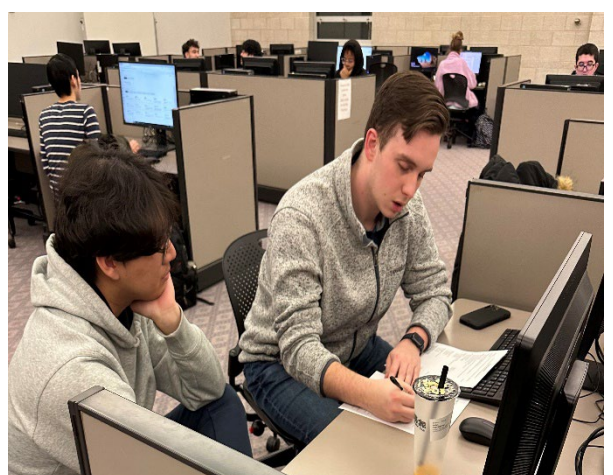
During the presentation, Dr. Citurs stressed several key points, such as using many of MS Words features like changing vertical spacing, altering the size of the margins, and organizing one's coursework and skills categorically and by importance. In addition, Dr. Citurs also stressed the importance of showcasing relevant coursework on one's resume, along with being honest about both courses and projects undertaken. This workshop is held at the beginning of every semester.



BIS-ITSA Resume Writing Workshop

On Wednesday, February 7th, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Eastern's BIS-ITSA Club hosted their resume writing workshop, which presents students with an interest in the field of Bus-Tech a great opportunity to get advice on creating a resume that will both stand out and bring their best aspects to the forefront. This event featured prior Eastern Alumni (many of whom have attended this event while in school) from Travelers Insurance, a major insurance company in CT. When students attended the event, they were able to sit down with one of the alumni for a one-on-one session to have their resume reviewed and be given feedback on both the positive aspects of their resumes, and any areas that could see improvement. In addition to being given constructive criticism, students were also given crucial pieces of advice that would add professionalism and highlight their strong points. These included adding specific keywords into one's resume, along with showcasing projects and networking profiles through site platforms such as LinkedIn or GitHub.

Having a well-crafted resume at the ready is of the utmost importance for one looking to step within the wide but also deep field of Bus-Tech and get their foot into the door of a fulfilling career. Not only will it help students to land that first interview, but it will also spark intrigue within their interviewers, and lead to enlightening conversations that can help secure that job offer! The BIS-ITSA club and the alumni host this event every semester.





Traveler's BI-Analytics Kick-Off

On Friday, February 9th, 2024, Travelers Insurance partnered with the BIS-ITSA Club and hosted their second annual Business Analytics Case Competition! Three Travelers employees (who were also prior Eastern Students) arrived on campus to give a presentation on what the competition entails along with the objective, resources, timelines, and the prize for winning. Among the alumni were Connor Chute (BIS), Jafet Aparicio (CS and Math), and Humberto Sanchez Heredia (CS) This competition presents an incredible opportunity for students to participate and create a project that will utilize their skillsets, emulate real work within the area of Biz-Tech, and allow them to really stand out and show their curiosity and drive to learn. After final contestants are chosen, they will move on to compete in Hartford, on Friday, April 5th. This event was hosted in Webb 358 in the Faculty Lounge in a come and go format, and pizza and pop were provided by the club.



Figure 1: Connor Chute (BIS)

Figure 2: Humberto Sanchez Heredia (CS)

Figure 3: Jafet Aparicio (CS and Math)



Mock Interviews with Alumni and Company Reps

On Wednesday, February 21st, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, the BIS-ITSA Club hosted a mock interview event with both Eastern Alumni and representatives from major companies within CT. The alumni that attended this event work for both insurance and manufacturing companies within CT such as Travelers Insurance, The Hartford, and SPIROL. Many of the alumni that were present had attended this same event while they were still at Eastern and have experience with interviewing potential employees at their own companies, so the questions that were asked were representative of real Bus-Tech interview questions.

As students arrived, they each got to sit down in the different parts of Webb 410 and conduct an individualized mock interview, during this come n' go event. These sessions were structured exactly like a first-round interview at the companies the interviewers represented, and consisted of a brief resume review, with additional feedback, followed by behavioral interview questions, inquiries about anything on their resume that stood out, along with time given for the interviewees to ask questions about the interviewer's company and their own experiences being interviewed. Most importantly, this granted students without any interviewing experience an opportunity to practice and receive feedback that will better prepare them for actual interviews.

This event was not only useful for practicing ones interviewing skills; it also provided students an opportunity to meet and connect with alumni-representatives from different companies within Connecticut, many of whom have gone down the same educational path as the current students. The Mock Interviews are conducted every semester in Webb 410, with the goal of providing students at Eastern both the knowledge and confidence needed to ace their interviews!



The Hartford Internship & Career Info Session with Alumni and Company Reps

On Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, the BIS-ITSA Club proudly hosted an insightful event in collaboration with The Hartford, a prominent insurance company, aimed at enlightening students about internship and career opportunities within the The Hartford insurance organization.

The session commenced at 5:30 pm and lasted until 7:30, providing an extensive overview of The Hartford's operations, culture, and career paths. Spearheading the session was University Relations Specialist Alex Martinez, who delivered a comprehensive presentation shedding light on The Hartford's values, initiatives, and professional development opportunities for aspiring talents.

A highlight of the event was the engaging Q&A panel discussion featuring distinguished Eastern alumni and representatives from The Hartford. Among the esteemed panelists were Ian Keorack (Data Analyst – BIS alumni) and Kaira Ramon (Data Engineer), each offering unique insights into their respective roles, career trajectories, and invaluable advice for aspiring interns and professionals. Throughout the session, attendees had the opportunity to delve into the diverse facets of The Hartford's business operations, gain firsthand knowledge about the company's internship programs, and glean valuable insights into the skills and attributes required for success in the industry.



(Standing From left to right Kiara Ramon, Alex Martinez, and Ian Keorack)

The event provided a helpful environment for networking, fostering meaningful interactions between students and industry professionals. Many attendees seized the opportunity to engage in one-on-one conversations with panel members, further enriching their understanding of potential career pathways and forging valuable connections within the industry. Accompanied by pizza and pop as always.

Overall, the Hartford Internship & Career Info Session served as an invaluable platform for students to gain insights, expand their professional networks, and embark on their journey towards achieving success in the dynamic field of information technology. The BIS-ITSA Club looks forward to organizing more such enriching events in the future, empowering students to navigate their career paths with confidence and clarity.



BIS/ITSA - Travelers Business Insights and Analytics Internship and Career Program Info Session

On Thursday, February 29th, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, students involved and interested in the fields of BIS, Data Science, and CS attended the Travelers Business Insights and Analytics Leadership Development Program Information Session in Webb 358 (the Faculty Lounge). The session featured representatives from the BI&A Program at Travelers Insurance, who were also prior Eastern alumni. While speaking at the session, the Travelers alumni shared valuable information and advice regarding both the program they represent and their experiences at Eastern. The alumni included Daytona (DJ) Rizzo (BIS, Finance) – Information Delivery Engineer, Hunter Vetterkind (BIS, Data Science) – Data Engineer, and Vanessa Zetino (CS, MIS) – Data Engineer.

During this session, students who attended were able to get a wealth of information about the structure of the program and the benefits of working in the insurance industry. Some of the benefits mentioned were job stability, generosity towards local communities, and a limitless range of opportunities for careers and growth. In addition, this Travelers development program also provides students with the opportunities to acquire and learn many integral skills in the field of Biz-Tech such as Python, AWS, and GitHub. Another important point mentioned was the fluidity of one's role in the program, as interns can apply and learn new skills in six unique career path fields within the program:

1. Data Management
2. Business Insights Delivery
3. Architecture and Data Products
4. Decision Science
5. Data Science Enablement
6. Business Focus and Project Management

Apart from talking about the opportunities at Travelers Insurance, the alumni also spoke of their academic experience at Eastern, and the courses that helped them best prepare for their careers within the BI&A program. Some of these courses include Business Database Management (BIS 373), which introduces students to the world of data and database management, alongside learning solid SQL skills; Agile Project Management (BIS 437), which introduces students to the most popular project management methodologies in the domain of Biz-Tech; and E-Commerce (BIS 375), which gets students acquainted with web development and AWS, the most popular cloud platform in the world and currently in use at Travelers and countless other organizations in CT and across the country.

Overall, the presentation was a valuable insight into one of Traveler's most popular internship programs for those interested in the field of Biz-Tech, and showed students an insider's perspective on what they can expect and learn from the program. After the presentation, students spent the last hour asking questions of the alumni, plus pizza and pop were provided. This event takes place every semester. (Pictures next page)



Figure1: Hunter Vetterkind (BIS and Data Science)



Figure 2: Daytona (DJ) Rizzo (BIS and Finance)



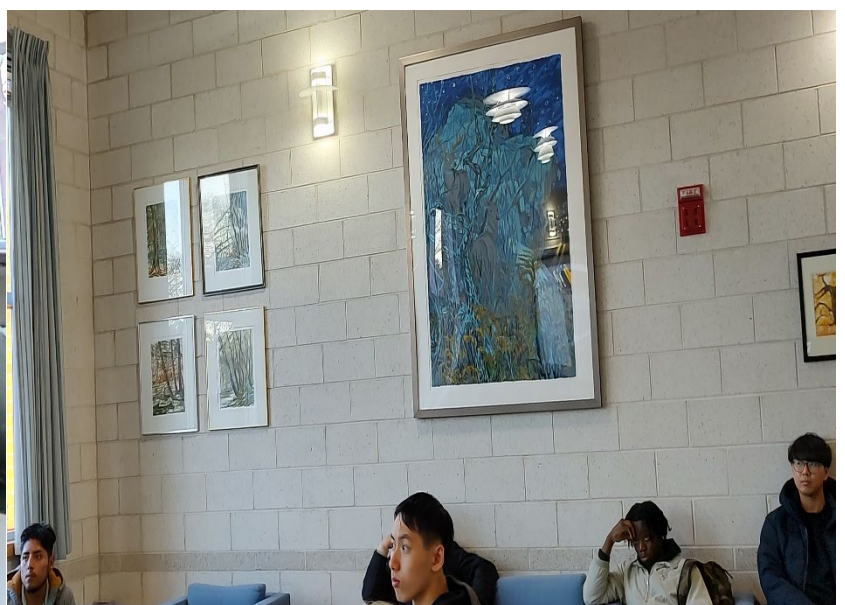
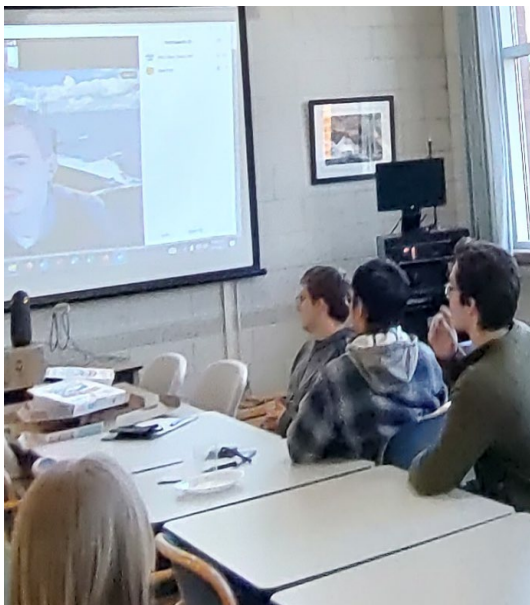
Figure 3: Vanessa Zetino (CS and MIS)



Careers at the Intersection of Advanced Manufacturing, IT, and Operations - Supply Chain Discussion

On Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the Webb Hall Faculty Lounge (Room 358), the BIS-ITSA club hosted a discussion on careers at the intersection of Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology, Operations and Logistics. Jake Frye, (BIS and Data Science – General Dynamics – Electric Boat – Software Data Engineer) and Prof. Ryan White (Operations & Logistics - US Air Force – Operations-Logistics Officer) helped lead a discussion on the skillsets and career areas involving information systems/technology, advanced manufacturing and operations and logistics. They focused in on the skillsets and courses that have proven extremely valuable to them in careers and roles. In addition to talking about their roles in these complex high-tech logistically demanding organizations and how their education prepared them for it.

They provided key insights into how to best prepare oneself for internships and careers in these areas. Some of the key takeaways for preparation were to diversify one's skillsets making sure that you have a good mix of technical, communication and team skillsets. Overall, the come n' go event offered valuable insights into the opportunities within the field of advanced manufacturing for BIS, Operations & Supply Chain Management and Data Science students. Everyone was able to enjoy pizza and pop.



Connecticut Advance Manufacturing Expo Connecticut State Capital – Hartford

On the afternoon of Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 19 BIS-ITSA Club members and other BIS Program students attended a Connecticut advanced manufacturing expo and career fair at the Connecticut State Capitol, organized by the legislative caucuses. Approximately, 40 advanced manufacturing firms Connecticut based or with operations in Connecticut had exhibits about their products, operations, and manufacturing services. They also had information on the types of engineering, IT, machine-control, operations, and logistics/supply-chain internships and career positions that they were looking to fill. Many of the BIS-ITSA students had taken their resumes to the event. Students from other Connecticut schools were there such as CCSU, QVCC, and UConn. Numerous of the advanced manufacturing employers at the event brought out the challenges they face in trying to find qualified talent at the intersecting skillsets of various types of engineering, computer aided design, computerized machine control programming and operation, along with information systems skillsets in enterprise resource planning, logistics and supply chain management as well as automated assembly and warehousing systems programming and process customization. Many of the attending students felt that they gained insights and leads into internship and career opportunities in or close to the Connecticut towns and cities where they are from.



BIS-ITSA Club Members: Marcos, Logan and Oscar scoping out the career opportunities at the Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Expo at the Connecticut State Capital.

Travelers – Business Analytics Competition Finals in Hartford – Friday, April 5, 2024

The Travelers' Business Analytics Case Competition presents an amazing opportunity for students to participate and demonstrate their business-analytics problem-solving abilities working in team settings. This year's competition was structured in a new way unlike past years. After the case competition kickoff sessions which were held on February 9, 2024, at ECSU, Quinnipiac University, UConn and other Connecticut schools, students were directed to a website URL to submit their application to compete in the contest. At a designated date and time, the business analytics case competition was released to all contestants at the same time from all the schools. Unlike past years, this year students submitted their individual business analytics problem-solving approach plan before the designated deadline. The Travelers judges selected the top 16 individual finalists from which they formed four four-person teams to compete together on Friday, April 5, 2024, at Travelers Headquarters in Hartford. Two BIS students were amongst the finalists selected to compete in the half-day-plus competition in Hartford. Those two BIS students were Owen Bennet and Robyn Vetterkind, who were placed on separate teams for the finals. Travelers wanted the students to get familiar with working with people that they do not know in trying to solve complex business analytical problems. Although Owen and Robyn were not members of the winning team, it was a great learning opportunity for them and hope to compete in the future.



To Left: Robyn Vetterkind presenting with her finalist teammates to the Travelers judges and audience their findings and plan of action if given more time to work on the case problem.

Below: All Case Competition Finalists. Owen Bennet – back row 4th from left Robyn Vetterkind – third from right

Published on April 16, 2024

BIS students win top awards at national IT competition



Students from the Business Information Systems/Information Technology Students of America (BIS-ITSA) club at Eastern Connecticut State University won top awards at the recent U.S. IT Collegiate Conference in Louisiana. Seniors Andrew Cavar and Brandon Steen took home first place in the Microsoft Office Solutions contest; juniors Jacob Cohen and Samuel Hurlburt placed in the top five of the business analytics competition.

The conference consisted of eight applied IT skill competitions, ranging from security and PC troubleshooting to network and database design. With a diverse scope of universities present — such as Texas State University, Missouri State University and the University of Iowa — the students faced strong competitors. Considering the size of these institutions, the Eastern students' standout performance speaks to their hard work and abilities, noted BIS Professor Alex Citurs, faculty advisor to the BIS-ITSA club.



The Microsoft Office Solutions contest asked students to utilize products and features within Microsoft software, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access. They were asked to create an end-to-end data management/presentation solution, which was evaluated for analysis and sophistication.



Steen said, “Honestly, what I had wanted most out of the competition was the opportunity to have fun and learn a great deal about (ITS). Nobody from our group anticipated that we would get acknowledged for the Microsoft Office Solutions competition, as it was the one with the most competitors.”

“They named third and second, then suddenly we were named one of the best in the nation,” said Cavar. “I embraced (Steen) in astonishment and collected our award. This is the first time our school has placed first in this event and bringing home gold felt very fulfilling.”

Steen agreed, saying, “It was incredible to realize that we managed to challenge universities of top caliber and be among the highest-ranking teams in the competition.”

During the business analytics competition, students worked in a variety of applied business analytical methods, dealing with real-world data, descriptive analysis, forecasting models, and visualizing and describing the implications of their analysis findings.



“While the four-hour limit may sound like forever, when you're actually in it, it feels like five minutes,” said Hurlburt. “Time flies, obstacles arise and code fails. You had to be able to pivot and explore new strategies to be successful.”

His teammate Cohen agreed. “It felt great being able to look back and specifically point to the BIS Program and see how much it prepared us to tackle these types of challenges.”

The students were accompanied by Professor Citurs: “It has been very rewarding to see these four students grow their integrated applied business and technical skillsets and successfully utilize these skills in real-world based projects ... From day one of meeting each of them, it was obvious that they possessed a strong desire to learn and leverage their abilities and skills in solving real-world project challenges.”

The students credit their success to the rigor of their studies at Eastern and the support of their faculty mentors. The BIS program encourages students to gain practical knowledge in their courses. Over time, they gain applied Structure Query Language (SQL) skills necessary for succeeding after they graduate. Additionally, the BIS-ITSA club connects students with program alumni who can act as mentors in navigating the job market.

Steen said of the program, “The guidance of Dr. Citurs, the activities hosted by the club and the connections I have made with students on campus have been invaluable for my academic and career success, and it has steered my life in the direction of great fortune and opportunity.”

Cavar agreed. He won an honorable mention at last year’s IT collegiate conference with Cohen before becoming more involved in the BIS program as a teaching assistant and as president of the BIS-ITSA Club. He said, “It was with this dedication and love for the program that I was able to achieve first place and put our University's program back on the map.”



“Seeing the BIS Program students get recognized at the national level was a moment of thankful joy and pride that our Eastern students could compete, place well and win at the national level against top students from much larger schools from across the country,” Citurs said. It has been very gratifying that between this year and last year, our BIS students have placed in the top five nationally in three core BIS skillset areas: Microsoft Office Solutions, database design and business analytics, which are skillsets in high demand by Connecticut employers in high paying biz-tech job positions.”

At the conference students also attended various informational sessions and exhibitions and connected with other professionals. Hurlburt said, “It was great being able to connect with students who share the same interests as me as well as professionals who had lots of advice to share.”

Following graduation, Cavar will be joining Travelers as a data engineer. Steen and Cohen will be joining him at Travelers as interns for the Business Insights and Analytics Program, where they can further develop their skills. In the coming years, Hurlburt hopes to pursue a career in sports analytics.

Written by Marcus Grant

BIS-ITSA How to have a Successful Internship Alumni Discussion Event

On Thursday, April 11th, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, the BIS-ITSA club hosted a panel discussion with prior Biz-Tech alumni who have had internship experiences and are now working for major companies within Connecticut, namely Travelers Insurance, Cigna, and General Dynamics - Electric Boat. This discussion event gave an opportunity for students who have or are looking for internships to learn about what to expect from one and the best practices and words of advice to both succeed at an internship and hopefully land a full-time career position job offer!

This featured alumni from across several different majors, minors and career paths, but all with a keen interest in the field of Biz-tech.



Figure 1: From Left to Right: John Burchard (BIS, Cigna), Dave Marciczkievicz (BIS, Travelers), Humberto Sanchez Heredia (CS, Travelers), Daytona Rizzo (BIS + Fin, Travelers), Vanessa Zetino (CS, Travelers), Jacob Hartman (CS, Travelers), and Jaelyn Schroder (BIS, Electric Boat).

Each alumni got the opportunity to answer a variety of questions that students and interns may have related to internships. One of the more important questions asked was “what are some skills that will help you to succeed at your internship?” Every alumnus in the panel emphasized the need for strong interpersonal skills: for example, Jacob and Daytona both stressed the importance of communication, specifically knowing the correct person to contact for help with a project or learning a skill. Also, it’s important to communicate one’s own strengths and weaknesses, and figure out what is expected to fulfill a business requirement.

Humberto stated that his craving for new knowledge during the internship was what helped him most. Along with this, he also mentioned that having both critical thinking and solid problem-solving skills can help one go far in their internship.

Vanessa focused more on the technical skills that she utilized the most during her internship, specifically SQL for working with data, and data visualization and creating dashboards. In addition to technical skills during one’s internship, John said that one should try to find volunteer opportunities during one’s internship to build their skillsets and stand out as a quality intern. He also talked about the use of learning resources during your internship, and to follow along and experiment with practice work when it comes to

learning technical skills.



Figure 2: Vanessa Zetino (CS, Travelers)



Figure 3: John Burchard (BIS, Cigna)

Along with possessing and knowing how to utilize a good set of interpersonal and technical skills, each alumnus talked about qualities they had that helped them succeed during their internships. One of the most important qualities mentioned was self-awareness. Dave mentioned that being self-aware was a great benefit, as it allowed him to recognize the skills that he had a strong grasp of, and the ones that he should seek to improve.

One other quality mentioned was to be perceptive and know the work environment you are a part of. This can manifest itself in many ways. Those in an internship should be reasonable with the goals they set, and also be perceptive to the feedback given to them. In addition to this, it is also important to know the workflow and culture of one's own company. Jaelyn mentioned that interning and working at Electric Boat was very much unlike other workplaces for Biz-Tech students, which are usually characterized by hectic schedules and a fast workflow. However, upon arriving at Electric Boat, she was surprised as how much slower the workplace operated as compared to a company like Travelers.

After the presentation and questions ended, the attending students got to talk with and ask questions to any of the alumni that attended. In addition, pizza and pop were provided! This event is conducted by the BIS-ITSA Club every semester.



Figure 2: Jaelyn Schroder (BIS, Electric Boat)

BIS 449 -Data Visualization Students Present at CREATE 2024

On Friday, April 19, 2024, fifteen BIS students from Dr. Kunene's BIS 449 – Data Visualization course section presented at CREATE 2024 held on Friday, April 19th in the Student Center. CREATE provided a great opportunity for the student teams to present their visual, written, and oral topic-issue stories to an audience with members from different perspectives (student, faculty and administrators) that can relate to these campus issues. The four teams oral-visual presentations were on the following research topics:

Big Idea: Parking at Eastern

Students: Matthew Bassett, Andrew T Cutter, Byron Scarpellini, Marcos Godinez-Hernandez

Student Advising with Senior Mentors in the Major

Students: Paige Carlson, Amani Jones, Sarah Haluch, and Anne Yee Zhang

Academic Department Funding For Student Success

Students: Brandon Steen, Ryan Noll, Edgar Escutia

Extending Hurley Hours

Students: Ray Flegert, Sydnee Smith, Michael Hernandez, and Sara Marrufo

Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society – April 24, 2024

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, the Business Information Systems (BIS) Program, Department of Computer Science (CS), and the interdisciplinary Data Science Program held the induction ceremony into the Connecticut Alpha Chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE). Thirteen students majoring in BIS along with seven students majoring in Computer Science students and one in Data Science were inducted into Alpha Mu Alpha. Many of the inductees had dual majors or minors.



BIS Major UPE Alumni representing the 3 UPE Greek Letters were Rachel Hughes, Daytona Rizzo, & Andrew Cavar



Numerous family members, friends, and faculty attended the UPE Induction Ceremony

These information systems/science and computer science students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements. At the ceremony, addresses to the inductees and their families were given by Dr. Ben Pauley (Assistant Provost), Dr. Alex Citurs (BIS Program Coordinator), and Dr. Garrett Dancik (Dept. of Computer Science Chair). The induction ceremony was followed by a reception. BIS students inducted into UPE on April 24, 2024, included the following students:



BIS Major 2024 UPE Inductees

(Names by row left to right)

Back row: Victoria Heaphy, Dylan Lennon, Matthew Bielaczyc, Brain McWhirt, & Samuel Hurlbert
Middle row: Jacob Cohen, Joseph Hines, Nathan Salcedo, Samuel Lanouette, Abraham Flores, Zachary Larkham
Front row: Amani Jones, Dr. Citurs, & Marcos Godinez-Hernandez

BIS-ITSA Club Banquet – May 1, 2024

On Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 6pm to 8:30pm, the BIS-ITSA Club hosted the annual BIS Banquet in the FAIC Lobby, which invited both current students interested in both the club and the fields of Biz-Tech, and alumni who were a part of the BIS Program or BIS-ITSA/AITP Club. The Banquet gave students the opportunity to sit down and converse with alumni with educational paths very similar to their interests. This in turn allowed them to see the wide array of opportunities that their education can offer them.

In addition to valuable discussions and insights into potential career paths, this event also presented awards to both alumni and the current E-Board members of the BIS-ITSA Club for their efforts, help and accomplishments. Among the alumni who received awards were Vanessa Zetino, Travelers Business Insights and Analytics, for her support of 2023-2024 employability events. John Burchard, Cigna, for his donation to help support 2023-2024 BIS-ITSA Club events. After this, each officer of the BIS-ITSA Club was given a certificate of appreciation for their contributions and dedication to both the club and the program as a whole. Furthermore, the club representatives were also recognized for their great effort in the national annual USITCC (US IT Collegiate Conference) Competition. Four members of the club and the BIS Program were able to walk away with two awards, one for 1st place in the Microsoft Solutions Competition (Andrew Cavar and Brandon Steen), and another for Top 5 in the Business Analytics Competition (Jacob Cohen and Samuel Hurlbert).

Towards the end of the banquet, major announcements were made. Dr. Kunene will be taking over as the new BIS Program Coordinator and Accounting & Business Information Systems Department Chair. This change will go into effect for the Fall 2024 Semester. The newly elected by BIS-ITSA Club student members for the 2024-2025 Year BIS-ITSA EBoard Officers were announced. They are President – Samuel Hurlbert, Vice President – Mitchell Peterson, Treasurer – Matthew Bielaczyc, Secretary – Brandon Steen, SOOPA – Robyn Vetterkind, VP of Public Relations - Uzi Bhura, and Faculty Advisor – Dr. Citurs. Plus, the BIS-ITSA Fall 2024 Social was announced for Friday, September 13th to be held in the Fine Arts Center Lobby at 6:15 PM.

Alongside all of the awards and the discussions had, the event also had a Kahoot game which featured trivia questions about the BIS program! This event is hosted by the BIS-ITSA Club every semester, with Asian Buffet food and beverages provided by Chartwells.





BIS-ITSA Club President 2023-2024, Andrew Cavar, receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for leading the club through an active and successful year.



Dr. Kunene, incoming BIS Program Coordinator and incoming Accounting & BIS Department Chair congratulating the BIS-ITSA Club members for their efforts and accomplishments and the alumni for their support.

Summer 2023

BIS 490 – BIS Internship Class Related Events

Exchanging Ideas, Tech-Tool Tips, & Strategies

Over Lunches & Coffee Near Employers Plus

In Class and Virtually

The 2022-2023 Academic Year saw the implementation of live in person BIS 490 – BIS Internship class sessions to accompany the traditional BIS Program more individualized independent study style BIS Internships, that historically had multi-time group casual get together to exchange internship experiences, strategies, and tech tool tips, and resource suggestions. Dr. Citurs, BIS Program Coordinator and BIS 490 Faculty Instructor, visited the communities/areas where current BIS students and BIS alumni are working by meeting up over “come-n-go” lunches or coffee. These “Dutch-treat” (no expense to Eastern) lunches and coffees allowed interning BIS students additional opportunities to obtain feedback and suggestions, from not only Dr. Citurs, but numerous BIS alumni working in a variety of biz-tech careers and companies close by. The suggestions to the interns would include how to improve their biz-tech skillsets, work performance, learn about new tech-tools, and tech help websites. At these events BIS alumni shared with the current interning BIS students their strategies for dealing with these challenging technical and organizational issues. These gatherings also helped build the interns biz-tech professional networks. The BIS alumni also share with Dr. Citurs their observations and perceptions of tech tools, platforms, project trends and best practices, for suggestions to be considered for future course content incorporation.

The Summer 2023 - BIS 490 Internship class sessions, held in Webb 407 lab, incorporated hands-on exercises with biz-tech professional platform tools like GitHub, LinkedIn, and tech sites useful in solving technical issues such as W3Schools, StackOverflow, etc., Microsoft, IBM and other vendor sites. The class sessions often had alumni guest speakers that are experts at the week’s topics. BIS interning students can text, call or email, Dr. Citurs to get individualized tech help and advice not only during the class sessions and daytime, but evenings and weekends for more urgent and pressing issues they are facing in their internship projects and teams. Below are pictures from just a few of the multiple casual-over food/coffee events held during Summer 2023 with current BIS interning students, alumni, and Dr. Citurs. The locations for meeting were chosen based upon their proximity to the internship company locations and the restaurants’/coffee shops’ come n’ go settings. Guest speakers for class sessions were mostly in person, but with some virtual Zoom, and mixed physical-virtual sessions to facilitate guest speakers’ and interning students’ work schedule needs and locations. BIS professionals have dynamic locations and schedules.



