



University of
Pittsburgh | Johnstown

Business & Enterprise Division

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Faculty Updates

Accounting and Marketing Alumni Join Faculty

Jennifer N. (Zelinsky) Sherwood, CPA,

graduated from Pitt-Johnstown with a dual major in Financial Accounting and General Management, and a minor in Mathematics. She completed an internship which led to a full-time position at a CPA firm in Johnstown.

While working full-time, Sherwood completed her Master of Business Administration at Saint Francis University and earned her Certified Public Accountants license. During her time in public accounting, she gained experience in auditing and taxation, and she rose to title of Supervisor.

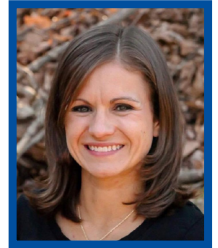
Sherwood transitioned her career into accounting education and has been a full-time professor at Pitt-Johnstown since 2021. "When I was a student, I found the best professors to be the ones who had real-world experience and brought it into the classroom," she said. "Now, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to teach at my alma mater and to share my experiences with these students." Sherwood is the advisor for Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity and Sigma Beta Delta. She resides in Somerset, PA, with her husband Brian, son John, and beagle Max.



Stacy (Varmecky) Roberts, MBA,

graduated from Pitt-Johnstown with a dual major in Marketing and Management. She attended Saint Francis University as a Graduate Assistant and earned her Master of Business Administration. Roberts then worked full-time for almost a decade in healthcare, followed by the metal fabrication industry. She became a brand manager for a marketing consulting agency, with clients in retail, banking, and manufacturing. Roberts served as an adjunct professor of management 2011 to 2015, and returned to Pitt-Johnstown in Fall 2021 as an adjunct professor of marketing before being awarded a full-time faculty position in 2022.

"I was blessed with phenomenal professors at Pitt-Johnstown," said Roberts. "Teaching has always been a passion of mine, and this is my way of paying it forward to the next generation of business professionals." In addition to teaching, Roberts oversees marketing internships and advises The Business Club. Roberts resides in Johnstown, PA with her husband, Kurt, and children, Isaac and Sophia.



Welcome New Finance Faculty

Pitt-Johnstown welcomes **Dr. Fred Yang** to its finance faculty. Dr. Yang was an associate professor at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was nominated for Outstanding Teacher of the Year of 2021. "My teaching philosophy is to foster an environment that promotes enthusiasm, connection to the real world, and confidence building," he said. "I am strongly committed to the pursuit of teaching excellence." Dr. Yang earned his PhD at Old Dominion University, and completed research in behavioral finance, real estate finance, and corporate governance. He completed his Master of Business Administration in Finance at the University of Science and Technology of China, and his Master of Science in Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University. He held corporate positions of Deputy Team Leader for World Bank, and was an International Trade Representative for AHCOF International Development Company for almost a decade. Dr. Yang fills the vacant finance faculty position after the departure of long-term faculty Mr. James Teague who resigned to pursue a new endeavor. Thank you, Mr. Teague, for your years of service! Welcome, Dr. Yang!



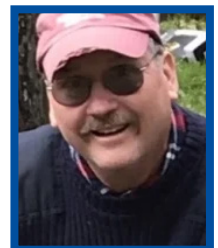
Division Chair Transition

Dr. Ray Wrabley, former Division Chair for Business & Enterprise and Division of Social Sciences, was named Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Timothy Whisler, Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance, is now the Interim Chair of the Business & Enterprise Division. Previous to Pitt-Johnstown, Dr. Whisler taught at Saint Francis University where he served as the Dean of the School of Arts & Letters. Dr. Wrabley and Dr. Whisler have proven to be vital assets to the University and will help lead Pitt-Johnstown to the future with their leadership and innovative approach to education.



Dr. Wrabley



Dr. Whisler

Staff Updates

Dawn Miller, former Administrative Assistant for the Business & Enterprise Division, has also relocated to Blackington Hall with Dr. Wrabley to continue to serve students in Academic Affairs. Miller has been an asset to the Division with her kindness, compassion, and willingness to go above and beyond for students and faculty. Her wealth of knowledge and years of experiences will allow her to continue serving our Pitt-Johnstown community. Congratulations!



The Business & Enterprise Division welcomes alumna **Jessica Marines** as its new Administrative Assistant. Marines earned her bachelor of arts degree in English Literature from Pitt-Johnstown. She has a diverse skill set and years of experience in corporate America, including her vital role of Executive Assistant to the District Attorney. Jessica resides in Nanty Glo, PA with her husband, Ethan, and two daughters.



Curriculum Updates

Accounting Minor

An 18-credit accounting minor has been added to the degrees available for business and non-business students at Pitt-Johnstown. Additional minors in business include economics, information systems, management, marketing, and entrepreneurship. Adding a minor is a great use of credits to gain further business education.

Drone Flying Course

A drone flying course is now available for students to learn the fundamental and legal aspects of using unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The course will ultimately prepare students to pass an FAA required exam to use drones commercially. Drones are useful in the promotion of travel, real estate, and agriculture. There are no prerequisites for students to enroll in this marketing elective course.

MBA Program Opportunities

Through the Pitt Guaranteed Admissions program, students enrolling at Pitt-Johnstown can earn a MBA from the Katz School of Business. Learn more at admissions.pitt.edu/guaranteed-admissions-programs/

Pitt-Johnstown and Saint Francis University (SFU) have launched an **accelerated Master of Business Administration track** for current business students and alumni. Students are required to take 10 courses, instead of 12, through an asynchronous online platform. Concentrations include accounting, finance, healthcare management, human resource management, information systems and project management, leadership and ethical management, and marketing and sports management. Graduate Assistant positions are available to assist with tuition. To learn more about this program or to apply, contact Ms. Hailey Thomas, Director of SFU Graduate Business Programs, at hthomas@francis.edu.



Student Highlights

Recent Internships

Business students have the opportunity to complete internships for credit. Students experience corporate settings, work on tasks and projects, and develop strong interpersonal, professional, and leadership skills. During Summer 2023 and Fall 2023, business students have interned at:

- BNY Mellon
- Conemaugh Health System
- Duquesne Light Company
- Johnstown Tomahawks Hockey
- Johnstown Mill Rats Baseball
- Material Recovery Solutions
- PA Auditor General
- Pitt-Johnstown Athletics
- PWC
- Somerset Trust Company
- Steel City Axe
- Tri-State PGA
- Walt Disney World

Student Organizations

Pitt-Johnstown business students are actively involved in various clubs and organizations.

Business-sponsored clubs include:

Accounting & Finance Interest Group

Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity

Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society

The Business Club

FACULTY & STAFF

ACCOUNTING

Cristina DeDiana, CPA
Jennifer Sherwood, CPA
Deborah Zakrzwski, CPA

ECONOMICS

Guo Kai, PhD
Timothy Whisler, PhD

FINANCE

Fred Yang, PhD

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Sean Beck, MSE
Travis Stouffer, MSE

MANAGEMENT

Angela Balog, MBA
John Byrne, PMP

MARKETING

Skip Glenn, MBA
Stacy Roberts, MBA

STAFF

Jessica Marines

MAJORS

Accounting

Financial Accounting
Managerial Accounting

Economics

Finance

General Finance
Chartered Financial Analyst

Information Systems

Business IS
Cybersecurity
Geographic IS
Healthcare IS

Management

General Management
Healthcare
Human Resources
Supply Chain

Marketing

MINORS

Accounting
Economics
Entrepreneurship
Information Systems
Management
Marketing

Congratulations!

Winter 2023 Graduates

Congratulations to all business majors who graduated following the Fall 2023 semester. We are so proud of you and wish you the best for all your future endeavors!

Save the Date

Business Alumni All-Class Reunion

Planning is underway for a Summer 2024 Business Alumni All-Class Reunion to be held on the campus of Pitt-Johnstown. Details will be distributed to all alumni in coming months with a tentative reunion date in June or July 2024. This is an exciting opportunity to network with fellow alumni, reunite with former classmates, and experience the positive changes that have occurred on campus including new and updated buildings.

Stay Connected

Sign Up for Digital Newsletter

The Business & Enterprise Division will distribute a newsletter at the end of every fall and spring semester. If you did not receive this newsletter in your email inbox, we might not have your address. Please update your contact information at johnstown.pitt.edu/alumni and click "Stay Connected". There is no obligation. Unsubscribe at any time.

Get Involved

Host an Intern

Business students at Pitt-Johnstown are eager to gain real-world experience at local, regional, and national companies. Most students complete an internship for three credits, totaling 150 hours for a semester. Students work on daily tasks and complete intricate projects under the direction of a supervisor. To host an intern or to learn more, contact Jessica Marines, Administrative Assistant, at JLM553@pitt.edu.

Become an In-Class Guest Speaker

Bringing experience to the classroom is essential for current students to gain insight into various fields of study and industries. Faculty are often seeking professionals to expand course content with presentations. To express interest in becoming a guest speaker or for more information, contact Jessica Marines, Administrative Assistant, at JLM553@pitt.edu.

Contact Us

Jessica Marines, Administrative Assistant
814.269.2996 • JLM553@pitt.edu