



The Department of Business and Economics Bulletin

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From the Department Chair



Dear business and economics alumni and friends,

As I reflect on this past semester, one word consistently comes to mind: gratitude.

I am deeply thankful to my colleagues who have gone above and beyond, taking on additional responsibilities during a time of understaffing. I also feel immense gratitude for our students, who, despite their own challenges, make a conscious effort to check in on us, the faculty. I am grateful for the staff at Ursinus who patiently guide us through new systems, even as they themselves are still learning them.

I also want to express my deep appreciation for our alumni and campus supporters, whose generous contributions were instrumental to the success of Deacle Days and UCIMCO. To the alumni who share their time and experiences with students, providing valuable insights into their transitions from campus life to professional careers, I am deeply grateful. When we collaborate and support one another, we all become better at what we do.

While Ursinus is navigating a period of transition, this collective sense of gratitude fosters a growth-oriented mindset that propels us forward on the right path. As we approach 2025, I hope each of you finds and nurtures gratitude in your own lives.

Jennifer VanGilder
Professor and Chair, Department of Business and Economics

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Ursinus College Investment Management Company (UCIMCO)



On November 27, the [Ursinus College Investment Management Company](#) (UCIMCO) teams presented their research and decisions to visiting supporters and alumni. Through UCIMCO, student analysts manage endowment-style and stock selection funds for the college, providing students with invaluable hands-on experience in teamwork, valuation, market analysis, and economics.



Prior to the presentations, the [Scott Deacle Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund](#) was awarded to Alexandra Nenish, Class of 2025. Established by The Myers Family to honor the legacy of Dr. Scott Deacle, recipients of the scholarship demonstrate an intellectual curiosity and care for the whole of the Ursinus community that is reflective of Professor Deacle.



To further continue the legacy of Prof. Deacle, UCIMCO introduced a new fundraiser, **Deacle Days**, aimed at expanding the program with guest speakers, field trips, and competition opportunities. **We are proud to announce that we raised \$6,213.00, directly supporting our initiatives and helping to cultivate the next generation of leaders.** A heartfelt thank you to all who donated—your support is truly appreciated!

Summer Study Abroad - Economies in Transition

Three decades after the Fall of the Berlin Wall, students in the [Economies in Transition](#) course travel to Europe to investigate the lessons learned from humanity's recent experience with communism and its aftermath.

This summer a group of students, led by Dr. Olga Nicoara and Dr. Hugo Moises Montesinos-Yufa, traveled to Europe to investigate formerly socialist countries undergoing political, economic, and cultural transformations.

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



Summer Fellows

The [Summer Fellows program](#) allows sophomores or juniors to pursue an independent scholarly project under the close tutelage of a faculty mentor when both the student and the professor have more time to devote exclusively to research. All fellows present their research during the last week of the program, and many fellows present at Family Day, the Celebration of Student Achievement, and professional conferences off campus. **We are proud to highlight our 2024 Summer Fellows:**

Daniel Espinal '25 – Mentor: Prof. Scott King

One Island, Two Worlds: An Investigation of the Diverging Economies of the Dominican Republic and Haiti

Emma Reyes '25 – Mentor: Prof. Scott King

Cover Cropping: How Sustainability and Economics Can Work Hand in Hand



Student Internships

This fall, our students had the opportunity to share their summer internship experiences with students, faculty, staff, and friends. They reflected on their journeys before, during, and after their internships, offering insights into their personal growth and professional development. Our majors participated in a diverse array of internships across various fields, including finance, marketing, management, public administration, accounting, customer service, and more. These internships not only allowed students to explore potential career paths but also provided them with the chance to hone valuable skills and expand their professional networks.



UC Imagine Fest

The [UC Imagine Fest](#) is a 15-hour marathon event where students work together to find innovative and creative solutions for existing problems. This year's theme was "The Great Outdoors", cutting-edge ideas to enhance outdoor experiences and promote adventure in the world around us. During the program, students work to develop their solutions and pitch their final plan to a panel of judges. The calculated processes assist students to communicate the validity of a problem and offer a creative solution that meets the needs of a reachable market.



Congratulations to Dean Davis '27 who took first place with a sustainable idea that turns food waste from Wismer and surrounding colleges into compost.

Faculty Spotlight



This fall, assistant professor of economics Scott King traveled to Freiburg, Germany, to participate in a conference hosted by the [Walter Eucken Institute](#) commemorating the legacy of economist [Friedrich A. Hayek](#). Dr. King presented work jointly co-authored with Dr. Peter Boettke of George Mason University, which will be part of a book manuscript they have under contract with Oxford University Press. The book is part of Oxford's "Very Short Introductions" series and will serve as a primer for students and intellectuals who are curious about Hayek's thought.

Other conference attendees included leading Hayek scholars and historians of economic thought, such as Dr. Hansjoerg Klausinger and Dr. Bruce Caldwell, who have just published the definitive biography of Hayek, and Dr. Lars Feld, who recently served as personal advisor to the German minister of finance. Professor King enjoyed many stimulating conversations (as well as some delicious Rieslings) which strengthened his ongoing research on Hayekian economics. He plans to incorporate the comments he received on his presentation into the book and will develop new research ideas based on the discussions he had. Professor King is grateful for the opportunity, and for the support of the department in helping to make this trip possible.

Alumni Spotlight

Our department was thrilled to welcome back Business & Economics alumni George Psaradakis '21 (Vincent Hirsch Financial Services), Dean Fox '06 (Flagship Financial LLC), and Christy Barilotti '01 (Barilotti Wealth Strategies and Insurance Solutions LLC) for our second annual Financial Literacy Forum.

Open to all students, regardless of major, the forum provided a strong foundation in personal finance basics and equipped attendees with essential tools to navigate life both at Ursinus and beyond. The evening included a panel discussion, offering participants the chance to ask questions and engage in insightful, meaningful conversation.

