

Business and Hospitality Newsletter



Fall 2024 Department News

We are excited to share the inaugural Business and Hospitality Department Newsletter. The newsletter aims to communicate the department's achievements and acknowledgments while fostering community and shared purpose among our members.

Although the Fall semester is only halfway through, we are proud of our accomplishments. The progress made through the dedication of our faculty is both promising and inspiring. Our initiatives focus on putting students first by offering the best possible learning experiences for all qualified learners in a financially sustainable manner, ensuring high-quality and globally competitive outcomes. We aim to exceed expectations as we continue to learn and achieve.

Here are some initiatives we have undertaken or are currently pursuing. This list is not exhaustive, and we will share our progress and updates in the next newsletter. The items are listed in no particular order of importance:



**Fall 2024 Collegewide Advising Day
SV Atrium, Rockville Campus**

****Initiatives****

1. **Internships**

We are committed to the success of our students, as demonstrated by our successful placement of three students in internships with accounting firms in Montgomery County. Marie Gomez and Pramoda Ekanayahe are interning at Sentral Services, while Latifah Traore is with The Taxlady Network. We are also securing an internship for a fourth student, furthering our commitment to providing the best opportunities for our students.

2. **Business Case Competition**

In its second year, the Business Case Competition, organized by the Business department, continues to offer students unique and exciting experiential learning opportunities. This competition enhances our community partnerships and elevates Montgomery College's educational effectiveness. Students acquire valuable skills businesses seek, such as critical thinking, data-driven problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, and communication, making it a truly enriching and exciting experience that we are thrilled to be a part of.

3. **Accounting & Finance Networking Group (AFNG)**

On October 17th, the Accounting & Finance Networking Group (AFNG) was hosted Mr. Dan Grossberg, the president and founder of Better Books 360. His firm provides compliance, management, and advisory services through taxes, bookkeeping, IT, business analytics, and data visualization expertise. The event, which attracted 45 attendees, including students majoring in accounting, business, analytics, and IT, provided valuable insights on building successful careers in these fields, both in large corporations and smaller organizations. The knowledge gained from this event will undoubtedly guide our students in their future careers.

The AFNG was established in 2022 by Dr. Kathryn Klose and Ms. Denise Bossard from the MC Accounting Team and is supported by funding from FTI Consulting. This group typically convenes 2-3 times each semester to provide relevant learning opportunities, professional development, and career resources for Montgomery College students interested in business, accounting, finance, and related areas.

4. **The Center for Sustainable Business (CSB)**, part of the Department of Business and Hospitality Management, is actively pursuing its mission. Continuing the vision of Dr. Hoa Nguyen, Dr. Kathryn Klose is leading the Center's activities this year. The goal is establishing an Advisory Board to help guide the Center's direction. Additionally, with assistance from faculty in the Department, the Center is initiating a key project to integrate sustainable business practices into the curriculum of the AA in Business degree program. If you want to join our working group, please contact Dr. Kathryn Klose.

5. **Career Readiness**

This project aims to improve students' understanding of successfully entering a business career. It also seeks to enhance knowledge of career options and pathways while clarifying the expected outcomes. The initiative will provide learning resources, information, and tools to support students on their journey toward career readiness in business. Drs. Arthur Grinath and Angel Salinas are leading this initiative, with a particular emphasis on creating and aligning resources to assist students in Business programs as they pursue careers in Business, Management, Analytics, and Economics.

****Faculty Acknowledgment****

Dr. Hoa Nguyen: Economics Professor & Department Chair

Dr. Nguyen was appointed as a [White House Fellow](#) for the 2024-25 class. This is an extremely prestigious program that allows fellows to collaborate closely with senior White House staff, cabinet secretaries, and other high-ranking administration officials. This experience equips them to become influential leaders in their communities. Dr. Nguyen will dedicate her fellowship year to serving at the National Economic Council and the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Brian Baick: Accounting Professor

In the Spring of 2024, Mr. Baick worked on a Sabbatical Project, which involved surveying and analyzing current practices and activities that Montgomery College and local Colleges implement in experiential learning to identify best practices. The final component of the research involved designing several experiential learning activities for the Business and Hospitality Program at Montgomery College for implementation by the department and the college at large.

Mr. Ali Alavi: Business Professor

On Saturday, September 28, Professor Ali Alavi took his BSAD 101 students to the Entertainment Nation exhibit at the National Museum of American History. This visit was part of a multidisciplinary experiential learning activity that encourages students to explore the impact of the entertainment industry on American society from a historical perspective. The students are expected to present their findings in educational group presentations during the first week of November.

Dr. David Youngberg: Economics Professor

Professor Youngberg penned an op-ed on investors and housing in the [Harwood Economic Review](#), which received a significant following. This article has again been republished in the October issue.

Ms. Jessica Botta: Hospitality Management Professor

Professor Botta was featured in the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)'s Cooking with Science for an exciting new episode titled, "Buckwheat and Beans." Filmed at the U.S. National Arboretum over the summer, this collaboration highlights buckwheat and beans' nutritional benefits, versatility, and affordability in everyday diets.

The episode ([website](#)) features the preparation of a Zuppa Etrusca (Bean and Grain Soup) designed and cooked by professor and chef instructor Jessica Botta in MC's Rolling Raptor EduKitchen. The soup showcases buckwheat and beans as its core ingredients. Additional details about Montgomery College's Hospitality Management Program can be found on the Montgomery College [website](#).

Dr. Maurice Shihadi, Business Professor, and Dr. Sherry Mirbod, Accounting Professor

Professors Shihadi and Mirbod have been appointed Vice Presidents of the Rockville and Germantown Campus for the American Association of University Professors, Montgomery College Chapter.

Coming up in the Spring 2025 Semester (stay tuned):

1. ****Business Ethics Competition****

The second annual Montgomery College business ethics competition will be held in early March 2025. This is an annual event not only for business students, but also for all Montgomery College students. Students are assigned a real-life business ethics dilemma that they need to solve. Playing the role of business advisors, the students must present their proposed solution or course of action to a panel of judges. Students must balance ethical, legal, and financial considerations, and remember that businesses must keep in mind, the "Three P's". People, profit, and planet.

2. ****International Business Ethics Case Competition (IBECC)****

IBECC, the International Business Ethics Case Competition, is an annual educational event where students tackle real-world ethical issues in business scenarios. Founded in 1996, it is the longest-running competition of its kind, with the aim of promoting ethical decision-making in future business leaders. Participating teams, typically comprising three to five members, present cases where they analyze a company's legal, financial, and ethical challenges and propose balanced solutions.

The competition includes three presentation rounds: a comprehensive 25-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session, a 10-minute ethics-focused presentation, and a brief 90-second presentation on ethical highlights. These presentations are evaluated by corporate ethics and compliance officers, offering students valuable feedback and insight into practical business ethics.

IBECC also features additional events like the "moral compass" challenge and, since 2024, an AI-focused division supported by Northrop Grumman, which encourages teams to explore ethical issues specific to AI technologies. The 2025 competition is scheduled to take place at San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California.

The Macklin Business Institute students have been past winners at the competition and have been competing since 1999. Professor Baick and Steve Lang lead the MC students, as co-advisors.



MBI Students Who Competed and Won the IBECC Competition

3. ****Business Analytics Conference**** Coming to the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus in April 2025