

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

DEAN'S OFFICE

"From research and internships to leadership and service, our students are gaining experiences that prepare them to lead." -Dr. Lisa Frank

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Dr. Lisa Frank

Message From the Dean

As we close the Fall 2025 semester and look forward to Spring 2026, I am proud of the momentum that we continue to build across the School of Business. This issue highlights some of the people and work that make that momentum possible – our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners.

Our students remain at the center of everything we do. Through hands-on learning, leadership opportunities, and

research and professional experiences beyond the classroom, they are developing the skills and confidence needed to succeed in today's business environment.

This semester also marked meaningful progress in our academic programs. The launch of the Banking Excellence Certificate and Connecticut's first CFP Board Registered Personal Financial Planning program reflects our commitment to aligning curriculum with industry needs and expanding pathways to relevant, high-impact careers.

I am truly grateful to the faculty and staff whose dedication makes this work possible, and to the alumni and partners who continue to support and engage with our School. I hope you enjoy this snapshot of the work underway and the people driving it forward.

Student Spotlight

A big thank you to our amazing School of Business Interns!



Kenneth

"It's been a great semester working in the Dean's Office, meeting with students who need assistance in advising and doing research on behalf of the office." -Ken



Dakota

"Coming to Central in the fall of 2023, I knew I wanted to be involved in the community and find a way to be able to connect to my peers, and obtaining a position for the Dean's Office did just that for me! Since working here, I've been able to expand my skillset – whether it's learning a new platform, assisting students with advising, and even learning how to put myself out there when looking for new opportunities. Working for both the Advisors and the Dean's office, I've been given great guidance and resources to help advance my education and my future career." -Dakota



Sydney

"Sydney Mangham is a Social Media Intern for the CCSU School of Business Dean's Office, where she helps create meaningful, student-centered content for the School's digital platforms. She enjoys using her marketing and communication skills to highlight events, showcase faculty and student achievements, and build a stronger sense of community on campus. Her role has allowed her to grow creatively while contributing to the School of Business's mission of supporting student success."

Thought Leadership & Faculty Research Impact

Our faculty continue to contribute impactful research across multiple disciplines. This semester, we highlight three recently published journal articles:

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Hamid Sakaki and Dr. Lisa Frank

Workplace safety and real earnings management.
Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance (2025)

Dr. Chulho Lee

Impacts of cybersecurity on hospital efficiency and financial performance.
Service Business, 19, Article 3 (2025)

Dr. Weihong Ning, Dr. Joo Eng Lee-Partridge, and Dr. Ying Chen

Employees' Internet Addiction and Work Burnout: The Mediating Effect of State Hope and Perceived Stress.
Evidence-based HRM (2025)



Academic Programs & Curriculum Updates

Banking Excellence Program JUST LAUNCHED!

Guided by Michael Nicastro, JD, the School of Business has launched the first-of-its-kind Banking Excellence Certificate in New England, offering undergraduate students specialized preparation for careers in the banking industry. The program includes four upper-level courses in banking, underwriting, risk management, and relationship building, along with a required internship.

Students gain valuable networking opportunities with industry professionals, and the certificate appears on their official transcript upon completion.

Scan here for more information:



CFP Board Registered Program

New Concentration in Personal Financial Planning!

Central is proud to announce the BS in Finance with a concentration in Personal Financial Planning (PFP), led by Dr. Ying Chen, Ph.D., CFP®. This is a program registered and regulated by the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) Board of Standards. Notably, Central's PFP program is the first CFP Board Registered Program in Connecticut.

Graduates of the BS in Finance with a Concentration in PFP will be eligible to sit for the CFP® Certification Examination, a nationally recognized credential in the financial planning profession.

Scan here for more information:



CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®

Academic Programs & Curriculum Updates

Living Learning Community (LLC)

With special thanks to our LLC Faculty and Staff Advisors:

Cristina Conte, Thomas Morgan, Monica Rivera, Radu E. Vlas, Yiru Wang, and Jason Snyder

Students in the School of Business LLC not only gain access to specialized academic support and networking opportunities, but also enjoy community-building events that bring peers together outside the classroom. This past semester, our LLC Future Business Leaders members came together for a “Friendsgiving” event!



Partnership & Community Engagement

Beta Alpha Psi's Xi Omicron chapter: A Year of Excellence and Engagement

NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN SAN ANTONIO

The Xi Omicron chapter of Beta Alpha Psi enjoyed an exceptional year in 2025, earning national recognition through strong leadership, innovation, and community engagement. With support from Faculty Advisor Professor Cheryl Crespi and Dean Lisa Frank, the chapter received top honors at the Summer Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

President Andrea Sharp and her team won the prestigious Project Run With It competition with "BAP Pathways," an app designed to improve member engagement. Judges praised the concept and its potential for national adoption. Andrea's achievement highlighted the chapter's dedication, professionalism, and resilience. Additionally, Billgate Asante was named a Dean's List Award recipient, one of only two nationwide.

The chapter also presented at the Mid-Year Conference in Dallas, Texas. President Matt Lanteri, AVP Andrea Sharp, and Reporter Makayla Aviles delivered "Through Helping Hands: Maria's Legacy," showcasing the impact of Maria's Place Food Pantry and the chapter's commitment to community service.

Throughout the year, the chapter participated in extensive outreach, including VITA, Junior Achievement, food and school supply drives, book donations, holiday giving initiatives, and collaborative service projects with other Beta Alpha Psi chapters. These efforts reflected a year of meaningful service and engagement.

At the National Virtual Initiation, Billgate Asante and Richard Guman achieved full membership status. With continued momentum and strong leadership, the chapter is well-positioned to earn Gold Status for the third consecutive year.



Key Dates & Clubs

Career Accelerator Program

Spring 2026 CAP session topics:

- **Wed, Feb 4, 2026** — Creating Your Personal Brand on LinkedIn
- **Thu, Feb 12, 2026** — Building Your Networking Skills
- **Wed, Feb 18, 2026** — Connecting Majors to Careers
- **Thu, Feb 19, 2026** — Resume 101: Crafting a Standout Resume
- **Thu, Feb 26, 2026** — Obtaining an Internship: How, When, and Where?
- **Wed, Mar 4, 2026** — Mock Interviews & Feedback Session
- **Thu, Mar 5, 2026** — Preparing for Career Fair Success
- **Wed, Mar 12, 2026** — Decoding Job Descriptions: How to Read Between the Lines and Apply with Confidence
- **Wed, Mar 25, 2026** — Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace
- **Thu, Mar 26, 2026** — Negotiating a Starting Salary and Job Offer
- **Thu, Apr 9, 2026** — Students Leading Students: How to Navigate the Career Journey

NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN!

The School of Business houses clubs for everyone interested!

AI and Technologies Club

Faculty Advisor: Michael Gendron
President: Matt LaRoche

Accounting Society

Faculty Advisor: Jen Chang
President: Regina Cervantes

Central Marketing Association

Faculty Advisor: Xiao Ling
President: Megan Molloy

Finance Association

Faculty Advisor: Yinfei (Eddie) Chen
President: Julie Rochniak



Visit our Instagram to learn more about our clubs!



Alumni Highlights



"If there is one piece of advice I hope they take with them it is this. Your life will always reflect the standards you set. Protect your time, build strong habits, and surround yourself with people who challenge you to grow."

Terrell Huff – MGT Major class of 2019.

"My one piece of advice (that I wish I knew earlier) would be to be open to anything and everything. Open to the people you meet, open to the jobs available or offered to you, open to the opportunities and events the University hosts. You never know how much one decision can influence your life's trajectory."

Sedina Begic Class of 2018 – MGT Major



"My number one piece of advice for them is to stay open to opportunities that stretch them, even if they don't perfectly align with their major or original plan. Some of the most impactful moments in my career came from simply saying yes and being willing to learn along the way."

– Dominique Mohamed



"Don't wait until graduation to build relationships. Start networking early, even if it feels awkward. Those connections can open doors you didn't know existed."

Jake Goulas class of 2018 – Marketing



Notable Highlights

School of Business Stock Trading Competition

SPONSORED BY SEI

The Stock Trading Competition offers students a hands-on opportunity to develop and refine their trading skills in a dynamic, real-world market simulation.

Participants compete against their peers while gaining practical experience in investment strategy, market analysis, and decision-making. In addition to the competitive and educational experience, students have the opportunity to earn scholarships of up to \$1,000.



Decision Sciences Institute Annual Conference

Dr. C. Christopher Lee, Chair of the Management Department, along with graduate students, recently presented research at the **Decision Sciences Institute Annual Conference**, a prestigious international conference in business analytics.



Five MBA students—**Taylor Brown, Bintou Camara, Ava Kowal, Isaih Scales, and Anna Tran**—co-authored and presented the paper “*Hospital Financial Ratios and Hospital Efficiency: A Data Envelopment Analysis*” at the 2025 conference in Orlando, Florida. The research was conducted in collaboration with **Dr. Yinfei Chen and Dr. Hyeon Sook Lim**.

Thank You For Reading!

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Spring 26 Newsletter!



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