



***Biz*Connection**

**Newsletter of the Business Department of
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown**

Fall 2008

Inside This Issue

Alpha Kappa Psi

New Faculty Spotlight

**Business
Organization Updates**

Management Forum

Alumni News

Contact the Faculty:

Ron Vickroy
814-269-2965
rvickroy@pitt.edu

John McGrath
814-269-2972
mcgrath@pitt.edu

Neelima Bhatnagar
814-269-2971
bhatnagr@pitt.edu

Doug Reed
814-269-2936
dougreed@pitt.edu

Grace Markum
814-269-2967
markum@pitt.edu

What's New with Alpha Kappa Psi?

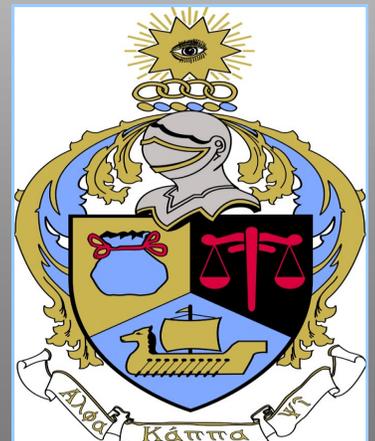
One of the thriving organizations related to the UPJ Business program is the academic fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi. The group is currently working on expanding its growing membership base. During the fall semester, AKPsi had the biggest turnout of pledging students in over two years. The pledging process begins during the first few weeks of the school year. Pledges are required to be involved with community service, fund-raising activities, and fraternity-sponsored events.

AKPsi is another great way to build your professional resume. This organization is known in the USA, Canada, and the United Kingdom giving its members a very large and recognizable network. This group helps build a students' network and prepares them for their future careers by giving them insight into and contacts with the business world.

AKPsi welcomes both male and female students of any major and is already well diversified with history and psychology majors. The President of the group, Brent Allen states, "It allows members to be exposed to the many different aspects of the business world, giving them the broad picture, rather than a narrow view."

If you are interested in joining Alpha Kappa Psi, simply contact either of the following two officers of the organization

- *President Brent Allen*
(bna10@pitt.edu)
- *Secretary Ashley Shaffer*
(ams117@gmail.com).



New Faculty Spotlight...

UPJ welcomes new business faculty member

The UPJ Business Department welcomes our newest full time faculty member, Grace Markum.

Grace is a graduate of UPJ with a BA in Business Economics and has a master's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. After graduating from UPJ, she joined Crown American Hotels, located in Johnstown, and held various positions there before being promoted to Vice President of Sales and Marketing in 1995. In this position, she

oversaw the sales and marketing efforts for 27 hotels in 7 states. In 2003, Grace was named President and CEO of Crown American Hotels and became responsible for more than \$16 million in assets while annual sales for the company exceeded \$8 million. In the 44 year history of Crown American Hotels, she was the first female Vice President and the only female President and CEO. She also was a Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau and serves on the board of directors of Johnstown Area Regional Industries (JARI). Grace has also served as an adjunct instructor at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College and is a Certified Hotel Administrator.

Grace is also the new advisor for the Marketing Management Association and was actually involved in an earlier form of this group when she was attending school here. Ron Viceroy gave her the great opportunity of working for Crown American. At that time, she never thought that she would be a professor at UPJ. Today she resides in Johnstown with her husband and two children. Besides work, she loves to play golf and is a dedicated soccer mom. Grace wants to bring her experience into the classroom in the form of real life examples. She also wants students to know that with a Pitt-Johnstown degree you can achieve success and says "if I can do it, you can do it!"

With her great career background she is bound to be a successful teacher. We all welcome Grace and wish her the best of luck.



Professor Markum

Education:

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- MBA

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

- BA in Business Economics

What's AITP Cooking Up?

The Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) is a growing organization for Information Systems or Computer Science fields. Currently, AITP is organizing fundraisers which will include bake sales, movie nights, and game nights.

AITP is also looking for guest speakers which may include previous AITP members and the President of AITP Johnstown Chapter to speak about life after college and quality assurance.

Membership is open to students seeking Information Systems or Computer Science degrees and those interested can join by going to www.AITP.org. AITP is a great resume builder and a way to access job searches, scholarships, and get in touch with fellow students with the same goals. AITP has a network in all 50 states and membership can be easily transferred. If you are interested in this great opportunity you can contact President Whitney Ruffin (wtr2@pitt.edu) or Vice President Christine Pattera (cmp39@pitt.edu).

The group holds meetings every Thursday in Krebs 101 at 4:30 p.m.



News from our Associations

The latest buzz from the Fall Semester...

Marketing and Management Association

Membership up to 35 students

The MMA, or Marketing Management Association, currently has about 35 members and is gaining new members every meeting. This is a group for all majors on campus that is great for resume building. There is a \$10 dues fee, but the dues help to pay for events that members can attend such as bowling, mixers, and speakers. Recently, on Oct. 20th, MMA hosted a bowling event at Richland Lanes. Events such as this are a great way to network and meet new people who are in your major.



Also this semester, MMA had a 50/50 fundraiser in which its members sold tickets for \$1 each. The winner was Cody Hill with an earning of over \$300.

Anyone who is interested in joining MMA is welcome. Meetings are every other Thursday in Krebs 200. If you have any questions about this group you can look them up on Facebook; the group is called "UPJMMA". You can also contact Grace Markum at markum@pitt.edu, or the president of the group, Kelly Zekany.

Accounting & Finance Interest Group

Helping to fight breast cancer

This semester, the Accounting & Finance Interest Group raised money for breast cancer research. Small bags of candy with a pink ribbon tied on top were sold in the Student Union during the last 2 weeks of October.

The group is also holding an Accounting and Finance forum on November 17 where they will have guest speakers to make the students aware of opportunities and career experiences that students might need or desire in their professional careers.

The students of the Accounting & Finance Group have special meetings every 3rd or 4th week of the month in which they invite guest speakers to come and talk about their careers.

Recently, the group invited Joe Carpenter of Carpenter Financial Services to give a presentation on professional certifications. The group meets regularly on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 5:40 in Krebs 201 and meetings are announced through both e-mail and flyers around campus.

The group currently has 25 members and its goal is to help students launch a successful business career. If you are interested in joining please e-mail Brian Hall (beh15@pitt.edu) or Janice Rummell.



Good Times at the Management Forum

In September, senior Management, IS, and Marketing students had an opportunity to attend the 7th Annual Management Forum.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to sit with fellow seniors for a meal followed by three guest speakers.

The guest speakers were Liz Hixson (class of 2007), Brittany Hood, (class of 2008) and Mike Rhoades (class of 2007). The three speakers each gave presentations about their lives on campus and the different activities and organizations that they were involved in. They also talked about their professional life telling students what to expect and how to act.

The dress code was business casual and many students described the atmosphere as “laid back” and “relaxed.” Overall, this event gave many seniors a good excuse to take the night off from homework (without feeling guilty about it) and the insight and knowledge of what the ‘real world’ expects of you after college.



*Shown above are the speakers (l to r):
Brittany Hood, Mike Rhoades, and
Liz Hixson*



Some students who attended ... Say Cheese!

Alumni News

UPJ alumni share what they're doing ...

This page briefly summarizes news from alumni who have updated their info on our BizConnection website recently. Please log into the website regularly at <http://bizconnection.upj.pitt.edu> and keep us posted!

1996

Dave Zucco
Kongsberg Defense Corp.
Dave loves his job, bought a new house, and is recently..... a new dad!

2000

Deena Dominick
Corporate Recruiter
Deena is now engaged to Karl Bortz and has recently moved to Norfolk, VA.

2006

John Burwinkel
US Steel
John was just promoted to Transportation Supervisor at US Steel. He says he has picked up a lot more hours with the job but all is well.

2003

Catherine Yancovitz
U.S. Government
Catherine spent some time in Afghanistan this year. She came back to UPJ and shared some of her experiences with us. Keep up the dedication and hard work.

2004

Josh Hughes
UPMC
-Josh just got a well-deserved promotion at work and is currently in the middle of completing his MBA. Keep up the great work.

1992

Rimmo Jolly
Citi Group
Rimmo and Tommie announced the birth of their fourth child Aahna Juillet!

2004

Alexander Gorshenin
International Trade Administration
Alex just got his dream job at the International Trade Office in D.C. and now is a desk officer for Germany and Austria. Congratulations!

2001

Melissa Spishak
Defense Logistics Agency
Missy recently got promoted to GS13, congratulations! She is heavily involved in Pi Sigma-Sigma at a national level and is certainly enjoying the social life in Philadelphia.

2001

Bruce Jenkins
Clark Distribution
Bruce informs us that he is now engaged and plans to marry in the spring of 2009 in Vegas ... must be nice! Congratulations!

1999

Rex Morgart
Department of Labor
Rex got married in 2007 and is currently residing in Fairfax, VA. He has both a MBA and MPM and is teaching Project Management at DeVry. Rex is also overseeing state programs.

1994

Joe DiBartola
F.B.I.
Joe just recently got re-assigned to the Newark, NJ field office. Joe and Melinda (Ickes '99) are now expecting their second child.

2000

Travis Wisor
University of Pittsburgh
Travis is the man we can thank for the new online registration system at UPJ! Great job, Travis!

2001

Amanda Jennings
Capitol Blue Cross
Amanda is engaged and is planning her wedding in the winter of 2009. Congratulations Amanda!

2002

Allison Leavitt
State of Pennsylvania
Allison welcomed a new baby boy, "Aidan," into the world on May 5th. Congratulations!

2008

Brad Kohr
EMC Corporation
Brad secured a role as a sales associate over the summer. He loves the opportunity. He currently is living in Warwick, RI.

2003

Ryan Grube
Hartford Insurance
Congratulations to Ryan as he just got a well-deserved promotion to Front Line Manager. He plans on attending leadership courses in Hartford, CT.

Alumni News

UPJ alumni share what they're doing (Cont.)...

2006

Sarah Patti

St. Francis University

Sarah is now pursuing her MBA with a concentration in Health Administration at St. Francis University. In addition, she is working in the Small Business Development Center as a consultant.

2006

Lauren Campbell

Project Management Center

Congratulations to Lauren, who recently announced her engagement to Dan Betty. They are expected to tie the knot in the summer of 2009!

2006

Jeremy Leap

Bank of Massachusetts

With his sights on a career in commercial lending, Jeremy's employer is sending him Commercial Lending School. He is keeping his eye on the goal.

2005

Katie Nevius

Geisinger Medical Center

Katie recently got married and moved into a new house. Plus, she was recently promoted to Job Sourcing Specialist for the health

2007

Liz Hixson

University of Pittsburgh (Oakland)

Liz was a speaker at this year's Management Forum. She is now a supervisor in Institutional Advancement at Pitt. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Global

2008

Angeline Leap

PNC Bank

Angeline is in a management training role and has responsibility for 43 branch banks and 14 business bankers in Western Pennsylvania. Keep up the hard work.

BizConnection

The free BizConnection website continues to grow and provides the opportunity to look up other alums, post your resume, or search for job openings. The website was created to keep track of alumni and what they have been doing since their graduation with an alumni newsletter, which is posted twice a year.

A new aspect of the website is a joint venture with the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce. Any employer who is a member of the Chamber will soon be able to post openings within their company through the johnstownbusiness.com website. These businesses will also have access to view current seniors' resumes if the senior chooses to post it on BizConnection.

Another service of the website is that employers and alumni can search for senior and junior level students to fill internship opportunities. This aspect of the website will be up and running by the spring semester. To take advantage of this great opportunity you must be a graduate of the UPJ Business program, a senior, or a junior (for internship purposes only), and be registered at the site.

Maintaining this website is an ongoing project that is continually being enhanced by Neelima Bhatnagar.

Special Thanks

Thanks to Grace Markum, John McGrath, Janice Rummell, and Ron Vickroy. Also, thanks to all of the groups who provided information for this newsletter.

Charlie Kim, *Fall 2008 Editor*