Hello everyone. Welcome to a new and exciting academic year at the School of Business! We hope you had a great summer. Our summer was exciting and productive. The renovation in the Jacobson Wing of Mandeville Hall was completed and Associate Dean McAdams, Executive Assistant Eileen Zoppi, and I moved back into Mandeville from Bryant Hall in July. The new lecture hall was dedicated on June 14 as the Raymond A. O’Hara Lecture Hall in honor of late UB Professor Raymond O’Hara. There has been additional renovation done to create a Student Services/Success Center on the first floor of Mandeville. This new Center houses our new program directors, Professor Tim Raynor (UG) and Professor Sam Lota (MBA), along with Gary Levy, our Student Services and Operations Coordinator. In this Center we will provide advising, registration, placement, and student support services. One other item related to renovation is the replacement of the third floor classroom furniture. We have new tables and chairs in all of these classrooms.

As I have mentioned before, the investment in the new Ernest C. Trefz School of Business is not just in the facilities. An additional important investment is being made in people to provide our students with the best possible educational experience. Art McAdams, Ph.D. was promoted to Associate Dean where his focus will be on faculty, teaching, and curriculum. Professors Raynor and Lota were mentioned previously. All three will also be teaching classes. In addition, I am pleased to announce that we have hired four new full time professors in the fields noted: Elena Cahill, J.D. (Entrepreneurship), Edward Jankovic, D.I.B.A. (Finance), Nikki Lee-Wingate, Ph.D. (Marketing), and Michael Lohle, Ph.D. (Marketing/IT/Business Analytics). These four new professors bring not only academic credentials, but have over 70 years of business experience they will bring to the classroom.

We are also working on developing new business relationships in order to provide more internship and job opportunities for our students. I currently serve on three committees of the Business Council of Fairfield County, am active in the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, and am a member of the Steering Committee of the Southwest CT Manufacturing Consortium. As a result we are developing business relationships with several new companies who will be recruiting UB students. The School of Business will be working closely with the Office of Career Development at UB to provide more career counseling, training, and opportunities in the fall.

I continue to work to enhance our international reputation. In June I visited six schools in China to discuss possible collaborations and presented a research paper co-authored by me and my wife, Dr. Regina Gibson, at an International Symposium hosted by Nanjing University, one of the top schools in China.

I have been holding group meetings at the beginning of the fall semester with all of our students to update them on all of the exciting things happening at the School of Business. These meetings are being held in the new rooms in the Jacobson Wing in Mandeville Hall.

I invite everyone who receives this newsletter, particularly our alumni, to reach out to me to come and take a tour of our newly renovated facility.
The groundbreaking and naming of the school of business as the new Ernest C. Trefz School of Business occurred on November 20, 2013 with Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Ernest Trefz as featured speakers.

The renovation of Mandeville Hall is almost complete with work continuing through the summer. The Dedication and Grand Opening Ceremony is scheduled for September 9, 2014.
Announcing: The Ernest C. Trefz School of Business Executive Speaker Series

The 2013-2014 academic year was the dawning of the Executive Speaker Series. During the Fall semester, we kicked off the program with three speakers including Richard Yamarone, James Conroy, and J. Philip Bender. Yamarone is a Senior Bloomberg Economist. He gave advice to students who are considering a career on Wall Street. Conroy is a partner at Olympus Partners and gave a talk entitled, “What is Private Equity and is it good or evil?” Bender is a Managing Partner at Northwestern Mutual and gave a talk encompassing leadership and management in a changing work environment.

During the Spring semester, the campus was graced with the presence of four speakers. The semester was kicked off with an interactive talk entitled, “Doing the Right Thing… Where Business and Ethics Intersect” from the President and CEO of Bigelow Tea, Cindi Bigelow. Dr. Joseph Tracy, Executive VP and Senior Advisor to the President with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, spoke on the topic of the US Economic Outlook; Richard Yamarone visited us again to speak about careers and the economy; and finally, the Spring semester was concluded with Julie Vanderblue, the President of The Higgins Group and the CEO of The Vanderblue Team giving a talk entitled, “Successful Marketing Starts with Passion and People” and “How to Embrace the Confidence that will Launch Your Career.”

Attendance at the Executive Speaker events averaged more than 80 people at each event including students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Our Value Proposition: “Where Theory and Practice Come Together for Student Success.”

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Faculty Accomplishments and New Team Members

Professor William Greenspan retired at the end of the Spring semester after 44 years of service. By unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees, Professor Greenspan was granted Emeritus status. His career and Emeritus status were celebrated at a luncheon in the Schelfhautd Gallery in May.

Professor Wu co-authored and presented a paper at the 2013 Annual Conference of the AIBNE and also received a Faculty Research Day Award.

Professor Picardi published her first textbook last October in academic and practical research methods.

Professor Arthur McAdams was promoted to Associate Dean this semester.

Edward Jankovic joined the faculty as a Visiting Professor of Finance.

Tim Raynor, Undergraduate Program Director, is one of the newest members of the School of Business team. Professor Raynor started in June and worked with Professor Greenspan during his transition.

Nikki Lee-Wingate is the new Assistant Professor of marketing.

Michael Lohle came on board as Senior Lecturer of Information Technology and Knowledge Management.

Professor Samuel Lota, having already taught at UB for eight years as an adjunct, was promoted to Director of Graduate Studies.

Elena Cahill has joined the team as a Senior Lecturer of Entrepreneurship.

Nikki Lee-Wingate is the new Assistant Professor of marketing.
Faculty Events and the Dean’s Travel to China

The School of Business had the most faculty posters at Faculty Research Day on March 28.

The School of Business collaborated with SCORE to host two events in the spring.

During his time in China, Dean Gibson attended the 8th International Symposium on Multinational Business Management, held at Nanjing University. He presented a research paper co-authored with his wife, Dr. Regina Gibson. His presentation was attended by four UB students: Dandi Wu, Kaiyang Xiao, Ying Shen, and Rui Jiang.

Dean Gibson visited six schools in three days in China, including Zhejiang Financial College (pictured above).

Dean Gibson is pictured here with Professor Shuming Zhao from Nanjing University, who hosted the conference.
Students recognized for graduating Summa Cum Laude.

Mahmuda Nasrin (above) and Nona Vardidze (below) each received the MBA Director’s Award from Associate Dean Art McAdams.

Wei Yao received the Dean’s Award from Dean Gibson.

Benjamin Dilg received the CPA Award from David Gibbs.

Over 40 students were inducted into the International Honor Society for Business, Delta Mu Delta.

Overall more than 70 students were recognized for their achievements at the annual School of Business Awards Ceremony held on May 9, 2014.
Awards and Commencement

Faculty and staff pose with students who won the Connecticut Stock Market game. Students from Prof. Rashba’s class captured six of the top seven spots in the competition.

Students and staff received certificates for volunteering during the VITA tax clinic, which served over 1,000 people.

Dean Gibson presents student Sultan Fawzi with the Outstanding Auditing Student Award.

Shuang Lui received the President’s Student Leadership Award at the annual Leadership Awards Banquet.

Rui Jiang received the Student Leadership Spirit Award at the Leadership Awards Banquet.

Professor Art McAdams, Shuang Lui, and Dean Gibson in academic regalia after the commencement ceremony.