



KIMBROUGH



**Kimbrough Building**

College of Business  
College of Graduate Studies  
Glenn S. Gentry Auditorium  
Graduate Admissions  
Public Management & Criminal Justice





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LETTER *from the*  
**DEAN**



Greetings, Friends!

I am excited to share our College of Business 2023 Annual Report with you. Inside, you will find some of the reasons why this year was a great year to #BeABusinessGov!

For the past year we continued to push our students beyond the textbook with innovative learning experiences like our 15K Entrepreneurship Challenge, which saw 16 student teams compete for \$15,000 in prizes. We had an all-time high of 19 Business Govs travel to present their research at academic conferences, while dozens more traveled to attend professional events from Charlotte to Chicago, Nashville to New Orleans and Pittsburgh to St. Petersburg.

We also continued to advance our faculty research. Our college produced a record 15 highly-ranked peer-reviewed journal publications, and surpassed 3,500 collective academic citations of our research. We strengthened our community connections with our Legends Bank Legends of Business Speaker Series featuring outstanding leaders like Sarah Trahern, the CEO of the Country Music Association, and Laurel Graefe, the Regional Executive for the Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. We continued to expand our support for local businesses as our Small Business Development Center generated \$2.6 million of new capital infusion into the region.

Perhaps most exciting of all, we recently announced \$9 million of renovations to our historic Kimbrough Building—work that will transform our college and create a new Student Success Center, new faculty offices, a boardroom and reimaged classrooms.

I like to say that I am an economist by training, a dean by profession but a Governor by choice. I am here because I choose to be here. I am here because I believe in what we are building. I am here because I believe in us.

I believe in who we are and who we are becoming. I believe in this region, this university and these Peayple. I believe that this is the best the College of Business has ever been.

*And I believe that as good as this year was...our best is yet to come.*



Mickey Hepner, PhD  
Dean, APSU College of Business

# Mission STATEMENT

## College Leadership Team

**Dr. Mickey Hepner**

Dean, APSU College of Business

**Dr. Emily Lean**

Associate Dean, Professor of Management  
Director of Graduate Programs  
Harper-Bourne Chair of Excellence

**Dr. Amye Melton**

Chair, Associate Professor of Management

**Dr. Dong Nyonna**

Chair, Professor of Finance

**Jessica D'Alimonte**

Academic Associate to the Dean

**Dave Dessauer**

Career Readiness Coach

**Margaret Douglas**

Student Success Coordinator

**Erin Morton**

Director of Development

**Elaina Russell**

Director of Communications

**Liz Snodgrass**

Director, Small Business Development Center  
at APSU

## Executive Advisory Board

**Jeff Bowling ('89)**

Partner  
Bedford, Bowling, & McReynolds, PC

**Rick Canady ('73)**

CEO and CIO (Ret.)  
Houston Eye Associates

**Scott Cowan ('91)**

Vice President and Financial Advisor  
RW Baird

**Billy Duvall ('98)**

CFO  
Farmers Bank and Trust

**Kathy Ellis ('80)**

Certified Financial Planner Professional and President  
Ellis & Company Retirement Strategists

**Michael Hargis ('74)**

Brand Coordinator  
Hargis Family Agency

**Donna Harris ('75)**

Vice President, Finance  
Hunt Brothers Pizza

**Tom Henry ('81, '87)**

Managing Principal  
Stone, Rudolph, & Henry PLC

**The APSU College of Business is a teaching-focused business school committed to student success while serving the Clarksville and Nashville metropolitan areas. We strive to push students beyond the textbook and help them explore their passions in order to empower our graduates to compete in a global economy.**

**Dave Hogan ('94)**, Advisory Board Chair  
Vice President, Growth Segments  
Ribbon Communications

**GINNA HOLLEMAN ('95)**  
Chief Experience Officer  
Fortera Credit Union

**Charlie Koon ('92)**  
Senior Vice President Corporate &  
Military Business Development  
F&M Bank

**Ronald Leath ('89)**  
Senior Manager, Business Development  
American Express Global Corp. Payments

**George Leavell ('84)**  
Executive Vice President and COO  
Wepfer Marine, Inc.

**Leo Millan**  
Chief Member  
Millan Enterprises, LLC

**Wendy Munnell ('94)**  
Director - Marketing &  
Strategic Partnerships  
WrightCore, Inc

**Louis Robichaux, IV ('89)**  
Senior Managing Director  
Ankura Consulting

**Gary Scott ('72)**  
Former Board Member  
Pinnacle Financial Partners

**Faye Silva ('74)**  
Property Manager and Inn Keeper  
Mar-Gil Hill Inn

**Amy Van Buren ('96)**  
Partner  
LBMC

**Brad Withrow ('88)**  
Partner (Ret.)  
EY

# *Notable* **RECOGNITION**

## **NEW TENURE TRACK FACULTY**



**Dr. Asit Bandyopadhyay**

**Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems**

Dr. Bandyopadhyay earned his doctorate in business administration from the University of Burdwan, India. He also earned a second doctorate in hospitality management from Iowa State University. He has a keen interest in business analytics and has conducted extensive research in this field.



**Dr. Eren Cifci**

**Assistant Professor of Finance**

Dr. Cifci earned his doctorate from the University of Alabama. His areas of research interest are diverse, and they include real estate, sustainable finance, finance technology and risk management.



**Dr. Matthew Farrell**

**Assistant Professor of Management**

Dr. Farrell earned his doctorate in strategic management from Old Dominion University, where he achieved two high-ranking journal publications. He plans to continue his research at APSU in the field of strategic management.



**Dr. Clara Piano**

**Assistant Professor of Economics**

Dr. Piano earned her doctorate from George Mason University. She joins APSU from Samford University, where she earned two high-ranking journal publications within the past year. Her primary research interest is in applied microeconomics.



**Dr. Tim Self**

**Assistant Professor of Hospitality Management**

Dr. Self earned his doctorate from Purdue University. He has been with Austin Peay since 2020 and joins the College of Business with a wealth of experience to lead the new hospitality management concentration.





## Legends Bank Lecture Hall and Distinguished Professorship

Legends Bank pledged a significant gift to establish the Legends Bank Distinguished Professorship in Banking or Finance Endowment, making it the college's most significant corporate investor to date.

To recognize their contribution, Austin Peay hosted a signing event on May 24 at its main campus and will name the Kimbrough Building's lecture hall the Legends Bank Lecture Hall starting July 1, 2023.

"It will enhance the Austin Peay experience for our faculty and students in many ways, and reflects the tremendous support we receive from business leaders," said APSU President Dr. Mike Licari. "We are proud to say that our students and campus visitors will be able to recognize the contribution of our community partners when they enter the Legends Bank Lecture Hall."

## AJ Taylor Awards

The AJ Taylor Distinguished Professorship Award recognizes two exceptional faculty members annually: one for unparalleled excellence in teaching, and the other for exceptional contributions to research. The award is funded by an endowed gift from APSU alumnus Larry W. Carroll ('76) to recognize faculty who demonstrate exceptional scholarly work or innovative teaching practices that contribute to the mission of the college. Each year the selected professors receive faculty development funds to be used for research improvements, teaching enhancements and to attend educational conferences and other professional development events. The 2022-23 recipients are:

### **Excellence in Teaching:**

Dr. Jennifer Thayer, Assistant Professor of Accounting

Dr. Thayer has a dynamic teaching style and passion for accounting that resonates effortlessly with accounting students. Her dedication extends beyond the classroom as she actively leads students through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, where they gain invaluable hands-on experience preparing tax returns. Under her guidance, students develop technical expertise while making a tangible difference in their community.

Thayer's unwavering commitment to student development and success make her an inspiring and outstanding professor.

### **Excellence in Research:**

Dr. Matt Hampton, Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr. Hampton is a prolific researcher who has made remarkable contributions to the complex field of healthcare economics. Hampton's ability to combine theory with real-world application has earned him one A and two A\* ranked publications, the highest achievable for academic research, in the past year alone. Hampton's steadfast commitment to his field makes him an invaluable asset to the college and academic community.



## Citation Awards

Faculty members are honored for their exceptional research contributions when they reach important milestones in citation counts. These milestones are celebrated at 100, 500 and 1,000 lifetime citations. Each citation signals the quality and impact of their scholarly work by the academic community. We are proud to recognize the growing list of faculty members who have reached one or more of these milestones.

### **500+ citations**

Dr. Emily Lean

### **100+ citations**

Dr. Asit Bandyopadhyay

Dr. Pilsik Choi

Dr. Elif Demiral-Saglam

Dr. Matt Farrell

Dr. Vikkie McCarthy

Dr. Gloria Miller

Dr. Dong Nyonna

Dr. Dennis Pearson

Dr. Michael Phillips

Dr. Tim Self

Dr. Michael Shen

Dr. Al Tilooby

Dr. John Volker

Dr. Xin Zhang





## Tennessee's first-ever banking program in partnership with F&M Bank, Tennessee Bankers Association

F&M Bank and the Tennessee Bankers Association have announced the “Banking on Govs” program, a new partnership with Austin Peay State University. The program is the first of its kind in Tennessee and will offer business students unique training, networking and mentorship opportunities within the banking industry.

Qualified students from the College of Business will have the opportunity to attend the Tennessee Bankers Association Southeastern School of Banking with all expenses paid while connecting with banking professionals throughout their enrollment.



## *Alumni* SPOTLIGHT:

### **2022 Alumni Awards**

Distinguished alumni were recognized during the annual 2022 Homecoming celebration. Honorees included the following business alumni:

#### **GINNA HOLLEMAN: Outstanding Alumna**

GINNA HOLLEMAN is the senior vice president of marketing at Fortera Credit Union and president of the Fortera Foundation. She was chair of the University's "What If" Comprehensive Campaign, which raised over \$65 million from 2015-2021, and a previous Gova Give Champion. She is a member of the Candlelight Ball Committee, the College of Business Advisory Board and she is a mentor for the President's Emerging Leaders Program (PELP).

#### **LOUIS ROBICHAUX: Outstanding Alumnus**

After receiving his business degree from APSU, Louis Robichaux earned an MBA in marketing research. He has worked in healthcare and corporate restructuring. During his tenure at Deloitte, he established a faculty research fund for the APSU College of Business. In 2016, he joined

Ankura Consulting Group. He is a member of the APSU College of Business Advisory Board, and he and his wife recently established the David R. Grimmatt Distinguished Professorship to honor his mentor and former professor.

#### **DAVE AND TRACIE HOGAN: Outstanding Service**

DAVE HOGAN, a former Governor's football player, graduated from APSU in 1994. He later earned a master's degree from Georgetown University. He is now vice president of growth segments for Ribbon Communications and is chair of the APSU College of Business Advisory Board. TRACIE, a Vanderbilt graduate, is the former owner of the wine distribution company Premier Crush. Dave and Tracie are members of the Tower Club, the Monocle Society and they have established two APSU scholarships.

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#### **MICHAEL AND DIANE ARMSTRONG BAILEY Scholarship Endowment:**

In January 2023, Mike and Diane Bailey made a generous contribution to establish an endowment benefiting business students.



## *Program* SPOTLIGHT: THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The College of Business has actively taken steps to invest in students with a business interest earlier in their academic journey.

This spring, Career Readiness Coach Dave Dessauer led 10 first-year students in the College of Business through a new pilot program to develop their skills, create connections and establish a foundation for their future as aspiring innovators, contributors and business leaders.

By creating a cohort-based experience, students established a foundation of support through community-building, self-reflection and exploration of their career pathways, establishing a direction for their growth as leaders.

Students participated in a kick-off retreat and ongoing cohort meetings across the spring semester.

**“It’s never too early in the college experience to support the development of students’ professional preparation, especially those who aspire to make an impact in their future professions.”**

**-Dave Dessauer**

The College of Business continues to innovate, introducing opportunities for students to engage beyond the textbook in ways that allow students to recognize their potential, develop their talents and prepare to be leaders across their careers.

To learn more about first-year initiatives, contact Dave Dessauer at [dessauerd@apsu.edu](mailto:dessauerd@apsu.edu).



# UPCOMING RENOVATIONS

**T**he College of Business at Austin Peay State University is set to undergo extensive renovations this summer as part of a \$9 million investment secured through state and private funding in 2022. The project will update a significant portion of the Kimbrough Building, enhancing the campus experience for years to come.

The renovations, led by local architects at Rufus Johnson Associates, are expected to begin in the summer of 2023 and will include interior and exterior reconfigurations as follows:

- A student success center to house the college's student success team in one convenient space for student access
- Reimagined classrooms designed to enhance collaboration for student and faculty interactions
- A boardroom to provide meeting and presentation space for students, faculty and staff
- Modernized lecture hall and restrooms

*"This project will be transformational for the College of Business—enabling us to enhance student engagement in the classroom and elevate student support outside of it,"* said Dr. Mickey Hepner, dean of the College of Business.



RUFUS JOHNSON ASSOCIATES

RUFUS JOHNSON ASSOCIATES

RUFUS JOHNSON ASSOCIATES



# *Memorable* **MOMENTS**



## **Meet the Firms**

This redesigned event featured speed-networking opportunities exclusively for APSU accounting students. Employers offered their guidance and expertise along with internship and employment opportunities.

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## **Legends of Business Speaker Series**

In partnership with Legends Bank, the Legends of Business Speaker Series provides insight from executives in the Middle Tennessee region. This year's speakers included: Sara Beth Urban from HospitalityTN, Laurel Graefe from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Sarah Trahern from the Country Music Association and Leo Millan from Millan Enterprises.

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## **15K Entrepreneurship Challenge**

Student teams displayed their creativity and teamwork by presenting viable business solutions to problems within their communities. Thanks to a generous gift from Joe and Cathi Maynard, the top three teams in the competition received a combined \$15,000.

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### **SOBIE Conference**

The College of Business saw 14 faculty members and 16 students present research during this year's Society of Business, Industry and Economics (SOBIE) Conference in Destin, Florida. During the conference, finance major Michael Liby, was awarded Best Student Paper.



### **Study Abroad Programs**

Business students had the opportunity to enhance their learning experience by earning business course credit through study abroad programs in London, England or Rosario, Argentina. The programs provided practical, experiential learning opportunities and exposed students to business practices on a global scale.



### **Govs Fund Experiential Learning**

Govs Fund members presented at conferences in Chicago, Florida and Nashville. They also traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, where they toured the Bank of America headquarters and visited Wealth Enhancement Group with alumnus Larry Carroll, who contributed to the College of Business to make the Govs Fund possible.



### **JCPenney Suit-Up**

The College of Business hosted its second Suit-Up event in partnership with JCPenney at Governors Square Mall. The partnership allows all APSU students, alumni and their families to access professional attire at deep discounts.



# *Career* **READY**

**The College of Business is committed to providing high-impact services that engage undergraduate and graduate business students as they prepare for a career beyond APSU. We help students explore career options and connect with the business community.**

**During the 2022-23 academic year, we hosted a number of events and initiated new activities, including:**

1. Monthly career newsletters to highlight career events, professional development opportunities and featured internships.
2. A LinkedIn workshop to optimize student ability to job search and network online.
3. A new model for Meet the Firms focused on developing connections and informing students of the wide range of opportunities for accounting careers across an array of industries including public and private, government and corporate.
4. Internship interest seminars to help students hone in on the type of opportunity they're interested in, explore how to navigate barriers, and identify strategies for a successful internship search.
5. Higher-quality resume support through individual coaching focused on students' unique career goals, strengths and experiences.
6. A career readiness quiz to help students identify focus areas for their career preparation earlier in their journey.

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