

UConn School of  
**BUSINESS**

*Joey  
Calcaterra*

UConn MBA '23  
NCAA Basketball Champ

**“He brought that  
California vibe,  
a little swagger...  
a *Top Gun* mentality.”**

— Coach Dan Hurley



# FROM *The* DEAN

When I read the interview with **Joey Calcaterra**, a newly minted MBA graduate and a member of our championship men's basketball team, I was struck by one particular remark.

He chose to attend UConn not for its great locker rooms, or its sweeping views, its incredible ice cream, or even its fervent fans. He recognized that Coach Dan Hurley, the other coaches and experts, and his future teammates, were going to push him to be the absolute best, and prepare him to play a championship game. And that's exactly what happened.

We have 4,370 students in the School of Business preparing for their own championships—in business, in entrepreneurship, in leadership. Our students are investing in themselves and their futures. People understand that preparation is the foundation for success, and education is preparation. This theme is pervasive in our lives. Many have spoken of it as simply as New York Yankees' right-fielder Roger Maris did: "You hit home runs not by chance but by preparation."

I am reminded of the famous judge who, in an interview, ascribed his success to luck. The journalist pushed back and the judge finally acknowledged that it was remarkable how often luck struck at 2 a.m., in the law library. Preparation got the judge ready to use the library to its best advantage, but it was perseverance and grit that positioned him, at 2 a.m., for luck to strike. This Fall, as we welcome new and returning students, we celebrate their passion, and commit to aiding them in attaining their goals. It is important to remember that "we" in this instance includes the faculty, staff and

existing students of the School of Business. But the "we" is much more than that.

Our alumni are an integral part of the community that provides mentors for our students, guest speakers for classes and clubs, advice for our faculty on curricular matters and best practices, and much more. Many, like alumna **Toni Boucher '02 MBA** (page 10) have given generously to provide financial support that gives scholarships to our students, and aids us in innovating and delivering an experience that transcends what tuition and state support can enable.

The corporate community is also strongly engaged with us, and awaits our students with jobs. Some 90 percent of the business students in the Class of 2023 had found jobs or were continuing their education within three months of

commencement (pages 16 and 17). Internships and other recruiting activities remain a staple of this relationship, but talent discovery by the corporate world now begins as early as the first week of classes for our freshmen.

During their time with us, our students will compete nationally and globally with other business school students, testing themselves against the very best and gaining confidence in how very good they really are. Many will have the opportunity to travel internationally (page 13), and will return transformed by the experience.

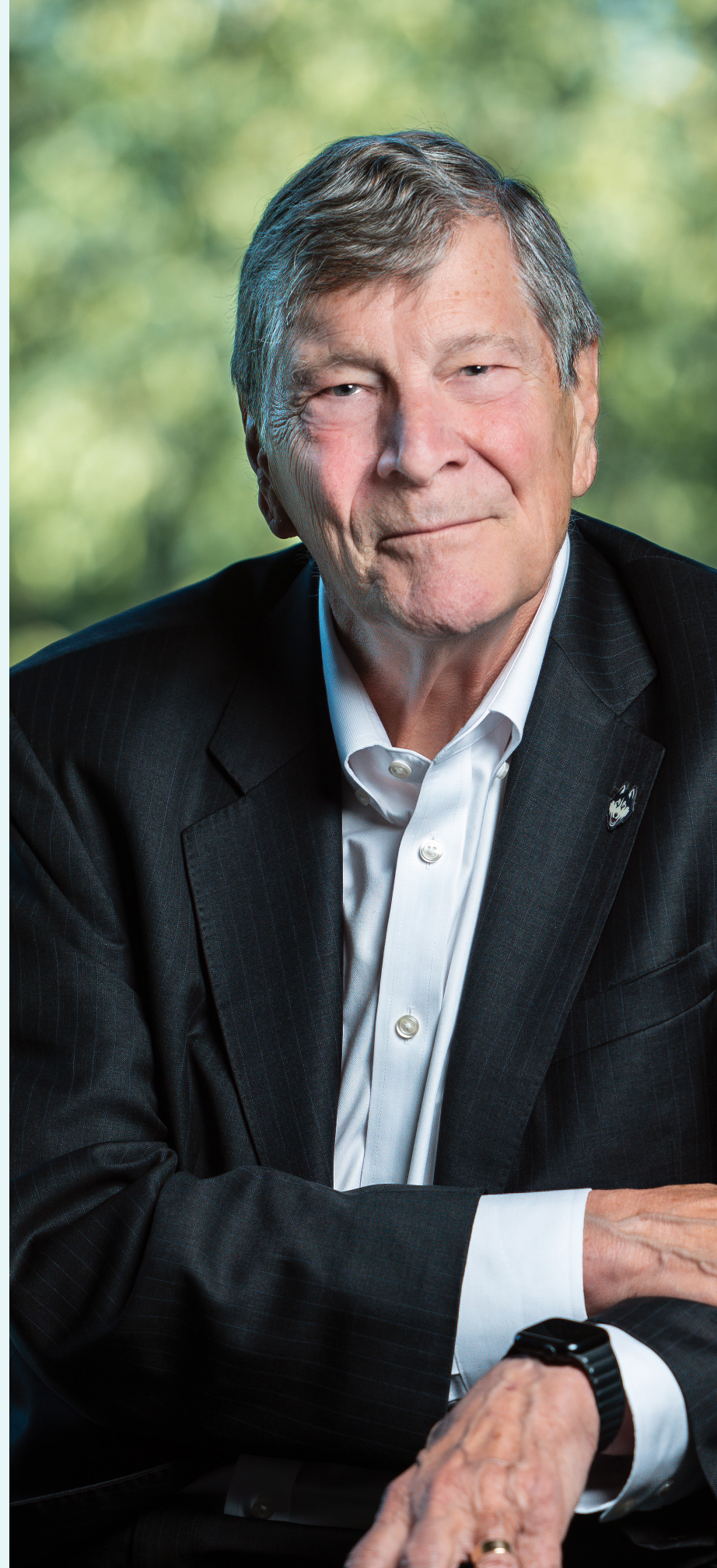
It is important to know that our students are our partners in this experience. Education is not something that UConn does to them. It is something that we co-create. They want to be "game-ready" when they graduate, and we share that goal.

*'You hit home runs not by chance, but by preparation.'*

Go Huskies!

*John A. Elliott*

John A. Elliott, Ph.D.  
Dean & Auran J. Fox Chair in Business



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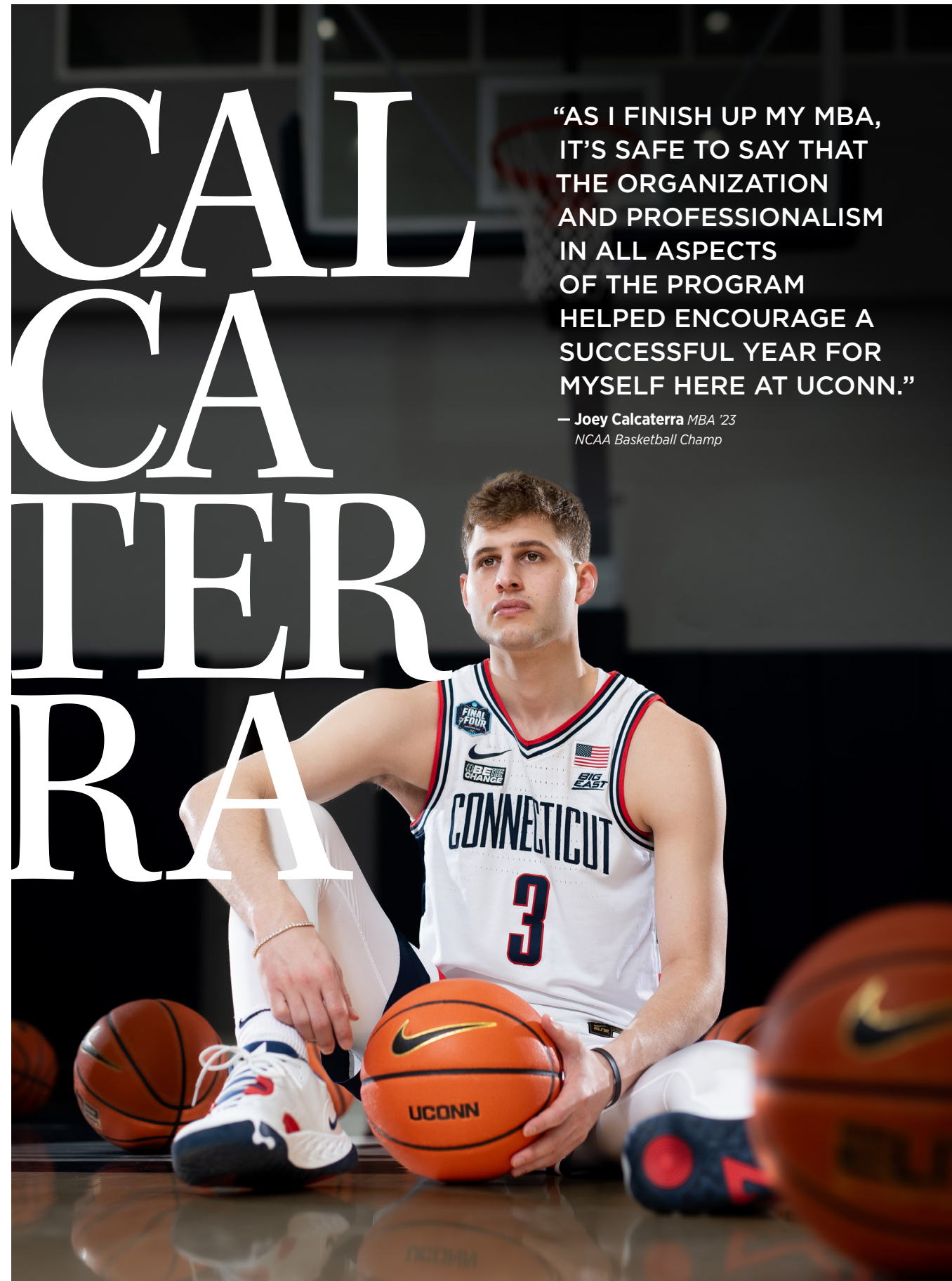
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# CALCATERRA

**“AS I FINISH UP MY MBA, IT’S SAFE TO SAY THAT THE ORGANIZATION AND PROFESSIONALISM IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM HELPED ENCOURAGE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR MYSELF HERE AT UCONN.”**

— **Joey Calcaterra** MBA '23  
NCAA Basketball Champ

## COVER STORY

**U**Conn basketball player **Joseph ‘Joey’ Calcaterra** '23 MBA, spent his fifth and final year of NCAA basketball eligibility cultivating some impressive achievements.

He left UConn with an NCAA men’s basketball championship ring, a newly minted MBA from the School of Business, a close circle of friends, and a special invitation to the White House. After completing his bachelor’s

degree and playing four years of basketball at the University of San Diego, Calcaterra was looking for a place to grow as a basketball player and as a professional. He was strongly considering Vanderbilt, but accepted an invitation to come visit UConn before finalizing his decision.

The intensity of UConn workouts and the bond between players and coaches appealed to Calcaterra, a 6-foot-3 guard.

It didn’t take long for UConn men’s Head Basketball Coach **Dan Hurley** to recognize that there was something special about the player he later nicknamed “Joey California.”

“We thought Joey could be the perfect fit for what we needed. You could see the self-confidence and that pedigree. He impressed us as a sharp guy who believes in himself,” Hurley said.

“He brought that California vibe, a little swagger. He’s the exact type of player, from a guard standpoint, that you want coming off the bench—confident, gunslinger, Maverick from ‘Top Gun’-type mentality,” he added.

Calcaterra spoke to the School of Business about the challenging road to a championship, completing his MBA at UConn, and his future business endeavors. ■

### **Is there a specific lesson that you’ve learned in basketball that you will take with you to a business career?**

My parents used to preach to me and my brothers about the life lessons learned on the basketball court, and that’s part of the reason we all played college hoops. Those lessons revolve around teamwork, leadership, communication, strategy, goal setting, and decision-making, but most importantly perseverance and resilience. When I arrived at UConn, it was apparent that coaches Hurley, Moore, Young and Murray had established a culture that emphasized the importance of understanding those values.

### **How did you come to select UConn for your final year of NCAA college eligibility?**

After four years at University of San Diego, I was looking for a place to grow as a basketball player and as a professional. I came to UConn and watched a workout in June (2022) and was impressed by the intensity of the workout and by how much the coaches cared about the players. That made my decision easier. I also met great players and I knew I’d be working my tail off if I came here.

### **When did you realize your team would be so successful and had a shot at the NCAA title?**

Shortly after I arrived at UConn, I recognized what a powerhouse we were. I knew it would be a special year. I knew that we would be successful and have a very

good season, if we could all stay healthy. We were always pushing to be the best that we could be.

We started the season unranked. A lot of guys were undervalued, but we knew what our roster was built of. At 14-0, people took notice. They saw our team’s strength and the confidence we had in ourselves.

### **After the Huskies won the championship, beating San Diego State team 76-59, how did you celebrate?**

The media interviews took the majority of the night and we didn’t get back to our hotel until 2 a.m. Fans and family were there waiting for us and we hung out in the lobby and ate a lot of food. Once we settled down, we spent some quality time together, reminiscing about the season and soaking in the memories we had as a team.

We formed such special relationships this year. When you go through shared challenges and hard work, practicing early in the mornings and late at night in the gym, it’s a different kind of friendship. It’s enduring. I care deeply for my coaches and my teammates, and I know those relationships will always be important in my life.

### **At UConn, you pursued an MBA and completed your degree this past summer. How did you choose that path?**

I was a communications major at San Diego and tried to switch to business but it was too late.



Pursuing an MBA at UConn gave me a chance to expand my knowledge of business. My dad owns an event planning/management business and he has been a big influence on my academics. He got me interested in accounting, finance, and operations management. It was apparent to me that these subjects may be something beneficial to understand for that day the ball stops bouncing.

As I finish up my MBA, it’s safe to say that the organization and professionalism in all aspects of the program helped encourage a successful year for myself here





Photo Credit: Clarus Multimedia Group

“PURSUING AN MBA AT UCONN GAVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPAND MY KNOWLEDGE OF BUSINESS.”

— Joey Calcaterra MBA '23

at UConn. Every professor I had throughout my year and a half here was very respectful and understanding of the difficulties that could arise while being a student-athlete. One of the aspects of the MBA program that I enjoyed most was the amount of group work within the classroom, which gave me the opportunity to meet many bright people and Husky fans across the world.

**Who gave you the nickname Joey California?**

Coach (Dan) Hurley originally gave it to me, and the fans went crazy over it, so I ran with it. I had a couple of good games... and then the 'Joey California' merchandise came out. It was all in good fun.

**Growing up, you were the youngest of three boys. Was that an advantage or not?**

For me, being the youngest was nothing but an advantage. Did my older brothers, Nick and Frankie, beat up on me? Sometimes! But they also pushed me to my limits and that was an advantage playing guys who were bigger, better, and stronger. My dad, Rich, was my trainer and both my parents, including my mom Wendy, drove

me to practices and games. I give all the credit to them.

**What would surprise people about you?**

I don't think a lot of people know that I'm an avid golfer. When I'm home I play a lot of golf.

**Are you as competitive on the links as you are on the court?**

Oh yes! My whole family is very competitive. I take my golf very seriously!

**How much will you miss UConn, the games, and campus?**

I enjoyed Connecticut a lot. First, the winter wasn't as bad as everyone said it would be! People here are very warm and they care about their neighbors. There is a real sense of community. But that said, I do miss my family and friends in California, and the warm weather. I also loved the strong Husky fan base and how passionate people are not only about our team, but about all Husky sports. It was amazing that people from all parts of the country showed up to support us. Seeing thousands of people lining the streets of Hartford during the parade was really special. It is so cool to see

everyone be so passionate about what we worked so hard for.

**What should people know about this legendary basketball team?**

This had to be the funniest team I've been a part of. There were so many different personalities in the locker room that helped make us a cohesive unit. I really believe that this was a huge reason why we became National Champions. There was never a day when I walked into that locker room and felt like there was a player who didn't want to be there.

**How was your White House visit? What stood out most from that day?**

The White House visit was an awesome experience. Obviously, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I felt honored to be a part of. That was pretty much the last of our championship celebrations, so it was bittersweet, but it was incredible to say that we finished off this special season in our nation's capital. ■

*At press time, Calcaterra had just signed a contract with the LA Lakers' minor league G-team, the South Bay Lakers.*

Their scholarship, service, and mentorship at UConn and beyond have been invaluable.

— Dean John A. Elliott

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

# CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP

Two of the School's department heads, Professors **Robin Coulter** in Marketing and **George Plesko** in Accounting, recently received national recognition for their research, teaching, and service contributions. Coulter was named a **2023 American Marketing Association Fellow**, and Plesko received the **2022 Ray M. Sommerfeld Outstanding Tax Educator Award**, a prestigious honor bestowed by the American Taxation Association.

Coulter and Plesko manage faculty and academic programming in their departments. Both have elevated the research status of their departments, while simultaneously overseeing programmatic changes benefiting both undergraduate and graduate students. Their innovations

include the development of new undergraduate minors and graduate programming. Coulter and Plesko worked with others to broaden the School of Business' footprint across the university with the launch of the Personal Brand Entrepreneurship minor this fall.

Dean **John A. Elliott** said their scholarship, service, and mentorship at UConn and beyond have been invaluable. "Both George and Robin are long-serving department heads and have had significant impacts on the hiring, tenure, and promotion of their faculty and on the continuous enhancement of the curriculum that we deliver for our students," he said. "They are truly exceptional leaders."

Coulter is the Voya Financial Fellow in the School of Business. Her scholarly work focuses on consumer

behavior, global citizenship, branding, and sustainability. She is a former President of the AMA Academic Council, where she led organizational transformation efforts, and she serves on the editorial review board of multiple professional journals. At UConn, she is a long-serving member of the University Senate.

Plesko, whose research focuses on business taxation, is the former president of both the American Taxation Association and the American Tax Policy Institute. In 2005, Plesko and his co-author received the American Accounting Association's Wildman Medal, recognizing research likely to "make the most significant contribution to the advancement of the practice of public accountancy." ■



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

# FIVE FACULTY EARN PROMOTIONS IN 2023



**Evan Rawley, promoted to full professor in the Boucher Department of Management and Entrepreneurship**

**Favorite course to teach:** 'Strategy,' because I think it is the most interesting course in the MBA program.

**Current research focus:** How artificial intelligence is changing the way firms manage research and development.



**Ying Zhou, promoted to associate professor, with tenure, in Accounting**

**Favorite course to teach:** 'Cost Accounting' because cost analysis applies to every aspect of business operations and helps managers with effective decision-making.

**Current research focus:** Financial misreporting, insider trading, and the role of gatekeepers in capital markets.



**Guojin Gong, promoted to full professor of Accounting**

**Favorite course to teach:** 'Principles of Financial Accounting.' It's quite satisfying to introduce accounting to young people and spark their interest.

**Current research focus:** Executive compensation design and its implications for creditors.



**Jing Peng, promoted to associate professor with tenure in Operations and Information Management**

**Favorite course to teach:** 'Data Mining and Business Intelligence,' because of the intellectual interactions with students when delving into advanced topics.

**Current research focus:** Exploring how machine learning can assist in uncovering causal relationships.



**Rogerio Victor, promoted to associate professor-in-residence in the Boucher Department of Management and Entrepreneurship**

**Favorite course to teach:** The undergraduate capstone course dedicated to business strategy, where students learn to analyze, formulate, and implement strategies and make realistic and creative decisions.

**Current research focus:** The fundamental underlying factors that enable firms to generate and sustain superior performance amid high competition.

# Mentoring Next Generation Faculty

Perhaps the ultimate achievement for faculty members is helping their students develop into incredible professors. This year the School of Business celebrated 14 Ph.D. graduates who began their journeys as professors in higher education, including two, Ilona Bastiaansen '23 Ph.D. and Kristen Ferguson '23 Ph.D., who will teach at the University of Notre Dame. Our Ph.D. graduates' enthusiasm, and tenacity, coupled with their distinguished UConn education, will serve them well as they educate and inspire the next generation of business leaders. ■



Kristen Ferguson '23 Ph.D. (left) stands beside her mentor, marketing professor Kelly Herd. Ferguson, now an assistant professor of marketing at Notre Dame, focused her dissertation on the connection between social cognition and consumer creativity.



Accounting professor Alina Lerman (left) and her student Ilona Bastiaansen '23 Ph.D., who has joined the University of Notre Dame as an assistant professor of accountancy. Bastiaansen was a student inductee into the School of Business' Hall of Fame earlier this year.



## ALUMNA TONI BOUCHER'S \$8 MILLION GIFT TO BENEFIT SCIENCE AND TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT UCONN

Luis Quisumbing's eyes light up as he talks about his membership in the student-run UConn Formula SAE race car organization. The newest entry took first place for acceleration in a recent college competition, beating more than 100 other cars. The technology and innovation it incorporates might also be applied to other fields, including the defense industry.

Aria Penna is cultivating expertise in investing, and is particularly intrigued by companies developing technology that can make the world more green. She has become more knowledgeable about sustainability, and can quickly identify promising startups.

Although five decades separate the two business students from UConn alumna **Antonietta 'Toni' Boucher '02 MBA**, their perspective is the same: Who better than UConn students and alumni to create, support, bolster and lead companies that are going to change the world?

"When I talk to these students, I see my own children, I see my own grandchildren. The School of Business is a place of innovation. There is wonderful talent here," said Boucher, a former Connecticut state legislator who served for 22 years.

Undergraduate students **Aria Penna (left)** and **Luis Quisumbing (right)** pose for a photo with donor **Toni Boucher '02 MBA** during her recent visit to campus.

### GIFT INCREASES BUSINESS POTENTIAL EXPONENTIALLY

Earlier this year, Boucher gave the School of Business an \$8 million gift to support expanded business development for entrepreneurs who are developing scientific, engineering, or technological breakthroughs. New this fall, some business entrepreneurship courses are catering exclusively to STEM students. In addition, the School and its strategic partners will offer assistance to newer science and tech companies seeking to fast-track their growth.

Greg Reilly, head of the Management and Entrepreneurship Department, said Boucher's gift will allow STEM students to take courses that were never before available to them.

"An engineering student may, for example, put those skills and talent to work in new ways by developing technical startups and



analyzing the market potential that they offer," he said. "It's really very exciting and offers incredible business development potential."

Boucher's gift is the largest individual donation to the School of Business and marks the first time an academic department has been named for a benefactor. In honor of Toni Boucher and her late husband, Henry 'Bud' Boucher, the school renamed its management department to the Boucher Management and Entrepreneurship Department.



"Toni stands out as a genuine philanthropist," said Michael Van Sambeck, assistant vice president for Principal Gifts. "Her intent and actions mirror her profound philanthropic spirit. She's always asking, 'What can we collectively accomplish for UConn, the local community, and most importantly, our students?' This enduring focus on the students and the overall advancement of Connecticut truly distinguishes her."

Boucher is fascinated by innovation.

"I want students and faculty to come up with ideas, whether it is a new food product, an engineering innovation, a medical breakthrough, a new kind of clothing, a new source of energy, help for special-education children, or a better computer chip," she said. "Entrepreneurship can develop from any discipline. It's limited only by what your imagination can provide."

### TRY, TRY AGAIN

Born in Italy, Boucher immigrated to the U.S. at age 5, traveling in the bottom of a ship and suffering from extreme sea sickness. Her family believed in hard work and her experience made her a staunch believer in offering people the opportunity to rise from poverty.

Boucher served as the chief deputy leader in the state Senate and assistant minority leader in the state House of Representatives. Outside of the legislative sphere, she has been the director of a leading investment company, held executive positions with Fortune 500 companies, co-founded a marketing design agency, and served as principal of a software and consulting firm.

Her allegiance to UConn began after she enrolled in the MBA program here. She was determined to complete her degree, but she was also juggling a full-time job that required travel, her commitments in the legislature, and raising three children. Due to the circumstances, the School extended the deadline for her to complete her degree.

"I loved the program, and I had wonderful professors



Toni and Henry 'Bud' Boucher

and brilliant peers," she said. "UConn cared about me, and now I can reciprocate."

Toni and Bud had spoken of their philanthropic goals in 2020, the year that they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Bud, a management consultant and entrepreneur, had reached a pinnacle in his business career. Although he didn't attend UConn, he served as a guest lecturer in some of the courses and held the university in high esteem. Bud passed away in January 2021, just weeks after he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Toni Boucher said she feels her husband's support in her advocacy for the UConn management and entrepreneurship program and is pleased that it honors his legacy and entrepreneurial drive.

"I still feel like I'm doing this in partnership with him," she said. "I want to invest in the passion my husband had for giving people with ideas an opportunity to learn through failures and then to succeed. Try, try again. He embodied that. He never quit."

Boucher recently had the privilege of learning about a new medical technology that will likely revolutionize the healthcare industry. "It's inspirational. It is a once-in-a-century achievement," she said. "To me, investing in something incredible like that is so much more exciting than, say, buying a Tesla." ■



## HOW WILL THE BOUCHER GIFT BE ALLOCATED?

### Create a new Technology Commercialization Student Venture Fund

The new venture fund will promote research and investment in promising companies that are focused on science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) innovations. The Boucher Management & Entrepreneurship Department will create new sections of classes focused on technology commercialization to extend this opportunity to students of many majors. Graduate and undergraduate students will identify the most promising technology for commercialization, assess startup capability, identify potential investors, and ultimately invest in highly-promising companies.

### Develop a Startup 'Bootcamp'

This program will provide direct support to inventors and scientists who want to commercialize their ideas or inventions. By creating a startup "founder bootcamp" the School of Business will provide direct managerial assistance to faculty and student entrepreneurs in bringing their ideas to the marketplace. The program will provide coaches, services, grant-writing specialists, and other experts to support their success.

### Create Immersive, Real-world Experiences

In addition to creating a new course on technology commercialization entrepreneurship, the School of Business will develop opportunities for students to travel to key commercialization locations in Connecticut and New England to learn first-hand about real-world commercialization of technological innovations.





## Commencement

The weather was flawless—sunny and 73 degrees—for this year’s undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 6, providing a perfect send-off for our 743 bachelors’ degree recipients (including December ’22 graduates.). The School of Business also awarded 313 MBA and specialized master’s degrees to our ambitious and hard-



working graduate students. Undergraduate commencement speaker **Melinda Brown** ’77 (BUS) ’85 MBA, formerly the senior vice president and controller for luxury brand company Tapestry Inc., told graduates that the world awaits them. “There is no one else in this entire world who has your unique perspective or point of view.

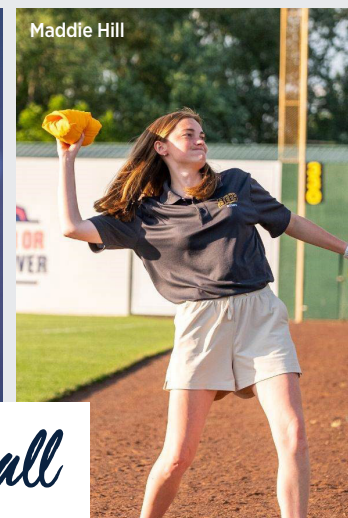


How lucky some corporation, organization, or start-up, or maybe your own entrepreneurial business will be to have you on board,” Brown said. “Wear your UConn t-shirts with pride and be fierce, be gracious, be gritty, be smart and be kind. Live your best life!” ■



## Our Women in Baseball

Three UConn women knocked it out of the ballpark this summer, combining their love of baseball with their business prowess. Alumna **Lindsay Adams** ’22, now a law student at Fordham University,



worked for Major League Baseball in New York, junior **Jamie Green** worked for the Boston Red Sox Foundation, and senior **Madison “Maddie” Hill** interned with the New Britain Bees. “The MLB



business and legal team I am on is dominated by women, which is so cool to see. I am truly honored to be here and learn from so many women that I aspire to be like one day,” Adams said. ■



## Study Abroad

UConn business students were excited to study abroad this summer and broaden their business knowledge in England, Sweden, and Denmark.

Among the highlights of the ‘Summer Business in London’ course was a visit to the UK Parliament to learn about trade, jobs, and the impact of Brexit. There also was the opportunity to discuss diversity and inclusion and its power to transform an organization with UConn alumna **Manisha Mehrotra** ’01, head of diversity and inclusion in Europe,



the Middle East, and Africa at Bloomberg.

“I had an America-centric view of how my journey through the finance field would play out. This extremely valuable program allowed me to dream bigger,” said junior **Simon De Groot**. “After meeting so many fascinating, successful people and hearing their unique stories, my mind opened to seemingly endless possibilities of where I can take my career.”

Meanwhile, the Business Connections Learning Community

offered a 10-day cultural and business immersion trip for almost 50 UConn students who visited Stockholm, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark. In addition to networking with fellow business students at Lund University and the Copenhagen School of Entrepreneurship, students participated in a flash consulting project with Einride, the world’s leading provider of digital, electric and autonomous shipping technology. ■



Photos: Students enjoy leisure time in (1) Stockholm and (2) Copenhagen. (3) Gathered in front of host Lund University, Sweden. (4) The ‘Loss Book’ at Lloyds of London. (5) In front of the Lutine Bell at Lloyds. (6) At the historic Bank of England in London.



# HALL of FAME

## HONORING ALUMNI WHO ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

More than 300 alumni, faculty, and friends of the School of Business celebrated and honored five highly accomplished business alumni at the 30th anniversary Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony in April at the Hartford Marriott Downtown.

“The Hall of Fame dinner is always a highlight of the year, but particularly so this year as we marked a milestone anniversary,” said **Dean John A. Elliott**. “The contributions of our alumni, and the lessons they have learned from our faculty, have profoundly impacted businesses not only in Connecticut but around the world.”

The 2024 Hall of Fame induction is scheduled for April 26. We’d love to have you be among the more than 300 participants. Please consider joining us! For more information, visit: [alumni.business.uconn.edu](https://alumni.business.uconn.edu) ■

*Photos: (1) 2023 Hall of Fame inductees, seated from left: Maria Fahy-Barry '84 and Debra A. Hess '86; standing from left: Thomas Marshella '79, Dean John A. Elliott, Anthony Rizza '87, and Richard Vogel '87. (2) UConn President Radenka Maric. (3) Student inductee Nicholas Willett '21 and family. (4) Alumni Neema Vaheb '07 MSA and Katie Vaheb '07; (5) Standing from left: Jennifer Grey '93 EMBA and Rick Deurloo '98 MBA; seated from left: Kate Deurloo '98 MBA and Michael Deotte '98 MBA. (6) Associate Dean Jose Cruz and alumnus and student inductee Melvin Andre '22. (7) Alumna Rashana Weerasinghe '22 and Associate Dean Nora Madjar.*



## THE NEW UCONN MBA



Pictured: Esha Hosein '25 FLEX MBA, Mary Oda '25 FLEX MBA

## REDESIGNED, FLEXIBLE, CUSTOMIZABLE PROGRAM APPEALS TO MORE STUDENTS

The School of Business has redesigned its MBA program, making it faster, more flexible, and more convenient for aspiring business leaders to earn their degrees. Beginning this Fall, the program reduced the number of credits required to earn an MBA from 57 to 42. It also changed its concentrations and realigned core courses. The changes allow students to complete the MBA program faster—in just over a year if pursued aggressively—and at a lower cost. “The UConn MBA program, which has set the bar for excellence, will retain its vibrancy, rigor, and focus on essential leadership development,” said **Jose M. Cruz**,

associate dean for graduate programs at the School of Business. “We re-examined our offerings and arranged courses to have maximum impact, added elective concentrations, and allowed students to pursue specialized interests.”

UConn MBA students may opt for the Online MBA program, which is 100 percent online, or for the FLEX MBA, which allows them to take in-person courses in Hartford or Stamford in addition to online courses. UConn also offers a cohort-based Executive MBA program that meets in Hartford on weekends and serves more senior executives. “Over the past few years, we have redesigned our MBA offerings

to ensure they continue our strong academic tradition, while providing our students with the most accessible MBA option,” said **Mia Hawlk**, executive director of MBA Programs. “The notable increase in admission for our Online MBA program and our continued tradition of strong academic rankings confirms that we have succeeded on both accounts.”

The redesign reduces the average timeframe for MBA completion from three years, to a little more than one year. Pursuing the degree at a more leisurely pace remains an option.

In addition, the program is introducing elective “MBA Now” courses which address some of the most popular topics in business today and will vary from year to year. Taught by a team of some of the School’s most respected faculty, the initial offerings will address sustainable business practices and the global supply chain.

The MBA program changes align with national trends. Elliott emphasized that a UConn committee recommended the changes after reviewing top-tier competitors around the world, consulting with alumni and corporate partners, and interviewing students and graduates. ■





# FACTS & FIGURES

## RANKINGS



## REACH

FALL 2023 UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT  
**2,924**

FALL 2023 GRADUATE ENROLLMENT  
**1,446**

FULL-TIME FACULTY  
**124**

CURRENT ALUMNI  
**49,913**

2023 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED  
**561**

2023 GRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED  
**313**

## RESULTS

EMPLOYMENT  
**90%**  
*of undergraduates found employment, continued education, or joined military after graduation.(2023)*

STARTING CAREERS IN THE NORTHEAST  
**85%**  
*Class of 2023*

AVERAGE UNDERGRADUATE STARTING SALARY  
**\$71k**  
*Highest compensation \$110k*

MEDIAN MBA SALARY  
**\$130k**  
*Class of 2023*

TOTAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT  
**\$52.8 Million**  
*9% of the \$577.3M Total University Endowment (FY 2023)*

## Our Top Employers

Accenture  
 Aetna/CVS Health  
 Amazon  
 Andersen Tax  
 Cigna  
 Citigroup  
 Collins Aerospace  
 Deloitte  
 EY  
 FactSet  
 Goldman Sachs  
 Henkel Corporation  
 J.P. Morgan Chase  
 KPMG  
 Liberty Mutual  
 Lockheed Martin  
 Moody's Investors Service  
 Morgan Stanley  
 Nielsen  
 Otis Elevator  
 PwC  
 RTX  
 State Street Global Advisors  
 Synchrony Financial  
 Techtronic Industries  
 The Hartford  
 The TJX Companies, Inc.  
 Travelers  
 UnitedHealth Group  
 Willis Towers Watson



# Headlines & Hoorays



## SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT CHAMPIONS A ‘GREENER’ WORLD

The second annual **Global Business Leadership in Sustainability Summit** in March offered a blend of optimism and stark reality about the future of business and the planet. The event was well attended by a passionate group of students,

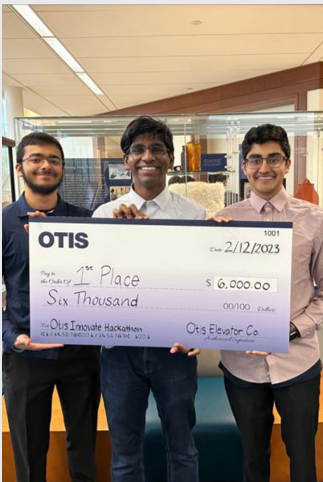
alumni, faculty, and industry experts. “The challenges may be significant, but it is the ability and enthusiasm that we observed at the summit that is necessary to make real change happen,” said business law professor **Robert Bird**. In addition to its educational value, the summit is a great opportunity for students and alumni to make impactful industry connections and work to solve important issues, said **Arminda Kamphausen**, the event organizer and director of global and sustainability initiatives. The 2024 event is planned for March 1. ■



## THREE ALUMNAE HONORED WITH ‘40 UNDER FORTY’ AWARD

The *Hartford Business Journal* honored three business alumnae with its ‘40 Under Forty’ award, announced in August. Recipients are: **Robyn Gallagher** ’05, ’07 MS, partner at Wiggin & Dana, **Jess Moran** ’14

MBA, senior vice president, Bank of America, and **Anastasia Nicolella** ’13, advisory senior manager at Deloitte. All three women said that taking professional risks enhanced their careers. They also work hard to distinguish themselves in the workplace. Nicolella said at UConn she learned to take on big challenges. “UConn taught me to change my thinking from ‘Why?’ to ‘Why not?’ It was a breakthrough. I realized I work hard, I’m capable, and I should take chances.” ■



## OTIS HACKATHON SHOWCASED INNOVATION

The **Otis Innovation Hackathon**, a three-day innovation competition in February, drew dozens of UConn undergraduates. The challenge? Use emerging technology to enhance customer experience, increase mechanical productivity, or develop a new source of revenue

for Otis, the world’s leading elevator and escalator company. This is the first time the Fortune 500 company, based in Farmington, partnered with the School of Business. “I’m inspired by the creative ideas from these UConn students and look forward to seeing what they can accomplish in their academic and professional careers,” said **Otis CTO Ezhil Nanjappan**. ■

*Left to right: Aditya Chandraker, Niteesh Saravanan, and Priyanshu Agrawal hold their prize at the Otis Hackathon in Storrs.*



## ‘WOMEN IN FINANCE’ TO SHAKE UP STATUS QUO

The School of Business created a new course this year to help first- and second-year students explore careers in finance. The ‘Women in Finance: Elevating Tomorrow’s Leaders’ course is one step to combat the shortage of female leaders in the upper echelons of financial

management and investing services. The course was funded by **Steve Wilson**, founder of Lapides Asset Management. **Kelly Kennedy**, the School’s director of transformative learning, devised the course, and **Alana Adams**, director of undergraduate programs, taught it. Guest presenters included alumna **Mary Ellen Ladieu** ’03 MBA, vice president at Disney; **Stephanie Link**, chief investment strategist at Hightower; **Shanna Hocking**, consultant and author; and alumna **Noha Carrington** ’85, CEO at Carrington Advisors. ■

## UConn Huskies Have a Spirit Unlike Any Other. Here is a Glimpse of Some of the Recognition Our Students Received This Year:

MBA candidate **Ben North** expected his experience at the **U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP 27)** to be impactful, but it exceeded his expectations from the start. Less than an hour after arriving, he and other UConn students were introduced to former **U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry**, now the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. “I was so over-the-top excited about the conference and after attending, it has become a punctuating point in my life,” North said. “You feel the weight of the world there!”



Grad student **Ola Ogunseun** was part of a four-member team that won the international **U21/PwC Innovation Challenge**. During the four-month competition, students were tasked with examining sustainability in business practices and recommending solutions. Ogunseun, who worked for the British Council, KPMG and GlaxoSmithKline before enrolling in the MSBAPM program in Stamford, credits curiosity and hard work for his success.



Alumna **Margaret Luciano**, ’15 Ph.D., an associate professor of management and organization at Penn State University, has been named one of the best 40-Under-40 MBA professors by business publication **Poets & Quants**. Her UConn dissertation investigated understanding and improving cross-unit coordination between hospital employees, particularly in the transition from surgery to recovery areas, to enhance patient safety. This is her third major recognition in the last two years.





# Words *Worth* Repeating

Here are a few of the quotes  
that made us laugh, reflect,  
and celebrate in the last year.

**“Don’t think for a moment you can’t impact a young person trying to make sense of a chaotic world.”**

—alumnus **Tom Marshella** '79 at his induction into the School of Business Hall of Fame. Now retired as Managing Director and Head of Corporate Finance, Americas, for Moody's Investment Services, Marshella urged his peers to hire and advise UConn students.

**“Attend at least one basketball game! Even if you’re not a sports fan, being around the UConn community in such an environment makes you realize that outside of your life as a student you are a part of something much bigger.”**

—alumna **Ish Panwar** '23 on what every UConn student should do before graduation.

**“It ignited something inside me. I never felt so strongly about anything in my life.”**

—alumna **Amelia Martin** '23, founder of Mud Rat, the third-place winner in this year's Innovation Quest competition, after visiting a beach filled with trash and debris. An amateur surfer, Martin is experimenting with making the core of a surfboard out of mycelium, the root-like structure of mushrooms, as a method of decreasing pollution and waste.

**“Even if you love sitting in front of the computer wearing your favorite Roller Rabbit pajamas, get yourself into the office every week.”**

—alumna **Melinda Brown** '77, '85 MBA, the 2023 undergraduate commencement speaker, advising soon-to-be alumni that by going into the workplace, they will benefit from business nuances, spontaneous connections, and the support of a 'work family.'

**“It looks dumb to be walking around inside with the sunglasses activated!”**

—student entrepreneur **Brian Peng** '24. He and business partner Shivam Patel '24 are creating eyeglasses that turn into sunglasses with the push of a button, because they believe traditional transitional lenses are just too slow.

**“They say business data is the new ‘oil.’ Every organization needs people who can analyze data to maximize a company’s potential.”**

—professor **Jose M. Cruz**, Associate Dean for Business Graduate Programs, speaking to the *Hartford Business Journal* about the rapidly growing interest in business analytics.

**“In an industry where rivalry is intense, it requires well thought-out and prudent decisions to reap the rewards that she has. Taylor Swift is a person; but Taylor Swift is also a business.”**

—professor **Sami Ghaddar** from the Boucher Management & Entrepreneurship Department speaking to UConn's Club (Taylor) Swift.

**“Around the world, there’s a lot of noise, there’s a lot of talk. But we’re on the verge of extinction if we don’t do something about it!”**

—**Joseph Roberts** '24, a finance major, about how deeply he cares about sustainability. He attended the School's Global Business Leadership in Sustainability Summit in March.

### CREATIVE TEAM

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