

2021–22 Year in Review

Raj Soin College of Business
Wright State University



Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni, Friends, Faculty, and Staff:

I am pleased to share the Raj Soin College of Business 2021-2022 Year in Review with you. This is the college's first annual report, and many of our proudest accomplishments are included in the following pages.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge for everyone, and I could not be more gratified by how our faculty, staff, and students responded. Knowing the resilience already embedded in these stakeholders, I was confident that all would find ways to continue getting the job done. I will never forget the way people made use of their knowledge, experiences, the university's distance learning support resources, personal experimentation, and, of course, patience and persistence, to continue providing an excellent education to our many students.

Everyone associated with our college deserves to be proud of our accomplishments over the past year and the steady growth of accumulated achievements since it was founded 55 years ago. Regardless of the accreditations, awards, and recognitions earned, the best testament to the excellence of the Raj Soin College of Business is the thousands of alumni who have led successful lives based in part on an education forged with us.

This year, as we seek continuous improvement and growth, I encourage you to reach out to the College of Business to learn more about our current and future plans. The success of our students is not possible without the support of people from all stakeholder groups—faculty, staff, students, alumni, business partners, and other friends. Thank you for that support!

Thomas Traynor, Ph.D.
Dean, Raj Soin College of Business

Points of Pride

- The Raj Soin College of Business holds a dual AACSB accreditation in business and accounting, an elite distinction awarded to the top 5 percent of schools in the world offering business degree programs.
- The college is consistently ranked as a Best Business School by the *Princeton Review*, a Best Online Business Program (Master's) by *U.S. News and World Report*, and BEST Online M.B.A. by *Fortune*.
- In 2006, our Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems became the first business school program in Ohio to be accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. We were also among the first 20 business programs in the U.S. to achieve this accreditation.
- The ReyRey Café is completely run by business students, a successful example of experiential learning.
- Our CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Level 1 pass rate is 70 percent and the CFP (Certified Financial Planner) exam pass rate is 73 percent.
- Business students in Real Money Investing class manage a \$4.9 million investment portfolio.
- Accountancy graduates continue to be among the top three public universities in passing the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) exam in Ohio.



Kunal Swani, Ph.D.,
professor of marketing,
interacts with students.

OVERVIEW

History of the College

When Wright State University was established in the fall of 1967, Business Administration was among the five original schools.

Rike Hall, the home for the Raj Soin College of Business, was officially dedicated on October 6, 1981, honoring the contributions and financial gift of David Rike, CEO of Rike’s Department Store and long-time member of the Wright State University Board of Trustees. On October 10, 2000, the college was renamed the Raj Soin College of Business to honor Raj Soin’s significant support of the business school and the local business community.

The first business dean was J. B. Black (1966-69). The current dean, Thomas Traynor, is the 11th dean of the college.



**For first-time, full-time bachelor’s degree seeking students*

Strategic Goals, Mission, Vision, Values

The college’s most recent strategic planning process kicked off in October 2021. Leaders from campus and the business community attended the college’s stakeholder workshops. Four top strategic goals emerged from the process:

Goal 1: Strengthen and build relationships with the community

Goal 2: Create and promote the college brand

Goal 3: Elevate program innovations

Goal 4: Advance impactful research

COLLEGE BOARDS

Dean’s Corporate Advisory Board

- Albert E. Asebrook III
Partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP
- Jill Barber
President, CYMI Holdings
- Sonia Barros
Partner, Sidley Austin LLP
- Judy Brinegar
Chief Financial Officer, Secure Cyber Defense
- Elizabeth Conzo-Kershner
Senior Director, Insights and Advanced Analytics, Delta Faucet Company
- David Dickerson
Partner/President, Dayton Market, Miller-Valentine Group
- Mitch Hurst
Vice President, Shared Services, 7-Eleven
- Tom Jenkins
Instructor and Director of MSSAE Program, Wright State University
- Joe Jessup
Senior Manager, Just Walk Out Technology, Amazon.com
- Andrea Kunk
President, Peerless Technologies Corporation
- Stephen Lucas
Vice President, Human Resources, Instrumentation and Specialty Controls Division, AMETEK
- Chris Oliss
Vice President, CFO, Burlan Manufacturing
- Lesley Ott
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, James Investment Research, Inc.
- William Pohlman, Chair
CFO, Cost Containment Specialist, LLC.
- Jonah Sandler
Founder and CEO, Scene75

Dean’s Student Advisory Board

- Kayla O’Daniel, President
- Mackenzie Cole, Vice President
- Jacob Maher, Treasurer
- Stephanie Bowers
- Megan Ebbrecht
- Cobi Haverfield
- Jacob Kearns
- Shyla P. Koons
- Patrick Ryan Lockhart
- Logan M. Rex
- Carson Wyatt



Accreditations and Rankings

- The M.B.A. new venture concentration is ranked by *The Princeton Review* among the Top Graduate Schools for Entrepreneurship Studies for 2022. Wright State is the only university in Ohio among the Top 50. [READ MORE](#)
- Our M.B.A. program is ranked by *Fortune Education* as being among the Best Part-Time M.B.A. Programs in 2022. [READ MORE](#)
- The Raj Soin College of Business has been selected by *Fortune* magazine as one of 108 Best Online M.B.A.s in the country for 2022. [READ MORE](#)
- *U.S. News and World Report* has named the college's M.B.A., Master of Information Systems, and M.S. in Logistics and Supply Chain Management among the best in the nation. [READ MORE](#)
- On-campus M.B.A. program ranked among the nation's top business schools for its M.B.A. program by *The Princeton Review*. [READ MORE](#)
- The B.S.B. in Accounting program is ranked among the best in the nation. The program was ranked No. 58 out of the nation's 81 top programs by *Best Value Schools* for 2021. [READ MORE](#)
- The College's B.S.B. in Human Resource Management program is ranked No. 50 among the most affordable in the nation by University Headquarters. [READ MORE](#)
- For the first time, the college is ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* among its listing of Best Undergraduate Business Schools. This places the college well within the top 20 percent of collegiate business schools in the U.S.



College by the Numbers

- The college enrolls 1,588 students (F21); 72 percent were undergraduate students; 42 percent were female students.
- The college houses six departments, which offer 13 undergraduate majors, 10 minors, six master's, and 10 certificate programs. Of these educational programs, five are interdisciplinary and 10 are STEM programs.
- By the time of graduation, 65 percent of business students are already employed or continue with advanced education; 34 percent are actively seeking. (Based on the First Destination Survey 2021, response rate 23 percent)
- For those undergraduate students who accepted employment, the mean base salary is \$45,382 (based on AACSB survey 2021).
- The most popular employer industries are defense and government, manufacturing, healthcare, banking, and investment.

Signature Events and Top Achievements

Wright Brothers Day, October 5, 2021

Wright Brothers Day celebrated the 116th anniversary of Wilbur Wright's 39-minute flight at Huffman Prairie on Oct. 5, 1905. The event was organized by the American Marketing Association, a student organization in the Raj Soin College of Business. [READ MORE](#)

Wright Venture 2022

Student entrepreneurs compete for startup funds during Wright Venture. Two clothing businesses, an artist who creates handmade decorations and jewelry, a website that identifies top music instructors, and a business consulting company were among the ideas pitched during the Wright Venture competition this year. [READ MORE](#)

The winning teams were:

- Christine Moser and WrinkleFrinkle LLC, handmade wood-burned decorations and metal jewelry and keychains.
- Gracie Wyatt and Fully Loved and Free, clothing that spreads love and positivity.
- Troy Oates and Cherries, clothing featuring designs produced by college students.

LIFT2, March 25, 2022

Leading Innovation in Finance Today and Tomorrow (LIFT2) Symposium returned on March 25, 2022. Experts shared their views with the local finance community, students, faculty, and staff. [READ MORE](#)



Monique Scott, assistant director for academic advising, talks with Brooke Thomas, an accounting student.



ReyRey bounces back after COVID hiatus.

Professional Business Institute (PBI)

The Professional Business Institute is a five-day residential business summer camp. The program welcomed a record-high 40 attendees in June 2022.

[READ MORE](#)

ReyRey Cafe Reopens

ReyRey Cafe, completely run by business students, reopened in Spring 2022 after COVID hiatus, helping students, faculty, and staff refuel.

[READ MORE](#)

STUDENT SUCCESS

Scholarship seekers

More than two dozen high school students competed for scholarships at the Business Scholarship Challenge, hosted by the Raj Soin College of Business on January 22.

[READ MORE](#)

Admitted Students Event

On April 5, the college hosted an Admitted Students event. Jonah Sandler, CEO of Scene75 and Kunal Swani, Ph.D., led a hands-on group activity with 15 students who presented their ideas to parents at the end of the event.

Never Too Late

The college's business degree completion program helped Danita Sani earn a degree in human resource management.

[READ MORE](#)

Wright State's Real Money Investing Portfolio

Wright State's Real Money Investing portfolio received \$2.5 million in additional funding for students to invest, nearly doubling the portfolio's assets to \$4.9 million.

[READ MORE](#)

Beta Gamma Sigma

The college's Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) chapter won the High Honors Chapter for 2021. We are thankful for the leadership of Logan Rex (Accountancy '22), president of BGS.

Student Project

Bradley Kerry (Business Economics, senior) completed a special project, "Examination of Inventor and Institutional Ownership," for the Ohio Department of Higher Education. His faculty advisor is Kevin Willardsen, Ph.D.

NSF-LSAMP Scholarship

Christopher Broach (Management Information Systems) won the NSF-LSAMP scholarship. The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program of NSF assists universities in their efforts to increase underrepresented minority students in STEM degrees. We thank Amir Zadeh, Ph.D., for his support and mentoring.

[READ MORE](#)

PCAOB Scholarship

Brooke Thomas (Master of Accountancy student, B.S.B. in Accountancy '22) won the prestigious PCAOB scholarship, which provides \$10,000 for the 2022-2023 academic year. The scholarship makes about 400 awards each year to AACSB Accounting-accredited universities.

20th AMA Conference

Marketing students received an "honorable mention" for this year's case competition at the 20th AMA Conference in Chicago. The students who worked on the case were Mairén Donohoe, Seth Kelch, Isabelle Middleton, Christine Moser, Andrew Smith, and Aubrey Wiltshire. Congratulations to the students and Wakiuru Wamwara, Ph.D.

University Honors Scholars

Abby Adams (Management), Logan Rex (Accounting), and Ryan Bassler (Statistics major, Business minor) graduated as University Honors Scholars and won the Honors medallion.

2022 Wright State Student Leadership Awards

Congratulations to the 2022 Wright State Student Leadership Awards winners:

- Emerging Student Leader: Izzy Rice (Marketing).
- Advanced Student Leader: Holly Hulett (Marketing).
- Senior Leader Award: Abby Adams (Management), Logan Rex (Accounting), and Sydney Wyatt (Financial Services).

Libraries’ 2022 Top Scholars Awards

Patrick Lockhart (Business Economics) was among those who won the University Libraries’ 2022 Top Scholars Awards.

Accounting Fall Social

On September 16, 2021, the Department of Accountancy hosted its annual Accounting Fall Social attended by 90 accounting majors and 18 companies.

ISSCM Graduate Programs

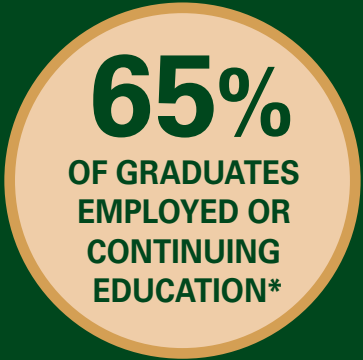
The ISSCM department hosted its annual master’s hooding and graduation event on August 20, 2021. Twenty-three students and their families participated in the ceremony. Since its launch, the two master’s programs have graduated 594 students and completed 310 capstone projects.



Marlena Akhbari, Ph.D., professor of finance, teaches in the Soin Trading Center.



Business students attend the Professional Development Day organized by the college’s Center for Career Development.



**65 percent of business students are already employed or continue with advanced education; 34 percent are actively seeking. (Based on the First Destination Survey 2021, response rate 23 percent).*



The top industries chosen by business students are defense and government, manufacturing, healthcare, banking, and investment.

Advising

Advising Team

- Monique Scott, Assistant Director
- Dan Dakin
- Paul Harding
- Amanda Horrocks
- Shannon Myers

Summer Orientation

The RSCOB advising team served 196 students over nine orientation sessions from May to August 2021.



Megan Randolph returned for a Bachelor's of Accountancy degree.

Career Success

Back To Business Career Week

Back to Business career week took place in September 2021. Over 100 students registered and met with faculty, business partners, and student leaders.

[READ MORE](#)

Business Professional Development Day

On March 9, 2022, many business students attended the Professional Development Day organized by the college's Center for Career Development. The event featured networking opportunities with representatives from Reynolds and Reynolds, Speedway, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and other local employers.

[READ MORE](#)

Panel on Defense and Government Careers

Almost 100 students learned about working for the government and defense industry at the Demystify Career Opportunities in Government and Defense luncheon. The event was organized by the College Defense and Government Advisory Council.

[READ MORE](#)

Supply Chain Graduates Filling the Ranks at Crown Equipment.

Crown Equipment Corporation has a successful history with graduates of Raj Soin College of Business, hiring more graduates to help power the company's supply chain management operation.

[READ MORE](#)



ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

New RSCOB Scholarships

Alumnus Peter Julian (Finance, 71') and his wife Pamela established The Julian Family Scholarship to assist Raj Soin College of Business Students with financial needs who have strong indicators for academic success. By Fall 2025, 12 students will receive full-tuition scholarships each year at a total gift commitment of over \$120,000 per year.

Ferris Appointed to Board of Trustees

Beth Ferris, the chief financial officer of Belcan, LLC and a business alumna, has been appointed to the university's Board of Trustees by Gov. Mike DeWine.

[READ MORE](#)

Alumni Party

The college hosted 150 guests at an alumni party at the men's basketball game against Robert Morris on February 26, 2022.

Marino Combines Engineering with Business

The combination of engineering and business has Jacob Marino flourishing in the construction industry.

[READ MORE](#)

Marketing Minor Gracie Wyatt Runs Fully Loved and Free Clothing Company

Gracie Wyatt, a communication studies major with a minor in marketing, spreads love and positivity through her online clothing business Fully Loved and Free.

[READ MORE](#)

Adkins Appointed to the Student National Medical Association Board

Elisabeth Adkins, a fourth-year medical and M.B.A. student at Wright State, will serve as the national community service committee co-chairperson of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA).

[READ MORE](#)

Alumnus Joshua Lake Thrives in Financial Services

Joshua Lake is CEO of Beyond Wealth Advisors and leads his team in building a culture of volunteering in the community.

[READ MORE](#)

Great. Big. Friends.

Cody Scarberry and Sean Hohenstein turn identical career paths into a friendship, then a business partnership.

[READ MORE](#)

Alum William Schumacher Appears on ABC's Shark Tank

William Schumacher, co-founder and CEO of Uprising Food, pitched to the sharks on the Season 13 premiere of ABC's hit reality TV series *Shark Tank*.

[READ MORE](#)

Clockwork

Business grads Carlos Estrada (International Business, 2020) and Hannah Jones (Entrepreneurship and Management, 2021) launched Coin Vigilante, a Bitcoin wristwatch start-up.

[READ MORE](#)

Veterans’ Voices Series on WYSO Features Business Alumna

Air Force veteran Marilyn McCauley discussed how she helps veterans and their families cope with the trauma that often comes with military service. [READ MORE](#)

Graves at the Helm of Prime Controls

Beth Graves, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Raj Soin College of Business, is president of Prime Controls. [READ MORE](#)

Mission Control

With two degrees from the College of Business, alumnus and military veteran Mike Thirtle now leads the Gary Sinise Foundation. [READ MORE](#)

Hitting the Mark

Marketing alumnus Daniel Huiet cashes in with Wild Axe Throwing and the Great Escape Game. [READ MORE](#)

Accounting Students Donate to Fairborn Primary School

Beta Alpha Psi members hand-delivered backpacks stuffed with school supplies to the Fairborn Primary School in September 2021. [READ MORE](#)

Dayton Business Journal 2022 Economic Forum

Dean Thomas Traynor served on the panel at the 2022 *Dayton Business Journal* Economic Forum. The sold-out event took place at Wright State. [READ MORE](#)



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

Awards

Congratulations to our business faculty for winning these prestigious recognitions!

Chuck Gulas, Ph.D., (Marketing) Wright State University Professor. The title University Professor is a special rank awarded by the Board of Trustees. It is reserved for full professors who have made outstanding contributions beyond the confines of their own discipline.

Kevin Willardsen, Ph.D., (Economics) Wright State Outstanding Early Career Achievement Award. The Presidential Award for Early Career Achievement recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service during the formative years (the first four years) of a junior faculty member's initial appointment.

RSCOB Outstanding Scholarship Awards: Anand Jeyaraj, Ph.D., (ISSCM), Kunal Swani, Ph.D., (Marketing), and Amir Zadeh, Ph.D., (ISSCM).

RSCOB Service Award:
Kim Lukaszewski, Ph.D., (Management).

Community Recognitions

Scott Williams, Ph.D., professor of management in the Raj Soin College of Business, serves as co-facilitator of YMCA Junior Leadership Dayton, which prepares high school juniors for leadership roles by exposing them to social and economic issues and opportunities.

[READ MORE](#)

We thank Hong Lee, Ph.D., (Finance) for leading the 2022 Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign. RSCOB reached 60 percent CSIC participation and ranked sixth among 24 units at Wright State.

A project led by John Dinsmore, Ph.D., (Marketing) won first place in the MidAmerica Business Deans Association Innovation Award competition. [READ MORE](#)

Brandon Morris, Ph.D., (Finance) was interviewed by Dayton 24/7 Now on the topic: "Will not getting the COVID-19 vaccine impact your health insurance?" [READ MORE](#)

Chuck Gulas, Ph.D., (Marketing) was featured in the *Wright State Magazine* article: "Where do we go from here?" [READ MORE](#)

Mingming Pan, Ph.D., (Economics) was interviewed by the *Dayton Daily News* and WDTN commenting on inflation caused by labor shortages, rising labor costs, shipping problems, and higher-priced imports. [READ MORE](#)

John Martin, Ph.D., (Management) joined the Editorial Review Board for *Organization Management Journal (OMJ)* on January 1, 2021. He will serve three years on the board.

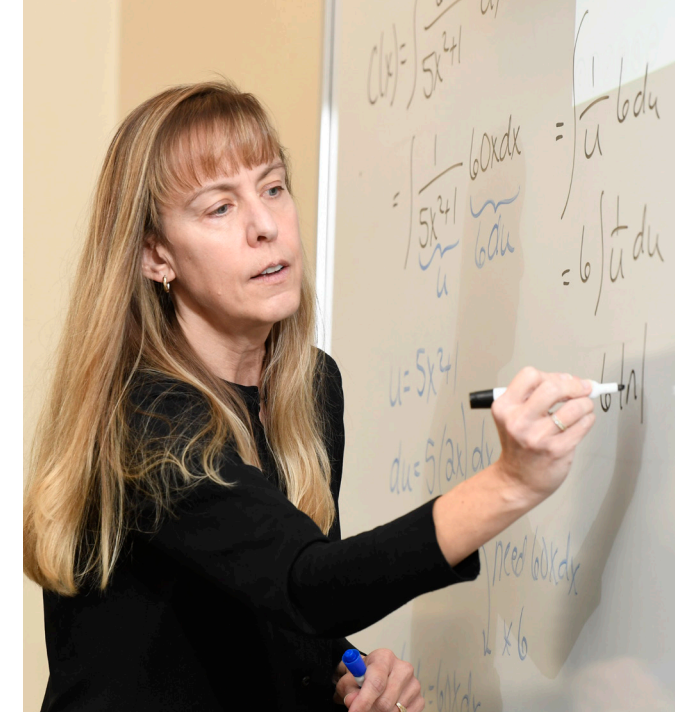
Daniel Asamoah, Ph.D., (ISSCM) was a panelist at the Technology First 15th Annual Taste of IT Conference on November 17. The panel discussed workforce development and industry engagement.

Wakiuru Wamwara, Ph.D., (Marketing) won the 2022 University Center for International Education (UCIE) Seed Grant for a Global Virtual Exchange Program Development.

Riad Ajami, Ph.D. (Management) was quoted by MSN.com, predicting gas will continue to rise as long as the conflict in Europe remains. He was also interviewed by WBDT most recently on releasing oil reserves as a short-term solution to gas shortage. [READ MORE](#)

Kevin Willardsen, Ph.D., was quoted in the *Dayton Daily News* story: "Cost increase woes 'a perfect storm' for local infrastructure projects", published on April 22, 2022. [READ MORE](#)

Kendall Goodrich, Ph.D., was quoted by *Journal-News* in its May 1 article commenting on Ohio high school athletes cashing in on endorsement deals. [READ MORE](#)



Kerry Martin, lecturer and coordinator, M.S. in Social and Applied Economics program.



Management professor Scott Williams, Ph.D., helps lead Junior Leadership Dayton



John Dinsmore, Ph.D., professor of marketing, facilitates a group discussion.



Have questions? We are here for you.

Wright State University

RAJ SOIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

rscob-admin@wright.edu

937-775-2437

wright.edu/business



@WSUBusiness



@wsubusiness



linkedin.com/groups/6511233



@WSUBusiness

Explore campus virtually or in person:
wright.edu/visit



RAJ SOIN
COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS