

44th Annual Business Day

Future-Ready Leadership

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Kovalchick Conference and Athletic Complex (KCAC)



Program



Schedule of Events

8:00 - 8:30 AM:

Registration and Light Breakfast

Lobby Area

8:45 - 10:00 AM:

Keynote

Toretti Auditorium

10:00 - 10:20 AM:

ECOB Hall of Distinction Inductions

Toretti Auditorium

10:30 - 11:45 AM:

Breakout Panel Sessions in Each Major

Accounting

Conference Room 11

Economics

Training Lab

Employment and Labor Relations

Conference Room 9

Entrepreneurship

Conference Room 7

Finance

Conference Room 10

Hospitality Management

Conference Room 3

Human Resource Management

Conference Room 5

International Business

Conference Room 8

Marketing

Conference Room 12

Sport Management

Conference Room 6

Supply Chain Management

Conference Room 4

12:00 noon - 1:15 PM:

Networking Luncheon

Ed Fry Arena

Student Programming Concludes

1:30 - 2:30 PM:

Advisory Council Meetings

Accounting

Conference Room 3

Finance and Economics

Conference Room 4

Management

Conference Room 5

Marketing

Conference Room 8

Eberly Advancement Council

Conference Room 9

Keynote

Impact of AI on the Business World

Dr. Vasant Dhar

Robert A. Miller Professor of Business

Professor of Data Science

NYU Stern School of Business



Vasant Dhar, Ph.D., is Robert A Miller Professor at NYU's Stern School of Business and the Center for Data Science. He is the author of a recent book, *Thinking with Machines: The Brave New World of AI*, which offers a practical framework for thriving in an AI-driven world.

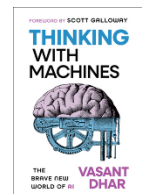
Dhar is one of the world's leading authorities on prediction, data science, and governance of AI. He brought Machine Learning to Wall Street in the early 1990s, and has been active in a number of areas that include sports and medicine, in which he is using AI machines that can identify disease based on smell. His larger research focuses on when we should rely on machines to make decisions and when we must retain human oversight, and the challenges that confront us in how to govern AI.

Dhar hosts the Brave New World podcast, where he interviews thought leaders about the world that our future selves would like to inhabit. His approachable style and ability to explain complex ideas make him a sought-after commentator for healthcare, education, finance, and tech media.

Dhar received his Bachelor of Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, and his Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh.

Latest book:

Thinking With Machines - The Brave New World of AI



ECOB Hall of Distinction Inductees



Brian Quinn ('96)

Brian Quinn received his B.S. degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management from IUP. He spent his entire 28-year career with Keystone Foam, a leading foam fabricator based in Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Quinn joined the company as a sales representative, eventually working his way up to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company.

When Mr. Quinn joined Keystone Foam in 1996, the company had approximately \$8 million in annual sales and 30 employees. Over the next two decades, he helped lead the company's growth and evolution. By 2022, Keystone Foam had expanded to more than 120 employees and over \$42 million in annual revenue. After divesting from the company, he continues to serve the company as a member of the board of directors.

Brian remains deeply connected to his alma mater and is grateful for the impact IUP has had on his life, career and family. Relationships, faith, family, and service have been the foundation of his life and the principles that have guided his definition of lasting success.

Brian resides in his hometown of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Becky ('95). They have three daughters, Landrey, Sydney ('24), and Ryley ('27).

Gerald Patrick "Jeep" Quinn Jr. ('91)

Gerald Patrick "Jeep" Quinn Jr. graduated from IUP with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Minor in Marketing. He was an active member of Theta Chi Fraternity, serving as treasurer, assistant president, and president. These experiences helped him develop leadership and teamwork skills that would become hallmarks of his career.



From a young age, Jeep worked in his family's business, Keystone Foam Corp., started by his father, Gerald, Sr. in 1983. Over time, Jeep had the company's responsibility for human resources, production planning, logistics, safety, pricing and other areas of the operation and was promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 2016.

The Quinn family's resilience and leadership, along with the dedication of their employees, helped the company grow to more than \$42 million in annual revenue. Keystone Foam was named the IUP Family Business of the Year in 2009. Jeep and his family continue to retain equity in the company and serve on its board of directors. Jeep built his career around family, hard work, and commitment to people.

Jeep currently resides in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Jennifer ('94). They have two daughters, Bailey and Regan ('21).



Matt Schroeder ('91)

Matt Schroeder has 35 years of experience in various finance and accounting leadership positions. Matt graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

After brief stints at Ernst & Young and Bon-Ton Stores, Matt spent six years at Arthur Andersen and subsequently spent 25 years at Rite Aid in various leadership roles including chief financial officer (CFO) and chief executive officer (CEO) until September 2025. He is currently the chief financial officer of Spotless Brands, a fast-growing car wash operator with approximately 240 sites operated under four operating brands in 11 states.

Matt has extensive experience in SEC reporting and in maintaining strong SOX-compliant internal control structures. Matt's favorite part of his various leadership roles has been in building strong, mission-oriented teams and helping team members build their skills and advance in their careers.

Matt has fond memories of his time as a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is grateful for the opportunities his education has provided him. Matt resides in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife Stacy and has two adult children, Nicholas and Allison.

Breakout Sessions

Accounting - Application of Emerging Technologies in

Accounting: Best Practices from Industry *Conference Room 11*

Panelists: **Stephanie Graham**, Vice President and Audit Manager, S&T Bank; **Amy Lewis**, Chief Quality Officer/Partner, Maher Duessel; **Brad D. Messner**, Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Technology Management, University of Pittsburgh; **Robert Sheesley**, Blue Collar CIO/CISO; **Mason Varner**, Manager, National Attest Office, CBIZ

Moderator: **Geoffrey Tickell**, Professor of Accounting, ECOB, IUP

Economics - The Interface of Business, Public Policy, and Politics

Training Lab

Presenter: **Dave Reed**, Regional President, First Commonwealth Bank

Moderator: **David B. Yerger**, Professor of Economics, ECOB, IUP

Employment and Labor Relations - Remote/Hybrid Workers and Corporate Culture

Conference Room 9

Panelists: **Courtney Baum**, Director of Talent, Sisterson & Co, LLP; **Jeff Coleman**, Senior Vice President Transportation Sales & Diversified Products, East Penn Manufacturing; **Reba Johnson**, Director of Human Resources, Safety & Training, Citizens' Ambulance Service Administration Inc.; **Jason Laura**, Chief Administrative Officer, Blue Sphere Bio; **Anthony (Tony) Panaiia**, Director of Talent Acquisition, Eat'n Park; **Emily Smeltz**, Executive Director of Development and Advancement Services, University Advancement, IUP; **Eric Swift**, Assistant Director, University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center;

Moderators: **Scott Decker**, Assistant Professor, Hospitality and Employment Relations, ECOB, IUP; **Stephen B. Shiring**, Professor, Hospitality and Employment Relations, ECOB, IUP

Entrepreneurship - The Importance of AI for the Small Business

Owner

Conference Room 7

Panelists: **Nanjundayya Chikkamath**, Director, Compest Solutions, Inc.; **Colin Gasper**, Director of Operations, Sales, and Safety, GATOR Transportation & Energy Services, LLC.; **Elizabeth Gregg**, Manager, PACE Analytical Services

Moderator: **John Lipinski**, Professor of Management, ECOB, IUP

Finance - Future-Ready Leadership in Finance and Economics

Conference Room 10

Panelists: **Lauren Edwards**, Partner Solution Enablement Manager, Ariba; **Faith Matunga-Miller**, Director of Consumer Bank Risk and Operational Support, S&T Bank; **D. Ross Saunders**, AVP - Business Banker, Dollar Bank; **Matt Schroeder**, Chief Financial Officer, Spotless Brands; **Patrick R. Wallace**, President/Lead Financial Advisor and Founder, Covington Investment Advisors, Inc.

Moderator: **Stephanie Jozefowicz**, Chair, Department of Finance and Economics, Professor of Economics, ECOB, IUP

Hospitality Management - Sustainability in Beverage

Operations

Conference Room 3

Panelists: **Neal Early**, Sales Manager, Pittsburgh Brewing Company; **Kyle Kubicko**, Marketing Manager, Aramark

Moderator: **Jeffrey Santicola**, Department Chairperson and Assistant Professor, Hospitality and Employment Relations, ECOB, IUP

Human Resource Management - Human Resource

Management and AI

Conference Room 5

Panelists: **Corey Berkey**, Fractional Chief People Office, Garnet Bridge; **Denise Whitacre**, Vice President, Culture & Colleague Engagement, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Moderator: **Fred Slack**, Associate Professor of Management, ECOB, IUP

Breakout Sessions *cont'd*

International Business - Navigating a Globally Focused Career – a Conversation *Conference Room 8*

Panelists: **Christian Faranda**, Economic Security Analyst supporting the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, Department of Health and Human Services; **Thomas Ogoreuc**, In-House Counsel, Covestro

Moderator: **Jacqueline Saslawski**, Assistant Dean, ECOB, IUP

Marketing - Authentic Connection: Building Real Communication in a Digital World *Conference Room 12*

Panelists: **Maxwell Baranoff**, Account Manager/Marketing Research Analyst, PittMoss; **Daniel Deem**, Area Manager II, Amazon; **Eveliina Paunonen**, Visiting Fulbright, Teacher of Marketing and Service Design, Mercuria kauppapilaitos Oy, Finland; **Kate Speer**, VP Marketing & Brand Development, Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop; **Madison Yaniga**, Account Executive, Opkey

Moderator: **Lisa Sciulli**, Chair, Department of Marketing, Professor of Marketing, ECOB, IUP

Sport Management - Moving from Now to Next within the Sports Industry *Conference Room 6*

Panelist: **Chris Hart**, Senior Manager, Corporate Partnerships, Pittsburgh Steelers

Moderator: **Joshua L. Castle**, Chair, Department of Management, Professor of Sport Management, ECOB, IUP

Supply Chain Management - Technological changes including AI for Supply Chain Management *Conference Room 4*

Panelists: **Shane Acernese**, Managing Partner, American Eagle Solutions; **Jack Cikowski**, Category Manager - Raw Materials, United States Steel Corporation; **Andrew Clair**, Category Manager - Energy and Natural Gas, United States Steel Corporation; **Lauren Edwards**, Global Partner Enablement, Supply Chain Management, SAP; **Kevin Kubica**, President, KITS Brokerage Inc.

Moderator: **Ramesh Soni**, Professor of Management, ECOB, IUP

Luncheon Table Assignments

Students: We have pre-assigned some tables with industry practitioners and Eberly faculty and grouped them by academic discipline. This is not a limitation but an invitation to facilitate your table choice and network with industry practitioners, IUP faculty, administrators, staff, and guests.

Name	Organization	Discipline	Table
Stephanie Graham	S&T Bank	Accounting	5
Geoffrey Tickell	ECOB	Accounting	5
Amy Lewis	Maher Duessel	Accounting	6
Sekhar Anantharaman	ECOB	Accounting	6
Brad Messner	Univ. of Pittsburgh	Accounting	7
Suneel Maheshwari	ECOB	Accounting	7
Mason Varner	CBIZ	Accounting	8
Samantha Dzielski	ECOB	Accounting	8
Cyndy Strittmatter	ECOB (retired)	Accounting	9
Jerry Opalinski	ECOB	Accounting	9
Courtney Baum	Sisterson & Co. LLP	Emp & Lab Rel.	10
Scott Decker	IUP	Emp & Lab Rel.	10
Reba Johnson	Citizens' Ambulance Service Administration	Emp & Lab Rel.	11
Stephen Shiring	ECOB	Emp & Lab Rel.	11
Jeff Coleman	East Penn Mfg.	Emp & Lab Rel.	12
Jason Laura	Blue Sphere Bio	Emp & Lab Rel.	12
Anthony (Tony) Panaiia	Eat'n Park Hospitality Group	Emp & Lab Rel.	13
Emily Smeltz	University Advancement, IUP	Emp & Lab Rel.	13
Jack Cikowski	U.S. Steel Corporation	Supply Chain Mgmt	14
Andrew Clair	U.S. Steel Corporation	Supply Chain Mgmt	14
Ramesh Soni	ECOB	Supply Chain Mgmt	15
Kevin Kubica	KITS Brokerage Inc.	Supply Chain Mgmt	15
Eric Gentis	Kennametal (retired)	Supply Chain Mgmt	15
Shane Acernese	American Eagle Solutions	Supply Chain Mgmt	16
Jeep Quinn	Keystone Foam Corp.	Supply Chain Mgmt	16
Paul Miller	Nissan (retired)	Supply Chain Mgmt	16

Luncheon Table Assignments

Name	Organization	Discipline	Table
John Lipinski	ECOB	Entrepreneurship	17
Elizabeth Gregg	PACE Analytical Services	Entrepreneurship	17
Colin Gasper	GATOR Transportation & Energy Services	Entrepreneurship	18
Andy Kuzneski	ECOB	Entrepreneurship	18
Lauren Edwards	SAP	Finance & Economics	19
Brandon Vick	ECOB	Finance & Economics	19
David Yerger	ECOB	Finance & Economics	20
Christine Schmidt	PNC	Finance & Economics	20
Stephan Schmidt	Confluence Technologies	Finance & Economics	20
Yaya Sissoko	ECOB	Finance & Economics	20
Faith Mutunga	S&T Bank	Finance & Economics	21
Stephanie Jozefowicz	ECOB	Finance & Economics	21
D. Ross Saunders	Dollar Bank	Finance & Economics	21
Matthew Schroeder	Spotless Brands	Finance & Economics	22
Namrata Saikia	ECOB	Finance & Economics	22
Elam Gates	PNC	Finance & Economics	22
Robert Sheesley	Blue Collar CIO/CISO	Finance & Economics	23
Jim Jozefowicz	ECOB	Finance & Economics	23
Nick Allen	Covington Investment Advisors, Inc.	Finance & Economics	23
Patrick Wallace (past HOD Inductee)	Covington Investment Advisors, Inc.	Finance & Economics	24
Alan Eastman	ECOB	Finance & Economics	24

Luncheon Table Assignments

Name	Organization	Discipline	Table
Neal Early	Pittsburgh Brewing Company	Hospitality Mgmt.	25
Yasong Wang	ECOB	Hospitality Mgmt.	25
Jeffrey Santicola	ECOB	Hospitality Mgmt.	26
Brian Quinn	Keystone Foam Corp.	Hospitality Mgmt.	26
Corey Berkey	Garnet Bridge	Human Resources	27
Denise Whitacre	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Human Resources	27
Bob Buchanan	ECOB (retired)	Human Resources	27
Fred Slack	ECOB	Human Resources	28
Jason Gustafson	Walmart	Human Resources	28
Tammy Manko	IUP (retired)	Human Resources	28
Hussam Al-Shammari	ECOB	International Business	29
Christian Faranda	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	International Business	29
Kathleen Baker	ECOB	International Business	29
Thomas Ogoreuc	Covestro	International Business	30
Jacqueline Saslawski	ECOB	International Business	30
Maxwell Baranoff	PittMoss	Marketing	31
Parimal Bhagat	ECOB	Marketing	31
Daniel Deem	Amazon	Marketing	32
Lisa Sciulli	ECOB	Marketing	32
Eveliina Paunonen	IUP - Visiting Fulbright	Marketing	33
Framarz Byramjee	ECOB	Marketing	33
Madison Yaniga	Opkey	Marketing	33
Kate Speer	Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop	Marketing	34
Varinder Sharma	ECOB	Marketing	34
Krish Krishnan	ECOB	Marketing	35
Chris Hart	Pittsburgh Steelers	Sport Management	36
Joshua Castle	ECOB	Sport Management	36
Richard Hsiao	ECOB	Sport Management	37

Check for additional table information during the event.

Thank You for Attending

About Business Day

Business Day is an annual tradition at IUP. Now in its 44th year, this premier Eberly College of Business event was started by Lt. Col. Charles B. Stevenson.

Stevenson worked at IUP for nineteen years. He was a professor of military science and chairman of the ROTC Department. Subsequently, he served as professor of management in the College of Business. There, he introduced and coordinated IUP Business Day, formed the college's first Business Advisory Council, and served as acting dean of the college.

We are grateful that Business Day continues to be partially supported by the endowment created by Colonel Stevenson.

IUP Eberly College of Business

Explore us online at <https://www.iup.edu/business>

Accreditations:

