

# LEWISTON-PORTER ACADEMY OF BUSINESS & FINANCE NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 ISSUE 2- JUNE 2023

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023



*Class of 2023 Academy of Business & Finance graduates from left to right: Rocco Randazzo, Cole Norman, Rebecca Hoffman, Natalie Sharer, Sarah Streb, Brynn Townsend and David Whyte*

Academy Seniors, parents, teachers, Administrators and members of the Academy Advisory Board gathered the morning of May 31st for a ceremony to celebrate the Academy of Business & Finance graduating Class of 2023.

Presenters included Fred Press, Manager of Academy Development at NAF, Principal Chris D'Anna, Superintendent Paul Casseri and Director JoAnn Allender who spoke to students with advice based on the theme "I Wish That I Knew What I Know Now...When I was Younger." Guests at the event enjoyed a hearty breakfast prepared by the Village Diner of Youngstown.

Best wishes to our graduates for continued success and happiness!

### Future Plans for Class of 2023

**Rocco Randazzo:** Flagler College, Mathematics

**Cole Norman:** University at Buffalo, History

**Rebecca Hoffman:** Roberts Wesleyan College, Early Childhood Education

**Natalie Sharer:** Roberts Wesleyan College, Biomedical Sciences

**Sarah Streb:** Binghamton University, Biomedical Sciences with Pre-PA advising

**Brynn Townsend:** American University, CLEG (Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics and Government)

**David Whyte:** Niagara University, Mathematics / Secondary Education

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## BLENDER EVENT WITH ADVISORY BOARD

Academy students were provided with an opportunity to implement the FOSTER Method of Conversation at a blender event with Academy Advisory Board members on February 1st. The FOSTER Method provides students with an easy to remember acronym to recall questions to ask to strike up a conversation with someone they have just met.

The second part of the FOSTER method consists of listening to the other person and continuing the conversation with follow-up questions. The magic of the follow-up questioning lies in the simplicity of being a good, active listener. Implementing the FOSTER method provides students practice to gain confidence in the ability to have deep, meaningful conversations with others as opposed to meaningless surface talk, such as discussing the weather.



*Above: Advisory Board Member and Internship Sponsor Laura Capizzi of Laura Capizzi State Farm Agency, with sophomore students Liliana Unversaw, Abby Carpenter and Zoe Ranieri.*

**FOSTER = F (From) O (Occupation)  
S (School) T (Travel) E (Eat) R (Recreation)**



*Above (from left to right): Advisory Board President Tricia Mezhir with sophomore Emily Droegmyer and junior Julia Nowicki.*

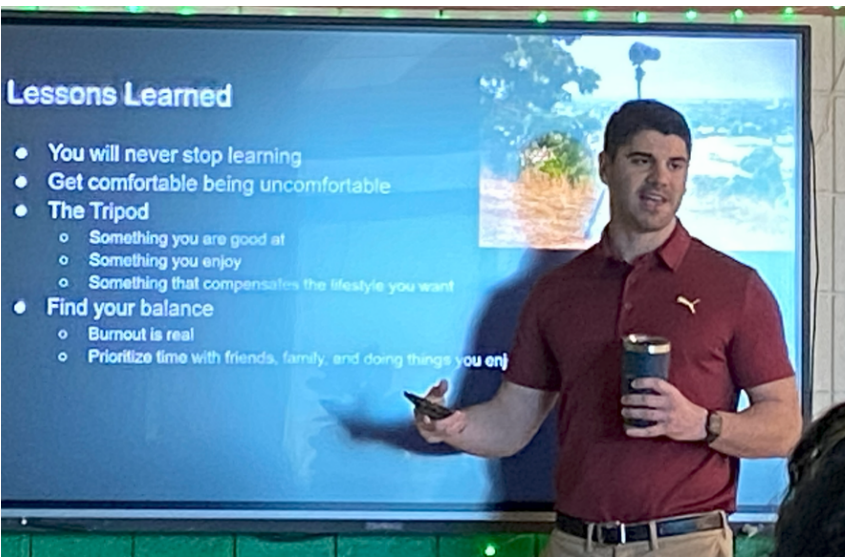


*Above (from left to right): Sophomores Zach Barber and Ava Wylke with Advisory Board Member Michael Barnwell of Philosophy4Business.*



## CLASSROOM SPEAKERS

CPAs Ben Schuver of Brisbane Consulting Group and Michael Carroll of Yugabyte presented on career opportunities in accounting to students in Mrs. Krawczyk's College Level Accounting classes. The role of accounting as the "language of business" was discussed. Schuver presented what a "Day in the Life" of a CPA looks like including hours and work requirements, culture, workflow (technology/site visits/phone & virtual calls), and research and continuing education requirements. Carroll presented on CPAs in Cybersecurity and discussed topics including the importance of cybersecurity, best practices, and costs of security breaches. He spoke about his personal career journey and also gave students an idea of what a "day in the life of a CPA in Cybersecurity" looks like with a breakdown of daily responsibilities in percentages and shared about lessons he has learned on his journey.



*Pictured above: CPA Michael Carroll of Yugabyte speaks to students about the lessons he has learned as he embarked on his career path to becoming a CPA.*

## COLLEGE 101 FIELD TRIP

In March, Academy students visited Canisius College for "College 101." Canisius President Steve Stoute welcomed students and provided opening remarks, followed by a "College 101" presentation delivered by Laura McEwen, Associate Dean, Wehle School of Business (WSB) and Dr. Denise Rotondo, Dean of WSB. Students learned about what to expect in the transition from high school to college followed by a Q&A session with a panel of students and Zachary McGurk, Assistant Professor, Economics & Finance. The panel answered questions and shared stories about their own personal experiences, lessons learned and advice they would give their younger self. Students were then provided with a full campus tour and bag lunch. The field trip culminated with a stop at Platters.



*Above: Academy students enjoyed some sweet treats at Platters following the College 101 event at Canisius College.*





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## CAREER EXPO

On March 22nd Lewiston-Porter High School hosted a Career Expo coordinated by the Business Education Department. It was a successful event with close to 100 representatives from industry, the United States Armed Forces and higher education.

During the event, students in grades 9-12 were provided the opportunity to speak one-on-one with individuals in a variety of occupations from each of the 16 career clusters identified by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration and representatives from local colleges. A special thank you to Academy alumni who participated in the event including Lilly Spanbauer (Class of 2017) of Speed Global Services, Ariel Urczyk (Class of 2016) of Bauer Freight, and Christopher Rhue (Class of 2015) of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

*Pictured at right: Academy Alum Ariel Urczyk with Natalie Beilein of CRST*



*Pictured above: Academy juniors Alexander Unversaw and Owen Sweeney speak with industry professionals.*



*Above: Academy student volunteers at the 2023 Career Expo organized by the Business Department. Students greeted guests upon arrival, escorted them to their assigned industry table in the gymnasium, and presented them with a gift bag.*





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## MOCK INTERVIEWS

In April, Mike Skowronski, Assistant Director of Career Services at Niagara University came to Lew-Port to speak to juniors about what to expect during an interview. Skowronski discussed interview tips and strategies including the STAR method which is a structured manner of responding to a behavioral-based interview question by discussing the specific **s**ituation, **t**ask, **a**ction and **r**esult of the situation you are describing. Each student was also provided with a copy of Niagara University's Get HIRED! book.



*Pictured above: Mike Skowronski with Academy juniors AJ Bax and Julia Nowicki*



In May, Skowronski returned to campus with Niagara University Career Counselor Krista Massaro (pictured above at left) to conduct behavior-based mock interviews with situational questions.



*Pictured above: Owen Sweeney interviews with Advisory Board Secretary Chuck Barber.*

Each student interviewed with either Skowronski or Massaro and were provided with constructive feedback during the interview process. Students then had a second interview with an Academy Advisory Board Member allowing them an opportunity to implement what they learned from the feedback they received in their initial interview.



*Pictured above: Julia Nowicki interviews with Advisory Board Member Laura Capizzi.*



## TEAM BUILDING AT RIVERWORKS ROPE COURSE



*Pictured Above: Academy members geared up to tackle the ropes course at RiverWorks in Buffalo*

Academy students enjoyed a team-building field trip to challenge themselves on the ropes course at RiverWorks in Buffalo. Students completed the lower course and were given an option to complete the more challenging upper course which finishes with a zip line ride across the venue. The event celebrated the end of the school year and was an opportunity to welcome new Academy members.

Students enjoyed a full lunch including drink and ice-cream at the Silo afterwards. Lunches were ordered in advance through Academy alum Class of 2016 and General Manager of The Silo, Alexis Alfieri.

The field trip was provided to students at no cost thanks to the generous support of the Academy of Business & Finance Advisory Board.



*Senior Sarah Streb listens to suggestions for navigating the board obstacle from fellow Academy students standing below.*

### Looking Ahead:

- **Fundraiser at Youngstown Yacht Club:** Thursday, August 3rd
- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, September 5th
- **Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser:** Friday, October 13th



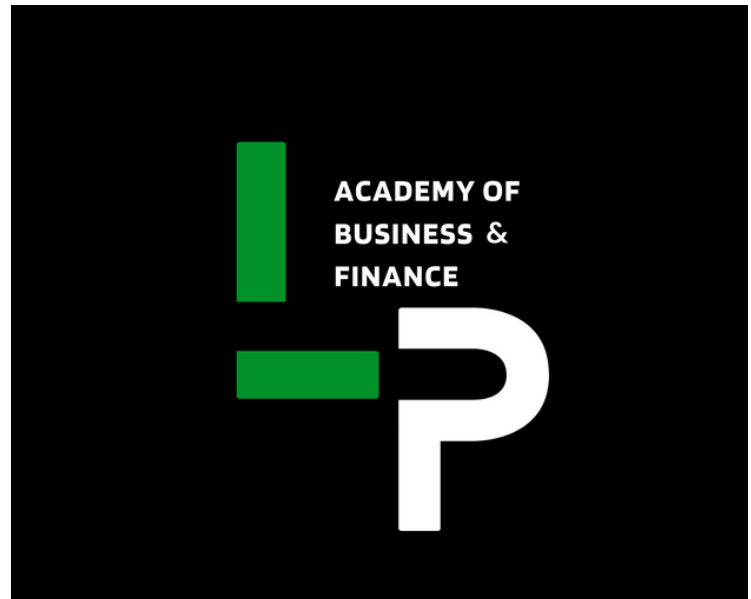
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## NEW LOGO TO REFLECT NEW ACADEMY FOCUS

The Academy of Business & Finance recently unveiled a new logo designed by Vincenzo Bianco, Founder and Owner of Cataract Media. The new logo marks a shift in focus from international themed coursework to business, finance and career exploration themed coursework and work-based learning opportunities including classroom speakers and workshops to develop soft skills such as networking, and interviewing.

Academy students used sublimation equipment including a George Knight DK20S heat press to make t-shirts featuring the new logo. In dye sublimation the transfer is infused into the substrate so there is no material to chip, peel or scratch.



*Pictured above: New Academy of Business & Finance logo designed by Vincenzo Bianco of Cataract Media*



*Junior AJ Bax shown using the DK20S to press a t-shirt featuring the new Academy logo.*



*Junior Sofie Schimmelpenninck displays her t-shirt fresh of the press*



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## **NEW ACADEMY DIRECTOR BRIAN HALL**

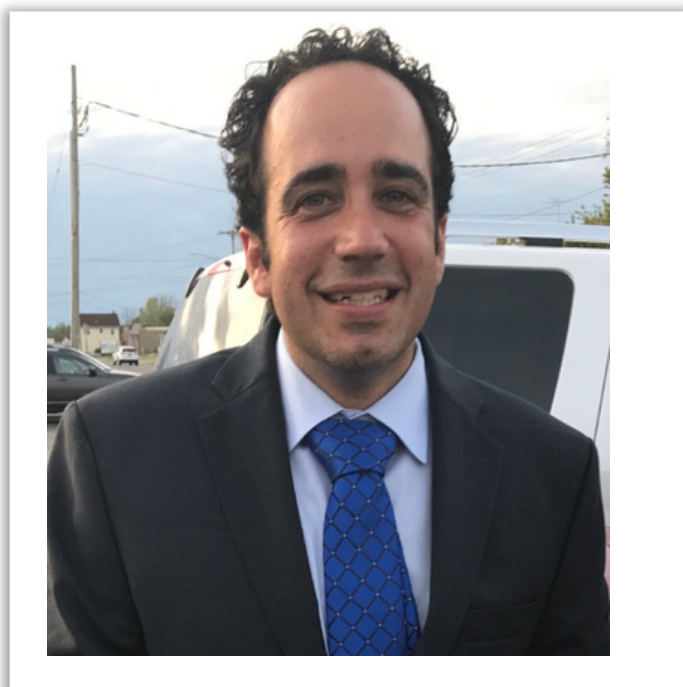
Brian Hall has been named as the new Director of the Lewiston-Porter Academy of Business & Finance. The 2023-2024 school year will be Hall's fifth year as a full-time Business and Technology teacher at Lew-Port's Middle School. In his new role as Director, Hall will be splitting time between the middle and high school. He also coaches Girls' Tennis and Girls' Basketball at Lew-Port.

Prior to being hired at Lew-Port Hall taught high school business classes at Niagara Catholic for nine years. Before becoming a teacher he worked for WTS (Waste Technology Services) for eight years. Hall plans to share his business experience with students to complement his role as teacher and director to develop students' business and life skills through the Academy experience.

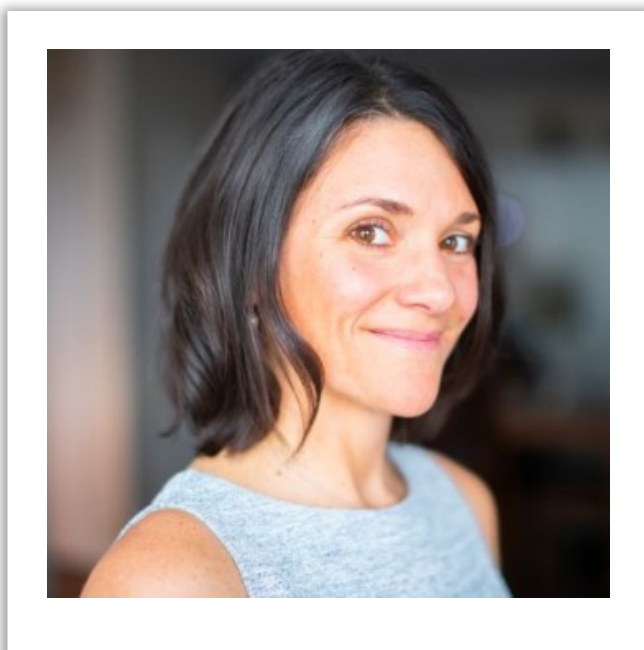
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## **NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER KRISTIN MEYER**

The Academy Board of Advisors welcomes new board member Kristin Meyer of Rivercrest Financial. Kristin has been actively involved with the Academy over the past year, having volunteered her time for mock interviews, blenders and the recent celebration of our graduating seniors. Kristin discovered the Academy through the Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce and reached out eager to learn more & get involved! Kristin has been in the financial service industry since 2007. She holds a BA in Financial Planning from Medaille College and is the owner of Rivercrest Financial in Lewiston, serving many local individuals, families & business owners. In her spare time she is also a group fitness instructor, lives an active lifestyle traveling & exploring & spending time with family & friends.



*Pictured above: New Academy Director Brian Hall*



*Pictured above: New Advisory Board Member Kristin Meyer*