

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



THE GOAL OF BENEDICTINE COLLEGE'S SIBC IS TO ACHIEVE "PEACE THROUGH COMMERCE." THE CLUB AIMS TO FORM LASTING RELATIONSHIPS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT BUSINESS PRACTICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.



Prepared by

**BENEDICTINE
COLLEGE SIBC**

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EXECUTIVE BOARD



MADELINE ROGERS, M.B.A., J.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MARISSA MANTZ
PRESIDENT



GERIK MEYERS
VICE PRESIDENT



TAI RUTLEDGE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



REGAN ENGLE
MARKETING DIRECTOR

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2024-2025 academic year marked another period of remarkable growth and achievement for the SIBC program at Benedictine College. Our council expanded in size, further enriching our capacity to provide students with exceptional opportunities to apply classroom knowledge in real-world business environments. Beyond project work, we remained committed to fostering personal and professional growth through mentorship programs and alumni events. Embracing innovation and striving for excellence in our services continues to be the driving force behind SIBC's success. At the heart of our mission to promote "Peace Through Commerce" is a steadfast dedication to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. We extend our sincere gratitude to our members who dedicate countless hours to advancing our initiatives, our faculty advisor, Dr. Madeline Rogers, whose unwavering support and mentorship guide our efforts, our clients who entrust us with their business challenges, and our generous benefactors who make our work possible. As we look ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum and continue making a meaningful impact through the SIBC program.



**MARISSA
MANTZ**

**Sincerely,
Marissa Mantz, SIBC President**

SIBC PHOTOS



FALL 2024



SPRING 2025

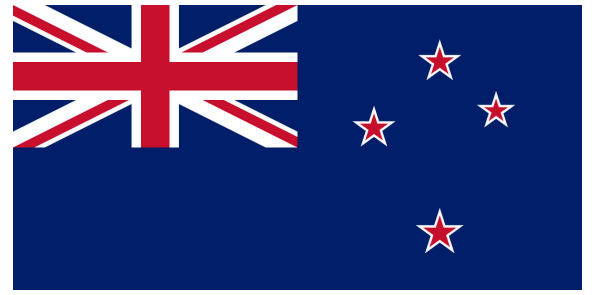
FALL TEAM MEMBERS

Project	Project Leader	Team Members
New Zealand Project	Garrett St Clair	Grace Sousa, Jake Donnelly, and Anna Tomaszewski
Cervey Project	Finnian Clark	Regan Engle, Jonas Ross, Elizabeth Francois, Sophia Valdivia, Alexander Kai, and Mary Harris
Blind Barrels	Marissa Mantz	Tai Rutledge, Cece Chiappone, Evelyn Wooldrik, and Leo Loomis
IPE Forum	Gerik Meyers & Marissa Mantz (Mentor)	Joe Hogan, Elianna Watson, and Emma Bryant
Spark Tank	Grace Sousa	
Etiquette and Alumni Event	Mary Ferrone	Clare McNamara, Grace Bishop, and Rebecca Robert
Martha's Love	Joel Thomas	Hayden Dendiu, Tyler Campbell, Ethan Ortiz, and Christopher Peine
Networking Team - Fall	Mary Ferrone	Clare McNamara, Hayden Dendiu, Tyler Campbell, Ethan Ortiz, Christopher Peine, Grace Bishop, Joel Thomas, and Rebecca Robert

SPRING TEAM MEMBERS

Project	Project Leader	Team Members
Grass Valley RV Resort	Thomas Doyle, Gerik Meyers (Mentor)	Joel Thomas, Clare McNamara, Maria Rutledge, and Chavonne Meyers
Buyside	Marissa Mantz & Finnian Clark	Mary Ferrone, Tai Rutledge, Xavier Hernandez, Rita Gergely, Matthew Cleary, Bence Duka, and David Binggeli
Cantwell-Cleary Co.	Matthew Cleary	Sophia Valdivia, Carlos Valdivia, London Gutekunst, Elizabeth François, and Bridget DesMarais
Spinola Park	Joseph Anderson & Anneliese Orr	Mary Sanchez, Brooklyn Bowling, Brook Hatzmann, Andres Gonzalez, and David Wurtenberger
Ireland Team 1	Anna Tomaszewski	Daniel Crossett and Audrey Kirwan
Ireland Team 2	Samuel Bartoszek	Emma Bryant, Alexander Kai, and Bayley Tonucci
Ireland Team 3	Regan Engle	Christopher Peine and Ethan Ortiz
Ireland Team 4	Grace Sousa	Elianna Watson and Summer Urban
Spark Tank	Grace Sousa	
Sparrow's Simulation Team	Rachel Jonz	Connor Shackelford, Issac Richardson, and Juliana Bednarick
Networking Team - Spring	Professor Madeline Rogers M.B.A., J.D.	Christian LaLiberte, Vincent Thompson, Kieran Pavlick, John Karasek, Dante Bullara, and Harrison Gibbs

NEW ZEALAND PROJECT



The client, Mallik, tasked the SIBC student team with developing a plan and strategy for talented Indian artists to connect with North American markets like the USA. This could include utilizing resources like YouTube, social media, cultural centers, concerts at college campuses, partnering with businesses, collaborations with American artists, etc. The project was based on his hope to build bridges between these talented independent artists in India and the North American markets. The SIBC team traveled to New Zealand to meet with the client and presented their findings virtually.



“SIBC has granted me numerous opportunities to advance in my professional work life. The trip to New Zealand has shown me the cultural differences in the workplace as well as the challenges that come with working with someone in a different time zone. I will always be grateful of the opportunities that I have had in SIBC. Go Ravens!”

Garrett St Clair

CERVEY PROJECT

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA



The SIBC student team was tasked with researching clinical trial and claims processes in Canada, Europe, and other parts of the world. The SIBC team researched and presented the following:

- How are clinical trials run in Canada, Europe, and other parts of the world?
- What current software solutions exist to help clinical trial research sites? Do clinical trial sites still exist in other countries the way they do in the USA?
- For example, clinical trials in the USA are run by private entities. Do other countries run the trials through government channels instead of private entities?



“During the Cervey project, I researched claims processing in the United Kingdom, how it compares to claims processing in the United States, and whether it would be a good country for Cervey to expand into. The opportunity to work on the Cervey project has helped improve my teamwork and communication skills and taught me how to present my ideas and research more effectively in a professional business setting.”

Mary Harris

BLIND BARRELS



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The SIBC student team was tasked with helping integrate a tasting experience powered by Blind Barrels into specific restaurants. This would include Blind Barrels tasting cards as well as a gamification of the blind tasting process where a customer who desires to learn more about craft beverages can learn through the tasting itself. The team researched full-service restaurants in the greater Los Angeles area, prioritizing restaurants serving customers who are curious and are interested in expanding their knowledge about craft beverages, for example Gastro Pubs. They researched expanding into different states and targeting specific markets that align with the markets from the previous question. This would include 1, 3 and 5 year plans that would target specific states which are best suited for this model.

“As a graphic design Major at Benedictine College, my role on the Blind Barrels project was very design-focused. I had the opportunity to exercise my design skills and build a deck and some marketing materials that the client would be able to use in the future. I learned the importance of communication in business and how dedicated hard work pays off in the long run.”

Cecilia Chiappone



IPE FORUM : JOINT EVENT



IPE Forum is a joint event with Benedictine College, Notre Dame, and the University of San Diego. The Prompt was as follows: In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, artificial intelligence (AI) stands at the forefront of global transformation. As AI continues to evolve and present unprecedented opportunities and challenges that transcend borders, the teams will explore the impact of AI on our world.

Each SIBC team will research a company in a distinct sector; Benedictine College's sector was technology and Microsoft and geopolitical and economic frameworks, societal change, collaboration, and innovation.



“Being a member of the IPE team this semester was crucial in further developing my presentation skills and giving me the confidence to speak in front of a crowd. This was a skill I really wanted to develop before entering the workforce full-time next year.”

Gerik Meyers

SPARK TANK

A new venture in Ferguson will offer training and assistance to area entrepreneurs in an effort to help spur economic development.

Spark Tank – Ferguson, a new pilot program of the Benedictine College School of Business, based in Atchison, Kansas, brings together faculty and staff from the college's Thompson Center for Integrity in Finance and Economics and its Cray Center for Entrepreneurial Services with local partners Civil Righteousness, based in Ferguson, and Premier Business Brokers, based in St. Louis. The group has developed a website, Spark-Tank.org, and plans to start soliciting entrepreneurs, mentors, and Spark Tank team members.



ETIQUETTE AND ALUMNI EVENT



The Networking team organized an etiquette event on campus to provide networking tips for students. This included a presentation by Susan Ferrone and a social hour. In addition, SIBC alumni and local business professionals were invited to attend the event.



"I have gained so many valuable skills regarding effective communication and organization in business, as well as skills in planning and implementation of several business events. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work in collaboration with a highly motivated and innovative team of individuals."

Grace Bishop

MARTHA'S LOVE



NETWORKING TEAM

The students on the networking team helped Martha's Love to further its vision. "Martha's Love is a nonprofit organization whose primary objective is to provide educational opportunities to less fortunate communities in West Africa either by building schools, helping existing schools, or giving scholarships to those who cannot afford them. Our secondary objective is to provide healthcare needs, orphan care, and other basic needs like food and clothing."

(<https://marthaslove.org/about.html>)

"Working with a Marthas Love has been a privilege, reminding me that true fulfillment comes from serving others and creating meaningful change. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a cause larger than myself and to be surrounded by people who inspire hope and compassion."
Hayden Dendiu



THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: A WORLDWIDE PERSPECTIVE EVENT



NETWORKING TEAM

The networking team put together an event and presentation highlighting Christmas traditions around the world in three different countries. Students were invited to share in the knowledge regarding the global significance of Christmas around the world.



“Attending the spirit of Christmas broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for the global significance of Christmas. It reminded me how traditions, though distinct, often reflect universal values, creating a beautiful image of cultural diversity within a shared celebration of faith.”

Ethan Ortiz

BUYSIDE: JOINT EVENT

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



The SIBC team presented on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the retail industry. The team researched the impact of AI on the specific sector, the most innovative technologies and companies in the sector, and recommendations for investment in AI businesses within the sector.



“The knowledge and experience which I have gained from working on the BuySide project have been crucial to my development as a young business professional. I have really appreciated being a part of this team. It was a lot of fun and very rewarding!”

David Binggeli

CANTWELL-CLEARY CO



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

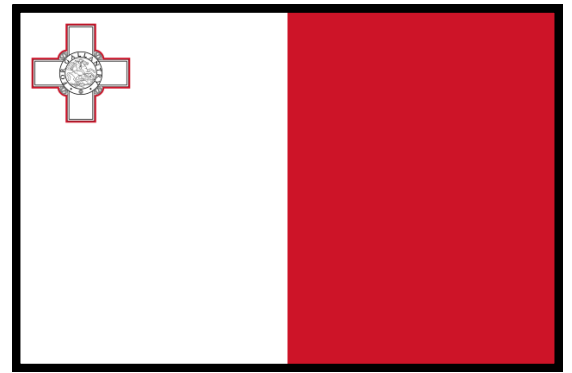
SIBC students will researched and presented a two-part project.

Part one: The team will suggest ways for the company to find, hire, train, and retain employees (human resources, management, and marketing). **Part two:** The team will conduct a competitive market analysis that will include information about international and domestic competitors (international business and marketing).

“While working on the Cantwell-Cleary project I had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and apply the skills I have learned in the classroom. I enjoyed collaborating with fellow students to come up with solutions for our company regarding healthcare, sales strategies, marketing, and more.”
Bridget DesMarais



SPINOLA PARK MALTA



SIBC students created a marketing kit for DeMicoli & Associates to provide more consistent branding across various businesses that are a part of the Malta Spinola Park Project. “DeMicoli & Associates is an established architectural, engineering, and interior design firm based in Malta. The company has gained international recognition, with an established reputation for excellent architectural design and execution, having successfully designed prestigious projects in various locations besides Malta, including the United Kingdom, Turkey, Sicily, Libya, Germany, Moscow, Bratislava, Sardinia, St Martin and the United States.”



“I had the opportunity this semester to be a co-leader on the Spinola Park Project. It was an exciting and amazing opportunity to work with my fellow classmates and it was great to see how each of us were able to use our skills in different ways. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with a team to develop my leadership, communication, and marketing skills.”

Joseph Anderson

SPARROWS SIMULATION NETWORKING TEAM



The SIBC simulation team was given the task of creating a full brand kit including a website and Instagram page along with identifying a key location for business expansion into the states. The location they selected needed to reflect a demographic of people that would be interested in a new winery. Additionally, they calculated potential costs associated with opening a small store in this area. The team also created a new logo that reflected Italian heritage all while conveying the quality of the wine. The team presented to Benedictine faculty.



“Being a part of the simulation project team allowed me to grow my digital marketing skills by making a brand kit and Instagram posts for the Aquaviva Family’s business, Sparrow’s Vineyard. This allowed me to learn more about the wine industry and how to tailor Instagram posts to this specific market. Furthermore, it allowed me to apply what I have learned in the classroom to a real-world business project and discover what it is like to be a part of an SIBC team.”

Rachel Jonz

GRASS VALLEY RV RESORT



GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

The students were responsible for creating a 12-month marketing plan which focused on attracting both domestic and international visitors, requiring research into cultural differences and effective strategies.

Students worked closely with the resort's leadership to develop a marketing plan and allocate the budget for the year. The team visited the site in Grass Valley which provided hands-on experience and insights into the tourism and hospitality industries. The RV resort attracts visitors from across the USA and overseas, offering a space for travelers to connect and share experiences. These interactions promote peace and understanding among people of different cultures.

“During my time with SIBC I have gained experience in looking at the marketing side of the RV resort industry. I learned how to take the vision of the clients and rework it into a deliverable that is realistic. I feel like this experience has helped me to become a more well rounded individual and I feel more prepared and excited for my future in business.”

Chavonne Meyers



CORNER BAKERY

IRELAND PROJECT

The SIBC team broke up into four groups for The Corner Bakery each focusing on a different stage of business analysis. The team traveled to Ireland to meet the client and presented at the end of the semester via zoom.

“Yearning for the kind of little corner shops you'd stumble across on continental holidays, husband-and-wife team Cara Lloyd and David Brown ditched the day jobs, rolled up their sleeves, and opened one up themselves. . . Nowadays we're a team of ten, baking seven days a week. Each baker brings their own touches and recipes to the mix. But the recipes for those cupcakes and traybakes haven't changed since day one!”



CORNER BAKERY

IRELAND PROJECT

PRODUCTION SCHEDULES TEAM

This team was responsible for suggesting tech which better predicts production schedules using past sales data.



“This semester through SIBC, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to travel to Ireland and work with the Corner Bakery in Dublin. My team and I analyzed past sales data provided by our client to predict the ideal quantity to produce daily for each product. The valuable real world business experience that I gained through this project enabled me to further improve my problem-solving skills and collaboration.”

Audrey Kirwan

CORNER BAKERY

IRELAND PROJECT

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING TEAM



This team came up with ways to improve the 'polish' of the brand with better looking or more sustainable packaging. They also compared what the Corner Bakery offers to local competitors or to similar businesses in the United States.



"This semester, I had the opportunity to travel to Ireland and meet with our client who owns a bakery in Dublin. Our team focused on improving the marketing and packaging aspect of her company, and it was a great opportunity to foster SIBC's vision of "Peace through Commerce" through international business. I gained valuable business experience through this project and improved my research, communication, and delegating skills."

Emma Bryant

CORNER BAKERY

IRELAND PROJECT

EMPLOYEE RETENTION TEAM

This team researched and suggested strategies to attract, train and maintain staff.



“Working on this project I gained a better understanding of employee turnover and management processes by working closely with my team members, and the business owner Cara. I had the opportunity to research and learn about how to effectively manage a business on the human resource side which is immensely helpful for my major. As a member and group leader of the Ireland team, I was able to develop my skills working with and managing a team, including time management, delegation of tasks, and communication.”

Regan Engle

CORNER BAKERY

IRELAND PROJECT

PREPARATION FOR SALE TEAM



This team worked on preparing the business for sale and other entrepreneurial aspects of the business.



“Being part of SIBC for the past four semester has taught me so much. This semester, during my work on the Corner Bakery business valuation I had the opportunity to work with an amazing team to prepare financial statements for our client and evaluate her business. We were able to give advice and help her to decide whether it would be beneficial or not to keep her business. This project allowed me to take all that I have learned in my classes and apply it to a real world scenario.”

Grace Sousa

CORNER BAKERY

IRELAND PROJECT

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF AMERICA

STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COUNCIL



“Benedictine College has prepared me exceptionally well for experiences like WACA. Through a combination of an education and real-world opportunities, I have developed strong communication skills, the ability to think critically and form my own opinions, and the confidence to succeed in professional settings.”

Grace Sousa

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF AMERICA



“The World Affairs Council of America is composed of 92 councils across the country, each nominating one student scholar to attend and receive funding for the National Conference. With Professor Rogers’ guidance and her connections to Daniel Fitzpatrick at the International Relations Council of Kansas City, I was able to secure an interview with Daniel.

Following the interview, I was selected as the nominee from the International Relations Council. My application was then submitted to the WACA board, where I was honored to be chosen as one of 25 student scholars from across the United States to receive a scholarship and attend this prestigious annual event.

At the conference, I had the incredible opportunity to connect with other student scholars, visit the embassies of Mexico and Sweden, attend discussions on the global economy, and share a meal with a diplomat and ambassador from Poland.”

Grace Sousa

JAMAICAN CULTURE EVENT NETWORKING TEAM



The Jamaican Culture event gave students an opportunity to enjoy authentic Jamaican food and experience a bit of Jamaican Culture. Reggae music filled the atmosphere and helped foster an environment conducive to socialization. For the menu, we had jerked chicken, curried chicken, and fried chicken. Since cooking and fellowship over food is a staple of Jamaican culture, we were able to give our students a taste of the island.



“I had a wonderful time planning for the Jamaican Culture Event. It was an opportunity to strike up conversation with the business men and women of the future. I had the pleasure of collaborating with conscientious students who see value in paying attention to little details in order to enjoy large benefits. I want to thank Dr. Rogers and all of SIBC’s donors for making this class possible.”

Corban-Arch Graham

IRISH FEST

NETWORKING TEAM



Over 200 students joined together to experience a taste of authentic Irish culture at SIBC's Irish Fest. The event featured live music performed by students and faculty, and traditional Irish food. The function allowed students to bond over a shared heritage or learn about a new culture in an lighthearted environment.



“Getting to attend cultural events is one of the highlights of SIBC, they give the opportunity to travel the world without leaving the classroom. This was no exception for Irish Fest, it was a celebration of Irish culture and togetherness. It not only brought SIBC members together, but Benedictine students and faculty as a whole.”

Chavonne Meyers

SIBC AND IRC COLLABORATION EVENT NETWORKING TEAM



Business professionals from Kansas City joined Benedictine College SIBC students for a roundtable discussion centered on current global events, with a particular focus on recent developments in Europe and Russia. The evening provided valuable opportunities for networking and meaningful intellectual exchange.

“As a European citizen, discussing continental politics with well informed individuals was a highlight of the semester. From discussing foreign policy, mineral disparities and green energy in Germany, learning about global affairs is a must for all.”

Dante Bullara



INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP EVENT NETWORKING TEAM

To dive deeper into the challenges and benefits of conducting business abroad, SIBC hosted Professor Rojas for a lecture. Prof. Rojas shared much on his experience running his own manufacturing businesses in South America and Kansas, as well as his lessons learned from his time working in international segments of large tech companies. The talk brought out many questions from students which were discussed and answered by our speaker.



“SIBC gave me the opportunities I needed to connect with highly skilled individuals like our entrepreneurship speaker. I was able to have a conversation with him after his talk this semester, and aside from getting answers to all of my questions I connected with him over shared interests and ideas.”

Kieran Pavlick

SIBC 2REPUBLICS EVENT

NETWORKING TEAM



The SIBC/2Republics Event was a luncheon that focused on understanding and building US-India Relations. A group of SIBC students sought to gain insight on international relations and how that affects business for various nations. We left with learning more about the nature of the link between the US and India. The founders of 2Republics did a wonderful job of explaining how a stronger US-India friendship would affect business and global trade in general.

“I enjoyed trying new food and learning other perspectives on India/US relations. I got to learn about the various types of Indian food and now know much more about Indian culture.”

John Karasek

THANK YOU



The Benedictine College Chapter of SIBC in Atchison, Kansas would like to thank The Potenziani Family and M&T Trust. Because of your generous gift, we are able to make lasting differences for many people. We would especially like to thank Mr. Frank Potenziani for helping us further the vision of “Peace through Commerce”.