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Management
Institute®
Western Michigan

wmpmi.org

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“Calling All Changemakers”



Save The Date
10/10/2023
Professional
Development Day

From the President

We are back! After a 12 month hiatus during which we updated the competition rubric to reflect the latest version of the PMBOK, we are now back with THEProject. This collegiate project management competition is unique amongst the numerous PMI chapters in the country, and we take great pride in now continuing our 10+ year legacy. THEProject is very much a flagship undertaking for our chapter and I have much personal affinity with it as my first chapter volunteer role was as a team mentor in 2012!

With that in mind I want to thank all this year's Mentors as well as the School Champions, PMO Panelists, Executive Judges, and other volunteers. We would not be able to create this special event without you! For the 2023 competition we have once again created an environment where college students can tackle a real-world business challenge and create a plan via a formal project management methodology. This includes the creation of project management deliverables, assessed by our PMP certified PMO panels as well as a business presentation assessed by our executive judges. This is not unlike the challenges that project managers encounter with "real life" projects. There is very compelling evidence and data available that underpins both the need for project managers across all aspects of business and other fields as well as the fact that there is also a shortage of these professionals. Even if one does not desire a career in project management, the skills and techniques learned during the competition and as part of project management in general have much relevance in wider fields of management and leadership. For students to encounter these learnings is a unique opportunity and it is why we continue to focus on the delivery and improvement of our competition.



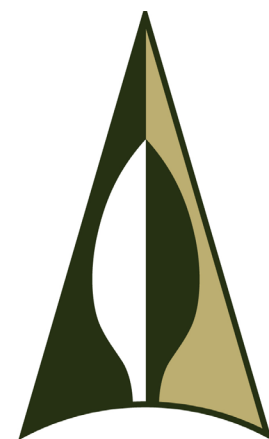
Thanks again to the School Champions, Mentors, PMO Panelists, Executive Judges and all our volunteers. Thanks also to all our Sponsors who make the continuation and expansion of this great event possible year after year. Finally, thanks to all our student competitors. We hope you have enjoyed the challenges of the competition, have learned some new skills, and gained insights into what is expected from a project manager. There are lots of opportunities for you and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

Andrew Gill, PMP, CSM
President, WMPMI

Agenda

START TIME	END TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	Doors Open/ Team Check-in/ Team Practice Time	Hallway
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	Welcome	Fountain Ballroom
11:15 AM	12:25 PM	Lunch	Terrace Ballroom
12:00 PM	12:20 PM	"My Project Management Journey" Facilitated Panel	Terrace Ballroom
12:45 PM	2:15 PM	Presentations - Division 1	Executive Room A
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	Seidman Six (GVSU1)	
1:15 PM	1:45 PM	Bronco Cyber Consulting (WMU1)	
1:45 PM	2:15 PM	Bulldogs of Business (Ferris)	
12:45 PM	2:15 PM	Presentations - Division 2	Fountain Ballroom
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	Team Synced (Hillsdale)	
1:15 PM	1:45 PM	HACME (MTU2)	
1:45 PM	2:15 PM	Hack-Attackers (GVSU3)	
12:45 PM	2:15 PM	Presentations - Division 3	Executive Room B
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	The Council (WMU2)	
1:15 PM	1:45 PM	Laker Lock (GVSU2)	
1:45 PM	2:15 PM	WileyWare (MTU1)	
2:30 PM	3:45 PM	Team Work Session	Fountain Ballroom
2:30 PM	3:30 PM	Room Setup - Final 3 Presentation	Terrace Ballroom
2:40 PM	6:15 PM	Registration for Members (watch Final 3 & Dinner)	Hallway
3:00 PM	3:50 PM	Afternoon Snacks	Hallway
3:50 PM	4:00 PM	Announce Final Three	Terrace Ballroom
4:10 PM	4:20 PM	Introduction of Executive Judges	Terrace Ballroom
4:30 PM	5:00 PM	Team 1, Presentation	Terrace Ballroom
5:05 PM	5:35 PM	Team 2, Presentation	Terrace Ballroom
5:40 PM	6:10 PM	Team 3, Presentation	Terrace Ballroom
6:10 PM	7:15 PM	Executive Judges Review (Placement of Final 3 Winners)	Executive Room A
5:30 PM	6:45 PM	Remove Center Ballroom Divider	Ballrooms
5:30 PM	8:00 PM	Evening Program	Ballrooms
5:30 PM	6:45 PM	Cash Bar	Hallway
5:30 PM	6:10 PM	Networking	Hallway
6:10 PM	7:00 PM	Dinner	Ballrooms
6:35 PM	6:45 PM	Welcome, Acknowledge Students and Teams, Intro of Key note speaker	Ballrooms
6:45 PM	7:15 PM	Richard Maloley II Key Note Speaker	Ballrooms
7:20 PM	7:30 PM	Bonus Awards	Ballrooms
7:35 PM	7:53 PM	Final Three Awards	Ballrooms
7:35 PM	8:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Ballrooms

Sponsors



THE PINNACLE CENTER



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WMPMI Board - Directors



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Lindsay Miller, PMP
Axim Geospatial



**Director, Member
Experience**
Patricia Boer, PMP
Corewell Health



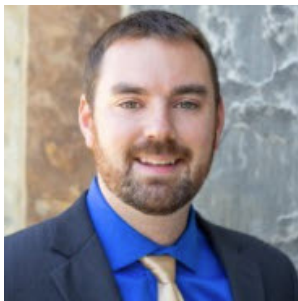
**Director, Website
Content**
Shilpa Sahini, PMP
Corewell Health



Director of Programs
Audrey Streng
MillerKnoll



**Director of Agile WM
Community of Practice**
Jill Arehart
TEKsystems



Director of Programs
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Technology**
Omar De La Rosa
Behler-Young Company



**Director, Public
Relations**
Tiffany Wilhelm



**Director, Academic
Outreach -
THEProject 2023**
Matt Mills, PMP
Stryker



The WMPMI Vision, Mission, and Value Proposition

OUR VISION

WMPMI provides the best member experience.

OUR MISSION

To attract, serve, and support our members.

VALUE PROPOSITION

- Grow your network
- Obtain globally recognized PMI certifications.
- Contribute to your local community. WMPMI offers many volunteer opportunities.
- Take your career to the next level by tapping into the latest project management knowledge and trends through the programs WMPMI offers.



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The technology: unbeatable.**

Your special event is one of a kind — maybe even once in a lifetime. That's why we want to make it spectacular. So, in addition to our award winning food and exceptional service, we've taken our technology up a notch. We are now a full HD facility with 16x9 wide format screens, LED lighting, digital media playback and much more. Now your wedding, fundraiser, party, or meeting can be streamed live online for free. Let's get the party started. www.thepinnaclecenter.com



What is THEProject?

This year is the 11th annual competition for the Western Michigan Project Management Institute (WMPMI) collegiate project management competition – THEProject. The Project engages college students in the practice of project management, develops their leadership skills, and provides them with a showcase to demonstrate their leadership abilities with business and community leaders from West Michigan.

Who participates in THEProject?

Student teams comprised of 3 to 6 students from colleges and universities in the Western Michigan area. Although project management tends to favor business, computer science, and engineering curriculums, students of all academic disciplines are highly encouraged to participate. PMP® (project management professional) certified mentors are assigned to each team. In addition, there are faculty champions from each school, a core team of WMPMI members covering a variety of competition responsibilities, and a panel of PMP-certified judges.

Why do students want to participate?

THEProject engages college students in the practice of project management, develops their leadership skills, and provides them with a showcase to demonstrate their leadership abilities on stage and in person with business and community leaders from West Michigan.

This competition is an excellent tool to teach real world skills to students, to incite an interest in project management as a career, and to ignite an understanding of how complex problems can be solved and solutions delivered using tools that have been honed in the fires of real-life practice. Finally, the finalist teams in the competition receive cash prizes. Non-finalists teams may receive prizes in a variety of categories during the awards presentation as well.

What's the format?

Teams are provided a real-life scenario and must provide solutions in the form of a project plan. The assigned PMP-certified mentors teach them how to transform their solutions into project plans using the initiating and planning processes documented in A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (a.k.a., the PMBOK). Teams have a number of deliverables with due dates to pass through the different Phase Gates. Teams are judged on their use of proper project management techniques, the quality of their solutions, and their ability to present their project plans.





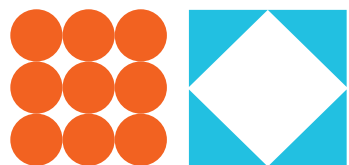
THEProject Competition Spring 2023

Scenario:

Develop a plan to prevent and protect digital infrastructure from a Ransomware attack

Recently Virginia State Legislature's IT branch was hit with a Ransomware attack resulting in data loss and interrupting legislation for weeks. As a result of the increasing trend of Ransomware attacks, the Acme Corporation has put out a contract to your team to develop and implement a Ransomware Prevention Plan and put in place a

Ransomware Response Plan. The RPP should include enhancing current IT processes, training of IT resources (like clean desk and phishing training) and any desirable certifications for the infrastructure to achieve minimum risk from Ransomware. The RRP should include training for all employees, war line procedures and a desktop planning scenario plan for each year.



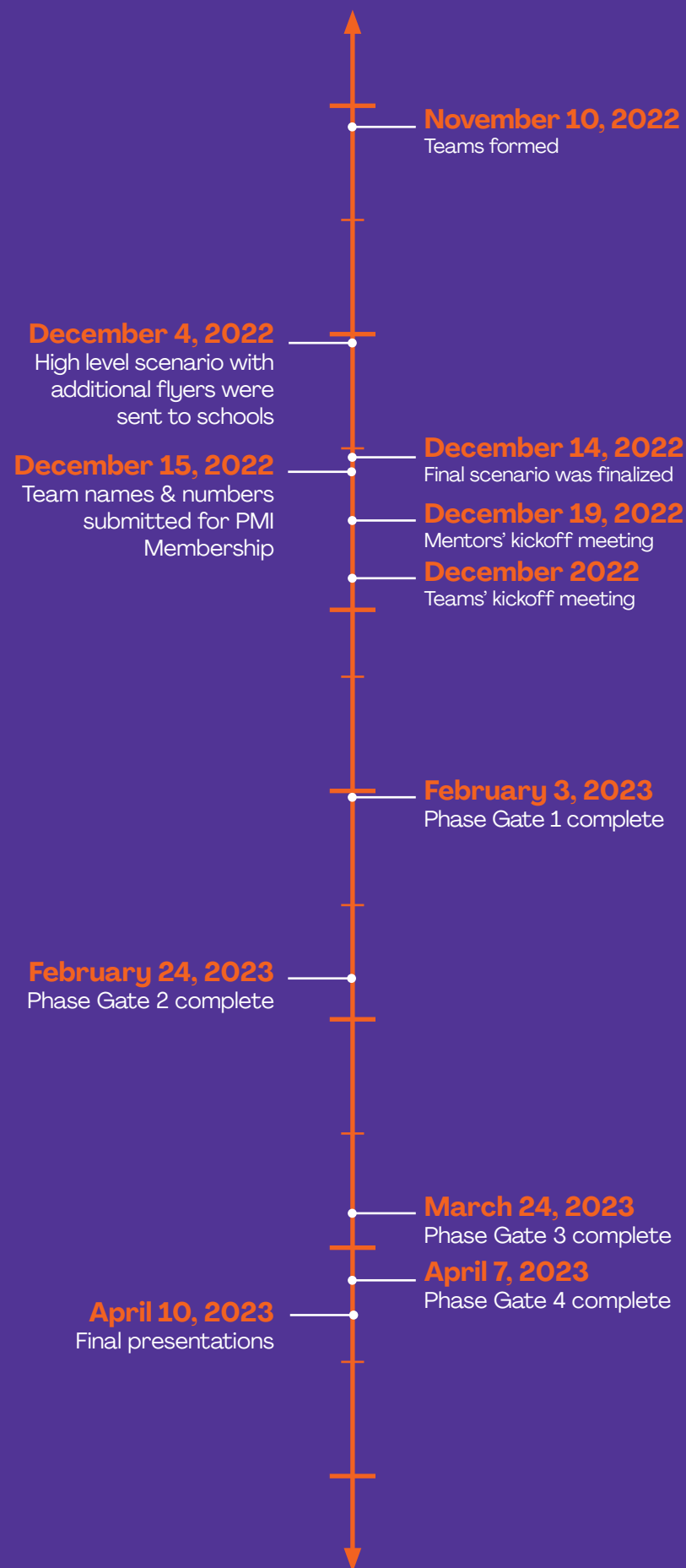
Instructions:

1. Understand the threats posed by Ransomware attacks on organizations in a variety of levels. The U.S. Government's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency may provide a good foundation for teams to familiarize themselves: <https://www.cisa.gov/stopransomware/ransomware-101>
2. Determine the appropriate certifying organizations and certifications relevant for cybersecurity and the standard level required for the Acme Corporation.
3. Research the effects of Ransomware on organizations and the cost it has (monetary, work time lost, loss of equipment, etc.).
4. Create a Ransomware prevention plan for the given organization to deter the probability of a targeted attack.
5. Create a Ransomware response plan for the given organization in the event of an attack.
6. The project plan and its supporting documentation must be developed in accordance with the Initiating and Planning process groups detailed in the 7th edition of the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK).
7. Provide supporting documentation for all deliverable submissions.

Other Helpful Info:

Teams are not expected know how to handle a Ransomware attack themselves. It is expected/encouraged for the teams to consult with others familiar with the subject: other parts of their college, external resources, and online sources to create their plans. As often happens with real projects: the student teams are expected to articulate the plan: schedule, resources, costs etc. associated with this activity but not actually do the activity themselves.





From the VP of Academic Outreach

The mission of the Academic Outreach team from the Western Michigan Chapter PMI is "To use education and education programs to advance the profession of Project Management by informing people about the practice and real-world application of Project Management". THEProject 2023 marks the eleventh year of this collegiate competition. This year's scenario was an ambitious and very technical subject matter to assign to the teams. I am proud to say that all the teams that started this adventure in January are here today to present their plans for developing a Ransomware Prevention Plan and Ransomware Response Plan.

Thank you to all who made THEProject happen this year! The competition would not have been

possible without the support of the WMPMI Board of Directors, THEProject Core Team, the school Champions, Mentors, Panelists, Executive Judges, and our many other volunteers. You all provided the diligence, energy, knowledge, and skills to make THEProject the success that it is! A VERY special thanks goes to the students, who never fail to impress me every single year with their hard work and dedication.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and THEProject Core Team, we want to give a shout out to everyone that is here today, to see and hear what these amazing students have accomplished with their project plans and tireless pursuit of this extra-curricular activity. Yes, in addition to their schoolwork and other school activities

outside of the classroom, these stellar young adults accepted the challenge from WMPMI and chose to gain exposure and insight into what project management has to offer the working community.



Matt Mills
VP of Academic Outreach

Core Team Members of THEProject 2023

Project Manager of Program Booklet	Patricia Brown-May
Assistant Project Manager of Program Booklet	Madeline Isch
Project Manager of PMO Panelist	Doug MacNeil
Project Manager of Mentors	Nancy Hawk
Project Manager of School Champions	Kim Kalman
Project Manager of Event Day	Rachel Steimel
Assistant Project Manager of Event Day	Ashley Dechnik
Director of THEProject 2023	Matt Mills
Assistant PM of THEProject 2023	Michael Mason
Vice President of Marketing	Natalie Lowell
Vice President of Academic Outreach	Matt Mills

PMO Panelists



PM of PMO Panelists
Doug MacNeil, PHD, PMP
Release Train Engineer
Meijer



Fletcher Corbett, PMP
Sr. Continuous Improvement Specialist
Munson Healthcare



Michael Worden, PMP, SPC, LPM, RTE, POPM, SASM, PSM-I
Consultant
AgilityMatters, LLC



Travis Pursel, PMP
Software Project Lead
Dematic



Rachel Steimel, PMP
PM of Event Day
Manager, Customer Service, Analytics & Technology
Amway



Ashley Dechnik, PMP
Director, Events
Analytics

Event Day Volunteers



Michael Mason
Assistant PM of THEProject
Product Development
Consultant

Adriana Cowne, PMP
SpinSys

Cindy Lewis, PMP
MS Project/Project Online
Consultant & Trainer
4 Pillars of Success

Jan Gallagher, PMP
Project Manager
Independent Contract

THEProject Bonus Awards



Keynote Speaker



Richard Maloley II
Senior Security Consultant of OST

Richard Maloley is a Senior Security Consultant and Ethical Hacker at Open Systems Technologies based in Grand Rapids, MI. Richard has more than six years of experience conducting Security Assessments and executes over 100 assessments per year on average. His practice and methodology is applicable to any organization in any industry but especially healthcare, small financial institutions, and community foundations. Richard has over 18 years of experience in the IT industry and has been at OST for 11 years.

Executive Judges

Marc Smeyers
GHSP Chief Information Officer

Marc leads GHSP’s product development, long-term research, and development. He leads an ongoing series of innovation initiatives that explore emerging technologies, assess their application to the company’s business, and recommend new strategies and solutions. Marc is an engaged leader that encourages technology advancement and innovative thinking to be prioritized. This approach to leadership has helped

develop global businesses for more than twenty years.

Prior to joining GHSP, Marc has worked in many product development roles throughout the automotive and aerospace markets. His leadership has provided new technology advancements in launching the first automotive fully graphical driver instrument panel, developing camera and radar-based Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, and delivering automatic dimming glass that is utilized in the aerospace industry for companies such as Johnson Controls Inc,

Magna Corporation, and Gentex Corporation.

Marc holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from Michigan State University and continued master level studies of Electrical Engineering at Western Michigan University collaboration and video.



Executive Judges

Bill Makela
Corewell Health Director of Corporate APMO

Bill is the Director of Corewell Health’s Corporate APMO where he has worked in the healthcare industry for over 13 years holding positions as Portfolio Manager, Senior Project Manager, and Policy Analyst. Since joining Corewell Health in 2016, his teams have been responsible for the delivery of projects totaling over \$500 Million while

coordinating thousands of partners across the enterprise. Most notably, Bill’s team has been an essential driver in the COVID - 19 response for Corewell Health with responsibility for leading initiatives that have tripled Corewell’s ICU capacity and testing capabilities.

Bill has a Master of Science degree in Health Administration, Hospital Administration and a Bachelors of Science degree in Health Science, both from Grand Valley



State University. He also has certifications as a project Management Professional (PMP), Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, and Certified SAFe® 5 Lean Portfolio Manager.

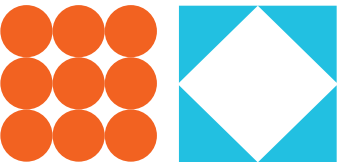
Bob Dougherty

Bob Dougherty currently holds the position of Manager, Agile Portfolio Office at Steelcase Inc. in Grand Rapids MI. In addition, Bob is also the Agile Transformation Leader for Steelcase and leads the Agile Transformation Team. Bob brings 30 years of I.T. experience in many capacities and specialties such as Program/Project Management, Agile, Software Development/ Integration, Network and

Telecomm Engineering, and Data Center Design, Construction, and Management. Prior to joining Steelcase, Bob managed the ITS Portfolio & Project Office at Meijer Inc. in Walker MI, and also worked at Haworth inc., Provia Software, Herman Miller for Healthcare, and BASF. Bob attended Middlesex College in New Jersey and holds several certifications including PMP, CSM, CSPO, SAFe, Scrum@Scale, ITIL, and LEAN Six Sigma. Bob is married, has



4 children, and enjoys all types of outside activities, especially if it has a motor.



School Mentors and Champions



PM of Mentors

Nancy Howk, PMP
Sr. Program Manager
*Stryker GQO Quality
Shared Service*



PM of School Champions

Kim Kalman, CAPM
PM of School
Champions KMK
Business Projects, LLC
Project Management &
Marketing



Team: The Council

**Hannah Olech, PMP,
DASM**
Director of
Organizational Projects
Advia Credit Union



Team: Bronco Cyber Consulting

Iris Townsend, PMP
Associate Project
Manager
Stryker – Instruments



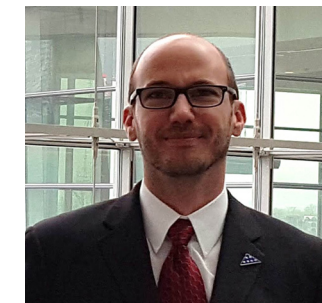
School Champion:

**Mohammad Daneshvar
Kakhki, Ph.D**
Assistant Professor, Business
Information Systems
Business Information Systems
Department
Haworth College of Business



Team: WileyWare

**Jamal Steward, BS,
PgMP**
Director of Engineering
Kenona Industries LLC



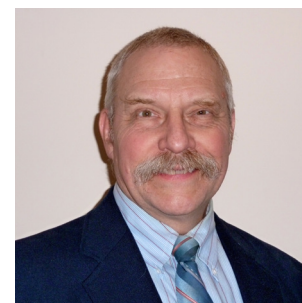
Team: HACME

Keith Wallace, PMP
Program Manager
Kenona Industries LLC



School Champion:

Roger Woods, M.S.
Associate Teaching
Professor
College of Business



Team: Team Synced

Dick Friedrich, PMP
Retired



School Champion:

Douglas Johnson, Ph.D
Assistant Professor
Economics &
Business Administration

School Mentors and Champions

School Mentors and Champions

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

FERRIS FORWARD



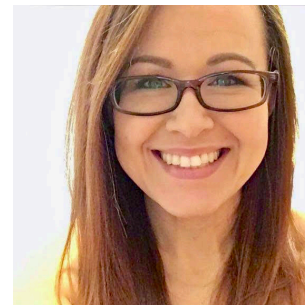
Team:
Bulldogs of Business

Kristi Gentry, PMP
Facilities Project Manager
Van Andel Institute



School Champion:

Dr. Steve Schuiling, Dr. B.A., PMP, PMI-ACP, CSM
Associate Professor
Project Management
Information Security and Intelligence



Team:
Hack-Attackers

Ashley Dechnik, PMP
Director, Events
Analytics



Team:
Seidman Six

Emily Bell, PMP
Senior Project Manager
Stryker



Team:
Laker Lock

Sally Scripps, PMP
Retired
Consumers Energy



School Champion:

Jaideep Motwani, Ph.D
Chair and Professor of
Management
Seidman College of
Business



School Champion:

Jon Hitt, MBA
Assistant School
Champion, GVSU
Director, North America
Ymer Technology

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At GHSP, we are constantly pushing boundaries. We are innovators and problem solvers and solutions are our wheelhouse.

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Software



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Team:

WileyWare



Members:

Caleb Glenn, Benjamin Knoth, Anderson Piercey, Mitch Watters, Stuart Werner, William Kordenbrock

Mentor: Jamal Steward



Caleb Glenn
MS, Management | April 2023

Caleb grew up in lower Michigan where he spent his time training in search and rescue and playing soccer. After graduating high school Caleb moved to Houghton, MI in order to pursue education in business. While at school Caleb enjoyed spending time with friends and hitting the slopes often. Caleb spent his summers working with a sales and marketing team in order to generate a new way to source leads. Caleb also spent his time developing leadership skills by training others in search and rescue.



Benjamin Knoth
BS Management Entrepreneurship | December 2023

Ben was born and raised in Grand Haven, Michigan. He joined an early college program through Muskegon Community College and transferred to Michigan Tech after receiving an associate degree. After creating and running various small businesses in high school, Ben became interested in an entrepreneurship degree. Currently, Ben is involved with the Ridge Roamers club as he enjoys rock and ice climbing, hiking, and camping. He also enjoys surfing, kiteboarding, running, and aviation.



Anderson Piercey
B.S., Management | April 2023

Anderson Piercey was raised in Shelby Township and Paw Paw, Michigan. He is graduating in April 2023 with a degree in Management and a minor in Psychology at Michigan Technological University. Anderson has been a Resident Assistant for the past four years, a Senior Resident Assistant for the past two, and an Academic Success Coach for the past two years. He is also involved with the Society of African American Men and the Pavlis Honors College. Post-graduation, Anderson will be pursuing work in the Lansing area and enjoying his hobbies of reading, photography, camping, and hiking.



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

Caleb: Continue to live my life without fear of success.

Benjamin: Climb the north face of K2.

Anderson: Establish quick, reliable, and cheap international transportation.

Team:

WileyWare



Members:

Caleb Glenn, Benjamin Knoth, Anderson Piercey, Mitch Watters, Stuart Werner, William Kordenbrock

Mentor: Jamal Steward



Mitch Watters
Engineering Management | April 2023

Mitch grew up in Wausau Wisconsin. He enjoys mulling over business problems and examining opportunities. In his allotted free time, he enjoys lifting weights until failure. Occasionally you can find him on a snowmobile.



Stuart Werner
Engineering Management | December 2023

Stuart grew up in Tawas, Michigan. He enjoys going to the gym, snowboarding, and the outdoors. In his fourth year of college, he plays rugby and regularly attends the gym. He is proficient at saxophone, drums, piano, and guitar. Stuart will graduate with a BS in Engineering Management in December 2023.



William Kordenbrock
Engineering Management | April 2023

William grew up in Williamston, MI and moved to Colorado after high school graduation. While in Colorado he spent several years working as an automotive technician specializing in performance vehicles. In 2019 he returned to Michigan to attend Michigan Technological University where he is pursuing a degree in Engineering Management. While attending MTU, William enlisted in the Michigan National Guard where he has served as a combat engineer in the 1431st Engineering Company in Calumet, MI. After graduation in April, 2023, William will attend the Army Aviation School in Fort Rucker, AL where he will begin his career as an Army Helicopter Pilot.



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

Mitch: Drop out of college and race Nascar Cup series.

Stuart: Conquer Argentina and monopolize its soybean market.

William: Start a backcountry hunting guide service in Alaska.

Team:
HACME



Members:

Shivkumar Gaikwad, Andrew Kleehammer,
Benjamin Leinonen, Liam McDonough,
Anastasia Motta, Mithil Masutage

Mentor: Keith Wallace



Shivkumar Gaikwad
MS, Engineering Management | May 2024

Shivkumar was born and raised in the suburbs of Mumbai, India and is interested in mechanical engineering. Currently, he is studying for a master's in engineering management with focus in Project Management and Lean Management. After his 10th grade he decided to pursue mechanical engineering, due to his interest in cars and bikes. Shivkumar joined EagleBurgmann, a multinational manufacturer of mechanical seals and API Plans as a Quality Assurance intern and then transitioned to a full time Quality Engineer position at Cold Weld Engineers. Apart from exploring the mechanical world, he likes to volunteer and was a part of Rotaract Club of Thane Downtown before beginning his masters. He is a fantastic cook, with Pav Bhaji and Chicken Biryani being his favorite dishes. Cooking helps him relieve stress.



Andrew Kleehammer
BS, Engineering Management; MS, Engineering Management | April 2023; December 2023

Andrew was born and raised in Utica, Michigan. He is currently a senior at Michigan Technological University majoring in Engineering Management with a minor in enterprise. He's also pursuing a Master's in Engineering Management with anticipated graduation in December 2023. He's a graduate of both the Pavlis Honors College and Formula SAE team. In the summer of 2023, Andrew plans to return to MHS FORTNA as a Project Management co-op, where he's had a focus on controls and costing process improvement. In his free time, Andrew enjoys weightlifting, biking, shop work, and cooking.



Benjamin Leinonen
BS, Management | April 2023

Benjamin was born in Lower Michigan but was raised for most of his life in the Houghton, Michigan area. While at Michigan Tech, he found the Business Management program to be a good fit for his interests, and has stuck with it. A strong student in class, Benjamin also is involved with the Lean Six Sigma club on campus as the club's president. Outside of academics, Benjamin is employed by the Michigan SBDC with a special focus on export and international trade. He also volunteers at his local church, running the complex audio-visual systems. Following the completion of his degree, Benjamin hopes to find a job in project or operations management.

"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"

Shivkumar: I would become an entrepreneur and open my own restaurant.

Andrew: Do whatever improves the quality of life of most people.

Benjamin: I would love to tell stories that awe, encourage, inspire, and help teach people.

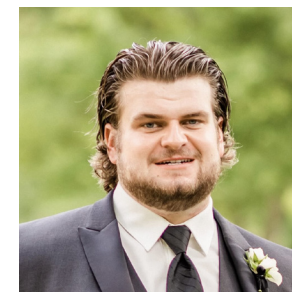
Team:
HACME



Members:

Shivkumar Gaikwad, Andrew Kleehammer,
Benjamin Leinonen, Liam McDonough,
Anastasia Motta, Mithil Masutage

Mentor: Keith Wallace



Liam McDonough
BS, Engineering Management | April 2023

Liam McDonough was born and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He is now a senior at Michigan Technological University majoring in Engineering Management as well as pursuing a Master's in Engineering Management. Liam is also an Offensive Lineman for the Michigan Technological University's Football team. Recently, Liam has worked for Schneider International as a Sales Operations and Logistics intern and will be working as a Field Project Engineering Intern at The Boldt Company in the summer of 2023.



Anastasia (Asia) Motta
Masters of Engineering Management | April 2023

Asia is originally from Rockford MI. In December 2022 she graduated from Michigan Tech with a bachelor's in engineering management. Currently, she is enrolled in the accelerated master's degree program for Engineering Management with a concentration in Lean Manufacturing. The planned completion date is April 2023. Asia is involved in the entrepreneurship programs at Michigan Tech with her new product idea, The Droplet, a gyroscopic planter for traveling. After graduation, she plans to work as a Continuous Improvement Engineer leading projects to reduce waste and increase productivity. In her free time, she enjoys vegetable gardening and learning about alternative farming practices such as hydroponics and aquaponics.



Mithil Masutage
MS, Engineering Management | May 2024

Mithil was born and raised in Maharashtra, India; where he completed his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering at Dr.D Y Patil Pratishthan's College of Engineering. Mithil is currently pursuing a master's in Engineering Management at Michigan Technological University. Mithil worked as operations manager at Kamal Construction for over two years and has broad experience in business operations. After graduation he plans to work in operational management roles to improve processes, elevate output and quality. Mithil enjoys watching and playing soccer, pet keeping and gardening in his free time.

"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"

Liam: be discontented for the possibility of failure is necessary to keep one's ambition and drive in check, and that without it, success would be hollow and meaningless.

Anastasia: I would start a whole string of small businesses dedicated to homestead farming and gardening ranging from products I designed to consulting work.

Mithil: Continue my father's construction business.

Team:

The Council

Members:

Sravani Nandi, Fahad Shiraj, Gloria Park,
Lidya Kartika, Paunai Chapman

Mentor: Hannah Olech



Team:

The Council

Members:

Sravani Nandi, Fahad Shiraj, Gloria
Park, Lidya Kartika, Paunai Chapman

Mentor: Hannah Olech



Sravani Nandi
MBA, Business Analytics | June 2023

Nandi grew up in the southern part of India. She is an MBA student who has experience in marketing and strategy. She spent the last four years working for startups and worked with all departments. Currently, she is doing her MBA in business analytics and gaining experience in power bi, and tableau skills. She wants to use her marketing knowledge and business analytics skills and become a market analyst. She believes project management helps her to excel in her career considering her expertise. Nandi has many hobbies. She loves to travel, explore unfamiliar cultures, read books, play cricket, and cook Italian food.



Md Al Fahad Shiraj
Business Analytics | April 2023

Fahad Shiraj was raised in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and then moved to Kalamazoo, MI in 2019. He is a Senior at Western Michigan University. He developed an interest in project management after he gained experience working with Streamline Healthcare solutions and the Consumers Credit Union. He took up strategic projects to conduct analysis and build meaningful reports. He also applied data analysis and modeling to identify financial opportunities for the business. In his time with the Business information system department, he has acquired great expertise in advanced Microsoft Excel, Power BI, Python, SQL, and RapidMiner. He wants to pursue a career in predictive analysis and wishes to utilize project management skills to enhance his career.



Gloria Park
BBA, Business Analytics | April 2025

Gloria Park was raised in South Korea, and came to Kalamazoo, Michigan on September 2021 to enroll in Western Michigan University. Even though she is still a sophomore in school, she built up interest in project management from an inspiring seminar during ICHITA-IT Forum. Starting from a small lecture, she started to engage with more IT/Data Science related communities and developed her project managing skills. Additional to her analytic side, she is ambitious and crafty that led her to learn UX design and Graphic Design. Gloria is an active member in SBDC Michigan, and she reaches out to quench her entrepreneurial spirit.



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

Sravani: I would start schools with independent systems for rural children in my home country.

Md Al Fahad: Create alternate form of energy that can replace non-renewable resources.

Gloria: Become a president.



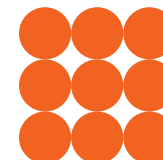
Lidya Kartika
BBA in Supply Chain Management and Food/CPG Marketing | April 2023

Lidya was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. She left for Kalamazoo, MI to further her academic studies. She is currently a senior at Western Michigan University, graduating in Spring 2023. Lydia spent the last year working at Tenneco as a supply/demand planning intern, where she developed an interest in data analytics. She has gained experience in Excel, Python, Power BI, and RapidMiner through classes taken for her Business Analytics minor. After graduation, she will move to Milwaukee, WI for a supply chain rotational program. Her dream is to work in tech or CPG industry.



Paunai Chapman
Business Analytics | April 2023

Paunai Chapman was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Paunai is a BBA student at Western Michigan University majoring in Business Analytics. Paunai became interested in Project Management while exploring leadership positions in data via the internet. Paunai is currently a Resident Assistant at WMU. WMU RA's utilize leadership and communication skills to redirect residents to personal and academic resources. Paunai has made Dean's List twice. Experiences in PowerBI, Python, RapidMiner, and Microsoft Suite are some accomplishments. After graduating, Paunai seeks full-time employment with any Project Management or Data Analytics opportunities, separately from other technological skills, Paunai loves to write poetry and create art through ideas discovered from music. At my core, is a love to write and share stories. Through sharing stories, an aspiration is to be surrounded by an environment where a feeling of self-development is always at play with personal growth with and analytical skills. “Love is sight. Sight is love. Stay where you’re seen. It’s where you’re loved.”



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

Lidya: I would find the cure to cancer.

Paunai: I would create art unapologetically.

Team:

Bronco Cyber Consulting



Members:

Landen Michael Evans, Edjola Smith,
Tyler Mahoney, Daniel Bohem,
Eric Isaksson

Mentor: Iris Townsend



Landen Evans
BBA, 'Business Analytics' and 'Leadership and Business Strategy' | April 2023

Landen is a student from Southwest Michigan who transferred from Kalamazoo Valley Community College to Western Michigan University in 2020. He is currently studying business analytics and business strategy, and he also belongs to Beta Gamma Sigma honors society for Business students. In his free time, he enjoys watching sports, building computers, and hiking. He is dedicated to his studies and his interests, and he is making the most of his time at Western Michigan University.



Edjola Smith
MS, Information Security | April 2023

Edjola was born and raised in Albania, moving to Michigan seven years ago. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Strategic Science and Telecommunications at the Italian Military Academy of Modena and worked as an IT Specialist and Network Operations Center Specialist before moving to the States. Currently, Edjola is working as a Senior Automation Engineer at Pfizer and completing her Master's in Information Security at Western Michigan University. After graduation, Edjola will seek a position in the Cybersecurity field focusing on Operational Technology (OT) and Industrial Control Systems (ICS). Edjola enjoys visiting new places, discovering new cuisines and cultures.



Tyler Mahoney
Business Analytics | April 2023

Tyler grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan, and is a student at Western Michigan University with a major in Business Analytics and minor in Leadership and Business Strategy. He attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College while in high school completing dual enrollment, and early middle college programs. Tyler is a high achiever and has worked full-time while pursuing an associate and bachelor's degree. In high school, he participated in the co-op program, landing a job at a local dental office where he has worked for more than six years, gaining invaluable experience in customer service, accounting, management, and IT. Currently, he is working towards becoming an entrepreneur.



"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"
Landen: Increase the accessibility of renewable energy sources.
Edjola: Securely automate systems to increase sustainability.
Tyler: Quit my full time job and go 100% into my own business.

Team:

Bronco Cyber Consulting



Members:

Landen Michael Evans, Edjola Smith,
Tyler Mahoney, Daniel Bohem,
Eric Isaksson

Mentor: Iris Townsend



Daniel Bohem
Business Analytics | April 2023

Daniel is originally from South Bend, IN, and relocated four years ago to attend Western Michigan University. In addition to taking courses, he is the Vice President of member engagement and development for the WMU Student Veteran Association and is employed as a student administrative assistant. Daniel is proficient in visual analytics and other business platforms. He is a USMC veteran, husband, and father. With military and prior job experience, he has several years of experience in customer service, leadership, and coordination with internal and external sources. Daniel plans to stay in Kalamazoo with his family to pursue a career in analytics or project management. In his free time, he enjoys family outings, playing with his dogs, and sports.



Eric Isaksson
Business Analytics and Leadership and Business Strategy | April 2023

Eric is a student at Western Michigan University, where he is double majoring in business analytics and leadership and business strategy. He has gained experience in project management and data analytics through internships with multiple Fortune 500 companies, which has allowed him to work towards future goals and success. Eric also seeks to keep learning; besides his college curriculum, he has been practicing and becoming proficient in visualization software, predictive analytics, multiple coding languages, and his leadership skills. He will also be receiving an IBM professional certificate in applied AI; a field Eric plans on working in where he wants to create innovative AI software applications. From traveling to foreign countries to learn new cultures and traditions to enjoying time with friends, Eric will never pass down the opportunity to explore the world around him with the ones who mean the most to him.



"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"
Daniel: Open my own Project Management Consulting Company.
Eric: Work harder.

Team:

Seidman Six



Members:

Jacob Lammers, Margaret Mclean,
Faith Miller, John Plantamura, Christiana
UnaKalamba, Shahnawaz Jeddy

Mentor: Emily Bell



John Plantamura
Supply Chain Management, Marketing | May 2023

John Allan grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After graduating high school in 2019 decided to pursue a supply chain management degree at Grand Valley State University. He has worked in the manufacturing industry as a purchasing intern and would like to do demand planning/forecasting after college. On the side, he enjoys guitar, chess, and spending time with his family.



Christiana Unakalamba
Business | June 2024

Christie is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the Seidman College of Business, GVSU. She holds a Postgraduate degree in Marketing communications and a B.A. in Mass communication. Christie has previous work experience in the Financial sector as a Personal Banker and a Client Relationship Manager. Currently, she is the vice president African Student Council at GVSU. Christie loves to meet new people, make friends, and enjoys listening to a good story. She looks for opportunities to be positively impactful to those around her and everyone that interacts with her.



Shahnawaz Jeddy
MBA | July 2024

Shahnawaz Jeddy was born and brought up in India. She possesses a Bachelor's degree in Engineering in Information Technology and is now pursuing her Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) at Grand Valley State University. She has worked as a Marketing Lead, Channel Analyst, and Business Development associate in the past and also possesses experience tutoring students of diverse backgrounds, ages, and cultures. Passionate about data analytics, she has worked on projects that included data mining, data science algorithms, quantitative calculations, and planning and monitoring expertise. She is a fun, loving girl who loves spending time with her family and friends. In her leisure time, she loves watching movies, going on drives, or practicing yoga.



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

John: Start a coffee and plant shop.

Christiana: Do business.

Shahnawaz: Learn to pilot a plane, overcoming my fear of heights.

Team:

Seidman Six



Members:

Jacob Lammers, Margaret Mclean,
Faith Miller, John Plantamura, Christiana
UnaKalamba, Shahnawaz Jeddy

Mentor: Emily Bell



Jacob Lammers
BBA, Supply Chain Management and Finance | April 2023

Jacob grew up in Columbus, OH and graduated high school in Grand Rapids, MI before going to Grand Valley State University. Starting as an engineering major, he saw that he had a problem-solving mind that was better for supply chain management. After switching majors halfway through his college career, he dove into the supply chain industry becoming the president of the supply chain club and getting an internship at e2open as a logistics coordinator. He has participated in the CSCMP's Edge Conference Future Leaders program as well as the GM/Wayne State and the CSU Operations Stimulus supply chain case competitions.



Margaret McLean
BA, Supply Chain Management and MIS | May 2024

Margaret grew up in a suburb of Chicago and after graduating high school decided to go to Grand Valley State University where she is majoring in Supply Chain Management and Management Information Systems. Margaret participates in many extra-curricular activities her most notable being that she is the current Vice President and future President of the Seidman Supply Chain Management Association. In addition to that she also rock climbs and teaches gymnastics.



Faith Miller
BA, Marketing and General Management | May 2024

Faith grew up in the Metro Detroit area and has enjoyed living on the west side of the state. She loves being a Laker and participating in clubs at GVSU. She is currently the Social Media Officer of the GVSU Belly Dance Club!



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

Jacob: Start a supply chain consulting business to help medium to small businesses succeed through major problems we faced during COVID.

Margaret: I would open a craft store with Faith.

Faith: Open a craft store with Margaret.

Team:

Laker Lock



Members:

Evan Bradford, Brendan Brockbank, Kadin Collie, Michael Jonas, Jhon Kerby Gerlin

Mentor: Sally Scripps



Evan Bradford
B.B.A., Management Information Systems | December 2023

Evan Bradford was raised in Livonia, Michigan. Originally, came to Grand Valley State University pursuing a Finance degree but found a passion for ERP software and a degree that would suit that. He is now majoring in Management Information Systems (MIS). He graduates this December. Evan is currently the co-president of the Enterprise Systems Student Union (ESSU) at the Seidman College of Business. Also, he is involved with More than a Meal, a student organization that volunteers for Meals on Wheels, a West-Michigan based non-profit. Coming up this summer, Evan will intern in Indianapolis, Indiana at Eli Lilly, in their IT department.



Brendan Brockbank
Marketing, MIS | June 2023

Brendan Brockbank was born and raised in Rochester, Michigan. He is double majoring in Marketing and Management Information Systems with an emphasis in Business Management. He is set to graduate in May of 2023. He is a part of campus Greek Life of which he joined the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity in the Winter of his Sophomore year. Currently, Brendan works at the University Club of Grand Rapids where he and his co-workers work many different events and business meetings. He plans on going into the technological side of sales after graduating.



Kadin Collie
SCM / OM, Supply Chain Management and Operations Management | April 2024

Kadin is a third-year student at Grand Valley State University, planning to graduate in 2024. Currently, he is pursuing a degree in both Supply Chain Management and Operations Management. Born in Buffalo, New York, Kadin was raised and attended high school in Lake Orion, Michigan before graduating and moving to downtown Grand Rapids. Kadin is an avid sports fan, who enjoys playing and watching basketball and football. He also enjoys spending time with friends when given the opportunity. Although Kadin doesn't have extensive project management experience, he has gained valuable exposure to the field during his time at MAHLE, an automotive supplier located on the east side of Michigan. Kadin is eager to continue learning more about project management.



"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"

Evan: Become a professional golfer on the PGA Tour.

Brendan: Attempt to start-up my own business and continue to track the progress of the business.

Kadin: Buy a lottery ticket.

Team:

Laker Lock



Members:

Evan Bradford, Brendan Brockbank, Kadin Collie, Michael Jonas, Jhon Kerby Gerlin

Mentor: Sally Scripps



Michael Jonas
Human Resources and Supply Chain Management | April 2023

Michael was born in Jackson Michigan, grew up in Jackson, and later moved to Hudson, Michigan. He is a Supply Chain Management and Human Resources Management Major at Grand Valley State University. Mike currently works as a Store General Manager for Pavilion Ventures. He has been able to use what he has learned from his two majors in his work at the current job and hopes to use Project Management in the same way to help develop his career. When he's not in the office, his hobbies of basketball, cooking, gardening, hiking, and weightlifting take up his time.



Jhon Kerby Gerlin
Professional MBA | April 2024

Jhon Kerby Gerlin was born in Haiti, in a small northern town called Gros-Morne. He is the oldest of three children. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2016 at the University Center for Management and Productivity in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Since graduating he has worked for more than eight years in finance and accounting. He is currently attending an MBA program at Grand Valley State University. He is the vice president of the Graduate Student Association.. Early in his career, he volunteered at a high school in Haiti as a math teacher, and at church. He is a music lover and soccer player. In his spare time he listens to a lot of music, sings, and plays.



"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"

Michael: Perform Stand-Up Comedy for a living.

Jhon: Start my own business.

Team:

Hack-Attackers



Members:

Nicholas Faycurry, Sullivan Russ, Seth Sawyer, Nicholas Nyarko, Anamika Risal

Mentor: Ashley Dechnik



Nicholas Faycurry

MIS, Management Information Systems | April 2023

Nicholas Faycurry is from Rochester Michigan. He is attending Grand Valley State University for his final semester to complete his bachelor's degree. He is majoring in Management with an emphasis on Management Information Systems. He plans on getting his SAP TS410 Certification after graduating in April and will begin work in the consulting industry. Nicholas has worked in the finance industry at Flagstar Bank as a Sales Administration intern. He also is interested in pursuing a sales career involving technology. Project management is new to Nicholas but has been informative during the competition process.



Sullivan Russ

BBA, Business and Statistics | April 2023

Sullivan Russ is in his final year of undergraduate education at Grand Valley State University. He will graduate with a bachelor's degree in business and statistics in April 2023. He is a statistics tutor for GVSU and specializes in data analysis, marketing, management, and finance. After graduation, Sullivan will transition into his corporate career and is open to working presently. Sullivan has worked in sales, customer relations, maintenance management, and athletics operations. Project management is a new field for Sullivan, but he is excited to continue soaking in information about IT, cybersecurity, and PM.



Seth Sawyer

Business Administration | April 2023

Seth was raised in Whitehall, Michigan. Once graduating high school in 2017, he pursued his dream of becoming a professional skier and moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. His career began at a local ski resort (Jackson Hole Mountain Resort) where he was a lift operator. Seth skied every day that winter but unfortunately ended abruptly in the spring due to a severe ankle injury. He then moved back to Whitehall, Michigan where he decided to pursue college and earn a degree. His college journey started at Muskegon Community College where he received an Associate's degree. After completing that degree, he then continued his education at Grand Valley State University. After graduation, Seth plans to work as a Continuous Improvement Coordinator.



"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"

Nicholas: Invest in the stock market.

Sullivan: Fly around the world in one trip.

Seth: I would continue my dream of becoming a professional skier.

Team:

Hack-Attackers



Members:

Nicholas Faycurry, Sullivan Russ, Seth Sawyer, Nicholas Nyarko, Anamika Risal

Mentor: Ashley Dechnik



Nicholas Nyarko

MBA, General Business | April 2023

Nicholas grew up in Ghana and is a member of the Ghana Institute of Chartered Accountants. He served as a finance manager and IT supervisor for Chance for Children, an NGO that helps street children. His interest in pursuing an MBA and developing skills across different specialties increased after managing growth and process improvement initiatives in addition to his finance responsibilities. Nick has honed his communication and leadership skills through the MBA. He now wishes to obtain the CPA certification and apply his technical accounting and broad business knowledge to improve the operational and financial performance of his next firm. He is married to Jenny, and they have a son, Emmanuel. Nick enjoys soccer and has a passion for photography.



Anamika Risal

Professional, MBA | April 2023

Anamika is an international student from Nepal pursuing a Professional Master of Business Administration degree and is in her final semester. She is a Graduate Assistant working as a Market Researcher at SBDC Michigan, helping small businesses cater to their needs in SEO analysis and other industry research requests. Before her Masters, she worked as Research Analyst at Frost & Sullivan in Nepal, conducting and generating comprehensive primary and secondary research/reports for evaluation. In her spare time, Anamika enjoys reading, traveling, and trying out new food recipes.



"If I could do something with no risk of failure,"

Nicholas: I would launch the world's best consulting firm.

Anamika: I would be super confident in executing the task perfectly and fearlessly.

Team:

Team Synced

Members:

Macy Berglund, Adam Gaddy, Josh DeVlieger, Madison Pyhel, Carlie Steele



Mentor: Dick Friedrich



Macy Berglund
B.A., Marketing Management | May 2023

Macy was born and raised in Carmel, Indiana. She is a senior at Hillsdale College and is involved on campus in many ways, such as member of the NCAA DII women’s basketball team and Program Director of the volunteer-based club, Buddy Reading. This summer, Macy worked as a VIP & Premium Services Intern for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and a Marketing Intern for the Indianapolis Indians, where she created and built relationships with premium guests and partners and created lasting customer experiences. Following graduation, she is looking forward to joining Michigan Lighting Systems, where she will pursue a position as an Outside Sales Representative. In her free time, she enjoys performing live music and cooking.



Adam Gaddy
BA, Financial Management | May 2024

Adam was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs, though he now attends Hillsdale College in Michigan. Studying Financial Management and Politics, Adam intends to pursue a career in management consulting after graduating in May 2024. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, reading, and playing racquet sports.



Josh DeVlieger
B.A., Financial Management | May 2024

Adam was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs, though he now Josh grew up in North Carolina before attending Hillsdale College. He is a Financial Management major graduating in May of 2024. He became interested in finance, particularly Mergers & Acquisitions, after working at a private equity firm in his sophomore year of college. Outside of his academic pursuits, Josh serves as president of his fraternity and works as a student career coach during the school year. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf and spending time outside.



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

- Macy:** Open a brewery up north.
- Adam:** Open a restaurant.
- Josh:** Start a private equity firm.

Team:

Team Synced

Members:

Macy Berglund, Adam Gaddy, Josh DeVlieger, Madison Pyhel, Carlie Steele



Mentor: Dick Friedrich



Madison Pyhel
BA Marketing Management | May 2023

Madison grew up in Marquette, Michigan and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida when she was six years old. After graduating from the St. Petersburg High School International Baccalaureate program, she returned to Michigan to attend Hillsdale College and study Marketing Management. At Hillsdale, Madison is a varsity swimmer on the NCAA Division II Women’s swim team. She also works at the college’s Career Services office and is a member of the Class of 2023 Legacy Board. This past summer, Madison was a Marketing Intern at Stryker, and is looking forward to returning full-time as a Marketing Associate upon graduation. In her free time, Madison enjoys hiking, boating, cooking, and spending time with family.



Carlie Steele
BS, Marketing Management | May 2025

Carlie was born and raised in Salem, Oregon. She is a Marketing Management major and Psychology minor at Hillsdale College. Carlie is involved in the Chi Omega Sorority, is a Career Coach for the college, and is the vice president of Conservation Club. She hopes to pursue a career in Graphic and Editorial Design. Recently, Carlie started her own small business, Citrus and Honey, making sustainable jewelry and clothing.



“If I could do something with no risk of failure,”

- Madison:** Open my own coffee shop.
- Carlie:** Choose not to, as failure is necessary for growth.

Bulldogs of Business

FERRIS FORWARD

Danielle A. Eley, Rebecca Barkley,
Emmery B. Sangalang

Mentor: Kristi Gentry



Danielle is a senior at Ferris State University majoring in Project Management. She is from DeWitt, Michigan. Danielle became interested in obtaining her bachelor's degree in 2019 and decided the project management program was a great fit for her future goals. After graduation, Danielle plans to further her career at her current employer, Auto-Owners.



Rebecca Barkley is a senior at Ferris State University majoring in Project Management. She is from Sturgis, Michigan. Rebecca got interested in Project Management after having a career consultation and taking an internship at Miller-Davis Company during the summer of 2022. Rebecca wanted to participate in this event to further her project management experiences and knowledge. After graduation, she plans on continuing to work at Miller-Davis Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan.



Emmery grew up in Oakland County and graduated from Avondale High School in 2021. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's in Project Management at Ferris State University. When she is not studying, Emmery participates in cultural clubs on campus and plays with her dog Charlie. Emmery is a junior and expects to graduate next spring.



Danielle: Start a patient advocacy business that helps people navigate the healthcare system.
Rebecca: Try to learn as many languages as possible.
Emmery: Try a little bit of everything.

Notes



Notes

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Notes

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Upcoming 2023 Events

Adapting Project Management and Agile Skills to the World of Home Brew

Friday, April, 21 | 12pm- 1pm *Virtual*

Speaker: Paul Odell, PMP



PMP Exam Prep Virtual Training (1 of 9 Sessions) May 1st-18th

May, 1 (Session 1 of 9) | 5:15pm - 8:45pm *Virtual Workshop*

Speaker: Atul Peres-da-Silva, MBA, PMP, PMP-ACP, PgMP

Microsoft Project and Project Manager as Business Leader

Monday, May, 8 | 5pm - 8pm *In-Person / Virtual*

Speaker: Cindy Lewis, PMP and Mary Hiadio, PMP

How to Use Lean Six Sigma Tools and Techniques to Improve Healthcare Outcomes

Friday, May, 19 | 8am-9am *Virtual*

Speaker: Tanya Stinson, CEO



Professional Development Day (PDD)

Tuesday, October, 10 | 7am - 5pm *In-Person*