HARBERT
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

NEW FACULTY

Jennifer Blackhurst
Adam Bross
Yejee Lee
Lucas Swider
Elizabeth Tori
Zheyi Xu
Di Yuan

Chloe Barger
Heather Bono
Danielle Corrigan
Sreehas Gopinathan
Rick Mattson
Deidre Tilley
Rick Varacalle

NEW LEADERSHIP

Joe Hanna
James Long

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OUR NEW FACULTY

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF BUSINESS LEADERS

HARBERT BUSINESS

#31 **#51 NATIONALLY**
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
UNDERGRADUATE BUSINESS
PROGRAMS AMONG
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

12
TOP 25 PROGRAMS

157
FACULTY

30
RECENT FT50 PUBLICATIONS,
INCLUDING 10 UTD24

7,500+
BUSINESS STUDENTS

FROM

DEAN JENNIFER MUELLER-PHILLIPS

HARBERT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dean and Wells Fargo Professor

We begin the 2025–26 academic year with tremendous momentum and a shared sense of purpose. As Auburn's largest college, the Harbert College of Business is proud to serve more than 7,500 business students—including nearly 1,400 new freshmen—who are preparing to lead with integrity, ingenuity and purpose in a rapidly changing world.

This year, we are excited to welcome an exceptional group of new faculty and leaders—12 joining Auburn for the first time. Their expertise, scholarship and passion will elevate our ability to deliver an exceptional student experience—one that fosters engaged learning, professional growth and lifelong connections. Their contributions will strengthen our research enterprise, expand and deepen industry engagement and ensure that our students learn in an environment connected to the challenges and opportunities shaping business today.

Guided by our vision to be a premier business school globally recognized for academic excellence and bold thinking, we are driven by enduring Auburn values to make a lasting difference in the world.

War Eagle!

RAYMOND J. HARBERT
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

TENURED AND TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

JENNIFER BLACKHURST

MCWANE CHAIR

Supply Chain Management

Jennifer Blackhurst has joined the Harbert College of Business as the McWane Chair in Supply Chain Management and a researcher with the Center for Supply Chain Innovation.

Her work, which is both highly cited by fellow academics and utilized by industry practitioners, broadly examines supply chain management risk and how to handle supply chain disruptions. In one recent study that she conducted while at the University of Iowa, Blackhurst and her colleagues developed a model that simulates supply chain behavior over time considering varying disruption scenarios. Her findings showed that fostering modularity and leveraging real-time information enhances system resilience. This influential paper won the Journal of Operations Management 2024 Ambassador Award.

In another groundbreaking paper that she published in 2007 while on the faculty at Iowa State University, Blackhurst and research collaborators were the first to determine how and why one supply chain disruption would be more severe than another—providing valuable insight for companies trying to mitigate the financial risks associated with disruptions. Several years later, their paper was recognized for its proven impact from more than 15,000 other papers published in leading business publications such as the Harvard Business Review, Journal of Marketing and Journal of Finance.

At Auburn, she is focusing her research on how companies structure and manage relationships in the supply chain so they're not inadvertently exposing themselves to risk.

Blackhurst has served in key leadership roles during her career, including as associate dean of graduate and professional programs at Iowa's Tippie College of Business, where she and her colleagues developed a new online executive MBA degree, which today enrolls more than 2,000 students and is ranked in the top 25 programs nationwide by U.S. News & World Report. She is also an associate editor of Decision Sciences and Journal of Business Logistics—two of the preeminent research publications in the field.

Blackhurst will teach Supply Chain Strategy. She earned her doctorate in industrial engineering from the University of Iowa.

ADAM BROSS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

School of Accountancy

PHD, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

An assistant professor in the School of Accountancy, **Adam Bross** conducts research at the intersection of managerial accounting and auditing. In particular, his work examines how the actions of managers, clients and auditors influence one another. His paper on the effect that the employee review process has on employee performance won an Outstanding Paper award at a 2024 Management Accounting section meeting. In 2025, he earned his PhD in accounting from Washington State University, where he received nearly $20,000 in grants to support his research. At Auburn he teaches Intermediate Accounting I. Prior to his doctorate studies, he spent three years with KPMG's Ohio audit practice working with insurance industry clients. He is a certified public accountant.

YEJEE LEE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Management and Entrepreneurship

PHD, INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Yejee Lee's research investigates the complexities of firms' responses to sustainability demands, exploring the barriers to corporate sustainability practices. She recently earned her PhD in business from Indiana University, where she published two papers in prestigious management journals and received the IU DeVault Award, a highly coveted PhD student research award. In 2024, she earned a best paper award at the Strategic Management Society conference for her work on the compensation of new CEOs hired at firms that had engaged in socially irresponsible practices. At Auburn, she is teaching Strategic Management and is exploring how firms strategically tackle sustainability shocks like supply chain disasters and regulatory changes in multinational contexts.

LUCAS SWIDER

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Accountancy

PHD, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Lucas Swider uses experimental methods to examine how interaction with technology and aspects of the tax system influence the judgment and decision-making of individual taxpayers, accounting professionals and investors. He recently earned his PhD in accounting from the University of Oklahoma, where he received a prestigious dissertation completion fellowship for his research on people's willingness to adopt AI- versus CPA-provided tax advice. Earlier in his career, he worked as a senior accountant in KPMG's tax practice where he performed tax compliance, audit and consulting services for clients across multiple industries and helped lead the integration of AI technologies into the tax compliance process. A CPA, he is teaching Income Tax I at Auburn.

ELIZABETH TORI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Accountancy

PHD, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Elizabeth Tori's research focuses on company financial disclosures and legal and regulatory environments. Her paper examining what happens to firm valuation and board of directors' compensation when independent directors are at personal risk of being sued was published in the top-tier Contemporary Accounting Research journal. In another research project, she explored how private equity firms use press releases to attract potential investors. At Auburn, she is teaching Accounting Information Systems. Earlier in her career she was a faculty member at Oklahoma State University and worked in the audit practice of Grant Thornton in Atlanta. She earned her PhD in accounting from Texas A&M in 2021.

ZHEYI XU

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Business Analytics and Information Systems

PHD, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Zheyi "Zoe" Xu uses lab and field experiments and econometrics to study how individuals react to user- and AI-generated online content such as social media posts and AI-generated summaries, as well as how IT investments and strategies influence a firm's operational outcomes. She recently earned her PhD in information systems from the University of South Florida, where her doctoral dissertation examined the phenomenon of online moral outrage, and how AI-generated product review summaries influence prospective customers' decision-making. At Auburn, she is teaching Telecommunications Management.
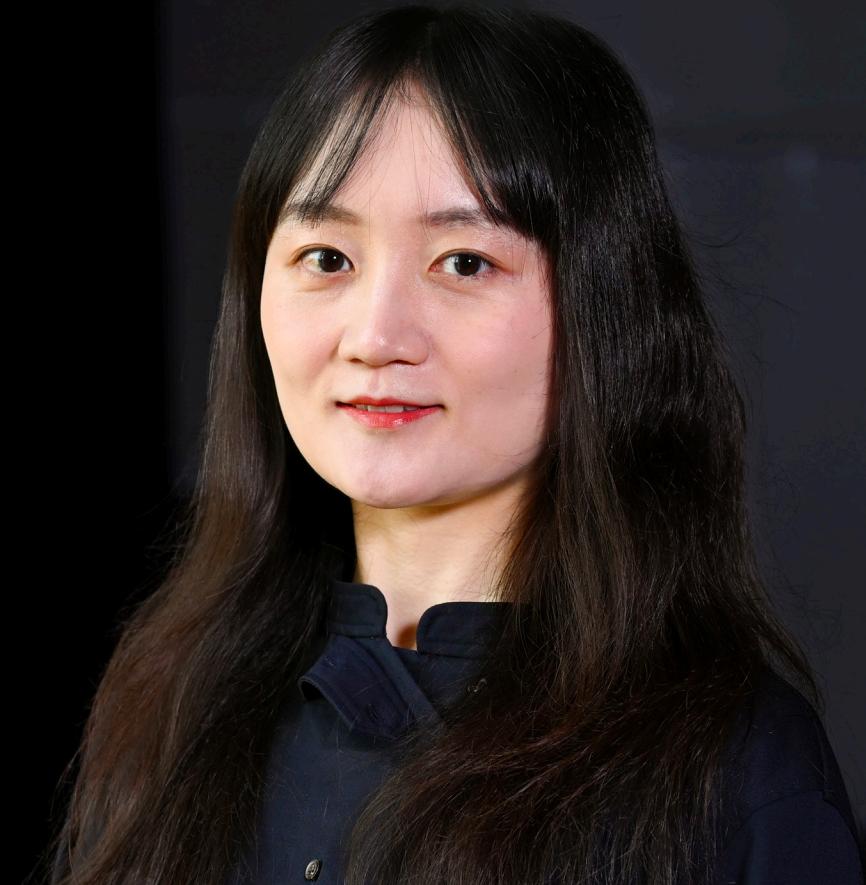
DI YUAN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Information Systems

PHD, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Di Yuan's research examines the economic issues that arise when online platforms adopt AI technology. Her paper about fair advertising practices and whether certain demographic groups see economic opportunity ads as often as other groups on social media won the Best Student Paper Award at the 2021 Conference on Information Systems and Technology (CIST), and it has been published in Marketing Science. At Auburn, she is teaching Introduction to Information Systems Management. Earlier in her career, Yuan worked as a project manager for a company in Australia. She earned her PhD in information systems and technology management at the University of Pittsburgh and spent two years as a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Gies College of Business.

INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY

CHLOE BARGER

LECTURER
Accountancy

Before joining the Harbert College of Business, **Chloe Barger** spent five years working as an M&A advisor at Warren Averett, a leading accounting and advisory firm in the Southeast. She performed buy and sell side financial due diligence and assisted clients with business transactions. During her tenure, she rose to supervisor and specialized in healthcare, HOA management, and auto collision center transactions. At Auburn, she teaches Principles of Financial Accounting and Fundamentals of Accounting. She earned her bachelor's and master's of accountancy degrees from Auburn, where she developed her passion for teaching as a graduate assistant. She is also a certified public accountant.

HEATHER BONO

LECTURER
Finance

Heather R. Bono is a finance lecturer teaching Real Estate Finance, Real Estate Investments and Advanced Business Finance. She served 13 years at the University of West Georgia in various faculty roles, including three years as chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance. She received multiple awards from the Richards College of Business, notably for her dedication to engaging undergraduates in experiential learning and faculty-mentored research. Her research focuses on real estate economics, spatial econometrics and housing market dynamics, examining agent behavior, market conditions and urban spatial influences. She holds a PhD from the University of Alabama.

DANIELLE CORRIGAN

LECTURER
Marketing

Danielle Corrigan brings nearly a decade of experience mentoring and teaching university students to her instructional role in the Harbert College of Business. As a lecturer, she teaches Advertising Strategy and Principles of Marketing. Previously, she served as marketing program champion, guiding career readiness efforts through one-on-one coaching and professional development courses. She advised the Women in Business (WIB) and American Marketing Association student organizations and continues to serve as faculty advisor for WIB. Earlier in her career, she held retail banking leadership roles with JPMorgan Chase and served as employer relations manager in the College of Engineering's career services office at The Ohio State University, where she earned both her bachelor's degree and MBA.

SREEHAS GOPINATHAN

PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE
Business Analytics

Sreehas Gopinathan brings more than 15 years of tech-industry experience to his instructional role with the Harbert College of Business, where he teaches Introduction to AI, Business Data Management and Acquisition and Capstone Project courses. He has managed AI-related technology implementation projects for clients in the banking, finance and insurance industries, developed healthcare models to predict patient outcomes and created statistical software for clinical trials. He earned his PhD in information systems from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he conducted research on predicting patent litigation in the pharmaceutical industry using Hierarchical Graph Neural Networks, understanding social learning in dark web forums and developing advanced Natural Language processing and Hypergraphs to study the spread of misinformation.

RICK MATTSON

During his 20-plus-year industry career, **Rick Mattson** completed large-scale business and technology initiatives for global Fortune 500 companies, including the successful design, launch, development and implementation of a Center of Advanced Technology start-up in Northern Ireland. He is sharing his expertise in strategy management, organizational effectiveness and portfolio management as a lecturer in Harbert Global Programs, where he teaches International Business. He earned a master's degree in industrial-organizational psychology from the University of Georgia and is completing his doctorate in learning and leadership from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

DEIDRE TILLEY

LECTURER

Marketing

Deidre Tilley brings nearly 17 years of student academic advising and teaching experience to her instructional role with the Harbert College of Business. Early in her career at Columbus State University, she created an innovative orientation-to-graduation program, taught introductory business courses and presented best practices at regional conferences. More recently, she was a student services coordinator at Auburn, providing academic advising support for Harbert College's online MBA students. The owner and creative director of a custom craft business, Tilley is completing her doctoral dissertation at Kennesaw State University. As a Harbert lecturer, she teaches Marketing Research & Analytics, Customer Relationship Management, and Retail Management.

RICK VARACALLE

LECTURER
Supply Chain Management

Rick Varacalle brings more than 25 years of military and industry experience to his instructional role with the Harbert College of Business. Early in his career, Varacalle was a helicopter pilot, flight instructor and program manager while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. He transitioned to civilian life, working as an account manager in the defense and aerospace industries for 13 years before earning an MBA from the University of Michigan in 2020. The Auburn alumnus has taught strategic sourcing and personal selling courses as a part-time Harbert lecturer, and he has helped mentor supply chain student teams participating in national case competitions. He currently teaches Foundations of Business Logistics and Strategic Sourcing.

LOWDER HALL

LEADERSHIP

JOE HANNA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Center for Supply Chain Innovation

Regions Bank Professor **Joe Hanna** leads the nationally recognized Center for Supply Chain Innovation (CSCI), which facilitates faculty and student interactions with industry through impactful research and timely professional enrichment programs. As a supply chain researcher, Hanna's work solving critical challenges in transportation, third-party logistics and strategic sourcing has led to numerous publications and created multiple speaking and expert witness opportunities. During his 25-year Auburn career, Hanna played a key role in the development and growth of the Department of Supply Chain Management and has served as Harbert College associate dean of research and interim dean. Earlier in his career, he worked in the oil and gas industry and consulting. He has a PhD in logistics from New Mexico State University.

JAMES LONG

ASSISTANT DEAN

Harbert Global Programs

James Long oversees Harbert's international educational offerings, which include long-term student and faculty exchanges, international educational partnerships, and study abroad and international consulting experiences in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America. Previously, he served as the director of International Programs for the School of Accountancy, where he led its global educational experiences for Master of Accountancy and undergraduate students. A former Fulbright Scholar who taught in Budapest, Long has received several prestigious Auburn and Harbert College teaching awards. He worked in public and corporate accounting in Atlanta before earning his doctorate in Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech and returning to Auburn in 2009.

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