



**ROB SMITH '73**  
*Executive Chairman, Acutec Precision Aerospace; President, RAN Investments*

B.A., Allegheny College, M.I.M., Thunderbird School of Management, and his wife, Nancy, are part owners of French Creek Coffee and Tea, French Creek Framing and Fine Art, YogaSpot Meadville, and Cussewago Creek Distillery. Smith now devotes a good bit of time to downtown Meadville real estate renovation. Acutec Precision Aerospace, Inc. is a diversified aerospace and industrial part manufacturer and light assembly supplier with three locations in Meadville, Pennsylvania, Saegertown, Pennsylvania., and St. Stevens,

South Carolina. Under Smith's leadership (and now daughter Elisabeth), Acutec grew from 17 people in 1994 to more than 430 currently and reached \$100 million in annual sales in 2019. Prior to purchasing Acutec, Smith held numerous management positions at Firestone Tire and Rubber, including Director of Strategic Planning and Director of Marketing for Firestone Europe. He worked throughout North America, Latin America, Europe, and Africa. Smith is on the Board of Trustees of Allegheny College. He is also on the board and treasurer of Women's Services of Crawford County, a member of the finance committee of the Meadville Medical Center, on the board of The Academy Theater, a member of the nominating committee of the Economic Progress Alliance, and on the Board of Governors of the Aerospace Industries Association.

focused strategies and programs that generate greater economic development opportunities in the City of Meadville and Crawford County. Walker previously served as City Manager and City Clerk of the City of Meadville. In his nine-year tenure, the city was successful in leveraging several million dollars in state and federal funding for various park, paving, traffic signal, and bridge improvements. Walker currently serves on the Board of Directors of Pennsylvania Keystone CORE Services, the French Creek Valley Conservancy, the Meadville Family YMCA, Hospice of Crawford County, and the NWPB Mobility Alliance. He has served the Meadville community in numerous capacities, including the Meadville Market Authority, Meadville Council on the Arts, the Meadville City Planning Commission, Crawford County Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission, and the Crawford Area Transportation Authority.



**ANDY WALKER '00**  
*Executive Director, Allegheny College Office of Economic, Civic & Community Engagement*

B.S., Allegheny College, joined Allegheny College in April 2021 as the College's inaugural Executive Director for Economic, Civic, and Community Engagement. In this role, he provides leadership and strategy for the College's renewed investment in Meadville, Crawford County, and the region. A key focus of this inaugural position is to interface and partner with elected officials and key stakeholders, including business and local economic and community development leaders. He works collaboratively in this area to develop effective and

the internet. NFTs unlock an imaginative, new design space for interacting with digital content. The implications around ownership and programmability are the most exciting technical developments we've seen in years. Bitski's latest series A round raised \$19 million led by Andreessen Horowitz, Serena Williams, and Jay-Z. In 2019, Walker was a first-place winner in the Zingale Big Idea Competition. Walker's brand "Animatr" has scaled to a cult-like repeating customer audience. This brand has transitioned into a designer identity that has trended worldwide to repeat customers from more than 20 countries, including Denmark, Finland, and Israel. The next expansion for Animatr will be as a web3 architect designer. Walker is purpose driven with a goal of creating his own philanthropic foundation to give back to marginalized communities.

Chief Operating Officer. Currently, he resides in Tampa, FL, and is Chief Customer Officer, Executive Vice President, and General Manager of SYKES (SYKE), one of the largest global human and automation interaction, business process outsourcers (BPO). He oversees the global P&L of the company's clients worldwide, as well as the 10,000 employees in its Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) operations. Deeply committed to giving back to his community, Zingale has served as a member of the Board of the National Industries for the Blind, Board Chair of the Trustees for the Academy of the Holy Names, a 1,000 student independent school in Tampa, and member of the Cabinet of the Tampa Bay Area American Heart Association.



**CHRISTIAN D. WALKER '20**  
*Social Media Marketing Manager, Bitski*

B.S., Allegheny College, leads social programming and gtm metaverse architect research for Bitski, a developer-focused blockchain wallet infrastructure provider, marketplace and distributable commerce layer as the "Shopify of NFTs." At Bitski, we believe that true digital ownership will have a profound impact on how we use the internet, build communities, and facilitate interoperability across



**LANCE ZINGALE '77**  
*Executive VP & General Manager, Sykes Enterprises*

B.A., Allegheny College, M.B.A., Lehigh University, began his career with AT&T, where he worked for nearly 20 years. He rose through the ranks within the sales, marketing, and operations departments, and held management positions in marketing, operations, and customer care. Later he joined an NYSE-listed call center management company, headquartered in Colorado, serving as Executive Vice President and



Zingale  
**BIG  
IDEA  
COMPETITION**

**MEET  
THE  
JUDGES**

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

**BRUCE R. THOMPSON**  
CENTER FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMICS



**CHRIS ALLISON '83**  
*Entrepreneur in Residence, Allegheny College*

B.A., Allegheny College, shares his passion for business as Entrepreneur-in-Residence for the College's Economics Department. A life-long learner and passionate entrepreneur, he enjoys teaching undergraduate students about real world challenges of building a business, managing growth, and becoming a leader. For 16 years — 10 of which as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer — Allison led Tollgrade Communication,s Inc., from technology startup to public company to being recognized as one of the Best Small Companies In

America by *Forbes, Fortune, Business 2.0, Bloomberg Personal Finance and Industry Week*. In the year 2000, sales of Tollgrade's centralized telephone test systems reached \$114 million. That year, its value on the NASDAQ exchange also reached \$2 billion. For his efforts, Allison was named Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst and Young, as well as by the Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association. Allison was also named CEO Communicator of The Year by the Public Relations Society of America. Allison serves on the Allegheny College Board of Trustees and also has been a columnist for *Pittsburgh Quarterly* since the magazine's inception in 2005. For his writing, he is a two-time nominee and one-time winner of the Golden Quill Award by the Pittsburgh Press Club. Allison and his wife, Jane France, each received an honorary doctorate from Clarion University in 2012.



**LISA FRANKOVITCH**  
*CEO, Uplogix*

B.S., West Liberty State College, is a corporate development and executive management veteran, with globalexperience growing early stage companies. Most recently, Frankovitch was employed at Adams Capital Management (ACM) as the director of corporate partner strategy where she worked

with ACM portfolio companies, like Uplogix, to identify partnerships and opportunities for improved revenue, distribution channels and potential liquidity opportunities. Prior to joining ACM, Frankovitch started several business units and served in multiple management roles for iGATE Capital where she was a member of the executive team that led two successful IPOs of iGate subsidiaries. Some of the other companies that Frankovitch has worked with are GE Capital, Warburg Pincus, Apar Infotech, Flashline, BEA Systems and Revenue Technologies. Frankovitch has taken part in executive management programs at Carnegie Mellon University and Harvard Business School.





**JOHN GOLDEN**  
*Associate Professor of Economics,  
Allegheny College*

B.A., Canisius College, M.A., University of Connecticut, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, is Associate Professor of

Economics at Allegheny College. He founded the entrepreneurship program at Allegheny and teaches an introductory entrepreneurship class, along with classes in microeconomics and macroeconomics. He has completed the Price-Babson Symposium for Entrepreneurship Educators at Babson College, a certificate program in teaching entrepreneurship using the Timmons Model of venture creation. He has served as a Big Idea Competition judge every year since the program was started.



**ANDREW GOTTLIEB**  
*Founder & CEO,  
No Typical Moments*

B.A. Economics, Allegheny College, Gottlieb's company, No Typical Moments, supports authors and thought leaders as they sell their educational products through digital

marketing. His agency has worked with authors and brands such as

Eckhart Tolle, Lisa Nichols, Mama Gena's School of Womanly Arts and Ken Blanchard. No Typical Moments was first created out of a quest for meaning. During his senior year of college, Gottlieb felt called to examine his life and discover his higher purpose. From that desire, the No Typical Moments blog was born. What started as a self discovery blog dedicated to uncovering Gottlieb's long-term goals for himself and humanity, quickly morphed into the roadmap for building a company founded on putting his unique skills toward a higher purpose than simply making money.



**LIANA LEJA '17**  
*Clinical Research Coordinator,  
Paley Orthopedic & Spine Institute*

B.S., Allegheny College, M.H.A., Regis College, is a Clinical Research Assistant for the Paley Orthopedic & Spine Institute,

a world-renowned center specializing in limb lengthening, spine correction, and treatment for bone and joint conditions. Her work involves assessing joint preservation and cartilage repair techniques, including autologous chondrocyte implantation, osteotomies, and joint

replacement procedures. Previously, Liana interned at Boston Children's Hospital/Department of Surgery, where she led a project to improve patient flow throughout the perioperative process, with emphasis on operating room utilization and scheduling effectiveness. In 2017, Liana was a first place award winner in the Big Idea Competition. Liana's Big Idea "Care Van" proposal improved access to medical care in the Meadville community, while reducing costs and improving operational efficiencies for the Meadville Medical Center. Liana graduated Magna Cum Laude. She was a four-time Alden Scholar and a recipient of the Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Scholarship at Allegheny.



**RICH MCINTYRE '88**  
*President & Founder McIntyre Thanasides  
Bringgold Elliott Grimaldi Guito &  
Matthews, P.A.; Distressed Company and  
Technology Investor*

B.S., Allegheny College, MBA, Carnegie

Mellon University, J.D., University of Pittsburgh, has practiced law in Tampa, Florida, since 1992. He worked with Kass Shuler and Trenam Law before starting McIntyre Thanasides Bringgold Elliott Grimaldi Guito & Matthews in 2006, working in the areas of debtor/creditor law, Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, real estate, commercial litigation, and technology investing. McIntyre serves as an investor, mediator, and board member,

looking for opportunities to help business owners by providing creative business solutions and capital. He is active in the management of the following companies in addition to the law firm: The Attic Cafe, McIntyre Building, LLC (commercial office building), McIntyre Funding I, LLC (specialty financing), Iron City Equipment Leasing, LLC, Iron City Truck Leasing, LLC, Specialty Products Consignment and Sales, LLC. Once in a Blue Moon Media, LLC (digital marketing), Accomplished Home Care (home care agency), 6th St. Bridge Mobility, LLC (durable medical equipment company), and Lake Chapman Plaza (retail shopping center). McIntyre works with the Tampa Bay WaVe, technology startup companies, and investors to improve Tampa Bay's technology ecosystem. He is developing a mediation practice to help companies create business-oriented solutions to resolve litigation.



**CLAYTON MORRIS '15**  
*Vice President of Development and Leasing,  
Sampson Morris Group*

B.A., Allegheny College, M.B.A., Finance and Business Strategy, University of Pittsburgh

Katz School of Business, is the Asset Manager for Sampson Morris Group. His responsibilities focus on enhancing the value of their portfolio through leasing, marketing, asset management, property management, and acquisitions. Clayton also is an avid kitesurfer and inventor. He designed and has a patent pending for a practical, adjustable-size kite and collaborated to start a new company, "Guzt, a kitesurfing innovation company."



**JO ANN PACINELLI '82**  
*Founder & President,  
eCapital Exchange*

B.S., Allegheny College, is a seasoned executive with more than 35 years of

experience in international business development and management. Over the course of her career, she has participated in the precious and nonprecious metals, specialty chemicals, electronic materials and components, sensors, medical devices and pollution controls industries, in both public and private enterprises. Pacinelli has proven operations management skills, along with extensive finance and financial management expertise and is particularly adept at team building, strategy development, and market positioning. Since 1990,

Pacinelli has assisted numerous middle market companies with expansion and revitalization and was instrumental in the successful launch of several start-up ventures. Over the last 13 years, her focus has been on the commercialization of sustainable technologies and development of sustainable business models. She is co-inventor of a chemical process patent for scrubbing mercury emissions, has authored numerous published papers and featured articles in technical and trade publications, and is a frequently invited guest speaker at international conferences and seminars. Pacinelli is the Founder and President of eCapitalExchange, a firm that provides management consulting, financing facilitation and interim officer services to transitioning companies in the lower end of the middle market. Currently, Pacinelli serves as president, chief executive officer, and director of New Day Enterprises, PBC, a fast growing regenerative agriculture company that markets its products under the New Day Farms Superfoods brand.



**BYRON RICH**  
*Director of Academic Innovation  
Partnerships & Associate Professor of Art  
and Chair of the Art Department,  
Allegheny College*

BFA, University of Calgary, MFA, University at Buffalo, is an artist, professor, and lecturer born in Calgary, Alberta,

Canada. His internationally-recognized practice exploring speculative design, biology futures, and tactical media has been widely shown at Ars Electronica, ZKM, MoCA Tucson, Medialab Prado, and Flux Factory, among other acclaimed venues. His work has been featured in The Lancet, Antennae Magazine, DRAIN Magazine, Vice News, Interlalia Magazine, and RTE, along with numerous other art and science publications. He was the runner-up for the 2016 BioArt & Design Award and the recipient of an Honorary Mention at the 2017 Prix Ars Electronica.



**PROFESSOR EMERITUS JANINE SICKAFUSE**  
*Retired Accounting/Economics Professor,  
Allegheny College*

B.A., Grove City College, MBA, Youngstown State University, retired from Allegheny

College in 2018 after 35 years of teaching accounting in the Economics

Department. She previously taught business systems analysis at Youngstown State. During her tenure at Allegheny, she taught financial, managerial, intermediate, and cost accounting along with business ethics, business of sports, and cost management for nonprofits. She served for 17 years as Allegheny's faculty athletic representative for the North Coast Athletic Conference, serving as chairperson from 1998 to 2000. She also served for 10 years on the board of directors at Women's Services, Inc., of Crawford County, a nonprofit assisting women who are victims of domestic and sexual violence.



**BRIAN SLAWIN**  
*Director & Portfolio Manager,  
Ben Franklin Technology Partners*

B.S., Parks College of Saint Louis University, is the Northwest Regional Director and Portfolio Manager for the Ben Franklin Technology

Partners/Central & Northern Pennsylvania. In his role, Slawin identifies, collaboratively mentors, and works with the Ben Franklin team to invest in small manufacturing and technology companies who seek to grow and commercialize their ideas and products. In the almost three years since he moved to Northwest Pennsylvania (after exiting his St. Louis-based technology company), BFTP has invested nearly \$22 million in 59 companies throughout Central and Northern Pennsylvania. Slawin

started his career as an instructor pilot and airshow performer at the same time he discovered the excitement of being a serial technology entrepreneur. Living most of his adult life founding, in some cases closing, and exiting technology startups, Slawin is now helping fellow entrepreneurs start their ideas from scratch or, take their ideas and companies to the next level. As part of the BFTP team, Slawin marshals the resources needed to nurture, support, and ultimately invest in those companies as they innovate in their industries. Ultimately, Slawin's goal is to help commercialize ideas into a full-fledged company employing a few or a few thousand people. In short, Slawin supports the vision entrepreneurs have and believes in the power that comes with passion and commitment and who look at their future and think "I'm going to give that a try."