

PEP Talk explores integrated supply chain

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Students and faculty gathered in the School of Business for this week’s PEP Talk, Adding Value Through an Integrated Supply Chain Today: Macro and Micro Supply Chain Management, on Oct. 1.

The session, led by Anthony F. Verlezza, the principal at Integrated Supply Chain Solutions: Business Advisory Services, explored how businesses can strengthen performance through effective supply chain integration.

“What makes the supply chain such a fascinating part of the business is that it is always trying to support the business,” Verlezza said. “It does it mainly from its internal workings, and the supply chain can be one of the most powerful ways to improve profitability.”

Offered by the Professional Enrichment Platform of the School of Business, PEP Talks allow students to learn about the business industry from seasoned professionals.

Verlezza shared real-world insights on balancing macro and micromanagement strategies by building on his experience in the food manufacturing field.

He has held leadership roles at several major food manufacturing companies such as Kraft Foods, Dean Foods and Borden, Inc., as well as at Unilever, where he served as vice president of supply chain for the company’s \$2 billion North American

ice cream division.

In that position, he oversaw 10 factories and 13 distribution centers and managed the entire supply chain for Unilever’s top-performing frozen desserts portfolio.

This included well-known brands like Breyers, Klondike and Ben & Jerry’s.

Verlezza explained that in a low-margin industry like frozen desserts, profitability depends less on high product prices and more on operational efficiency.

By utilizing the supply chain and reducing costs, companies can generate additional value and maintain competitiveness.

“In my old business, the frozen desserts business, we were able to make a very low gross margin business,” Verlezza said. “So, we’re a business that tries to get some incremental funding through the efficient operation of the supply chain.”

Along with the supply chain, Verlezza said sales and marketing go hand in hand.

“In order to effectively help the business and the connection to the customer, you need to have an excellent linkage to sales and marketing,” Verlezza said.

By understanding consumers and high-lighting promotions, Verlezza said businesses can use these aspects to the supply chain rolling.

His experience high-lighted how operational efficiency can transform low-margin industries into profitable business operations.

This gave attendees a deeper understanding

of how collaboration, efficiency and adapt-ability are key tools that drive success in today’s competitive market.

This was the third week of this PEP Talk series, and many students tuned in.

One of these students was business administration major Joel Brown, a sophomore.

Brown, said that he is a regular at these PEP talks, since he attended at least one session a week last semester.

“I find them to be very informational because they give insight on different ways to make business successful,” Brown said.

Brown said his drive to attend these sessions stems from his desire to run his own business in the future.

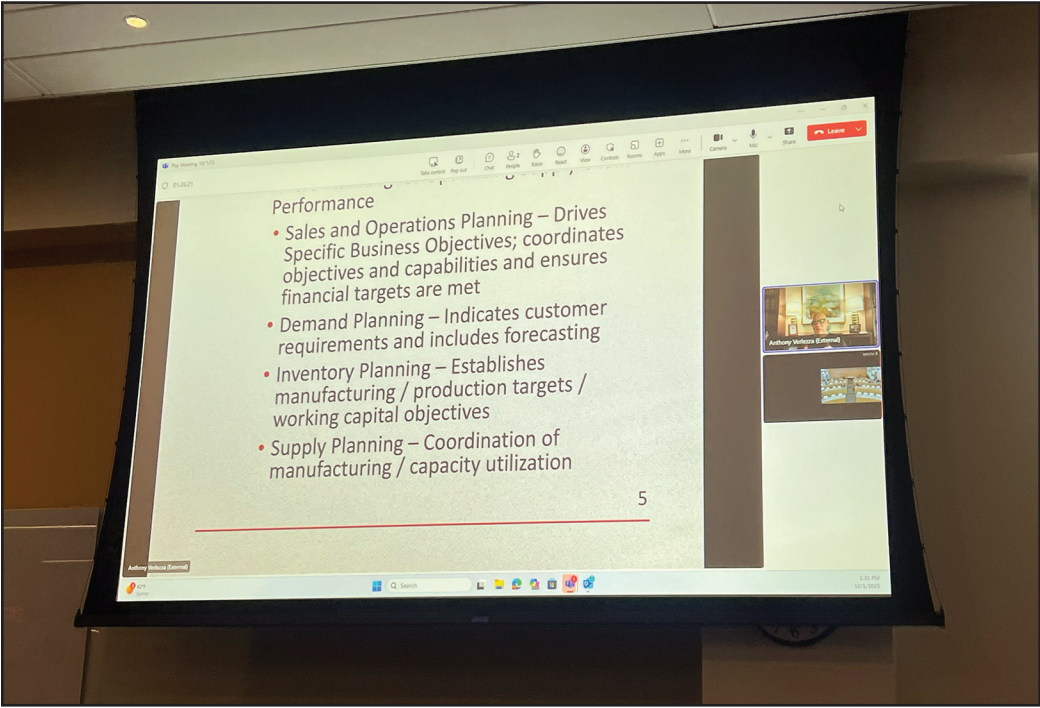
“I want to learn more about the business world because I want to open up my own restaurant,” Brown said.

Since these sessions have been valuable for Brown, he encourages other students to take advantage of them as well.

“I hope students receive information and can use it in ways that are helpful to them and their interests,” Brown said.

Students can take advantage of these PEP Talk sessions every Monday and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Case Study Classroom in the School of Business.

This program is open for all students to attend regardless of their major to learn more about the job industry, hear from seasoned experts and gain opportunities outside of the university.



PHOTOS | BRIANNA WALLEN

Anthony F. Verlezza, the principal at Integrated Supply Chain Solutions: Business Advisory Services, leading the macro and micro supply chain PEP Talk in the Case Study Classroom of the School of Business on Oct. 1.



Business administration major Joel Brown, a sophomore, in front of the Case Study Classroom in the School of Business.

Game recap

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The university refused to go quietly, mounting another strong series highlighted by Falzon’s explosive running.

The sophomore tailback opened the drive with an eight-yard carry, followed by a 13-yard catch from Edwards and another Westover reception for 19 yards to push the Owls to the Bentley 25.

Falzon then broke through the defense for a 25-yard touchdown run, bringing the Owls within 26-21.

However, Bentley sealed the game late with one final touchdown, handing the Owls a hard-fought 34-21 loss on Homecoming night.

“We saw they were in a certain formation in the first half. We ran plays to counter them,” Jorgensen said.

Despite the loss, the Owls’ Homecoming performance showcased plenty of promise on both sides of the ball.

This was evident with standout efforts from veterans and emerging playmakers alike.

The team’s resilience, highlighted by timely defensive stops and a balanced offensive attack, kept the crowd engaged until the final whistle.

Students that packed the stadium left the bleachers with their head down.

This is the Owls’ fifth losing streak to the Falcons and their third loss of the season.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, the Owls will face Delaware State University on their turf in Dover, Delaware.

Students are hoping that the Owls will bring home a win.

Students show school spirit at pep rally

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Blue-and-white pride swept through the Moore Field House Parking Lot on Thursday, Oct. 2, as students came together for a lively pep rally to launch Homecoming weekend.

Hosts business administration major Chaz James, a sophomore, and communication major Aidon McCray, a junior, kept the energy sky-high, and led the crowd in a night of cheers, music and campus celebration.

“I like the school spirit and seeing everyone come out and celebrate together,” business administration major Jordan Patrick, a senior, said.

Patrick’s words reflected the atmosphere of the night, as the crowd buzzed with excitement while students scored TVs, iPads and free T-shirts during giveaways.

Students posed for photos, leaped into the euro bungee and raced through the football obstacle course.

“I saw some people flipping in the air and dancing on the stage,” Patrick said. “The food was good, too.”

Food trucks added to the excitement as students lined up for sweet kettle corn from Calandrelli Kettle Corn Co. and refreshing treats from Kona Ice.

Music from DJ Fire kept the crowd moving and set the tone for a night packed with energy and fun.

Nursing and public health major Mia White, a junior, said that the event had a great turnout and even better treats to enjoy.

“The kettle corn



PHOTOS | BRIANNA WALLEN

Business administration major Jordan Patrick, a senior, and nursing and public health major Mia White, a junior, at the pep rally at Moore Field House Parking Lot on Thursday, Oct. 2.



Health science majors Zamira Ewart, a freshman, and Zahra Bayonee, a sophomore, in front of the Jess Dow Field.

and snow cones were my favorite, but the music and vibe brought everyone together,” White said.

For seniors like Patrick, this night was a

bittersweet moment.

“I’m definitely going to miss this part of college,” Patrick said. “It’s really my last Homecoming.”

Various campus clubs lit up the stage with

energetic performances while fierce dance-offs kept the crowd on its feet.

This created a night that showcased the talent, pride and spirit of the university.

Audience members were also called on stage to show off their best move.

While many teams battled it out, audience members said certain groups stole the show.

“My favorite performances were from the cheer team, dance team and the drumline,” health science major Zahra Bayonne, a sophomore, said.

Bayonne said that she plans on attending this event in years to come.

“This is my second year coming here, and I plan on going again next year,” Bayonne said.

For many students, the event marked their first pep rally experience.

Health science major Zamira Ewart, a freshman, said she enjoyed the lively atmosphere and sense of togetherness.

“This is my first pep rally, so I really didn’t know what to expect, but it was so much fun,” Ewart said.

Ewart highlighted that the event provided an opportunity for students to connect with their peers without worrying about the cost.

“I like the affordability and community aspect,” Ewart said.

As the night came to a close, students lingered under the lights, taking photos and sharing laughs with friends.

The pep rally being set outdoors was a change from its previous Moore Field House location.

The pep rally ended on a high note with the new “Superman” movie being showcased at Jess Dow Field for students to enjoy.

With blue-and-white pride shining bright, the pep rally set the stage for a weekend full of celebration and school spirit.