MBS News, March 15, 2024

Maine Business School

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Guest Speakers

Students in Professor Buffie McCue-Quinn's MKT 270 class were joined by Kristin Gilmour '18, G'20. Gilmour, a former UMaine Women's Ice Hockey Player and Athletic Academic Advisor, shared with students how her journey changed drastically from what she thought it would be as an undergraduate. She studied in Greece as a pre-med student and realized that her life and career goals did not align. Gilmour shared that all experiences have transferable skills. She illustrated how she uses those skills in her new role at e11elven Foods Inc., where she is working to...
take over her family's McDonald's franchises in Canada, slated to be Canada's largest market by the end of 2024. Gilmour implored students to be confident and apply leadership skills in all avenues of their lives. She walked students through the franchisee application process, where graduating from Hamburger University is required. Along with excelling in McDonald's processes, Gilmour expressed that people ARE your business. In an organization where teenagers are often the make up the labor force, it is imperative to create trust with every member of the team. She closed her talk with some advice to students: find things that fill your bucket, be confident, and know that change is ok.

Dr. Nadège Levallet hosted Dayton Benway, managing principal at Baker Newman Noyes, in her BIS 468 - IS Strategy and Security Management course on March 5. Dayton shared details about BNN's business and technology strategies with students. He also discussed how BNN is securing its systems and data and the type of cybersecurity services the firm offers its clients. Students were especially interested in learning how BNN assesses risk before BNN agrees to offer a specific client its cybersecurity services.

In the Classroom

The Sargent Corporation recently invited students in Dr. Sebastian Lobe's Business Finance Class (FIN 350) to visit their headquarters in Orono. Sargent Corporation is a team of over 425 employee-owners, building infrastructure including renewable
energy projects, highways, commercial site work, landfill cells, and underground work in the Northeast U.S. and Mid-Atlantic region. Sargent has a rich, near-century-long history. Tasha Gardner, '90, '92G, Vice President-Finance/CFO, presented with Carey Sheehan and Casey Noyes in a very personable way how daily finance activities happen at Sargent. The students also learned about their career pathways and Sargent's business itself. Then, they enjoyed the CFO's tour of their exciting headquarters filled with Sargent's legacy, plus their hospitality with pizza and light refreshments. Students got an incredible insight into Sargent's unique firm culture and successfully mitigated common principal-agent conflicts through its ownership structure. They also learned that successful career paths are only sometimes linear. Internships and job opportunities were discussed as well.

The second annual MaineMBA Academy kicked off this week with our opening lecture. Professor Richard Bilodeau and Dr. Norm O'Reilly are leading the class. This year, the Academy has eight companies as clients, and students will be in Portland for the in-person week from April 29 to May 3.

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**Publication**

Dr. Xinhui "Gabe" Huang's recent paper, "The Role of Political Party in Firm Environmental Governance: Evidence from China," has been accepted for publication in *Applied Economics*, an A-rank journal according to the ABDC list. "In this paper, my co-author and I investigate the impact of the establishment of within-firm Communist Party Branches on firm environmental governance in China," Dr. Huang says. Their findings reveal a significant reduction in environmental penalties for firms with Party branches, with pronounced effects observed in heavily polluted industries and regions with poor air quality. Furthermore, they explore the role of green innovation as a strategy for firms to enhance environmental initiatives and mitigate environmental penalties. Additionally, they document a simultaneous decrease in government environmental subsidies and reductions in air and water pollutant emissions among firms with Party branches, suggesting an improvement in
governance facilitated by Party affiliation. "This research sheds light on the crucial role of political party involvement in shaping firm-level environmental governance strategies and outcomes in China."

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**On the Road**

This week, Dr. Jason Harkins has been representing MBS in Florida with the UMaine Alumni Association and UMaine Foundation. He’s been connecting with alumni, donors, and friends of MBS at Red Sox and UMaine baseball games.

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**Student Organizations**

**Beta Gamma Sigma**

Beta Gamma Sigma and Dr. Billy Obenauer hosted MBS Alum Quinn Bartlett ’23 to share her experience with the SHRM Certified Professional Exam. Students had the opportunity to learn more about the exam and why the SHRM Certification is a game-changer for business professionals looking to advance their careers.

**SPIFFY**

Next week, SPIFFY will attend the Quinnipiac GAME Forum in New York City. We have 21 GAME participants this year: 19 students (primarily directors and sector...
heads: Evan Morgan, Trevor Morrison, Nicole Cobb, Ruth Griffith, John Nabreski, Joseph Farrelly, Jake Dubay, Johnny Gray, Chris Johanson, Keegan Fitzgerald, Drew Goodwin, Bradley Wallace, Levi Lambert, Jack Szczechowicz, Elijah Oliveira, Jack Barden, Ben Carroll, Sam Bolosky, and Alex Goniatis). Dr. Sebastian Lobe and Dr. Manuel Worsdorfer will travel with the students. SPIFFY will enter two competition tracks in this highly competitive meeting: The Global Portfolio Competition and the inaugural Poster Session Competition. The directors, especially Chris Johanson and Nicole Cobb, have worked hard with me to produce competitive submissions.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Wellbeing Wednesday: Managing Stress, Wednesday, March 20, 5-6 pm, DPC 205**

Students can effectively learn how to manage their stress and mental wellbeing in this seminar with Hailey Perkins from UMaine's Counseling Center. The first 48 students who show up will receive an MBS glass mug and straw!

**Bear Treks Boston: Wednesday & Thursday, March 27-28, Unum, Salesforce, and Omni Parker House**

Fifty MBS students will visit three businesses on our annual Bear Treks Boston trip!

**MaineMBA Alumni Awards and Business Forum: Thursday, March 28, 4:30-7 pm, 300 Fore Street, Portland**

Please join the Graduate School of Business for the Third Annual MaineMBA Alumni Awards and Business Forum. Keynote speakers include Amanda Rector, Maine State Economist, and Michael Bourque, President and CEO of MEMIC. [Click here to register.](#)
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