MBS News, April 19, 2024

Maine Business School

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the History Commons

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
Student Success

Four students worked with MBS faculty on their research presentations for the 2024 Student Symposium.

Jaymie Pratl (Engineering) with faculty mentor Dr. Tanya Beaulieu
"Development of a Structured Query Language Database: A Statistical Analysis of the Effects of Increased Tourism on Acadia National Park and the Outdoor
Recreation Economy

Myles Harrison (pictured left) with faculty mentor Dr. Stefano Tijerina  
"Passenger Rail in Maine: Exploring Potential Economic and Environmental Impacts"

Caroline Paras (pictured center) with faculty mentor Dr. Erin Percival Carter  
"Agritourism Information Framework: An Analysis of U.S. States"

Mikayla Reynolds (pictured right) with faculty mentor Dr. Stephanie Welcomer  
"Current Challenges Facing Maine's Natural Animal Fiber Industry: A Producer Focus"

Congratulations to these students and our faculty members. You can view the abstracts in this document.

---

Faculty Success

On Sunday, Dr. Jason Harkins was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi. He’s pictured here with fellow member, Dr. Pank Agrrawal, and Julia Van Steenberghe, a member at large on the Phi Kappa Phi executive committee. The oldest and largest all-academic-discipline honor society, having inducted over 1 million members in its 127-year history, Phi Kappa Phi now has chapters at over 300 Universities. Membership is strictly a recognition of academic achievement and contributions of students, faculty, and staff who are invited. Congratulations, Dr. Harkins!

---

Conferences

Last week, Melanie Brooks, MBS marketing and communications manager, attended the annual Cooperative Education and Internship Association (CEIA) conference in
Tampa, Florida. This association focuses on internships and work-integrated learning.

---

**Publications**

Dr. Xinhui "Gabe" Huang's "Trade Policy Uncertainty and Firm Profitability" research paper has been accepted for publication in the *Review of Corporate Finance*. In this study, Dr. Huang and his co-authors discovered that both Trade Policy Uncertainty (TPU) and its volatility are negatively correlated with profitability. "We observed a decrease in asset turnover, particularly due to reduced net working capital turnover, contributing to this effect," he says. "Our analysis revealed a decline in operating income and an increase in operating expenses, possibly due to higher material expenses and SG&A." Their subsample analysis indicated variations among firms with different levels of financial constraints and across companies at various stages of their life cycle. Furthermore, they found that the association between TPU and profitability is influenced by political sentiment but remains unaffected by international diversification. This research provides valuable insights into the relationship between trade policy uncertainty and a critical performance metric—profitability, thus enhancing our understanding of corporate outcomes within the context of policy uncertainty.

Dr. Billy Obenauer had an invited editorial published in the *Journal of Management Scientific Reports*. The editorial is an adaptation of a presentation he delivered at the Southern Management Association’s annual meeting in 2023. After being invited to convert his presentation into an editorial, Dr. Obenauer said, "I felt like Karl Weick, except not as smart or important."

---

**Presentations**

Last week, Dr. C. Matt Graham was a keynote speaker at the third International Conference on

---
Advanced Computing Technologies & Applications (ICACTA 2024) jointly hosted by Invertis University Bareilly and the Centre for Global Business Studies at Howard University. Dr. Graham discussed ethical concerns around AI with a focus on the growing unease about AI being manipulated for unethical or illegal activities. For example, deepfakes—a prime example of AI's potential for harm—illustrate the necessity for those studying information systems and security management to deepen their understanding of AI and its analytical capabilities. By gaining a robust knowledge of AI technologies, students can better identify malevolent uses of AI, such as deepfakes, and develop strategies to mitigate these threats. Dr. Graham stressed that this education is crucial for safeguarding digital environments and maintaining the integrity of information in an era where AI's influence continues to expand rapidly.

Dr. Nadège Levallet recently received a paper acceptance for full proceedings at the European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS). She co-authored the paper "Implications of organizational governance on cybersecurity management: A case study in higher education" with colleagues from Toronto Metropolitan University. The ECIS conference is a premier international information systems conference that the Association sponsors for Information Systems.

Events

**TODAY! Annual Honors and Awards Ceremony, 3-5 pm, DPC 100**
Join us for this annual celebration, where we will be inducting new students into BGS, honoring our student organization leaders and students who have completed an internship, and recognizing students and staff with awards.