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MBS News Update - June

1 message

Maine Business School <mbs@maine.edu>
Reply-To: Maine Business School <mbs@maine.edu>
To:

Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 10:59 AM

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MBS News

June, 2024

MBS Events

Our 2024 New Student Orientation was a success despite intense heat and thunderstorms. We welcomed 165 students and their guests to UMaine for the first overnight New Student Orientation since COVID. Kudos to Julia Van Steenberghe and her



student interns, Molly Graham, and Madi Gilman, for planning



an engaging, fun, and meaningful event. We had a vibrant team of MBS Ambassadors, MBS Peer Leaders, and Team Maine members working together to make sure students made a connection during their time on campus.

The MBS Doing Business At Series was awarded \$5,000 from the University of Maine Foundation's Stewardship and Public Relations Committee. The funding is part of the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund. This award will help us with our Doing Business at events in the fall: Doing Business at Dinner on September 25, Doing Business at the Golf Course on October 8, and Doing Business at a Sporting Event on October 25.

Presentations

Dr. [Sebastian Lobe](#) was invited to the Downeast Investment Club in Bucksport in May. He spoke about how SPIFFY members manage the portfolio and shared some principles from his experience as the group's faculty advisor.

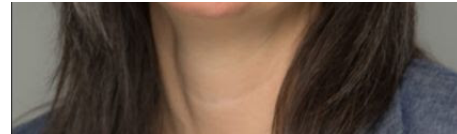
Dr. [Nick Swim](#) recently attended the North American Society for Sport Management in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Swim and his colleagues presented the paper "Where are all the women?: Using Role Congruity Theory to Explore the experiences of women attaining the Interscholastic Athletic Director role." This presentation explored the inconsistent hiring practices of the interscholastic athletic director role, which may lead to the lack of gender diversity in the position.

Conference

As chair of the information systems (IS) division of the [Administrative Sciences Association of Canada](#) (ASAC) conference, Dr. Nadège Levallet and the division team held a successful IS division ASAC conference from June 1 to 3. Under Dr. Levallet's leadership,



the division doubled the number of submissions received, enjoyed strong attendance at all five paper sessions, and hosted renowned IS speakers, including Dr. Geneviève Bassellier (McGill University), and Dr. Guy Paré (HEC Montréal).



Research

Dr. Jason Entsminger and Dr. Claudia Schmidt from Penn State and NERCRD have released a set of comprehensive data briefs that shed light on two small but important sectors of U.S. agriculture — [agritourism](#) and [direct-to-consumer sales](#) — utilizing data from the 2022 Census of Agriculture. The briefs, published by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, provide valuable insights into these sectors' current status and document recent trends, both nationally and for each state.



In the News

The May 27th issue of *Maine Biz* featured a cover story titled “[Charms of the farm: From goat hikes to flower festivals, Maine agritourism is thriving](#),” which quoted Dr. Jason Entsminger and highlighted some of his recent data.

Results from an article by Dr. Nadège Levallet and colleagues that were published recently in *Personnel Review* were also recently showcased by *The Conversation*. The article “[The power of belief: How expectations influence workplace well-being interventions](#),” explores how different interventions aimed at improving well-being can enhance psychological capital — a concept encompassing self-efficacy, hope, resilience, and optimism. Dr. Levallet's contribution was methodological, using qualitative comparative analysis (QCA).

Publications

Dr. Manuel Wörsdörfer's paper "Biden's Executive Order on AI and the E.U.'s AI Act: A Comparative Computer-Ethical Analysis" has been accepted for publication in *Philosophy & Technology*, one of the world's leading computer ethics journals. Based on Scopus, it ranks 8th among almost 800 philosophy journals (i.e., 99% highest percentile), has a CiteScore of 6.8, an impact factor of 5.88, an H-index of 48, and an acceptance rate of 10%.



His paper discusses the need for AI ethics initiatives to bring about fairer, safer, and more trustworthy AI systems. Yet, initiatives have various drawbacks, including ineffective governance mechanisms, window-dressing, and 'ethics shopping.' Hard laws are necessary to address those concerns, and more and more countries are moving in this direction. Two of the most notable recent legislations include the Biden Administration's Executive Order (EO) on AI and the E.U.'s AI Act (AIA). While several scholarly articles have evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the AIA and proposed reform measures that could help strengthen the Act, only a couple of papers do the same for the EO or compare the two regulatory initiatives.

Dr. Xinhui "Gabe" Huang's paper, "Party Control and Corporate Labour Investment: Evidence from China," has been accepted for publication in an ABDC A-rank journal, *Applied Economics*. "In this study, my co-author and I find that the formation of CCP branches significantly impacts employment growth and enhances labor investment efficiency, particularly in understaffed firms," Dr. Huang says. "We also observe heterogeneous effects



across firms based on factors such as labor cost, state ownership, and auditing by Big Four accounting firms. Additionally, we found an improvement in labor productivity as a result of CCP branch formation." Their research offers valuable insights into the considerable influence the government exerts on corporate decision-making. They hope our work contributes to a better understanding the interplay between politics and business in China.

Dr. Sebastian Lobe's paper "Global Evidence on Growth Opportunities, Beta, and the Cost of Capital" has been published in the *International Journal of Business and Social Science*. This study investigates the influence of firms' growth opportunities on their cost of capital across industries using an international sample of 28 developed and 22 emerging markets. The team's results are based on more than 21,000 firms and 167,000 firm-years



corroborate that a high magnitude of firms' growth opportunities leads to a higher firms' unlevered beta. Moreover, the researchers establish that for the majority of sectors in their global sample, the beta of growth opportunities is greater than the beta of assets-in-place. Failure to account for growth opportunities can underestimate the cost of equity by up to 3 percentage points, depending on the industry.

Dr. Nadège Levallet recently saw a teaching case she co-authored with Dr. Suchit Ahuja (Concordia University) and Master's student Corey Wood (University of Guelph) translated into French. The case "Wellington Brewery: Décision de croissance sur un marché engorgé (Wellington Brewery: Growth decision in a crowded beer market – French version)" is now available at Ivey Publishing in English and French. The English version has been purchased more than 6,000 times since 2021.



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