



Volume 2 Issue 2 - December 2019

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PROGRAM RANKING

Intelligent.com ranks VCOBE's MBA in Financial Planning among the best MBA in Finance degree programs for 2020. [Click here](#) to learn more about the ranking.

Do you, someone you know, or a program deserve recognition in the VCOBE newsletter? Or do you need help publicizing

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Greetings VCOBE Family:

We find ourselves in an exciting time in the history of the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship. As one of the newest named colleges of business in the country, we see the positive impact of our engaged teacher-scholars on all the stakeholders that we serve in ways that look like schools with decades of traditions and endowments.

That's what happens in an innovative academic environment like ours - and why I am so proud to serve as the dean. After reading these stories I am sure that you will understand why. Go Vaqueros!

Lance Nail, Ph.D.

Dean and Distinguished University Professor

Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

ABDC A* Journal Publications



Huang, Wanling, and **Mollick, André V.** Tight oil, Real WTI Prices and U.S. Stock Returns. Forthcoming, *Energy Economics*.



Hong, H.A., Lobo, G.J., and **Ryou, J.W.** Financial Market Development and Firm Investment in Tax Avoidance: Evidence from Credit Default Swap Market. *Journal of Banking & Finance*, 107, October 2019, 105608.

Wu, H., Deng, Z., **Wang, B.**, and Wu, T. Online Service Qualities in the

your event? Email us at cobe.media@utrgv.edu with the subject line "VCOBE Newsletter Content."



Multistage Process and Patients' Compliments: A Transaction Cycle Perspective. In press, *Information & Management*.

ABDC A Journal Publication

Semenov, A. and **Tondji, J.** On the Dynamic Analysis of Cournot–Bertrand Equilibria. *Economic Letters*, 183, October 2019, 108549.



CONTACT US

Edinburg:
ECOBE 114
(956)665-3311

Brownsville:
BMAIN 2.504
(956)882-5828

Email:
cobe.media@utrgv.edu

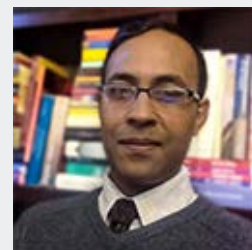
[VCOBE in the Press](#)

Faculty Awards and Honor



Dr. Ji Woo Ryou, assistant professor of accountancy, received the best paper award at the Seventh World Business Ethics Forum in 2019 for his research entitled "Product Market Competition and CSR Reporting."

Dr. Gautam Hazarika, associate professor of economics, received the 2020 Kuznets Prize for the *Journal of Population Economics*' best paper for his research entitled "Ancestral ecological endowments and missing women." *Journal of Production Economics* is an A journal on the Australian Business Dean Council journal quality list.



Dr. Diego Escobari, associate professor of economics, received the Georgescu-Roegen Prize from the Southern Economics Association (SEA) in November 2019. His research entitled "An Analysis of Dynamic Price Discrimination in Airlines" was selected as the best paper published in the *Southern Economic Journal* in 2019.

Dr. Edith Galy, associate professor of international business and entrepreneurship, received the best paper award in the Organizational Theory/International Management track at the Southern Management Association meeting in 2019 for her research entitled "Knowledge Leadership and Ambidexterity: Cultural Desirability in Three Countries."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Student Competition

Four VCOBE MBA students **Edelyn Barcena**, **Ace Palomero**, **Alejandro Mendivil Alcalde**, and **Samir Fallad Cortez** under the direction of **Dr. A.J. Singh**, placed 1st at the Hotel ROI's university competition in Chicago in October 2019. The team of four beat out teams from Florida International University, Lakeland University in Wisconsin, and the University of Northwestern Ohio.



Student Organizations

Under the supervision of **Professor Maria Leonard**, VCOBE student organization **Enactus** fundraised for a Thanksgiving Drive through GoFundMe, food drive on the UTRGV campus, through local business and nonprofits, and two IDEA schools to provide needy families in the RGV with Turkey dinners. Enacts started this tradition in 2016, and the families they fed had increased more than 10 folds from 25 in the first year to 310 in 2019. Through this event, students learn about the organization, making it a perfect team-building exercise. As a growing team, Enacts has made it their moral imperative to feed more families in need each year.



Master's Student Award

Nicholas Keathley, Master of Accountancy (MACC) student, was recognized by the Accounting Education Foundation of the Texas Society of CPAs for outstanding knowledge and ability in accounting as evidenced by excellence in accounting courses, as well as overall academic achievements and ethical standards. He is also the recipient of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) scholarship, which is merit-based.



Ph.D. Student Award



Ph.D. candidate in Management **Tony Lynch** received the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship grant from the Center for Transportation Workforce Development at the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant allows Tony to participate in the Transportation Research Board (TRM) Annual Meeting on January 12-14, 2020 in Washington, D.C.

Ph.D. Student Conference Publications/Presentations

- Galy, E. and **Han, M.** (2019). Women in management: Changing organizational cultures in Peru, Mexico and USA. Academy of Marketing Science World Marketing Congress Proceedings, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Moqbel, M., and **Alazazi, M.** (2019). Fake News: The past, the present, and the future. International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) 2019, December

15-18, 2019, Munich, Germany.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Business Leaders Luncheon

The Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship (VCOBE) hosted its third annual business leaders luncheon on November 6, 2019 honoring three business leaders: **John F. Cowen, Jr., Elsa Astudillo Zolezzi de Guerra, and Val LaMantia**. More than four hundred leaders from the business community attended the event with the proceeds supporting VCOBE student organizations.





Sustainability Ambassadors

VCOBE **Enactus** students worked with the UTRGV Office for Sustainability over the course of five weeks to train students from the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo (PSJA) Sotomayor Early College High School (ECHS) as Sustainability Ambassadors. Approximately 20 non-traditional students participated in weekly educational expeditions and lessons focused on financial literacy, clean energy, natural conservation, social responsibility, and

sustainable waste management systems such as recycling and composting. “We’re very impressed with these students and their dedication to their studies and this project,” said **Maria Leonard**, Enactus faculty advisor. “Despite the challenges they face with their new family responsibilities, they learned so much and can now go on and teach these concepts to their communities. I’m also very proud of my Enactus students. They showed great leadership and really made this a successful program.”



Adopt a Startup at UTRGV

Students from **Professor Sylvia Robles'** New Venture Creation course participated in the "Adopt a Startup at UTRGV" final pitch hosted in partnership with UTRGV Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center. The winning pitch “Barro y Tinta” received a free six-month incubation service at the UTRGV Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Center and a Kauffman program for each of the students.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Tammi Redd, Ph.D. in Business

Administration, '12, was interviewed by U.S. audit, tax and advisory firm KPMG on being a PhD Project participant and lifelong learning. Dr. Redd is now an associate professor of management at Ramapo College of New Jersey. [Click here](#) to watch her interview.



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