



**UTRGV** : Robert C. Vackar College of  
Business & Entrepreneurship

# NEWSLETTER

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# Faculty Publications

**Congratulations to our faculty on their elite and high impact publications!**

## Elite Publications



**Monika Rabarison (Associate Professor of Finance)**  
**Brandon Ater (Assistant Professor of Accountancy)**  
**Christian Sobngwi (Associate Professor of Accountancy)**

**Md Noman Hossain, Monika K. Rabarison, Brandon Ater, Christian K. Sobngwi, CEO marital status and dividend policy. *Journal of Corporate Finance*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcorpfin.2022.102342>**



**Francis Andoh Baidoo (Professor of Information Systems)**

Ayaburi, E.W., & **Andoh-Baidoo, F.K.**, How Do Technology Use Patterns Influence Phishing Susceptibility? A Two-Wave Study of the Role of Reformulated Locus of Control. ***European Journal of Information Systems***. (Forthcoming)

## High Impact Publications



**Yejun Zhang (Assistant Professor of Management)**

Kelemen, T. K., Matthews, S. H., Henry, S. E., **Zhang, Y.**, & Bradley, B. H. Energizing and Depleting? The Daily Perceptions and Emotions of Organizationally Focused Citizenship Behaviors (in press). ***Journal of Managerial Psychology***.

# Faculty Publications

## High Impact Publications



**Ahmed Elnahas (Assistant Professor of Finance)**  
**Siamak Javadi (Assistant Professor of Finance)**

Elnahas, A., Hossain, M. N., & Javadi, S. (2022). CEO marital status and corporate cash holdings. **European Financial Management**. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eufm.12413>



**Levent Kutlu (Assistant Professor of Economics)**  
**Xi (Marcie) Mao (Assistant Professor of Economics)**

Kutlu, L. & Mao, X. (2023), The Effect of Corruption Control on Efficiency Spillovers. **Journal of Institutional Economics**. (Forthcoming)



**Wanrong Hou (Associate Professor of Management)**

Zhou, Q., Qu, S., Hou, W. Do tourism clusters contribute to low-carbon destinations? The spillover effect of tourism agglomerations on urban residential CO2 emissions. **Journal of Environmental Management**. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2022.117160>

# Research Spotlight

## Climate Change and the Cost of Bank Loans

### Climate change risk is increasing the cost of capital for businesses, study found

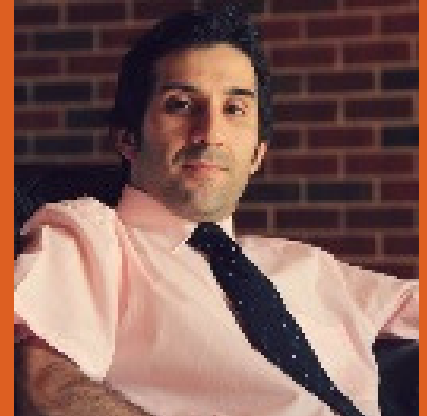
A recent study by Siamak Javadi, Assistant Professor of Finance, found a positive association between the climate exposure of businesses and their cost of bank loans.

Dr. Javadi and his co-author Abdullah-Al Masum (Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh) examined whether and to what extent, banks view climate change as a relevant risk factor and incorporate it into different dimensions of their loan contracts.

They tested their hypothesis that banks are likely to take climate risk into account when lending to firms located in areas more vulnerable to climate risk using a sample of 32,999 unique bank loans issued to 5,243 unique US firms from 1986 to 2017. The authors used the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI), developed by Palmer (1965) to measure firms' climate risk exposure.

Their empirical analysis found a robust positive association between the measure of climate risk and loan spreads. Loan spreads of firms in the top quartile of climate risk exposure are about 4.4% larger than those of firms in the bottom quartile. Moreover, the study found that the long-term loans of poorly rated firms drive the adverse effect of climate risk. For example, loan spreads are about 5.8% higher for long-term loans of poorly rated firms in the top quartile of climate risk than those in the bottom quartile.

The study was published in the **Journal of Corporate Finance** in August 2021.



**Siamak Javadi**  
Assistant Professor of  
Finance

**"banks consider climate change as a risk factor and incorporate that in their loan origination...the set of feasible investment opportunities for firms in areas with more climate change exposure is smaller"**

# Faculty Recognitions

## Citation Excellence



Congratulations to **Reto Felix, Associate Professor of Marketing**, for achieving an impressive citation milestone! His paper titled "Elements of strategic social media marketing: A holistic framework" has so far amassed more than 1100 citations in Google Scholar. The paper was published in the *Journal of Business Research* (a high impact journal in RCVCOBE's journal list) in 2017.

## Best Paper Award



A paper co-authored by **Michael Abebe, Professor of Management and RCVCOBE's Associate Dean for Research and Faculty** was selected by *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management* (a high impact journal in RCVCOBE's journal list) as one of the two Best Papers the journal published in 2021.

The paper titled "[Strategic Agility, Business Model Innovation, and Firm Performance: An Empirical Investigation](#)" was co-authored with Thomas Clauss, Chanchai Tangpong and Marianne Hock. The Best Paper selection was made by the journal's editors using multiple criteria including originality of the topic, clarity of presentation, and impact of research.

## International Recognition



**Francis Kofi Andoh-Baidoo, Professor of Information Systems**, was recently recognized for his role in the [Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program \(CADFP\)](#). CADFP is a scholar exchange program funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Professor Andoh-Baidoo served as a peer reviewer evaluating project requests received from various higher education institutions in Africa including Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda, among others. We thank Professor Andoh-Baidoo for his international service and for representing RCVCOBE and UTRGV well at the international stage!



# Faculty Recognitions

## Robles Won Sustainable Practice Impact Award



Dr. Sylvia Robles, Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of International Business & Entrepreneurship department, has been selected as the winner of the **2023 VentureWell Sustainable Practice Impact Award**. Dr. Robles will receive her award at the Sustainability Luncheon plenary at the **OPEN 2023 conference** to be held on March 23rd in Alexandria, Virginia.

This award honors individuals, companies, or institutions that have made an exceptional contribution toward developing clean technologies, implementing sustainable practices in their businesses, or providing sustainability-focused educational opportunities to university students.

Dr. Robles was recognized by the award sponsors for her "...impactful and valuable guidance [she] provide[s] to students at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley who are working to build sustainable and resilient enterprises" as well as her "...passion and commitment to helping fellow faculty in their integration of innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainability principles into their teaching practices...". Dr. Robles was also commended for her contributions in supporting the Brownsville entrepreneurial ecosystem.

VentureWell is a non-profit organization that supports innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives among faculty and students particularly in the STEM fields. More information about the organization can be found [here](#).

We congratulate Sylvia for this excellent achievement and thank her for her continued efforts in promoting sustainability, entrepreneurship and innovation in her teaching and community engagement!



# Faculty Recognitions

## Book Chapter Published



Congratulations to **Hale Kaynak, Professor of Management**, for a book chapter acceptance at **The Palgrave Handbook of Supply Chain Management**. The book chapter is titled "**The Role of Quality Management in Healthcare: A Supply Chain Perspective**". According to the publisher, this Handbook "...offers a comprehensive presentation of the field of supply chain management."

The book chapter was co-authored with Subhajit Chakraborty (Associate Professor of Management at Coastal Carolina University) and Jose Pagan (New York University).

## CEO Chapter Advisor of the Year



Derek Abrams, Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship, was recently named the **2022 Outstanding CEO Chapter Advisor of the Year** at the **39th Annual Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO) Global Conference and Pitch Competition**. Read more about this award in this [UTRGV Newsroom article](#).

Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO) is the premier entrepreneurship network with chapters on university campuses across North America and beyond. CEO currently supports entrepreneurship in over 250 chapters in all 50 states and worldwide.

We congratulate Derek and his two students for an outstanding achievement!



# Faculty Recognitions

## Women of Distinction Award Recipient



Congratulations to **Maria Leonard**, Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of Management, for being selected as one of the recipients of **2023 Women of Distinction** award!

According to the **RGV Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**, the Women of Distinction award recognizes women in the rio grande valley who demonstrate excellence not only in their careers but also in engaging with the local community.

The winners selected this year include women from all walks of life including business, government, education, military, and arts and entertainment. The award ceremony will take place on March 8, 2023 in Mission, Texas. We congratulate Maria on this award!

## STEM Education Conference Held @ SPI



**Dr. Sylvia Robles**, Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of International Business & Entrepreneurship department, recently presented at the **6th Annual STEM Education Conference** held at South Padre Island. The presentation was titled "Food Security: at the Intersection of Entrepreneurship, Engineering, and Agriculture". Dr. Robles collaborated with Drs. Noe Vargas and Joanne Rampersad-Ammons from College of Engineering and Sciences respectively.

In addition to faculty presentations, a multidisciplinary team of students also participated in the conference.





# News around the College

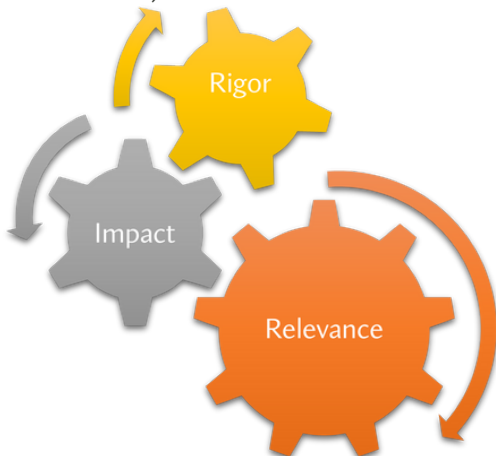
## Societal Impact of Research Symposium Held

**Discussion focused on how to maximize the societal impact of business school research**

The impact of business school research is increasingly under scrutiny from various external stakeholders such as the AACSB. Along with the external pressure, disciplinary conversations continue to take place around the need for balancing the rigor of faculty research while also maximizing societal impact.

What do faculty and doctoral students need to know about societal impact of research?

How can faculty and doctoral students better disseminate their research findings to a broader (often non-academic) audience?



These were some of the questions discussed in the research symposium held on February 17, 2023 at the Edinburg campus. 37 Faculty and doctoral students attended the event.

Dean Lance Nail shared insights on the growing emphasis on societal impact in the accreditation requirements by the AACSB.

Professor Jonathan Doh (Villanova University), editor of Journal of Management Studies, presented the latest scholarly thinking around societal impact. A panel of RCVCOBE faculty showcased some of their relevant scholarly research and shared tips on how to better disseminate research findings.

Participants were provided with tips on how to better select research topics that have important societal relevance and disseminate key findings once the research is published.

# News around the College

## Second Annual Financial Literacy Summit Held

RCVCOBE held the second annual financial literacy summit on February 24, 2023 at the Edinburg campus.



The purpose of the summit was to provide lessons on financial management to area high school students. Topics such as money management, credit, investment, banking, and college access were discussed. Speakers at the event include Mr. Mark Magon (Vice President of International Bank of Commerce), Mr. Alexis Villareal (Financial Advisor at Ameriprise Financial Services) as well as Ms. Elisa Morales (Outreach Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas), among others.



Several RCVCOBE student organizations such as ENACTUS, ALPFA and Economics and Finance Society participated in the planning of the event.



We congratulate the faculty advisors (**Dr. Jorge Vidal** and **Ms. Maria Leonard**) and students for this insightful community event!



# News around the College

## HOST Faculty, Students Attended Restaurant Conference



From left to right:  
Paola Villarreal,  
Alondra Vela Arce,  
Chef Marcel Fortuin,  
Anna Tamez,  
Shelly Hernandez

Four hospitality and business students from RCVCOBE recently participated in a **Restaurant Finance and Development Conference** in Las Vegas, NV.

The annual Restaurant Finance & Development Conference is the restaurant industry's premier event for company owners, operators and financial executives. In addition to an excellent educational forum, attendees have the opportunity to meet with a wide variety of financial sources during the conference. The conference attracts restaurant owners, operators, executives and board members of multi-unit restaurant companies—public, private, franchised, non-franchised and independent restaurant groups send multiple representatives to the conference each year.

As part of the conference, students from leading hospitality programs are invited to present their research on solving specific industry problems. A team of UTRGV students participated in a research project in which they analyze restaurant labor shortage problem and recommend potential solutions. Specifically, they created an HR consulting company that can assist restaurant owners and operators with their labor issues. Under this umbrella, the students presented their suggestions at the conference in a Shark Tank type format, with industry judges asking follow up questions.

Attending and presenting at this premier hospitality event was a very rewarding experience for the students.



# News around the College

## Marketing, HOST Students Attended ALIS Conference in LA

Michael Flores, Lecturer in the Department of Marketing, accompanied four Hospitality and Tourism (HOST) students to the **2023 Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS) in Los Angeles, California from 21-25 January**. RCVCBE students and HOST Club officers David Salinas, Samantha Lozano, Dorothy Sapla, and Abelardo Villarreal (pictured below served as student ambassadors and contributed to the success of the conference by working the registration booths, served as educational room proctors, and VIP lounge representatives for ALIS attendees.

They represented UTRGV and RCVCBE with the highest levels of professionalism and showed their excitement with friendly and impactful networking efforts throughout the conference. Our students were joined by over 100 other hospitality and tourism students from across the United States.



From left to right: Michael Flores, Dorothy Sapla, David Salinas, Abelardo Villarreal, Samantha Lozano

# Staff Update

## Meet Tony Leandro, Our Newest Career Advisor



**Mr. Tony Leandro will be working with RCVCOBE's faculty and staff to assist students with career services.**

Tony Leandro, Career Advisor for the Career Center focus on students from RCVCOBE, recently started with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Tony is a proud alumnus of UTRGV. He was part of UTRGV's first class and graduated with a major in Communication Studies. He will be completing his Master's in Education in Student Development and Leadership in Higher Education from Angelo State University this coming May. He comes with previous working experience from the Academic Advising Center at UTRGV, along with experience working as a Career Services Coordinator with Woz-U. He is thrilled to be working with the university once again and hopes to bring exciting opportunities to RCVCOBE's students.

Tony, welcome to the RCVCOBE family! We look forward to working with you in the service of our students.



# ABOUT RCVCOBE

## RCVCOBE MISSION STATEMENT

The Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship promotes student success and serves as a catalyst for innovation, knowledge discovery, and economic development in South Texas, Northern Mexico, and beyond. We do so by offering relevant academic programs, committing to impactful research, and fostering community engagement and sustainable partnerships in a way that supports the university's mission.

## RCVCOBE VISION STATEMENT

The Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship will positively impact its local and global stakeholders through the discovery, integration, application, and teaching of business-focused knowledge addressing the critical needs of society.

## RCVCOBE CORE VALUES

- **Our Commitment to Excellence**
  - Invest in our students' success by offering high quality and relevant academic programs.
- **Our Dedication to Thought Leadership**
  - Promote rigorous and high-impact scholarship.
  - Improve the academic reputation of RCV through impactful engagement with the scholarly community.
- **Our Passion for Empowerment and Impact**
  - Empower and support our students, faculty, and staff to make a difference in their communities through high impact teaching and learning practices.
- **Our Role as Agents of Transformation**
  - Cherish and support our positive role in the economic transformation of the Rio Grande Valley.
- **Our Belief in Diversity and Inclusion**
  - Steadfast commitment to welcoming and celebrating our diversity in all we do.

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[utrgv.edu/cobe](http://utrgv.edu/cobe)

