

March 2024

Dr. Konstantin Sokolov received the “Tigers Ascending to Excellence Award”

Dr. Konstantin (Kostia) Sokolov, Wunderlich Chair of Excellence in Finance and Associate Professor, was named the most recent recipient of the University-wide “Tigers Ascending to Excellence Award” due to his extraordinary leadership, commitment and service to UofM. As a part of his recognition, Kostia will serve as the honorary coach of the Tigers basketball game on Sunday, March 3, when our team takes on the University of Alabama-Birmingham at the FedEx Forum.



Dr. Konstantin Sokolov

USSO welcomes Brittany Perez and Philip Twumasi Ankrah

We have two new faces in the Undergraduate Student Services Office. Brittany Perez and Philip Twumasi Ankrah have joined our team as college academic advisors for the Crews School of Accountancy and Department of Management. In these roles, they advise business students and answer inquiries regarding degree options, graduation requirements, academic plans and career directions. Additionally, they manage and perform duties related to improving student success and retention rates. Welcome, Brittany and Philip!



Dr. Grace Phillips’ working paper accepted by NBER

Dr. Grace Phillips, assistant professor in the Department of Economics, had a second working paper accepted by the prestigious National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Her paper is titled “Understanding the Demand-Side of an Illegal Market: Prohibition of Menthol Cigarettes.” She co-authored this piece with Drs. Donald S. Kenkel, Alan D. Mathios, Revathy Suryanarayana, Hua Wang and Sen Zeng. “It is very impressive to have two working papers accepted by NBER in half a year, and we are very proud of Grace’s accomplishments,” said Dr. Bill Smith, chair of the Department of Economics. To read the complete article, click [here](#).



Dr. Grace Phillips

Drs. Allison Potter and John Cicala named MVPs

Dr. Allison Potter, assistant professor of teaching in the Department of FIR, and Dr. John Cicala, MBA director and assistant professor of teaching in the Department of MSCM, were selected by their student-athletes to receive the Most Valuable Professor (MVP) award. Allison was nominated by her student Jackson Lyons, and John was nominated by his student Jonah Posey; both of whom are on the 2024 Tigers baseball team. Allison and John will be recognized at the Tigers baseball game on Thursday, March 28 at the FedExPark Avron Fogelman Field.



Dr. Mehdi Amini published in the *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*

Dr. Mehdi Amini, George Johnson professor in the Department of MSCM, published a paper titled “Segmentation of organic food consumers: A revelation of purchase factors in organic food market” in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*. The paper is co-authored with Dr. Rohini Daraboina, at the Ness School of Management and Economics, South Dakota State University, and Dr. Orrin Cooper, previously a FCBE associate professor in the Department of MSCM. To read the complete paper, click [here](#).



Dr. Mehdi Amini

From the kitchen of Dr. Greg Boller: Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls

Dr. Greg Boller, FCBE associate dean, has many interests outside of FCBE. One of his favorite pastimes includes getting creative in the kitchen and experimenting with delicious dishes. Please click here for his [Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls](#) recipe. Happy eating!



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