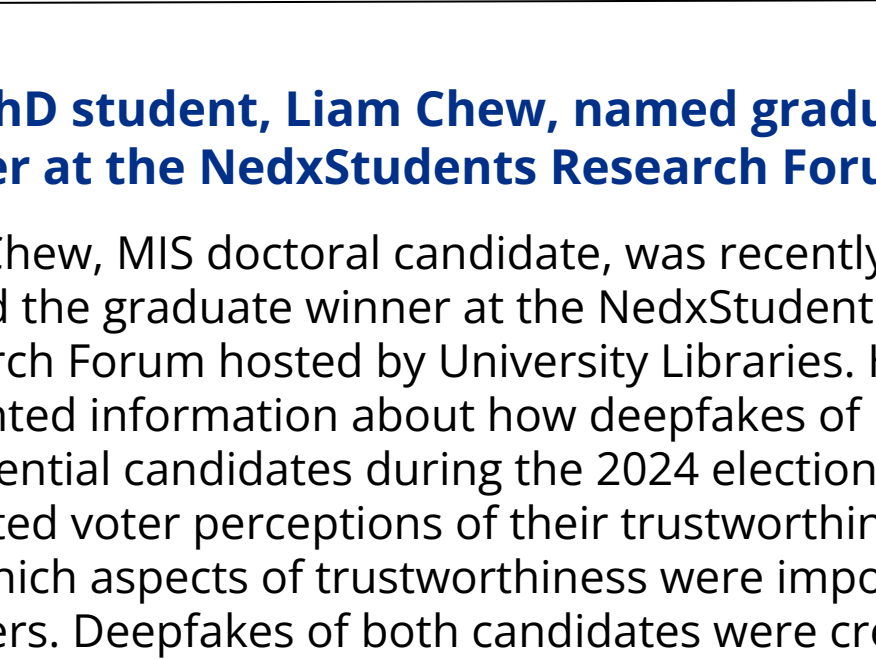


Dr. Kurt Kraiger launched a new podcast “Indepartners”

Dr. Kurt Kraiger, chair and professor of the Department of Management, and his girlfriend Dr. Lisa Finkelstein, professor of Psychology at Northern Illinois University, recently launched their new podcast “Indepartners.” The podcast is about the advantages and opportunities that come with a permanent, loving relationship – that happens to take place in two different cities.

New episodes drop on the 14th of each month.

Look for it wherever you find your podcasts or by [clicking here](#).



MIS PhD student, Liam Chew, named graduate winner at the NedxStudents Research Forum

Liam Chew, MIS doctoral candidate, was recently named the graduate winner at the NedxStudent Research Forum hosted by University Libraries. He presented information about how deepfakes of presidential candidates during the 2024 election impacted voter perceptions of their trustworthiness, and which aspects of trustworthiness were important to voters. Deepfakes of both candidates were created and an experiment was conducted. Results showed that deepfakes certainly had a negative impact – but only to Harris. Furthermore, only the benevolence and integrity of the candidate mattered to voters – but not their competence. He highlighted the disruptive nature of deepfakes and the reality altering implications they have.

Liam is currently in the dissertation stage and his topic is the societal and ethical impact of deepfakes.



Liam Chew

Dr. Zabihollah Rezaee published new textbook & received High Impact Scholar award

Dr. Zabihollah (Zabi) Rezaee, professor and Thompson-Hill Chair of Excellence in the Crews School of Accountancy, published a new textbook titled "[Corporate Governance: A Guide for Students](#)" last month. This book offers a clear, accessible guide to the key regulations, laws and best practices essential for robust governance and stakeholder protection. It covers the roles and responsibilities of all key players in corporate governance, including directors, management, auditors, accountants, legal counsel and financial advisors. Taking a practical approach, the book explores topics such as financial markets, investor confidence, oversight, managerial, compliance, internal and external auditing, legal advisory functions and performance reporting. It serves as a valuable resource for students and professionals seeking a comprehensive understanding of corporate governance responsibilities. [Click here](#) to view or purchase the textbook.

Additionally, Zabi also received the High Impact Scholar award this past February. This award was presented by Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal, executive vice president of the Division of Research & Innovation. Award recipients are selected based on the impact of their scholarship as measured by citations in peer-reviewed sources.



Dr. Zabihollah (Zabi) Rezaee

Jeff Nevels and Felicia Roddy-Jackson visited local high schools

Professor Jeff Nevels, APT in the Crews School of Accountancy, and Felicia Roddy-Jackson, coordinator for FCBE Scholarship & Recruitment, recently visited two local high schools, Houston and Collierville, to network with prospective students and to provide insights about all that CSOA and FCBE have to offer. Both visits were very successful and engaging.



Jingjing Wu, MIS PhD student, awarded Dissertation Completion Grant

MIS PhD candidate, Jingjing Wu, was recently awarded the Dissertation Completion Grant for her dissertation titled “Artificial Companions, Real Emotions: Can Voice-Based AI Help Alleviate Loneliness?” Her dissertation is chaired by Dr. Huigang Liang, FedEx Chair of Excellence in MIS. Dr. Liang is known for his rigorous and nurturing mentorship, guiding PhD students to produce high-impact, theory-driven research that addresses real-world challenges.

Loneliness has emerged as a growing global concern, posing serious risks to both mental and physical health. As AI technologies become increasingly integrated into everyday life, Jingjing’s research explores whether and how voice-based AI interactions can help reduce feelings of loneliness. Through a series of randomized field experiments, her dissertation investigates the impact of anthropomorphic AI—particularly systems with human-like voice features—on users’ experiences of loneliness. This research makes several contributions. Theoretically, it enhances our understanding of human-computer interaction in emotionally sensitive contexts and reveals how AI can play a supportive role in addressing loneliness. Practically, it offers insights for designing more personalized AI interfaces that align with individual user needs. These findings also have potential applications in healthcare, where AI could help support loneliness-reduction strategies tailored to vulnerable populations.

Jingjing aspires to an academic career in higher education, where she can pursue research that is both intellectually rigorous and socially impactful.



Jingjing Wu

FCBE Stellar Student Spotlights

We want to showcase our outstanding business students! If you have any high-achieving students who you believe deserve to be recognized for their tremendous efforts, please fill out the following [nomination form](#). The student must be a business major in good academic standing to qualify. Selected students will receive a spotlight on our social media channels, receive a write-up on our website and a potential feature in our upcoming Fogelman Focus annual magazine.

Thank you to those who have already submitted your nominations. Here are some of our recently featured students:

- [Maddie Roberts](#) | BBA, MKTG '26
- [Mallika Golla](#) | MIS '25
- [Luke Modin](#) | BBA, ACCT '25

See the complete list of FCBE Stellar Student Spotlights on the [FCBE website](#).

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