

September 2024

## FCBE Welcomes New Faces and Celebrates Promotions

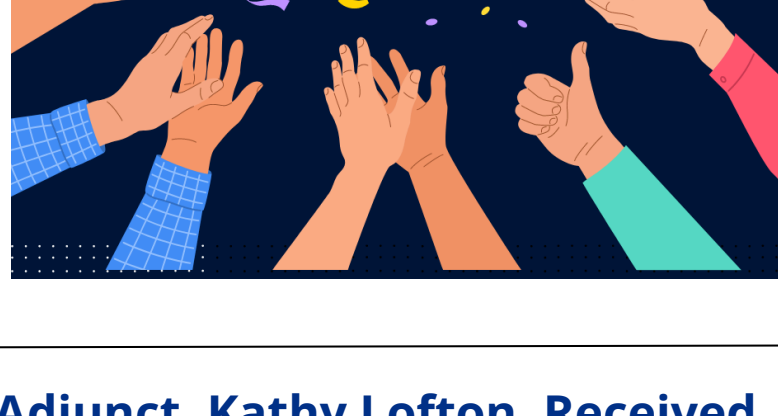
There are several new faces around the College. We would like to welcome the following folks:

- Whitney Hardy, Director | Crews Center for Entrepreneurship
- Asia Fench, Recruiter | FCBE
- Nick Delener, Interim Director & Professor | CSOA
- Dongwoo Kim, Assistant Professor | Dept. of ECON
- Sepehr Roudini, Assistant Professor | Dept. of FIR
- Emma Qianying Xu, Assistant Professor | Dept. of FIR
- Hui Hao, Assistant Professor | Dept. of MIS

Please also help us congratulate the following people on their new roles:

- Carmen Astorne, Associate Dean of Academic Programs & Research
- Marja Martin-Carruth, Assistant Dean of Student Success
- Dametria Brooks, Administrative Associate | Dean's Office

Lastly, please extend your best wishes to Annette Webb McNeil on her upcoming retirement!



## MGMT Adjunct, Kathy Lofton, Received Presidential Award and was Cast in a Major Memphis Film Production

Kathy Lofton ('89) MBA, MPA, adjunct faculty member in the Department of Management, received the Presidential Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award in Washington, DC during a July 2024 ceremony. Nominated by *Lead for America*, an AmeriCorps host organization, she was recognized for her years of domestic and global volunteerism & public service since 1992. Additionally, she is a finalist for an impending award with *Service Year*. This is due to her AmeriCorps contributions and impact on African American seniors residing in underserved areas of Memphis via basic digital device skills training as a former fellow with Innovate Memphis.

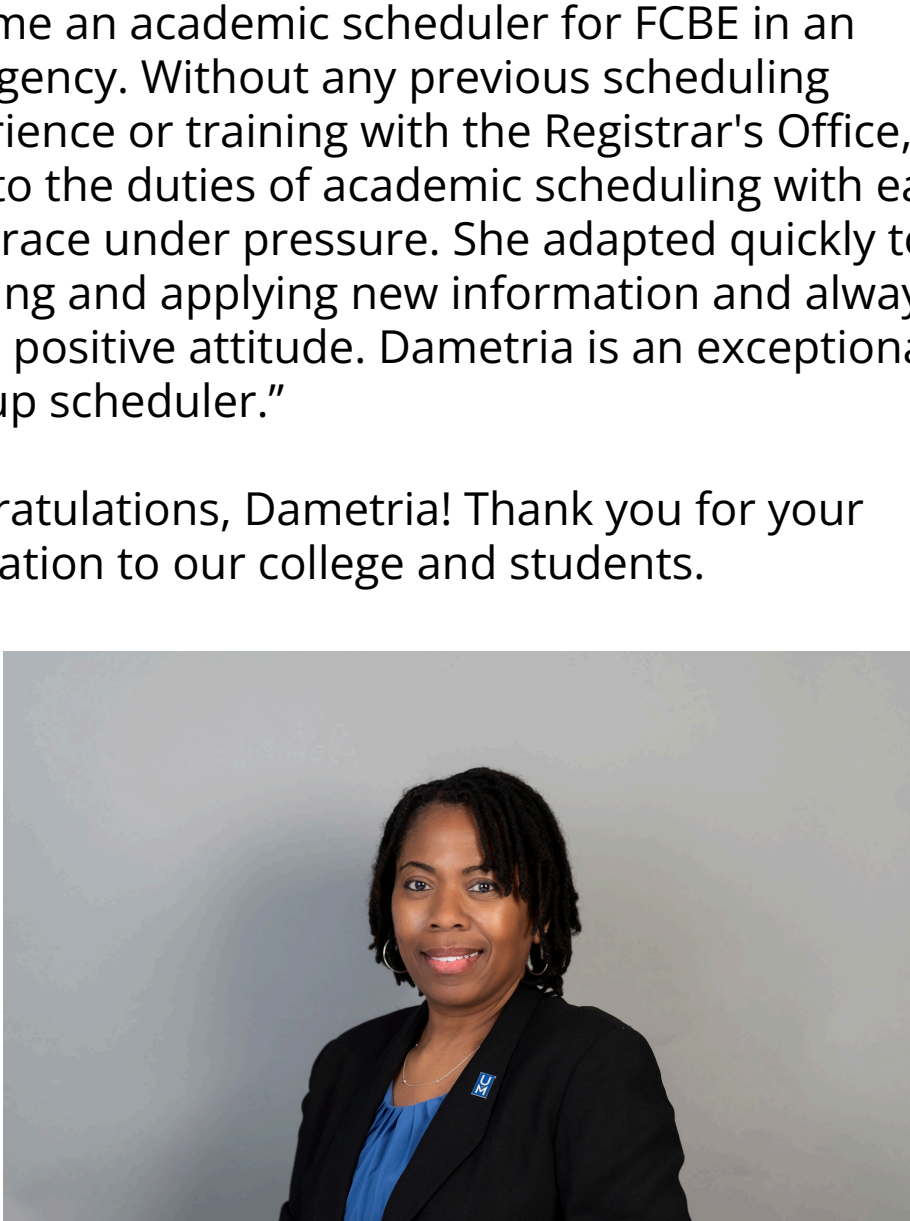
Kathy, an actress, indie filmmaker, producer and photographer, also recently completed filming her role in the Memphis feature film *Hoop Street*, in which she co-stars as Bettie James "Grams," the grandmother of rising basketball star Mason James, portrayed by actor Ben Holmes. To read more about the scheduled fall 2025 release of *Hoop Street* [click here](#).



**Kathy Lofton**

## Dr. Zabihollah Rezaee Published a New Book

Dr. Zabihollah (Zabi) Rezaee, Thompson-Hill Chair of Excellence in the Crews School of Accountancy, recently published a book titled "The Sustainable Business Blueprint Planning, Performance, Risk, Reporting, and Assurance." This comprehensive book covers concepts that businesses need to embed, articulate and execute profit-with-purpose strategies and to promote shared value creation for stakeholders. It addresses business sustainability and information technology integration, drivers, sources and international guidelines on sustainability reporting and assurance. Zabi's "Business Sustainability" textbook is currently in production and will be available in the spring of 2025. To learn more or to pre-purchase a copy, please [click here](#).

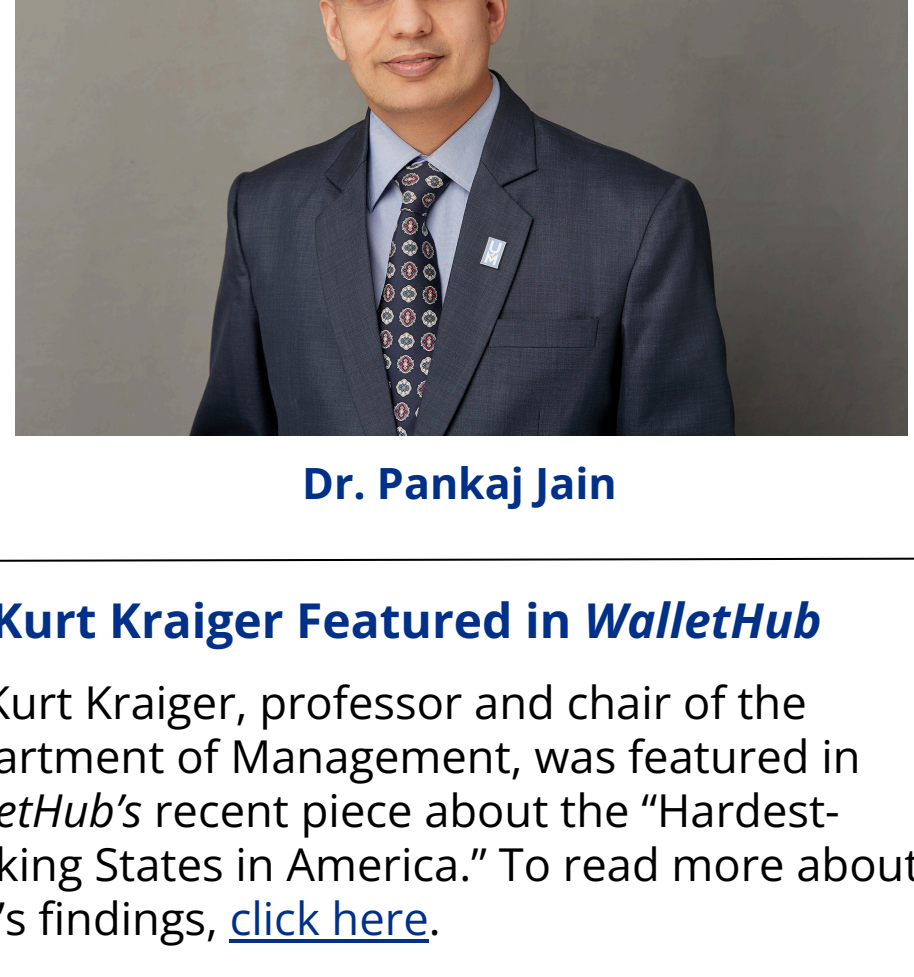


**Dr. Zabihollah Rezaee**

## Dametria Brooks Received Tiger Spotlight Award

Dametria Brooks, our new administrative associate for the Dean's Office, recently received a Tiger Spotlight Award. Dametria was nominated for this recognition by Averill Hill from the Registrar's Office. Averill said, "Dametria stepped in and stepped up to become an academic scheduler for FCBE in an emergency. Without any previous scheduling experience or training with the Registrar's Office, she took to the duties of academic scheduling with ease and grace under pressure. She adapted quickly to learning and applying new information and always had a positive attitude. Dametria is an exceptional backup scheduler."

Congratulations, Dametria! Thank you for your dedication to our college and students.



**Dametria Brooks**

## Dr. Pankaj Jain Published in the *International Review of Economics & Finance*

Dr. Pankaj Jain, professor and chair of the Department of Finance, Insurance & Real Estate, along with former UofM PhD student coauthors Dr. Chinmay Jain (SUNY Geneseo) and Dr. David Taylor (FedEx), published their research article titled "Causes and effects of worldwide demutualization of financial exchanges" in the *International Review of Economics & Finance*. Their research builds a comprehensive panel data on demutualization and other market design aspects of financial exchanges in 115 countries. They found that in the competitive exchange industry, product-based growth opportunities (e.g., derivatives) and additional capital from demutualization are essential to outweigh potential technological disintermediation. To access the complete paper, [click here](#).



**Dr. Pankaj Jain**

## Dr. Kurt Kraiger Featured in *WalletHub*

Dr. Kurt Kraiger, professor and chair of the Department of Management, was featured in *WalletHub's* recent piece about the "Hardest-Working States in America." To read more about Kurt's findings, [click here](#).



**Dr. Kurt Kraiger**

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