
ABSTRACTS**1. DISTRIBUTION OF PERISHABLE PRODUCTS:
NEW LESSONS FROM A SERIES OF PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTS**

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ABSTRACT

In a previous paper the authors reported the findings from a study using a fixed time increment simulation model that investigated the financial and operational performance of various inventory decision rules in a highly perishable product environment. This paper extends that analysis by manipulating key parameters in that model and measuring the associated outcomes. The set of experiments for the rural cake environment has indicated that both shortages and outdating are difficult to control. The reason suggested for this difference is that the performance variables are highly sensitive to the delivery schedule. In addition, this paper has demonstrated that the various decision rules have significant effects on the operating performance of firms engaged in the distribution of perishables. These effects were analyzed both in terms of their statistical significance and in terms of their importance to management.

2. EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DIFFERENTIALS IN HONDURAS

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ABSTRACT

This study uses data from a 2009 Honduras' household survey in order to assess how wage workers select between public and private sector employment, and to identify the determinant of wages in both sectors. The paper answers the following questions: What are the factors that influence the probability for women and men to become wage workers in the public and private sector? Do public workers get higher wages than those in the private sector? Is there any gender wage gap between the public and private sector? Are there any differences in returns to human capital between the sectors? What other factors determine public and private sector wages? The probability for women and men of being wage workers is influenced by being married, number of children in the household, receiving income from other source and educational levels. The findings show that the wage structures in the private and public sector are different. Acquiring education goes hand in hand with determining wages. In addition, age, living in the two largest cities of the country and working in bigger firms have positive effects in determining wage levels. Though, the results show that there are clear differences in the strength of every factor in both sectors' wages and also a gender difference within each sector.

Keywords: Honduras; Wages; Public Sector; Private Sector; Sample Selection Bias

**3. DO SHAREHOLDERS BENEFIT FROM SOUND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP?
AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BEST CORPORATE CITIZENS**

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ABSTRACT

There has been a rather eclectic mix of articles published on the topic of socially responsible investing. Research has focused on screening techniques, risk-adjusted return comparisons, and on the externalities gained by investing in socially-conscious firms. In this paper, we do not get involved in the

controversy of defining socially responsible investing. Instead, we focus on the risk and return attributes of firms that have been identified as model corporate citizens. We investigate firms that were categorized as the Best Corporate Citizens for five consecutive years by Business Ethics magazine. We compare these firms to others of similar size and industry and reach some interesting conclusions. We find that the Best Corporate Citizen firms have a higher total return, lower risk, less extreme downside risk, and lower price-earnings multiples than the peer group over the five year period, January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2004. We also find that the stock price distributions of both sets of data do not conform to a normally distributed market. We test both the Best Corporate Citizens set and the peer group set for evidence of kurtosis and skewness. Some recent research has reported that individuals under-diversify their portfolios and that idiosyncratic risk is becoming a larger component of total risk. Our tests indicate that the Best Corporate Citizens exhibit significantly less risk, less extreme downside risk, and greater total return than the peer group while having a lower correlation with the market than similar index funds. We conclude that shareholders benefit from sound corporate citizenship.

Keywords: *Socially Responsible Investing, Ethics*

4. DO ONLINE AND LECTURE STUDENTS VIEW CHEATING DIFFERENTLY?

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ABSTRACT

This study uses contingency table analysis to determine whether lecture and online students differ in their attitudes to cheating. A total of 440 students were surveyed in both lecture and online sections regarding how they would react if faced with a classmate using unauthorized materials on an examination. The study further broke down reactions to see if males and females or undergraduate and graduate students reacted differently. In-class students tended to agree at a higher rate that they would ignore cheating than online students, a pattern that was consistent across all subgroups examined. Online students disagreed at a higher rate they would notify other authorities or confront cheaters directly than in-class students, but agreed at a higher rate they would notify instructors either anonymously or personally compared to in-class students. Some differences were also seen among genders based on delivery method, but there were few differences between undergraduate and graduate student responses to the survey statements.

Keywords: *Academic Dishonesty; Cheating; Business Students; Online Students; Gender Differences*

5. ASSESSING THE TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes public high school efficiency, defined as the maximum level of educational attainment obtained with a given level of school inputs, in the State of Georgia. Using data envelopment analysis (DEA), urban and rural public high school efficiency differences are evaluated using a two-step estimation process. First, a nonparametric Mann-Whitney U-test confirms the significant difference in mean efficiency scores between urban and rural high schools. Second, we use a Tobit regression model to find factors that influence the efficiency differences between rural and urban high schools. The regression results suggest that rural schools operate less efficiently than urban schools.

Keywords: Educational Achievement, Technical Efficiency, DEA Analysis, Tobit Regression

6. LEAN AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS: EVIDENCE OF OPERATIONAL SYNERGY FOR LEAN MANUFACTURERS AND LOGICAL GROWTH TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT

For many organizations, due to a general focus on waste reduction, intuition suggests that the key objectives of Lean programs and Sustainability (or Green) programs share great commonality, and that organizations that successfully implement Lean principles also should be successful when implementing Sustainability principles. In this study, an examination of known Lean organizations (applicants and finalists for the Shingo Prize) explores this intuitive synergy between Lean and Sustainability, and shows that Lean organizations should be able to reduce barriers for implementing subsequent successful Sustainability programs.

Keywords: Lean, Green, Sustainability, Environment, Manufacturing, Operations, Waste

7. THE EFFECTS OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FACTORS ON DISCRETIONARY INVESTMENTS

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides empirical evidence of the effects of corporate governance factors including executive compensation, ownership concentration, and CEOs' characteristics on firm's discretionary investments. The sample data is extracted from ExecuComp database from 1992 to 2004. The results indicate that CEOs' stock option holdings have significant positive effect on CEOs' investment decisions for all model specifications. It suggests that stock option holdings provide an incentive to encourage CEOs to make more corporate investment for the long term return.

Keywords: executive compensation; manager entrenchment; investments

8. A NEW APPROACH IS BORN: THE SLOW PHILOSOPHY VIA AGRI-TOURISM

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ABSTRACT

The expansion of farm-based tourism is a trend affecting many European countries. Taking into account that this new phenomenon is born without claim, responding to the desire of urban people to spend time in rural spaces, and that it has been encouraged by national development policies for the last half-century, what are the motivations behind this recent and exponential development? Our research has three main goals: first, to verify whether there is a link between the increasing attention in agri-tourism and the desire to slow down one's lifestyle. Second, in conjunction with the first goal, we hope to determine whether a new life philosophy has arisen: the slow philosophy. Our third purpose is to determine whether and how this increased attention on agri-tourism may help to increase farm tourists' tendencies toward sustainable behavior.

To pursue these goals, we conducted an online survey in the form of a questionnaire sent via e-mail to a number of members of the University of Cagliari community. The data show a link between agri-tourism and the birth of a slow philosophy, as well as significant inclinations toward more responsible and sustainable behavior.

Keywords: slow philosophy, agri-tourism, sustainable behavior

9. FINANCIAL NETWORKS WITH ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS: RISK MANAGEMENT WITH VARIABLE WEIGHTS

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ABSTRACT

Advances in telecommunication networks, and, in particular, the Internet, have transformed the economic landscape for financial decision-making. In this paper, we develop a framework for the modeling, analysis, and computation of solutions to multitiered financial network problems with electronic transactions in which both the sources of financial funds as well as the intermediaries are multicriteria decision-makers. In particular, we assume that these decision-makers seek not only to maximize their net

revenues but also to minimize risk with the risk being penalized by a variable weight. We make explicit the behavior of the various decision-makers, including the consumers at the demand markets for the financial products. We derive the optimality conditions, and demonstrate that the governing equilibrium conditions of the financial network economy can be formulated as a finite-dimensional variational inequality problem. Qualitative properties of the equilibrium financial flow and price pattern are provided. A computational procedure that exploits the network structure of the problem is proposed.

Keywords: *Electronic finance, financial network, variational inequality, variable weights*

10. IMPLICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS ADOPTION FOR PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are being adopted globally including the European Union, Hong Kong, Australia, Malaysia, Pakistan, GCC countries, Russia, South Africa, Singapore and Turkey. Most of the adopting countries require or permit IFRS reporting all domestic listed companies. The expectation from IFRS adoption are to provide benefits to investors and other users of financial statements by eliminating the costs of comparing alternative investments and enhancing the quality of financial reporting information and resultant benefit of providing better financing opportunities for corporations. The purpose of this research paper is to analyze the adoption issues by public companies in Turkey. Additionally our research will attempt to examine the benefits of using Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software in the preparation of IFRS statements.

Key Words: *International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), Enterprise Resource Planning*

11. EXPLORING THE PARAMETERS OF AUTOMATION IN MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES

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ABSTRACT

Many factors contribute towards the automation of the manufacturing enterprises. With the increased competition and demand in the global market, automation is becoming the necessity. The purpose of this paper is to identify the parameters of automation which the manufacturing enterprise can consider for the success and competitiveness in the market. The key roles are played by technology, manpower planning and the market demand in the automation of manufacturing enterprises. The paper identifies the decision variables for the need of automation by Internal Scanning, External Scanning and Competitive Positioning of an enterprise.

Keywords: *Automation, Manufacturing Enterprises, Manpower, Demand, Technological innovations, Market Developments*

12. SERVICE QUALITY AND INVENTORY DESIGNS UNDER DEMAND UNCERTAINTY

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we study service quality and inventory designs under demand uncertainty in a monopolistic retail setting. A game theoretic framework is adopted to characterize the joint decisions of service quality, pricing and inventory. We prove that there exists a unique solution for service quality, pricing and stocking factor in the monopoly model. We further show that the monopolist's optimal decisions and expected profit decrease in demand uncertainty. Specifically, the expected profit is less under demand uncertainty than under demand certainty.

Keywords: *newsvendor problem; service quality; demand uncertainty; game theory*

13. THE IMPACT OF INTERRUPTIONS ON AFFECTIVE, COGNITIVE, AND MOTIVATIONAL STATES

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ABSTRACT

The effects of external task interruption on individuals' affective, cognitive, and motivational states were examined as well as the spillover effects of mood on subsequent tasks. Results suggested that the external interruption was associated with an increase in negative affect and a decrease in positive affect. Partial support was found for the hypothesis that individuals' positive mood was associated with their self-efficacy. Neither positive nor negative affect were associated with individuals' cognitive states, motivational states, or performance. Results suggested that negative mood spilled over task boundaries after task performance was interrupted. Support for the spillover effects of positive mood on subsequent tasks was found when the tasks were similar.

Keywords: *Task interruption, Positive Affect, Negative Affect, Motivation, Mood*

14. ENHANCED EXPENSE PRACTICES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: ENDURING CONTINUOUS REDUCTIONS IN STATE APPROPRIATION

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ABSTRACT:

The way forward for higher education to survive and to endure reductions in state appropriations is the enrichment of practices associated with traditional expenses. Because consistent reductions in state appropriations threaten to cause major changes to educational services within Higher Education, this paper advocates enhancement to program management and changes to teaching practices without sacrificing students' expectations. In fact, these practices strengthen learning through practical and team teaching environments while promoting unity of colleges and integration of courses. Module learning and transition programs encourage students to complete degrees faster and step up to the next advance degree. Flexibility can be obtained in a traditionally rigid environment without surrendering core programs.

Keywords: *higher education, funding, public policy, business school, tuition and fees*

15. THE SUBNATIONAL DIMENSION OF AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

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ABSTRACT

U.S. state governments are playing an important role in America's international economic policy. One of the most important aspects of U.S. state governments engagement in the realm of international business is the direct involvement of Governors in leading international missions to many different countries in the globe. State governments offer a wide and varied range of services to assist the private sector to have access to international markets. Services range from simple promotion of seminars on export and sending trade missions abroad to complex services of competitive analysis, information on pricing and research of foreign companies' records. Far beyond simply developing subnational version of national government policies, U.S. state governments have been very fruitful in creating innovative international business programs.

Keywords: *international business, globalization, trade promotion, foreign direct investment (FID), U.S. state governments*

16. PEER ASSESSMENT FOR GROUP PRESENTATIONS: AN INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT COURSE EXAMPLE

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses a group presentation assignment implemented in an international management course during the 2010-2011 academic year. The group presentation assignment related to a series of reports issued by Bisson, Stephenson, and Viguerie in June 2010 for McKinsey and Company, an international consulting firm. Those reports identified five "global forces" that in the authors' opinions will shape the future global business environment. The reports were published in McKinsey Quarterly. An additional report from McKinsey and Company was added to give students additional choice and reduce group size. Peer assessment entered the assignment in the form of both intra-group and inter-group assessment (Sivan, 2000). The intra-group peer assessment involved each student composing a 1-2

page double-spaced reflection paper about how their group worked together and how they felt about their performance during the presentation itself. This assessment became part of the summative assessment of each student in the course. The inter-group peer assessment involved students scoring the presentations of groups based on a provided rubric that included an optional comment section. This peer assessment became a portion of the summative assessment of the groups as well as a formative assessment of the student's ability to evaluate the course material when listening to the presentations. Additionally we conducted an anonymous survey to gauge student reactions and opinions to peer assessment. Some reflections and suggestions about implementing these types of group assignments and peer assessments in the classroom are discussed. Specifically, we discuss the challenges of implementing multiple peer assessment avenues, linking the group presentation and peer assessment to "real world" skills, and integrating the assignments with the rest of the course material.

Keywords: *International management, pedagogy, globalization, peer assessment*

17. IS THERE SALARY COMPRESSION?

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ABSTRACT

University academic rankings provide a useful method to classify years of experience. In general full professors have more years of academic experience than associates which is also the case at the associate versus the assistant rank. There are many exceptions to this guideline, but in general, we expect to find that, on average, full professors earn more than associate and associate more than assistant professors.

Inflation-adjusted differences among the ranks of full, associate and assistant professors were used in this study to address the question of salary compression. Findings at the IIA level for the West South Central Region and IIA national religiously-affiliated universities show no or very limited salary compression. This suggests universities, in the aggregate, follow expected economic theory and general salary practices that most entities in both the for-profit and not-for-profit areas follow as part of their compensation policies.

The authors are associated with a IIA Catholic university and are aware of universities that have salary compression issues. But the aggregate salary data suggest that the salary compression issue was limited to relatively few universities during the past decade.

Keywords: *Salary Compression, Inflation-adjusted Salary Differentials, Academic Ranks, IIA Universities, West South Central Region, Religiously-Affiliated*

18. DETERMINANTS OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL GRADUATION RATES

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents empirical results investigating the determinants of six-year graduation rate for college football teams. The research sample consists of 217 college football programs during the years 2003-2009. Demographic and performance data are from the 2007 college football season. Significant positive determinants of college football six-year graduation rates are profitability of the overall athletic

program, financial support the institution offers to college athletes, recruiting budget of the athletic program, and percent of the recruiting budget allocated to female athletes. The empirical results indicate profitability of the football program, classification as a public institution, average pay for head coaches, and percent of the financial support allocated to female athletes at an institution are negative and have a statistically significant impact on six-year graduation rates of football programs. Size of the institution defined by number of undergraduate students, number of wins, and classification as a Bowl Championship Series (BCS) team are not statistically significant determinants of college football six-year graduation rates.

Keywords: *Bowl Championship Series, College Athletics, College Football, Graduation Rates*

19. PERCEPTIONS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTIONS & RISK PROPENSITY: SELF RELIANCE AND SELF EFFICACY IN COLLEGE STUDENTS TO ENCOURAGE KNOWLEDGE

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to examine factors which may have significant impact on the entrepreneurial intentions of college students. Results indicate that dispositional factors of self efficacy, self reliance and risk propensity influence the entrepreneurial intentions of college students. Having access to relevant information and training early in their educational attainment may provide students an edge toward developing more competence, confidence and success in their entrepreneurial pursuits. It is particularly relevant during the contemporary times of significant economic turbulence contributing to corporate downsizing and potential increase in entrepreneurship opportunities. Implications for reaching out and identifying students in all majors who may have a predisposition to entrepreneurship while they are obtaining a college degree are discussed.

Key Words: *Perceptions of Entrepreneurial Intentions and Risk Propensity, Self Reliance for Entrepreneurial Intentions, Self-Efficacy*
