Undergraduate Research Assistants
Fall 2020

MCCOMBS STUDENT	MCCOMBS FACULTY	PROJECT	URA DUTIES
Chinmay Pingale	Sirkka Jarvenpaa (IROM)	The Urgency of Now: Temporal Strategies for Accelerating Vaccine Development	Chinmay helped to collect news articles and research reports on covid related knowledge claims. Such a knowledge claim would be "Nuropilin-1 facilitates SARS-CoV-2 cell entry and infectivity." Chinmay traced research and development activities that were associated with Covid Vaccine related knowledge claims. Those activities will be next coded for exploration, exploitation, temporalities, parties/relationships/platforms involved.
Vandan Patel	Kathleen T Li (MKT)	Causal Inference in Quasi-experimental Data Project	Vandan conducted an extensive literature review of marketing papers that use quasi-experimental methods for causal inference and through this process became familiar with popular methods such as the difference-in-differences and synthetic control methods. Next, Vandan used MATLAB to estimate treatment of showroom opening on sales in several cities using my newly developed method: the two-step synthetic control method. Finally, Vandan helped me brainstorm and collect data on interventions such as local, regional, and federal government policies (e.g., plastic bag ban, soda tax, marijuana legalization).
Michelle Xia	Yan Leng	Images says more: an interpretable visual-based recommender systems	Michele helped me prepare data for a recommender system using the Yelp review data. She used a google API to analyze images and used Python NLP packages for topic modeling and sentiment analysis. She also helped with merging different datasets related to data breaches.
Megna Arya	Huseyin Tanriverdi (IROM)	Ransomware attacks on U.S. Healthcare Providers	Megna Arya assisted with the development and validation of a dataset of ransomware attacks on health entities in the US (e.g., physician offices, physician networks, hospitals, multihospital systems). She identified affiliations of attacked health entities with any parent organizations and searched if any other organizational unit of the parent was affected by the same ransomware attack. The

			constructed ransomware dataset did not have any unique IDs to link it to other datasets. Megna used the names and location information of the attacked health entities to find their national provider identification (NPI) numbers if available. The NPI is a unique ID that we will use to match the ransomware dataset with structured datasets that provide data on characteristics of health entities. The matched datasets will enable us to study antecedents and mitigation mechanisms of ransomware attacks on healthcare providers.
Tanvi Shah	Johnathan B Cohn (FIN)	Diversity in Venture Capital Investors: How to Benefit from Similar and Diverging Marketing/Sales Capabilities	This is an ongoing project (please see my previous outcome report for details on previous tasks and achievements). This semester, we built on the previous successes and further amended the CrunchBase data set. Duties included: data crawling and collection from LinkedIn profiles as well as manual data coding. In addition, Tanvi created a second data set from annual reports that we will use in combination with the CrunchBase data set.
Rachel A. Reed	Cesare Fracassi (FIN)	Opening a Business in the U.S.	Rachel did an outstanding job helping us with collecting data on the ease (or hardship) in opening, maintaining, and closing corporations and LLCs in all 50 states. She went and collected information from states' website, cataloged it, and then extracted some key performance indicators that we are currently analyzing to determine how open are states for business.

Patricio Dieck, Mason Gross, Madison McBride, Divyank Mehta, Chi Pham, Ali Saffouri	Aaron Pancost (FIN)	Measuring Measurement Error	The URAs were instrumental in collecting data for a meta-analysis of published empirical economics and finance papers that use instrumental variables techniques. Each RA collected potential papers, determined whether they fit our sample criteria, and added the relevant data to the dataset. The last step involved not only careful extraction of the relevant data, but a thorough reading of the paper to understand the motivation for the use of instrumental variables and the expected direction of the OLS bias. Two of the URAs (Mehta and Saffouri) also assisted by replicating published papers in Stata. Saffouri also wrote Python code to scrap the library website to build the sample frame more efficiently.
Warren Chen	Clemens Sialm (FIN)	Investment Strategies of Hedge Funds and Mutual Funds around M&A Transactions	The URA helped me to put together a database that contrasts the investment strategies of hedge funds and mutual funds around M&A transactions. The project took advantage of a new database that looks at web traffic on the EDGAR server of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to see whether specific investors look at the filings of targets before the public announcements. The project involved the following tasks: (1) Study previous research on the trading strategies of mutual funds and hedge funds; (2) Match the identities of the IP Addresses to mutual funds and hedge funds; (3) Write Python code to extract and merge the various databases.
Anish Patel	Jonathan B Cohn (FIN)	Crowdfunding and venture capital financing	Anish helped identify entrepreneurs raising capital from the Kickstarter crowdfunding platform who subsequently successfully raise capital from venture capital firms. This process involved matching Kickstarter data with data from Preqin on venture capital financing using information about names of entrepreneurs, products for which entrepreneurs raised crowdfunding capital, and names of companies receiving venture capital financing.

Shayan Ali, Jane Andrews, Hannah Eisenberg, Tessa Garcia, Divya Koothan, Jennifer Lin, Lauren Martinez, Hillary Ou, Ekaterina Raleigh	Larissa R Garcia (Behavioral Lab Coordinator)	McCombs Behavioral Lab	The Undergraduate Research Assistants in the McCombs Behavioral Lab assisted several researchers in the Accounting, Management, and Marketing departments with data collection. This involved proctoring Zoom sessions and testing survey links. The URAs aided in qualitative data coding and manual web scraping on behalf of researchers.