

# full disclosure

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY  
2019 NEWSLETTER



## A Lasting Legacy

*How Jay Price and others inspired  
generations*





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# From the Department Head



Dear Alumni, Students, and Friends,

Each year, I look forward to highlighting some of our successes and accomplishments; we have had many. I know that much of our success today was built on the excellence established in previous generations. When I consider those who have helped lift and develop our students and programs, I cannot help but feel gratitude to those who have left a lasting legacy of excellence at Utah State University. When I think of excellence, I think of individuals who chose to “Dare Mighty Things” such as Dr. Larzette Hale (former School of Accountancy Department Head, the first African American

Woman CPA and PhD in Accounting), James Quigley (former Global CEO for Deloitte), Dr. Jay Price (former Arthur Anderson partner who taught at USU for 25 years without compensation), and the list could go on and on.

We are all part of this legacy of excellence, and I am thrilled to report that we continue to find ourselves on an upward trajectory. We continue to be ranked among the “Top 50” Bachelors (#42) and “Top 50” Masters (#47) Accounting Programs by the Public Accounting Report. For schools with a faculty size of 16 or fewer, we rank #5 and #6 in the bachelor’s and master’s degrees, respectively. Additionally, our students are “Top 35” in CPA Exam pass rates.

We have watched our students achieve individual recognition, high CPA exam pass rates, and national recognition. Several students have been recognized at USU and by national organizations for their academic excellence and leadership. Ben Hong received a national PCAOB Scholarship. Samuel Adams, Jessica Peters, Nathan Phillip, and Elijah Toa receiving four of the twelve national IMA Memorial Student Scholarships.

For the 41st consecutive year, Beta Alpha Psi has achieved “Superior” status, and for the 24th consecutive year, Institute of Management Accountants received the “Gold” chapter status. Both clubs’ streaks represent the longest consecutive streaks in the world. Our faculty continue to publish impactful research in leading academic journals. Our alumni continue to advance to leadership positions in the profession and generously give back. The SOA is moving in a positive direction and will continue to do so as we all continue to work together. We thank you all for your support, confidence, and generosity.

We have been touched by the generosity of so many. With your support, our students and programs are moving in the right direction. I hope that you join/continue supporting our efforts to leave a lasting legacy for future generations. Thank you for all that you do!

Go Aggies!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Chris Skousen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Skousen, Ph.D.  
Accounting Department Head

## IN THIS ISSUE:

4 Initiatives

6 Students

10 Faculty

13 Alumni





# initiatives

## Rankings

The School of Accountancy is happy to report that we are ranked in the “Top 50” graduate and undergraduate programs in The Public Accounting Report (PAR) 2019 Annual Rankings. For programs with 16 or fewer faculty members, the undergraduate program is ranked #5 and the master’s program is ranked #6. The overall ranking of all schools placed the undergraduate program at #42 and the master’s program at #47. The School of Accountancy continues to receive national recognition for our faculty and programs.

Professors rank the top undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral accounting programs in PAR’s Annual Professors Survey. Nearly 1,000 eligible accounting professors from approximately 200 U.S. colleges and universities that offer accounting degrees participated this year. The survey was conducted in March and April 2019. Each survey was validated, and ineligible submissions were disqualified. The survey is open to professors of accounting at U.S. colleges and universities that offer at least one accounting degree.

*(Public Accounting Report, August 2019)*

# TOP 50

## Meet The Firms

The annual Meet the Firms night was held on campus in Huntsman Hall on September 20, 2018. Nearly 175 professionally dressed students arrived in the Perry Pavilion ready to engage in conversation with nearly 100 professionals from local and national accounting firms, industry companies, and government agencies. Meet the Firms is one of many recruiting events sponsored by the School of Accountancy each fall through which students are able to network with professionals and gain insight into accounting careers. The students and professionals enjoy being able to attend this event on campus. Thank you to



the many firms and professionals who support this event each year.



## Quigley Ambassadors

The Quigley Ambassadors – student representatives for the School of Accountancy – planned and hosted multiple events to promote the program, recruit prospective students, and support current accounting students. The Women in Accounting Luncheon was very well-attended by students and professionals who were able to ask our distinguished panel questions regarding career paths and opportunities for women in the accounting profession. The Quigley Ambassadors

planned a variety of other events throughout the year including the Fall Kickoff Meeting, the Hot Cocoa Summer Leadership Night, Quigley Game Night (highlighted with a visit from Jim and Bonnie Quigley), and the first-ever Cohort Meeting. This meeting introduces new accounting students to each other and provides guidance regarding future opportunities in the program. In addition, the Quigley Ambassadors attended the BYU-Idaho Meet the Firms Night and hosted BYU-Idaho students for a tour of the USU campus and an Aggie basketball game. As always, these students are tremendous examples of hard work and dedication to the program, and they reflect well the other incredible students who make up our accounting undergraduate and graduate programs.



*Women in Accounting Luncheon*

## CPA Exam

For the sixth year in a row, the School of Accountancy has ranked among the top programs in the nation for the CPA Exam pass rate for first-time candidates in large programs (more than 60 candidates). USU ranked 28 out of 249 institutions, with 74.1 percent passing all four sections of the exam the first time—15 points higher than the national average. Partway through 2017, the CPA Exam content was restructured. The exam now focuses on higher skillsets where candidates are tested for logic and thought patterns instead of rote memorization. The change was made because candidates should not only understand the topics covered, but they should also be able to think logically, reason through ideas, and analyze concepts rather than simply regurgitating facts. Essentially, candidates are now taking a more difficult exam, and USU students have risen to the occasion.

**28<sup>th</sup>** out of  
**249 Institutions**

A light blue outline map of the United States is positioned behind the large ranking text, showing the geographical context of the institution's performance.





### Going Global—Jessica Peters

“During Spring Break 2019, I had the opportunity to join a small group of Huntsman Scholars on a trip to Bangalore, India to fulfill our Global Vision initiative. We had a technology focus as we prepared for and visited several global and local companies. Bangalore has been declared the largest technology hub in the world, and as an accounting major, I had a unique perspective with the application of technology in my future career. In fact, one of the companies we visited was PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), one of the Big 4 public accounting firms in the world, where I will be interning next summer. PwC’s representatives explained the background on Indian commerce as well as introduced us to the way they use technology. Ben Oates, a PwC employee and former Aggie, joined us and contributed to the discussion on the usefulness of technology in today’s world. In public accounting, data analytics drives decisions and the ability to communicate with teams across the world in a matter of minutes makes for a more efficient deliverable.

“The world continues to get smaller as technology advances. During my time in India, I was also able to form meaningful relationships with my peers and make connections with impressive business people that I plan on nourishing for a very long time. The creation of technology, as I witnessed in India, is never performed by one person alone. Teamwork is essential to achieve great things, and I know the relationships that were developed in those ten days will bless me as I pursue my goals and help others achieve theirs. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to learn more about the importance of adaptation, and I look forward to further application as I advance in my career. I’m also grateful to go to a school and be part of a program that allows me to have life-changing experiences.”

—JESSICA PETERS, MACC STUDENT



## Student Awards



### **McKennon Goff**

*Federation of Schools of Accountancy  
Outstanding Scholar*

McKennon Goff lived in both Kouts, Indiana and Salt Lake City, Utah before attending Utah State University. He graduated in May 2019 with undergraduate degrees in accounting and economics and a graduate degree in accounting.

His desire to pursue accounting came from the intriguing work involved in his introductory accounting courses and his earlier work experience as an accounting intern for Maverik, Inc. He held that position with Maverik for two summers and has since completed internships for TAB Bank and PwC. He returned to PwC in the fall of 2019 as an assurance associate in Salt Lake City. During his time at Utah State, he received the A-Pin Award from the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business for being able to carry 15 or more credit hours for consecutive semesters and maintain a 4.0 GPA. McKennon has also volunteered and fundraised for the National M.S. Society, an organization in which his family likes to remain actively involved. Other activities he enjoys are attending sporting events, catching a good movie, and going to concerts.



### **Jared Fry**

*UACPA Outstanding Student*

Jared Fry is currently pursuing a Master of Accounting degree with an emphasis in taxation from Utah State University. He was able to earn his bachelor's degree in three years and is currently enrolled in the Professional Accounting

Program. In his first year of college, Jared made it his priority to become involved in as many activities as possible. Throughout his educational career, Jared has held three jobs and has been involved in multiple on-campus organizations. The involvement that he has valued most has been his positions within the School

of Accountancy. He had the opportunity to serve as the treasurer and president of the Institute of Management Accountants, vice president of the Delta Omega Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, student administrator for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, campus ambassador for the UACPA, and was recently selected as a Quigley Ambassador. The experiences that Jared has had with the different programs in the School of Accountancy have provided him with opportunities for personal growth and professional development. Jared was recently named senator for the School of Graduate Studies. He hopes to use this position to enhance financial literacy among graduate students on campus. This summer, Jared attended a tax internship with Deloitte in London, England, and he enjoyed the opportunity.



### **Ally Rawson**

*Outstanding Student Leader*

Ally Rawson is from Riverton, Utah. She has always loved to challenge herself and became passionate about accounting early on in her academic career at Utah State. In addition to excelling academically, she has sought opportunities to be involved and

give back to an incredible program that has given her so much. Ally has been involved in many different activities and organizations during her time at USU, including serving as Beta Alpha Psi President and a Quigley Ambassador. Ally was also involved with the business council, the VITA program, the accounting tutor lab, and maintained several part-time jobs. She believes that every opportunity is a chance to learn something valuable and take a step towards achieving your potential. Ally completed an internship with Tanner, LLC in April of this year and will finish her Master of Accounting in December with an emphasis in taxation. Her husband will be serving as an officer in the U.S. Army, and she looks forward to traveling with him and doing taxes wherever they end up. When she's not staring at spreadsheets, Ally enjoys cooking and eating food, running, being outdoors, and spending time with her husband.

## Ben Hong

*PCAOB Outstanding Scholar*

The School of Accountancy was excited to nominate and have Ben Hong selected to receive a \$10,000 PCAOB scholarship. Ben was born in Blackfoot, Idaho into a mixed-race family. His upbringing incorporated elements from two cultures, and his experiences have helped give him unique perspectives and the desire to take advantage of opportunities given to him. He takes pride in his studies because knows the value of education. Ben graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in accounting in May 2019 and is pursuing a master's degree in accounting this fall. Upon graduation next spring, Ben plans to begin his career with EY where he recently completed an internship.





## Ally Rawson-Legacy of USU

Ally Rawson recently received the Huntsman School of Business “Legacy of Utah State” award which recognizes students who represent the heart and soul of the university. Criteria for this award include a commitment to the institution, internal involvement and service, dedication to the department, contributions behind the scenes, and a strong work ethic. Ally embodies all of these qualities, and we are happy that she has been recognized for her many efforts here at USU.

Ally is one of the most intelligent, involved, dedicated, and hardworking students we have ever seen in the School of Accountancy. In addition to her exemplary performance in the classroom, she has an impressive list of departmental service, involvement, and additional responsibilities. Ally has served as a Quigley Ambassador, BAP president and vice president, Business Council member, research assistant, accounting tutor, and VITA volunteer. This impressive list of service has been provided while Ally has taken a strenuous course load, worked multiple part and full-time jobs, and supported her husband in his degree and military service. Ally has extraordinary drive and a great work ethic, remarkable intelligence, and distinctive leadership capabilities. She is the ultimate example of what Utah State University students can achieve, and we are proud to have her as a student in the School of Accountancy.

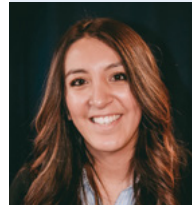
Congratulations Ally!

*Ally Rawson with Dean Douglas Anderson*



## Leading the Way

USU School of Accountancy students Jared Fry and Jenny Patino were both elected to the USU Student Association Executive Council for the 2019-20 academic year. Jenny will serve as the Diversity Vice President, and Jared will serve as the Graduate Studies Senator.

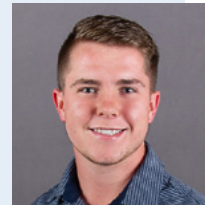


**ORGANIZATION & CAMPUS DIVERSITY VP**  
*Jenny Patino, Accounting*

Jenny is a first-generation junior from Idaho Falls. When she entered USU, her main goal was to get involved, and that’s what she did. She has been involved with the A-Team, Aggie First Scholars, President’s Cabinet, Series Committee, Aggie Blue Committee, Elections Committee, Kappa Delta Sorority, Beta Alpha Psi, and is currently the Diversity Director. Besides that, she loves to be with family and friends, hike, travel, read, and eat delicious Mexican food. She loves Daring

Mighty Things and will continue “Daring” to succeed as an Accounting student.

Jared is also a highly involved student. Beginning in his freshman year of college and continuing throughout college, he’s attended as many campus activities as possible while holding down three jobs and earning his bachelor’s degree in three years. Jared has served in many leadership positions in the School of Accountancy including president and treasurer of IMA, vice president of BAP, and as a Quigley Ambassador. He has also volunteered many hours in the VITA program, as a campus ambassador for the UACPA, and supporting many of his peers in their club assignments. One of Jared’s goals as graduate senator is to improve awareness of the benefits of going to graduate school.



**GRADUATE SENATOR**  
*Jared Fry, Accounting*

## Financial Planning Association Student Chapter

FPA is the Financial Planning Association Student Chapter at USU. Members of the Student Chapter are also members of the Financial Planning Association Utah Chapter and the national Financial Planning Association. The organization was led by an excellent and actively involved group of student officers. During the 2018-2019 school year, FPA sponsored an opening social, monthly meetings with professional speakers and panels, and a banquet. The monthly meetings were open to all interested students. Finance Professor Ben Blau spoke about “How to Invest Your First \$100 as a College Student.” Debbie Andersen—a very successful loan officer and the grandmother of a former president of our student chapter—spoke about “How to Buy Your First Home.” Craig Adams—a very successful graduate of the Huntsman School of Business—spoke about “The Perks of Owning Your Own Financial Planning Firm.” Finance Professor Ryan

Whitby spoke about “How to Build an Investment Portfolio.” As in the previous year, we enjoyed excellent attendance at our professional meetings. This year, the annual banquet in April included an excellent panel of financial planning professionals who answered a variety of questions posed by the students who attended. FPA members also participated in several activities sponsored by the School of Accountancy and USU. Some FPA Student Chapter members participated in professional meetings sponsored by the Utah Chapter of FPA in Salt Lake City. In November of 2018, several student officers and members of our FPA Student Chapter attended the Annual FPA of Utah Symposium in Salt Lake City. The trip was an enjoyable and educational experience for those who attended.



*FPA Professional Meeting*





IMA officers and Frank Shuman at annual conference

## IMA

What a tremendous year for our IMA student chapter members! For the first time ever, our chapter had four students receive national IMA scholarships. Samuel Adams, Jessica Peters, Nathan Phillips, and Elijah Toa all received scholarships for the 2019-20 academic year. Samuel and Jessica served as chapter officers for the 2018-19 academic year, and Samuel will serve as our student chapter president for the 2019-20 academic year. The IMA organization annually awards 12 scholarships on a national basis. All scholarship recipients will be recognized at the upcoming IMA student leadership conference this fall in Charlotte.

For the 24th consecutive year, we achieved the Gold Award of Excellence, and for the ninth time, our chapter was designated as one of the top four “Outstanding Student Chapters.” Frank Shuman, our faculty advisor, attributes the continuing success of the chapter to the dedicated officer group he works with each year. Highlights included student chapter officers attending the IMA student leadership conference in St. Louis, field trips to the Space Dynamics Laboratory and the Cache Valley Electric facility, and seven outstanding technical meetings with Thad Lemon—as one of the featured speakers. Continuing a holiday tradition, we were able to raise funds and sponsor seven Cache Valley children with our Sub-for-Santa fundraiser.

## All-American

Sindri Gudmundsson (a junior majoring in accounting and thrower for USU’s track & field team) earned first-team All-American honors for the third consecutive year by placing fourth in the finals of the javelin this past June at the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Austin, Texas.

Sindri is just the third Aggie to ever secure first-team All-American honors three times in one event, joining James Parker (hammer) and Corey Murdock (400-meter hurdles).

“It is very special,” said second-year Utah State head track and field coach, Matt Ingebritsen, “Becoming a first-team All-American at all is a big deal, and to do it three times in a row takes a very special athlete and person. Sindri has put himself in great company to be mentioned in the same breath as James Parker and Corey Murdock. He is definitely leaving a legacy at Utah State that will not soon be matched.”

Congratulations Sindri!



## Beta Alpha Psi

Forty-one consecutive years of superior status! This summer, the Delta Omega chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) received official notice of our 41st consecutive year of superior chapter status. We often brag about this status being the longest streak of any such BAP chapter and for good reason. Our BAP members, student officers, faculty, and alumni give back generously to our students, USU, and the community. This past year, our BAP members provided over 609 hours of service. Students involved with BAP truly make a difference and go the extra mile preparing for careers of meaning and distinction. We recognize with gratitude the tremendous contributions of Bonnie Villarreal, the BAP Advisor, as she moves on to new career endeavors. Professor Chris Skousen had this to say regarding Bonnie’s service to BAP: “Few individuals have had a more meaningful contribution to BAP than Bonnie Villarreal. She is a real difference-maker at the chapter and national levels of BAP. She is the chair of BAP’s national service and leadership experience with ‘Project Run with It.’ She has made and will continue to make a difference in whatever she is involved in. We will greatly miss her leadership.”



Bonnie Villarreal with newly elected BAP officers

# faculty

## Faculty Retirements



### Jef Doyle

Great transformations often begin with small steps, but sometimes, they can start with a big leap. The School of Accountancy definitely experienced the latter when Professor Jef Doyle joined the faculty in 2006. When the George S. Eccles foundation established the Endowed Chair in Capital Markets Research in the SOA, we knew immediately who should fill it. To be able to attract an accounting researcher of Jef's caliber seemed a long-shot. After all, with a Michigan PhD, a University of Utah appointment, and coming off a year as a visiting professor at Stanford, there were many lucrative options available to him. But it never hurts to ask! The rest is history. Jef instantly became our franchise player to build around. His research profile brought immediate recognition to the SOA. He served as a research fellow for the FASB, and his presence on our faculty made it

possible to attract other outstanding researchers from top-tier PhD programs. As you look at the current SOA faculty, you will see the upward trajectory of the school that began with Jef's appointment. One might ask, "What has this elevated research recognition done for teaching and student outcomes?" When Jef arrived at USU, the department was implementing a new learning outcome assessments program to ensure we were delivering quality in the classroom. Jef enthusiastically embraced this program and developed a personal outcomes assessment method that went far beyond the program outlined by the department. He thoroughly dissected and analyzed his teaching assessment data to continuously improve his teaching. His enhanced approach would later be adopted for new faculty hires as they progressed toward tenure. Teaching excellence is not easy to achieve, yet Jef made it look easy. Blessed with a rapid-fire wit and technical brilliance, he engaged students in an unparalleled classroom experience. His Eldon J. Gardner Teaching Award and his USU Professor of the Year awards (both in 2009) were highlights of the many recognitions he received. His impact on the School of Accountancy will continue to be felt for years to come. We will miss him.



*“Bonnie always cared enough to give freely of her time, and she created opportunities for us to pursue. She didn’t give anyone a free ride as we still had to convert the opportunity, but she counseled us on how to do it. I learned a lot from Bonnie such as how to show you care for others and how to help students build skills and confidence are two of many examples. Interacting with and learning from her have made me a better person.”*

– JON MEDRANO



*“... you are never too young or too old to dare mighty things.”*

### Bonnie Villarreal

Over the past nine years, no faculty member has been more visible in making a difference in accounting students’ lives than Bonnie Villarreal. In Spring 2019, Bonnie announced she had acquired a local accounting firm and has re-joined the accounting profession. Bonnie has been an integral part of our program as a lecturer, graduate program advisor, Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) advisor, and VITA advisor. Former student, Ana Gines, had this to say about Bonnie: “Bonnie was the best mentor I could have ever asked for. With her endless energy, there were so many things I learned from her, including the joy and fulfillment that comes from serving others, and that you are never too young or too old to dare mighty things.” We are excited for Bonnie and wish her all the best.

*“Whether she was helping me to weigh different career opportunities, offering further explanations on concepts learned in class, or simply listening as I shared life concerns, Bonnie took a genuine interest in my life. I could count on her if I needed anything. I know that I am not the only student who had a strong connection with Bonnie. She provided this safe haven for many students, and her legacy among Huntsman students will certainly be remembered.”*

– RACHEL WARD



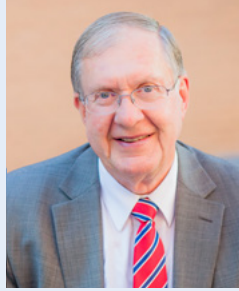
## Faculty Awards



**Chad Simon**

RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

School of Accountancy



**Vance Grange**

FACULTY SERVICE AWARD

School of Accountancy



**Devon Erickson**

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

School of Accountancy & Jon M. Huntsman School of Business



**Brad Lindsey**

UNDERGRADUATE MENTOR OF THE YEAR

School of Accountancy

## Vance Grange Completes 40 Years of Service at USU

In the summer of 1974, Vance Grange completed his service as a military intelligence officer in the United States Army, spent most of his savings traveling in Europe, and then traveled to Logan, Utah to begin his studies in the Master of Accountancy program at Utah State University. That began a two-year period during which he studied accounting and business, met and married his wife, Tamara, met and learned many things from Professor Larzette Hale and other professors in the College of Business, and began employment with Price Waterhouse & Co. in Sacramento, California.

He worked in both the audit and tax departments at Price Waterhouse & Co., but he kept thinking about how much he had enjoyed teaching accounting as a graduate student at Utah State University. When an instructor position was advertised by the School of Accountancy at USU, he applied and began full-time employment at USU in the fall of 1978. After teaching at USU for two years, he took a leave of absence to pursue a Ph.D. in accounting (taxation) at the University of Texas at Austin. He returned to USU in the fall of 1983, and he has since completed 40 years of service at USU as of the beginning of fall semester in 2018.

Vance is still employed full-time at USU. He teaches courses in taxation, personal financial planning, retirement planning, estate planning, and financial plans, and he serves as the faculty advisor of the Financial Planning Association Student Chapter. He thoroughly enjoys teaching and especially enjoys interaction with students and the faculty and staff of Utah State University. His employment at USU has been and continues to be his dream job.



## Welcome Kathryn Brightbill

Visiting Assistant Professor, Dr. Kathryn Brightbill, graduated with her PhD in accounting from the University of Iowa and bachelor's in accounting from Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation explores the conditions under which analyst teams issue higher quality forecasts than solo peers. To do so, she hand-collected a sample of more than 17,000 analyst reports. This project is currently under review at *The Accounting Review*. Her research interests include information in-intermediaries and linguistic analysis centering on pragmatics. Prior to joining our faculty, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor at The University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She enjoys going for walks, playing board games with friends and family, and staying up entirely too late!



A portrait of Scott Nixon, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a dark red tie. He is smiling slightly. The word "alumni" is overlaid in white lowercase letters on the bottom left of the image.

# alumni

## Scott Nixon, a USU Hero!

Actually, USU does not formally recognize heroes. However, if we did, Scott Nixon would get the medal. Scott is a 1984 School of Accountancy graduate. He has been a steady contributor for many years and in countless ways. Most recently, he completed eight years on the USU Board of Trustees. Scott says of this role: “Of all the things I have been lucky enough to be involved with, this experience was one of the best. I feel like I was able to make a difference in ways that truly lift the University and the lives of our students.” Scott never missed a Trustee meeting during his eight-year tenure.

Scott retired from PwC as a partner in June 2015 after over 31 years with the firm. During his time at PwC, he was regularly involved on the School of Accountancy Advisory Board. He was also supportive as a guest lecturer, recruiter of many students, active participant in the accreditation processes, and generous financial donor. Former department head, Larry Walther, said: “I still vividly remember meeting Scott Nixon upon my first visit to Logan. He was most engaging, and I immediately felt welcomed to campus. He has a keen mind and a great sense humor. Laurie and I really came to love the entire Nixon family.” Immediately following his retirement, Scott spent a semester teaching intermediate accounting and advanced accounting and SEC reporting. He likely would have continued in that role, but he and his wife, Shiree, were called to service for his church, hosting VIP visitors to Utah. He additionally has been serving on a total of six boards of directors including two public companies since his retirement.

Scott Nixon and his wife, Shiree, are now off on a new assignment. He was recently called to serve three years as mission president in Fortaleza, Brazil. Scott and his family previously lived in Brazil for four years while on assignment for PwC Global, so his professional career leaves him well skilled to continue to touch the lives of others. The SOA wishes him well in this new endeavor and we know that he will be back just in time to teach classes at USU again in the Fall of 2022!

## Spirit of Jay Price Award

RYAN J. DENT, '00

Ryan Dent has been committed to serving his community throughout his life in various church assignments and on community boards with Utah State University, Boy Scouts of America, Mountain West Capital Network, and the Utah Food Bank where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Ryan's love for serving Utah State University spans many years and began with his involvement in student government while he was an undergraduate student. Ryan graduated from USU with his bachelor's degree in 1999 and a master's degree in 2000. He has served the university in several areas since that time including on the Advisory Board for the School of Accountancy, the Alumni Executive Board, USU Extension Advisory Council, Alumni Chapter President, and the Board of Trustees. He is passionate about the work that Utah State University and the Huntsman School of Business do to prepare students for their life's goals and successful careers in an ever-changing and digital business marketplace.

Ryan is a partner in PwC's Financial Services sector, and he has consulted with and supervised audit engagements of public and privately-owned companies for 19 years. Ryan is currently leading PwC's audit practice in Salt Lake City and is the firm's recruiting leader for Utah State University.

A family man above all else, Ryan is married to his beautiful wife Karen (also an Aggie) and they have four children – two boys (ages 18 and 13) and two girls (ages 16 and 11). Ryan's oldest son plans to attend USU this coming fall and is proud and excited to start the next legacy of Aggies in the family. Ryan is an avid fly-fisherman and golfer, and he loves to travel. He also enjoys spending time at the ballpark watching all four of his children play baseball and softball. Ryan and Karen recently established the Ryan and Karen Dent Aggie Family Scholarship for students in accounting.



## School of Accountancy Distinguished Alumnus

DARREN T. BENSON '96

Darren received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Accounting degrees from Utah State University in 1995 and 1996, respectively.

Darren is a managing member of Strata Fund Solutions, LLC—a company he co-founded in 2008. Strata is an investment fund administrator headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah providing accounting, tax, and operational compliance and consulting services to the private equity, venture capital, real estate, and hedge fund industries. He currently directs the strategic planning of Strata as well as oversees tax and compliance services.

Prior to Strata, Darren served as Chief Financial Officer for Sire Management Corporation—a fund of hedge funds group located in New York City. He also worked for J.D. Clark & Company—a hedge fund administrator—where he served as Managing Director from 2003 to 2006 and as President from 2006 to 2007.

Both Darren and his wife Brigeta (English '93 graduate) have benefited greatly from their educations and experiences as students at USU. Darren enjoys returning to USU, speaking to students, attending recruiting events, and supporting the school in helping students meet their goals. Darren and Brigeta have five children with one currently attending USU.



## 40 Under 40

HEATHER ALLEN '04

School of Accountancy alum, Heather Allen '04, was recognized in the February 2019 edition of Utah Business magazine as a "40 Under 40"

honoree. Heather was recently promoted to tax partner at Tanner LLC and is one of the few female partners in public accounting in Utah. She said, "Throughout my career, I haven't had many women with senior management or partner positions to model a career path after." To help make up for that, Heather has created internal programs and initiatives specifically designed to recruit and mentor future female partners, and it is making a difference.

Heather has over 14 years of experience serving public and private companies. Prior to joining Tanner LLC, she was with a Big 4 accounting firm in Salt Lake City. Heather understands multiple phases of tax compliance and consulting including consolidated filing issues, international taxation, multi-state corporations, partnerships, S corporations, individual taxation, and tax provisions. Heather graduated at the top of her class from Utah State University and currently serves on the School of Accountancy's advisory board. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants.





# Leaving a Lasting Legacy

What is your legacy? Some set examples to follow, others share words of advice, and some decide to make their legacy stretch into perpetuity via the sharing of hard-won financial resources. Such is the case with gifts of endowed scholarships from three of our alums during the past year:



## Jay Price

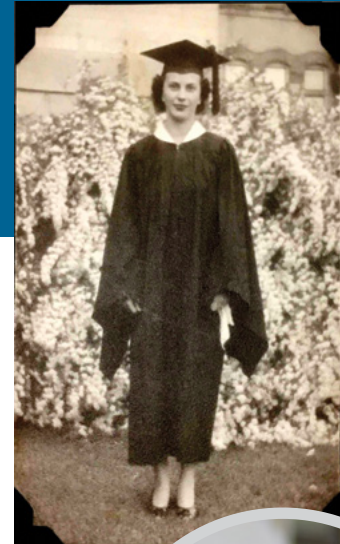
On June 14, 2019, our dear friend Dr. Jay H. Price, Jr. died in Chicago at the age of 93. Dr. Price certainly left a lasting legacy at Utah State University.

After retirement from Arthur Anderson at age 62, Jay began his second career as an educator, donating his time teaching accounting at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and Utah State University (Logan) along with serving as a visiting professor at Stanford University teaching economics for public utilities. He received an honorary doctorate degree from USU in 1993, Distinguished Service Award in 2001, and Teacher of the Year award in 2004. He also made significant financial contributions to the University, helping to establish the Arthur Anderson Alumni Accounting Professorship endowment and the Jay H. Price Student Scholarship endowment.

Each year, the USU School of Accountancy gives an award to an alum who embodies the attributes of Jay, one of service, generosity, and charity. The award, called the “Spirit of Jay Price Award,” is considered the highest award conferred by the School of Accountancy. Jay has left a lasting legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.



Richard Jenson, Jay Price, Cliff Skousen, David Luthy



*In 1944, Lila became the first woman to graduate in accounting at USU.*

## Lila Watterson

Lila was ahead of her time as USU’s first female graduate in accounting. In Lila’s words, “I was good with numbers, adding up rows and numbers very quickly, and I enjoyed tracking where every penny went and how every penny was spent.” Lila recently celebrated her 98th birthday, and fondly remembers her time at what was then called the Utah State Agricultural College. She is the mother and grandmother of numerous USU graduates (including Icon Health and Fitness co-founder Scott Watterson). Lila has left a lasting legacy of the importance of getting a good education.



Four generations of Lila’s family celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday this summer.

# new endowed scholarships

## Paula Rosson

Paula Rosson was a first-generation graduate, having earned both undergraduate ('88) and graduate ('89) degrees from the School of Accountancy. By combining both work and a scholarship while in school, Paula was able to enter her first job debt free. After beginning with a public accounting firm, she went on to leadership roles as a financial executive. She decided to give in order to help others begin on a solid footing as they reach for their own dreams in business and in life.



*I firmly believe we, alumni of the School of Accountancy, are best positioned to be the stewards of this fine program and this endowment is one small step in that ongoing goal. The value of our education is more than graduating and becoming a successful professional; it's about trying to find ways to acknowledge the support of others and pay it forward to inspire and support future School of Accountancy alumni.*

— PAULA ROSSON

## Eric & Michelle Rasmussen

*I sincerely believe that with blessings comes a responsibility to give back. I was further inspired by at least a couple of examples of generosity. One significant example was Dr. Jay Price whose legacy to USU has benefited so many. He mentored me on a number of occasions, and his example of excellence and caring has always been an inspiration. My second example of inspiration is the dedication of my professors. To me, it seemed like their careers were more than just a job and that they gave more than just what was required. I believe giving back is a responsibility of those of us who have been given so many opportunities by others in the past. I hope my small part will in some small way make a difference for someone who otherwise would not be able to pursue their goals and dreams.*



A familiar theme is shared by Michelle and Eric Rasmussen. Each benefited from scholarships as they earned their undergraduate and graduate degrees from USU. Michelle studied in the School of Communicative Disorders and shares similarly warm feelings about her time at USU. Michelle believes faculty willingness to put students first is part of what it means to be an Aggie. Eric notes that the KPMG Foundation has generously matched many of his gifts to USU, and the School appreciatively acknowledges KPMG's steady assistance over the years.

— ERIC RASMUSSEN





## Ryan & Karen Dent

Karen and Ryan Dent both graduated from Utah State University and love being part of the Aggie family. Ryan notes that the environment, culture, academics, leadership opportunities, relationships, and challenges embraced as a student were “life defining.” Ryan and Karen both worked part time while in school, and they were also supported by University scholarships. As a new graduate, Ryan didn’t have a lot of extra money to give back, but he was ever present in volunteer activities. With business success came the ability to support annual gifts and now a permanent endowment that will keep on paving a path for the success of others.

“When the opportunity presented itself to have an endowed scholarship and the ability to work out a plan with the University that aligned with our goals and our financial situation, we couldn’t pass it up. The University was great to work with and my company (PwC) was very helpful with a matching gift opportunity. Karen’s grandfather was a professor in the College of Education, and I remember going to a scholarship dinner where a scholarship was given to a student from a small endowment he had set up. He was retired, but I remember thinking that an endowed scholarship was a great way to mark a legacy and teach others how to show gratitude for what this University has given you. Through our gift, we hope the scholarship recipients know how much this University has given to us. We hope our small gift will be meaningful to them in their educational pursuits, but more importantly, we hope they will find ways to give back and continue to accelerate this culture of giving.

— RYAN DENT



Your contribution can change lives for the better. To give of your time or to support a student financially, please visit [huntsgift.usu.edu/give](https://huntsgift.usu.edu/give)



## Scholarship Donors & Recipients

*Thank you to our professional partners and alumni for their generous contributions that make these scholarships possible.*

\$7,000	Huntsman Best & Brightest Scholarship	Brooke Butterfield	\$2,500	Frank A. Condie Scholarship	Brayden Lunt
\$7,000	Huntsman Best & Brightest Scholarship	Benjamin Hong	\$2,500	Vernon & MaRee Buehler Scholarship	Tanner Misustin
\$7,000	Jay H. Price Scholarship	Marcus Tarr	\$2,500	Jay H. Price Scholarship	Germaine Morazan
\$7,000	Joseph & Diane Keller Scholarship	Kolten Williams	\$2,500	Keeler Thomas Scholarship	Alexis Olson
\$5,000	Normon and Virginia Cannon Scholarship	Joshua Cook	\$2,500	WSRP Scholarship	Amanda Paice
\$4,500	School of Graduate Studies Scholarship	Taylor Clark	\$2,500	Edna Southworth Scholarship	Diana Stoddard
\$4,500	V.D. Gardner Scholarship	Trevor Fry	\$2,500	Steven R. Smith Scholarship	Kelsie Tolbert
\$4,500	School of Graduate Studies Scholarship	William Labrum	\$2,000	School of Graduate Studies Scholarship	Steven Barson
\$4,500	PwC Scholarship	Jaeden May	\$2,000	Eide Bailly Scholarship	Shelby Carter
\$4,500	School of Graduate Studies Scholarship	Nathan Phillips	\$2,000	Jay H. Price Scholarship	Alexa Davis
\$4,000	IMA Scholarship/SOA Scholarship	Samuel Adams	\$2,000	Haynie & Company Scholarship	Sadikshya Gautam
\$4,000	Mark & Jennifer Erickson Scholarship	Jessa Barton	\$2,000	Normon and Virginia Cannon Scholarship	Stephanie Greenland
\$4,000	KPMG Scholarship	Adam Stocks	\$2,000	Cliff & Janice Skousen Scholarship	Abigail Phillips
\$3,500	Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship/SOA Scholarship	Jared Fry	\$2,000	Lynn & Irma Janes Scholarship	Jenna Young
\$3,500	Robert V. Doyle Scholarship	Scott Nisbet	\$2,000	Tom & Stephanie Colligan Scholarship	Matthew Edmunds
\$3,500	Preston & Amy Jensen Scholarship	Jessica Peters	\$1,500	Richard & Lura Buist Scholarship	Adam Esplin
\$3,500	Larzette G. Hale Scholarship	Peang Ung	\$1,500	Frank A. Condie Scholarship	Kayley Knudsen
\$3,000	Scott & Shiree Nixon Scholarship	Deanza Atkinson	\$1,500	Ralph & Roberta Peck Scholarship	McKenzie McDougal
\$3,000	Frank & Anita Shuman Scholarship	Ryan Lee	\$1,500	EY Scholarship	Jared Myer
\$3,000	Deloitte Scholarship	Aubree Matheson	\$1,500	Eric & Michelle Rasmussen Scholarship	Jeffrey Niebergall
\$3,000	Jones Simkins Scholarship	Charity Parkinson	\$1,500	School of Accountancy Scholarship	Jay Taylor
\$3,000	PwC Scholarship	Shannan Peel	\$1,500	School of Accountancy Scholarship	Brandon Terry
\$3,000	Tanner Scholarship	Allyson Rawson	\$1,500	Paula Rosson Scholarship	Elijah Toa
\$3,000	Scott & Shiree Nixon Scholarship	Neal Sessions	\$1,500	Larzette G. Hale Scholarship	Emily Weaver
\$3,000	A. James Larson Scholarship	Gary Tarpenning	\$1,500	School of Accountancy Scholarship	Benjamin White
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\$2,500	Edna Southworth Scholarship	Paige Hlavaty	\$1,000	Squire Scholarship	Chase Thurgood
\$2,500	Jay H. Price Scholarship	Braydon Lowry			



## All-In Award

The School of Accountancy is proud to recognize firms and businesses that achieved 100% participation in the alumni giving campaign with an “All-In” Award.

Firms receiving the School of Accountancy’s All-In Award for 2018 include: Eide Bailly, Haynie & Company, Deloitte, PwC, and Tanner LLC. As more and more Aggies enter the workforce, achieving “All-In” status becomes increasingly difficult. Two of the firms listed above employ more than 15 Aggies. We salute those firms who have achieved this award. Donations received from the campaign enable us to support student scholarships, build permanent endowments, and provide continuing educational opportunities for our students.

If your firm would like to join the list for the 2019 calendar year, please contact the School of Accountancy at [soa@usu.edu](mailto:soa@usu.edu) for more information.



Left to right: Chris Skousen, Heather Allen – Tanner, Ken Jeppesen – Eide Bailly, Wes Yeomans – Deloitte, Ryan Dent – PwC, (Haynie & Company not pictured)

## Donations to the School of Accountancy August 2018-August 2019

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**\$10,000 +**

Benson, Darren & Brigeta  
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Walther, Larry & Laurie

### GOLD CIRCLE

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

Anger, Gail & Martha  
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Rosson, Paula

### SILVER CIRCLE

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## DR. LARZETTE HALE

*Former USU Accounting Department Head*

**First** African-American woman CPA to earn a PhD in Accounting

**First** African-American female department head of accounting in the US

**First** African-American to serve as national president for Beta Alpha Psi

**First** African-American appointed to the Utah Board of Regents of Higher Education

Always put students **first**, inspiring students like former Deloitte CEO (and proud Aggie) Jim Quigley to always do his best work, and continuing to teach even after she retired from USU.



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