

full disclosure

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY
2020 NEWSLETTER

Over 40 Years of Commitment to Students

Vance Grange

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From the Department Head



Dare Mighty Things! This powerful phrase is the “rallying cry” of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University. It is the thread that unites us and underscores the vision that guides us as we plan our strategic course. With this bold statement, we shape the questions that our faculty address through their research and the curriculum we create to ensure that our students are prepared to lead in a rapidly evolving global marketplace.

I regularly observe our students, alumni, and faculty daring mighty things - making a difference in our school, community, and homes. I have been deeply impressed with the many stories of daring mighty things that have emerged as we navigate the impact and uncertainty created by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

And of course, our students; they have shown remarkable resourcefulness as they transitioned to a new online learning environment and resilience as they departed campus, leaving behind friends, student clubs, and community connections. They have rallied, adapted, and adjusted to new ways of learning, living, and engaging with our campus community.

This past spring, Utah State University made the difficult decision to shift to online teaching and learning, putting the health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty first. Our faculty have been extraordinary, quickly transitioning their courses to online formats. Almost overnight, our staff adapted, providing advising and career service support remotely, surrounding our students with all of the guidance and counsel that they need to be successful. Our students have been amazing as they adjusted to new learning experiences and often challenging learning environments. They are remarkably resourceful and dedicated to success. I am told of a student who

would drive nearly 30 miles each night to get internet access so she could continue her education. Challenges are being faced and overcome!

From alumni like Lori Weston '11, CEO of Intermountain Park City Hospital, who was recently named one of the “Top 5” hospital administrators in the country, to distinguished alumnus Mark Low '89, Partner at Jones Simkins, and Jay Price Service award recipient, Mark Erickson '95, partner at Tanner who give their time, talent, and treasure to the School of Accountancy, we are united in our commitment to Dare Mighty Things.

Through all of the excitement of this past year, we continue to find our programs and clubs being recognized as among the best. Beta Alpha Psi and Institute of Management Accountants student organizations continue their streaks of excellence, 42 and 26 years respectively. Our CPA Exam pass rates remain high as do our graduate and undergraduate rankings. We have hired two new faculty, Lacey Wilkey and Paul Campbell, and converted Kate Brightbill from a visiting to a tenure track assistant professor position. We are thrilled to have each of them join the School of Accountancy. They each bring significant accounting knowledge and expertise.

Last but not least, we congratulate Dr. Vance Grange for 40 plus years of service to the School of Accountancy. Vance announced his retirement effective June 30, 2020. As a former student and colleague of Vance, I wholeheartedly voice my gratitude and appreciation for him. Vance will be deeply missed.

As you read our newsletter, I hope you feel inspired to engage with those around you to Dare Mighty Things, whether in business, education, or service. With this focus, I am confident that we will emerge from this time in our history as stronger individuals and leaders.

Sincerely,

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

Chris Skousen, Ph.D.
Accounting Department Head

A LASTING LEGACY OF GIVING

Dr. Jay H. Price, Jr.



Through generous contributions exceeding \$1 million, the School of Accountancy and Jon M. Huntsman School of Business are pleased to announce the creation of the Dr. Jay H. Price, Jr. / Arthur Anderson Endowed Professorship. Few individuals have left a legacy at Utah State University such as Dr. Jay H. Price, Jr. On June 14, 2019, our dear friend Dr. Jay H. Price, Jr. passed away in Chicago at the age of 93. After retirement from Arthur Anderson at age 62, Jay began his second career as an educator, donating his time teaching accounting at Utah State University (Logan) and University of Wisconsin (Madison) along with serving as a visiting professor at Stanford University, teaching economics for public utilities.

Former Arthur Anderson partner and USU graduate Joseph Keller had this to say about Jay:

“Jay Price was a humble man of integrity and quiet strength. He was a man of service and many were beneficiaries of his unselfish service. His exemplary service to his clients at Arthur Andersen made him an outstanding partner and reflected positively on the firm. His dedicated service to his students at USU changed their lives and brought honor to the university. All of us who had the opportunity to rub shoulders with Jay Price are better because of that association.”

Jay Price selflessly gave of his time and resources to make Utah State University’s School of Accountancy a better place than he left it. In addition to donating his teaching time, he 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. He was recognized for his contributions with the awarding of an honorary doctorate degree from USU in 1993, Distinguished Service Award in 2001, and Teacher of the Year award in 2004. 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. With the creation of the Dr. Jay H. Price, Jr. / Arthur Anderson Endowed Professorship, the School of Accountancy will continue to honor Jay Price and his legacy. Jay has left a lasting legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.



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

This year’s Meet the Firms was different from any prior year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we held Meet the Firms virtually for the first time ever on September 10, 2020. This was a new and unique experience for all who participated. We had nearly 100 professionals from 32 firms and 150 students participate. We went through a lot of practice runs and training until we felt comfortable with the format which was via Zoom, using their breakout room feature. One firm professional said this about the event, “We were so impressed by the Virtual Meet the Firms. It was really well done, and as we’ve been participating in more virtual fairs, I think this was the best format and the most natural feeling.” Another firm representative said, “We had a great time meeting your students at Meet the Firms. I must say that I appreciated the Zoom platform and preferred it to the Handshake fairs that were arranged for most of the other schools. We are always impressed with USU students, and hope that in the future, circumstances will allow for us to meet in person.” We too look forward to an in-person Meet the Firms. Thank you to all the firms and professionals who supported our program and made the night a success.



Quigley Ambassadors

The Quigley Ambassadors are student representatives of the accounting program who focus on recruiting students for the major, encouraging accounting students to pursue their aspirational career goals, and creating connections among students and alumni. Although the event schedule was cut short this year, the Quigley Ambassadors were actively involved in the SOA through planning and executing various activities and creating other resources for students during fall and early spring. Some of the highlights of the past year include (1) the Women in Accounting luncheon – which was attended by approximately 90 students and professionals, (2) the annual Hot Cocoa Night – an opportunity for undergraduate students to network with graduate students to ask program and career-related questions, and (3) Cohort Meetings providing orientation for students new to the accounting major. The Quigley Ambassadors also hosted students from outside USU who came to learn more about our program and attended a USU basketball game. We are grateful to these students who put so much energy and effort into helping the SOA and look forward to resuming more frequent activities in future semesters.

Hands-On Learning

Students get hands-on learning experiences in the Accounting Department. Several projects are used to help students internalize and understand the importance of major accounting concepts.

The project pictured here is used in Intermediate Managerial Accounting to teach the importance of including overhead in product costs. Students build a tower out of straws and paperclips and assign costs and a marked-up selling price to it. The majority of students include the costs of the materials and labor but forget to add overhead costs. The class then discusses what overhead costs should be included (such as the cost of the building and the Dean's salary), and how they could divide those costs across products. They are not allowed to change their sales price so most students lose money after recalculating the costs with overhead included. This exercise highlights the importance of understanding and including the cost of overhead in product costs.



Women in Accounting Luncheon

CPA Exam

For the seventh 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 38 out of 247 institutions, with 73.8 percent passing all four sections of the exam the first time—12.5 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.

38th out of
249 Institutions

A light blue outline map of the United States is positioned behind the ranking text, with the number '38' and '249' placed over the map's area.



students

50 Most Influential Aggies

Jessica Peters & Jared Fry

What do USU President Noelle Cockett, State Senator Lyle Hillyard, All-Pro NFL Linebacker Bobby Wagner, Lieutenant Governor of Utah Spencer Cox, Aggie Basketball Star Sam Merrill, and USU Accounting Graduates Jessica Peters and Jared Fry have in common? They were all selected as “**50 Most Influential Aggies**” for the 2019-2020 academic year. Jessica and Jared both graduated from the MAcc program this spring and summer respectively. There are not many students who have been as involved as these two students. They are both natural leaders who were passionate about being involved in as many opportunities as possible in the School of Accountancy, Huntsman School of Business, and at Utah State University. With their concern for their fellow classmates and their desire to help those around them to be successful, it’s no surprise they were selected as two of the “50 Most Influential Aggies”. Congratulations, Jared and Jessica!



Student Awards



Jessica Peters

UACPA Outstanding Scholar

Jessica Peters is from West Jordan, Utah and just completed her final semester of the MAcc Program. After graduating in the Spring of 2020, Jessica began doing audit work for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the Salt Lake City office.

Jessica enjoyed being involved on and off campus and served in various

organizations including IMA, Quigley Ambassadors, Business Ambassadors, Huntsman Scholars, and the UACPA. She was also involved in several different humanitarian trips to Mexico and Peru during her time as a student where she was able to lead groups of youth in making the world a better place. She is grateful for the opportunities she has had and friends she has made through these organizations. When she is not working or studying, Jessica enjoys spending time with her family, planning new trips, and keeping up with her Spanish.



Jared Fry

Outstanding Student Leader

Jared Fry graduated this past summer with a Master of Accounting degree with an emphasis in taxation. During his four years at Utah State, Jared served as an IMA officer/president for two years, Beta Alpha Psi officer for three years, Quigley Ambassador for

two years, VITA site student administrator for three years, and recently served as the USUSA Graduate Studies Senator this past year. During this time, Jared was also working multiple part-time jobs and had the opportunity to work as an intern for Deloitte in

London. He believes that leadership, service, and involvement are the foundation of a successful professional, and he is extremely grateful for the activities that he has been involved in during his time at Utah State. Upon his arrival to campus in Fall of 2016, Jared did not expect that he would have the opportunity to get involved in the way that he has. After graduating, Jared will begin work with PwC in Salt Lake City with the Asset Management tax division. Without his involvement within the department and the university as a whole, Jared does not think that he would have the aptitudes and relationships that he has today. He would like to thank the many individuals and professors that helped him along the way and made a substantial difference in his educational experience.



Nathan Phillips

FSA Outstanding Scholar

Nathan Phillips is from Meridian, Idaho. He graduated in May 2020 with a Master of Accounting degree from Utah State University. Throughout his educational career, Nathan has been involved in multiple on-campus organizations including serving as the vice president of the Institute of Management Accounts, the vice president of Beta Alpha Psi, and

as a Quigley Ambassador. He has also been a volunteer with VITA, a research assistant, and worked several part-time jobs. Nathan is an avid learner, earning a 4.0 GPA in all his accounting courses and a 3.9 GPA overall. He recently completed an internship with Deloitte in their Boston, Massachusetts office. Upon graduation, he will return to Boston to begin his career in Deloitte's audit and assurance practice. When not studying, Nathan enjoys exercising, basketball, wakesurfing, reading, and spending time with his family.

PCAOB Outstanding Scholar

Charity Parkinson

The School of Accountancy was excited to nominate and have Charity Parkinson selected to receive a \$10,000 PCAOB scholarship. This is the second year in a row that USU has been chosen to receive the PCAOB Scholarship. Charity Parkinson is a rising MAcc student at Utah State University with a specialization in Personal Financial Planning. Maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout her undergraduate career, she has also been involved outside of her courses. Awarded Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the Year of the Huntsman School of Business during the 2019-2020 school year, she assists students in their intermediate accounting coursework.

She was a member of the President's Cabinet where she assisted the student body president, Sami Ahmed, in fulfilling his initiatives and planning student events. She was a Business Ambassador for the Huntsman School and enjoys spending her time helping other students as a Student Mentor for the FJ Management Center for Student Success. She is also a member of the Huntsman Scholar Program and has been a mentor for students within that program. With a fascination for markets and investing, she plans to complete an internship with JP Morgan Private Bank and then complete her education at USU.





Nicolas Robins Award Recipient

Accounting graduate, Jared Fry, receives the Nicolas Robins Award. The Robins Awards are the most coveted of all Utah State honors, and the awards night is the year's most prestigious event. The awards memorialize William E. Robins, a campus hero who had a rare quality to turn his vision into Utah State's vision. Robins was a Sigma Nu at Utah State who served as USU's student body president in 1949. He was also the primary and initial visionary of today's Taggart Student Center. In 1954, Bill and his wife Geraldine died in a plane crash, leaving behind a one-year old orphan boy, Nicolas. This prompted Bill's fraternity to set up the Bill E. Robins Memorial fund to raise money that would provide a scholarship for the boy's education when he was old enough to enroll in the University. Tragically, Nicolas died at the age of eight from leukemia. Now we honor this family's memory and impact at USU through the Robins Awards.

Chris Skousen, Head of the School of Accountancy, had this to say about Jared, "I am not aware of a student that has been more involved with campus activities and committed to excellence in all that he does than Jared. He truly loves all that USU has to offer and has sought for ways to give back. Jared is unique in that he seeks opportunities for all students. He has consistently been chosen by his peers for leadership positions in student organizations. He is highly personable and a joy to be around. His professors describe him as 'bright, intelligent, inquisitive, and a shining star.' Jared truly cares about helping others succeed."

We offer heartfelt congratulations to Jared for receiving this most-deserved award!



Interning in London *By Amanda Paice*

My name is Amanda Paice. I am a graduate student in the accounting program and will be completing my degree in December. This past semester, I had the wonderful opportunity to work as an intern for Deloitte UK in London with their U.S. Business Tax group. After visiting London as a senior in high school, I promised myself that I'd go back someday; five years later, I found myself living and working in the heart of the city. Talk about a dream come true! The team there invests a lot in their interns, and I truly learned so much. I made strong connections and had mentors who helped me grow both professionally and as a person. Even though my time across the pond was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was still unforgettable. Deloitte's support and flexibility allowed me to continue working remotely and finish out the internship in the U.S. Highlights from my time in the UK include a trip to Paris with my best friend, attending a performance of Phantom of the Opera, going on a Sound of Music tour in Austria, and eating way too much gelato. Thank you to the professors at USU who prepared me and encouraged me to apply. We absolutely have the most wonderful staff. Go Aggies!



Accounting Students in the Huntsman Scholar Program

Out of the 2,000 undergraduate students at the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, 400 (20%) are members of a prestigious business and economics honors-style program known as the Huntsman Scholars Program (huntsman.usu.edu/scholars). Of the 400, 88 (22%) are students with at least one major in accounting and 45 (51%) of the accounting students are female.

When Jon and Karen Huntsman funded the Huntsman Scholar Program, their “challenge” was to create a space where we inspire young people to dream big, prepare themselves with plans for accomplishing their dreams, begin to create value through taking risks, and ultimately give back along their journey – as can be seen in a note all Huntsman Scholars receive in Mr. Huntsman’s own handwriting. Through a series of professional and peer mentoring, specialized courses and labs, and a multitude of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, Huntsman Scholars represent some of the best at Utah State University. The Huntsman Scholar average GPA is 3.85, and the internship and job placement rates for the past two years have both been nearly 100%.

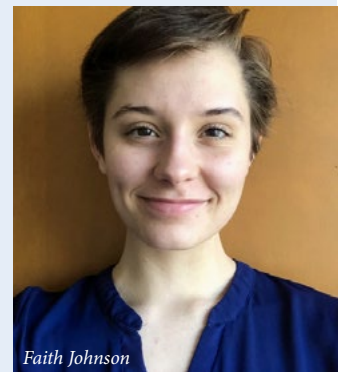
The accounting students within the Huntsman Scholar Program are stellar representatives of the department as a whole. For example, freshman accounting student, Kade Rice, was one of two students to earn top honors in his entry-level ECON 1500 course this past year. Sophomore transfer, Faith Johnson, was living in Nokesville, Virginia when she searched “top undergraduate accounting programs in the nation” and found the Huntsman School without any prior connection to the Intermountain West. Junior, Diana Stoddard, is currently completing her internship with PriceWaterhouse Coopers in St. Louis, Missouri, and the 20 Huntsman Scholar accounting seniors are all on track for excellent placement as they have completed internships with top national and regional accounting firms.



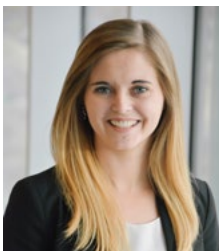
Diana Stoddard



Kade Rice



Faith Johnson



Scholar of the Year

Brooke Gunnell was selected as the Huntsman School of Business Scholar of the Year. Brooke graduated from Utah State University in December 2019 with degrees in finance and accounting. She graduated with a 3.96 GPA and completed five internships during her time at the Huntsman School. She was also a teaching assistant for three courses and planned large networking events and conferences for the accounting department, finance and economics department, and the Entrepreneurship Center. Brooke was also actively engaged at University Growth Fund, which is a \$32 million student-run venture capital fund in Salt Lake City, where she helped deploy \$3.3 million of investor capital across eight early-stage investment deals.

After graduating, Brooke continued working as a Senior Associate at University Growth Fund for a few months before joining Partners Group as an Investment Analyst in Broomfield, CO in August 2020. Partners Group is a global private investment firm managing \$94 billion on behalf of its clients which makes it one of the largest private megafunds in the world. Brooke is the first student from Utah State to join the firm directly out of school. Brooke aims to become a partner at Partners Group or another private equity fund focused on sustainable investing. In her free time, Brooke enjoys skiing, traveling, and discussing fan theories about Game of Thrones. Congratulations, Brooke!

Clubs

A Quarter Century of Gold

Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)

What a year for our IMA student chapter! For the 25th consecutive year, we achieved the Gold Award of Excellence, and for the tenth time, our chapter was designated as one of the top five “Outstanding Student Chapters.” Frank Shuman, our faculty advisor, attributes the continuing success of the chapter to the incredible student officers he works with each year. Highlights included attending the IMA student leadership conference in Charlotte, field trips to Pepperidge Farms and TTM Technologies, and six outstanding technical meetings – with Darren Benson, President & CEO of Strata Fund, as one of our featured speakers. Continuing a holiday tradition, we were able to raise funds for the Cache Valley Sub-for-Santa organization. The only disappointment was the cancellation of our last technical meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic.

For the fifth consecutive year, we had multiple students receive national IMA scholarships. Caleb Adams and Jaslyn Masina received scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year. Caleb and Jaslyn served as chapter officers for the 2019-20 academic year, and Caleb will serve as president for the 2020-21 academic year. The IMA organization annually awards 12 scholarships on a national basis. Samuel Adams, the 2019-20 chapter president, received a CMA Scholarship, and subsequently, passed both parts of the CMA exam. Congratulations, Samuel!



Superior Chapter

BAP Dominates Regional Chapter

In addition to keeping the world’s longest streak of 42 consecutive years of “Superior” chapter status, USU’s Delta Omega chapter of Beta Alpha Psi dominated the Rocky Mountain Region “Best Practices” competition. Our chapter was the only school to compete in all three categories: Engagement, Innovation, and Impact.

Engagement – 1st Place

Innovation – 1st Place

Impact – 2nd Place

This year, teams recorded and submitted presentations electronically to the regional conference planners, instead of presenting them at the Regional Conference, which was moved to a virtual conference due to COVID 19. Special thanks goes to Jared Fry (VP) as the competition lead. “Without his efforts and leadership, we would not have dominated

the competition,” said BAP advisor, Chris Skousen. The “Engagement” and “Innovation” presentations moved on to the national competition in August. Thanks also go to the other BAP officers and meeting participants: Lia Sorensen, Tiffany Bentley, Tyrel Pierson, Skyler Higginson, Palmer Edholm, Lillian Vaughn, Brie Woodbury.

Other schools that participated in the competition include: University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Colorado at Denver, Brigham Young University, Colorado State University, University of Wyoming, University of Utah, Idaho State University, Montana State University, Fort Lewis College, The University of New Mexico, Weber State University, University of Northern Colorado, and Utah Valley University. Way to go, BAP!



BAP Gives Back

In November 2019, Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) invited professional alumni and students to “BAP Gives Back.” The activity was designed to promote information about the program, provide interactive engagement with professionals, and include a meaningful service opportunity. Beta Alpha Psi leadership developed the BAP Gives Back theme with the intent of providing a meaningful service activity and opportunity to engage with professionals. This year, BAP partnered with Little Lambs Foundation for Kids to prepare basic necessity kits for children entering foster care. As they worked together to assemble comfort kits, hygiene kits, and other items for foster children, professionals discussed topics including: making work experience relevant, interviewing and corresponding with prospective employers, and summer leadership programs. “Having the opportunity to help children in their moment of need is something I’ll never forget. Being able to make a difference for others not only gave me a sense of accomplishment, but at the same time, serving alongside accounting professionals and networking with them created a positive experience for all,” said Tyrel Pierson, BAP President (Fall 2019). It was a fun and effective way to raise awareness about opportunities in the School of Accountancy programs and the pathway into the accounting profession. Special thanks goes to the

accounting professionals and Little Lambs Foundation for Kids for making this all possible.





40+ Amazing Years

Vance Grange

Vance Grange, tax and personal financial planning professor, retired June 30, 2020. Few faculty members have served as long and as effectively as Dr. Vance Grange has in the School of Accountancy. Under his leadership, the School of Accountancy began a minor in personal financial planning and organized the first financial planning association student chapter.

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 came 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 completed 41 years of service at USU.

“Thank you, Vance for finding, supporting, and encouraging me. You have been an inspiration to me and many students during your time at USU.”

—Paul Judd, Former Student

Vance will always be remembered for his kindness and willingness to go the extra mile. In the words of former student Paul Judd, “While I was an accounting student at USU, Vance first called the Registrar’s Office to see if I was in class (you need to remember this was before cell phones) and in finding out I was not in class at that time, he wandered the floors of the old Merrill Library to find me and encourage me to meet with an accounting recruiter who was then on campus interviewing for accounting and tax internships. I was just a junior at this time and had decided not to seek an internship until my senior year. Once he found me on the top floor of the old Merrill Library, he sat down and proceeded to passionately explain why it would make sense for me

Donate in Vance's Honor

There has been a scholarship set up in the names of Tamara and Vance Grange. We encourage you to honor this amazing professor and support this scholarship.

huntsman.usu.edu/acct/give

to interview for the internships during my junior year and not wait until my senior year. Because of Vance's commitment to his students and his encouragement to me, I applied for and landed an internship with Arthur Andersen. This internship led to a full time position upon completion of the MAcc. His dedication to finding the 'one' allowed me to begin a career that led to employment opportunities at international companies, such as, Arthur Andersen, EY, Kennecott/Rio Tinto, and now Barrick Gold Corporation. Thank you, Vance for finding, supporting and encouraging me. You have been an inspiration to me and many accounting and finance students during your time at USU."

Vance taught courses in taxation, personal financial planning, retirement planning, estate planning, and financial plans. He also served 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. Vance, thank you for 40 plus amazing years!



New Faculty

DR. KATHRYN BRIGHTBILL

Assistant Professor, Dr. Kathryn Brightbill, graduated with her Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's in accounting from Pennsylvania State University. Her research focuses on analysts and the effect of hedging language in various financial market settings - particularly on the context-specific persuasiveness of hedging language. She enjoys playing Pokemon Go and board games with her husband, snuggling her adopted cats, bringing in surprise cupcakes, and sleeping in whenever the opportunity arises. She is excited to officially become a member of the team at USU and looks forward to a long and exciting career here!



LACEE WILKEY

Lacey graduated from Utah State University in 2009 with bachelor's degrees in accounting, finance, and economics and was named valedictorian of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. She received her Master of Accounting degree from Utah State University in 2010. She is a licensed CPA and has worked in public accounting for the last 10 years specializing in small business taxation and tax planning. She has experience in auditing and financial accounting as well as taxation of businesses, individuals, trusts, and estates. Lacey has served as the treasurer of the Cache Valley Morning Rotary Club since 2012. When she's not thinking about accounting, Lacey enjoys sports, traveling, longboarding, and kayaking.



PAUL CAMPBELL

A native of Cache Valley, Paul Campbell graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Utah State University in 1998. He subsequently earned a Master of Taxation degree from the University of Denver. Paul has over 20 years of experience in public accounting working at Anderson, KPMG, and most recently as a Partner at Jones Simkins. During his professional career, he has specialized in taxation of partnerships and flow through entities, working with clients across many industries in both compliance and consulting roles. Paul has been an adjunct instructor at Utah State University for past seven years teaching courses in partnership and corporate taxation. Paul and his wife, LeAnn, have four children, two girls and two boys.



Chad Simon

UNDERGRADUATE
MENTOR OF THE
YEAR

School of Accountancy



Brad Lindsey Named Vice President-Elect of the American Tax Association

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve my fellow tax colleagues as the Vice President-Elect of the American Taxation Association (ATA) during the 2020-2021 academic year and as Vice President during the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition to supporting the ATA President in leading the association, my primary duties as Vice President relate to taking a leading role in planning the Midyear Meeting in February of both years. The Midyear Meeting is an opportunity for tax faculty and tax PhD students to network with and learn from each other while presenting, discussing, and being exposed to the latest academic tax research, teaching methods, and ideas. Additionally, attendees have the opportunity to engage with experts in the tax profession who provide technical and legislative tax updates. These are unique times as educators. I embrace the opportunity and challenge to provide Midyear Meetings that will elevate and recharge the tax academy no matter the logistical challenges and delivery methods that must be employed to make them happen. In addition, I am hopeful that my service to the academic tax academy will increase awareness and raise the profile of both the School of Accountancy at Utah State University and the Huntsman School of Business.



Brad Lindsey

TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

School of Accountancy



Jim Cannon

GRADUATE MENTOR
OF THE YEAR

School of Accountancy



Lynn Rees

RESEARCHER OF
THE YEAR

School of Accountancy &
Jon M. Huntsman School
of Business

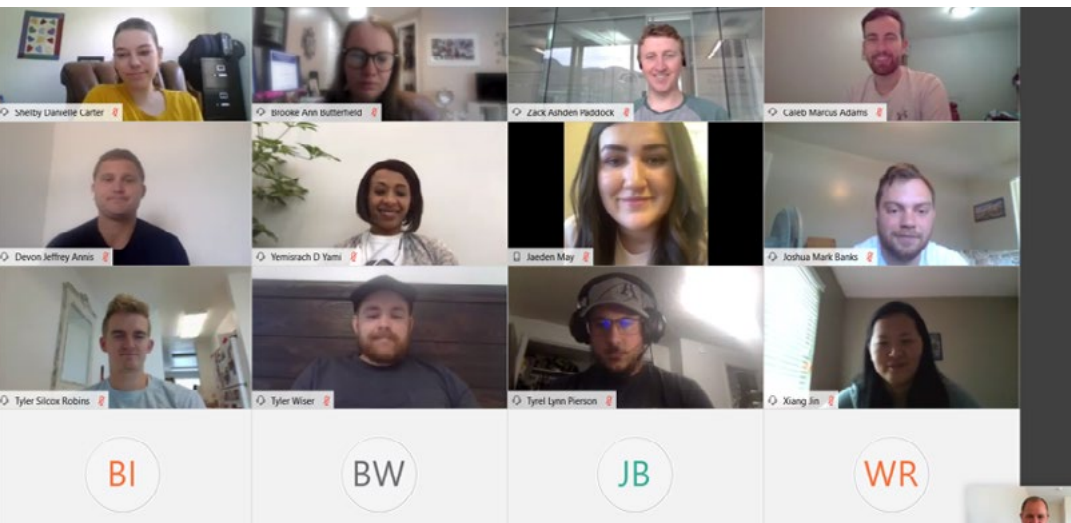


Vance Grange

FACULTY SERVICE
AWARD

School of Accountancy &
Jon M. Huntsman School
of Business





Virtual Teaching

It's unlikely that any of our incredible faculty or students would have guessed when they started the Spring 2020 semester that they would end the semester teaching online or virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That method of teaching has rolled into Summer 2020 and beyond as we continue to work through the alterations to life caused by the virus. Students and faculty alike have demonstrated tremendous resilience and flexibility through this process. While many undergraduate classes moved more to an online structure, or some hybrid of online and virtual face-to-face, most graduate courses have taken more of a virtual face-to-face approach to continue the valuable dialogue in class sessions. Guest speakers have presented remotely, students have joined class from a variety of locations using video and sometimes only audio as circumstances have allowed, and faculty have modified course content and assessments to fit this new model.

While not the ideal method of learning, many aspects of this approach are as good, or better than approaches used in the past, and many course modifications made out of necessity will likely continue well beyond the time COVID-19 affects our teaching and learning.



Chad Simon Named Associate Dean

Beginning on July 1, 2020, Dr. Chad Simon assumed the role of Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business (HSB). This opportunity will allow Dr. Simon to be involved with both the HSB's strategy and its upcoming accreditation. While this role will present new challenges, Dr. Simon looks forward to the opportunity to work directly with Douglas D. Anderson, Dean of the Huntsman School of Business, and others to help steer the school on its current upward trajectory. Some of the specific responsibilities of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs include working with newly hired faculty members to help them make a successful transition to USU, serving on USU's research council, and leading the HSB's awards process. Dr. Simon will continue teaching and researching and will also maintain his role as Academic Director of the Huntsman Scholar Program. While all of the responsibilities will need to be balanced, he is excited to be able to continue to work with students as they are the heart of the Huntsman School of Business.

A close-up portrait of Lori Weston, a woman with long blonde hair and blue eyes, smiling slightly. The word "alumni" is overlaid in large white lowercase letters on the bottom left of the image.

alumni

Intermountain Hospital Administrator Receives National Recognition

Lori Weston '11, administrator and CEO of Intermountain Park City Hospital, was named as one of five hospital administrators across the U.S. who have shown strong leadership, compassion, and poise during the COVID-19

“Lori was able to see the big picture of the impact to our local community. Every action she put in place not only protected our community and surrounding counties but protected the hospital staff. No one was left behind, from cafeteria workers, to housekeeping, to front-line registration, and emergency room staff.”

-Debra Martin, MD

pandemic. Weston was selected from a nomination submitted to EM Docs, a Facebook group of 22,000 emergency management physicians. The winners were shared through LinkedIn.

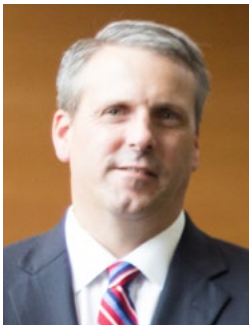
The group sought to recognize administrators who listened to them, acted, and got it right during the pandemic. Weston was recognized for her willingness to engage with physicians on a personal level, as evidenced by what they said about nominating her for her efforts when the resort community of Summit County was hit hard and fast by the virus.

“Lori facilitated rapid early COVID-19 testing, strict visitor restrictions inside the hospital, and actually increased our

staffing while most ERs were decreasing staffing. Many of the policies she put in place were adopted by our entire 24-hospital system,” said Austin Smith, MD.

“One of her greatest concerns early on during the pandemic was the low socio-economic status community due to their high-density living. She worked to secure other housing options for those with COVID-19 to slow the spread and protect their families. Lori would stop by [the ER] daily to check in and make sure we had plenty of PPE (personal protective equipment) and wanted to know if she could help us in any way,” added Dr. Smith.

Lori began her career with Intermountain in 2001 at Logan Regional Hospital. Prior to taking the helm at the Park City hospital, she was the CEO of Bear River Hospital, and was a finance leader at Intermountain. She spent five years as the director of finance and CFO for Intermountain's Park City/Heber Region. Lori earned both her bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA from Utah State University in 1996 and 2011 respectively. She serves on a number of boards and committees including CFO group, Utah Hospital Association board of trustees, Rural Hospital Association Council, Chamber of Commerce Board, Kimball Arts Board, County Behavioral Health executive board, and Aging and Early childhood alliances. Congratulations, Lori!



Spirit of Jay Price Award

MARK ERICKSON, '95

The School of Accountancy recognizes Mark Erickson '95 as the Spirit of Jay Price award recipient for 2020. Mark Erickson received a Master of Accountancy in 1995 from USU and began a career in public accounting with the Salt Lake City-based firm, Tanner & Company (now known as Tanner LLC). He spent four years with

Tanner before accepting a position with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in Washington, D.C. After spending two years with the SEC, Mark rejoined Tanner and became a partner of the firm in 2002. Mark currently serves as the head of the audit department for Tanner and leads the firm's mergers and acquisition consulting practice. Mark has played a key role in increasing the firm from approximately 25 personnel to over 160.

Mark loves Utah State University and is always happy to serve. He served on the Advisory Board for the USU School of Accountancy from 2005 to 2012 and has been a member of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business National Advisory Board since 2012. Mark and his wife, Jennifer Needham Erickson (BA English '94), were named the 2011 Young Alumni of the Year. They also serve with the USU Davis County Alumni Chapter, with Jennifer currently serving as Chapter President.

Mark had the opportunity to teach a class in the Huntsman School of Business during the Spring 2020 semester. He loved spending time with the students in the classroom. The opportunity to hear their stories, share their concerns for the future, and feel their enthusiasm for learning was a unique and uplifting experience for Mark.

Mark and Jennifer have always believed in giving back to show gratitude. Early in their marriage, they discussed what they would like to do in the future if they were blessed with the economic ability. One of many ways they decided to give back was by remembering the "gift" of education. In 2011, they established the Mark and Jennifer Erickson Endowment in the School of Accountancy that provides scholarships for students each year.



School of Accountancy Distinguished Alumnus

MARK E. LOW, CPA '89

The School of Accountancy (SOA) recognizes Mark Low '89, as the Distinguished

Alumnus of the Year for 2020. Mark Low received a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Utah State University and began his CPA career in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1989. He spent eleven years with two firms while in Salt Lake City working in both the audit and tax departments; however, it was auditing that would be the area he most enjoyed. In 2000, he was given the opportunity to join Jones Simkins LLC as an audit partner, and in 2011, he was assigned to be the firm's managing partner. Since 2011, the firm has grown in both revenue and employees by 60% and opened its second office in Salt Lake City in 2013. Jones Simkins LLC is consistently listed in the top ten of the largest CPA firms in Utah by Utah Business Magazine. With over 31 years of experience, Mark also serves as the audit partner on many of the firm's audit clients, is a licensed CPA in Utah, and is a member of the AICPA and UACPA.

Mark currently serves on the USU School of Accountancy Advisory Board and the Zions Bank Cache Advisory Board.

Mark and his wife, Colleen, are the parents of three children and are all dedicated to supporting Utah State. As loyal Aggie fans, they have been season ticket holders to several sports for many years. The education and acquaintances gained while attending Utah State have been of great value in his career and personal life. Since graduating, he has believed in the principal of giving back and has done so in many ways. Both Mark and Jones Simkins LLC have provided scholarships to students in the School of Accountancy, as well as time and other resources.



Women to Watch: Emerging Leader

TARA WILLIAMS '11

Tara Williams, '11 received the UACPA award for Women to Watch: Emerging Leader at the UACPA's Annual Inauguration & Awards Banquet this past fall. This award is presented to a woman professional who has made significant contributions to the profession and her community but has not yet reached the highest levels of advancement within her organization.

Tara Williams, CPA is a manager at Cook Martin Poulson's Logan office and has been with the firm for 10 years. She specializes in compilations, reviews, and audits of financial statements. She also prepares tax returns for individuals and businesses. She serves clients in a variety of industries including agriculture, banking, construction, manufacturing, trucking and transportation, not-for-profit organizations, employee benefit plans, and captive insurance. Tara enjoys serving the community through her service on the Women in Business-Cache Valley and Cache Chamber of Commerce boards of directors. Tara also enjoys spending time outdoors with her family, hiking, and practicing archery. Congratulations, Tara!



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

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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 2019 include: 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 2020 calendar year, please contact the School of Accountancy at soa@usu.edu for more information.



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