

full disclosure

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY
2022 NEWSLETTER



From the Department Head

The past two years have been a period of constant change. The ways in which we work, learn, teach, socialize, live, and much more have been in constant fluctuation. The demand for accounting services has been intense, and the desire to meet that demand has been equally intense. We are focused on continuing to recruit and develop topflight talent.

Throughout the past year, we have been guided by the powerful Jon M. Huntsman School of Business' motto to "Dare Mighty Things." I am grateful to have observed this charge in so many of you. It is this phrase that we have sought to unite us and underscore 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 teaching, 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 continue to navigate the impact created by an uncertain world.

Our students have shown remarkable resourcefulness as they have transitioned through multiple learning environments, often moving back and forth from online learning environments and then back to face-to-face or hybrid learning. The resilience our students demonstrated as they adapted to significant changes in educational, social, and employment environments has been inspirational. They have rallied, adapted, and adjusted to new ways of learning, living, and engaging with our campus community and society.

Through all the excitement of this past year, our students found new ways to achieve excellence. Our programs and clubs continue to be recognized as among the best. Beta Alpha Psi and Institute of Management Accountants student organizations continue their streaks of excellence, 44 and 27 years, respectively. Recently, our Deloitte FanTAXtic team, led by tax expert Paul Campbell, competed in nationals. Our team finished with honorable mention honors. This is truly remarkable, as our team consisted of only first-year accounting students. Our CPA exam pass rates remain high as do our graduate and undergraduate rankings. This speaks volumes to the value in our programs and the tremendous work ethic of our students.



Our students continue to place at the best accounting firms and companies. We continue to see examples of how our students, faculty, and staff "Dare Mighty Things"!

We welcome Dr. Grazia Xiong, from the University of South Carolina, and Fei Shuai from Heritage University to our faculty. Dr. Xiong will primarily teach managerial and cost accounting courses. Ms. Shuai will teach primary financial and accounting information systems. Both our new colleagues are tremendous teachers and will continue our tradition of academic excellence that our students, alumni, and program require.

Last but not least, Dr. Larry Walther, who has served the School of Accountancy with distinction as Department Head and the Huntsman School of Business as acting Dean, and Senior Associate Dean has retired. As a friend and colleague, I wholeheartedly voice my gratitude and appreciation for him. Larry 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 blue ink that reads "Chris Skousen, Ph.D." The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Chris Skousen, Ph.D.
Accounting Department Head



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.

Tyler Alleman

Partner, Jones Simkins

Heather Allen

Tax Partner, Tanner

Hyun Kyung (HK) Bae

VP, Goldman Sachs

Kent M. Christensen

Partner, Haynie & Company

Orrin T. Colby, Jr.

Consultant, WESTLYNC Insurance Enterprises, Inc.

Ryan Dent

Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Geri A. Douglas

Partner, Larson CPAs

Kevin Ediger

Partner, Ernst & Young

Cara L. Galleni

Former Controller, Western AgCredit

AnnMarie Geddes

VP & Controller, Resideo

Staci Gunnell

Financial Director, AutoLiv, Inc.

Darin Jacobs

CFO, Beauty Industry Group

Dave Jacobs

VP CTIS, Intermountain Healthcare

Kenneth D. Jeppesen

Partner, Eide Bailly LLP

K. Tim Larsen

Emeritus Partner, Squire & Company, PC

Aaron Meyer

CFO, Cypress Five Star, Inc.

Dennis Parker

Executive VP, Thermo King Northwest Inc.

Daniel P. Rinehart

Partner, WSRP

Tanya Lee Scott

Partner, Hutchinson and Bloodgood LLP

Eric Shipley

VP Aerospace & Defense Financing, Spartronics

Jason Wendell

Partner, KPMG

Clark A. Wilkinson

Partner, Wilkinson, Cooley and Company, PC

Dustin Wood

Partner, Cook Martin Poulson

Wes Yeomans

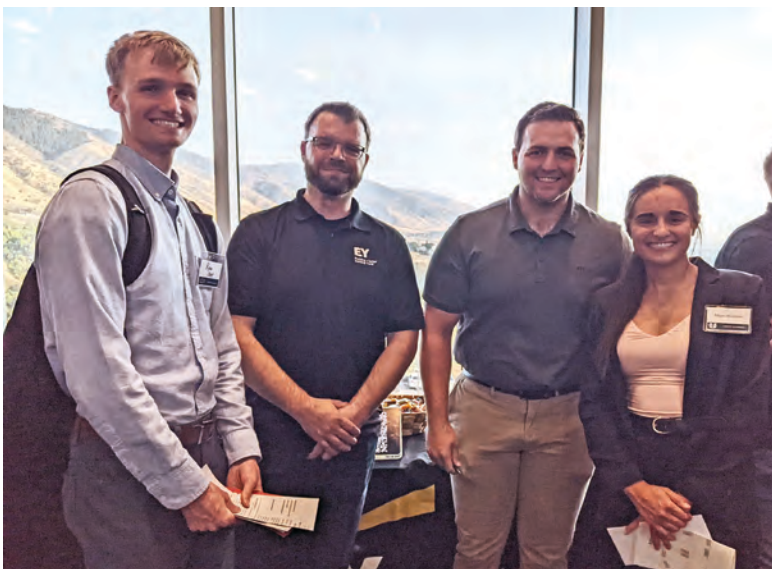
Partner, Deloitte





Meet the Firms

The School of Accountancy had another very successful Meet the Firms night this year. It was held in the Perry Pavilion in Huntsman Hall on September 8. We were happy to welcome back many of our alumni and friends as well as several new firms to campus this year. Nearly 140 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 where 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 our program. ■



Dare Mighty Things Cash Camp

The Quigley Ambassadors held their inaugural Dare Mighty Things Cash Camp on October 8th. This event was held to recruit high school age students from underrepresented minorities (e.g., African American, Native American, Latin American, and Pacific Islanders) into the accounting program. Approximately 35 students and parents attended the all-day event.

The day started off at Maverick Stadium, where students toured the locker room, the athletics hall of fame, and were even able to go onto the football field. Afterwards they went to the USU Challenge course to do some leadership activities. During lunch, students heard from recent graduates Elijah Toa (Samoan), Jaslyn Stevens (Samoan), Ana Patino (Latina), Tony Valdez (Latino), and Kenrik Lopez (Filipino), who talked about their backgrounds and professional experiences since graduating from USU's accounting program. Their stories were inspiring and impactful. Accounting professor, Jayson Talakai (Tongan) also shared the challenges of growing up in West Valley City and how he came to be the first Tongan Ph.D.

Students then participated in a hands-on cost accounting activity



where groups of 4-5 students built gingerbread houses. They tracked all of the materials that were used and assigned other expenses to the cost of building the houses. Then accounting faculty and the Quigley Ambassadors placed bids on how much they would pay for each house. Students learned the difference between revenue and profit, various strategies to maximize profit and the importance of understanding the cost of overhead.

The final activities of the day included information on how to pay for college, a tour of campus and attendance at the Utah State vs Air Force football game. The feedback from parents and students has been incredibly positive. ■

New Professorship Announcement!

In recognition of Dr. Larry and Laurie Walther's contributions to the School of Accountancy, Huntsman School of Business, and Utah State University, Dean Douglas Anderson announced the creation of the Larry and Laurie Walther Endowed Professorship of Accounting. This approximately \$1,000,000 professorship, in the Walther's honor, will be used for the benefit of the faculty and students of the School of Accountancy. Larry and Laurie are transplanted Texans who became Utah State Aggies. Through the course of Dr. Walther's storied career, he was known for his profound leadership, the transformation of the School of Accountancy, caring deeply about his students, the accounting profession, teaching, and mentoring current and former students. Larry is the creator of www.principlesofaccounting.com and has used this platform to introduce students around the world to accounting. These passions most vividly came together in the lives of students – who learned about accounting and about life in Dr. Walther's classes and continued to be mentored by their teacher long after they graduated from Utah State University. Laurie supported her husband in each step along the way. We are indeed grateful to Larry, Laurie, Dean Anderson, and University President Noelle Cockett for the creation of this professorship. ■



In Memoriam

Our good friend, alum and SOA advisory board member, Richard Buist, passed away in December 2021. Richard graduated from Utah State with a degree in accounting in 1962 and his MBA in 1966. He spent a lot of time at Utah State recruiting students for Arthur Andersen. He was the longest serving member on the School of Accountancy's Advisory Board, where he served until he passed away. He was also the 1992 recipient of our Professional Achievement Award. He and his wife, Lura, have a scholarship in the School of Accountancy and are members of the Old Main Society. We will miss his insights and contributions to the School of Accountancy. ■

BAP officers teach Boys and Girls Club about budgets.



BAP



Year in Review

USU's Beta Alpha Psi Delta Omega chapter had a great year! It was a delight to be back to more in-person events for the 2021-2022 school year. There were many insightful professional meetings as well as rewarding service and networking opportunities. Students and professionals also enjoyed a day on the links with the return of the BAP golf tournament. Club officers traveled to Orlando for the annual meeting where they attended professional development sessions and participated in a service project at a local Boys & Girls Club. BAP continued its streak of excellence by being awarded superior chapter status for the 44th consecutive year – the longest streak of any BAP chapter!

Giving Back

Beta Alpha Psi held a service project in the fall to create meal kits for the Cache Community Food Pantry's backpack program. The backpack program provides elementary age children from low-income families with a backpack of food to take home for the weekend. Service project participants consisted of both students and professionals who spent the morning assembling breakfast and lunch kits. Students rotated from table to table, adding more food to their meal kits while getting career advice from professionals. Approximately 200 meal kits were assembled and donated to the food pantry. ■



The BAP golf tournament.



BAP officers with advisor Lacey Wilkey.



Students and professionals show off completed meal kits.



IMA News

It was another great year for our IMA student chapter. We were able to achieve the Gold Award of Excellence for the 27th consecutive year. We held six outstanding chapter meetings, which could be attended either in the classroom or virtually through Zoom. The highlight of the year was hearing from Joe

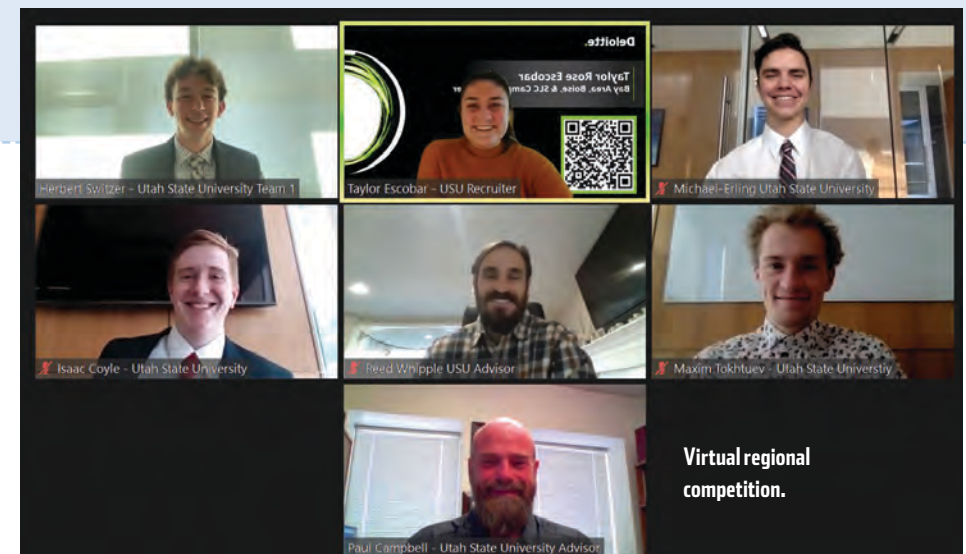
Strain, an Aggie graduate who is now a partner in the San Diego office of PwC. We were also able to have a plant tour at TTM Technologies, and a panel discussion over Zoom with Aggie alumni working in the accounting and finance department of the Utah Jazz. Continuing our fundraising tradition, we were able to raise \$420 for Sub-for-Santa. Kendall

Mortensen, who will serve as chapter president for the 2022-23 academic year received a national IMA scholarship, which continues another tradition of chapter officers receiving one of these scholarships. With the national student leadership conference being held virtually the last two years, the 2022-23 chapter officers are looking forward to traveling to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in October to attend this year's conference. ■

Tax Team Places in the Top Two at Regionals!

On October 29, 2021, a team of students from the School of Accountancy competed in Deloitte's FanTAXtic regional competition and placed in the top two for the region. Even more impressive, the team consisted of four freshman who were all taking their first accounting class at that time, Michael Erling, Isaac Coyle, Van (Herbert) Switzer, and Max (Maxim) Tokhtuev. Paul Campbell served as advisor to the tax team.

The team received their case with supporting materials (about 250 pages of memorandum, cash flow projections, etc.) from the Deloitte FanTAXtic national committee three weeks prior to the competition. Their challenge was to read and understand the materials given, research possible treatments, calculate internal rate of return and tax implications for alterna-



tive financing arrangements and alternative entity structures, and then develop a 10-minute presentation using no more than 25 slides. They were then required to present findings and recommendations to Deloitte partners who role-played as principles/owners of the business ventures.

With the top two finish, the team was invited to attend the National Competition that was held March 25 through 27 at Deloitte University in Westlake, Texas. At the National Competition, the team continued to impress the partners and

managers of Deloitte who remarked on numerous occasions how well the team performed, especially given the makeup of an all-freshman team. The Utah State University team was the only team in the competition consisting of this makeup as teams were typically comprised of 2-3 freshman and sophomores with 1 junior and 1 senior. Receiving an Honorable Mention at the national competition, Utah State University received \$2,000 with an additional cash prize for each team member. Way to go, Tax Team! ■

Student Awards 2022



Alex Acevedo
UACPA Outstanding Scholar

Alex Acevedo graduated from Utah State University with his Bachelor of Accounting degree in August of 2021 and graduated this spring with his Master of Accounting degree. After graduation, he will be taking a tax position with Deloitte in Salt Lake City. Alex is a native of Cache Valley where he loved wakeboarding and water skiing as well as playing other sports in his spare time. When not studying or working, Alex enjoyed spending time with his wife, Makaylie and five-month-old son, James. He is grateful to have been a part of the Huntsman School of Business accounting program because of the great professors and the life-long friends he has made



Kamryn James
FSA Outstanding Scholar

During her senior year of high school, Kamryn James took a couple of accounting and economics classes and discovered that she really enjoys business. She has always loved working with numbers and found the application to business scenarios extremely interesting. Ever since, Kamryn has continued to develop a passion for accounting and business through coursework at Utah State University and tax internships. While attending the university, she served on the Women in Business Association council and participated in a short study abroad program in Paris, France. After graduation, Kamryn will be working at PwC in its Asset and Wealth Management tax group.



Kadia Nelson
SOA Outstanding Student Leadership Award

Kadia Nelson graduated with a Master of Accounting degree with an emphasis in professional accounting this past summer. Upon reflection of her time at USU, Kadia is grateful for the opportunities she had while being involved as a Beta Alpha Psi officer, a Quigley Ambassador, Vice President of Business Council, and as a Huntsman Scholar. Some of her favorite memories while attending USU were through service projects and other events put on through the business school.

She is grateful for the mentors and professors who helped her feel successful while completing school and various internships. Kadia has accepted a full-time job offer with KPMG in Salt Lake City and is excited to begin her career. Again, she is grateful for the support, relationships, and knowledge she has gained from faculty and friends and looks forward to future opportunities and adventures. ■



Quigley Ambassadors

The Quigley Ambassadors are student representatives of the accounting program who focus on recruiting students into the accounting major, encouraging accounting students to pursue their aspirational career goals, and creating connections among students and alumni. The Quigley Ambassadors were able to resume face-to-face activities during the 2021-22 academic year and continue to be actively involved in the SOA through planning and executing various activities. They also work hard to create other resources to help current accounting majors and those who are interested in the major throughout the year. Some of the highlights of the past year includes (1) the annual Hot Cocoa Night – an opportunity for undergraduate students to network with graduate students to ask program- and career-related questions, (2) The Quigley Game Night, which focuses on recruiting students into the accounting major, and (3) the Kickoff Meeting that highlights the accounting timeline so current majors know important deadlines and dates for internships and meet-the-firms. The female Quigley Ambassadors also played a significant role in planning and running this year's Women in Accounting Luncheon. 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. ■

How I became an Accounting Student

By Shay Fidel

I began my college career as a biological engineering student pursuing medical school. I was passionate about math and science as well as helping people solve problems that they couldn't solve on their own. I was in engineering for about a year and a half before I realized that studying engineering was not going to benefit me significantly as a physician. This realization led me to change my major to communication studies. I loved communication studies but ultimately decided that I was not interested in the jobs related to the communications field. As a type of person that must plan for everything even in my backup plans, I wasn't comfortable with my career outlook should medical school fall through. This is when I stepped back and realized it would be nice to have some financial background since I didn't want to become one of the doctors that can't seem to get a handle on their money.

This is when I changed my major to finance. As a finance major, I became more interested in money and the vast world that it brings with it. I realized that I can help people with money in the same way I could with medicine — by helping solve problems that are hard to solve without professional help. I dropped the medical school path and committed to finance.

I did an internship as a financial advisor for a semester while I took the intro accounting classes in the business acumen. One of these classes gave us extra credit to attend Meet the Firms. I had no idea what Meet the Firms was, but I decided it was worth the extra credit and logged onto the Zoom meeting. Luckily, I did about 5 minutes of research before the meeting to figure out enough about accounting firms to know what sort of questions to ask and not seem



Shay Fidel

overly oblivious to what was going on.

While at Meet the Firms, I told the coordinator to send me to the rooms with the least number of people so I could talk to the firms uninterrupted. I had no knowledge about what the “Big 4” were or what auditing was or what being a partner meant. After talking with a few people, I opened my mind to the option that perhaps accounting was more than I had previously thought. I finished the meeting and opened Aggie Handshake. I searched “tax accounting internships” and applied to all of them that I could find.

I accepted an internship for the following spring. After I completed my internship, I knew accounting was a great place for me. It allows me to help people do something that a large portion of the population hates — taxes. Accounting is also a field that requires me to think like a scientist and be creative about solutions while using math to get to the answer.

I can credit my future to that one acumen class that gave extra credit to attend Meet the Firms. I am also grateful to the firms that were at the event for showing me that accounting was the path for me. ■

Grad Student Teacher of the Year

One student nominated her as follows: “My first meaningful interaction with Morgan actually occurred outside of class. I was sitting at a booth for my club when Morgan came and talked with me, inquiring about the club. There were three things about this exchange that impressed me. First, as I remember it, she didn’t stop at many other booths; it seemed she intentionally came directly to mine. Second, she addressed me by my first name. Up to this point, we had never had a conversation, so I was very impressed by this. Third, she expressed genuine interest in my club. This experience demonstrated an important skill that Morgan has — the ability to show genuine care for students in meaningful ways. This connection allowed her to become a more effective teacher to me.”

Another student described her experience as follows: “Starting this course, I initially connected with Morgan’s teaching style. I became impressed with her knowledge of the subject matter as well as her ability to relate the material in many different ways in order to help each student fully understand the new concepts. I immediately was comfortable asking questions in her classroom—which is something that I usually shy away from. Morgan taught with fairness, set

high—yet achievable—expectations, and truly cared that each of us in her classroom learned the material well. It was not difficult to get in touch with her and she always offered extra help outside of class if needed.”

Morgan Hendricks is a third generation Aggie from Farmington, Utah. In September of 2020, she married Kai Nethercott, her previous Mandarin tutor. She graduated this past May with her master’s degree in accounting and is immensely grateful for the support and encouragement they have provided her with. Morgan was honored as the Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the Year for the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business during 2021. She has been a Presidential Scholar, a Huntsman Scholar, and a Women in Business Scholar while at Utah State. Morgan interned at Ernst & Young and Alter Domus. She loves traveling and has had the opportunity to study abroad in London and India. Morgan is ecstatic to be joining Tanner LLC, this October while her husband applies to medical school. ■



Morgan Hendricks was selected as this year’s Huntsman School of Business Graduate Student Teacher of the Year.



PCAOB Scholarship

The School of Accountancy was excited to nominate and have Kendall Mortensen selected to receive a \$10,000 PCAOB scholarship. This is the fourth year in a row that USU has been chosen to receive the PCAOB Scholarship. Kendall Mortensen was raised in Herriman, Utah and is the second oldest of five siblings. This fall, he will be finishing up his undergraduate degree and starting the MAcc program at USU.

Utah State provides many opportunities for students to be involved and Kendall has taken advantage of several them. The past year he has been an officer in the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), an accounting tu-

tor, Undergraduate Teaching Fellow for Accounting 3310, UACPA ambassador, and a Quigley ambassador. He has loved working with the School of Accountancy and plans on being involved with all these programs again this following school year.

Kendall not only likes being involved with his academics, but he loves spending time outside. He enjoys mountain biking, snowboarding, and golfing with his friends and family. This past summer he had the opportunity to work for PwC as an audit intern and enjoyed the experiences he had. He looks forward to the opportunities that his future accounting profession has in store. ■

“It is hard to express in words how happy and grateful I am to be nominated and to receive the PCAOB scholarship. The financial help that they have provided me will have an impact on my life far beyond my schooling. The least I can do is say thank you for helping me pursue and accomplish my goals. — Kendall Mortensen



**MOST
INFLUENTIAL
AGGIES**

SOA student, Michael Moore, was voted as one of the USU 50 most influential Aggies for the 2021-22 school year. When Michael transferred to USU, he immediately stood out among his peers. He attended every accounting event and quickly became known among the students and faculty.

Michael is from South Jordan, Utah, and will complete the MAcc program in 2024. Before attending USU, Michael completed an associate's degree at Snow College, where he discovered a love of being highly involved. While serving as a student body officer at Snow College, Michael sat on several financial boards and led initiatives to improve student fee transparency. Upon transferring to USU, the University Student's Association appointed Michael to the Hearing Board and the Student Fee Board. In this position, Michael published an article in the university newspaper explaining the processes behind student fees. Currently, Michael is serving as the chapter president of Beta Alpha Psi in the School of Accountancy. Michael recently completed an internship with Traveller & Company CPAs and will intern with the Deloitte U.S. tax group in London in January 2023. Michael accredits his professional development to the School of Accountancy and his many mentors throughout his education. Congratulations, Michael! ■



Gone Fishing

Dr. Larry Walther
a farewell

Have you heard someone say, that person is “gone fishing” or is “out to pasture”? While it is true that Dr. Larry Walther might be out fishing or found in a pasture – he is certainly not “gone fishing” or “out to pasture.” Dr. Walther has had a truly impactful career at Utah State University and will continue to have a positive influence in his retirement.

Dr. Larry Walther has been a man of many hats during his 14 years at Utah State University. Serving with distinction as Department Head of the School of Accountancy, Interim Dean, and Associate Dean of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business during his USU career. He built a remarkable legacy of excellence in every endeavor that he undertook. Perhaps his most important role has been as a mentor to our students, faculty, and alumni.

During his time as Department Head, he led the School of Accountancy to prominence in national rankings, CPA Exam pass rates, and unprecedented growth in student numbers and diversity. Larry has been a difference-maker.

Dr. Walther has always had a watchful eye for students in need, going above and beyond the call of duty to support, mentor, and develop future leaders. On more than one occasion, he identified students in need and helped them find a path to success.

Dr. Walther’s influence extends well beyond Utah, to his native Texas and throughout the world. He is known worldwide for his authorship of the free online introductory accounting textbook, principlesofaccounting.com, and his leadership and service to the Federation of Schools of Accountancy and Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

When Dr. Larry Walther stepped down as Department Head of the School of Accountancy, he shared his “crystal ball” about the future of higher education and the four essential elements of success. These four concepts are:

- Establish and maintain technical competency
- Adopt an attitude of sheer persistence, especially in the face of adversity
- Unrelenting adherence to high ethical standards
- Understand and value relationships with others

Dr. Walther has indeed been an exemplar of these concepts as he maintained the highest technical competency, an indomitable attitude of persistence, unrelenting adherence to high ethical standards, and ever a builder of friendships and lasting relationships.

Above all else, Larry will always be remembered as a friend, mentor, leader, and contributor to the growth and reputation of the School of Accountancy and Huntsman School of Business. Through his foresight and contributions, a legacy of excellence has been built. We are going to miss Larry as he steps into the next phase of life and have no doubt that the next time Larry goes fishing, he will undoubtedly catch the “big one”. ■

WELCOME New Faculty!

Dr. Grazia Xiong received her Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in 2022. She received her Master of Accountancy degree from University of Missouri-Kansas City and her Bachelor's degree (Italian Language and Culture Studies) from Xi'An International Studies University. As a researcher, Dr. Xiong's passion is to put behavioral economics to work in the real world, where theory can be used to improve business practices. Her primary research interest focuses on managerial decision-making, incentive systems, and employee performance. Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., Dr. Xiong had 5 years of diverse industry and cultural experiences ranging from international business to tax advising, and non-for-profit accounting across three countries (China, Italy, and the United States). Dr. Xiong has also won multiple teaching awards, outstanding conference reviewer awards, and the outstanding paper award at the 2021 AAA Management Accounting Section Midyear Meeting. Besides teaching and research, she enjoys skiing, hiking, paddle boarding, and exploring the natural wonders of the Beehive State.



Fei Shuai holds two bachelor's degrees: one in business management from Southwest University of China and one in accounting from Missouri Southern State University. She received her master's degree in accounting from Texas A&M University in 2015. She worked in the capital markets and on the Accounting Advisory Services team at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Dallas, Texas. Prior to joining Utah State University, she taught accounting courses at Heritage University in Toppenish, Washington. She is a licensed CPA. She and her husband, Pin, have two children. She enjoys traveling to different places and experiencing outdoor adventures.



FACULTY AWARDS

20 22



Brad Lindsey

Faculty University
Service Award

Outstanding Graduate
Mentor of the Year



Rachel Martin

Teacher of the Year



Lynn Rees

Researcher of the Year



Paul Campbell

Undergraduate Faculty Mentor
of the Year



Frank Shuman

Cazier Professor Lifetime
Achievement Award



Congratulations!

Dr. Chad Simon was recently promoted to Full Professor in the School of Accountancy. Since receiving tenure in 2017, Dr. Simon has published articles in *The Accounting Review* and *Review of Accounting Studies*, both of which are commonly considered to be “Top 6” academic accounting journals and appear on the Financial Times 50 list. During his time as an Associate Professor, he served as the Academic Director of the Huntsman Scholar Program and has most recently been the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the Huntsman School. Dr. Simon has now been at Utah State for 10 years and is excited to continue working with our incredible students, faculty, and staff for many years to come. ■

IMPACTFUL Research

Lynn Rees researches the impact of companies' financial reporting on capital markets. In a recent project, Lynn co-authored an article that examined whether a company's political activism induces bias in the media coverage of the company's earnings announcements and whether that bias impacts investors. Lynn's co-author on the project is Brady Twedt '09, an alumnus of USU's School of Accountancy who earned his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University and now is a faculty member at the University of Oregon. Brady and Lynn found that media outlets negatively slant their coverage of earnings announcements when the political leanings of the outlet are incongruent with the political ideology of the firm. As an example, Chevron is widely viewed as an active supporter of Republican political candidates. Lynn and Brady's evidence shows that media outlets that slant their coverage in favor of the Republican Party (e.g., Fox News and The Wall Street Journal) will likely provide more favorable coverage of Chevron's financial reporting than would media outlets that slant their coverage in favor of the Democratic Party (e.g., MSNBC and The Washington Post). The opposite is true for companies with a liberal political agenda (e.g., Dreamworks Animation or Nike). The evidence provided in the article also suggests that investors are influenced by this slanted coverage such that the company's stock price and trading volume around earnings announcements are affected by the slanted coverage. While slanted media coverage is easily observed in political news, this research is the first to document that political bias extends to financial reporting. The research was recently published in a premier accounting journal, *The Accounting Review*, and it has important implications for investors on how they should obtain and interpret news coverage of companies' financial reporting. ■



ALUMNI



DISTINGUISHED Alumni Awards

Wes Yeoman and Joseph Strain

Wes Yeoman '00 was born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and moved to Utah when he was 15. He attended Utah State and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 2000. Upon graduation, he and his wife, Cori (who is also a Utah State graduate) moved to Dallas, Texas. Wes began his career at Kimberly Clark in their corporate accounting department while earning a master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. In January of 2002, he started as a staff auditor at PwC until he moved back to Utah and began his time with Deloitte in 2003.

Wes has served a wide variety of clients as an audit professional. He has assisted his clients with numerous public filings, is well versed in GAAP, is IFRS certified, and became an audit partner at Deloitte in 2013. Wes is currently the office audit leader of the Salt Lake City practice and enjoys serving his clients and recruiting at Utah State. He and Cori have five children: Will (20), Ty (18), Brook (16), Addi (15), and Jacey (12). Wes enjoys spending time with his family vacationing, watching basketball, and skiing.

Joseph Strain '00 is currently a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Joe graduated from Snow College in 1997 and continued his education at Utah State University for both his BS in accounting and MBA degree. After graduation, Joe started his career as a CPA working in the PwC Salt Lake City office. In addition to his duties in Salt Lake City with PwC, Joe spent seven years teaching accounting at Westminster College before his career took him to the PwC National Office. Joe spent two years in the PwC National Office in the SEC services primarily focusing on IPOs with retail and consumer companies. Once his two-year tour at national was done, Joe embarked on another two-year tour to work at PwC in Tokyo, Japan. Joe ended up spending seven years in Tokyo primarily serving PwC's largest Technology client and helping navigate the US regulatory environment.

During the summer of 2019, Joe finished his time in Japan, and moved back to the US. He is now the assurance leader for PwC in San Diego. Outside of work, Joe is dedicated to his family. He has a wife and three kids who have accompanied him all over the world. He loves the outdoors and loves Utah. Even while living in Japan, Joe has always kept a residence in Utah and visits often. Outside of PwC, Joe has spent time as a vice president of the Mountain West Capital Network, is on the Board of Connect San Diego, is part of the Snow College Foundation, and he is also a member of the Audit Committee of Community Housing Works in San Diego. ■



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 2021 include: Haynie & Company, PwC, and Tanner LLC. As more and more Aggies enter the workforce, achieving "All-In" status becomes increasingly difficult, so we congratulate each of them for their dedication to this campaign. The generosity of the individuals from these firms (and many others not listed) enables us to support student scholarships, build permanent endowments, and continue to provide educational opportunities for our students.

If your firm would like to join the list for the 2022 calendar year, please contact the School of Accountancy at soa@usu.edu for more information. ■

Diamond Circle

\$10,000 or more

Benson, Darren & Brigeta
Buist, Lura
Deloitte
Erickson, Mark & Jennifer
Parker, Dennis & Julie
Price, Jay
Quigley, James & Bonnie
Skousen, Cliff & Janice

Gold Circle

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Colligan, Tom & Stephanie
Doyle, Jef & Sheryln
Janes, Craig & Lisa
KPMG
Larson, Julie
Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC
Phillips, Robert & Michelle
PwC
Rasmussen, Eric & Michelle
Rees, Lynn & Barbara
Rosson, Paula
Ward, Larry

Silver Circle

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Ernst & Young Foundation
Janes, Lynn & Irma
Jensen, John & Amy
Jones Simkins
Judd, Paul & Jan
Nixon, Scott & Shiree
Panda Group
Peck, Sheldon
Poulson, Doug & Mary
Saunders, Michael & Mary Ann
Sweet Candy Fund for Health
& Wellness
Tanner LLC
Tax Executive Institute
Vasquez, Becky

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-AUGUST 2022

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\$500 - \$2,499

Allen, Heather & Jesse
Anonymous
Berrett, Anthony
Dent, Ryan & Karen
Erickson, Todd & Sally
Faisal, Abdullah
Gillespie, Daniel
Hale, Dawson

Hansen, Doug & Lynda
Heninger, Lynn & Colleen
Hubbs, Lisa
Jeppesen, Ken
Koch, Tad & Donna
Lampros, Jack
Lee, Roger
Loaiza, Andrew & Stephanie

Lucherini, Tyson & Jessica
Luthy, David & Karen
McNeely, Josh & Joni
Miles, Corey & Michelle
Morrill, Steve & Megan
Pope, Curtis & Annette
Ramage, Scott & Lindsay
Rodgers, Kenneth

S&P Global
Sandberg, Brent & Allyson
Thomson, Theo & Arla
Van Tassell, Jason & Tami
Wendel, Jason
Willie, Daniel & Sonia
Willis, Thomas & Deborah

Associates Circle

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Bassett, Greg & Joni
Beckstead, Sidney & Patricia
Bingham, Jason & Stacy
Bond, Robert & Jeanne
Borjas, David & Erin
Broadbent, Curtis & Marilyn
Brown, Clayton
Castagneto, Andrew
Chadburn, James & Josephine
Chamberlain, Adam
Chern, Shiann-Jang & Jin-jy
Choi, Anthony
Clement, Cody & Stephanie
Coombs, Ward & Suzette

Dent, Mark
Earl, Don & Regina
Engle, Janet & John
Fargam, Bezhana & Kathryn
Fullerton, Herb & Rosemary
Geary, David & Ann
Hadfield, Ron & Bonnie
Hards, Charles & Marie
Howe, Emily
Hulet, Carl & Shanna
Hurd, Steve & Karen
Illario, Clarence & Cheryl
Jensen, Justin & Jenilyn
Jones, Jason & Lesley
Jurkatis, Wesley & Allie

Killpack, Tyler & Carli "Bri" Campbell
Klamm, Charles & Bonnie
Larson, Robert & Karen
Lemon, Thad & Emily
Liechty, Jonathan
Lin, I-Rong
Lindstrom, Erik & Julie
Mam, Kirirath
Marler, Wesley
Mattson, Lucretia
Meadows, David
Miller, David
Nelson, Bradon & Kathryn
Niebauer, Edward & Geraldine
Patino, Ana

Patterson, Jeffery & Theresa
Rawson, Allyson
Richard, Stephen
Sellers, Craig & Guylenne
Shiple, Eric & Kelly
Simmons, Stephen & Elizabeth
Simon, Chad & Jenny
Sorensen, Don & Colleen
Stanton, Mitch & Leah
Walker, Gary
Wang, John
Warnes, Craig & Barbara
Wilkey, Lacey
Wiser, Ron & Cynthia

Friendship Circle

Up to \$99

American Express Foundation
Anderson, Branden & Chelsea
Bagley, Brady & Lisa
Belnap, Quentin
Bentley, Tiffany
Berghout, Ryan
Bluth, Parker & Kirsten
Boekweg, Johnathan & Rebecca
Capener, Kassi & Randell
Christensen, Nate & Abygail
Clark, James

Cottle, Paige & Kaden
Davis, Alexander
Dettinger, Jacob & Rebecca
Draper, Scott & Charie
Droesbeke, Derek
Duggar, Michael & Shelly
Fielding, Jeff
Gines, Nicholas & Ana
Hepworth, Kyle
Hilton, Seth
Hlavaty, Paige & Steven

Huang, Chia-Hwa & Chin-mei
Hulet, Don & Kaysee
Lake, Matthew
Lawson, Carl & Jacque
Lee, Nathan & Brianna
McLeskey, Michael & Kara
McMurdie, Chace & Shareesa
Mohamadlou, Hamid
Nye, Kenneth & Vickie
Peaden, Kevin
Pierson, Tyrel

Roundy, Rodney
Sargent, Kent & Diana
Tolbert, Kelsie
Unidentified
Watson, Stephen & Elizabeth
Watts, Brianna
Wilson, James
Wolfley, Tyler
Zhou, Ailin



Alea Simmons
Stokes Brothers' Scholarship



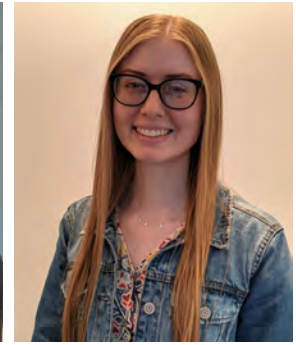
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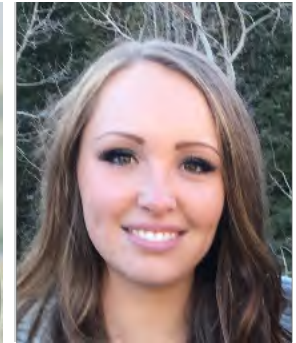
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Jeremy DeBack
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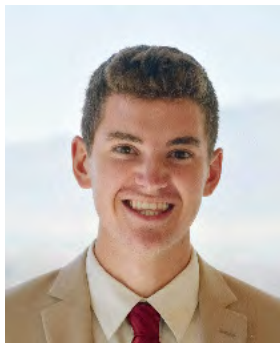
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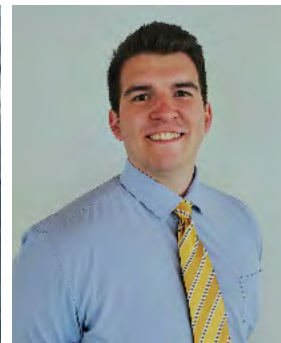
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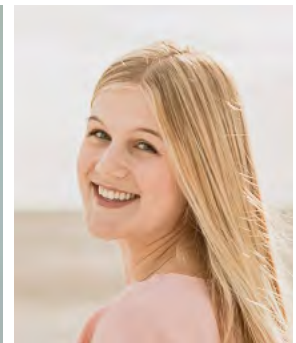
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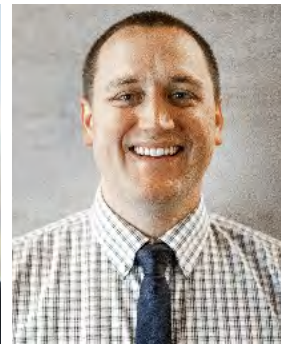
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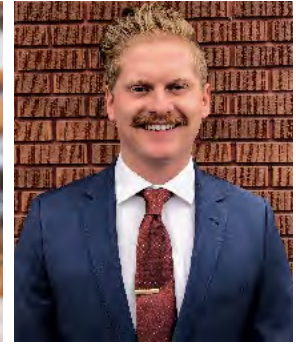
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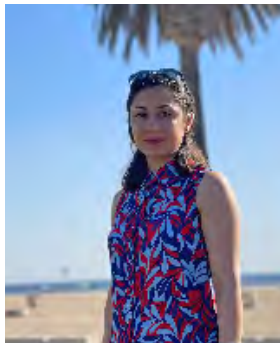
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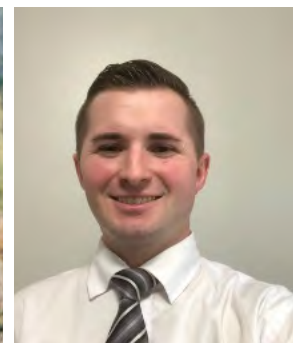
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