Dear students, alumni, friends, and supporters:

As we began to work on this year’s newsletter, we naturally started by preparing a list of news, activities, and accolades. We were excited because there is so much we wanted to share with you! This list included moving up to the 34th spot on the Public Accounting Report’s ranking of top accounting programs, reporting that Tyson Irwin earned the 2013 Elijah Watt Sells Award—our third winner in the past two years, as well as other similar events. Our initial cover design included a mountain climber scaling a tall peak, with a proposed tag line, “Reaching New Heights.”

But then, I thought about the title of a popular movie, As Good As It Gets. It is a pretty clever flick about a very successful novelist, Melvin, who is deeply engaged writing his 62nd book. Despite his publishing success, he had lost his way. In the end, Melvin makes an unlikely friend, to whom he accidentally uttered, “You make me want to be a better man.” I find this comment to be highly transitive to the design and purpose of higher education. It goes to the core of the School of Accountancy’s mission and strategy, which is purposefully directed toward an engaged intersection between students and faculty.

And so, we refocused the cover on our purpose and away from our achievements. Our purpose is to foster and instill guiding values such as integrity and respect, coupled with unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching/learning, discovery, and outreach. This we seek to deliver in an environment that is of unquestionably excellent value. I hope we are succeeding; the awards and accolades we received this past year are about as good as it gets, but that does not matter. What matters is our continued commitment to purpose, and that mountain has no top.

Enjoy perusing this newsletter. Thanks to all my wonderful colleagues, students, advisory board members, alumni, and friends! It is a pleasure to work with each of you.

All the best,

LARRY WALTHER
EY Professor and Head
USU Pioneers New US GAAP Certificate

- The School of Accountancy, in conjunction with IASeminars, has identified a rapidly emerging global need for specialized training in U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (US GAAP). Numerous well-trained financial service professionals around the globe are well-versed in international financial reporting standards, but lack specialized knowledge about US GAAP. The slowing pace of global standards convergence has created a unique training and certification opportunity.

USU is pleased to have entered into an exclusive agreement with IASeminars, a global financial training company headquartered in London. USU faculty have developed a curriculum and seminar series, which culminates in an examination process. Successful participants will be awarded a co-branded USU/IAS Certificate in US GAAP. The first training seminar launches in Miami in December. For more information, contact the School or IASeminars.

Big MAcc Attack?

- Apologies to McDonald’s for purloining their former advertising tag line, but we did want to get your attention about the growth in our Master of Accounting (MAcc). We’ve doubled over the last two years. It is expected that the 2014-2015 academic year will see in excess of 50 MAcc graduates and over one-third of those will be women. And, there are now more new students enrolling than ever before. This suggests another big jump in graduates next year. Indeed, the professional program in accounting, which results in simultaneous awarding of both the graduate and undergraduate degrees, is now being viewed as the preferred program of study.

Why is growth good? It enables us to establish the critical mass of students that is necessary to succeed in being able to place our students nationally. The accompanying map pinpoints selected out-of-state placements for MAcc graduates during the past year.

Huntsman Hall, Growing Tall

- Construction of the new Huntsman Hall is well underway. The foundation is in place, and the structural steel is virtually topped out. We now enter the exciting phase of adding exterior walls and glass, before the snow starts to fly. Actual pictures can now start to replace the architectural renderings you have probably become accustomed to seeing over the last few years. Next year, about this time, students will begin to enjoy the new “named” classrooms and study spaces. If you love USU, and want to make a legacy gift, it’s not too late to add your name to your very own room!

The new facility will more than double the square footage available to our students. No home-addition would be complete without remodeling the old space, and we have taken the same approach. The existing Eccles Business Building is being completely renovated. If you come looking for the School of Accountancy, we’re now on the 8th floor, enjoying a commanding view of beautiful Cache Valley.

View our live webcams: huntsman.usu.edu/huntsmanhall
Outstanding Students

■ **Bri Campbell** graduated from Utah State University with her bachelor's degree in accounting with a 3.97 GPA. As an Aggie, Bri competed on the Women’s Track and Field Team where she was named Academic All-WAC all four seasons and competed in the first round of nationals in high jump in 2013. She was also the recipient of the 2013 Joe E. Whiteside award, presented to the student-athlete with the highest grade point average. After graduating with a master's degree in accounting this spring, Bri now works for PricewaterhouseCoopers. In her spare time Bri enjoys country dancing and has completed seven service trips to an orphanage in Mexico.

■ **Mike Bills** is in his senior year of the accounting program. During his time at USU, Mike has been very involved in the Institute of Management Accountants, where he served as president this past year, and Beta Alpha Psi. Mike is a member of the USU Track and Cross Country team. Along with being a student athlete, Mike works as a tutor in the Accounting tutor lab and as an undergraduate teaching fellow for intermediate accounting. Mike has also received the prestigious Stuart Cameron & Margaret McCloud Memorial Scholarship, a national scholarship given to only one IMA student member. After Mike completes his master’s in accounting, he plans to begin his professional career with Deloitte in Washington DC.

■ **Jon Medrano** graduated from USU with a bachelor’s degree in finance and worked in operations management for a Fortune 500 company before returning to USU to pursue a master’s degree in accounting. Jon values the education offered by the School of Accountancy so much that he commutes from North Ogden daily. He has a 3.93 Accounting GPA and graduates this May. He has held officer positions in both the USU Financial Planning Association and Beta Alpha Psi, and he recently completed a tax internship. Jon was selected for the UACPA Outstanding Student Award based on his academic performance and unique initiative in contributing to the School of Accountancy.
**TYSON IRWIN** an Elijah Watt Sells Recipient

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) has announced that USU School of Accountancy alumnus, Tyson P. Irwin is a recipient of the prestigious Elijah Watt Sells Award for his outstanding performance on the Uniform CPA Examination. The AICPA bestows this award upon candidates who have obtained a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the CPA exam on their first attempt. Of 94,154 individuals who sat for the 2013 exam, only 55 achieved this rare distinction. The AICPA notes that “The Elijah Watt Sells Award program was established by the AICPA in 1923 to recognize outstanding performance on the CPA Examination...Sells was one of the country’s first CPAs. He was active in the establishment of the AICPA and played a key role helping to advance professional education in the profession.”

Tyson graduated from Utah State University with a BS and a Master of Accounting and is currently an assurance associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Salt Lake City. A Cache Valley native and Mountain Crest High School graduate, Tyson always had USU in the forefront of his options.

“I chose to major in accounting because I wanted to go into business and thought accounting sounded like a good place to start. As I got a few semesters into the program, I realized that I had made the right choice. I realized that accounting was one of the more technical business degrees, which appealed to me. I was also impressed with the caliber of professors that were in the department, and were continually being recruited... My first class with Chris Skousen was one of the biggest influences on my career choice. Prior to that, I didn’t know much about public accounting. During the class, I learned about the experience and career growth that could be gained from public accounting (although I did not realize the demands of the career field when I first made the decision to pursue it). I liked the idea of a well-defined career path that is offered by public accounting.”

Tyson used the Becker Self Study as his preparation platform. Reflecting on the factors that contributed to his success on the CPA exam, Tyson states that:

“The accounting program was an excellent start to the exam, and gave me an essential base knowledge for the CPA exam. To prepare for the exams, I took that base knowledge, and refined it through hundreds of hours of personal studying. Everyone I have talked to has taken a different approach to studying. For me, I treated my CPA preparation course as a full time job. I studied about 40 hours a week for four weeks for each section of the CPA exam. After the first few chapters of the prep course, I refined my strategy to what I felt worked best for my learning style. As everyone learns differently, it is up to the individual to own the study process and focus on what is most beneficial to them.”

When asked what advice he would give accounting students planning to sit for the exam, Tyson responded:

“Finish the exam as quickly as possible, preferably before starting with a firm. I finished two sections prior to starting, and completed the other two while working full time. As you would expect, it becomes much more difficult to find time to study once you start working.”

All of us in the School of Accountancy salute Tyson Irwin for this monumental achievement.
USU BETA ALPHA PSI
Hosts the Rocky Mountain Region

In April, USU hosted the Rocky Mountain Regional conference for Beta Alpha Psi. The region includes 17 universities. Keynote speaker for the event was Max Brown of the Shingo Institute. USU’s chapter was recognized for having the longest running “Superior Chapter” recognition, an impressive 37 years.

This past year included many events that focused on leadership skills. Chapter President Jesse Hamilton and the other officers wanted to make the School of Accountancy kick-off meeting a more interactive experience where students would enjoy getting to know each other and the faculty as well as learning about the accounting program. In spite of rainy weather, the revised format of the meeting, which featured a “dress for success” fashion show by the Quigley Ambassadors, was well received by students and faculty alike.

Vice President Ana Gines, as student coordinator of the Partners in Business Accounting conference, gave chapter candidates and members the chance to be student hosts for the conference speakers. She arranged for Jim Quigley, former global CEO of Deloitte and featured conference speaker, to spend additional time with the Beta Alpha Psi chapter at an informal dinner.

Service projects for the year included the Walk for Juvenile Diabetes, the silent auction for the Stokes Nature Center, and the Child and Family Support center “Gift of Givin’.” Student officers and Faculty Advisor Bonnie Villarreal attended the annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in August where incoming USU BAP Vice President Lucien Butler was honored as the “Medal of Inspiration” recipient of the year. The conference allowed officers to learn from the successful practices of other chapters, get to know prominent professionals, and begin planning the events and activities for the upcoming academic year.

The current officers are Andrew Loaiza, president; Vice Presidents Lucien Butler, Chris Elliott, Dillon Jones, Paul Owen, and Cole Richards; Jesse Hamilton, treasurer; and Jonathan Medrano, reporting secretary.

IMA Update

USU’s IMA student chapter had an incredible year! The chapter recently received the Gold Award of Excellence for the 19th consecutive year. In addition, the chapter was named one of four outstanding student chapters in the nation, with special recognition for Best Strategic Plan, Best Programs & Activities, and Best Communications. Chelsea Hepworth, the 2014-15 chapter president, received a $2,500 scholarship, one of six awarded nationally by IMA.

The chapter thanks the many firms who hosted technical meetings, including Goldman Sachs, Yesco, and ICON. Chapter officers attended the national student leadership conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. And, in the spirit of helping others, the chapter sponsored eleven children through the Sub-for-Santa program.
The School of Accountancy (SOA) recognized Mark Erickson, ’95, as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at the annual SOA Awards and Recognition Banquet in April. Mark graduated from Utah State with his master’s degree in accounting and began his public accounting career with Tanner & Company. After four years, Mark accepted a position with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington DC. Following his work with the SEC, he rejoined Tanner and became the youngest person to be promoted to partner at the age of 32. Mark has served on the School of Accountancy Advisory Board since 2005 and on the Huntsman School of Business National Advisory Board.

Mark and his wife, Jennifer, have always believed in giving back to show gratitude. Early in their marriage they discussed what they would do in the future if they were blessed with the financial ability. One of many ways they decided to give back was through the “gift” of education. The generous Mark and Jennifer Erickson Endowment in the School of Accountancy will provide scholarships for deserving students for many years to come. Thank you, Mark and Jennifer.
Not only is professor Jeffrey Doyle’s research published in elite academic journals, it is also cited in the business press and in Big 4 accounting firm publications. Recently, a Barron’s cover story highlighted research conducted by Dr. Doyle and his coauthors from USC and Washington University in St. Louis. Although companies are required to report earnings using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), they frequently report on other non-GAAP basis in their earnings announcements (e.g., by excluding certain “non-recurring” charges from earnings). Because managers have discretion to decide what to include or exclude from non-GAAP earnings, and financial analysts often use this alternative reporting basis for their earnings forecasts, Dr. Doyle’s research asks whether companies use this discretion opportunistically to meet or beat analyst forecasts. The research finds that firms using non-GAAP earnings do indeed meet or beat analyst forecasts more frequently than those companies that only report on a GAAP basis. Dr. Doyle’s paper was published in the Journal of Accounting and Economics.

A paper by Dr. Doyle, and a Claremont McKenna College co-author, was cited in material published by EY. Their research examines the trade-off between relevance and representational faithfulness as 10-K reports are subjected to accelerated filing deadlines. Consistent with the SEC’s final decision to create differential deadlines based on the size of the company, the research finds that 10-Ks for large companies show strong increases in overall decision usefulness as the filings are accelerated. The 10-Ks for smaller companies are associated with increases in restatements and decreases in earnings quality. The paper was published in the Journal of Accounting Research.
Dr. Larry Walther, department head of the School of Accountancy, was awarded the Federation of Schools of Accountancy (FSA)/Joseph A. Silvoso Faculty Merit Award for 2013.

The prestigious Silvoso Award recognizes and rewards an outstanding faculty member teaching in a post-baccalaureate program offered by a member school of the Federation of Schools of Accountancy. Criteria used for selecting award recipients include curriculum or program development, participation in student activities, service to the school, participation in professional activities, and external relations related to post-baccalaureate accounting education and leadership.

Dr. Walther’s leadership in the profession of accounting higher education is known throughout the industry. He has received numerous undergraduate and graduate awards for teaching excellence and innovation. Larry has served the academic community continuously over his career as a member and chair of accounting accreditation teams, member of the AACSBo Accreditation Committee, Advisory Board member for the American Accounting Association Financial Accounting and Reporting Section, conference chairperson for the APLG/FSA Joint Seminar meeting, member of the Deloitte Trueblood Committee, and president of the FSA.

Larry was honored at the national meeting of the FSA in San Antonio, Texas.
AICPA and Beta Alpha Psi Award
MEDAL OF INSPIRATION
to USU Student

Each year, Beta Alpha Psi and the AICPA jointly sponsor the National Medal of Inspiration, awarded to one student whose life story is most likely to encourage others to reach within themselves and find “greatness.” USU accounting student, A. Lucien Butler, was this year’s award recipient. The award was presented at the Beta Alpha Psi annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia and included a $5,000 cash scholarship.

From a very young age, Lucien was prevented from receiving an education and forced to work for his family at home. He was only discovered at the age of 14 and after a court order, his biological father was compelled to allow him to attend school.

Once in school, he experienced significant difficulties and struggled to grasp academic concepts at the level of his peers. He overcame these challenges by working with his teachers and taking extra classes.

“One of the great things school did for me was it opened my eyes to what the world was like,” said Lucien. “I started to understand that the only way I was going to make something of myself would be through education.”

Eventually at 16, he left home in order to escape abuse from his biological parents. After about a year he found a family that offered to take him in while finishing high school and eventually adopted him.

Lucien joined the National Guard after graduating high school and was deployed on combat missions in Afghanistan. For his service, he was awarded the Honor of the Purple Heart, which commemorates the sacrifices of America’s servicemen and servicewomen who were wounded in battle.

After completing a LDS mission, he earned an accounting degree at Utah State University, performed a tax internship with Grant Thornton and was very involved in the volunteer work in his chapter and in the community, all the while excelling in the classroom.

Lucien is currently a Master of Accounting candidate at Utah State University where he holds a 3.9 GPA. He is presently a vice president in the USU Delta Omega Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi.
STUDENT ATHLETES
Achieve Success in Accounting

Carli (Bri) Campbell (see page 2) was honored as the Whiteside Scholar-Athlete of the year for academic achievement while competing for USU’s Track and Field team. Many people may not recognize the connection between success in athletic pursuits and the ability to pursue and succeed in a career of professional accounting. At the Joe E. and Elma Whiteside Scholar-Athlete ceremony, eight scholar/athletes from the School of Accountancy were honored: Jarom Baldomero, Paul Clark, and Trent Loveless in Football; Mike Bills (see page 2) and Parker Bluth in Track and Field; Sara Cobb in Soccer; Matt Thatcher in Tennis; and Michelle Yasukochi in Gymnastics.

Successful athletes share a strong drive for success, self-discipline, and attention to detail. Each of these attributes is required for success in the classroom and in professional careers. School of Accountancy students learn complex concepts, keep up with assignments, and study for exams, all while networking, interning, and trying to find the best employment fit within the profession. How is it possible to successfully combine that with the commitment and effort required to compete in athletics at the collegiate level? Several student athletes from the School of Accountancy shared thoughts about how the effort they expend in sports actually helps them succeed in school.

I believe the amount of effort we put into athletics needs to be matched by the amount of effort we put into our academics. I love excelling at all I do. I work hard to be successful in all aspects of my life.
—Michelle Yasukochi, Gymnastics

I developed a very competitive and determined mindset while competing in athletics. Taking this mindset with me to an academic environment has allowed me to reach educational goals that I never thought were possible.
—Paul Clark, Football

I have learned the importance of achieving goals personally and as a team. This last year as a traveling member of the team I learned the importance of time management and focusing on the task at hand.
—Matt Thatcher, Tennis
**Frank Shuman** has served as the IMA student chapter faculty advisor for the past 19 years. At the national level, Frank is currently serving on the CMA Exam Review Committee. During Frank's tenure as USU faculty advisor, the USU chapter has received the Gold Award of Excellence designation each year, continuing the longest current uninterrupted run in the nation. Student chapter officers have received over $40,000 in scholarships from the national IMA organization during this time, including twice receiving the top $5,000 Stuart Cameron McLeod Society scholarship. In April, for his dedication to serving IMA students, Frank was named the 2014 Ursel K. Albers IMA Campus Advocate of the Year. In writing the letter nominating Frank for this award, Michael Bills, the 2013-14 chapter president said, “Frank is an incredible teacher and a significant advocate for the IMA. He has greatly influenced the education of many students, including my own. He has made our IMA student chapter one of the strongest clubs on the Utah State University campus and one of the strongest IMA student chapters in the country.”

**Staci Gunnell**, Autoliv’s finance director of Inflator Technologies, has been involved in manufacturing accounting for over 20 years. Ms. Gunnell played an integral role in leading the early Sarbanes-Oxley compliance teams in inventory and order-to-cash processes throughout the Autoliv North America facilities. She is involved in strategy and development of the global manufacturing footprint for inflator production in China, Japan, Sweden, Romania, France, and the U.S.

Ms. Gunnell has presented at the Lean Accounting Summit, Autoliv Lean Consulting Center, and USU Partners in Business Seminars. Staci is a mentor and supporter to the USU IMA student chapter. She has served on the USU School of Accountancy Advisory Board for five years and as an adjunct professor. She is a past recipient of the Spirit of Jay Price Service Award. Ms. Gunnell has a passion for supporting the School of Accountancy to ensure graduates of Utah State University are professionally ready for successful careers in Accounting.
Daniel P. Rinehart, ’02, earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Utah State University. He started his career in public accounting in the audit practice at KPMG. Dan worked on various public and private clients across the U.S. including an assignment on Wall Street. Mr. Rinehart left KPMG in 2010 joining Wisan, Smith, Racker & Prescott, LLP. Now a WSRP partner, he continues to focus on audit and attestation, providing consulting, litigation support, and accounting assistance to clients in the U.S. and Canada. Mr. Rinehart has been involved in the community and the board of a not-for-profit organization, and a member of the supervisory committee of a local credit union. He is frequently a guest lecturer in the School of Accountancy focusing on audit documentation.

Mr. Rinehart believes everyone who graduates from Utah State has the responsibility to give back to ensure the University continues to be great. He said, “The best way to give back to USU is to donate a portion of your time, energy, and excess.” He also said, “Everyone needs a mentor and I hope I can be a mentor to accounting students who might need some direction or advice. I hope they will call me if they have questions about their career.” Mr. Rinehart and his wife Annika live in Kaysville with their three children.
Meet the Firms Night

The annual Meet the Firms Night continues to be a great opportunity for USU’s impressive accounting students to network with professionals from local and national accounting firms, industry, and governmental agencies. Students are prepared with questions about potential career paths, and ready to make connections with potential employers. This is one of many professional recruiting events for students seeking a career in accounting.

Meet the Firms Night is held in September at the Riverwoods Conference Center. To secure your space for Meet the Firms Night, contact the School of Accountancy at (435) 797-2330.

Quigley Ambassadors

Quigley Ambassadors are select SOA students tasked with recruiting new students into the accounting program. These students make classroom visits and plan activities to engage students to consider accounting as a major. Ambassadors organized a “Women in Accounting” event that gave female professionals and students a chance to interact over lunch. The ambassadors developed a presentation displayed on monitors throughout the Eccles Business Building to highlight benefits of the accounting major. These slides highlighted successful people with a background in accounting (e.g., Phil Knight from Nike) and diversity in the accounting workforce.

The ambassadors organized activities to foster community within the SOA student body. This spring, Quigley ambassadors hosted an event titled, “Let’s Get Fiscal,” that showcased Minute to Win It games. They also did a fashion show in preparation for the fall “Meet the Firms” night featuring proper and improper attire for this important recruiting event. Ambassadors arranged a panel discussion to answer student questions, and gave less experienced students a chance to ask candid questions in an informal setting. The Quigley Ambassadors are sponsored by generous support from Jim and Bonnie Quigley, both USU graduates.

Financial Planning Association Student Chapter

The Financial Planning Association (FPA) Student Chapter enjoyed another great year. The chapter began the year with an opening social; enjoyed monthly professional meetings with financial planners, CPAs, an attorney, and other financial professionals; and ended the year with our annual banquet and financial careers fair. For the 14th year in a row, our members were invited to serve as volunteer staff at the national convention of the Financial Planning Association, a professional membership organization for financial planners. Only four schools in the country have been invited to participate for so many years in a row. In October of 2013, seven members of our FPA student chapter helped conduct the convention in Orlando, Florida.

Summer Jones and Riley Crosbie each served as FPA president during part of the past year. Riley will continue as president in the fall. Several other officers will also continue to serve, and additional members, including new members, will be invited to serve in leadership positions.

Professor Grange and FPA officers appear to be taking a short break from official duties at the Orlando conference.
Faculty & Staff

The School of Accountancy welcomes TERI RASMUSSEN, who replaces Mary Ann Clark following her retirement. If you have interacted with Teri, you know she has already become a highly valued and effective member of the School’s team! Teri graduated from the Huntsman School of Business in 2009 and has worked at USU for more than 10 years in various capacities across campus.

TIMOTHY SEIDEL joined the faculty as an assistant professor of accounting. Tim received his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Arkansas after seven years of assurance services with EY and two years with Darden. His teaching interests include financial accounting and auditing, and his research focuses on auditor independence, audit quality and risk, and the effects of auditing and accounting standard changes and disclosure transparency on earnings quality.

NATE STEPHENS was promoted to associate professor and granted tenure. Professor Stephens joined the School of Accountancy in 2008 after receiving his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Arizona. Dr. Stephens teaches undergraduate and graduate auditing courses for which he has authored several case studies. His research examines audit market competition, internal control disclosures, and the impact of auditors and corporate governance players in capital markets.

Adjunct Professors

DAVID BAUGH, the 2013 Spirit of Jay Price Award recipient, has vast experience in public accounting and as controller, treasurer, and CFO of several private corporations.

PAUL CAMPBELL is a tax partner with Jones Simkins. When a student at USU, Jay Price inspired Mr. Campbell to “pay it forward.” He hopes to help direct and instruct the next generation.

JONATHAN ERICKSON has over 10 years of experience as an auditor, corporate controller, and CFO. Mr. Erickson describes himself as an entrepreneur and educator at heart.

JEFF HARVEY is general counsel and executive manager for mid-sized privately held companies in the Dallas and Salt Lake areas. Mr. Harvey also maintains a private legal practice.

JAMIE LUCKY was formerly with EY and now works with Bank of Utah.

Retirements

Two long-time valued members of the School of Accountancy retired earlier this year.

MARY ANN CLARK retired after 21 years at USU. During her service to three department heads, Mary Ann demonstrated a strong work ethic, excellent people skills, and talent for organizing and managing an efficient office. We are grateful for her diligence in undertaking every assignment or challenge she encountered in a positive and effective way.

RICK JOHNSON, the Larzette G. Hale Professor of Accounting, retired after serving on the SOA faculty since 1985. He is best known for his teaching of Intermediate Accounting II and Accounting Theory and Research.

Our thanks to MaryAnn and Rick as they enjoy their well-deserved retirement.
ALUMNI NEWS

FRED PALMER, ’62, is the president of CMA Dishmachines.

PEARL C. LEE, ’72, is self-employed as a CPA.

DAVID BERGENER, ’74, is retired after 24 years with the Idaho State Tax Commission.

BRAD HALES, ’76, is CFO of Town & Country Bank. Four of his five children are USU graduates.

STEVEN J. HART, ’78, is a partner at Searle Hart & Associates. His son-in-law, Ben Blau, is a professor in the Huntsman School of Business.

BRENT SANDBERG, ’86, is a tax partner at Jones Simkins.

YA-CHIN JENNIFER CHENG, ’86, is lead financial analysts at Oracle.

CARL NIELSEN, ’88, is managing partner at CDN.

DOUGLAS B. CHRISTENSEN, ’88, works at Cirque Property.

DANIEL K. BELL, ’88, is a financial advisor at Royal Alliance Associates, Inc.

CARL HULET, ’93, is the director of financial reporting at Newfield Exploration Company.

There is a huge shortage of Ph.D.s in accounting. According to studies by the American Accounting Association the average accounting professor is now, unbelievably, 60 years old. Few people are electing to pursue the rigorous and lengthy trail toward that degree.

Nevertheless, something very strange is happening in Logan. A number of recent Aggies have found their way to an academic career, and there are several other current students planning to pursue an academic career. We asked these alums about their decision to pursue a Ph.D. and their experience in the Ph.D. program. No one said anything about the water, but you can read more about their detailed interview responses by visiting the SOA homepage: http://huntsman.usu.edu/acct/. Aggies who have recently begun their academic careers include:

BRADY TWEDT, ’09, received a Ph.D. from Texas A&M in 2013, now on the faculty at Indiana University

BRIAN MONSEN, ’10, starting the third year of his Ph.D. at The University of Texas at Austin

REMINGTON CURTIS, ’08, starting the third year of his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona

CHEZ SEALY, ’14, starting a Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Something in the Water?

Remington Curtis, ’08
Chez Sealy, ’14
Why did you decide to pursue a Ph.D.?

BRADY TWEDT: Chris Skousen was a fantastic mentor and helped me to better understand what the research component of being a professor would be like.

REMINGTON CURTIS: I enjoy research and was drawn to the profession because I also enjoy teaching. My professors at USU prepared me to translate accounting principles from the classroom to real-world settings, and I want to help others do the same.

How would you describe your experience in the Ph.D. program?

BRADY TWEDT: I have never been so challenged in my entire life. The combination of graduate-level coursework in econometrics, statistics, economics, and finance, combined with research and teaching responsibilities, was at times overwhelming, but exciting.

BRIAN MONSEN: I have enjoyed the ability the program provides to spend time on more targeted development of my skills.

How did your experience at USU help you on your way to a Ph.D.?

BRIAN MONSEN: The open-door policy that faculty maintained allowed me to ask questions about my courses, but also about the work they were doing.

CHEZ SEALY: The accounting department allowed me to take a number of classes to specifically help me prepare for a Ph.D. while I worked towards my MAcc.

Bryce E. Olson, ‘64

Gail Anger, ‘63

Bryce E. Olson, a USU School of Accountancy 1964 graduate, received the Jeannie Patton Lifetime Service Award from the Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants. In 2012, Gail Anger, a USU School of Accountancy 1963 graduate, received this same award. The USU Huntsman School of Business awarded these two the Professional Achievement Award, Mr. Olson in 1999 and Mr. Anger in 2006. Mr. Olson served as president of the UACPA from 1999-2000 and was awarded the Outstanding CPA in Public Practice award by the UACPA in 2005. Mr. Anger received the Outstanding CPA in Public Practice award in 2000 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2003 from the UACPA. The two have been long-time friends since USU working together at the IRS for 10 years and in public accounting for 16 years.

JASON BINGHAM, ‘96, is a manager at Bingham, Bingham & Watt LLP. He has five children and lives in Haines, OR.

DAVID DEMILLE, ‘98, is a technician II at Deseret Dairy.

TYLER KIRKHAM, ‘02, is the controller at Ceramatec, Inc.

MARYBETH POWELL, ‘04, is a financial analyst at UBS Bank USA. She has one daughter who was born in February 2013.

RICK DOOLEY, ‘04, is an international controller at Max International.

THAD LEMON, ‘06, is controller of Futura Industries.

CHRIS BRADLEY, ‘06, is controller of CML Metals. He has four children and lives in St. George, UT.

JASON TOMLINSON, ‘08, is senior consultant at Ryan LLC. He lives in Taylorsville, UT.

AARON RENTCHLER, ‘10, is a tax senior at Eide Bailly LLP.

BENJAMIN COLE, ‘10, is an accountant II at CHG Healthcare.

TYSON LUCHERINI, ‘12, is audit assistant at Deloitte. He is married with two children.
As reported last year, the 2012 Public Accounting Report marked USU’s first entry into the prestigious Top 50 list of accounting programs in the nation. The 2013 Public Accounting Report showed continuing improvement, coming in at 34th place. Even more important, after eliminating all programs from the list that are coded as “large” (more than 22 faculty) and “Ph.D. granting” institutions, USU’s School of Accountancy held the 4th position, only bested by Norte Dame, Wake Forest, and SMU. This is great company to keep, especially given USU’s excellent comparative tuition rates!

What factors led to this rapid ascent? You might recall this message from within our 2010 newsletter: “a . . . shared commitment to seeing USU’s School of Accountancy achieve national prominence . . . our strategic plan is focused on executable actions to increase in size, quality, and image.” The ranking is not an accident, and it is not the actions of any individual. It is the result of a shared commitment between all stakeholders, including faculty, students, and alums.

The top ranking is the result of many directed efforts, not random activities. Stakeholders have shown a remarkable willingness to believe this result was achievable, and to invest in those beliefs. The rankings carry great value for each of the SOA stakeholders because they suggest enduring expectations for excellence in all dimensions of life. This brand has value, and our alums have a credential that has become quite special.

Out-of-State Student? In-State Rate? YES!

The new Non-Resident Tuition Waiver for Excellence program was announced in February of this year. This strengthens the SOA’s ability to recruit highly qualified students. New students applying to the MAcc program whose GPA and GMAT exam scores are above the average of all other current students in the Huntsman School of Business will be eligible for the in-state graduate school tuition rates.

You might see that as a good deal, but it’s a good deal more. This program will create a virtuous cycle of ever improving metrics that describe the average USU graduate student. You see, next year’s averages will include those great students who were above average the year before. Help us build excellence by spreading the word about this excellent value!

STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL PROMINENCE:

Roadmap to Top Tier

The School of Accountancy extends a hearty “Thank You” to the many donors who support our annual scholarship program. Almost $150,000 was awarded to in excess of 50 deserving students at the recent annual awards banquet. You will soon receive a letter requesting your added support; please consider helping with this worthy cause.
ALL-IN Award

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

Firms achieving the School of Accountancy’s All-In Award for the 2013 calendar year include, Eide Bailly, HJ & Associates, KPMG, and Tanner. We are especially pleased to note that this year marks five consecutive years of All-In giving for HJ & Associates and four consecutive years for KPMG. The School of Accountancy appreciates the continuous financial support shown by our many alumni and friends. Your generosity enables us to support student scholarships, build permanent endowments, and provide continuing educational opportunities for our students.

If your firm would like to join this list for the 2014 calendar year, please contact Dr. Walther for more information at larry.walther@usu.edu.
Utah State University (USU) is pleased to announce that it has entered into an exclusive agreement with IASeminars, a global financial training company headquartered in London, to jointly offer a new certificate in US GAAP intended for the global marketplace.

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST CLASS - DECEMBER 8-12 IN MIAMI COURSES ARE ENROLLING NOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY OR IASEMINARS (IASEMINARS.COM).