



Real *work.*  
Real *values.*  
Real *results.*

# [full disclosure]

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

2012

## from the department head



The national headlines have been ablaze with stories about unemployed college graduates who now find themselves saddled with unmanageable debts they racked up while in school. That must be a desperate feeling. It makes me all the more proud that our students are not participating in this national trend. Our student population is defined by the following important attributes:

**Real work...** Not all of our students milk cows at four in the morning, but a fair number do. In the process they learn important life skills. Below is a picture of a typical senior-level

accounting class. In addition to their challenging academic schedules, most work to provide the bulk of their tuition and living expenses. They know how to work, and they know the value of a buck. As a result, USU is ranked sixth in the nation's best public national universities for graduates with the least debt (*U.S. News & World Report, "Debt Load, Class of 2010, Best Colleges 2012," Sep. 2011*).

**Real values...** Married with children is the case for a large number of our students. Naturally, they have developed a level of maturity and sense of responsibility that is hard to find on other campuses. I prefer to say that our students have good "decorum." Maybe that is just a politically correct way of signaling that most of our students have strong family, cultural, and religious values. Anyway you say it, these characteristics make for a great learning environment.

**Real results...** Good inputs make for good outputs. The hard work and solid values of our students produce nation-leading results. This year I wanted to share insight into our students' performance on the nationally scored Educational Testing Service major field exam (see study on p.4). You will be pleased that our graduating seniors were at or above the ninety-fourth percentile on every business topic. This is an objectively measured score showing how our students stack up against graduating business students around the country!

**Real opportunity...** The School of Accountancy continues to monitor student placement. Again, despite difficult times, more than 90 percent of our recent masters graduates have secured meaningful employment. It is bittersweet to see our students graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives, but we are proud to see them start their careers and grow into successful professionals. Hard work and core values remain timeless principles that drive successful results. I applaud our students, and hope you will join me in supporting them in their quest to become tomorrow's global leaders. When you are thinking of hiring, Get an Aggie and Get Real!

Larry Walther



## Special AACSB Accounting Accreditation

The School of Accountancy is one of less than 200 accounting programs worldwide holding the prestigious special accounting accreditation awarded by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Dr. Larry Walther noted, "Separate accreditation of an accounting program is an objective measure of quality representing the culmination of lengthy self-study and improvement processes, as confirmed by independent peer review." Satisfaction of AACSB standards is affirmed by periodic reporting and reviews. The SOA will host a peer-review team in October of 2012, and looks forward to constructive feedback and a continuation of its credentials.



**>90%**  
placement rate for MAcc graduates

## The Value of a Master's Degree

The SOA tracks the placement activity of its accounting graduates. Clearly, the economy is not as robust as it once was. We work harder to help place our students and appreciate those who recruit our students. Many schools of our size are reporting difficulties placing their graduates. Nevertheless, we are able to report a near 100 percent placement record for our master's students. This is a tribute to the quality of our students! However, the results for those with only an undergraduate degree are less robust. The message from the market is clear—a master's degree in accounting is increasingly seen as "entry-level" for many employers.

## Jim Quigley – An Inspiration to SOA Students

Jim Quigley, '74, truly has rock-star status with our students. He is our well-known and respected alumnus, having served as global CEO for Deloitte from 2007-2011. Mr. Quigley graciously took time from his hectic schedule to visit our students last fall. His message of hard work and ethical behavior, as ingredients for success, resonates well.

Mr. Quigley also previewed his new book, *As One*, which provides deep and insightful analysis of organizational leadership styles that contribute to goal achievement. It is a "must read" book.

The SOA deeply appreciates Jim's many contributions to help shape the lives and futures of our students and faculty. Thank you, Jim!



## Rising Tuition Costs

Where has all the money gone? Why do tuition costs seem to be rising nonstop? Without question, the biggest factor is cost shifting. In the past, most public universities relied predominantly on state transfers and subsidies. Putting oneself through college, debt-free, once meant forgoing a few month's wages each year. Now, our students must directly absorb the lion's share of the full cost of their education. Public universities are not nearly so public, and college loans are all too common. You probably know that USU has one of the country's lower tuition rates. Yet, our students need assistance to manage their educational expenses. Your scholarship gifts are vital and help fill in the gaps created by the shifting cost burden.



## SOA Graduate Curriculum

Last year the School of Accountancy began the process of redesigning its master's program. One objective was to make the program more attractive to a national audience of potential students. This effort included an examination of best practices at other schools. As a result, we are taking a slightly different direction. We have decided that we need to couple undergraduate and master's training into a unified "professional program." We now expect that the first step in our curriculum revision will be to offer an early admission to promising juniors who aspire to graduate with a master's degree. This should allow us to improve the quality and efficiency of our program.

# students



## IMA Student Chapter Earns Gold

The SOA's student chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) achieved the Gold Level Award of Excellence for the seventeenth consecutive year, which is currently the longest streak in the nation. The chapter's highly successful year included hosting five outstanding technical meetings, touring the ICON Health and Fitness plant and the Wasatch Property Management Company, attending the national leadership conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, providing service hours for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinic, and raising funds to sponsor ten children through the Sub-for-Santa program.

The chapter's incoming officers are already busy making plans to "go for the Gold" for the eighteenth year in a row.



*Curtis Anderson, '85, VP of finance for Sweet Candy Co., was a guest speaker at an IMA professional meeting.*

➔ See picture on page 10.

## Accounting – a Great Career for Women

In order to help encourage women to pursue opportunities in accounting, the Quigley Ambassadors partnered with USU's Beta Alpha Psi and created hot pink "Bridge the GAAP" t-shirts and held two "Women in Accounting Luncheons." All female students interested in accounting were invited to the luncheons to enjoy a meal with female professionals from a variety of accounting fields. The professionals shared their experiences, offered advice, and encouraged students to continue their educations and become CPAs.

The t-shirts have been widely successful, and professionals across the state have been requesting them. (Interested alum can purchase shirts for \$8 by contacting us. [accounting@gmail.com](mailto:accounting@gmail.com).

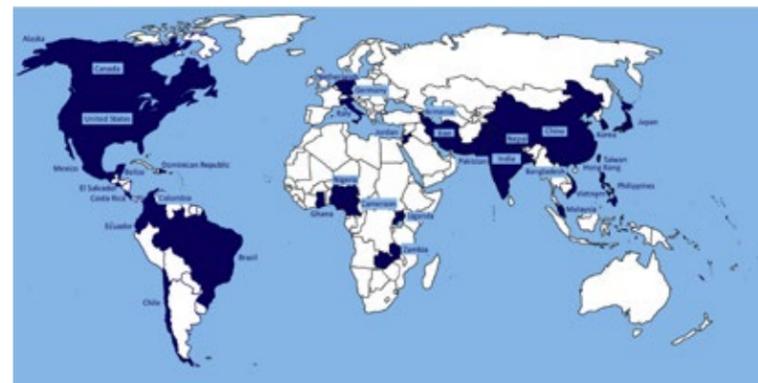
The proceeds will help support additional women-focused events.)

*Cara Galleni, '92, speaks at the Women in Accounting Luncheon.*



## Beta Alpha Psi Continues its Legacy of Excellence

USU's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi continued its legacy of Superior Chapter awards by achieving its 35th consecutive year to receive this award. This past year, the chapter began holding summer meetings to provide students with even more networking and professional activities. During the regular school year, the chapter's professional meetings focused on a variety of topics, including golf etiquette, resume advice, FBI career opportunities, IT auditing, and initial public offerings (IPOs). In addition, the chapter hosted its annual golf tournament and held several socials for members. With the help of its alumni board, the chapter organized multiple alumni-student events, including a Dutch oven cook off, a pumpkin carving activity, and attending an Aggie basketball game. In the spring, the chapter ran its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinic, where volunteers provided more than 1,000 hours of service and prepared over 600 tax returns. Beta Alpha Psi members also participated in service projects with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American West Heritage Center. In 2012, BAP students won awards in regional competition, presented topics at the annual conference in Baltimore, and took first place in a competition there.

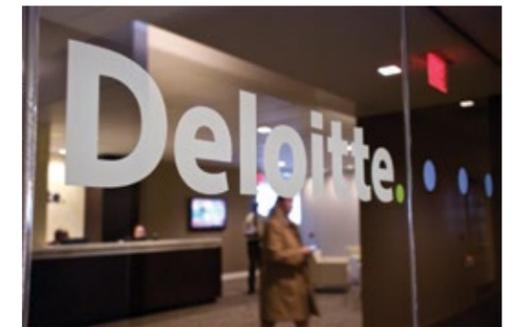


Students from 34 different countries were assisted by VITA volunteers.

## Deloitte International Internships

Three MAcc graduates, Brett Andrews, Jake Hillyard, and Christian Ivans, completed successful internships with Deloitte in London last year. Brett and Jake have accepted full-time employment with the London firm in the fall. Christian was also offered permanent employment, but chose another path. Additionally, David Cook and Samantha Graham have been offered internship positions for 2013.

This internship program affords a limited number of slots to students throughout the United States, and the SOA is pleased that its students compete so very well in garnering these prestigious placements. "Utah State candidates continually impress us in the interviews," said Marek Krawczyk of Deloitte. "I'm not sure what kind of prep USU is giving on that front, but whatever it is, it works."



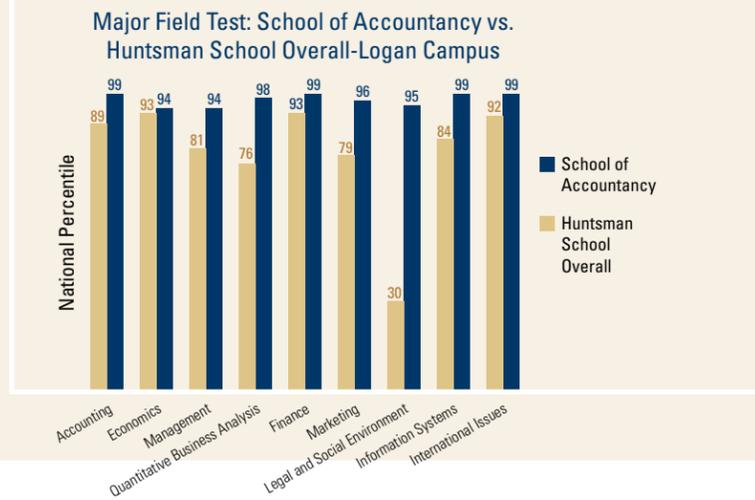
## Quigley Ambassadors Making a Difference

"Come on down" and learn about accounting! That's how the Quigley Ambassadors kicked off the school year. Their custom-built Plinko board and free snow cones were hard to miss at the university's Day-on-the-Quad event. The booth attracted hundreds of students and allowed the ambassadors to share their experiences and inform students about the vast opportunities available in accounting. Throughout the rest of the year, the ambassadors recruited at high school open houses, major fairs, and dedicated accounting information sessions. The ambassadors also made presentations to high schools around the state and Idaho discussing careers in accounting. They hope to break down stereotypes and help students realize how varied and exciting accounting careers can be.



## SOA Students Dominate on National Test Results

Graduating seniors participate in a national exam of competency on key business topics, providing a tool for assessing learning outcomes relative to other business schools. Test results from spring 2011 have been received, and we believe you will be impressed, as shown on the following graphic. SOA students averaged above the 90th percentile on each subject area. Dedication to purpose yields results.



## Outstanding Students

Three students were honored for their scholastic and leadership achievements at the annual awards banquet.

Jill Aoki was selected as this year's Jon M. Huntsman School of Business valedictorian as well as the School of Accountancy and Jon M. Huntsman School of Business Scholar of the Year. Jill earned her bachelor's degree with high honors, completing a triple major in accounting, finance, and economics, and a minor in international business. She will finish her MAcc degree at the end of fall semester, 2012.

Jill has been very involved in leadership and service activities including vice president and president of Beta Alpha Psi, a member of the Huntsman Scholars program, a Quigley Ambassador, and a member of the UACPA. She completed internships with the Walt Disney Company and with Ernst & Young. She has accepted employment with Ernst & Young upon her graduation from the MAcc program.

Anthony Lemon received this year's UACPA Outstanding Graduate Student award. Anthony completed his MAcc degree in May 2012.



He was a recipient of the Presidential Fellowship, the A-Pin award, and is a member of Beta Alpha Psi. He has accepted employment with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Salt Lake City.

Chance Murray is this year's recipient of the Federation of Schools of Accountancy Outstanding Scholar award. Chance completed his MAcc degree in August 2011. He was a Huntsman Scholar and completed two internships. He is currently working with Deloitte in Virginia.

## Meet the Firms Night

The annual Meet the Firms night continues to be a valuable opportunity for students to meet and network with accounting professionals representing nearly 30 local and national accounting firms and governmental agencies. Each September, approximately 100 professionals are available to meet more than 150 accounting students seeking future professional careers. Thank you to all of our professional partners who help to make this a successful event.



See page 10 to find Meet the Firms Night photos from the past.

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## Alumni News

Charles Klamm, '57, is retired and living in Fargo, ND.

Blane O. Cox, '75, works for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency as a cost accounting team lead. Blane is implementing a new financial management system, Oracle eBusiness Suite, for cost accounting for FY12. He lives in Alexandria, VA.

Paul D. Judd, '81, is U.S. tax director for Barrick Gold of North America, Inc. Paul lives in Bountiful, UT.

I-Rong Lin, '81, is chief application architect and project manager for the University of California in Irvine, CA.

David W. Baugh, '88, has been promoted to audit partner at Tanner LLC in Salt Lake City, UT.

Daniel K. Bell, '88, is owner of Retirement Plan Solutions Administrators in Bountiful, UT.

Carl L. Hulet, '93, is corporate assistant controller for Newfield Exploration Company and lives in Spring, TX.

Kenneth D. Jeppesen, '99, is a partner at Schmitt, Griffiths, Smith & Co. in Ogden, UT.

Jonathan Woods, '01, has worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Las Vegas, NV (three years), Edinburgh, Scotland (three years), then transferred to the Sydney, Australia PwC. Recently he has moved into an IT risk role at Commonwealth Bank of Australia with his primary focus on IT risk and assurance.

Rod Cook, '02, is the controller for Probst Electric Inc. in Heber City, UT. He is a graduate of Utah's first UACPA Pronet Leadership Academy.

Chad H. Evans, '02, is controller for Mountain View Hospital in Idaho Falls, ID.

Funmilayo Ojo, '02, works for Shalom Services Corporation and lives in St. Louis, MO.

Ben Hummel, '03, is controller for AgriNorthwest. He and his wife Becky, Accounting '04, make their home in Richland, WA.

Rick Dooley, '04, is international finance manager for MonaVie and lives in Salt Lake City, UT.

Thad Lemon, '06, is assistant controller at Futura Industries Corporation located in the Freeport Center in Clearfield, UT.

Justin Clark Whitworth, '06, is a third generation Aggie CPA. He is currently manager over audit and financial reporting at JD Clark & Company. He and his wife, Jenica, with their two children, live in Layton, UT.

# faculty

## Jef Doyle receives appointment at the FASB.

Congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Doyle, George S. Eccles Chair in Capital Markets Research, who has been asked to serve a one-year appointment as the Faculty Research Fellow at the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) in Connecticut. This is an honor and a tribute to Jef and will enable him to return to USU with vast knowledge that will further propel his already stellar research and teaching. This coveted appointment speaks loudly about the quality of Jef's research record and brings us one step closer to our quest of a nationally recognized, top-tier school of accountancy.

Jef moved his family to Connecticut and began his appointment in July, 2012.



Richard A. Price



Chad A. Simon



Nicole Velasquez

## School of Accountancy Welcomes New Faculty Members

The SOA is pleased to introduce three outstanding assistant professors who joined our faculty in July 2012.

Richard A. Price, comes from Rice University in Houston, TX. He received a PhD from Stanford University in 2005. Richard's research interests include accounting conservatism, earnings quality, fraud prediction, investor behavior, market efficiency, transaction costs, and bankruptcy and delistings. His teaching interests include financial accounting, financial reporting and analysis, and financial statement analysis. Dr. Price was twice recognized as Rice University's outstanding teacher within their prestigious MBA program.

Chad A. Simon joins us from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He received a PhD from the University of Georgia in 2008 and master's and bachelor's degrees from BYU. Chad's teaching and research focus is audit and financial accounting. Chad's early research record is off to a most impressive start, with publications in two of the leading academic accounting journals. In addition, our friends at UNLV are disappointed that we recruited one of their great teachers and a rising superstar within accounting academics!

Nicole Velasquez is a highly talented scholar who serves a dual role in accounting and MIS. She comes

to us from Pepperdine University. Nicole earned a PhD in MIS and a master's degree in accounting from the University of Arizona. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from USU in MIS and was named the college valedictorian in 2001. Nicole's expertise in MIS and accounting will enable us to prepare more relevant curriculum for today's "big-data" environment.

Rhett Hunt joined the SOA faculty in the fall of 2012 at USU's regional campus in the Uintah Basin. He graduated with an accounting degree from Utah State University in 2002, earned a Masters of Professional Accountancy from the University of Utah, and became a licensed CPA in 2008.

Rhett teaches several accounting courses including introductory and intermediate accounting, cost and management accounting, and accounting information systems. His many years of service in the accounting profession, in both public and corporate accounting, will provide students with a valuable combination of academic instruction and real-world experience.



Rhett Hunt



## Jack Peterson Retires

After twenty-nine years of dedicated service to thousands of students at Utah State University, Jack Peterson retired on June 30, 2012. Jack has taught financial, managerial, and audit courses throughout his teaching career. His versatility and ability to consistently deliver a quality course has made him an extremely valuable part of the School of Accountancy. He has the unique ability to make each student feel important and valued.

"When I ask questions, Professor Peterson takes the time to explain the material until I fully understand. He calls on each class member to participate in discussions to ensure that no person is left behind."

— Michael Morrey

In addition to his excellent teaching service, Jack has served as a role model and mentor to scores of students who have sought his advice regarding their education and career paths. Many students have chosen to study accounting because of his special rapport with them. Jack is a perfect example of the highest values that the SOA is trying to attain.

In April of this year, Jack was named Faculty Advisor of the Year for the School of Accountancy as well as the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Teacher of the Year award for both the SOA and the JMHSB. He will be missed by students and colleagues alike.

## UACPA Outstanding Educator

In August 2011, Professor Rosemary Fullerton was recognized by the UACPA as the 2011 Outstanding Educator of the Year. Recipients are selected based on excellence in teaching, research and publication, and public or civil service. Dr. Fullerton teaches undergraduate financial and strategic cost management courses, and graduate advanced



management accounting, which focuses on lean thinking and lean accounting.



Her aim as an educator is to continually discover ways to improve her courses. The UACPA recognized the unique lean simulation she created for her graduate classes where her students build Lego robots using lean processes, and then design lean accounting information from simulation results.

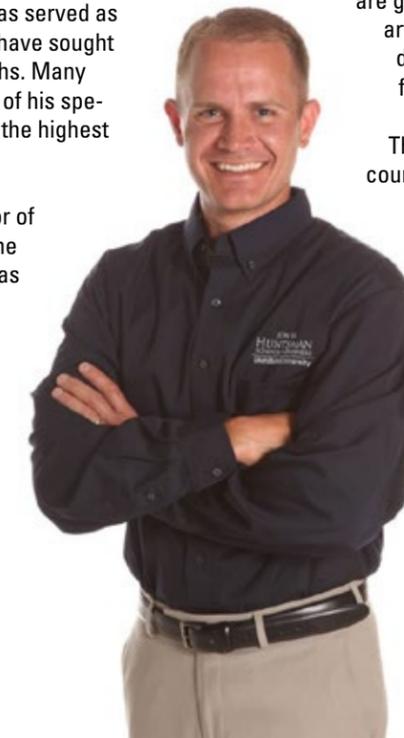
In addition to her teaching responsibilities at USU, Dr. Fullerton has a strong publication record and regularly lectures around the country and abroad.

## Faculty Research: Back-to-Back Home Runs for Nate Stephens

Assistant Professor Nate Stephens (and his coauthors) were honored with two Best Paper Awards at the 2012 annual AAA meeting in Washington, D.C. The prestigious awards are granted separately by each journal. Each article published in the particular journal during the year is eligible for the award from that journal.

The first article is entitled "Individual Accounting Faculty Research Rankings by Topical Area and Methodology." (Pickerd, J. S., N. M. Stephens, S. L. Summers, D. A. Wood. 2011. *Issues in Accounting Education* 26(3): 471-505.) The second publication is titled "Accounting Doctoral Program Rankings Based on Research Productivity of Program Graduates." (Stephens, N. M., S. L. Summers, B. Williams, and D. A. Wood. 2011. *Accounting Horizons*, 25(1): 149-181.)

Both of these journals are widely read and are highly ranked—well within accounting's Top 25.



# spotlight

## Greg Bleazard Receives The Spirit of Jay Price Service Award

Greg Bleazard, '04, is an audit manager at HJ & Associates, LLC, a full service accounting firm located in downtown Salt Lake City. Since joining the firm in 2004, Greg has served both private and public clients in a variety of different industries. In addition to his audit responsibilities, Greg also coordinates all of the firm's recruiting efforts. In conjunction with these efforts, Greg regularly serves as a guest lecturer and speaker to classes and clubs throughout Utah.

Utah State students have benefited from Greg's audit expertise. In an effort to provide a real-world audit experience, Greg developed a summer training program targeting accounting students in their junior and senior years. This program provides students an opportunity to experience the process of auditing a publicly traded company. He also serves as a student mentor and has been an integral part of HJ & Associates' three consecutive "All In" Awards.

Greg is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants. He has served as vice president and president of the Downtown Chapter of the UACPA. Greg is also proud to be the first ever honorary member of the Delta Omega Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi at Utah State University.



## Don't Miss Out on the 36th Annual Accounting Conference



This promises to be the best line-up in 36 years! We have pulled out all the stops to put together a blockbuster list of speakers. After you see our lineup, we are confident you will want to find time to attend this year's accounting conference at USU. It will be a truly remarkable day. The upcoming accounting conference will be on October 25, 2012. Keynote speakers include ...

- Denny Beran, Chairman of the Board, Institute of Internal Auditors, and senior VP of audit, JC Penney Corporation, will speak about enhancing the value of internal auditing.
- Lynn Turner, former Chief Accountant at the SEC and Jonathan W. Duersch, associate chief accountant, U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, will share valuable insights from their extensive knowledge and experience.
- James Leisenring, former member of the FASB and the IASB, is currently serving as senior advisor to the FASB and will provide an international reporting update.
- Weston Smith, former CFO of Health South, will talk about his direct involvement in one of the largest frauds ever.
- Jason Collins, managing partner of Reid Collins & Tsai LLP, will offer advice on the current accounting litigation environment.
- Bill Ezell, member of The Pathways Commission, will tell you about their game-changing recommendations.
- Paula Eldredge, Audit Manager, Zions Bankcorporation and President, Salt Lake Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors, will tell you how to be a team player within an organization.

And, of course, we will have our usual tax and accounting updates during the breakout sessions.



James Leisenring



Denny Beran



Weston Smith



Jason Collins



Jonathan W. Duersch



Paula Eldredge

## Distinguished Young Alumni



Mark and Jennifer Erickson were honored as Distinguished Young Alumni during USU's 2011 Homecoming activities. Both Mark and Jennifer come from a long line of devoted Aggies. Mark graduated with a MAcc degree in 1996 and thereafter joined Tanner in Salt Lake City, where he became a partner at the young age of 32. He has served on the SOA Advisory Board since 2005, and recently joined the Huntsman School of Business Advisory Board.

Mark's wife, Jennifer, earned a BA degree in English in 1994 and taught English and Utah history at Mount Logan Middle School for two years before becoming the mother of six children.

Additionally, Mark and Jennifer recently established the Mark and Jennifer Erickson Endowment in the School of Accountancy that will provide future scholarships for accounting students.

{See ad on back cover}

### ON THE WEB

For registration information, see [partners.usu.edu/htm/conferences/accounting/](http://partners.usu.edu/htm/conferences/accounting/).

## Scholarship Donors & Recipients 2012-2013

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

Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship	\$2,500	Daniel Edwards
Vern Buehler honoring Larzette G. Hale Scholarship	\$1,000	Spencer Jeppesen
David & Barbara Hulme Scholarship	\$1,000	Michael Hendricks
David & Karen Luthy Scholarship	\$2,000	Erika Savage
Deloitte Scholarship	\$4,000	Casey Rawlinson
Edna Southworth Scholarship	\$3,000	Chad Lambert
Ernst & Young Scholarship	\$4,000	Jill Aoki
Frank & Caroline Condie Scholarship	\$2,500	Ye Yao
Frank & Anita Shuman Scholarship	\$1,500	Philip Noble
Frank & Anita Shuman Scholarship	\$1,500	Thomas Kano
HJ & Associates Scholarship	\$1,200	Steve Hurd
Huntsman School of Business Scholarship	\$9,000	Alex Mortensen
Huntsman School of Business Scholarship	\$5,000	Brad Reiben
Huntsman School of Business Scholarship	\$5,000	Michael Hendricks
Huntsman School of Business Scholarship	\$5,000	Tyson Irwin
Huntsman School of Business Scholarship	\$3,000	Kurt Hansen
Huntsman School of Business Scholarship	\$2,000	Jill Aoki
IMA Scholarship	\$2,000	Thomas Kano
James & Gayle Brackner Scholarship	\$1,500	Brett Caldwell
Jay H. Price, Jr. Scholarship	\$4,000	Erin Jacobs
Jay H. Price, Jr. Scholarship	\$4,000	Matthew Florence
Jones Simkins Scholarship	\$3,000	Jacob Peterson
Joseph & Tamara Keller Scholarship	\$4,000	Stephanie Nelson
KPMG Scholarship	\$4,000	Carson Young
Larzette G. Hale Scholarship	\$4,000	Andrea Winkler
Lorenzo Bott Scholarship	\$1,000	Spencer Jeppesen
Norman & Virginia Cannon Scholarship	\$1,000	Kurt Hansen
Out of state tuition waiver	\$6,900	Darin Fullmer
Out of state tuition waiver	\$1,800	Ye Yao
Partner's in Business Scholarship	\$4,000	Joseph Pieper
PricewaterhouseCoopers Scholarship	\$4,000	Matthew Madsen
Quigley/Deloitte Scholarship	\$4,000	Andrew Williams
Quigley/Deloitte Scholarship	\$4,000	Cassie Erekon
Quigley/Deloitte Scholarship	\$4,000	Darin Fullmer
Ralph & Roberta Peck Scholarship	\$2,500	Tyson Lucherini
Richard & Lura Buist Scholarship	\$1,000	Brad Reiben
Robert V. Doyle Scholarship	\$1,000	Steve Hurd
Robert V. Doyle Scholarship	\$1,000	Tyson Lucherini
Schmitt, Griffiths, Smith & Co. Scholarship	\$1,200	Philip Noble
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Brett Andrews
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Clinton Davis
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Eric Pedersen
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Hristo Gangov
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Mike Meryhev
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Rich Netzley
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Shaun Anderson
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$1,500	Will Marriott
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$800	Steve Hurd
School of Accountancy Scholarship	\$300	Philip Noble
Tanner Scholarship	\$3,000	Alan Christensen
V.D. Gardner Scholarship	\$1,000	Kyle Abplanalp
Vance & Tamara Grange Scholarship	\$1,000	Jacob Loosle
Vern & Marie Buehler Scholarship	\$1,000	Tyson Irwin
Vern Buehler honoring Brent Sandberg Scholarship	\$1,500	Brett Caldwell

Mike Spuhler, now partner, KPMG, circa 1977.



Curtis Anderson with Larzette G. Hale, circa 1985.



Meet the Firms



Frank Shuman, far right, circa 1987.



## Paula L. Rosson recognized as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

Paula L. Rosson, '88, was recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award at the annual Awards and Recognition Banquet in April. Paula is vice president and was recently appointed chief accounting officer of MarkWest Energy Partners, LP, a \$1 billion publicly traded partnership in midstream energy business. She has more than twenty years of increasingly responsible financial executive experience and is a recognized financial expert.

Paula started her professional career in the audit department of Ernst & Young. During her nine-year tenure there, she served clients in a range of industries from software to healthcare. After a successful career in public accounting as an audit senior manager, she moved into industry with controllership responsibilities at several large, publicly traded firms. Her first industry experience was

with Cenveo, Inc. (formerly Mail-Well, Inc.), where she was responsible for internal controls and financial planning for more than thirty-five plants in the \$800 million commercial printing division. In 2003, she went to work for TeleTech, Inc. as the assistant controller and head of the North American accounting group. After two years, she moved to Fischer Imaging Corporation, a \$50 million medical device manufacturing firm. When the firm declared bankruptcy in 2006, she was promoted to president and CEO, where she had the challenging experience of leading the company through the closing of its business and the liquidation process. As the current chief accounting officer of MarkWest Energy Partners, she has relied on her past executive experience to lead a team of more than seventy professionals responsible for full accounting operations from SEC reporting to acquisition analyses and management. She has been a key member of the executive team for the past five plus years.

We are proud to claim Paula as one of our esteemed alumnus. She received her B.S. and MAcc in accounting from Utah State University and is a licensed CPA in Colorado.



Paula with mentor Vern Buehler, circa 1987.

## Newly Endowed Scholarship

In January 2010, Frank and Anita Shuman established the Frank & Anita Shuman Scholarship Endowment in the School of Accountancy. Since then, more than \$25,000 has been donated to the scholarship—\$10,000 from the generosity of many of Frank's former students, an amount matched by Frank and Anita. Hearing from so many alumni was a rewarding experience for Frank, who has taught for the SOA for over 20 years. "I remembered something about every student who donated to the fund," Frank said. "It brought back a lot of good memories."

Frank received his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from USU and wanted to give back to the school in order to help other students do the same.

## Scott Nixon appointed to USU Board of Trustees

Effective July 1, 2011, Governor Gary Herbert appointed J. Scott Nixon ('83 BA, '84 MAcc) to a four-year term as a member of the Utah State University Board of Trustees. Scott, the Salt Lake City office managing partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, has served on the Advisory Board of the School of Accountancy for the past 20 years, except for the four years where he was on assignment with PwC in Brazil. Appointments to the University's Board of Trustees are made by the governor, based on recommendations of the president of the University. Scott's responsibilities include active participation in the overall governance of the University and specific assignment to the audit committee, as well as other responsibilities assigned to him by the Chair of the Board.

Remember when...?  
Can you name these people?



BAP pledges, circa 1985.



Meet the Firms



Scott Nixon, second from left, circa 1983.



Scott with recent graduate Jordan Livingston, May 2012.

# all-in campaign

The School of Accountancy is always proud to give special recognition to all firms and businesses with 100 percent participation in our annual alumni fund raising campaigns. The 2011 award recipients include Deloitte, HJ & Associates, KPMG, Schmitt Griffiths Smith, and Tanner. Each of these firms was recognized at the annual awards banquet. We are especially proud to note that HJ & Associates is the first to receive the award for three consecutive years. The SOA faculty and staff also joined the ranks this year with their 100 percent participation rate in the annual giving campaign. The SOA appreciates the generous support shown by our many alumni and friends in building permanent endowments to provide continuing educational opportunities for our students.

The SOA has more than 5,000 graduates, and there is strength in numbers. Gifts do not need to be large when participation is broad. The collective power of your gift will make a substantial difference in the future of the SOA!

If your firm would like to join this list for the 2012 calendar year, please contact Dr. Walther for more information.



Left to right: Ken Jeppesen - Schmitt, Griffiths, Smith & Co.; Michael Spuhler - KPMG; Greg Bleazard - HJ & Associates; Larry Walther - School of Accountancy; Kathryn Leonard - Tanner; Wes Yeomans - Deloitte

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