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SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | 2016 NEWSLETTER



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From the Department Head
LARRY WALTHER
and Associate Department Head
CHRIS SKOUSEN

Dear Students, Friends, Alumni, and Supporters:

It has been an amazing year for the School of Accountancy and Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. Among the many accomplishments, we highlight a few of our achievements and successes this past year.

In March we celebrated the opening of Huntsman Hall. This beautiful facility was made possible by the Huntsman family and many of you. We have been touched by the generosity of so many. If you have not taken the opportunity to tour this state-of-the-art facility, we encourage you to come and visit. We would love to show you around.

Last November we announced the creation of the Bonnie B. and James H. Quigley/Deloitte Foundation Professorship. We are indebted to Jim and Bonnie for their passionate commitment to the School of Accountancy and Utah State University. This endowed professorship represents a significant resource in our pursuit of excellence and development of accounting leaders.

Two of our students received prestigious placements with the FASB and PCAOB. Dillon Jones '15 accepted a one-year position with the FASB. Sam Lindquist was selected as a PCAOB intern in Washington D.C. during spring semester 2016. Both of these placements are highly sought-after and demonstrate the upward trajectory of our students, alumni, and program.

Several students were recognized at USU and by national organizations for their academic excellence and leadership. Student awards included the Male Student Athlete of the Year and the top IMA Student Scholarship (Stuart Cameron Margaret McLeod Memorial Scholarship).

We continue to rank among the "Top 40" Accounting Programs by the Public Accounting Report and College Choice, and we are "Top 25" in CPA Exam pass rates.

We have watched our students achieve individual recognition, high CPA exam pass rates, and national recognition. Our faculty continue to publish impactful research in leading academic journals, and we have hired new faculty with great potential. Our alumni continue to advance to leadership positions in the profession and generously give back. The SOA is moving in a positive direction and will continue to do so as we all work together. We thank you for your continual support, confidence, and generosity.

LARRY WALTHER
Department Head

CHRIS SKOUSEN
Associate Department Head



LARRY WALTHER
Department Head



CHRIS SKOUSEN
Associate Department Head



HUNTSMAN HALL

By: Steve Wilcox

■ **As a student, March 16, 2016, will be a day not forgotten.** An overcast day in March was brightened with a jubilant celebration for the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. March 16 marked another milestone for the Huntsman School with the grand opening of the newest building on campus, Jon M. Huntsman Hall. The dedication ceremony was held in the L. Tom Perry Pavilion with its captivating views of Cache Valley. Dean Douglas Anderson, President Stan Albrecht, Governor Gary Herbert, and Mr. Jon M. Huntsman shared their ambitions for the Huntsman School and Utah State University and the impact Huntsman Hall will have on generations of Aggies to come. By Mr. Huntsman's invitation, Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gave the dedicatory prayer.

The guests assembled in the grand staircase for a special ribbon cutting featuring Mr. and Mrs. Huntsman and Governor Herbert. A public ribbon cutting followed outside the new building led by the Dean and business student leaders.

The building features 21 new classrooms, 21 new study rooms, a few student lounges, Shaw's Café, a state-of-the-art analytics lab, and one of the most spectacular views of Cache Valley.

ABOVE: Students exploring Huntsman Hall after the ribbon cutting. Photo by Emily Beus. **ON THE COVER:** Huntsman Hall Ribbon Cutting. Photo by Casey McFarland.

CPA Exam

■ **The School of Accountancy continues to rank among the top programs in the country** for the CPA Exam pass rate for first-time candidates in large programs (more than 60 candidates). This year the SOA was ranked 24 out of 271 institutions with nearly 75% of candidates passing all four sections of the exam the first time, 10 points higher than the national average. The demand for students to take some sections of the CPA exam before they complete their MAcc is growing, and the students in the SOA are rising to the occasion. They consistently show their dedication to school and their ability to work hard, and they are finding success in both the classroom and on the exams.

EMAcc

■ **The School of Accountancy** plans to launch our new Executive Master of Accounting (EMAcc) program in June, 2017. This new master's program is targeted at mid-level financial executives who are seeking additional accounting training and education. We are excited about the world-class instructors and content contributors who have committed to help build and teach in the program. A sample of these individuals includes: Jim Quigley (CEO emeritus at Deloitte, current member of several boards, and trustee of the IFRS Foundation); Steve Albrecht (professor of accounting at BYU, current member of several boards, expert witness to over 36 major fraud cases, and consultant); Dave Ulrich (professor of business at University of Michigan, partner in a major consulting firm, #1 management guru according to *Business Week*); James Leisenring (senior advisor to the FASB, prior board member on FASB and IASB); as well as two of our highly accomplished SOA faculty, Jef Doyle and Larry Walther.

Applications are now being accepted online. For more information or to submit an application, please visit <http://www.huntsman.usu.edu/emacc> or contact the EMAcc program director, Nate Stephens, at nate.stephens@usu.edu.



Students and professionals networking at Meet the Firms

Cultivating Careers

■ **The second Thursday of each fall semester**, professionally dressed students in the School of Accountancy meet with accounting professionals from local and national accounting firms, industry companies, and governmental agencies at the annual Meet the Firms night. The evening is one of many recruiting and networking events sponsored by the School of Accountancy where students have the opportunity to talk to professionals, build relationships, and learn what a career in accounting is like. This year's event was held on September 8 at the Riverwoods Conference Center. We appreciate the many firms and professionals who support our program.

SPOTLIGHT

CARA GALLENI



■ **Cara Galleni is the controller for Western AgCredit**, part of the nationwide Farm Credit System established in 1916. Western AgCredit provides financing and related services to farmers and ranchers throughout the entire state of Utah and in parts of Wyoming, Nevada, and Arizona. They have eight branch offices, and are headquartered in South Jordan. She oversees the accounting and financial statement reporting. Ms. Galleni has returned to her agricultural roots, being raised in the prime potato-growing country of Southeastern Idaho.

Her previous work experience includes federal contract administration for Management and Training Corporation in Centerville, Utah. She was the financial reporting manager for Wheeler Machinery Company for a number of years after she worked in public accounting as an auditor for both KPMG and Hansen, Barnett and Maxwell.

Ms. Galleni is a Certified Public Accountant and has been very involved with the efforts of the Utah Association of CPAs, including serving as a past President. She continues to be involved on committees and other conferences that the UACPA presents.



BAP officers appreciating the view in New York City

USU BETA ALPHA PSI Targets Leadership and Mentoring

■ **As the profession continues its trend toward earlier recruiting,** and state legislation allows for earlier sitting for the CPA exam, Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) chapters across the organization find themselves stressed on both ends of potential student membership. Faculty advisor, Bonnie Villarreal reports that many chapters are struggling to retain members and find students willing to serve as officers.

How then, does the Delta Omega chapter continue to thrive and attract great leaders?

- BAP at USU has adapted to a primary role of facilitating relationships between students, faculty, and professionals – a benefit to all three groups
- Delta Omega chapter targets preparation of students for their first promotion, not just their first position, by developing teambuilding, support, collaboration, and mentoring skills
- Chapter events include great food and engaging activities

During this academic year, Beta Alpha Psi maintained its 39th year of consecutive Superior status and placed in two categories in Deloitte's Best Practices competition. Josh Richards, vice president, won \$1,000 for the chapter as a member of the first-place team on Project Run With It at the annual meeting in Baltimore. The officer team also visited former BAP President Dillon Jones in Norwalk, Connecticut, in the FASB offices and spent a half-day learning more about accounting standards setting and opportunities with the FASB and GASB organizations.



Jim and Bonnie Quigley enjoying bingo night

QUIGLEY AMBASSADORS

■ **In the past school year, the Quigley Ambassadors (QAs)** have broadened efforts to reach potential and current accounting students. To kick off the school year, the QAs put on their fashion show for all accounting majors to prepare for the Meet the Firms recruiting event. Throughout the fall semester, their efforts were focused on recruitment of new accounting students by presenting to several high schools in both the Logan and Salt Lake areas. They also held the annual Women in Accounting Luncheon attended by a large number of female students and practitioners from a variety of accounting firms and industry positions.

In addition to these activities, we have been recruiting from two- and four-year schools to attract potential students into the accounting program. For instance, during the fall semester, two of the QAs attended a recruiting event at BYU-Idaho, and in January, students from several schools were hosted by some QAs for a tour of campus, dinner, and a taste of Aggie basketball. In April, we were able to host a "Quigley Bingo Night" attended by both Jim and Bonnie Quigley, around 100 students (including current and prospective accounting students) and members of the SOA faculty and staff. Dinner was provided along with some fun rounds of bingo and trivia, resulting in multiple prizes given away, including an iPad air. We believe this event was a great success enjoyed by all.

Just as the Huntsman School of Business strives to make the "Huntsman Difference," we aim to make the "Quigley Difference" for current and prospective accounting students as they go through the accounting program. We will continue to recruit the best and brightest from the high school level, within the Huntsman School of Business, and for the SOA's Masters of Accountancy program. This coming year we are excited to improve our events and recruiting, as well as better assist current students in the changing recruiting process.



FPA News

■ FPA is the Financial Planning Association Student Chapter at USU.

Members of the student chapter are also members of the Utah Chapter and the national Financial Planning Association. During the 2015-2016 school year, FPA sponsored an opening social, monthly meetings with professional speakers, a banquet, and participated in several activities sponsored by the School of Accountancy and USU. The professional speakers gave presentations on career opportunities in personal financial planning, estate planning, financial counseling, financial coaching, healthcare, student involvement with financial professionals, and several other topics. Some FPA members participated in professional meetings sponsored by the Utah Chapter of FPA in Salt Lake City, and our chapter president served as a student member of the Board of Directors of the Utah Chapter of FPA. In September 2015, six officers and members of FPA and their faculty advisor attended and served as volunteer staff members for the annual national convention of FPA held in Boston, Massachusetts. The students had a great experience, served admirably (per the national staff of FPA) for the 15th year, and shared useful information with other members of the FPA Student Chapter upon their return.



PARKER BLUTH

Male Athlete of the Year

■ **Parker Bluth, a sprinter on USU's men's track and field team** and a senior in the School of Accountancy, was named Male Athlete of the Year at Utah State's Robins Awards ceremony this spring. The Robins Awards reward students and faculty for hard work and dedication to their individual goals, as well as the goals of USU, and is the most coveted of all Utah State honors. Male Athlete of the Year is presented specifically to individual male athletes who demonstrate exceptional qualities of athletic skill, sportsmanship, and determination and bring recognition to USU's athletic program. Along with excelling on the track, setting school records in the 200m and 4x400m relay, Parker has done very well in the classroom. He plans to continue his education, seeking a master's degree in accounting.

Outstanding Students



CHELSEA HEPWORTH

UACPA Outstanding Scholar

■ **Chelsea Hepworth** is from Rupert, Idaho, and she loves being a Utah State Aggie! She majored in accounting and economics as an undergraduate student, and she recently finished a master of accounting this summer. She enjoyed staying involved on campus, where she was a member of the University Honors Program, Huntsman Scholars Program, Beta Alpha Psi, Institute of Management Accountants, Society for the Advancement of Ethical Leadership, and the Women in Business Association. She completed a tax internship last summer at Tanner LLC in Salt Lake City, and she looks forward to starting full-time with Tanner this fall. In addition to this award, she was recognized as Woman of the Year at the USU Robins Awards. Outside of accounting, she enjoys playing volleyball, reading, cooking, and hiking.



KATRINA NIEVEEN CHRISTENSON

Federation of Schools of Accountancy Outstanding Scholar

■ **Katrina's experience at Utah State** has been defined by scholastic rigor, international travel, service, and rewarding relationships with professors and peers. She served as a vice president of Beta Alpha Psi, helped in the VITA program for three years, and participated in Project Run With It and Deloitte's FanTAXtic competitions. Katrina also served as vice president of the Society for the Advancement of Ethical Leadership, and the executive board for the Association for Information Systems (AIS).

Katrina has traveled abroad with the SEED and Go-Global programs and researched human rights in Dubai. She graduated this spring with her bachelor and master degrees of accounting and has accepted a full-time offer with Deloitte's Advisory practice in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



JACOB FRYER

Outstanding Student Leadership Award

■ **Jacob Fryer graduated in May 2016** with a master of accounting degree, and he looks forward to beginning his career in the assurance practice at PwC in Salt Lake City. At USU, he was involved as a vice president in Beta Alpha Psi, the president of the Institute of Management Accountants, and volunteered in the VITA program. He also worked as part of the Quigley Ambassadors and as an accounting assistant at USU's Space Dynamics Laboratory. Jacob attended two other schools before transferring to USU and enjoyed his time here the most by far, especially in the School of Accountancy. In his free time, Jacob enjoys sports, the outdoors, music, movies, reading, and most of all spending time with his wife, Sydney.



Winning teams showing off their houses

Hands On

■ **Students in Dr. Olsen's** strategic cost management class (ACCT 3310) enjoyed a hands-on activity building graham cracker houses while learning how to determine product costs. Students worked in teams of four with each student taking on a role as the team's production manager, controller, or production worker. Teams were required to build two unique graham cracker houses while keeping track of the materials used, the time spent by production workers, and allocating overhead expenses. Teams were evaluated based on completing their production accurately and on-time, the creativity of each house, and the accuracy of their accounting reports.



Hayley and a friend experiencing the ride of a lifetime

Hayley Zilles

■ **As a senior in high school,** I was adamant that I would not attend Utah State University. I had lived in Cache Valley my entire life, and I did not want to spend another four years in Logan. When I made my decision though, I could not turn going to USU down. I knew not only would I receive an excellent education, but I would also have incredible opportunities to travel.

During my time at Utah State, I have traveled to 14 countries. I have been everywhere from Scotland to South Korea to Spain. The School of Accountancy made two of my travel experiences possible. First, the School of Accountancy helped fund travel to attend the Insight Dubai Conference in the United Arab Emirates. Second, the SOA prepared me for an opportunity to intern for Deloitte UK.

I attended the Insight Dubai Conference in March 2015. By attending the conference, I developed greater global awareness, intercultural understanding, and leadership. Issues covered at the conference included Islamic law and governance, intercultural intelligence, and women leading change. It was an amazing opportunity to learn about these topics, while being submerged in Islamic culture. The environment at the conference opened my eyes to different opinions, ideas, and views on global issues. Outside the conference I was able to explore the UAE. I went to the top of the Burj Khalifa, enjoyed a desert safari, saw the Sheikh Zayed Mosque, and even rode a camel!

This past spring, I interned for the US Business Tax Division at Deloitte UK in London, England. I gained first-hand knowledge and

experience by preparing tax forms and returns for foreign real estate, venture capitalist, and private equity funds. I learned about passive foreign investment companies, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, and controlled foreign corporations. Without my education at Utah State as a foundation, I would have been lost during the busy season! I miss living in such a vibrant and diverse city, hearing the chimes of Big Ben, and seeing bright red double-decker buses crowding the streets.

From my travels to Dubai, to my internship in London, the School of Accountancy has enriched my education with many opportunities to learn and grow outside of the traditional classroom setting. I have not regretted my decision to attend Utah State because of these noteworthy experiences.

Back to Back

■ **For the first time ever**, our IMA student chapter was designated as an “Outstanding Student Chapter” for the second straight year. This is the seventh time we have received this honor, but never before in consecutive years. We also achieved the Gold Award of Excellence for the 21st consecutive year. In the letter received from the national IMA organization announcing the award, one of the judges commented, “This is an example of a great student chapter. The document is one of the best I have seen. I was truly impressed by all the things the Chapter has done and will do in the future. Great job.” Frank Shuman, our faculty advisor, attributes the continuing success of the chapter to the dedicated officer group he gets to work with each year. Highlights of the year include seven officers attending the IMA student leadership conference at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, and Jeffery Thomson, IMA national president, joining us as a technical meeting speaker. Continuing our holiday tradition, our chapter was able to raise funds and sponsor seven Cache Valley children with our Sub-for-Santa fundraiser.



Frank and the IMA officers at the IMA Conference and shopping for local children for Sub-for-Santa



IMA President Greg Schenk (above) and IMA Officer Mitchell Bruce (left)

DOUBLE AWARDS

■ **What a great year for our IMA student chapter officers!** For the second consecutive year, two of our IMA student chapter officers received national scholarships. Gregory Schenk, who served as a vice president and will be the chapter president for the 2016-17 academic year, received the \$5,000 Stuart Cameron & Margaret McLeod Memorial Scholarship, which is the top scholarship IMA awards. This is the third time one of our chapter officers has received this award. Mitchell Bruce, who served as the webmaster for the 2015-16 academic year, received a \$1,000 scholarship. The IMA organization annually awards 12 scholarships on a national basis. Gregory and Mitchell will receive their scholarships at the upcoming IMA student leadership conference this fall in Detroit.



SAMUEL LINDQUIST

PCAOB Internship

■ **Samuel Lindquist, a junior in accounting and club hockey player,** recently returned from an internship with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in Washington DC. He was one of three students selected from around the world and the first USU Huntsman student to intern at the PCAOB. Interns were selected based on a competitive process that included several interviews. His assignment was in the Office of Research and Analysis which supports the PCAOB Inspections and Enforcement Departments in their goal to oversee audits of public companies; protect the interest of investors; and further the public interest of informative, accurate, and independent audit reports.

Soon after Sam began his internship, he was quickly put to work on various research projects for the Inspections and Enforcement departments. He collected data from SEC filings, PCAOB Inspections Reports, and various analytical market sites and then built data sets to be used in future research projects. He was also able to aid PCAOB board and staff members in their preparation for their annual SAG meeting. "It was truly amazing to perform this work in an environment surrounded by very intelligent people," he said.



Highlights from his internship include developing relationships with former members of Congress, executives from the SEC, PCAOB board members appointed by the SEC, former forensic accountants at the FBI, the primary author of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and many more individuals who held key positions at Big 4 accounting firms. Sam also survived Washington DC's historic snow-storm, Snowzilla, and enjoyed a beautiful spring full of cherry blossoms.

"I value this experience very highly and believe it has given me a good analytical eye for the issues relating to value and importance of audits of public companies, for the companies themselves, and for their investors." Sam plans to continue his education by completing the MAcc.

DILLON JONES

FASB Appointment

■ **Recent MAcc (Master of Accounting) graduate Dillon Jones** put his career on hold and will spend the next year in Norwalk, CT, at a prestigious internship for the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The Postgraduate Technical Assistant Program is “a one-year term, during which the individual becomes highly involved with the accounting standards-setting process and comes to have an in-depth understanding of the roles played by preparers, auditors, and users of financial information.” He will be involved in many different projects, including reviewing and analyzing published research, analyzing written submissions received on documents issued for public comment, drafting due process documents, and evaluating accounting proposals of other organizations. Dillon is among only seven interns who were selected and is only the second Huntsman student to receive this internship.

Dillon graduated in December 2015 with both master's and bachelor's degrees in accounting. While attending USU, he participated in the Institute for Management Accountants and Beta Alpha Psi students clubs. He explained, “These clubs offered me many opportunities to network with professionals and other students. Those experiences helped me to understand what I wanted to do after graduation.” He started networking for his future career during his

sophomore year by participating in summer leadership programs and internships. When Dillon completed the recruiting process, he was passionate about helping other students through the recruiting process. He was often found sharing his experiences and insight with others, helping them be successful through the process.

During his time at the Huntsman School, Dillon spent many hours getting involved with events, networking with peers, and getting to know his professors. “The faculty and staff made my experience at USU great. They were always willing to meet and discuss any question or offer advice,” he said. Dr. Larry Walther, senior associate dean, department head, and EY professor said, “Dillon is a capable, impressive person. He was clearly an outstanding student in my graduate level accounting class, and also distinguished himself as the student coordinator for our successful Partners in Business Program.”

Dillon encouraged students to “dream big. Find out what you are passionate about and go for it. Speak up and talk to your professors and the professionals who visit USU. The Aggie brand can take you anywhere in the world.” After completing his one-year term at the FASB, Dillon will continue his career at PwC in Salt Lake City.



ALUMNI NEWS

GREG BASSETT '87 is the vice president-group controller at Macerich.

CAMILLE KOBERSTEIN '13 joined Jones Simkins LLC as tax staff.

BRYANT JENSEN '08 lives in North Salt Lake and is an attorney at Fabian VanCott practicing in tax, corporate law, and estate planning.

I-RONG LIN '81 is the assistant director of information technology at the University of California Irvine.

CHARLES KLAMM '57 is a retired CPA.

CAMILLE CHRISTIANSEN '02 is a senior manager at Moss Adams LLP.

RUSSELL BURRASTON '00 is the COO at Product Bahn.

BRENT SANDBERG '86 is a tax partner at Jones Simkins LLC.

AARON RENTSCHLER '10 is a tax senior at Eide Bailly LLP.

DOMINIC WELCH '57 is retired.

BRYAN MECHAM '87 is a senior international tax director at Micron Technology, Inc. He just returned from a three-year assignment for Micron in Singapore. He has five children and nine grandchildren. Life is great because of his start at Utah State!



SPOTLIGHT

TAMI VAN TASSELL

Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

■ **The School of Accountancy (SOA)** recognized Tami Van Tassell, '95, as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at the annual SOA Awards and Recognition Banquet in April. Upon graduating from USU with her master's degree in accounting, Tami joined PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) and is in her 21st year with the firm. Her career with PwC has taken her from Salt Lake City, Utah; to Stockholm, Sweden; Florham Park, New Jersey; and Columbus, Ohio; where she now resides with her husband, Jason Van Tassell, who is also a proud USU alum. Tami's career has provided her an array of opportunities, including writing comment letters to the FASB and IASB, assisting foreign companies to register their securities with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and authoring various technical publications. Tami was admitted to the PwC partnership in 2010 and now focuses her professional energy on serving the audit needs of privately held companies.

Tami believes an important element of being successful is finding strong mentors. "I've been very fortunate to have had good mentors, beginning at USU and continuing through my career at PwC. As a result, I try to pay it forward by being a mentor to others where I can." Tami serves on the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Central Ohio and the Jazz Arts Group and on USU's SOA Advisory Board.



SPOTLIGHT

JASON WENDEL

Spirit of Jay Price Service Award

■ **Jason Wendel '98** is an audit partner in KPMG's Salt Lake City office, with a focus on auditing clients in the consumer markets, investment management, banking, real estate, and retail industries. He has 18 years of experience serving both public and private companies. His experience includes the direction of and coordination with KPMG international firms, interaction with client senior management and audit committees on key business and technical accounting issues, mergers and acquisitions, and Sarbanes Oxley 404 compliance. He is also a national instructor for the topic of income taxes.

Jason completed a rotation in KPMG's national office in 2007 to 2010 in New York City as a senior manager where his responsibilities included the development of internal and external accounting literature and publications. He also consulted with engagement teams on technical matters in the areas of accounting and financial reporting, independence, audit, and the development of firm trainings.

Jason is a regular visitor to campus where he has been professor for a day, conducted mock interviews, met with student clubs, mentored students and participated in various other activities. Jason and his wife Letha have eight children combined, and he spends time coaching their soccer and basketball teams and enjoys playing golf. Along with serving on the School of Accountancy Advisory Board, Jason is also a board member of the Cottonwood Heights American Youth Soccer Organization.

Hold Your Hand Up If You Like USU

BY DENNIS PARKER

■ Now hold your hand up if you really like USU.

Now the question is do you really love USU?

There is a gap between what it costs for your USU education and the amount you pay. This gap is partly filled by all the wonderful people and companies that make gifts to the school. Just take a look at the new business building as an example. There are still other needs, programs, and teaching positions that would benefit future USU accountants that will require additional funds.

May I suggest a plan that would allow each of us to help fill this unfunded gap when we leave USU? I call it the USU McDonald Plan. During the year when you and your family want to go to McDonald's for something to eat, you forgo the eating and send the money to USU. This would have four great benefits: one is that you would be helping fill the USU accounting gap; second, you would get a tax deduction for something that cost you nothing (so you made money); third, you may improve your health; and fourth, you will develop a real love for USU.

A number of you have given your time while in school to the various organizations and projects related to having an outstanding School of Accountancy, and you have come to love USU. If you want that feeling to continue and grow in the future you need to be part of the McDonald Plan each year, and maybe sometime down the road you will want to have a daily McDonald event. I would hope that each of you will never be able to see a McDonald's and not think about the USU School of Accountancy McDonald Plan.

I had a strong feeling that it was part of my responsibility to help provide for the future generations that come after me, which may include some of my posterity. But when I started giving, it not only helped to provide for them, but a love has developed for USU that has been very rewarding for me as well. It is true that giving to others of your time and means has a very positive effect on your life that can come no other way.

Thanks for making USU so great, and remember your family McDonald Day so that we can make it even greater for those in the future.



New Faculty & Staff



DEVON ERICKSON

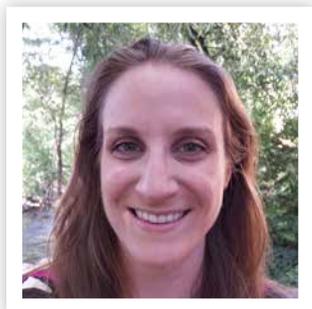
Devon Erickson earned his Ph.D. in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from Indiana University in 2013. He also has master's and bachelor's degrees in accounting from Brigham Young University (2007). Dr. Erickson was on faculty in the accounting group at the D'amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University, where he taught financial accounting in the undergraduate program. His research focuses on factors influencing investor and analyst processing of financial information, manager appetite for risk, and worker effort.

Dr. Erickson and his wife Erin have been married for 12 years. They have four daughters. He enjoys golf, water sports, cycling, and coaching/watching his daughters' soccer teams.



JAYSON TALAKAI

Jayson Talakai is among the very first Tongan Ph.D.s in accounting. He completed his degree from Texas Tech University in August 2016, and he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Brigham Young University - Hawaii in 2009. Prior to obtaining his Ph.D., Dr. Talakai worked as a staff accountant at the University of Utah. His research focuses on information acquisition, individual investors' cognitive constraints, and market efficiency. Dr. Talakai has published in *Accounting Horizons* and *Oil, Gas, and Energy Quarterly*. He and his wife have five children, four girls and one boy.



RACHEL MARTIN

Rachel Martin grew up in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville with bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. While attending the University, Dr. Martin worked for Tyson Foods, Inc. developing accounting systems and for a small regional public accounting firm where she mainly performed bank audits and corporate tax returns. After graduating with her master's degree, Dr. Martin accepted a position in the home office of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. She worked there for several years in the Strategy and Finance division where her job encompassed many aspects, including yearly

and strategic budgeting, economic forecasting, market and product analysis, supplier negotiations, sustainability support, systems development, and internal reporting. Dr. Martin went on to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Her research focuses mainly on the psychological responses to the compensation and evaluation process.

FACULTY AWARDS



Richard Price
Teacher of the Year



Bonnie Villarreal
Faculty Advisor of the Year



Vance Grange
Graduate Mentor of the Year



Nate Stephens
Researcher of the Year



Deloitte University

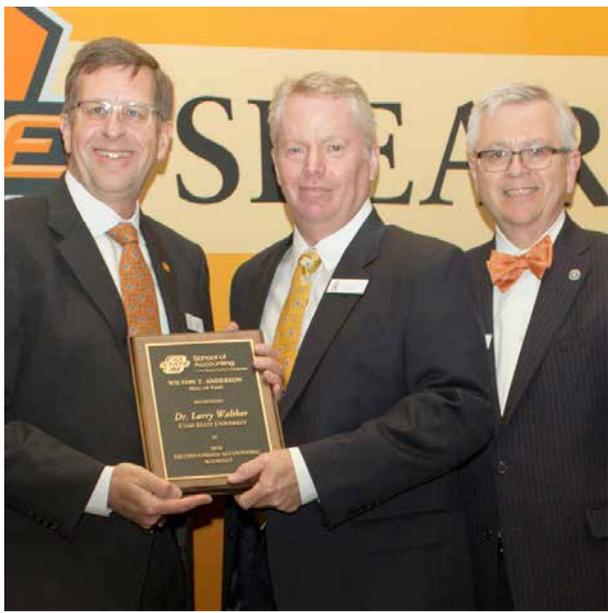
■ **Auditors are increasingly turning to data visualization tools** to uncover hidden relationships in client data and also provide a live, visual interaction with data when presenting reports to clients. At the recent 2016 Federation of Schools of Accountancy (FSA) Faculty Symposium at Deloitte University (near Dallas, TX) accounting faculty from across the country learned how Deloitte professionals are using Tableau data visualization tools to introduce the “wow factor” into their client services and communications. Tableau, which Deloitte presenters likened to “Excel on steroids,” allows a data analyst to visually explore facts across various dimensions of a specially cultivated data set. For example, transactions (facts) can be displayed graphically across dimensions that include time, place, product, person, company, etc. Tableau is geographically enabled to produce heat maps that can show activity on an actual map. The software can also be integrated with outside data such as weather, social media feeds, commodity pricing, and industry reports. Deloitte is using Tableau in several areas of their practice, including audit, tax, and client advisory. For example, Tableau is used to enhance audit efficiency by increasing audit scope – examining all transactions in a file rather than extrapolating from a small sample. It is also used in risk assessment, identifying material misstatements and spotting fraudulent activity. Deloitte cautions that analytics might also make auditing more challenging because auditors will have to think more and rely less on what was done last year. On the other hand, they emphasize that data visualizations inspire more questions, leading to better quality services to clients. During the symposium, faculty attendees were treated to hands-on experience using Tableau to solve several analytics problems.



Emerging Scholar for the Competitive Manuscript Award

■ **Dr. Kari Olsen was recently awarded** the 2016 IRF Emerging Scholar for the Competitive Manuscript Award at the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) annual conference and expo in Las Vegas. The award is given by IMA’s Research Foundation who annually recognizes an emerging scholar for their work on a high-quality research project. Dr. Olsen was recognized for his co-authored paper, “CEO Narcissism and Accounting: a picture of profits,” which was published in the *Journal of Management Accounting Research*. In that paper, Dr. Olsen and his colleagues found that narcissistic CEOs have higher firm performance, as measured by earnings-per-share and stock price, yet may achieve such results by influencing reporting earnings through short-term focused operational activities.

Dr. Olsen and his colleagues also recently received a \$14,000 research grant from the IMA Research Foundation to support their research project examining the effect of relative performance information feedback frequency and personality characteristics on performance. The project aims to identify how the choice of feedback frequency can significantly affect performance along with identifying personality traits that affect how often individuals choose to receive feedback information. The grant provides monies for data collection and research stipends.



Larry Walther with long-time friend and associate, George W. Farris, III and Dean Ken Eastman, Spears School of Business at OSU

Larry Walther Inducted Into **WILTON T. ANDERSON HALL OF FAME**

■ **Wilton T. Anderson was a powerful figure** and thought leader in accounting education. He built the accounting program at Oklahoma State University (OSU) into one that has continued to thrive well beyond his recent passing. He was a mentor to many accounting educators, including USU’s own beloved Larzette Hale. A hallmark of OSU’s Ph.D. program is that it has perhaps provided training to more leaders in accounting education than any other school. USU’s Dr. Walther and Dr. Skousen are both graduates of the program, as are Kevin Stocks (former department head at BYU) and Martha Eining (current department head at the U). This leadership-centric outcome can be traced back directly to Wilton T. Anderson’s vision for his program.

OSU has established the Wilton T. Anderson Hall of Fame, and recently recognized Dr. Larry Walther as a 2016 Distinguished Accounting Alumnus. Dr. Walther notes, “I have been a part of recognizing many alums, but only now appreciate the emotional connection as a recipient of such an honor. I owe a large measure of appreciation to the faculty who trained me well; something life has taught me is much clearer through the lens of a rear view mirror.”



Accounting student, Travis Goff and Larry Walther at the A-Pin ceremony

SPRING DEAN

■ **Larry Walther was honored to serve as acting dean** for the Huntsman School of Business this past spring. Dean Anderson took a much-deserved sabbatical to teach at Harvard. Larry notes: “I was honored to serve, and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many additional colleagues well. The outstanding faculty of the Huntsman School are not unique to the School of Accountancy.”

Subsequent to completing his assignment as acting dean, Larry was offered the role of senior associate dean whilst continuing to work in the School of Accountancy. With apologies to those seeking a coveted faculty appointment at USU, he continues to love working for our students while kicking the can down the road on retirement plans!



Former PRWI coordinator, Tina Caratan, handing the reins to Bonnie Villarreal

Project Run With It

■ **Bonnie Villarreal, director of Accounting Graduate Programs,** officially became faculty coordinator for Project Run With It (PRWI) at the annual Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) meeting held in Baltimore, Maryland, this past August. PRWI is a real-life case competition sponsored by BAP and Moss-Adams LLP, and is one of the most well-loved events of each year's annual meeting. As PRWI's coordinator, Bonnie will work with a team of professionals who carry out the international activities of Beta Alpha Psi and the annual meeting which attracts over 1,200 top accounting students each year. This position provides Bonnie with international-level connections at BAP and has already assisted USU accounting graduates in entering markets where we did not previously have alumni or other associations.

PRWI involves top BAP student representatives working together during the annual meeting to develop solutions to real business problems of actual not-for-profit (NFP) organizations located in the meeting area. In this intense competition, 18 teams of 4 students, who have not met each other prior to the meeting, have the equivalent of 1.5 working days to develop a formal presentation showcasing their solution to the business issues presented by the NFPs in their request for proposal for consulting services. The NFPs take away six proposed solutions and a fresh look at their respective situations.

Bonnie describes her experience with NFP selection, "I loved meeting with the executive directors and financial officers of the NFPs, feeling the passion they have for their respective missions, and explaining the project to them. They unanimously recognized the benefits of becoming involved, and it quickly came down to which organizations could first come up with a proposed business problem and commit to involvement. I felt so fortunate to have organizations involved whose missions really resonated with the students in Beta Alpha Psi."

Congratulations Bonnie! We look forward to hearing about PRWI's success at next year's BAP annual conference in Anaheim, California.



Skousen – Pres. Elect AAA-IAS

■ **Dr. Chris Skousen was recently elected president-elect** of the International Accounting Section (IAS) of the American Accounting Association. As president-elect for 2016-17 he will serve as the IAS vice president for academics, then he will serve one year as president of the section beginning in August 2017. Prior to this position, Dr. Skousen served the IAS as treasurer (two years), strategic planning committee chair, mid-year conference chair (two years), membership taskforce chair, and outstanding educator award chair. In his role as VP-academic, Dr. Skousen will be responsible for encouraging, supporting, and promoting interest in all aspects of international accounting through the American Accounting Association, both in the United States and throughout the rest of the world. He will work to help facilitate international accounting research, teaching, and service. He looks forward to representing Utah State University in this role with academics and professionals from around the world.



2015–16 Scholarships



\$7,000	Huntsman Best & Brightest/Deloitte Scholarship	<i>Greg Schenk</i>
\$7,000	Huntsman Best & Brightest/SOA Scholarship	<i>Hayley Zilles</i>
\$7,000	Huntsman Best & Brightest/SOA Scholarship	<i>Brennon Archibald</i>
\$7,000	Partners in Business/Eide Bailly Scholarship	<i>Trevor Frank</i>
\$7,000	School of Graduate Studies/PwC Scholarship	<i>Derek Droesbeke</i>
\$7,000	School of Accountancy Scholarship	<i>Eric Graves</i>
\$6,000	Jay H. Price Scholarship	<i>Rachel Drollinger</i>
\$6,000	Jay H. Price Scholarship	<i>Samuel Anderson</i>
\$6,000	Joseph & Tamara Keller Scholarship	<i>Jason Clark</i>
\$6,000	Tax Executives Institute/Frank A. Condie Scholarship	<i>Kyle Jardine</i>
\$5,000	Mark & Jennifer Erickson Scholarship/SOA	<i>Kiera Klemm</i>
\$5,000	Vance & Tamara Grange/SOA Scholarship	<i>Amy Lanham</i>
\$5,000	V.D. Gardner Scholarship	<i>Bryan Daines</i>
\$5,000	Vernon Buehler Scholarship/SOA Scholarship	<i>Braeden Loveless</i>
\$4,500	Edna Southworth Scholarship	<i>Natalie Larkin*</i>
\$4,000	Edna Southworth Scholarship	<i>Kayla Datwyler*</i>
\$4,000	IMA Scholarship	<i>Sarah DeGraw*</i>
\$4,000	School of Graduate Studies Scholarship	<i>Joseph Brewer*</i>
\$3,500	Larzette G. Hale Scholarship	<i>Monica Farfan</i>
\$3,500	Ralph & Roberta Peck Scholarship	<i>Andrea Su’a’Filo</i>
\$3,500	School of Accountancy Scholarship	<i>Sam Kitchen*</i>
\$3,500	School of Accountancy Scholarship	<i>Taylor Coil</i>
\$3,000	Frank & Anita Shuman Scholarship	<i>John Moore</i>
\$3,000	Jones Simkins Scholarship	<i>Ted Jepps</i>
\$3,000	KPMG Scholarship	<i>Nathan Kapple</i>
\$3,000	Robert V. Doyle Scholarship	<i>Kevin Nelson</i>
\$2,250	Scott & Shiree Nixon Scholarship	<i>Mercedes Garcia</i>
\$2,000	John E. Clay CPA Assistantship	<i>Katelyn Nelson</i>
\$2,000	Norman & Virginia Cannon Scholarship	<i>Mckay Lindsey</i>
\$2,000	Tom & Stephanie Colligan Scholarship	<i>Daniel Gillespie*</i>
\$1,500	School of Accountancy Scholarship	<i>Zane Call</i>
\$1,000	Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship	<i>Stephen Brown*</i>
\$1,000	James Brackner Scholarship	<i>Slater Duncan*</i>
\$1,000	A. James Larson Scholarship	<i>Matt Morrill</i>
\$1,000	School of Graduate Studies/Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship	<i>Josh Richards*</i>

ALL-IN

■ **The School of Accountancy** is excited 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 2015 are Eide Bailly, Haynie & Company, and Tanner LLC. As more and more Aggies enter the workforce, it is quite an undertaking for these firms to achieve the “All-In” status, 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 enable us to support student scholarships, build permanent endowments, and provide continuing educational opportunities for our students.

If your firm or business would like to participate in the 2016 campaign, please contact the School of Accountancy at soa@usu.edu for more information.



Mark Erickson—Tanner, Ken Jeppesen—Eide Bailly and Chris Skousen. Not shown Haynie & Company.

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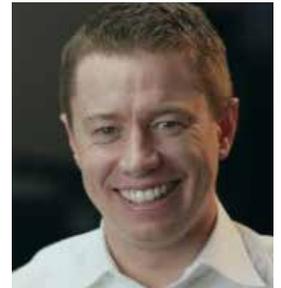
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