

full disclosure

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Difference-makers

JON M. HUNTSMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | **UtahState**University.

WELCOME

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to share the latest updates and achievements from the School of Accountancy in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University. This year has been marked by remarkable progress and innovation, and I am incredibly proud of the strides we have made across various fronts.



ADOPTION OF CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

In our commitment to staying at the forefront of accounting education, we have integrated several new technologies into our curriculum. Advanced data analytics software and technology modules have been introduced, giving our students hands-on experience with tools that are transforming the accounting industry. These innovations enhance our students' learning experiences and equip them with the skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

STUDENTS

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) and Institute of Management Accounts (IMA) clubs continue to be among the best in the world -- both achieving the highest standards again. For the 46th and 29th years, BAP and IMA, respectively, have been recognized with the Gold award. Their consistency of excellence is a tribute to our students and club leaders. Additionally, BAP was awarded the prestigious KPMG Platinum Award for service. This award recognizes our BAP chapter as among the top 3% of all chapters globally.

Our students continue to demonstrate they are among the finest. They are highly sought after and are being recognized for their achievements. As an example, three of our outstanding students have been awarded the prestigious Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) scholarship. This recognition not only underscores their academic excellence but also their potential to make significant contributions to the field of accounting.

SOA HIGHLIGHTS

Our faculty and staff continue to lead the way in research, teaching, and community service. I am pleased to highlight the recent accomplishments of several of our distinguished members:

- Teri Rasmussen, our Graduate Program Coordinator and Assistant to the Department Head, was honored with the Huntsman School of Business Ethical Leadership Award. Her dedication to promoting ethical practices has made a profound impact on our school and the broader community.
- Dr. Grazia Xiong was named Huntsman School of Business Researcher of the Year for her pioneering work in managerial accounting. Her research and dedication to excellence in her field are bringing her and the university tremendous recognition.
- Dr. Brad Lindsey has taken on the role of President-elect of the American Taxation Association (ATA) where he is helping to shape the future of tax education and research. His leadership and expertise are highly regarded within the professional community.
- Paul Campbell was named the 2023 Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants Outstanding Educator of the year.
- Dr. Rachel Martin was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to providing our students with an education that is both rigorous and relevant. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and are grateful for your continued support and engagement with our program.

Thank you for being an integral part of the School of Accountancy at Utah State University. Together, we will continue to achieve excellence and make a lasting impact on the field of accounting.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Skousen".

Chris Skousen, Ph.D.
EY Professor & Department Head School of Accountancy

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UtahStateUniversity®

Advisory Board Spotlight

The School of Accountancy welcomes two new advisory board members, Tiffany Francis and Steve Morrill.

TIFFANY FRANCIS

is a Vice President in the Controllers Division at Goldman Sachs. She is the Salt Lake manager of Equity Product Control, overseeing the firm's Global Banking & Markets equity division across valuation, profit and loss attribution, and disclosure implications. She has been with the firm since 2008 and has worked in both the London and Salt Lake City offices. She is a graduate of Utah State University where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. Tiffany also spent four years at EY in audit and assurance services.



STEVE MORRILL

has over 14 years of experience working closely with the leaders of family enterprises and other closely-held owner groups. Steve enjoys working with these principals and understanding their long-term goals and direction and then supporting the enterprises through thoughtful tax and structural planning and proactive tax compliance.



Steve holds a BS, and MAcc, from Utah State University. He is a registered CPA in California and Utah and is a (Series 65) Registered Investment Advisor.

Steve is an active member of several professional organizations, including Salt Lake Estate Planning Council (SLEPC), Utah Planned Giving Roundtable (UPGRT), Association for Corporate Growth Utah (ACG), Utah Association of CPAs (UACPA), California Society of CPAs (CalCPA), and is the vice president of the Young Professionals Club at Edison House in Salt Lake City.

Providing support to meaningful causes is important to Steve; he's currently an advisory board member at Playworks Utah and a finance committee member with Make-A-Wish Utah.

We appreciate Orrin Colby, Kevin Ediger, and HK Bae for their efforts while serving on the board.

INITIATIVES

Meet the Firms

The School of Accountancy hosted two successful recruiting events this past year. The annual Meet the Firms event took place in the Perry Pavilion at Huntsman Hall on September 5, 2024. We were pleased to welcome 37 firms and companies to campus, including many alumni and some new firms. Over 200 students attended, all professionally dressed and eager to engage. The atmosphere was lively as students interacted with nearly 100 professionals from local and national accounting firms, industry companies, and government agencies. Meet the Firms is a major fall event sponsored by the School of Accountancy, providing students with opportunities to network, gain career insights, and secure internships and employment.



Additionally, for the second year in a row, the School of Accountancy hosted a Spring Recruiting Night on January 25, 2024. This event allows firms conducting spring semester interviews to engage with accounting students. The event was well-supported, with nearly 125 students and around 70 professionals from 24 different firms in attendance. We look forward to continuing this event for years to come. Our gratitude goes out to the many firms and professionals who dedicate their time to support our program. 🙏

Virtual MAcc Update

The virtual Master of Accounting (MAcc) program delivery option has entered its second year. Our accounting faculty have done a tremendous job identifying and meeting the needs of our virtual students so they can be successful when they are not able to come to Logan to pursue graduate work in-person.

The program has gained immediate traction, and the reach of the program has already expanded throughout the state of Utah and into several other states. Prospective students are drawn to the flexibility of attending class where they are while still wanting to join a live classroom at a set class time to engage with their professors and fellow graduate students. In addition, the special program rate allows students who are both Utah and non-Utah residents to receive a premier Master of Accounting education from Utah State University for relatively little extra cost to taking the same classes in-person on the Logan campus as a Utah resident. 🙏



A.I. Technology

In our commitment to staying at the forefront of accounting education, we have integrated several new technologies into our curriculum. Advanced data analytics software and technology modules have been introduced, giving our students hands-on experience with tools that are transforming the accounting industry. These innovations enhance the learning experience and equip our students with the skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly digital world. Over the past year, many of our faculty have participated in workshops and trainings to continue to develop their technology skills. Below, Dr. Devon Erickson and Dr. Rachel Martin share some of the training and classroom experiences. Along with Paul Campbell, they participated in the American Accounting Association's Intensive Data and Analytics Workshop. By ensuring our students are exposed to the most relevant tools, techniques, and technologies we are preparing them to be value-adding employees from the start of their careers.

DR. DEVON ERICKSON

The Intensive Data and Analytics Workshop lived up to its name. Over a period of almost four days, I attended sessions from 8 am to as late as 9 pm. The sessions were designed for accounting professors with data analytics skills ranging from the beginner to advanced levels. The sessions covered common technologies prevalently used in accounting-related careers, including Alteryx, Tableau, Python, Power BI, and the incorporation of AI in the classroom. Most of the sessions utilized a case-based approach to teach the technologies to attendees and to demonstrate how these tools are taught to students by nationally-recognized professors.

Due to the topics I currently teach (financial accounting and financial statement analysis), I elected to focus much of my time on Alteryx. The data transformation tools immediately impressed me, and like my colleagues, I wished that this software had been available during my time working as an accountant in real estate. I now plan to develop materials in my financial statement analysis class that utilize Alteryx to transform financial data from various companies into simplified and comparable statements that reflect the perspectives of common equity holders. In addition to making this process simpler for students in my class, I believe the incorporation of Alteryx in my class will benefit Aggie graduates entering the workforce by giving them applied experience with this data analytics tool.

DR. RACHEL MARTIN

Managerial accountants really are data analysts with a strong understanding of business drivers. Incorporating data analytics into our managerial accounting courses teaches our students to not only answer questions, but also how to ask the “right” questions, how to search out and use data sources to answer these questions, and how to communicate the relevant insights in such a way that others can understand them quickly and clearly.

For example, instead of giving students a set of information and asking them to calculate specific variances, we can give them a budget along with past and current company data and tell them that the CEO wants them to report on how the company is performing. They must use critical thinking to decide what “performance” means and then they must decide what data will allow them to measure performance in a meaningful way. In addition, they must think through how to defend their choices and communicate their insights in a way that managers can digest and act upon. While software changes rapidly, the skills learned through analytically and methodically thinking through complex business issues will always be in demand and will carry these students far. 🐾



Dr. Devon Erickson, Dr. Rachel Martin, and Paul Campbell at the workshop

STUDENTS

Beta Alpha Psi

The Delta Omega chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) at Utah State University (USU) had another exceptional year. Not only did it uphold its tradition of excellence by achieving gold (formerly known as superior) chapter status for the 46th year in a row--the longest streak of any BAP chapter globally—but this year it also received platinum recognition. A platinum chapter is one that is recognized for going above and beyond what is required to become a gold chapter. There are over 300 chapters worldwide, and the Delta Omega chapter was one of ten chapters selected as a platinum chapter.

This year's BAP Golf Tournament adopted a western theme. Participants were encouraged to dress in western attire and compete in various themed challenges,



BAP officers at golf tournament



such as the longest lasso, sharpest shooter, and coolest cowboy. Both professionals and students enjoyed a day of networking, food, and fun on the golf course. We look forward to more events like this in the coming years.

BAP professional meetings offered students opportunities to network and learn about various professional development topics. BAP members and candidates also contributed service in the accounting tutor lab, prepared tax returns through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, created a peer mentorship program, and crafted nearly 50 blankets for the Cache Valley Humanitarian Center. BAP officers traveled to San Diego and Orlando where they networked with other BAP chapters, attended professional development sessions, delivered presentations, and engaged in service projects. 📷



BAP officers receive Platinum award



BAP volunteers and professionals at BAP service project

Nothing But Gold

It has been another great year for our IMA student chapter. We were able to achieve the Gold Award of Excellence for the 29th consecutive year. We held six outstanding chapter meetings, five of which featured School of Accountancy Alumni; a highlight being an excellent presentation on ethics by Melissa Webster. We visited TTM Technologies for our plant tour and met with Sam Murdock, accounting director of the shared services center. In November, eight chapter officers attended the student leadership conference in Detroit, Michigan, along with Frank Shuman, our chapter advisor. In January, we had our annual social activity where students enjoyed pizza and attended a USU hockey club game. Continuing our tradition of giving, we were able to raise \$440 for Sub-for-Santa during the holiday season. Congratulations goes to Lane Dudley, Kaitlyn Paskins, and Dawson Richards who each received the Certified Management Accountant



(CMA) scholarship and have passed both parts of the CMA exam! Lane served as our chapter president for the 2023–2024 academic year. Zach Dustin will serve as our chapter president for the 2024–2025 academic year and plans are being made to attend the IMA conference this fall in Anaheim, California. 🎉

Quigley Ambassadors

The Quigley Ambassadors are student representatives of the accounting program dedicated to recruiting new students, motivating current accounting majors to achieve their career aspirations, and fostering connections between students and alumni. Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, the Quigley Ambassadors actively participated in the School of Accountancy, organizing and implementing various activities to support current and prospective accounting majors.

The demand for accountants has only increased in recent years, and this year, the Quigley Ambassadors responded by holding two information sessions (one each semester) for non-accounting majors. These events highlight what accounting is, why it's a great career choice, and what to expect after graduation. These events also give attendees the opportunity to talk with students, alumni, and advisors who have had experience in different areas of accounting. The sessions were well-attended both semesters with a variety of non-accounting majors.

The Quigley Ambassadors also held their second annual Dare Mighty Things Cash Camp, which focused



on recruiting first generation and underrepresented students into accounting. This year, the Ambassadors were able to make many improvements including getting sponsorships from firms and increasing advertising by reaching out to more high schools and other organizations from across the state. In the end, there were just under 50 students and parents in attendance. The Quigley Ambassadors were also able to award a \$1,000 scholarship to one of the students in attendance due to the additional sponsorship and support.

Other activities of the past year included:

- The Kickoff Meeting, which gives an overview of the many recruiting and club events going on in the fall semester and how to prepare for them.
- The Women in Accounting Luncheon, which brings together accounting students and professionals with this year's theme being "EmpowHer."
- The Quigley Game Night, which focuses on building comradery among current students in the accounting major and is a way to celebrate the end of the semester.

While many universities are experiencing a rapid decline in the number of accounting majors, the School of Accountancy at Utah State has seen an increase in enrollment over recent years, and we believe a large part of this increase can be attributed to the engaging activities the Quigley Ambassadors run during the academic year. We appreciate the dedication and hard work of these students in supporting the School of Accountancy, and we look forward to ongoing improvement and participation in our numerous events and activities. 🎉



STUDENTS

2024 Student Awards

Shealee Calder

*School of Accountancy
Legacy of USU Award*

Shealee Calder is from Morgan, Utah. Growing up, she loved exploring the outdoors with her family by camping, four-wheeling, and fishing. Shealee graduated with her bachelor's degree in accounting in the fall of 2023 and will graduate with her master's degree in accounting in the fall of 2024.

During her time at USU, Shealee has loved finding ways to be involved. She has been a Quigley ambassador, Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) officer, Huntsman Scholar and has worked in the School of Accountancy office. Shealee has also completed internships with the following accounting firms: FORVIS, Eide Bailly and KPMG. She's grateful for the positions that have allowed her to grow working relationships with team members and with the accounting faculty and staff. Shealee has accepted a full-time offer as a tax associate at KPMG starting in January 2025.



Michael Moore

*School of Accountancy
Outstanding Leadership Award*

Michael Moore is from South Jordan, Utah and graduated from Utah State University in spring 2024 with his Master of Accounting degree. While at USU, Michael was very involved and enjoyed serving in student leadership roles. He attended many accounting events and quickly became known among the students and faculty.

Michael was recognized as one of USU's 50 Most Influential Aggies in 2022 for his contributions as a Student Fee and Hearing Board member. Within the School of Accountancy, Michael served as a Quigley Ambassador and the Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) president for two years. During this time, BAP experienced remarkable growth, expanding from 7 to over 50 members.

In September 2024, Michael joined Deloitte's US tax practice in London, England. He is grateful for the support of the professors and faculty of the School of Accountancy during his studies at Utah State University.



Lane Dudley

*UACPA
Outstanding Scholar*

Lane Dudley was born and raised in American Fork, Utah. After serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he came to Utah State planning to be an aerospace engineer, but right before the semester started, he decided he'd had enough calculus in his life, so he switched to finance. After taking his first accounting class, he realized accounting was his path.

While at Utah State, he has participated in DECA, the Covey Leadership Center, BAP, and IMA. For IMA, Lane has served as the vice president of recruiting and as president. Additionally, Lane has served as an ambassador for the UACPA. He also placed in the top five at the DECA National Colligate Competition in the financial accounting event in 2023. During the last year, he has passed both parts of the Certified Management Accountant exam and will be certified upon completing the work requirements.

After graduating in May with his master's degree, Lane started work at PwC as an auditor in the Salt Lake City office. Outside of accounting, Lane loves cheering on the Aggies in all athletics, golfing, reading, watching movies, and traveling.



Kaitlyn Paskins

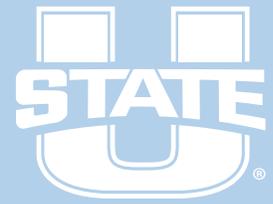
*School of Accountancy
Outstanding Scholar*

Kaitlyn Paskins is from Layton, Utah. She has always been a big fan of math and numbers, and has known she wanted to study accounting since high school. Her involvement with accounting started in DECA and FBLA and has led to college involvement as a BAP member and officer, a Quigley Ambassador, an IMA member, an Undergraduate Teaching Fellow, a Graduate Teaching Assistant, a Huntsman Scholar, and is CMA-certified.

Kaitlyn already has great experience in the accounting field: chief bookkeeper for a local business (The Sportsman), an audit intern with Eide Bailly, and a property accountant at Wasatch Commercial Management. She has loved seeing different sides of accounting through these jobs and looks forward to gaining even more experience.

Kaitlyn has loved her time at Utah State, especially getting to know all the amazing faculty and staff in the School of Accountancy. She graduated with her master's degree this past summer and is continuing her employment at Wasatch Commercial Management. Outside of living and breathing accounting, she enjoys watching the latest movies and TV shows, playing pickleball and volleyball with her husband, singing, and playing the piano. She cannot wait to continue moving forward in the accounting world.





PCAOB Scholars

For the past few years, Utah State University has proudly received a scholarship from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). This year, we are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded three scholarships, including one specifically designated for a transfer student from a two-year college. The PCAOB scholarship (funded by monetary penalties collected from PCAOB enforcement actions) supports students with the potential to become outstanding auditors. Continue reading to discover more about the incredible recipients of these prestigious scholarships.

Savannah Sheen

Savannah grew up in Lehi, Utah where she found an interest in business through her involvement in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) in middle and high school. She knew accounting was right for her after enjoying problem-solving and working with numbers in her accounting classes. She enjoyed applying what she learned in these classes by continuing to participate in business competitions through collegiate FBLA and DECA. She placed nationally in the top three in parliamentary procedures, managerial accounting, and financial statement analysis. She is also involved in the School of Accountancy as an officer of Beta Alpha Psi.

Savannah has completed internships with CBIZ and Tanner and worked as a property accountant for Wasatch Commercial Management. These work experiences have given her a look at industry accounting and public accounting at local and national firms. After completing an audit internship at PwC in Austin, Texas, Savannah returned to USU and finished her MAcc program.



Joseph Fica

Joseph was raised in Pocatello, Idaho and graduated high school in St. George, where he lived for three years. Joey started his MAcc this past summer and plans to complete his degree in the spring of 2025. While at Utah State, Joey has had the opportunity to work as a Quigley Ambassador helping plan and run accounting recruiting events alongside faculty. Joey enjoys working at the Cache County School District driving school buses, and in his free time, he loves to travel with his fiancé, snowshoe with his two dogs, and have a spreadsheet for anything you could possibly imagine. Joey has completed an internship with Deloitte this past spring, and he is excited start full-time with them in the fall of 2025 in their Audit and Assurance department. Joey is looking forward to starting his career and gaining more experience in the accounting world.



Sabrina Swasey

Sabrina is a transfer student from Snow College. She was born and raised in Cache Valley and is the third of four children. She is a proud Aggie and is following in the footsteps of her mother and both brothers who graduated from Utah State. This spring, she will complete her bachelor's degree and begin the masters of accounting program

Throughout her time at Utah State, Sabrina has been actively engaged in various extracurricular activities. For the past year and a half, she served as the manager for the Utah State Women's basketball team, played rugby for the club team, and served as its president. Recently, she joined Beta Alpha Psi to further her accounting knowledge and network with professionals. Additionally, she is doing an internship with Conservice this fall. 🍷



Going Global

The School of Accountancy was thrilled that students, Katherine Nielsen and Sariah Marcum, and recent graduate, Maia Bird, completed internships in Deloitte's London office. International internship experiences are incredibly educational and beneficial to the development of our students. They introduce students to the relationships between people, culture, and economic activity, help prepare students for entry into the global workplace, and so much more.



KATHERINE NIELSEN

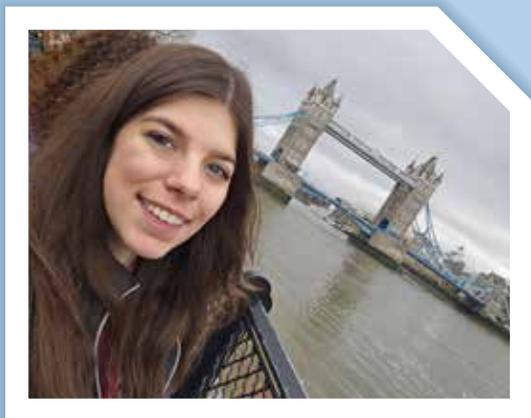
I was so thankful to be selected to fly across the pond to London for this internship. I want to thank everyone within the School of Accountancy for preparing me for this internship and cheering me on throughout my time there.

Working within the US Business Tax (USBT) team allowed me to work with professionals not only in Europe but around the world. I was exposed to many

unique tax situations and U.S.

tax advisory services within my assigned Real Estate and Private Equity firm clients. While talking with partners and many others at the firm, I discovered that they prided themselves on giving interns real-life experience, exposure, and understanding of what to expect when working within USBT and living in London. I was provided with resources and support within my teams to do the same level of work as an analyst, and this made my work even more rewarding and insightful.

I was also able to build a lot of personal and professional connections all around Europe and within our intern group. It was great getting to work but also taking the time to explore Europe, try new things, visit many new places, and gain many great experiences and skills that I will take forward in my future career.



SARIAH MARCUM

As I look back on my experience at Deloitte London, I feel so grateful for the people I met and the opportunities that opened for me. This was one of those once-in-a-lifetime kind of experiences. I remember when I applied, it was just on a whim. I needed interview practice, and I thought it would help me know what was to be expected of a Big Four interview. You can imagine my shock when I got the internship. I am so glad I did. Nothing

can replace the relationships I built, the skills I learned, and the experiences I had in those three months.

I learned how to apply the little knowledge I had of Business Taxation and was able to build on that knowledge even further. I developed close relationships with many of my coworkers and consider a few of them to be great mentors to me. Not only was this a great experience, but it also opened doors for my future. Overall, I cannot express enough gratitude for my time at Deloitte London. 🇺🇸



It Takes a Family

Faavale (Faa) Miyasaki graduated in May with a master's degree in accounting. She was born in Matahau, (a small farming community in Tonga) where she grew up in a humble three-bedroom home with her parents and six siblings. Faa's interest in accounting was initially peaked in her high school accounting classes where she found a love for preparing financial statements.

Her parents, who only had an elementary-level education, instilled in Faa the values of perseverance and ambition. Faa's

father always told her, "If you can't use your talents to make a living for your family, then you need to go to school." Inspired by his words and work ethic, Faa decided to pursue higher education at Brigham Young University (BYU) Hawaii where she

earned a bachelor's degree in finance. It was there that she met her husband, Dylan. They married in 2017 and later moved to Dylan's hometown of Logan, Utah. They are the proud parents of three children: twin girls, Alina and Mariko (age 5), and a son, Siaosi (age 2).

After relocating to Logan, Faa worked at a bank and realized how much she missed preparing financial statements. This realization prompted her to pursue her passion, and Faa enrolled in the Master of Accounting (MAcc) program at Utah State University in August 2022.

In addition to juggling school and family responsibilities, Faa was also navigating the lengthy and expensive process of obtaining U.S. citizenship. Her family also faced housing challenges – moving three times in four years before securing student housing. Faa described balancing school and family life as a "big family effort." Thanks to unwavering support from her husband, mother, mother-in-law, and others, she was able to achieve her dreams and successfully complete her master's degree.

Despite the various demands on her time and attention, Faa always seemed to have a smile on her face. Inside



and outside the classroom, she radiated positivity and exemplified hard work and determination. She has accepted a full-time position as a Staff Assurance Auditor at Moss Adams in Salt Lake City. She looks forward to learning even more at her new job and is enjoying spending more time with her family. 🌟



Andami a Roma (*We're Going to Rome*)

BY JIM CANNON

Grazie mille (a thousand thanks) was a phrase often heard from the sixteen students who studied ACCT2020 - Managerial Accounting Principles in Italy during the month of May. Based in Rome, the program boasted visits to the Chamber of Commerce, Cinecitta Movie Studio, Civitavecchia Port Authority, Vatican Museum, Eataly Food District, Borghese Museum, and a private cooking class with a professional



chef. Thank you, Chef Riccardo! But what really set this Global Learning Experience apart from other Huntsman School programs was that most of the students had just finished their first year on campus.

So often, juniors and seniors face difficult tradeoffs between valuable internship experience and global learning opportunities resulting in shorter, more intensive international programs that optimize time spent abroad. While these programs are extremely valuable and well-designed to achieve that end, my goals in offering the ACCT2020 Acumen Abroad program were somewhat different. By offering a course required of every business student, I hoped the program would fit well into students' early program of study. I anticipated the diversity of student majors coupled with a small class size with many shared experiences would allow me to interject rich interdisciplinary discussion into the curriculum. Finally, and of utmost importance, I wanted to expand students' view of learning by empowering them to have confidence exploring new and novel settings through safe international travel.

I believe the secret sauce (sorry for the cooking pun, but I have Cacio e Pepe on my mind) for empowering young students to explore internationally includes 1) cultural immersion, 2) early exposure to public transportation, and 3) sufficient time and opportunity for travel. So, within the first 48 hours of the program, I arranged for a three-hour walking tour throughout old Rome during which I observed students' reactions to the cultural differences. The following day, we debriefed on what was seen and experienced. Two days later, we took a public bus and train to the Cinecitta Movie Studio located on the outskirts of greater Rome. On the return trip, I dropped the group off at Eataly where they could eat fresh food, shop for groceries, and make their way back to their dorms. The very next day, they were ready to adventure on their own in the Amalfi Coast – a trip of their choosing planned with my help during the pre-departure classes. Upon returning to the dorms, students planned their explorations for the remaining two long weekends.

I must give a shout out to Dr. Pia Schneider and the rest of her team who hosted us! The staff offered comprehensive support, and I am pleased to report that we have reserved the facilities to repeat the program in May 2025.

It was with sadness that I and my Acumen Abroad students bid ciao to Rome – a place that we grew to love during the short month we were there. During the farewell dinner, one student shared that the greatest takeaway from her experience was that “people are the same everywhere” even if they speak a different language and have different cultural norms. Mission accomplished! 🇺🇸



ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumnus

Preston P. Jensen '02 was awarded the “Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award” at the School of Accountancy Awards Banquet this spring. Preston is an entrepreneur at heart and is the founder and managing partner of Panda Accounting, a boutique accounting services firm offering bookkeeping, tax, payroll, and business advisory services. Panda Accounting works with clients in nearly all 50 states and has two physical locations in Gilbert, Arizona and St. George, Utah.

Preston is also the owner and CEO of Vision Smart Homes in St. George, Utah, a premiere audio/visual company specializing in smart-home automation systems for luxury residential properties. These properties are often showcased in the Southern Utah Parade of Homes.

After his time at Utah State University, Preston began his full-time career in Salt Lake City, Utah working as an auditor with both Ernst & Young and Tanner for a combined ten years. While working in Salt Lake City, Preston earned experience in a variety of industries including insurance, healthcare, hospitality, software, and technology. Following his time in public accounting, Preston relocated to Phoenix, Arizona to take the role

of International Controller and Director of Corporate Financial Reporting for Iridium Communications,

Inc., a publicly-traded satellite communications company. During his eight years with Iridium, he was instrumental in the operational activities of all foreign subsidiaries and part of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reporting team. He actively worked with the company on a successful \$3 billion satellite replacement program, working with key partners such as Thales Alenia Space, General Dynamics, and SpaceX.

Preston earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Utah State in 2002 and later pursued an Executive MBA from Arizona State University in 2011. He also served as an adjunct professor at Devry University for several years. Preston and his wife Amy have four children and currently reside in Gilbert, Arizona. 🐾

Congratulations, Preston!



Heather Allen receives All-In award for Tanner

All-In Award

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

Firms receiving the School of Accountancy's All-In Award for 2023 include: Haynie & Company and Tanner, LLC. As more Aggies enter the workforce, achieving “All-In” status becomes increasingly difficult, so we congratulate each organization for their dedication to this campaign. The generosity of the individuals from these firms (and many others not listed) enables us to support student scholarships, build permanent endowments, and continue to provide educational opportunities for our students.

If your firm would like to join the list for the 2024 calendar year, please contact the School of Accountancy at soa@usu.edu for more information. 🐾

Planned Success

Riley Crosbie '15, at 33 years old, stands as a prominent figure in the financial planning sector, recently earning the distinguished 2024 40 Under 40 Award from Utah Business magazine. This accolade recognizes outstanding young business professionals in Utah, and Riley's achievements make him a well-deserving recipient. As the president and managing director of Adams Wealth Advisors, a rapidly expanding Registered Investment Adviser firm based in Northern Utah, Riley has significantly impacted the company's growth trajectory. Additionally, his leadership in implementing a team-based methodology at Adams Wealth Advisors to prioritize clients' needs further highlights his innovative approach to financial planning.

Riley's professional credentials are impressive. He earned his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ designation in 2014 and became a licensed Certified Public Accountant in Utah the same year. These qualifications have enabled him to design complex financial plans tailored to his clients' financial goals. A School of Accountancy alum, Riley received his master's degree in accounting from Utah State University with an emphasis in personal financial planning. He is grateful for the foundational role that the School of Accountancy

provided in kickstarting his career, and he loves cheering on the Aggies whenever possible. Riley and his wife, Whitney, are the proud parents of four daughters, and they cherish spending time together any chance they get.



When asked about what success looked like for himself, Riley said, "The beauty of the question is that we all must define this for ourselves. I believe it all comes down to having joy in your life. Far too many of us are constantly chasing what's ahead and fail to enjoy the journey. Having balance in your life and deriving joy in multiple areas is my definition of success." 🍷

Congratulations, Riley!

President's Award

Bonnie Briscoe Villarreal

School of Accountancy alum, Bonnie Briscoe Villarreal '81 and '09, recently received the Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) President's Award. Lisa Wicker, manager of chapter services for BAP said, "The President's Award is given to volunteers who make a significant contribution of service and provide leadership to the organization." Bonnie embodies this spirit through her dedication and her impactful work.

Bonnie is the former faculty advisor for the Delta Omega chapter of BAP at Utah State University and has been involved with Project Run With It (PRWI) for twelve years. She served as the international director for six years, including protecting and sustaining the competition through the trying COVID-19 period. PRWI is a unique competition sponsored by Moss Adams that



is designed to further the community service component of Beta Alpha Psi and provides student members with an opportunity to engage in real-world consulting projects. Bonnie has an amazing ability to find projects with non-profit organizations that have meaning and that students are able to make a real difference with lasting impact.

Bonnie had this to say about her experience, "Project Run With It certainly lived up to its name as the organizers worked tirelessly to assure that NFPs and students alike would find it a valuable experience regardless of location or circumstances. It has been a great honor to be involved in and help to coordinate the Project Run With It competition."

Through her work with BAP's PRWI and the Delta Omega chapter, Bonnie has made a lasting impression on countless students and non-profit organizations. Her dedication and leadership continue to inspire those around her. 🍷

Congratulations, Bonnie!

ALUMNI

Donations to the School of Accountancy

August 2023–August 2024

DIAMOND CIRCLE

\$10,000 or more

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Mark & Jennifer Erickson
Jordan Mendez
Dennis & Julie Parker
James & Bonnie Quigley
Larry & Laurie Walther
Larry & Ione Ward

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Panda Group
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Kyle Merrill
Kai & Morgan Nethercott
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Doraleen Rich
Julianne Roberts
Malissa Sainsbury
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UMB Fund Services
Justin Verma
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SCHOLARSHIPS

A. James Larson Scholarship
Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship
Buehler Honoring Brent Sandberg Scholarship
Buehler Honoring Larzette Hale Scholarship
Cliff & Janice Skousen Scholarship
Cooper Savas Scholarship
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Frank & Anita Shuman Scholarship
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Ima Scholarship Fund
James & Gayle Brackner Scholarship
Jay H. Price Jr Scholarship
Joe & Mari Strain Scholarship
John E. Clay Scholarship
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Tamara & Vance Grange Scholarship
Tanner LLC Scholarship
Tim R. Thomas Memorial Scholarship
Tom & Stephanie Colligan Scholarship
V. D. Gardner Scholarship
Vernon & Maree Buehler Scholarship

STUDENTS

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Allen Richardson
Allison Hansen
Angelina Trevino
Ashley Ward
Brandon Etherington
Caleb Baker
Cameron Clark
Carter Green
Carter Ray
Cassidy Zapalac
Dawson Cloward
Decker Robison
Derek Noble
Dillan Crystal
Dylan Gagon
Eric Nelson
Harrison Jones
Herbert Switzer
Jared Johnson
Jaxson Ray
Jordan Kerr
Joseph Fica
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Kaitlyn Paskins
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Kinnen Clark
Kobe Jensen
Lauren Coakley
Marina Warnes
Matt O'Conner
Megan Wandry
Merlin Granados-Hernandez
Monica Vasquez
Rachel Wanlass
Rhianna Sorensen
Sabrina Swasey
Savannah Sheen
Seth Polatis
Shealee Calder
Spencer Rawle
Tate Smith
Taylor Naser
Tracy Owens
Wallace Child
Zach Dustin
Zach Schwager

FACULTY

Promoted

Congratulations to Professor Rachel Martin on being promoted to Associate Professor. Professor Martin grew up in Elkins, Arkansas, a rural farming town in the northwest corner of the state. She completed her undergraduate and master's degrees in accounting at the University of Arkansas while balancing being a wife and mother. During that time, she acquired several types of work experience including identifying and rectifying weaknesses in accounting systems, performing bank audits and personal and small corporate taxes, and running a small student business. Upon graduation, Professor Martin took a position with Walmart Headquarters, where she made her way to Senior Manager of Finance and Strategy where her duties were varied but included supporting many areas such as strategy development, budgeting, performance management, streamlining reporting, information systems and more. Her favorite parts of the job were performing research and teaching non-finance employees how to think about the financial ramifications of their decisions. This led her to



consider getting into academia. After several years and valuable advice from former professors, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a Ph.D.

She fell in love with Utah State University during her job interview and moved her family of three here after completing her Ph.D. Professor Martin and her family love outdoor activities and can often be found exploring the wonders of Utah and the surrounding states. She also loves the arts and takes every opportunity to volunteer for and support local art outlets. Most of all, she loves her students and enjoys watching them grow and learn in the managerial accounting courses. 🐾



**FACULTY
AWARDS**

**20
24**



Devon Erickson
Teacher of the Year



Grazia Xiong
Researcher of the Year



Lynn Rees
*Undergraduate Research
Mentor of the Year*



Jim Cannon
Faculty Service Award



Brad Lindsey
*Graduate Mentor
of the Year*



Frank Shuman
*Undergraduate Mentor
of the Year*

Research Spotlight

Devon Erickson, Brad Lindsey, and Jayson Talakai recently published a paper in *Abacus*, a prestigious accounting journal. Their study examines the effect of the Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-02 that the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued in February 2016, which effectively requires the capitalization of all leases whose length exceed one year. However, due to concerns that leasing classifications capture economic differences among leases, the new standard maintains separate classifications of operating and capital leases on the balance sheet based on bright-line tests as required under SFAS 13. The paper sheds light on the FASB's decision to maintain lease classifications in the new leasing standard by examining the valuation implications of as-if capitalized operating lease liabilities and capital lease liabilities (as disclosed and recognized, respectively,

under SFAS 13) and whether investors weight each lease classification differently. After establishing that investors consider both as-if capitalized operating lease and capital lease liabilities as economic liabilities of the firm, the results show that operating lease liabilities, other long-term debt, and capital lease liabilities are weighted differently when determining market value of equity in the full sample of firms and across various industries. Additional analyses show that different weights on operating lease liabilities, other long-term debt, and capital lease liabilities persist after the implementation of the new leasing standard. The paper reinforces the importance of separating operating and capital lease liabilities to provide useful information for valuation and supports the FASB's decision to maintain separate lease liability classifications under ASU 2016-02. 📖



FACULTY

Ethical Leadership Award

Teri Rasmussen

The Jon M. Huntsman School of Business (HSB) proudly announced Teri Rasmussen as the recipient of the 2024 Ethical Leadership Award. Teri serves as the MAcc Program Coordinator and Assistant to the Department Head in the School of Accountancy. She has been recognized for her unwavering commitment to integrity, transparency, and ethical practices.

Teri's career spans over twenty years at USU, during which she has consistently demonstrated ethical leadership. Teri has been praised as a role model for the HSB community, emphasizing that her dedication to ethical principles has made a significant impact on both the School of Accountancy and the broader Huntsman School of Business.

Department Head, Chris Skousen, said, "Teri exemplifies what it means to be an ethical leader. She is diligent in her commitment to leading by example and performing her duties with accuracy and integrity. She is a tremendous example to all who are blessed to cross paths with her." 🙌

Congratulations, Teri!



IMA R. Lee Brummet Exemplary Educator Award

Frank Shuman

Professor Frank Shuman received the 2024 IMA R. Lee Brummet Exemplary Educator Award. This award is a prestigious IMA global award that recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated tremendous leadership and promotes the value of management accounting and the financial management career path to students through research, teaching, or faculty leadership and service.

As the faculty advisor for the Utah State University IMA Student Chapter for nearly three decades, Professor Shuman

has not only nurtured a culture of respect, teamwork, and collaboration, but he has also championed diversity by actively seeking out students from underrepresented backgrounds. What's more, Professor Shuman strives to ensure inclusion and support for all students within the university community and the IMA Student Chapter. Under his guidance, our IMA Student Chapter has achieved the Gold Award of Excellence for a remarkable 29 years in a row. This high achievement is a testament to his leadership and commitment to student success.

Over his 32-year career at Utah State University, Professor Shuman has consistently exemplified extraordinary dedication and made exceptional contributions to student success, embodying the true spirit of a transformative educator. Professor Shuman's tireless efforts in supporting student career success are unparalleled. Under his mentorship, countless students have received prestigious scholarships, including the IMA Academic Scholarship and the coveted Stuart Cameron McLeod Society (SCMS) Scholarship. Additionally, his establishment of a scholarship endowment fund in 2012, with contributions from former IMA Student Chapter members and officers, further demonstrates his commitment to ensuring equal access to educational opportunities for all students. 🙌

Congratulations, Frank!



UACPA Outstanding Educator Award

Paul Campbell

Paul Campbell was awarded the Outstanding Educator Award for 2023 by the Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants (UACPA). Each year, this honor is given to a full-time college accounting educator in recognition for superior performance and demonstration of high ideals resulting from active involvement in the accounting profession.



Paul Campbell has dedicated over ten years to educating future accountants at Utah State University. Paul first worked as an adjunct lecturer then in a full-time capacity. Following a successful career in public accounting, Paul strives to bring the lessons and experiences from public practice into his classrooms.

Campbell's recognition continues a tradition of excellence at Utah State University, where faculty members consistently strive to provide the highest quality education and mentorship to their students. Paul joins an esteemed group of Aggies who are previous recipients of this award.

Dr. Rosemary Fullerton (2011)

Dr. Clifford R. Skousen (2003)

Dr. David H. Luthy (1999)

Dr. James W. Brackner (1998)

Dr. W. Steve Albrecht (1997)

Dr. Larzette Hale (1990)

As Paul Campbell celebrates this significant achievement, he remains committed to his mission of educating and inspiring the next generation of accounting professionals. His impact on students and the broader accounting community will undoubtedly be felt for many years to come. 🎉

Congratulations, Paul!

Researcher of the Year Award

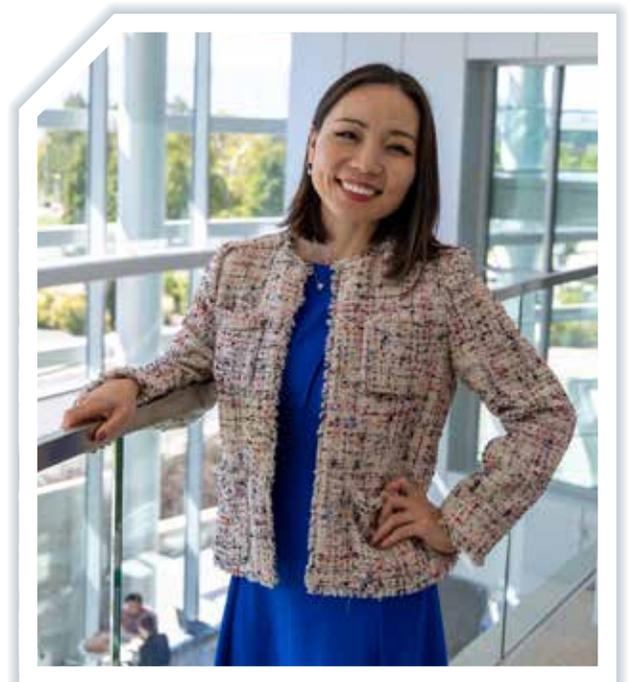
Grazia Xiong, HSB Researcher of the Year

Dr. Grazia Xiong received the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business Researcher of the Year Award. This recognition is rare for a new faculty member like Dr. Xiong who joined Utah State University just two years ago. She has quickly established herself as an elite researcher within the management accounting academy.

With a strong commitment to research and teaching, Dr. Xiong has already made significant contributions to the field. Her research has been published in elite and reputable journals including Accounting, Organizations and Society, Journal of Management Accounting Research, and Issues in Accounting Education. Notably, she received the American Accounting Association (AAA) Best 2023 Management Accounting Section Dissertation Award.

Her research excellence was further highlighted by earning multiple best reviewer awards as she actively engages in professional service as a reviewer for many esteemed journals and major AAA conferences. 🎉

Congratulations, Grazia!



FACULTY

As Good as Ever

During Summer 2024, Dr. Larry Walther returned to campus to teach for the SOA. Below are Dr. Walther's reflections on returning to the classroom:

I very much appreciated the opportunity to return to USU this past summer to teach Advanced Accounting, one of my favorite courses. Much has changed since my retirement and return to my native Texas (which coincided with COVID). Logan has exploded in a good way. Oops! We sold our Logan home at just the wrong time. Oh well. The campus is even more beautiful, and the accounting faculty continue to reach greater recognition amongst their national peers. The Huntsman School continues to grow, while competing programs all across the nation seem to be shrinking. All of this is very exciting.



I really enjoyed seeing that the USU students are as good as ever! It is refreshing and a cause for real optimism for the future. So many stories in the news are about declining standards related to academic performance, moral conduct, and general human decorum. The social media megaphones in the hands of a few are amplifying beyond reason their own individual causes and concerns, giving rise to a sense of insanity in control. Everywhere, young people proclaim a sense of hopelessness. Yet, the USU students are well grounded and seem unphased. They are building their futures and our world in a way that is uplifting. How refreshing and encouraging!

I could say that volunteering to help teach was done in the spirit of “checking the box” of giving back to an institution that I came to love during my employment. Truth be told, it was actually a lot of fun. Learning goals were exceeded by the students. Old acquaintances were renewed. I had a chance to connect with young emerging professionals. It has been a great experience. To those who have something to share, please reach out to the School of Accountancy to lend a helping hand. It is cause worthy of continued support. 🙌

We are grateful for Dr. Walther and his willingness to continue to make a difference for our students.

Serving the Profession

In May 2024, Professor Brad Lindsey was nominated and elected by his peers to serve as the President-elect of the American Taxation Association (ATA) for the 2024-2025 academic year. The ATA is the taxation section of the American Accounting Association. Following his role as the President-elect, Brad will serve as the ATA President during the 2025-2026 academic year.

After receiving this vote of confidence from his peers, Brad is happy to take his turn and serve the ATA community. More importantly, Brad is excited about how serving in the ATA leadership will increase the visibility of Utah State University and the Huntsman School of Business. 🙌



**American
Accounting
Association**
American Taxation
Association



Dare Mighty Things: Frank Shuman's Extraordinary Class

In the world of academia, few professors go the extra mile to connect with their students like Frank Shuman. Over the past few years, Frank has made it his mission to learn not just the first and last names of each student but also something personal about them. This commitment culminated in a truly unforgettable experience with one of his spring semester sections of Accounting 2020 — a class he now counts among his all-time favorites — boasting 77 remarkable students.

In expressing gratitude for Frank's genuine care and kindness, one student's note sparked the idea for his "Dare Mighty Things" moment. On February 29, 2024, Frank instructed his class to wear Aggie gear, hinting at a

memorable and educational experience. He underscored the importance of networking and getting to know future business leaders—your classmates. To set the mood, he played a 20-second clip of the Cheers theme song, emphasizing "a place where everybody knows your name."

Frank then introduced each student from memory by name, often with a fun fact or observation. For instance, three students had transferred from Brigham Young University, and after each introduction, the class cheered, "Good choice!" Frank, donning special "future-seeing" glasses, predicted great futures for his students, like Hayden Stokes following in Jim Quigley's footsteps to become the global CEO of Deloitte.



The highlight of the class was an intermission where students "traveled in a time machine" to experience past and future moments. Stockton Rhodes, a high school basketball player named after John Stockton, re-enacted the famous shot that sent the Utah Jazz to the NBA Finals, complete with Frank's enthusiastic commentary. The future was celebrated with a perfect world scenario: the Aggies winning the Final Four championship on a half-court shot by Sam Merrill Jr.

The class concluded with a heartwarming "Hallmark Movie" ending, announcing Lexi Parry's upcoming marriage on March 9, and a kiss from her fiancé, Ray Sellers. Frank's efforts to truly have a class where everyone knows your name were met with messages of appreciation: "The most anticipated class of my college career did not disappoint," and "Your performance today was AMAZING! I loved how enthusiastic you were and that you took the time to get to know everyone. It shows how much you care about your students and enjoy the class. Thank you for being an awesome professor, Frank!"

Frank Shuman's dedication and innovative approach not only educate but also inspire his students by highlighting the importance of getting to know your fellow students. Efforts made by Professor Shuman and his students undoubtedly made the spring semester an unforgettable experience for all involved. 📺





Jon M. Huntsman
School of Business
UtahStateUniversity

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