

# full disclosure

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY 2025 NEWSLETTER



*Difference-makers*

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

# Welcome

## Dear Alumni, Students, Faculty, and Friends of the USU School of Accountancy,

**A**s I reflect on another remarkable year for our School of Accountancy, I am filled with immense pride in the achievements and milestones that define our community. This past year has been transformative, showcasing the excellence that continues to position the Utah State University School of Accountancy as a leader in accounting education.

For the first time since 2019, The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) published CPA exam results. USU ranked among the top 15 percent of first-time CPA exam test takers, with our students passing all four sections on their first attempt at a rate almost 27 points higher than the national average.

Our student organizations continue to set the gold standard for excellence. The Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) chapter has maintained its Gold status for an incredible 30 years, while our Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) chapter continues its distinguished tradition. The Delta Omega Chapter at Utah State University has a renowned tradition of excellence with BAP, which is demonstrated through having the nation's longest succession of superior chapter awards at 47 years. These sustained achievements speak to the leadership development and professional engagement that define our student experience.

Our students have excelled beyond the classroom through competitive achievements, including notable victories in tax policy competitions that showcase their analytical skills and deep understanding of complex regulatory frameworks. These wins reflect the rigorous preparation our students receive and their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world challenges.

Our strategic consulting class has emerged as a cornerstone of our experiential learning approach, providing students with hands-on experience working with real-world business clients. This innovative program bridges the gap between academic theory and professional practice, ensuring our graduates enter the workforce with practical skills and confidence.

International experiences continue to broaden our students' perspectives and enhance their global competency. Through study abroad programs, international internships, and cultural exchange opportunities, our students develop the cross-cultural communication skills essential in today's interconnected business environment. These experiences not only enrich their academic journey but also prepare them to serve clients and organizations in an increasingly global marketplace.



Teaching excellence remains at the heart of our mission. Our faculty members consistently demonstrate innovative pedagogical approaches, incorporating cutting-edge technology and real-world applications into their instruction. Their commitment to student success extends far beyond the classroom, with mentorship relationships that often span entire careers.

Our Master of Accounting (MAcc) program continues to distinguish itself with exceptional outcomes for our graduates. Graduates in the MAcc program enjoy 100 percent placement which is a testament to the strong relationships we maintain with employers ranging from international firms to local companies and government agencies.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to innovation while honoring the traditions that have made our school a respected institution. We are pleased with the growth of our virtual Master of Accounting degree, demonstrating our adaptability and commitment to serving students regardless of geographic constraints.

I want to express my gratitude to our alumni whose continued support and engagement make these achievements possible. Your success in the profession reflects positively on our entire Aggie community and inspires current students to pursue excellence.

In a time of tremendous transition, the future of the USU School of Accountancy is bright, built on a foundation of academic rigor, professional preparation, and unwavering commitment to student success. Together, we will continue to prepare the next generation of accounting professionals who will serve with integrity, competence, and distinction.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and our mission.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Skousen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

# Advisory Board Spotlight

The School of Accountancy welcomes new advisory board member, Adam Chamberlain.

**A**dam is a tax principal at Baker Tilly and has over 25 years of experience working in public accounting serving both public and privately held businesses. Throughout his career, Adam has worked for Big 4, national, and local CPA firms. Adam has extensive experience with C-corporations, S-corporations, complex partnerships, trusts, and high-net worth individuals. In addition, he has worked in numerous industries including manufacturing, distribution, retail, technology, real estate, oil and gas, solar energy, utilities, and professional services. Adam has assisted



clients with transaction planning, mergers and acquisitions, tax controversy with taxing authorities, due diligence, and tax provisions for financial reporting under ASC 740. He is a CPA in states of Utah and Texas and received his undergraduate degree from Utah State University ('99) and his MBA from New Mexico State University ('01).

Adam enjoys the outdoors, traveling, pickleball, Aggie football games, and spending time with his family. Adam resides in Davis County with his wife and three daughters. 🇺🇸



## OUR ADVISORY BOARD

# UtahStateUniversity®

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*Partner, Jones Simkins*

**Heather Allen**  
*Tax Partner, Tanner LLC*

**Adam Chamberlain**  
*Tax Principal, Baker Tilly*

**Kent M. Christensen**  
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**Wes Yeomans**  
*Partner, Deloitte*

# Initiatives

## Meet the Firms School of Accountancy Hosts Two Dynamic Recruiting Events

The School of Accountancy proudly hosted two standout recruiting events this year, connecting students with industry leaders and alumni.

Our annual Meet the Firms event was held on September 11, 2025 in the Perry Pavilion at Huntsman Hall. The event welcomed 32 firms and nearly 100 professionals— from top accounting firms to government agencies. Over 275 professionally-dressed students, a record number, participated, seizing the chance to network, explore career paths, and pursue internship and job opportunities.



Building on this success of last fall's Meet the Firms, the School also hosted its second Spring Recruiting

Night on January 23, 2025. With 22 firms and nearly 175 students engaged in meaningful conversations about careers in accounting.

We're grateful to our participating firms and alumni for their continued support and commitment to our students' success. These events have become essential stepping stones for career development, and we look forward



to many more opportunities to engage with these successful professionals. 📍

## USU Ranks Among Top CPA Exam Performers

For the first time since 2019, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) has released CPA exam results, and the School of Accountancy has something to celebrate. Utah State ranks 33rd out of 251 institutions for first-time CPA exam pass rates among large programs (more than 60 candidates). An impressive 69% of USU

candidates passed all four sections on their first try— nearly 27 percentage points above the national average!

This achievement reflects the remarkable drive, preparation, and resilience of our students, who continue to excel in both the classroom and on one of the profession's most challenging milestones. 📍



AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY

Large Schools

# Strategic Consulting Class

**D**uring the spring 2025 semester, the School of Accountancy launched a new transformative graduate-level course, Strategic Accounting Consulting, led by adjunct professor, Melissa Webster. This class immersed students in real-world client challenges preparing them like never before for impactful accounting careers.

Working in small teams, students tackled the following critical client issues:

- What methods can a nonprofit entity use to increase accuracy in gathering and reporting unrelated business income for purposes of meeting IRS reporting requirements?
- How can improvements be made to the process for securely tracking small fixed assets with confidential personal information, such as laptops and iPads, from acquisition to disposal for a large entity?
- What approaches can a struggling company use

to decrease product shipping costs in order to become profitable?

During the first few weeks of the semester, students were taught several consulting skills including how to comprehensively discover solutions to a wide array of client problems. Equipped with these skills and their accounting expertise, students crafted creative and meaningful solutions.

Their clients were impressed with the results. One client said that our USU students were asking the same insightful questions and demonstrating the same level of professionalism that they experienced while working with a Big Four consulting team. Another client said that our students' solutions will save them hundreds of hours and potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars.

We could not be more proud of our students' outstanding consulting achievements! 🎉

# Cash Camp Inspires Future Accounting Professionals

**T**he Utah State University School of Accountancy recently hosted its annual Cash Camp, welcoming approximately 175 high school students from across Utah for an immersive day exploring accounting careers and college opportunities. Many participants represented first-generation college students, making this outreach particularly meaningful.

The event was made possible through generous sponsorship from PwC (with special thanks to Ryan Dent) and the Utah Association of CPAs (UACPA), with appreciation to Susan Spears for their continued support of student development.

Students experienced a full day of engaging activities designed to demystify both accounting and college life. Highlights included a motivational presentation by Jayson Talakai, an inspiring alumni panel sharing real-world career insights, and Nate Jenson's practical session on college preparation. A creative twist came through the "Real-World Accounting

Gingerbread House Activity," facilitated by Rachel Martin and Jim Cannon, which demonstrated accounting principles through hands-on building challenges.

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with students reporting increased confidence about pursuing higher education and valuable insights into accounting careers. One attendee described the experience as "wonderful and impactful," noting that all activities—from campus tours to the gingerbread challenge—felt directly relevant to understanding the accounting profession.

The event successfully connected Utah's brightest high school minds with the exciting possibilities within accounting, potentially launching the careers of tomorrow's financial leaders. The positive response suggests Cash Camp will continue serving as a vital bridge between high school aspirations and professional accounting careers. 🎉



# Students

## Beta Alpha Psi

It was another great year for the Delta Omega chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP). BAP earned Gold Chapter status for the 47th consecutive year which is the longest-running streak of any BAP chapter worldwide.

Throughout the year, BAP members engaged in a wide variety of activities that supported their growth as future accounting professionals. Students participated in numerous professional meetings where they gained valuable career insights and built meaningful connections with professionals across the industry.

The chapter also remained deeply committed to service. Members supported their peers by staffing the accounting tutor lab, offering free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, and taking part in a unique hands-on service project: sanding and oiling 400 wooden toy cars for donation.

In the spirit of innovation, the chapter introduced a new and well-received event this year: a pickleball tournament. The friendly competition brought together students and professionals from various accounting firms for a relaxed yet engaging networking experience that combined career conversations with fun on the court.

BAP student officers represented Utah State University at regional and national events in Denver, Colorado and San Antonio, Texas. A team of students



also competed in a case competition hosted by the BAP chapter at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. Sponsored by Restaurant 365 (a leading provider of accounting software for the restaurant industry) the competition challenged students to analyze detailed financial data for a fictional restaurant, develop strategies to enhance its operations, and present their recommendations to a panel of judges. Our team – James Ewell, Zack Jackson, Darby Mason, and Heidi Tippets – rose to the challenge and earned an impressive second-place finish! 🏆



# IMA 30 for 30 Gold!

Our goal for the year was to achieve the Gold Award of Excellence for the 30th consecutive year, and if Frank Shuman has his way, ESPN will do a 30-for-30 documentary on our IMA student chapter! 30 consecutive years of excellence is truly a remarkable achievement. We congratulate Frank Shuman and his many student leaders for their decades of excellence.

During the year, we held six outstanding chapter meetings, which covered a wide variety of topics from the accounting world. The highlight was hearing from Erik Gardner, partner with Jones Simkins, LLC, and a former IMA student chapter officer. We visited Schreiber Foods in Logan, Utah for our plant tour and met with RJ Netzley,



controller and a former IMA student chapter president. In November, nine student chapter officers attended the national student conference in Anaheim, California. To help the Student Nutrition Access Center (SNAC), we held a fruit “gleaning” service project with a goal of harvesting 1,000 pounds of apples. Congratulations to Decker Robison who received the CMA scholarship and passed both parts of the CMA exam. Zach Dustin served as our chapter president for the 2024-25 academic year and Porter Buckley will serve as our chapter president for the 2025-26 academic year. Frank Shuman and the officers are making plans to attend the student leadership conference this fall in Cleveland, Ohio. 🍏

# Quigley Ambassadors

The Quigley Ambassadors are student representatives of the accounting program who focus on recruiting students to the accounting major, encouraging accounting students to pursue their aspirational career goals, and creating connections among students and alumni. The Quigley Ambassadors continue to be actively involved in the School of Accountancy (SOA) through planning and executing various activities and connecting students to resources during the year. These resources (old and new) aim to help current accounting majors and those who are interested in the major. Some of the highlights of this past year included the third annual Cash Camp. Through generous donations from PWC,



we were able to host about 175 students from the Salt Lake Valley to inform them about what an accounting degree can do for them and their families. The Quigley Ambassadors were also able to organize and run other activities throughout the year. These activities included The Quigley Game Night (which focuses on recruiting students into the accounting major), and the Kickoff Meeting (which highlights the accounting timeline so current majors know important deadlines and dates for internships and Meet-The-Firms). We are grateful to these students who put so much energy and effort into helping the SOA and look forward to resuming more frequent activities in future semesters. 🐾



# PCAOB Scholarships Support Three Outstanding Students

The School of Accountancy is happy to recognize the ongoing support of scholarships awarded through the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). These prestigious scholarships are awarded annually to outstanding accounting students who demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to the profession.

This year, the School of Accountancy is thrilled to award three PCAOB scholarships to very deserving

students: Alyssa King, Luke Stevens, and Brook Stevenson. These three students are not only academically outstanding, but their active involvement in the School of Accountancy further distinguishes them. We are grateful for the PCAOB's continued investment in the accounting students at Utah State University. 🎓

***Congratulations!***



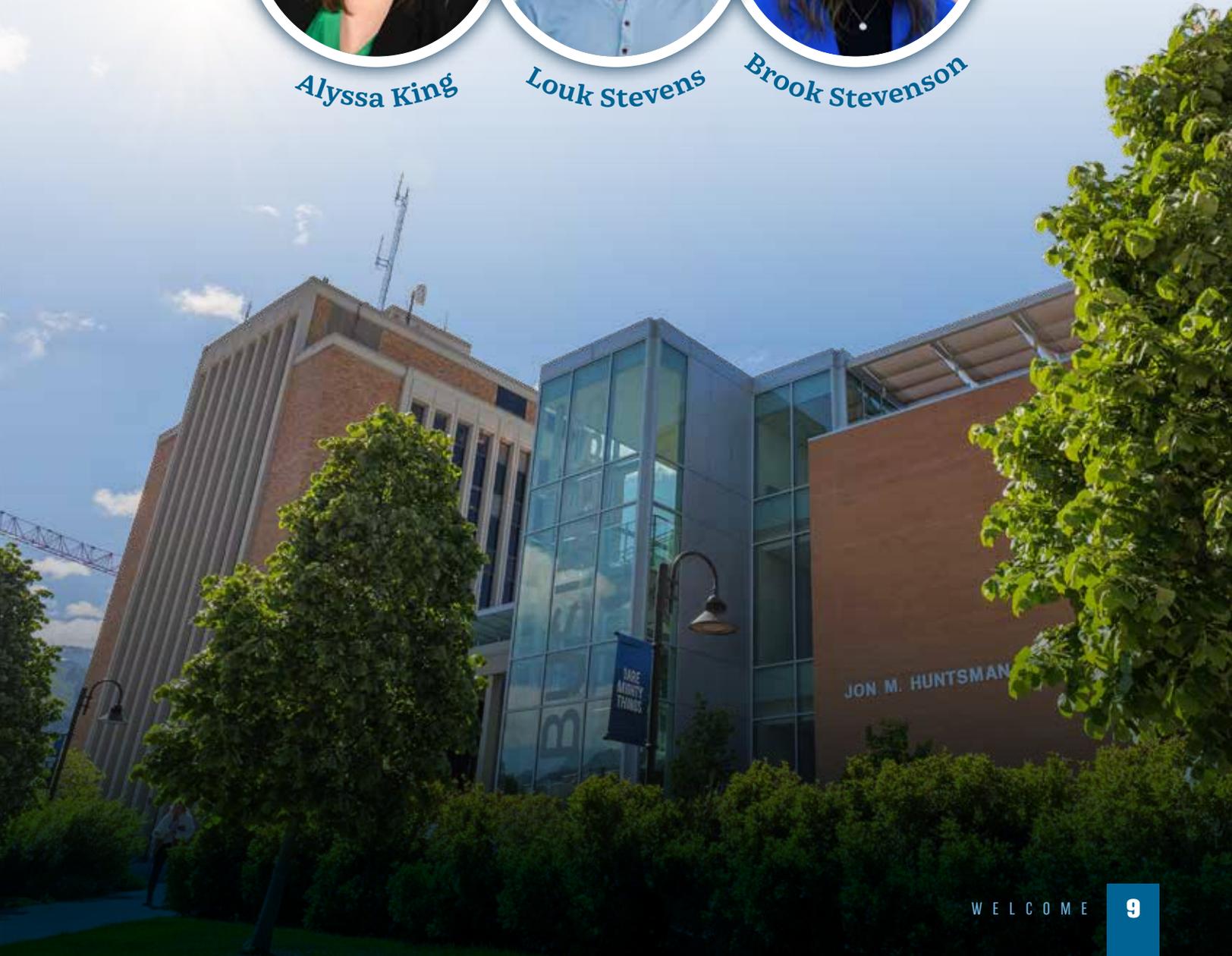
***Alyssa King***



***Louk Stevens***



***Brook Stevenson***



# 2025 Student Awards

**Zach  
Dustin**



**Outstanding Student  
Leadership Award**

**Z**ach Dustin is from Bountiful, Utah. He served as the IMA Club President during the 2024-2025 school year, after serving as a student officer the prior year. As a previous Quigley Ambassador, he helped organize and run events such as the Accounting Info Session and Cash Camp, a recruiting event for first-generation high school students. In his free time, he participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, helping individuals in our local community file their tax returns. Outside of academics, Zach enjoys staying active through running, hiking, playing soccer, and spending time outdoors. He has also been involved in intramural sports at USU, including soccer, futsal, kickball, softball, ultimate frisbee, cornhole, and spikeball. Zach graduated this spring and will begin his career in tax with FORVIS Mazars in Colorado Springs, Colorado in the fall.

**Tate  
Smith**



**SOA Student Teacher  
of the Year**

**T**ate Smith is from Delta, Utah. After graduating from high school in 2018, he served a 2-year religious mission in Berlin, Germany. In 2020, Tate started college at USU as an international business major and a member of the honors program. However, after taking his first accounting class, he quickly changed his major to accounting. While completing his undergraduate degree, Tate met his wife, Paige. They now have a 15-month-old child and another on the way. During his time at USU, Tate has enjoyed sharing his love for accounting with others. He has done this by tutoring, being a teaching/graduate assistant, and even teaching Accounting 2010. He also spent one spring helping individuals prepare their tax returns through VITA. In the future, he plans to continue sharing his love for accounting with others. He has accepted a full-time offer from Jones Simkins CPA and is currently pursuing his CPA license.

**Rhianna  
Sorensen**



**SOA Scholar  
of the Year**

**R**hianna Sorensen is from College Station, Texas. She arrived at USU in 2020 and quickly discovered that accounting was a better fit for her than political science. Over the past five years, she has loved her time at Utah State—both studying taxes and cheering for Aggie basketball.

While pursuing her MAcc this year, Rhianna took all four CPA exams, served as a teaching assistant for Dr. Lindsey's business tax class, and volunteered with the VITA tax preparation program. She was excited to graduate this spring and begin her career in tax in Austin, Texas, while continuing to pursue her CPA license.

Rhianna is especially grateful for the support of her professors in the School of Accountancy, her group project teammates, and most of all, her husband, Isaac—who is convinced he has earned at least a minor in accounting after all his help with studying. Though she does love a good spreadsheet, in her free time, Rhianna also enjoys traveling, speaking French, singing, and playing the piano.

## Spencer Rawle



UACPA Outstanding Scholar

Spencer Rawle completed his Master of Accountancy at Utah State University this past spring. During his undergraduate studies, he was a Dean's List honoree, a Huntsman Scholar, a UACPA Campus Ambassador, a Quigley Ambassador, and a Becker Campus Ambassador.

Spencer has shown extraordinary resilience facing serious health challenges. Diagnosed with heart issues in Spring 2021, he underwent two surgeries requiring a pacemaker and defibrillator. Despite these obstacles, he completed a 10k race that summer. In 2023, he battled asthma and vocal cord dysfunction. Most dramatically, his defibrillator saved his life in 2024 when his heart stopped, necessitating mid-semester surgery. Throughout these trials, he never sought special accommodations.

Spencer maintained academic excellence in both his undergraduate and graduate programs. He balanced demanding internships with Deloitte, KPMG, EY and the Public Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), while working 20-40 hours weekly to self-finance his education. Spencer's true distinction is his ability to inspire others through his positivity, determination, and genuine care. This fall, he began working with EY's advisory group in Houston, Texas.

Ciera Stastny was awarded the Undergraduate Teaching Fellow (UTF) of the year for both the School of Accountancy and the Huntsman School of Business.

Ciera is originally from Los Lunas, New Mexico, before moving to Cache Valley, Utah. She graduated from USU in May 2025 with a bachelor's degree in accounting and will graduate with her master's degree in May 2026.

Ciera has made meaningful contributions to the university community through her roles as a UTF for the Business Taxation course and as a Quigley Ambassador. As a UTF, she led review sessions, supported students with challenging material, and assisted with grading. As a Quigley Ambassador, she promoted accounting by sharing her enthusiasm for the profession—an experience that deepened her own understanding.

Dr. Brad Lindsey had this to say about Ciera, "Ciera has distinguished herself as one of the most impressive people I have worked with in any business setting. Ciera's excellent communication, timely and thorough follow up, attention to detail, and drive to help students learn difficult concepts helped me to deliver the best course possible for my students and makes her UTF contribution noteworthy and deserving of the UTF of the Year award in the Huntsman School of Business."

Congratulations, Ciera on this well-deserved recognition!

## Ciera Stastny



UTF of the Year



# Breaking Barriers: A Single Mother's Path to Change Through Education

**M**onica Vasquez—a Master of Accounting student, single mother of three daughters, and a domestic violence survivor—embodies the power of resilience and the transformative promise of education. As a first-generation college student, Monica is not only striving for academic success—she's reshaping the future for herself, her family, and countless others walking similar paths.

Returning to school while raising three children alone hasn't been easy. There have been sleepless nights, financial hurdles, and moments of deep uncertainty, but Monica has never lost sight of her "why." She has said, "I have my daughters watching, and I want them to see that our pain has a purpose."

For Monica, earning her master's degree is more than a personal achievement. It's a steppingstone toward financial independence and a powerful platform for advocacy. With firsthand experience of the barriers single mothers face, she is now using her voice to influence

policies that better protect and uplift families—especially where current laws fail those who remain and sacrifice.

In 2025, Monica played a key role in the passage of House Bill 463—a legislative milestone aimed at

improving outcomes for single-parent households. The bill passed unanimously in both House and Senate committees and was signed into law by Governor Spencer Cox. "It was very healing to be part of something that created real, positive change," she shares.

"I've lived the struggle," Monica explains, "and now I want to be part of the solution so others don't have to go through what I experienced. Education has changed my life, and I believe it can change others' too."



Monica's journey is a testament to strength, purpose, and the power of education to not only transform lives but to reshape the world around us. She continues to inspire her peers—and most importantly, her daughters—with every step forward. 📖

## USU Students Win Big at DECA Financial Competition

**S**avannah Sheen and Spencer Bretey, both accounting students, recently competed in the Financial Statement Analysis Prepared Event at the Utah Collegiate DECA State Leadership Conference. Teams analyzed annual financial statements for Nike and Adidas using horizontal analysis, vertical analysis, and key financial ratios. Each team submitted a 15-page report evaluating which company would be the better investment, more creditworthy borrower, and preferred employer, while considering recent news and public perception.

After submitting their written analysis, Savannah and Spencer presented their



findings to a panel of judges. Their strong performance earned them first place at the state level, qualifying them for the Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in San Francisco, California. There, they refined their analysis based on judge feedback and placed among the top ten teams internationally.

Both students applied knowledge from their coursework to excel in the competition, particularly from the MAcc's Financial Statement Analysis and Accounting Research courses and the Intermediate Financial Accounting courses.

Well done, Savannah and Spencer! 📖

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

By Jim Cannon

**T**wenty-one (primarily Sophomore) business students converged in Rome from May 4 through 31 to study ACCT2020 - Managerial Accounting Principles...making Luca Pacioli proud! Following an extremely successful inaugural sixteen-participant program in Summer 2024, the School of Accountancy, once again, sent students to experience Roman culture. Highlights included enjoying cultural visits to the Vatican Museum, indulging at the Eataly Food District, taking in the splendor of the Borgese Museum, and visiting the Herculaneum Archaeological Site. Additionally, students were given the opportunity to spend time learning to cook with Chef Riccardo. The students also visited the Chamber of Commerce, Bitron, and the Cinecitta Movie Studio.

In addition to the organized events, students took full advantage of the three-day weekends to travel throughout Italy. Groups went to Milan, Florence, Venice, Lake Como, Cinque Terra, and the Amalfi Coast. Several fully embraced the opportunity to not only observe but dive into the Italian culture. One example was when one of our students who had never learned Italian prior to arriving translated for a bus driver who did not know any English!

Unabashedly boasting, the Huntsman School embraced the School of Accountancy's Acumen Abroad innovation. The Huntsman School offered an additional Acumen Abroad program, MSLE3580 Strategy course in Japan during Summer 2025, patterned after the ACCT2020 program. In addition to ACCT2020 and MSLE3890, four other Acumen Abroad offerings will be launched in Summer 2026: FIN3300 Fundamentals of Finance II in Italy, Data2100 Data and Information in Business in Ireland, MGT3700 Business Law/Ethics in England, and MGT3350 Entrepreneurship project in Mexico.

I would be remiss if I did not give a shout out to Dr. Simone Bove and the rest of the Iowa State University staff who hosted us! Their facilities were amazing, and their support even better! Despite an incredibly hectic jubilee year, they were extremely attentive to our every need.

And finally, a shout out to our incredible students. Dr. Bove was so impressed with them that he asked if he could visit Utah State University to expand our partnership! Using his words, "I am trying to deepen relationships with the schools that we want to have here."

I look forward to continuing the legacy of learning next year...oh, and enjoying gelato together! 🍦



# USU Students Win Tax Policy Competition

In early December 2024, Brigham Young University (BYU) Faculty Advisor John Barrick invited Utah State University (USU) to join the annual BYU Tax Policy Club Case Competition for 2025. Teams were comprised of four or five students at varying levels of accounting experience, from introductory courses to graduate studies. On competition day, six teams represented USU and five teams competed for BYU.

The competition focused on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which has many provisions expiring at the end of 2025. Each team was tasked with (1) selecting one expiring provision to extend and justifying its importance, (2) proposing a revenue-raising policy to offset the extension, and (3) offering an innovative tax idea to enhance equity and effectiveness.

Teams delivered ten-minute presentations summarizing their recommendations, followed by a ten-minute question and answer session. Each team also submitted a two-page executive summary to the judges.

Winners were announced, with prize money awarded to the top three teams. In its first year



competing, USU teams placed first and fourth!

Following the competition, faculty advisors John Barrick and Brad Lindsey organized a tax policy-focused trip to Washington D.C., at the end of April. First-place team members—Malina Smith, Anna Sundberg, Heidi Sundberg, and Jackson Taylor—enthusiastically accepted the invitation to attend.

The trip visits literally comprised the who's who of tax policy in Washington D.C. including the Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Tax Court, Business Roundtable, Tax Foundation, National

Association of Realtors, and Big Four national tax groups. A highlight was meeting USU Master of Accounting alumnus Derek Theurer ('06) at the U.S. Treasury. At the time, Derek was serving as Counselor to the Secretary, advising Treasury Secretary Bessent on tax policy. He graciously made time for the group despite preparing for his confirmation hearings to become Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs. 🇺🇸

***Congratulations!***



# Aggies Expand Global Vision Through Excellence Experience at PwC Tokyo

**W**e are proud to share the success of our recent visit to PwC Tokyo, where 20 Huntsman scholars gained global insights from PwC's accomplished partners and leadership team.

Led by accounting faculty member Dr. Grazia Xiong and finance faculty member Dr. Todd Griffith, this immersive experience gave our Aggies firsthand exposure to one of the world's leading professional services firms in Japan's business capital. The group explored PwC's innovative approaches to consulting, audit, and advisory services while seeing how global expertise translates into local leadership.

Students participated in interactive sessions with PwC partners who shared career journeys and

discussed emerging business trends. Under Dr. Xiong's guidance, scholars engaged with industry leaders on a personal level.

Beyond professional development, the visit offered cultural and educational experiences in Japan, helping students understand how multinational corporations operate in a distinctive business environment while broadening their global vision and cross-cultural competency.

This initiative reflects the Huntsman School's commitment to developing globally minded business leaders through engagement with world-class professionals and real-world learning that deepens perspectives and accelerates career growth. 🇺🇸



# Alumni

## Distinguished Alumnus Award

**B**rent S. Sandberg, '86, CPA, is a recently retired tax partner of Jones Simkins LLC, an accounting firm in Logan, Utah. Before joining Jones Simkins, he worked ten years at Ernst & Young in Salt Lake City. Over his career, he provided sophisticated tax, estate planning, and business consulting services for successful enterprises and their owners. He has extensive experience in estates, trusts, and the taxation of construction, manufacturing, and retail businesses.

Brent earned both his bachelor's and Master of Accountancy degrees with a tax emphasis from Utah State University. While at USU, he was president of Phi Beta Lambda and worked in the associate dean's office in the business school. And yes, he is a true Aggie.

He received the Small Business Association's Accountant Advocate of the Year award for Utah and is a past president and charter member of the Northern Utah Estate Planning Council. He is also a member of the Utah Association of CPAs, American Institute of

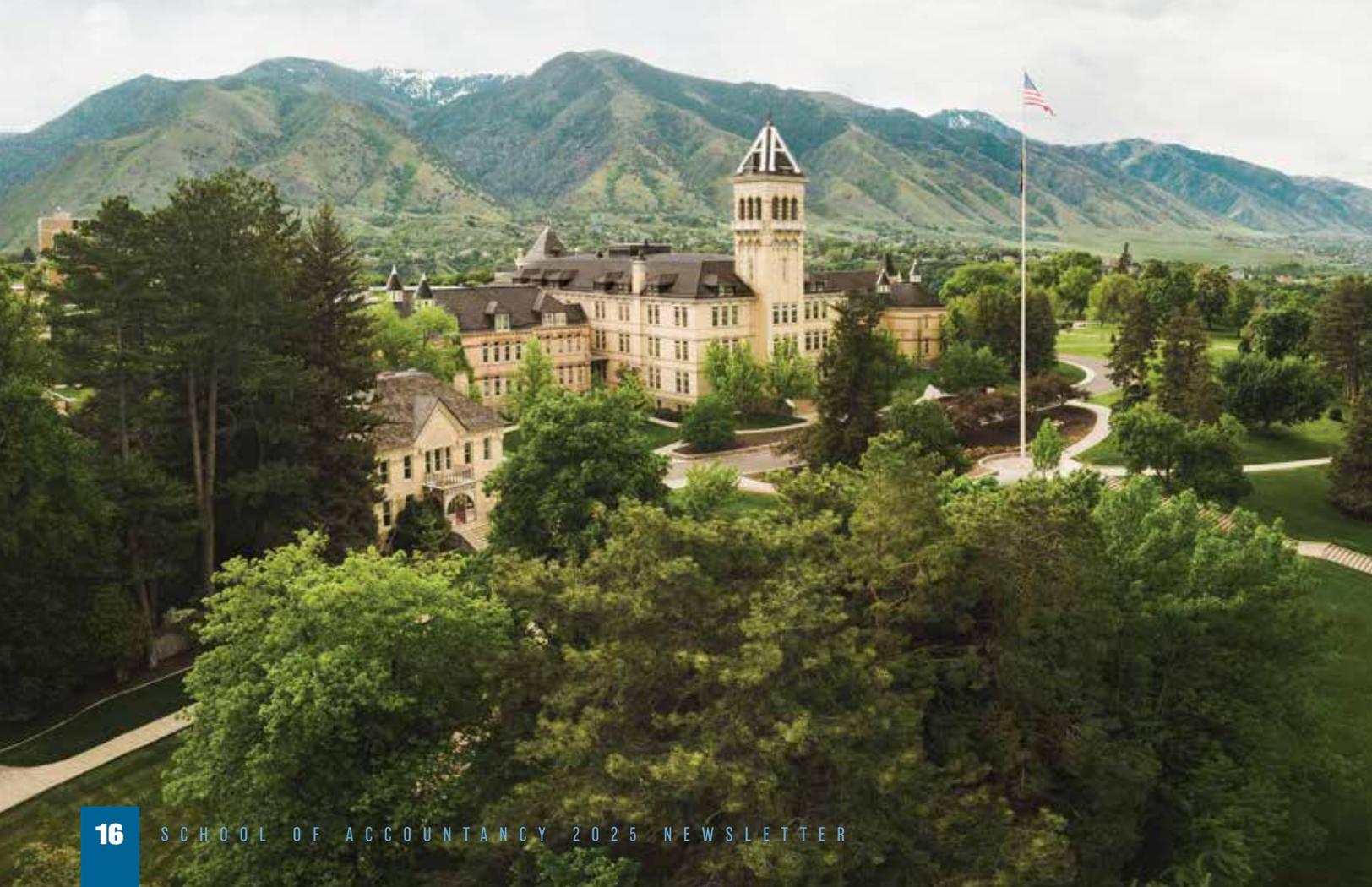
CPAs, and is a past president of the Salt Lake Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants.

Active in the community, Brent is a past president and member of the Logan Rotary Club and serves on the Logan Rotary Foundation Board. He is a member of and past chair of the Logan Regional Hospital Board and foundation board, and served on the Sunshine Terrace Foundation Board and Cache Chamber of Commerce. He has presented tax and financial updates to numerous professional and community groups, is a Leadership Utah graduate, and helped organize the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic bid announcement.

Brent grew up in Hurricane, Utah. He and his wife, Allyson, have four children and six grandchildren. As an Eagle Scout, he enjoys outdoor adventures such as backpacking, camping, rappelling, canyoneering, ropes courses and zip lines. He's also a fan of Aggie basketball and a good book. 📖



***Congratulations, Brent!***



# Sprit of Jay Price Award

**T**om Colligan graduated from Utah State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 2007 and a master's in 2008. He was valedictorian of the Huntsman School of Business and received the UACPA Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

He began his career in public accounting at Tanner LLC in Salt Lake City, spending six years and rising to audit manager. After a brief tenure at AgReserves, he joined Venafi in 2015 and became a key financial leader through nearly a decade of growth and transformation. He advanced through roles including assistant controller, corporate controller, and senior director of accounting. At Venafi, Tom was integral in a \$100 million capital raise in 2018, played a pivotal role in the \$1.1 billion acquisition by ThomaBravo in 2020, and led due diligence efforts for Venafi's \$1.54 billion acquisition by CyberArk (NASDAQ: CYBR) in 2024. He now serves as Treasurer of the Americas at CyberArk, transitioning



from accounting leadership into strategic treasury leadership.

Tom served on the Huntsman Young Alumni Board from 2021 to 2024 and remains a passionate Aggie supporter. He and his wife, Stephanie are proud Aggies, have held season football tickets for over a decade and are raising five future Aggies. Believing strongly in giving back, they established the Tom and Stephanie Colligan Scholarship in 2019 to support accounting students.

Outside of work, Tom finds fulfillment in physical challenges and lifelong learning. He and Stephanie climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in 2024, and he enjoys supporting his kids and umpiring baseball. He lives by the motto “do something that scares you every year” — whether completing 52 Murph workouts, running 12 half marathons, climbing mountains, or training for his first Olympic-distance triathlon in 2025. 🏆

***Congratulations, Tom!***



# Donor Stories

## Gordon Nelson

Gordon Nelson's journey with Utah State University began as a student and has come full circle in the most meaningful way. As a True Aggie and 1992 graduate of the USU School of Accountancy, Gordon earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees before building a successful 30-year career as a CPA and CFP®. He's spent decades helping clients navigate tax planning, investments, estate planning, and financial strategy. Four of his five daughters are now married, and his youngest is excited to start her own journey at Utah State.



It was a special relationship during his student years that truly shaped Gordon's connection to USU. Dr. Larzette Hale took him under her wing, helping with everything from class scheduling to finding scholarships and planning his career path. That mentorship made all the difference in his success, and Gordon has

carried a desire to pay it forward ever since.

"I've always wanted to find a way to make a significant impact at USU and the School of Accountancy," Gordon explains. The solution came through his professional expertise in financial planning. By naming USU as a percentage beneficiary of his life insurance policy and retirement accounts, Gordon found a flexible way to ensure a substantial gift to the Larzette Hale Scholarship Endowment without impacting his current financial needs.

Today, Gordon has returned to USU as Senior Director of Gift Planning, where he is able to combine his professional skills with his passion for helping others. He's particularly excited about showing fellow alumni how simple strategies—like the retirement account beneficiary approach he used—can create meaningful gifts regardless of someone's age or current financial situation.

For Gordon, it's about more than just fundraising—it's about ensuring future students have the same transformative experience he had, complete with mentors like Dr. Hale who believed in his potential.

Gordon is passionate about giving. "I would love to meet you, hear your USU story, and help you determine what kind of gift would make sense for you," Gordon says. Scan the QR code if you would like to meet with Gordon to discuss planned giving. 📄



Connect with  
Gordon

## Tanya Scott

Tanya Scott, '89, believes no one makes it alone. She attributes mentors who paved the way and generously shared knowledge and resources for inspiring her successful career of 36 years in accounting and consulting. It all started at Idaho Falls High School where Tanya, a self-described "daughter of a spud farmer," represented her high school in a state-wide business competition. She won first place in accounting and says it was a foreshadowing of things to come. From that moment, she was hooked.



Her journey to success was not always linear. In the 1980s, Tanya attended another university but found it too large and impersonal. Searching for a better fit, she took a break from school and worked for a CPA in Idaho Falls who became an important mentor. This experience reinforced her passion for accounting and led her to Utah State University (USU) where she found a close-knit academic environment and thrived as one of four women in the School of Accountancy.

Tanya credits USU for giving her the foundation to succeed. She recalls rigorous classes and mentors (such as Ralph Peck and Cliff Skousen) who went above and beyond to prepare students for their careers. She was also inspired by Larzette Hale, School of Accountancy department head and faculty member, who "made it clear that it didn't matter what gender you were, you could do big things, and you could do good things."

"We all stand on the shoulders of those who lived before; it's important we're grateful for those who did the hard things and it's part of our legacy to step up and do the hard things too so the people who come after us have a chance to stand on our shoulders," Tanya said, "I think legacy is a really important aspect of what we do in any aspect of our life."

Tanya remains committed to USU and the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. She is helping to carry on the legacy of Larzette Hale by financially supporting the Larzette G. Hale Scholarship. Like Tanya, today's Huntsman School of Accountancy students can dream big, dare mighty things, and go places they've never been. 📄



Read More of  
Tanya's Story

## Barbara & Craig Warnes

**B**arbara '14 and Craig '86

Warnes met as students at Utah State University in the 1980s. Their connection began on a snowy Valentine's Day in 1985 when



Craig invited Barbara to a USU basketball game.

Over the years, their love for USU grew alongside their desire to give back. Craig's career took them to California, where they raised their children, Julie and Brian. Despite the distance, they remained loyal Aggies—visiting campus during family trips and attending games at San Jose State when the Aggies came to play.

Early in their marriage, Craig expressed a desire to give to his alma mater. "Even early on, when we first got married, Craig would see the alumni mailers and say, 'I want to give something to Utah State,'" Barbara recalled. They started small, contributing through USU's annual campaign and payroll deductions. Barbara, a non-traditional student who benefitted from scholarships, felt strongly about supporting others in their educational pursuits.

As their giving became more intentional, they realized that what they had recently spent on a car could fund a scholarship instead. "With that perspective," Barbara said, "it simply became a decision of where to use our resources." This shift in mindset led to the creation of two scholarship endowments—one for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences where Barbara graduated and another in the School of Accountancy in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business.

The Craig A. and Barbara Lindhardt Warnes Accounting Scholarship Endowment was created to support students in Craig's field. "Accounting drives decision-making and helps people manage resources—it's a service-oriented field," Craig said. Supporting students in this area is their way of giving back.

To ensure their legacy, Craig has also designated a portion of his life insurance policy to USU, ensuring the accounting scholarship continues to make an impact for generations. The Warnes' story is a testament to the power of intentional giving and the lasting difference it can make in students' lives. 🍷



**Read More of  
The Warnes's  
Story**

## Make Your Impact

Your gift is an investment  
in our future.

Every gift makes a difference! We could not be where we are today without the generous financial support of our alumni and friends.

You provide funding for important initiatives, and student scholarships are especially crucial.

Scholarships give students time for studies and extracurricular activities, which can help them to succeed in the accounting industry.

Scan the QR code to make a gift  
to the School of Accountancy



*Thank you!*

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Heidi Sundberg  
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# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## **A. James Larson Scholarship**

James Ewell

## **Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship**

Korrin Wahlstrom

## **Buehler Honoring Brent Sandberg Scholarship**

Kevin Boyle

## **Buehler Honoring Larzette Hale Scholarship**

Nativida Ramirez

## **Cliff & Janice Skousen Scholarship**

Sabrina Swasey

## **Cooper Savas Scholarship**

Ellee Skriner

## **Craig and Barbara Warnes Scholarship**

Zach Schwager

## **David & Barbara Hulme Scholarship**

Jaxen Nielsen

## **David & Karen Luthy Scholarship**

Kevin Boyle

## **Dennis Parker Scholarship**

Zach Schwager

## **Differential Tuition Waiver**

Calvin Jue & Kayla Ward

## **Edna Southworth Scholarship**

Ava McConkie & Taylor Despain

## **Eric & Michelle Rasmussen Scholarship**

Isaac Haskett

## **Ernst & Young Scholarship**

Britton Robyler

## **FORVIS Accounting Education Fund**

Jentrie Gilliland, Calvin Jue, Adam Brackner, Darby Mason, & Carson Walker

## **IMA Scholarship**

Kayla Ward

## **James & Gayle Brackner Scholarship**

Adam Brackner

## **Joe and Mari Strain Scholarship**

Caeden Jarvis

## **John E. Clay Assistantship**

Ellee Skriner

## **Jones Simkins Scholarship**

Korrin Wahlstrom

## **Jordan Mendez Scholarship**

Connor Mays

## **Joseph & Tamara Keller Scholarship**

Sarah King

## **Larzette G. Hale Scholarship**

Jentrie Gilliland & McKinley Van Leeuwen

## **Lorenzo J. Bott Scholarship**

Sabrina Swasey

## **Lynn & Irma Janes Scholarship**

Ava McConkie & Seth Polatis

## **Mark & Jennifer Erickson Scholarship**

Isabel Eldridge, Hannah Hillam, Caleb Postma, & Jeff Stouffer

## **Newel & Eunice Rees Memorial Scholarship**

Jackson Dent

## **Norman & Virginia Cannon Scholarship**

McKinley Van Leeuwen

## **Panda Group Scholarship**

Caeden Jarvis

## **Paula Rosson Scholarship**

Malina Smith

## **PCAOB Scholarship**

Alyssa King, Louk Stevens, & Brook Stevenson,

## **PWC Scholarship**

Madison Scholz & Andrew Rothe

## **Ralph & Roberta Peck Scholarship**

Victoria Degn

## **Richard & Carol Jenson Scholarship**

Andrew Rothe

## **Richard & Lura Buist Scholarship**

Isaac Haskett

## **Robert V. Doyle Scholarship**

Jackson Dent

## **Roland P. Monson Graduate Scholarship**

Mckenna King

## **Ryan & Karen Dent Aggie Family Scholarship**

Connor Mays

## **School of Accountancy Scholarship**

Scott Buker, Cameron Clark, Jordan Kerr, Hayden Stokes, & Cassidy Zapalac

## **School of Graduate Studies Scholarship**

James Ewell, Eden Shaw, & Malina Smith

## **Scott & Shiree Nixon Scholarship**

Monica Vasquez

## **Stokes Brothers' Scholarship**

Zack Jackson & Madi McNair

## **Tamara & Vance Grange Scholarship**

Shane Amidan

## **Tanner LLC Scholarship**

Isaac Haskett

## **Tom and Stephanie Colligan Scholarship**

Jaron Bateman

## **V. D. Gardner Scholarship**

David Forsythe & Caeden Jarvis

## **Vernon & MaRee Buehler Scholarship**

Kevin Boyle

# Faculty

## Promoted

**C**ongratulations to Professor Jayson Talakai on being promoted to Associate Professor. Professor Talakai is originally from Magna, Utah, and completed his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young University - Hawaii, where he worked as an accountant at the university. During his time in Hawaii, Professor Talakai developed an immense love for learning and decided to pursue a PhD to serve as an example to his family and other Polynesians of how education can transform lives and create new opportunities across generations. He completed his PhD at Texas Tech University in 2016.

Although he had no plans to return to Utah, Professor Talakai jumped at the opportunity when a position opened at Utah State University. He has always loved USU because his father played football here in the 1970s. Professor Talakai,



his wife Leva, and their four daughters and two sons absolutely love living in Cache Valley and being part of the Utah State School of Accountancy.

Additionally, his position as a professor allows him to mentor other students from similar backgrounds, showing them that advanced degrees and professional careers are attainable regardless of their starting point. This demonstrates how education can break cycles of limited opportunity and create lasting positive change that extends far beyond the individual.

Since arriving at USU, Professor Talakai has taught Principles of Financial Accounting and Intermediate Financial Accounting. In his free time, he enjoys watching his children play sports and teaching his oldest son how to lift weights. Professor Talakai feels very fortunate to work with the wonderful students at Utah State University. 🙌

## Handing Over the Reins

**D**r. Chad Simon has recently completed a five-year term as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business (HSB). This role included leading the School's 2022 AACSB accreditation process, representing the School on various university committees, and working with faculty across all departments. Among other activities, he participated heavily in the HSB's curriculum efforts, as well as in the university's curriculum process as a member of the USU curriculum subcommittee and as chair of this committee for the past three academic years. Dr. Simon shares, "My role in the Dean's office has been an incredible growth opportunity. I have learned so much about the School and about myself. This role allowed me to better see and understand the excellence that is occurring across the college. We have so many capable colleagues doing incredible work in each of our departments, and it has been amazing to learn about their efforts and the



impact they are having. I will always be grateful to Dean Anderson for the trust he has placed in me with this opportunity, as well as the support I have received from the Dean, my fellow associate deans, my department (especially my department head), HSB faculty and staff."

Replacing Dr. Simon in this role is the School of Accountancy's own Dr. Brad Lindsey. Dr. Lindsey brings a wealth of experience to this role, including his recent tenure as the Director of our MAcc program. Dr. Simon is excited that he will "hand the reins over" to Dr. Lindsey, stating, "Brad is an incredible colleague and person. He has so many strengths that will benefit him as Associate Dean, including his ability to make sound judgments, his professionalism and down-to-earth nature, and his kindness. When he speaks, others listen, in large part because he has earned the trust of others through personal interactions. I am excited that the rest of the Huntsman School will now get to know him and learn from him as he assumes this role." 🙌

# Building Bridges How First-Generation Faculty Transform Student Success

**A**t Utah State University's School of Accountancy, seven faculty members bring something extraordinary to their classrooms—not just accounting expertise, but the lived experience of being first-generation college graduates. Grazia Xiong, Frank Shuman, Fei Shuai, Lacey Wilkey, Devon Erickson, Rachel Martin, and Chad Simon understand the unique challenges many of their students face because they've navigated the same difficult path.

Department Head, Chris Skousen, has witnessed how this shared background creates profound connections. "These faculty members bring a different level of empathy to their teaching," he observes, "They understand the confusion students feel when navigating college systems their families have never experienced."

First-generation students face obstacles that extend far beyond academics. They're less likely to graduate than their peers because they often struggle with greater financial pressures, imposter syndrome, and psychological barriers. Faculty like Lacey Wilkey instinctively recognize when students are torn between immediate financial needs and long-term educational goals.

Devon Erickson exemplifies how these faculty address deeper challenges. "He helps students understand that questioning yourself doesn't mean you don't belong," Skousen notes, "It often means you care deeply about succeeding."

Rachel Martin takes a holistic approach, recognizing that academic struggles often reflect broader life circumstances. This understanding allows her to address root causes rather than just symptoms.



## Creating Transformative Impact

Skousen regularly witnesses profound transformations when struggling students connect with faculty who share their background. "There's often a pivotal moment when students realize that success isn't just possible—it's achievable," he reflects.

With approximately 20% of USU graduates being first-generation, creating belonging is critical. These faculty consistently reframe students' first-generation status as an asset rather than a barrier. "They help students understand they're not just earning degrees," Skousen explains, "They're building bridges for future generations."

## The Broader Impact

As Skousen reflects on his department's success, he emphasizes the irreplaceable value these faculty bring. "Having professors who truly understand the first-generation experience creates an environment where students don't just learn accounting—they learn they belong in this profession."

In the Huntsman School of Business, these first-generation faculty prove that the most powerful teaching combines expertise with empathy born from shared experience. For students navigating unfamiliar territory, this understanding marks the difference between uncertainty and confidence in their professional future. 🌉

# Remembering Two Accounting Legends

Dr. I. Richard Johnson & Dr. James W. Brackner

The Utah State University School of Accountancy has lost two remarkable figures who embodied the very best of what it means to be both educators and human beings. Professor I. Richard “Rick” Johnson (1946-2025) and Professor James “Jim” Walter Brackner (1934-2024) may have left us, but their legacies continue to compound interest in the hearts and minds of all who knew them.

## Rick Johnson: The Professor Who Never Stopped Learning

Rick Johnson spent 30 years as a professor in the Accounting Department at Utah State University, but what made him special wasn't just his impressive credentials—though his education certainly didn't hurt his resume! Rick Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts and MBA in Accounting as well as a Master of Science in Real Estate from the University of Utah, plus a Ph.D. in Real Estate from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Rick was the kind of professor who practiced what he preached about lifelong learning. He was endlessly curious and enjoyed lifelong learning—whether that meant picking up the guitar, learning the piano, or diving into new hobbies. Imagine showing up to office hours and hearing your accounting professor practicing piano scales between student meetings!

Beyond the classroom, Rick had a successful career as a Big Five auditor, controller, financial analyst

and consultant, and testified in numerous court proceedings as an expert witness. But perhaps his most important expertise was in the art of living well. He had a passion for gardening, golf, and motorcycle rides through Logan Canyon with his beloved wife, Katy. There's something beautifully symbolic about an accounting professor who could balance spreadsheets during the day and then balance on a motorcycle through scenic canyons—always keeping life's ledger in perfect harmony.

Students and colleagues remember Rick as someone who brought the same precision to his relationships as he did to his financial statements. Above all else, Rick treasured his family. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His approach to family time was as meticulous as his approach to teaching—making memories with his grandchildren was clearly a priority investment with guaranteed returns.



## James Brackner: From Alabama Woods to Utah Heights

James Walter Brackner grew up in the back woods of post-depression Alabama and somehow found his way to becoming not only a beloved USU accounting professor but eventually the Mayor of River Heights, Utah. Now that's what you call a diversified portfolio of life experiences!

Jim's journey through academia was impressive: he obtained a master's degree from BYU and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama, but what drove him to teaching was a mission that went beyond debits and credits. After working in public accounting and business, he decided to become a professor and teach students to be more ethical. In an era when business ethics couldn't be more important, Jim was ahead of the curve, understanding that the greatest asset any accountant could have was their integrity.

His influence on the accounting profession was profound through his publications and work with the Institute of Management Accounting, but Jim's influence extended far beyond professional circles. After retiring from academia, he took his service-oriented mindset into public service as mayor, proving that good governance and good accounting principles often go hand in hand.

Family was Jim's most valuable asset. He spent time teaching his children to fish, playing games, and watching football. With 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren, Jim clearly understood exponential growth in the most meaningful way possible. His wife, Gayle, was the love of his life and they recently celebrated 65 years of marriage—now that's a long-term investment that really paid dividends!



## A Legacy That Keeps Giving

Both professors understood that education is more than just transferring knowledge—it's about building character, inspiring curiosity, and creating lasting impact. Rick showed students that learning never stops, whether you're mastering new hobbies or perfecting your golf swing. Jim demonstrated that accounting skills are powerful tools for serving others, whether in the classroom, the community, or the mayor's office.

Their stories remind us that the best accountants don't just balance books—they balance life, service, family, and fun. They understood that while numbers are

important, the relationships you build and the lives you touch are the only assets that truly appreciate over time.

The Utah State University School of Accountancy is richer for having had these two remarkable men on their faculty. Their teachings will continue to yield returns for generations of students, and their examples of how to live well-balanced lives will remain an inspiration to all who follow in their footsteps.

In loving memory of Professor Rick Johnson and Professor Jim Brackner. May their legacies continue to compound in all the lives they touched. 🇺🇸

## 2025 Faculty Awards

**Grazia Xiong**



Teacher  
of the Year

**Devon Erickson**



Researcher  
of the Year

**Frank Shuman**



Cazier Lifetime  
Achievement Award

**Brad Lindsey**



Faculty Service Award

**Jim Cannon**



Graduate Mentor  
of the Year

**Rachel Martin**



Undergraduate Mentor  
of the Year

# Cazier Professor Lifetime Achievement Award

Frank Shuman was awarded the 2025 School of Accountancy and Huntsman School of Business Cazier Professor Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award is given annually to recognize a senior faculty member who has demonstrated 20+ years of consistent excellence in each aspect of their role statement. In his 33 years teaching at Utah State University, Frank has exhibited remarkable excellence through quality, quantity, and impact. He maintains an open-door policy and dedicates countless hours to mentoring students, both during and outside of official office hours. Frank has taught thousands of students, with many of his current students being children of alumni he previously taught.

In 1995, Frank took on the role of faculty advisor for our IMA Student Chapter. In each of these now 30 years,

the chapter has received the highest status possible--the Gold Award of Excellence. Under Frank's leadership, countless student chapter members have been awarded

academic scholarships from IMA, several have received the CMA scholarship, and many have passed the rigorous CMA exam. As evidence of his tremendous leadership in the IMA organization, Frank was recognized as the Ursel K. Albers Campus Advocate of the Year in 2014 and the R. Lee Brummet Exemplary Educator Award in 2024.

Frank's achievements in teaching, advising, service, and professional

engagement have created a legacy of excellence that perfectly embodies the spirit of the Cazier Professorship. 🏆

***Congratulations, Frank!***



# Impact on Management Accounting Practice Award

The Impact on Management Accounting Practice Award is an annual award that “recognizes the single research article

that is judged to have the greatest potential impact on managerial accounting practice” (AAA, 2025). Devon Erickson and his coauthors were selected as this year's award recipients based on their paper published in *Accounting, Organizations & Society* titled, “Feedback with Feeling? How emotional language in feedback affects individual performance” (Erickson, Holderness, Olsen, and Thornock, 2022). Their research suggests that when managers give employees negative feedback, the use of emotional language (e.g., “I’m very disappointed in your performance”) hurts employee performance relative to when negative feedback is provided objectively. In contrast, when providing positive feedback, the use of emotional language (e.g., “I’m very pleased with your performance”) has no impact on future employee

performance relative to when positive feedback is provided objectively.



In addition to publishing this paper in an academic journal, his research team published a summary article in *Strategic Finance*, which helped to broaden the article's impact on accounting practitioners. Since these articles were published, they have been cited by academics from a broad range of disciplines including accounting, management, education, and medicine. This has resulted in opportunities to engage with professionals who have changed the way they provide feedback based on the articles' takeaways. Devon works with a great team fantastic coauthors on this project (Kip Holderness – West Virginia University; Kari Olsen – Utah Valley University; and Todd Thornock – University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and is thrilled to have his work recognized for its practical relevance. 🏆

***Congratulations, Devon!***

# Three Faculty Honored with Prestigious Professorships

The School of Accountancy proudly announces the appointment of three distinguished faculty members to named professorships, recognizing their exceptional contributions to teaching, research, and service.

Dr. Grazia Xiong has been awarded the Richard C. Stratford Professorship for Emerging Scholars. This professorship honors the

legacy of Mr. Richard

C. Stratford, an

alumnus of USU's

Class of 1928. Dr. X

(as her students

call her) is a

respected scholar

in managerial

accounting

and has already

received multiple

awards in the three

years since completing

her Ph.D. Dr. Xiong's

energy and passion for her students and research are

unmistakable. We are excited to support her continued

contributions to our academic community.

Dr. Brad Lindsey and Dr. Chad Simon have been

awarded the Larry and Laurie Walther Endowed

Professorship in Accounting. Dr. Walther was known



Grazia Xiong



Brad Lindsey



Chad Simon

for his profound leadership, caring deeply about his students, the accounting profession, teaching, and mentoring current and former students. These same attributes are deeply rooted in Dr. Lindsey, who has served as the MAcc director for the last four years, and Dr. Simon, who has served as associate dean for academic affairs for the past five years. Both of these

professors excel in the

classroom, in their

research, and in

the academic

community.

These

professorships

not only

acknowledge

each professor's

outstanding

achievements

but also enhance

the school's ability

to attract and retain

top-tier faculty. We congratulate Drs. Xiong, Lindsey and Simon on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to their continued leadership in shaping the future of accounting education. 🎉

## AAA Management Accounting Leadership

Jim Cannon was extremely flattered when his good friend, (and soon-to-be American Accounting Association Management Accounting

Section President) Dr.

Drew Newman, asked if

he would join him and

the rest of the Section

leadership as Secretary/

Treasurer. The position

not only offers the

opportunity to work with

internationally-renowned

accounting faculty

but also allows him to

exercise his professional

practice muscles which

have atrophied a bit from

his days at Ford Motor

Company and Hewlett-

Packard Corporation. The

responsibilities will include engaging in, facilitating,

and documenting strategic decision-making,

budgeting, and cost management on behalf of an international academic constituency.

The two-year term is from July 2025 through June

2027. The Management

Accounting Section

leadership will be

comprised of Past

President, Dr. Karen

Sedatole (Emory

University); President,

Dr. Drew Newman

(University of South

Carolina); President-

Elect, Dr. Clara Chen

(University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign); and

Council Representative,

Dr. Willie Choi (University

of Wisconsin-Madison).

He looks forward to

representing the Utah State University Huntsman School of Business alongside such amazing scholars! 🎉





Jon M. Huntsman  
**School of Business**  
**UtahStateUniversity**

## School of Accountancy

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