

BYU School of Accountancy



2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT



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Current and emeritus SOA faculty. Front row (from left): Timothy Seidel, Boyd Randall, Lee Radebaugh, Richard Dalebout, K. Fred Skousen, Jay Smith, Fred Streuling, Lynn McKell, Kevin Stocks, and John Barrick. Middle row: Bill Brady, Bill Tayler, Paul Winward, David Cottrell, Dave Stewart, David Wood, Troy Lewis, Ron Worsham, Monte Swain, and Steve Glover. Back row: Robert Gardner, Scott Hobson, Cassy Budd, Doug Prawitt, Melissa Larson, Scott Summers, Steve Smith, Michael Drake, Jeff Wilks, and Mark Zimbelman.

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in Ghana*

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The 2015–16 Year at a Glance



August

New Swag

SOA students started the school year by modeling their department pride, sporting brand-new accounting T-shirts designed by alum and Volcom CFO Brad Holman.

October

Top Teacher

Professor Melissa Larson received an honorable mention from the 2015 Bea Sanders/AICPA Innovation in Teaching Award, which recognizes successful teachers in accounting.



December

Last Lecture

After thirty-seven years of service to the SOA, Bob Gardner taught his farewell accounting class. He officially retired in June.



February

Senior Night

Soon-to-be accounting graduates mixed and mingled at the first-ever Senior Social, held at The Wall, a swanky on-campus hangout.



April

Pomp and Circumstance

New SOA grads celebrated together at the department's annual Graduation Celebration—complete with “guess the professor” baby and junior core photos—and, after turning their tassels, celebrated with family and friends at the convocation reception.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

September

Rise and Shout

Falling in line with Cosmo, the Cougarettes, and crowds in blue, the SOA was the largest academic department represented in BYU's annual Homecoming parade as students, staff, and families marched around campus.



November

Holly Jolly

With Christmas around the corner, the SOA Spouse Association (SOSA)—which provides support and promotes friendship among the spouses of accounting students—met to create and decorate holiday cards.



January

Top Honors

Accounting students landed third place at the national Deloitte FanTAXtic Case Study Competition, bringing home \$5,000 in winnings.

March

Bracketology

March Madness burned strong at the SOA, with Max Magill nabbing first place in the department's Bracket Challenge.



SOA Students Make a Difference in

GHANA

BY HOLLY
MUNSON



Like any good study abroad, the School of Accountancy's second annual student trip to Ghana was packed with fascinating excursions—breathtaking waterfalls, a somber former slave castle, inspiring firesides with church members in Accra and Cape Coast, a selfie-worthy monkey sanctuary, and a thrilling bridge walk above the rain forest canopy.

And like any good accountant, the students on the trip gave top priority to one thing: their spreadsheets.

For the past two summers, SOA students have visited Accra, Ghana, to spend two weeks not only sightseeing but also volunteering their accounting skills to benefit local organizations. With the students' long commutes from where they were staying, their time helping on-site was limited—so they logged plenty more spreadsheet hours each day back at the hotel.

“There was a culture within the group that we wanted to put in a little more effort on our own,” says Austin Argyle, a MAcc student who attended last year's Ghana trip and was a TA for this year's trip. “The side trips were fun, but students took initiative to spend free time getting more work done rather than shopping for souvenirs.”

“The students worked hard and played hard as well,” says Richard Sackitey, director of Ghana Make a Difference (GMAD), one of the partner organizations. “I have been fascinated with the effective and efficient manner in which they work.”

This year's trip included six MAcc students and five undergraduate accounting students, with professors Steve Smith and Scott Hobson as faculty advisors. Student teams worked with two organizations: GMAD and Deseret Hospital.

Below: Students helping to improve the revenue process at Deseret Hospital pose for a photo with nurses and staff at the hospital. Back row, from left: Yoyo Fang, Nathan Hughes (center), Braden Andrus, and Ashley Bunker. Front row, from left: Janelle Knight.



PHOTO BY BRITTAN HERNDON

Hatching a Profitable Venture

GMAD seeks to make a difference in the lives of Ghanaian children by providing them with food and a home, as well as physical, mental, and emotional nurturing, while trying to reintegrate them with their biological family or find them an adoptive family. It was founded in 2012 by Cory and Stacey Hofman, natives of Idaho who visited Ghana and were inspired to organize a home for Ghanaian children.

In order to feed the children, GMAD recently started a small poultry farm. They sell surplus eggs to raise funds for the home and teach the staff, the children, and their families how to be self-reliant.

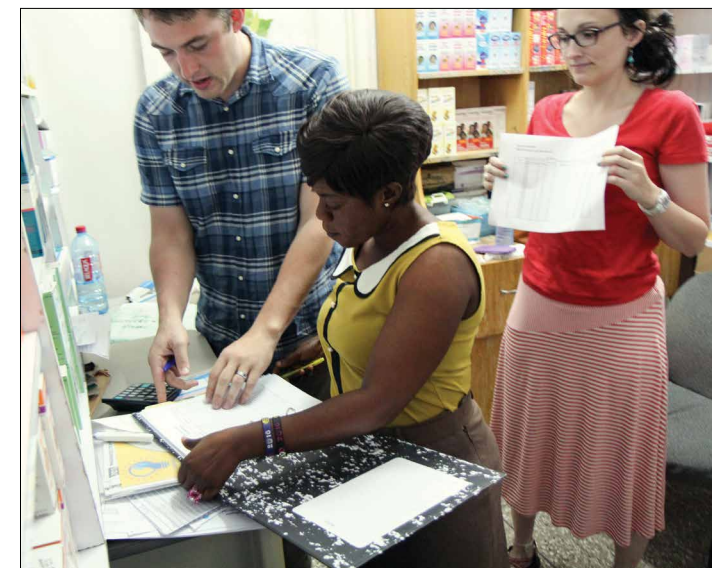
That's where the spreadsheets came in: Sackitey wanted to apply for a UN grant that would help GMAD grow its poultry venture, but there weren't enough formal records to compile a grant proposal. So the students helped organize existing data and created an easy-to-use spreadsheet-based reporting system.

The data now shows per-chicken productivity, pinpoints potential areas for cutting costs, and makes projections for future revenues. Students also provided suggestions for marketing the eggs to the community and helped GMAD find a way to profitably dispose of aged chickens, eventually compiling all their findings into a slick UN-ready proposal.

“This proposal was something we were not hopeful we could finish without their help,” Sackitey says. “This BYU student trip has been very successful and beneficial for the home and the children.”

Healing Cash-Flow Wounds

Deseret Hospital is committed to providing care to people with medical needs, regardless of their ability to pay, and serves tens of thousands of



PHOTOS BY BRITTAN HERNDON

Ghanaians each year. The hospital was founded in 1979 by Dr. Emmanuel Kissi and his wife, Elizabeth Kissi, a nurse. The Kissis were also pioneers in helping establish the LDS Church in Ghana, with Dr. Kissi serving as Area Authority Seventy for the Africa West Area from 2002 to 2007.

Deseret Hospital's most urgent problem was cash flow. Most of the care they provide is covered by government insurance, but the government hadn't paid the hospital for eight months.

Top: Austin Argyle (front), Braden Andrus and Ashley Bunker participate in a canopy walk over protected forests in the Ho region of Ghana. The series of boardwalks above the jungle is a popular tourist attraction.

Bottom: Nathan Hughes, left, and Janelle Knight, right, help organize the process to record sales in a pharmacy.



"IF WE CAN JUST LISTEN AND MAYBE ADD SUGGESTIONS HERE AND THERE, WE'LL TAKE AWAY MORE THAN ANYTHING WE PROVIDE."

"They were slowly bleeding to death," Argyle says.

As part of a capital-budgeting process, the students researched machines the hospital could invest in to bring in nongovernment revenues. They proposed the purchase of a dialysis

machine and offered suggestions for how to effectively implement a new medical procedure.

Students also helped in several other areas—troubleshooting management problems with administrators, creating more consistent procedures for recordkeeping, revamping the employee handbook, and helping stem the trend of bribes. According to a 2013 survey by Transparency International, 54 percent of Ghanaians reported that they paid bribes for services. In the case of Deseret Hospital, some nurses and front desk staff were expecting extra payment, and it was impairing patient care. Students wrote scenes depicting proper payment procedures and had hospital staffers act them out. They also created videos to train staff and educate patients.

Making a Difference

Nothing quite prepares you to step into a new culture, observes Melissa Larson, assistant teaching professor of accountancy and the faculty advisor for last year's trip.

Larson cites one example: she was speaking with an organization director about a spreadsheet students were creating. He asked, "But what should we do when we don't have power?" "What do you mean?" Larson replied. He explained that the whole country is rationed on power, with routine twenty-four-hour blackouts.

From experiences such as this, students quickly learned from the Ghanaians' example of finding creative, entrepreneurial solutions within constrained circumstances.

"Often we want to go over and tell them, 'If you do what we do, you'll be happier,'" Argyle says. "But really, there are a lot of things we can learn from them. People know their business way better than we do, and they have great ideas to implement. If we can just listen and maybe add suggestions here and there, we'll take away more than anything we provide."

Additionally, many SOA students headed to Ghana expecting to stretch their more advanced, technical skills in helping the organizations—but they were in for a surprise. "It was still a lot of work, but we used the basic stuff—it was more a matter of how we could explain it well enough that someone else could understand and implement it," Argyle says. "I didn't realize the basic things I learned in school would be able to help so much."

"For students it was so powerful to see that they could apply very basic accounting principles to make an immediate impact," Larson says. "They are amazed to find that their skillset can already bless others, and they're very grateful for that."

EVOLUTION OF A STUDY ABROAD

The SOA Ghana trip is the result of the successful interweaving of several Marriott School programs.

SOA Nonprofit Initiative:

This program was created several years ago under the direction of SOA director Jeff Wilks to connect students with local organizations in need of accounting help. The Ghana trip takes the initiative to a global level.

MPA Ghana Trip:

MPA students have been taking trips to Ghana since 2004. Now MPA and SOA students travel together. They prepare beforehand by taking a course that reviews the economy, culture, and business environment of Ghana.

Management Society:

Students were able to connect with local organizations thanks to Seth Ogoe Ayim, founder and president of the Ghana chapter of the BYU Management Society. He's currently an MPA student at the Marriott School and met with students to prepare them for the trip. He even arranged coverage on local TV and radio stations to publicize the students' contributions.

"It's a great way for the public to get to know more about BYU, the Management Society, and the church," Ayim says. "They see that students are making a difference in the country."



Nathan Hughes, left, Conner Blake, Seth Ogoe Ayim, Austin Argyle and Braden Andrus stand by a waterfall in the Ho region of Ghana.

PHOTO BY BRITTAN HERNON



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Channeling an entrepreneurial spirit, second-year MAcc student Alec Starkie took his skills beyond the classroom to run his own startup. Cards2Life creates intricate and customizable pop-up cards with designs from sailboats to baby carriages to the Eiffel Tower. You may have seen one of his creations last December—the SOA hired Cards2Life to craft its 2015 Christmas card. Read Starkie's story on page 14.

Student Report

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS	MAcc	BS Acc
Number of Fall 2015 applicants	285	382
Students entering Fall 2015	162	264
Female	25%	27%
International	9%	6%
Minority	3%	6%
Married	49%	37%
Returned missionaries	81%	81%
Bilingual	69%	68%
States represented	23	33
Countries represented	10	13
Average entering GPA	3.74	3.76

CLASS OF 2016	MAcc	BS Acc
Average starting base salary	\$56,961	\$54,300
Placed by 3 months after graduation	97%	92%

MARRIOTT SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID*	MAcc	BS Acc
Number of students receiving scholarships	164	73
Percent of students receiving scholarships	52%	19%
Average scholarship amount	\$2,188	\$1,616

* Does not include university or federal aid.

Undergraduate Rankings

RANK	PROGRAM	SOURCE	YEAR
1st	Accounting	Bloomberg Businessweek	2013
2nd	Accounting	Tax Talent	2015
3rd	Accounting	U.S. News & World Report	2015
3rd	Accounting	Public Accounting Report	2015

Graduate Rankings

RANK	PROGRAM	SOURCE	YEAR
1st	MAcc	Tax Talent	2015
2nd	MAcc (Tax)	Tax Talent	2015
3rd	MAcc	Public Accounting Report	2015

Students Place at Deloitte Competition

A team of Brigham Young University accounting students earned third place at the national Deloitte FanTAXtic Case Study Competition, taking home \$5,000 in winnings.

“I really enjoyed being able to work with such smart, hard-working individuals in a very tough competition,” says Ren Ruiz, a second-year MAcc student from Houston. “I believe that everyone’s positive attitude and willingness to help each other, especially during the stressful times, enabled us to remain strong throughout the competition.”

Seventy-two teams competed at the regional level of the competition before nine went on to the national competition held at the Deloitte campus in



From left: Professor Robert Gardner, Ren Ruiz, Joseph Castro, Keana Mortensen, Danielle Johnson, and Michele Gray.

“It was rewarding to watch them work together enthusiastically as they continued to develop their professional and personal skills.”

Westlake, Texas. Finalists were asked to tackle two issues-based case studies that required teams to engage in simulation exercises advising a hypothetical company. Students then made presentations to Deloitte professionals, recommending solutions based on their knowledge of tax laws and practices.

“The team performed extremely well addressing very difficult tax and financial accounting issues,” says Robert Gardner, BYU School of Accountancy professor and the team’s faculty advisor. “It was rewarding to watch them work together enthusiastically as they continued to develop their professional and personal skills.”

Under the leadership of Ruiz, the prize-winning team’s members, including sophomores Joseph Castro from Rexburg, Idaho, and Keana Mortensen from West Hills, California, and seniors Michele Gray from West Jordan, Utah, and Danielle Johnson from Henderson, Nevada, each won a \$500 share of the prize. An additional \$2,500 was awarded to the BYU School of Accountancy. “I feel like our team worked hard, and each of us put forth our best effort,” Castro says. “We were able to work cohesively as a team and make the best of our individual and collective strengths.”

MAcc Student Uses Classroom Principles to Build Paper Empire



“What you learn in school is actually applicable. I wish that more students had this opportunity because it makes your learning in class so much more real and relevant.”

Alec Starkie, a second-year MAcc student from West Jordan, Utah, doesn’t spend his time in the Tanner simply to gain textbook knowledge about business principles or memorize terms for an exam—he’s there to better understand how to live and breathe classroom concepts into his work in the outside world.

“What you learn in school is actually applicable,” Starkie says. “I wish that more students had this opportunity because it makes your learning in class so much more real and relevant.”

With the entrepreneurial spirit passed down from his business-savvy father, Starkie and a group of friends created Cards2Life, a 3D pop-up card business they developed during the junior core. The cards feature kirigami designs—a variation of origami

that involves cutting and folding paper—and are customized for businesses and organizations. In its niche market, Cards2Life has even created special cards for the School of Accountancy and various accounting firms. It also received early investment from a pre-profit venture capitalist in Provo.

“It really takes a new spin on a greeting card,” Starkie says. “The whole purpose is to establish and strengthen human connection. It’s not just about giving a card; it’s about giving something that they’ll never forget.”

Starkie managed finances and high-profile accounts at Cards2Life before exiting the company in May with an eye to gaining more experience in accounting and financial management.

“I wanted to get more real-life experience working within an

accounting firm so that I could be more valuable not only to someone else’s business but also to my own,” he says. “With those skills, coupled with my entrepreneurial experience, I would be unstoppable.”

Besides priding himself on what he has accomplished with Cards2Life, Starkie identifies another element of personal triumph: his hair.

“I’m a redhead,” he says. “I define my personality through it, and it helps me to have more drive and determination.

It’s actually how he prefers to identify himself. When asked to describe himself in three words, Starkie states it simply. “I’ve been called a triple threat: Redhead. Accountant. Personality. You don’t see a lot of those things happening at once,” he says with a laugh.

BYU Beta Alpha Psi Aids Nonprofits

What can accounting students do to help a leprosy colony in India?

As it turns out, a lot.

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) is an honors organization for financial information students and professionals. Within the BYU chapter of BAP, groups of accounting students work on projects aiding local nonprofits.

Hannah Rios, a second-year MAcc student from Boerne, Texas, has been involved in two different projects with BAP. With a group of five students, Rios helped a Provo-based nonprofit, Rising Star Outreach, in calculating costs and pricing service programs. Rising Star’s programs help send volunteer groups to a school and hospital in India, in an area plagued by leprosy. Rios knows that by utilizing her managerial accounting skills she was able to help a good organization that by nature doesn’t have access to a lot of resources.

“At some point in my career I definitely want to be working at a nonprofit,” Rios says. “Having that little experience showed me that I can do a lot of good. The fact that we could spend a few hours coming up with a cost breakdown for them and that it could help them with their business model so much was satisfying. It was also fulfilling for me to know that I have a skill that I can really help people with.”

Five to ten groups are typically involved in BAP’s nonprofit initiatives each year. Jessica Hadley is the nonprofit initiative coordinator of the BYU chapter of Beta Alpha Psi and a second-year MAcc student from Alpine, Utah. She says her work overseeing the groups is easy because the students are highly motivated.

“The students are self-propelled in getting involved,” Hadley says. “Even when there were roadblocks to their projects, I loved hearing how dedicated they were to see it through.”

The student-directed projects allow School of Accountancy students to give unique service based on their specialized skills.

“I’ve been involved in lots of service, and I loved all those opportunities,” Rios says, “but it’s been really cool as I’ve gotten more into my major to have specific service opportunities.”

The nonprofit initiatives within Beta Alpha Psi connect members of the accounting program with local organizations in need, resulting in a beneficial partnership that creates relationships and develops skills.

“We are so blessed in the accounting program to have association with incredible faculty and to have awesome opportunities due to the precedent set by SOA graduates before us,” Hadley says. “Getting involved in the community is the least we can do. And we’re happy to do it.”



WSOA Hosts First Recruiting Event

Accounting is for men. Accounting is too hard. Accounting will destroy your social life.

These are rumors. But for women looking to enter the accounting program, they're sometimes the only messages received.

"As a freshman or sophomore looking into accounting, you hear a lot of rumors about the program that may deter some women from applying," says Lauren Harris, a first-year MAcc student from Houston. "I believe that hearing about the experiences of women who have already gone through the junior core can help dispel some of those rumors and encourage more women to apply."

Last November the Women in the School of Accountancy club held the first recruiting event of its kind to garner interest in the SOA among female students and to combat false stereotypes. The event, called Women in Accounting: We Never Go Out of Style, featured raffle prizes and student presentations from the WSOA members.

"We didn't sugarcoat things or give the packaged responses you usually hear at recruiting events," says Jessica Drivas, an accounting senior from Coto de Caza, California. "I think the girls who attended got an idea of just how unique the women in the accounting program are, and also how much the accounting program can positively impact their lives."

Katelyn Benson, an accounting senior from Richfield, Utah, says the WSOA events not only answer questions about the accounting program but also serve to exhibit the versatility of an accounting degree for women.

"This career is perfect for women, especially those aspiring to motherhood," Benson says. "There



are so many flexible options for career development. Don't let stereotypes get you down. Accounting can work for you!"

The WSOA holds events to connect past, current, and future female students in the accounting program. To learn more about the WSOA and upcoming events, visit byuwsa.wordpress.com.

"I believe that hearing about the experiences of women who have already gone through the junior core can help dispel some of those rumors and encourage more women to apply."

Making an Impact: Meet SOA Student Ning Ye



Ning Ye misses the junior core. She realizes that's not something you typically hear from accounting students or alumni, but for her, it's more than nostalgia.

"My favorite part of the accounting program has to be the people, and I loved my junior core group," Ye says. "We were like family. It was really one of the best years of my life."

Ye, a senior accounting student, is from Hangzhou, China, a city on the east coast near Shanghai. On an exchange program she participated in during high school, she met an LDS friend in Mount Desert Island, Maine, who persuaded her to apply to BYU.

When she got in, she chose a business school major easily. But why accounting?

"The short answer would be Kay Stice," Ye says, naming her favorite accounting professor. "He's the kind of person who makes a textbook come alive. But the long answer is that I read the book *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand. I used to think that if I wanted to do something that would have an impact on the world it would be some type of social work or NGO. But the book gave me the idea that if I go into business, I can do more things long term."

Ye completed an internship at PwC after her junior year and will join the firm's advisory group in San Francisco after graduation.

"I love meeting people, and the fact that I will actually push the market forward makes me feel

"I read the book Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand. I used to think that if I wanted to do something that would have an impact on the world it would be some type of social work or NGO. But the book gave me the idea that if I go into business, I can do more things long term."

good about my decision to do accounting," she says.

Besides attending classes and participating in the Women in Business club, Ye enjoys time outside of school by listening to audiobooks, attending musical performances and plays, skiing, scuba diving, and practicing what she sees as a necessary hobby: golfing.

"I feel like that's a business requirement," she says, laughing.



FACULTY NEWS

Earning a spot in the top 1 percent of all exam takers, associate accounting professor Steve Smith recently completed the national Certified Management Accounting (CMA) exam with honorable recognition. Of his test-taking success, he says: “For my own credibility, it was such a relief just to pass. Scoring well feels good, of course, but I’m most excited simply to have the certification and to continue helping students learn about how the CMA can be an asset to them.” Smith earned a PhD in accounting management from Cornell University in 2005 and joined the Marriott School faculty in 2012.

Faculty Report

Professorships

PROFESSORSHIPS	2015-16 RECIPIENT
Albrecht, W. Steve	Jim Stice
Andersen Foundation	Scott Summers
Ardis, Glenn D.	Doug Prawitt
Call, Robert/Deloitte	Brian Spilker
Deloitte	Monte Swain
EY	Jeff Wilks
Ford	Greg Burton

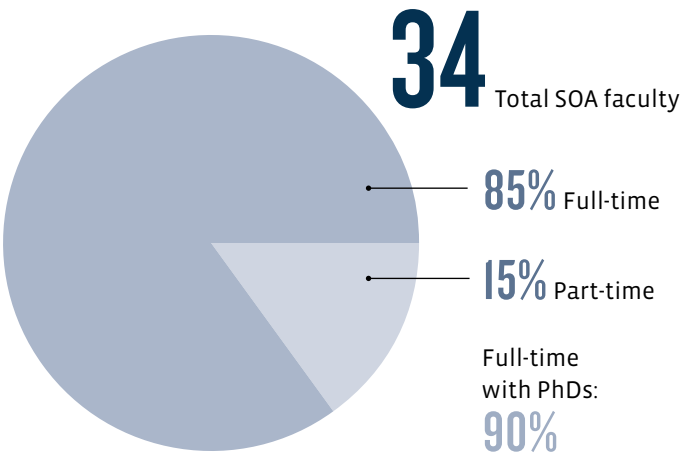
PROFESSORSHIPS	2015-16 RECIPIENT
Gunnell, Ronald C. & Kaye	Steve Albrecht
KPMG	Kevin Stocks
Martin, Rachel	Dave Stewart
Mary & Ellis	Mark Zimbelman
Skousen, K. Fred	Steve Glover
Smith, Robert J.	Robert Gardner

Fellowships

FELLOWSHIPS	2015-16 RECIPIENT
Ardis, Glenn D.	David Wood
PwC	Michael Drake

FELLOWSHIPS	2015-16 RECIPIENT
Vest, Kristine V. & Randy J.	Steve Smith
Warnick/Deloitte	Bill Tayler

Faculty Composition



Faculty Rankings*

10th most productive accounting research university in the country in the last six years.

1st in education research

2nd in audit research

3rd in experimental education

* Includes the top six accounting plus the five section journals of the American Accounting Association.

SOA Welcomes New Professors



Abigail Allen

Abigail Allen was born in Los Angeles but grew up in Salt Lake City before moving back to California to attend the University of Southern California. She worked as an internal auditor for Mattel while pursuing her MAcc, which she received from USC in 2006. After graduation, Allen worked for Deloitte and Touche and became a licensed CPA before going on to Harvard Business School, where she earned her PhD in 2013. She has been teaching business administration at Harvard for the past three years. Allen and her husband, Derek, have three children. She spends her free time snowboarding, scuba diving, and playing tennis.



Jake Thornock

Jake Thornock grew up in Utah Valley and has always been a Cougar fan. After his mission to the Dominican Republic, he received his BS and MAcc in accounting from the Marriott School in 2006. He then completed his PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010. He is married to his college sweetheart, Kerrie, and they have four children. Thornock has been working as a professor of accounting at the University of Washington in Seattle for the past six years. He loves college sports, fishing, playing the guitar, and playing Minecraft with his kids.



Timothy Seidel

Born and raised in Maryland, Timothy Seidel served a mission to Spain before completing his undergraduate studies in finance at the Marriott School in 2001. He worked in the private sector while also pursuing a master's degree in accounting at the University of Notre Dame and later his PhD from the University of Arkansas. Seidel taught accounting at Utah State University, is a member of the AICPA and the AAA, and is a licensed CPA in the state of Florida. Seidel and his wife, Cheyenne, have four children. He loves playing sports, coaching his kids' teams, and serving in the community.



Melissa Western

Melissa Western grew up in Kingsburg, California. After receiving her bachelor's degree in accounting from California State University, Fresno, in 2001, she worked as a financial analyst for Hewlett Packard. She then went on to earn both a master's degree in 2004 and a PhD in 2007 from Indiana University. Western taught accounting at the University of Utah for nine years before making her way to BYU. Western has two children, and she enjoys outdoor activities such as running the Ragnar Wasatch Back relay race and hiking with her husband, Marc.

New Accounting Professor Looks for Ways to Give Back



“It is a great privilege and responsibility to be a teacher.”

It didn’t take long for Western to realize that the kind of work she was doing at Hewlett Packard wouldn’t get her where she wanted to be, so she moved to Indiana and earned a master’s degree in 2004 and then a PhD in 2007, both from Indiana University. Before being hired at BYU, she taught accounting at the University of Utah for nine years.

Western has run the Wasatch Back Ragnar relay race for many years. A recent convert to the LDS Church, Western was sealed to her husband, Marc, last November. They love the outdoors and enjoy hiking together.

Western has two children, Elijah, age ten, and Katherine, age seven, and she tries to find ways to involve them in community service. “I’ve been trying to find things that we can do as a family that actually help the kids to see how we’re connected to others,” Western says. In the past, they have volunteered as a family to help provide food to the homeless. They are looking forward to mentoring refugee families together in the future.

“I love being a mom and I love my profession,” she says. “I feel that through my role of mother, I teach my children the most important truths that I have learned, and through my profession, I teach other families’ children all that I have learned. It is a great privilege and responsibility to be a teacher. I appreciate that I have been entrusted to teach my children and the students at BYU.”

After growing up in Kingsburg, California, new BYU School of Accountancy professor Melissa Western completed her undergraduate studies in neighboring Fresno. She wasn’t sure what she wanted to major in, but many of her track teammates were business students. They encouraged her to try out an accounting class, which she did—and she fell in love.

“It just made total sense,” Western says. “I loved studying it, I loved talking about it, and I had a natural interest and ability in it. I explored career options and realized there were lots of opportunities.” She received her bachelor’s degree in accounting from California State University, Fresno, in 2001, and soon after went to work for Hewlett Packard as a financial analyst.

Study: Exposure to Violence Leads to Unethical Behavior



Can watching a violent movie make you more likely to lie, cheat, or steal? What about reading a violent book? While that may seem like a stretch, a new research study shows it may be the case.

The study, published in the *Journal of Business Ethics*, finds that exposure to human violence is strongly linked to an increase in cheating for monetary gain. In other words, violence may be making us less ethical.

“Research shows that violent media increases aggressive behavior towards others, but what we’re showing here is that it goes beyond that,” says study coauthor Josh Gubler, a professor of political science at BYU.

Gubler and coauthor David Wood, a professor of accounting in the Marriott School of Management, carried out three

experiments with roughly one thousand participants (recruited from Amazon’s Mechanical Turk) for the study.

In the first experiment, participants were paid to review sentences and edit those with mistakes. Half of the participants were given sentences with violent language. Subjects were told they would be paid whether or not they were correct, providing an incentive to mark all sentences “correct” to earn money quicker. Those who reviewed violent sentences were 24 percent more likely to cheat.

In another experiment, participants were hired to watch and evaluate movie clips. (They were told they needed to watch the entirety of all the clips to be paid.) One clip consisted of ten minutes of a blue screen with a monotone voiceover. The researchers found those who viewed violent movie clips were more likely to lie about watching all the videos.

Surprisingly, while both male and female test subjects responded to violently worded media, only the men’s ethics were negatively influenced by violent videos.

“We have whole industries that glorify violence—in video games, in media, and in Hollywood. And then, on the opposite side, we have a significant body of research

showing very serious effects to this,” Wood says. “There is a disconnect between what science is saying and what we choose to do in society.”

One such study, published in 2009, found that subjects who played violent video games for only twenty minutes took five times longer to help a person in need. The study also found that people who had just seen a violent film took 26 percent longer to help an injured woman.

Last year the journal *Psychology of Popular Media Culture* published a study showing the majority of media researchers, not to mention parents and pediatricians, see the link between violent media and increased aggression.

Wood believes our society needs to have a “really serious gut check” and ask why we tolerate and glorify violence. He and Gubler say their study is the latest to show that violent media has more negative impacts than most people imagine.

“We hope this provides another piece of evidence to the debate we’re having within Western society of the effects of media on behavior,” Gubler says. “We hope this information informs parents and communities as they make decisions about what types of media they consume.”

Professor Spins Wheels, Wins Big



Blink and you might miss him. On wheels, accounting professor Mark Zimbelman is fast—so fast that he placed second in his category of the Men’s Master Road Race during the USA Cycling National Championships held in Ogden, Utah, on 10 September 2015. But this forty-six-mile win was not his first brush with cycling success.

Zimbelman has competed in more than 150 races since he began cycling ten years ago. In 2007 he set a course record for LOTOJA, a 206-mile race from Logan, Utah, to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He recently placed while racing against a lower age category in the West Mountain Circuit Race. And for Zimbelman, the end of his racing days are nowhere in sight.

“I don’t have any plans to quit,” he says. “The main reason I race is because it pushes me to stay fit in January when the weather’s

cold. I want to be able to ride even when I’m eighty.”

To reach his goals, Zimbelman puts in ten to twelve hours of riding a week year-round. In the winter, it’s base training on his stationary bike. As a race day approaches, he conducts intervals, competes in preparatory races, and simulates possible race conditions. While it’s the competitive drive that keeps him motivated, Zimbelman admits his success wouldn’t be possible without his biggest fans: his wife, Karen; five children and their spouses; and seven grandchildren.

“The main thing is my wife and family,” he says. “They’ve totally supported me. It makes a huge difference.”

As a BYU undergrad, Zimbelman originally pursued a zoology degree but switched after taking an accounting class at the Marriott School. Zimbelman earned a BS in accounting in 1984.

After working for six years in the field, he returned to school to get his PhD at the University of Arizona. In 1999, he joined the faculty at BYU.

In addition to the great people Zimbelman has rubbed shoulders with at BYU, he loves the school’s unique mission: “teaching secular truths in the light of the gospel,” he says. “There’s no other place like it.”

Zimbelman has learned throughout his career that cycling principles often translate into everyday situations, allowing him to overcome seemingly impossible challenges—on the road and in the workplace.

“In every race there’s a time when you question whether you can keep going or whether you should just quit,” he says. “I’ve found that if I just keep going for a few minutes more, I’m back in the race. I just focus on keeping going, one pedal at a time.”

Faculty Publications

SCHOLARLY BOOKS

Albrecht, W. Steve. *Integrity: The Key to Capacity.**

Cottrell, David M. and **Cassy J. Budd.** *Advanced Financial Accounting*, eleventh edition.

Gardner, Robert L., Dave N. Stewart, and Ron G. Worsham. *Tax Research Techniques*, tenth edition.

Spilker, Brian C., Ron G. Worsham, and John A. Barrick. *McGraw Hill’s Taxation of Individuals and Business Entities*, 2015 edition.*

CRITICALLY REVIEWED SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES

Albrecht, W. Steve. “How Fraud Affects Corporate Strategy: The Case of General Motors and John McNamara,” *Corporate Finance Review*.*

Summers, Scott L. and **David A. Wood.** “The Effects of Using the Internal Audit Function as a Management Training Ground or as a Consulting Services Provider in Enhancing the Recruitment of Internal Auditors,” *Accounting Horizons*.*

Drake, Michael S. “The Determinants and Consequences of Information Acquisition via EDGAR,” *Contemporary Accounting Research*.*

Drake, Michael S. “Acquirer Valuation and Acquisition Decisions: Identifying Mispricing Using Short Interest,” *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*.*

Drake, Michael S. “Short Selling Around Restatement Announcements: When Do Bears Pounce?” *Journal of Accounting, Auditing, and Finance*.*

Glover, Steven M., and Douglas F. Prawitt. “Enhancing Auditor Professional Skepticism: The Professional Skepticism Continuum,” *Current Issues in Auditing*.

Glover, Steven M. “Behind the Numbers: Insights into Large Audit Firm Sampling Policies,” *Accounting Horizons*.*

Glover, Steven M., Douglas F. Prawitt, and Michael S. Drake. “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A Path Forward for Using Substantive Analytical Procedures in Auditing Large P&L Accounts: Commentary and Analysis,” *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*.

* Indicates collaborative work with authors outside the Marriott School.

Seidel, Timothy A. “Disclosure Transparency About Activity in Valuation Allowance and Reserve Accounts and Accruals-Based Earnings Management,” *Accounting, Organizations and Society*.*

Smith, Steven D. “Managers’ Discretionary Adjustments: The Influence of Uncontrollable Events and Compensation Interdependence,” *Contemporary Accounting Research*.*

Stocks, Kevin D., Scott L. Summers, and David A. Wood. “Citation-Based Accounting Education Publication Rankings,” *Journal of Accounting Education*.*

Stocks, Kevin D. “Thoughts on Competency Integration in Accounting Education,” *Issues in Accounting Education*.*

Summers, Scott L., and David A. Wood. “An Examination of How Entry-Level Staff Auditors Respond to Tone at the Top Vis-à-Vis Tone at the Bottom,” *Behavioral Research in Accounting*.*

Wilks, T. Jeffrey. “The Earnings Quality and Information Processing Effects of Accounting Consistency,” *The Accounting Review*.*

Wood, David A. “Them’s Fightin’ Words: The Effects of Violent Rhetoric on Ethical Decision Making in Business,” *Journal of Business Ethics*.*

Wood, David A. “Rotational Internal Audit Programs and Financial Reporting Quality: Do Compensating Controls Help?” *Accounting, Organizations and Society*.*

Zimbelman, Mark F. “Challenges Facing Auditors in Detecting Financial Statement Fraud: Insights from Fraud Investigations,” *Journal of Forensic and Investigative Accounting*.*

ALUMNI UPDATES

Life is never short on surprises—just ask 2012 MAcc grad Nolan Robinson. After she started at BYU as a pre-law major in the nineties, her education was derailed when her health took a turn for the worse. After a long road of marriage, motherhood, and emotional and physical healing, Robinson found herself at the Marriott School, and she now works as a corporate controller. Read her story on page 31.



2015 School of Accountancy Conference Draws Crowds



Three days. Four major events. More than two hundred attendees.

The third annual School of Accountancy Conference, held 22–24 October, brought together alumni, faculty, and community members for an activity-filled weekend.

ALUMNAE BANQUET

The Women in the School of Accountancy (WSOA) club kicked off the conference on Thursday with their fall banquet, an event designed to connect alumnae with current female students. Featured speakers addressed opportunities

for women in the workplace and at home, aiming to help students use their accounting degrees in all phases of life.

“The event successfully focused around how to adjust a career in accounting as life changes,” says Lydia Sheffield, WSOA president. “A main concern among women in the accounting program is how a career can be balanced with goals to have a family. The event helped women see how flexible the accounting profession is.”

To accomplish this, WSOA invited alumnae to sit on a panel; the six women spoke about their experiences in and out of the

workplace and addressed questions from current and interested students. The panel was made up of 1999 grad **Trish Alderman**, 2010 grad **Brittany Brown**, 1998 grad **Holly Fletcher**, 2004 grad **Paige Goepfert**, 2001 grad **Jen Hinze**, and 1988 grad **Laura Torgeson**. The women represented accounting careers in many stages: part time, full time, on hiatus, or a return back to the field after time off.

According to Torgeson and the other panelists, an accounting career doesn’t have to mean the choice between being successful in your profession or attending all

“A main concern among women in the accounting program is how a career can be balanced with goals to have a family. The event helped women see how flexible the accounting profession is.”

of your children’s sporting events.

“If you become valuable to your company,” she says, “they’re really willing to be flexible and make arrangements.” Torgeson found success working flexible hours as she negotiated options with her boss; Brown found success in using cloud-based systems to work from home.

“If where you’re working doesn’t accommodate flexibility, go find a place that will,” Brown says. “It really is the wave of the future in accounting.”

Nolan Robinson, the banquet’s keynote speaker and a 2012 MAcc graduate, spoke of the need for women to pursue a meaningful career, referencing the story of her own unique journey to an accounting degree.

“As women in the accounting program, it’s sometimes hard to see the big picture—that there are jobs out there that are conducive to being a mother and a professional,” she says. “Many women are discouraged from the program because of the . . . perception

that having an accounting career means you will always work intense hours. There are so many opportunities out there.”

EXPERT SESSIONS

On Friday the SOA Conference hosted a number of different sessions taught by BYU faculty and field practitioners. After a welcoming address, New York Times best-selling author **Jeff Benedict** spoke about his experiences as a journalist, including the time he spent in Provo writing about BYU athletes for his book, *The System*.

“It was a great experience because I got to talk about some themes that mean a lot to me and share the experiences of some remarkable individuals with other people,” Benedict says. “Clearly, the stories matter a lot to those who teach at BYU or who attended BYU because it’s their university.”

Later, BYU accounting professor **Doug Prawitt** spoke to conference goers about his experience working with The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations

of the Treadway Commission. He also illustrated the importance of effective internal control by sharing insights he gained while serving as an expert witness in the Koss fraud case, which involved one of the largest defalcations in the history of the United States.

“It was an honor to be included among such a distinguished line up of speakers,” Prawitt says. “It is continually amazing and gratifying to me that the SOA is able to pull off such a high-quality accounting conference.”

JUNIOR CORE REUNION

After the in-house sessions on Friday, the SOA gathered with alumni who entered the program’s junior core in the fall semesters of 2010, 2005, 2000, and 1995 for a reunion event. The gathering was a new addition to the conference and a highlight for SOA director **Jeff Wilks**.

“I personally got to catch up with an alum who was in my junior core group twenty-two years ago,” he says. “I loved the chance to renew old friendships.”

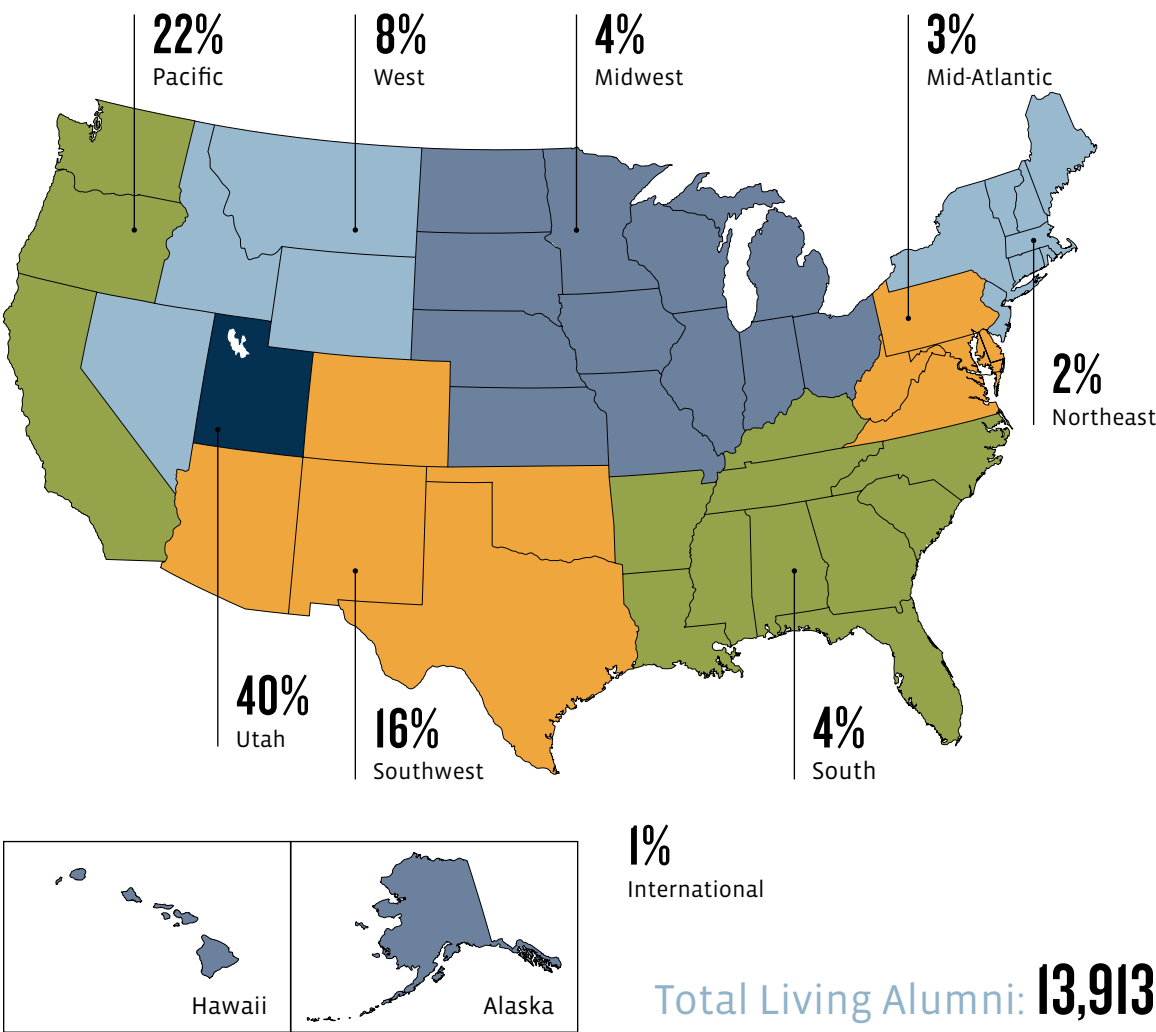
TAILGATE PARTY

The conference wrapped up on Saturday with a tailgate party before the BYU football game against Wagner College. For SOA alumni director **Jennifer Maroney**, it was a seamless end to a successful weekend.

“We were thrilled with the tremendous response of attendees for our three-day conference,” Maroney says. “We felt that everything went smoothly, and more importantly, reconnections and new friends were made.”

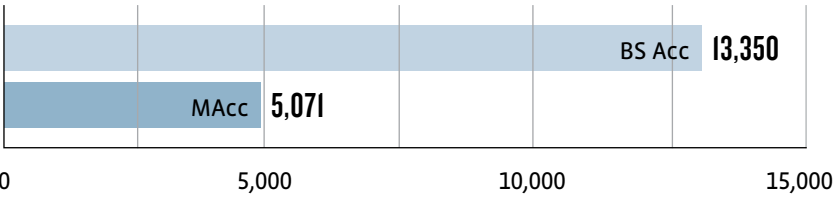
Alumni Report

Where SOA Alumni Reside



Total Living Alumni: 13,913

Degrees Granted from 1922 to 2015



Alumni on SOA LinkedIn Group:

2,809

Getting Busy Living

When she started at BYU in 1993 as a pre-law major, Nolan Robinson never imagined it would take her nineteen years and a career change to find a passion for accounting and earn her degree.

“I had this vision in my mind that I was going to go out and change the world one defense at a time,” Robinson says.

Three semesters into her BYU career, however, Robinson’s plans took an unexpected turn. Her constant fatigue and breathing difficulties escalated and demanded a tracheotomy, which later produced complications. Many doctor visits and tests revealed that her trachea was the size of a coffee stirring straw. It was a miracle she was alive, in more than one regard, since Robinson had already battled cancer at age fifteen.

Subsequent surgeries and recovery periods prevented Robinson from returning to BYU, and even after marrying her husband, BJ, three years later, she continued to battle seemingly endless health challenges.

“I think anytime you go through something traumatic, you go through the five stages of grief,” Robinson says of her emotional and physical trials. “I stayed in the depression stage for quite a while because I was mourning my life as I thought it would be.”

Often refusing to leave her house or even draw the blinds, Robinson felt despair plaguing every aspect of her life. Then one day her husband’s words



“A lot of women think it’s an intensive career. It has to be all or nothing. There are other options out there, but you have to go find them.”

penetrated her relentless gloom.

“My husband came home and said to me: ‘I love you and support you no matter what you choose to do, but you can choose to be happy and deal with your new norm, or you can choose to let this dictate your life. Whatever you choose to do, I’ll support you. But it’s your choice.’”

Inspired, Robinson resolved that instead of mourning, she was going to get busy living. With renewed hopefulness, she compiled a list of personal goals, which included finishing her degree. This proved to be its own daunting obstacle as Robinson’s three children joined the family. Departing from her pre-law path, Robinson navigated new hurdles as she balanced classes, the kids, and her husband’s demanding job.

The various complications Robinson faced led her down an unexpected path as she discovered the multitude of unique opportunities that her accounting skills offered.

“I didn’t really know that there were any other options besides public accounting,” Robinson says. “A lot of women think it’s an intensive career. It has to be all or nothing. There are other options out there, but you have to go find them.”

A close friend and classmate in Robinson’s accounting group offered her a job as corporate controller for E Ventures, an expanding sales business in Provo. With the flexibility the position offered her, Robinson joined a month after she graduated with her MAcc in 2012.

Now, as Robinson looks back, she acknowledges the value of every step on her unforeseen journey to the Marriott School.

“I still would have done the program even knowing how difficult it was,” Robinson says. “As a woman, accounting is probably one of the most versatile and flexible degrees you can get. It’s not easy, but it’s absolutely worth it.”



1984 Norm Merritt wants to make your business smarter. Since joining ShopKeep as president and CEO, he has helped the company—which offers Software as a Service (SaaS) enterprise-level solutions to small businesses—double its size and take the market by storm. Prior to ShopKeep, Merritt was president and CEO of iQor, a \$600 million revenue business with 17,000 employees in seven countries. “I have been incredibly lucky and blessed by a fun, full career with lots of twists and turns,” he says. “I believe luck is when opportunity meets preparation. Getting a degree in accounting from the SOA was the first step.” Merritt earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from BYU in 1984 and an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1988. Merritt lives in New York City with his family and enjoys spending time with three children and three grandchildren, as well as cooking, reading, singing in a local choir, and going to museums with his wife, Armenay.



1989 Holly Jager McKhann has accomplished a lot in her career. A 1989 BYU accounting graduate, McKhann also earned an MBA at California State University–Fullerton. She has flipped more than two hundred homes in southern California, has raised \$4 million in private capital, helps mentor beginning real estate investors, and is raising four children and producing a podcast series. McKhann previously worked as a CPA at EY and various local firms before starting real estate investing with her husband. McKhann is the owner of House Flip Masters and a realtor with Coldwell Banker. She resides in Dana Point, California, with her family and enjoys Zumba, yoga, and paddle boarding.



1990 It’s likely that M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E couldn’t make it without **Shanna Steed**. As vice president of tax provision and tax financial planning and analysis at The Walt Disney Company, Steed aids the famous mouse with her accounting expertise. She earned a MAcc from BYU in 1990, entering the field because of the influence of a friend. “In high school, my best friend’s mother was an accountant, and I thought that it was a career that had potential and flexibility,” she says. Steed is a CPA and PMP. She spoke on various accounting and tax topics at the Marcus Evans Tax Officers Summit in April 2014 and November 2014. Along with these accomplishments, Steed says her proudest accomplishment is watching her children and team members succeed. She resides in Valencia, California, and enjoys spending time with her family of eight: four daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandsons.



1991 Accounting grad **Greg Anderson** is nearing million-miler status—on two airlines, that is. Anderson has a PhD in international economics, proven by his travel to thirty-two countries across five continents. Anderson works as global head of FX Strategy for BMO Capital Markets, where he writes investment research reports on currency markets. He has been in that line of work for eighteen years; previously he was a bank examiner for Utah’s Department of Financial Institutions. Anderson and his wife, Christy, have six children and reside in Oceanside, New York. Anderson participates actively with Boys Scouts and as a coach in rec league youth basketball. He loves scuba diving, running on the beach, and staying up way too late to watch BYU sports.

Climbing the Tech Ladder

How do you go from roughing it as a mountain guide to attending meetings with Bill Gates?

Just ask BYU accounting alum Rodney Jenkins.

The 1993 graduate spent his first summer after leaving the Marriott School guiding mountaineers in Washington State. While he loved the outdoor gig, he decided it was time to search for jobs related to his degree. Luckily for Jenkins, his LDS stake held the answer: an acquaintance who happened to be the vice president of HR for Microsoft. With that name attached to his résumé, Jenkins landed an interview and a job with the tech giant.

“It goes to show the value of a network,” Jenkins says. “Every job opportunity since then has always been because I knew somebody who helped open the door.”

Jenkins worked with Microsoft’s developing business not simply as an observer but as an active player in the subsequent tech revolution.

“It was cool to be a participant in history for that part of the economy,” Jenkins says. “It was the heyday for the personal computer market. I was able to work



with business leaders when they thought about what they were going to do next and partner with them, and that’s been great.”

Jenkins worked at Microsoft for fourteen years before moving to Mozy and VMware, groups under the parentage of cloud and data company EMC. In 2012 he joined the Australian company Telstra. But it required no international move for Jenkins and his family—his wife, Carol Ann, whom he first met on a blind date, and their four children.

“As long as I have a phone signal and an internet connection, I can work just about anywhere,”

Jenkins says. This sometimes includes the car during his kids’ soccer practices, he adds. But Jenkins has learned to balance, even with little time to spare.

“If it’s not work, it’s chasing the kids,” he says. “You start running out of time pretty quickly. But I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Jenkins wouldn’t change his time in the Tanner Building either.

“Accounting taught me a language and gave me a foundation that allowed me to understand all sorts of things that were going on in a business,” Jenkins says. “Specifically, it allowed me to understand how to break down how a business really works. I didn’t realize it at the time when it was taught, but all of those things helped set me up so that as I started to gain experience out in the real world, I was able to draw on what had been taught. That allowed me to end up where I am. It did a good job of teaching me how a business really functions.”

“Accounting taught me a language and gave me a foundation that allowed me to understand all sorts of things that were going on in a business.”

Life by the Numbers



Dream: Keys to Life Success, and conducts interviews with business professionals and expert guests that he posts online. The show boasts more than 400,000 followers who tune in to learn how to make businesses thrive. But they're not the only ones learning.

"What I find most rewarding is that the show is all about giving back and helping others launch their messages, and in the process, I learn," Olsen says. "Not everyone has a success story. There are failures along the way, but everyone has learned in the process."

Olsen learned one of these lessons while filming a segment on death and taxes in a local cemetery, an attempt at lighthearted humor.

"As we were doing this shoot, a car drove up and a lady got out," Olsen says. "She approached us and said, 'You are standing on my husband's grave.' I suddenly felt awkward and said, 'I am so sorry.' When she learned the video was about death and taxes, she said, 'My husband hated the IRS; go ahead and shoot it!'"

And while death and taxes are said to be the only certainties in life, Olsen believes another inevitability is life's tendency to be unexpectedly meaningful.

"I think the experiences that we go through in life have been given to us for a reason," Olsen says. "And it's not that anyone has a path that is more correct than another, but if we make the most of what is in front of us, we have the most fulfillment in life."

Now that he thinks about it, Alan Olsen hates accounting.

You wouldn't expect this from someone who has more than thirty-five years of experience in public accounting and serves as one of the managing partners at Greenstein, Rogoff, Olsen & Co., a California firm consistently recognized as one of the best and fastest-growing in the country.

"It's not me," Olsen says of running numbers. "When I look at budgets, I go like a deer in the headlights. What I like is solving problems and complexities to make things better."

Olsen, who earned a BS in accounting from the Marriott School in 1984, moved from one three-letter business to another when he left the IRS to become a CPA in the San Francisco Bay

Area. While he prefers to look at accounting from a simplistic point of view, he often experiences a different, more hectic reality.

Olsen and his wife, Susan, have seven children and seven grandchildren. He is active in scouting and has received the Silver Beaver Boy Scout Award, gives countless lectures nationally on foundational business principles, and manages a number of different social media channels. He films locally broadcast commercials on the importance of the family, plays chess, scuba dives, and attends Golden State Warriors games with family (his children have played basketball with team members Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson).

In addition, Olsen hosts a weekly radio program, *The American*



2001 For MAcc grad **Jenn Hinze**, it's all about people. "Working as closely as possible with and for individuals has always been my top priority," she says. "I have been very deliberate in my job choices, finding work that connects me with people." She is doing just that at The Crystal Charity Ball, a nonprofit organization that strives to aid, support, and make contributions to children's charities in Dallas. Besides her marriage to her husband, Rod (whom she met at the beginning of the Junior Core and graduated with in 2001), Hinze takes pride in passing the CPA exam and jumping back into the workforce after taking a ten-year hiatus to care for her four children. Along with a fulfilling career, Hinze enjoys supporting, watching, and photographing her children in their activities: tennis, gymnastics, track, soccer, piano, art, schoolwork, and more.



2001 **Janeil Lambourne** knew that accounting was a perfect path for her. "I always loved numbers, so accounting was a natural choice. And I really didn't like auditing, so tax was the next natural choice." Lambourne earned a MAcc from BYU in December 2001 and is currently working in the field as a tax manager at Miller Giangrande, a public accounting firm near her home that offers full traditional tax and accounting services. She has previously worked as an associate and senior tax associate with PwC and as senior tax analyst with First American Title. Lambourne considers her biggest accomplishments to be living a full and enjoyable life, planning a trip to Ireland during tax season, and navigating the LDS dating world with her sanity and sense of humor intact. She resides in Orange County, California, and enjoys piano, volleyball, softball, traveling, home improvement projects, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



2010 After graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting from BYU in 2010 and a master's degree from Golden Gate University in 2012, **Stephen Nelson** realized that public accounting wasn't for him. He then took a job on a transactions team at a multi-family investment firm in Southern California. Nelson and his family later moved to Arizona, where he interviewed for a position in investment management at The Wolff Company, and he was offered the job as he drove from the office back to the airport. Nelson lives in Mesa, Arizona, with his wife, Megan, and three-year-old daughter, Naomi. In addition to serving as a board member of the Boy Scouts of America Grand Canyon Council, he enjoys playing golf, running, and spending time with family.



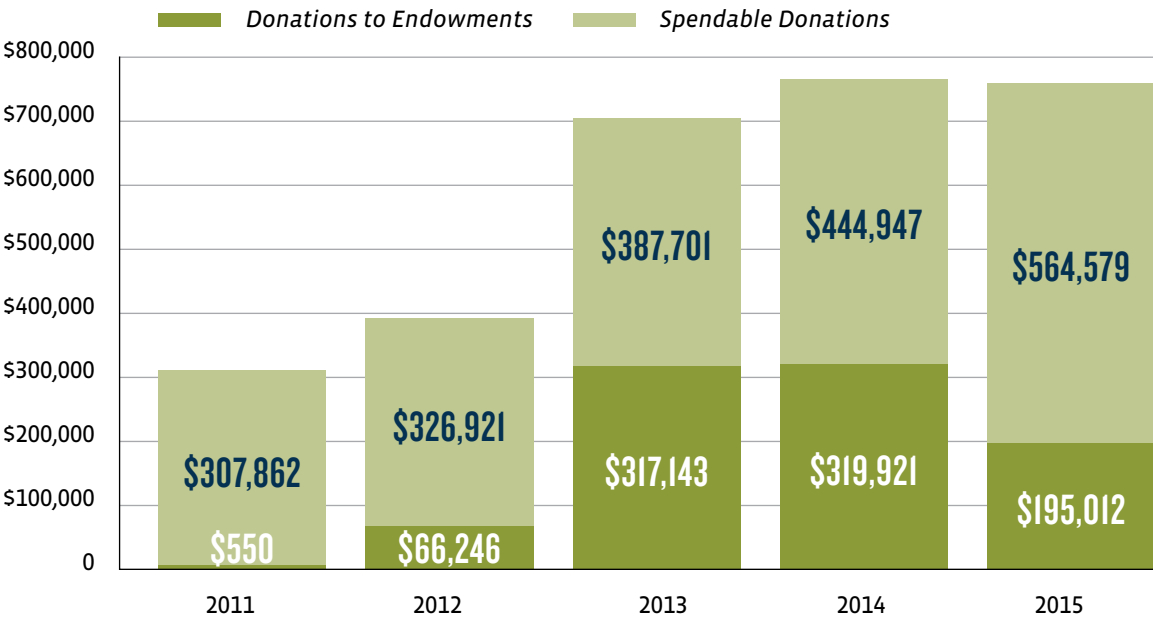
2011 BYU alum **Juan Macias** is a tax superhero. Throughout his career, his tax planning skills have saved various businesses from paying a total of more than \$500,000 in unnecessary taxes. His accounting degree took him to a finance job at Dell, but Macias was still searching for the perfect career fit. "I loved tax work and making a big difference in the lives of my clients," Macias says. "Naturally that was the direction I decided I wanted the next chapter of my career to be about." The timing of that pursuit matched with the expansion of the tax department at Furlane, a company that specializes in professional business services. As senior tax consultant, Macias now oversees the day-to-day growth and the operations strategy of the tax department. When he's not working, he enjoys exploring the treasures of Austin, Texas, where he lives with his wife and four children.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

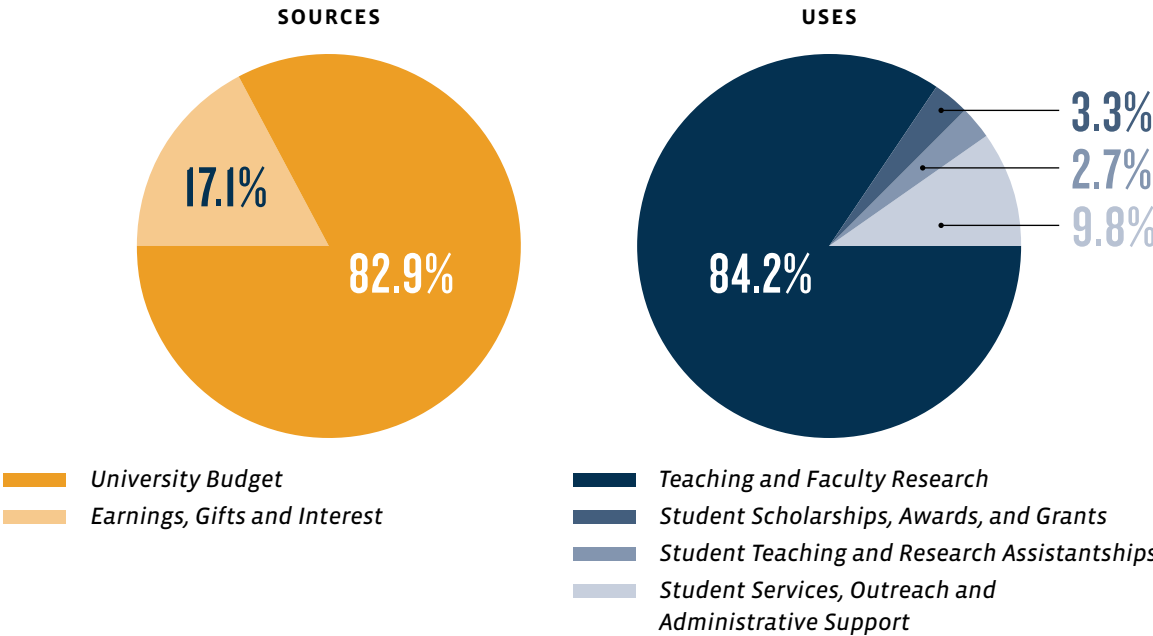
Did you know that more than half of all MAcc students last year received scholarship money apart from university or federal aid? The average scholarship amount awarded to 52 percent of MAcc students was \$2,188, and much of the funding was made possible through the generous support of donors past and present. See a breakdown of how donations are used to help support students on page 38.



Fundraising Report



School of Accountancy Cash Flows for Operations (FISCAL YEAR 2015)



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Members of the Advisory Board visited Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California.

Paying It Forward

Seven years ago, Felipe Oppe moved to the United States from Brazil with one goal: to learn English. He picked up the language quickly and decided to stay to attend LDS Business College, but he quickly ran out of money after his first semester—and had no idea where to turn for help.

That's when a Marriott School SOA alum stepped up and took Oppe in, offering him food, clothing, and shelter. The generosity of this kind alum inspired Oppe so much that it was a major factor in his decision to pursue a MAcc at the Marriott School after graduating from LDSBC with his associate's degree.

While Oppe finished his education at BYU, it was up to him to support a small family—his wife, Joana, wasn't able to work in the United States because of visa restrictions. Still, he managed to pay the bills, buy books, and pay tuition for a time. However, after finishing his first year in the MAcc program, new regulations prevented Oppe from continuing at his job. An economic downturn in Brazil made it impossible for family back home to help him. With the cost of school increasing each semester, and a young son

"I have a longtime goal to help third-world teenagers have opportunities to come to the US to study and break the cycle of poverty in their families."

and a daughter on the way, it looked like he might not be able to finish his degree.

Once again, Oppe was stuck—and, once again, generous BYU alumni made his dreams reality.

A new job from the athletic department at BYU allowed Oppe to buy food and pay the bills, but he wouldn't have been able to continue school without receiving the Davila-Hall Scholarship, funded by Marriott School donors. Oppe was able to continue his studies while supporting his young family. He



landed a part-time job at accounting firm WSRP last summer, where he has continued to work after graduating with his MAcc in April. He has a job lined up at EY starting this fall.

"I have a longtime goal to help third-world teenagers have opportunities to come to the US to study and break the cycle of poverty in their families," Oppe says, "and it's all because of this family that helped me so much here and gave me so many opportunities."

BE LONG BE FRIEND BE STOW BE CONNECTED

Get involved with the SOA by
filling out our survey at
soasurvey.byu.edu



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OF MANAGEMENT