

School of Accountancy

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT



BYU Marriott School of Business



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All communication should be sent to:

School of Accountancy
BYU Marriott School of Business
540 Tanner Building
Provo, UT 84602

Phone: (801) 422-4959 Email: soaalumni@byu.edu



**AACSB
ACCREDITED**
Accounting

▲ Current and emeritus SOA faculty. Front row (from left): Monte Swain, Bill Brady, Eric Denna, Robert Gardner, K. Fred Skousen, Fred Streuling, Ray Garrison, Lynn McKell, Steve Smith. Middle row (from left): Jeff Wilks, Brian Spilker, Greg Burton, Scott Summers, Steve Glover, Bill Tayler, Tim Seidel, Mark Zimbelman, Mike Drake. Back row (from left): Paul Winward, Sam Bernard, Scott Hobson, Melissa Larson, Bill Heninger, Abigail Allen, Ron Worsham, Cassy Budd, David Wood, Sheri Thomas, Bryan Stewart, Jake Thornock, Troy Lewis.



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The 2018–19 Year at a Glance

September

Just Account It

Junior core students receive their highly coveted Just Account It T-shirts at the school's annual Meet 'n' Greet with faculty members.



SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

October

Welcome Home

More than one hundred SOA students march in the BYU Homecoming parade, where Rod and Jen Hinze, both MAcc 2001 alumni, are recognized as the year's SOA Honored Alumni.



December

Nobody Gets Left Behind

Student 'Ohana groups—class sections designed to help SOA students bond with and support each other—celebrate the holiday season while taking a break from the books.



NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



November

Graham-Cracker Construction

Junior core students learn cost accounting as they participate in the school's five-year tradition of building graham-cracker houses.



January

Do What Is Right

Richard Bowen, a banker who blew the whistle on mortgage fraud at Citigroup, speaks to SOA students about ethical issues they may face in the workplace.



March

A Texas NetTrek

BYU Marriott SOA and finance students travel to Dallas and Austin on a NetTrek, visiting prestigious financial companies and meeting high-ranking executives.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

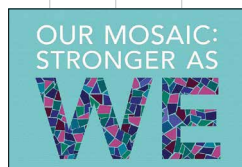
APRIL



February

Stronger as We

Twelve women from the SOA, along with other BYU Marriott women students, attend the 28th Annual Dynamic Women in Business conference at Harvard University.



April

Graduation Celebration

At the end of a successful year, SOA students gather to recognize student accomplishments and award winners.





ON TRACK FOR A PHD

**BYU Marriott's School
of Accountancy
offers a unique PhD
prep program that
springboards students
into PhD programs
at a prolific rate.**

BY CHRISTOPHER K. BIGELOW
ILLUSTRATIONS BY HARRY CAMPBELL

Five more years of school.

Bill Tayler heard that number from his professor **Monte Swain**, who was trying to recruit Tayler into the School of Accountancy's newly formed PhD prep track. It was 2002, and the last thing Tayler wanted was to spend another five years in school working for his doctorate after he had just earned his MAcc from BYU Marriott.

The polite way for Tayler to decline would have been to say, "Thanks, but no thanks." But that's not what he said.

"I laughed at him," Tayler says. "Then I actually said, 'Yeah, that's not going to happen.'"

What did happen surprised him. But more on that in a moment.

“The coursework in the PhD prep track broadened my horizons beyond accounting and business to disciplines such as economics, psychology, math, and statistics.”

WHAT IS THE PHD PREP TRACK?

For students in the MAcc program at BYU Marriott, the School of Accountancy (SOA) offers a unique opportunity. Students can enroll in the PhD prep track, a sort of academic petri dish that allows students to test themselves against the higher-level classes, skills, and thinking it will take to earn a doctorate.

In the prep track, PhD prep courses replace several graduate classes required for the MAcc degree. These prep classes are geared toward doctorate-level

subject matter, including advanced statistics, econometrics, and psychology.

The program also gives students a chance to be mentored by professors who provide personal advice, additional instruction, and opportunities for research and publishing. “For those who choose to pursue their PhDs, this track prepares them to hit the ground running,” says program founder and LeRay McAllister/Deloitte Foundation Distinguished Professor **Doug Prawitt**, who also currently serves as SOA director.

Professors all across the continent are noticing the impact the prep track has on entering PhD students. “It’s as if they’ve already been in the program a year when they show up,” says Russell Lundholm, professor and chair of the Accounting and Information Systems Division at the University of British Columbia’s Sauder School of Business.

BACK TO OUR STORY

Although Bill Tayler had no desire to spend five years pursuing a PhD in accounting, he was definitely at a crossroads in his life.

“I went into the accounting program because I was good at accounting. And I found it interesting,” he says. “But after a year, I felt a little lost. I was in the right major; I just didn’t feel right about the anticipated career path.”

On the day he told Swain there was no way he was going to enroll in the PhD prep track, Tayler went home and began to second-guess that decision. “I couldn’t shake the thought for the rest of the day,” he says. “I did a little more research, and by the end of the day, I realized this actually might be the path I was looking for.”

But where would that path lead him and his young family?

A SEED PLANTED IN ADVERSITY

The early ideas for BYU’s PhD track began in Arizona in the late 1980s with a young man who was not prepared for the grueling grind of his PhD program.

Prawitt had graduated from the MAcc program at BYU and was excited to attend the University of Arizona for doctoral work in accounting. Once he began his classes, however, he began to question his decision.

“I was naïve about what research was and unprepared

FRUITS OF THE PHD PREP TRACK

Over the past seventeen years, **162** BYU alumni have entered accounting PhD programs.

Of those, **78 percent** participated in the SOA PhD prep track.

Prawitt estimates that **5-10 percent** of new accounting PhD students starting each fall across the nation are BYU alumni.



for the rigors of a PhD program,” Prawitt says. “I was shell-shocked the first year and barely hung on by my fingernails.”

He went on to excel in his PhD studies, but that experience led him to create the School of Accountancy’s PhD prep track program more than a decade later.

With his hard-won PhD in hand, Prawitt returned to the SOA in 1993 to teach. His first research assistant was **Darren Roulstone**, who also planned

to earn his PhD. Prawitt wanted Roulstone to be better prepared than he had been, so he mentored Roulstone in scholarship and research. He also helped him enroll in courses that Prawitt wished he had taken before his own doctoral program.

“When Darren got into every elite program he applied to, I knew we were onto something,” Prawitt says. “For the next six years or so, I worked one-on-one with a number of students to help them prepare.”

In 2000, Prawitt and **Lee Radebaugh**, the director of the SOA at the time, formalized his mentorship program. The PhD prep track was born.

TO PHD OR NOT TO PHD?

Associate Professor and Robert Smith Fellow **Melissa Lewis-Western** sits on the PhD prep track committee. She joined the faculty at BYU in 2016, a few years after joining The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“Before coming to BYU, even though I wasn’t part of the Church at that time, I was aware of the MAcc PhD track because many of my colleagues had been through it,” Lewis-Western says. “In fact, I went to grad school at Indiana University with **David Wood**, who went through the track and is also on faculty here at BYU.”

Prawitt estimates that approximately half of the students who go through the PhD prep track decide they have found their chosen profession and go on to PhD programs. But Prawitt considers the other half who decide against PhDs to be successes of the program too. “Our PhD track is a much less costly way—in both tuition and time—to find out you actually don’t want to pursue the doctorate, as opposed to finding out after you’re in your doctoral program,” Prawitt observes.

What’s more, the PhD prep track helps non-PhD-bound students when they enter the business world. “Despite not having completed the program myself, the structured thought process and academic rigor is equally important in the corporate world,” says **Mark Larsen**, who earned his MAcc at BYU Marriott’s SOA, worked for four years, and

is now pursuing an MBA at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. “I use data to prove or disprove hypotheses and drive impactful changes in organizations.”

PREPARATION BREEDS PRODUCTIVITY

Scott Dyreng, a prep track alumnus and current associate professor at Duke University, reflects on the out-of-the-gate benefits of the track: “On the first day you come to your PhD program, your advisor can give you a research project, and you know how to execute,” says Dyreng, who notes that students become valuable right away instead of two years after they start the program.

“The coursework in the PhD prep track broadened my

horizons beyond accounting and business to disciplines such as economics, psychology, math, and statistics,” says **Nick Guest**, assistant professor of accounting at Cornell University’s Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management. “This variety challenged me to think in ways accounting courses never had, which was instrumental preparation for the ambiguity and rigor of a top PhD program.”

The track’s rigorous preparation leads to lower dropout rates. According to Prawitt, the typical dropout rate in an accounting PhD program is approximately 25–30 percent. He estimates, however, that the dropout rate for BYU students who come through the MAcc PhD prep track is only around 5 percent.

“You start becoming a member of the academic community earlier on than you would,” says **Fabio Gaertner**, a PhD prep track alumnus and associate professor of accounting and information systems at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. “Now as a faculty member, when I recruit PhD students, I can see why the School of Accountancy’s MAcc PhD track puts students ahead of everyone else. They are miles ahead of other students starting their PhDs here.”

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM: “BURSTING AT THE SEAMS”

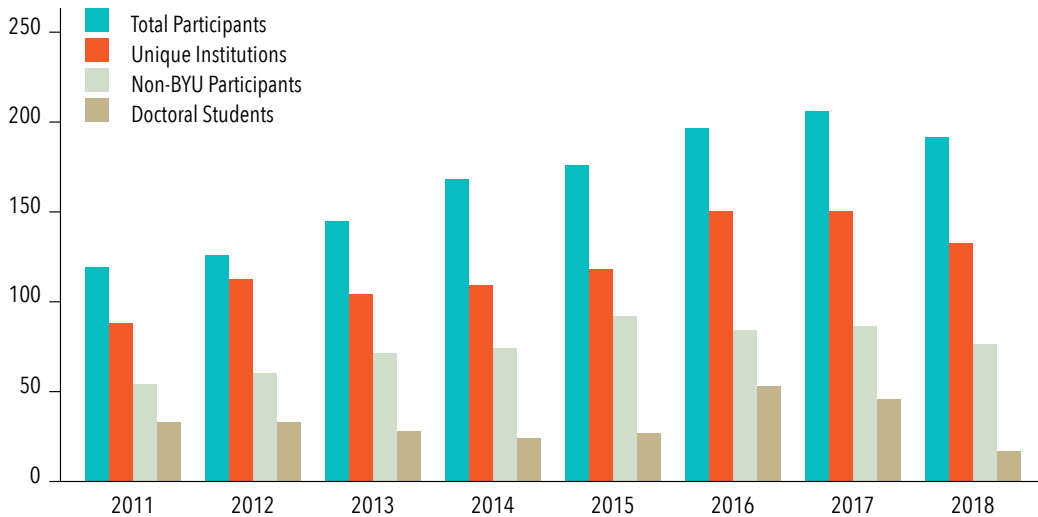
The School of Accountancy also hosts the annual BYU Accounting Research Symposium. During this event, all PhD prep track alumni are invited back along with other friends of BYU and special guests.

“When I first attended, it was a fairly small group,” Tayler says. “Now we fill the room. It’s bursting at the seams.”



“When I recruit PhD students, I can see why the BYU MAcc PhD track puts students ahead of everyone else.”

BYU ACCOUNTING RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



Over the years, the symposium has become a key networking hub for accounting PhD students and faculty around the country. They come together to present papers, find out about what is happening at other institutions, and connect to pursue new avenues of service or research.

“We are setting up our students to be successful as teachers—and disciples—at prominent universities all over the world,” Lewis-Western says. “Their ability to be an influence for good is powerful.”

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

For those MAcc students who have families, the PhD prep track can help them anticipate the challenges—and rewards—ahead.

“In our MAcc program, and even more so in a PhD program, there will be many late nights and maybe even times when you won’t be able to devote as much time as you might like to your spouse and family,” Prawitt says. “The

experience stretches the individuals and their families. Sometimes they may wonder if it’s worth it. I believe it is. You work very hard as an academic, but the flexibility is a very real, rewarding aspect of an academic career path. Wealth should be measured in having enough money to do some of the things you want—and in having the time and freedom to do them.”

Ryan David Sommerfeldt, a PhD student at the University of Illinois, agrees. “My wife and I are extremely happy that I chose to pursue an academic career in accounting,” he says. “During the PhD program, I have been able to work hard to do well in my classes and on my research while still being able to make time for my family. The prep track not only helped me know what the PhD would be like, but it also helped my wife get a sense for what to expect. Our prep track experience helped us make the decision together.”

WHAT HAPPENED TO BILL TAYLER?

If you will remember, we left our story when Tayler couldn’t shake the thought of the new PhD prep track program—a program he initially laughed at because he was determined not to spend another five years in school.

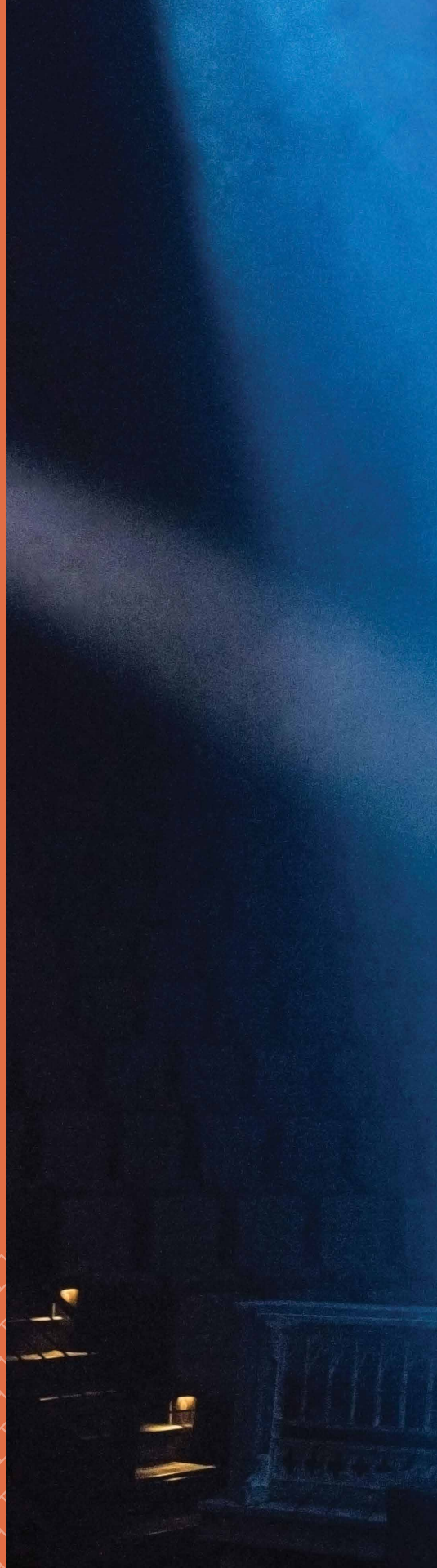
Swain got the last laugh when Tayler joined the first cohort of the PhD prep track in 2000. Tayler completed the program and was accepted to Cornell University in 2002. “I would never have gotten into Cornell without the prep track,” Tayler says.

And now? He is back where it all started: at BYU Marriott. He is on the SOA faculty as the Glen Ardis Professor and is an SOA associate director. He also serves on the PhD prep track committee, where occasionally a MAcc student laughs at him when he suggests they consider joining the program. “Yeah, that’s not going to happen,” they may say.

Tayler simply smiles.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

BYU Marriott's School of Accountancy students achieve in many areas—not just accounting. Our students bring something more than can be measured in GPAs or ACTs, and their life experiences include more than working with numbers. James Bounous is a perfect example. A star in the accounting program and on the stage, Bounous regularly performs in theaters across Utah. Read more on page 15.





Student Report

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS	MACC	BS ACC
Number of Fall 2018 applicants	246	331
Students entering Fall 2018	168	272
Female	32%	32%
International	10%	7%
Minority	5%	7%
Married	52%	37%
Returned missionaries	84%	80%
Bilingual	60%	72%
States represented	31	32
Countries represented	11	15
Average entering GPA	3.81	3.75

CLASS OF 2018	MACC	BS ACC
Average starting base salary	\$56,193	\$57,154
Placed by 3 months after graduation	99%	97%

BYU MARRIOTT FINANCIAL AID*	MACC	BS ACC
Number of students receiving scholarships	136	102
Percent of students receiving scholarships	82%	34%
Amount awarded	\$409,908	\$148,271

*Does not include university or federal aid

Undergraduate Rankings

RANK	PROGRAM	SOURCE	YEAR
2nd	Accounting	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	2020
3rd	Accounting	<i>Public Accounting Report</i>	2019
3rd	Accounting	<i>Tax Talent</i>	2018

Graduate Rankings

RANK	PROGRAM	SOURCE	YEAR
2nd	MAcc	<i>Public Accounting Report</i>	2019
2nd	MAcc (Most admired)	<i>Public Accounting Report</i>	2017
2nd	Accounting (Tax)	<i>Tax Talent</i>	2017

A Home Left, A Home Found



At ten years old, **Mariana Bravo Salazar** moved from Temuco, Chile, to Utah with her family so her father could pursue a master's degree. As she worked hard to overcome language and cultural barriers in her new home, she developed a drive to make a difference and help others realize their potential. For Bravo, accounting has been her path to change the world.

Bravo's parents inspired her. Because her father only had a student visa, he was unable to work. Her mother, who once enjoyed a career teaching English in Chile, began cleaning homes to support the family. "Immigration status presented many challenges to us," Bravo explains. "My parents' sacrifices taught me the importance of pursuing an education."

Fueled by her desire to help minorities in society, Bravo began studying sociology at BYU. But when she was just months away from graduation, her friend recommended taking an accounting class. During the class, Bravo realized the value of such a specialized skill set and leaped into accounting. "I realized I wanted to have a strong expertise in something that could bless other people," she says. "Accounting is a skill that not many people have, especially in the area of tax work. I knew I could use that to help others."

Bravo's desire to make a difference coupled with her strong work ethic paved her path to success in the accounting program. During her senior year, she was one of only nine interns chosen from more than a thousand applicants nationwide to attend the PwC Leadership Summit in New York City. The interns met with various leaders of the firm to ask questions and discuss topics from tax practice to workplace diversity. "They were passionate, especially about the vision they had for the firm," Bravo shares. "I could tell they wanted to do everything possible to help us professionally and expand our skill set and talents."

Bravo met with PwC's US chair and senior partner Tim Ryan, whose story especially resonated with her. "He shared with us his humble beginning, with his mom working at a grocery store and his dad holding different blue-collar jobs such as selling newspapers," Bravo says. Ryan went on to explain the importance of respecting people from different backgrounds, and Bravo appreciated PwC's focus on creating a more diverse and inclusive environment, something she consistently pursued at BYU Marriott.

While at the SOA, Bravo worked hard to make a difference in issues she was passionate about. She was a part of the SOA's diversity and inclusion committee, which supports minority students and faculty, battles discrimination, and builds a more inclusive environment. She was also appointed as an 'Ohana leader, helping accounting students build connections that continue to grow even after graduation.

"Students should enjoy their time at BYU," says Bravo. "The school is unlike any other, where you're surrounded by peers and teachers who are incredible mentors and amazing examples of Christlike living who express love and concern for others."

Bravo graduated in December 2018 with a MAcc and recently accepted a full-time position with PwC, where she will work as a tax associate. "I'm excited for the opportunity to work for this amazing company," Bravo says. "I am truly grateful to be part of a family brave enough to leave our home in Chile so that I could have these opportunities and tools to help others."

Students, Alum Make History with Six Sells Awards

Last September, more than ninety thousand of the brightest minds in accounting sat down to take a sixteen-hour-long exam to become certified public accountants. Less than 58 percent of participants pass the exam annually. Six students and alum stood out by acing all four sections of the CPA exam—the most people in SOA history and from any one school in 2019. These individuals received the Elijah Watt Sells Award, given only to those who score in the top percentile on all four sections of the exam on their first attempt.

The award recipients are **Alex Gunnerson** of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; **Michael Lundberg** of Brigham City, Utah; **Joseph Pearson** and **Andee Waldie Soza**, both of Mesa, Arizona; **Regan Stewart** of Las Vegas; and **Ryan Thorsen** of Dallas. Only 110 accountants received the Elijah Watt Sells Award in 2018.

Passing the CPA exam is challenging, but it is a necessary endeavor in order to become a certified public accountant. “The CPA credential symbolizes trust and professionalism in the business world,” says SOA director **Doug Prawitt**, a CPA himself. The four-part exam is composed of (1) auditing and attestation, (2) business environment and concepts, (3) financial accounting and reporting, and (4) regulation.

This is the ninth year in a row that students from BYU Marriott's SOA have received the Sells Award, the longest streak of any school in the world in the past decade. “We are pleased with the national recognition these awards bring to BYU, BYU Marriott, and the School of Accountancy,” says Prawitt. “But mainly we are just thrilled that these awards bring well-deserved recognition to our outstanding students and reflect the success they are having.”

Soza, now a staff accountant at KPMG in Salt Lake City, received multiple offers from accounting firms prior to graduation. She attributes this to the reputation of the SOA and notes that because of her BYU Marriott education, she felt ready to take the exam.

“The School of Accountancy definitely gave me



Alex Gunnerson



Michael Lundberg



Joseph Pearson



Andee Waldie Soza



Regan Stewart



Ryan Thorsen

the foundation I needed to get the Elijah Watt Sells Award,” she says. “As I studied, I noticed that I had been taught nearly every concept that I came across. When test day came, even if I couldn't remember an exact calculation, I was able to choose the correct answer based on the accounting principles that I had been taught.”

Prawitt says that while the SOA doesn't specifically teach to the CPA exam like some programs do, faculty members focus on helping students understand the fundamental principles and concepts that underlie accounting and how to think and reason based on those fundamentals. “But the lion's share of the credit goes to the outstanding students who come into our program and work hard to succeed,” he says.

“Beyond accounting, the structure of the accountancy program taught me discipline, balance, and the importance of hard work,” says Stewart, who is now employed at Ernst & Young in Dallas. “I know the skills I learned will serve me well in my career pursuits and family life. I feel that I can do anything I want in the future because I have built a great network of supportive and intelligent peers, professors, and mentors.”

Seizing the Day

Balancing personal passions with demanding coursework is an art that can take years to perfect. But BYU Marriott's SOA alum **James Bounous** did just that, building a successful academic career while starring on some of Utah's most popular stages.

A native of Provo, Bounous has been singing since he was four years old. Growing up, he and his siblings took voice lessons from their parents, who ran a vocal studio. "I thought the lessons were a chore at first," says Bounous. "It wasn't cool for boys to sing back then. But it was my singing skills that helped me get roles later, after my Church-service mission."

Bounous has performed in theaters across Utah in shows such as *Peter Pan*, *Tarzan*, *South Pacific*, and *The Addams Family*. His favorite role has been Quasimodo in Hale Centre Theatre's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. "The role is incredible," he says. "By the time the show was done, I wasn't ready to let it go yet. I had the stamina to do more shows than we had scheduled, which isn't usually the case."

He also starred as Jack Kelly in the Hale's production of *Newsies* in summer 2018. He did this while also working on his MAcc degree. "The rehearsals for *Newsies* were intense," he says. "But I was able to balance it because I was only taking a few summer classes."

Bounous knew he wanted a successful accounting career to accompany the success he



James Bounous performs the lead role in *Newsies* at the Hale Center Theater in Sandy, Utah.

had seen as a performer. While enrolled in Accounting 200 as an undergraduate, he worked as CFO for iBrokeMyiPhone, a company started by a friend. The company was a business-to-business service that repaired screens for corporate clients, which included Vivint, Nu Skin, and doTERRA.

While he is grateful for the variety of experiences BYU Marriott's SOA program has provided, Bounous is most thankful for his time in the junior core. "There's nothing quite like the junior core experience because it makes you suffer in the most intelligent ways," he says. "The accounting professors have perfected a

method of pushing people and helping students learn a great deal in a short amount of time."

He also maintains that the best way to take full advantage of the program is by asking questions in class. "If you have a question, don't be afraid to ask it," he says. "I guarantee there are other students in the class wondering the same thing. You can only help yourself and other students by speaking up."

Bounous graduated from the SOA's MAcc program in December 2018 and now works with Tanner LLC, a public audit firm in Salt Lake City, while continuing to pursue performing opportunities.

Beating Every Odd



Katie Hart wasn't a typical high school student. While her friends were concerned about who won this week's football game, Hart worried if she would have food and a place to sleep. Her single mother wasn't able to be there for her daughter in the way most children deserve, and as a result, Hart was forced to learn how to live on her own. Despite her tough upbringing, however, Hart has soared above her circumstances and built a life for herself on principles of service and love.

"Being independent was necessary for me to survive," says Hart, an accounting major from Galveston, Texas. "I had no guidelines or expectation about how to live my life."

At age sixteen, Hart went into foster care. A family with three children took her in. The family were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—a religion Hart knew nothing about. "Adjusting was hard," Hart recalls. "They lived

a lot differently than I was used to—praying together, not eating or drinking certain things, going to church. It was foreign to me."

Though her foster family tried their best to help Hart feel at home, she rebelled against this new life and moved out her senior year to live with her father. "During that time, I was struggling through several addictions," explains Hart. "My dad ended up kicking me out. I had no choice but to live on my own and work full-time."

During this troubled period, Hart remembered her foster family. Desperate to find purpose in her life, she decided to go back to the church they had introduced her to. "I never knew that there was more to life, that I could be happy and not just settle with what my life was," she reflects. "I slowly began to understand that I was living beneath my potential."

Six months later, Hart was baptized and decided to serve a mission. "For the first time in my life, I felt like there was more for me," she says. "And I felt a desire to give back, which has only continued to grow."

After serving a mission in Los Angeles, Hart was accepted to BYU. She originally planned to study special education but realized that the classroom wasn't for her. At BYU Marriott, Hart found a way to follow her passion for empowering others. "Out of all of my classes, I enjoyed the accounting class the

"If there's anything that I've learned, it's that everyone has struggles that push them to their limits."

most, which surprised me," Hart says. "When I learned that I could help a lot of people by understanding how money works, I knew that there was a place in the School of Accountancy for me."

Hart is currently flourishing as she pursues a master's degree in tax. Throughout her college experience, she has volunteered and worked with those with special needs, mentored at-risk youth, and used her accounting skills to aid various organizations with the SOA's nonprofit initiative. Hart also serves as the service director for Beta Alpha Psi, a national honor organization within the SOA. Recently Hart helped bring to life Foster Love, a service program for foster kids and their siblings.

Slated to graduate in 2021, Hart plans to intern with Deloitte this year and PwC next summer. She hopes to consult for nonprofit organizations one day. "If there's anything that I've learned, it's that everyone has struggles that push them to their limits," Hart says. "We can all do more for others than we think we can."

Everybody Needs a Buddee

Entrepreneurs often dream of successful business endeavors; however, BYU Marriott's SOA senior **Tate Laing's** first business idea literally came to him in a dream. While on his mission in El Salvador, Laing used a fanny pack every day to carry what he needed. However, the packs he bought at the local markets in Santa Ana were low quality and broke after only a few wears.

One night Laing had a dream that he developed a brand of durable fanny packs called Boodee Buddees. After his mission, Laing married and shared his idea with his wife, Bailey. She not only encouraged him to turn his dream into a reality but also became his business partner. Bailey and Laing created Boodee Buddee Bags in 2018 to gain business experience sooner rather than later.

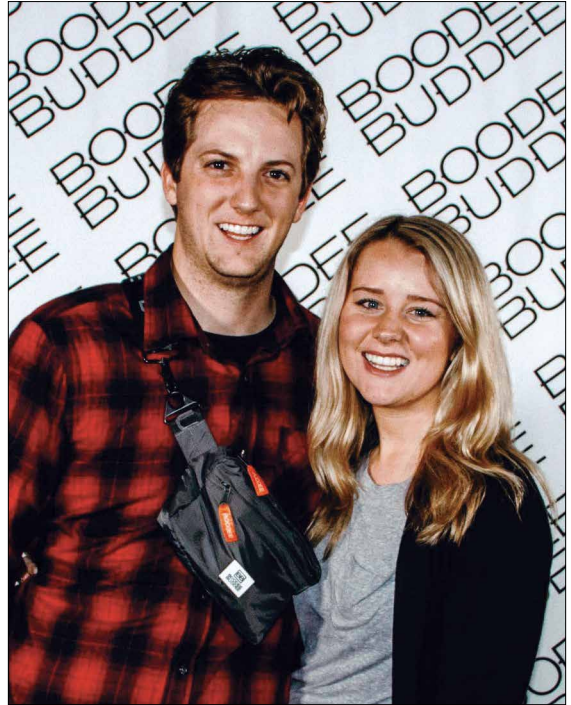
The Boodee Buddee is a type of fanny pack created for adventurers. The bag is water-resistant and durable and comes in a couple of colors and styles.

Learning how to navigate a new business and a new marriage hasn't been easy, but Laing says it's worth it. "We have learned to work while we are at work and be home when we are home," he says. However, for the Laings—who ship orders worldwide from their condo in Orem—it can be hard to tell the difference. "We try to balance the times we discuss the company with the times we discuss family matters," Laing says.

At the beginning, the company required a large financial investment from the couple, but Laing was never scared. Instead, he was excited. "What good is that money doing sitting in our bank account?" he says. "We value learning experiences."

To Laing, the benefit of taking risks is learning, and much of the learning that takes place in business often happens because of failure. "Obviously no one wants to fail, but that's how you grow," he says. The lessons the Laings have learned from Boodee Buddees have changed the way they run their business and the way they live their lives.

"We try to focus on what we're doing as we do it and try to plan for the rest as best as we can," says Laing. "We are going to do what we think is right today and



see how it goes. If it doesn't work, we'll change. But we aren't going to stop moving forward."

BYU Marriott has played a big role in Laing's success. He took global supply chain and marketing classes before being accepted into the accounting major. He says what he learned in these classes helped him get Boodee Buddees off the ground. Laing is excited for his future career in accounting and is glad to be entering it with the experience gained from Boodee Buddees.

"I'm definitely grateful to be at BYU Marriott," he says. "The value of being around such great people is hard to describe. I am grateful for my experiences with professors, peers, and the Rollins Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology. They have each encouraged me to follow my dreams and become an entrepreneur."





FACULTY NEWS

Discovering that the Koran prohibits riba, or the practice of charging on borrowed money, is only one of many things BYU Marriott's SOA associate teaching professor Melissa Larson learned on her Faculty Development in Business (FDB) trips to the Middle East and North Africa. Read more on page 24 about Larson's willingness to jump into different cultures as she becomes both a great teacher and an exceptional scholar .

Faculty Report

Professorships

PROFESSORSHIPS	2018–19 RECIPIENT
Albrecht, W. Steve	James D. Stice
Andersen Foundation	Scott L. Summers
Call/Deloitte	Brian C. Spilker
Deloitte	Monte R. Swain
EY	T. Jeffrey Wilks
KPMG	Greg F. Burton

PROFESSORSHIPS	2018–19 RECIPIENT
LeRay McAllister/Deloitte	Douglas F. Prawitt
Mary & Ellis	Mark F. Zimbelman
Norm & Cindy Nemrow Excellence in Teaching	Cassy J. Budd
PwC	Earl K. Stice
K. Fred Skousen	Steven M. Glover

Fellowships

FELLOWSHIPS	2018–19 RECIPIENT
Andersen Foundation	David A. Wood
Ardis, Glenn D.	Timothy A. Seidel
EY	Jacob R. Thornock
Martin, Rachel	Melissa C. Lewis

FELLOWSHIPS	2018–19 RECIPIENT
PwC	Michael S. Drake
Smith, Robert J.	William B. Tayler
Warnick/Deloitte	Steven D. Smith

SOA Individual Faculty



Brian Spilker,
#1 most productive
research scholar in
experimental tax
research (since 1990)



Jake Thornock,
#7 most produc-
tive financial
accounting scholar
(2013–2019)



Steve Glover,
#9 most produc-
tive audit faculty
member worldwide
(2013–2019)



Scott Summers,
#9 most produc-
tive education
researcher
(2013–2019)

SOA's Faculty Rankings

- #1 Most productive faculty in producing education research
- #2 in audit research
- #3 in AIS research
- #11 in managerial research
- #13 in tax research
- #16 in financial accounting research

Meet the New Director

A chance encounter led **Doug Prawitt** to join the BYU faculty twenty-six years ago, but it's not by chance that he has been chosen as the new director of the School of Accountancy. A driving force in his career has been his natural aptitudes in research, analysis, and accounting—interests he formed years earlier as a BYU Marriott MAcc student.

Before Prawitt settled in as an undergraduate student at BYU, he lived in many places. His father was a career army officer, and his family was stationed all over the world. Prawitt was born in Alabama and then moved to New Jersey, California, Utah, and Wyoming; he even lived in Japan and Germany.

Prawitt attended high school in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he joined the debate team and won a state debate championship in 1980. “The team would take one deeply complex issue for the year and learn how to discuss and synthesize it,” says Prawitt. “I learned how to research information and use the data for a particular purpose.” Research and analysis were skills that he excelled at and that would greatly benefit him later on.

Following high school, Prawitt went to BYU knowing he wanted to study law but unsure of what to study for his undergraduate degree. His brother, Greg, who was earning his MAcc at BYU Marriott, told Prawitt that BYU Marriott had the best accounting program in the world. Prawitt decided to try it out.

Prawitt took Accounting 200 from now-retired accounting professor **Jay White** and, much to his surprise, got 100 percent on the first exam. “When I told my brother, he said, ‘Wow, no one gets 100 percent on Professor White’s exams.’ I thought, ‘Hmm, I might enjoy this,’” says Prawitt.

Influenced by faculty members of the School of Accountancy, Prawitt decided to pursue a PhD in accounting to become a professor. He received his MAcc from BYU Marriott in 1988 and then started a PhD program at the University of Arizona.

Prawitt had not planned to return to BYU to teach, but then he ran into **W. Steve Albrecht**, a School of Accountancy professor who had been influential in his choice to become a professor. Albrecht told Prawitt



itt that the School of Accountancy had a spot open for a professor and that the program was looking to bring in people to do top-quality academic research. He encouraged Prawitt to apply.

The research aspect piqued Prawitt’s interest. He applied and was offered the position, starting at BYU Marriott in January 1993.

Throughout his time at the SOA, Prawitt has been active in research, teaching, and service. Over the past eighteen years, he has served on the COSO board, establishing standards on internal control and enterprise risk management, and on the AICPA’s Auditing Standards Board. In 2016 he was awarded both the American Accounting Association Outstanding Educator Award and the BYU Marriott Outstanding Faculty Award.

Prawitt welcomes his new role in administration despite feeling sad about not having as much of a role in the classroom. “I love the students here at BYU. I love what I do,” Prawitt says. “But at the same time, I welcome the challenges this new role will bring.”

Gaining a Competitive Edge with Data Analytics

In his office, SOA associate professor and Andersen fellow **David Wood** keeps a dusty volume the size of five stacked laptops. Occasionally, Wood shows the book—a ledger from 1896—to his classes as a tangible record of how much accounting processes have changed. “The patterns are clear: technology is going to become more and more important in accounting,” says Wood, who specializes in one of the most important advancements: data analytics.

This year BYU Marriott’s SOA introduced a master’s-level required course on data analytics—a subject that Wood says includes everything from Excel spreadsheets to cognitive computing. MAcc students can also choose to enroll in several data- and technology-related electives. Junior core classes will begin integrating data analytics into existing courses in the 2019–20 academic year.

BYU Marriott’s SOA is one of the first in the nation to implement data science into regular coursework, which will teach students to adopt what Wood calls the “analytics mindset.” He explains, “Can you ask the right questions and then extract, transform, and load data? Can you do the proper analysis and then share that through other tools and techniques to help people make informed decisions? We



David Wood



Scott Summers



Bill Heninger

build all of our course content around that framework.”

Along with Wood, Andersen Foundation Alumni Professor **Scott Summers** and associate professor **Bill Heninger** formed the faculty core leading this initiative. Now nearly every SOA faculty member incorporates some aspect of data science into their classes.

Jeff Wilks, EY professor and former SOA director, introduces data analytics to his financial accounting classes by replacing a paper-and-pencil problem with a complex, real-life scenario that requires a technological solution.

Students learn to solve problems by using the software tools Tableau and Power BI. “Now that really simple exercise has taken on a whole new meaning,” Wilks says.

Students also learn to use other industry-standard programs, languages, and processes, including Visual Basic, Python, Structured Query Language, robotic process automation (RPA), and a slew of other well-known names.

Wood is one of the leading experts on RPA and the first to introduce it into a college curriculum. “David is at the forefront of this,” says Wilks. “It takes someone like him, who’s willing to just immerse themselves in a new technology and software and learn it, [to] then teach it.”

The SOA’s trailblazing instruction on data and technology is not lost on students. Many return from internships with stories about being the only member of their cohorts familiar with the newest programs. More than 80 percent of students pursuing a MAcc at BYU Marriott express an interest in data analytics.

Both Wilks and Wood note that staying up-to-date on advancements in the field often means that the faculty are constantly learning too. “We get to do what we’ve invited the students to do,” Wood says. “We get to continually learn and improve as we update our classes and try to keep them on the cutting edge.”

Faculty Publications

Critically Reviewed Scholarly Journal Articles

Brian Clark Spilker, “An Examination of the Interactive Effect of Feedback Source and Sign in the Offshoring Environment: A Social Identity Perspective,” *Behavioral Research in Accounting*

Michael Stephen Drake, “Auditor Litigation Risk and the Number of Institutional Investors,” *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*

Abigail Allen, “Auditor Lobbying on Accounting Standards,” *Journal of Law, Finance and Accounting*

Michael Stephen Drake, “Pushing the Future Back: The Impact of Policy Uncertainty on the Market Pricing of Future Earnings,” *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting*

Troy K. Lewis, “IRS Pursuing Self-Employment Taxes from LLC Members,” *Journal of Accountancy*

Greg Burton, “Liability of Foreignness: The Impact of Elimination of the Reconciliation Requirement on International Asset Allocation by U.S. Investors,” *Journal of International Accounting Research*

David Mark Cottrell, “Teaching Operating Cash Flow: One Matrix for Analysis—Two Methods for Presentation,” *Advances in Accounting Education: Teaching and Curriculum Innovations*

William Guy Heninger, “The Association Between IT Internal Controls and Earnings Management,” *Journal of Information Systems*

David Wood, “The Effects of Gamification on Corporate Compliance Training: A Partial Replication and Field Study of True Office Anti-Corruption Training Programs,” *Journal of Forensic Accounting Research*

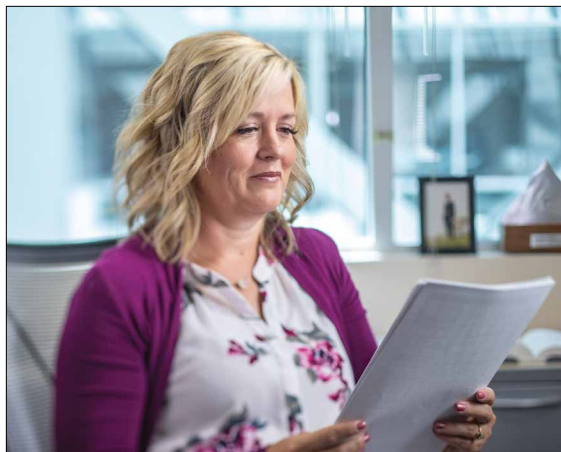
Mark Foster Zimbelman, “The Influence of Judgment Decomposition on Auditors’ Fraud Risk Assessments: Some Tradeoffs,” *Accounting Review*

David Wood, “The Value to Management of Using the Internal Audit Function as a Management Training Ground,” *Accounting Horizons*

David Wood, “Toward Conflict or Compromise? How Violent Metaphors Polarize Partisan Issue Attitudes,” *Political Communication*

David Wood, “Violence, Aggression, and Ethics: The Link Between Exposure to Human Violence and Unethical Behavior,” *Journal of Business Ethics*

Learning in the Middle East



What is it like to run a bank without ever charging customers interest? That's one of the many business challenges that School of Accountancy associate teaching professor **Melissa Larson** studied on her recent Faculty Development in Business (FDB) trips to the Middle East and North Africa.

The Koran, Larson learned, prohibits *riba*, a concept interpreted as the practice of charging customers a certain amount on any borrowed money. Islamic banks avoid this by "entering into agreements" regarding property. "In the United States, you go to the bank, get a loan, and then buy your car," Larson explains. "In the Arab world, the bank will buy the car and then you rent it from the bank."

Over her last two winter breaks, Larson joined professors from around the US as they traveled to six countries: Israel, Egypt, Oman, Jordan, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates. Larson's participation in these FDB trips was partially funded by BYU's Whitmore Global Management Center.

"I had this notion that [these countries] would all be pretty similar, and when I got there, I was shocked to find out how different a feel each country had," Larson says. "It was fascinating."

Larson's group visited various businesses in each country as well as embassies, universities, and cultural and historical sites. They heard speakers discuss how businesses operate in each country. For

example, one Jordanian company explained its struggle to figure out how to create sustainable agriculture in a desert.

These experiences assist Larson in helping her students understand accounting principles from an international standpoint. The trips also helped her become more aware of her Middle Eastern students. "Those students sought me out during office hours to talk about my experience and share their home," she says. "The experiences gave me a new appreciation for these students."

Even before her travels, Larson had understood what it's like to jump into a different culture. But for her, that culture was academia. A first-generation college student, Larson graduated from BYU Marriott with her bachelor's and MAcc degrees—an endeavor that made her "feel like a hero," she remembers. "One of the faculty members said, 'You should go get your PhD.' . . . I said, 'What's a PhD?'"

After learning about doctorate coursework, Larson decided it wasn't an option at the time; instead, she began teaching part-time while raising a family with her husband, **Greg**, also a MAcc 1998 grad. After working at UVU, the University of Utah, BYU–Hawaii, and UC Berkeley Extension—with a gig as a tax manager at Grant Thornton mixed in—Larson accepted a full-time position at BYU in 2012.

"The thing that stands out to me about Melissa is that she is so creative and energetic about what she does that you cannot help but feel that excitement," says **Jeff Wilks**, EY professor and former SOA director. "She's one of the best—and not just here at BYU but across the country. Any school would love to have someone like her."

Even after becoming a full-time teacher, Larson didn't give up on that PhD. In fall 2019, she began a doctoral program in instructional psychology at BYU. She hopes to improve her teaching by better understanding how students learn and studying more about international accounting principles. "I love learning about the different aspects of accounting, and then I love things outside of accounting," she says. "I just love learning."

Award for Impressive, Sustained Research



With his impactful research record, years of academic service, and distinguished publication history, BYU Marriott associate dean **Steve Glover** was an obvious choice for the Outstanding Auditing Educator Award.

The award is given annually by the American Accounting Association (AAA) to recognize outstanding auditing achievements in research or teaching. Candidates are nominated by notable accounting professionals. Glover received the award in January 2019 in Nashville, Tennessee, at the AAA midyear meeting.

Glover has contributed to the accounting and auditing profession while working for BYU Marriott over the last twenty-five years. “It’s incredibly impressive to conduct this amount of research while working with a university as an administrator,” says **Doug Prawitt**, director of

BYU Marriott’s SOA and a close colleague of Glover’s. “Often when a professor takes on an administrative position, their research falters. But Steve has done the opposite. He’s sustained an incredible research record while also carrying a heavy administrative load.”

While working on his undergraduate degree, Glover realized he wanted to become a professor who could positively impact students in the classroom while also influencing the business world with research. “My favorite professors were the ones who were great in the classroom but also connected to business,” he says. “I enjoy the combination of teaching and research as well as the opportunity to consult in those areas of expertise.”

After receiving his MBA and his PhD in business from the University of Washington, Glover came to BYU Marriott to teach undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in financial statement auditing. Glover also served as director of BYU Marriott’s SOA before becoming an associate dean in 2013. He served as president of the auditing section of the AAA and recently completed a term as a member of the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Many of Glover’s publications have received a great deal of

attention because of their contributions to the practice of auditing. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Accounting Research*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*, among other prestigious publications.

“He’s one of the top auditing scholars in the country,” Prawitt says. “I don’t know if there’s anyone out there who has a better combined record in terms of academic auditing publications and academic service, both in and outside of the university.”

Glover enjoys researching areas that are current pain points in the business world and using research to provide viable solutions. “As academics, we are able to step into a professional debate and provide a way forward through complex issues that arise in industry,” he explains. “Offering potential solutions to practicing professionals provides a nice two-way relationship between the academy and the profession.”

Glover is honored to receive the award. “The most rewarding part for me is to be included on the list of past recipients of the award,” he says. “Previous awardees are people I consider mentors and friends whom I highly respect. I’m grateful and humbled that my contributions were worthy of consideration.”

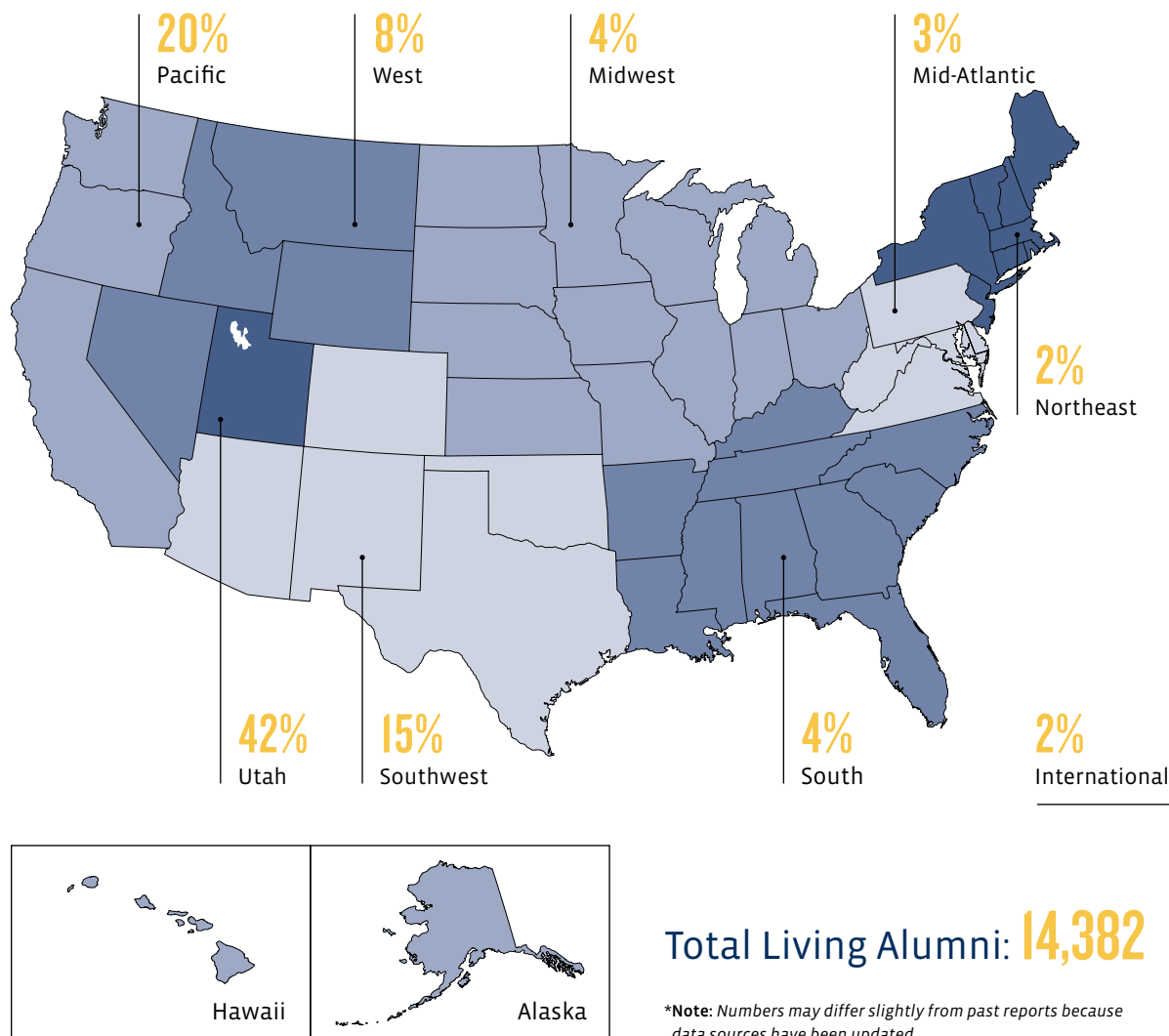
ALUMNI UPDATES

By following President Gordon B. Hinckley's counsel to Church members to reinvent themselves, Kevin Sayer has traveled a road of discovery and growth as he's developed his own distinctive leadership style. He's gone from CPA to CFO to CEO—and now board chairman. Read more on page 30 about Sayer's journey to slay the dragon.



Alumni Report*

Where SOA Alumni Reside



Top twelve industries where alumni are employed:

- Public Accounting
- Technology
- Education
- Healthcare
- Investment
- Consulting/Advisory
- Manufacturing
- Retail
- Government
- Services
- Law
- Real Estate

Filling the Medical CFO Gap



Most people would balk at the hefty amount of financial expertise required to run a medical practice. Amid tax compliance, financial records, and financial health monitoring, medical offices have a lot on their plates. But **Benjamin Green**, CPA, CMA, has successfully been helping medical and dental offices run their businesses since graduating with a MAcc degree with an emphasis in tax from BYU Marriott's SOA in 2016.

Green was introduced to the field of medical finances while working at his father's firm, a general CPA practice that worked with businesses and individuals. About half of the firm's clients owned their own dental or medical practices.

After his father passed away, Green decided to open his own practice. "Ever since I was little, I always knew I wanted to be a business owner," he says. Green opened his practice in June 2017 and functions as the CFO

for medical and dental practices. The medical and dental finances industry is limited due to the extra financial services, such as tracking billing, required by the medical field. This makes a medically focused CPA firm unique.

"The medical industry has a huge need for this type of service," says Green. "Most practice owners want more from their CPA than just a tax return. Focusing on their industry allows me to be a better resource for their business questions and help them run their practices well."

The effects of the firm's services go beyond creating a more efficient medical office. Assisting clients with their finances can have a personal impact on the individuals the company works with. When one client's business was headed toward failure, Green offered to sit down with the owner and talk about the situation. "Instead of focusing only on the tax side of things, we talked about practices he could adopt to actually fix the business and keep it sustainable," says Green. "We

"Most practice owners want more from their CPA than just a tax return. Focusing on their industry allows me to be a better resource for their business questions and help them run their practices well."

created a plan for him to move forward."

By applying the principles they discussed, the owner turned around his business and is still one of Green's clients today. Green later learned that he had given the owner the courage to keep moving forward with his business. After feeling like he had been taken advantage of for years, the owner had regained his self-confidence—thanks to the plan he created with Green. "Meeting with him makes me happy because he is still happily running the business he wanted to keep," says Green.

Green now lives in Spokane, Washington, with his wife, Chantelle, and their three boys. He credits his BYU Marriott's SOA education for giving him the technical base he needed to open his own successful practice. "I am grateful to my professors and classmates who helped me make career choices," he says. "The further I get in my career, the more I see the value of the advice they gave and the wisdom of their teaching approach."

Go Slay the Dragon

After decades of leadership roles in successful businesses, **Kevin Sayer** was no stranger to the expectations placed upon C-suite executives. But when he had to start making television appearances as president and CEO of Dexcom, he found himself in unfamiliar territory. Luckily, he knew his next step might require a bit of humility.

"I had to be humble enough to go look for coaching," says Sayer, who graduated from BYU Marriott's SOA in 1983 with a MAcc. "I knew I wasn't ready to be on television."

This experience, like so many others in his career, reminded Sayer of a talk he heard years ago by the late Gordon B. Hinckley, former president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In his remarks, President Hinckley counseled the men of the Church to prepare for circumstances in which they would have to reinvent themselves over the course of their lives.

"I remember hearing that, and looking back I'm probably as good an example of it as anyone," Sayer says. "I went from a CPA to a CFO to an operations person to a CEO and now a chairman. And every time I get a new title, I have to reinvent myself."

Sometimes those reinventions have taken place without changing companies, as has been the case at Dexcom Inc., where Sayer currently works as CEO, president, and chair. He was initially hired

"Knowing that I make a positive impact makes coming into work every day a lot more fun."



in 2011 as the COO and president. While he retains his role as president, he recently assumed both CEO and executive chair positions.

While Sayer has enjoyed immense success at Dexcom, at one point he seemed destined for academia. As a graduate student at BYU Marriott, Sayer had the chance to teach undergraduates in the SOA. "I taught managerial accounting, and I lectured classes of over one hundred students," Sayer says. "It was so fun. I thought I wanted to do that for a living."

Looking back, Sayer is grateful for a professor who sat him down and advised him against pursuing his PhD and a career as a professor. "He told me that I was way too competitive for that and that I needed to go slay the dragon,"

Sayer says. "I heeded that advice and entered the workforce, and I'm extremely glad I did."

Sayer might have forfeited the chance to inspire intellect in the classroom, but as chief executive of Dexcom, his work still has a profoundly positive effect on individuals. Dexcom is a medical technology company that makes equipment to help people with diabetes monitor their blood glucose levels. Sayer describes Dexcom's products as nothing short of life altering for the individuals with diabetes who use them. He recently received a letter from a young girl in elementary school who was tasked with writing about her everyday hero. Instead of choosing a family member, a celebrity, or a fictional character, the girl chose to write about "Spencer the Sensor," her Dexcom glucose monitor.

"I would be disingenuous if I told you that I came to Dexcom only because I wanted to help people," Sayer says. "But I'll tell you, knowing that I make a positive impact makes coming into work every day a lot more fun."

Sayer lives in Carlsbad, California, with his wife, Mimi. The Sayers enjoy spending time with their five sons and seven grandchildren.

Unseen Problems



Jon and Jane Andersen and their four children: Sam, Matthew, Nathan, and Kate.

Many see **Jon Andersen** as a BYU and Harvard alum, loving father, devoted husband, or successful business owner. What they may not see are the unexpected life challenges he and his wife, Jane, have faced. These unseen moments, however, have been defining events for Andersen.

“I have learned that everyone has problems, and often they are unseen problems,” Andersen says. He notes that an individual’s greatest successes might come only after the loneliest struggles and without much fanfare. Faith and community have provided the backbone of the strength and grit he has needed during those times, says Andersen.

For Andersen, a mix of challenges and blessings first noticeably arose amid the adventure of being a newlywed in New York City. After Andersen graduated with a BS in accounting from BYU Marriott in 1998 and he and Jane married (the Andersens met at BYU, where Jane earned a degree in economics), the couple moved to the Big Apple to pursue careers in public accounting and investment banking. In addition to a job at Ernst & Young, Andersen had an opportunity to serve as president of a Spanish-speaking branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This opportunity strengthened the relationship Andersen and Jane had with each other as well as the relationships they had with the Lord.

After working for three years in New York, Andersen applied to Harvard Business School to pursue an

MBA. He was accepted and joined the class of 2003. Andersen’s Harvard acceptance wasn’t the only good news at the time. After starting infertility treatment, Jane became pregnant; the couple welcomed a healthy boy the second month of business school.

Upon graduating from Harvard, Andersen decided to work in the field of medical devices. After two years in Minneapolis, the Andersens moved to Arizona for a marketing and sales position with Guidant (now Boston Scientific) and to be closer to family and friends. As they were getting ready to make the move, the couple was thrilled to find out that Jane was pregnant again, this time with twin boys.

Bad news came about four months into Jane’s pregnancy, when she was diagnosed with twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, which causes a disproportionate amount of blood flow to one child at the expense of the other. As a result, the twins were born nine weeks early via emergency caesarean section. Matthew weighed five pounds; Nathan weighed two.

The babies survived, but both had tremendous health challenges. Matthew was blind, sustained brain damage caused by a deprivation of oxygen during the pregnancy, and had cerebral palsy and epilepsy; Nathan was eventually diagnosed on the autism spectrum. The difficulty of taking care of two children with special needs prompted lifestyle and career changes.

“I was only in Arizona to fill a short-term position,” Andersen says. “I had to make a decision about my career.” Both his and Jane’s parents were in Arizona, so they chose to stay near family for the support and community. Andersen and his brothers founded a real estate investing company together called Andersen Capital Partners.

Jane and Andersen now have four children: nine-year-old Kate, thirteen-year-old twins Matthew and Nathan, and seventeen-year-old Sam. “Our experiences have helped us become more aware of people, especially those who may not quite fit in,” Andersen says. “We understand what it’s like to be on the outside, to be different. We want to be part of a community that sees and values the good within every person.”



1979 As a music enthusiast who plays piano, guitar, and other instruments, **Richard Hackett** originally came to BYU for the music composition program. Then he took an accounting class. “It was easy,” says Hackett. “I asked if they paid people to do this, and they said yes, so I majored in it.” He earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1979 and his MAcc from Kent State University in 1989. Although he is now a fund accountant at Tesla Inc., Hackett’s proudest professional accomplishment is teaching college-level accounting and other business-related classes at various universities and community colleges. “Graduating from BYU Marriott’s School of Accountancy has been the foundation for an amazing career,” says Hackett. He is a ward choir director in Sandy, Utah, and enjoys doing family history and playing Frisbee.



1990 Since falling in love with accounting in her introductory class freshman year, **Kelly Spivey** has gone on to be the head of generally accepted accounting principles at Scottish American, a company that has seen immense growth over the past five years. She is currently in charge of all financial reporting for the firm. She previously worked with PepsiCo, Cadbury Schweppes PLC, and Wheels America. Spivey graduated from BYU Marriott with her bachelor’s degree in 1990. She and her husband, Chris, now live in Argyle, Texas, with their two children. She is the CFO of First Aid Strong, a nonprofit created by her daughter, Sarah, who is only seventeen. Spivey also works with her local chapter of the National Charity League and enjoys watching her son play football and soccer.



1991 Since graduating with her MAcc in 1991, **Kelli Heaton Archibald** has worked with EY as a private foundation practice leader. “One of the many opportunities I enjoy is the chance to help clients reach their innovative humanitarian goals,” she says. “I love working with organizations that are trying to make the world a better place every day.” She also volunteers with United Sound, a nonprofit that allows youth in school music programs to serve as peer mentors to and play musical instruments with students with special needs. Archibald has four children, two of whom are currently attending BYU, and lives in Gilbert, Arizona, with her husband, Jeff.



1991 Although she is the owner, vice president of finance, and CFO of LogicDS, a boutique software company, **Tami Haroldsen** still finds time to give back to her community. For several years, she ran a teen book club that focused on classical literature. Previously, she worked as an assistant financial manager at BMO Harris Bank and a staff accountant at Arthur Andersen & Company in the early 1990s, and she earned her CPA license in 1992. Haroldsen has also taught accounting courses at Chicago-based Robert Morris University from 1999 to 2000 and at DeVry University’s Keller Graduate School of Management from 2012 to 2015. “My favorite times are the eureka moments,” she says. “I’d witness when students suddenly understood debits and credits.” Currently Haroldsen enjoys being a mom of six children (one of whom currently attends BYU) while using her education to help provide for her family. She earned her BS and MAcc from BYU Marriott in 1991 and now lives in Aurora, Illinois, with her husband, Kyle.

The MVP of the CMA



Meg Rodeback didn't even know the Priscilla S. Payne Outstanding Student Performance Award existed before she earned it. She first heard about it when her mother texted her a picture of a letter congratulating her on receiving the award. The award is given to the top performer on the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) exam by the Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA) during each testing window.

"I was shocked," says Rodeback, who hails from American Fork, Utah. "I hadn't seen the raw score, and I was just so happy I passed." The average score on the CMA is 360/360, and most students take the exam several times. Rodeback earned a score of 450/430 after taking the exam only once.

Despite her extraordinary test results, Rodeback hasn't always been an accounting enthusiast. She started out as a business minor, knowing that it would give her the skills to market herself in any field. But after taking

introductory accounting classes, she applied to the major and was accepted in 2015. "Going into the classes, I didn't expect to enjoy accounting as much as I did," says Rodeback. "But I found that I loved the numbers and making them work, so I changed my plans."

Rodeback took those introductory accounting classes from professors **Kay Stice** and **Jim Stice**. "They are both such wonderful teachers," she says. "Their passion for their work in accounting opened my eyes to all the exciting things you can do with the degree."

It was during those classes that a career in accounting became her vision. "Kay Stice shared pictures he had taken while doing field work for different audits," she recalls. One picture showed the depths of a mine, and he told the class how he had been outfitted with safety gear and lowered into the mine, feeling the temperature rise as he descended. "I was hooked," says Rodeback. "I realized I had found a field with a career's worth of possibilities."

Associate professor **Steve Smith** was also instrumental in helping her identify a career path that suited her. Many accounting majors go on to work for one of the Big Four accounting firms after graduating and completing the Certified Public Accountant exam. However, Rodeback wasn't sure she wanted to go that route. Smith told her about the CMA and related careers. She took his advice, and in deciding to take the career path less traveled, Rodeback has come out on top.

Rodeback graduated from BYU Marriott in 2017 and now works as a senior financial analyst supporting post-production at the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California. "I'm part of a company that is extremely conscious of its brand," she says. "BYU Marriott's School of Accountancy helped me understand the power of a good brand. Being part of a well-respected program was a privilege, and it inspires me to do my best to carry on a legacy that has been built by the students who came before me."

"Going into the classes, I didn't expect to enjoy accounting as much as I did. But I found that I loved the numbers and making them work, so I changed my plans."

Born in a Stream



Sunnie Giles grew up catching river salamanders in her small South Korean farming town while dreaming of someday attending college—despite her parents’ lack of support.

Giles earned good grades and aimed to be accepted to the best schools. Despite her ambition, Giles remembers her mother telling her she wouldn’t make it as a businesswoman in Korea. Her mother told her that, while someday her brothers would likely branch out around the world and be able to pay for their mother to come visit them, Giles would likely stay close by and may not even be able to afford a bus ticket.

Despite the lack of confidence shown by her family, Giles worked hard enough to be accepted to some of South Korea’s top universities. Unfortunately tuition was too expensive, and Giles feared the glass ceiling was still too prominent in South Korea to allow her to be successful. Instead, she decided to save up and make

People shouldn’t be afraid to innovate because “what got you here won’t get you there.”

the journey to Brigham Young University, where she was likely to have better opportunities as a woman.

Giles saved for eighteen months but only had enough money for one semester’s tuition and one month of rent. Giles came to Provo anyway, though she had no idea how she was going to pay for the rest of her education. Fortunately, her visa allowed her to work on campus, and she quickly found a job as a janitor.

Working early morning hours and studying at BYU without the support of her friends and family was difficult, but Giles was motivated. She remembers thinking, “I have to make something of my life. I am working too hard, and it has to be for something.” Her proudest accomplishment to this day is graduating from BYU without debt.

Giles received her bachelor’s degree in accounting from BYU in 1992 and her MBA from the University of Chicago. While studying for her PhD in systems psychology at BYU, Giles researched and developed a theory on what makes businesses successful, a theory she calls the radical science of innovation. After receiving her PhD, Giles started her own business, Quantum Leadership.

Giles gained momentum with her business by presenting at

TEDx and at research conferences around the world. In 2018 she was invited to present her research at the prestigious Global Peter Drucker Forum in Vienna. Her book, *The New Science of Radical Innovation*, helps Giles teach business leaders how to be successful in a world of VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity).

One of her main messages is that failure is a necessary component for long-term success. According to Giles, people shouldn’t be afraid to innovate because “what got you here won’t get you there.”

Though Giles encourages failure because it’s necessary for learning, she doesn’t encourage giving up. Her advice for people trying to make it in business is “dream big, work hard, and don’t ever, ever, ever give up.” Giles gained this philosophy at BYU. “I had to work hard to get good grades,” she says. “I couldn’t just wing it. That gave me a solid foundation to build my career on, and I never felt inferior to my peers.”

Another one of Giles’s proudest moments was when she paid for her mother to visit the United States. When her mother arrived, she told her daughter, “You are a dragon born in a stream, and I thought you were a salamander. Dragons belong in the ocean.”



1997 Even as a young paper carrier, **Scott Draper** was putting together his own financial spreadsheets to track his expenses, investments, and income. Today he is the principal financial planner of THRIVE Financial Planning, where he helps individuals and families identify and reach their financial goals. He has also worked with Pennington Financial Group; Frank, Rimerman Advisors; and EY. “Getting to where I am now took lots of determination, patience, hard work, and creativity,” he says. Draper, who earned his MAcc in 1997, volunteers as treasurer of the Rotary Club in El Dorado Hills, California. He enjoys hiking and building Legos with his sons. His daughter, Lindsay, is following in her father’s footsteps and recently started her freshman year at BYU.



2003 Of all her professional accomplishments, **Kristen Twyman Walker** is proudest of her ability to progress in a challenging career path while maintaining a schedule that allows her to spend more time with her two children. In 2003, she earned her MAcc with a tax emphasis from BYU Marriott’s SOA and is now the special projects manager at Progressive Leasing, a virtual lease-to-own company based in Draper, Utah, that provides options for credit-challenged consumers. Walker is in charge of the company’s ad hoc projects, reports, and other essential accounting processes. She previously worked with CFO Solutions, a firm specializing in enterprise performance management, and Omniture, an online marketing business. In her free time, she enjoys making jewelry. Walker lives in Lehi, Utah, with her husband, Andy.



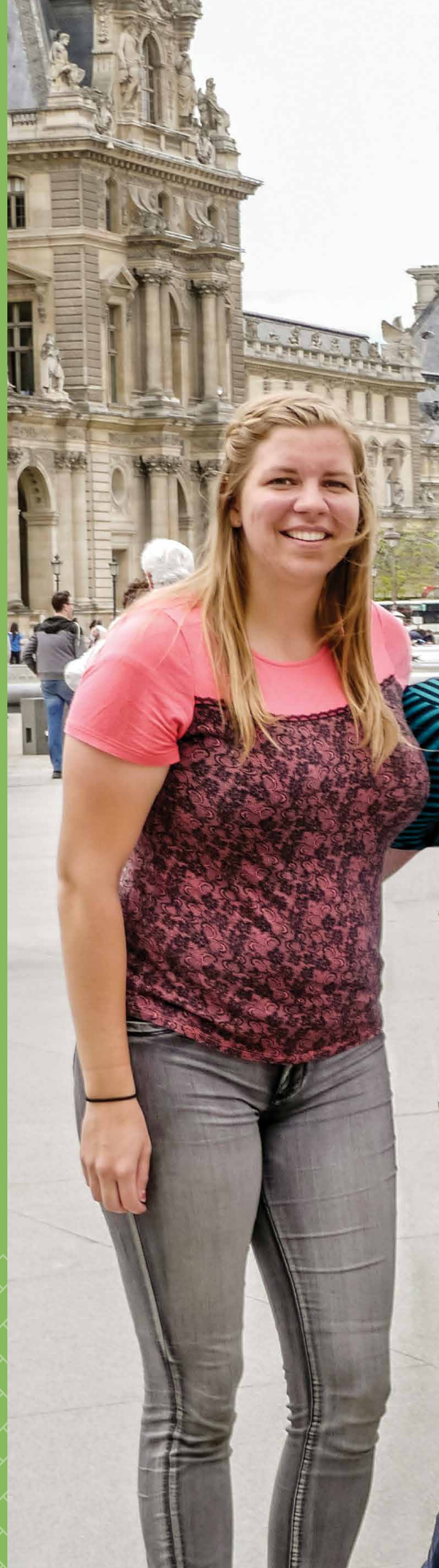
2005 Over the course of his career, **Ben Candland** has helped shape the professional lives of those he works with. “My proudest professional accomplishment has been developing my staff into promising professionals who have been able to succeed even outside of the accounting group,” he says. As assistant controller at nThrive Inc., Candland oversees multiple accounting teams that work with revenue recognition. nThrive is a revenue cycle management company that focuses on aiding healthcare providers with technological and professional solutions. He previously worked with MedAssets and KPMG. Candland earned his MAcc in 2005. As a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program volunteer, he helps low-income individuals prepare their taxes. Candland and his wife, Lauren, have four children and live in Atlanta.



2011 Volleyball, scuba diving, and rock climbing are just a few of **Kacy Allison Forsberg’s** many interests. Forsberg currently works in forensics valuation and litigation support for global transfer pricing at Elliott Davis LLC in Charlotte, North Carolina. Transfer pricing is an exploding field of economics, accounting, and law associated with international tax. Forsberg first learned of the transfer pricing field during her graduate school internship with the Internal Revenue Service. She built Elliott Davis’s transfer pricing practice from the ground up, including infrastructure, internal firm trainings, and external firm seminars relating to transfer pricing services and solutions. Forsberg earned her MAcc from BYU Marriott in 2011. For her next adventure, she hopes to teach accounting and economics classes as an adjunct professor at local universities.

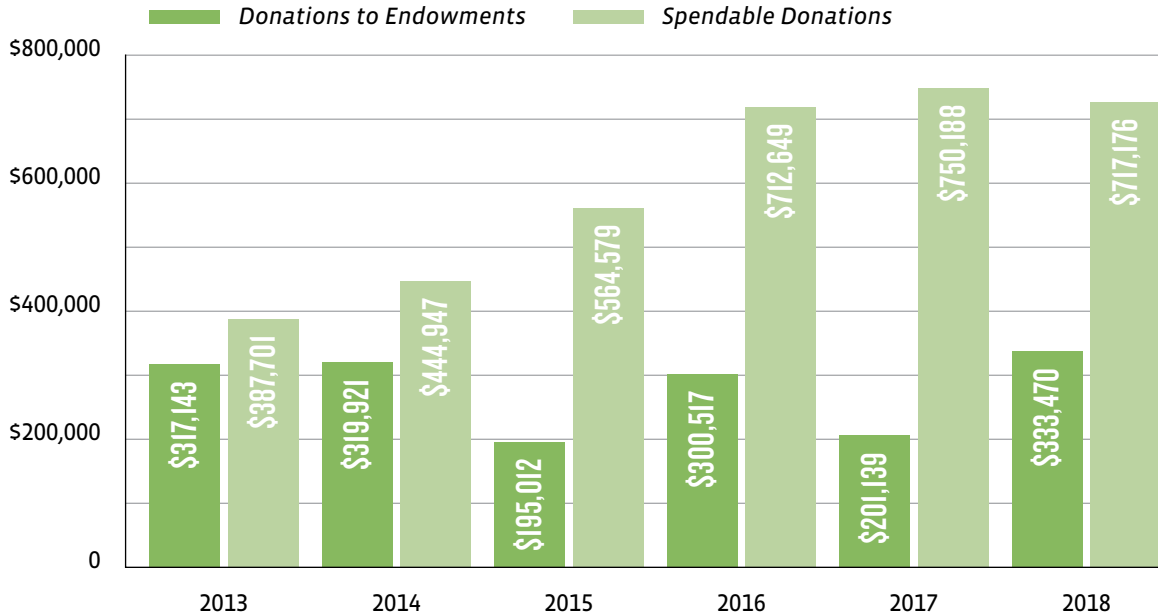
PROGRAM SUPPORT

School of Accountancy students are grateful recipients of generous donations from BYU Marriott friends and supporters. In addition to funding scholarships, donations are used to help students participate in study abroad trips, network with alumni and companies around the world, achieve the CMA exam's highest pass rate in the world, and much more. Read about the heart of alumni giving on page 40.

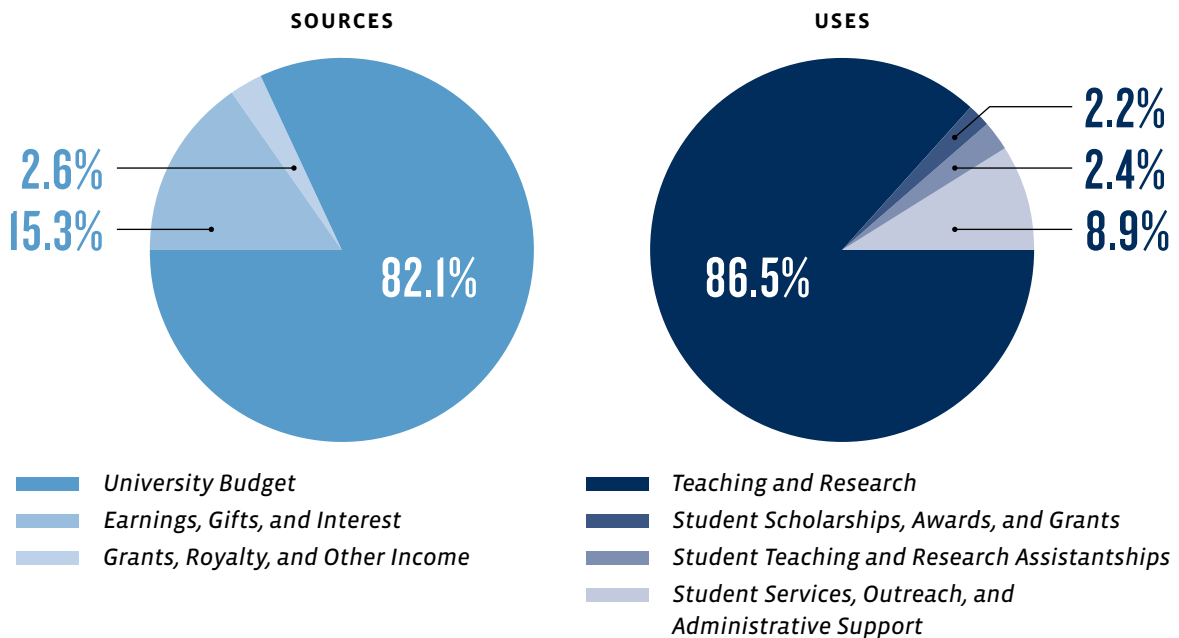




Fundraising Report



School of Accountancy Cash Flows for Operations (FISCAL YEAR 2018)



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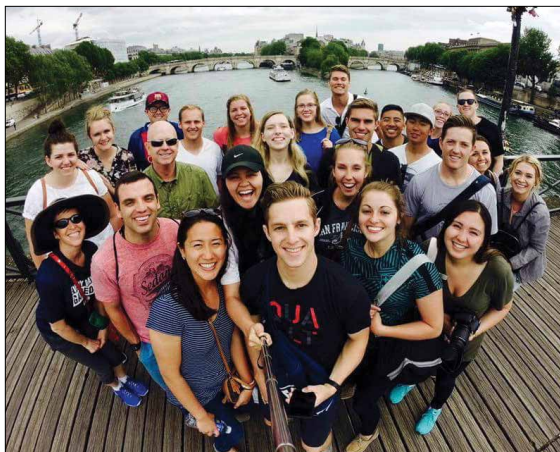
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At the Heart of Alumni Giving



Dalton E. Nelson found answers to questions he'd been asking regarding his future career when he participated in an SOA study abroad trip during summer 2019—an experience he wouldn't have been able to have without the support of BYU Marriott program donors.

"I entered the study abroad with one goal," says Nelson, an accounting student from Shelley, Idaho, slated to graduate in April 2020. "I wanted to find out if living and working as an expat is something that I would be able to do. Through listening to alumni from our university and others, my confidence in being able to work overseas was strengthened. I realized that I would become more well rounded as I worked with different personalities and cultures. I am eternally grateful to the donors of the SOA for their contributions, because without them I would not have been able to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

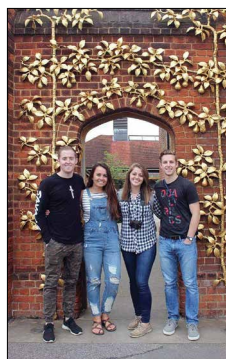
Since 2014, 909 SOA students (MAcc and undergrad combined) have received more than \$1.9 million in scholarships. "We in the SOA deeply appreciate the generosity of those who contribute to our efforts to serve our students," says **Doug Prawitt**, director of the SOA and LeRay McAllister/Deloitte Foundation Distinguished Professor. "We are ever mindful that our true mission 'is to assist individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life'

[the Mission of BYU]. We know that this mission is what motivates those who donate to our cause, and we want our donors to know this mission is the well-spring of our passion to serve our students."

In addition to scholarships, funding also provides aid directly to students for opportunities to network with alumni and companies all over the globe. Donor support has also made it possible for BYU students to

- provide accounting solutions to nonprofits worldwide;
- achieve one of the CMA exam's highest pass rates;
- welcome more women to the SOA than ever before (an increase of 110 percent since 2013); and
- attract more than 15,000 readers monthly to RevenueHub.org, an SOA-sponsored site examining and explaining changes in the accounting revenue-recognition standard.

These accomplishments and many other student endeavors comprise the sole target of all alumni giving. "Everything we do in the SOA is done with the ultimate purpose of serving the exceptional students we are privileged and honored to have at BYU, and every donation made to the SOA is applied to that ultimate purpose," Prawitt says. "When a university exists to serve its students and assist them in achieving their ultimate goals, donors can rest assured that their sacrifices will be made on behalf of [students] and applied to making our students' experiences richer and more fulfilling, all with an eye toward BYU's mission."



THE MISSION

of BYU Marriott's School of Accountancy is to (1) provide a world-class accounting education that is spiritually strengthening, intellectually enlarging, and character building and that leads to lifelong learning and service; and (2) produce rigorous scholarship and thought leadership that improves the accounting discipline and society.

Get involved in this
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