

## FROM THE DIRECTOR of the School of Accountancy

It's been a game-changing year for the School of Accountancy and the entire College of Business. In August, our new \$84 million, 240,000-square-foot College of Business building opened for business and was named Howard L. Hawks Hall. Then on December 1, Dr. Kathy Farrell, who served as interim dean, officially became the James Jr. and Susan Stuart Endowed Dean. It is definitely an exciting time to be a part of everything happening in Hawks Hall.

After the entire college – nearly 250 people, six departments and offices from three different buildings – moved in just six days (two days for SOA), we welcomed Dr. Todd Thornock to our accounting faculty, and our new and returning students on August 18. The following Monday classes started and it was full speed ahead.

We held the annual Meet the Firms event with assistance from Beta Alpha Psi for accounting and finance students and our Executive Insights panel discussions for all business students at the University at the Nebraska Union. We hosted our two accounting advisory boards in October as part of the Nebraska Business Partnership Summit and Advisory Board meetings.

Additionally, we held our annual Celebration of Excellence event in the Henrickson Atrium in Hawks Hall and inducted three successful individuals to our





SOA Hall of Fame. You can read more in this edition of *The Ledger*, but I wanted to share something one of the honorees, Tonn Ostergard, said, "This is only half-time."

We had an excellent first half by constructing a new building, but we need to finish strong by focusing on the programs and people inside it. Our goal is to be the best School of Accountancy in the Big Ten. We want our graduates to consistently get the best jobs due to their experiences inside the classroom and out. We want faculty to lead in teaching and research. We want to be the top choice for those interested in accounting in Nebraska and beyond.

In our second half, we have set big goals and can only achieve them with your help. If you haven't considered a charitable gift, I ask you to consider doing so. The support of our generous donors is integral to our success.

Dr. Aaron Crabtree

Director and KPMG Faculty Fellow



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# Ledger NEBRASKA Ledger

## **CONTENTS**



Celebration of Excellence Includes Three Inductees Into Hall of Fame2
Students Explore Careers at Junior Days
Accounting Pioneer Ellsworth Fulk Recognized in \$2 Million Endowment Funds4-5
Honors Academy Helps Rahman Find Right Major For Her5
Scholarship Honors Ron Rotherham6
Butterfield Accomplishes Many Firsts as a Husker7
McDowell Finds Calling to Help Others
Students Connect with Potential Employers at Meet the Firms
Students Engage with Business Leaders at Executive Insights10
Students Visit Firms in Minneapolis1
Handling Business in Howard L. Hawks Hall12
Nebraska Elevates Farrell to Lead College of Business13
Thornock Enthusiastic About Nebraska14
Former U.S. Attorney Lahners Wraps Up 50 Years of Teaching15
Accounting Students Help Lead Team to Win at Union Pacific Case Competition16
Students Place at Audit Competition and Head to Nationals17
Deloitte National FanTAXtic Case Competition 17
Beta Alpha Psi Recognized as Superior Chapter18
CPA Exam Rates19-2
Employment and Placement Rate2
Scholarships and Fellowships22-23
Accounting Donors Lists24-25

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# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE INCLUDES THREE INDUCTEES INTO HALL OF FAME

The School of Accountancy inducted three new members into their Hall of Fame at the annual Celebration of Excellence held October 5. Inductees included Dr. James F. Brown, Jr., professor emeritus of the School of Accountancy; Tonn M. Ostergard, CEO and chairman of Crete Carrier Corporation; and Sue Wilkinson, senior vice president and CFO at Ameritas.

After receiving his Ph.D. in Tennessee, Brown took his first major teaching job in Nebraska in 1980 and retired 35 years later. He led the Master of Professional Accountancy program from its inception in 1986 until his retirement in 2014. In addition to his research published in a variety of journals, Brown received awards for Beta Alpha Psi Accountant of the Year, University of Nebraska Distinguished Teaching Award and Alumni Association of the College of Business Distinguished Faculty Award. He also served on many organizations, such as president of the Nebraska Cornhusker Chapter of the National Association of Accountants and national director of the Institute of Management Accountants.

"I did something I loved for 35 years and enjoyed every bit of it," said Brown. "I had the opportunity to advise and guide a lot of young lives. It made a difference in my life and hopefully those I helped direct. I take great pride in my work with accounting students."

Ostergard graduated from Nebraska in 1981 and completed the Harvard Business School's Owner/
President Management Program in 1991. He spent five years in public accounting working for KPMG and now leads more than 6,000 associates as CEO and chairman of Crete Carrier Corporation. He served as chair of the University of Nebraska Foundation and on boards for the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. He chaired the Capital Campaign Committee in 2008, which expanded to include the new College of Business building project. His honors include the Business Alumni Leadership Award, University of Nebraska Young Alumnus Award and Business Leadership Award.

"This honor makes me feel a tremendous amount of gratification toward my professors who were so influential and formative in my personal and professional development. The School of Accountancy does wonderful work and the quality of the master's program is nationally



recognized. Having an accounting degree provides the basic competency vital to the success of anyone pursuing a business career, and I benefited greatly from getting my degree at Nebraska," said Ostergard.

A native of Petersburg, Nebraska, Wilkinson graduated with a degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from Nebraska in 1990. She spent five years as an auditor with Deloitte & Touche prior to her more than 20-year career at Ameritas where she held many roles including cost accounting, budgeting, annual planning, project management, communications and community relations, and risk management. Active in the Lincoln community, she currently serves on the Bryan College of Health Sciences Board, the Pius X Board of Advisors and the University of Nebraska Foundation Audit Committee.

"My career has been wonderful and I wouldn't have been able to do it without the education I received from the School of Accountancy and all the terrific professors I met along the way. I love giving back through my work, formerly on the School of Accountancy Advisory Board and now on the Dean's Advisory Board. It's very satisfying to see the results of our recruitment of new professors in recent years which has made a great teaching base even better," said Wilkinson.



## STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREERS AT JUNIOR DAYS

Accounting Junior Days provides students with the opportunity to examine career opportunities and prepare for the job market. The School of Accountancy hosted three seminars this fall exploring public and private accounting, and transitioning from college to careers.

"Most students attending are trying to confirm their career plans so having their input is important as it points each of us in the right direction," said Claire Ngamelue, a senior accounting major from Tiko Town, Cameroon.

At the first seminar, panelists discussed public accounting and what they loved most about what they do. Brian Klintworth '15 of HBE shared how accounting changes daily.

"In an eight-hour window, I could be helping a business owner with Quickbooks, discussing a person's estate with its trustee to talking with a farmer about the future of the ag market. These relationships and their gratitude of what we provide for them make me love working in accounting," he said.

Public accounting panelists also included: Morgan Klipp '11 '12, BKD, LLP; Natalie Miller '08, Seim Johnson; Donald Neal '03, KPMG; Jeff Sheets '13 '14, Labenz; Aimee Trumbull '15, Lutz; and Andrew Young '07 '08, RSM.

At the second seminar, Dr. Aaron Crabtree spoke about internships and MPA program. Then Bryan Slone, former executive in residence, talked about résumés, cover letters and social media.

The series concluded with a panel about private accounting with Sadid Carrillo '13, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; Jeff Heinrich '03, Pillen Family Farms; Eric Johnson '85, '88, ConAgra Brands; Jamie Johnson '99, NMPP Energy; Lianna Kathol '08, '10, Ameritas; Taylor Kupfer '16, Union Pacific; Conner Tiefenthaler '14, Koch Industries; and Christy Young '07, HDR.

# Accounting Pioneer Ellsworth Fulk Recognized in \$2 Million Endowment Funds

The School of Accountancy received two major gifts totaling \$2 million this year intended to help increase the ability of Nebraska to better compete with peers in the Big Ten conference. The anonymous endowments of \$1 million each go to the creation of the Ellsworth L. Fulk Chair of Accountancy, and the Ellsworth L. Fulk Faculty and Ph.D. Student Development Fund.

Ellsworth L. Fulk '19, for whom the funds are named, graduated from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and in 1924 received Nebraska CPA Certificate #0000037, demonstrating his place of prominence as a pioneer in the field of accountancy. His magnitude as a professional accountant remains strong today, as Fulk's private practice ultimately changed hands and became incorporated in BKD, LLP, one of the largest accounting firms in the country. Fulk died in 1965 but clients from his era remain on BKD's books today.

The donors of the gift noted the historical significance of Fulk's accounting work warranted the naming of the endowments in his honor. Dr. Aaron Crabtree, director of the School of Accountancy, believes the endowments could not be named for anyone more deserving of the recognition.

"To be a forerunner to BKD is really amazing," said Crabtree. "These gifts in Fulk's name go a long way to bolstering our position in the Big Ten. To have a donor willing to listen to our specific needs and help us in those areas is pretty special. It's not often you meet someone with the passion and ability to invest in the school at this level."

The new dollars provide support and show continued belief for what is happening at the school. It gives room to grow academically to match the growth of the school as it moved into the new Howard L. Hawks Hall building in 2017.

"One of the issues we have is recruiting and retaining high-level faculty who come with a lot of experience. This endowed chair position allows us to attract better, more experienced tenured candidates. There's an academic distinction that goes with being awarded a chair position, and then there's the monetary part that hopefully separates our offer from others they might have," said Crabtree.

He sees the development fund as a major step forward. In particular, opportunities for Ph.D. students will be magnified with the new funding.



"This new funding allows us to send students to research conferences. A lot of the conferences have a day dedicated to doctoral students where they are presenting papers. A doctoral student may be focusing on audit research and this would give them the ability to meet other doctoral students interested in the same area. Students also develop networks with other faculty where they can pitch ideas and make connections for when they're on the job market. It puts their faces with the name employers will see on their application," he said.

Additionally, the fund allows the school to purchase specialized data sets to help recruit and ultimately make better job placements for doctoral students. It also would make funds available to pay participants in behavioral research studies.

Fulk, originally from Atlanta, Nebraska, earned membership into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society during his time at Nebraska. His private practice Walker & Fulk ultimately became Phillip G. Johnson & Co., which in turn became BKD, LLP.



Though honors students often fall into the category of high achievers, Shoilee Rahman's ability to tenaciously work through challenges clenched her spot in the Nebraska Business Honors Academy. A sophomore accounting major from Chadron, Nebraska, she honed those skills to succeed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Shoilee had all the academic accolades to make her stand out, but there was something more. She has this grit to her, the drive to do her best and not be halted by a challenge. She has the indistinguishable ability to do that work and that grind when presented with challenges," said Dr. Rebekah Neary-DeLaPorte, assistant director of the academy.

A former business administration major, Rahman credits the academy for helping redirect her to the right major. Because academy students can enroll in core business classes sooner in their academic career, she took both foundational accounting courses early. After talking with her professors, she declared accounting as her major.

"My professors stressed the importance of having a good conceptual understanding of the subject you are studying. I thought I had that with accounting. Furthermore, the professional opportunities in accounting are endless. I am excited to pursue it," she said.

Neary-DeLaPorte helps advise the academy students. She said Rahman found a major which fit her.

"She's very precise and likes processes. The innate traits which she values and enjoys match up with accounting," Neary-DeLaPorte said. "For her short time at the university, she has definitely made an impact and found her niche."

Outside of the classroom, Rahman serves on the academy's philanthropy committee and works in the Canfield Administration Building as a curriculum assistant. Recently she participated in the Deloitte FanTAXtic Competition where accounting students gain real-world business experience through case simulation, role playing and presentations.

"The Deloitte Competition showed me the amount of critical thinking and knowledge a career in tax would take. I learned accounting is meticulous, analytical and multi-faceted and that drew me to accounting even more," she said.

Though her courses can be challenging, Rahman said she enjoys the time with her cohort.

"I have never met a more motivated, intelligent group of people than in my academy cohort," she said. "Even though the curriculum is tough, I like working and learning with them."

## SCHOLARSHIP HONORS RON ROTHERHAM

The family of Nebraska alumnus Ronald "Ron" J. Rotherham '60, has honored the Ewing native as a loving husband, father and grandfather by establishing a scholarship in his memory. Their gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation creates a permanent endowment to forever support the education of business students.

The scholarship is designated to annually help students with financial need who are enrolled at the Nebraska College of Business and study in the School of Accountancy, Department of Economics or Department of Finance. Students from Nebraska counties where the Rotherham family has history and roots, including Holt, Antelope, Madison and Lancaster, receive first award preference.

"This generous gift by the Rotherham family will provide a world-class, Big Ten business education for students in accounting, economics or finance for years to come," said Dr. Donde Plowman, executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer, who is former dean of the College of Business. "What a fitting tribute to the legacy of Ron Rotherham and his commitment to higher education and the Nebraska College of Business."

Tyler Butterfield, a sophomore accounting major from Madison County, was selected by the college as the 2017-18 recipient of the Ronald James Rotherham Scholarship and received a \$4,100 award for tuition assistance.

Raised in Ewing, Nebraska, Rotherham attended public school and graduated in 1956. He then attended Nebraska where he studied business, accounting, and literature, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1960.

He and his wife of 46 years, Dodie Rotherham, met in 1959 in Lincoln while he attended the university and she studied at the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. They married in Lincoln on August 26, 1961. Their son and daughter-in-law, James and Christine Rotherham, are the parents of two daughters, Brianna and Natalie.

Ron joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1961, attended Officers Training School at Quantico, Virginia, and completed his active and reserve duties at Camp Pendleton, California. After his service with the Corps,



he entered the master's degree program at San Diego State University and became a CPA. He opened a firm in 1968 in Oceanside, California, and owned numerous other businesses throughout the United States. He died in 2007.

A man of strong faith and wit, humor and artistic talents were his trademark. His passions included family, art, music, literature, language and travel.

## BUTTERFIELD ACCOMPLISHES MANY FIRSTS AS A HUSKER

Tyler Butterfield, a sophomore accounting major from Norfolk, Nebraska, experienced a few firsts so far in his short time at the School of Accountancy. He became the first member of his immediate family on track to earn a college degree; he fulfilled one of his childhood dreams by earning a spot in the Cornhusker Marching Band; and, this summer, he became the first recipient of the Ronald James Rotherham Scholarship.

The scholarship grants \$4,100 in tuition assistance annually to a student enrolled in accounting, economics or finance. Students from Holt, Antelope, Madison and Lancaster, where the Rotherham family has roots, receive first award preference.

"I greatly appreciate being awarded the Rotherham Scholarship. It's an honor and it helps with the expenses of going to college. I am grateful to the family and those who selected me," said Butterfield.

Butterfield explained he chose Nebraska because of his love for the Huskers and wanted to continue playing trumpet in the band, which he started in fifth grade. He also believes the School of Accountancy is a great fit for his career aspirations.

"The faculty are great and want you to succeed. They do more than just show up for class. The professors help students outside class, and it's really important with accounting because it gets a lot harder as you go along. You need someone to guide you through," he said.

Besides marching band, Butterfield is in pep band, Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, and both the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies.

He plans to gain experience as an accountant in Norfolk before seeking out a job in public accounting.



MCDOWELL FINDS CALLING TO HELP OTHERS THROUGH ACCOUNTING

Competing for Henderson's Heartland High School Future Business Leaders of America chapter, Ashley (Quiring) McDowell '17 won two national competitions focused on accounting. Though the first-place trophies represented her success, she found a greater sense of accomplishment by finding her calling.

"After winning the national competitions, I decided accounting would be the career for me. It just clicked," she said. "I wanted to help others by helping them better understand financial information."

A student in the first cohort of the Nebraska Business Honors Academy, McDowell took advantage of many experiences, such as studying abroad in the Nebraska at Oxford program, joining Beta Alpha Psi and serving on the Honors Academy Council. She also helped in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, an organization that prepares tax returns for low-income, working families and students for free.

"The connections I made with faculty in the School of Accountancy are most beneficial as I can always go to them for advice and help. I met Dr. (Aaron) Crabtree when he taught the Introductory Accounting I (ACCT 201) class for Honors Academy students. He helped me get my first internship at Deloitte in Omaha," she said.

McDowell said this prepared her for two other internships at EKS&H in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and BKD, LLP in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her audit and tax internships provided diverse experiences in different size firms. She also took advantage of a new internship program where students can complete an eightweek internship in the first part of the spring semester before returning to campus to take two accelerated courses for the rest of the semester.

"When Dr. Crabtree told me about the new internship program, I jumped at the opportunity. I could get experience working during the busy season, an important time for accountants, while not getting behind in coursework," she said.

Preferring tax accounting, she decided to pursue her MPA at Nebraska and earn her CPA. In September, she starts working at BKD, LLP in Colorado Springs as a tax associate, which will bring her plan of helping others through accounting full circle.

"Relationships are important in accounting. I will help people figure out what to do with their finances and how their tax returns affect them," she said. "By connecting one-on-one with others, accounting allows me to make a real difference."





#### Students Connect with Potential Employers at Meet the Firms

Student leaders in Beta Alpha Psi joined forces with the School of Accountancy and the Business Career Center to hold Meet the Firms, an annual career fair for Nebraska Business students. Professionals from 27 firms in public accounting, information systems, private industry and government agencies networked with more than 300 students seeking internship and potential job placements in September.

"Firms hire earlier and earlier so it is important for the students to make connections," said Jill Trucke, assistant professor of practice in accountancy. "Those students need to get their face out there with their résumé and build those relationships with potential employers."

The first hour of Meet the Firms enabled freshmen and sophomores to casually talk to accounting professionals, make first connections and learn about opportunities for special programs and internships. Afterward, students pursuing employment opportunities continued to meet with employers and set up interviews.

Emily Van Der Bosch '17, the president of Beta Alpha Psi, helped plan the event while pursuing post-baccalaureate coursework and preparing for the CPA exam. She said the event helps sharpen networking skills.

"Everyone interviews, so this is the first chance for

students to meet the employers who are recruiting," said Van Der Bosch. "We get more familiar with talking to employers and telling them about ourselves as professionals."

When Meet the Firms first began, only 12 firms participated. It more than doubled this year with 27 and the representatives believe the event benefits them as well.

"Meet the Firms brings employers and students together for a phenomenal opportunity," Matt DeLong '15, a tax accountant at Lutz Accounting and Business Solutions, said. "We leave this event with a pool of applicants and hire many students from the University of Nebraska."





#### Students Engage with Business Leaders at Executive Insights

Initiated by the School of Accountancy and the Department of Finance, Executive Insights provides students at Nebraska with opportunities to engage with prominent business leaders. Held each semester at the Nebraska Union, the events include panel discussions and networking sessions.

More than 150 people attended in April when four business alumni shared their experiences. They included Andrea Gronenthal '91, '92, partner and tax performance advisory with EY; Tom Henning '75, chairman, president and CEO with Assurity Life Insurance Company and president and chief executive officer of Assurity Group Inc.; Michael Johnson '81, associate director with Accenture; and Jane Miller '84, chief operating officer and executive vice president with The Gallup Organization.

Miller advised, "Find a career that you believe in. It makes a significant difference in the excitement you feel every day when you wake up knowing you're contributing to something greater than just yourself. You'll be creating a greater good, not just in your community, but in the world."

Henning echoed Miller's sentiment and believes it is important for people to understand themselves and their own strengths.

"Focus on areas of strength. Understand your weaknesses but don't try to fix them. It's important to pair up with someone who will help you with your weaknesses through self-awareness. One of my objectives every year is to do more and more of what I'm good at, and less and less of what I'm not," Henning said.

The panelists agreed on the importance of internships in finding the right career. They also shared more during the networking session.

In October, panelists emphasized how the foundation of a great business starts with people. They included Karen Ganzlin, executive vice president and chief human resources officer of TD Ameritrade; Eric Johnson '85, vice president-tax of Conagra Brands; Jim Kruger '86, chief financial officer of Nelnet; and Matt Marsh '91, partner and global retail industry leader of Deloitte & Touche.

"We recruit people that value the customer," said Kruger. "Without customers, we don't have an organization."

Ganzlin told students to think about the type of organization they want to join. By choosing the right company, she said better outcomes happen for the employee and business.

"I look to see whether the person is coming for a job or if they're looking to start a career. When you join a company, you're opting into their culture. The technical skills to do the job are important but you also have to ask yourself if the business environment is the right fit," Ganzlin said.



## STUDENTS VISIT FIRMS IN MINNEAPOLIS

Eleven students visited six public accounting firms in Minneapolis during the first-ever Employer Experience trip. Led by Jill Trucke, assistant professor of practice in accountancy, the experience included visits to Baker Tilly, Deloitte, EY, KPMG, PwC and RSM in September.

"We asked our students in the junior course suite if they were interested in interning or living in Minneapolis. Many students were interested, so we had them apply for the experience and selected 11 to attend," said Dr. Aaron Crabtree.

The day spent visiting the six firms proved to be very busy yet rewarding experience for students. Employers set up a variety of experiences for them including a team project at KPMG and discussions with partners to first-year associates. The hosts at each firm shared information about jobs and internships, recent initiatives and more.

"I enjoyed getting to know the people we met and how accounting firms, which seemingly appear identical from the outside, are different not only in size but also workplace culture," said Yijie Wang, a junior accounting major from Nanchang, China.

Students enjoyed making connections and talked with recruiters about future internships. Caroline Musselman, a junior accounting major from Elkhorn, Nebraska, already accepted a summer tax internship at KPMG's Minneapolis office.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to take this trip. I learned more about the industry and my accounting classmates, and find an internship in the field I want to pursue," said Musselman.



Back row: Nixon Nerud, Grant Turner, Hayden Lienemann, Bryan Kirkebak; front row: Adam Bastian, Sydney Sackmaster, Anna Heusinger, Sydney Haack, Caroline Musselman, Yijie Wang and Hannah Berry



More than 250 faculty and staff, formerly housed in three separate buildings, moved into the new \$84 million, 240,000-square-foot College of Business building in six days in early August. With some packing up to six months prior, the 2,465 boxes and 998 bins had to be moved and unpacked prior to August 18, the day of the Open for Business: Ribbon Cutting and Back to School Bash. Though expecting a large crowd for the public opening, the attendance of more than 900 students, alumni, parents, business partners and friends beat all estimations.

Also in August, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved the naming of the building as Howard L. Hawks Hall. An alumnus with emphasis in accounting and Regent, Hawks '57 and his wife, Rhonda, championed the fundraising initiative for the building and have long been generous donors of the University.

At the Open for Business event, Hawks said, "This building puts Nebraska Business in the big leagues. Just think about the incredible teaching and learning that will take place here, and the opportunities for faculty and student collaboration that will result. This building isn't going to lose value over time. It is going to appreciate."

Roughly double the size of the old building, Hawks Hall provides six levels of new classrooms, including the largest auditorium currently on campus with 385 seats and the Trading Room, numerous study areas, office and department spaces, a welcome center, Yes Chef Café, the Huskers Shop and the 4,262-square-foot Henrickson Family Atrium which is the central hub of the Nebraska Business community. Two grand staircases located at the north and south ends provide entry into the atrium. Donor recognition pieces, a ticker board, student and alumni photos, and select artwork such as Unstable Column III, a brushed stainless steel kinetic sculpture, add the finishing touches in the positive learning environment.

"The new building became a reality due to the support and dedication of our alumni, partners and friends. The building is a constant reminder as we continue to be good stewards of our dollars and work to make our programs inside Hawks Hall, such as the School of Accountancy, world class," Dr. Aaron Crabtree said.

## Nebraska Elevates Farrell to Lead College of Business

Dr. Kathy Farrell, who served as the interim dean at the College of Business for nearly a year, was named permanent dean of the college. The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved Farrell's appointment on December 5.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Donde Plowman said, "Kathy Farrell is exactly the right person to take the College of Business to the next level. Overwhelming support from faculty, staff, students and members of the larger business community make this an exciting appointment. I am confident in her unique leadership abilities and look forward to working with her in this important role."

A member of the college's faculty since 1993, her teaching focus is on corporate finance and banking at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her primary research interests include executive compensation, executive turnover and succession, and other corporate governance issues.

Farrell became the college's associate dean in 2010, with responsibilities including undergraduate programs and faculty affairs. She served as senior associate dean for four years and in that role oversaw the development and implementation of new programs, including the business minor for non-business students and a hybrid career services model. In 2014, Farrell became the chair of the college's Department of Finance.

"I am honored to lead the College of Business and to build upon its recent momentum," Farrell said. "With the opening of Howard L. Hawks Hall, the state-of-the-art home for Nebraska Business, and unprecedented growth in students, programs, faculty and research, this college is poised to begin a new era of excellence."

Dr. Kathy Farrell, James Jr. and Susan Stuart Endowed Dean



Dr. Todd Thornock brought his enthusiasm for both accounting and behavioral research to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln this fall. As an assistant professor at the College of Business, he found the positive Nebraska environment blended with his zest for managerial accounting.

"I like the managerial side of accounting and working with people. Understanding how people make decisions and how they think drove me to focus on behavioral research. Working in academia provided the opportunity to both work with people and focus on my research," he said.

He authored "How the Timing of Performance Feedback Impacts Individual Performance" in *Accounting*, *Organizations and Society*, and his areas of expertise include reward system design, performance feedback, goal setting and personality measures. One topic of interest is the notion of accountants providing information to managers to make better decisions.

Garnering practical work experience for four years at PricewaterhouseCoopers, he spent two years in Austin, Texas, and two in San Jose, California. However, after earning his master of science in accounting and Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 2009 and 2011, he moved to Ames, Iowa, to be an assistant professor at Iowa State University. His classes included more than 200 undergraduate students and though he enjoyed teaching, he wanted the opportunity to work with graduate students.

"Dating back to my time as a student, I saw the positive impact professors have on their students, particularly at the graduate level," said Thornock who holds designations as a CPA, CMA and CGMA. "I loved the trajectory of the program at the Nebraska College of Business and how the alumni are behind the school 100 percent. The opportunity I have to focus on my research, as well as to mentor students made Nebraska a perfect fit for me."

The city of Lincoln also appealed to him as it was a family friendly place. Thornock and his wife, Samara, have seven kids between the ages of two-and-a-half and 15 years old.

"The faculty are so genuine. Whether it is a compliment or constructive criticism, I know I can take things at face value and that is something that is underestimated at times. I couldn't ask for a better place to work and raise my family."



## Former U.S. Attorney Lahners Wraps Up 50 Years of Teaching

For more than 50 years, Ron Lahners '59, taught College of Business students how laws impact the success or failure of business. This summer, he taught his last business law class at the college.

After earning his law degree at Nebraska, he achieved a distinguished career in public and private practice. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed him as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska. He served as administrative law judge in social security administration for 20 years.

"All business students need a basic understanding of how courts work and law enforcement interacts with courts," he said. "One of the most important areas is contracts. People make contracts for their business or themselves throughout their lifetime. They have to know some basic fundamentals in order to do that effectively."

Many prominent attorneys worked for Lahners over the years, including current Lancaster County Attorney Joe Kelly and current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nebraska Michael Heavican. His breadth of experience and practical knowledge helped his classroom presentations come to life for students. "The relationships with students have been wonderful, and I get a good feeling from helping them in an area that's going to strengthen their careers. I've had several students come up to me years later and say, 'That's probably the most important class I took in undergraduate school. It taught me a lot about dealing with people and situations that came up down the road."

He also regularly brought in guest speakers such as Lancaster County Attorney Joe Kelley and the former Lincoln Chief of Police Tom Casady. Lahners believes the practical experience in the classroom left a positive impact.

"The students hear about my experiences as a judge and an attorney, but they also get input from a variety of other professions. The real-world perspective from bankers, lawyers and law enforcement speak to what is happening with the law in contemporary society."

The School of Accountancy administers the business law class. Lahners expressed gratitude to Dr. Aaron Crabtree and Marci Warner, administrative coordinator, for their help facilitating the classes.



## Accounting Students Help Lead Team to Win at Union Pacific Case Competition

Sixteen College of Business students competed in the 2017 Union Pacific (UP) Case Competition in April and presented recommendations on investing in the emerging sage grass market. The four teams received a case summary and had 3.5 hours to consult with UP managers, build a business plan and create a presentation.

Shawntell Kroese '96, assistant vice president at UP, served as a judge for the competition. She found the resourcefulness of the students impressive, particularly due to the time constraints.

"Case competitions help you learn to think quickly and come up with recommendations. Whether you're selling an idea about investing in sage grass or selling yourself in a job interview, so much of being good at business is practice," she said.

The judges provided professional feedback before the winning team was announced. The winning team received gift cards and a team trophy and included Connor Dietrich

and Nate Nemers, both from Omaha, Nebraska, who graduated in 2017. Gabby Williams, a senior accounting major from Lyndhurst, Ohio, and Alex Nachreiner, a junior accounting and finance major from Omaha, completed the team. All four students are part of the Nebraska Business Honors Academy.

"Our discussions with the managers helped us think differently," said Williams. "The executives showed us how our facts needed to be strong to back up our recommendations."

Nemers believes the lack of preparation time allowed them to make decisions quickly. Team members decided their roles and got to work.

"We know they will make mistakes, but they get experience working with a Fortune 150 company. It's a great experience and an addition to their résumés which will help them stand out," said Rob Simon, associate professor of practice in marketing who advised the teams.

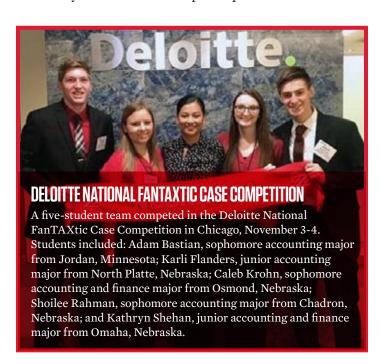
# STUDENTS PLACE AT AUDIT COMPETITION AND HEAD TO NATIONALS

A team of accounting students placed as a top team in the Deloitte Audit Innovation Campus Challenge regional competition held on November 14 in Minneapolis. Advancing to the national competition in April, the five-member team competed against 10 other universities to take the top honor.

Deloitte's annual competition gives students the chance to apply their knowledge by solving audit problems they'll likely encounter in the real world. With the support of faculty advisors Dr. Steven Hegemann and Jill Trucke, the Nebraska team presented strategies to harness new opportunities for audit firms in a constantly-evolving business landscape.

"The opportunity enabled our students to look at the auditing profession and auditing beyond the financial statements. The students envisioned how Deloitte could use new technology to extend the information provided to a wide range of stakeholders," said Hegemann, assistant professor of practice in accounting.

The Deloitte challenge statement prompted students to consider why auditing firms have a unique position to provide assurance services that could enhance the credibility of information companies publish or use in





marketing, such as environmental responsibility claims like the use of organic ingredients and product origin. Students were asked how auditing firms can use data analytics, visualizations and advanced technologies to deliver such assurance services in the most effective manner.

Following the presentation to the panel, team members responded to follow-up questions from the judges. Their interactive presentation resonated well with judges.

"The judges said our team offered a creative solution and they presented well. Our team interacted well with each other and they directly engaged the judges during the presentation and the question and answer session. It demonstrated every student equally participated and complemented each other well," said Trucke, assistant professor of practice in accounting.

The winning team members who will compete in the national competition in April include: Rebekah Birch, junior accounting and secondary business, marketing and information technology education major from Burwell, Nebraska; Samantha Karr, junior accounting major from Hastings, Nebraska; Hayden Lienemann, junior accounting major from Sidney, Nebraska; Sydney Sackmaster, junior accounting major from Grover Heights, Minnesota; Natalie Sneed, junior accounting major from Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Grant Turner, junior accounting major from Portland, Oregon.

## Beta Alpha Psi Recognized as Superior Chapter Once Again

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln chapter of Beta Alpha Psi received recognition as a superior chapter for the 2016–17 academic year. As part of the honor, the chapter received \$500 courtesy of KPMG and the KPMG Foundation.

Deb Cosgrove, associate professor of practice in accounting and faculty advisor, said each time the chapter receives this honor, she is "thrilled" as Beta Alpha Psi fills an important role in students' college careers.

"Our chapter activities introduce students to potential employers and give them a chance to think about who they want to work for. We emphasize how students will have a choice in employers and need to know how to make a wise decision about the start of their career," said Cosgrove. "We also have activities designed to help students navigate the interview process and develop professional skills to benefit them after graduation. The tremendous growth in membership and extremely active schedule indicate students find value in the organization and are willing to work very hard to accomplish our goals."

The chapter requires individual members to complete hours in both professional and service activities in order to maintain personal standing with the chapter. Some of the activities include a highway cleanup, volunteering at People City Mission, organizing the Meet the Firms event and tutoring students in lower level accounting and finance classes.



Also, Beta Alpha Psi sent three teams to the regional meeting in St. Louis in the spring to compete in best practice competitions. One of the teams received first place and two of the teams placed second in their respective competitions. The chapter also sent 10 students to the national meeting this year in Anaheim, California.

"Earning superior standing as a chapter is an honor. Every year we aim for it. It is nice to be recognized for the many hours of volunteer and community work and all the time we dedicate to make the organization successful," said Jordan Hoeft, treasurer for Beta Alpha Psi and a graduate student from Holdrege, Nebraska.

Open to accounting, finance and information systems students, Beta Alpha Psi includes students who take at least a 300 level or higher class in their area of study, have been enrolled at Nebraska for at least one semester and earned a cumulative GPA over 3.0. It provides opportunities for self-development, service and association among members and a sense of ethical, social and public responsibility.



## **CPA EXAM PASS RATES**

The following tables show the pass rates of Nebraska accounting graduates for 2016 compared to two peer groups: the Big Ten Conference universities and our accreditation peer group. The accreditation peer group is comprised of land grand universities that have attributes (enrollments, faculty size, programs, etc.) similar to the Nebraska accounting program.

There are three tables for each group: one that shows the overall pass rates for candidates taking the exam for the first time, one that shows the pass rates for all sections taken for first-time candidates and another one that shows the pass rates for all sections taken for all candidates, including repeat candidates.

Note: As of the printing of this edition of The Ledger, the 2017 statistics were incomplete and therefore not reported.

Institution	Undergrad # of Candidates	Undergrad A Events	ll Undergrad Avg Score	Grad # Of Candidates	Grad All Events	Grad Avg Sco	
University of Iowa	138	72%	79	21	79%	80	
Jniversity of Wisconsin-Madison	169	84%	83	28	88%	84	
Northwestern University	10	95%	83	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Michigan State University	282	73%	79	71	71%	77	
Jniversity of Nebraska	77	73%	78	33	75%	79	
Pennsylvania State University	265	50%	71	78	82%	82	
ndiana University-Bloomington	264	67%	77	63	66%	78	
Jniversity of Michigan	76	53%	71	42	82%	81	
Jniversity of Illinois-Urbana Champaign	523	71%	79	152	65%	76	
Ohio State University	363	62%	75	59	78%	81	
Jniversity of Minnesota	129	62%	75	41	78%	79	
Jniversity of Maryland	194	66%	77	55	51%	72	
Purdue University	175	49%	71	13	71%	79	
Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey - Newark	192	25%	61	82	46%	70	
1edian	184	66%	77	55	75%	79	
SECTION RATES FOR FIRST	-TIME	CANDI	DATES (	Big Ten C	omparison	)	
Institution		AUD	BEC		FAR	REG	
Iorthwestern University		83%	100	%	83%	88%	
Iniversity of Illinois-Urbana Champaign		63%	859	%	66%	63%	
Purdue University		41%	699	%	45%	42%	
ndiana University-Bloomington		59%	899	%	62%	55%	
University of Iowa		68%		%	69%		
Iniversity of Maryland	61%		799	%	58%		
University of Michigan		71%	949	%	67%		
1ichigan State University		67%	889	%	66%	67%	
University of Minnesota		70%		%	71%	62%	
Iniversity of Nebraska		64%	869	%	63%	79%	
Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey - Newark		28%	419	%	30%	32%	
Dhio State University		55%	799	%	64%	57%	
Pennsylvania State University		61%	789	%	64%	63%	
Iniversity of Wisconsin-Madison		76%	989	%	84%	80%	
1edian		63%	869	%	65%	63%	
ALL EVENTS FOR ALL CANI	DIDATI	ES (Big	Ten Compa	rison)			
Institution	# of Candidates	All Events	Avg Score	AUD BEG	G FAR	REG	
niversity of Illinois-Urbana Champaign	866	61%	75.90 56%	78%	58%	55%	
orthwestern University	17	69%	75.10 63%	88%	71%	58%	
ndiana University-Bloomington	444	61%	75.70 59%	83%	56%	51%	
urdue University	288	46%	71.30 40%	62%	42%	45%	
Iniversity of Iowa	197	66%	77.30 60%	84%	61%	60%	
niversity of Maryland	330	55%	74.20 52%	71%	47%	50%	
niversity of Michigan	145		79.00 66%		63%	67%	
lichigan State University	440	65%	76.50 61%		59%	61%	
niversity of Minnesota	261	66%	76.80 66%		62%	63%	
niversity of Nebraska	138	68%	77.00 66%		58%	70%	
utgers - The State University of New Jersey - Newark	419	34%	66.50 34%		32%	31%	
Phio State University	535	58%	74.40 49%		58%	55%	
Pennsylvania State University	660	58%	74.50 58%		52%	54%	
Iniversity of Wisconsin-Madison	274	80%	81.60 72%		79%	76%	
Madian	700	679/	7F.0 F0%		F00/	F70/	

309

63%

75.8

59%

80%

58%

57%

Median

Institution	(A) Aspirant or (C) Comparable Institution	Undergrad # of Candidates	Undergrad All Events	Undergrad Avg Score	Grad # of Candidates	Grad All Events	Grad Avg Scor
University of Georgia	Α	227	80%	81	61	86%	83
University of Iowa	А	138	72%	79	21	79%	80
University of Florida	Α	75	82%	80	35	84%	83
University of Wisconsin - Madison	А	169	84%	83	28	88%	84
University of Tennessee at Knoxville	С	191	79%	80	55	80%	80
University of Missouri - Columbia	С	27	74%	79	44	81%	82
University of Oklahoma	С	122	62%	75	10	75%	79
Texas A&M University	Α	111	55%	73	44	69%	78
University of Nebraska		77	73%	78	33	75%	79
Pennsylvania State University	А	265	50%	71	78	82%	82
Indiana University Bloomington	Α	264	67%	77	63	66%	78
University of Arizona	Α	151	62%	75	32	70%	78
University of South Carolina	С	140	69%	78	29	76%	81
University of Kansas	С	105	64%	76	58	60%	74
University of Arkansas	С	64	60%	75	29	62%	76
University of Minnesota	А	129	62%	75	41	78%	79
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	С	257	68%	77	27	59%	70
Arizona State University	А	266	62%	76	26	68%	76
University of Alabama	С	277	60%	75	41	71%	79
University of Houston	С	306	50%	70	127	59%	73
Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey - Newark	С	192	25%	61	82	46%	70
Median		151	64%	75.6	41	75%	79.2

Institution	(A) Aspirant or	AUD	BEC	FAR	REG
	(C) Comparable Institution				
University of Alabama	С	56%	71%	61%	60%
Arizona State University	Α	56%	82%	52%	58%
University of Arizona	Α	52%	80%	58%	64%
University of Arkansas	С	57%	79%	66%	54%
University of Florida	Α	80%	92%	91%	75%
University of Georgia	Α	78%	90%	82%	78%
Indiana University Bloomington	Α	59%	89%	62%	55%
University of Iowa	Α	68%	90%	69%	60%
University of Kansas	С	56%	82%	57%	51%
University of Minnesota	А	70%	81%	71%	62%
University of Missouri - Columbia	С	79%	91%	78%	74%
University of Nebraska		64%	86%	63%	79%
Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey - Newark	С	28%	41%	30%	32%
University of Oklahoma	С	56%	78%	61%	63%
Pennsylvania State University	Α	61%	78%	64%	63%
University of South Carolina	С	62%	82%	67%	66%
University of Tennessee at Knoxville	С	71%	93%	78%	71%
Texas A&M University	Α	74%	89%	76%	69%
University of Houston	С	51%	57%	48%	54%
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	С	62%	81%	70%	51%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	Α	76%	98%	84%	80%
Median		62%	82%	66%	63%

Institution	(A) Aspirant or (C) Comparable Institution	# of Candidates	All Events	Avg Score	AUD	BEC	FAR	REG
University of Alabama	С	405	56%	74.40	50%	61%	58%	56%
Arizona State University	Α	365	58%	74.50	54%	75%	48%	55%
University of Arizona	Α	230	59%	74.50	58%	68%	51%	62%
University of Arkansas	С	143	53%	74.10	51%	62%	54%	48%
Jniversity of Florida	Α	156	81%	81.10	80%	89%	83%	72%
Jniversity of Georgia	A	349	78%	80.90	76%	86%	77%	73%
ndiana University Bloomington-Indianapolis	A	444	61%	75.70	59%	83%	56%	51%
University of Iowa	Α	197	66%	77.30	60%	84%	61%	609
University of Kansas	С	230	57%	73.90	54%	74%	53%	49%
University of Minnesota	Α	261	66%	76.80	66%	76%	62%	639
Jniversity of Missouri - Columbia	С	169	74%	79.80	73%	86%	72%	669
Jniversity of Nebraska		138	68%	77.00	66%	83%	58%	70%
Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey - Newark	С	419	34%	66.50	34%	39%	32%	31%
Jniversity of Oklahoma	С	169	58%	74.40	48%	69%	57%	599
Pennsylvania State University	A	660	58%	74.50	58%	68%	52%	549
Jniversity of South Carolina	С	237	63%	76.50	60%	73%	62%	60%
University of Tennessee at Knoxville	С	293	72%	78.20	64%	86%	70%	699
Texas A&M University	Α	472	70%	78.20	68%	84%	66%	629
Jniversity of Houston	С	576	46%	70.20	43%	48%	44%	489
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	С	365	59%	75.20	58%	72%	60%	479
University of Wisconsin - Madison	A	274	80%	81.60	72%	94%	79%	76%
Median		274	61%	75.7	59%	75%	58%	609

#### **NEBRASKA RECENT HISTORY**

	First-Time Car	ndidates Without Advanced	First-Time Candidates With Advanced Degrees					
Year	Undergrad # of Candidates	Undergrad All Events	Undergrad Avg Score	Grad # Of Candidates	Grad All Events	Grad Avg Score		
2016	77	73%	78.30	33	75%	79.10		
2015	69	64%	76.00	38	75%	79.00		
2014	58	62%	77.00	39	74%	80.00		
2013	63	65%	75.80	30	81%	82.10		
2012	56	72%	79.50	24	68%	78.50		
Median		65%	77.00		75%	79.00		

## **EMPLOYMENT & PLACEMENT RATE**

**Undergraduate** average starting salary:

\$45,253

MPA average starting salary:

\$48,196

## **Employment Self-Reported** at Time of Graduation

Employment status upon graduation:

- 91% of undergraduates employed or seeking higher education (54% employed and 35% were seeking higher education)
- 94% of MPA graduates employed

#### **Spring Internships for Accounting 990 Credit**

Firm	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
BKD	3	4	3	5	3	3	3	5	4	4	3	6	5	51
Bland & Associates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
BMG CPAs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	5
Dana F. Cole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	5
Deloitte & Touche	4	6	1	1	2	2	1	3	5	5	3	1	2	36
DHHS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Grant Thornton	0	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HBE	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	11
Kennedy & Coe	2	1	Ο	0	Ο	1	Ο	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
KPMG	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	2	0	22
Labenz & Associates	0	0	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	Ο	0	1	1	1	0	1	4
Lutz & Company	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	5	14
McDermott & Miller	0	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McGladrey & Pullen	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Micek & Crouch	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Molex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Neil Balfour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
PWC	1	1	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Sandhills Publishing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Seim Johnson	0	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Shotkoski & Associates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
SP Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	5
State of Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ueberrheim & Micek	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
UNL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Valmont Industries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
VanderVeen & Goracke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	13	15	8	8	8	8	9	14	18	18	19	18	22	178

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

#### Fellowships Awarded to Students in the Master of Professional Accountancy Program

**FELLOWSHIP** 

Hannah Fahrlander

RSM FELLOWSHIP Carson Ohm, Jennifer Rivera

SCHLEIGER FELLOWSHIP

**FELLOWSHIP** 

#### **CHARLES WILLIAM FOWLER FELLOWSHIP**

Bryce Blycker, Tao Bo, Oana Costea, Jake Derr, Kristen Harvey, Colin Nathan, Eric Oman, Bryce Tarletsky, Tanner Weir

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Ying Yu

#### DELOITTE AND TOUCHE FELLOWSHIP

Kylie Garza, Dominic Richardson

#### GEORGE AND EVELYN BREWSTER FELLOWSHIP

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Seth Barkley, Zach Crom, Reid Hammitt, Marc Herrmann, Deric Hoch, Zachary Holm, Dakota Magrew, Benjamin McQuiston, Ryan Montgomery, Austin Sankey, Haojun Zhang

#### JOHN AND NOREEN GOEBEL ENDOWED ACCOUNTANCY FELLOWSHIP

Jacob Richardson

#### Scholarships Awarded by the Foundation of The Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants

Fares Afshoonkar Hannah Marie DeRouchey Morgan Dinkel Keali French Matthew Hall Taylor Hoyt Carter Rolf Johnson McKenna Kime Anna Laurel Koeneke Sophie Renae Lottman Vien Nguyen Jennifer Mick Charles Mosher Morgan Rademacher Lauren Witte Christopher James Yant

#### Scholarship Awarded by the Lincoln Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants

Sydney Sackmaster

#### Scholarships Awarded to Undergraduate Students Majoring in Accounting

#### ALAN M. ROSEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Kathryn Van Der Bosch

#### ALLAN AND BARBARA SOSHNIK MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Wyatt Bell

#### AUDLEY NOEL SULLIVAN, SR SCHOLARSHIP

Benjamin Lapke

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Megan Peterson, Jordan Pethoud, Ashley Quiring, Kelsee

Richardson, Weiva Wang, Katherine Warneke

Truc Duong, Derek Meyer, Tyler Rump

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#### CHARLES AND ALAIRE BARKES SHIELDS **SCHOLARSHIP**

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Agron Schwartz

#### CONRAD SCHLEICH SCHOLARSHIP

**Brandon Frates** 

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Wyatt Whitaker

#### DAVID S. MCINTIRE SCHOLARSHIP

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Morgan Dinkel, Thomas Engelkamp, Mikayla Kreifels

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Mikayla Kreifels

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Natalie Sneed

#### **HUPKA FAMILY STUDENT SUPPORT FUND**

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Caleb Dostal, Alex Johnson

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#### MORRIS I. BERVIN SCHOLARSHIP

Natalie Sneed

#### MR. AND MRS. RAYMOND WATSON SCHOLARSHIP

James Brune. Brian Wilmes

#### NED B. EASTLACK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ashley Kontor, Kathryn Van Der Bosch

#### PAUL AND PATRICIA MENDLIK SCHOLARSHIP **FUND**

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#### RICHARD L. HOFMANN SCHOLARSHIP

Anna Koeneke, Derek Mikus

#### ROBERT AND GAYLE JONES SCHOLARSHIP FOR COB

Nixon Nerud

#### ROBERT AND JOSEPHINE KOUDELE **SCHOLARSHIP**

Jacob Dobson, Abby Kile, Bronc McKay, Gerik Moeller, Joseph Paczko, Anthony Zoucha

#### ROBERT CHALMERS GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP -COB

Daniel Cappo, Wyatt Whitaker



We apologize for any mistakes. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Aaron Crabtree, director of the School of Accountancy.

#### **PARTNERS**

Lifetime gifts of \$50,000 either outright or in annual gifts of \$5,000 or more.

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