

NEBRASKA LEDGER

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN • 2019



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY
College of Business

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

How can we continue to best prepare tomorrow's accounting leaders for our evolving discipline? What does the future look like for accounting firms? Technology, new legislation and big data act as catalysts in increasing the speed of change for our field. In this issue of *The Nebraska Ledger*, you will hear how people like you are committed to helping us answer these questions with action. You – our supporters, alumni and business partners – propel our students to be ready to rise to these and future challenges through your support of the School of Accountancy.

Through these stories, I hope you will see how your support impacts our students and faculty. Your investments of time, talent or treasure benefited our students in three distinct ways:

Doing more from day one. Teaching assistantships for MPA students through this spring created a win-win for faculty and students. Students received fresh, relevant case studies in classes to further drive their critical thinking skills (pages 4-5). With TAs helping to grade, faculty can focus on building and facilitating these real-world case studies that bring part of the profession into the course.

Finding their strengths and stretching them. Faculty improved how they teach data analytics to stretch students' abilities in utilizing data to find and implement creative solutions to business problems. Focused on the future, students like Riley Linder found a new strength within analytics that will help keep them ahead of the curve (pages 8-9).

Believing in the power of every person. With the focus on data analytics, your gifts provided RAM and software students need to excel. You helped push students to success by funding travel expenses for case competition teams like our Huskers who won the regional Deloitte FanTAXtic Competition. Furthermore, 125 undergraduates out of 591 received a scholarship (a total of \$185,000) and every MPA out of 59 received a fellowship (a total of \$75,000) because you believed in their ability to lead the future of business.

With your continued support, we grow flexible and strong minds while also building a premier accounting program. Together. That's how we do big things.

Go Big Red!



Aaron D. Crabtree
Director, School of Accountancy



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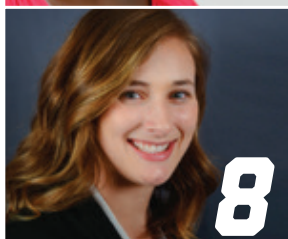
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Teaching Assistants Help Faculty Stay on Cutting Edge

Nebraska accounting professors utilize the support of MPA teaching assistants (TAs) to provide cutting-edge learning experiences. Tony Zoucha, '18, offers TA support through current case studies to help students understand how coursework applies to their future careers.

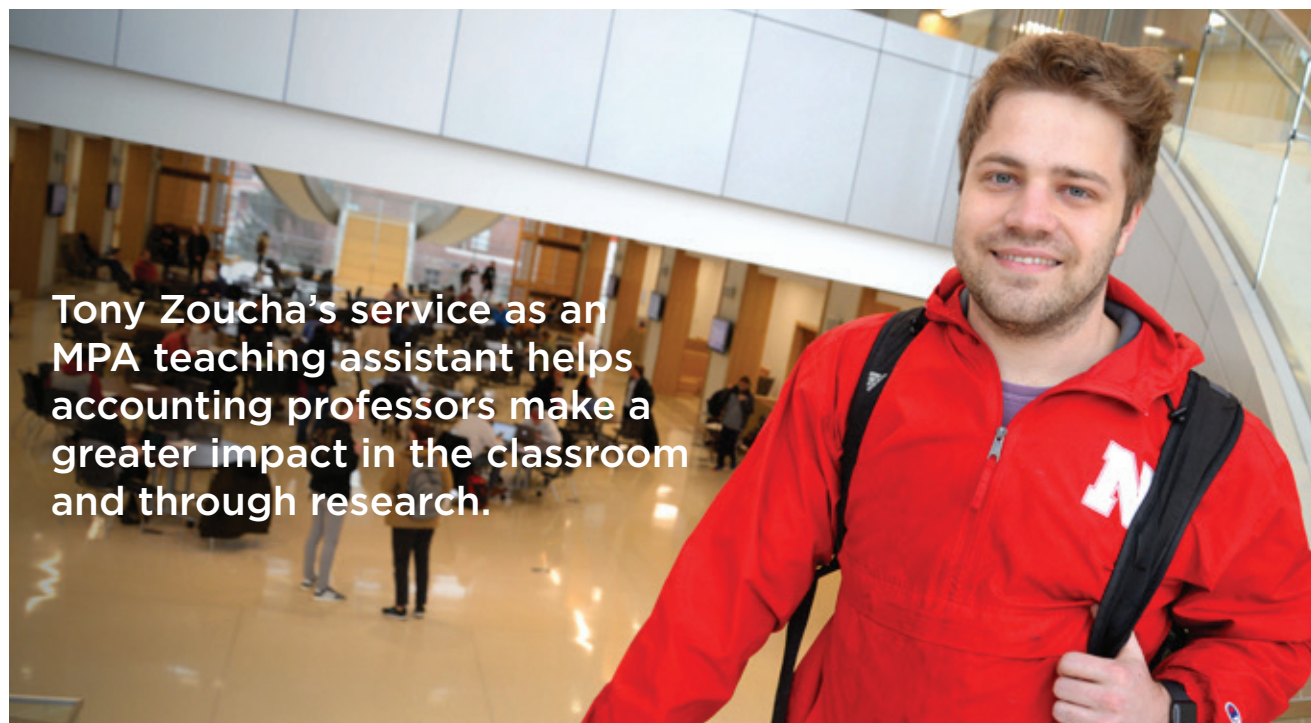
"I worked on case studies as an undergraduate and still do in my master's classes," said Zoucha. "The case studies help them learn industry standards by showing real-world problems. Students are pitched a problem and then get into details of figuring out how accounting standards are applied. We dig in and see first-hand what accountants face."

Dr. Aaron Crabtree asked Zoucha to become a TA based on his abilities as an undergraduate. He believes Zoucha and the donors, Stacy and Hubert Ban (see page 5), who fund his TA position help for the school to stay on the leading edge of learning.

"When you get into the real world, you face complex problems with many moving parts and no 'right' answer. The best way to help students is using cases that bring part of the profession into the course. They get early and repeated exposure to those situations. Without TA assistance grading those case studies, it would not be practical for us to continue to focus on cases and data analysis in our courses," said Crabtree.

Dr. Jimmy Downes, assistant professor of accountancy, works with Zoucha and other TAs. He sees the symbiotic relationship as ideal for helping MPA students better understand the material they learned as undergraduates.

"The TAs relieve my time in terms of grading, which is great, but it's also beneficial in helping TAs develop critical thinking skills when grading case studies. They get a new understanding of the



material when they're teaching it to someone else. They think they understand it as an undergraduate but it's a whole other world when they relate it to other students," said Downes.

Without the funding supporting the TA positions, Downs believes his role as a teacher and researcher would be negatively impacted.

"To the extent we can develop new cases each semester, it's much more beneficial to students to receive fresh, relevant material that drives their critical thinking skills. Cases take time to develop. Even though I'm still facilitating the case study discussion in class, the fact I don't have to do all the grading means I can put time toward valuable things such as creating new cases," he said.

Zoucha, who plans to work at Deloitte in an auditing job after he completes his master's, took on the TA challenge even though he already worked part-time at Nelnet. He evolved to become a primary research assistant of Downes.

"Dr. Downes gives me 10-K reports (summary of a company's financial performance), and I grab the data to complete an Excel worksheet for him to analyze later. I get research experience through the lower end work and then he can spend the time developing case studies. Seeing and understanding the research side has been enlightening and valuable for my future," Zoucha explained.



Tony Zoucha consults with Dr. Jimmy Downes about a research project.

WHY WE GIVE BACK

STACY AND HUBERT BAN

By Hubert Ban, Vice President Technical Accounting & SEC Reporting at Salesforce.com

I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, and went to Omaha Westside High School. I chose to go to college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln because of its recognized business school.

Nebraska prepared me for my accounting career. It provided the education and confidence to go forward in public accounting at Deloitte, KMPG, Greyhound and now Salesforce.com, headquartered in San Francisco. As I look back, the professors and the teaching assistants we had did a great job in helping me understand how to problem solve.

We give back because we would not be where we are in our lives without the University of Nebraska and the School of Accountancy. My Nebraska experiences

provided me the springboard to achieve certain career goals and financially to give back to the school. MPA TAs perform an integral role and they help students connect to the program.

Having become much more involved with the School of Accountancy now, I see how Dr. Aaron Crabtree and his team of professors, advisors and teaching assistants are continuously improving these fantastic accounting programs. The MPA TAs help lead case study discussions, learn the topic in depth and also assist with data collection for research. In doing these things, they provide impactful and useful experiences that can be taken directly to the working world.

We give back to assure students get a real-world, meaningful experience through case studies and assistance from MPA TAs.





Mayte Dingman's enthusiasm for accounting propelled her on a non-traditional path at the university.

Dingman Called to Service in Class and for Country

Mayte Dingman possesses a contagious enthusiasm for accounting. Whether in the classroom, visiting professors, meeting her advisor or even working in the finance office for the U.S. Air Force, accounting fires her up. Although she started on her accounting major a few years later than most of her classmates, her commitment to serve helps drive her to get her degree.

“It may sound silly, but I’ve had my mind set on accounting since high school,” said Dingman, a junior originally from Phoenix. “I took an accounting class and was just a natural. I would finish before classmates and then could help other students with their work.”

Financial difficulties made it hard for her to pay for community college early on, so she dropped out and worked full-time at an accounting firm. Then a friend told her the military would be an avenue to help fund her degree.

“After looking at the branches, I felt the Air Force would challenge my intellect and I ended up fitting in great. I met my husband, who is also in the Air Force, and moved to Nebraska to be with him five years ago,” she said.

In addition to military service, the couple have two daughters, and Dingman also holds the position of treasurer in the Student Veterans Organization. Nevertheless, she still finds time to help out when classmates struggle with accounting problems.

Jina Morris, MPA coordinator and assistant professor of practice, witnesses Dingman putting in the hard work to make helping others possible.

“If Mayte didn’t know something, she would come in my office and get her head wrapped around the subject matter. She did that at the beginning of the semester rather than waiting for an exam to go badly. Then, she always sat in the front of class and helped other students with the material,” said Morris.



Mayte Dingman finds time to help other accounting students despite obligations to family and the U.S. Air Force.

Dingman enrolled at Nebraska in the spring of 2018. Her initial hesitation about attending a big university soon evaporated.

“The first semester I wondered if I could do it. As long as I put in the effort, I found the professors helped guide me. They are very approachable and want to learn about their students. The tutoring in the Teaching and Learning Center shows they want people to succeed. It’s been a phenomenal experience at Nebraska,” she said.

Ashley Wegener, business advising and student engagement program coordinator and academic advisor, worked with Dingman to get her community college credit hours transferred.

“Mayte knew what she wanted to accomplish and is always gung-ho about getting it done,” said Wegener. “She does a great job balancing academics with her family and military. We also talk about earning her CPA and her next steps.”

After graduation, Dingman plans to pursue an MPA at Nebraska. She believes it can be a springboard to wherever her career takes her.

“I put a lot of thought into where I wanted to go to school,” said Dingman. “I decided on Nebraska because I wanted that prestige – when someone sees where I graduated, they say, ‘Wow, that’s a good school!’ Nebraska was the best choice for me.”

Linder Adds Data Analytics to Her Skill Set

Riley Linder, '16 and '17, readied herself for an evolving accounting career during her MPA program at Nebraska. A data analytics class not only challenged her, but added skills that set her up for future success.

"I didn't know anything about big data or how to write code before

taking the data analytics class," said Linder, a tax professional at Deloitte in Omaha. "I had to learn the basics of how to write code and pull out tables to summarize the data. Then we would create a dashboard in Tableau presentation software in the same way you would do it to present to a client or partner. It was fascinating."

Dr. Tom Omer, professor and Delmar Lienemann Sr. Chair of Accounting, co-developed the class with Dr. Marjorie Shelley, professor of accountancy. They tailor projects for students such as analyzing purchasing card data usage.

"Dr. Omer stressed that big data is the future. You might be able to get by your first year or two, but in 10 years everyone will be using data analytics because the data is getting bigger and bigger, and the ability to analyze it is critical. He was always future-oriented and stressed even if you don't use it immediately, you'll be glad you have that knowledge," she said.

Shelley articulated firms continue to impress upon them the analytical and presentation skills accountancy graduates must possess.

"The job skills students need have changed just in the time current students have been in school," said Shelley. "We're trying to do something for students before they graduate that will help them succeed. We show students how to take data visualizations to a dashboard and do risk analysis in seconds, which used to take days."



Riley Linder learned the importance of data analytics in her MPA program.

Omer regularly attends meetings with professionals in the accountancy field. He stressed the data analytics course arose out of the needs expressed by those working in the industry.

“One meeting had a panel with members of the Big Four accounting firms,” said Omer. “They were adamant if students aren’t graduating with some notion of analytic skills, there isn’t going to be a job for them. Students need to learn to be part of a team where they understand what the analysis is, what they’re going to do with the data and where the data comes from.”

Linder’s co-workers at Deloitte echoed Omer’s sentiments.

“They’ve come up to me and said, ‘I wish I had taken a course like that in college. That’s information I need to know,’” said Linder. “We have a team at the forefront of data analytics, and even in tax we’re using it more. As the data gets bigger, we can’t always send it off to others and need to learn how to do it on our own.”

Linder sees analytics as even more crucial on the auditing side at Deloitte. Her personal goal to maintain knowledge in the area of big data relates to how she sees her field changing.

“The more you learn about data analytics now, the better off you’ll be in your career in the future. I plan to stay ahead of the curve.”



Dr. Tom Omer emphasized the future growth of big data in accounting.

CAREER OUTCOMES 2017-18

\$47,670
UNDERGRADUATE
AVERAGE
STARTING SALARY

91%
UNDERGRADUATE
EMPLOYED OR
SEEKING HIGHER
EDUCATION

\$50,889
MPA AVERAGE
SALARY

95%
MPA GRADUATE
EMPLOYED



Sneed: Tutoring Beyond a Grade

For Natalie Sneed, tutoring means more than just helping someone get a better test grade. It's about assisting her peers to find a way to stretch their own strengths and form better habits and skills to use throughout their lives.

After enrolling at Nebraska, her friends sought her help when struggling in the Introductory Accounting I (ACCT 201) course. Explaining the subject matter to her friends, Sneed realized she had a knack for teaching accounting. Unsure of how to pursue her desire to help others, she asked former dean of the College of Business, Dr. Donde Plowman.

"I told her I wanted to be a peer mentor for Accounting 201. She immediately went to talk to Dr. Crabtree and I started the very next week," she said.

During her fourth semester tutoring, a student came for help three weeks prior to the final exam, averaging a 55 on all of her previous exams. The student needed at least an 85 to pass the class, which would be difficult. Thanks to the time spent working with Sneed the next few weeks, the student earned a 98 on the final exam.

"I was thrilled. I was at a point where I was on the fence whether to keep tutoring because of my full schedule. Her grade renewed my energy to tutor another semester because it was tangible evidence that I had an impact on people's lives," she shared.

She also feels accomplished knowing she can help students find support and resources.

"For some students, they need support they don't know how to ask for, like going to the Services for Students with Disabilities Office. Test anxiety is a difficult concept to explain. Not a lot of students know you are not supposed to be so nervous taking a test that you cannot think straight. So being able to identify those things and point them in the right direction is important," she said.

Tutoring positions shifted into the Teaching and Learning Center when Howard L. Hawks Hall opened in fall 2017. Students could also request a study skills tutor specifically.

"The study skills tutor may know nothing about the course material, but can help create a plan for how to learn it. Even when doing subject specific tutoring, people need to understand it is all about skills," she explained.

"Understanding how to tackle a class is going to help you for the rest of your life because you are learning how to solve a problem. There is a lot of extraneous problem solving you end up doing outside of accounting."

Tutoring never came without challenges, and Sneed faced her fair share. As a person whom accounting always felt natural, she needed to remind herself to empathize with students who did not feel the same way.

"By my fourth semester tutoring, everything felt so easy, I had to remember the challenge of it all. I reminded myself I was not talking to people who do this every day. I was talking to people who have never seen it before and never want to again. So not losing perspective on level of difficulty is important. I had to be able to diagnose their problems. They don't know what's wrong. They just know something isn't working," explained Sneed.

Sneed ends her undergraduate career at Nebraska proudly, as not

only a dedicated tutor and student, but also as a Chancellor's Scholar, the highest academic award the university gives to those who earned an A in every undergraduate class. Only 40 student scholars share the distinction in her entire graduating class this spring. Starting her MPA at Nebraska in the fall, the future she envisions for herself looks different from when she first arrived at the college.

"Being a tutor gave me more of a sense of belonging at Nebraska. I felt I was an integral part of what was going on here and that made my overall experience a lot more positive. Helping students out gave me more of a sense of purpose beyond just going to class," said Sneed. "Tutoring was the first thing that ever made me consider teaching. If you had asked me a couple years ago, I would have said I would never do that. Now I could definitely see becoming a professor one day. It definitely made me consider a path I would not have otherwise."



Natalie Sneed sees how tutoring can help anyone, even Herbie Husker.



WHY I GIVE BACK

CARRIE WEBER, '96

By Carrie Weber, CPA, ALMI, Senior Vice President - Risk & Compliance at Ameritas®

Growing up, one of the values instilled in me was generosity – giving in whatever way you could, whether that be time, expertise or resources. This always stuck with me and today my husband and I work to raise our family with this same appreciation for generosity.

I give back because I am thankful for the great start I received at Nebraska. The School of Accountancy provided me with a solid foundation intellectually and cultivated the desire to serve in industry and in the community. Earning my accounting degree from Nebraska gave me a well-rounded base of accounting, business and leadership skills. This allowed me success in my role in public accounting and also prepared me for my other subsequent roles in private industry. Working at amazing companies throughout my career, each place provided additional opportunities for me to learn new skills and expand my knowledge and leadership.

I give back in order to enable the School of Accountancy to continue offering its excellent programs. As I have watched the evolution of the School of Accountancy these last few years, it is exciting to see the programs continue to change to meet the evolving needs of employers, students and the business world.

I also give back with my time in training and mentoring current students to hopefully instill in them confidence for a bright and exciting future. As I have interacted with students through practice interviews, internships and as a guest speaker in classes, I am amazed at the drive and desire of these students to maximize their learning to enable them to have a great start right out of school.

These transformational experiences inspire me to keep giving each year as I am energized by the future talent coming through the School of Accountancy and excited about what they can teach me once they enter the workforce.

The School of Accountancy provided me with so much. Giving back is a great pleasure.

Carrie Weber
with her family,
including
husband, Eric,
and daughters:
Hope (19), Eve
(16) and Zoe (10).

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE NEBRASKA

From Africa to Nebraska, Dr. Herita Akamah returned to the place where she found her passion of teaching others to build future business leaders.

Cameroon native, Dr. Herita Akamah, '07, assistant professor of accountancy, found a deep connection between Central Africa and Lincoln, Nebraska. The bonds found through the culture brought her to Nebraska twice – first as an MPA student and almost 10 years later as faculty – making Nebraska the perfect home away from her homeland.

“The culture in Nebraska made it easy to integrate,” said Akamah, whose parents also now live in Lincoln. “For a younger person moving to a foreign country there are adjustments to make, but the cultural shock is harder for an older person. Nebraska is so welcoming. People you pass say ‘hello’ and ask how you’re doing. My dad was waiting for a bus when we first got here and someone asked if he needed a ride. When I was looking for a faculty position, I was thinking about what would be a good job for me professionally, but also the right environment for my parents.”

Akamah completed her master’s degree in 2007, worked at a CPA firm in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and then earned her Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Oklahoma. Her efforts led to the fulfillment of a dream to become a professor she did not know was possible when she first moved to the U.S.

“In Cameroon, I had no problem tutoring anyone,” she said. “When I came to Nebraska, I wondered if people could even understand what I was saying. When that barrier is standing in your way how can you teach anything?”



Working with other students in the MPA program, she found American students gravitating to her in study sessions. Her ability to help others progressed rapidly.

“When we started having study groups it was just me and one classmate. Then he brought two friends and over time the group grew. It often turned into a teaching session with me going to the board to give instruction. I figured out the language wasn’t much of a barrier after all,” said Akamah.

Dr. Aaron Crabtree wasted little time providing Akamah the opportunity to utilize her teaching skills at Nebraska when she joined in 2016. He assigned her to Intermediate Accounting II (ACCT 314), which he believes is a lynchpin course for student success.

“Herita teaches the hardest course we offer. Watching her interact with students and answer their questions validates we hired a good teacher. Employers go to that course to see how students performed because if you don’t understand financial accounting you can’t audit, you can’t

make the adjustments to tax and you can’t manage the finances. Having a fundamental grasp of those concepts is vital,” said Crabtree.

He also praised Akamah for strengthening the research prestige of the school. She won a best paper award at the International Accounting Section of the American Accounting Association for an early paper examining how transactions with tax payments affect the way U.S. multinational companies comply with reporting requirements.

“That paper let me interact a lot more with international people. It created new contacts which continues to spur other international research. It also provided encouragement that I have chosen the right path,” she said.

She also knows she made the right choice with Nebraska.

“Having my family around and having their support is wonderful,” she said. “Anytime I wonder if I made the right choice, I just talk to my parents and they tell me, ‘You made the perfect choice.’”

FACULTY UPDATES



Dr. Aaron Crabtree Director of the School of Accountancy, Associate Professor

This year I'm been busy learning and teaching the new tax laws.

I accompanied students to Minneapolis in September for an Employer Experience. During the trip, hosts at each firm shared information about jobs and internships, recent initiatives and more.



Dr. Arthur Allen Associate Professor

I taught Intermediate and Advanced Accounting. I also published the article "Managerial Compensation and Private Foundation Performance."



Dr. Herita Akamah Assistant Professor

The new lease accounting standard made for an interesting Intermediate Accounting II class in the fall. The students compared the old and new lease accounting standards from a U.S. GAAP and an IFRS perspective. They used knowledge from these comparisons, Tableau and historical data on lease related financial items to explain current corporate practices and speculate on the impact of the new lease accounting standard on future corporate practices. My research projects examine how management incentives, corporate stakeholders and institutional norms affect corporate disclosures. I also led a discussion at a new faculty doctoral consortium in Miami. I continue to serve on the board of Lincoln Literacy Center, where I try to leverage my accounting knowledge to further the cause of bringing literacy – very broadly defined – to the community. As part of this effort, I examined the internal controls and offered recommendations for strengthening them.



Dr. Dirk Black Assistant Professor

I joined the faculty this fall. My experience during my first academic year at Nebraska has been welcoming and productive. My current research explores how managers use performance signals versus their first impressions of employee ability in promotion decisions, and how managers use discretion in financial reporting to construct and influence earnings measures. In January 2019, I received an Outstanding Reviewer Award from the Management Accounting Section of the American Accounting Association for service to the *Journal of Management Accounting Research*. I taught in the MPA program Seminar in Financial Accounting and Business Valuation and Financial Statement Analysis. I also served on the faculty recruiting committee for the college and on Daun Jang's dissertation committee during this academic year.



Deb Cosgrove Associate Professor of Practice

I teach Accounting Information Systems and Advanced Information Systems and serve as both the Beta Alpha Psi and Deloitte Audit Innovation team faculty advisor. Nebraska's Beta Alpha Psi chapter gained international recognition as a distinguished chapter in 2018, which acknowledges how our chapter exceeded requirements and excelled in the areas of academics, professionalism and leadership. Beta Alpha Psi also recognized me as an Outstanding Faculty Advisor.



Dr. Stuart Dearden Assistant Professor

I joined the faculty this fall and teach the senior and master's level audit courses. I previously served as an auditor for KPMG, auditing clients in a variety of industries, sizes and regulatory environments. Using my public accounting experience, I enjoy sharing with students issues relevant to auditors. My research focuses on audit quality, auditor bias and audit-office issues. In particular, some of my research examines the joint impact of auditor tenure and a client's risk profile on auditor bias and the adverse effect late-filing clients have on other clients sharing an audit office. I also serve as an ad hoc reviewer at the *Journal of Accounting, Auditing & Finance* and for audit sectional, regional and annual accounting meetings.



Dr. Jimmy Downes Assistant Professor

In the classroom, I completed my fifth semester of teaching Intermediate Accounting II to junior-level accounting undergraduates. I continue to work on research focusing on managers' investment policies and investors' understanding of economic transactions that require complex accounting. My research specifically focuses on the consequences of multinational tax policy and the accounting for cash flow hedges. In the past year, my research published in the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* and *Accounting Horizons*. In 2018, I presented at the AAA Financial Accounting Reporting Section Midyear meeting and the European Accounting Association Annual Congress. I also volunteer as a referee for journals and serve as a discussant at national AAA meetings.



Dr. Amanda Gonzales Assistant Professor

Teaching Intermediate Accounting, I love inspiring the next generation of accountants by weaving current events and innovation in accounting standards into the classroom. This year I was recognized by the UNL Parents Association with a certificate of recognition for contributions to students. I was also selected to serve on the organizing committee for the 2020 FASB Financial Reporting Issues Conference. One topic I am researching is the financial reporting effects of alternative accounting treatments for pollution reduction programs, an area of interest to both accountants and environmental policy stakeholders.



Dr. Steven Hegemann Assistant Professor of Practice

I currently teach Introductory Accounting I and Fraud Examination and incorporate my experience as associate director at Navigant Consulting in New York City in leading forensic accounting investigations. This year, I received a certificate of recognition for contributions to students from the UNL Parents Association, three Outstanding Educator of the Year awards from the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and an Outstanding Professor Award from Delta Sigma Pi professional business fraternity.



Dr. Tony Kang Deloitte Chair and Associate Professor

I currently teach Financial Accounting to MBA students, Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation to MPA students, and a Capital Market Research Seminar to Ph.D. students. My main areas of research are international capital markets and corporate governance issues. More specifically, I am interested in studying capital market effects of various types of forecasts, e.g. analyst forecasts, management guidance and cross-country differences in the way accounting information is produced and used. Additionally, I serve on the MBA committee. Externally, I am an editorial board member of *Contemporary Accounting Research* and also the chair of the Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee of the International Accounting Section of the American Accounting Association.



Kathryn Maresh J.D. Assistant Professor of Practice and Executive in Residence

This year, I have been integrating the tax law changes into course curriculum, and students have applied the information learned by completing tax return projects. Additionally, students in my graduate classes researched and wrote memos addressing specific issues and planning opportunities in light of the tax law changes. Student learning has been enhanced by CPA firm participation in the research projects and student presentations in class. Additionally, I spoke as a guest speaker for the Professional and Life Skills course and the UNL Young Professionals at Nebraska group regarding practical tips and guidance under the new tax provisions. For the second year, I was faculty advisor for our Deloitte FanTAXtic Competition team. The team won the regional competition at Chicago and performed well at the January national competition at Deloitte University in Texas (see story p. 25).



Jina Morris MPA Coordinator
Assistant Professor of Practice

As the advisor for the MPA program, I get to work with our graduate students and enjoy preparing them for their careers. Managerial Accounting at the undergraduate sophomore level is the main course I lead and instruct each term. I was honored to receive my third certificate of recognition for contributions to students from the UNL Parents Association.



Dr. Thomas Omer Professor and Delmar Lienemann Sr. Chair of Accounting
Ph.D. Coordinator

I teach Accounting and Data Analytics (ACCT 850), its lab and Tax Planning (ACCT 813). For the School of Accountancy, I serve as our recruiting chair, personnel chair, Ph.D. program director and graduate director. Additionally, I serve on the college's committees for promotion and tenure, research and professorship review, and Ph.D. programs. My research continues to focus on issues related to corporate taxation, capital and organizational structure choices, factors influencing audit and non-audit fees and earnings quality. I serve as an editor for five journals including *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *Auditing: A Journal of Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Accounting Auditing and Finance*, *The International Journal of Accounting*, and *Journal of International Accounting Research*. I recently published articles in *The Accounting Review*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *Journal of International Accounting Research*, *Auditing: A Journal of Theory and Practice*, *Management Science* and *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*.



Dr. Kelli Saunders Assistant Professor

It's a great time to be an audit professor! Recent updates to the PCAOB auditing standards have produced the most significant changes to the independent auditor's report in over 70 years. We enjoyed exploring this and other topics in fall seminar in auditing and were fortunate to have representatives from the Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy, Deloitte and BKD visit class and share their expertise. This year, undergraduate students enrolled in Fraud Examination and Internal Audit visited nonprofit organizations in our community and tried to identify low-cost solutions that might strengthen controls and anti-fraud measures already in place and enhance the ability of the organizations to achieve their missions. My current research projects are also primarily focused on auditors and are related to audit quality, internal audit and financial reporting. Dr. Todd Thornock and I worked together to organize the Audit Experimental Brown Bag, offering the opportunity for experimental audit researchers to present virtual workshops and receive feedback on current projects, with enthusiastic participation from researchers across the U.S. and Canada.



Dr. Marjorie Shelley Professor

My recent courses include Accounting and Data Analytics, Seminar in Managerial Accounting, and Financial Accounting for MBAs. My recent publications are in *Management Science* and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*. My research work in progress relates to the effect on financial reporting quality of appointing a lead independent director to the board of directors. My recent service includes the college's General Committee and the School of Accountancy's Personnel Committee and Ph.D. Committee.



Dr. Todd Thornock Assistant Professor

My role as a tenure-track faculty is like a triangle. On the teaching side, I taught accounting for the first time to the Nebraska Business Honors Academy students. It was invigorating to teach the basics of accounting to these engaged and eager learners. On the research side, I was accepted for publication in academics journals, such as *Management Accounting Research* and *Journal of Management Accounting Research*, and in practitioner outlets, like *Strategic Finance*. In addition, I also have various research projects under review and other projects in early phases. I love learning more about how accounting affects individual judgment and behavior! On the service side, I enjoyed working with our Ph.D. students to mentor them as future accounting professors. I also appreciated the opportunity to interface with my colleagues in the college and the university in my committee obligations.



Jill Trucke Assistant Professor of Practice

This year, I taught Accounting for Business Decisions for business minors, Using Accounting Information for non-accounting majors, Advanced Accounting Information Systems and an accounting course for the Raikes School students. I utilized a new textbook in ACCT 409 this semester which focused on data analytics and visualizations.

In the fall, I took five students to visit accounting firms in Minneapolis. I also coordinated the Professional Development Days for accounting majors on two Friday afternoons. On the first Friday, we hosted accounting professionals who were spread out through the Hawks Hall Atrium with each one covering a different topic. Students selected a topic to visit and then every 10 minutes all students rotate to a new topic. We continued this pattern so students can visit at least six topics. On the second Friday, we presented information about résumés and the MPA program, and hosted an internship panel. I am currently preparing for the third annual high school Accounting Summit, May 29-31, which offers rising high school seniors with an overview of the many career opportunities in the accounting profession and a brief introduction of business.



Dr. Biyu Wu Assistant Professor

I teach Managerial Accounting and serve on the professor of practice faculty search committee and the grade appeals committee. My main research interests include initial public offerings (IPOs), financial reporting quality, securities regulation and auditing. One of my current working papers investigates whether IPO companies misclassify expenses prior to going public and the implications of such classification shifting for IPO price formation and post-IPO stock performance. In another working paper, coauthors and I examine the effect of Big Four auditors on management's use of optimistic language in audited financial statement disclosures. I am also working on a few other research projects related to litigation risk of IPOs, earnings management and audit quality.

CELEBRATION **OF EXCELLENCE**

Chronister, Hamm Inducted Into Hall of Fame

The School of Accountancy inducted two new members into the Hall of Fame at the annual Celebration of Excellence on October 18. Inductees included Mark Chronister, '73, who retired as partner from PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, and Don Ham, '74, who retired as partner from BKD, LLP. The inductees received praise for their years of service to the profession and School of Accountancy.

Chronister bridges business, education and nonprofit service as co-founder of Chronister Strategies Ltd. Previously a partner at Templeton Laird, he retired as an audit partner from PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, after 34 years providing expertise to financial services and higher education institutions. Known for his leadership and strategic contributions, he chaired several boards such as the Minneapolis Foundation, Minneapolis Downtown Council, University of Nebraska Foundation and St. Catherine University. As the 2016 Nebraska College of Business Master, he shared how optimism and resilience are keys to finding one's way in business and life.

"I had great accounting professors such as Dr. Raymond Dein. I told students two years ago when I came back to campus to speak as part of Masters Week, if you applied yourself, you'll have a solid foundation for a career in private, public or governmental accounting. The classes with professors like Dr. Jack Goebel influenced my career in ways I never saw at the time, but looking back, they were inflection points for me," said Chronister.

Ham retired from BKD, LLP, in 2015 after more than 35 years in public accounting. Prior to retirement, he was a member of BKD's national financial services, construction and real estate groups, and was leader of the Nebraska office's Financial Services Group. He also provided consultation for numerous mergers and acquisitions, bank regulatory filings and had various other dealings with the Federal Reserve Board and other bank regulatory agencies. He was a member of the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He served as a member of the School of Accountancy Advisory Board and currently serves on the Dean's Advisory Board.

"Until I served on their advisory boards, I probably took for granted the education I received here at Nebraska. We work hard to get an education and then we go to work. Certain schools prepare you better for your career, and I believe Nebraska and the School of Accountancy did that for me. This school produces quality alumni for our firms to hire, and we shouldn't take it for granted," said Ham.



Don Ham, '74, and Mark Chronister, '73, were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Celebration of Excellence.

In addition to the Hall of Fame induction, Dr. Aaron Crabtree, recognized more than 150 undergraduate scholarship and graduate fellowship recipients.

“This year our students received more than \$200,000 in scholarships and fellowships from alumni and donors who gave to the school, the College of Business and through the Nebraska Society of CPAs. We thank these donors for providing the funds that significantly benefit our students,” said Crabtree.

The Hall of Fame honors accounting graduates of the College of Business who have achieved state, national and/or international standing in their business endeavors and who, through their example, provide students inspiration for accomplishing their own career goals. To learn more about it and its inductees, visit: <https://business.unl.edu/accountinghof>.

Scholarships and Fellowships

Fellowships Awarded to Students in the Master of Professional Accountancy Program

CHARLES WILLIAM FOWLER FELLOWSHIP

Kathryn Berning, Joseph Paczko, Calder Rosdail

DANIEL H. MORIN FELLOWSHIP

Lu Shang

DELOITTE & TOUCHE FELLOWSHIP

Andrew Lehman

EY ACCOUNTING EXCELLENCE FUND

Daun Jang

GEORGE AND EVELYN BREWSTER SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTANCY

Fares Afshoonkar, Olivia Beier,
Nathan Jurgensmeie

GLENN W. MOOBERRY SCHOLARSHIP

Rebecca Adams, Taylor Hoyt, Ashley Kontor, YiBing Shen, Weiya Wang, Gabrielle Williams, Christopher Yant, Anthony Zoucha

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JOHN AND NOREEN GOEBEL ENDOWED ACCOUNTANCY SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP

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PHILIP G. JOHNSON GREAT PLAINS FEDERAL TAX INSTITUTE INC. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FUND

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Joshua Alberts, Benjamin Smith

SCHLEIGER FELLOWSHIP

Tao Bo, Oana Costea, Sudeep Dahanu, Kaeli French, Taylor Gehring, Ross Gerber, Melody Gipson, Zachary Holm, Nicole Hullinger, Nadiezda Karadag, Alec Lake, Robert Lewicki, Casey McNealy, Meghan Morris, Eric Neemann, Claire Ngamelue, Eric Oman, Amanda Owens, Ella Prussa, Jackson Setter, Austin Sharpe, Jackson Slechta, Bryce Tarletsky, Weijie Wang, Alec Wesslund, Erica Yound, Joseph Zach

THOMAS J. BIAGINI SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY EXCELLENCE FUND

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

Ethan Arp, Wyatt Bell, Theresa Eickmann, Claire Frevert, Taylor Hoyt, Nathan Jurgensmeier, Samantha Karr, Hayden Lienemann, Daprese Madlock, Mackenzie Joseph Mapes, Derek Mikus, Caroline Musselman, Grant Turner, Anthony Zoucha

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

Alexis Anderson

Scholarships Awarded to Undergraduate Students Majoring in Accounting

ALLAN AND BARBARA SOSHNIK MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP

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Spring Internships for Past Four Years

Year	Split Internship Program Participants*	Undergraduate Course Internship Credit	Graduate Course Internship Credit	Total Internships for Credit
2019	36	48	16	64
2018	35	52	17	69
2017	20	28	22	50
2016	15	27	18	45

*The School of Accountancy offers a split internship program to enable students to experience both the immensity and diversity of what to expect when audit and tax seasons are in full swing. Students spend half of the semester at their internship full-time and take accelerated courses for the other half. The program allows students to gain practical experience without delaying graduation plans by a semester.

CPA Exam Pass Rate for 2017

Institution	First Time Candidates Without Advanced Degrees			First Time Candidates With Advanced Degrees		
	Undergrad # of Candidates	Undergrad All Events	Undergrad Avg Score	Grad # Of Candidates	Grad All Events	Grad Avg Score
University of Georgia	181	84%	82	51	90%	83
Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison	143	80%	81	15	76%	76
University of Florida	65	75%	80	16	71%	79
Univ. of Missouri - Columbia	19	74%	80	48	76%	80
Indiana Univ. Bloomington	259	71%	78	49	79%	80
Univ. of Tenn. at Knoxville	199	71%	77	29	67%	75
Univ. of South Carolina	155	71%	77	45	71%	78
University of Nebraska	71	68%	77	23	86%	83
University of Minnesota	85	66%	76	23	73%	76
University of Oklahoma	114	65%	76	8	82%	83
University of Iowa	130	65%	77	20	91%	84
Median	130	71%	77.4	23	76%	79.6
University of Arizona	138	64%	76	27	64%	77
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ.	229	62%	75	15	58%	78
Arizona State University	231	60%	75	29	55%	70
University of Kansas	124	60%	75	45	60%	76
Texas A&M University	105	58%	73	63	74%	78
University of Arkansas	73	57%	74	45	71%	80
University of Alabama	271	54%	73	32	67%	78
Pennsylvania State Univ.	267	48%	70	53	64%	77
University of Houston	262	45%	69	101	55%	74
Rutgers University	180	27%	61	65	37%	68

Huskers Win Regional Deloitte FanTAXtic Competition

A team of four Nebraska Business students won the regional Deloitte FanTAXtic case competition held in Chicago. The students advanced and then represented Nebraska at the national competition where top teams competed for more than \$50,000 in individual scholarships.

Nebraska's team included Braelyn Isernhagen, a sophomore accounting major from Deshler, Nebraska; Ben Moe, a junior accounting major from Burnsville, Minnesota; Ashley Tyler, a junior accounting and finance major from Omaha, Nebraska; and Austin Vandersteen, a sophomore accounting major from Naperville, Illinois. They demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively to solve a complex business case simulation that provided insights and perspectives on challenges facing the profession today. At the regional competition, a panel of live and virtual judges recognized students for the quality of their overall presentation.

Isernhagen said the team spent 20-25 hours preparing for the competition. Their hard work up front proved fruitful to make the most of the competition's opportunity.

"We got experience with a tax problem that we could easily encounter in our careers someday. It was also a great way to network and gain exposure with a Big Four accounting firm like Deloitte," she said.

Kay Maresh J.D., assistant professor of practice in accountancy and executive in residence, served as the team's faculty advisor. She said the recipe for their success included stretching their strengths and not being afraid to put in the prep work to be competition-ready.

"They applied concepts learned in the classroom to solve the problem and gained valuable experience presenting and thinking on their feet to answer questions from the judges," Maresh said. "In addition to working hard, they valued each other's strengths and were supportive of each other."

They got to know each other's strengths while practicing sample

case studies and presenting them to School of Accountancy faculty. Isernhagen said each member brought a unique mixture of knowledge, experience and strengths to the team.

"Ben and Ashley utilized information they learned in a tax course this semester to give us a good start. Austin navigates Excel very well. Together we were able to put together a very professional presentation to deliver. Our professionalism and application of our tax knowledge set us apart from other teams," Isernhagen said.

The annual competition is sponsored by Deloitte Tax LLP and supported by the Deloitte Foundation.



Braelyn Isernhagen, Ashley Tyler, Ben Moe and Austin Vandersteen won the regional Deloitte FanTAXtic case competition and credit their success to leveraging team members' strengths.

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

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**“Accounting is the
language of business.”**

Warren Buffett
Class of 1951

School of Accountancy Alumni Class Notes

Katie Byrd, '13, promoted to audit manager at Lutz in Omaha, Nebraska. Also in 2018, she and her husband adopted a bernedoodle puppy named Schmidley.

James Crable, '95, works at JCBN Capital Investment, an investment management company based in Houston.

James M. Harrington, '88, recently celebrated six years as chief financial officer for Subscription Ink Co. in Shawnee, Kansas. A CPA, he currently lives in Overland Park, Kansas.

Michael Heaton, '82 and '84, works as director of budgets and financial services at the University of Kansas Office of Research. He lives in Lenexa, Kansas.

Seth Jensen, '95, chief financial officer of Slim Chickens, named *Arkansas Business Journal's* 2018 Small/Medium Private Company CFO of the Year. He received the award during November in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sonja Kapoun-Roof, '94, opened the paint and sip studio Pinot's Palette La Vista in 2017 in La Vista, Nebraska. She enjoys hosting friends and family groups and team building and holiday parties for businesses. She lives in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Lianna Kathol, '08 and '10, audit senior manager at KPMG in Lincoln, Nebraska, and her husband expect to add a baby to their family in May.

Nathan Kovar, '17, attained his CPA license in Minnesota. He lives in Minneapolis.

Karin Lyle, '96, works as accounting manager at Hudl in Lincoln.

Megan Miller, '17, works as a staff accountant for a tech company in the San Francisco Bay Area. She lives in San Jose, California.



Ronald Nebbia, '85, (center) consulting shareholder at Lutz in Omaha, accepted the Corporate Leadership Award on behalf of Lutz at the Nebraska College of Business 35th Annual Awards Luncheon on April 12.

Dennis Patten, Ph.D. '87, named a Distinguished Professor by the Office of the Provost at Illinois State University on February 21. Patten teaches undergraduate and graduate accounting courses and holds the Illinois State University College of Business Hobart and Marian Gardner Hinderliter Endowed Professorship.

Rachel (Manning) Powell, '10 and '12, of Omaha, started as assistant director of Internal Audit and Advisory Services for the University of Nebraska in July 2017.

Ella Prussa, '18, works as tax staff in the energy industry for Plante Moran (formerly EKS&H) in Denver. She passed three CPA exams so far and recently got engaged.

Ryan Riley, '11, became owner of Piezano's restaurant in Lincoln, in May 2017.

Thomas Schultes, '96 and '97, worked in public accounting for four years and in private accounting for five years before entering the seminary. Ordained as a Catholic priest in 2012, Schultes wrote his Master of Arts in Theology paper, "With Less Priests To Count – Should The Priests Be The Ones Doing The (Ac)counting?" He lives in Lawrence, Nebraska.

Rosena Startzman, '15 and '17, works for BKD in Lincoln. She plans to transfer within the company to Houston, starting June 1.

Dr. H. Nicholas Windeshausen, '54, '55 and Ph.D. '62, originally from Osmond, Nebraska, was featured in the Sacramento State College of Business Administration publication *Business Futures* in fall 2018. He retired from the school in California in 1992 after 30 years on the faculty. Over the years, he received multiple honors for his achievements (including named Admiral of the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska in 1986) and his commitment to both Sacramento State and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln College of Business.

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