

Fall 2024 Version #31

Department of Accounting



Professors Joe Schroeder and Jim Wahlen at the Accounting Alumni and Friends Banquet

From the Chair

Dear Friends of the Accounting Department,

I hope you are doing well! As I prepare for my fifth year serving as chair of the accounting department, I am pleased to share that the department continues to thrive in all respects. Our programs are highly ranked, our student placement rates are nearly 100 percent, and our faculty are among the most productive researchers in the world! Nonetheless, there is still more work to be done to ensure that the IU Kelley accounting department continues to be one of the best in the world (more on this later).

In this newsletter you will read about many of the initiatives we have focused on during the past year. One exciting curriculum development that will launch in fall 2024 is the undergraduate certificate in accounting, which will provide opportunities for



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nonbusiness students at IU to earn accounting credentials to complement their nonbusiness majors and also fulfill the prerequisites for our Master of Science in Accounting with Data and Analytics program.

You can also read about the many opportunities the department provides undergraduate students to learn about careers in accounting. We hosted the inaugural Accounting Open House in fall 2023 and the second ever "A Seat at the Table" in spring 2024. We also expanded student enrollments in our Introduction to Careers in Accounting course, which introduces first and second-year students to career opportunities in accounting and facilitates one-on-one conversations with accounting professionals. Our student organizations Beta Alpha Psi, Women in Accounting, and Student Accounting Society continue to bring together accounting students and professionals for additional networking opportunities. Together, these student-focused initiatives have helped the Kelley School buck the national trend of declining accounting enrollments. In fact, we expect the number of declared accounting majors to increase by 15% next year!

Also in this newsletter, you can read how the department recently organized the inaugural Rising Leaders Board (RLB), a new standing committee of the department's Accounting Advisory Group. Led by Brett Levitt, the RLB is comprised of recent graduates from our accounting programs. RLB members volunteer their time to engage with current students, sharing their perspectives and personal experiences in the accounting profession.

In other articles you can read about: Pat Hopkins' first year as vice dean of the Kelley School in Bloomington, about international study opportunities led by accounting professors Brian Miller (MBA and Kelley Direct programs), Chris Cook and Brett Levitt (Graduate Accounting Programs), and Jeff McMullin (Undergraduate Program), and why Professor Daniel Beneish's research received extensive media attention in the past year.

While I am extremely proud of the department's recent innovations and achievements, I still have one eye on the future, striving to keep our programs, students, and faculty at the forefront of accounting education and research. One critical aspect we will continue to focus on is technology in the classroom. I am delighted that the "Advanced Technology Trio" of professors Brian Williams, Jeff McMullin, and Will Demere will lead the department's efforts in this regard.

In closing, I am extremely grateful to work with the incredible faculty and staff in the accounting department. I would also like to thank the many external stakeholders—such as our alumni, recruiters, and AAG members—who support the department in countless ways. It is truly a privilege for me to serve as chair of the accounting department at IU Kelley. I hope you enjoy this newsletter! With warm regards,



Sonja Rego KPMG Professor of Accounting

Undergraduate Accounting Certificate Program is Hugely Beneficial to Students

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

Every year thousands of undergraduate students hope to be admitted into the Kelley School of Business. Unfortunately, there is only room for roughly 2,500. For those who are not in that initial group of direct admits but are interested in business education, they often pursue majors in the Luddy School of Informatics or the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, or perhaps a merchandising degree from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Certificate programs and minors, in general, at the Kelley School allow nonbusiness majors to earn business credentials from the Kelley School. IU President Pamela Whitten has encouraged Kelley to create more pathways for nonbusiness majors to earn business credentials. In addition, she's been urging Kelley and other colleges to develop additional pathways to graduate programs. Consistent with those goals, Kelley has introduced the Undergraduate Accounting Certificate Program.

"Say someone is, for example, majoring in informatics and decides that it would make sense to get an accounting credential. They could take the courses that are required for the accounting certificate at the undergraduate level, which are also the prerequisites for admission to our Master of Accounting program," says Sonja Rego, chair of the accounting department.

When you have this combination of a technical undergraduate degree coupled with an accounting certificate, that's hugely beneficial in terms of marketability.

"That's going to open up the world to you on the consulting side," says Rego. "Today everything is about getting some technology skills, and then accounting, historically, is a fantastic double major or second credential because if you understand accounting, you can excel at anything in business." The Undergraduate Accounting Certificate, similar to other certificate and minor programs at Kelley, requires students to take a significant number of extra courses.

Julie Head, teaching professor of accounting, teaches the intro to accounting course for nonbusiness majors with roughly 800 students each year. It's not unusual for her students to take the course and realize that they enjoy accounting. Once they learn that, they're eager to find out what other opportunities exist for them to expand their accounting knowledge.

"That's the type of student we would like to give opportunities to so they can earn a credential in accounting. This [certificate] might make a big difference to these students' future careers and job opportunities," says Rego, who regularly talks with recruiters, alumni, and partners at firms, all of whom say they want more Kelley students. That excitement stems partly from the fact that this new certificate is a pathway to Kelley's MSADA (Master of Science in Accounting with Data and Analytics) program.

"With the MSADA program, students gain more technical accounting knowledge, and there is a major emphasis on soft skills, communication skills, teamwork, and field study opportunities," says Rego. "That's what really sets Kelley students apart from other programs. Our students come out so polished and ready to dive into the workplace right away."



New Rising Leaders Board Connects Recent Graduates with Current Students to Help Them Envision Future Career Paths

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

In February 2024, Kelley's accounting department launched the Rising Leaders Board to connect former students who graduated from 1 to 10 years ago. This timeframe ensures that these board members will be 35 years old or younger. Targeting this demographic is important because these are the people launching their careers. If they work for public accounting firms, maybe they have been promoted to manager or senior manager but are not yet partners.

The Rising Leaders Board, led by Professor Brett Levitt, serves dual purposes. One is to get former students involved in the accounting department and vested in Kelley. The other is to provide students with more direct access to young professionals they can look up to and ask questions of when these rising leaders return to campus to speak to classes such as A100 or A313 (Introduction to Accounting Careers) or at events such as "A Seat at the Table."

"Students like hearing from former students who are not too far into their careers because it helps them envision what their career could look like for the next three to five to seven years," says Levitt. "It's a way to connect people and start grooming the next generation of Accounting Advisory Group (AAG) Board members so we always have a good pipeline. The AAG is excited about the Rising Leaders Board."



The other aim of the Rising Leaders Board is to give students the opportunity to hear from people who might not have followed a traditional public accounting firm path.

"We're trying to broaden the base of what it means to be involved in accounting," says Levitt. Through these speakers, students see that there's investment banking, private wealth management, investment management, financial planning and analysis, investor relations, litigation, and forensic accounting.

"Everyone talks about the Kelley network and how the Kelley alumni always want to help future Kelley alumni. This new board provides that connection," says Levitt.

Going forward, the plan is to provide opportunities for the people on the Rising Leaders Board to get involved in ways such as working with the faculty who teach A313, since the class includes several different projects that are heavily alumni based. One of these projects is the Career Fact Sheet that requires students to interview individuals in 20 different careers, then create a document that highlights various criteria outlining what's involved in those careers. Levitt says that most of the people on the board will make themselves available for projects like these. For instance, in place of a final exam in A313, students complete a project in which they write a couple of essays, a survey, and have a coaching session with an alumnus.

"With 170 students in A313 this past academic year, we're hoping to get more professionals involved in that project, and the Rising Leaders Board would be a perfect way to do so," says Levitt, who notes that currently there are 13 recent alumni serving on the board. The plan is to add one or two members every year—especially alumni who have gone through either MSADA or the 3/2 MBA program as they tend to be more vested in IU. These alumni can speak to the benefit of earning a graduate degree in accounting at Kelley.

So Many Options: Intro to Careers in Accounting Helps Students Find the Right Job for Them

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

When Professor Dave Greene originally created the A313 Intro to Careers in Accounting class, the fundamental idea was to make sure students understood that there is no linear path to a career in accounting.

"This class shows them that they have many choices beyond simply two or three areas and that an accounting degree opens doors for them," says Professor Brett Levitt, who currently teaches the class.

When Levitt first heard about A313, his initial reaction was that he wished such a class existed when he was a college student so he could have had a more well-rounded understanding of his career options. After getting an accounting degree from Kelley years ago, he went directly into consulting. It's not that he didn't enjoy what he did, but he just didn't know what could have been.

"Now when I listen to Professor Eric Holzman talk about forensic accounting, it sounds so interesting and I think, 'Had I known then what I know now, who knows where I would have ended up?'" says Levitt, who just completed his fourth semester teaching A313.

Levitt invites in a lot of speakers so that students can hear directly from the source what a certain career entails.

"It's one thing for me to talk about investment banking, but having never been an investment banker, I can only explain so much," says Levitt. "Students like hearing how these speakers got to whatever point they are at in their career—from what they did when they first started out to what they did in the second rung or third rung or wherever they are now."

Very few people stay at the firm they started with. It's good for students to hear that someone started in one area but then changed gears a year or two later, using the fundamentals from their early career.

Levitt exposes his students to a variety of firms, including Alvarez & Marsal, which is not a public accounting firm. Plus, he invites speakers like the campus recruiter for Grant Thornton, who explains which information to highlight on a resume and other ways to shine during the recruiting process.

Highlighting so many careers is important given that roughly 50% of Kelley students change their majors at some point.

"Unfortunately, many students find out too late—usually the second semester of their junior or senior year when



they start taking their major courses—that they don't want to stick with that major," says Levitt. "If you're applying your junior year for internships and yet you've never done anything in, say, marketing, how do you know if you want to go into consumer packaging or social media if you've never been exposed to those things? That's why I love the A313 class," which is taken by students in their first or second year at Kelley.

He's not the only one. Levitt regularly receives feedback from former students telling him how the A313 course positively impacted their postcollegiate journey.

"They like hearing from the professionals, they enjoy the soft skills stuff we go over, and they appreciate that the class is interactive so they can practice networking and conversation starters," says Levitt, who notes that next semester they are changing the class meeting time from twice a week for one hour to once a week for 75 minutes to align with the other accounting workshops.

"As a whole, the class lets students know about their options and gets them more comfortable communicating with others in a networking setting," says Levitt. "The overall goal is to help them find the right job, and this class narrows the process."

Accounting Department Hosts Open House for Students

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

In the spring of 2023, Senior Lecturer Diane Biagioni invited her students to stop by and chat with her and their fellow classmates at an informal open house, which she called "Meet, Greet, & Have a Treat." The idea was to give students an opportunity to make connections with one another, which is important in a jumbo course like A306 Management Accounting and Analysis.

The way the accounting curriculum is designed, the courses that students take before they decide to major in accounting tend to be large in size. Therefore, the department looks for opportunities to make a big campus and a big major feel a little smaller and more intimate.

"At the meet and greet, students talk about where they are from, internship applications, study abroad opportunities, graduate programs, favorite places to visit, superpowers, superheroes, favorite musicians, favorite movies, you name it," says Biagioni, who sends these students a follow-up email, thanking them for coming by and letting them know how excited she is to work with them this semester.

When the department heard how well attended this event was, it planted a seed.

"Sometimes it's difficult for students to make connections," says Professor Bridget Stomberg. "Our DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) committee shared that even if a student has a brief, informal social interaction with other people multiple times, that can really increase a person's sense of belonging and can make a world of difference in terms of how students view that experience."

The accounting department wanted to create an opportunity for students to connect, so on a Friday afternoon in the fall they hosted a department-wide Accounting Open House at the Godfrey Atrium where they served pizza, cookies, and drinks; played games; and distributed Kelley swag to students.

"This was an opportunity for students who were either majoring in accounting or thinking about majoring in accounting to engage with each other and with faculty to learn more about the major as well as what they can do after earning a bachelor's degree in accounting," says Stomberg.

The department had representatives from all student accounting organizations on hand, in addition to

representatives from Graduate Accounting Programs, to talk about what it looks like to get an additional degree in accounting.

"We talked about the CPA exam and about curriculum and how to major or double major in accounting," says Stomberg. "We also discussed how they can incorporate the accounting curriculum into their degree plans."

There were individuals from academic advising, career services, faculty volunteers, and student volunteers. So it really was a robust experience that enabled students to come to a casual setting to learn more about the accounting program at Kelley and the accounting profession in general.

They plan to repeat this event annually, perhaps offering one in the fall and another in the spring.

"We like providing informal social events to increase community and belonging among current accounting and prospective accounting students," says Stomberg.

Adds Biagioni, "And it doesn't hurt to have bags of popcorn on hand, along with chocolate anything!"



Faculty Spotlight: Daniel Beneish

by Christy Heitger-Ewing



Accounting Professor Daniel Beneish's research portfolio spans more than three decades. In one recently published article receiving a lot of attention, Beneish uses his M-Score financial model to predict that Enron was cooking the books. In that article, he profiles firms who were caught committing some sort of fraud and compares them to other firms in the industry over the same time period.

"A lot of analysis went into it," says Beneish, who developed the M-Score, a mathematical model based on eight financial variables. The M-Score can be used to examine whether firm financial anomalies were caused by changing corporate policies or by accounting manipulations. Beneish also looks at incentives. For instance, if there is a deterioration in a firm's profit margins, there could be more incentive for the firm to manipulate their financial results to obtain bank loans on more favorable terms.

"Everything is temporary, and some managers are thinking, 'If we survive this small crisis, things will rebalance themselves, so we aren't going down the slippery slope (of fraudulent reporting)," says Beneish. "The ones who get caught did go down a slippery slope. The tone at the top is paramount. If managers put enough pressure on employees, they'll do things they're unhappy about."

Beneish's model looks at what happens when people make unethical decisions. Beneish claims that Enron is an unusual case because usually people start engaging in manipulative procedures when they are cornered and feel they have no choice.

"With Enron, a lot of it was driven by greed and a tone at the top that enabled all sorts of things, which is unlike the usual run-of-the-mill cases I've encountered with my research," says Beneish. "In fact, my model was estimated way before Enron happened."

While Enron's intentions were not pure, a lot of organizations start out with the best intentions. But perhaps due to an economic downturn or some other outside factor, the company no longer thrives, employees start leaving, and they try to stop the bleeding.

"In those moments, great people make really poor decisions," says Beneish.

Without judging the full intentions behind them, Beneish's model sees the ripple effect of some of those decisions.

Beneish's model looks at revenues in the firm that are important. It looks at trends in profitability, sales growth, how much leverage is changing, and the amount of borrowing.

"You look at all these elements to try to understand whether there's something going on at a particular division or a particular operation that may be unusual for a multinational company," says Beneish, who notes that the model can be used as a screening device within a company to lead to better oversight.

"When there are greater incentives, there's higher likelihood of manipulation," says Beneish. "This model provides a screening tool which can be used to assess whether something unusual is happening. It doesn't mean there is fraud. But it provides a signal as to whether an investigation is warranted."

Beneish hopes that going forward, organizational leaders will learn from his research and use more of these analytical tools that are freely available to them.

"My hope is that they apply these things as a matter of course to their operations to internally check what's going on," says Beneish. "I also hope that they will never use any of these prediction models to bypass the system."

The last two papers Beneish has published build on research from the past 25 years. "The Cost of Fraud Prediction Errors," published in *The Accounting Review* in October 2022 shows that Beneish's M-Score is the most economically viable model for investors. The paper compares Beneish's M-Score to six other more recent fraud models in the accounting literature and concludes that the other models are too costly to use.

Beneish's other paper that has received a lot of media attention is "Aggregate Financial Misreporting and the Predictability of U.S. Recessions and GDP Growth," which was published in *The Accounting Review* in September 2023. In this paper, Beneish uses the M-Score model to aggregate data economy-wide.

"We provide evidence that the M-Score aggregated at the level of the macroeconomy captures the amount of misinformation in the economy and incrementally predicts recessions and downturns," he says.

"So the greater the manipulation of information in the economy, the greater the harm to society," says Beneish.



Kelley Accounting Research Symposium

On November 10–11, 2023, more than 80 participants from IU and other top-tier research institutions gathered for the Kelley Accounting Research Symposium (KARS). The theme this year was evidence-based policymaking, and the keynote speaker was Robert Knechel, the Frederick E. Fisher Eminent Scholar in Accounting and distinguished professor at the University of Florida (in Gainesville). Knechel, the director of the International Accounting and Auditing Center (IAAC), spoke about the importance of accounting research for impacting regulation and policy.

Other presenters included Tim Bauer, University of Waterloo, who discussed the influence of client incivility and coping strategies on audit professionals' judgments; Christopher Stewart, University of Chicago, spoke about competition, enforcement, and accounting for intangible capital; Xinyu Zhang, Cornell University, presented on the effects of nonprofit- and market-pay transparency on donor trust and nonprofit governance; Anh Persson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discussed the effect of non-US tax authority monitoring on income shifting by US multinationals' affiliates. Finally, Yadav Gopalan, Indiana University and the St. Louis FED, did a presentation on how ineffective bank supervision was during the 2022 monetary tightening.

"KARS is an opportunity to bring together top researchers to engage on important topics that impact practice and regulation," says Joe Schroeder, chair of the Graduate Accounting Programs at the Kelley School of Business. "We continue to appreciate the generous support from Crowe on this important initiative. Research has the potential to enact meaningful change and Crowe as a firm has long been on the forefront of impacting accounting regulation and public policy."

"KARS is an opportunity to bring together top researchers to engage on important topics that impact practice and regulation,"

Joe Schroeder

"A Seat at the Table" Invites Students to Mingle with Industry Professionals

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

On February 20, the accounting department DEIB Committee presented "A Seat at the Table," which invited potential first-year and sophomores accounting students to engage in conversation with professionals and faculty and learn more about the diverse career opportunities that exist in accounting.

The purpose of the event is to attract more students to accounting and to reduce the information gap as people tend to have preconceived notions about accounting careers.

Last year's inaugural "A Seat at the Table" event attracted 40 students. This year the turnout was almost double that.

"It was packed!" says Roshan Sinha, assistant professor of accounting, who co-chaired the event.

This year's "A Seat at the Table" included 11 roundtables, each with an accounting faculty member acting as facilitator and an industry professional who spoke on various topics, including "What's Cool About Accounting," "Flexibility & Career Growth," and "Unsolicited Advice." Professionals then rotated tables four times for 20-minute sessions.

Attendee Keaton Fitzgerald said the event provided a safe space to ask questions that may not be welcome elsewhere.

"I asked questions about work-life balance, unbiased company culture, and career trajectories," says Fitzgerald.

Sinha said that several professionals messaged him to let him know that they would like to keep in touch with the students.

"That's invaluable as a first-year and sophomore to already be interacting with people who may hire you in a few years," says Sinha.

"I asked questions about work-life balance, unbiased company culture, and career trajectories,"

Keaton Fitzgerald





2023 Accounting Alumni & Friends **Recognition Banquet**

In November 2023, the Indiana University Kelley School of Business accounting department held the Accounting Alumni & Friends Recognition Banquet. Sponsored by Accounting Leaders Program Sponsors FORVIS, KMPG, EY, PwC, and Crowe, the annual banquet recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of IU's accounting alumni.

The Four Under Forty award recognizes younger Kelley accounting alumni who have demonstrated a high level of excellence in their early careers and have the potential to make a lasting impact in their professional endeavors. Winners included Trevor Gregory, MS'11, director at PwC; Brandon Joseph, BS'08, partner with Grant Thornton; Dan Laszlo, BS'05 & MBA'05, CEO of Millennium Trust; and Laura Price, BS'07, director at Protiviti.

Gregory was so impressed with all the Kelley success stories he saw growing up that his choice to attend IU was a foregone conclusion.

"Still to this day, everywhere I look, there's a CEO, CFO, or partner that's a Kelley alum," says Gregory, who credits his time at Kelley for making him the man he is today. "I was a kid who came from nothing and is now a directorand hopefully future partner-at PwC."

Joseph considered studying business at Purdue but reconsidered and opted to come to IU instead.

"What a great decision!" he says. He praises

his professors at IU for giving him a skill set that jumpstarted his career.

"While my time in Kelley positioned me well for my career at GT, I've found my postgraduate connectivity to Kelley as an alumnus has been just as, if not more, valuable," says Joseph.

"It's an honor to continue my relationship with Indiana so that I may further the mission of making accountingespecially tax-cool!"



Trevor Gregory & Joe Schroeder

Laszlo chose to pursue his MBA right away, and he is so glad that he did.

"The knowledge and skills gained from the Kelley School's 3/2 program accelerated my career path by years, potentially even decades," he says.

Price is pleased by how the Kelley School gave her a solid foundation in accounting and consulting that has not only set her up for success but also positively transformed her career.







Brandon Joseph & Joe Schroeder

Laura Price & Joe Schroeder John Hassell & Brian Miller

"Thanks to their career services, I landed a job at Protiviti," she says. "The excellent accounting courses and dedicated staff, coupled with the international experiences and teamwork, all prepared me for success in the crazy and dynamic consulting world!"

The Academic Excellence award recognizes an alum of Kelley (PhD program or other Kelley programs) that has greatly impacted teaching, service, and accounting research. The 2023 recognition went to John Hassell, PhD'83 & MBA'83, professor at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Hassell is proud that IU has affected every aspect of his career. Not only did he earn his MBA and PhD at IU, but he also met his wife Barb on campus, and they tied the knot at Beck Chapel. In 1996, when he and Barb (a clinical professor of management) were asked to join the faculty at IUPUI, they jumped at the chance.

"I'm a product of the accounting department's tradition of commitment to excellent research, teaching, and service," he says. "Barb and I are committed to urban education, and we have had wonderful careers in Indianapolis and Carmel. As an alum, I'm proud of the evolution of the accounting department into one of the premiere research faculties in the US."

The **Community Service** award recognizes an accounting alum of Kelley who is making a tremendous impact on the world around us and exhibits exemplary generosity through community service and/or philanthropy. Tricia Mulcare, BS'99 & MBA'99, principal at Homrich Berg Wealth Management, was the 2023 winner. She was also in the inaugural class of the 3/2 MBA program, which she believes changed her life. "I arrived at IU as an out-of-state first-year wondering who Bobby Knight was and graduated five years later ready to take on the world," says Mulcare. "From the Sunday evening Alpha Kappa Psi meetings to the summer study abroad in Maastricht, Netherlands, to the spring graduate experience with Corporate Express in Colorado—it was truly inspiring to be on campus as we received the school's naming gift from Mr. Kelley!"

The **Outstanding Friend of Kelley** award recognizes an individual who has made a tremendous impact on both the accounting department and the Kelley School of Business.

Nominees are not required to be Kelley alumni. Wendy Luedike, BS'00 & MBA'01, product coverage accounting leader with Cummins Inc., received the award. Luedike, a self-described small-town Hoosier, says she didn't fully understand the potential of a professional degree when she initially arrived at IU. When she learned about the 3/2 MBA program, her world opened up.



Wendy Luedike & Sonja Rego

"The program's experiential learning curriculum and international immersion [in Switzerland] provided me a global perspective and opened my mind to numerous career opportunities available with an accounting degree," says Luedike, whose 22-year career has been quite diverse. "I enjoy coming back to Kelley to pay it forward to the next generation of students—especially those other small-town

kids who will chase larger dreams than they ever imagined!" The **Professional Excellence** award recognizes those Kelley accounting alumni who have demonstrated a high level of excellence in their careers and are making lasting







Tricia Mulcare & Brian Miller Gregory Holland & Joe Schroeder Jeremy Simons & Joe Schroeder

impacts in their professional endeavors. Winners included Greg Holland, BS'04, partner with KPMG; and Jeremy Simons, BS'99, partner with EY.

Holland notes that he loved his time in Indiana. "IU and the Kelley School gave me a new perspective of the different possibilities that I could take with my career," says Holland. "It was such a rewarding experience, both academically and personally, and provided the foundation for my professional success."

Simons calls attending Indiana University one of the best decisions of his life.

"From the classes, to forming lifelong friendships, to intramural sports, to football and basketball games, to the late nights on Walnut and Kirkwood, IU was the perfect balance of education and fun," he says. "The Kelley School of Business not only provided me with book smarts, but it also prepared me for a successful career in the real world."

Finally, the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes a Kelley accounting alum who has shown extraordinary leadership throughout their professional careers and who has distinguished themselves by achieving a consistently high level of excellence in their endeavors. The 2023 winner was Carl Bossung, MBA'68; retired partner at Crowe LLP; founder of Senior1Care; and founder of Legacy CNA Training LLC.

"My experience at Indiana University assisted me in gaining the confidence to take risks to lead," says Bossung. "I met many excellent faculty members as well as fellow students who broadened my thinking as to the multiple roles accountants play in contributing to our society."

That's precisely what Bossung did with his wife contributed to society. He spent the first four decades of his career working as a CPA with Crowe where he held several significant roles within the company, including executive in charge of Crowe's 500-person Financial Services Group, partner in charge of the South Bend office, and inaugural chairperson of the firm's board of directors.

In 2008, Bossung left Crowe to begin phase two of his career—working alongside his son, Kyle, in Senior1Care, the organization the two of them had founded two years prior.

"The knowledge and skills gained from the Kelley School's 3/2 program accelerated my career path by years, potentially even decades,"



Carl Bossung & Sonja Rego

The home care agency—based in Mishawaka, Indiana, with additional offices in Elkhart, Fort Wayne, and Carmel specializes in nonmedical services for seniors. Under Bossung's leadership, Senior1Care has flourished, employing more than 500 dedicated professionals and earning recognition by *Inc. Magazine* as one of America's fastest-growing privately owned companies for seven consecutive years.

In 2014, Bossung launched Legacy CNA Training, LLC, which provides education to individuals looking to become certified nurse aides, qualified medication aides, or personal care attendants. Boasting the number one pass rate in the state, Legacy has trained more than 5,000 Hoosiers in the South Bend, Indianapolis, and Fort Wayne regions.

"Carl is the personification of the IU Kelley culture," says Professor Joe Schroeder, chair of the Graduate Accounting Programs and PwC Faculty Fellow. "His career reflects that strong Hoosier work ethic, considerable ingenuity, and an entrepreneurial spirit that has led to a lifetime of achievements making his community better. He is a true inspiration to us all!"

To nominate an IU alum for an award for the 2024 Accounting Alumni & Friends Recognition Banquet, send your nomination to Sonja Rego (sorego@iu.edu) or Joe Schroeder (jhschroe@iu.edu).

Dan Laszlo

Mixing Culture, Innovation, & Industry in Mexico

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

In May, Associate Professor of Accounting Jeff McMullin, along with other Kelley staff, took 22 Kelley students to Mexico for a 10-day tour of Mexico City and Querétaro, Mexico. The class, BUS-X 272 Industry 4.0 in Mexico, is all about how technologies are impacting businesses in Mexico. Throughout the spring semester, students learned not just about technologies but also about aspects of Mexican culture as they applied the Pestel framework (i.e., the six different aspects of the environment that businesses operate in around the world).

"Prior to traveling to Mexico, we prepared the students intellectually so they would know which questions to ask and what things to look for," says McMullin. "They were able to envision how technology was used in the past to build products and services and how that technology has persisted, as compared to today's technology and how it is or isn't disrupting business."

In addition, they visited Isla Urbana, a rain harvesting company that specializes in installing rain capture systems in urban locations; followed by Xochimilco, a borough of Mexico City; as well as Teotihuacan, for a cultural tour of this ancient

Mesoamerican city located in a sub-valley of the Valley of Mexico.

"Before the Spaniards came, Mexico City used to be a big lake, and they had things called hanging gardens, which they used to grow crops year-round," "A lot of it was them reflecting on their experience and setting aside their assumptions in order to embrace another culture,"

Jeff McMullin

says McMullin. "They still have a few of those in operation so we got to see them. The idea there was seeing modern and ancient technology to solve similar problems."

On day two of the trip, McMullin sent his students on a scavenger hunt, asking them to go around the city taking

pictures of various items on a list before meeting up as a class at one of the monuments in downtown Mexico where they debriefed one another about all they saw.

"A lot of it was them reflecting on their experience and setting aside their assumptions in order to embrace another culture," says McMullin. "It's about understanding more of an international landscape in the way they've been raised or recognizing that the experiences they've had are

not the same way it's always done around the world."

This course gives students the chance to visit and immerse themselves in several destinations. In the past, students have traveled to Australia, Cuba, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Thailand, and Singapore. Professor Chris Cook has been doing excursions to Romania for many years and has been a valuable mentor for McMullin. In addition, Professor Terry Campbell led study tours to Switzerland prior to his retirement.

"None of this would be possible without our alumni or the Gateway Office, which has been instrumental in helping us develop these trips," says McMullin. "Because of these resources, IU has been able to create some really cool educational opportunities for our students.





Department of Accounting Retreat

For more information on faculty and department news, check out the Department of Accounting Blog! accountingblog.kelley.iu.edu





October 10, 2024!!

Join the Department of Accounting faculty, alumni and sponsors as we recognize award recipients at the Alumni Banquet.



2023 Elijah Watts Sells award winners announced on June 6, 2024!

The 40 award winners all had an average score above 95.5 on all four sections of the CPA exam taken in 2023. The winners included Jared Dunnett and Tyler Thimjon, both of whom graduated from the 3/2 MBA program at the Kelley School of Business. Jared is currently employed with Shore Capital Partners and Tyler is employed with Ernst & Young.

Pat Hopkins Reflects on His First Year as Vice Dean

by Christy Heitger-Ewing



Professor Pat Hopkins is about to start his 30th year at Indiana University. In August 2023, he began his position as vice dean at the Kelley School of Business in Bloomington. Hopkins, who also has worked as the executive associate dean for academic programs, now helps with faculty recruiting, hiring, and HR issues.

"There's certainly never a dull moment!" he says. "But truly, I love this job. I feel like I hit the lotto working at IU."

For starters, he enjoys facilitating the good work of the faculty and staff, as he says that so many of Kelley's innovations have been faculty and student driven.

"I listen to their great ideas, promote those ideas, and figure out how to make them a reality," he says. "It's like solving puzzles all day long!"

Over the past year, Hopkins has been working to get key people in important places. For example, the Business Pathways initiative partners with other deans across campus to develop programs that ensure students who want to study business but weren't admitted to Kelley are still able to find meaningful paths to business careers. Megan Ray, who worked in undergraduate admissions for many years, now leads this effort.

As another example of getting key people into important roles, Renee Rerko is now responsible for helping optimize course offerings and enrollments across all programs at the Kelley School.

"Since the numbers of students at IU and at Kelley will likely plateau in the next few years, we need to be smarter about how we staff our classes in making sure we have the best faculty and the most appropriate classes," says Hopkins.

Rebecca Slotegraaf, associate dean for research, supports faculty research in starting initiatives with Kelley's various centers and institutes. This means obtaining grants. Therefore, Kelley is putting into place an incentive program to obtain these grants.

"There are all sorts of benefits faculty can get if they engage in this," says Hopkins.

It also fosters interdisciplinary research, which is a key point of emphasis for the university.

From a strategic perspective, they have reorganized their Institute for International Business; it's now Kelley Global, which has an integrated mission.

"We're proud that we've been a cyber institution for so long, but we want to expand the mission to go beyond advancement and engage with our global partners," says Hopkins, noting that they also reach out to their huge global alumni network.

"So much of what we did in that space was done through our Office of Development & Engagement, which is largely domestically focused," says Hopkins. "This gives us a way of tailoring our messaging to the global marketplace and making sure that we're involving our dedicated global alums in the programming that we have here."

And we mustn't forget AI, a portfolio of technologies that are advanced and growing within the business community. Indiana University's Kelley School of Business wants to make sure that their students are equipped for this and that they are doing cutting-edge research in the area. Therefore, in the next year the school will be announcing the creation of a virtual department that will link faculty across various disciplines who will have the common interest in advancing pedagogy and research within the advanced business technology sphere.

"That's going to make a difference in terms of how we go about integrating AI and making sure our students are trained to use AI and other advanced technologies as tools, just as our students have been using Excel as a tool for 30 years," says Hopkins. "We want to make sure our students are responsible users who advance their work products so that they reap the benefits of this technology."

Faculty Promotions

Eric Holzman Promoted to Associate Professor

Eric Holzman is a man of many talents. Not only has he been homebrewing beer for more than two decades, but he's also an aspiring novelist and newly promoted associate professor who has published several studies that uncover the incentives and constraints faced by the Securities and Exchange Commission when investigating corporate misconduct. He likes taking recent capital markets research and integrating it into his undergraduate course.

His wife, Megan, and children, Max and Sam, are always curious to hear what Holzman is working on, so he says the pressure is on to ensure it's not boring or unimportant.

He's grateful to Kelley's faculty and staff who work hard and respect one another.

"This is no small thing," he says.

Holzman enjoys socializing with colleagues and their families. This past fall, he and his wife hosted an event at their home they called "Holztoberfest" for faculty, PhD students, and their family members.

"It's always great to meet and get to know a colleague's significant other and children," says Holzman, who embraces the importance of long-term thinking.

"Most people overestimate what they can accomplish in a year but underestimate what they can accomplish in ten years," says Holzman.

As for his own goals, he hopes to start more research projects with PhD students. And, of course, he'll continue to perfect that beer.

"It's a great hobby because if you make some initial good decisions, then you're rewarded a few weeks later with a tasty payoff!"





Eric Holzman

Katie Metz

Katie Metz Promoted to Teaching Professor

Academia is unique in that professors get a "fresh start" every semester.

"This is really exciting because it means I constantly get to update my classes with innovative teaching strategies and new course material, and I get tons of inspiration for these changes by talking with students about their own goals, preferences, and interests," says Katie Metz, who was recently promoted to teaching professor. "I hope to keep this enthusiasm for innovation and change in the profession and classroom."

Metz has always been passionate about studentcentered learning and making classes more inclusive for students. In recent years, IU's accounting department has increased its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice (DEIBJ) initiatives, including events, workshops, and spotlights.

"Bridget Stomberg and I have been doing significant work in the inclusive classrooms realm by delivering many workshops about inclusive classroom design and implementation to our faculty at the department and school levels," says Metz, who joined IU's faculty in 2011. "I'm proud to contribute a small part to our department's DEIBJ initiatives."

In the spring of 2023, Metz received the Kelley School of Business Panschar Undergraduate Teaching Award for Lecturers and Clinical Faculty for demonstrating excellence in teaching philosophy and techniques.

"Receiving this award was at the top of my career bucket list!" says Metz. As for checking off an item from her personal bucket list, she had been dreaming of seeing a volcano "in real life" since she was in elementary school so in the fall of 2023, she went to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and saw Kilauea.

"It was one of the coolest moments of my life!" she says.

Retirement: John Waters

by Sonja Rego, Chair of the Accounting Department



As an undergraduate student at IU in the 1970's, John Waters considered majoring in history and philosophy. After taking an accounting course with Mike Tiller, however, his plans changed. Tiller, now a retired IU accounting faculty, would be an important person in Waters' life.

"I'd always liked math and numbers, and I felt that accounting tells the history of a business," says Waters. "Plus, managerial accounting is similar to philosophy because it involves strategy, planning, budgeting, and forecasting for the future."

After graduating from IU in 1979, Waters worked with Peat Marwick and then moved to General Foods as a special project analyst. He worked at the plant in Lafayette, Indiana, doing inventory control and capital projects.

A few years later, Waters applied to PhD programs at IU and the University of Tennessee. Mike Tiller was in the program at Tennessee, so Waters decided to go there. He worked on his master and doctoral degrees in accounting and psychometrics between August 1982 and December 1986. At that point, Waters left Tennessee ABD for his first faculty position at Colorado State University (CSU).

Waters taught financial accounting at CSU until fall 1989, when he accepted a position at DePaul University in Chicago. Waters taught a lot of auditing at DePaul. He was on the faculty there until the summer of 1994, when he moved his family to the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where he was the only accounting professor at the time of his hiring.

Although they enjoyed the laidback lifestyle of Hawaii, Waters' wife wanted their kids to attend a different school system, so they moved back to the Boulder, Colorado, area in summer 1996. Waters taught at the University of Denver for a year before returning to the faculty at CSU from 1997 to 2001. He then accepted a position at the University of Wyoming and stayed through 2006. At that point, he accepted a position at Anderson University (in Indiana) to chair its doctoral program from 2006 through 2011. He then moved to the University of Indianapolis, where he taught financial accounting and auditing until 2016.

In 2016, Tiller mentioned to Waters that the Kelley School in Bloomington needed someone to teach A310, a financial accounting course for finance majors. So, Waters moved to IU Bloomington to teach A310 and then A324, a cost accounting course for finance majors.

Altogether, Waters' faculty career has involved appointments at eight different universities, ranging from Division I to small private institutions. Waters couldn't have done any of this without the support of his wife, Kim. They structured their early married life to accommodate Waters' moves across universities. Their sons, Andrew and Bret, think of Colorado as home because they lived there a long time during multiple faculty appointments. After retirement, Waters and Kim will move back to Colorado to enjoy the high school years of their grandkids.

Waters' goal was always to come back and teach at IU so he could say that he started and ended his journey at the same place. And who wouldn't want to return to IU basketball? Fun fact: Waters and Mike Woodson were both freshmen at IU in 1976. Second fun fact: Waters met Herman Wells when he was a little boy!

As he prepares for his next adventure, Waters takes with him nothing but fond memories of Bloomington. He calls the IU campus one of the prettiest he's ever seen. He particularly loves Dunn's Woods,

Franklin Hall, and the heart of campus. "It's been cool to be part of Kelley," says Waters.

Faculty Highlights

New Faculty



Brian Williams

Brian Williams

For eight years, Brian Williams was a Kelley faculty member and served as an associate professor of accounting. Then last year his alma mater, Texas A&M, lured him back home with a job offer.

"I love Bloomington and love the people at IU so honestly my alma mater is the only reason I left," says Williams. But then this year he was presented with a new and exciting career opportunity when he was asked to return to the IU Bloomington campus to lead a new, advanced technologies group at the Kelley School. It's a brand-new position, ripe with opportunity.

"I thought it was so cool that I couldn't say no!" says Williams.

Kelley wants to be at the forefront of new technological advances in business so the new technology group will house people who are working on advanced technologies across all disciplines. This includes accounting, finance, marketing, management, and operations.

"I'll be helping to implement curriculum for new classes that use these technologies and also helping to service a research center to foster collaboration and grants for people working in this space," says Williams.

Previously when he was at IU, Williams developed a technologies course in accounting that introduced students to data visualization as well as some advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning and coding.

That class was a survey of advanced technologies as it applies to accounting.

Williams, who won the Sauvian Undergraduate Teaching Award while at IU in 2020–21, thoroughly enjoys being in front of a classroom of students.

"That's part of why I'm so excited about this role," says Williams. "To keep students up-to-date with the skills that will really help them."

He gets most excited about researching and coding new technologies.

"I would describe myself as pretty nerdy," he says. "I like Star Trek and Lord of the Rings, and in college I competed in video game tournaments for money."

He and his wife, Molly, have three children: Elijah (7), Lydia (5), and Abigail (3). In his free time, Williams loves watching college sports and taking in the great outdoors. "Bloomington is great for nature hikes!" he says.

Williams is thrilled to be back at IU with friends and people whom he and his family love. He's also happy to be serving in such a unique role. "My biggest short-term goal in this role is making sure our curriculum is leading the US as other schools will be looking to us in terms of what we're teaching students," says Williams. "Longer term, we hope it'll serve as an attractive center for faculty whose work involves cutting-edge technologies that will advance their careers."

New Faculty

Jordan Samet

Jordan Samet grew up in northeastern Pennsylvania among the beautiful Pocono Mountains. He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Susquehanna University in 2007, graduating Summa Cum Laude. It was there he first found his love for teaching, serving as the teaching assistant for the Intro to Accounting courses. After graduation, he worked in public accounting in the Portland, Oregon metro area, with both KPMG and Pauly Rogers and Co.

In 2012, Samet embarked on his journey to academia. He first attended the University of Iowa, where he earned a master's degree in accountancy. While at the University of Iowa, Samet again served as an instructor for Intro to Financial Accounting. Following his time in Iowa City, he enrolled in the PhD program at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), eventually earning a doctorate in accounting with a minor in psychology in 2020.

Samet's first faculty position after earning his PhD was at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. From 2019 to 2024, he taught Intermediate Managerial Accounting and served in several service positions, including teaching others outside UIUC.

"It was so meaningful having the privilege of teaching Intro to Accounting to students at the Danville Correctional Center in Danville, Illinois," says Samet.

His research primarily focuses on performance measurement and performance management, including how subjective performance evaluation procedures influence employees and managers, how employees respond to managerial decisions, how incentives influence social outcomes, and how audit effort disclosures influence audit outcomes.

This fall, Samet will teach Cost Accounting (A325) at the Kelley School.

"I'm very excited to be joining the Kelley family this summer, as well as getting to enjoy all the nature available in the broader Bloomington area," he says.





Jordan Samet

Jordan Bable

Jordan Bable

Jordan Bable has been a visiting assistant professor at IU for the past two years and is excited to be staying on the faculty as a clinical assistant professor starting this fall. He was previously on the faculty at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario, where he served five years as an assistant professor and was an associate director of the CPA Ontario Centre for Performance Management Research and Education. Prior to joining the University of Waterloo, he earned his PhD in accounting at the University of Pittsburgh and was awarded a Deloitte Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, completing a dissertation focused on investor reactions to corporate political spending disclosures. Before pursuing his PhD, Bable worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency, where he became a CPA, and the Huntington Investment Company, where he held Series 7 and 66 registrations with FINRA and was also a licensed life and health insurance agent.

"Prior to discovering accounting and finance, I completed a BA in international studies," says Bable. "I understand just enough Russian to know when actors are doing a bad job of speaking it."

He has happily frequented the Hoosier Heights climbing gym since moving to Bloomington and is often found at local trivia nights as part of the "Too Taxed" team with fellow accounting professors. He also enjoys hiking and has visited seven national parks, five in the US and two in Canada.

Bable is looking forward to continuing to teach the Cost Accounting and Strategic Cost Management courses at Kelley this fall.

"I have found IU to be a welcoming community, and I'm honored to become a part of it," he says.

New Faculty





Alyssa B. Moore

Alyssa Hagerty

Alyssa B. Moore

Alyssa Moore was born in New Albany, Indiana, and grew up in neighboring Georgetown, Indiana. She comes to Bloomington following five years in Florida and is thrilled to join the Kelley School of Business.

"The culture and humans here are so special," says Moore. "I genuinely could not be happier. I am excited to contribute to this amazing team."

Moore earned her PhD from Florida State University in May 2024. In her dissertation, she uses a hand-collected sample to investigate whether the adoption of blockchain technology to facilitate private interfirm communication influences managers' public disclosure choices and the consequences of these choices. Her results suggest that although blockchain can improve private interfirm communication, it may have the unintended consequence of deteriorating the public information environment through reduced disclosure.

"Broadly speaking, I strive to produce meaningful research that enhances our understanding of firms' information environments and the information flows of economically related firms," says Moore, who is passionate about research and teaching and finds that the two are great complements. She will teach Intermediate Accounting II at the Kelley School of Business, a course she approaches with familiarity and fondness. In addition to accounting lessons, Moore shares lessons on the growth mindset with students.

"In my courses I like to incorporate Dr. Carol Dweck's research, which emphasizes the value of effort and encourages individuals to avoid placing limitations on themselves," says Moore. "These lessons help students get the best out of themselves in the classroom and beyond."

Prior to her doctoral studies, Moore received her BS in accounting (Summa Cum Laude) and MBA (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of Southern Indiana, where she ran collegiate cross country and track. Nowadays, she enjoys training for marathons and trying to run more miles in a week than she drives.

Alyssa Hagerty

Alyssa Hagerty grew up in South Florida, but moving to Indiana will not be her first experience in the north, as she completed her PhD at Penn State. Fortunately, her loyalty can be swayed, and she's excited to cheer on the Hoosiers against the Nittany Lions. Hagerty, who is moving to Bloomington with her two dogs, Lexi and Azlyn, has spent most of her life by the ocean so she enjoys scuba diving, boating, and swimming. Recently, she has also developed interests in traveling, rock climbing, hiking, and trivia.

Before starting her PhD, Hagerty earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting at the University of Florida. She worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers after graduating, primarily in tax consulting and dispute resolution. Although she enjoyed her time at PwC, she felt it wasn't her true calling.

"I had a chance conversation with a friend who introduced me to accounting research, and everything clicked," she says. With both of her parents being teachers, Hagerty was excited by the prospect of sharing knowledge and contributing to it through research. She left PwC to work at Gleim Publications as an accounting editor to gain experience in content development and worked on review materials for the CPA, CMA, CIA, and EA exams.

Hagerty's research primarily focuses on the monitoring of corporations by regulators and information intermediaries. She explores how limited resources and conflicting incentives influence their interactions.

She is thrilled to join Indiana University as she believes the students, faculty, and culture are unparalleled. "The Kelley School of Business is special," says Hagerty. "I couldn't pass up the opportunity to be a part of it. I hope to inspire my students to aggressively pursue their dreams with the skills they develop here."

PhD Placement



Flora Sun

Flora Sun

Flora Sun grew up in Shenyang, the largest city in northeastern China. She moved to Hong Kong at age 16 and completed her undergraduate degree in accounting and finance at HK Polytechnic University. She worked in assurance and compliance for four years in Hong Kong, then moved to the US for a change in career. After completing her master's degree at the University of Texas-Austin, she joined the PhD program at IU in the fall of 2019.

"Choosing IU is one of the best decisions I've ever made," says Sun. "The faculty members here are supportive and caring. They've helped me develop as a researcher and strong-minded adult."

Although the COVID period was rough when everything went virtual, she says she never felt any lack of support from the IU faculty.

Her research interests primarily focus on disclosure and information production in capital markets. Specifically, she's interested in the determinants of media coverage and its impact on capital markets. She's also interested in studying how investors use the financial information provided by other information intermediaries, such as sell-side equity analysts and credit rating agencies.

"I'm excited to begin the next chapter of my life at Binghamton University in New York," says Sun. "They have a great group of young researchers, and I cannot wait to collaborate with my new colleagues."

She and her fiancé, Avery, are looking forward to exploring the northeast and the awesome outdoor scenes that Binghamton has to offer. When taking an exploration break, she loves hanging out with her cats while watching Al Pacino movies.



PhD Placement

Tim Mallon

Tim Mallon was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, but grew up primarily in Las Vegas, Nevada. He earned his BS in business administration from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2016, and worked as an auditor at PwC in Las Vegas until entering IU's PhD program in 2019.

His research focuses on managerial accounting issues primarily related to incentives and control systems, and his dissertation investigates how the size of an employee's reference group affects their competitive motivation and performance.

"While a significant managerial accounting literature has documented the positive motivational effects of social comparisons, I find that these effects are stronger in larger reference groups, as employees experience more meaningful competitive pressures when they have more employees to compare themselves against," says Mallon. "In contrast to a large literature that details disadvantages of large groups, my study provides novel evidence of a significant benefit of increasing group size."

While he never imagined moving to Indiana, he treasured his time in Bloomington as he not only earned his PhD but also met his wife, Ji Woon, and adopted his dog, Lani.

"I've felt right at home at IU with the kind and brilliant people in the Kelley accounting department," says Mallon. "I've been blessed to receive world-class mentorship and forge lifelong friendships with the faculty and students at Kelley."

This fall, Tim will join Texas State University as an assistant professor. As he and Ji Woon prepare to start their new lives in Texas, Mallon looks forward to experiencing the land that inspired two of his favorite artists—singer Willie Nelson and writer Cormac McCarthy.





Tim Mallon

Brian Grant

Brian Grant

Brian Grant grew up in Nashville, Tennessee (not Nashville, Indiana, as he had to reiterate numerous times after he moved to Bloomington). He attended the University of Tennessee to earn both his undergraduate and master's degrees before moving to New York City in 2013 where he worked for six years in international tax. That's also where he met his wife, Shannon.

The pair relocated to Bloomington in 2019 so Grant could pursue his PhD degree at Indiana University. While at IU, his primary research focus was on international tax issues for US multinational firms, including tax avoidance, disclosure, and policy related issues.

"I loved my time at IU," says Grant. "Besides the birth of my two children [Stevie, 2.5 years, and Hudson, 1 month], my favorite memories of my time spent here was getting to know my fellow PhD students and other tax faculty at IU."

Prior to starting their family, Grant and his wife enjoyed traveling the world and exploring different places.

"That's probably why I went into international tax in the first place," he says. "To study different cultures."

Now his free time is mostly spent playing games and drawing on the sidewalk with chalk.

In May, Grant presented a paper at the annual spring tax camp that IU hosts. The following week he and his family packed and moved for his new job at Villanova University where he was hired as an assistant professor.

"Shannon's family is from the New York area so we will be much closer to them. We're excited about that!" says Grant.

Accounting Department Teaching, Research, and Service Highlights

Faculty Teaching and Service Awards

Bree Josefy received an Accounting Department Teaching Achievement Award.

Bree Josefy and Tanya Carson received the 2024 Innovative Teaching Award from the Kelley School.

Brian Miller, Donnie Young, and Rosh Sinha received Indiana University Trustees' Teaching Awards.

Brian Miller received the MBA Teaching Excellence Award and the Walt Blacconiere MBA Teaching Award. He also was named one of the "Favorite MBA Professors of the Class of 2023" by *Poets&Quants.*

Bridget Stomberg received the Service Award from the Kelley School.

Chris Cook received an Accounting Department Teaching Achievement Award.

Diane Biagioni received the Accounting Department Service Award.

Katie Metz received an Inclusive Excellence Award from the IU Bloomington Faculty Council and the Undergraduate Assurance of Learning Award from the Kelley School.

Ken Merkley received the Accounting Department Rising Leader Award.

PJ Hoffman received the Master of Science in Finance (MSF) Faculty Excellence Award.

Rosh Sinha received the Accounting Department DEIB Contributions Award.

Faculty Research Publications and Acceptances

Brian Miller, Eric Holzman, and Brady Twedt. 2023. "Curbing Enthusiasm: Media Sentiment and the Disciplining Role of Quarterly Earnings Announcements." *The Accounting Review*, 98 (7): 315-345.

Brian Miller, Eric Holzman, and Sam Bonsall. 2024. "Wearing Out the Watchdog: The Impact of SEC Case Backlog on the Formal Investigation Process." *The Accounting Review*, 99 (1): 81-104.

Brian Miller, J. Barton, B. Burnett, and K. Gunny. 2024. "The Importance of Separating the Probability of Committing and Detecting Misstatements in the Restatement Setting." *Management Science*, 70 (1): 32-53.

Brian Williams, Bridget Stomberg, and L. De Simone. "Does Tax Enforcement Disparately Affect Domestic versus Multinational Corporations around the World?" *Contemporary Accounting Research*, Forthcoming. **Brian Williams, Ken Merkley, Mark Piorkowski,** and J. Pacelli. "Crypto-Influencers." *Review of Accounting Studies*, Forthcoming.

Brian Williams, Sonja Rego, and M. Hutchens. 2024. "Tax Avoidance and Firm Risk: New Insights from a Latent Class Mixture Model." *The Accounting Review*, 99 (1): 1-29.

Brian Williams, Sonja Rego, and M. Hutchens. 2024. "The Impact of Standard Setting on Individual Investors: Evidence from SFAS No. 109." *Review of Accounting Studies*, 29: 1407-1455.

Chad Ham, R. Hann, M. Rabier, and W. Wang. "Auditor Skill Demands and Audit Quality: Evidence from Job Postings." *Management Science*, Forthcoming.

Daniel Beneish, D. Farber, M. Glendenning, and K. Shaw. 2023. "Aggregate Financial Misreporting and the Predictability of U.S. Recessions and GDP Growth." *The Accounting Review*, 98 (5): 129-159.

Eric Holzman, N. Marshall, and B. Schmidt. 2024. "When Are Firms on the Hot Seat? An Analysis of SEC Investigation Preferences." *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 77 (1): 101610.

Geoff Sprinkle, Jason Brown, P. Martin, and D. Way. 2023. "How Return on Investment and Residual Income Performance Measures and Risk Preferences Affect Risk-Taking." *Management Science*, 69: 1301-1322.

Greg Geisler and Bill Harden. 2024. "Excessive Student Loans: The Harbinger of Death to Your Financial Future." *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, 78 (2): 60-70.

Joe Schroeder, J. Aier, K. Jones, and Q. Lian. "An Examination of the Terminal Year in an Auditor-Client Relationship." *Accounting Horizons*, Forthcoming.

Joe Schroeder, Ken Merkley, J. Gao, and J. Pacelli. 2023. "Internal Control Weaknesses and the Demand for Financial Skills: Evidence from U.S. Job Postings." *The Accounting Review*, 98 (3): 203-228.

Joe Schroeder, Y. Gopalan, A. Imdieke, and S. Stuber. "Reliance on Third Party Verification in Bank Supervision." *The Accounting Review*, Forthcoming.

Ken Merkley, G. Kankanhalli and A. Kwan. "The Paradox of Innovative Non-Disclosure: Evidence from Licensing Contracts." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Forthcoming.

Ken Merkley, H. Jin, A. Sharma, and K. Ton. "Customers' Response to Firms' Disclosure of Social Stances: Evidence from Voting Reform Laws." *Review of Accounting Studies*, Forthcoming.

Ken Merkley, R. Cazier, T. Christensen, and J. Treu. 2024. "The Joint Effects of Litigation Risk and Regulation on Non-GAAP Reporting." *Journal of Business Finance and Accounting*, 51 (3-4): 783-818.

Lori Bhaskar, T. Majors, and A. Vitalis. 2023. "How Does Depletion Interact with Auditors' Skeptical Dispositions to Affect Auditors' Challenging of Managers in Negotiations." *Contemporary Accounting Research*, 40: 2288-2313.

Rosh Sinha, S. Grant, and J. Hobson. 2023. "Digital Engagement Practices in Mobile Trading: The Impact of Color and Swiping to Trade on Investor Decisions." *Management Science*, 70 (3): 2003-2022.

Sarah Judge, B. Goodson, and C. Stefaniak. "Audit Firm Tenure Disclosure and Nonprofessional Investors' Perceptions of Auditor Independence: The Mitigating Effect of Partner Rotation Disclosure." *Contemporary Accounting Research*, Forthcoming.

Sarah Judge and K. Thompson. "Public Accounting's Gender Ledger: Where Should Audit Firms Target their Gender Initiatives to Better Balance Representation?" *Business Horizons*, Forthcoming.

Faculty Serving as Journal Editors and Editorial Board Members

Brian Miller is an associate editor at *Management Science* and an editorial board member at *The Accounting Review* and *Review of Accounting Studies*.

Brian Williams is an ad-hoc editor at *Contemporary Accounting Research*.

Bridget Stomberg is an editorial board member at *The Accounting Review*.

Eric Holzman is an editorial board member at *The Accounting Review*.

Geoff Sprinkle is an editorial board member at Accounting, Organizations, and Society and British Accounting Review.

Jason Brown is an editorial board member at the *Journal* of *Management Accounting Research*.

Joe Schroeder is an editor at *The Accounting Review* and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory.*

Ken Merkley is an editor at Journal of Business, Finance, and Accounting and an editorial board member at The Accounting Review.

Leslie Hodder is the editor for a special issue of *Accounting Horizons*.

Lori Bhaskar is an editor at *Accounting Horizons* and is an editorial board member at *Accounting, Organizations*, and *Society* and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory.*

Marcy Shepardson is an editor at *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory* and an editorial board member at *Accounting Horizons.*

Rosh Sinha is an editorial board member at Accounting Horizons.

Other Scholarly Awards and Activities

Andrew Jones (PhD student) received a 2024 Deloitte Foundation Doctoral Fellowship Award.

Bridget Stomberg received the Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award for her co-authored article published in *The Accounting Review*, titled "How Do IRS Resources Affect the Corporate Audit Process?"

Chad Ham and Mark Piorkowski received the 2023 Accounting Behavior and Organizations (ABO) Outstanding Manuscript Award for their co-authored paper titled, "Executive Narcissism and the Power of Persuasion: Evidence from the Laboratory and Sell-Side Analyst Valuations."

Eric Holzman received the 2024 Financial Accounting Research Section (FARS) Midyear Meeting Outstanding Discussion Award and an Outstanding Reviewer Award from *The Accounting Review*.

Eric Holzman, Rosh Sinha, and Sonja Rego received 2023 Accounting Department Research Awards from the Kelley School for their respective publications in the *Journal of Accounting and Economics, Management Science,* and *The Accounting Review*.

Ken Merkley received the Deloitte Foundation Wildman Medal Award from the AAA for his co-authored article published in the *Journal of Accounting Research*, titled "Auditor's Quantitative Materiality Judgments: Properties and Implications for Financial Reporting Variability."

Leslie Hodder serves on the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Advisory Council and is the Vice President of Finance of the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER).

Michele Mullaney received an Excellence in Reviewing Award from the American Taxation Association (ATA) for the 2024 ATA Midyear Meeting.

Sonja Rego will be a Keynote Speaker at the 2024 European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM) Conference on Current Research in Taxation in Porto, Portugal.



News from GAP

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

After three years of excellent leadership under Professor Leslie Hodder, Professor Joe Schroeder took over as chair of Graduate Accounting Programs (GAP) in August 2023. Schroeder quickly learned that GAP is not immune to the nationwide declining enrollment in accounting.

In response, he focused the program's attention on three specific objectives with the goal of ensuring both the 3/2 MBA and MSADA programs continue to prosper:

- · Increase enrollments while maintaining student quality,
- Continue to be the national leader in experiential learning, and
- Increase stakeholder awareness.

GAP has made considerable progress in meeting these objectives this past academic year.

Consistent with these objectives, GAP has turned its recruiting strategies towards first-year and sophomore students, striving to increase awareness of the importance of graduate education and how it is not "if" they will obtain their master's degree, but "when." GAP has partnered with the new sophomore level accounting workshop series and has seen a significant increase in interest and commitment to both the 3/2 MBA and MSADA programs. GAP is also working on new programming ideas to increase professional and networking opportunities for conditionally admitted students prior to the start of their respective programs, which in some cases can be up to two years in advance. GAP is excited by the new recruiting focus and its potential to increase enrollments and the quality of students in both programs.

GAP continues to be the national leader in experiential learning. The 3/2 MBA students finished their international

field studies in May. This year, 48 students spent seven weeks working for corporate partners in Indonesia, Poland, Romania, Thailand, and Vietnam. Students worked on a wide variety of projects ranging from implementing an inventory costing system for a hospital in Bucharest to establishing a continuous internal auditing system for an insurance company in Warsaw. GAP also had six students continue to work locally on impactful projects through the IU Center for Rural Engagement. For example, this year four students worked on important economic development and taxing projects in Dubois County. In sum, the total consultative value of these projects for our community and corporate partners was estimated to be \$1.5 million.

GAP also had a remarkably successful year with the A569 Field Consulting Project. The goal of these projects is to work with local Indiana small businesses, not-for-profits, and government agencies. This year, GAP had about 20 projects served by teams of four students from the MSADA and 3/2 MBA programs. Projects varied from consulting on green reporting issues, to developing economic plans for the local chamber of commerce, to working on grant tracking systems. All projects were an enormous success with a total consultative value of \$1.1 million to key Indiana organizations. For the second consecutive year, students on the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense Manufacturing Science and Technology Program project were recognized at the Pentagon, for their contributions.

GAP celebrated the 25th Anniversary of both the 3/2 MBA and MSADA programs in July of 2024 and is excited about its prospects for the next 25 years!

The Best Kind of Learning: A505/A569 Gives Students Immersive, Hands-On Experience

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

Lectures, panel discussions, presentations, and group projects are all an integral part of learning. Nothing, however, is as powerful or as educational as when a student receives hands-on experience in the real world. Kelley Graduate Accounting Programs (GAP) students are given the wonderful opportunity to advance their skills via the Jim Grandorf Field Consulting projects (A569) and International Field Study projects (A505) courses, which enable GAP students to achieve real-world consulting experience using research-based strategies. These projects invite students to serve a variety of organizations and businesses who could benefit from making changes to their business models.

Ben Larimer's consulting project was with EarthWay, a consumer packaged goods manufacturer. The actual work dealt primarily with finance and marketing for an e-commerce platform. Larimer and his team were tasked with attempting to optimize a portion of their supply chain to help boost profits and providing recommendations for potential marketing campaigns.

"I learned a lot more about e-commerce business than I ever thought possible," says Larimer, who quickly came to realize the value in this type of work.

"Classroom learning is important to learn the basics, but even course-based cases do not offer the degree of realism as experiential learning," says Larimer. "Being able to work on a project that has an impact beyond a grade forces you to apply everything from soft skills to technical work. Experiential learning is the true final exam."

Jennifer Wagner, a 3/2 MBA student, helped her client with various tasks such as

mapping a process flow, creating account reconciliations, and identifying areas of internal control improvement. She says that this experience grew her skills in ways she didn't imagine.

"Going into the project, I expected to put on my accounting and finance hat. However, we quickly realized that the project required knowledge of information systems," says Wagner. "Bringing in what we learned in class, I learned how to understand the flow of information from one system to the next and how they all 'talk' to each other." Her favorite part of the course was the level of coaching and mentorship she received from Professor Brett Levitt and Professor Chris Cook.

"That was a huge value-add for my own professional and personal development," she says. "The regular and honest feedback allowed me to push to be the best version of myself for both my team and my client."

The experience also brought some surprises along the way. For instance, Wagner's team brought on a data physicist to help code some programs in the background of

the systems.

"None of us were expecting access to someone with such expertise and knowledge," says Wagner, who will be joining KPMG in its Deal Advisory-Financial Due Diligence practice in Chicago this fall. "We are forever grateful for his efforts and impact on the project because we could not have had the same outcome without him."

Grace Waggoner, also a 3/2 MBA

student, notes that her consulting experience provided her with the opportunity to grow her business and interpersonal skills at a high level while expanding her network and building relationships with her fellow team members.

"This project challenged me to think outside of the box," says Waggoner, who this fall will begin working for Kodiak Solutions as a healthcare financial consultant. "Oftentimes, in academia we are handed a problem with a set solution, but through this experience I learned that many problems in the real world are quite complex and not as clear to

"This project pushed me to improve,"

Ben Larimer



Professor Chris Cook, Bree Josefy, and Brett Levitt at annual faculty retreat in August 2023

uncover. But by asking the right questions, researching, and applying a critical thinking mindset, we were able to deliver exceptional work."

Wagner says that particularly with an accelerated program like the 3/2 MBA, experiential learning is important for applying what students learn in the classroom to real-world projects. Waggoner agrees.

"Through hands-on experiences, individuals develop practical skills, including communication and teamwork, while increasing motivation and memory retention," she says. "Experiential learning fosters personal growth, preparing individuals for the complexities of the real world, promoting cultural competence, and instilling a lifelong love of learning."

Many students expressed an appreciation of being forced to learn about an industry that they had no background in, which, in turn, forced them to step outside their comfort zone. Because again, that is when exceptional growth occurs.

Larimer, who, postgraduation, will be working for Cummins as a corporate accountant for their Power Generation business within the distribution business unit, says that prior to this experience, he found his technical skills were average.

"This project pushed me to improve," he says. "It enabled me to put all of my Excel and finance training to the ultimate test."

For more information about A505 or A569, email Chris Cook (cookchs@iu.edu).

"Experiential learning fosters personal growth, preparing individuals for the complexities of the real world, promoting cultural competence, and instilling a lifelong love of learning."

Grace Waggoner

Immersive GLOBASE Program Enables MBA Students to Create Solutions to Real-World Problems

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

Speaking in hypotheticals to solve problems is part of the learning process, but there's nothing quite like traveling to different lands and immersing oneself in other cultures to appreciate true experiential learning. Since 2009, the Global Business and Social Enterprise (GLOBASE) program has provided MBA students with fresh perspectives that help small businesses in developing countries thrive.



This past year, Professor Brian Miller, who has led GLOBASE trips for seven years, took three groups of students on three different trips (two of which were with Full-Time MBA students and one with Kelley Direct immersion students). In March 2023, he was in Indonesia with Full-Time MBA students. In January 2024, he was with the Kelley Direct students in Guatemala. And in March 2024 he went to Buenos Aires with Full-Time MBA students.

"This was my first experience doing an immersion with our Kelley Direct MBA students, which was particularly rewarding because a lot of the program for these students takes place virtually and is supplemented with in-person experiences in Bloomington and other locations," says Miller.

The Kelley Direct international immersions are normally focused on client visits, where students learn more about doing business in other countries. This immersion was a bit different as the focus was on providing free consulting to EcoFiltro, a company focused on social entrepreneurship. Headquartered in Guatemala, the most populous country in Central America,

the company has the goal of bringing clean water to 1 million Guatemalan families. They have already sold 700,000 filters to people in Guatemala.

"We spent some time visiting villages and markets in the more rural parts of Guatemala, splitting our group of 27 students into six teams that provided consulting advice on how to

better reach customers in the rural community," says Miller. "The students came up with lots of innovative suggestions that the client found very useful."

Dan Beer calls the GLOBASE trip an experience he will always remember.

"I'm thankful for Kelley offering immersion experiences and the opportunity to work with a social enterprise like EcoFiltro," says Beer. "Getting the chance to help EcoFiltro make a difference by bringing more clean water to rural Guatemala was very rewarding."

Tim Smith is a veteran who says that this immersion has been one of the most important experiences in his transition out of the military because it demonstrated new ways for him to apply the strategic and multicultural skills acquired during his military service to tangible, real-world business challenges.

"Engaging with passionate colleagues from various industries broadened my perspective," Smith says. "The most rewarding aspect was the opportunity to improve the lives of those in need of safe drinking water in Guatemala."

The Guatemala immersion trip was the perfect capstone to Will Roman's Kelley MBA experience.

"I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with an impactful organization like EcoFiltro and put my education to the test in a meaningful way," says Roman. "Exploring and immersing ourselves into the local culture with this awesome group of Kelley students and faculty made for an unforgettable experience."

Divya Jonnavittula maintains that concluding her MBA coursework with the immersion experience in Guatemala was the best decision she made during her time in the Kelley Direct program.

"Collaborating on a project with a social enterprise like EcoFiltro provided an invaluable opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired in the courses to address a real-world issue," says Jonnavittula, who appreciated how the incountry program struck a perfect balance between work and extracurricular activities that allowed a comprehensive understanding of Guatemalan culture. "This journey will forever hold a special place in my life."

Hector Cardona, corporate strategy with EcoFiltro, was impressed by the wonderful work from all MBA candidates.

"I loved the six proposals, and the management team started to work on a combined commercial strategy," says Cardona. "We are so happy."

Having taught students overseas and led student exchanges, Miki Pike Hamstra knew the challenges and limitations of delivering lasting impacts through short-term international experiences. However, Kelley Direct's

global immersion in Guatemala is the perfect blend of applied KD business acumen, cultural exploration, and local community social impact.

"EcoFiltro's bold clean water vision for Guatemala, combined with Kelley Direct students' passion, creativity, and expertise, was transformational for all involved and serves as a capstone immersion experience for our #1 online MBA program," he says.

Gabe Valley agrees that the immersion trip to Guatemala offered the ideal combination of learning, networking, and personal growth.

"It really set the tone for the entire Kelley Direct experience," says Valley. "Most notably, the indelible mark left by the client's mission really helped me appreciate the importance of a company's vision and purpose, beyond just the standard bottom-line goals."

Valley was also impressed by the seamless coordination and logistics of the program.

"Kelley Direct continues to demonstrate why it's the top-ranked online program, and these immersion programs are integral to keeping it that way," he says. "I've never been prouder to be a Kelley."

"I've never been prouder to be a Kelley."

Gabe Valley

Undergraduate Program: Kelley's Undergraduate Program Excellence Recognized Again With #8 Overall Ranking by U.S. News and World Report

The Kelley School of Business has once again proven itself as a premier institution, maintaining its highly respected status in this year's rankings. The undergraduate program continues to be recognized, securing the #8 spot in the overall rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*. This recognition underscores the school's commitment to excellence and quality education.

The Kelley School of Business excels across multiple disciplines, with 8 of its specialties ranked in the top 10 nationally. Notably, the accounting program continues its tradition of excellence, achieving an impressive #4 overall ranking and #3 among public institutions. This consistent high performance highlights the program's strength and the quality of its graduates.

During the 2023–24 academic year, Kelley graduates saw significant demand from top industries, including public accounting, investment banking, consulting, and financial services. Leading companies such as PwC, Ernst & Young, KPMG, Deloitte, Crowe, and Grant Thornton were among the top full-time employers for Kelley graduates. This year also saw a noteworthy increase in starting salaries, with an average rise of over 5%. Specifically, accounting majors from Kelley reported an average starting salary of \$77,300, coupled with an average signing bonus of nearly \$5,300.

These promising statistics suggest that hiring trends for Kelley graduates will remain strong and consistent with previous years.

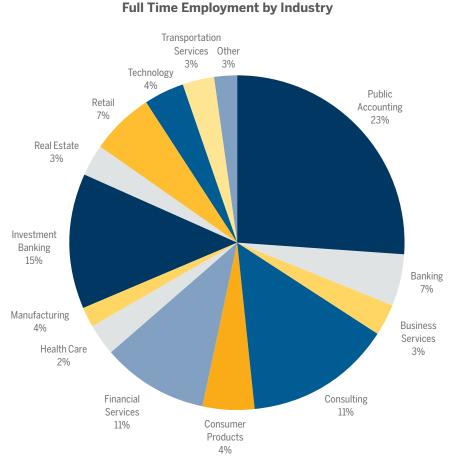
NOTE: The data, as of May 2024, are preliminary and will be further detailed in the UCSO Annual Report.





Kelley Undergraduate Program U.S. News & World Report

Kelley Accounting Program U.S. News & World Report



News from BAP

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) has had an exciting year, hosting several events, including the First Annual BAP Bowling Night.

"This year we started a fundraiser to support BAP," says Sarah Judge, clinical assistant professor and BAP faculty sponsor. "Firms sponsored a lane at the IMU bowling alley and students were invited to strike up a conversation with the firms."

Six firms (RSM, Crowe, Baker Tilly, Grant Thornton, BDO, and CohnReznick) attended the inaugural event, along with nearly 75 students. The fundraiser raised enough funds to support BAP activities for a full academic year. BAP plans to host this event every spring moving forward.

This was also the first year that BAP hosted the Accounting Workshop Information Night, which provided students with detailed information about each accounting Workshop in hopes of attracting more students to the Workshops in the future. BAP also hosted a more general session which described Workshops both inside and outside the accounting department.

In addition, BAP hosted Big 4 Night with all the Big 4 accounting firms and a dinner where candidates were



initiated into BAP. In fall 2023, BAP initiated 14 full members and 10 affiliate members.

"We celebrate together by recognizing the students who have served in leadership roles, initiate the candidates, eat a meal, and play games after the formal part of the evening," says Judge.

Currently, 59 candidates are involved in BAP. If they complete the requirements, they will be initiated as full or affiliate members at the end of the semester at another initiation dinner.

Check Out Our 'Accounting Spotlights!'

Consistent with our emphasis on enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the profession, in 2022 the accounting department began spotlighting our outstanding students and alumni on the department blog and other social media.

Spotlights aim to illustrate the variety of careers accounting can offer and that any one person can follow numerous paths to get there. We continued publishing spotlights in 2023 and 2024 with the hope that doing so will encourage more prospective students to consider accounting while increasing feelings of belonging among current students.

Just take it from one of our spotlights, Sara Stetler, who said it best, "My favorite part of being an accounting student at Kelley was the teamwork among students. Kelley put a lot of emphasis on group work, and it is in these settings that I made a lot of connections and friendships that lasted throughout college."





Thank you to our accounting leaders for your continued support



Explore our site at kelley.iu.edu/accounting or contact us at acctg@iu.edu with any questions.

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