

FISHER

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

2018-19
Annual Report



ABOUT THE FISHER SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

The Fisher School is committed to providing global thought leadership by developing future professional and academic leaders through graduate education programs, creating influential research, and engaging with the global professional community.

The School provides a detailed focus on the complex skill of accounting. As one of the nation's few free-standing accounting schools, students in the program experience a curriculum dedicated to growth in an intricate field. As a professional school in a top 10 public research university, the School is committed to scholarly research, teaching, and service to advance knowledge and prepare future leaders for business, professional, and academic careers.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As you will note from the sampling of items highlighted in the pages of this report, the Fisher School students, faculty, and staff continue their hard work on meaningful and productive activities. Our students exhibit quality engagement both inside and outside the classroom, report excellent placement, and demonstrate outstanding performance on the CPA exam. Our faculty members contribute to the accounting profession in many ways, putting their many talents to work for both the University of Florida and the global accounting profession, including working with key regulatory bodies and leading research journals. Our staff is continuously improving our student services, and our alumni continue to be recognized for significant achievements. The Fisher School is externally recognized with top 10 program rankings, including improved rankings this year over our already impressive numbers.

We are saddened this year to report the passing of two key individuals in the history of the Fisher School – John Simmons, the inaugural Director of the School, and Dan Smith, a professor famous for his teaching expertise. See the articles about Professors Simmons and Smith later in the report.

It takes all of us – students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends – to make the Fisher School of Accounting what it is. I thank you all for your part in our success. We hope to see you on campus or at one of our alumni events in your city in the coming year.

Thank you,



GARY MCGILL

J. ROY DUGGAN PROFESSOR
Director, Fisher School of Accounting

→ **FACULTY**

Fisher faculty are passionate about shaping their profession by producing relevant research. But that's only the beginning of their role. They work closely with our students to create accounting professionals ready to lead.

→ **STUDENTS**

Students at the Fisher School are recognized for their work in and out of the classroom. From building their network with peer students to being recognized by organizations outside of UF, students are prepared to compete with peers from any university in the world.

→ **ENGAGEMENT**

Staying connected with the Fisher School is an important part of being an alumnus. Just as alumni paved the way for your educational experience in Gainesville, you have the opportunity to create a better future for Fisher students.

→ **ACADEMICS**

The Fisher academic experience is recognized with strong rankings from publications around the globe. Students in undergraduate and graduate programs know they are receiving a transformational education.

→ **ALUMNI**

Graduating from the Fisher School sets students up for success. What they learn on campus is directly transitioned into their careers and the impact they have on the accounting profession.

OUR SHARED PURPOSE

The Fisher School serves business and accounting professionals and educators through innovative and high-quality teaching and research with a focus on providing the education necessary for successful careers in leadership positions. The School promotes the understanding and practice of accounting and business through its research, teaching and service.

OUR SHARED VALUES

- The achievement of continuous improvement
- Knowledge enhancement through high-quality research, which is broadly defined to include discovering new knowledge, integrating and applying that knowledge, and communicating it to others
- High-quality, innovative and relevant professional and doctoral education
- Broad faculty and staff involvement in the full range of mission-related activities by recognizing and utilizing the unique skills and contributions of individual faculty and staff members
- The sentiments and advice of the faculty are important to faculty governance
- Academic excellence in all actions undertaken to fulfill our mission
- An environment of collegiality and mutual respect.
- Active participation and support by our alumni and friends for our programs
- Outreach to the business and professional community

OUR MEASURES OF

SUCCESS

- Overall recognition of the Fisher School brand
- High level and improving placement in appropriate media rankings of accounting programs
- Consistent ranking among the top ten public university accounting programs
- Consistent ranking in the top half among the accounting programs of a set of defined peer schools
- External recognition of the high quality and diversity of our students, faculty and staff
- General satisfaction of stakeholders including students, faculty, administration, supporters, parents, recruiters and others
- Alignment of resources and mission, objectives and activities
- Adequacy and quality of physical and intellectual resources

SETTING THE STANDARD

Fisher faculty members are making a difference in accounting. From producing impactful research that directly impacts the profession to molding future accounting professionals, Fisher faculty know how to shape the future.

2018-19 FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

*The research component of the Fisher School mission is important. Over the last five years, **12** current faculty members published **69** articles in peer-reviewed journals. These include:*

- **THE ACCOUNTING REVIEW**
- **JOURNAL OF ACCOUNTING RESEARCH**
- **ACCOUNTING, ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETY**
- **CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTING RESEARCH**
- **REVIEW OF ACCOUNTING STUDIES**
- **AUDITING: A JOURNAL OF PRACTICE & THEORY**
- **THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN TAXATION ASSOCIATION**
- **NATIONAL TAX JOURNAL**
- **MANAGEMENT SCIENCE**

among 20 others

These papers address important issues in accounting, auditing, and taxation. A number of faculty also are involved in producing textbooks used around the world.

Fisher faculty frequently speak at academic and professional conferences, present their research at other universities, participate in leadership roles in national organizations, and advise private and government entities.



For more on Fisher's faculty,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher



Highlights

• Dr. W. Robert Knechel

*Frederick E. Fisher Eminent Scholar
and Director of the International
Accounting and Auditing Center*

- Dr. Knechel was named Senior Editor of The Accounting Review. Now in its 92nd year of publication, The Accounting Review is the premier journal for publishing articles reporting the results of accounting research and explaining and illustrating related research methodology. He will begin his three-year term as Senior Editor on June 1, 2020.

“Being named Senior Editor is one of the highest honors that can accrue to an accounting academic,” Knechel said. “It is actually quite humbling. There have only been 25 Senior Editors since the journal was first started in 1926. I will be number 26. Being Senior Editor offers a rare chance to influence the development of accounting research in a broad and meaningful way.”

- Dr. Knechel was one of five recipients of the 2018-2019 Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award from the University of Florida Graduate School. The award recognizes a standard of excellence, innovation and effectiveness in mentoring doctoral students through their final dissertation. Knechel is the third Warrington faculty member to receive the award.



To read more about Dr. Knechel's achievements,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher

OTHER FACULTY

HIGHLIGHTS



MARCUS KIRK,

PWC ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Kirk served as the American Accounting Association National Meeting Co-Coordinator for the Financial Accounting & Reporting Section. He received an "Outstanding Service Award."



SONIA SINGH

SENIOR LECTURER

Singh was promoted to Senior Lecturer. She was also awarded the Warrington Undergraduate Teacher of the Year.



BOBBY CARNES

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Carnes' paper in The Accounting Review was referenced by the Securities and Exchange Commission in their deliberations over whether to extend the SOX 404(b) exemption for small accelerated filers.



JENNY TUCKER

J. COOK/DELOITTE PROFESSOR

Tucker was invited by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to present her research.



To read more Fisher faculty highlights,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher




FISHER SCHOOL MOURNS THE LOSS OF TWO

IMPACTFUL MEN

During the 2018-19 year, the Fisher School lost two important men to the history of the School.

John K. Simmons, the inaugural Director of the Fisher School, passed away at the age of 81 in Chesapeake, Virginia, where he lived after retiring from the University of Florida. Dr. Simmons was born in Beloit, Kansas and earned his Ph.D. in Accounting from The Ohio State University in 1967. He had a long and distinguished academic career, serving as the President of the American Accounting Association among many other national leadership roles. He retired from UF as the KPMG Distinguished Service Professor. Dr. Simmons was also an accomplished sailor.

Dan Smith, who served as a professor at Fisher from 1971-1991, passed away in February 2019. Dr. Smith also worked as an accounting professor at the University of Georgia from 1991-2010 before retiring. He attended undergraduate school at Baylor University and graduate school (master's and PhD) at The Ohio State University. Dr. Smith was recognized many times for his excellence in teaching.



NEW FACULTY

The background features a dark blue gradient with abstract financial data visualizations. A prominent yellow line graph trends upwards from the bottom left towards the top right. Overlaid on this are several teal-colored bar charts of varying heights. Faint, semi-transparent numbers are scattered across the background, including '100', '34.8', '899', '84.1', '5', '9.5', '035', '14.5', '243', '11.3', '34.0', '346', '75.2', '27', '52.0', '16.2', '55', '385', '56', '39', and '14'. The overall aesthetic is modern and data-driven.

RUBY LEE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

DON MONK

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

SCOTT RANE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

A CLASS OF THEIR OWN

Fisher students are prepared to uphold the standard of graduates that have come before them. They're equipped through rigorous academics and see their knowledge reinforced through student organizations, case competitions and internships. It all falls into the Fisher student experience.

FISHER SCHOOL HOSTS ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Fisher School of Accounting Spring Awards Banquet was held at the end of the spring semester. The event recognized standout students and faculty from across the School.

AWARDS

J. Michael Cook Student Leadership Award

→ Alex Melton

Ed Triplett Student Leadership Award

→ Ashley Turnoff

**Chrislynn Freed Master of Accounting
Outstanding Student of the Year**

→ Dayna Simon

J. Michael Cook Excellence in Teaching Award

→ Michael Mayberry

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fisher MACC Fellowship

→ Louis Zehil

Richard E. Darby Accounting Scholarship

→ Austin Herzberg

Jim and Sandy Wadsworth Scholarship

→ Jiahui Cheng

Don Miller 5th Year Accounting Scholarship

→ India Maldonado

FSOA Commemorative Gallery

Fund Fellowship

→ David Glass

Joseph Lumia Memorial Fellowship

→ Lisandra Perdomo

Ralph W. Miller Scholarship

→ Yanqi Li

→ Samantha Reisman

→ Sara Uman

**Robert N. Lowe, Jr. Family
Accounting Scholarship**

→ Alexis Huggins

William E. Crown, Jr. Fellowship

→ Elena Guzman

→ Samuel Lazzara

→ Amanda Sarbey

Gerson, Preston and Company, CPA Fellowship

→ Christy Evans

→ Xinyi Pan

→ Mackenzie Patel

Aaron and Carly Topol Scholarship

→ Bryan Sheldon

**Barbara Jean Raskin Award for
the Advancement of Women in
the Accounting Profession**

→ Ashlyn Lowe

FICPA Scholarship Nominees

→ Ana Castro

→ Rachel Moore

→ Elliot Karr

→ Andres Padilla

→ Collin Kosuch

→ Jake Pagano



For more on our accounting students,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher

WOMEN IN ACCOUNTING SYMPOSIUM

The Fisher School hosted the 12th annual Women in Accounting Symposium in November.

The event was sponsored by Deloitte, EY, Grant Thornton, KPMG and PwC. It provided networking and growth opportunities for current students, Fisher alumnae and other women in accounting.



"A big unplanned topic this year was about building other women up and bringing women with you as you rise to the top. It really spoke to me, and I hope it spoke to many of our attendees."

DIANA WENG,
FISHER SCHOOL PH.D. CANDIDATE



To read more of Weng's first-person experience from the event, visit
news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher

FISHER STUDENT SELECTED FOR **PRESTIGIOUS ACCOUNTING PROGRAM**

Amy Scheb was chosen for the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Postgraduate Technical Assistant Program. This is the second year in a row that a student from the Fisher School's Master of Accounting program has been chosen to participate.

This prestigious year-long program allows recent accounting program graduates to learn about standard setting and the accounting profession from the ground up.



"I will be assigned to major agenda projects and/or to short-term practice and implementation issues that currently face the FASB," Scheb said. "Within each, I will be highly involved in the standard-setting process, from research to implementation."



To read more about Amy's accomplishment,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher

A portrait of Ashlyn Lowe, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored top with vertical stripes. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green foliage.

FISHER STUDENT RECEIVES

PCAOB SCHOLARSHIP

Ashlyn Lowe is the recipient of a 2019-2020 Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) academic scholarship. The scholarship will cover \$10,000 worth of tuition, fees, books and supplies.

Lowe is a combined undergraduate and graduate student at the Fisher School. She will start her final year of the program this fall and is set to graduate in the spring of 2020.

“Receiving this scholarship gives me added confidence that I am capable and worthy of jumping headfirst into my accounting career in hopes of fulfilling my goal of having a positive impact and making a difference,” she said.



To read more about Ashlyn's accomplishment,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher

CONGRATULATIONS TO

BETA

ALPHA

PSI

FOR EARNING SUPERIOR
STATUS!

GARY R. GERSON HALL

1368



A LIFETIME CONNECTION

Every Fisher graduate had their experience influenced by donors. Whether through a scholarship or a guest speaker in class, Fisher alumni take pride in giving back to the School to ensure that future generations can benefit from the same strong experience.

SHAPE THE LEGACY OF THE FISHER SCHOOL

The Fisher 45 Legacy Challenge is both a celebration of 40 years of the Fisher School of Accounting and a lasting tribute to the School's bright future. During this five-year challenge, we are asking our alumni and friends to consider making an estate commitment to benefit the Fisher School of Accounting. We currently have **27 documented estate gifts** and are **aiming to bring that number to 45**, representing the number of years since our School was founded.

PLEASE CONTACT **ALISON LAW**
WITH ANY QUESTIONS

alison.law@warrington.ufl.edu

FISHER
45
LEGACY
CHALLENGE



For more on staying connected with Fisher,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher

- E. Lovelle Ahrano Scholarship
- Gina Babicz Memorial Fellowship
- Batson-Siegel Accounting Scholarship
- Blank Family Endowment
- Joseph F. & Theresa A. Cannella Family Master's in Accounting Scholarship
- J. Michael Cook / Deloitte Professorship Fund
- Bob Crouch Family Accounting Excellence Fund
- William E. Crown, Jr. Fellowship
- Joy McCann Culverhouse Excellence in Accounting Fund
- Richard E. Darby Accounting Scholarship
- William E. Davis Family Fellowship in Accounting
- Deloitte Partners Professorship Endowment
- Duggan, Joiner & Co. Accounting Endowment
- J. Roy Duggan Professorship
- Ernst & Young Endowment
- Ernst & Young Excellence Fund
- Ernst & Young Professorship of Accounting
- Frederick E. Fisher Accounting Fund
- Frederick E. Fisher Eminent Scholar Chair
- Fisher School of Accounting Enhancement Fund
- Fisher School of Accounting Commemorative Gallery Fund
- Fisher School of Accounting Director's Excellence Fund
- Chrislynn Freed Master of Accounting Student of the Year Award
- Gerson Hall Excellence Support Fund
- Gerson, Preston and Co. CPA Fellowship
- Grant Thornton Faculty Fellowship
- KPMG Professorship in Accounting
- Jack Kramer Professorship
- Robert N. Lowe, Jr. Family Accounting Scholarship
- Joseph Lumia Memorial Fellowship
- Roddy & Leslie Melendez Student Excellence Fund
- Joelen K. and Robert G. Merkel Endowment
- Don Miller 5th Year Accounting Scholarship
- Ralph W. Miller Scholarship
- Randall L. Parks Endowment
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Faculty Fellowship in Accounting
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Professorship in Accounting
- Luciano Prida, Sr. Term Professorship
- Leland M. Reiner Memorial Scholarship
- The Bond Foundation, Inc. Endowment
- Thibault Family Endowment
- Aaron and Carly Topol Accounting Scholarship Endowment
- Jim & Sandy Wadsworth Scholarship Endowment
- Mark & Karen Wolfson Family Endowment
- James W Wynns Accounting Excellence Fund

DEFERRED GIFTS

- Marion "Bill" Averett
- Bernie Berkman
- W. Thomas Brooks
- John Bumgarner
- Martin Chernoff
- J. Michael Cook
- Harry Daniels
- Jeffrey M. Davidson
- Timothy Deckert
- A. Ross Evans
- Jimmy Fischer
- Fred Fisher
- Gary L French
- Dr. Jack Guistwhite
- Ryan & Julia Kittner
- Andrew McGhin, Jr.
- Joelen K. Merkel
- Barbara Jean Raskin
- Davis Rembert
- Jay Rossin
- Jerome Schine
- Dr. John Simmons
- Doug Thompson
- Alfred C. Warrington IV

\$100,000+

- KPMG Foundation
- Xavier E. & Mrs. Ember C. Prida

\$50,000-\$99,999

- Deloitte Foundation
- William J. & Catherine T. Goodrum
- Prida-Guida & Co., P.A.
- Alfred C. & Judy A. Warrington

\$25,000-\$49,999

- J. Michael & Mary Anne Cook
- Ernst & Young Foundation
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Inc.
- David P. & Josephine Nichols
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- James B. & Sandra M. Wadsworth

\$10,000-\$24,999

- Joseph F. & Theresa A. Cannella
- Donald & Carole Chaiken Foundation
- Donald & Carole(d) Chaiken
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- Jason R. & Susan G. Connery
- Randy C. & Adrienne J. Figur
- Glenn S. & Chrislynn W. Freed
- Grant Thornton Foundation
- Jeffrey C. & Karen C. Jones
- Ben (d) & Mary E Latham
- Leslie A. & Rodrigo J. Melendez
- Henry H. & Peggy B. Miyares
- Lori G. & Kevin S. Nissen
- Steven K. Rainey
- Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund
- Sean M. & Maureen D. Richards
- Robert Tache
- Steve & Holly L. Thibault
- Aaron S. & Mrs. Carly D. Topol

\$5,000-\$9,999

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- Gerard A. & Nancy L. Arsenault
- Anthony D. & Carla Beckman
- Jeremy B. & Stephanie A. Blank
- Edward Blum
- The Bond Foundation, Inc.
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- Martin Chernoff, C.P.A.
- Cherry Bekaert LLP
- Cherry Bekaert LLP
- Crowe LLP
- J. Michael & Mrs. Kim F. Custer
- Jonathan J. & Sheila H. Davies
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- Gary L. French
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- Mrs. Minde W. & Lewis J. King
- Eli Lilly & Co.
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- Steven E. Morrison
- Solon F. O'Neal, Jr.
- Jesse B. & Florence E. Ostrum
- Nick J. & Melanie G. Reader
- Richard H. & Patricia M. Simonet
- Loreen M. & Marc A. Spencer
- Brenton W. & Julie M. Maxwell-Steiner
- Grant Thornton Foundation
- Charles W. & Sylvia E. Uhrig
- James H. Vogt
- Dave R. & Kristi K. Wagley

\$1,000-\$4,999

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- Daniel J. & Candice E. Amat
- David A. & Sharon S. Apseloff
- Justin B. & Lindsey Avery
- Geoffrey T. & Mrs. Mirjam Ball
- Diane M. Barrett
- BDO USA LLP
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- Kent N. & Alexa Berry
- Jessica R. Bloom
- Jennifer Leavengood & Stephen G. Blume
- Brad & Alexandra M. Bond
- Susan M. Borland
- Scott C. & Christine C. Cerutti
- Janet Chive
- Thomas A. & Wendi R. Christensen
- Reverend Paul H. & Linda A. Cleveland
- Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Inc.
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- Kevin Michael & Sandra M. Davis
- Diana L. & Melvin Delgado
- Paul A. & Denise Demick
- Nicole C. & Matthew S. Ekendahl
- James C. & Nancy C. Elliott
- Elsevier, Inc.
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- Asim & Yasmeen S. Fareeduddin
- Frank S. & Susan M. Ferreri
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- Tony R. & Tiffany H. Otero
- Debbie M. & Jeff Oviedo
- Michael C. & Kerri Percent
- Omer Qaiser
- Mrs. Thais D. Rodriguez-Caez & Brian Caez
- RSM US LLP
- Scott D. & Ilisa E. Sarbey
- David & Mrs. Lorel Schinasi
- Jerome A. Schine
- Mark & Nancy J. Schroeder
- Paige F. Simpson
- David A. & Mrs. Radostina T. Smalling
- Bonnie S. Sockel-Stone & Elliot N. Stone
- Dean G. Sorrentino

- Julie Haney & Robert S. Sullivan
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- Lara Thrush-Long & Brian T. Long
- Time Warner, Inc.
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- Emily T. Warthen
- David W. & Maria A. Weinberg
- S. Benjamin & Maura Weiner
- R. Todd & Sharon F. Wilson
- Christopher L. & Mrs. Yeniley L. Winfrey
- Jacob C. & Holly L. Wise
- Morris C. & Mrs. Ivonne G. Wycoff

\$500-\$999

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- Cecilia E. Billingsley
- Christina P. & Charles W. Cardillo
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- Joseamon Carrasco
- Steven G. & Susan D. Christovich
- Antonio & Stephanie S. Correa
- Lance A. Cottle
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- Clayton C. Johnson
- Linda K. & Charles L. Johnson
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- Lou Ann Lanier
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- Bard D. Rockenbach
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- Paul H. & Jennifer M. Silvergate
- Jack Sinuk
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- Mia C. & Phillip L. Stutzman
- Mary E. & Timothy M. Sweeney
- Adam J. Traub
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- Mark D. & Tina M. Veil
- Ettore D. Ventrice
- Christopher N. Watford
- Todd C. & Rebecca H. Wilkins
- James E. & Marilyn M. Williams

- Xiao L. Zhao
- Brian M. & Melissa Zophin

\$100 - \$499

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- Brandon E. Adler
- Debra M. & Andres F. Alberdi
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- Ludwick Alexis
- Allyson A. & Derrick E. Andres
- Jonathan L. & Jill F. Andron
- Daniel P. & Angela M. Armstrong
- Jennifer L. & S. Scott Armstrong
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- William D. & Sheri W. Goreschak
- William J. & Elizabeth Grasty

- Wade E. Greaton
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- Parisa Hamzetas
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- Eric R. Hipp
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A smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a blue shirt and a necklace, stands outdoors in front of a brick building. She is holding a large white sign with a dark blue border. The sign contains the text "Thank you for your continued support." and "- Go Gators!".

*Thank you for
your continued
support.*

- Go Gators!

RAISING THE BAR

Fisher students are prepared to shine. They participate in undergraduate and graduate programs ranked among the best in the country, ensuring they are ready to make an immediate impact when they take the CPA Exam and start a career.

FISHER'S UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS EARN STRONG RANKINGS

The Fisher School of Accounting's graduate program claimed its fifth consecutive top-10 finish among public schools as part of *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Graduate Schools 2020" rankings. The program ranked **No. 9** among U.S. public schools and **No. 17** overall. It outranked graduate accounting programs at schools such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University, University of Virginia and Arizona State University.

The School's undergraduate program remained in the **No. 6** position among U.S. public programs in the latest *U.S. News & World Report's* "2020 Best Colleges" ranking. Overall, the undergraduate program was once again ranked **No. 11** in the U.S.



For more on Fisher's rankings,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher

FISHER PROGRAMS RANK IN

Top Five Publics by Public Accounting Report

Once again, accounting professors and deans have ranked the Fisher School of Accounting's undergraduate and master's programs in the top 5 among publics and its doctoral program in the top 15 among publics on the Public Accounting Report's 38th Annual Professors Survey.

The undergraduate program rose to No. 4 among publics and No. 7 overall, up one spot in each category from No. 5 and No. 8, respectively, in 2018. The master's program at the Fisher School remained No. 4 among publics and No. 7 overall. The Fisher School's doctoral program was named the No. 13 program among publics and No. 17 overall.

"It is an honor to be named among the best accounting schools in the nation again by our peers," said Gary McGill, Associate Dean and Director of the Fisher School of Accounting. "These rankings document the hard work and excellence of our students, faculty and staff."

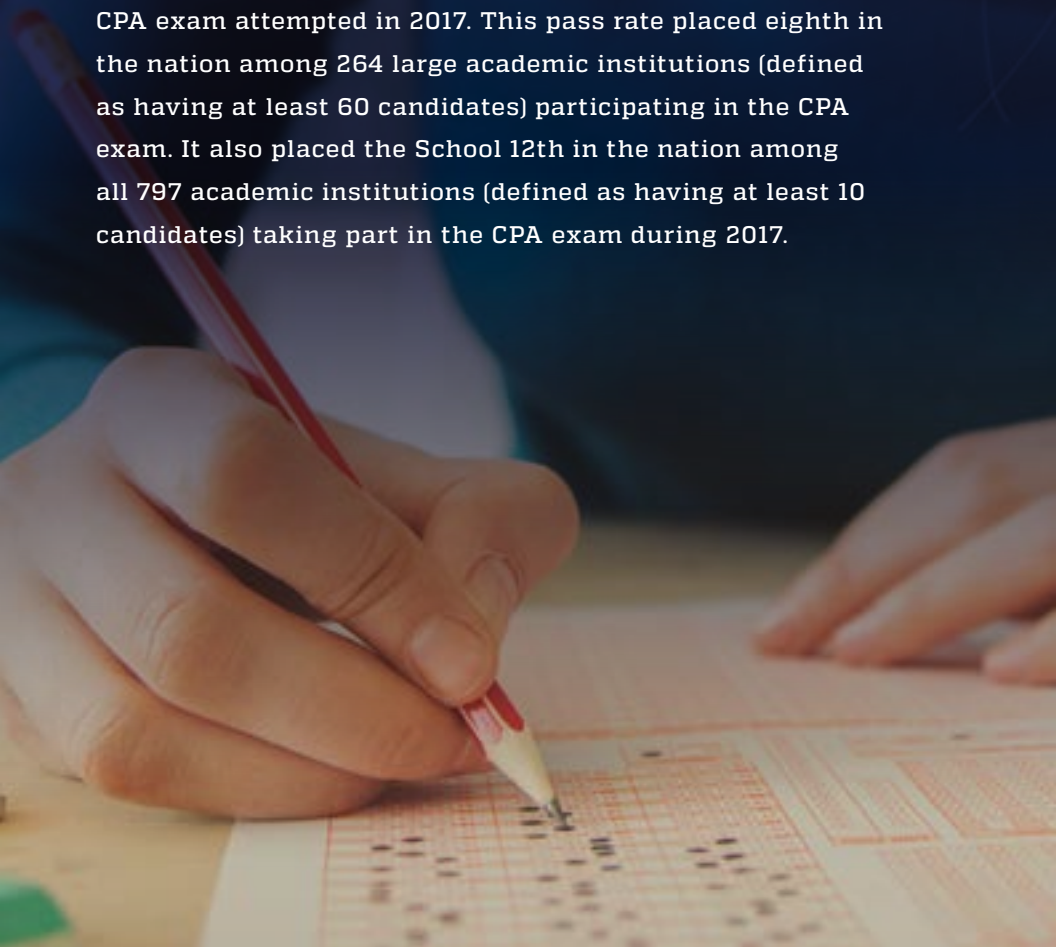
The Fisher School's undergraduate and master's programs also ranked highly among programs with 17-23 full-time faculty members. The undergraduate program was ranked in the No. 1 spot, and the master's program was ranked No. 2. Both the undergraduate and master's programs were named the No. 1 program in the South.

80% PASSING RATE

CPA Exam Scores

The Fisher School continues to prepare graduates for success on the CPA Exam.

The School's first-time candidates distinguished themselves by earning an overall passing rate of 80% for all parts of the CPA exam attempted in 2017. This pass rate placed eighth in the nation among 264 large academic institutions (defined as having at least 60 candidates) participating in the CPA exam. It also placed the School 12th in the nation among all 797 academic institutions (defined as having at least 10 candidates) taking part in the CPA exam during 2017.



STUDENT PROFILE



→ Black = 3%

→ White = 60%

→ Asian = 8%

→ Hispanic = 20%

→ Other = 9%

50% ♂ 50% ♀

INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS (FALL 2018)

AVERAGE
GMAT SCORE

598

AVERAGE
ACCOUNTING GPA

3.31

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES CONFERRED

2018-19

40 fall + 116 spring + 3 summer = 159 total

2017-18

28 fall + 115 spring + 6 summer = 149 total

2016-17

38 fall + 112 spring + 4 summer = 154 total

2015-16

57 fall + 127 spring + 7 summer = 191 total

2014-15

38 fall + 124 spring + 8 summer = 170 total

MASTER'S DEGREES CONFERRED

2018-19

2 fall + 104 spring + 1 summer = 107 total

2017-18

2 fall + 103 spring + 4 summer = 109 total

2016-17

5 fall + 95 spring + 4 summer = 104 total

2015-16

6 fall + 92 spring + 3 summer = 101 total

2014-15

11 fall + 74 spring + 5 summer = 90 total

INDUSTRY SHAPERS

The education received at the Fisher School is only part of what it means to be a Business Gator. Graduating and moving into the professional journey gives alumni an opportunity to make the Fisher School known throughout the accounting profession.

CLASS NOTES

TROY ATLAS (BSAc 1988, MAcc 1990) has joined Stonehill as its President. Stonehill is a strategy and innovation consultancy using design thinking, data analytics and business intelligence to help the world's most interesting brands to identify opportunity, implement change and accelerate growth.

NADIA BATEY (BSAc 2004) was admitted into James Moore & Company's partnership. A member of the firm for nearly 14 years, Batey provides tax advisory and compliance services with a focus on serving the needs of small businesses, real estate firms, and manufacturing, technology and startup companies.

LAURENCE BERNSTEIN (BSAc 2007, MAcc 2007) was promoted to director in Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors and Accountants' tax services practice. He leads the firm's accounting intelligence practice, which provides outsourced cloud-based accounting to growing and mid-sized companies.

JOHN HAVEN (BSAc 2000, MAcc 2000) was named the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Previously, he was the Executive Director for the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine for 15 years.

JOHNNIE P. JAMES, JR. (BSAc 1980, MAcc 1981) was named CEO of the Lykes Bros., a Tampa-based agribusiness. James joins Lykes Bros. after a 30+ year career in public accounting serving large agricultural family businesses throughout the southeast.

AUBREY J. LYNCH (BSAc 2003, MAcc 2003), was recently hired by the Sarasota law firm Williams Parker as director of fiduciary tax matters. She is formerly a principal with CS&L CPAs.

CAMERON MACMILLAN (BSAc 2007, MSE 2009) is the co-founder of RotoGrinders, a web-based daily fantasy sports community and two-time Gator100 award-winning company. RotoGrinders was recently acquired by Better Collective, the world's leading developer of digital platforms for bookmaker information, iGaming communities and betting tips, for \$21 million.

JOSE I. MOLINA (BSAc 1996, MAcc 1997) has been appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Spanish Broadcasting System. Molina has over 20 years of experience in corporate finance leadership and public accounting roles, including broad experience in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and corporate restructuring.

JOHN STATEN (BSAc 1989, MAcc 1990) was named the Chief Operating Officer of Orange Lake Resorts, home of the Holiday Inn Club Vacations brand. Staten will play a key role in delivering a seamless and consistent brand experience instrumental to achieving resort and financial growth goals.

► To read more class notes or to submit your own, visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/classnotes

GIVING BACK TO THE Fisher School

The Fisher School of Accounting played an integral role in the lives of Aaron (BSAc '04, MAcc '04) and Carly (BSPR '04) Topol—and not just because of what happened in the classroom.



Now married for more than 15 years, the couple briefly dated in high school before leaving for the University of Florida. They soon reunited on campus after Carly needed help in the Intro to Financial Accounting course. She reached out to Aaron, who was majoring in accounting, at her mother's suggestion. His guidance helped her pass the class, but it also reconnected the two, who started to date soon after and were married shortly following graduation.

Today, Aaron serves as Ernst & Young's International Tax and Transaction Services Leader for the Central region. The Topols credit much of their success to the Fisher School and were honored to financially support the accounting school. They requested a large percentage of their donation be allocated to the School's scholarship fund, ensuring that students in need are able to reap the many benefits that Fisher offers.



To read more about the Topols' story,
visit **news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Steve Knopik (BSBA '77), Chairman & CEO, Bealls, Inc.

A Path to Leadership

One week after Steve Knopik became an accounting major, he hit a roadblock. Knopik had breezed through every level of schooling to that point, but a surprise quiz in his first accounting class earned him a 'D' and the first difficult academic moment of his life.

"I got walloped," Knopik said. "It taught me that I wasn't infallible or God's gift to academia. I had to work hard."

That wakeup call changed his perspective on the accounting profession and motivated him.

Today, he is the Chairman and CEO at Bealls, Inc. Knopik (BSBA '77) started with the company in 1984 and grew to titles such as Vice President of Finance, Senior Vice President of Finance and Executive Vice President before being elevated to Chairman and CEO.

He was chosen by then-CEO Bob Beall to take over as CEO after Beall retired in August 2006. When Beall became an emeritus member of the board, he gave Knopik the Chairman title, too.

"Growth spawns opportunity, and it certainly did for me," Knopik said. "My responsibility has expanded quite a bit over my years with the company."



To read more about Knopik's story,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher



TWO FISHER ALUMNI EARN

Prestigious Honor

Fisher alumni Emily Buzby and Michael Dougherty received the Elijah Watt Sells Award, given to CPA candidates who obtain a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination, pass all four sections on their first attempt and completed testing in 2018.

Out of the nearly 86,000 people who took the CPA Exam in 2018, only 110 candidates met the criteria to receive the Elijah Watt Sells Award. Buzby and Dougherty are two of the four award recipients from Florida.

Buzby and Dougherty both received their Bachelor in Accounting and Master of Accounting degrees in 2018. Buzby works at KMPG in Jacksonville, Fla., and Dougherty is employed at Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP in Jacksonville, Fla.



To read more about this accomplishment,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher



Four Fisher Alumni

AMONG UF'S RESPECTED ENTREPRENEURS

The Fisher School doubled its representation in the 2019 Gator100, which highlights the 100 fastest-growing, Gator-owned or Gator-led businesses in the world. Four Fisher graduates were honored in the prestigious group.

No. 20

Avant Healthcare Professionals, led
by CFO Spencer Lloyd (BSAc '81)

No. 27

Ctrip, led by CEO Jane
Sun (BSAc '92)

No. 38

Global Trust, led by Brian Brescia
(BSAc '02, MAcc '02)

No. 64

Fusion CPA, led by Trevor
McCandless (BSAc '04)



FISHER ALUMNUS NAMED A Top Professor

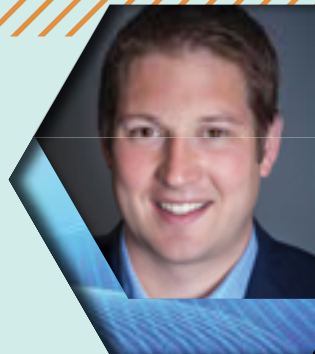
Fisher School of Accounting alumnus **Michael Donohoe (Ph.D. '11, BSAc '01)** was named to *Poets & Quants'* 2018 Top 50 Undergraduate Professors list. Donohoe is currently an Associate Professor of Accountancy and PwC Faculty Fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Gies College of Business.

He was named a University of Florida Outstanding Young Alumnus in 2018.

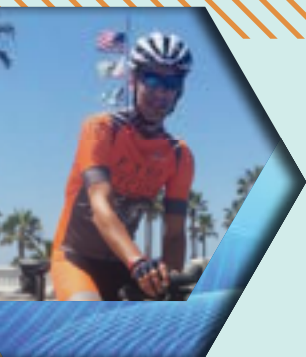


ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Ricky Caplin (BSAc '05, MAcc '05) started his healthcare IT consulting firm, The HCI Group, in a townhome in Atlanta. While he faced hardships in the first few years of the business, he would ultimately grow the company into one with almost \$250 million in revenue. That success caught the eye of India-based Tech Mahindra, which purchased the company in 2017. Today, Caplin remains as CEO of The HCI Group, which has become a global leader in the industry, operating in nearly 20 countries across North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.



George Pollock (BSAc '89, MAcc '90) led a team in the Race Across America, a cycling race that encompasses 3,000 miles, climbs 175,000 feet and crosses through 12 states. The group's work raised \$107,000 for the FSH Society and reached 400 people who had never heard of FSH Muscular Dystrophy.



To read more about Caplin and Pollock,
visit news.warrington.ufl.edu/fisher



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