Keeping ProMBA
All in the Family

The Gold Standard of Finance

Ninth Annual Alumni Awards Gala

ROB McCABE at the Pinnacle of Success
We are the Volunteer Difference. #HaslamPrepared

#1 fastest growing public institution in the US for executive education

#5 among publics in the US, custom executive education

The Financial Times, 2017

#26 best return on investment in business education (MBA) among publics

Forbes Magazine, 2017

#27 among publics, undergraduate business programs

U.S. News & World Report, 2017
MUCH OF THE SECRET TO SUCCESSFUL
business endeavors rests on accurately assessing opportunity and determining reasonable risk. These, in turn, come down to sensing when to say yes and when to say no.

Saying yes to the entrepreneurial spirit and confidence in his own expertise led Rob McCabe to join with partners in forming a new financial institution that has grown, in just over 17 years, to one of the 50 largest banks in the United States.

Saying yes brought newsman George Coleman to the Professional MBA program, where he was able to build a case for bringing an aging paper into the digital world. When Coleman’s daughter, Sandra, and son-in-law, Jason Neal, decided to say yes to new opportunities in their respective fields, Coleman’s positive experience meant that Haslam’s ProMBA became a family tradition.

Cindy Joyce, an accountant turned interior designer, said yes to a sense of calling within herself and is giving back through scholarships to deserving students. Our alumni often see the seeds of greatness in our students and make one of the most impactful decisions anyone can when they choose to share their successes by giving back to the young people coming behind them. George and Peggy Melton’s launching of the Melton Scholars program, in partnership with the college’s Business Analytics and Statistics faculty, is already creating meaningful research and professional opportunities for undergraduate students.

The college recently honored several such distinguished alumni and partners at its annual gala. These awards, and the evening’s festivities, are one small way Haslam shows its pride in those who not only succeed, but thrive, one decision, one investment, one yes at a time.

Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of, the Haslam College of Business, its students, faculty, staff, and connections. May the new year bring you many chances to say yes to meaningful opportunities.

With gratitude,

Stephen L. Mangum
Dean and Stokely Foundation Leadership Chair
Haslam College of Business
Neeraj Bharadwaj was named among the Top 40 Undergraduate Business Professors by Poets & Quants.

Chad Autry was named FedEx Corporation Endowed Professor.

Randy Bradley secured a Department of Defense Grant Worth $100,000.

Faculty have produced an interactive multimedia textbook, “Leveraging Supply Chain Management to Drive Organizational Success,” for use in teaching.

A group of faculty, students, and alumni are participating in a multi-year project focused on last-mile delivery. The project will utilize the new “Advanced Analytics Lab, IBM Enabled,” a joint resource of the Tickle College of Engineering and the Haslam College of Business.

A group of marketing faculty led by Alex Zablah and Neeraj Bharadwaj have begun to construct a marketing biometrics lab that is generating research on how the human body reacts to marketing stimuli.

The supply chain graduate program was ranked second nationally by Gartner, and the undergraduate program was ranked second among publics by U.S. News and World Report.
THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Spend Matters
March 10, 2017

“Time series analysis is an important part of the marketing analysis toolkit. From time series models we can (1) glean information from the history of the process (2) have an accurate baseline to evaluate the impacts of promotions and other intentional interventions and (3) have the quantified data necessary for developing a supply chain strategy for dealing with variation.”

Ken Gilbert Emeritus professor of business analytics, on the most important algorithms for marketing data analysts to understand.

The Tennessean
July 9, 2017

“Militarization reduces assaults on officers and complaints against them.”

Matt Harris Assistant professor of economics, assistant research professor in the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, and Stahl PEMBA Fellow, on the effects of police using military gear.

MIT Sloan Management Review
August 23, 2017

“Less job stability in lower-income sectors and lower home values in minority neighborhoods can contribute (to constraints in lending). We can’t say there is anything discriminatory going on.”

Tom Boehm SunTrust Professor of Finance, on the slow recovery of black home ownership in Tennessee since the Great Recession.

Wallet Hub
July 6, 2017

“To gain competitive advantage from supply chain analytics, companies need to reduce the time it takes to act on the insights those analytics generate.”

Melissa Bowers Beaman Professor in Business and director of the Master of Science in Business Analytics and Mary Holcomb Gerald T. Niedert Professor, in an excerpt of their research on the potential of supply chain analytics, with Adam Petrie lecturer of statistics.

The Economist
August 31, 2017

“Time series analysis is an important part of the marketing analysis toolkit. From time series models we can (1) glean information from the history of the process (2) have an accurate baseline to evaluate the impacts of promotions and other intentional interventions and (3) have the quantified data necessary for developing a supply chain strategy for dealing with variation.”

Ken Gilbert Emeritus professor of business analytics, on the most important algorithms for marketing data analysts to understand.

Call Miner
July 26, 2017

“I really think we’ve got to work on what isn’t our strength. Because everyone will tell you, oh you’re very nurturing, you’re very compassionate, you’re very passionate, you’re great on teams, whatever. But maybe those are not the skills we need.”

Wendy Tate Professor of supply chain management and Cheryl Massingale Faculty Research Fellow, on how women can succeed in a male-dominated field.

BizEd
March 25, 2017

“Consumers want to know where a product came from, all the way to the cashmere goat herd on the slopes of the Himalayas.”

Mike Burnette Lecturer and associate director of the Global Supply Chain Institute, on the importance of transparency in the supply chain.

Logistics Management
August 29, 2017

“We found a majority of companies ‘strongly agree’ that transportation is a strategically important function, a significant percentage have not organizationally aligned transportation in a manner that supports their goals.”

Mary Holcomb Gerald T. Niedert Professor, discussing her 26th annual study of logistics and transportation trends.

Racked
May 11, 2017

“Mapping the origins of each piece, and the conditions under which they were assembled, is a necessary next step in improving accountability, but it isn’t a standard practice because it’s difficult and defeats some of the cost effectiveness of outsourcing.”

Chad Autry Head of the marketing and supply chain management department and FedEx Corporation Endowed Professor of Supply Chain.

Bloomberg Markets
May 14, 2017

“Large racial differences in economic mobility, conditional on parents’ status, continued into the post-World War II era despite the Great Migration and the passage of Civil Rights legislation.”

Marianne Wanamaker Associate professor of economics, Boyd CBER Faculty Fellow, and Kinney Family Faculty Research Fellow, on the racial wage gap.

Wallet Hub
August 17, 2017

“Decreases in corporate tax rate will clearly benefit corporations and their shareholders. However, such actions will also impact the government deficit in a negative manner. In my opinion, the effect of tax reform on long-term stock prices depends critically on how these changes will affect the overall financial health of the United States government.”

Andy Puckett Paul and Beverly Castagna Professor in Investments and HCB Endowed Faculty Research Fellow, on how tax reform might impact stocks in the short run.

USA Today
August 4, 2017

“That 9¾ percent I saved is minuscule in terms of ‘savings.’ The stores would be giving a much better discount if they had a sale. Back-to-school sales would have been like 25 percent off, not 9 percent, and people would have saved more.”

Bill Fox Director of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, Chancellor’s Professor, and Randy and Jenny Boyd Distinguished Professor, on the value of tax holidays for customers.
Bill Nielson retired as head of the Department of Economics, and an endowment was established in his honor. Christian Vossler succeeds him.

Marianne Wanamaker was named among the Top 40 Undergraduate Business Professors by Poets & Quants. She was elected as a research associate in the National Bureau of Economic Research’s program on the development of the American economy, as well as appointed a senior economist on the President’s Council of Economic Advisors.

Christian Vossler published in the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists new standards of practice guidelines for conducting stated preference studies to estimate the monetized benefits of public programs. He was awarded the Martin and Carol Robinson Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service Award at the Haslam College of Business Annual Awards celebration.

Celeste Carruthers received the Vallet Family Outstanding Researcher Award at the Haslam College of Business Annual Awards celebration.

Enda Hargaden was selected to be a junior scholar at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Celeste Carruthers and Marianne Wanamaker published a paper in the Journal of Labor Economics showing that school quality contributed to the black-white wage gap in the South prior to World War II.

CELESTE CARRUTHERS AND BILL FOX ACQUIRED A GRANT TO STUDY TENNESSEE’S “DRIVE TO 55” EFFORT TO RAISE COLLEGE COMPLETION RATES.

In August, the Tennessee State Data Center, part of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, hosted a two-day free conference for more than 70 census data users.

David Maslar received the Sharon Miller Pryse Outstanding Teacher Award and his research was accepted for presentation at the Stern Microstructure Conference in New York.

Matthew Serfling’s research was presented at the Society of Financial Studies Cavalcade Conference and accepted for publication by the Journal of Financial Economics.

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

The Haslam College of Business recognized outstanding accomplishments by its faculty and staff during an annual celebration in April.

COLLEGE STAFF AWARDS

Shelia Wolford
TIM WILLIAMS STAFF AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM

Juliana Troxler
SUPERIOR CUSTOMER RESPONSIVENESS AWARD

Tanya Brown, Charlie Cantrell, Gerhard Schneibel, Sara Whitt, and Katie Williams
INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY AWARD

COLLEGE FACULTY AWARDS

Celeste Carruthers
VALLET FAMILY OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AWARD

Alex Zablah
RICHARD C. REIZENSTEIN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

Neeraj Bharadwaj
ALLEN H. KEALLY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Christian Vossler
MARTIN AND CAROL ROBINSON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE AWARD

Jim Wansley
BANK OF AMERICA FACULTY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Chuck Noon
RICHARD D. SANDERS AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Department of Accounting and Information Management
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

Laura Cole
VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD

PROGRAM AWARDS

Angel Norman
OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR MBA FACULTY AWARD

Lloyd Rinehart
OUTSTANDING SECOND YEAR MBA FACULTY AWARD

David Ecklund
MBA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ APPRECIATION AWARD

Russell Zaretzki
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS’S OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS AWARD

Continued on page 9.
A NEW CLASS OF PROFESSORS

A cohort of 10 new faculty members from the United States, Korea, Mexico, and China joined the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in the fall. Spread across all departments at the college, these new faculty bring some 46 years of combined industry experience and 87 years of teaching pedagogy to Haslam.

Maria Padilla-Romo joins the Department of Economics as an assistant professor. She hails from Texas A&M University, where she completed her doctorate. Padilla-Romo has applied her research background in applied microeconomics, public economics, and development economics to topics including Mexico’s drug war and the effects of full-time schools on academic performance. Her work has appeared in English and Spanish publications, including the Cato Research Briefs in Economic Policy. She also has been quoted in Time magazine and Newsweek.

Wei Zheng, whose major research interest is experimental design, comes to the Department of Business Analytics and Statistics as an associate professor. He joins Haslam from Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, where he was an assistant professor. Zheng’s research has recently appeared in publications including: Annals of Statistics, Statistics and Probability Letters and the Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation.

Lance Saunders is an assistant professor in the Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management. Most recently, he was an assistant professor of supply chain management and analytics at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he specialized in teaching operations management. Saunders has published in the International Journal of Logistics Management and the Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management, among others. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, as well as his MBA at UT, before completing his PhD at Virginia Tech in 2013.

Ashleigh Eldemire-Poindexter joins the Department of Finance as an instructor. She previously worked at the University of South Carolina’s Darla Moore School of Business. Eldemire-Poindexter’s research interests include empirical corporate finance, capital structure, and fixed income securities.

Melinda Micheletto has joined Haslam as a lecturer of marketing. Previously a professional specialist at the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business, Micheletto holds a PhD in marketing from the University of Tennessee.

Chung Eun Lee is an assistant professor in the Department of Business Analytics and Statistics. She comes to Haslam from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she wrote her dissertation on “Statistical Inference of Multivariate Time Series and Functional Data using New Dependence Metrics.” Lee has published in the Journal of the American Statistical Association (Theory and Methods) and the Journal of Business & Economic Statistics. Her research interests include: dimension reduction, functional and nonlinear time series, multivariate analysis and robust statistics.

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LaTonya Jordan has joined the Department of Accounting and Information Management as a lecturer. She comes to Haslam from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where she was a project implementation manager. Jordan holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from UT and a master’s in public administration from Tennessee State University. She also was an accountant and auditor for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Chung Eun Lee is an assistant professor in the Department of Business Analytics and Statistics. She comes to Haslam from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she wrote her dissertation on “Statistical Inference of Multivariate Time Series and Functional Data using New Dependence Metrics.” Lee has published in the Journal of the American Statistical Association (Theory and Methods) and the Journal of Business & Economic Statistics. Her research interests include: dimension reduction, functional and nonlinear time series, multivariate analysis and robust statistics.

Sara Williamson has joined the Department of Management as a lecturer. She previously was an adjunct professor of business and management at Pellissippi State Community College and Roane State Community College. Williamson holds a master’s degree in management and leadership from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, a master’s degree in public administration from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida.

Mark Taranto is now a clinical professor in the Department of Finance. He previously served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business. Taranto’s career in finance began in 1986. He got his start in academia in 1996. Currently, his working papers include, “Employee Stock Options and the Underpricing of Initial Public Offerings,” “Why Investment Banks Underprice IPOs: Because They Can,” and “The Effects of Existing Capital Structure on Equity Offerings.”

Dana Parks is now a lecturer in accounting. Prior to joining Haslam, she worked in fraud investigation and dispute services for EY in Atlanta and also was a dispatcher and crime analyst for the Anderson County, Tennessee, Sheriff’s Office. Parks holds bachelor’s degrees in sociology and business administration, as well as a master’s degree in accountancy, all from UT.

GERHARD SCHNEIBEL
THE EFFECTS OF TRANSFERRING MILITARY GEAR TO LOCAL POLICE

POLICE MILITARIZATION IS A HOT-BUTTON ISSUE, and Matt Harris and his co-authors wanted to tackle it without bringing any preconceived opinions to the table. “We were struck by images on the news of heavily armed police and mostly unarmed protesters,” Harris, assistant professor of economics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s Haslam College of Business, says. “Once we realized some of the equipment came from the federal government, it became a policy relevant question that we were interested in pursuing.”

Harris, a research assistant professor of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, and his co-authors wanted to identify the effects, if any, of giving military hardware to local police. Since its inception in 2006, the United States Department of Defense Law Enforcement Support Officers 1033 program has transferred more than $5.2 billion in military gear such as small caliber weapons, grenade launchers, optics, armored vehicles, and aircraft to local police departments. “We had many conversations with the Defense Logistics Agency, which oversees the program, and were able to gather data from them as it became public,” says Harris. “Then we sought data on outcomes that we cared about related to this, such as crime rates, arrests, and assaults on officers.”

Some of the information was fairly easy to obtain through annual reports on crimes, arrests, and assaults on officers. “But data on complaints and potential adverse outcomes were very difficult to get,” Harris says. “They were not collected or reported in a systematic way, and often were not included in the annual reports.”

What did the data reveal? “The causal effects of this program were largely consistent with its stated objectives,” Harris says. “The tactical items led to decreased complaints and fewer assaults, and they enhanced the efficacy of drug intervention.”

However, Harris emphasizes that the results are only valid for departments for which proximity to the distribution centers affects whether or not they acquire tactical equipment, or have departmental cultures that are fairly indifferent to using military equipment. “Some departments will never acquire this stuff because they’re not into it,” he says. “There are other places that are always going to acquire it if it’s available. Our results talk about the departments that are sufficiently close to the indifference point.”

The study’s results should be viewed as a starting point for future research, says Harris, rather than a referendum on police militarization. “Because of the limitations of available data, we made a call in the paper for greater transparency,” he says. “We believe public policy should be informed by quality research. We need better data to conduct better research, and transparency is key in that.”

Harris and his co-authors (Jinseong Park, Don Bruce, and Matt Murray) published the paper, “Peacekeeping Force: Efforts of Providing Tactical Equipment to Local Law Enforcement,” in August 2017 in American Economic Journal: Economic Policy.
The Haslam College of Business recognized outstanding accomplishments by its faculty and staff during an annual celebration in April.

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

HAMPARSUM BOZDOGAN delivered a keynote at the International Conference on Computational and Statistical Methods in Applied Sciences during a November conference in Samsun, Turkey. He has been invited to serve on the Program Committee of the Symposium on Data Science and Statistics in Reston, Virginia, during May.

Robert Mee published in Statistica Sinica and Technometrics.

Melissa Bowers published in Business Horizons and OR/MS Today. She also was chair of the first meeting of analytics program directors at the INFORMS Spring Analytics Meeting in Las Vegas.

Paolo Letizia published in Production and Operations Management.

Wenjun Zhou published in ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology. She also presented at the INFORMS 2017 Business Analytics Conference, and was among the top five finalists of the Syngenta 2017 Crop Challenge in Analytics.

Jim Schmidhammer, senior lecturer of statistics, retired.

Sean Willems published in Interfaces and the International Journal of Production Economics. He also became deputy editor of Interfaces.

PROGRAM AWARDS

Michel Ballings
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS’S EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Timothy Munyon
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT’S OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Pat Postma
GEORGE MILLER AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Jennifer Hicks
GRADUATE AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Peggy Jarrett
GRADUATE AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION OUTSTANDING RESULTS AWARD

Mitch Addis
GRADUATE AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION OUTSTANDING INNOVATION AWARD

Tom Brown
GRADUATE AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION OUTSTANDING TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION AWARD

Jim Wansley
AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE MBA OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Michael McIntyre
EXECUTIVE MBA FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Don Lighter
EXECUTIVE MBA FOR HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Chuck Noon
PHYSICIAN EXECUTIVE MBA OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Mandyam Srinivasan
OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD FOR BOTH THE PROFESSIONAL MBA AND EXECUTIVE MBA FOR GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

Bruce Behn
PHYSICIAN EXECUTIVE MBA OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

BUSINESS ANALYTICS AND STATISTICS

Matt Harris was awarded the Michael Stahl Physician Executive MBA Faculty Fellowship. PEMBA alumni have provided this fellowship to support outstanding faculty who contribute to advancing knowledge in their field, raise the prominence of the college, and teach effectively.

Several new hires have joined Graduate and Executive Education, including: Pedro Gonzalez as director of career management for graduate education, Jonathan Harvey as executive director of the leadership division, Nancy Scott as director of the leadership development program, and Ben Skipper as executive director for aerospace and defense.

Left to right: Pedro Gonzalez, Jonathan Harvey, Nancy Scott, and Ben Skipper
Mary relishes the fresh challenge of taking the full-time MBA program at Haslam to the next level. “I think we’ve got all the right elements to raise our rankings,” she says. “It’s about getting the best people in and the best people out, as far as work experience and diversity of the class.” She appreciates and supports the college’s focus on integrity and values.

When she’s not on campus, Mary heads to the golf course to unwind. “I love to golf with my girlfriends,” she says. “I love it for...”
the social aspect. It’s an essential skill to have in business, because lots of deals are done on the golf course.”

Today, the Gosses are often spread around the globe: Eric spends half the month in Alaska working as a pilot, Ryan trains sled dogs in the Italian Alps, and Michael attends college in Indiana. “We all love to travel,” Mary says. “Around Christmas every other year, we plan an international trip with just the four of us.”

Terry Neal has succeeded Joe Carcello as department head. Carcello, who stepped down for health reasons, has been named professor emeritus.

James Chyz was awarded the Pugh & Company AIM Faculty Excellence Award; Lauren Cunningham the Rhea & Ivy Excellence in Teaching Award; Robert Fuller the Decosimo Faculty Leadership Award; and Jama Summers the Pugh & Company AIM Faculty Excellence Award.

Lauren Cunningham is serving on the editorial boards of Accounting Horizons and Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory. Her dissertation was accepted for publication in Accounting Horizons, and she received an Excellence in Reviewing award from the American Accounting Association.

Robert Fuller was awarded best paper in IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication. He has served as a mini-track chair for the 2017 Americas Conference on Information Systems and associate editor for MIS Quarterly.

LeAnn Luna was honored by Taxation with the 2016 Outstanding Author Contribution.

Kathleen Powers had research accepted for presentation at the American Accounting Association’s ATA Midyear Meeting.

Jama Summers and Robert Fuller had a paper accepted for the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, which Fuller presented.
At the Pinnacle of Success
Since its inception in 2000, Pinnacle Bank has become one of the largest financial institutions in Tennessee and one of the fifty largest banks in the US, with over $20 billion in assets. At the helm of this financial behemoth stands chairman and co-founder Rob McCabe (HCB ’72, ’78). A man of quick wit, intelligence, and action, McCabe has built a successful company and established a clear commitment to bettering his community, city, and state.

McCabe grew up in west Knoxville, taking an early interest in UT sports. “I went to campus mainly to attend sporting events, especially football,” he says. “My father did advertising work for the programs that were distributed at the football games, and I would sell those programs in the stands.”

When McCabe graduated from Knoxville Catholic High School, he only applied to one university. “I’d earned a scholarship from UT and knew I wanted a background in business,” he says. “Picking a major was nothing more than happenstance. I considered finance, but settled on economics.” McCabe excelled at his studies and graduated first in his class in 1972, with a grade average of nearly 4.0.

Before he had time to launch a career in finance, McCabe answered the call of duty. “I had a very low number in the draft lottery during the Vietnam War,” he says. “I went back into ROTC and spent four years on active duty, three of them in Germany.”

When the war ended and McCabe returned home to Knoxville, he decided to take advantage of the GI Bill’s provisions for education. “I pursued a master’s in business administration at Haslam and worked part-time at Park National Bank (PNB), which eventually became Regions,” he says. “When I completed my MBA in 1978, I went to work full-time at PNB.” McCabe rapidly climbed the ranks, becoming executive vice president of corporate banking at PNB in 1982, when he was just thirty-six years old.

In 1983, First American Bank of Nashville purchased PNB, and McCabe got his first taste of life in the state’s capital city. “I worked in Nashville for two years, and then was sent back to become president of First American Bank of Knoxville,” he says. “In that role, I oversaw all the banks in the region, including Knoxville, Atlanta, and the Tri-Cities.”

After seven years in East Tennessee with First American, McCabe moved back to Nashville to become vice chairman of First American Corporation and president of First American Enterprises. “I was running all the non-bank businesses in Nashville, and later all the banking and non-bank businesses,” he says. AmSouth purchased First American in 1999, and as McCabe evaluated his options, he and several colleagues decided to take an entrepreneurial step. “A number of us left AmSouth and formed Pinnacle Financial Partners in 2000,” he says. “I’ve been the chairman since the bank’s inception.”

Pinnacle began as a commercial, private wealth bank in Nashville, but it soon expanded eastward. “The first place we elected to open an additional bank was Knoxville,” McCabe says. “We started from scratch rather than buying another institution, because there were a lot of owner-managed businesses and vulnerable competitors, and we had a number of people who came from PNB and First American.”

As the years progressed, Pinnacle’s success continued to stretch across the region as the company acquired banks in Chattanooga, Memphis, and most recently, the Bank of North Carolina in Greensboro. Today, Pinnacle operates in four states: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

“Devoting time to economic development, health and human services, education, and arts organizations is an important part of giving back and a key part of our investment in the communities we serve.”
McCabe and his colleagues take a unique approach to hiring, which has accelerated the bank’s growth. “With no exceptions, we have hired only bankers with at least ten years of experience in the markets that we want them to work in,” McCabe says. “We look for five years of experience from support people and tellers. This way, their communication skills and financial literacy are advanced, and they can operate independently from day one.”

Pinnacle also strives to provide all the products, services, and advisory tools available in any major regional bank. “We want no gaps in our product and service line,” says McCabe. “We also have qualified specialists in each of those areas to support our bankers.” To streamline the loan qualification process, Pinnacle doesn’t use loan committees. “Instead, we use a series of signatures to quickly respond to the client’s need.”

Several mentors influenced McCabe’s rise to leadership excellence, including Jimmy Smith, former president of Park National Bank and CEO of First American. “He gave me many opportunities in different business lines, allowing me to learn them, to make mistakes, and to build up more of a generalist view of the banking business,” says McCabe. “That experience has served me well, and Smith had a strong influence on my success and confidence.”

According to Smith, McCabe’s diligence and good judgment earned him those opportunities. “He’s very smart, very knowledgeable, and a very hard worker,” Smith says. “As the oldest child in a large family, he assumed a lot of responsibility early in life—and his hard work got good results.”

McCabe’s father-in-law, Jim Haslam II (HCB, ’52), describes him as persistent and action-oriented. “He will make many calls on a person to get his or her business,” says Haslam. “He’s relentless.” Pinnacle’s rapid growth speaks for McCabe’s strengths as a leader. “You can judge a business by the value it creates, and Pinnacle now has a market cap of $5.1 billion. To build a value like that in fifteen years, starting from scratch, is tremendous, and Rob has been the developer of the customer base.”

Wit and intelligence also play a vital part in McCabe’s success, according to Terry Turner, president and CEO of Pinnacle. “I’ve known Rob since 1978 and have watched him interface with all kinds of people over the years,” Turner says. “He’s extraordinarily bright, able to assess situations and respond to people quickly.” A sense of humor helps him, too, Turner adds. “He is so funny. Rob and I might look like staid bankers, but when we travel together, we’ve laughed so hard, we’ve had tears running down our cheeks.”

Aside from leading Pinnacle’s ascent, McCabe is deeply involved in his city and community. He’s served on numerous boards, both commercial and nonprofit, including Boy Scouts of America, the Nashville Symphony, and the Nashville Electric Service.

McCabe has worked hard to promote the growth of downtown Nashville, says Tom Turner, President and CEO of Nashville Downtown Partnership, a nonprofit organization. “From the start, Pinnacle was committed to being downtown, and that was significant for us,” Turner says. “In 2000, it wasn’t as exciting to have downtown offices as it is today, so they were very much a leader from the business side. They expanded their footprint here with multiple branches and have a name on an office building.”

As a member of Nashville Downtown Partnership’s board of directors, McCabe stays true to his action-oriented character. “He makes sure we have the resources we need to implement the plans we develop,” says Turner. “I don’t think he’d want to have dust settle on any project we were working on. He helps everyone do their best.”

McCabe views his service to the community as a necessity. “Devoting time to economic development, health and human services, education, and arts organizations is an important part of giving back and a key part of our investment in the communities we serve,” he says. “I’ve always stayed involved.”

Reflecting on decades of experience in the financial sector, McCabe says the best advice he could offer the next generation of bankers is to stay alert to opportunities and identify which ones best match their strengths. “There are many entry points to this business,” he says. “Once you’re employed, you have a vantage point from which to look and learn. Seek opportunity first, and then you’ll be able to identify mentors along the way.”
Once you’re employed, you have a vantage point from which to look and learn. Seek opportunity first, and then you’ll be able to identify mentors along the way.”
Growing with ProMBA

The Professional MBA started nearly 20 years ago with a groundbreaking approach to integrated curriculum. It brought the real world to the classroom by teaching business disciplines in context and the classroom to the real world through a major project conducted at the workplaces of its students. For the Coleman-Neals, ProMBA’s integration took on a whole new meaning as it wove its way through their family.

When George Coleman graduated with his Professional MBA in the winter of 2008, the newspaper business was in upheaval. Online consumption had surpassed print for the first year ever, and two decades of declining readership were accented with the worst American economic slump in a generation.

George, then a director of advertising for a daily newspaper in Kingsport, Tennessee, saw the writing on the wall in early 2007. He told his boss that to remain successful after 30 years in the industry, he needed to get training in a new perspective on how to market the paper.

“Everybody seemed to be getting an MBA,” George says, “But I thought, once you got your degree, what did that mean? What did you learn?”

The Professional MBA was designed for working professionals like George who want to put their learning to use as soon as possible. Identifying an improvement project at their workplace and making a measurable impact through it lies at the heart of the program’s structure. For George, the project was to help his company make the change to digital printing by using computer-to-plate technology.

“Proving that the digital process was better, faster, and cheaper wasn’t the issue,” George says. “The issue was the capital investment of $300,000. With my ProMBA, we were able to show that we would get a return on investment within three years, which we desperately needed at the time.”

George’s projections held true, and he soon assumed responsibility for a group of weekly papers in the Tri-Cities that had struggled to turn a profit. Yet, within six months, George had completed an analysis, made changes, reduced costs, and turned the papers into moneymakers. This success led to the September 2015 transfer to the company’s Lebanon Tennessee newspaper group and greater responsibility.
“The ProMBA does a good job developing the hard skills of analysis and the soft skills of making your ideas heard and getting your organization to buy into changes,” he says. “A lot of people might not care what George Coleman is saying, but if I can back my ideas up with data, those ideas will be considered more often and be more likely to be taken on.”

While George was getting his MBA, his daughter Sandra Neal was finishing up her undergraduate degree in business. Based on his experience and what he saw in the job market, he advised her to continue her studies and earn a master’s degree.

“It is different than when I went to school,” George says. “Back then we were told to go to college and get a bachelor’s, and you’d get a job. That’s just to get in the pile now. My wife and I were adamant that if you want to stand out you really need to get a master’s.”

Sandra says seeing how her father pursued his MBA while working gave her a unique perspective about how to make the most of a graduate degree.
“I saw how it paid off when he went through the project process and saved his company money,” Sandra says. “I thought a few years of work experience would give me a more concrete understanding of what is taught in an MBA and how to apply it in the workplace.”

“I couldn’t argue with that,” says George.

Getting that master’s degree came up again for Sandra a few years later when a supervisor challenged her to create a five-year plan.

“That was one of the hardest, but the best things I ever did,” she says. “We looked at the timing together and decided that it was right for me to go back and get my degree.”

While Sandra looked at several other programs, her father’s experience with the ProMBA and Haslam’s structure, which offered in-person Saturday classes, helped it rise to the top. She was able to keep her administrative job while pursuing the degree, and shifted to a role reporting to her company’s chief operations officer within a year and a half of graduating. In her new role she leads the training and development team at EMJ Corporation, a commercial general contractor based in Chattanooga.

“The degree really changed my mindset and helped me think the way an executive would,” Sandra says. “I can speak the language, talk about the aspects of business that are important to our executives, and explain where certain assumptions were being made.”

Sandra graduated exactly five years after her father, and George likes to point out that she was valedictorian of the 2013 class. The legacy continued this year when Sandra’s husband, Jason Neal, joined ProMBA after examining his options at multiple programs

“Three things convinced me,” says Jason. “It came highly recommended by two trusted sources. It’s conducted mostly in person, instead of online, and I like the company I work for. The action project is a unique opportunity to improve my company and my potential within it.”

Jason is a project manager at Kenco, a logistics and transportation company in Chattanooga, Tennessee, that has a history of sending employees to Haslam’s programs for working professionals. After so much peripheral experience with the program, Jason says that he thought he had a solid understanding of what he was getting into when enrolling.

“I had no idea when it came down to it,” he laughs. “I don’t think I realized the amount of

The ACTION PROJECT IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE MY COMPANY AND MY POTENTIAL WITHIN IT.”

To learn more about the Haslam Professional MBA and how it can enhance your career, visit https://haslam.utk.edu/professional-mba.
BLOOMBERG TERMINALS

EXCELLENCE IN OPPORTUNITY

FINANCE STUDENTS AT THE HASLAM COLLEGE of Business gain firsthand investment experience before they leave campus, giving them an edge over their peers from other institutions. The college’s Masters Investment Learning Center (MILC) is ranked number one in the SEC and number five in the nation for the number of Bloomberg terminals available to students. The Department of Finance also recently introduced its fifth Torch Fund in the fall semester, giving students more ways to gain a working knowledge of investing.

Individual Torch Funds focus on different investing strategies including stock picking, value investing, and wealth management. “The students learn about managing a portfolio and selecting securities in a real-world experiential environment,” says Deborah Harrell, Torch Fund director.

Students working on Torch Funds must learn to use the Bloomberg terminals proficiently. “Bloomberg is a large database of current economic information,” Harrell explains. “If you’re managing money, you need to find current information as well as historical information.” Learning to use the software and interpret the information is a challenging but essential task for students going into the world of finance.

Senior Madison Hamilton is a second semester portfolio manager for the McClain Fund, one of two Torch Funds overseen by undergraduates. A member of the Greg and Lisa Smith Global Leadership Scholars Program, Hamilton decided to pursue finance after taking an honors course with Laura Cole, senior lecturer and director of the MILC. “It was a great experience for me and totally changed the
trajectory of my college career,” Hamilton says. “I switched my major, and she nominated me to be on the fund.”

Hamilton applied for a staff position at the MILC and dove headfirst into the Bloomberg training modules designed by Cole. “The chance to learn and have access to Bloomberg is amazing, because it’s the gold standard for any financial firm,” she says. “At the MILC, we have incredible support from Dr. Cole and peers who challenge us to learn. It’s opened doors to a lot of opportunities.”

No matter which career path she chooses, Hamilton says she’s benefited from serving on a Torch Fund. “Learning how to work around people who are smart and competitive but also supportive and caring has been a great experience,” she says. “And knowing Bloomberg is definitely going to set me apart and be really helpful if I go into a financial services career.”

Collin Thul, who took Bloomberg training during his first year in the Haslam MBA program, agrees. He then applied and was accepted to the Haslam Torch Fund, one of two graduate investment funds. “First, we shadow the previous team for a month, and then move into active management for a full year,” Thul explains. “Finally, we do a presentation for the investors. It’s a terrifying but invaluable experience—standing five feet in front of stellar individuals in the investment world—and defending our investment decisions.”

Thul’s academic background is in plant sciences, so jumping into Bloomberg training and Torch Fund management was a challenge. “It was kind of a trial by fire, but that learning curve coming into the program was a great experience for me,” he says. “Being allowed to practice these skills gives you that leg up when you’re entering the field after graduation.”

**COLLEGE-WIDE**

**Twenty-nine diverse students** participated in the annual PepsiCo Power of One: Diversity Leadership Development Program.

**DIVERSE GROUPS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS VISITED ATLANTA AND MEMPHIS ON TWO SEPARATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRIPS IN THE SPRING.**

A new group of students was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma honors society.

**BUSINESS ANALYTICS AND STATISTICS**

Jonathan Adams, Ashley Brooks, Kaitlyn Early, Courtney McCall, Preston Mitchell, Julian Swart, and Chase Billingsley won the HanesBrands’ analytics group challenge.

**MANAGEMENT**

A group of seniors in management spent 20 days in Ireland completing a capstone course. Another group studied a range of management styles during mini-term in London.

Doctoral candidate Wangcheng Yan was invited to present at the 2017 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining.
ADVENTURE AHEAD

GROWING UP IN THE SMALL EAST AFRICAN country of Rwanda, Patrick Nkurunziza gained a sense of adventure and curiosity about the world from his parents. He put those traits to the test when he came to the United States in 2010. “I’d always wanted to come, but I knew it was going to be a difficult adjustment,” he says. “I was 16 years old, and all my friends were back home.”

Nkurunziza embraced the new people and places he encountered. “I just kept challenging myself,” he says. “I’ve always loved adventure, no matter how hard it is. I had to get out of my comfort zone and try different things.”

Since he’d grown up in French-speaking schools in Rwanda, Nkurunziza only knew a little bit of English when he got to Knoxville. Today, he’s fluent. “I’d ask people to slow down and speak more clearly, and they would. Now, I tend to talk fast too,” he says, laughing.

After attending high school and college in the area, Nkurunziza worked in banking for a short time before becoming an accountant at Fulton Bellows, a local metal manufacturer. “When I was there, I fell in love with the idea of manufacturing, from raw materials all the way to the customers,” he says. “I knew it was time to go back for my master’s degree, and I decided to study supply chain management at UT because it’s one of the best programs in the world.”

Nkurunziza has completed an internship at S.C. Johnson in Racine, Wisconsin, working on promotional packs. “I looked at things like displays and color palettes, identifying what was working and what wasn’t.”

After graduation, he plans to become a manager for a consumer packaging company. Long-term, he hopes to reach a senior executive position.

In his free time, Nkurunziza enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, and sampling new foods. “I love experiencing different cultures,” he says. “I think at the end of the day, we all have the same needs.”

“Since I was little, my parents have always encouraged us to travel to meet different people, experience different cultures, and try different foods. It really shows you the humanity of people. At the end of the day, we all have the same needs.”

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WHY NOT?

MELISSA HALL HAS NEVER SHIED AWAY from adventure. In high school, she spent a year as an exchange student in Brazil. Later, when a friend traveled to the Netherlands as an au pair, Hall thought, I could do that. “I wasn’t in a rush to make a decision at 18 about what I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” she says, “so I took a gap year.”

Using an online site, Hall connected with a friendly couple in Australia. “I clicked with them, and I didn’t want the opportunity to pass me by,” she says. “I’m a very spontaneous person and I thought, Why not?”

Hall spent the year looking after the family’s three children, driving the older two back and forth to school and other activities, and caring for the youngest, a toddler, during the day. In her time off, she explored the country with friends. “A lot of families who hire au pairs know each other, so I was already set up to have a bunch of friends, and we’d take weekend trips together.”

Meanwhile, Hall’s dad landed a job at Y-12 National Laboratory in Oak Ridge and moved the family from Ohio to Tennessee. When she returned from her year in Australia, Hall was ready to plunge into college life. “I chose UT mainly because it’s nearby, but I’ve loved the Haslam College of Business,” she says. An outgoing sophomore, Hall is a peer career advisor, an active member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, and a member of the inaugural cohort of students chosen for the Integrated Business and Engineering Program.

Hall participated in a Haslam study abroad trip to Costa Rica last year, motivating her to pursue a major in supply chain management. “Eventually, I see myself in purchasing,” she says. “I’d love to be a chief procurement officer for a company.”

When she’s not studying or participating in campus events, Hall is on the go. “Whether it’s hiking, boating, shopping, or coffee shop hopping, I love to get out and explore.”

“I’VE LOVED MY TIME HERE AT HASLAM AND HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO REACH OUT—GETTING TO KNOW PROFESSORS, EATING LUNCH WITH THE MASTER’S STUDENTS ON THE SIXTH FLOOR. BEING ABLE TO APPROACH A DEAN MAKES YOU REALIZE HOW SMALL THE SCHOOL REALLY IS.”
Selin Anitsal

Selin Anitsal was awarded Best Paper at the Academic Business World International Conference in Nashville this summer for her research into the 10-year effectiveness of the “Ollie Otter” seat belt and booster seat education program.

Emma Bexon, John Robinson, and Zachary Thress won the annual Intermodal Association of North America’s logistics and supply chain case competition.

UT’s Beta Alpha Psi Chapter achieved superior status for the 2016–2017 reporting year. Beta Alpha Psi also was awarded the honor of Haslam College of Business student organization of the year for 2016–2017.

Masters of Accountancy students Kylie Reed, Rebekah Damron, Katie Robirds, and Kelly Schroeder took second place in the American Taxation Association’s “Why Tax?” video contest.

Michelle Harding and Justin Short received a departmental PhD student research award, and Steven Hawkins received a PhD student teaching award.

Michelle Harding was one of four PhD students invited to attend the University of North Carolina’s Tax Symposium in April 2017.

Haslam students finished seventh in the nation and first in the state of Tennessee among public institutions in 2016 CPA exam pass rates.

The Department of Accounting and Information Management hosted approximately 90 high school students for a one-day program about the accounting major and career path as part of the Discover Accounting program.

Doctoral candidate Justin Short presented his working paper “CFO Outside Directorships: What Happens to the Home Firm?” at the American Accounting Association’s Audit- ing Midyear Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The paper was co-authored with Lauren Cunningham, assistant professor and director of research at the Neel Corporate Governance Center.

Marketing students in Australia

Undergraduate marketing students visited Barcelona with Kelly Hewett and Randy Rose to study marketing strategy in an international context. Another group of students visited Australia with Dan Flint and John Bell.

The Haslam Professional Sales Forum was launched under the leadership of Tom van Dorselaer and Dan Flint. Winners of the forum’s sales competition included: Carter Greene, Madison Barton, Wiley Stidham, Will Carter, Brett Dockery, and Allison Dillard.

Michelle Harding

Michelle Harding was one of four PhD students invited to attend the University of North Carolina’s Tax Symposium in April 2017.

Sommen students in Australia

Marketing students in Australia

Student participants in the Haslam Professional Sales Forum
Kelsey Duncan and Ryan Cunningham took top prizes of $5,000 each in the high growth and lifestyle business categories of the Graves Business Plan Competition.

Florin Matei, Matthew Young, and Sushmitha Vijaya Kumar placed in the Vol Court Pitch Competition.

Caroline Conley, a junior in economics, won second place in the high growth category in the Graves Business Plan Competition.

MBA students Chase Carroll, Jordan Ralph, and Trey DeLong—the “Rocky Top Riders”—won Haslam’s first internal case competition this semester, sponsored by Pilot Flying J.

MBA students James Munoz, Katelyn Bethmann, Steven Rogus, and Tony Geist competed in the 2017 SEC MBA Case Competition at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

HASLAM EXECUTIVE MBA STUDENTS VISITED THE WENCO FACILITY IN SANTIAGO, CHILE.

ECONOMICS UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AVANTI RANGNEKAR WORKED OVER THE SUMMER AS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN THE LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The Economics Club received the “Event of the Year” award from the Haslam College of Business for organizing a trip to meet with professional economists and politicians in Washington, DC.

Students from UT Investment Group, “Glazed and Confused,” helped raise $1,000 by participating in the Dunkin’ Donut Dash to benefit Volunteer Ministry Centers.

Peter Dixon, PhD candidate, co-authored the paper, “Do Investors Use Options and Futures to Trade on Different Types of Information? Evidence from an Aggregate Stock Index,” which is being published in the Journal of Futures Market.
AFTER SPENDING HIS CHILDHOOD IN Maryville and Chattanooga, George Melton found his way to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as a freshman in 1964. He originally pursued engineering, but quickly switched gears to statistics in order to focus on his natural affinity for math.

Melton settled into his studies, met his future wife, Peggy, and emerged with a solid foundation for his subsequent career in business. He started work as a computer programmer, but after only three months his number came up in the draft and he served in the United States Army for the next three years. When he returned, Melton rejoined the same company in a different capacity. “They moved me to the business office to work on a finance-oriented project,” he says. “I stayed in that side of the business, climbing the ranks, and went off into management.”

Over the next four decades, Melton enjoyed a successful career as an executive in the aerospace and defense industry. Among other roles, he served as an executive at Allied Signal and British Aerospace, and as CEO of EG&G Technical Services, Inc. and Wyle, Inc.

As Melton reflected on his college years, he wanted to improve the experience for today’s students. “I wanted to do something to foster more interaction between faculty and students,” Melton
explains. “I always felt in school that there wasn’t enough interface with the faculty outside the classroom, and it would be so beneficial for education.” Melton also wanted students to gain a big-picture perspective on their education, seeing how courses fit together instead of viewing them as separate entities.

Melton had several conversations with Chuck Noon, department head of business analytics and statistics, and Regal Entertainment Group Professor of Business, about creating a new program to achieve these goals. Plans for the new Melton Scholars Program began to emerge as they talked. “The idea is to pair individual undergraduate seniors with individual faculty members to work toward undergraduate research,” Noon says. “We’re starting the program with five students per year.”

Thao Tran, part of the inaugural group of Melton Scholars, was majoring in mathematics when she decided to pursue a second major in business analytics. Now a senior, Tran looks forward to gaining hands-on experience through the scholars program. “It will be a great opportunity for me to understand the scientific process, from beginning an experiment to collecting data and analyzing results,” she says. “It’s also a wonderful chance to network and learn from faculty and other students who share the same interests.”

The program dovetails with the department’s overall goal to present an elite program, says Noon. “For the last five years, our program in business analytics has been the fastest-growing major on campus. Rather than allow the numbers of students to continue to grow, we’re focusing on being more selective, only admitting students who can handle the rigors of the major.”

Competition to gain admittance to the Melton Scholars Program will be stiff, but Melton is looking forward to watching the results. “I’m really focusing on the student aspect of it,” he says. “If this can help make the experience more rewarding for students, that’s my goal.”

Peggy Melton appreciates the uniqueness of the program. “It’s novel, and something that I hope will shape future scholarships,” she says. “Getting involved with this project is very important to us. By creating this opportunity, we hope to positively impact every student in the major.”
Each and every gift, regardless of amount, is sincerely appreciated. The generosity of our alumni and friends allows the college to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of our list of contributors, we acknowledge that the following list may contain inadvertent errors; please contact us with any corrections.

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**Fiscal Year 2017**

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MEET SETH REAGAN

SETH REAGAN (HCB, ’02, MBA, ’04) is no stranger to the Haslam College of Business. In addition to earning both his degrees from the college, he previously spent three years (2007–2010) on the development team. For the past seven years, Reagan has served the University of Tennessee as its chief development officer for the Middle Tennessee region.

In August 2017, he returned to Haslam as the college’s executive director of development and alumni affairs. “My wife and I were born and raised in East Tennessee, so we’re happy to be back home,” Reagan says. “As an alumnus, I’m honored to serve in this role.”

During his undergraduate years, Reagan played on the UT Vols football team, including in his tenure 1998, when the Vols won a national championship. After earning his MBA from the college, he worked for an e-commerce company for a few years before joining the development team.

Reagan’s own experiences as a scholarship recipient motivate him to help expand those opportunities for today’s student body. “It means a lot to me to be able to work with alumni to establish the opportunities for others that I was fortunate enough to have,” he says. “My hopes are to continue the positive momentum that the Haslam College of Business has experienced since the transformational naming gift.”

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CINDY JOYCE (HCB, ’85) KNOWS THAT AN education at the Haslam College of Business prepared her for success not just in her career, but in all areas of life. “Despite the fact that there were 30,000 students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, when I came, I felt it was a wonderfully small and supportive place to go to school,” says Cindy, who earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting. “The people were what made the program great. We had fantastic support from our professors, and the other students became some of my closest friends.”

At her small high school in Brentwood, Tennessee, Cindy had felt like an average student, but the accounting program at Haslam introduced a new era of confidence. “Our professors invested in us so much along the way that I emerged with complete confidence in my skills as an accountant and an interviewee,” she says. “It was my time to shine.”

Cindy’s confidence paid off. Upon graduation, she received eight job offers from various accounting firms. She chose a position at Ernst and Whinney, where she worked for the next three years. Meanwhile, she married and moved several times for her husband Jeff’s work in corporate finance. Over the next several years, she worked as an accountant for a financial institution and a commercial real estate firm.

The couple had two children, Meghan and Patrick, and Cindy decided to step away from her accounting career to focus on raising them. Eventually, she resumed work for a certified public accountant, but realized her interests were leading her toward a new vocation. “I’m an accountant turned interior decorator,” she laughs. “I love it. One advantage to my accounting background is the ability to hand clients a spreadsheet and show them up front how much a project is going to cost.”

Reflecting on her time as an accounting student, Cindy felt motivated to pass along that positive experience to a new generation. In
2011, she and Jeff formed the Joyce Family Foundation, a nonprofit private charitable organization. “Students are our first priority in giving because I realized the importance of having a personalized experience at a large school,” she says. “Last year, we created five scholarships to go to people who, due to income or other challenging situations, wouldn’t be able to attend the university without funding.” She deliberately earmarked the scholarships for students who plan to enter the master’s of accountancy program.

The Joyces’ gift is already making a difference. “Without this scholarship, I don’t know if I would be able to attend the University of Tennessee, let alone participate in the MAcc program,” says student James Griffin. “It means the world to me.”

For David Gallman, the scholarship represents personal affirmation and support. “It has proven to me that the University of Tennessee and its alumni care about current students,” he says. “With this scholarship, I can focus on my academics and be the best student I can be.”

Cindy looks forward to interacting with the Joyce Scholars in the years to come. “It thrills me to no end that there’s somebody getting to have the experience I had, who might not have been able to without these scholarships.”

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Bryant says. “The investments our university from being good to great,” support is what is going to take the alumni plays an essential role in student experience. Backing from and change lives by enhancing the to transform the Knoxville campus on the college.”

The campaign’s ultimate goal is already made a significant impact with two center naming gifts, the alumni affairs, says. “The naming gift from the Haslam family, along with two center naming gifts, the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and the Neel Corporate Governance Center, have already made a significant impact on the college.”

The campaign’s ultimate goal is to transform the Knoxville campus and change lives by enhancing the student experience. Backing from alumni plays an essential role in reaching that milestone. “Private support is what is going to take the university from being good to great,” Bryant says. “The investments our donors provide have a significant impact on the university and its students.”

JOIN THE JOURNEY

IN SEPTEMBER 2017, THE UNIVERSITY of Tennessee, Knoxville, launched its campus-wide Join the Journey campaign with a well-attended kickoff event at Strong Hall. The $1.1 billion goal is the most ambitious fundraising in the university’s history.

The campaign has already been up and running in a silent phase for the past few years. Chancellor Beverly Davenport recently announced that Join the Journey has raised $814 million since its inception in 2012. To date, 82,000 individual and corporate donors have given to the campaign, and Haslam alumni have led the pack. “The Haslam College of Business has benefited greatly from gifts received thus far during the campaign,” Chip Bryant, vice chancellor of development and has already been up and running in a silent phase for the past few years. Chancellor Beverly Davenport recently announced that Join the Journey has raised $814 million since its inception in 2012. To date, 82,000 individual and corporate donors have given to the campaign, and Haslam alumni have led the pack. “The Haslam College of Business has benefited greatly from gifts received thus far during the campaign,” Chip Bryant, vice chancellor of development and fundraising in the university’s history.

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The campaign has already been up and running in a silent phase for the past few years. Chancellor Beverly Davenport recently announced that Join the Journey has raised $814 million since its inception in 2012. To date, 82,000 individual and corporate donors have given to the campaign, and Haslam alumni have led the pack. “The Haslam College of Business has benefited greatly from gifts received thus far during the campaign,” Chip Bryant, vice chancellor of development and fundraising in the university’s history.

The campaign’s ultimate goal is to transform the Knoxville campus and change lives by enhancing the student experience. Backing from alumni plays an essential role in reaching that milestone. “Private support is what is going to take the university from being good to great,” Bryant says. “The investments our donors provide have a significant impact on the university and its students.”

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JOIN THE JOURNEY
Joseph & Sandra Grant
Howard & Diane Green
Wesley H. Greene
Robert & Sherry Grygotis
Tami J. Gurley-Calvée
F. Robert & Vicki Hall
Hard Knox Pizza – Bearden
Lee Francis Hardeman
J. Tom & Pat Harper
Charles & Janice Harrison
Jared & Emily Hausfeld
H. Robert & Edith Heller III
Andrew & Brenda Henderson
John & Erin Henry
Joe Herrig
Lee Herrig
Brady & Mary Holcomb
James & Sara Holladay
Tallulah Holmstrom
Benjamin D. Horn
Marilyn A. Hughes
Chad & Meredith Hulette
Matthew D. Hutcheson
Mel & Cynthia Jacobson
Marllyn J. Jake
John Deere Foundation
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
Kristin Johnson
James Randall Johnston
Korri Jones & Lyric McCoy
Russell & Desiree Jones
Joseph V. Kelly III
Paul Cecil Kimball
Kimberly-Clark Foundation
Timothy & Renee Kovick
Reuben Kyle III
Tom & Karen Ladd
Lauren N. Lange
Michael Wayne Langenberg
Jacob Sean Lariiere
Kelsey Ann Lawrence
Kai-yan Lee
Scott Parks LeTellier
Matthew & Julie Littin
Thomas Leonard Little
W. Gage & Shelley Logan III
Bin Long
Steve & Kristi Maddox
Richard & Patricia Mallicote
Robin & Val Manley
Jeff & Kimberly Maple
Michael Robert Marks
Margaret Jill Matthews
Peter & Nancy Maynard
James & Lynn McCauley
David W. McMillan
Donna Sue Meadows
Camila Moreira Metchikoff
Mark A. Moon
Charles & Catherine Morris
R. Jane Moser
Eric & Barbara Moses
Jonathan Chadwick Mullins
Michael Vincent Mulloy
George & Sue Munson
Matthew & Molly May
Thomas & Betty Neal Jr.
Robert R. Neilson Jr.
Megan Eileen Nixon
Charles H. Noble IV
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Randy & Theresa Olswang
Jack Parker & Esther Wong
John & Bianca Parker
Mitchel & Chris Parrott
Skip Patton Jr.
Roger & T. G. Peterson
Bradley D. Petty
Robert & Sheri Pfeil
Phillips 66 Company
Brian & Elizabeth Phillips
Jeffrey & Rhonda Piland
William & Pamela Pinkston
Phillip & Kathy Jo Piper
Henry M. Piss Jr.
Thomas & Anne Power
Gary Michael Pratt
Walter & Meagan Puckett
Frank Rambo
R.S. & Larisa Rathinasamy
Brian & Martha Rauch
Edith Smith Rayford
Amy Fischer Reaver
Joel & Melissa Reeves Jr.
Refinements Inc.
Michael & Amanda Respeto
Farah Reynolds
Darryl M. Richards
Ronald & Marta Roberts
Craig Middleton Rockett IV
John & Nannon Roosa
Sallie Mae Foundation
Katherine J. Savage
William & Tina Schmidt III
George & Anne Schultz
Shay D. Scott
Richard W. Shepard
Paul & Cheyenna Shimp
Susan Griffin Shows
Jeffrey & Mary Siegriest
Stephen & Susan Silvers
J. Frank & Deanna Slagle III
Courteney & Angela Smith
Anne D. Smith
Lance & Monica Smith
W. Frank Smith III
Michael & Amy Spence
Sidney T. Stanley
Brenda Steakley
Emily Blair Steakley
C. Lee Steinhouse III
Christopher Todd Stephens
Robert & Dorothy Stewart
Wade R. Stonebrook
Justin C. Stringfield
Michael L. Taber
B. Lance Taylor
Jane C. Taylor
Norman & Wendy Templeton
David R. Thomas
William & Lori Tice Jr.
Douglas & Catherine Traver
TSCPA
Michael & Jill Turner
Charles & Julie Umsted
James R. Underwood
Union Bank of California Foundation
Dwight & Sheila Van Inwegen
Douglas & Sherry Vaughn Jr.
Edward & Ann Vaughn
Granger Inc.
Brian Douglas Wantling
Thomas & Margaret Whittaker II
Hugh & Rhonda Wiley
David Warren Williams
Hugh & Susan Williams
Mark E. Willoughby
Kelly Byrd Wilson
Wanda L. Wisecarver
Christine M. Womack
Kelly Marie Woodruff
Xcel Energy Inc.
Zhou Yang
Gillen & Michele Young
Lynn R. Youngs
Wenjun Zhou
William Zotti
$250-$499
Mazhar Abbas
David K. Adams
Ala Franklin & Stelyne Albertson
Hannah G. Alexander
Christina Louise Alexander
Arthur C. Anthony
Paige K. Atchley
John Z. Autian
Auto Owner’s Insurance Company
Howard & Amy Avery
Daniel J. Aycock
Jamie & Courtney Bach
Christopher A. Bailey
Edjuan D. Bailey
Myron L. Bailey
George William Ballenger
James & Corinne Baltrop
Cheryl Barksdale
William & Courtney Barlar
Chance Barlow
Rhonda Wilson Barton
Austin Reed Baskin
Todd L. Bassett
Thomas & Janet Baudry
Alex Beach
David Paul Beard
Robert H. Bebber
Troy Richard Beeler
James & Ann Begley
Jeremy & Whitney Biggs
Keith W. Bilbrey
John J. Billingsley
Robert F. Billue III & Jacqueline Sylvester
Judy B. Birchfield
Steven Michael Biss
J.P. Bolick
John & Mary Bolton
Melissa Ann Bosi
Edward & Patricia Bouwer
Christina Boyer
Jerelyne P. Brady
Craig C. Brandt & Yetta Jager
Carl Benjamin Brink
Lori Wolfe Bronte
Richard C. Brower Jr. & Sharon Bailey
James & Diane Brown Jr.
C. Kenneth & Bettye Brumit
Daniel & Stephanie Buckner
Robert Williams Bull
John & Mary Bumpus
John & Catherine Bunche
Thomas Gardner Burk Jr.
Thomas Robert Burket
Ryan & Andrea Burkart
J. Jay & Susan Bush
James Robert Byrd
Paul & Teresa Byrne
C.H. Robinson Worldwide
Thomas & Nancy Campbell
Charis & Vicki Carlisle Jr.
Tom & Julie Carpenter
Brian Wallace Carver
Kathy D. Cate
Steve B. Chancey
C. Edd Christopher
Dennis C. Clabo
F. Kimberly Clark
Kristen Kaye Clark
David & Molly Clark II
Jennifer C. Clayton
James Henry Clement
Jonathan Dean Clandenden
Dylan Cobble
Craig & Kerri Cochran
James Ruble Cody
Timothy & Christine Coley
Richard Consoli
Wyn Cooper
James C. Cope
William Matthew Coulter
Kathy Courtney
Christopher Douglas Craft
Robert L. Creighton
Tony & Leah Cross
Christopher & Susan Culley
Bobby W. Damron
Donald & Karen Davis
Philip Allen Davis
Christopher Anthony Dean
Harry T. Deaforth
James W. Deltrick
Sean & Katie DeWitt
Dickerson Investment Group LLC
Patrick & Rebecca Dickson
R. Scott Dixon
David & J. Ann Dodson
Thomas J. Dorich
Jeffrey Blair Dortch
James R. Doyle
William August Dueker Jr.
Julie A. Dukes
Serge Dumont
Walter W. Duncan
James W. Eatherly
Brian Edmonds
Laura Jean Edwards
Charles & Stephanie Edwards
Eli Lilly and Company Foundation
Paul & Pamela Emert Jr.
Wesley A. Emison
Thomas & Beth Engel
Joseph & Andrea Engle
William Fredrick Engleart
Mark & Pam Erath
Jere & Linda Ervin
Nathan Harold Etheridge
Mary F. Evans
NEWLY ESTABLISHED ENDOWMENTS

List current as of October 23, 2017.

Larry W. Carroll Torch Fund Endowment

Kevin E. Clark HCB Opportunity Scholarship Endowment

FedEx Corporation Supply Chain Professorship

Larry & Mary Jo Leahy Business Scholarship Endowment

Patty J. Moore Accounting Scholarship Endowment

Bill Neilson Economics Faculty Award Endowment

Martha Butler Rector Fellowship Endowment

Brandon James Gregg
John & Maria Griffin Jr.
Walter J. Groman Jr.
Ted R. Habermann
Tom & Terri Hale
Ramzi J. Halim
W. Kenneth Hall
Christopher & Stephanie Halouma
Daniel & Kathy Hamilton
Ruby Jane Hancock
Enda Patrick Hargaden
Charles & Susan Harris
Bill & Vikki Harrison
James Hawkins
Charles W. Haynie
Robert J. Head
William & Doris Heim
Tabatha Lori Helm
Ronald & Mary Helmhout
John Thomas Anderson
Roger & Alice Hendry
William & Susan Henry
J. Scott & Mary Ellen Herbert
Kelly Sue Hewett
John A. Hgewley
Graham Hickling & Diane Mollenkopf
Clark Thomas Higgs
Zane Hitchcox
Doyle & Cynthia Hodge Jr.
Kristofer & Carrie Hoffman
I. Gina Holt
John William Hood
Jerry G. Hornowski
Matthew W. Horton
Craig & Carol Houser
Tyler & Jasmine Howard
Roger & Karen Hudson
Jeremy Andrew Huey
Timothy Wayne Hughes
Kevin & Julie Hunsinger
John & Lynne Hunter Jr.
Julianne Corley Isaacs
Yemin Ji
Kenneth & Gladys Johns
Ronald & Cathy Joiner
Charles B. Jones Jr.
Clay Taylor Jones
Jacqueline W. Jordan
Mary Kauffman
Darrell King
Frank & Jo Ann Knies
Frank A. Kocur II
Paul A. Koza
Jeffrey D. Kudisch
Peter Lawrence Kubaba
Kent D. Kurkiewicz
Jack & Cindy Kuykendall
Michael & Ellen Lail
Jude & Amy Lam
Morton T. Larmore
Hannah Lynn Lay
Ronald & Ann Layne
Howard H. Lee
Michael W. Lister Jr.
Jim Lloyd
R. Bruce & Jill Long
Michael Thomas Lowe
Robert & Shannon Lowe
Brady N. Majury
Sarah M. Malilcote
Jordan & Julie Marshall
Jesse & Karen Massengill
Robert & Elizabeth Massey
Monte & Marsha Masten
Kenichi & Yuki Matsuno
Brennen Matthews
F. Stewart McCorkle Jr.
Zachary D. McGinnis
David & Nancy McKinney
Mark & Nicole McLeod
Heather Sensenev McMillan
Kelsie McNutt
Mitchell & Laureal Mcpherson
Dhaval Jitendra Mehta
Stephen & Kimberly Merrill
Microsoft Corporation
Charles & Sue Milazzo
Christopher C. Miles
Jeffrey Martin Mills
L. Virgil Minao
David & Rebecca L. Mink
David Eugene Mirts
Mizuho USA Foundation Inc.
Alasdair Mofagheghi
William & Karen Moles II
Benita Harris Moore
Noble & Betty Moore Jr.
Bobby & Victoria Moore
Morris Group Inc.
Anthony Ray Mubarak
Leonard Mucciono
Mark Joseph Mulloy
Daniel & Suzan Murphy
Rex C. Nanney
Alan J. Natowitz
Terry & Robin Neal
William Stuart Neilson
Stephanie Michelle Noble
David Lynn Norris
Ellen L. O’Blow
Thomas & Lorrie O’Donovan Jr.
Philip Henry Omohundro
Oracle Corporation
Shana N. Owens
Marty M. Ozburn
Kimberly S. Padgett
William Edwin Palmer
Pearson Inc.
Gary E. Peck
David Paul Perrot
Randall H. Pierce
Samuel & Lindsay Pons
Adrian L Potgieter
Sabrina Erin Preston
Camille Prutt
Cornell & Janet Radford
Michael & Heather Ramey
Greg Allen Ratcliff
S. Seth Reagan
Andrew M. Rector Jr.
Melissa Kay Reese
Stephanie Renner
Stewart Ritchie
Ricardo & Ann Maria Roa
Scott & Jean Ann Robbins
James & Martha Roberts
Dick Rockenstein
Joseph Romano
Alfred Rosario
Philip C. Roupas
Milton & Patricia Russell
Dennis & Charla Sartain
Richard John Schelp
John & Cheryl Schmidt
Jens Schubert.
Carol F. Schwerske
Donald & Lisa Scott
Dewayne & Kaye Scott
DeWayne & Shelley Searcy
Jennifer S. Shinsaqua
Ronald & Anita Shujfeild
Charles & Kimberly Sims
Todd B. Skeet
Charles & Robin Skillern
Bradford C. Smith
Russel & Elizabeth Smith
Revonna Joy Smith
Rickey Andrew Snody
Joan M. Snodery
Peter Kam-Wah So
Haskell L. Stanback
State Farm Companies Foundation
Kristin O. Stone
Shannon Noland Sumner
Richard & Sharon Tannahill
Wendy Lea Tate
Jacob Michael Taylor
Lawrence C. Taylor Jr.
Tennessee Capital Company LLC
Valentino E. Tesoro
John Thomas Tester
Samuel & Peggy Thompson
Tommy Thompson
John B. Tibe
R. Jeff Tilley
Rebekah Leigh Tompkins
Lee Kennedy Toole
Claudia Torres
Tami K. Touchstone
Richard E. Turnbl
Stephen Ross Turbyfill
Robert L. Turney
Robert E. Tuttle Jr.
United Technologies Corporation
James & Teresa Vanfrank Jr.
Tony Vaughn
Natalia Vlasyuk
Will & Kimberly Wade
Christopher & Angela Wakefield
James Russell Walton
Kent & Amy Ward
John & Jean Wernicki
Jared & Nicole West
Jerry & Gina Wey
Robert Shelton Whitaker
Adam B. White
Rod & Karen Williams
Tyler Cade Williams
Samuel G. Wilson
Thomas Lang Wiseman
Matthew W. Wood
Christopher & Melissa Wyatt
Yazhen Xiao
Jeffrey Ryan Yelkovich
Miu Fan Yue
 recent increases in differential tuition revenues allowed the college to build increased infrastructure support in areas of career management, study abroad, and student services. Graduate and Executive Education revenues continue to improve. Private philanthropy remains an important funding source at 13 percent of the budget, while revenues from external grants and contracts continue a steady decline. Within the state allocation and standard tuition share category, increased reliance on student tuition revenue relative to state funding continues to be the trend.

Salary and benefits also remain the largest expense category, reflecting the importance of human capability in delivering on our organizational mission. At the close of fiscal year 2017, the market value of the college’s endowment reached $138.8 million, a 14 percent increase over last year. Our total number of donors also continued to rise.
THE NINTH ANNUAL alumni awards gala brought together almost 400 students, staff, faculty, and alumni at the Knoxville Convention Center on Friday, November 3. The evening recognized three alumni and one corporation for their outstanding contributions to the college and to business in the state.

The gala began with a cocktail reception and silent auction benefiting the College Fund for the Haslam College of Business. Dinner and an awards presentation followed, complete with an address from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s new chancellor, Beverly Davenport.

Chris Kinney was honored as the college’s 2017 Distinguished Alum. Shelly Sun received the Entrepreneur of the Year award. Citizens Bank was recognized as Outstanding Corporate Partner, and Michael Greene was named Outstanding Young Alum.
ORIGINALLY FROM MORRISTOWN, Tennessee, Michael Greene (HCB, ’01) transferred to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, after two years at a smaller university. Greene earned a double major in finance and classical philosophy and met his wife, Elizabeth, along the way. When he finished his bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 2002, Greene faced a difficult job market. “I initially wanted to be a fund manager, but my father was ill and I needed to stay close to home,” Greene says. “Instead, I chose a career in banking.” Greene spent some time at the National Bank of Commerce, and then joined SunTrust’s real estate finance group as a credit analyst, where he enjoyed a great deal of success.

The financial crisis of 2009 forced Greene to reevaluate his course. “Banking was in shambles and real estate even worse,” he says. “For a real estate banker, those were difficult times.” After many talks with his wife, his father, and mentors, Greene decided to return to the Haslam College of Business for an MBA. “I felt that I had a unique opportunity to raise my career ceiling,” he says. “Meanwhile, I decided to stay in real estate. I loved being able to see the tangible results of my work.”

Two months before graduation, Greene’s father passed away. “He was a major force in my decision to pursue an MBA,” says Greene. “It was crushing not to have him there when I finished, but my classmates and professors were very supportive.”

In 2011, Greene became a commercial property affiliate broker at Wood Properties, Inc., where he works across the range of commercial property transactions but focuses on industrial warehousing and distribution centers. Since then, he’s also done financial consulting work for a development firm. “Consulting has been stimulating,” he says. “It allows me to use a lot of the analysis and Excel skills I took away from the MBA program.”

In 2016, Greene created the David L. Green, MD, Memorial MBA Fellowship Endowment for Haslam students in honor of his late father. “I benefited from fellowships as a student and wanted to pay it forward,” he says. “I must be a good steward of the opportunities I’ve been blessed with.”

In honor of his career achievement, generosity, and ongoing engagement with his alma mater, the Haslam College of Business is proud to name Michael Greene the Outstanding Young Alum of 2017.
OUTSTANDING CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD

FOUNDED IN 1934, CITIZENS BANK became the only bank in Carter County, Tennessee, during the Great Depression. The late Joe LaPorte, Jr., began work there in 1956 and was promoted to president six years later. In 1983, Joe and his four sons purchased 100 percent interest in Citizens Bank. Under their leadership, the bank has received national recognition for its performance and growth.

Knoxville, and have remained involved with supporting the university. Chris (HCB, ’75) and Joe found their niche at the Haslam College of Business and have both served on the UT Foundation Board. “Chris majored in general business and I focused on finance,” says Joe. “It was a great education and a wonderful experience.”

Through Citizens Bank and family foundations, the LaPorte brothers and their families have been consistent donors to the college for decades and also generously support the university’s athletics program and law school. Chris and his wife, Quinita, support the LaPorte Torch Fund, an investment portfolio managed by MBA students, and the brothers honored their mother by dedicating a classroom at the college in her name. Citizens Bank provided funds to enable the college to acquire 12 Bloomberg terminals, which are invaluable in preparing students for job opportunities in the investment world. The bank also established an endowment earmarked for Haslam undergraduates that provides partial scholarships for eight different students. “We’ve been blessed and are extremely fortunate, so we’re proud to give back,” Chris says. “It’s an opportunity for us to make a difference by assisting the university in achieving its goals. For us, it’s all about promoting education and helping the students.”

For their service to the community and generosity to the Haslam College of Business, Citizens Bank is the Outstanding Corporate Partner for 2017.
KNOXVILLE NATIVE SHELLY SUN (HCB, ’92) came to the Haslam College of Business in the late 1980s in pursuit of an accounting degree. Driven to succeed, Sun placed in the top 100 of the CPA exam within a year of graduation. “I was well supported through the Haslam accounting program with two amazing internships,” she says. “As a junior, I interned at DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware, and as a senior, I worked at EY’s Knoxville office.”

Sun spent the first decade of her career in various corporate roles within the technology, food distribution, and insurance industries as an assistant controller. Her work in health insurance drew her to property and casualty insurance, but it was a personal experience that led her to become an entrepreneur. “I was looking for home care for a family member and didn’t find the options we needed or expected,” she says. “That experience influenced a passion for families looking for the best care for their loved ones. I realized there was an opportunity to provide that care.”

In 2002, Sun started BrightStar Care, a Chicago-based premium healthcare company focusing on home care for homebound patients and medical staffing. The venture grew at a rapid rate, and in 2005, she decided to expand its reach through franchising. “My hope was to be able to help families everywhere by taking care of more mom and dads, grandmas and grandpas across the country,” she says. “Today, BrightStar Care is a large operation in more than 300 markets and $400 million in revenue each year. We operate across the United States and Canada.”

Sun’s vision for the company was to provide franchisees the opportunity to run the business on a local level and to select and hire the best caregivers. In 2012, she was featured on CBS’s Undercover Boss and decided to write a book to share her ideas and experiences with other entrepreneurs. “I wrote Grow Smart With Less in 2012 as a way to give back to the franchise industry,” Sun says. “The premise was to help those who might want to know how I was able to start BrightStar Care locally and scale it to a multi-million dollar business.”

Along the way, Sun has surrounded herself with positive people. “I needed people who helped me believe I could do it, and I’ve continued to have that positive momentum around me,” she says. “Having great mentors and a board of advisors has been invaluable to my success as an entrepreneur.”

For her career success, the Haslam College of Business is proud to name Shelly Sun the Entrepreneur of the Year for 2017.
AFTER LAUNCHING HIS CAREER at a commercial bank in Knoxville, Chris Kinney (HCB, ’81) relocated to Atlanta to become a managing director at JPMorgan Chase from 1985–2001. He spent 18 years working in investment banking, eventually moving to New York. Kinney witnessed the events of 9/11 from the downtown window of his office at Barclays Capital in Manhattan.

Two years later, Kinney and his family returned to Knoxville, where he became the city’s senior director of finance under new mayor Bill Haslam. In this role, Kinney had the opportunity to work with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, administration on various projects, including the revitalization of the Second Creek greenway. “It was in pretty bad shape and we worked to get a beautification grant and design a project,” he says. “I enjoyed collaborating with university administration and from that point, I decided I would stay involved with the university as much as I could.”

Kinney served the City of Knoxville for three years before starting a New York-based investment management business, SteelRiver Infrastructure Partners, in 2006. “We manage investments in utilities, pipelines, railroads, electric transmission companies and marine ports,” Kinney says. “Rather than investing in stocks, we purchase and operate entire companies.” Today, SteelRiver Infrastructure Partners has offices in New York and San Francisco, California, and their companies are located in 23 US states.

Over the past decade, Kinney and his wife Donna (HCB, ’82) have ramped up their involvement at the Haslam College of Business, establishing a fellowship for rising professors who want to spend more time on research projects, particularly in the summer months. The fellowship has continued to grow since its inception. “I’m happy that it’s successful, and I’ve enjoyed getting to meet the recipients,” he says. “Some of our disciplines are high in the national rankings, and that’s a testament to the quality and dedication of these professors.” Kinney also serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council.

To honor his far-reaching career, distinguished service to the university, and generous giving of talents and resources, the Haslam College of Business is proud to present its 2017 Distinguished Alum Award to Chris Kinney.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
To share your news with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Haslam College of Business community, submit it along with any relevant images to Haslam@utk.edu. Please use “Alumni News” in the subject line.

This update reflects information known as of Oct. 10, 2017.
Affinity Group/Paramount Marketing promoted David Clark (HCB, '82) to president.

Donna Rose (HCB, '87) joined Parker Business Consulting and Accounting as an accountant.

John Wojcik (HCB, '92) is now chief marketing officer at Brown Jordan International in the Jacksonville, Florida, area.

Honeywell promoted Jim Schwab (HCB, '97, MBA, '01) to vice president of staffing for home and building technologies and software.

The Washington Wizards named Kara Lawson (HCB, '03) their primary game analyst. She is only the second full-time color TV analyst in the franchise’s history, and one of the youngest and first female primary TV analysts for an NBA team.

Pat Hickey (ProMBA, '08) was promoted to North America VP of sales and marketing for the Utility Segment with Eaton.

Otis Cosby (PEMBA, '10) was appointed to division chief for occupational and environmental medicine within the Department of Medicine at Greenville Health System.

Kerry Speth (MAcc, '10) is now the chief financial officer at Ocra Coolers in the greater Nashville area.

Phillip Blair (ProMBA, '12) is now a project controls specialist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The University of Louisville tapped Maxwell Boakye (PEMBA, '12) to chair its Department of Neurology.

Russ Epting (EMBA-SL, '12) was promoted to vice president at CSX.

Barry Gilmore (PEMBA, '09) was promoted to professor of pediatrics at UT Memphis and is also now the chief medical officer and vice president at LeBonheur Children’s Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.
Ivy Estes (ProMBA, ’12) is now a banking officer in the bankwide transformation group of M&T Bank in Buffalo, New York.


Todd May (EMBA-SL, ’12) became vice president of sales and marketing with NEOTISS.

Courtney Stewart (EMBA-SL, ’12) is now datacenter operations facility manager at Google.

Abdulrahman Al Husaini (EMBA-GSC, ’13) was promoted to head of planning and inventory control with King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center.

Robert J. Cerfolio (PEMBA, ’13) joined NYU Langone as the chief of clinical thoracic surgery and the first director of its Lung Cancer Center.

James Lawson (EMBA-SL, ’13) is now director of strategic accounts at ChemTreat.

Ray Lello (EMBA-SL, ’13) became product manager at Bayer Crop Science.

Thomas Tobin (PEMBA, ’13) was recently elected to the board of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Mondelez International promoted Eduardo Delablo (EMBA-GSC, ’14) to global factory of future transformation director.

Shawn Hopper (EMBA-SL, ’14) is now a legal administrative assistant at Veterans Affairs.

Revonna Smith (PEMBA, ’14) launched the AnesthEZia Saf-T-Tray, a product aimed at reducing anesthesia medication errors by simplifying and standardizing workflow.

JP Wood (ADMBA, ’14) was part of a team selected to receive the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence for achievements relating to his organizational action project.

Andrew Adams (EMBA-HCL, ’15) is now pharmacy business manager at CaroMont Health.

King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center promoted Hatton Alsedais (EMBA-GSC, ’15) to manager of pharmaceutical planning.

Jay Lown (EMBA-SL, ’15) became an international sales manager at Heatec Inc./Astec Industries.

Brad Ranly (EMBA-SL, ’15) was promoted to director of operations and transformation at TWB Company, Worthington Industries.

Emran Rouf (PEMBA, ’15) discovered a link between rural living and hypertension, which he presented with his team at the 2017 American Heart Association’s Council on Hypertension meeting in San Francisco.

Doug Steelman (ProMBA, ’15) is now VP of managed security services at Optiv in Atlanta, Georgia.

Robert Flora (PEMBA, ’16) is the newly appointed chief academic officer and vice president of academic affairs at McLaren Health Care.

All Idrees (EMBA-GSC, ’16) was promoted to MEA manufacturing director for GCB and B categories with Mondelez International.

Patricia Wilkerson-Uddyback (PEMBA, ’15) received a promotion to chief medical officer of Detroit Receiving, Harper University, and Hutzel Women’s Hospitals.

Rockwell Collins promoted Maya Murphy (EMBA-SL, ’16) to director, ATS manufacturing.

Homere Al Moutran (PEMBA, ’16) published an article in KEVINMD, entitled “We Can No Longer Ignore Dr. Google.”

Andres Oviedo (EMBA-GSC, ’16) is now Monterrey HUB ISC senior director, with Mondelez International.


Rick Smith (EMBA-HCL, ’16) was promoted to vice president of operations in the south division at Pathways by Molina.
‘40s

Emily Granger Hinman ('44), died April 2, 2017, in Bolivia, NC. She worked for Tennessee Eastman Corp. and was an accomplished amateur artist.

R. Harold Jenkins ('44, '47), of Wilmington, DE, died April 21, 2017. He was a WWII Navy veteran who worked in managerial positions for Hercules, Inc., in the US and Europe.

John G. Sample, Sr. ('48), was a WWII Navy veteran who worked 64 years at Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. He was a member of the Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame and died Sept. 2, 2017.

Julius Frantz Hudson ('49), died March 21, 2017, at age 93. Julius served in the US Army Air Corp during WWII and was a nuclear materials accountability manager who worked more than 30 years at Union Carbide.

Walter Monroe Williams, Jr. ('49), age 95, died Sept. 20, 2017. During WWII he served as a pilot, flying Navy bombers in the Aleutians. He retired in 1984 from Union Carbide’s Y-12 plant.

Vivian Williams Davis ('50) of Smyrna, GA, died March 22, 2017. She was a real estate agent for more than 30 years. American Contract Bridge League life master playing duplicate bridge, and a Kentucky Colonel.

George Thomas McGuire, Jr. ('50) died Sept. 21, 2017. He was a WWII US Army veteran whose experiences were recorded for a BBC documentary series. His career as a salesman with Reynolds Aluminum Company spanned more than 40 years. He wrote four historical novels and founded McGuire Publishing Company.

Edgar “Big Ed” Watson ('50) of Rome, GA, died April 15, 2017, at age 88. He was a veteran who served in the Army Corps of Engineers.

Katherine May Lee ('51), enrolled at UT for an aviation program discontinued at the close of WWII. A Torchebearer, she graduated with a degree in transportation and worked for several airlines, including Northeast Airlines in Boston where she regularly checked in President John F. Kennedy. She died March 17, 2017.

William Harrell Morris, Jr. ('51), a Korean War veteran, died Sept. 20, 2017. He served as deputy commissioner of economic development in Tennessee and was instrumental in bringing the Nissan assembly plant and the World’s Fair to the state. He was appointed assistant secretary of the US Department of Commerce and US delegate to the United Nations Industrial Development Commission under President Ronald Reagan. He also worked as president and CEO of Global USA and helped found the Red, Hot and Blue, Memphis Barbeque chain.

Mary Francis Dodd “Pan” Eimon ('52), was an artist and journalist who died Sept. 20, 2017. Pan wrote and edited for radio stations and magazines and exhibited her paintings. Her last international show, in 1996, was at the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery.

Linda Rust Hale ('52) was an insurance claims adjuster, Girl Scout leader, and avid gardener. She died on Sept. 12, 2017.

Walter Ogilvie ('53) attended the College Grove School and Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, TN, before UT. A US Navy veteran, he died March 18, 2017.

William Starnes ('53) died on May 1, 2017. He served in the US Army at Fort Jackson from 1954-56.

Pearce Kann Ray ('56) died Sept. 20, 2017. A veteran of the US Navy, he worked nearly 40 years in the transportation industry with several corporations, including Yellow Trucking.


Edward Steele Clayton III ('59), age 80, died Aug. 30, 2017. He served in the US Marine Corp.

‘50s

Ted Michael Chumley ('50) joined the US Army during WWII as a radio operations specialist, receiving the medal of Good Conduct and a Combat Ribbon. He was a real estate agent and founded the restaurant Boardwalk Billy’s. He died Sept. 20, 2017.

‘60s

Bill Anderson ('60), “the other voice of the Vols,” died April 18, 2017. He colored commeneted UT football games for 31 years. His football career included playing for UT, being named rookie of the year for the Washington Redskins, and a visit to the Super Bowl with the Green Bay Packers. He was a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame.

Albert S. Lyons III ('60), was a CPA who worked mostly for manufacturing companies. He taught accounting at Pellissippi State.

Charles Oliver Mann, Jr. ('60) began his medical sales career with V. Mueller, later founding Specialty Surgical Instrumentation. He served 14 years on the Tennessee Certificate of Need Board and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and was a captain in the Maury County Sheriff’s Department. He died Sept. 1, 2017.

Billy Nicks “Chicken” Raymond ('61) died Sept. 5, 2017. He was an avid Vols fan who took on multiple entrepreneurial endeavors, including Robo Taxi, Robo Carwash and Market, and Robo Rentals.
Robert Neal Culver (’62), a US Army veteran, died Aug. 22, 2017. He worked at Bank of America before becoming president of Valley Fidelity Bank and Trust in Knoxville and starting his own financial investment firm. Neal was on Coal Creek Company’s board of directors for 30 years and was a chancellor’s associate of UT.

William Ronald “Ron” Walton (’66) died on Sept. 28, 2017. Ron spent his entire career with PwC, ultimately leading the company’s national risk management division. He also served on Haslam’s advisory board.

Thomas “Tommy” R. Dykes Sr. (’67) died on March 29, 2017. He served in the US Air Force and worked 30 years at Eastman Chemical Co. An accident in 1978 left him paralyzed, but he continued to work, travel, fish, and golf.

Richard “Dick” Grey Wright III (’67), a lifelong resident of Knox County, died April 22, 2017. He was a decorated US Marine who served in Vietnam. Wright was president of the family business, Dick Wright Hardware, until he retired in 1999.


James Crispin “Cris” Ashworth (’74) died April 24, 2017. He became CFO of Nashville Gas before age 30 and later senior vice president and CFO of Medical Economics. In 1989, he purchased United Record Pressing in Nashville, which he sold in 2008 after tremendous growth.


Steven L. Hembree (’76), graduated from UT with highest honors and was a CPA for more than 40 years. He died April 9, 2017.

George L. Gee III (’78) died on April 25, 2017. He served in the US Navy and worked for several Oak Ridge government agencies.


Mark Lee Gray (’90, MBA ’92) worked for Kimberly Clark and Y-12 and died April 2, 2017, at age 50.

Mechele M. Peterson (PEMBA ’14), a Mace Braxton Scholarship recipient, died on April 3, 2017. She was a pediatrician and deputy chief medical officer in Aberdeen, SD.
Erinn, Nnadozie, and Jasmen are recipients of the Tennessee Pledge Scholarship. Donations from UT alumni and friends interested in bringing opportunity to all qualified students made their college educations possible.

Join them, and Join the Journey.

journey.utk.edu
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