

DIVISION DISCLOSURES

Volume 2, Issue 2, Spring 2019

Semester Recap from Dr. Nancy Lankton

Division Head, Accountancy and Legal Environment



I hope all students, faculty, and professionals will join me in saying "Congratulations!" This has been one of our best semesters yet with an incredible amount of engagement and accomplishments. I am very proud of all the students who participated in these activities. A special note of congratulations go to those who graduated and are on their way to graduate school and/or a very successful career in a great profession that will bring them happiness for years to come. Our students have worked hard and deserve our continued support and encouragement as they make their way into the "real-world" of accounting. Our faculty have been instrumental in providing a great

learning environment for the students and for always thinking of ways to improve what we do. Our Division was recently ranked by AccountingEdu.org and endorsed by the Institute of Management Accountants. The Division faculty have also worked tirelessly to develop the new online MS Accountancy program that offers more flexibility to our graduate students. Our faculty do all this while producing high-quality scholarship and attending conferences to disseminate their findings to other academics and the professional community. We also owe gratitude to the professionals who support our programs and events like Beta Alpha Psi, Accounting Student Interest Night, and the Ethics Video Contest. We couldn't do it without your support and willingness to help, sometimes at the drop of a hat. In conclusion, always be proud of yourself and your efforts, and to everyone I say "Job well done!" Always remember, "We are Marshall!"



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
Lewis College of Business
& Brad D. Smith Schools of Business
Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment
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Graduates

BBA in Accounting

Hunter Argabrite	Nicholas Lawson
Mason Blake	Cory McComas
Alexander Bock	Jayce McDaniel
Haley Bristow	John Mears
Adam Campbell	Joshua Michalski
Nathan Coleman	Tyler Moles
Payton Deynzer	Michael Parker
Jacob Fleshman	Joshua Shapiro
Kaitlin Francis	Cameron Sherwood
Stephen Gaal	Andrew Stamper
Kelli Halstead-Herr	Christian Thomas
Alexandra Hayslett	Alejandro Valladares
Aidan Jackson	Ericka Vance
Morgan Kinder	Nathaniel Webb
Grace Kisor	Reynolds Wells

MS in Accountancy

Phung (Venus) Hong-Brown
Sixuan Long
Robert Martin
Haley Phillips
Kaylee Stengel
Ziyi Zhu

Alumni Passing the CPA Exam

Stephen Guy Parker, II, BBA 2016
Hayflich CPAs

Zachary Cooper, BBA 2016
AT&T Mobility

Adam Wakefield, BBA 2015
Fayetteville, WV

Corey Tornes, BBA 2018
City National Bank

Emily J. Moreland, BBA 2018
Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP

Faculty and Student Awards

Dr. Susan Lanham won the Robert Bruce Hayes Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Lewis College of Business Annual Faculty / Staff Award ceremony this Spring. Dr. Lanham

teaches our Forensics and Accounting Analytics courses among others. She loves teaching and says, "It is, without a doubt, the most rewarding work I've ever done." In one of her graduate courses she has a "Deposition Day" where actual attorneys come to class and perform depositions of each student on their final project in the course, the valuation of economic damages. Dr. Lanham also publishes in well-recognized teaching journals and has published a financial software product that teaches students the importance of personal financial budgeting. As one student sums up Dr. Lanham, "The Accounting Department's best."



Lewis College of Business Annual Awards Dinner: Dean Avinandan (Avi) Mukherjee and Dr. Susan Lanham

Accounting students Casey Snodgrass and Kaitlin Francis won first and third place awards, respectively, as the WV Society of CPAs Annual Outstanding Accounting Students. Each year the Recruiting and Career Opportunities Committee of the WV Society of CPAs recognizes students majoring in accounting from colleges and universities all across the state of West Virginia. To be eligible students must be a Student Member of the Society, attend a college or university in the state of West Virginia, and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Kaitlin was a senior this past semester. She graduated with honors and has enrolled in our MS Accountancy program. Casey is going to be a senior this coming year and will be the new Beta Alpha Psi president! Congratulations to both of you. These are well-deserved honors! Casey won \$1,000 for her first-place award and Kaitlin won \$500. Winners were announced at the annual Committee Day.

Dr. Nancy Lankton won the WV Society of CPAs Award for her work as chairperson of the Accounting and Auditing committee. Dr. Lankton served three years as chairperson and before that was vice chair. The committee is responsible for producing the Accounting and Auditing Standards Update in the quarterly society newsletter. It also serves as a liaison between members and state and local government leaders regarding audit and financial reporting issues.

Division Awards

Each semester, the Division recognizes the top Accounting undergraduate and graduate students. In Spring 2019, the Division was proud to award these well-deserving students for each category.

IMA Honor Society Inductees:

Austin Fields, Jacob Fleshman, Amy Harrison, Amanda King, Karen Rogge, Casey Snodgrass, Kara Songer, and Nathan Webb

CMA Scholarship Graduate Students - Best in Class:

Phung (Venus) Hong-Brown, Robert Martin, and Haley Phillips

Top Performers on ACC 499 Assessment Exam:

Nicholas Lawson – Becker Scholarship
Brandon McMullen – Gleim Scholarship
Nathan Coleman – CMA Scholarship
Nathan Webb – CMA Scholarship

Graduating with Honors:

Kaitlin Francis, Nicholas Lawson, and Tyler Moles



WV Society of CPAs Committee Day: Dr. Nancy Lankton, Accounting students Tyler Moles, Nicholas Lawson, Kaitlin Francis, and Casey Snodgrass, and former Interim Dean, Robert Simpson.

Beta Alpha Psi Events - Spring 2019

Thursday Meetings

- Interest meeting, WVSCPA's, Judy Proctor (1/17)
- Trivia Night Sponsored by Dixon Hughes Goodman (1/31)
- FDIC, Lloyd McIntyre, The Federal Government and Bank Supervision (2/7)
- Hayflich, Akia Rice, Tax Reform Changes (2/14)
- EPIC Mission, Jeremy Turner, Combined meeting with the Student Center for Public Trust (2/21)
- Huntington Federal Savings Bank, Anna Neil, Experiences in Accounting (2/28)
- Service Wire, Alex Peach, Accounting in Industry (3/7)
- Sullivan Webb, Charlie Webb, Public versus Private (3/14)
- Surgent CPA Review, Ray Ruiz, True Memories of a Big 4 Recruiter (3/21)
- Cabell Huntington Hospital, Drew Hefner and Greg Wageman, The Annual Audit Report (4/4)
- City National Bank. Corey Tornes and Alexi Levock, Loan Department/Credit Analyst Career (4/11)
- JulNet Solutions, Julie Hewitt, Combined meeting with the Student Center for Public Trust (4/18)

New Officers, Inductees, and Graduates:

• **2019-2020 Officers:**

Casey Snodgrass – President
Ashlee Smith – Vice President
Amanda Spry – Vice President of Finance
Katerina Coon – Vice President of Professional Development
Phillip Taylor and Jessica White – VITA Coordinators
Brandon Myers and Nicholas Lawson – Special Events.

• **Spring Inductees:**

Mitchell Bartoldson, Katerina Coon, Jayce McDaniel, Brandon Myers, Karen Rogge, Ashlee Smith, Mingxian Wei, and Jessica White

• **Graduates:**

Adam Campbell, Kaitlin Francis, Stephen Gaal, Kelli Halstead-Herr, Nick Lawson, Jayce McDaniel, Tyler Moles, Drew Stamper, Christian Thomas, and Ericka Vance
Kathy Eddy New Horizon Fund Winners: Amanda Spry, Jessica White, Kara Songer, Brandi Hinkle, and Brandon Myers



BAP Officers with Brad D. Smith at West Virginia Society of CPAs Luncheon April, 2019:
Back Kasun Wijayagurusinghe, Nicholas Lawson, Amanda Thompson-Abbott,
Brad D. Smith, Casey Snodgrass, Phillip Taylor, Front Ashley Taylor and Kaitlin Francis.

Spring Banquet

The Spring Banquet was held on Thursday, April 25 at Guyan Country Club. President Kasun Wijayagurusinghe opened the meeting and then introduced the incoming president, Casey Snodgrass. Casey spoke about her ambitions for the group in the upcoming year. She then inducted the new officers for 2019-2020. These students are sure to do a great job next year! Current officers Nicholas Lawson and Kaitlin Francis then inducted the new members and Casey Snodgrass announced the graduates. Other high points include:

- Faculty advisor, Amanda Thompson-Abbott, recognized all the BAP members who worked tirelessly on VITA throughout the semester.
- Dr. Nancy Lankton and Ms. Anna Neil from Huntington Federal Savings Bank announced the high school Ethics Video Competition winners. Two members of the winning team from Huntington High, Baliee Viars and Liam Adkins, came to the dinner with their teacher, Ms. Alison Adkins to accept the awards.
- Dr. Jean Price then announced the Kathy Eddy New Horizon Fund winners and Dr. Marie Archambault presented the Division Awards.
- Ms. Anna Neil was selected as the BAP Business Professional of the Year. Ms. Neil presented a heartfelt speech about her time at Marshall as a student and the advice and experiences that have made her a successful professional.

The banquet was a great way to honor our students, stay in touch with our alumni, and connect with business professionals. Congratulations to everyone!

High School Student Ethics Video Contest

The Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment, Beta Alpha Psi, and the Huntington Chapter of the WVSCPA's have been promoting the accounting profession to high school students. We visited three high schools this semester: Paul Blazer in Ashland, Wayne County, and Huntington High. While at the schools, we presented information about being an Accounting major here at Marshall and what being an Accountant is all about. After our short presentation we showed some sample videos on business ethics and asked the students to think of creating their own two- to four-minute video depicting a business etiquette situation or ethical dilemma that may arise in the business world. The students had approximately a month to complete their videos. Beta Alpha Psi judged the videos and choose the winner.

The winning video this year was created by four students from Huntington High: Tyler Courts, Launa Six, Baliee Viars, and Liam Adkins. The team was led by Allison Atkins, their 10th grade English and Broadcast Journalism teacher. The video dealt with personal use of company property. The students creating this video attended the BAP Spring Banquet at Guyan Country Club and were awarded \$100 each in prize money. We were also asked to attend the Cabell County Board of Education Meeting in May as guests of honor (see picture below). Visiting high schools and getting students involved with the ethics video contest was fun and engaging. Next year, we plan to continue this activity and expand it to several additional high schools.



Cabell County Board of Directors Meeting.

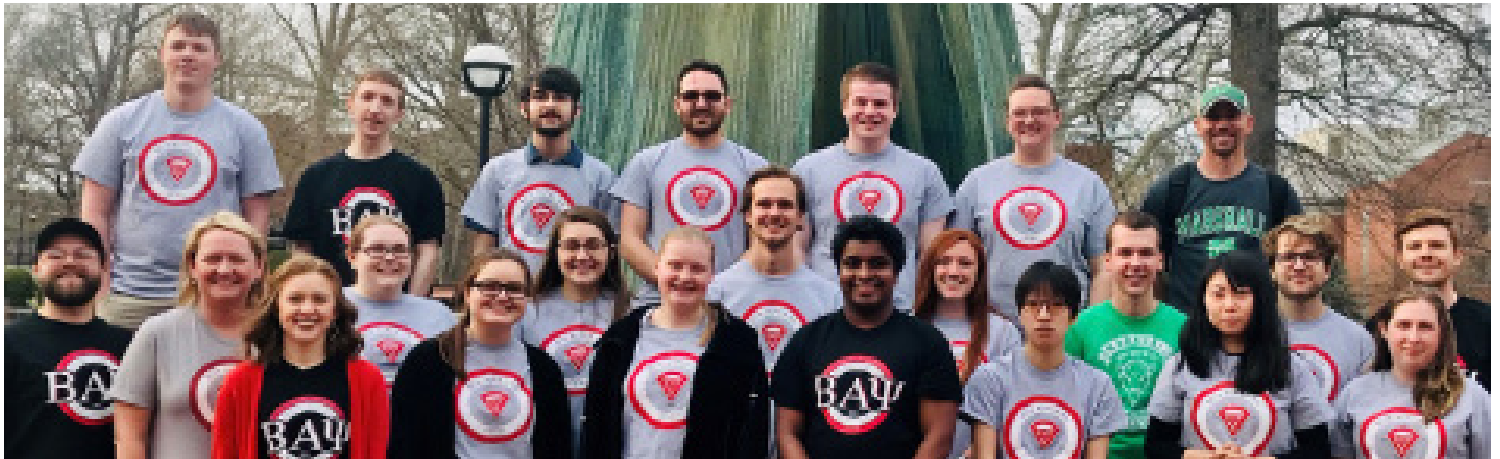
Meet Our GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Robert Martin, Accounting student Robert Martin was our Graduate Assistant (GA) during the 2018-2019 academic year. Robert received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Marshall in 2018. He was an active participant in Beta Alpha Psi and also received the honor of being inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma along with the Golden Key Honor Society. In Spring 2019 he completed the Masters of Science in Accounting with a 4.0 GPA. When asked about being a GA, Robert said, "During my time as a graduate student I worked in the accounting office where I graded papers and had the opportunity to aid in accounting related academic research, which has broadened my horizon on what it means to be an accountant". Robert did an outstanding job helping professors with their classes and even participated in Green and White Day events trying to recruit high school students. He was an invaluable asset to the Division! Robert is now an auditor at Perry and Associates CPAs where he interned the past three summers. He looks forward to his future as a professional and will soon begin studying for the CPA exam.

Accounting Student Interest Night

We want to thank Dr. Marie Archambault for organizing and hosting a very successful Accounting Student Interest Night on Monday, April 8. Student Interest Night is held each Spring for (mostly) sophomores who might be interested in majoring in accounting and their parents/guests. We had 30 ACC 215/216 students and parents attend this past spring along with our upper level accounting students! The event was fun and informative. Dr. Archambault presented information about what it means to be a trusted professional. She shared a lot of information about being an accountant and moderated a panel consisting of Professor Thompson-Abbott, Casey Snodgrass (upper-level accounting student) and Jason Kelley (former accounting student, now auditor with Hess, Stewart, Campbell). There was a free pasta bar and door prizes. Upper-level accounting students and faculty helped Dr. Archambault host the event. We appreciate the help Tessa White and Suzann Workman provided in assisting with the event.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



Instructor Amanda Thompson-Abbott with VITA Volunteers in front of Marshall Fountain.

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) hosted a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site again this year. VITA is a program through the Internal Revenue Service that offers free tax assistance to eligible individuals. The BAP partners with United Way of the River Cities to offer tax preparation assistance for low- and middle-income families on Marshall's Campus. Marshall's VITA site is the only site in the area that is able to file foreign student returns and Form 8843. Co-Site Coordinator and Beta Alpha Psi Officer Philip Taylor explains, "The path ahead at Marshall is paved by the support we give to fostering a diverse student body. Our volunteers are excited to provide Marshall's international students with the help they need to navigate the American tax system." Taxpayers who make an income of \$66,000 or less can participate in the program. Individuals can receive assistance with simple 1040s, basic 1040NRs, and Form 8843. This year, the students participating in VITA completed approximately 150 tax returns.

"The VITA Program is a great opportunity to serve the Marshall Community by empowering students to assist with tax preparation. We are able to put knowledge learned in the classroom into action," remarked Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Instructor of Accounting and Co-Site Coordinator. Accounting students also gain valuable hands-on learning experience by providing a cost-effective way for individuals to electronically file their tax returns. Ashley Taylor, a Marshall Accounting program alum and former Site Coordinator, shares these reflections on the program, "In my time at VITA I saw firsthand the benefits that the program brought to our students and community. I am glad I got involved and would recommend all students volunteer in a program like this."

New Assistant Professor of Accountancy

Timothy G. Bryan has accepted our offer to join the Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Accounting, starting Fall 2019. Tim is defending his dissertation this summer for the Doctor of Business Administration program at Jacksonville University, Florida. He has an M.S. and B.S. in Accounting from the University of Southern Indiana. Tim's doctoral dissertation is titled "Accounting Conservatism or Earnings Manipulation: A Study of the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts in the Chemical and Allied Products Manufacturers."

Tim has already published a peer-reviewed journal article in the *Journal of Business & Economics Research* and has presented his research in well-known conferences such as the American Accounting Association Annual and regional meetings. He is a member of the American Accounting Association, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Indiana CPA Society, Illinois CPA Society and Beta Gamma Sigma. Tim brings a wealth of experience both in practice and as an academic. As a CPA and a Certified Global Managerial

Accountant (CGMA), Tim was the Office Managing Partner of Kemper CPA Group LLP in Evansville, Indiana and Mt. Vernon, Illinois; Board of Directors of Kemper Capital Management; and on the Audit Staff at KPMG, Indianapolis since 1990.

At the AACSB dual-accredited Romain College of Business at the University of Southern Indiana, Tim has been an instructor of accounting for 8 years, and has taught a wide variety of courses, including Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Intermediate Accounting I and II, Audit, Federal Income Tax, Accounting for Investments in Equity Securities, and Accounting for Investments in Debt Securities, with excellent student evaluations. He has taught several online classes, and was the faculty advisor for the AICPA Case Study Competition Teams, which came third in nation in 2013 and 2014; as well as for the Business Valuation Challenge (Atlanta, GA) Case Study Competition team which was a national finalist in 2017. We look forward to having Tim join our faculty this coming year.

Dean's Distinguished Speaker: Accounting Alumnus Rick Slater

Rick Slater, Managing Partner, Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP, was featured as part of the College's Spring 2019 Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series. Rick is a proud Son of Marshall with a BBA degree in Accounting. He serves on the Marshall University Foundation Board of Directors and the Lewis College of Business Advisory Board where he previously was President. Rick spent the past 15 years with DHG and has nearly 30 years of tax and business consulting experience. He has served in strategic advisory capacities for numerous clients involved in mergers and acquisitions, capital structuring, tax restructuring plans, business incentives and grants, public private development plans, and state and local taxation. He has worked with many companies in entity selection, raising capital, and research and development spending. Additionally, Rick is involved in many leadership capacities related to economic development and tax policy in the State and surrounding regions. We were honored to have Rick present as part of the Speaker Series this semester!

Announcing the NEW Online MS Accountancy Program

We are proud to announce our new 100% online MS in Accountancy (MSA) program! Building off the College's fully online MBA program, the online MSA is designed for both entry-level and seasoned accounting professionals who want to advance in their careers or get the additional credits required to sit for the CPA exam and/or become a licensed CPA. The program is catered towards students with family and work obligations who want a premiere graduate degree with the convenience of an online program.

Earning an MSA degree online from Marshall gives students the flexibility to schedule courses around their career or other responsibilities. Students will proceed through coursework that helps them understand accounting theory and regulations, use financial data to make strategic business decisions, become effective communicators, and understand legal and ethical issues in business. It will prepare students to be successful in the rapidly expanding fields of accounting, auditing, and tax and offers coursework in law, forensics, and data analytics.

The program is taught by the same faculty who teach our traditional face-to-face classes who hold professional certifications and who have years of academic and professional accounting experience. Students will receive the same rigorous standards of teaching. All courses are developed following a leading quality assurance program and use the latest technology.

Accounting Program Earns IMA Endorsement

The BBA in Accounting program has earned a prestigious endorsement from the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), one of the largest and most respected associations focused exclusively on advancing the management accounting profession. Our application for IMA endorsement was thoroughly reviewed by IMA's Committee on Academic Relations and approved for endorsement under IMA's Higher Education Endorsement Program. Jeff Thomson, President & CEO of IMA, said "I extend my CONGRATULATIONS and look forward to working with you as partners in advancing the profession of management accounting!"

The IMA endorsement recognizes business schools and academic programs that meet high educational standards, preparing students to enter into the profession of management accounting and enabling them to pursue and earn designation as a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). To qualify for endorsement by IMA, schools must meet the following criteria: 1. the program must substantially cover the CMA exam content; 2. the program must have adequate faculty resources to deliver this content; 3. the program must be accredited by a recognized accreditation organization (AACSB); and 4. a faculty member must be designated as an IMA Campus Advocate.

IMA's globally-recognized CMA program is a relevant assessment of advanced accounting and financial management knowledge in four areas: financial planning, analysis, control and decision support – each of which is increasingly critical in meeting the changing needs of business, and therefore, essential learning for students of accounting and finance.

Said Raef Lawson, Ph.D., Vice President of Research & Policy, and Professor-in-Residence for the IMA, "Congratulations on this recognition by IMA of the quality of your management accounting curriculum. IMA is proud to recognize your school and the education you provide your students." Special thanks to Dr. Junwook Yoo for his hard work on completing the application!



2019 Kathy Eddy New Horizon Fund Students at the Greenbrier: Kara Songer, Brandi Hinkle, and Brandon Myers, Jessica White, and Amanda Spry.

The Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment Goes International



Marshall students at the National University of Ireland in Galway in March 2019.

Dr. Charles Stivason and Instructor Patrick Donahoe taught at GUFU University in China this spring. Last year, Dr. Stivason taught a group of 65 students at GUFU the first principles class – ACC 215. This year he taught the second principles class – ACC 216 to them and Patrick Donahoe taught a new group of 82 students ACC 215. The professors find teaching in China a wonderful opportunity to help students in a different country learn about accounting. Dean Avi Mukherjee and other College faculty and staff also in China held a big celebration with the GUFU students and administrators. Says Dr. Stivason about this visit, “My experiences this year in China were even better than last year. The hospitality of the GUFU administrators was exceptional. We ate in several restaurants they recommended and had a pizza party celebration with the students!” Instructor Patrick Donahoe took a group of twelve students to Ireland for a study abroad during Spring break. Three of the students were Accounting majors. The group visited Fexco, an Ireland based financial services and financial technology company, and the National University of Ireland in Galway. They also saw some beautiful scenery, such as the Cliffs of Moher and the Ring of Kerry. One student, Kaylee Stengel said, “We learned a lot about international accounting issues during the trip. We also ate amazing food, listened to traditional Irish music (and even joined in on some traditional Irish dancing), did a lot of shopping, and just had a great time exploring this beautiful country!”

Faculty Research Accomplishments

Dr. Susan Lanham, “Analyzing Big Data with Benford’s Law: A Lesson for the Classroom,” *The American Journal of Business Education*, Accepted January 2019.

Drs. Nancy Lankton, Charles Stivason, and Anil Gurung (MIS), “Information Protection Behaviors: Morality and Organizational Criticality,” *Information and Computer Security*, Accepted March 2019.

Robin C. Capehart, Dr. Terry Wallace, and **Raymond Keener**, “State Hospitals,” *Public Policy Quarterly*, Published January 2019.

Robin Capehart and **Raymond Keener**, “Higher Education,” *Public Policy Quarterly*, Published December 2018 (also featured in a press release by wvpublicpolicy.com).

Drs. Nancy Lankton, D. Harrison McKnight, and John Tripp, “Understanding the Antecedents and Outcomes of Facebook Privacy Behaviors: An Integrated Model,” *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, Accepted January 2019.

Instructor **Amanda Thompson-Abbott**, American Tax Association midyear meeting, February 2019, Washington, DC.

Dr. Susan Lanham, Deloitte Foundation/FSA Faculty Consortium, “Analytics, Technology, and Business Transformation,” May 2019, Westlake, Texas.

Drs Casey Baker, Ray Keener, and Nancy Lankton presented papers at the College’s Research Day in April 2019.

BBA in Accounting recognized for Superior Value in West Virginia

AccountingEdu.org has ranked our B.B.A. in Accounting as the Most Affordable Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting in West Virginia for 2018-19, with highly competitive cost per credit hour of \$352 (WV resident), \$605 (metro resident), \$797 (non-resident), and with a CPA first-time exam pass rate of 60%. The website lists the following special features of our accounting program:

- Opportunities to Reach 150 Credits/Complete Graduate Study Through the University’s MSA and MBA Programs

- Boasts an Esteemed Faculty, Many of Whom are Practicing CPAs
- Program focused on strong Faculty-Student Interactions supported by a Dedicated Faculty-Student Mentoring Program
- Plentiful Opportunities for Practical Learning and Student Engagement Through Events like Student Night and Meet the Firms and Through Organizations like Beta Alpha Psi
- Outstanding Hands-On Learning Opportunities Include Internships, VITA—the Volunteer Tax Assistance Program, and Study Abroad Programs

giving OPPORTUNITIES

All donations are greatly appreciated and will help us continue to provide a high quality, successful learning experience to our students.

Please make checks payable to:

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Another Giving Opportunity: The Faculty Fellow Program: This Program involves firm sponsorship of a Named Fellowship for a Division faculty member. The participating firm will fund a two-year, nonrenewable faculty stipend of \$5,000 per year. The faculty recipient will be chosen by a coordinated effort between the firm and the Division Head.

The sponsoring firm will benefit from the Faculty Fellow Program in several ways.

- The Named Fellowship will be associated with the faculty member (e.g., <<CPA Firm Name>> Fellow) on all websites, business cards, emails, and other correspondence.
- The faculty member will represent the sponsoring organization in external activities.
- The Fellowship will be promoted to the external community and other AACSB business schools.
- The faculty member will invite the sponsoring organization to speak in classes and participate in joint research projects.

To participate contact Dr. Nancy Lankton: lanlankton@marshall.edu

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