



Minnesota State University
MANKATO

College of Business

THE ABSTRACT

Accounting Magazine



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Message from the Chair

Dr. Kirsten (Kris) Rosacker

As I reflect on the past academic year, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the Department of Accounting and Business Law. Leading this department has been a remarkable journey, especially because this is the same institution where I earned my undergraduate degree many years ago. Returning to my roots in this capacity has brought me a profound sense of joy and personal fulfillment, as it allows me to give back to the community that first ignited my passion for this profession.



I want to extend my sincere thanks to our students, whose dedication and passion for learning remain the driving force behind everything we do. Our faculty and staff deserve immense credit for their tireless work, mentorship, and the collaborative spirit they bring to our halls every day. I am also incredibly grateful to our alumni and business partners, whose continued support and professional insights ensure that our programs remain vibrant and connected to the industry.

It has truly been an honor to serve this community over the past year, and I look forward to the continued evolution of our department. As we move forward, I am excited to see how we can further integrate emerging technologies and innovative practices into our curriculum to better prepare our students for the future of the profession. The strength of our department lies in the relationships we build and the shared vision we hold for excellence in education and practice. Thank you for your unwavering commitment, for your partnership in our mission, and for making this year one of the most rewarding chapters of my professional life.

Thank you, and best wishes,

Kirsten (Kris) Rosacker, Ph.D., CPA
Minnesota State University, Mankato — Class of 1989

Dates to Remember

- **August 24, 2026**
Fall semester begins
- **September 17, 2026**
Meet the Firms



Message from the MAcc Director

Dr. Byron Pike



Hello Accounting Alumni and Friends of the Program,

As we wrap up another academic year, I'm filled with satisfaction and joy as I reflect on the accomplishments of our program, students, and faculty.

When I assumed the role of Master of Accounting (MAcc) Director seven years ago, the program was continually unprofitable, and I was met with questions as to whether we should discontinue our graduate degree. I saw the potential in our students, the strength of our faculty, and the positive impact we could provide to individuals and the profession.

Through implementing many strategic changes, primarily focused on expanding access and increasing flexibility, we nearly quadrupled enrollment in the MAcc. Today, we are now the largest graduate accounting program in the state of Minnesota and one of the largest graduate programs at Minnesota State University, Mankato. This growth was achieved despite significant headwinds facing higher education and the accounting profession.

While many accounting graduate programs across Minnesota and the nation have been sunsetted in recent years, our program experienced sustained growth. Notably, we accomplished this with virtually no dedicated marketing budget. Rather, this organic growth was achieved through the reputation of our program, the success of our graduates, and the support of the firms and companies that hire our students.

Higher education continues to face difficult budgetary and enrollment challenges. Despite these realities, the MAcc program is in a strong position and will continue to attract individuals to the profession while providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary for long and successful careers.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve as the MAcc Director, and greatly appreciate the support of the accounting faculty. The program's success is truly the result of a collective effort. There were countless times when I asked faculty members to increase class sizes, provide additional support, or make accommodations to meet the needs of our students. All my requests were met with a yes from the faculty, who always placed the students' interest first. I cannot thank our faculty enough. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding faculty at Minnesota State, Mankato.

In this edition of the accounting magazine, you will read about all the amazing achievements of our students and faculty. We could not be prouder of the accounting students at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I would especially encourage you to read our tribute to retiring faculty member John Estall. It was a pleasure having John as a part of our team. John placed student learning above everything else. My many conversations with John challenged me to rethink my own teaching approaches and explore new ways to achieve greater engagement in the classroom. Thank you John for your contribution to our accounting program. You will be greatly missed!

I would also like to extend a special thank you to our three graduating Master of Accounting Graduate Assistants: Kade Noyes, Jada Peterson, and Madi Yetzer. These graduate assistants have been tremendous ambassadors for both the university and our accounting program. Their efforts have made a meaningful and lasting impact on our program and the students at Minnesota State, Mankato.

Finally, I would like to conclude by expressing our gratitude for the accounting alumni and firms/companies that support our program. Your support is a big reason why our accounting program is truly special. Please feel free to reach out to me directly (byron.pike@mnsu.edu) if you are looking for help with recruitment, engagement, or wish to provide scholarships to our students.

Go Mavs!

Byron J. Pike, Ph.D., CPA
The Allen Lenzmeier Accounting Professor of External Partnerships
Master of Accounting (MAcc) Program Director



In February 2026, Minnesota State University, Mankato hosted the first "Exploring Careers in Accounting - Business Careers that Balance Passion and Profession" event. The event was attended by 66 students from surrounding high schools (Mankato East, Mankato West, New Ulm Cathedral, and Owatonna). The event was hosted in conjunction with sponsorship from Eide Bailly and volunteer support from Abdo, Taylor, Eide Bailly, KPMG, CLA, Accounting Faculty, the University Admissions Office, and Beta Alpha Psi-Accounting and Finance Club. The high school students were challenged to rethink accounting stereotypes through an interactive presentation facilitated by Keith Wrage, Abdo. The students were then tasked with the completion of a Virtual Escape Room titled: "The Case of the Disappearing Profits." The students had to solve a series of puzzles to determine which company employees were committing fraud. Teams that finished earned a variety of prizes. Lastly, students listened to the stories and asked questions of professionals at varying career stages from five different organizations. The event was a great success and there are plans to host a second event in the Spring 2027.



Thank you to all the firms that visited this semester

We had another semester with notable firm engagement and networking with industry partners. Many firms connected with our students and provided insights into future careers in accounting, helping prepare students for the transition into the accounting profession.

One notable event was our annual virtual accounting visit this spring. The virtual accounting visit took place on January 31st. Students had the opportunity to attend the online meeting and listen to presentations from each of the participating firms. They also engaged in group breakout sessions to gain a deeper understanding of each firm. This virtual visit provided access to students who are off campus to ensure they have the same opportunities as on-campus students to engage with firms. At the same time, the event provided an accommodating medium for professionals to engage with our students during busy season.

Additionally, many different firms had campus tabling sessions, classroom visits, and presented at Beta Alpha Psi-Accounting Finance Club meetings. The firms brought staff members from different departments, and experience levels, to share their wide variety of expertise. These meaningful interactions provided greater insights into the accounting profession and facilitated professional development.

We would like to thank all the firms that engaged with our students. The events have provided students with an enriched understanding of a career in accounting along with its diverse pathways. Our network of supporting firms, companies, and partners contributes to us having an exceptional accounting program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.



Introducing the new Graduate Assistants

Every year the accounting program hires graduate assistants (GAs) from the Master of Accounting (MAcc) Program. The GAs assist the university by providing tutoring to students enrolled in undergraduate accounting courses, teaching an accounting cycles course, promoting the accounting undergraduate and MAcc programs, and helping with many special projects. These individuals are amazing role models and mentors for our undergraduate students. We are pleased to introduce the new GAs that will be joining us in the fall of 2026.



Maggie Hamen

Maggie is from Belle Plaine, MN, and graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato with her bachelor's degree in accounting. Some of her hobbies include reading, cooking, and watching movies and TV shows with her friends. Maggie chose accounting after taking an introductory accounting course and enjoying it. She also became more interested after learning more about the field and how much flexibility it has to offer.



Shelby Vojvodich

Shelby is from Brainerd, MN, and graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato with her bachelor's degree in accounting. Her hobbies include snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and spending time with her friends and family. Shelby picked accounting because she has always liked math and, after taking an introductory accounting course at MSU, really enjoyed the concepts and how everything fits together.

Student Intern Spotlight

It is no secret that an internship is very beneficial for students' future career options and experiential learning. It is also an opportunity for students to commit to professionalism, self-improvement, and excellence. We asked a few students who completed an internship in the spring of 2026 to share their experience and skills developed during their first busy season.



Amran Abdinoor

Amran interned at Froehling Anderson, located in St. Louis Park, MN, in the tax department. Her most valuable experience gained through this experience was learning how to make sense of unfamiliar work, which led her to develop stronger problem-solving skills and remain persistent when working through challenges. Amran's key to a successful internship is to stay consistent, be curious, and continue to show up and put in effort even when things feel uncomfortable. She found this opportunity at the Meet the Firms event on campus, where she was able to connect with the recruiter. After seeing how approachable and supportive everyone was, she knew this was a good fit for her. Amran was initially drawn to accounting because of its stability and the countless opportunities it offers. Lastly, her biggest surprise was how different real-world accounting is compared to the classroom; while the concepts are important, day-to-day work involves much more judgment and collaboration.

Continued...

Student Intern Spotlight Continued



Alexis Bellrichard

Alexis interned at Eide Bailly, located in Mankato, MN, in the tax department. The most valuable experience she gained during her internship was learning how to prepare a wide variety of tax returns and being able to apply concepts that she learned in the classroom to real client work. Alexis found that the key to a successful internship was having the ability to ask questions and learn from the answers. She also found the importance of letting herself struggle at times, which led to lots of growth and learning. Alexis found this opportunity through the Meet the Firms event on campus and participated in Eide Bailly's Summer Leadership Program, which led to an interview for an internship position at the end of the program. She chose the field of accounting after taking an introduction class in high school where she enjoyed the organization, structure, and consistency of accounting. Lastly, the biggest surprise Alexis had after starting to work in the profession was how different learning in the classroom was compared to the workforce, the classroom really focuses on the concepts and principles whereas the workforce focuses more on software and how to work with client data.



Joey Fingland

Joey interned at Eide Bailly, located in Mankato, MN in the audit group. The most valuable experience he gained during his internship was the insight into what day-to-day audit work looks like and the skills he will continue to work on to prepare for his full-time career in accounting. Joey believes the key to a successful internship is having the willingness to learn and improve; it's not about what you go into the internship knowing, but more about how much you can grow over the course of it. He found this opportunity through Eide Bailly's Summer Leadership Program and after networking with many different people at the firm, he knew this would be a good fit for him. Joey chose accounting after learning about it from his father, who has worked in the field, and enjoying the problem solving and critical thinking aspect of it. Lastly, his biggest surprise about the profession was how critical thinking and piecing things together is involved in accounting rather than the specific principles we learn about.



Kate Ferrell

Kate interned at JCCS Certified Public Accountants located in Bozeman, Montana. She gained hands-on experience preparing individual tax returns while continuing to grow her knowledge in a professional environment. Kate believes the key to success while interning is being willing and motivated to learn, ask questions, and continuously build technical skills. She found this opportunity at a career fair at Montana State University, where she recently graduated with her bachelor's degree. Kate never imagined herself in the accounting field, but after her first few accounting classes, she grew to love the challenge the classes presented and was drawn to the problem-solving aspect of accounting. One of the biggest surprises she discovered is that accounting is not just journal entries and spreadsheets. Accounting offers a wide variety of career opportunities. She also enjoys going to work and finds that the people you work with make a big difference in the overall experience.

Continued...

Student Intern Spotlight Continued



Carley Hentges

Carley interned at CLA located in St. Cloud, MN, and worked in the audit department. The most valuable experience she gained was learning what being on site at a client looks like and why it is useful. Something that made her internship successful was always asking questions and making sure she wrote things down so she could look back on it. Carley found this opportunity through Beta Alpha Psi-Accounting and Finance Club after networking with some of the associates that visited campus. She knew this was a good fit for her after the smooth interview process and how easy it was to talk to everyone who worked at the firm. Carley chose accounting after taking an accounting class in high school and really enjoyed it. Lastly, her biggest surprise after interning was how much direct contact she was able to have, even as an intern.



Alex Siebenaler

Alex interned at Eide Bailly, located in Mankato, MN, and worked in the audit department. The most valuable experience he gained during his time at Eide Bailly was the level of responsibility and hands-on learning he received. It felt especially rewarding for him to apply what he was learning in his classes directly to the internship and vice versa. Alex's advice for a successful internship is to maintain a strong work ethic and be willing to ask questions; showing genuine interest, taking initiative, and building relationships make a significant difference in your experience. He found this opportunity through Eide Bailly's Summer Leadership Program. After learning more about the firm's culture, he knew this would be a great fit for him. Alex chose the field of accounting due to his strong passion for business, and knowing accounting is the foundation of the business world. Lastly, his biggest surprise once he started in the accounting profession was how collaborative and dynamic the work is. He was also surprised by how team-oriented it is and the ability to constantly learn new things.



Adia Vang

Adia interned at Redpath and Co. in St. Paul, MN, and worked in the tax department. The most valuable experience she gained during her internship was developing a strong understanding of the preparation process. As a new intern, she learned how to accurately create and distribute tax forms, and this expertise allowed her to support fellow interns as they learned about the process as well. Adia found the key to a successful internship is staying open to asking questions and being comfortable asking the right person for help when something isn't clear. This mindset not only supports growth but also helps you make the most of every learning opportunity you encounter. She found this opportunity at a Beta Alpha Psi-Accounting and Finance Club event. After getting to know the tax associates representing Redpath a little more, she was confident the firm would be a great fit for her. Adia became interested in the accounting field as a high school student after she attended a business program called Minnesota Business Venture and had guidance from her mom who has been an accountant for over 20 years. Her biggest surprise when she started working at a CPA firm was discovering how many people were genuinely willing to help. Whether she had questions about preparing taxes or needed clarification on concepts, there was always someone ready to offer guidance and support, whether it was an associate or partner.

2025–2026 Honors Banquet

In April, the College of Business (COB) honored 9 business students at the third annual COB Honors Banquet. These graduating students were named student of the year in their respective programs. We honored the Accounting student of the year and the Master of Accounting student of the year.



Rebekka Jay

This year, the recipient of the Accounting Student of the Year award is Rebekka Jay. Rebekka has been involved in many ways at MSU, including the Event Coordinator for the Women in Business student organization, being a member of the Student Executive Team, and Vice President of the Student Government. She has also completed several internships at Kato Engineering, Petros Family Tax, the Minnesota Vikings, and Athletic Communications with MSU Athletics. These internships played a vital role in helping her learn what type of work she enjoys best and allowed her to develop time management and professional communication skills in many different types of businesses and industries. After Rebekka graduates from MSU, she plans to move to the Twin Cities, where she will begin a two-year management trainee program at Consolidated Electrical Distributors. Lastly, her advice to accounting students is to get involved on campus, put yourself out there, and meet people and build connections; it will change your life.



Madelyn Yetzer

The recipient of the graduating Master of Accounting (MAcc) Student of the Year award is Madelyn Yetzer. As a Master of Accounting student, she served as a graduate assistant and was a member of Beta Alpha Psi-Accounting and Finance Club, serving as the Vice President of corporate relations. After graduating from undergrad, Madelyn had an audit internship with Frazier & Deeter. Madelyn found this internship beneficial for gaining real-world experience and applying her knowledge from school. This experience also allowed her to come back for the MAcc more knowledgeable in how public accounting works and what skills are important to have to be successful working full-time in an accounting role. Post graduation, Madelyn will return to Frazier & Deeter to work as a staff accountant in the audit department. While completing the MAcc, Madelyn passed all four sections of the CPA exam. She plans to get her necessary work experience within the next year to obtain her CPA licensure.

Madelyn's advice to accounting students is put in the work to understand the accounting basics while you are still in the introductory accounting classes. These concepts provide the foundation for all future classes and, if you have a strong understanding of the basics, you will be much more successful going forward. Make sure you practice and comprehend what is happening in the problems rather than memorize everything. The concepts might be confusing at first, but the more you practice the easier it gets.

Accounting Senior of the Year: Emily Noeldner

The Accounting Senior of the Year is given to the student that best exhibits the qualities of academic performance, leadership, and entrepreneurship. It is the highest student award presented by the Accounting Program. The Accounting Senior of the Year award is made possible through a gift from Allen and Kathy Lenzmeier.

The Accounting Student of the Year was awarded to Emily Noeldner. Emily has been involved on campus primarily through the Beta Alpha Psi-Accounting and Finance Club. She became a full member and Vice President of Service in December 2024. During her time as VP of Service, she helped the chapter work towards goals of giving back to the Mankato Community and furthering the accounting pipeline by organizing book drives, food drives, clothing donations, high school classroom visits, and fraud prevention presentations. In December 2025, Emily became the President of the chapter. Emily has completed two different internships throughout her college career. The first was at CLA as an internal operations intern, and the second was at Taylor Corporation. She learned many valuable skills at these internships, including the basics of accounting and how to apply what she learned in the classroom to the real world. After graduation, Emily will start her third internship, then will continue her education at MSU in the Master of Accounting Program, and pursue her CPA license. A piece of advice she has for introductory accounting students is to give yourself grace; some classes can be very difficult, but it is important to remember that you are capable of achieving everything you want in life.



Accounting & Business Law Golf Outing

On May 15th, the Accounting and Business Law Department hosted the 15th Annual Alumni and Friends Golf Event at Shoreland Country Club in St. Peter, MN. This event continues to grow each year, and we had another record number of participants at the event.

This is a premier event where students participate and network with employers, alumni, and faculty. The event is a fun, low pressure golf scramble that is always a nice way to conclude the end of the academic year. This event usually leads to new friendships, expanded professional networks, and many internships and employment opportunities for our students. Nearly every firm and company that recruits our accounting students was represented at the event.

We are extremely grateful for everyone's support and participation. More importantly, we appreciate all the students who stepped outside their comfort zone and participated in the event.



A special thank you to the premier sponsors of our golf event:





John Estall is fully embracing retirement at the end of the 2025/26 academic year. He joined Minnesota State University, Mankato after a professional career in accounting and tax. John was drawn to higher education as an opportunity to positively influence and guide individuals in their academic journeys. His passion was focused on helping others. He actively worked towards identifying multiple delivery methods to help explain challenging accounting topics to students. Above all, John placed the students' interest first and adopted engaging approaches to facilitate learning. John embraced the University's real-world thinking philosophy in his classes. In his introductory financial accounting classes, he created a project where students created financial statements that were eventually presented and explained to a local CPA firm.

We greatly appreciate all the contributions that John made to the accounting program at Minnesota State Mankato. His positive attitude and emphasis on continuous improvement will leave a lasting impact on all of us. While we will miss having John on campus, we are glad that he decided to be a Maverick and look forward to hearing about his future adventures.

After retiring, John is looking forward to traveling, spending more time at his cabin, and being more involved as the Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools Treasurer. John hopes to travel to Alaska, Egypt, Israel, South America, and China.

John's advice to new students is "School is not easy for everyone, so reach out for help. There are many resources on campus to help you succeed, such as MavPASS. Another piece of advice for students is that taking good notes during class can help you be more successful."

John's most memorable interactions with students are seeing them finally understand a concept after working through it together. He loves seeing his students' aha moments as they fully understand a concept.

John has taught financial accounting, business law, and tax classes at MSU. Among all the classes he taught, his favorite was the introductory financial accounting course. He enjoys seeing students transition from being hesitant about the subject to really enjoying accounting. He loves opening the world of accounting to so many students and helping them start to enjoy the topic.

John said that being a part of the Accounting Program has been an amazing experience. When he first started teaching, other professors were extremely helpful in teaching him to be a good professor by sharing ideas and course content. John always enjoys coming to campus to teach so he can experience the positive energy brought to the campus by the students. He said he will miss the students and faculty but is excited to experience new things.



Congratulations 2026 Spring Graduates

Bachelor of Accounting

Nathan Alemshet	Elfaz Hussien	Liam Riley
Abby Andersen	Austin Jass	Jonathan Rossow
Lila Auger-Thompson	Rebekka Jay	Cecelia Samson
Carson Bazzarre	Roy Johnson	Hunter Sax
Jason Bierbaum	Aaron Jones	Paige Schmitz
Kameryn Brown	Kylee Lauwagie	Andrew Siler
Andrew Colleran	Tristan Lindahl	Mason Snow
Trevor Collins	Akua Marfo	Michael Stack
Linda Doe	Maddie Massmann	Jackson Stoolman
Garrett Domras	Bryce Melius	Dominick Sudheimer
Benjamin Dumonceaux	Christian Meouchy	Shelby Vojvodich
Wael El Saadi	Eli Nelson	Max Willkom
MacKenna Fischer	Anissa Neu	Lauren Yenish
Caleb Fredrickson	Christine Obialo	Timur Zhomartov
Maggie Hamen	Connor Oen	
Riley Herrmann	Sanghyun Park	

Master of Accounting

Brian Anton	Haley Nelson	Tyler Steffen
Minjing Chen	Kade Noyes	Gao Vang
Mardilyn Formanek	Kelli Ortiz	Airemie Wetzal
Samuel Hub	Sarai Perez	Madelyn Yetzer
Carie Jorgenson	Jada Peterson	
Christopher Le	William Santjer	

Full-time Accounting & Business Law Faculty

Wade Davis, J.D.

wade.davis@mnsu.edu
507-389-2207

Todd Lundquist, J.D.

todd.lundquist@mnsu.edu
507-389-5429

Sean Finland

sean.finland@mnsu.edu
507-389-5388

Dr. Abo-El-Yazeed Habib

abo-el-yazeed.habib@mnsu.edu
507-389-5408

Dr. Byron Pike

byron.pike@mnsu.edu
507-389-6909

Dr. Katheryn Zielinski

katheryn.zielinski@mnsu.edu
507-389-5412

Dr. Steven Johnson

steven.johnson@mnsu.edu
507-389-2760

Dr. Kirsten Rosacker

kirsten.rosacker@mnsu.edu
507-389-5413

Dr. Jidong Zhang

jidong.zhang@mnsu.edu
507-389-5415

Dr. Oksana Kim

oksana.kim@mnsu.edu
507-389-5411

Dr. Ferdinand Siagian

ferdinand.siagian@mnsu.edu
507-389-5407



To learn more about the Accounting & Business Law Faculty or to get in touch go to cob.mnsu.edu/accounting-faculty

If you are interested in exploring additional opportunities to contribute to Minnesota State Mankato. Please contact Cathy Willette, Director of Development (catherine.willette@mnsu.edu)

Cathy Willette joined the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation as the Director of Development for the College of Business in November of 2021. But if you ask her, she has always been a Maverick. Cathy started her higher education journey as a first-generation student at Minnesota State Mankato in 1982. The Mankato resident is married and has three grown kids (all Mavericks as well).

Willette enjoys meeting alumni and learning of their Maverick stories. As she likes to say, “sometimes life’s journey takes you back home. Once a Maverick, always a Maverick!” Please reach out to Cathy if you are looking to start a conversation.



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