

2016

# WALTON

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS



# SEC MBA Case Competition

April 7-9, 2016  
University of Arkansas



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## WALTON

The alumni magazine of  
the Sam M. Walton  
College of Business at the  
University of Arkansas

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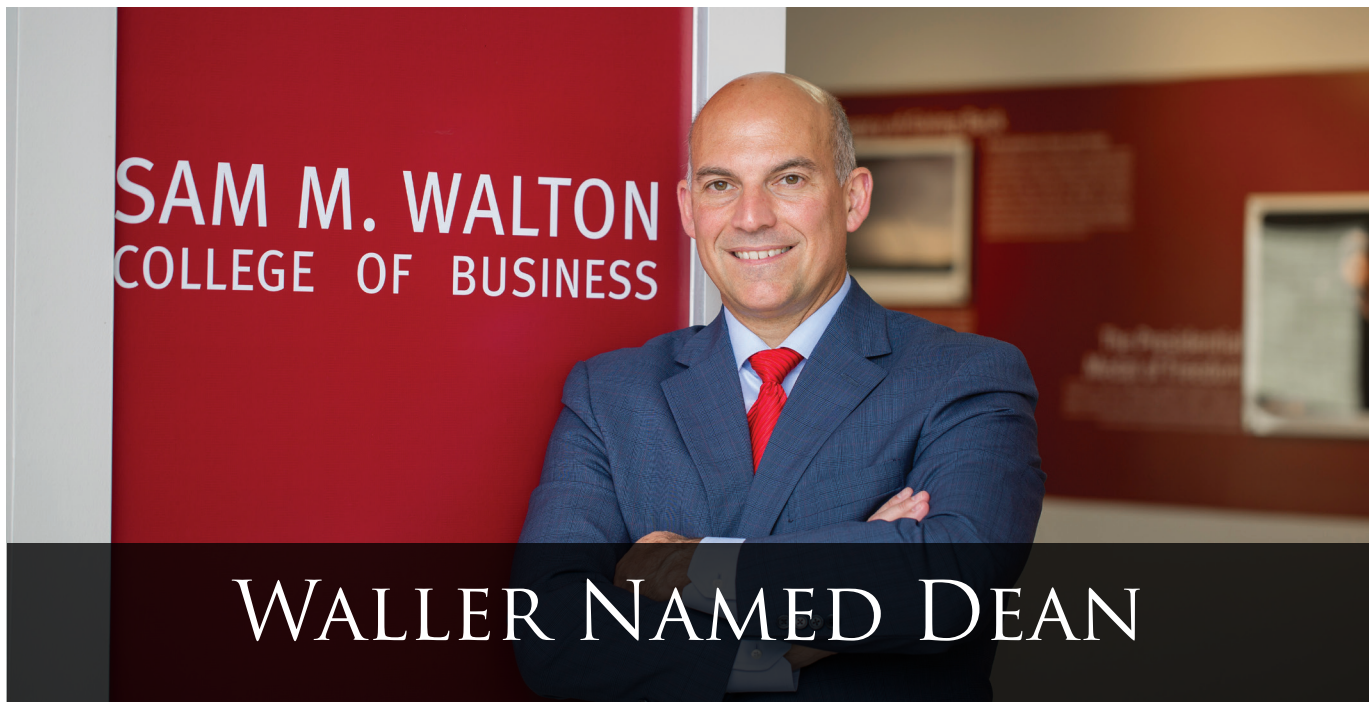
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Matthew A. Waller, who had served as interim dean since July 2015, became Walton College dean on May 1.

Waller, a teacher, researcher and administrator at the Walton College for more than 20 years, was selected after a university committee conducted an internal search this spring. Waller will hold the Sam M. Walton Leadership Chair in Business in addition to his position as dean.

University of Arkansas Chancellor Joseph Steinmetz praised Waller for his dedication to business and education in Arkansas. "I have been very impressed with Matt Waller, as a person and as an administrator," Steinmetz said. "Walton College is a vitally important part of the University of Arkansas mission to our students and to our state. I am confident that we have found the best person for this important position."

"Matt Waller has been making important contributions to Walton College from the time he arrived on campus," Provost Ashok Saxena said. "He has the experience, reputation, administrative skill and respect of his colleagues that are needed to lead Walton College moving forward."

Waller, 51, first came to the University of Arkansas as a visiting assistant professor in 1994. He became a full professor in August 2007 and has held many positions in the Walton College including director of its Executive M.B.A.-China program in 2008-2009.

He became chair of the [Department of Supply Chain Management](#) when it was established in July 2011 and served as associate dean for executive education before taking over as interim dean in July 2015 after Eli Jones left to become dean of his alma mater, the Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. Waller also held the Garrison Endowed Chair in Supply Chain Management.

"I am excited to become the next dean of the Walton College," Waller said. "The direction of the college is strong. We have outstanding programs in place and with the support of the students, faculty and staff, we are going to build on that momentum to strengthen our position as one of the nation's leading business schools. We also have a great responsibility as a business leader in the state to continue the strong relationship we have with the vibrant business community in Arkansas."

The Walton College is ranked in the top 30 among public undergraduate business schools in the nation, according to the *U.S. News and World Report* 2016 "America's Best Colleges."



# NEWS & NOTES

## WALLER NAMES DEAN'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dean Matt Waller has completed his leadership team with the naming of a senior associate dean, an associate dean to lead academic programs and research and one for executive education and outreach.

Waller, who became dean on May 1, named Anne O'Leary-Kelly as senior associate dean, and she led an internal search committee for the two new associate deans.

Alan E. Ellstrand, who had been serving as chair of the [Department of Management](#), is the new associate dean of academic programs and research, and Brent D. Williams, the chair of the [Department of Supply Chain Management](#), is the new associate dean for executive education and outreach.

"I'm invigorated about having Alan and Brent join Anne and me on the Dean's Leadership Team," Waller said. "All of the candidates were highly qualified and each of them would do an outstanding job, but the results of the search committee helped Anne and me make a difficult decision."



**Ellstrand** holds the Charles C. Fichtner Chair in Management. He received his Ph.D. from Indiana University and has an M.B.A. in strategic management from Northern Illinois University. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois. His major areas of research include corporate governance, top management teams and executive leadership.

He has received several awards including the University of Arkansas Alumni Association Award for Teaching and Service, the Walton College Award for Outstanding Service and the Walton College Outstanding All Around Faculty Award. Prior to serving as department chair, Ellstrand was director of M.B.A. programs for the Walton College.



**O'Leary-Kelly** is the William R. & Cacia Howard Chair in Management. She received her Ph.D. in Management from Michigan State University. Her research interests include the study of gender-related aggressive work behavior and individual attachments to organizations. Her work has appeared in, among others, the *Academy of Management Review*,

the *Academy of Management Journal*, the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, the *Journal of Management*, and the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*. She has been a co-recipient of the Outstanding Publication in Organizational Behavior awarded by the Organizational Behavior Division of the Academy of Management and the Dorothy Harlow Outstanding Paper awarded by the Gender and Diversity in Organizations Division of the Academy of Management. She is on the editorial boards of the *Academy of Management Review*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of Management* and *Journal of Organizational Behavior*. She has served on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Management and as chair of the Organizational Behavior Division of the Academy of Management.



**Williams** earned a Ph.D. in Business Administration with concentration in supply chain management from the University of Arkansas, a master of transportation and logistics management degree from the Walton College and a B.A. in economics from Lyon College in Batesville. He has held faculty positions at Texas Christian University and Auburn University. His

research focuses on how retail supply chains can develop and redesign planning and execution processes to meet the demands of the changing marketplace. Williams helped develop and implement J.B. Hunt University, a program that includes online, blended and face-to-face programs designed to help J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc., employees be better supply chain management practitioners.

Additional information about changes in leadership in the Department of Management and the Department of Supply Chain Management will be provided later, Waller said.



# WALTON PARTNERS WITH SIGNATURE BANK TO PROVIDE THREE FLEISCHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Walton College has joined forces with the [Signature Bank of Arkansas](#) to provide three college scholarships through the Fleischer Scholars program.

Signature Bank is funding \$30,000 annually for five years to support tuition and educational expenses, as well as for a one-week residential summer camp to introduce students to college. Scholarship recipients must live in Arkansas, be first-generation college students with low-to-medium income, have received admission to the University of Arkansas, have demonstrated the ability to overcome obstacles and be motivated to learn.

“Our commitment to the Fleischer Scholars program is an investment in the future of our state and in the betterment of the communities that we serve,” said Gary Head, chairman, chief executive officer and president, Signature Bank of Arkansas. “My hope is that the Fleischer Scholars, supported by Signature Bank of Arkansas, will stimulate community revitalization and economic growth and that each student will return to their communities as role models, creating what Mr. Fleischer calls the human multiplier effect.”

The Fleischer Scholars program, created by Morton H. Fleischer, co-founder and chair of STORE Capital Corp. (NYSE: STOR), teaches entrepreneurship and innovation to first generation, low income and under-represented students. It also provides college scholarships to under-served youth. Fleischer first started the program at Arizona State University and began a second program at the University of Arkansas.

In July 2015, 39 entrepreneurial teens participated in the program at Walton College. Throughout the week, teens lived on campus, participated in business-focused activities, worked on a business plan case study and presented their team solutions.

“This innovative program is a transformational opportunity for students, Walton College and the state,” Dean Matt Waller said.

The summer program prepares students for life on campus. Campers live in dorms and attend seminars and lectures. They hear from local business owners and attend workshops regarding business planning, research, marketing, social responsibility, accounting and finance. The program also includes college preparation classes, which focus on ACT college-readiness assessment testing. Faculty, staff and supporters of Walton College work directly with students during the week facilitating workshops, guest speakers and classes.

Once student scholars begin college classes, each is paired with student and faculty mentors to provide support and guidance. Participating banks in the program will offer summer internships to allow students to obtain professional work experience and earn funds to pay for additional college expenses.

## Walton College Employee of the Quarter



Rebecca Clifton, director of the [Walton Conference Hub](#), has been named employee of the third quarter by the Walton College. She was nominated for her work in marketing her department's services and delivering quality customer service while operating with fewer employees.

From her nomination: “She comes in early, works nights and weekends to fill in needed shifts, and is very organized in not only taking care of events, but also seeking new clients. She has brought this department back into the community and is raising awareness of the services and amazing facilities that are available through the Walton Conference Hub.”



# NEWS & NOTES

## SEC MBA Case Competition

April 7-9, 2016  
University of Arkansas



The Walton team of Haley Cleous, Phil Keil, Ash

Ganapathiraju and Clinton Rhodes had 24 hours to create a business plan to a case presented by Henkel Corp., a multinational company that produces consumer and industrial products and whose executives served as judges of the competition.

All 14 SEC universities participated in the event with the University of Alabama bringing home the top prize. The University of Florida placed second, Texas A&M University third and Mississippi State University fourth.

"I was impressed by the caliber of the students who represented the University of Arkansas and the SEC," said Dean Matt Waller. "All of the M.B.A. teams presented quality solutions to a leading international company's business challenge. Each member of the 14 teams reflects the outstanding business sophistication and talent we have in the SEC."

Other awards given during the divisional rounds included Best Presenter and Best Q&A.

Sarah Gardener from Louisiana State University, Katie Lamberth from the University of Alabama, Lillian Niakan from Texas A&M University and Kate O'Hara from the University of Florida were named best presenters for their divisions.

The Best Q&A Awards were earned by Abhinav Bhattacharya from the University of Alabama, Sarah Crook from the University of Tennessee, Kendall Daniel from Texas A&M University and Carew Ferguson from Mississippi State University.

This marked the fourth year for the SEC MBA Case Competition, which provides an opportunity for SEC business schools to showcase their students' skills at solving simulated, real-world problems that cover the spectrum of business disciplines. The 2017 SEC MBA Case Competition will be held at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

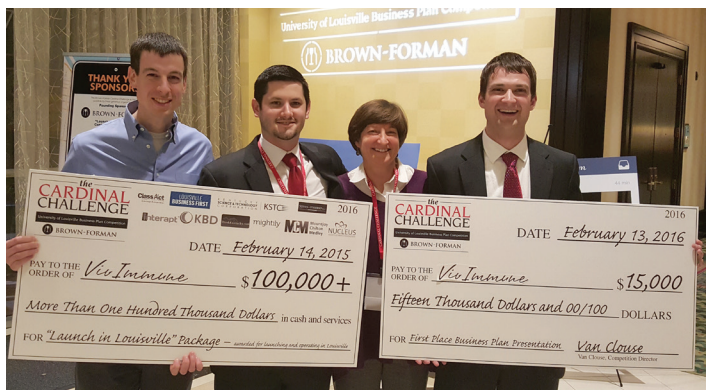
A complete list of winners from the 2016 competition is available at [www.thesecon.com](http://www.thesecon.com).



MBA teams representing 14 SEC universities were on hand April 7-9, 2016, to compete in the 4th SEC MBA Case Competition. Walton College served as host for the event.



## VivImmune Takes Top Spot



A University of Arkansas entrepreneurship team focused on transforming bladder cancer therapy won the grand prize at one of the premier graduate student business plan competitions.

The VivImmune team took the top honor on Feb. 13 at the Brown-Forman Cardinal Challenge, a business plan competition at the University of Louisville. VivImmune won \$15,000 in cash plus \$100,000 in in-kind prizes if it relocates to Louisville.

The team is made up of Corey Coston, a graduate student in the Walton College; Andrew McKinnon, an executive M.B.A. student in Walton College; and Sean Smith, a doctoral student in biomedical engineering at the U of A.

The team's biotechnology company is focused on transforming bladder cancer therapy by way of a new class of cancer treatments called immunotherapies.

David Zaharoff, associate professor of biomedical engineering at the U of A, is the primary inventor of the technology, which was co-invented by Smith and Bhanu Koppolu, a postdoctoral research associate in biomedical engineering at the U of A and a recipient of a graduate certificate in entrepreneurship from the university in 2011.

"The team was able to answer incredibly challenging questions from the judges, most of whom are health care venture capitalists," said faculty adviser Carol Reeves, management professor and U of A associate vice provost for entrepreneurship.

Georgia Tech took second place in the Cardinal Challenge, Purdue was third and Rice was fourth.

The Cardinal Challenge offers students an opportunity to present innovative business plans to potential investors, while providing investors with an advance look at up-and-coming entrepreneurs and new ventures.

## Walton Sweeps Grad Division



University of Arkansas teams swept all three places in the graduate division at the [2016 Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup](#) Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

VivImmune, a start-up biotechnology company that specializes in immunotherapy for bladder cancer, finished in first place and won \$25,000. The company also won the AT&T Elevator Pitch Contest for \$2,000 and the Delta Plastics Innovation Award for \$5,000.

Actio Systems, which developed a patient reminder and intelligent rescheduling smartphone app for medical clinics and their patients, placed second and took home \$15,000.

Third place and \$10,000 went to deciLvl, a company using metamaterial research out of MIT to filter out harmful audio signals in noisy environments.

The Governor's Cup is the premier collegiate entrepreneurship competition in Arkansas. It was established in 2001 to challenge students who have ideas for new or better products or services. The goal is to see if the students can put their idea through a rigorous and real-world entrepreneurial process.

VivImmune and Actio Systems advanced to the Donald W. Reynolds Tri-State Awards in Las Vegas, where the teams compete against the top two graduate teams from Nevada and Oklahoma.

This year, 37 teams from 11 Arkansas colleges and universities submitted business plans in the competition for a share of the \$152,000 prize pool. Prizes were awarded at a luncheon at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Under the guidance of Carol Reeves, associate vice provost for entrepreneurship, the U of A's competitive graduate student teams have won more than \$2.5 million in cash at state, regional, national and international business plan competitions since 2002.



# WHERE IS WALTON?



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1. At a seminar in Stuttgart with the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center.  
2. At the Walton College Career Fair at Bud Walton Arena.  
3. With Coach Brett Bielema at the Leadership Arkansas conference.



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4. With Chancellor Steinmetz at the SCMR spring conference.  
5. At the Center for Retailing Excellence pro panel.  
6. Talking global logistics via live stream to Panama conference.  
7. At the Walmart global ecommerce center in China.



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1. Discussing the college's future at breakfast with Dean Waller.
2. Listening to speakers at the Women in IT conference.
3. Speaking at the AACSB Supply Chain Management seminar.
4. Celebrating with the winners of the Alley Scholars competition.



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5. Posing at the dedication for the Walton Conference Hub.
6. Talking with students on the trading floor in Willard J. Walker Hall.
7. Celebrating with Professor John Norwood.
8. Viewing senior research projects at Walton Honors poster day.



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# 2016 ARKANSAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME



Four distinguished leaders in business and community service in Arkansas were inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame at a gala ceremony on Feb. 12.

These honorees joined 70 other members of the Hall of Fame:

- William T. Dillard II, chair and chief executive officer of Dillard's Inc.
- Dr. George K. Mitchell, former president and chief executive officer of Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield
- Winthrop Rockefeller (1912–1973), former governor of Arkansas and founder of Winrock Farms
- Patricia P. Upton, founder and former president/chief executive officer of Aromatique Inc.

On hand to help induct the 2016 Hall of Fame class were Joseph E. Steinmetz, new chancellor of the University of Arkansas, and Donald R. Bobbitt, president of the University of Arkansas System.

Ann Bordelon, Walton College alumna and chief financial officer/chief administrative officer for NOWDiagnostics, chaired the selection committee of nine business and community leaders who reviewed nominations from throughout the state and chose the inductees. Criteria for selection included: the significance of the impact made as a business leader, the concern demonstrated for improving the community and the display of ethics in all business dealings. In addition, living inductees must be over the age of 60.

A list of all inductees into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame is available at [walton.uark.edu/abhf](http://walton.uark.edu/abhf).

Tickets to the 2017 Arkansas Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony, a black-tie optional event, are \$150 per person and will be held on Friday, February 10, 2017.

For more information about tickets and event sponsorships, please contact the office of external relations at the Sam M. Walton College of Business, Donald W. Reynolds Center for Enterprise Development 217, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701-1201, 479-575-6146, by email at [abhf@walton.uark.edu](mailto:abhf@walton.uark.edu) or [walton.uark.edu/abhf](http://walton.uark.edu/abhf).





## 2016 Sponsors

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### Gold

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Macerich  
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Wells Fargo  
Winrock International  
Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust

### Bronze

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William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences  
Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and  
Life Sciences  
Entergy Arkansas  
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design  
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# Opportunities

## 23rd Annual Walton College Awards Banquet

Walton College recognized two exceptional alumni and more than 40 students for outstanding achievement at its annual awards banquet. Walton College presented the awards at its 23rd annual awards banquet on Thursday, April 14, at the Fayetteville Town Center.

Alumni honored were:

**Lifetime Achievement Award** – Chris Polychron, executive broker, 1st Choice Realty, Hot Springs

**Outstanding Service Award** – Sarah Langham, assurance senior manager, HoganTaylor LLP, Fayetteville

Polychron, a Realtor for 28 years, is an executive broker with 1st Choice Realty in Hot Springs, specializing in residential and commercial brokerage. Polychron served as the 2015 president of the National Association of Realtors, which represents more than 1 million real estate agents involved in all aspects of residential and commercial real estate. He has advocated for federal policy initiatives that support and strengthen the ability of Americans to own, buy and sell property.

Langham graduated with a B.S.B.A. in accounting in 2005 and a Master of Accountancy in 2006. She started her accounting career as an intern and then staff member in the Rogers office of Ernst & Young, where she served large public clients. She joined the Fayetteville office of HoganTaylor LLP in December 2007 and is currently an assurance senior manager.

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

**Outstanding Graduating Senior** – Hannah Birch

**First-ranked Senior Scholars** – Samuel Adams, Hannah Birch, Taylor Douglas, Tyler Ho, Tu Le, Nicolas Lema Severich, Riley Nelson, Zachary Noelke, Ryan Pinter, Andrew Pisechko, Elizabeth Pittman

**Senior Scholars** – Julie Bishop, Benjamin Brooks, Weston Cartwright, Frederic Daugherty, Mai Do, Cole Dodson, Warren Franzetti, Lauren McArthur-Fernandez, Jaci Miller, Alyssa Mueller, Rachel Reece, Joshua Stone, Colette Terhune, Kelsey Wheelhouse

**Ralph Treat Outstanding Cooperative Education Student Award** – Alexandra Cubbage

**Presidential Scholar Award** – Thomas Selig  
**Sam M. Walton College of Business Student Leadership Award** – Elizabeth Tanner  
**Doyle Z. Williams Student Leadership Award** – Wheeler Richardson  
**Beta Gamma Sigma Award** – Kelsey Wheelhouse

The college recognized outstanding seniors in:

**Accounting** – Benjamin Fly, Johan Noren, Meera Patel, Salena Young

**Economics** – Elizabeth Pittman

**Economics, Arts and Sciences** – Taylor Scriber

**Finance** – Samuel Adams, Hannah Birch, Heather Blalack, Brendan Colligan, Wynn Lemmons, Jackson Mourrot, Riley Nelson

**Information Systems** – Cesar Daniel Avila, Timothy Cavell

**International Business** – Tanner Bone

**Management** – Flavia Deschandt Araujo, Madeline Knecht, Natalie Marinick, Alyssa Mueller

**Management, General Business** – Leanna Cotton

**Marketing** – Connor Ahrendsen, Sydney Arend, Makenzie Craft, Lucia Maschler, Rachel Reece

**Retail** – Evan McClay

**Supply Chain Management** – Cynthia Cooper, Tyler Ho, Ryan Pinter, Rachel Stoehr

### GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Walton College presented awards to outstanding graduate students in these programs:

**Master of Business Administration** – Caitlin Murphy, M.J. Orellano, Tara Shaw

**Master of Accountancy** – David Hunter Bauer

**Master of Information Systems** – David Bruce, Lauren Locke







# #WALTONGRAD

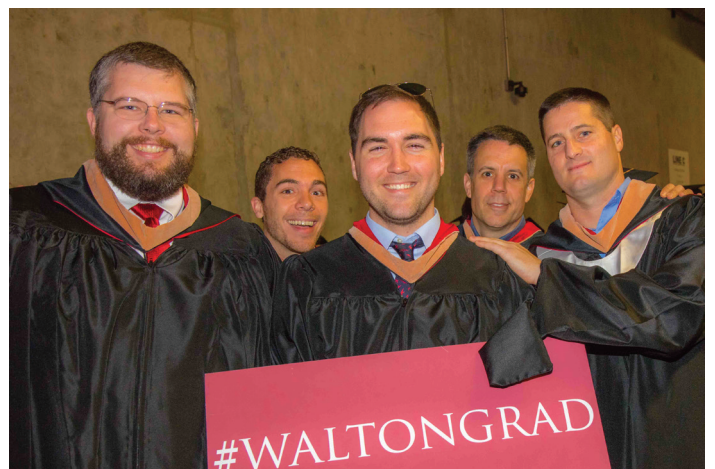


Shelley Simpson, chief marketing officer for [J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc.](#), was the 2016 commencement speaker for the Walton College. The Walton College commencement ceremony was held May 14 at Bud Walton Arena.

Simpson also serves as president of J.B. Hunt Integrated Capacity Solutions and Truck and is an executive vice president of the parent company. Simpson began her career at J. B. Hunt after graduating in 1994 from the Walton College with a degree in marketing. In her career, she has held various positions across J.B. Hunt, including director of pricing for truck and intermodal, vice president of economic analysis, senior vice president of finance and administration, and, in 2007, president of ICS.











# JOHNNY CARVER MANAGEMENT MAJOR

Johnny Carver had a promising future on the basketball court. At 6 feet and 4 inches and still growing, he came from good stock: both his father and older brother played college basketball. Johnny hoped to do the same.

When health problems derailed all hopes of a basketball career, Johnny refused to feel sorry for himself. Still attending high school in Olathe, Kansas, he channeled his passion by covering athletics for his school newspaper and crunching statistics on a spreadsheet, devising a statistical algorithm to determine the greatest player in NBA history.

Now, as a student at the Walton College, he is a published author and possibly the youngest statistician and consultant for an NBA team. His book, *Ranketology: A New Way of Determining Basketball's Greatest Player*, garnered much media attention for its unbiased approach in naming the 25 greatest basketball players of all time – all based solely on statistics rather than opinion.

In addition to writing and publishing *Ranketology*, he has interned for an NBA team, running analytics and different models in one team's preparation for the NBA draft. His ability to determine the greatest basketball players of today and tomorrow has been featured in *Sports Illustrated*, *SLAMonline*, TV news stations in Kansas City and Northwest Arkansas as well as several sports news websites.

This has also made an impression in the sports world at large.

"They see I have a work ethic and they see that I'm willing to step outside of the box and come up with new ways to use statistics to help determine things in the NBA," Johnny says.

Renee Clay, managing director of Walton College's Career Development Center, saw it in Johnny the day he attended new student orientation at the Walton College. Following the orientation, Johnny sought out Clay to tell her about his book and the algorithm he devised for determining the best basketball players.

Clay was impressed that someone straight out of high school would be so focused on a career path, from devising the algorithm to self-publishing his book. "Johnny is one of the most determined students I have ever worked with," she says.

Johnny says Clay has helped him with finding internships, putting together resumes and preparing him for interviews. "The biggest thing I love about her is that she goes above and beyond her job," he says.

Johnny, a management major at Walton, continues to seek guidance from Clay. "She has been my advocate, and I needed that," he says.



It's all been a breath of fresh air, especially from high school when much of his time was spent in hospitals and examination rooms as doctors tried to diagnose why he always felt fatigued – to the point that he even passed out on the basketball court during a game. A bout of severe ulcerative colitis caused him to lose 35 pounds in only two days. At one point, a cyst in his lower tailbone left him unable to walk for a short time. He also suffered severe dehydration, which caused him to lose even more weight.

While he worked through his discomfort and health problems to earn a position on the high school varsity basketball team in Olathe, he got some crushing news just before his senior season: it was unsafe for him to play.

Trips during the next several months to medical care facilities, which included the Mayo Clinic, revealed an additional assortment of health problems, including an adrenal insufficiency and autonomic dysfunction – a nerve disorder. Basketball, however, remained on Johnny's mind. "I wanted to find another outlet to be successful," he says. That's when poured his energy in being a sports writer for his high school newspaper. He and his brother also developed a statistical algorithm to determine the greatest player in NBA history and crunched statistics on a spreadsheet. From there, Johnny took over and wrote their findings into what was becoming a book. He submitted each chapter to his grandfather, a published author, who edited the copy and sent it back to Johnny. This kept going until he had more than 300 pages of information.

Johnny emailed Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, who suggested to Johnny that he self-publish his findings, which features profiles of NBA's all-time Top 25 players that resulted in *Ranketology*. While Johnny won't say whom he found to be the No. 1 player in the NBA (people will have to buy and read his book), he says he wasn't surprised what the statistics revealed. "It made so much sense in the grand scheme of things," he says.

He sent his book and resume to Larry Bird, former Boston Celtics player and now team president of the Indiana Pacers. Impressed, Bird invited Johnny to Indianapolis to meet with the organization.

Ever since Johnny came to the University of Arkansas, he has had endless opportunities. Though from Kansas, he was enticed by the university's NCAA basketball program and the Walton College's reputation. His parents, however, were also concerned for Johnny's well-being. "They were so blown away by the business program and the health center," he says, referring to the Pat Walker Health Center on campus.

With a scholarship through the Arkansas Alumni Association, Johnny is serving on Leadership Walton and a Walton College advisory board. He says his goal is to work in basketball operations for the NBA, and has even served an internship with an NBA team he declined to name.

Applying statistics to basketball was never more fun. In fact, it has made him an eager student, says Deena Rorie, a finance Ph.D. student who taught Johnny in her Data Analysis and Interpretation class.

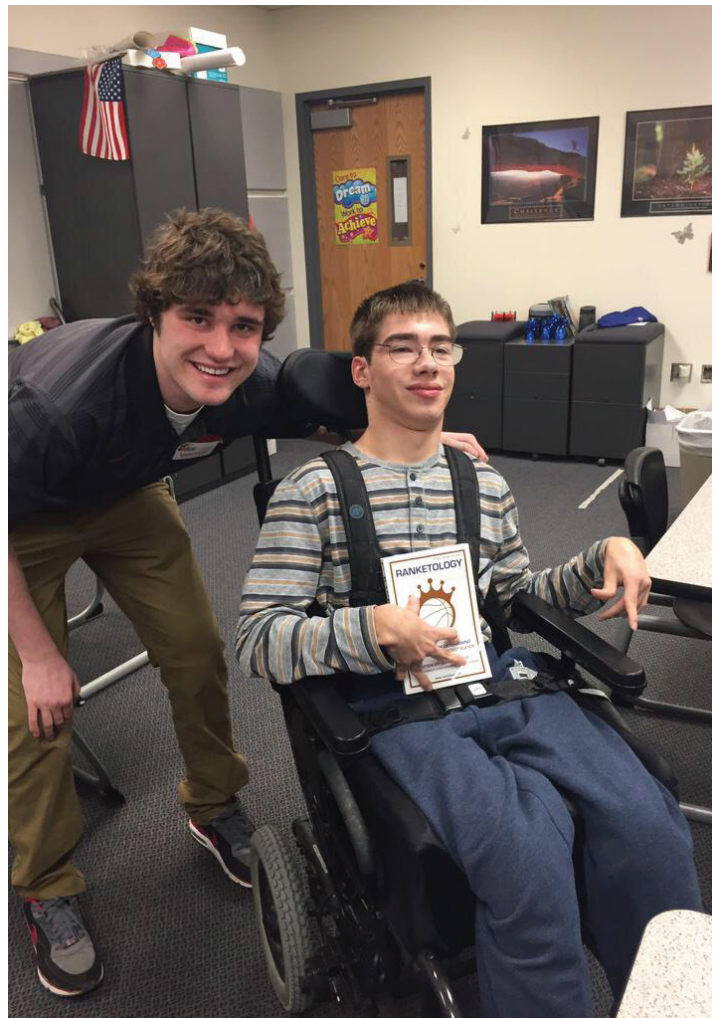
She says she was surprised to learn that he had already written a book when he enrolled in her class and started the semester with a strong interest in statistics. Johnny would come by her office to ask specific questions in areas that were challenging him. He says she always made time for him. "I hope that every teacher is that way – to meet with students until they get it right," Johnny says.

Yet Rorie says Johnny's motivation was a key factor.

"He has a passion for math and statistics," Rorie says. "But that's just a skill. He also has a talent to utilize that skill."

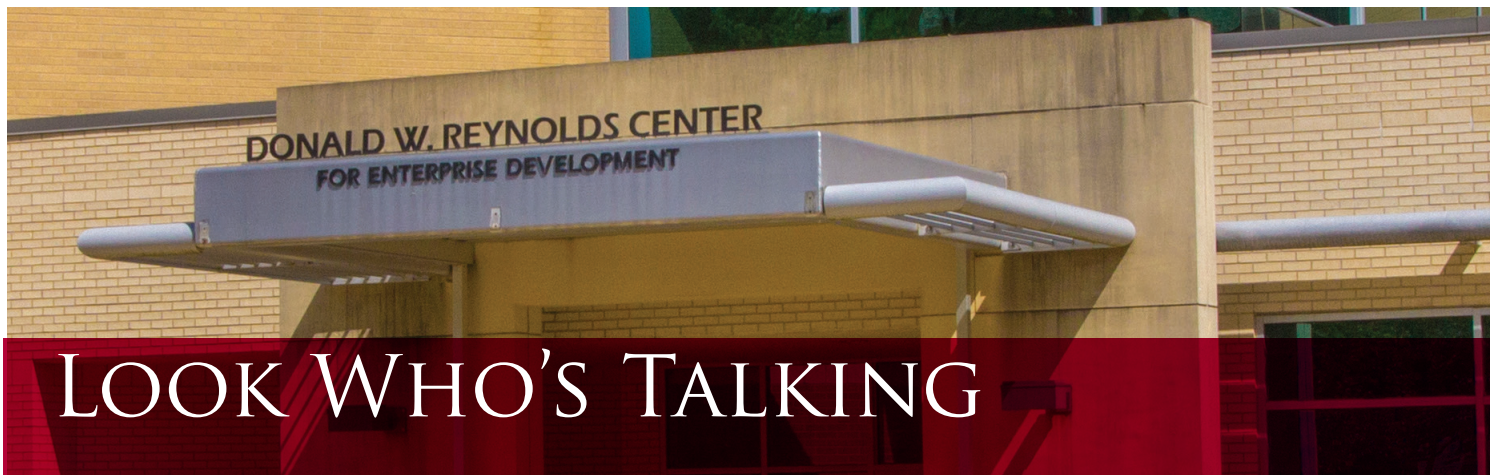
Which brings Johnny back to basketball.

"For me to be so young and accomplish as much as I have, it's left me very excited for the future," Johnny says. "But I feel like I have so much left to do. I know I can do more."



Johnny Carver surprises his friend, Jack Weafer, with an autographed copy of Johnny's book, *Ranketology: A New Way of Determining Basketball's Greatest Player*. Johnny says Jack, who has cerebral palsy, is also a basketball aficionado and an inspiration, which is why "For Jack Weafer" is in every copy.





Andrew Silvernail, chief executive officer, [IDEX Corp.](#)



Curt Bradbury, chief operating officer, [Stephens Inc.](#)



Jessica Hendrix, president, USA, [Saatchi & Saatchi X](#)



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Judy McReynolds, president and chief executive officer, [ArcBest Corp.](#)



# WALTON Executive MBA

“The Walton Executive MBA program met the criteria of affordability, industry relevance, and embodying an increasingly strong reputation that I knew would grow my professional brand.”


—Brittany Simmons  
Walton Executive MBA  
Class of 2016  
Customer Business Lead  
The Kraft Heinz Company

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# LINDSAY DUCKWORTH FINANCE AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT BSBA '05 TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING MANAGER ACCENTURE DENVER

Late at night, Lindsay Duckworth and her classmates would work in shifts to watch the Japanese bond market. Though it educated her on global finances, it also provided an environment where teamwork was essential to carrying out a task.

The assignment prepared her for the real world. "There are very few careers where you are solo," Duckworth says. "You have to rely on people, whether it's people reporting to you or people you report to."

Her experience as an investment management major at the Walton College foreshadowed the life she now has as a Technology Consulting Manager at [Accenture](#). It's a job that Duckworth loves. And it's also hard work.

In her position with the global professional services firm, she has implemented acquisition supply chain models with MillerCoors and VF Corporation (producer of many famous clothing brands from North Face to Lee Jeans) and now works with Ralph Lauren to convert its high-end women's collection to SAP, an acronym for systems, applications and products, which enables a company to gain more visibility while managing its business.

She's also often on the move. One moment, she may be at home in Denver, enjoying the Rocky Mountains. Then she's on a plane to New York – sometimes in Manhattan – where she meets with business executives. "You're definitely thrown into the lion's den, and the strong survive and the weak go elsewhere is the motto," Duckworth says.

Duckworth was raised in the Dallas area and graduated

from Plano East Senior High School. Growing up, she developed an interest in mathematical equations, finance and banking. Her parents proved to be good role models in the business profession – her father specializes in property and casualty and her mother is a financial adviser. "Even at an early age, Lindsay showed signs of being a leader," says her aunt, Johnelle Hunt of Fayetteville. "Her personality, quick mind and willingness to tackle any project set her apart."

At the prompting of her parents, she visited the University of Arkansas and, especially, the Walton College.

"I was amazed at the innovations that were available to students and the diverse majors," Duckworth recalls. "I immediately applied to the University of Arkansas and never looked back."

It was at orientation where she met Allison Glahn Hardin, who is now director of sales with BNSF Logistics, LLC. Both grew up outside of Arkansas and didn't know a soul at the university. They quickly bonded. Both joined Alpha Delta Pi, where they were sorority sisters and became Walton College students – Hardin earned a degree in marketing. "She always wanted to excel but always had time for other activities," Hardin says of her friend. She says Duckworth was adept at multitasking and managed to earn her bachelor's degree in only 3½ years while serving as sorority president – all while devoting time to her family in Dallas and supporting Razorback athletics and other campus duties. "Just being able to juggle all of those activities and graduate early is definitely a success story," Hardin says.



During college, Duckworth worked for J.B. Hunt, LLC, a separate company from the logistics division composed of several businesses from rock quarries to marketing companies.

"While I was employed there, my uncle, J.B. Hunt, would have me hop in his truck and drive around to the different businesses," Duckworth recalls. "It was very important that he knew the people that worked there and that they knew him."

She would attend his meetings and watch her uncle negotiate deals while building the business from the ground up.

"It was impressive to witness, and the knowledge gained from those experiences is priceless," Duckworth says. "Eventually, he would send me to meetings in his place to ensure the business was running as expected. It was definitely a unique job."

Duckworth graduated in 2005 and returned to Dallas where she accepted a job as an import/export manager with Commercial Metals Co., a global, low-cost metals recycling, manufacturing, fabricating and trading enterprise. "I could define import and export, but I didn't know how to execute it," she says.

Yet Duckworth was driven. While there, she learned supply chain practices and discovered she had a talent for laying out processes. She was promoted to consultant, working alongside senior level employees and implementation partners, who proved to be valuable players in teaching her transportation management and information technology. Wishing to pursue an IT consulting career, Duckworth became fascinated with Accenture. "I fell in love with their ideals and how they saw their people," she says. "They don't have tangible products; they have ideas."

Duckworth was a good fit, and Accenture hired her as a technology consulting manager. Her job often took her to Denver, where her love for the Rocky Mountains prompted her to move to the Mile High City.

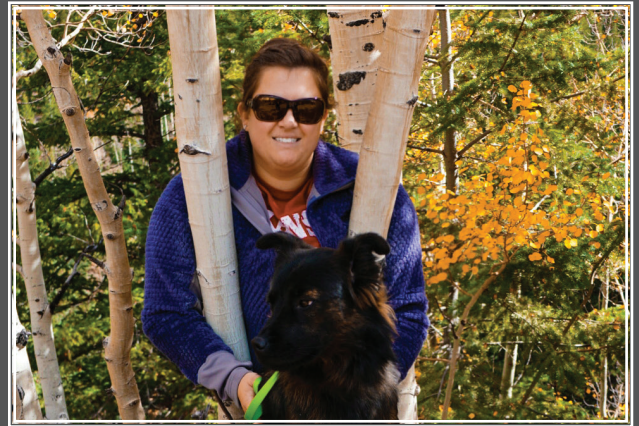
Matt Campbell, Consumer Goods and Services senior manager for Accenture, says he met Duckworth when she was consulting MillerCoors on ways the company could transform their relationship with their breweries and distributors.

"Clients were immediately impressed with Lindsay's business acumen, passion for her work and genuine care for her clients," Campbell says. "Since her success at MillerCoors and promotion to manager, Lindsay has continued to shine." At Accenture, she is now one of 50 people chosen from a workforce of more than 300,000 to start the "skeletons" of projects by selling work and delivering presentations among other duties.

"Right now, the past four years, I've been in a delivery role where the work has already been sold," she says. "Now, I'll be on the front end of trying to sell and making sure that we set up projects for success, I'm excited for that."

Hardin says she has enjoyed watching Duckworth shine. "She's very strong at supply chain management, very strong in leadership roles and her dedication has really taken her places," Hardin says. "I'm sure the Walton College had a lot to do with building that foundation."

Duckworth agrees. "It was the best decision I made, and I couldn't imagine attending any other school."



Place of birth: Dallas

Family: Debbie (mother), Brock (father), and Brock (brother)

If I could spend a day doing anything I wanted, I would: drive to the mountains with my dog, hike some trails and take in some of the majestic scenery the state of Colorado has to offer!

A movie I could watch over and over again: Harry Potter Series

Pet peeve: eating with your mouth open

Favorite comfort food: pizza and ice cream

Best time of the day: morning

Favorite vacation spot: any of the Virgin Islands





## THE LADY IN RED

Doris Marie Cook was a pioneer who achieved many firsts in accounting, accounting education and the field of business in the state of Arkansas.

Cook was the first woman to receive the Certified Public Accountant designation in the state of Arkansas, the first woman to be a University Professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, the first woman member of the Arkansas Society of CPAs, the first woman to serve and become president for the National Council for [Beta Alpha Psi academic honor organization](#) and the first woman to hold an endowed lectureship chair at the University of Arkansas.

Doris Cook was born in Fayetteville on June 11, 1924. She was the second of two children born to Ira and Mettie Dorman Cook. Cook grew up in Fayetteville and attended University High, which was located on the U of A campus in the old Peabody Hall.

Cook excelled academically and received many awards during her time as an undergraduate student at the U of A from 1942 to 1946. She enrolled in the College of Business Administration as a freshman, while many men were serving in World War II and student enrollment was low. Accordingly, classes were small and made up mostly of women, allowing Cook to receive much individual attention.

She originally had planned to earn a two-year degree, which was commonplace for women during this time. However, she enjoyed classes so much that she decided to pursue a four-year degree instead. During her undergraduate years, Cook worked part time for the college's dean, Paul Milam, and established relationships

with many of her professors, other university faculty and staff. Principles of Accounting, an introductory course, began her interest in the field of accounting.

Cook was a prominent figure on the university campus upon her arrival. She made the honor roll from 1942 to 1946, was recognized as the most outstanding senior in the College of Business Administration in 1946 and won the university-wide Senior Scholar Key award in 1946. To be awarded the Senior Scholar Key, recipients had to achieve the highest ranking in their college, meet a grade-point average requirement and receive a college recommendation.

After graduation, Cook took a job as a junior accountant for Haskin and Sells in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which was one of the Big Eight accounting firms at that time. She joined the firm as its only female accountant. This is where she achieved one of her most widely recognized firsts.

Cook was the only female to take the CPA examination in Oklahoma in 1947 and pass the entire exam on her first attempt. Cook's success was publicized in the *Tulsa World* newspaper and began to turn heads back in Arkansas, specifically that of Professor Walter B. Cole, the chair of the college's accounting department, and Dean Milam.

Because of the influx of World War II veterans returning to the College of Business Administration and the GI Bill financing veterans' education, the college was growing and in need of an accounting professor. Cole asked Cook if she would like to teach so that he could have his accounting classes covered. Cook accepted his offer and began teaching at the university in the fall of 1947.



Soon after her arrival in Arkansas, she became the first female CPA in the state.

Cook taught at the College of Business Administration, now known as the Sam M. Walton College of Business, from 1947 until 2000, where she was the first woman to earn the rank of University Professor for the university and the department of accounting. Cook received her master's degree from U of A in 1949 and her doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in 1968. In 1988, Cook became holder of the Nolan E. Williams Lectureship in Accounting, making her the first woman at the university to be awarded an endowed lectureship or chair.

During her tenure, she taught most of the accounting curriculum and estimated that she taught more than 10,000 students in her 50 years at the college, including three years after her retirement 1997.

After fifty years of service to university and the Department of Accounting, Cook retired. Her legacy lives on through the Doris M. Cook Chair in Accounting, established in 2000. Cook donated \$1,000 for each year that she taught at the university to help fund the chair.

Cook passed away on January 4, 2016, in Glendale Heights, Illinois.



Carolyn Callahan, the first person to hold the Doris M. Cook Chair in Accounting at the University of Arkansas, with Cook.



- First full-time woman professor hired in the Department of Accounting
- First woman Certified Public Accountant in Arkansas
- First woman member of the Arkansas Society of CPAs
- First woman to serve on the National Council for Beta Alpha Psi, the international honor organization for financial information students and professionals
- First woman to serve as national president of Beta Alpha Psi
- First woman at the University of Arkansas to hold an endowed lectureship or chair (the Nolan E. Williams Lectureship in Accounting)
- First woman at the University of Arkansas to hold the rank of University Professor
- First person in the Department of Accounting to hold the rank of University Professor



# DEAN'S EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD



The mission of the Dean's Executive Advisory Board is to utilize their experience and expertise to aid the Walton College in defining and realizing its goals, serving as consultants on strategies, programs and curriculum. Board members also help identify opportunities for partnerships between the Walton College and the business community.

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# DEAN'S ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Dean's Alumni Advisory Council is comprised of a diverse group of Walton alumni, who function as ambassadors and use their experience and insight to develop and support the advancement of the college.

The Dean's Alumni Advisory Council has three main objectives: improve the Walton College brand and increase alumni involvement; bridge the gap between students and potential employers and foster the pipeline of prospective students to the college; and advance and support the college's goals and strategies.

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UAMS  
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ACCT '10  
Attorney  
Hope, Trice, O'Dwyer & Wilson, PA  
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Walmart  
Bentonville, AR

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Allen, TX

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OmniX  
Bentonville, AR

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Southcross Energy  
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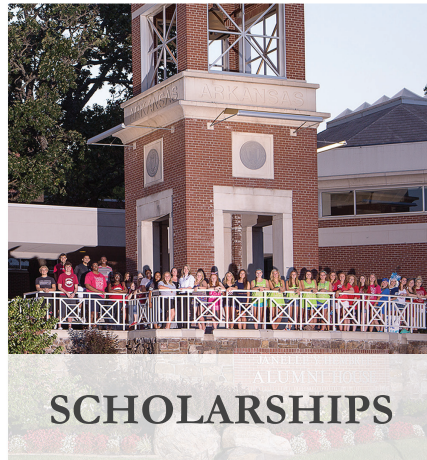


ARKANSAS  
ALUMNI

# ARKANSAS ALUMNI

## TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN

BECOME A  
PROUD  
MEMBER  
TODAY!



### SCHOLARSHIPS

Since January 2009, \$5 of every annual membership and \$50 of every life membership is dedicated to membership need-based scholarships.



### STUDENTS

Your contributions help support the Student Alumni Association, the largest RSO on campus that is responsible for planning Homecoming every year!



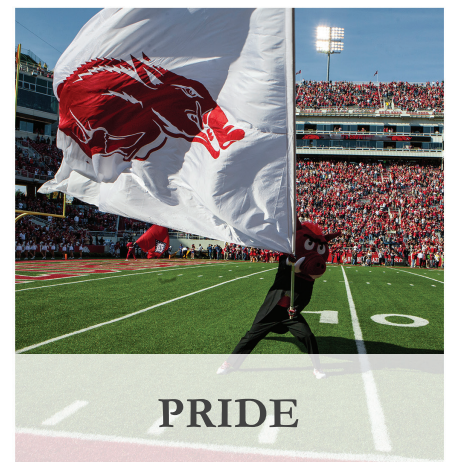
### CONNECTIONS

Join a network of over 140,000 alumni just like you and connect back with your alma mater through events, ARKANSAS magazine and much more.



### PERKS

We have over 90 perks, including local, national and worldwide discounts. Save money while positively impacting the U of A.



### PRIDE

Once an Arkansas Razorback always an Arkansas Razorback. Alumni and friends continue to show your U of A pride long after you leave the Hill.

[WWW.ARKANSASALUMNI.ORG/JOIN](http://WWW.ARKANSASALUMNI.ORG/JOIN)