# the**Dividend**

Winter 2018

# The Middle Tennessee State University **Department of Accounting** Newsletter

# **Chair's Letter**

Spring semester is off to a good start following an eventful fall semester. We welcomed five incredible tenure-track faculty and one full-time temporary lecturer. They



replace retired and relocated professors and have both reinforced our curriculum and created additional learning opportunities. It is always fun to welcome new people, and five to the tenure track is unheard of in this tight job market. Read more about the newcomers on *page 4*.

I continue to be amazed by our students' hard work and accomplishments. They were

awarded \$77,500 in scholarships for the 2017–18 academic year from the Tennessee Society of CPAs (TSCPA), including two of the coveted \$25,000 King Scholarships. See the complete list of recipients on *page 8*.

Our students are getting internship opportunities earlier than ever in their studies. In order to accommodate this new hiring model, we are hosting our first Leadership Exposé on Thursday, March 1. Participation in leadership conferences offers students a glimpse at their career paths and opens up windows to internships. This results in more knowledgeable attendees at Meet the Firms in September, our premier recruiting event.

Our Master in Accountancy (M.Acc.) program is up 19 percent, and successful CPA exam results have been pouring in. An Accounting Analytics course was developed and added to the curriculum to accommodate the new business environment. In addition, we revived advanced governmental and external auditing graduate courses. A preview of the new analytics course is on *page 6*.

We are constantly striving to connect to prospective students. In those efforts, we hosted Discover Accounting Day, sponsored by the TSCPA, on Oct. 20. Nearly 150 students from nine middle Tennessee high schools participated in the four-hour seminar. If you know of any high school or transfer students needing more information about an accounting career, please send them my way.



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JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department of Accountin

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We are grateful to all our alumni and friends who come back to campus to speak, contribute, and participate in our classrooms, student groups, CPE, and Alumni Appreciation Receptions. We honored Kim Holleman as the 2017 Bill Mooningham Distinguished Alumni at our September reception. Several of you attended our recent CPE offering covering accounting and tax law changes, and we had over 40 participants at the Tim Koski Tax Seminar on Dec. 19. Our next big event is Alumni Appreciation Day on Thursday, April 26. This year we will be combining eight hours of CPE with the Spring Alumni Appreciation Reception immediately following the seminar. This is a definite "Save the Date" event for 2018!

I recently went on a ski trip with MTSU Campus Recreation. Staying in a condo with four very successful MTSU Alumni reminiscing about their good times made me proud to be part of the caring progressive community that is MTSU. Like them, I hope you are always proud to be **True Blue**!

Jeannie Johnson Harrington Ph.D., CMA, CPA, IFRS-Certified, CSCA HCA Outstanding Professor of Accounting Chair, Department of Accounting

# MTSU Accounting Department Executive Staff

Sarah Olsen Secretary 615-898-5306 Sarah.Olsen @mtsu.edu

John Wermert M.Acc. Coordinator

> 615-898-2357 John.Wermert @mtsu.edu

### Violet Rigsby Executive Aide



Violet Rigsby began working at MTSU in 1984 and took over as executive aide in the Department of Accounting in 1991. She has been the assistant for department chairs Grasty, Harmon,

Thomas, Hamm, Smith, Benson, Salter, and Harrington. I think we all agree that she is the stability in the department. She knows everything about everything, and we are grateful for her service.

Rigsby lives in Woodbury and has been married to husband, Randy, for 44 years. She has two children, Leigh Ann and Matthew, and five grandchildren.

### Sarah Olsen Secretary



Sarah Olsen joined MTSU this January as the department's secretary. She coordinates all of our many student, faculty, and alumni events and assists faculty with their classroom and research needs.

We are excited to have her. She replaces Tonya Davenport, who accepted a position as executive aide in the Department of Computer Information Systems in October.

Olsen and her husband, Tommy, moved from Montgomery, Alabama in the fall when he accepted a position at Lochinvar in Lebanon. While she is a huge Alabama fan, we won't hold that against her. In Montgomery, Sarah worked as executive assistant to the pastors at St. James United Methodist Church. The Olsens reside in Murfreesboro and have two adult children, Ryan and Julianna.

# Contact us

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Chair

Jeannie Harrington

Jeannie.Harrington

# Accounting's "True Blue" Tour

By Jeannie Harrington, Department Chair



From left: Carolyn Tumbleson, Deanna Dibin (CRI), and Jeannie Harrington.

Carolyn Tumbleson, Development Director for the Jones College of Business, and I have been making the company rounds. It has been a delight to meet our students' employers and connect with current students and graduates. While a college student, I found it very exciting to tour offices and I still feel blessed to make these "field trips."

We visited the following places of business:



### Here is a summary of **their comments** and my responses:

- Employers are pleased with our students/graduates and want more of them!
  - This is great to hear. We are trying to entice more highachieving students into the Accounting major. Area high schools heavily promote students to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers. These students often have the same skills and aptitudes of Accounting majors, and we are trying to let them know of the opportunities available in accounting. If you know of a student who may be a good fit for us, please send them to me!
- Employers love the work ethic of our students.
  - MTSU students are used to juggling work, family, student organizations, etc., and come ready to work. Our students do not convey a sense of entitlement.
- Grade point averages from MTSU do not suffer from grade inflation.
  - Sometimes MTSU GPAs under 3.5 are equivalent to GPAs above 3.5 from other schools. We believe A's are reserved for excellence and are hard to come by. By no means is a B a bad grade.
- Employers are concerned with the recruiting process and Career and Placement Center at MTSU.
  - MTSU is aware that improvements need to be made and is hopefully making some meaningful changes to the Career and Placement Center. In the past, the majority of our department's formal recruiting was in the fall semester. With the transition to more yearround recruiting, I plan to monitor the situation more closely.
- Employers wish more was being done to accommodate students who cannot attend our daytime student organization meetings.
- I admit that being in Beta Alpha Psi is probably the single best thing a student can do to further their accounting career, but work and other obligations can keep them from active participation. We have other student groups available and are working on ways of inclusion regarding job and internship opportunities. I send out the position announcements you send me regularly to all of our majors and make them available on our website. I hope to do more for our nontraditional students in the future.

If you are interested in scheduling an information session with Carolyn Tumbleson and/or me, please let me know at Jeannie.Harrington@mtsu.edu. I take your suggestions seriously and try very hard to make improvements to our programs.

### CARLO D'AUGUSTA

Carlo D'Augusta studied Accounting at the University of Genoa, Bocconi University, and New York University. In 2013, he obtained his Ph.D. from Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. D'Augusta previously taught Accounting and Financial Statement Analysis at Bocconi University and



Intermediate Accounting at Georgia State University. At MTSU, he teaches Intermediate Accounting. His research is in financial reporting. More specifically, D'Augusta is interested in understanding how characteristics of financial information affect the capital markets and investors' reaction to financial disclosure, as well as how different

types of disclosures can interact to affect information users. D'Augusta lives in Murfreesboro with his wife, Anna.

### SARAH GARVEN

Sarah Garven holds a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama, an M.B.A. from the University of Tennessee, and a bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University. Prior to joining MTSU, she served on the faculty at Ohio University and Morehead



State University. She is an active CPA (Ohio) and has auditing experience in both Big 4 public accounting and industry.

Garven currently teaches Internal Auditing and Principles of Financial Accounting and is coordinator of the Internal Audit Education Partnership program at MTSU. Her primary area of research focuses on the impact of

corporate governance mechanisms, especially auditors, on the management of financial results in both the for-profit and nonprofit settings. She has articles published in journals such as *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory, Nonprofit Management & Leadership*, and the *CPA Journal*. She and her husband, Brian, have three children: Claire, Ethan, and Brooke.

### ANDREA KELTON

Andrea Seaton Kelton, CPA, earned her B.B.A. and M.S. in Accountancy from James Madison University. After working as an assurance senior associate for KPMG, she received a Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of



Tennessee in 2006. Before joining MTSU, she taught accounting analytics and undergraduate and graduate accounting information systems courses at the University of South Florida and Wake Forest University. Kelton's research examines the effects of accounting information and information systems on individual judgment and decisionmaking. She is currently serving as an

associate editor for the International Journal of Accounting Information Systems and on the editorial boards of Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory and Current Issues in Auditing. Kelton and her husband, Rhett, have two children—Wyatt, 11, and Kendall, 7. They enjoy swimming, reading, and watching football.

### **BRANDON VAGNER**

Brandon Vagner, CPA, began his career at KPMG (St. Louis), where he worked for five years in a number of different industries and was promoted to an audit manager just before leaving to pursue his Ph.D. at Southern Illinois



University. He believes that life is about pursuing what you're passionate about, and he has always wanted to bring real-life experiences to the classroom and give back to the accounting profession in multiple ways that include teaching and research. His research interests are in audit decision-making, motivation, problem representation, and audit

committees, and Vagner is open to any interesting research question. During his downtime, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, biking, running, and golfing. Vagner resides in Murfreesboro with his wife, Kori.

continued on page 5 ►

# ALUMNI APPRECIATION CPE DAY THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 | 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. STATE FARM ROOM, MTSU BUSINESS BUILDING

For more information, contact us or go to mtsu.edu/accounting/seminars.php

### New Accounting Faculty continued from page 4

### TAMMY WAYMIRE

Tammy Waymire, Ph.D., CPA, specializes in governmental and nonprofit accounting topics, both in the classroom and in research. These interests were fueled by her background in public accounting, where she audited government and



nonprofit entities, and subsequent experience as a Medicaid fraud investigator and a public utility regulator. Her research has been published in the Journal of Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting, Issues in Accounting Education, Nonprofit Management & Leadership, Public Budgeting & Finance, Journal of Government

*Financial Management, Journal of Accounting Education*, and *Journal of Public Affairs Education*. Waymire currently serves as president-elect of the Government and Nonprofit Section of the American Accounting Association, and she was recently appointed to a four-year term on the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Not-for-Profit Advisory Committee.

Waymire joined MTSU after serving on the faculty at Northern Illinois University, where she earned awards for excellence in teaching and research. She earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Arkansas Tech University, M.B.A. from Harding University, and Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. Waymire and her husband, Dennis, met in the marching band at Arkansas Tech. They have three boys: Samuel, 18; David, 13; and Jonathan, 6.

### **MERREDITH MOOTH**

Merredith Mooth, CPA, CFE, is a graduate of MTSU with an M.B.A. and an M.S. in Accounting and Information Systems (tax specialist track). Her professional background includes working on special investigations cases as a



tax auditor with the Tennessee Department of Revenue and as a regulatory insurance examiner with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Most recently, Mooth worked in the private sector, assisting captive insurance companies and other self-insured entities in the areas of regulatory compliance and financial statement

filings. She is looking forward to beginning a Doctor of Business Administration program at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta in May 2019.

Mooth is a full-time lecturer and has taught Principles of Accounting I and II, Intermediate Accounting I, Taxation, Forensic and Fraud Auditing, and Accounting and Legal Issues for Managers. She lives in Murfreesboro with her husband, Cale.

# ADJUNCT TEACHING POSITIONS









# Have you ever considered teaching a class or two?

Teaching is a wonderful way to share your knowledge and give back to MTSU. If you are interested, please send your resume to Jeannie Harrington at Jeannie.Harrington@mtsu.edu.

# **Accounting Excellence Distinguished Speaker**

On Dec. 1, **Mary B. Curtis**, CPA, CISA, Horace Brock Centennial Professor of Accounting at the University of



North Texas, presented a research paper to the MTSU Accounting faculty entitled "What Happens When Formal and Informal Norms Conflict?" Curtis is the past senior editor of the highly rated *Journal of Information Systems*. A prolific researcher, she has over 50 publications in a variety of journals, including *The Accounting*  Review; Accounting, Organizations and Society; Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory; Journal of Information Systems; Journal of Business Ethics; Journal of International Accounting Research; Journal of Accounting Education; Strategic Finance; and The CPA Journal. Curtis is the Ph.D. program coordinator and am impactful teacher of business ethics, accounting information systems, and IT auditing.

Curtis received the University of Kentucky's Von Allmen School of Accountancy Ph.D. Program Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014, the American Accounting Association Information System Section's Outstanding Service Award in 2007 and 2011, and five research paper awards at various conferences and publications in 2005–10.

# **New Accounting Analytics Course**

The Accounting Analytics course is being offered for the first time this spring as an elective course in the M.Acc. program. The course explores the role of big data and analytics in the accounting profession. Specifically, students study the use of accounting analytics to identify, analyze, and solve accounting and business problems and communicate insights to stakeholders. The course provides students with hands-on experience with a variety of analytic tools used in the accounting profession, such as Casewear, IDEA, and Tableau. Students study analytics in several different areas of accounting, including internal and external audit, tax, and financial and managerial accounting. If you are interested in learning more about the course or in being a guest speaker, please contact Professor Andrea Kelton at Andrea.Kelton@mtsu.edu.



# Are you looking for graduates?

Please contact MTSU—we love to present the many opportunities available to our outstanding students. Send your position announcements to Sarah.Olsen@mtsu.edu, and we will circulate them to students and post them on our website at mtsu.edu/accounting under the Career Development tab.

# **Student Spotlights**

### KAVIN ISMAIL

Kavin Ismail was born in Kurdistan and moved to Nashville at the age of 2. She graduated from John Overton High School, where she excelled in math and focused on information technology. At night, her



mother cleaned the offices at One Nashville Place—the home of Ernst & Young (EY) and National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA); Ismail often accompanied her mother. One night she met the CFO of NASBA, who told her she should be an accountant. As a result, Ismail researched

accounting. She found it interesting and that it could lead to a lucrative career. After participating in shadow day at the Deloitte IT Hermitage office, she decided she would major in Accounting at MTSU after high school.

Ismail attended summer leadership programs with EY and Deloitte, which led to internships. She has completed five internships—Deloitte IT, Deloitte Audit, HCA Internal Audit, Nashville Electric Service, and Joseph M. Bennie, CPA. Ismail is currently enrolled in the M.Acc. program and serves as a graduate assistant. She will graduate this summer and begin her health care auditing career at Deloitte in the fall. Ismail has passed three parts of the CPA exam on her first attempts, with only FAR left to take this semester.

She credits Elizabeth Abernathy, her Principles of Accounting I instructor, with inspiring her; Rebecca Foote for continually encouraging her; and Terry Ward for his helpful guidance. She is also grateful for the time invested in her by recruiters and alumni of MTSU.

Ismail is one of a very few in the Kurdish community to pursue accounting. We are sure glad she chose our profession!

### JOSHUA BEATY

Joshua Beaty grew up in Cleveland, Tennessee and attended Bradley Central High School, where he became interested in pursuing a business career from his business management and computer programming classes. Beaty



started MTSU as a Business Administration major. At summer CUSTOMS orientation, he talked to students and advisors and they directed him toward accounting. Earlier career tests had suggested accounting would be a good fit, so he did some research and found that accounting would make a

promising future.

When enrolled in Principles of Accounting I, Beaty became active in the inaugural Accounting Connections student organization. He was chosen to attend several leadership programs this past summer, including CRI, FMC, EY Preview, and Kraft. This August, Beaty was awarded one of the four King Scholarships from the TSCPA. As a junior, he is an active member in Beta Alpha Psi and the Auditing and Managerial Accounting Club. Beaty credits faculty members Carlo D'Augusta and Rebecca Foote for being special mentors on his accounting path.

He enjoys MTSU for its diversity and likes accounting because it has good career options. He ultimately plans to complete the M.Acc. program and get his CPA license. Beaty is leaning toward the audit side of accounting early in his studies. His long-term career goal is to be a financial analyst in a Fortune 500 company.

Beaty currently works part-time in the payroll department at First Fleet in Murfreesboro and enjoys hanging out with friends and watching movies. We are so glad he chose to continue his business pursuit at MTSU!



# MTSU JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ETHICS WEEK • APRIL 9–13

# Speakers needed!

If you are interested in speaking to students about real-life ethical issues, please contact Carolyn Tumbleson at Carolyn.Tumbleson@mtsu.edu. We are trying to have a speaker in every business course during the week.

Thank you in advance for offering your time!

# **MTSU Recipients of TSCPA Scholarships for 2017–18**

# KING SCHOLARSHIPS

| Joshua Beaty    | \$25,000 |
|-----------------|----------|
| Kevin Benderman | 25,000   |

# **GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

| Molly Bell         | 1,500 |
|--------------------|-------|
| Sarah Bowen        | 1,500 |
| Robert Canterbury  | 1,500 |
| Jonathan Chandler  | 1,500 |
| Margaret Coleman   | 1,500 |
| Bradley Cunningham | 1,250 |
| Bethany DeHaven    | 1,500 |
| Marcus England     | 1,500 |
|                    |       |

| Shelby Follis    | 1,500    |
|------------------|----------|
| Blake Hise       | 1,500    |
| Kavin Ismail     | 1,500    |
| Grace Langeland  | 750      |
| Dennielle Pineda | 1,500    |
| Szilvia Riss     | 1,500    |
| Hannah Samples   | 1,500    |
| Ashley Shank     | 1,500    |
| Charish Short    | 1,500    |
| Kristin Uselton  | 1,500    |
| Justin Woodard   | 1,500    |
| Total            | \$77,500 |

# **Discover Accounting Day**

On Oct. 20, 147 students from Antioch, Coffee County Central, Franklin County, Hillsboro, Holloway, Santa Fe, Siegel, Stewarts Creek, and Warren County high schools attended Discover Accounting Day at the MTSU Student Union, hosted by the TSCPA. Laura Hunt, TSCPA communications associate, directed the program. The day started with acquainting students with the accounting profession and progressed into three rotations: a CPAs in Private Practice panel, a CPAs in Public Practice panel, and an Accounting game. It concluded with a discussion on why an Accounting major makes sense and preparing for college and the real world.

Speakers included Domina Alford (TVA), Phylicia Coleman (Pathway Lending), Patrick Greer (Smile Direct Club), Susan Maddux (Country Music Foundation), Mike Ren (Assurion), DaVoua Vang (First National Bank of Middle Tennessee), Emily Haynes (Deloitte), Tori Meyer (LBMC), Kaylee Mills (LBMC), David Middlebrook (Crosslin), John Nevel (Compass East), Brian Whitfield (CRI), Margaret Coleman (TSCPA Student Ambassador), and Jeannie Harrington (MTSU).



Emily Haynes



Phylicia Coleman





Industry Panel: Phylicia Coleman, Patrick Greer, Susan Maddux, and Mike Ren





Susan Maddux



DaVoua Vang

# **Meet the Firms Recruiting Event**

On Sept. 7, the MTSU Beta Alpha Psi student organization hosted 40 firms at the annual Meet the Firms Recruiting Event. Over 100 job-seeking students attended. Here are some photos of students, MTSU Alumni, and other recruiters. Thank you for your interest in our hard-working students.



# Yohan Abraham Scholarship



Yohan Abraham was born on April 1, 1986, in India, the eldest son of Paul and Elizabeth Abraham. His family then moved to Chicago, where he grew up. Abraham attended Purdue University, when he decided to serve his country in the United States Army 101st Airborne Division as a Specialist–Air Traffic

Controller. He earned medals for being an exemplary soldier from the Army and NATO for his service. After serving for six years, Abraham attended MTSU. While at MTSU, he majored in Accounting and worked as an intern at Deloitte.

Abraham loved nature and being in the outdoors hiking. He also enjoyed the water, especially sailing and kayaking. Abraham believed in community service through volunteer work. He volunteered on many occasions through his church, at local schools, and with Junior Achievement.

He was settling into a very happy life and a bright future before it was cut tragically short in an automobile accident, leaving behind both 30 years of an unforgettable and exemplary life and many broken hearts.

A scholarship has been established by the Yohan Abraham Foundation to benefit an MTSU student or student veteran who demonstrates a commitment to serving others (in school, in the community or at home); a strong work ethic; and leadership qualities. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, you can donate at mtsu.edu/give. Place Fund #91425 in the Other Giving Preferences box.

To learn more about the Yohan Abraham Foundation, visit yafoundation.com. The Foundation supports other causes, including donating three lockable computer carts with 20 Chromebooks each to seventh-, eighth-, and 10th-grade classrooms in the Smith County School District.

# **2017 Bill Mooningham Distinguished Alumni Award**

### **Kim Holleman**

Kim Holleman is a senior assurance partner in the Nashville office of Ernst & Young (EY). Holleman has 23 years of experience providing professional services to



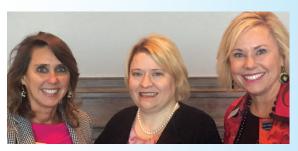
both publicly- and privately-held companies, with a focus on the financial statement audits of retail, manufacturing, health care, and technology industries.

As an assurance partner, Holleman is also responsible for leading her teams to understand

their role in achieving the firm's purpose of building a better working world and equipping them with the resources and insights they need to provide exceptional service to their clients. She has served as a leader in the firm's audit methodology practice group, which focuses on maintaining an efficient and effective audit methodology. Holleman also has been the Southeast Region leader of EY's Professional Women's Network, as well as the Tennessee Strategic Growth Market Leader. She is currently the coordinating partner for EY Nashville alumni relations activities.

Holleman has Master of Science and Bachelor of Business Administration degrees in Accounting from MTSU. She is the firm's lead recruiter for MTSU and a member of MTSU's Accounting Advisory Board, including serving as the board's chair in 2015–16. Holleman also is a member of the Tennessee Society of CPAs and the AICPA. She is an active supporter of the United Way and the American Heart Association. Holleman is on the board of CABLE Nashville, serving as the chair for Women on Corporate Boards and an instructor and organizer for the CABLE Corporate Board Academy, which is designed to help prepare boardready women to obtain meaningful corporate board roles.

We are grateful for her dedication, service, and commitment to MTSU!



Jeanie Harrington, Kim Holleman, and Carolyn Tumbleson

# **Alumni Appreciation Reception**

Here are some photos from our most recent Alumni Appreciation Reception, held at the Miller Education Center in Murfreesboro on Sept. 28.



Please join us at the next MTSU ACCOUNTING ALUMNI APPRECIATION RECEPTION immediately following Alumni Appreciation CPE Day

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 • 5:00-6:30 P.M.

# How can you help the MTSU Department of Accounting continue to improve and prosper?

- Establish a signature Outstanding Professorship
- Engage in an Academic Partnership
- Provide scholarship money
- Attend a CPE session
- Attend an Alumni Appreciation Reception
- Speak to one of our student groups or classes
- Hire our students for internships and full-time positions
- Donate time or money

### A Special Thanks to our Outstanding Professorship Sponsors

Deloitte, HCA Healthcare Services, LBMC, and the MTSU Department of Accounting Advisory Board: Jeff Ballard, Kim Holleman, Jimmy Jobe, Brian Kidd, Greg Lemon, Andy Lile, Jeremy Nichols, Lisa Nix, Joey Peay, Jami Pope, Olga Reeves, David Shaffer, Suzzie Singleton, Matt Smith, Joe Steakley, John West, Debbie Willett, Jeremy Wright, Ken Youngstead, and Jeannie Harrington (ex-officio).

# WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

### Foundation Expenditures July 1–Dec. 31, 2017

| Accounting Connections         | \$ 317.39   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Alumni Receptions              |             |
| Awards                         |             |
| Common Exams                   |             |
| CPE Seminars                   |             |
| Faculty Gatherings and Meeting |             |
| Principles Meet and Greet      |             |
| Paper Submission Fees          |             |
| Professional Memberships       |             |
| Promotional Products           |             |
| Recruiting Lunches             |             |
| Seminar Attendance             |             |
| Total Expenditures             | \$ 7,597.33 |

# HOW TO GIVE

### 1 Go to mtsu.edu/give

- 2 Indicate fund number in the Other Giving Preferences box:
  - #91422—Emerging Professionals Scholarship
  - #91425—Yohan Abraham Scholarship
  - #92014—Foundation Development
  - #92611—Bill Grasty Scholarship
  - #92755—Accounting Excellence Fund
  - #94634—Bill and Linda Mooningham Scholarship Fund

# For other funds, please contact us at 615-898-2558

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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