Message from Mark Bolino
PhD Director and Michael F. Price Chair in International Business

As the PhD Director, it is my pleasure to give you a glance inside our PhD program, so you can learn what our doctoral students—with the support of our faculty, administrators, and staff—have been up to during the 2016-2017 academic year. As you will see, our PhD students in accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, management, marketing, and MIS have been busy!

Our tour begins with the new student profiles, and you will find out that we have a very accomplished and enthusiastic incoming class of students. As you continue to work your way through this newsletter, you will also have the opportunity to meet two of our outgoing students—Aaron Anglin, who accepted a tenure-track position at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, and Jaehan Ahn, who accepted a tenure-track position at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. As you read their interviews, you will begin to better understand how special the Price College PhD Program, and how our faculty work closely with our students to train them how to be effective...
The Purpose of Price is to ensure the enduring global competitiveness of Oklahoma and the nation.

scholars and teachers and support them throughout the program (and beyond).

Keep reading, and you will get a better sense of the additional opportunities that our PhD students also have to meet with outstanding researchers from other universities, like Moran Cerf from Northwestern University in Chicago who gave this year’s distinguished lecture and spent significant time meeting with our doctoral students. You will learn, too, about the adventures of Brandi McManus, a PhD student in the Division of Management and International Business, who spent the new year in Vietnam learning more about opportunities to conduct cross-cultural research.

As always, we ended the academic year celebrating our graduating students and their accomplishments, and this is how our newsletter will end as well. Accordingly, you will see photographs from our PhD Luncheon, where faculty and students dined together and said goodbye to those who are graduating and moving on, and from the Price College Honors Lunch, where two PhD students were recognized for their excellence in research and teaching.

Finally, there is a lengthy list of our students’ publications, presentations, and honors. Put simply, we are proud of our PhD students, and we are delighted that you are taking the time to learn more about them and the PhD Program at the Price College of Business.
New Student Profiles

Accounting

Kelly Ha

Kelly received her bachelor’s degree in commerce with concentration in accounting and finance from University of New South Wales, Australia and master’s degree in business and technology management from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea. Kelly specializes financial archival research and her research interests include financial reporting quality and capital markets.

Kevin Nelson

Kevin received his Bachelor of Accountancy from Utah State University. After working in banking and small business, Kevin returned to Utah State University to pursue a Masters of Accountancy. Upon completion of the Masters of Accountancy, Kevin joined the Price College of Business Doctoral Program. Kevin is specializing in financial archive research focusing in financial reporting quality, capital market efficiency, and persistence of financial results. Kevin is supported in his pursuits by his wife and five children. He spends his free time gardening, serving in his church, and leading a BSA scout troop.

Yiding Wang

Yiding received his Bachelor of Science in Economics from Brigham Young University in 2014 and his Master of Science in Taxation from Gonzaga University in 2016. To achieve the goal to become an innovative researcher and an effective professor, he joins the Price College of Business to pursue his doctoral degree in accounting. His current research interests include capital market efficiency, capital market investment decisions, and corporate financial disclosure. His objective is to make valuable contributions to professional accounting through research and encourage and cultivate more students with high potential to enter into the accounting field.
Ramora Sitorus

Romora earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Gadjah Mada University in 2008. Following college graduation, he worked as a business and master data apprentice at ConocoPhillips Indonesia. In addition, he completed his Master of Science in Finance and Investment at Durham University in 2011. Prior to enrolling at the University of Oklahoma in 2016, he worked for five years as a lecturer of finance in Indonesia.

Hedieh Rashidi Ranjbar

Hedieh Rashidi Ranjbar earned her Bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering from Alzahra University and her Master’s degree in Financial Engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology in Iran. Prior to starting her doctoral studies at Price, she worked as a financial analyst in an investment company in Iran. Her research interest is empirical corporate finance using structural and reduced-form techniques.
Thomas Kelemen

Thomas Kelemen received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Brigham Young University. Prior to pursuing his doctorate, Thomas worked for Teach For America as a corps member and as the director of data management. His current research interests include organizational behavior, burnout, and affect at work.

Yejun Zhang

Yejun Zhang earned his Bachelor’s degree in Applied Psychology from Beijing Sport University (BSU) and his Master’s degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Renmin University of China (RUC). During his senior year at BSU, he was an HR assistant intern at Baidu, Inc. His current research interests include global work experiences, cross-cultural management and creativity in the workplace. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking and trying out new restaurants.
Pascal Nitiema

Pascal Nitiema joined the MIS doctoral program in spring 2017. He earned a medical degree from Burkina Faso and two graduate degrees in public health and epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC). Prior to joining the doctoral program, he worked as a research biostatistician at OUHSC for 3 years. His research interests include health care analytics, the use of information systems for disease and syndromic surveillance, and NeuroIS. His favorite sports include basketball and soccer. He is a fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder and the English Premiere League Club Arsenal.
Price College Placements

2017

Jaehan Ahn (ACCT), Northeastern University
Aaron Anglin (EED), Texas Christian University
Jeffrey Black (FIN), University of Memphis
Bryan Brockbank (ACCT), Oklahoma State University
Xuechen Gao (FIN), Arkansas State University
Xiaoman (Mandy) Duan (FIN), Sam Houston State University

2016

Herita Akamah (ACCT), University of Nebraska
Qing Shu (ACCT), San Diego State University
Olalekan K. Seriki (MKT), Angelo State University
Emre Yetgin (MIS), Rider University

2015

John Baur (M&IB), University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Matthew Cobabe (ACCT), Virginia Tech
Inchan Kim (MIS), Utah State University
Fang Lin (FIN), Pittsburgh State University
Ashley Newton (FIN), West Texas A&M
Jama Summers (MIS), University of Tennessee
Nan (Tina) Wang (MIS), Eastern Illinois University
Lisa Yang (FIN), Montana State University
Amber Young (MIS), University of Massachusetts Amherst
Aaron Gleiberman (MKT), Louisiana State University

2014

Fan Chen (FIN), Portland State University
Andrew Collins (ACCT), University of South Carolina
Sung Won Kim (MIS), University of Illinois
Shuai Ma (ACCT), American University
Aaron McKenny (M&IB/EED), University of Central Florida
Thomas Allison (M&IB/EED), Washington State University
2013

Nick Bartkoski (M&IB), Ball State University
Kate Holland (FIN), Purdue University
Sharon Huang (ACCT), Ball State University
Anthony Klotz (M&IB), Oregon State University

2012

Greg McCamus (MKT), Western Kentucky University
Hyo-Jin (Jean) Jeon (MKT), University of Nevada-Reno
Kenneth Bills (ACCT), Colorado State University
Sanaz Aghazadeh (ACCT), Lehigh University
Kevin Rhoads (M&IB), Utah Valley University
Veljko Fotak (FIN), University of Buffalo
Vikas Raman (FIN), University of Warwick (UK)

2011

Yun Fan (ACCT), University of Houston
Sridhar Gogineni (FIN), University of Wyoming
Maria Hamdani (M&IB), University of Akron
Dong Kim (FIN), University of Northern Ohio
Yong-Kwan Lim (MIS), SKEMA
Anthony May (FIN), Wichita State University
Ali Shahzad (M&IB), James Madison University
Sorin Valcea (M&IB), Washburn University
Amber Whisenhunt (ACCT), University of Akron

2010

Scott Grawe (MKT), Iowa State University
Jaron Harvey (M&IB), University of Alabama
Shirley Hsieh (ACCT), Florida Atlantic University
Hem Mpundu (ACCT), University of Northern Iowa
Why did you pursue a PhD?

Ever since I was an undergraduate, I have been always attracted to the idea of being a professor and have always been interested in entrepreneurship. After spending several years in the finance industry building a financial planning practice, I found that I was always drawn to the ‘academic’ side of things, what the new studies said, what the new findings were about how people behaved, and so forth. And, I increasingly became disillusioned with the finance business. One day I simply decided that I was going to go back to school to become a professor, which of course, led me to the PhD. My experience in building a financial planning practices as well as working with entrepreneurial firms led me to pursue entrepreneurship as the focus of my PhD.

Why did you choose OU?

There were several things the led me to choose OU: having several accomplished scholars to work with, an emphasis on entrepreneurship research, Norman seemed like a good place to live, etc. What made my mind up was my official campus visit. I really saw myself here and doing well here. I knew before I returned home that if OU made an offer that I was coming here and, fortunately, I got an offer.

What is Norman like?

Norman is a great place in which to pursue a PhD. Norman is your quintessential college town that bleeds Crimson. It’s small but active. Of course, OKC is right up the road if you need larger city amenities.

Did you have prior research experience?

I had written a thesis for my MS in Economics, but nothing other than that. However, I don’t think you need research experience to pursue a PhD here. If you bring a willingness to learn and work hard you can learn how to be a researcher.

What has the quality of mentoring been like?

I learned very quickly after attending a few conferences and doctoral consortiums that the mentoring at OU is unparalleled and something I certainly hope our PhD students never take for granted. I’ve worked mostly with Dr. Jeremy Short, who has been instrumental in shaping me as a future scholar and someone I owe a great deal. I wouldn’t be where I am today without him. I’ve also learned a considerable amount from working with Dr. Lowell Busenitz. Very few get to learn from someone who has been instrumental in shaping their entire field. What’s great about Price is the mentoring often extends beyond just your department. For example, Dr. Michael Buckley in the Division of Management & International Business was extremely helpful to me in navigating the job market.

What have you enjoyed most about the program?

The best part of our program is how rapidly it develops you into a scholar. You start working on publishable research projects very early, learning the ins and outs of academic writing, coming up with research ideas, getting better at methods, and learning the publication process. You will go from knowing
very little when you first arrive to developing and leading multiple research projects within a matter of a few short years.

**How have you been supported in your job search?**

The support during the job search was great. Several faculty members reached out to their network to vouch for me. I went through several mock interviews before going on the job market. In addition, our faculty worked with me to make sure my job talk presentation was near perfect before I went on campus visits. They also helped me navigate the negotiations for my tenure-track position in Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

**How have you been supported in your research?**

I’ve always had everything I’ve needed. Our faculty are willing to provide timely feedback on projects and help develop our work. From a financial standpoint, whether it’s been chair money, department funds, or a grant, I’ve always had the funds needed to move my research forward.

**How has the teaching experience been?**

Teaching is fun! I have found the students in Price to be quite receptive to learning, and they respond well when you challenge them. There is a great deal of autonomy and freedom provided to PhD students in how they run their classroom. This allows you to meet both the students’ and your needs when it comes to teaching.

**What is your best accomplishment?**

This is a difficult question. As a researcher, I’m tempted to say that publishing 4 papers in top journals is my biggest accomplishment. This took a tremendous amount work and effort. However, I’ve also mentored student groups through their annual statewide business plan competition with one group (so far!) making it all the way to finals. Watching their skills develop dramatically first hand is amazing and knowing you had a role in that is hard to beat.
Why did you pursue a PhD?

While studying for my bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the University of Illinois, I took a specific interest in how money's influence on social development has a significant impact on the development of current accounting rules and regulations as well as the application and interpretation of these rules in real-world practice. After completing my master's degree, I had planned to continue my studies by obtaining my doctoral degree in accounting and to become an accounting professor and researcher in the accounting field. However, due to the recent worldwide economic downturn, I had to put my plans on hold and find work in order to help financially support my family. I was fortunate enough to receive a job offer from KPMG – Los Angeles in 2008. Four years later, with the opportunity offered by the Accounting Doctoral Scholars (ADS) program, I was able to pursue a PhD.

Why did you choose OU?

The Accounting Division has a relatively small PhD program, but its faculty members were very active in research and dedicated to PhD student development. In addition, PhD students were not required to teach until their third year, which allowed students to get a head start on their research before they have to dedicate significant time to the classroom. Further, OU’s commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive environment was a significant factor to consider for my decision. Considering all the factors, OU was the one.

What is Norman Like?

Norman is a great college community. Living in a college town allows residents to tap into economic stability that university provides and the creative energy that students bring. In addition, the accessibility to the bigger city like Dallas (less than 3 hours of driving) was a big attraction.

Did you have prior research experience?

No, I did not have any prior research experience prior to joining the OU PhD program. But, before I joined the program, it was recommended that I read a couple of literature review papers by OU faculty members. Reading those articles was definitely useful in allowing me to get more familiar with their research.

What has the quality of mentoring been like?

OU professors who mentored me (for instance, my dissertation committee members - Dr. Jensen, Dr. Black, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hennes and Dr. Miranda) were great professors who provided excellent support in a number of forums (e.g., through research projects, participating in seminars and workshops, and so forth). In addition, they showed me that accounting professors should have strong technical knowledge of accounting theories and be able to demonstrate these theories to students in real-world business applications. They also shared knowledge based on their experiences in their research or work and provided very developmental feedback on my research ideas. I am very fortunate to have had great role models at OU.
What have you enjoyed most about the program?

The research environment. Unlike other programs, the faculty in the Price College have an open-door policy, and faculty members are always willing to discuss research ideas with Ph.D students and give advice or comment on their projects. Also, our accounting group is very congenial. Such an environment allowed me to have a lot of discussions with faculty members as well as other Ph.D students. I learned a lot from those discussions.

How have you been supported in your job search?

I definitely benefited from my job market paper workshop, which was suggested by my advisor, Dr. Kevan Jensen. All the faculty members attended the workshop and gave me top-level quality thoughts and comments, which enabled me to think thoroughly a couple of critical points before the fly-out. In addition, the faculty on my dissertation committee helped me identify schools that are a good fit for me, and they were willing to reach out the contacts at schools that I applied. Thanks, in part, to their efforts, I have accepted a tenure-track position at the D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

How have you been supported in your research?

I think OU has been great in supporting research. OU’s training is excellent in helping students to be a good researchers. Various programs like Intro to Academe, accounting seminars, and fully-supported brown bags are the examples. Also, OU provides a wide range of datasets so that I was able to access to almost all the public databases necessary for my research.

How has the teaching experience been?

I have enjoyed teaching a lot at OU! I was able to structure and run the courses with a great deal of autonomy. The faculty was willing to share their teaching materials, which was incredibly helpful. In the classroom, I was surprised at how hard students worked. Their attitudes toward learning inspired me to teach more effectively. With the teaching experience I gained at OU, I feel that I am prepared to teach other classes in my new job.
Each year the Price College PhD Program hosts a Distinguished Lecturer – a researcher with significant accomplishments in his or her field of study. The lecturers share the secrets of their success with Price College PhD students and share insights about their research and career. The 2016-2017 Distinguished Lecturer, who visited OU in April 2017, was Dr. Moran Cerf, an assistant professor of neuroscience and marketing at the Kellogg School of Management and the neuroscience program at Northwestern University. Dr. Cerf holds a Ph.D in neuroscience from Caltech, as well as an MA in Philosophy and a B.Sc in Physics from Tel-Aviv University. His research uses methods from neuroscience to understand the underlying mechanisms of psychology, behavior changes, emotion, decision-making, and dreams. He holds multiple patents and his works have been published in wide-circulation academic journals such as Nature, as well as popular science journals such as Scientific American Mind, Wired, New Scientist and more. Additionally, his work has been portrayed in numerous media and cultural outlets such as CNN, BBC, Bloomberg, NPR, Time, MSNBC, and dozens of others. Dr. Cerf is also the Alfred P. Sloan professor at the American Film Institute (AFI), where he teaches an annual screen-writing class on science in films, and is a consultant to various Hollywood films and TV shows, such as CBS’ “Bull” and “Limitless,” USA Network’s “Mr. Robot” and “Falling Water,” and more. During his visit, Professor Cerf interacted with Price College PhD students multiple times, including a private breakfast with PhD students and a faculty-wide presentation of his research: “Using the Brain in Business; How Recent Results from Neuroscience Shape Our Understanding of Decision Making.”
In 2017, I had the incredible opportunity to study abroad as part of my Ph.D. experience at OU. I had the opportunity to travel to Vietnam and Cambodia with undergraduate and graduate students, as well as with professors and alumni. International Business is not only a research interest, but a teaching interest for me as well. In the future, I hope to plan and execute study abroad trips with students of my own so this trip provided the opportunity to learn about Vietnam and Cambodia as well as learn how to make study abroad trips the most effective space for learning.

I found the amount and breadth of companies that we saw in our visit to Vietnam and Cambodia to be wildly impressive. Dr. Shaffer’s approach to study abroad programs is to limit classroom time and maximize time spent with organizations in country. On this trip we visited 15 companies, ranging from state own enterprises like Petro Vietnam, to small startups like Appable. We saw machine manufacturing at PNG, jewelry manufacturing at PNJ, and real estate/service companies like the Imperial Group. Most impressively, we saw a range of American owned businesses operating in Vietnam, like GE, as well as Vietnamese owned business that are expanding to other countries, like Kova. We also spent some time learning about how the American government operates in Vietnam at the American Consulate and the American Chamber of Commerce. These visits offered an excellent introduction to many aspects of business in Vietnam and we had the freedom to ask a wide range of questions to high-level leaders in organizations that operate there.

The World Bank has recently promoted Vietnam out of “developing country” status, mainly due to their economic growth, a radical reduction in poverty, and improvements in social outcomes such as infant mortality, life expectancy, and infrastructure improvements. Though I have traveled to economies labeled as developed and developing, I had not been to a country recently promoted. A country in this category creates some inconsistencies in their behavior that was
very interesting to me. For example, it was clear that many businesses and individuals were prospering given the number of luxury clothes and cars that we saw, but most Vietnamese still do not trust banks and will not get loans, except from family. Another challenge that we learned from the companies that we visited where that they were growing and expanding, but while manufacturing labor was cheap, they struggled to find an educated workforce. Imperial Group is addressing this challenge by building a hotel school to meet their needs and FPT Corporation created FPT University to train technical talent. It seems to me that Vietnam is advancing and growing in some areas but facing growing pains and a new reality in other areas.

The massive expansion in their economy in the past 30 years and westernization of Vietnamese culture seems to have ignited an entrepreneurial spirit in the Vietnamese people. The first example of this is Kelly Tran, OU graduate and the founder and CEO of Appable. We met Kelly before our trip and learned about her journey to found the tech start up, as well as learn about her crusade to make Oklahoma a tech friendly locale. When we were in Ho Chi Minh City, Kelly met us with us to visit several companies and to visit the Appable office to meet her developers and learn about their projects. I saw so much energy in her and her employees to do something new and interesting in the world! Beyond Appable, I saw the same spirit while walking through the streets of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. We saw so many shops and food vendors! I was surprised to find out that this is quite a profitable business. Our tour guide explained that the woman selling tea on the corner made about $700 per month while the average salary in Vietnam is about $300 per month!

There are a couple of takeaways from this trip that I will carry with me in my future career as a professor. First, the incredible value of company visits vs. classroom in study abroad courses. In my MBA, I completed a study abroad course in Milan, Italy at Bocconi University. We spent most of those days in classroom completing a project, and while I learned a lot, I do not feel like I was exposed to business in Italy. The company visits on the Vietnam and Cambodia trip were phenomenal and I cannot believe all of the exposure to business in Vietnam that we had in a short two weeks.

My second takeaway was the expectation that I now have of the scheduling and logistics of a trip like this. I hope to lead study abroad trips in the future and this trip set the bar for work that I will need to put in on making connections, planning visits, and coordinating a class with this much rich learning for students. Last, I found it amazing that such high-level managers and executives were willing to meet with students and share so much information! The companies that we met gave us excellent access and information to understand their business success and challenge. I will definitely take advantage of this willingness in the future!

A study abroad experience is unique within a Ph.D. program but I feel this experience exposed me to new and interesting concepts that will make me a better researcher as well as a better teacher.
The Price College of Business held its annual Honors Luncheon on May 5, 2017, and two of our PhD students were recognized for their outstanding achievements during the year. Specifically, Heather Anderson (pictured with Dean Pullin) from the Division of Management & International Business received the Teaching Award and Aaron Anglin (also pictured with Dean Pullin) from the Division of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development received the Research Award.
Publications

Anderson, Heather (M&IB)


Anglin, Aaron (EED)


Black, Jeffrey (FIN)


Guernsey, Scott (FIN)


Lattanzio, Gabriele (FIN)

Reid, Shane (M&IB)


Ahn, Jaehan (ACCT)

“The Effects of Audit-Firm Monopoly within Local Audit Markets,” presented at the 2017 AAA International Accounting Section Midyear Meeting, Tampa, FL.

“The Effects of Audit-Firm Monopoly within Local Audit Markets,” presented at the 2017 AAA Auditing Section Midyear Meeting, Orlando, FL.

“The Effects of Audit-Firm Monopoly within Local Audit Markets,” presented at Northeastern University, Boston, MA 2016.


“Effect of Interlocking Audit Committee Members on Audit Fees and the Role of Social Capital,” presented at the 2016 AAA Southwest Regional Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK (with K. Jensen).

“Quality Control in Audit Firms: Do Auditors Learn from Going Concern Errors?” presented at the 2015 Brigham Young University Accounting Research Symposium, Provo, UT (with K. Jensen).

“Quality Control in Audit Firms: Do Auditors Learn from Going Concern Errors?” presented at the 2015 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (with K. Jensen).

Anderson, Heather (M&IB)


Anglin, Aaron (EED)


Black, Jeffrey (FIN)


Brockbank, Bryan (ACCT)

“Do Non-GAAP Exclusions Impact the Extent to Which Current Returns Reflect Future Earnings Information?” presented at the 2016 Brigham Young University Accounting Research Symposium, Provo, UT.

“Do Non-GAAP Exclusions Impact the Extent to Which Current Returns Reflect Future Earnings Information?” presented at the 2016 Miami Rookie Camp, Miami, FL.


“Strategic Timing of 8-K Filings by Privately Owned Firms” presented at the 2016 AAA Southwest Regional Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK (with K. Hennes).


Farnsel, Curtis (ACCT)


Guernsey, Scott (FIN)

**Guernsey, Scott** (cont...)  


**Jemiolo, Shannon** (ACCT)  

**Lattanzio, Gabriele** (FIN)  


“International Relations and Sovereign Wealth Funds’ Political Value: Evidence from a Quasi-Natural Experiment,” 2017 Wake Forest University Law Spring Symposium (With William L. Megginson )

**Pugachev, Leo** (FIN)  


**Smith, Mark** (ACCT)  

Tian, C. (MIS)


Wang, Dawei (MIS)

“Community Knowledge and Engagement: An Investigation of Diffusion of Three IT Innovations.” Presented at the 2017 Big XII+ MIS Symposium, University of Nebraska, Omaha (with S. Miranda, and I. Kim).

“Structuration of Community Knowledge and Community Engagement: Social Media, the Internet of Things, and Big Data.” Accepted for presentation at the 2017 Academy of Management Conference, Atlanta, GA (with S. Miranda, and I. Kim).


Zheng, Yi (MKT)


Ahn, Jaehan (ACCT)
2016 Outstanding Teaching Award, John T. Steed School of Accounting
2016 AAA Deloitte J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium Fellow
2015 AAA Auditing Section Doctoral Consortium Fellow

Anderson, Heather (M&IB)
2017 Price College PhD Student Teaching Award

Anglin, Aaron (EED)
2017 Price College PhD Student Research Award

Black, Jeff (FIN)
Semi-Finalist for Best Paper, FMA Asia-Pacific Meetings (2016)
2015 Outstanding Service and Citizenship Award, Michael F. Price College of Business PhD Program

Brockbank, Bryan (ACCT)
2016 Steed School of Accounting Outstanding Research Assistant Award
2015 AAA.Deloitte/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium Fellow

Farnsel, Curtis (ACCT)
2017 AAA/Deloitte/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium Fellow

Guernsey, Scott (FIN)
2014 Mark J. Bertus Prize Finalist

Smith, Mark (ACCT)
2016 Michael F. Price College of Business Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award