

*Kathleen Neset, Owner  
& Geologist at Neset  
Consulting Services  
spoke at Lunch & Learn  
in December*

## Gary Tharaldson School of Business

### Alumni Newsletter

Connecting Alumni with the University  
of Mary and the Greater Community

January 2015

#### University of Mary

Christian, Catholic, and Benedictine, the University  
of Mary exists to serve the religious, academic, and  
cultural needs of people in this region and beyond.

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## The Dean's Message



**NEW IN 2015:** In the spring semester, a new "Political Series" will be launched, inviting elected officials—such as Senator John Hoeven, Senator Heidi Heitkamp, and Congressman Kevin Cramer—to discuss regional, national and international issues. Also, GTSB will launch a "Backpacks to Briefcase" experiential learning seminar for seniors to assist their transition to the workplace. A successful Internship Fair was held in September. GTSB will host an Internship Fair on February 4 and a Career Fair on March 19.

**THE ALUMNI ARE VERY IMPORTANT** to the University of Mary, and I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year as we begin an exciting, productive and meaningful semester at the Gary Tharaldson School of Business (GTSB).

The first semester of the 2014-15 academic year was filled with significant events focused on realizing the three main goals of Vision 2030, the university's strategic growth plan: Distinction, Service and Relationships. In September, the entire GTSB faculty spent four days at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN on retreat, focusing on the vocation of business leadership and Catholic social thought with an emphasis on business ethics. All professors and staff members will strive to keep these values central to their curricula and interactions with students.

A monthly "Lunch & Learn Series," co-sponsored by the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, was launched in September. The series featured prominent speakers, including Msgr. James Shea; Governor Jack Dalrymple; Steve Scheel, CEO of Scheels All Sports; and Kathleen Neset, President of Neset Consulting Services, Inc. More than 200 businesspersons and professionals from Bismarck and Mandan, along with University of Mary staff and students, attended each presentation. Please join us for the upcoming Lunch & Learn Series, detailed on the newsletter's back cover.

Richard M. Brandt, Director of the Iacocca Institute at Lehigh University, visited GTSB for three days in October to speak about and promote the institute's Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry program. Last summer, two GTSB undergraduates attended the annual five-week intensive program in Lehigh, Pennsylvania. Next summer, I will present a seminar and serve as a panelist at Global Village.

In October, GTSB faculty toured Bobcat Company's Acceleration Center to experience firsthand how a global business innovates and markets its product line.

We continue to pursue our core mission of instilling Benedictine values in our students to create virtuous, ethical practitioners with servant leadership deeply embedded in their DNA. Only in this way can business be a "force for good" in society. *Go Marauders!*



### Benedictine Commitment

*At the apex of GTSB programs will always be the Benedictine values of community, hospitality, moderation, prayer, respect for persons and service.*

# Hager Appointed New VP for Financial Affairs

**MARY B. HAGER**, an Assistant Professor at GTSB, was appointed Vice President for Financial Affairs, effective January 5. "I love teaching, so it was a difficult decision to change positions," Hager said in an interview. "But as much as I will miss the classroom and my colleagues, I can serve the students and mission of the University of Mary in different and meaningful ways as vice president."

Hager earned a BA in French and Political Science from the University of North Dakota and an MBA in Accountancy from the University of Mary ('09). She is also a Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

Hager began her career as a financial manager for the US Air Force in San Bernardino, CA. In 1988, she was awarded the USAF Cost Civilian of the Year for her work developing cost estimates



Mary Hager

for the Peacemaker Rail Garrison, a mobile nuclear missile system. The program reached prototype phase but was cancelled at the end of the Cold War.

From 1993 to 2005, Hager worked as a financial analyst and then as the corporate controller

at MDU Resources Group, Inc., a publicly traded S&P Mid-Cap 400 company, in Bismarck. Two years later, she joined GTSB and taught undergraduate courses in the principles of accounting, intermediate accounting, advanced accounting, accounting capstone and financial management.

Last May, Hager traveled to Israel with Fr. Benedict Fischer and a group of Mary students. "It was life-changing to visit Bethlehem, Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre, and touch the Stone of Unction. Now when I listen to a reading at Mass, I reflect on Scripture from having been there."

Looking forward, "I will work to provide the financial information and IT systems we need to fully implement Vision 2030. I seek to make this the best place possible to work, so we can better fulfill the mission God placed us here to realize as servant leaders."

# Online Accounting Ranks Second in US, Top in Region

**GTSB'S ONLINE ACCOUNTING PROGRAM** was ranked second nationwide and first in the five-state region by Affordable Colleges Online in its "Best Accounting Degree Programs 2014-2015" category. This website identifies "higher educational opportunities that hit the cost and quality sweet spot."

Online programs are gaining popularity among candidates who work full- or part-time. Students can study according to their schedules and so, as the cyber-cliché goes, "they earn while they learn."

Affordable Colleges' ranking is based on factors including school accreditation, affordability, student support resources and preparation for the Uniform CPA Examination. Tuition at GTSB is comparable to public universities and up to eight times less than at other private institutions. One of five GTSB undergrads major in accounting, and the student pass rate on the CPA exam exceeds the national norm.

Susann Cuperus, Director of the Accounting Program, said students are drawn to the program



Susann Cuperus

because it is student-centered, providing ethical, practical training from experts. Online courses demand the same rigor expected in the classroom, using technology to help students learn and apply lessons immediately to business situations.

# A. KIRK LANTERMAN



SOVAK



KOZOJED



SAUTNER



FENNEWALD



WARFORD

## Who's Who at the GTSB

**KAREL SOVAK, PHD** is an Associate Professor and the Program Director for the Marketing, Management and Healthcare Administration degrees. He earned a BA in History and an MS in Management from Minot State University, and a PhD in Applied Management and Decision Sciences from Walden University. Sovak advises the Collegiate DECA campus chapter and he is also the co-founder of the IDEA Center, a business incubator serving the Bismarck-Mandan area. In 2014, Sovak made presentations to the Executive Women's Administration at Sanford Health, to Global Village at Lehigh University, and to the North Dakota Governor's Workforce & HR Conference.

**CAROLINE KOZOJED, PHD** (candidate) is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Experiential Education. She also serves as the University of Mary's faculty athletics representative. Kozojed earned a BS in Psychology from Jamestown College, where she was a Wilson scholar; an MS in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Tennessee; and she is currently completing a PhD in Occupational and Adult Education at North Dakota State University. In 2010, Kozojed joined GTSB's faculty and two years later, she was named to the Bismarck Tribune's "40 Under 40" list of area business leaders.

**RHODA SAUTNER, PHD CPA** is an Assistant Professor, teaching undergraduate classes in accounting and human resources, and graduate classes in organizational behavior and human resources. She earned a BA in Business Administration, a BS in Accounting and an MS in Management from Minot State University,

and a PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Capella University. Sautner regularly participates in question writing conferences through the American Institute of CPAs for the Uniform CPA Examination.

**JENNIFER J. FENNEWALD, PHD** (candidate) is a Business and Information Technology instructor. She earned a BS in Computer Information Systems and an MBA from the University of Dubuque, and an MSCIS (Masters in Computer Systems), and a MHRM (Masters in Human Resource Management), and is completing a PhD in Healthcare Administration from the University of Phoenix. She taught programming and technology for the University of Phoenix for five years before joining GTSB last year. Fennewald has over 20 years experience, working previously at IBM, Rite-Hite Corporation and McKesson Corporation.

**MYRON SCHULZ, MS** is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Sport and Leisure Management Program. He earned a BS in Social and Behavioral Science and Physical Education from the University of Mary ('87), and an MS in Health and Human Development from Montana State University. Schulz joined the University of Mary in 1995 as an assistant varsity football coach. He served as the Marauders' head football coach from 1999 to 2013, compiling a 97-55 record including four championship seasons.

**AMY TSCHIDER, BS** is the Director of Corporate Relations. She earned a BS in Social Behavioral Sciences ('97) from the University of Mary. Tschider taught 7th-grade social science for two and a half years. Then she worked as a sales representative for Merck & Co. throughout North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin for 13 years. In February 2014, Tschider joined GTSB as the Business Partnership Coordinator



SCHULZ

TSCHIDER

KREIN

CUPERUS

FISHBECK

in the Worldwide Department. Her responsibilities included outreach to local and regional businesses and organizations to drive student enrollment. In August 2014, Tschider was promoted to her current position.

**LEVI KREIN, MS** is an Associate Professor who joined the University of Mary faculty in 1987. He earned a BS in Business Education and German from Dickinson State University, and an MS in Business and Vocational Education from the University of North Dakota. Currently Krein teaches courses in the Computer Information Systems and Information Technology Management (CIS/ITM) program.

**SUSANN CUPERUS, CPA CFE** is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Accounting Program. She earned a BA in Biology from Augustana College, a BS in Secondary Education from the University of North Dakota, and a BS in Accounting ('92) and an MS in College Teaching ('00) from the University of Mary. Cuperus joined the GTSB faculty in 1998 and received the Regent's Award for Teaching Faculty in 2007. Three years later, she was nominated for the regional Outstanding Teacher of the Year in Higher Education. Cuperus is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Fraud Examiner. Previously, she worked for seven years at the North Dakota Attorney General's Office where she audited charitable gaming organizations.

**KEVIN FISHBECK, PHD** is an Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems and Chair of Undergraduate Studies. He earned a BS and an MA in Business Education from Northern State University, and a PhD Teaching and Learning from the University of North Dakota. Previously, Fishbeck taught at Bismarck State College (1997-2001), where he won

the Outstanding Faculty Award in 1999, and at Sitting Bull College, where was recognized as Faculty of the Year in 1991. Fishbeck joined GTSB in 2001, helped revitalize the computer information systems curriculum and created a new major, Information Technology Management. He is certified by Microsoft and Cisco, and is the CEO and owner of Fishbeck Technology Consulting, providing expertise to local churches, schools and small businesses.

**RAQUEL JESSEN, MBA** (not shown) is an Assistant Professor of Graduate Programs. She earned a BS in Business Administration from Dickinson State University and an MBA from the University of Mary ('05). Previously Jessen worked for Rasmussen College as the Assistant Campus Director. She has 20 years of management experience in higher education and the transportation industry. Jessen has extensive experience in teaching, admissions, retention, advising, scheduling, strategic planning, succession planning and team building.

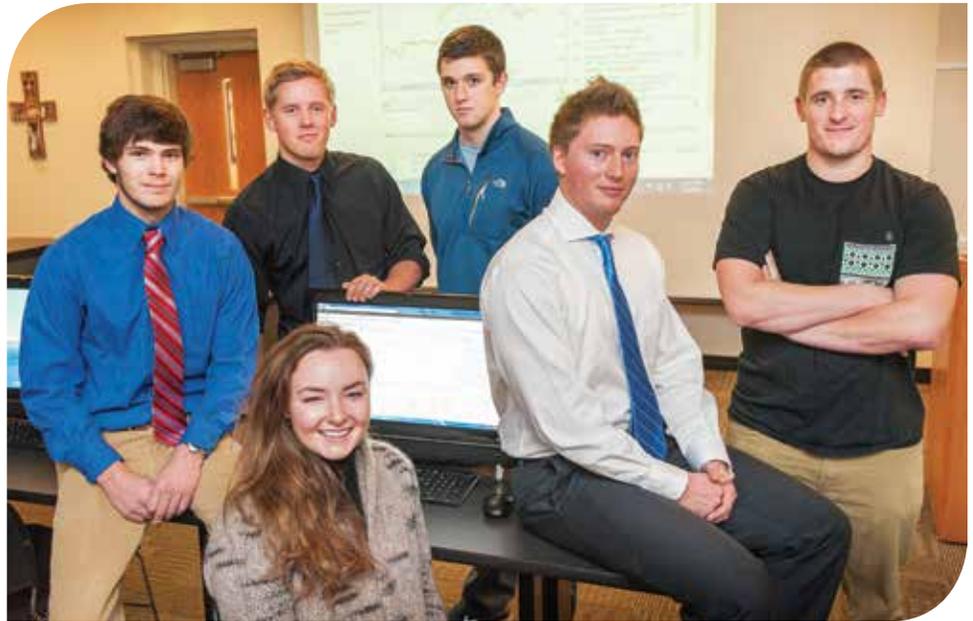
**JIM LONG, PHD SPHR** (not shown) is an Associate Professor and Chair of Graduate and Distance Education. He earned a BS in Business Administration ('98), a Master's of Management ('01) and an MBA ('01) from the University of Mary, and a PhD in Organization and Management from Capella University. Long was also awarded certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) in 2005. He has published articles on such topics as leadership, workforce motivation and Six Sigma in publications such as AnswerStat Magazine and Conocimiento y Desarrollo Magazine. From 1988 to 1993, Long served in the Marine Corps including action in Operation Desert Storm. His military decorations include a Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy.

# Student Investment Club Beats S&P 500

**IN THE FALL**, the Student Equity Club rebranded as the University of Mary Investment Club (UMIC) with Professor Myron Schulz as the new club manager. Michael Vollrath ('15), UMIC's president and a finance major, consulted with Jason Naas, an Edward Jones financial adviser, to create stricter investment guidelines and define the club's investment focus on "undervalued stocks, based on fundamental indicators such as price-to-earnings, price-to-book and other key ratios."

The investment club was founded in 2009 with a generous \$100,000 donation from Kirk and Janet Lanterman. The fund was valued at \$132,532 when Vollrath became club president in the fall of 2013. At 2014 year-end, the fund had grown to \$159,927, with 14.28 percent return compared to 13.68 percent for the S&P 500.

"The club's purpose is to educate students on financial



Clockwise from front: Hannah Haynes ('15), Michael Sisk ('17), Seth Meide ('17), Stefan Boehm ('16), Kyle Holetz ('15), Michael Vollrath ('15).

analysis and making wise investment choices," Vollrath said. "The main goal for 2015 is to reallocate our twenty-five percent investment in mutual funds into stocks. Otherwise we are paying others to do the work we should do."

Also, in March UMIC plans to send several members to observe the Quinnipiac Global Asset Management Education V Forum in New York City, as preparation to enter the Forum's competition next year.

## GTSB Program Turns Sport Passion into Career

**IN NORTH DAKOTA** and across America, there's no shortage of passion for watching and playing sports, as well as for engaging in the full range of leisure activities and entertainment events. Since 2009, GTSB's Sport and Leisure Management (SLM) program enables students to turn what they love into a successful career.

Assistant Professor Myron Schulz, the Marauders former head football coach, took over as the program's director last fall. Schulz emphasizes SLM's Benedictine servant leadership dimensions. "Students concentrate on meeting the needs of fans and athletes, rather than exclusively on their participation," he said. "The sport major shifts focus from the game

or event to what must happen to make it a reality, including managing parking, concessions, ticketing and merchandising."

Students follow a traditional business curriculum with an added concentration in sport management. Students learn about marketing and branding from guest speakers such as the president of Cloverdale Meats, which supplies hot dogs for Seattle Mariners home games. Students apply classroom knowledge, for example, by participating in game management at Marauders home basketball games.

Capstone projects have included examining economic multiplier effects of such facilities as the Bismarck Event Center.

Last fall, SLM students attended the ninth annual Minnesota Twins Sports Internship & Career Fair in Minneapolis. The students interviewed with more than 30 employers, including representatives for the Twins, Vikings and Timberwolves. Also, the Bismarck community offers many internship opportunities, including with the Bobcats Hockey Team and the Raging Rivers Water Park.

GTSB's mentorship program helps students graduate job-ready. Adam Cebulla ('17) is being mentored by Floyd Jahner, CFO of the Dallas Mavericks, who graduated from the University of Mary in 1981 with a BS in Business Administration and Accounting.

# Focus on Alumni

**RON NESS** earned a Master's of Management from the University of Mary in 1998. He then served as President of the North Dakota Retail and Petroleum Marketers Association for a year and a half, before being hired for his current position as President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC).

"At the University of Mary I learned what I needed for success, especially communications, advanced business writing and human resource management skills," Ness said in an interview. "The University of Mary is poised to become a leader in higher education. I'm very impressed with the graduates I hire. They are academically prepared and know how to conduct themselves in the workplace. In North Dakota's rapidly changing economy, the university adapts quickly to employers' needs rather than hoping what they teach will somehow match job opportunities."

At NDPC, Ness's primary functions are to serve as the industry spokesperson and governmental relations. "I need to be a reliable source of information, a trusted communicator and a problem-solver," Ness often says in media interviews and speeches. "The Bakken is the learning curve of responsible production of oil from shale for the world." Ness headed an industry task force to make recommendations about reducing flare gas to the ND Industrial Commission,

as one of many examples of collaboration between the public and private sectors, and these measures are being implemented.

Reflecting on the state's economy in 2015, Ness said oil, like wheat, is a commodity subject to market corrections. "This will likely be a challenging year. We have seen a fifty-percent drop in oil prices that will affect new exploration, which is a substantial economic multiplier." Bakken oil is a world-class resource, he emphasized, so companies will try to maintain their workforce and tune up critical infrastructure, as they prepare to develop the oil fields when prices recover.

From 1994 to 1998, Ness served as the ND Deputy Commissioner of Labor. Other career highlights include appointments by Governors Hoeven and Dalrymple to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, ND Oil's and Gas Research Council and the EmPower Commission.

Currently, Ness serves on the Board of Directors of the Energy Environmental Research Center's Foundation, and he coaches his son's Little League team.

Ness's wife Becky also graduated from Mary with a BS in Radiologic Technology ('96) and she continues to work in this field. Ron and Becky enjoy outdoor sport, including golf and hunting, and spending time with their son and two daughters.



## Alumni Connections

### Give Back to University of Mary

Providing the best education for current and future students requires continual investments at an increasing cost. Please consider becoming a University of Mary donor. To do so, please go to [www.umary.edu/giving](http://www.umary.edu/giving) to contribute by debit card or to pledge a gift by check.

### In the News? Changes?

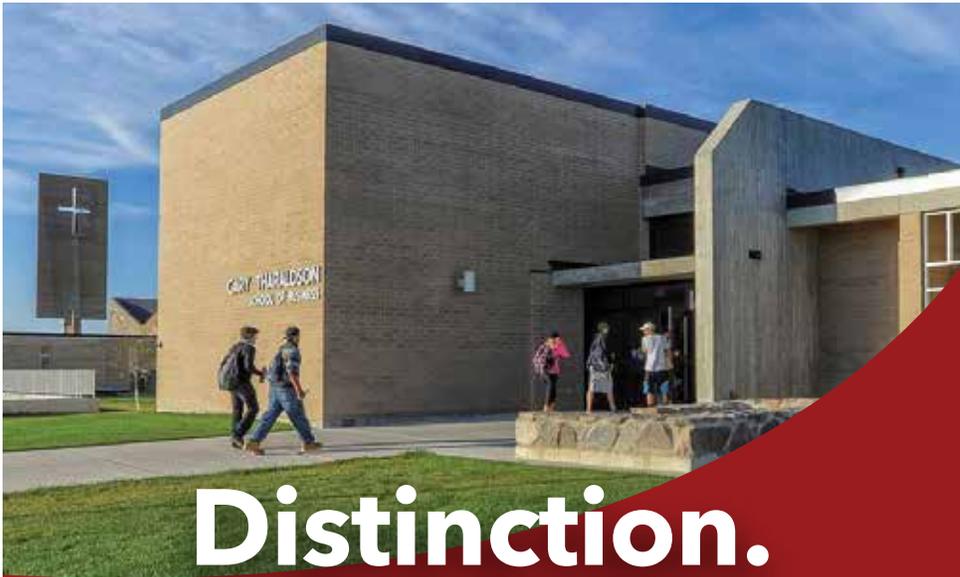
If you or your business has been in the news recently, please let us know. Also if you have changed your address, telephone number or career, please inform us via the "Keep in Touch" form, available at [www.umary/forms/alumni](http://www.umary/forms/alumni).

### Career Advancement

The only thing better than being an alum of the University of Mary is doing it again. GTSB offers many graduate degree programs that might suit your career aspirations at an affordable price. Programs are offered in online, blended and traditional formats.

### Contact Info

For all alumni-related issues or for more information, please contact Paul Keeney, Director of Alumni by email ([alumni@umary.edu](mailto:alumni@umary.edu)) or by phone: **(800) 408-6279 x8370** or **(701) 355-8370**.



# Distinction. Service. Leadership.

Visionary leaders stir others and inspire them to discover and cultivate their best gifts and talents.

Through our **Lunch & Learn Series**, the University of Mary and the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce invite our community to gather, learn and share with us.

**January 13 - Sr. Thomas Welder**  
*President Emerita, University of Mary*

**February 10 - Ms. Roxana Saberi**  
*Author, Journalist and Miss North Dakota 1997*

**March 10 - Mr. Clay Jenkinson**  
*American Humanities Scholar, Author and Educator*

**LUNCH FROM 11:20 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**SPEAKER PROMPTLY AT NOON**

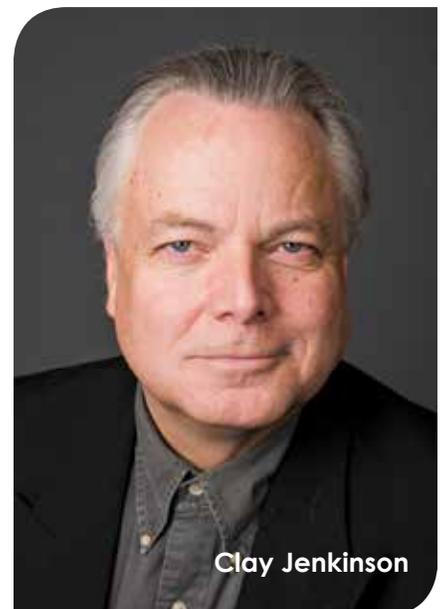
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Sister Thomas Welder



Roxana Saberi



Clay Jenkinson