It’s been a pivotal year for the Collat School of Business, one in which we took giant strides forward on a number of fronts. We posted record enrollments for our graduate and undergraduate programs, recruited high-caliber faculty, received the highest level of philanthropic support ever, and hosted a reaffirming AACSB accreditation maintenance visit.

This progress is truly exceptional considering our school’s youth. When our business school was formed in 1971, we taught 1,400 students with 22 full-time faculty. We have doubled in size since our inception 45 years ago, with the bulk of our growth coming in just the last five years. When our business school was formed in 1971, we taught 1,400 students with 22 full-time faculty. We have doubled in size since our inception 45 years ago, with the bulk of our growth coming in just the last five years. And while tenure of a business dean in the US averages just a few years, I am proud to say that I am only the sixth dean to lead our school, a testament to our UAB family’s support and commitment. The historical succession of our deans includes Dr. Jerry Young (1971 – 1976), Dr. Gene Newport (1974 -1996); Dr. Albert Niemi (1996-1997); Dr. Jack Duncan as Interim Dean (1997-1999); Dr. Robert Holmes (1999 – 2007); Dr. David Klock (2008-2012); and me.

Why does all of this matter? Because our growth is strategic. Growth provides us with opportunities: opportunities to graduate more students, opportunities to help the community meet its workforce needs, and opportunities to provide applied research that help businesses improve and grow. This growth has helped catapult us to a new level of stature on campus as the second largest school and the only named school at UAB.

Looking forward to 2017, we anticipate more success and broken records. Our new building at the western gateway to campus is currently under construction. We expect our new degree and certificate programs to draw even more enrollment. Our collaborations with other schools and units on campus are driving innovations in pedagogy and interdisciplinary opportunities for students and faculty. Our future, like our students’, is exceptionally bright, and we will continue to break new ground in 2017.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Jack, Ph.D.

Dean, Collat School of Business
COLLAT ADDS NEW BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAM

UAB students now have the opportunity to major in human resources with a dedicated Bachelor of Science in human resource management degree program. Previously, the Collat School of Business offered a degree in management with a concentration in human resources. The degree program was added in summer 2016.

An advisory council of human resource professionals working in the field advises Collat’s human resource management curriculum. This ensures the classes and course materials offer the most relevant information for human resource graduates entering the workforce, and that their knowledge, skills and abilities meet the needs of modern organizations hiring human resource professionals.

The curriculum for the new program covers various aspects of human resources and employment relations, including compensation, recruiting/staffing, employment law, leadership, and workplace diversity.

“In an ever-evolving workforce, more organizations are turning to HR managers to help them think strategically about recruiting, hiring, training and other HR practices,” says Collat School of Business Dean Eric Jack, Ph.D. “This new program seeks to address that rising demand, and give our graduates skills and knowledge that will make them attractive job candidates for this growing industry.”

NSF AWARDS UAB ICORPS SUB-GRANT TO FURTHER RESEARCH INNOVATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded the University of Alabama at Birmingham $135,000 to bolster entrepreneurship and as part of its Innovation Corps Nodes (I-Corps) program.

I-Corps is the premiere, federally funded innovation and commercialization program in the U.S. that has trained more than 800 teams, launched more than 320 companies and raised more than $83 million towards research innovation. NSF created the I-Corps Program in 2011 to train NSF-funded researchers to evaluate their scientific discoveries for commercial potential.

“I-Corps pairs researchers with business and industry mentors to create a team. These teams push innovation forward to the marketplace,” says Molly Wasko, Ph.D., associate dean of research, innovation and faculty success at the UAB Collat School of Business. The teams establish an innovative business model that outlines value propositions tied to customer segments to test the commercial viability of their discoveries.

According to the National Science Foundation, “I-Corps prepares scientists and engineers to extend their focus beyond the laboratory, and broadens the impact of select, NSF-funded basic research projects.”

The NSF has included UAB as part of the I-Corps South node, a regional innovation hub that includes the University of Alabama, the University of Tennessee and Georgia Institute of Technology. I-Corps nodes provide the training and research foundation for researchers at institutions across the south to move their discoveries to the commercialization process.

“UAB being a part of I-Corps South provides the Birmingham community a clear pathway for their ideas to become a commercial start-up,” says Wasko.

The grant will provide UAB an opportunity to expand its entrepreneurship and innovation programs, including Collat’s Innovation Lab (UAB iLab), an incubator for student business based in the Innovation Depot; the UAB Makerspace, a student-run hub that empowers entrepreneurial innovation, and the Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which will be housed in the new Collat School of Business building set to open in 2018.

I-Corps funding furthers opportunities for students to test their ideas for business potential while bringing together the Birmingham business and science communities in a cross-disciplinary setting. The grant reinforces UAB’s dedication to providing cutting-edge innovation and entrepreneurship to students and the community at large.

MBA PROGRAM ADDS NEW JOINT MD/DMD PROGRAM

The Collat School of Business and UAB’s School of Dentistry this year began offering a dual Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry and Master of Business Administration degree. The two schools partnered to develop a program, which provides dental students with the training and education to better understand the business side of health care through courses in accounting and finance, economics, marketing, management, health care innovation, operations, supply chain management, information technology and business strategy.
COLLAT BY THE NUMBERS

2ND LARGEST UNDERGRAD PROGRAM ON CAMPUS

COLLAT STUDENT RACIAL MAKEUP

- 58% White
- 26% Black/African American
- 6% Asian
- 2% Non-Resident Alien
- 3% Hispanic/Latin
- 4% 2 or More Races
- 1% Unknown

% OF BUSINESS STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AT LEAST ONE ONLINE CLASS

45% FEMALE 55% MALE

COLLAT STUDENT BODY

% OF BUSINESS STUDENTS ENROLLED ONLY ONLINE

80

41

19

22

2017 U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKING

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM

- Accounting: 752
- Economics: 50
- Finance: 193
- Industrial Distribution: 142
- Information Systems: 325
- Management: 515
- Marketing: 350
- Undeclared Business: 98

GRADUATE ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM

- Accounting: 147
- MBA: 253
- MIS: 105
- Certificate Programs: 2

% OF COLLAT ENROLLMENT GROWTH IN 5 YEARS

46
Accounting and IS Student Wins First Place Team At Beta Alpha Psi Annual Meeting

Accounting and Information Systems student Alon Elezra won first place in the 2016 Project Run With It team competition as part of the Beta Alpha Psi Annual Meeting held in Baltimore. He was a member of the first place team for “Case A-Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults, team A6.” Alon represented the UAB Delta Chi chapter of Beta Alpha Psi. He received a plaque with his name, Delta Chi’s name and a monetary gift of $1,000 for the Delta Chi chapter.

Accounting Students Selected for Prestigious AICPA Workshop

Accounting students Malik Peggea, Latei Iyegha and Courtney Averitte were selected to attend the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop held in Durham, North Carolina. Only 100 students nationwide were selected to attend this highly selective workshop.

Industrial Distribution Student Named Mr. UAB

Eli Ussery was named Mr. UAB as part of the Mr. and Ms. UAB scholarship competition held by the UAB National Alumni Society. Eli is a junior majoring in industrial distribution and is in the Honors College Personalized Curriculum. He was named Orientation Leader of the Year, is corresponding secretary for Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity.
UAB officials and Birmingham business leaders are celebrating the start of construction for a new building that will house the Collat School of Business and Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Community leaders including Charles Collat, Mayer Electric chairman emeritus, Ed Aldag of Medical Properties Trust, and Billy Harbert of BL Harbert International helped shovel the first pile of dirt at the site, ceremoniously kicking off construction of the project, which began in December 2016 and is expected to last 18 months.

“We're very pleased to have construction underway,” said Eric Jack, Ph.D., dean of the Collat School of Business. “We believe that, when completed, this state-of-the-art facility will truly allow us to transform what we do at UAB. This new building will facilitate excellence in our long-standing teaching mission and will be a collaborative space where students can engage in hands-on projects with intellectual property owned by the university to write business plans and start new companies. What a wonderful, bold idea to support "Innovate Birmingham," a new initiative to develop Birmingham’s innovation district.”

The new building will provide adequate space for growth of the Collat School of Business and Harbert IIE through creating multidimensional learning spaces that include breakout rooms for team projects, engaging space for entrepreneurial projects, classrooms designed for team-based learning, a high-tech trading and finance lab, labs for behavioral research and sales presentations, a three-story atrium optimal for social interactions and leadership activities, career services space, and study rooms for students.

“By housing these two entities under the same roof, this facility will be a new home for innovation on our campus, and will play a future role in the growth of UAB and the growth of innovation and technology in Birmingham,” said UAB President Ray L. Watts. “We want to express our deep gratitude to our generous donors who have partnered with us to make this facility possible.”

Gifts given by local businesses such as the Joy and Bill Harbert Foundation, Medical Properties Trust, Regions Bank, and Kassouf & Co. exemplify the support of the community in furthering this project, which will be the cornerstone of efforts to expand technology commercialization to attain positive impacts on economic development for the community, state and beyond.

Located along the north side of University Boulevard between 12th and 13th streets south, the building is designed to attract and support the next generation of undergraduate and graduate students with the goal of facilitating a sense of community, affiliation and connection to UAB through modern, collaborative and business-specific learning areas. It will also allow the university to recruit topnotch faculty and further innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The building will consist of approximately 110,000 gross square feet of space to house administrative and student function space for the Collat School of Business and Harbert IIE, as well as the Center for Sales Leadership, the Healthcare Leadership Academy and the Regions Institute for Financial Education.

Completion of this project will allow these cross-discipline entities to co-locate in the same facility, fostering increased collaboration and forming a bridge between undergraduate and graduate students and the marketplace.

From an exterior perspective, the plan for the overall architecture of the building is in keeping with the recently completed Hill Student Center, featuring a combination of traditional building materials and contemporary building elements.

Williams Blackstock Architects of Birmingham and Robert A.M. Stern Architects of New York City are serving as the architects of record on this project. Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC, will be in charge of construction. 
Alumnus Names Finance Lab in Collat’s New Building

Senior Vice President and Regional Manager for Capital One Multifamily Finance in Birmingham Chad Thomas Hagwood has made a substantial gift to name the Finance Lab in the new Collat School of Business building.

The Chad Thomas Hagwood Finance Lab will serve as a 40-seat, advanced teaching space designed to provide finance and real estate finance students with hands-on experience performing business transactions, including financial modeling, valuation, trading stocks and bonds, and running business scenarios that reflect the marketplace. The lab will be one of the most celebrated spaces in the new building and include Bloomberg terminals for the Green and Gold Fund, a student-managed investment portfolio, and a digital stock ticker that will encompass the room and be visible from University Boulevard and the large student commons.

Hagwood said he appreciates the opportunity to give back to an institution that has greatly impacted his life.

“The UAB Collat School of Business played a transformational role in my life and, without a doubt, I know that it will continue to do just that for its students,” he said. “I am very proud to play a part in investing in the development, learning and mentoring of our future generations of our business leaders and giving back to a university that has done so much for me and countless others. This new world-class facility is a tremendous milestone for not only UAB, but for our great city and state.”

Hagwood has supported UAB for many years by chairing Collat’s Finance Department Advisory Council, mentoring students and establishing the Tommy and Anne Hagwood Endowed Scholarship in Real Estate in 2007 in honor of his parents. In 2015, he gave funds to name a classroom in the new Collat School of Business in honor of Lary B. Cowart, Ph.D., assistant professor of real estate and finance. Through his generosity over the years, he is the first Collat alumnus to have given more than $1 million back to the school.

Collat Alumni Pay it Forward

Alumni who were impacted by their involvement in Collat’s active student organizations are raising money for alumni rooms and stunning gathering spaces in the new building.

Beta Alpha Psi alumni and Professor Eddie Nabors are raising money to name a room to be used for current chapter meetings, for students to congregate and to present the rich history of their prestigious organization.

Green and Gold Fund alumni are raising money to name a room in the new building to be used for studying, monitoring and analyzing real-time financial market data.

Business Honors Program alumni, along with Professor Steve Yoder and alumnus Rusty McHan, are raising funds to name a room that will create a lasting legacy for the group with a place for students and alumni to gather.

Collat’s development team continues to raise money for these efforts, and all contributions are tax deductible and can be pledged over five years. For more information, visit uab.edu/collatbreaknewground.
The Collat School of Business has launched a competition to provide students the opportunity to test out their entrepreneurial ideas in a “Shark Tank”-style competition and win up to $5,000 in prize money to help launch their ideas.

The Blazer Innovation Challenge, sponsored by IBERIABANK, required students to identify a product, service or nonprofit idea, and build a one-minute video pitch explaining their idea.

Twenty-nine student teams participated, from which five finalists were selected to move to the second round, which involved producing a longer, three-minute pitch video and participating in a live Q&A with a panel of highly esteemed judges.

"Many of our students are passionate about solving real-world problems," says Joel Dobbs, Collat’s entrepreneur-in-residence. "The Blazer Innovation Challenge allowed us to identify, fund and nurture some of the best of these."

Finalist team leaders Matthew Arnwine, Jeremy Mock, Rebecca Klang, Darrius Robinson and Forrest Satterfield presented their final pitches November 16 at the UAB Innovation Lab (iLab) to a panel of Birmingham business leaders and entrepreneurs who judged the proposals and selected three winners. The first, second, and third place winners are continuing to work on their ideas with mentorship at the iLab.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our students to put their ideas on the table and receive mentoring and coaching from professionals on how to turn those ideas into real businesses," says Eric P. Jack, Ph.D., dean of the Collat School of Business. "We were thrilled to partner with IBERIABANK on this challenge and to see the impressive innovations our students developed."

### Meet the Winners

**First Place**
Forrest Satterfield, a biomedical engineering student, took home the top prize and $5,000 for his proposal to develop a manufacturing system for motorized prosthetics that marries traditional production of motors with additive manufacturing of 3-D printed prosthetics.

**Second Place**
Jeremy Mock, an economics and international studies major, earned second place and $2,500 for his idea to create a two-sided web- and app-based customer relationship management system that patients can access through a monthly subscription fee allowing them to connect to any provider on their network.

**Third Place**
Rebecca Klang, a management major, earned third place and $1,000 for her plan to build an app that tracks grocery purchases and allows users to receive updates on expiration dates.
ATTACTING GREAT TALENT

NEW FACULTY

Evan Duggan, PhD
VISITING PROFESSOR
Dr. Duggan teaches project management and operations management at Collat. He received his PhD in Decision Sciences from Georgia State University.

Ryan Davis, PhD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Dr. Davis teaches financial management and accounting and finance for managers at Collat. He received his PhD in finance from the University of Mississippi and is an expert in market microstructure and investments.

Mickey Millsap
VISITING INSTRUCTOR
Mr. Millsap teaches entrepreneurship at Collat. He received his MBA from the University of Texas and helps students incubate and develop business ideas in the UAB Innovation Lab (iLab).

Andrew Crecelius, PhD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Dr. Crecelius teaches distribution management at Collat. He received his PhD in marketing from the University of Missouri.

Mark Edmonds, PhD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Dr. Edmonds teaches accounting at Collat. He received his PhD in accounting from Southern Illinois University and is an expert in external audits and managerial accounting.

Scott Watson
INSTRUCTOR, CENTER FOR SALES LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR
Mr. Watson teaches sales and marketing at Collat. He received his MBA from George Mason University and is an expert in sales management.

P.J. Ward, PhD
INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Ward teaches quantitative methods and business intelligence at Collat. He received his PhD in applied statistics from the University of Alabama.

Faculty Highlights

- Accounting Professor Stephanie Yotas, PhD, was appointed Regions Institute for Financial Education Endowed Professorship. She also was awarded the 2018 President’s Diversity Award.
- Molly Wasko, PhD, chair of the Management, Information Systems and Quantitative Methods Department, was appointed associate dean of research, innovation and faculty success.
- Management Professor Jack Howard, PhD, received the 2018 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. He also was appointed interim chair of the Management, Information Systems and Quantitative Methods Department.
- Accounting Professor Chris Edmonds, PhD, was awarded the 2018 Transformative Online Course Award for innovations in online courses.
- Senior Associate Dean Karen Kennedy PhD, was elected and served as president of the Alabama Association for Higher Education in Business.
- Dean Eric Jack, PhD, was elected to the Beta Alpha Psi Board of Directors.
- Quantitative Methods Professor Joe Van Matre, PhD, received the 2013 Ellen Gregg Ingalls/UAB National Alumni Society Award for Lifetime Achievement in Teaching.
- Economics Professor Sarah Culver, PhD, was elected and served as president of the Alabama Economic Club.
- Accounting Instructor Eddie Nabors received the 2015 ASCPA Outstanding Accounting Educator Award.
- Accounting Professor Jenica Prather-Kinsey, PhD, received the 2015 Outstanding Achievement in Accounting Award from National Association of Black Accountants.
- Marketing Professor John Hansen, PhD, received the 2015 Outstanding Reviewer Award from the Journal of Services Marketing.
A new management class in the Collat School of Business is teaching students the practical aspects of running a successful nonprofit by giving them hands-on experience with Birmingham-area organizations.

Nonprofit Management is half service learning, half team-based learning and all hands-on. The class matches students with local nonprofits, where they spend 18 hours throughout the semester working within the organization in addition to in-class lectures and assigned reading. Students are also involved in a team-based learning project where they work as a team on one project for a pre-selected nonprofit. Most recently, the team-based project involved planning an on-campus listening party for a local public radio station looking to strategically increase its listener base among 18-25 year olds.

Instructor Annetta Dolowitz created the course to give students a practical, in-depth look at how nonprofit organizations are managed, focusing on the many differences between nonprofit and for-profit strategies.

More than 11 million Americans — roughly 10 percent of the U.S. workforce — are employed by 1.44 million nonprofits registered in the United States, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The economic impact of nonprofits in 2012 in the U.S. alone was $878 billion, 5.4 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product.

By offering Nonprofit Management, “UAB is not only making sure students have a degree, but allowing them the opportunity to see behind the curtain and understand nonprofits. That makes those students better stewards of the community and better board members or donors,” says Lee Thrash, a data analyst and trainer for the American Red Cross and a project reviewer and speaker for the class.

The class has led to full-time employment for some alumni. Jacob Pierce worked with Magic City Woodworks, an organization that trains young men to become craftsmen and leaders, and places them with employers. For his class project, Pierce suggested an exercise: How would Magic City Woodworks invest a $250,000 donation? It was so successful he was offered a job. Now he’s part of the staff, assisting the executive director and helping develop new programs and coordinate volunteers.

“Students walk away with a sense of social responsibility,” says Dolowitz. “Boom! That’s what this class is all about.”
Popular C-Suite Course Brings CEOs into the Classroom

Collat’s popular “Strategic Leadership through the Eyes of the C-Suite” course welcomed nine members of the C-Suite to speak with students during the fall semester.

The strategic learning course features visits from members of the executive suites of public or other large complex organizations who discuss their organizations’ strategies and how they are developed and implemented. The course was created by former UAB Collat School of Business dean Bob Holmes, Ph.D., and retired professor Eddie Friend, and is now taught by Stephen A. Yoder, J.D., assistant professor in the Department of Marketing, Industrial Distribution and Economics. Yoder believes it says a lot about a CEO, and in turn their company, when the leader will give his or her valuable time to a group of students to teach an invaluable lesson.

“The most powerful way to learn is by watching someone else explain it and then thinking, ‘what would I do if that were me,’” said Yoder. “Our students will remember these classes, where they met CEOs of large, complex organizations, a lot longer than anything they will read in a book.”

Dean Jack Named Top 20 Emerging Leader

Collat School of Business Dean Eric Jack, Ph.D., was recognized by BHMBIZ magazine this fall as one of the region’s “20 For the Next 20” leaders who have already made significant contributions to Birmingham’s business community and are expected to have an even greater impact during the next 20 years.

Faculty Participate in Media Training

A dozen Collat faculty members engaged in a half-day of intensive media training recently designed to help them better tell the school’s story, serve as subject matter experts and explain the practical application of their academic research better.

The session was facilitated by University Relations media specialists and included on-camera practice sessions. Additional sessions are being scheduled for 2017.

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