

**Joseph Faello, PhD**  
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Meridian Division of Business  
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### **Current Position**

Associate Professor of Accounting, Meridian Division of Business, Mississippi State University

### **Dissertation**

Is Strong Corporate Governance Associated with Informative Income Smoothing? (2012, Mississippi State University)

### **Awards and Honors**

Summer Research Grant, Meridian Division of Business (Summer 2021)

Critical Thinking Challenge, Mississippi State University College of Business (Fall 2019)

Summer Research Grant, (Co-recipient with Dr. Yingge Qu), Meridian Division of Business (Summer 2019)

Howard Teall Innovation in Accounting Education Award (Runner-up), Canadian Academic Accounting Association, (June 2012)

Best Paper - Accounting Track, Society of Business Research, (November 3, 2012)

### **Employment**

2020 to Present: Associate Professor of Accounting, Meridian Division of Business, Mississippi State University

2014-2020: Assistant Professor of Accounting, Meridian Division of Business, Mississippi State University

2013-2014: Assistant Professor of Accounting, College of Business and Public Affairs, Alabama A & M University

2010-2013: Lecturer/Assistant Professor of Accounting, Faculty of Business Administration, Lakehead University

2007-2010: Assistant Professor of Accounting, School of Professional Studies, Mississippi University for Women

2003-2009: Lecturer (2007-2009) and Teaching/Graduate Assistant (2003-2007), Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy, Mississippi State University

1999-2003: Vice-President of Finance, Ramtrack Inc., Mississauga, Ontario

1997-1999: Corporate Accountant, Greenpark Homes, Vaughan, Ontario

1989-1997: Senior Accountant/Partner, Ring, Chartered Accountant, Toronto, Ontario

1988-1989: Manager, Berenblut & Rosen, Chartered Accountants, Toronto, Ontario

1987-1988: Staff Accountant, Koster, Spinks & Koster, Chartered Accountants, Toronto, Ontario

1985-1987: Staff Accountant, Touche Ross & Co., Chartered Accountants, Toronto, Ontario

1983-1984: Cost Accountant, Garrett Manufacturing Ltd., Rexdale, Ontario

## **Education**

Ph.D., Business (Concentration: Accounting), Mississippi State University, 2012

MBA, Niagara University, 2003

Bachelor of Commerce Honors, Queen's University, 1983

## **Professional Memberships**

International Associate, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, (2016 - Present)

Canadian Academic Accounting Association, (2012 - Present)

American Accounting Association, (2016 - Present)

Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario, Chartered Accountant (1988 - Present)

Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario, Certified Management Accountants, (1987 - Present)

## **Research**

### **Books**

Faello, J. (2012). *Is Strong Corporate Governance Associated With Informative Income Smoothing?* (pp. 166). ProQuest LLC.

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

Faello, J., Jain, A., Shin S. (2020). Do Economic Performance Indicators Support Firms' Claiming a Goodwill Impairment Loss During a Prosperous Year? *Journal of Applied Business and Economics / North American Business Press*, 22(7), pp. 53-67.

Faello, J., Qu, Y., Jain, A., Pomare, C., Shin, S. (2018). Income Inequality: Does Corporate Income Inequality Parallel Individual Income Inequality? *Journal of Accounting and Finance*, 18(9), pp. 39-78.

Faello, J., Costa, M. (2018). A Faculty and Undergraduate Student Collaboration: Are Banks' Changes in Held-to-Maturity Securities Related to Incoming Capital Requirements? *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice*, 18(6), pp. 44-57.

Faello, J. (2017). The Use of a Non-Fiction Fraud-Related Book as a Method for Teaching Accounting Ethics. *Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics*, 14(3), pp. 23-37.

Faello, J. (2016). Enhancing the learning experience in intermediate accounting. *Research in Accounting Regulation*, 28(2), pp. 123-127.

Faello, J. P. (2015). Understanding the Limitations of Financial Ratios. *Academy of Accounting*

*and Financial Studies Journal*, 19(3), pp. 75-85.

Faello, J. (2014). Representational Faithfulness and Goodwill Impairment Losses. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Business Studies*, 3(2014), 17 pages.

Faello, J. (2012). Comparing the Informativeness of Two Income Smoothing Measures. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Business Studies*, 1(2012), 45 pages.

### **Presentations Given**

Faello, Joseph (Author & Presenter), American Accounting Association (AAA) 2021 Annual Conference, "Covid-19: An Opportunity to Craft an Effective Learning Strategy for Intermediate Accounting," American Accounting Association. (accepted June 3, 2021 for annual conference scheduled August 2 to 5, 2021).

Faello, Joseph (Author & Presenter), American Accounting Association (AAA) 2020 Annual Conference, "Enhancing the Students' Learning Experience in Intermediate Accounting by Combining Academic Research, Critical Thinking, and Data Analytical Skills," American Accounting Association. (August 10, 2020).

Faello, Joseph (Author & Presenter), Shin, Seungjae (Author), Jain, Ajeet (Author), Southwest Finance Association, "Do Economic Performance Indicators Support Firms' Claiming a Goodwill Impairment Loss During a Prosperous Year?," Federation of Business Disciplines, San Antonio, Texas. (March 12, 2020).

Faello, J. (Author & Presenter), Faculty Student Collaborations in Accounting (FASTCA 19), "A Faculty and Undergraduate Student Collaboration: Are Banks' Changes to Held-to-Maturity Securities Related to Incoming Capital Requirements?" American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, USA. (August 14, 2019).

Faello, J. (Author & Presenter), Shin, S. (Author), Jain, A. (Author), Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) Annual Conference, "Do Economic Performance Indicators Support Firms' Claiming a Goodwill Impairment Loss During a Prosperous Year?" Canadian Academic Accounting Association, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. (June 1, 2019).

Faello, J. (Author & Presenter), Costa, M. (Author), Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) Annual Conference, "A Faculty and Undergraduate Student Collaboration: Are Banks' Changes in Held-to-Maturity Securities Related to Incoming Capital Requirements?" Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Calgary Alberta, Canada. (June 16, 2018).

Faello, J. (Author & Presenter), Costa, M. (Author), Faculty Student Collaborations in Accounting (FASTCA 17), "An Example of a Simple to Implement Student-Faculty Research Collaboration in Accounting," American Accounting Association (AAA), San Diego, CA, USA. (August 9, 2017).

Faello, J. (Author & Presenter), Ennis, K. (Author), Effective Learning Strategies (ELS), "Dinner and a Movie: Using a Movie to Instill in Students the Professional Principles of an Auditor," American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, USA. (August 8, 2017).

Faello, J. (Author & Presenter), Ennis, K. (Author), Conference on Teaching and Learning in

- Accounting (CTLA), "Dinner and a Movie: Using a Movie to Instill in Students the Professional Principles of an Auditor," American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, USA. (August 5, 2017).
- Faello, J. (Author & Presenter), Shin, S. (Author), Jain, A. (Author), Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) Annual Conference, "Managerial Motivation for Claiming a Goodwill Impairment Loss During a Period of Economic Prosperity," Canadian Academic Accounting Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (June 3, 2017).
- Faello, J. (Author), Allied Academies International Internet Conference (Toronto), "Merging Accounting Theory with Reality – A Practical Example Of Earnings Management," Allied Academies, Toronto. (July 29, 2016).
- Faello, J. P. (Author & Presenter), Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) Annual Conference, "The Use of a Non-Fiction Fraud-Related Book as a Method for Teaching Accounting Ethics," Canadian Academic Accounting Association, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. (June 4, 2016).
- Faello, J. P. (Author & Presenter), Allied Academies International Conference in New Orleans, "Understanding the Limitations of Financial Ratios," Allied Academies, New Orleans. (April 9, 2015).
- Faello, J. (Leader), Society of Business Research (Nashville), "Representational Faithfulness and Goodwill Impairment Losses," Society of Business Research, Nashville, TN. (October 2013).
- Faello, J. (Leader), Society of Business Research (Nashville), "Comparing the Informativeness of Two Income Smoothing Measures," Society of Business Research, Nashville, TN. (November 2012).
- Faello, J. P. (Author & Presenter), Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) Annual Conference, "Special Assignment," CAAA, Charlottetown, PEI, Canada. (June 2, 2012).

### **Research Currently in Progress**

“Do Economic Performance Indicators Support Firms’ Claiming Goodwill Impairment Losses over Changing Economic Conditions?”

Results from the academic literature stream support both the informative and uninformative viewpoints of goodwill impairment write-offs. However, gaps exist in the literature stream pertaining to the timing and managerial motivation for claiming goodwill impairment write-offs during changing economic conditions. This study fills a gap in the literature by examining firms’ goodwill impairment write-offs during the period 2006 to 2010, a period of economic prosperity and a recession. Results from the study will add to the existing knowledge for goodwill accounting.

" The Zombie Firm Effect and the Inefficient Allocation of Capital?"

Research sponsored by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) uncovers a productivity slowdown plaguing western economies that is associated with the greater presence of zombie firms. Zombie firms possess substantial debt and burdensome interest costs that impede productivity and profitability (McGowan et al. 2017). The Financial Accounting Standards Board’s (FASB) Statement of Financial Accounting Concepts No. 8 emphasizes the important role that financial reporting plays in the economy by assisting investors to deploy their financial resources in an efficient and productive

manner. This research study's findings support the conclusion that the growing number of zombie firms is detrimental to the economy by crowding out investment in more productive investment opportunities. Also, this research study provides an example of how financial reporting information using a Dupont Analysis can identify the extent of the unproductive firms in the economy.

#### **"Zombie Firms' Effects on Sticky Costs"**

This research paper addresses a conundrum in academic accounting research. In a seminal paper, Anderson et al. (2003) find that selling, general, and administrative (SGA) costs display asymmetric behavior with respect to increases and decreases in revenue of the same magnitude. That is, SGA costs increase more when revenue increases by a certain magnitude than when SGA costs decline in response to a revenue decline of the same magnitude. This "stickiness" in SGA costs when revenues decline covered the 1979 to 1998 period in the Anderson et al. (2003) study. More recent studies show a declining sticky cost effect (e.g., Banker and Byzalov, 2014; Anderson and Lane, 2007). Results show that zombie firms' SGA costs are not sticky, implying zombie firms cut SGA costs when revenues decline to avoid falling into bankruptcy. This result supports the view that zombie firms' debt and the related debt servicing costs constrain their ability to compete with non-zombie firms when facing similar circumstances of declining revenues.

#### **"The Use of Movies to Teach the Qualities of An Exceptional Auditor"**

This study involves the use of the movie "12 Angry Men" to teach students the qualities of objectivity, exercising due care and professional judgment, and the ability to evaluate evidence.

#### **"Comparing the Assessment of Students' Business Writing Skills Between Business Professors and the University's Writing Coordinator"**

The purpose of this study is to address this research question: Are there differences in assessment of students' business writing skills between business professors and the writing coordinator of the university's Quality Enhancement Program?

## **Teaching**

### **Current Courses Taught**

ACC3003 Accounting Systems I  
ACC3023 Intermediate Accounting I  
ACC3033 Intermediate Accounting II  
ACC4023 Advanced Accounting

### **Impact of "Howard Teall Innovation in Accounting Education Award"**

I was awarded by the Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) the second prize (runner-up) for the "Howard Teall Innovation in Accounting Education Award." This is a prestigious award offered by the CAAA. My innovation in teaching was employing the use of movies or television shows to teach students the role of ethics and professionalism in business. One of the movies utilized was the 1957 film "12 Angry Men" starring Henry Fonda.

This technique has been introduced in MSU Meridian's accounting program by Dr. Kevin Ennis as he employs the movie "12 Angry Men" in his auditing class (ACC 4033). Further, Dr. Ennis and I collaborated on describing the application of this technique in detail. Our efforts resulted in applying for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), George Krull/Grant Thornton Innovation in Junior and Senior-Level Teaching Award. Further, I made two presentations at the American Accounting Association's (AAA) annual conference

showcasing this technique of utilizing movies to enhance students' learning. The presentations were titled, "Dinner and a Movie: Using a Movie to Instill in Students the Professional Principles of an Auditor" and were a part of the AAA's "Conference on Teaching and Learning in Accounting" and "Effective Learning Strategies III."

In addition, on two other occasions I have employed innovative learning techniques in the classroom. First, I have utilized the book titled "Extraordinary Circumstances: The Journey of a Corporate Whistleblower." The book is authored by Cynthia Cooper and describes the accounting fraud at WorldCom, Inc. The use of the book and its impact on students' learning is outlined in the peer-reviewed article titled, "The Use of a Non-Fiction Fraud-Related Book as a Method for Teaching Accounting Ethics" and is published in *the Journal of Leadership, Accountability, and Ethics*. Second, in my Intermediate Accounting II class (ACC 3033) I have students utilize the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) database to select and discuss a corporate accounting infraction case (i.e., "Accounting and Auditing Enforcement Release"). From selected students' assignments, I relate the case's events or management's behavior to accounting theory. In one such instance, a student's case involved management overstating accounting earnings to receive a bonus that they would not have achieved without the overstatement. Accounting academics explain this phenomenon with agency theory and the management around significant accounting earnings' thresholds. The use of this real-world case as a method to enrich students' learning is described in my published peer-reviewed article titled, "Enhancing the Learning Experience in Intermediate Accounting," and is published in *Research in Accounting Regulation*.

## **Service**

### **Professional Service**

Attended webinar sponsored by the AAA, "CPA Evolution Model Curriculum Launch", American Accounting Association (AAA), Lakewood Ranch, Florida. (June 15, 2021 - June 16, 2021).

Webinar Attendee, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), "IN FOCUS: FASB Update for Private Companies and Not-for-Profit Organizations," Norwalk, Connecticut. (June 14, 2021).

Webinar Attendee, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), "IN FOCUS: 2021 GAAP and SEC Reporting Taxonomy Improvements and SEC Update," Norwalk, Connecticut. (April 6, 2021).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA). (February 12, 2021 - February 21, 2021).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA). (February 6, 2021 - February 12, 2021).

Webinar Attendee, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), "IN FOCUS: FASB Update for Private Companies and Not-for-Profit Organizations," Norwalk, Connecticut. (December 14, 2020).

Nominated Dr. William R. Scott for induction into Canadian Accounting Hall of Fame in November 2020, (inducted spring 2021).

Webinar Attendee, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), "IN FOCUS: Not -for-Profit and Governmental Accounting Webcast for Academics," Norwalk, Connecticut. (November 6, 2020).

Webinar Attendee, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), "IN FOCUS: FASB Update for Accounting Educators," Norwalk, Connecticut. (August 28, 2020).

Conference-Related, American Accounting Association, attended various webinar sessions. (August 10, 2020 - August 13, 2020).

Attendee, Meeting, Southwest Finance Association, San Antonio, Texas. (March 12, 2020 - March 13, 2020).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA). (January 20, 2020 - February 17, 2020).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA). (January 20, 2020 - February 17, 2020).

Reviewer, Accounting and the Public Interest, "Predisposition of Professional Accountants and Senior Accounting Students towards Corporate Social Responsibility: An Assessment of Gender Differences," (October 16, 2019)

Attendee, Conference Attendance, American Accounting Association (AAA), San Francisco, CA. (August 9, 2019 - August 14, 2019).

Attendee, Workshop titled "Current Issues in Accounting and Business Ethics 2019," American Accounting Association (AAA), San Francisco, CA. (August 10, 2019).

Conference-Related, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Ottawa, Ontario. (June 1, 2019).

Attendee, Conference Attendance, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Ottawa, Ontario. (May 31, 2019 - June 1, 2019).

Attendee, Meeting, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Ottawa, Ontario. (May 30, 2019).

Attendee of presentation by Dr. Paul Spurlin, Rural Small Community Banks, (April 25, 2019).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Ottawa, Ontario. (January 30, 2019 - February 5, 2019).

Attendee, Meeting, Brown Bag Seminar, Starkville, Mississippi. (November 9, 2018).

Attendee, Meeting, Mississippi Society of CPA's, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. (November 1, 2018).

Provided comments on draft accounting standard, Accounting Standards Board CPA Canada, Toronto, Ontario. (September 26, 2018 - September 28, 2018).

Completed webinar, IN FOCUS: FASB Update for Accounting Educators, Financial Accounting

Standards Board (FASB). (September 6, 2018).

Conference-Related, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Calgary, Alberta. (June 16, 2018).

Attendee, Conference Attendance, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Calgary, Alberta. (June 14, 2018 - June 16, 2018).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Calgary, Alberta. (February 10, 2018 - February 13, 2018).

Attendee, Conference Attendance, American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual Conference, San Diego, California. (August 5, 2017 - August 9, 2017).

Conference-Related, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Montreal, Quebec. (June 3, 2017).

Attendee, Conference Attendance, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Montreal, Quebec. (June 2, 2017 - June 3, 2017).

Conference-Related, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Montreal, Quebec. (June 2, 2017).

Workshop participant, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Montreal, Quebec. (June 1, 2017).

Reviewer, Textbook, Wiley Publishers, Montreal, Quebec. (June 1, 2017).

Reviewer, Book, Cambridge Business Publishers. (May 3, 2017).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), Montreal, Quebec. (January 27, 2017 - February 24, 2017).

Attendee, Meeting, American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual Conference, New York, New York. (August 7, 2016 - August 11, 2016).

Reviewer, Textbook, Cambridge Publishers, New York, New York. (August 9, 2016).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, American Accounting Association, Quincy, MA. (June 24, 2016 - June 26, 2016).

Conference-Related, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), St. John's, Newfoundland. (June 4, 2016).

Attendee, Meeting, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), St. John's, NL. (June 2, 2016).

Reviewer, Conference Paper, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA), St. John's, Newfoundland. (February 2, 2016 - February 26, 2016).

Workshop Attendee, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). (January 8, 2016).



Workshop Attendee, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). (January 6, 2016).

Attendee, Meeting, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). (December 18, 2015).

Attendee, Meeting, Mississippi Society of CPA's, Ridgeland, Mississippi. (October 30, 2015).

Attendee, Conference Attendance, Allied Academies International Conference in New Orleans, Allied Academies, New Orleans, LA, USA. (April 8, 2015 - April 10, 2015).

Workshop Attendee, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). (December 22, 2014).

Attendee, Meeting, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). (December 18, 2014).

Workshop Attendee, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). (December 18, 2014).

Workshop Attendee, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). (December 17, 2014).

Attendee, Meeting, Mississippi Society of CPA's, Ridgeland, MS. (December 16, 2014).

Attendee, Meeting, Mississippi Society of CPA's, Ridgeland, Mississippi. (October 24, 2014).

Attendee, Conference Attendance, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) Annual Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (May 30, 2013 - June 2, 2013).

Attendee, Conference Attendance, Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) Annual Conference, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. (May 31, 2012 - June 3, 2012).

### **University Service**

Committee Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee for Dr. Amanda Cook. (November 24, 2020 - December 10, 2020).

Committee Member, Engagement, Innovation, and Impact Committee. (October 21, 2020 - Present).

Undergraduate Assessment Coordinator, Meridian Division of Business, (February 28, 2019 – Present).

Committee Member, Advisory Council, (April 20, 2017 - Present).

Committee Member, Assurance of Learning (AOL), (January 23, 2017 - Present).

Volunteer for annual statewide DECA competition held at Meridian Division of Business, DECA. (February 27, 2020).

Student Org Advisor (Professional Org), CMA Scholarship. (February 19, 2020 - February 27, 2020).

Attendee at workshop, De-escalation Techniques. (January 24, 2020).

Committee Member, Syllabus Exchange. (October 29, 2019 - November 1, 2019).

Attendee of presentation about "The Conversation.", The Conversation. (October 24, 2019).

Attendee at presentation, "Building Support for Active Learning", Center for Distance Education. (October 8, 2019).

Workshop Attendee, "To IRB...And Beyond", Office of Research and Economic Development. (September 3, 2019).

Attended ceremony recognizing 5 years of service, Division of Academic Affairs Service Ceremony. (May 7, 2019).

Attendee, Leadership Roundtable, (April 9, 2019).

Committee Member, Search Committee for Management Professor, (October 3, 2018 - December 31, 2018).

Committee Member, Interviewer of MBA Candidates, (January 30, 2018 – July 13, 2018 and spring 2020).

Student Recruiter, Meridian Community College (MCC) Student Visitors, (April 11, 2018).

Student Recruiter, MSU-Meridian Graduate School Fair, (February 27, 2018).

Attendee of MBA general interest meeting organized by Dr. Randle, MBA General Interest Meeting, (January 23, 2018).

Attendee of Job Fair event, Job Fair\, (October 3, 2017).

Attendee at Career Chats event., Career Chats, (September 21, 2017).

Meeting regarding AACSB reaccreditation for the SOA., AACSB Visit, (February 20, 2017).

Attendee at Career Chats event., Career Chats, (February 9, 2017).

Committee member, Search Committee for Office Administrator, (Spring 2016).

Student Recruiter, (March 2, 2016).

Faculty Advisor, Kemper Coal Plant Trip, (February 5, 2016).

SOA Retreat to develop new strategic plan, School of Accountancy (SOA), (December 3, 2015).

Attendee at Career Chats event., Career Chats. (October 27, 2015).

Student Recruiter. (October 19, 2015).

Attendee for meeting to discuss syllabi with faculty., School of Accountancy (SOA), (September 25, 2015).

Strategic plan meeting, School of Accountancy (SOA). (September 16, 2015).

Interview for SOA publication, Interview for Bulldog Ledger: Faculty Focus. (June 16, 2015).

Special event dinner recognizing the 50th anniversary of the program, MSU College of Business 50th Anniversary of DBA/PHD Programs, (March 21, 2015).

A bus trip for new faculty members to the Mississippi Delta region., "New Faculty Spring Bus Trip," Mississippi State University, (February 27, 2015).

Bus tour of the Starkville and Columbus areas for new faculty members, "New Faculty Bus Tour," Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, USA, (November 21, 2014).

### **Directed Student Learning**

Supervised Undergraduate Research, "Are Banks' Changes in held-to-Maturity Securities Related to Incoming Capital Requirements?" Undergraduate Research Symposium — Spring 2017, Mississippi State University. (January 13, 2017 - April 13, 2017). Advised: Michael Costa