

epic.

2018 Arkansas Business Hall of Fame



James "Jim" A. Bottin



John D. Correnti



Herbert H. McAdams II



James Kirk Thompson



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invaluable leadership
and dedication to
J.B. Hunt.

Congratulations
on this well-deserved
achievement.

2018 ARKANSAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

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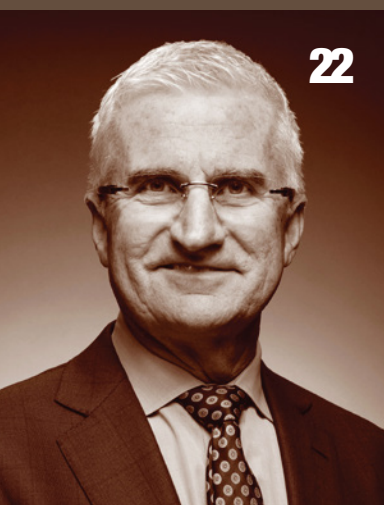


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GREETINGS

From Dean Matthew A. Waller

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to help welcome the 2018 class of the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame. It is once again a distinguished group that exemplifies and echoes the epic values of Arkansas and its business community.

Theirs are much the same as the core values of the Sam M. Walton College of Business:

- **Excellence** – We are driven to be the best in everything we do.
- **Professionalism** – We operate with integrity, humility, respect and inclusion.
- **Innovation** – We imagine possibilities, we create and inspire others.
- **Collegiality** – We respect each individual, we value our differences and we welcome all.

The Arkansas Business Hall of Fame celebrates its 20th year in 2018. This year's inductees and all those previously honored serve as great examples to our Walton College students, some of whom we are confident will be honorees in the future.

I wish to thank all of those who served on the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame selection committee. We are grateful for their time and insight in choosing this distinguished group of honorees.

I am privileged to serve the people of Arkansas as dean of the Walton College, helping students grow into business leaders of tomorrow. Our students, our faculty and our business partners throughout Arkansas and the world continue to benefit from the inspiring lives and work of the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame class of 2018.

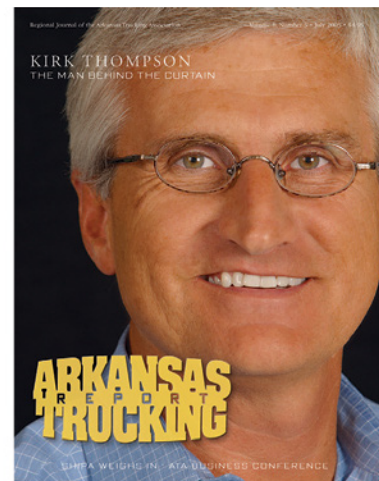
Congratulations!



Matthew Waller

Matthew A. Waller
Dean
Sam M. Walton Leadership Chair
Sam M. Walton College of Business
University of Arkansas

The state of trucking is **STRONG** because
we have the strongest **PEOPLE** in the state.



CONGRATULATIONS KIRK THOMPSON
2018 INDUCTEE INTO THE ARKANSAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

ARKANSAS
ASSOCIATION
TRUCKING

Friday, February 9, 2018
Reception – 5:30 p.m.
Dinner and Program – 6:30 p.m.
Statehouse Convention Center
Wally Allen Ballroom
Little Rock, Arkansas



2018 Arkansas Business Hall of Fame

On February 9, 2018, the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas will host the 20th annual Arkansas Business Hall of Fame celebration. This year's inductees join a group of Arkansas leaders whose impact on business and their communities will continue to inspire the people of our state, the nation and the world.

Celebrating These Arkansas Leaders:

THE 2018 INDUCTEES



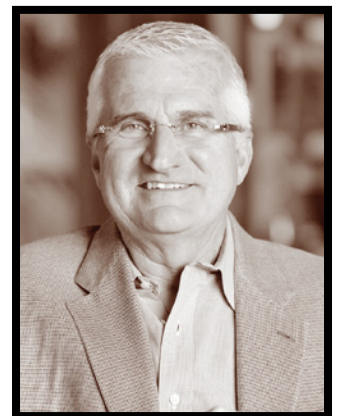
JAMES "JIM" A. BOTTIN
Founder and Chairman
ABC Financial



JOHN D. CORRENTI
(1947-2015)
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Big River Steel



HERBERT H. MCADAMS II
(1915-2001)
Former Chairman and CEO, Citizens
Bank of Jonesboro, Union National
Bank of Arkansas



JAMES KIRK THOMPSON
Chairman
J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.

Congratulations to the 2018 Arkansas Business Hall of Fame Inductees.

Jim Bottin | John Correnti
Herbert McAdams II | Kirk Thompson



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The Selection Process

The selection process was chaired by Ann Bordelon of Fayetteville, Arkansas, chief financial officer of the Mitchell Communications Group.

People throughout the state and beyond were encouraged to make nominations. A committee of business and community leaders then reviewed the nominations and chose the inductees.

Criteria for selection includes: the significance of the impact made as a business leader, the concern demonstrated for improving the community, and the display of ethics in all business dealings. In addition, living inductees must be over the age of 60.

The Arkansas Business Hall of Fame is permanently housed in the atrium of the Donald W. Reynolds Center for Enterprise Development at the Walton College on the University of Arkansas campus.

*Editorial copy provided by Sam M. Walton
College of Business, Office of External
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UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Sam M. Walton
College of Business

MAN OF STEEL



**Lexicon/Schueck is
proud to honor the late
John Correnti, our
long-time partner,
mentor and friend.**



 **LEXICON/SCHUECK**

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Congratulations
John Correnti
on a well deserved
honor. We were
proud to be a part of
bringing your vision
for Big River Steel
into reality.

— The Razorback
Concrete Team.



Nominating Candidates

The Arkansas Business Hall of Fame relies heavily on nominations from other business leaders and the public to make sure the best candidates are considered for induction.

People from throughout Arkansas and the nation are encouraged to submit names. After the selection committee reviews the eligible candidates, it narrows the field and decides on the final four inductees.

Deadline for nominations is July 15. Names of those nominated but not selected are kept on file for five years.

Criteria for induction:

- Nominees can be living or dead.
- Living nominees must be at least 60 years old at time of selection.
- Nominees are to be Arkansans by birth or by choice.
- Equal consideration is given to nominees born in Arkansas whose business achievements may take place outside the state and to nominees whose business accomplishments are primarily in Arkansas.
- Nominations are not limited to University of Arkansas graduates.

An inductee chosen by the selection committee will have made a significant impact as a business leader, will have shown a concern for improving his or her community and will have displayed the highest level of ethics in his or her business dealings.

To nominate a candidate for the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame, visit walton.uark.edu/abhf and fill out the nomination application under "forms."

Congratulations!

Jim Bottin



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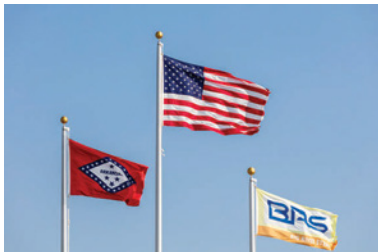
IN REMEMBRANCE OF

JOHN CORRENTI

Founder of Big River Steel
1947–2015

All who knew John knew of his love for the steel industry and his passion for those who worked in it. John often called the site in Arkansas where the Big River Steel mill is operating “steel mill heaven” because of its proximity to the Mississippi River, direct connection to a main line railroad and access to an interstate highway network. Our fondest wish is that John is now enjoying the view of the mill from a new steel mill heaven.

We are honored and humbled to dedicate ourselves to growing our company and continuing John’s legacy.



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- Mississippi County, Arkansas
Economic Development
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Herbert H. McAdams II
Arkansas Capital
Board Member 1966-1985
A leader in state's financial history



John D. Correnti
Big River Steel
A business visionary

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College of Business



Congratulations

KIRK THOMPSON

2018 INDUCTEE INTO THE
ARKANSAS BUSINESS
— HALL of FAME —



James “Jim” A. Bottin

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN | ABC FINANCIAL

For some, a business plan to turn a loan of \$1,200 into a multi-million dollar company is as basic as ABC. To get started, throw in a little discipline, a great work ethic and a few high level black belts. At least that was the eventual plan for a young Jim Bottin in sunny Gulfport, Mississippi, in May 1969.

In 1969, the Vietnam War was raging with more than half a million American soldiers fighting the communist regime. Soon the U.S. military added one more to its roster.

Upon graduation from Harrison Central High School, Bottin signed up at his local U.S. Air Force recruitment office. Bottin – the son of a Marine – would spend five years in the Air Force, with two of those years in Tainan Air Base in Taiwan.

The Taiwanese duty station introduced the young airman to Taekwondo, a martial arts sport which focuses on kicking techniques, self-discipline and mindfulness. In just two years, Bottin earned a first-degree black belt before heading back to the states. He was hooked.

The Mississippi native found himself at the Little Rock Air Force Base, where he began to teach Taekwondo part time at the Jacksonville Institute of Self Defense. In no time, he was teaching a substantial number of students.

When it came time to re-enlist in 1974, Bottin decided to try martial arts as a career in lieu of the military. He borrowed \$1,200 from his parents, Bob and Ruth Bottin, to purchase part of the business. Within one year, he bought his partners out and was the sole owner of the martial arts studio in Jacksonville.

Bottin attributes his work ethic to his mom and dad, who taught him to work hard and save for a rainy day. They encouraged him to pay off debt, rather than accumulate debt.

While teaching and operating a business,

Bottin continued to pursue elite Taekwondo degrees: fourth-degree black belt by the American Taekwondo Association, fifth-degree black belt through the United States Taekwondo Federation. He won numerous state and regional tournaments plus five national championships.

Business was booming, and Bottin opened four more studios in the late 70s and early 80s. Eventually, he began to add fitness equipment to his studios, morphing his business into fitness centers. The business name was changed to Nautilus Plus Taekwondo. In the 1980s, Bottin added aerobic programs and changed his company name to Jim Bottin's Nautilus Plus, leaving Taekwondo out of the business name and focus.

Around this time, Bottin owned and operated 13 fitness centers in Arkansas and Texas. With his growing fitness center business, Bottin also had a growing issue with billing. In 1981, he developed a new business called American Billing Company to manage his members' dues. He hired several qualified employees, leased space and began to collect membership dues.

Bottin realized that if he was struggling with billing, other fitness centers probably were too. He began to market his fitness center billing and software solution in trade magazines, booths at trade shows and word of mouth. The billing/software solution took off. Other centers found that ABC could assist with billing/software needs better and cheaper than they could themselves.

American Billing Company became ABC Financial Services Inc. and extended its business software focus to include front-desk check in, point of sale, class scheduler, personal trainer appointments, online registrations and more. As its services increased, so did its clients. Soon Bottin sold his fitness centers to concentrate on building ABC.

Today ABC Financial has revolutionized software and payment processing for the

health and fitness industry. Headquartered in the Little Rock area, ABC serves over 7,000 clubs throughout the USA, Canada, Puerto Rico and Europe. Its largest clients are Anytime Fitness, Planet Fitness, Gold's Gym and Retro Fitness, among hundreds of others. They service over 19 million members and collect over \$400 million per month. ABC moved up to 54 in the 2017 top 75 Arkansas Private Companies published in *Arkansas Business* magazine with \$178 million in revenue. The company's innovative club management software, DataTrak, is the most complete web-based software in the health and fitness industry.

Bottin built ABC through longtime staff members such as Paul Schaller, ABC's chief executive officer. He has been with the company for 26 years. Jill Dozer, chief operations officer, has also been with ABC for 26 years; Stephanie Johnson, executive vice president, 22 years; Elizabeth Gray, vice president of systems, 22 years; Jennifer Adams, vice president of conversions, 20 years; and Bob Whisnant, chief financial officer, 20 years. There are a substantial number of employees that have been with ABC for more than 10 years. ABC employs close to 900. About 500 live in Arkansas.

In November 2017, ABC announced that Thoma Bravo, a leading private equity firm, was acquiring ABC in the fourth quarter of the year.

Throughout the years, Bottin received tremendous support from his wife Donna, whom he met in 1975 in Jacksonville, Arkansas. They have two children: their late son Eric and daughter Lindsay. Lindsay and husband Chad Wilkerson have four children. All live in Little Rock.

After Eric's death at age 17, Bottin created the Eric Scott Bottin Foundation for charitable giving. The foundation supports the American Heart Association, Carti, Easter Seals, American Diabetes Association, Women and Children First, Care for Animals and more.



John D. Correnti (1947-2015)

FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | BIG RIVER STEEL

John Correnti was a people person, a positive thinker and loved “pushing production.” Often he would walk the operations line and talk to workers about their equipment, steel production, individual jobs, their lives and their families. He was proud of the professional friendships and working relationships he formed over the course of his career. And what a career it was.

Correnti was founder and chief executive officer for the Big River Steel mill in Osceola, Arkansas, just west of the Mississippi River in the northeastern part of the state.

Big River Steel is big business. At a cost of \$1.3 billion, the mill was reported as Arkansas’ first super project, bringing tremendous economic development, more than 2,000 construction jobs and 500 steel production jobs with average employee salaries of \$75,000. The mill is an industry leader with the technology it uses to generate 1.6 million tons of steel products annually. It stands apart as the world’s first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified steel mill facility. The mill supports the nation’s infrastructure, energy and automotive industries through its advanced technology, automation and manufacturing methods.

Correnti and then-Gov. Mike Beebe announced the construction of a new mill in January 2013 and construction began in July 2014. Although Correnti led the billion-dollar project, he did not see his vision become a reality. While on a business trip to Chicago in August 2015 – one year before the mill was brought online – Correnti died unexpectedly. He was 68.

Correnti was born in Mt. Morris, New York, in 1947 to Sara Annalora and Nicholas Correnti in the Finger Lakes area, just south of Rochester. After graduating from Mt. Morris High School, Correnti attended Clarkson University in New

York, graduating in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. After college he began work as a construction manager at U.S. Steel.

Correnti worked at U.S. Steel in different locations for more than a decade before leaving for Nucor Corporation in 1980. At Nucor, he worked as a construction manager in Plymouth, Utah. It was through Nucor that he met Ken Iverson, the chief executive officer, who originally hired Correnti and became his mentor and friend. His experience working and learning from Iverson changed his philosophy about the steel industry. From Iverson, Correnti learned the mini-mill science and culture. This influenced forever how he built and managed mills.

Eighteen months later, Correnti moved to Brigham City to build another plant. Iverson promoted Correnti to vice president and general manager of the plant. This set the stage for the next 10 years of building and running steel mills. Correnti was promoted to president and then chief executive officer of Nucor in 1996, replacing Iverson in this leadership role.

In 2000, Correnti left Nucor, the nation’s second largest mill, to oversee Birmingham Steel, a mini-mill, as the chief executive officer for the Alabama operation. James Todd, former chief executive for Birmingham Steel, recruited Correnti to save the struggling mill. Correnti, an innovative and seasoned leader, restructured the mill and sold it to Nucor in 2003.

During his time at Birmingham Steel, he began to dream of opening his own mill. His dream materialized in September 2005 when, as the chairman of newly created SeverCorr, he signed an agreement with Columbus Lowndes Development Link officials in Mississippi to open a steel processing plant after more than a year of tough negotiations.

SeverCorr became operational in late

2007 with Correnti leading operations as president and chief executive officer until 2008. Then Correnti sold his shares to Severstal, the largest steel producer in Russia and majority partner of the Mississippi mill.

Correnti, his wife Dawn, and their son N. J. lived in Texas, Utah, Alabama, North Carolina and Mississippi. In 1987, they built a home in Blytheville, Arkansas, that became their forever home. At that time, Correnti was vice president/general manager of Nucor-Yamato Steel Company, just outside of Blytheville.

It was through the Nucor-Yamato Steel project that Correnti developed a business relationship with then-Gov. Bill Clinton who worked hard to secure steel mill operation in Arkansas. They continued their friendship throughout the years.

“I’ll miss John Correnti, a great steel man, a gifted executive, and a good friend to Arkansas and to me,” Clinton tweeted after Correnti’s death in August 2015.

Though Nucor would move the Correnti family time and time again, they kept their home in Blytheville, returning to it for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter and summer vacations. It was in Blytheville that they opened a family business. And it was in Blytheville, that N.J. at age 12 would take his first flying lesson and solo at age 16.

Blytheville became home for the Correnti family. It was only natural that Correnti would bring them back to Arkansas for one last project – the biggest and most innovative of his career – Big River Steel. Correnti was laid to rest in Blytheville on August 22, 2015.

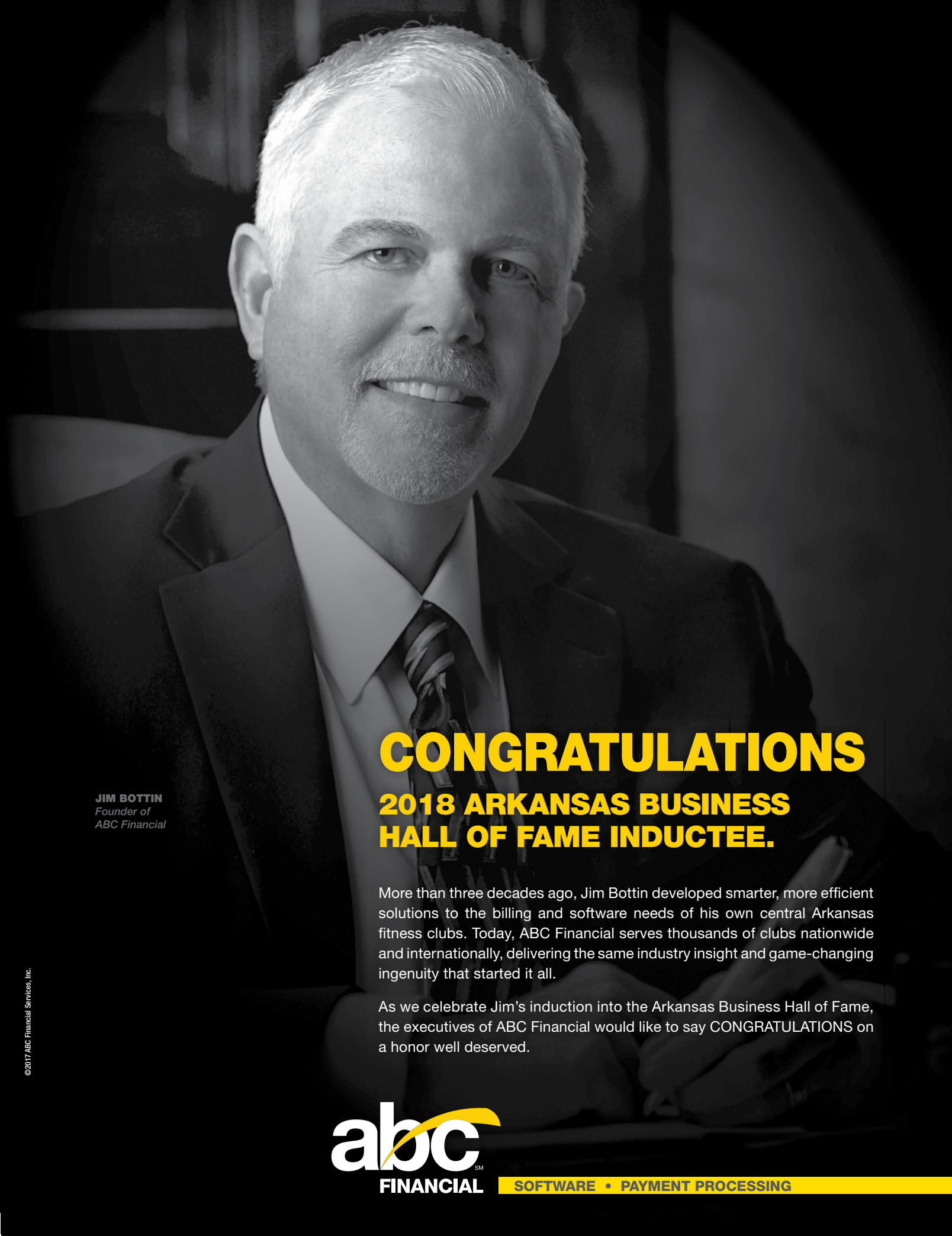
Correnti served on the boards of Navistar International Corporation, CoreCivic and Clarkson University.

He is survived by his wife, Dawn; his son, N.J., daughter-in-law, Christina, and their two children, John Lucas and Lizabeth; his mother, Sara; sister, Maryann, and her children, Maria, Paul and John McKelvey.

Members of the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame

PAST HONOREES





JIM BOTTIN
*Founder of
ABC Financial*

CONGRATULATIONS

2018 ARKANSAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE.

More than three decades ago, Jim Bottin developed smarter, more efficient solutions to the billing and software needs of his own central Arkansas fitness clubs. Today, ABC Financial serves thousands of clubs nationwide and internationally, delivering the same industry insight and game-changing ingenuity that started it all.

As we celebrate Jim's induction into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame, the executives of ABC Financial would like to say CONGRATULATIONS on a honor well deserved.

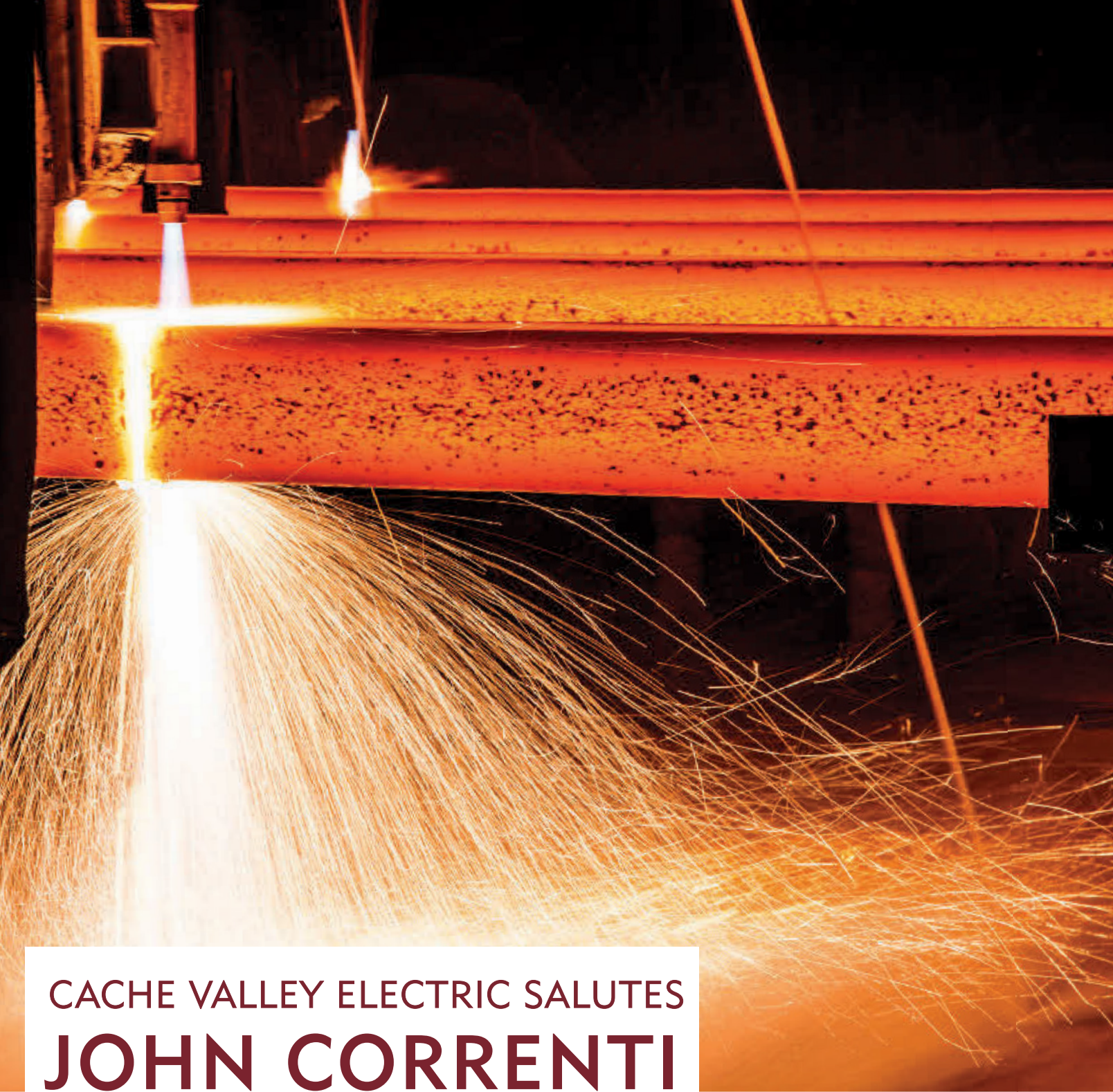


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Members of the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame

PAST HONOREES





CACHE VALLEY ELECTRIC SALUTES JOHN CORRENTI

John Correnti began his career in the steel industry in 1969 and over the next 46 years, his leadership and unrelenting drive forever changed the steel industry. Mr. Correnti's impact in the state of Arkansas created thousands of jobs for the citizens of Arkansas and created opportunities that had not been available before. Congratulations to the Correnti Family on John's selection to the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame. Nobody deserves it more.



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Herbert H. McAdams II

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | UNION NATIONAL BANK OF ARKANSAS

(1915-2001)

On Feb. 17, 1945, the USS Gamble — a minelayer destroyer — arrived at Iwo Jima in the South Pacific to explode floating mines. The next day, Japanese planes dropped two, 250-pound bombs on the USS Gamble at midnight. Six American sailors were killed, and many were wounded.

For Ensign Herbert H. McAdams, life would never be the same. He emerged from the attack with 65 percent of his body covered in burns. He was evacuated to Honolulu where doctors assumed he would die. The Navy even sent telegrams to his family to inform them of his death. One week later, his family received a second telegram that he in fact had survived.

McAdams, a young lawyer from Jonesboro, Arkansas, joined the Navy as a volunteer in 1943. The bombing of the USS Gamble was a horrid attack, but one that led to lifelong friendships and McAdams' many commitments to community.

Born in 1915 to Dr. H. H. McAdams and Stella Patrick McAdams in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Herbert McAdams attended public schools there. After high school graduation, his father encouraged him to pursue a profession, but not in the medical field. McAdams received a basketball scholarship at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1937. At Northwestern, McAdams was an avid member of the debate team and Sigma Nu social fraternity where he served as "commander" his senior year. His love of debate led him to pursue a law degree at Harvard. After his first year at Harvard, he transferred to Chicago where he attended Loyola School of Law at night and worked at Montgomery Ward during the day.

But McAdams loved Arkansas and eventually transferred to the University of Arkansas School of Law, graduating with honors in 1940. It was there that he met Robert A. Leflar, who would later become the legendary dean of the law school and a mentor and lifelong friend for McAdams.

McAdams was admitted to practice: U.S. Supreme Court (1944), Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals (1944), U.S. Court of Claims (1944), U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals (1944), The Interstate Commerce Commission, the U.S. District Courts and the Supreme Court of the State of Arkansas. He was a member of the Board of Bar Examiners, State of Arkansas (1950-55).

After graduating, McAdams practiced law, but soon military service beckoned. He signed up with the U.S. Navy in 1943 as an ensign, joking that at age 28 he was the oldest ensign in the Navy.

After being stabilized for his burns in Honolulu, McAdams was transferred to the Bethesda Naval Hospital outside of Washington, D.C., where he befriended Arkansas Senator John L. McClellan, a friendship that was deep and enduring.

After extensive grafting and extended hospitalization, he was able to return to Jonesboro to a hero's welcome. To recognize his military service and sacrifice, the town bestowed to McAdams the title of president of the board of education, an unpaid civic post. Other veterans were welcomed home with similar honors.

Unbeknownst to McAdams, the schools in Jonesboro were struggling to maintain their facilities, pay decent wages and create an income flow from millage taxes or federal aid. A volunteer position became more than the occasional meeting. It began a transformation in the Jonesboro school system.

Led by McAdams, veterans began to search for solutions and rallied the Jonesboro community to donate \$1 per month for a school building fund. At times the process was contentious, but it created a more modern school district with well-paid teachers.

McAdams turned his attention to banking when he and a friend purchased the Farmers State Bank of Lake City, soon relocating its charter to Jonesboro. In the early 1960s, Witt Stephens approached McAdams about buying the Citizens Bank

of Jonesboro, which McAdams purchased and merged Farmers State under the Citizens Bank umbrella. In the mid-1960s, McAdams bought Security Bank of Paragould and the Bank of Nettleton, which he sold after moving to Little Rock. McAdams also managed Home Federal Savings and Loan of Jonesboro.

In 1970, the board of the Union National Bank of Arkansas approached McAdams about buying the struggling financial institution. He did so and moved his family to Little Rock to oversee Union National Bank. In the late 1980s, Union acquired banks in Texas, Oklahoma and Magnolia, Arkansas. In 1993, Union was sold to Worthen National Bank of Arkansas, creating the largest bank in the state at the time.

McAdams sold Citizens Bank of Jonesboro to Boatmen's Bancshares Inc. in 1996.

Worthen was purchased by Boatmen's Bancshares of St. Louis, which later merged with NationsBank Corporation of Charlotte, North Carolina. NationsBank purchased BankAmerica in 1998. The new entity changed names to Bank of America, now one of the largest financial institutions in the world.

McAdams' business acumen extended to several corporate, educational and nonprofit boards, and he also supported several charities.

He was married to Ruth Noyes McAdams from 1937 to 1970. They had four children: Judy McAdams DeRoek-deceased (husband Wally) of Austin, Texas; Sandra McAdams Connor (husband Bob) of Dallas; Herbert Hall McAdams III (wife Letty) of Dallas; and Penny McAdams Hodges (husband Tim) of Little Rock.

He married Shelia Wallace McAdams who had two daughters: Kara McAdams Kratzer (husband John) of Rancho Santa Fe, California, and Anne McAdams Dyke (husband Merritt) of Atlanta. He and Shelia had a daughter: Nicole McAdams Groth (husband Dallas) of Dallas, Texas.

McAdams died in 2001 at 86 years of age.



James Kirk Thompson

CHAIRMAN | J.B. HUNT TRANSPORT, INC.

At 19, Kirk Thompson was broke and dejected. His father had passed away, and Thompson decided to drop out of school at the University of Arkansas. He was overwhelmed, and he needed a job.

It was 1973.

Thompson was good with numbers. His high school math teacher, Wyth Duke, had inspired Thompson to believe he was capable of finding opportunities outside of what his small hometown of Newark, Arkansas, offered.

So Thompson applied for a bookkeeping job through an employment agency. The job was with a trucking company called the J.B. Hunt Company, located in Lowell.

Co-owner and hiring manager Johnelle Hunt was not interested in hiring Thompson, but she agreed to the interview as a favor to the employment agency.

They immediately hit it off. He was hired.

Thompson began work the next day and thrived at J.B. Hunt. After a year or so of working at minimum wage, he realized he needed to go back to school. He spoke to Mrs. Hunt who encouraged him to continue working while he pursued a degree in accounting. And that is exactly what he did.

Thompson was born in Little Rock in 1953 to James H. Thompson, a brakeman for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and Mabel, a stay-at-home mom. After Thompson completed the third grade, the family moved to Mabel's hometown of Newark. Thompson graduated from high school in 1971 as valedictorian – in a graduating class of 35.

In his junior year of high school, Thompson had the opportunity to visit the University of Arkansas through a summer honors program. That experience convinced him to attend school there after high school.

After graduating from the University of

Arkansas, Thompson gave up his job with J.B. Hunt and set off to begin a professional career as an accountant at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. – now known as KPMG – in Little Rock. Eighteen months later, while auditing a bank in Texarkana, Thompson received a phone call from Mrs. Hunt. She asked him if he would be interested in coming back.

The pull to return to the J.B. Hunt Company was strong. It was now 1979, and Thompson found himself in an interview with owners Johnelle and J.B. Hunt and executive Wayne Garrison. He was hired.

At just 26 years old, Thompson found himself working as the chief financial officer for the trucking company, which was experiencing explosive growth with \$20 million in revenue.

In 1983, J.B. Hunt Transport Services made its initial public offering. That year, it would earn \$63 million in revenue. Three years later, shareholders elected Thompson as president and chief operating officer. In 1987, Thompson was elected chief executive officer. By 1988, the company's revenue had grown to nearly \$400 million.

During his tenure at J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Thompson led the company through rapid growth, deregulation, driver shortages, innovative cost-cutting measures and improved working conditions for drivers. In the 1990s, the company extended its reach into railroad logistics, nationally transforming the trucking industry.

In 2011, Thompson became chairman of the board and relinquished day-to-day operations to John Roberts, the current president and chief executive officer.

In his 23 years at the helm of J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Thompson transformed the company from a basic trucking provider to a \$3.8 billion truckload and intermodal empire, one of the nation's largest. The company has been recognized as one of *Forbes* magazine's Best Managed Companies

in America and *Fortune* magazine's America's Most Admired Companies.

Today, J.B. Hunt Transport Services has revenues of \$7 billion making it one of the largest publicly held transportation logistics companies in North America. It operates nearly 13,000 trucks and employs more than 22,000 people. The headquarters remains in Lowell.

A favorite quote that Thompson attributes to baseball great Yogi Berra sums up his outlook about success: "If you ain't got no animals, you ain't hardly got no circus."

Thompson credits the company's successful transformation to the great team, past and present, at J.B. Hunt. Success for Thompson in both his personal life and in business was dependent upon the people surrounding him.

Outside of work, Thompson is most proud of his four children. His daughter Nicole Guenther lives in Fayetteville and is a speech therapist. His son Zac, a resident of New York City, is an editor for Frommer's Travel Guides and writes play reviews for *The Village Voice*. Daughter Kelsey Roth, an English as a second language (ESL) curriculum specialist for the Springdale School District, lives in Fayetteville. Daughter Eden Raines lives in Little Rock and teaches middle school at The Anthony School.

Thompson is smitten with his five grandchildren who he says are the greatest and cutest grandkids alive: Exie Claire and Cash Guenther, Aspen and Levi Roth and Leo Raines.

He serves on the boards of the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas and Rand Logistics. His philanthropic support and interests include the arts at the Walton Arts Center, Theatre Squared and the SoNA of Fayetteville, as well as the Waterfront Playhouse of Key West, Florida. Thompson resides in Key West, Florida, and in Fayetteville and Jasper, Arkansas.

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Want to nominate an Arkansas business leader for the 2019 Arkansas Business Hall of Fame? Visit walton.uark.edu/abhj.

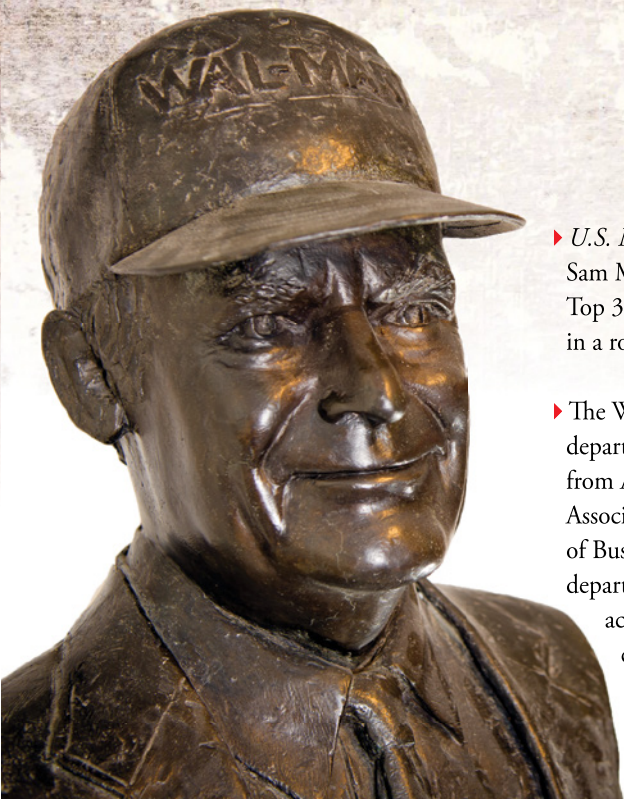



Tyson

Congratulations, Kirk.

We salute your leadership and contributions to our great state as you are recognized by the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.

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WALTON:

Excellence, Professionalism, Innovation and Collegiality

- ▶ *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the Sam M. Walton College of Business as a Top 30 public business school for 15 years in a row.
- ▶ The Walton College accounting department holds a separate accreditation from AACSB International – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – and the information systems department is one of the few at AACSB-accredited business schools in the country to have STEM designation.
- ▶ Walton graduates are CEOs of four *Fortune* 500 companies – C. Douglas McMillon, a 1989 Walton graduate, is president and CEO of Walmart; John N. Roberts III, a 1988 Walton grad, is president and CEO of J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.; William T. Dillard II, a 1966 Walton grad, is chairman and CEO of Dillard's, Inc.; Gary Norcross, a 1987 Walton graduate, is president and CEO of Fidelity National Information Services Inc. Also, more than 30 Walton graduates occupy executive offices at *Fortune* 500 companies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Gill Ragon Owen, P.A. Congratulates
James “Jim” A. Bottin
on being inducted into the
2018 Arkansas Business Hall of Fame

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

- ▶ Walton College faculty publish groundbreaking research in the world's leading business journals. Their teaching is recognized university-wide for its excellence, and several are distinguished professors and university professors. They are cited as experts in their field by the likes of *The New York Times* and the *Harvard Business Review* and garner awards from companies such as IBM for their innovative work in the hottest business topics of today – data analytics, entrepreneurship, supply chain management and global business.
- ▶ Walton College's location in Northwest Arkansas gives us the opportunity to partner on projects with some of the largest corporations in the world.

WALTON HISTORY

To learn more about the Walton College and its long history, visit walton.uark.edu/about/mission-vision-history.php

- Founded at the University of Arkansas in 1926
- Accredited by AACSB International since 1931
- In 1998, the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation gave the Walton College an endowment of \$50 million, at that time the single largest up-front cash gift to a business school.

- In the fall of 2012, the Walton College dedicated the Sam Walton Legacy Display in the atrium of the Business Building, a \$1 million display and renovation funded by a combined gift from Walmart and the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation.
- Dr. Matthew Waller became the Dean of the Walton College on July 1, 2016.



WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY EPIC

The Walton College Values Task Force has put together official definitions for the words that make up our values.

Excellence: We are driven to be the best in everything we do.

Professionalism: We operate with integrity, humility, respect, and inclusion.

Innovation: We imagine possibilities, we create, and inspire others.

Collegiality: We respect each individual, we value our differences, and we welcome all.

Invest in Walton

Walton College is growing in enrollment, academic achievement and recognition. In fall 2017, Walton welcomed 6,011 undergraduate students, up from 5,675 students in fall 2016. Walton also welcomed 644 Honors College students, up from 584 in fall 2016. With that growth comes challenges for classrooms, faculty and equipment. Through the generosity of Walton's supporters, we can meet these challenges and attract top talent – students, staff and faculty – to the University of Arkansas, build new classroom space and invest in the latest technology.

In the 2016-2017 academic year:

Under-represented student participation in the Honors Program increased by 42 students to 106 students.

Walton faculty taught 1,243 classes – 158 of these were taught online.

Faculty members presented nearly 800 papers at conferences, were recognized with nearly 130 best paper or research awards, and were selected for editorial boards and/or editorial responsibilities at prestigious journals.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business extended accreditation of Walton's undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs for an additional five years.

The AACSB also extended accreditation of the Department of Accounting for another five years. Only 186 schools – less than 2 percent overall – hold additional specialized accreditation for their accounting program.

Since 2004, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Walton College in the top 30 public – and top 50 public and private – undergraduate business schools.

Businessweek ranked Walton in the top 50 public business programs.

The Walton online bachelor's degree program was recognized in *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Online Programs."

There are many ways to invest in Walton. Numerous companies have matching gift programs that can double or triple the value of your gift. You can also:

Make a gift online at onlinegiving.uark.edu.

Include the Walton College in your estate plans.

Transfer a gift of stock.

Set up an electronic bank draft for your contribution.

Send in a check to check off your annual donation.

Multiply your gift with matching donations from your employer. Search the database of participating companies at www.matchinggifts.com/uark.

To find out how you can support Walton, contact John Erck, senior director of development and external relations, at jerck@uark.edu; Derrick Riddle, assistant director of development, at driddle@walton.uark.edu; or Wren Myers, assistant director of development, at wmyers@walton.uark.edu.

Congratulations



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Founder & Chairman
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John D. Correnti
(1947-2015)
Former Chairman & CEO
Big River Steel



Herbert H. McAdams II
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Congratulations

James "Jim" A. Bottin
on your selection
to the Arkansas
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**Arkansas
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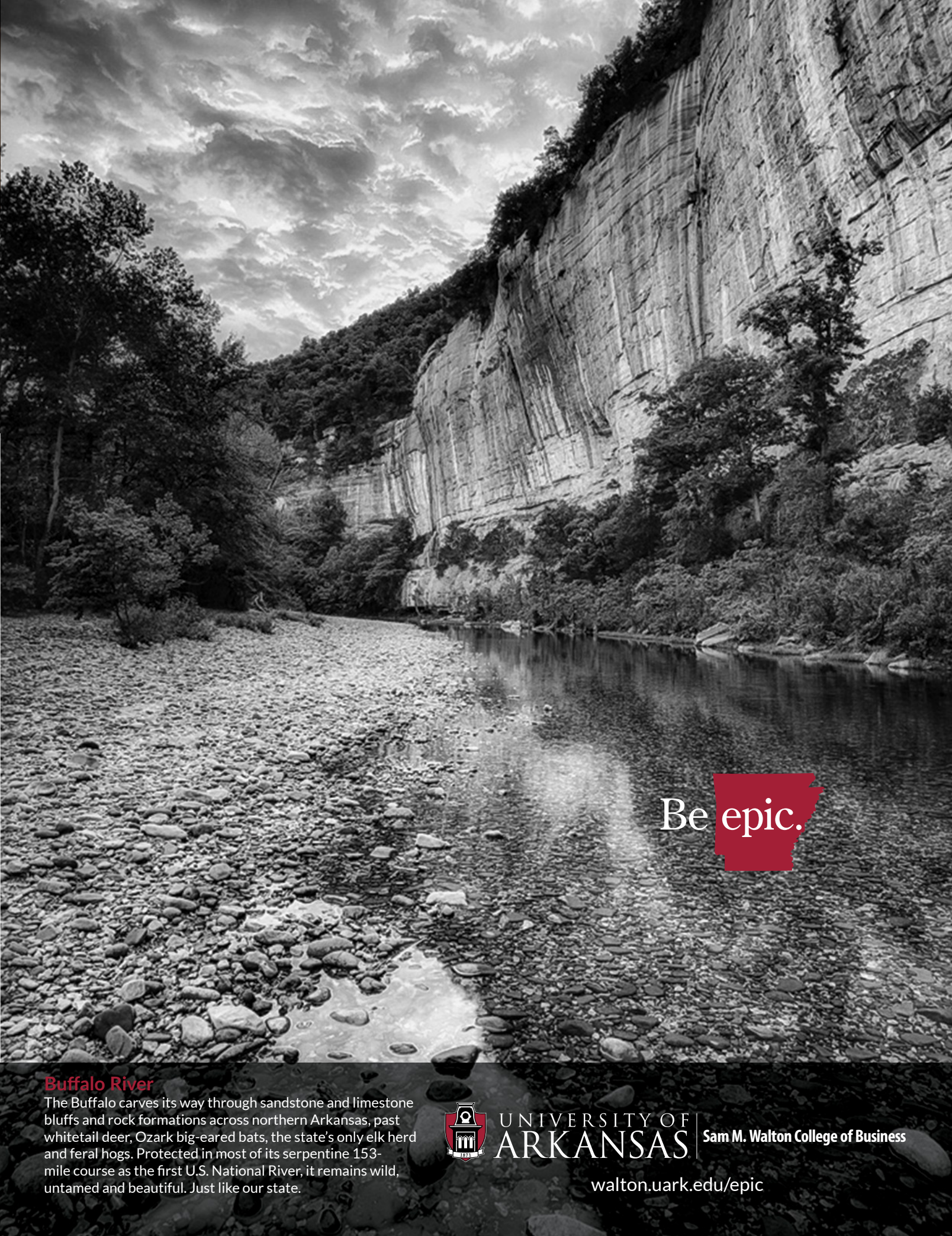


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Rice+ Research

Walton Ph.D. Student Wins Fellowship to Study Rice, Information, Markets

Information moves markets. That's something every business student understands – or should.

As a University of Arkansas undergraduate, Jessica Darby wrote her Honors thesis on the relationship of rice markets and information. Now, as a Ph.D. candidate at the Walton College, she's studying ways that timely and accurate information flowing out of the supply chain can help rice farmers in Arkansas and around the world.

Darby researches how rice farmers get their information about markets and how they make decisions based on that information. She's also looking to ask farmers if better information can lead to better decisions.

In spring 2017, Darby gained support for this research by winning a prestigious and highly competitive Adam Smith Fellowship from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. The one-year fellowship for graduate students – which includes a quarterly stipend – can total up to \$10,000. Fellows also are eligible to apply for conference and research support.

"I believe that working with the Mercatus Center will help me provide economic tools and market-based instruments that improve decision making at the farm level and, consequently, the entire agricultural supply chain," Darby said. "This can articulate the power of markets in the structuring of agricultural supply chains."

Her research can also be a powerful tool in helping the farmers and the economy of Arkansas. Arkansas is the largest rice-growing state in the nation, with the crop grown on 1.3 million acres each year, mainly in eastern Arkansas counties stretching from Louisiana to Missouri.

Darby's interest in commodities such as rice and the behavior of commodity markets was sparked by an internship with a global trading and sourcing company as a commodity analyst and a second internship with one of the largest shippers

of grain on the inland river system. The latter gave her insight into the role that public information – especially United States Department of Agriculture reports – plays in decisions.

"In both roles, I was responsible for producing regional analysis to determine potential growth and necessary defense strategies to adapt to changing market and institutional environments," Darby said.

Darby was introduced to free-market concepts and information's impact on commodity trading and pricing through a Walton College supply chain class on capitalism and a Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences class on futures and options. The latter class sparked an interest in working with Andrew McKenzie, a professor of agricultural economics and agri-business. "He introduced me to Milo Hamilton's book, *When Rice Shakes the World*," Darby said. "Hamilton discusses the implications of policies on the functioning of global rice markets and argues for a 'freer, market-oriented way for rice.'"

McKenzie directed Darby's Honors thesis on rice futures markets. The two published that research in the U of A undergraduate research journal *Inquiry* and then extended the research. Darby presented this extended research as a paper at the NCCC-134 Applied Commodity Price Analysis, Forecasting and Risk Management Conference. The two then co-authored an article on the topic – "Information Content of USDA Rice Reports and Price Reactions of Rice Futures" – that was published in *Agribusiness: An International Journal*.

"Our research shows that the U.S.D.A. provides the rice futures market with important information needed by Arkansas rice mills and farmers to market their crops," McKenzie said. "The Arkansas Farm Bureau notes that Arkansas farmers produce more than 9 billion pounds

of rice each year, which generates billions of dollars to the state's economy and accounts for approximately 25,000 jobs crucial to rural communities."

The impact of such research on Arkansas and its economy inspires Darby to continue to dig into the topic. "It's important to me that my research connect to industry," Darby said. "I have to see the practical application."

McKenzie added that, in an era of declining federal budgets, the kind of research he and Darby have produced provides economic justification for the continued publication of U.S.D.A. reports.

"Our results undoubtedly show that U.S.D.A. reports play a vital role in helping futures market to discover price and that this is particularly important for the U.S. rice market, where there is a paucity of private data and forecast to supplement government numbers," McKenzie said. "However, our research also highlights the fact that rice futures is a thinly traded market with low liquidity and volume."

McKenzie and Darby are currently engaged in research to explore possible factors that may be driving low trading levels and then to determine potential solutions to increase volume and open interest.

Darby earned a B.S.B.A. in economics from the Walton College in 2015 and a Walton M.B.A. in 2016. Darby says her passion for reading, research and free-market capitalism left no doubt she would enter Walton's Ph.D. program right away. Winning the Adam Smith Fellowship is pushing that passion into a whole different realm, though.

"I believe that it will enable me to examine and better articulate the power of markets in global agricultural supply chains," Darby said, "as well as the power of global agricultural supply chains in the structuring of global markets."

—  —
Congratulations to

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ABC Financial Services

JOHN D. CORRENTI
Big River Steel

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