The Walker Family recognized the opportunity for the Walton College to grow and serve. Through the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation, an initial gift was made for the construction of a building to house the Graduate School of Business, outreach centers, meeting and gathering spaces and classrooms. The building was named in honor of the late Willard J. Walker, a leader in the development of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

We are grateful to the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation and the other alumni and friends who made the construction of Willard J. Walker Hall and Linda Sue Shollmier Plaza possible. This generosity—coupled with a vision of the Walton College’s leadership role in business education—allows us to impact Arkansas and the world as we educate future generations of business and community leaders.

Spaces within Walker Hall provided by private gifts include:

- First Security Bank Auditorium
- H.L. Hembree III Room
- Wal-Mart Executive Boardroom
- George W. Edwards Jr. Career Center
- Walter B. Cole Café
- Edward M. Penick Sr. and Evelyn W. Penick Trading Studio
- Larry Crain Family Trading Studio
- Kenny Landgraf Business Strategy Room
- The Gregory W. and Hannah F. Lee Classroom
- The Mark and Dayna Sutton Classroom
- AT&T Graduate Student Case Study Classroom
- MAcc Program Meeting Rooms (Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust)
- Sunthorn Arunanondchai Room
- David C. McDonald, Mark L. Townsend, Jane Rich McDonald, D. Kirk McDonald Graduate Student Study Room

Completed in 2007, Walker Hall is part of a four-building business campus, composed of the Business Building, Donald W. Reynolds Center for Enterprise Development and J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc. Center for Academic Excellence, surrounding the beautiful Linda Sue Shollmier Plaza. The meeting spaces, labs and classrooms facilitate the teaching of business disciplines to graduate and undergraduate students. Thank you for opening doors of creativity, innovation, and opportunity for business students at the University of Arkansas.
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Facility Usage

Supporting business education, Walker Hall’s technology enhances students’ experience. To facilitate group collaboration, 12 graduate team rooms are equipped with plasma screens, large marker boards and electronic schedulers that allow students to book rooms online or at the door. The Global Financial Markets Trading Center has the latest technology and software used in Wall Street firms. And, First Security Auditorium provides seating for 104 students and guests.

Walker Hall is also used to serve business and industry. It houses the George W. Edwards Jr. Career Center, Global Financial Markets Trading Center, and Graduate School of Business, as well as outreach centers—Applied Sustainability Center, Center for Business and Economic Research, Center for Retailing Excellence, Supply Chain Management Research Center, Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace—and the Office of Entrepreneurship. In H.L. Hembree III Room, First Security Auditorium, Wal-Mart Boardroom and Arkansas Boardroom, meeting and event space is available for the university and business communities.

George W. Edwards Jr. Career Center

Vikas Anand, associate professor of management and MBA director, assumed the leadership of the career center as executive director. Renee Clay, formerly assistant director, became the managing director. With new leadership, new initiatives were undertaken, and previously established, successful programs continued.

Companies recruited our students. During fall 2013 and spring 2014, 271 on-campus interviews were scheduled for 131 companies, which interviewed 1,387 students. Further, the fall career fair attracted 138 companies and 1,350 students.

The “Career Bell” was inaugurated in October to recognize a student getting a job through the center. A fun way to celebrate a momentous achievement, the student—often accompanied by parents—rings the bell. Additionally, the first “Corporate Come to Campus” event prompted students to start networking in a non-threatening environment. Another new program, Corporate Spotlight, debuted in January to engage companies in publicizing their career opportunities. For a week, companies were provided publicity, student access through information sessions and recruiting opportunities.

Each fall and spring, the Career Center and Center for Retailing Excellence host a professional development training event on social and dining etiquette. The fall event featured a professional image consultant, who provided training on social etiquette in a networking setting and formal American dining. Thirty-six students enjoyed a three-course dinner in the company of area employers.
Placement

Undergraduate Placement, Fall 2013–Spring 2014
- Eighty-five percent of job-seeking graduates were employed at graduation.
- Sixteen percent pursued advanced degrees.
- Sixty-three percent were employed in the south, 21 percent in the southwest, nine percent in the midwest, three percent in the west, one percent in the northeast and three percent internationally.
- Average salary for undergraduate business majors was $50,266.
- Fifty-seven percent participated in a work experience or internship.
- Sixty-two percent who worked while in school cited “financial need” as the reason.
- Eighty-nine percent of those employed or continuing their education used a center service.

Full-time MBA Graduate Placement, Spring 2014
- Eighty-four percent of job-seeking graduates were employed at graduation.
- Average salary of those employed at graduation was $64,592.
- High salary was $98,000; low was $50,000; median salary was $62,500.

Global Initiatives

Nine business students participated in the Heifer International Alternative Spring Break Program in Perryville, Ark. During a week-long immersion at Heifer Ranch, they engaged in service work, community building and hands-on educational activities focused on hunger, sustainable development and caring for the earth.

Two students—Scott Andrews (MBA) and Cameron Boyland (Leadership Walton)—participated in the Beijing Internship Program, spending a month in China. Interns were immersed in the culture, history and business world. CRCC Asia arranged the internships for multinational and Chinese companies in many industry sectors.

Mr Price Group provided 10-week internships, housing and transportation for two MBA students—Tingting Luo and Paola Ascarrunz—in Durban, South Africa.

Leadership Walton

Leadership Walton, an established development program, enhances students’ experiences in leadership, career development and academics. In 2014, 536 students participated in the program.

Cintas, the 2014 partner, sponsored several programs and events—hosting a company visit and a business bowl networking event and participating in a trail cleanup. Overall, students completed over 350 volunteer service projects and attended over 600 speakers’ presentations, in addition to their regular classroom responsibilities.

Since beginning in 2007, 279 students have graduated from the program. Fifty-four completed the program in spring 2014, with more than 80 expected to complete the program in 2015.
The Career Closet is a source of free, upscale, gently-used business casual and professional attire, donated by alumni and friends. Business students can receive four apparel items or one suit for interviews, career fairs, office visits and jobs.

- Items donated: over 4,000
- Items currently available: 1,200
- Items taken: over 2,400
- Students assisted: over 520

- Annual overstock event for all university students: over 220 students, 325 items
- Estimated resale value of items: more than $17,000

Global Financial Markets Trading Center

The center is a state-of-the-art classroom where our ever-more technologically astute students can learn about finance using cutting-edge software and real-time market data. A function of the Garrison Financial Institute, the center is equipped with 60 computer stations, an electronic ticker display of live stock prices, trading simulation software and Bloomberg terminals providing real-time and historical financial data. The center houses financial and accounting classes as well as lecture series, conferences and workshops for the Finance Department, First Year Experience and Undergraduate Programs Office.

Over 60 students engaged in managing portfolios of “real money” in the Portfolio Management, Shollmier Investment and Arvest Fixed Income classes. Craig Rennie, assistant professor and Clete and Tammy Brewer Professor in Business, was lead instructor for the classes. The teaching of technical features of Bloomberg, technical analysis and FINRA Series 7 materials prepared students for careers in investment. Students again competed in the International Student Managed Investment Fund GAME Symposium at Quinnipiac University, winning first place in the value fund category.

Placements upon graduation included positions with Raymond James (Tampa) in the OPTIONS Rotational Program, Walmart (Bentonville) accounting/finance, Windstream Communications (Little Rock) in the Rotational Development Program, Infinium Capital (Chicago) as junior traders, Fidelity Investments (Dallas) as internal wholesaler and Frost Flying Inc. in aircraft sales. Students continuing their education were accepted into graduate schools at Texas Christian University and Southern Methodist University Law School.
Graduate School of Business

Walton’s rigorous graduate program begins with a foundation in the core business disciplines of economics, accounting, finance, quantitative analysis, management, marketing and supply chain management. The recently released *U.S. News & World Report*’s 2016 edition of “Best Graduate Schools” ranked the Walton College’s full-time MBA program in the top 100 (63rd) among public and private graduate business schools and top 50 (33rd) among public schools.

Marion Dunagan, assistant dean for graduate programs and executive education, and Vikas Anand, associate professor of management and MBA Director, led the flourishing growth in the number of students seeking Walton graduate degrees. Enrollment in the MBA class was 70, of which 25 were international students from Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, China, France, India, Kuwait and Panama. Their average GPA was 3.47 on a 4.0 scale, and average GMAT score was 651 out of a possible 800. (Approximately half of all test-takers score between 400 and 600.) The class average age was 25 years old; 64 percent were males and 36 percent were females.

Executive MBA enrollment was 143, with 29 students hailing from nine countries—Chile, China, El Salvador, Germany, India, Mexico, Nepal, Panama and Venezuela. Average GPA was 3.47, and average GMAT was 651. The class average age was 32 years old, with 27 percent having one to five years work experience, 35 percent having five to 10 years of experience and 38 percent having 10 to 25 years of experience. Sixty-two percent were males and 38 percent were females.

A professional development program, open to all master’s-level students, expanded choices and flexibility in scheduling. Selections included Building your Personal Brand; Social Media; Seeking a Job Post Graduation; Business Negotiations; Diversity in the Workplace; Advanced Power Point; Business and Dining Etiquette; Advanced Excel and Advanced Excel Programming Macros; Interview Skills Bootcamp; Managing Cultural Diversity; Microsoft Access (Basics, Intermediate and Advanced); Professional Dress Workshop; Cross-Party Collaboration; Faith, Values and Authentic Leadership; The Future of the Economic Union; and Presentation Skills. Additionally, a partnership with the Small Business and Technology Development Center allowed students to attend their workshops.

Executive Education became a component of the Graduate School of Business, enhancing our ability to provide programs compatible with the research and expertise of Walton faculty. William Murphey, associate director, assumed program management, and Matthew Waller, Garrison Chair in Supply Chain Management, was named associate dean with responsibility for overall program direction.

Although focused on customized program, Executive Education also offers a variety of open enrollment programs—Emerging Leaders Program, Managerial Leadership and Lunch & Learn Workshops. Custom programs were provided to Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Wal-Mart Leadership Academy and Rockline Industries. In addition to these regional efforts, the second non-credit certificate in entrepreneurial excellence was completed in Panama.
Outreach Centers

The college’s ten centers and institutes provide a vital connection to the business world as well as a resource for students interested in a specific industry. Centers housed in Walker Hall are the Applied Sustainability Center, Center for Business and Economic Research, Center for Retailing Excellence, Supply Chain Management Research Center, and Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace. And, the Bessie B. Moore Center for Economic Education relocated to Walker Hall in the summer. The First Security Bank Auditorium, H. L. Hembree III Room, Wal-Mart Executive Boardroom, class and meeting rooms and gathering spaces are used for speakers and businesses to connect faculty and students.

Led by Michelle Halsell, managing director, the Applied Sustainability Center accelerates learning about sustainability and expands the commitment to sustainable practices in public and private sectors. A variety of education and outreach programs are hosted for policy makers, business leaders, students and the general public to increase energy, climate and sustainability literacy. The second year of a grant from Arkansas Community Foundation was used for the Sustainable Energy Scorecards and Education for Municipalities (SESEM) program. Energy consumption and commercial and residential real estate data was collected for seven Arkansas cities—Bryant, Eureka Springs, Hot Springs, Monticello, Mountain Home, Rogers and Russellville. An energy scorecard for each city was developed as a baseline for establishing goals and tracking performance. An education component of SESEM, the Summer Energy Academy assembled teams of community leaders for an overview of each municipal scorecard as well as presentations on energy efficiency and other renewable energy topics. Further, teams were convened monthly for a presentation on energy topics—establishing an energy improvement district, developing a regional renewable energy network, working with an energy savings company and energy disclosure or energy labeling for buildings.

Partnering with the Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation and Arkansas Energy Office, a workshop, Energy, Jobs and the Economy, was conducted for 40 candidates for the Arkansas Legislature. With the University of Central Arkansas and Arkansas Planners’ Association, Chuck Marohn, founder of Strong Towns, was hosted in April. Over 160 leaders from across Arkansas participated in a workshop on land use planning, transportation and municipal finance. Marohn was also part of a student speakers series. Finally, the second Sustainability Leadership Summit attracted 200 community leaders to focus on economic prosperity through the lens of sustainability.
The Center for Business and Economic Research provides economic data at the federal, state and local government levels, through the media, research, presentations and events. Partnering with businesses, public agencies, foundations and nonprofit organizations, programs and initiatives included opportunity assessment, market research activities and analysis, competitive analyses, market strategy, benchmarking studies and market projections.

During the 20th Business Forecast luncheon, over 1,200 area leaders heard Kathy Deck, director, present on construction, leisure and hospitality, retail growth and professional and business services on the state and local economies. Global conditions were presented by Yi Wen, assistant vice president of research at the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis. Richard Yamarone, chief economist, Bloomberg Brief, touched on economic indicators such as unemployment, manufacturing and housing. Donnie Smith, chief executive officer and president of Tyson Foods, Inc., served as moderator. Additionally, two Quarterly Business Analysis breakfasts focused on the most recently available data and trends, providing participants timely insight into the local, state and national economies.

- The “Skyline Report,” produced for the 10th year, tracked the Northwest Arkansas residential, multifamily and commercial real estate markets.
- For the third year, a set of retail leading and coincident indicators for the nation was expanded in partnership with the Center for Retailing Excellence.
- A study on the impact of University of Arkansas Razorback football games was released.
- The economic impact of Benton County offices located in Downtown Bentonville was estimated.
- The State of the Northwest Arkansas Region report was provided for the Northwest Arkansas Council as part of their strategic economic development efforts.
- An economic impact study of converting dry counties to wet was produced for Our Community, Our Dollars.
- In collaboration with the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University and Missouri State University, regional consumer confidence was measured for Arvest Bank.
- In partnership with the Applied Sustainability Center, energy scorecards were produced for seven cities in Arkansas.
- A study of the labor market for new Ph.D.s was produced for the annual breakfast of department chairs.
- The annual progress report on the knowledge-based economy in Arkansas was produced.

Over $100,000 was generated through events and presentations, with $50,000 used for staff and general expenses. Research proposals totaled over $300,000, and program revenues were $100,000. These sources funded research and programs, student and staff salaries, travel for international and national speakers and faculty, staff and student attendance at events and training. The center was cited in over 165 newspaper, online, radio and television articles and interviews, of which half were a result of research and events.
The Center for Retailing Excellence was established in 1998 to:

• Develop strategic alliances between business, academics and industry by focusing on common issues/concerns of retailers and suppliers in both education and research.
• Promote student career interest in retailing and related businesses.
• Encourage and support research that advances knowledge of retailing and addresses problems of retailing organizations and supplier firms.

Led by Claudia Mobley, director, and an executive board of directors, 25 programs enhanced academic experiences for students and transformed extracurricular offerings into unique, diverse opportunities. Scholarships, study abroad and funded research supported programs relevant to the future of industry and academia. Four new organizations—Anderson Merchandisers, ATLAS Technology Group, Heineken USA and Shreiber Foods—joined the executive board, which consists of 67 representatives from 61 companies and organizations.

• The 13th Emerging Trends in Retailing conference featured Duncan Mac Naughton, executive vice president, Walmart U.S.; Dina Howell, worldwide CEO, Saatchi & Saatchi X; and Jeff Schomburger, president, Global Walmart Team, Procter & Gamble.
• The fourth SHOP conference with David Shing, AOL digital prophet, attracted over 200 industry representatives. Andy Murray, senior vice president, Walmart; David Denholm, president/CEO, Chobani; Christian Madsbjerg, co-founder of ReD Associates and co-author of The Moment of Clarity; and Ken Nisch, chairman, JGA, spoke on growth through creativity and ideas.
• Scholarships totaling $75,000 supported Walton students in the Japan and China Study Abroad programs.
• Students of Retailing Excellence (STORE) association membership grew from 75 students to 121. Through the executive board, 22 programs provided career insights through data and consumer insights, mentoring, store operations, career exploration and professional networking.
• A pilot program of an elective representing the final level of STORE launched in the fall. A case competition utilized a fact-based analysis to identify opportunities and prepare for a product launch. Concepts introduced data sources and principles for category planning and management, shopper insights, channel and retail strategy, shelf placement, pricing and promotion, store operations and marketing strategy. Students were also required to create a supply chain forecasting and retail replenishment plan.
• A “Day-in-the-Life” speaker series featured industry professionals discussing their jobs.
• Seven STORE members attended the National Retail Federation Big Show in New York City.
• Four students represented STORE at the SHOP.org conference in Chicago, Ill.
• Business Leadership Academy, conducted with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, introduced 22 incoming freshmen from underrepresented groups to campus life, facilitated development of a social network and presented applied business foundations through a case study during the five-day program.
• Research on retail economic indicators and impact of the U.S. retail industry was sponsored through the Center for Business and Economic Research. Also, over $45,000 was awarded to faculty for summer research projects.
• Students received $94,500 in scholarships through the Andy Murray Shopper Marketing Scholarship, Bob Connolly Scholarship and Bridgestone Firestone Scholarship. Vendors FORE Education raised nearly $50,000 for scholarships.
Under the leadership of Executive Director Terry Esper, Oren Harris Chair in Logistics, and James Crowell, managing director, the Supply Chain Management Research Center links students, academics and industry to develop tomorrow’s supply chain leaders. A board of industry representatives provides guidance and supports initiatives that promote student recruitment, retention and placement and supports research relevant to supply chain management.

With Sam’s Club and Walmart, the International Graduate Logistics Case Competition attracted 12 major U.S. and European universities and 17 corporate sponsors. The competition featured a Walmart transportation fleet case, the ninth in the Walmart Sustainability Case Project series created by David Hyatt, clinical assistant professor. This year, 50 faculty and administrators participating in the AACSB Supply Chain Forum also attended.

Other noteworthy outcomes included:
- A white paper for FedEx, “Optimizing the Inbound Supply Chain Enables E-Commerce Growth,” was written by Annibal Sodero, assistant professor and member of the FedEx Ecommerce Customer Advisory Board.
- Loray Mosher, research director, published an article in Logistics Quarterly entitled “Lean In or Bow Out: Advice to Young Women Seeking Professional Advancement.” Loray also presented “Driving Innovation in the Supply Chain” at the Logistics Quarterly Annual Symposium in Ontario, Canada, and served as a panelist on “Diversity in the Supply Chain Talent Pool” at the Retail Industry Logistics Association conference in San Diego.
- The center contributed to the development, connection and implementation of customized executive education programs, including the inaugural J.B. Hunt University Powered by Walton.
- Our Women in Supply Excellence (WISE) group was awarded the prestigious C200 award, receiving $40,000 in student scholarships and a day of programing with sought after keynote speakers, such as General Beck Hallstead.
- Thirty students were paired with industry professionals for one-on-one mentoring. Mentors helped prepare for interviews for internships and jobs and provided a sense of the expectations upon entrance into the workforce.
- An undergraduate team placed in the top three at the University of North Florida Supply Chain Case Competition. Another team competed in the annual Operation Stimulus Case Competition and Conference in Denver, Colo.
- A Walton MBA team won the Michigan State Case Competition.
- An increase in students enrolled in supply chain management courses resulted in increased participation in supply chain RSOs, as well as more than 10 student events and 25 mentoring match ups.
- Internships increased by 15 percent, while the spring placement rate was over 90 percent.
This was a year of transition for the Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace. In June, Daniel Harris became the managing director and executive-in-residence. His charge was to build on the work of his predecessor and propose approaches to expand and sustain the center. A mutually-supportive plan was constructed for four constituencies: students, business leaders, scholars and Walton College.

The three overarching goals are to:

• Stimulate a significant, on-going dialog about faith (core beliefs) and values in the workplace among students at the University of Arkansas and share learning with other institutions;
• Ensure the sustainability and impact of the center by creating and facilitating mutually supportive value propositions for business, students and scholars; and
• Contribute to moving the Walton College into the top 20 public business schools by 2020.

In April, a pilot elective with 10 students was conducted with Raymond Perrier, director of the Jesuit Institute of South Africa, who has conducted similar courses at secular universities. This pilot, “Authentic Leadership in a Multi-faith Workplace: Remaining True to Yourself in a Professional Kaleidoscope,” was offered as a three-hour elective in the fall. Twenty-four students reflected on faith (core beliefs) and values and considered how to remain true to themselves in the workplace, while engaging successfully with others who may operate from different belief systems and world views. The course was conducted by Harris with visiting scholar Perrier.

A board of directors from the business community will meet with thought leaders to explore ways in which innovative approaches to faith and spirituality in the workplace can address issues such as employee engagement, ethical conduct and managing differences. Scholars and board members will set priorities for research and scholarship as well as engage and mentor students in areas such as authentic leadership, articulating personal beliefs and values appropriately and producing optimal results in a global workplace. Thus, students, scholars, business executives and thought leaders will explore faith and spirituality as a means to address practical issues in the workplace.

The Office of Entrepreneurship promotes entrepreneurial activities at the university and throughout the state. Guided by Carol Reeves, associate vice provost for entrepreneurship and Cecil and Gwendolyn Cupp Applied Professor in Entrepreneurship, an undergraduate business plan team won the prestigious Texas Christian University Richards Barrentine Values and Ventures competition. They also placed second in the Donald W. Reynolds Tri-State Competition, second in the innovation and elevator pitch competitions of the Arkansas Governor’s Cup, second in the University of Nebraska New Ventures competition and was crowd favorite in the G60 elevator pitch competition. Overall, the team won $71,000 in competitions.

Graduate teams won first, second and third and innovation and elevator pitch awards at the Arkansas Governor’s Cup. Teams also placed third at the Ivey Business Plan Competition and made the finals in several other competitions. Graduate teams won over $60,000 this year, and two teams have continued to develop their businesses post-competition.
Walter B. Cole Café was named to honor one of the first four business school faculty. The first accounting professor, he served the college for 43 years, ten as department chair (1947-1957). A display, funded by Carol and Byron Eiseman, features photos, correspondence, articles, books, sayings and memorabilia.

Leased to Einstein Bros. Bagels, Cole Café is a convenient place for students, faculty, staff and guests to enjoy a cup of coffee, snack or meal. Located at the west entrance, the cafe exudes collegiality. During nice weather, the patio is also a popular place to visit with friends and colleagues.

Linda Sue Shollmier Plaza connects the four-building business campus. It is ideal for announcements and celebrations such as the Walton Block Party welcoming the students and faculty back to campus in the fall and the Corporate Comes to Campus event.

The inviting landscaped space, with blooming plants and trees and soothing fountain sounds, is frequently filled with students, faculty, staff and visitors socializing, relaxing between classes or events, studying or touring the campus.