

## **Investing in Himself: How One UMO Student is Redefining Success**

PRINCETON - When James Boring enrolled at the University of Mount Olive (UMO) in 2023, he brought more than just ambition to the classroom—he brought a clear sense of purpose and a career already in motion. As a Mortgage Loan Officer and Assistant Vice President at KS Bank, Boring is no stranger to long hours, financial reports, and the high stakes of helping people realize their dreams of homeownership. Beneath his professional polish is a dedicated husband and father of three.

Boring is working toward his bachelor's degree in accounting through UMO's online program, with plans to graduate in 2026. Born in Clayton and raised in Princeton, NC, he is rooted in small-town values but driven by a vision that stretches far beyond local lines. "I want to show my kids the benefits of chasing your dreams and sticking to it," he says. "That gets me up every day."

Boring's path has not been without challenges. After attending NC State during his son's early years, he made some tough decisions about education and career direction. Those decisions—marked by personal reflection and a deep desire to provide for his family—eventually led him to the banking industry, where he has spent the past several years growing into a leadership role. He credits much of his success to the values instilled by his late mother, Linda, who taught him to respect everyone and always be open to learning from others.

"My story involves perseverance," he said. "Opportunities came from proving myself as reliable, hard-working, and determined. I also believe in treating people the right way, all the time."

Boring also names his wife Marrissa as a cornerstone of support during his return to higher education. Together, they are raising daughters Magnolia (11 months) and Jeddah (14), and son Anthem (10). The family enjoys 5K races, long walks, and board game nights.

For Boring, the connection between classroom and career is clear—his accounting courses are already making a difference in his daily role. "I have been able to gain a better understanding of our bank's quarterly earnings reports and other financial documents we use," he says. He looks forward to applying upcoming coursework in business tax returns directly to his current role.

His favorite part of the job? Helping clients navigate the mortgage process with clarity and confidence. "I'm not just in the loan business—ultimately, it's the people business. That's what really matters," he says.

Boring praises UMO's online program for its responsive professors and accelerated course options. "Repetition and consistent work habits are necessary to succeed in accounting, and that's amplified when you're taking six or seven-week courses," he explains. "You must roll up your sleeves, read the material, and ask your professors questions. Nobody else will do it for you—and that applies to life, too."

Boring credits professors like Dr. Doug Ward in Business Statistics and Dr. Alan Lamm in American History for creating engaging, insightful learning environments. "Dr. Ward's

instruction is some of the best I've seen," he says. "And I had a blast writing about the Salem Witch Trials in Dr. Lamm's class—it reminded me how fun research can be."

Outside of school and work, Boring is an active community member. He has been an ambassador with the Clayton Chamber of Commerce and a mentor in the Inspire Mentoring Program. He also volunteers as a youth soccer and basketball coach and helps with school events through the PTA at East Clayton Elementary.

Boring's long-term goals center on growing in the banking industry and leveraging his accounting degree to expand his financial fluency and leadership potential. He's considering pursuing CPA certification. For James Boring, the equation for success is simple: perseverance + purpose + people = a life well lived—and a future that's just getting started.

The University of Mount Olive is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The University was founded by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. For more information, visit [www.umo.edu](http://www.umo.edu).