Department Activities and Highlights

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Everyone had a great time at the Annual Chili Cook-off held on Saturday, October 28. Many firms were in attendance and the competition was fierce. Grant Thornton took home the trophy for Best Chili and first place in the horseshoe pitching contest. Pickens, Snodgrass, Koch & Company won the Taster’s Choice Award and Best Name (Survivors of the Tax Season). Our own Beta Alpha Psi won the Best Booth Award.

We sincerely appreciate all the firm members participating in this year’s event. Your support made the event a great success. You are all winners to us!!

BUSINESS WEEK AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Business Week in February brought many professionals back to the classroom in the College of Business. Stephen Chipman, Managing Partner in the Dallas office of Grant Thornton and Director of the firm’s Texas International Business Center, did an excellent job of presenting real-life problems to students in Dr. Larry Walther’s graduate class. A big thank you to Mr. Chipman for donating his time and sharing his expertise with our accounting students at UTA.

Student organizations have had a busy Spring semester. The Beta Alpha Psi Spring Social, held at Bowling and Billiards in the University Center in February, featured a faculty-student bowling tournament. The faculty barely managed to pull out a victory. The Accounting Society held its second annual Firm Night in April. The event was a tremendous success with a record number of firms and students, as well as faculty, participating. Congratulations to both organizations for a great semester.

UTA WALK OF FAME

Bill Ross, a faculty member in the Department of Accounting for 22 years and chair for nine of those years, was inducted into the UTA Walk of Fame on April 6, 2001. The Walk of Fame was created to honor persons who have made an enduring imprint on the University. Each recipient’s name is inscribed on a marble square and placed in the Walk at Centennial Plaza. Dr. Ross had previously been named Professor Emeritus at UTA.

In accepting this most recent honor, Dr. Ross was characteristically humble about any contributions he may have made to the Department and University. However, those of us who worked with him over the years know him to be an incredibly hard worker who saw what needed to be done and led his faculty by example as well as by words. Congratulations to Dr. Ross for a well-deserved honor.
The Department of Accounting

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Chairman’s Corner

Dr. Tom Hall

As described on the first page, many good things have happened this year. In October we had a great Chili Cook-off. This was followed by a successful Business Week in February and an outstanding Firm Night in April. Much of the success of these events is due to the efforts of Dr. Larry Walther, our two student groups (Beta Alpha Psi and Accounting Society) and their faculty advisors (Sue Strickland and Don McConnell). We are truly fortunate to have such excellent students and capable faculty.

In February I had the distinct pleasure of visiting Dr. Larry Walther’s graduate research class to hear Mr. Stephen Chipman speak as a BusinessWeek executive (Stephen is the Managing Partner of the Grant Thornton Dallas office). Stephen’s presentation blended a mix of history with international accounting issues and culminated with a role-playing audit case (Stephen played the role of the audit client who answered questions from the student auditors.) Spellbinding would be a conservative description of the presentation. While it lasted slightly over three hours I have no doubt that the students could have asked questions for several more hours. It was truly an enriching experience.

Within the department we have recently revised the curriculum content of our Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree. The principal change was to increase the number of business electives so that students can take significant coursework in a second business discipline such as economics, finance, or information systems. We expect a substantial number of our majors to focus on finance or information systems courses for their electives.

As you probably know, there is a growing shortage of accounting personnel and it is now clear that this shortage is driving accounting salaries much higher. If you get a chance, take a look at the Accountemps 2001 Salary Guide (pdf format, download 2 MB) on the web at: http://www.accountemps.com. The data presented in this report are based on year 2000 actual salaries with projections used to estimate year 2001 salaries. Based on the feedback received from our Fall graduates I think the projections for starting salaries are accurate (be sure to include the 10% increase for a graduate degree and the 11% regional adjustment for the Dallas area).

To recruit more accounting majors we are reworking our web site to include information about the value of an accounting degree and the outstanding career mobility the degree brings (expect a new URL this Summer). As part of this process we are soliciting brief testimonials from our former students. If you are willing to provide a testimonial please contact me at accounting@uta.edu and I will send you the testimonial form via e-mail.

Thanks to the many alums who have already submitted very generous testimonials and photos.

The department is also working to establish endowed scholarship funds to honor Kaye Horstmann and Terry Witt. Both recently retired from the department after 30 years of distinguished service and we have decided to honor their substantial contributions to the department by establishing permanent scholarship funds in their names. Income from these scholarship funds will be used to award student scholarships each year. For each fund we must raise a minimum of $10,000, and we need your help in this endeavor. If you were fortunate enough to take a class from Kaye or Terry you know they were both dedicated and excellent teachers so please consider contributing to these funds today. As always when you make a contribution to UTA be sure to designate the payee as the UTA Department of Accounting to ensure that the funds come to the department.

Finally, over the past few months I have been calling and visiting alums to introduce myself as the new chair and to solicit various types of support. The positive response has been overwhelming. On behalf of the faculty and our students I want to thank all of you for being such great alums.

Have a great summer!
FACULTY NEWS
John Beehler has taken a position as Dean of the W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University.
Terry Witt has retired and is now active in local politics and enjoying life as a grandfather.
Jeff Tsay has been on leave and teaching at Arizona State University but will return to UTA this fall.

TWO FACULTY SELECTED FOR WHO’S WHO AMONG AMERICA’S TEACHERS
Galen Carpenter and Donald McConnell have been selected for inclusion in the sixth edition of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers for 2000. This award is given to excellent teachers who are selected by students for their outstanding performance in education. Congratulations to each of them for their stellar performances!!

Galen Carpenter began his career at UTA during the Fall 1982 semester. He has taught a myriad of accounting courses including Principles I and II, Intermediate (Financial) I, Cost and Advanced Managerial Accounting. He is currently the undergraduate advisor for accounting programs. This is his second recognition in the Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

Professor McConnell joined the UTA faculty in 1978. He has primarily taught auditing courses for both the graduate and undergraduate programs. Professor McConnell has been the recipient of several teaching awards. He is presently serving as faculty advisor to the UTA Accounting Society.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FALL ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

MPACC
Campbell, Casey Dean
Evans, Pamela Hornung
Fang, Li-Huan
Hooper, Michael Young
Kiatsuranon, Somrerk
Marshall, Howard Barrett
Murray, Jerri Lynn
Nam, Hyeon Ok
Notman, Sandra Casari
Shope, Susan Pierce
Simon, Sean Foster
Walker, Paul Edward

MS ACCT
Dickerson, Joel Adam
Joenaidy, William
Kato, Tatsuhiko
LeJune, Amy Nicole
Lowe, Misty Shae

BACHELORS (BBA)
Akers, Kathleen A.
Anthony, Trent Michael
Beard, Shary Lynn
Blagg, Rebecca Jean
Bordovsky, Jared Russell
Campos, Cynthia
Denno, William C.
Dorsey, Cemtria
Doyle, Cynthia A.
Finlay, Sean Patrick
Ford, April Kimberly
Garcia, Cathy L.
Greer, Michaela Nanette
Guinn, Amy Denise
Hardin, Amanda Carole
Harmon, David Anthony
Jetton, Elizabeth
Ledbetter, Tina F.
Lee, Aqila Fatima
Looney, Mary Elizabeth
Mehasivam, Sivam T.
McCrary, Jason Kent
McKay, Karen Diane
McKibbin, Christine E.
Noel, Susan Dee
Okereke, Jude Mgbachi
Olivas, Miriam Lorena
Orvis, Julie K.
Papaspirou, Mary G.
Parker, Sharlonda Ranae
Phan, Phuong Thi Tuyet
Phillips, Leigh Ashley
Price, Vicki Elaine
Raj, Vijay Kumar
Reeves, Amy Kathleen
Shull, Robert Michael
Snowden-Caison, Michelle
Lin
Sommer, Jeanne Marie
Toney, Diedra D.
Tran, The My
Turner, Lindsey Allison
Williams, Kristina Megan
Worrell, Charles Earl
York, Tricia Lynn
Young, Phillip D.

MS TAXN
Pipes, Donna Marie
Roberts, Pamela Kay

WE SALUTE Our Graduates
I want to support quality education in the UTA Department of Accounting.

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PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:
UTA Department of Accounting

YOUR CONTRIBUTION MAY BE SENT TO:
Department of Accounting
The University of Texas at Arlington
Box 19468
Arlington, TX 76019-0468

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Please e-mail us at accounting@uta.edu

Let us know what's happening personally and professionally: marriages, births, graduations, honors, awards, promotions, association and community involvements, etc. Please include your current mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.

Let's stay in touch!!