Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of the UTA Department of Accounting newsletter. I want to share with you the success of the UTA accounting students highlighted in the most recent CPA Candidate Performance report (2010) from the National Associations of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). NASBA ranks UTA 7th in Audit and 10th in Regulation nationally for candidates with Advanced standing. Our own analysis shows that UTA comes in 3rd in the state among public universities (after Austin and A&M) for all four parts of the exam. In general, our overall pass rate for candidates with advanced standing is 68.1% compared to a pass rate of 57.7% for all Texas schools and a pass rate of 52.9% nationally. These results are evidence of the quality of the Accounting program at UTA for which we should all be proud. To further improve the quality of the program, we have joined with Becker to provide review classes for recent graduates at UTA during the summer. The summer classes are expected to start in May and we will be promoting the program soon.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, we continue to make improvements to our Accounting program. Effective Fall 2012, graduate and PPIA students will be required to take a one credit course on Professionalism in Accounting. This course is expected to engender a stronger sense of professionalism in terms of business and social etiquette, self-assessment, professional deportment, networking and effective communication skills. In addition, we have instituted a new requirement that all graduate students are required to have a certification in Excel before they graduate. Our students are competing in a new more competitive environment and we want them to be ready to take on any challenge.

We are also moving forward on the 2nd Annual Free CPE Day for alumni. The event is set for August 14th, 2012 at the University Center. Please set your day aside for this event. We expect to continue offering four hours of Ethics for all alumni who need it, and another 8-10 hours of additional CPEs. Please highlight this event at UTA to your friends and co-workers. We will provide more information as we get closer to the event date. Beta Alpha Psi and the UTA Accounting Department will be hosting the annual Spring Accounting Banquet on May 4, 2012. Our keynote speaker, Hon. Judge Glen Whitley promises to provide exciting insights on current developments in accounting standards. In addition to the camaraderie which this event will allow, the Accounting Excellence and Scholarship Awards will be presented to those students who have exhibited excellence in their scholastic life. A great evening will be had by all! If you are interested in attending, please call Pam Wheaton at 817-272-3088.

As I close this letter, I want to thank those who have contributed to our campaign to raise funds for the Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Accounting. For those who are able to contribute, this is a great opportunity to invest in education at UTA, especially with a Maverick grant matching your dollar. We still have a ways to go to complete our initial goal of $1 million. Please keep in touch with us by filling out the “Alumni Update” form at the end of this newsletter, if you have not done so or email directly to accounting@uta.edu. Thanks as always for your generous support.
Faculty Presentations 2011-2012 Academic Year


Ho, Jennifer and Han, Lei. “Does SOX Reduce the Gap in Earnings Quality Between Annual and Interim Reporting?” 2011 AAA Annual Meeting, Denver.

Ho, Jennifer, Efendi, Jap, Tsay, Jeff, and Zhang, Y. “Stock Option Expense Management after SFAS 123R” 2011 AAA Annual Meeting, Denver.

Ho, Jennifer and Lee, Yvonne “Capital Structure, Equity Incentives, and Earnings Management through Accruals and Real Activities” 2011 AAA Annual Meeting, Denver.


Rasmussen, Stephanie, and Schmidt, J. “Auditing the Audit Committee: Stakeholder Responses to Audit Committee Ineffectiveness” Texas A&M Former Students Accounting Research Conference, April 2011.

Rasmussen, Stephanie J., and Schmidt, J.J. “Auditing the Audit Committee: An Examination of Shareholder- and Board-Provided Accountability for Member Ineffectiveness.” 2012 AAA Auditing Section Mid-Year Meeting, Savannah.


Faculty Publications 2011-2012 Academic Year


Alumni News

Herb Beckwith (’94 M.S.) was honored by the Fort Worth Business Press as “CFO of the Year” at a January 25 luncheon. Herb is Senior Vice President and CFO of Justin Brands and is a member of the College of Business and Department of Accounting advisory councils. In 2011, Herb received the college’s alumni award for career achievement.

Donna Dempsey (’81, M.P.A.) has been appointed to the position of president and CEO of Easter Seals North Texas as reported in the Collin County Business Press. Dempsey has served as both executive vice president of administration and applied behavior analysis case manager during her three-year tenure at Easter Seals.

Mike Foreman (B.B.A. ’05, M.P.A. ’10) has been chosen as the new city manager of Celina, a growing community in Collin County, the Colony Courier-Leader reported. Mike is currently an assistant to the city manager of Grand Prairie.

Honorable Glen Whitley (B.B.A 1976) Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, the immediate past president of National Association of Counties (NACo), has been appointed to the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council, a group that makes recommendations on policy to a national board that sets government accounting standards. Whitley is one of five new members of the advisory council, appointed in November by the Board of Trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation, which oversees the advisory council and the Government Accounting Standards Board. Whitley will serve a two-year term on the 30-member advisory council beginning January 1, 2012. The council is responsible for advising the Governmental Accounting Standards Board on technical issues, project priorities and other matters that affect setting standards for state and local governments accounting and financial reporting. Judge Whitley was nominated to the advisory board by NACo. He has been Tarrant County Judge since 2007 and prior to that served, as Tarrant County Precinct 3 Commissioner since 1997. In his many years of service to NACo, in addition to being president and a current member of NACo's executive board, Judge Whitley has served on many steering committees, caucuses and task forces.
Judges, Joe Foster, Kim Saunders, CPA, of Thomson Reuters, Dr. Alan Saxe (left to right) undertake the tasting and decision making duties.

Department of Accounting faculty turns out to support the Accounting Society and BAP Chili Cook off.

Family fun and good-natured competition are all a part of Crystal Lanphier (left) and Whitley Penn’s participation and support of Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi’s Chili Cook Off.

Newly appointed BAP advisor, John Repsis (left) happily awards trophies to deserving teams and members of Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi (right) go all out with participating costumes in support of Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi’s Chili Cook off.
Faculty Listing

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Out & About

Beta Alpha Psi

Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi enjoyed another robust Fall Semester at the University of Texas at Arlington. 33 new candidates joined the fraternity bringing total membership to 64 active members. Weaver, Travis Wolff, Ernst & Young and other accounting firms met with the members giving sage advice on starting a career in accounting and getting hired in this economy. Professional and social events such as the Annual Chili Cook-Off, intra-mural sports, Accounting Bootcamp and Job Shadowing Day highlighted member activities.

Spring Semester promises to be as exciting. The Spring membership drive has begun. KPMG, Deloitte, the FBI and IRS will be meeting with the students to help them gain a greater perspective on the role of accounting in society. Chapter officers will be attending the BAP Regional Meeting in San Antonio where they have been chosen to present on their submission of a best practice event to help build social networking - the Annual Chili Cook-Off. Senior Lecturer John Repsis assumed his role as faculty advisor to the Chapter.

Firm Night
Our annual Firm Night will be held on February 24th at 7:00 pm in the Palo Duro Lounge of the University Center. This is an excellent opportunity for our students and area accounting firms to get to know one another. The Accounting Society is happy to welcome the following firms for this year's event:

Becker Professional Review
Cash America
Ernst & Young
KPMG
Lane, Gorman & Trubitt
MCG Group

Pickens, Snodgrass & Koch
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Rylander, Clay & Opitz
Sanford, Baumeister & Frazier
Snow Garrett Williams
Travis Wolff
Whitley Penn
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