

NEWS FROM UT'S DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Taking AIM

SPRING 2009

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THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT of ACCOUNTING and INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Warren Slagle Accounting Day October 10, 2009



Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek

On Saturday, October 10, 2009, the Department of Accounting and Information Management will hold its 34th annual Warren Slagle Accounting Day at the Knoxville Marriott. Each year, Accounting Day hosts over 500 alumni, recruiters, students, faculty, and staff, making it the largest department-sponsored alumni event at UT.

The day will begin at 8:30 AM with a social hour, followed by a buffet brunch. Our department head, Dr. Dan Murphy, will introduce the event by updating us on department activities over the past year. We then will be honored as UT's new chancellor, Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek, takes the stage as our keynote speaker.

Dr. Cheek came to UT after a 33-year career at the University of Florida (UF). He served as UF's senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and assistant dean of the college. Dr. Cheek joined the Florida faculty in 1975 shortly after earning his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University.

As UT's chancellor, Dr. Cheek intends to focus on the university with an aggressive strategic agenda. Dr. Cheek says, "This is one of the best public institutions in America, and it has a bright academic future."

Following our Accounting Day activities, UT's football team under new coach Lane Kiffin will take on the Georgia Bulldogs at Neyland Stadium.

GO VOLS!

Distinguished Accounting Graduate



Judge Sharon G. Lee

One of our accounting graduates has achieved the pinnacle of her profession in Tennessee. In October 2008, Governor Bredesen appointed Judge Sharon G. Lee to be the newest member of the Tennessee Supreme Court. "Sharon has served with distinction on the Court of Appeals, and I am confident she will bring the same level of honor and integrity to the Tennessee Supreme Court," said Governor Bredesen. "I am very pleased she has agreed to accept this appointment."

Judge Lee graduated from UT in 1975 with high honors, earning a bachelor's in business administration with an accounting major. She practiced law in Madisonville, TN, for 20 years before being named in 2004 to the Tennessee Court of Appeals where she served for five years. She will be the third woman on the five-member Supreme Court.

Judge Lee is president of the East Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women and a previous member of the board of the Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women. She has served as secretary and member of the executive board of the Knoxville Executive Women's Association and is a member of the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Monroe County.

Department Head Welcome



Dan Murphy
Department Head

Accounting and Information Management

The Chinese proverb "may you live in interesting times" took on a whole new meaning this past year! Just as the recession, market downturn, and economic gloom has affected you and your businesses, we also have been challenged to continue our mission during these uncertain times. Despite the budget difficulties we all face, we also are presented with both a mandate and an opportunity to evaluate our mission, assess our strategies, and align our resources to further our goals. I want you to know, as a UT alum and friend of the department, that we remain focused on furthering our teaching, research, and service mission.

The primary driver behind our efforts and success is our incredible faculty. Much of our success is predicated upon a shared culture of excellence, respect, and commitment. At a time when so much of what we do is scored, measured, and benchmarked, I believe the importance of productive relationships upon which organizational cultures are built does more to achieve results than does anything else. Much of our organizational success is due to the outstanding departmental leadership we have had over the past 30 years, which includes Professors Kiger, Williams, and Stanga.

Our faculty members continue to excel in the classroom and are widely recognized for their commitment to our students. For example, Karyn Valades received the Phi Eta Sigma National Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, and the prestigious UT Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award was awarded to Bruce Behn in 2008 and Joe Carcello in 2009.

Our commitment to student learning also extends beyond the classroom to include a variety of enrichment activities. As you will see in the following pages, our Master of Accountancy class traveled to Washington, D.C. last October to meet with accounting firms, policymakers, and regulators. This trip was a terrific educational experience as well as a great opportunity for the class to bond. Over spring break, I led a group of undergraduate and Master of Accountancy students to Hong Kong where we visited factories, businesses, and professional firms. I firmly believe that these types of experiences provide a necessary and enriching complement to the classroom experience.

The benefits of our growing reputation and the Hope Scholarship program continue to be apparent as the number and quality of our students increase each year. A few of these outstanding students are featured in this issue. An important measure of our success is the professional success realized by our graduates. Although the economy has weakened, our students are heavily recruited by many of the leading accounting firms and businesses in the country.

To keep you better informed about what is happening in the department, Christine Cummings, our academic program manager, has redesigned our website at http://bus.utk.edu/aim/. This website also has a link to a newly created accounting alumni community on Facebook.

I know you share my pride in what we have accomplished and my enthusiasm for what we plan to attain. Our success, however, requires financial support from our friends and alumni. Your contributions to the Accounting Excellence Fund, which now can be made online through our website, allow us to attract and retain outstanding faculty and to offer leading-edge academic programs to our students.

Thanks for your support.



Curriculum Corner

Top Graduates

The College of Business Administration has four of the top graduates in the university, and two of them are accounting majors: Amanda Hawkes and Lisa Sain. This is a wonderful accomplishment for both of these students and a fine reflection on our faculty.

Student Profiles

The success of our educational mission relies on the high-quality students who we attract into our baccalaureate and graduate programs. Our department traditionally has attracted top business students, and this year is no exception. To provide you with added insight into our programs, we have profiled three of our outstanding students.

Matt Hoag, Doctoral Candidate



Matt Hoag
Doctoral Candidate

Matt Hoag, CPA, is a third-year accounting doctoral student with research interests in auditing and corporate governance. He obtained his BBA degree in accounting, graduating with honors, from Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. He is a licensed CPA in the state of Washington.

Prior to entering the Ph.D. program at the University of Tennessee, Matt worked for three years in the audit practice at KPMG's Seattle, WA, office. During his time with KPMG, Matt performed audit work for clients in a wide range of industries, including healthcare, higher education, technology, manufacturing, real estate, and not-for-profits. Matt returned to school for a doctoral degree to pursue his dream career as a university professor.

As part of his Ph.D. program, Matt has worked part-time for the Department of Accounting and Information Management as both a research and teaching assistant. For the most part, his research work has been in the areas of auditing and corporate governance, coinciding with his primary research interest areas. As a teaching assistant, Matt has taught the Foundations of Accounting course and serves as a business coach for the Marketplace business capstone course. Matt currently is working on his dissertation, the topic of which is goodwill, governance, and accounting for business combinations under SFAS No. 141. Matt plans to graduate in spring 2010. After graduation, he hopes to return to the Pacific Northwest with his fiancée, Cara, to be near friends and family.

LaAries Strong Tilliman, MAcc Student



LaAries Strong Tilliman
MAcc

LaAries earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Tennessee, graduating summa cum laude in May 2008. During her junior and senior years, she worked full-time at a local engineering/construction subcontracting firm to help pay for school. In addition, she volunteered as a big sister in the Big Brother/Big Sister Program and taught Sunday school at her local church. LaAries has had two internships, one with Deloitte and the other with Crowe Horwath LLP. In addition, she participated in PWC's XAct and KPMG's KNAcc nationwide accounting competitions. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

LaAries entered UT's Master of Accountancy program in fall 2008 with a concentration in audit. She is a graduate teaching assistant and is assisting two professors with research projects in the areas of statement of cash flows disclosure and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. Upon graduation, LaAries will move to Atlanta, GA, where she has accepted an offer with Deloitte.

Kylie Marshall, Undergraduate Student



Kylie Marshall
Undergraduate

Kylie Marshall is a junior in accounting. After graduation, she will begin UT's Master of Accountancy program with an emphasis in audit and controls. This summer, she will intern with Rodefer Moss & Co. in Knoxville to gain experience in the public accounting sector.

Kylie came to the University of Tennessee from Puyallup, WA, as a recruited athlete for the women's volleyball team. She will be the team's captain during her senior year and is involved with a peer mentoring program within the athletic department. She also was nominated by UT to attend the NCAA National Leadership conference last year in Florida.

Kylie's ability to stay focused and balanced as a student-athlete has placed her on the Thornton/SEC Academic Honor Roll and Dean's List every semester. She is a dedicated student who strives to do her best whether in the classroom or on the court. Kylie is excited to graduate and pursue her career in accounting and is looking forward to the opportunities it presents in the future.

Academic Enrichment

The Department of Accounting and Information Management is constantly seeking to broaden our students' awareness and appreciation for their world. With this goal in mind, we hosted two travel-learning opportunities this year:

MAcc Class Trip to Washington, D.C.



MAcc class in Washington, D.C.

The entire Master of Accountancy class went to Washington, D.C. on a trip that combined history, culture, and professional education. Everyone participated in an excellent tour of Capitol Hill, a fine dinner sponsored by Ernst & Young, and a reception sponsored by KPMG.

The Master of Accountancy Tax group visited the Library of Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the Joint Committee on Taxation Policy Group, the Department of Justice, and the U.S. Treasury.

The Master of Accountancy Audit group visited the Center for Audit Quality, Senator Bob Corker's office, Senator Lamar Alexander's office, the PCAOB, the U.S. Treasury, the SEC, and the AICPA.

Spring Break in Hong Kong



MAcc class overlooking Hong Kong from Victoria Peak

A group of accounting students traveled for a week to Hong Kong and mainland China for a Spring Break they will not soon forget. UT acounting grad Brian Foley, a partner in Ernst & Young's Shanghai office, hosted the group in their Hong Kong office.

On mainland China, the group toured the SNP Excel factory, which makes children's books. They observed all production and assembly facilities associated with these elaborate pop-up books, many of which our students recognized.

Our students were privileged to visit Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, where they heard Professor Rao speak on the economies of China and the United States.

Students also enjoyed a day at Victoria Peak, toured Hong Kong, visited an open market, and attended an evening of horse races at the Hong Kong Jockey Club.



Christine Cummings
Academic Program Manager

AIM Welcomes New Staff

Christine Cummings, Academic Program Manager

Christine Cummings joined the department last fall. In her previous work for UT, Christine was program coordinator for the full-time MBA program. For the Department of Accounting and Information Management, Christine focuses on recruitment and academic program administration and plans all academic enrichment trips and events. She is working on adding a specialized recruiters' webpage to the departmental website through which recruiters can communicate, is implementing a Facebook page for our alumni that can be accessed through our website, and has initiated a MAcc Ambassador program to recruit outstanding undergraduates to UT's Master of Accountancy program.

Christine is our first-contact person for all recruiters. She can be reached at 865-974-1762 or ccummin9@utk.edu.

Faculty Accomplishments

- **Bruce Behn** serves as vice president of sections and regions of the American Accounting Association. He also received the college's 2008 Bank of America Leadership Award.

- **Randy Bradley** had two articles published and was named to the editorial review board of the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education.*

- **Joe Carcello** had articles published in *Accounting Horizons* and *Contemporary Accounting Research.* He also was named the Beta Alpha Psi Business Professional of the Year and received the 2009 UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher award.

- **Bruce Fisher** served as a visiting professor at HEC School of Management in Paris, France, last fall.

- **Robert Fuller** had six articles published, including acceptances in *Information Systems Research* and *MIS Quarterly.*

- **LeAnn Luna** was tenured and promoted to associate professor last summer. She also had an article published in the *National Tax Journal.*

- **Dan Murphy** received the 2008 TSCPA Educator of the Year Award. He is treasurer of the Accounting Programs Leadership Group and is completing his sixth year on the Knox County Board of Education.

- **Terry Neal** serves on a number of editorial boards, including *The Accounting Review* and *Auditing.* He also had articles published in the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* and *Contemporary Accounting Research.*

- **Harold Roth** published a paper in *The Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance.*

- **Keith Stanga** had three articles published this year and was recognized as a most frequent appearing author in the 25 core accounting journals over the past half century. ("Most Prolific Authors in the Accounting Literature Over the Past Half-Century: 1959-2008," by Jean L. Heck, 2009) *http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1344072*

- **Karyn Valades** received the Decosimo Faculty Leadership Award and the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Beta Alpha Psi News

2009 Tax Outreach

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) partnered with the IRS and the College of Business Administration to open a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site in East Knoxville at the Burlington Library UT Outreach Building for the 2009 tax season. BAP students were trained on CCH's TaxSoft software and Link-n-Learn home study.

They were so excited after their first day preparing tax returns that they all wanted to sign up for more!

Karyn Valades, accounting lecturer and BAP advisor, and Ellen Anderson, accounting lecturer, served as site coordinators.

2010 Regional Conference

The UT BAP chapter will host the 2010 Southeast Regional BAP conference this spring in Orlando, FL. Shannon Talley (junior in accounting) is UT's 2010 southeast regional meeting coordinator. Our students will serve as MCs for all the speakers and thereby gain leadership experience.

We are thrilled to host this event.

Donor Honor Roll

We are extremely grateful to the following individuals, businesses, and foundations who contributed to the department this past year. Your support allows us to achieve a level of excellence that we could not achieve if we relied solely on state funding. To all of you ...THANKS!

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