

UTA DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



DR. L.C. JENNIFER HO

Dear UTA Accounting Alumni and Friends:

Hello and best wishes from your UTA Accounting Department!

Welcome to this edition of the UTA Department of Accounting newsletter. The academic year 2015-2016 got off to a very active and successful start with the fall semester of 2015. In the fall commencement, we awarded 99 students the BBA/BS in Accounting degree while 20 students received the MPA/MS in Accounting and 7 students received the MS in Tax degree.

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Our fifth annual CPE Day was held on August 20, 2015, in the University Center. I am pleased to report to you that the 2015 CPE Day was a tremendous success. Attendance at this annual event continues to grow with this year's attendance topping 220 participants.

We would not have been able to conduct the 2015 CPE Day event without the support of our generous sponsors including Ernst & Young LLP, Weaver LLP, Whitley Penn, Sales Tax Specialists of Texas, SBF, LLC., FEI, TEI, and Becker. We are grateful for the support of these firms. We are already planning our 2016 event to be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 in the University Center.

You may recall that the academic year 2015/2016 marks the 50th anniversary of UT Arlington's College of Business. There have been and will continue to be numerous events throughout the year celebrating College of Business' 50 years of participation in the UTA Community. One event was the UT Arlington Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi annual Chili Cook Off on October 31. It was bigger than ever with a 60's band, food trucks, a photo bus, bounce house and games in the deck/courtyard area of the College of Business. Attendance was outstanding this year with everyone having a great time and enjoying very good chili!

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR *cont'd*

We hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful. As always, we appreciate you...our alumni and friends. Your support, both financial and otherwise, is critical to our continued success. Our sincere thanks to each of you who have reached out to support UTA Accounting!

At the end of this newsletter is our "Alumni Update" form. We would love for you to continue to stay connected with UTA Accounting by letting us know where you are and what you are doing. If you have had a professional change, a promotion, or if you have not previously connected with us, please fill in the information on the form and email it to accounting@uta.edu. Thank you for your interest and support of UTA Accounting.

SAVE THE DATES

Spring Accounting Awards Banquet

Friday, April 29, 2016 Arlington Hilton Hotel

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rachel Croson, Dean, UTA College of Business

2016 Annual CPE Day

Thursday, August 11, 2016 University Center

FALL 2015 COMMENCEMENT



Jeanne Smith,
Partner, Tax and Strategic Business
Services Weaver

The UT Arlington College of Business Fall Commencement ceremonies took place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 at College Park Center. Jeanne Smith, partner of the Tax and Strategic Business Services division at Weaver and UTA graduate, addressed the FALL 2015 graduates.

Jeanne Smith, CPA, CGMA, has more than three decades of experience in public accounting, including 30 years with Weaver. Her practice concentration is in tax consulting and compliance for businesses and the owners of these companies. With specialized experience serving the manufacturing, retail, hospitality, real estate and professional service industries, Smith remains on the forefront of industry updates and brings diverse experience to her clients.

Smith is a frequently sought-after speaker on tax matters for various professional audiences. She is an active local member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, Financial Executives International and the American Society of Women Accountants, in addition to several other professional organizations. In addition, she serves on the finance committee for the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains. Smith earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from The University of Texas at Arlington, and is a recipient of the College of Business Dean's Award for Extraordinary Service. Ms. Smith is a member of the Department of Accounting Advisory Board.

Nearly 1,000 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree recipients participated in Commencement ceremonies, which includes graduates from both summer and fall 2015 semesters. From the Department of Accounting, 99 students received the BBA/BS in Accounting degree while 19 students received the MPA/MS in Accounting and 7 students received the MS in Tax degree.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know that during the academic year 2015/2016 the College of Business is celebrating its 50th of being a part of the UTA community?

Did you know that *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the UT Arlington College of Business Part-time MBA program No. 82 among 470 accredited programs surveyed? This is the first time the college has broken into the Top 100 on the *U.S. News* list.

Did you know that AACSB-accredited schools have the highest-quality faculty, deliver relevant and challenging curriculum, and provide educational and career opportunities that are not found at other business schools? Less than 5% of the more than 16,000 schools worldwide granting business degrees have earned AACSB Accreditation. Of that small number of AACSB accredited colleges of business, only 179 have dual accreditation of both the college and the department of accounting. UTA has dual accreditation of both the college and the department of accounting.

Did you know that Accounting Degree Review has ranked the University of Texas at Arlington's bachelor's degree in accounting as one of the most affordable in the nation? UT Arlington ranked 25th out of 170 institutions accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the organization founded in 1916 to accredit schools of business.



Rachel Croson, Dean of the
UT Arlington College of Business

Dr. Rachel Croson, Dean of the UT Arlington College of Business, said the ranking is further recognition of the University's ability to offer the highest quality accounting education at an affordable price. "UT Arlington accounting graduates are in high demand. Our program's quality has been widely recognized. This additional ranking further confirms our position as one of the best options for students to consider," Croson said.

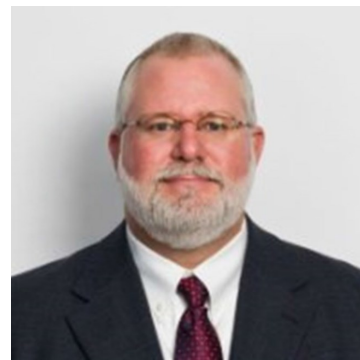
Did you know that UT Arlington's Master of Science in Taxation program has ranked in the top 10 nationally for three consecutive years, according to Tax Talent.com.

Did you know that approximately 170 firms recruited UT Arlington accounting students during academic year 2014/2015?

JEFF SLATE DISCUSSES FASB REVISED REVENUE RECOGNITION STANDARDS

In September, Mr. Jeff Slate made a presentation to Department of Accounting faculty concerning the recent FASB Revised Standards for Revenue Recognition for Customer Contracts.

Jeff, the 2014 recipient of the Accounting Distinguished Alumni award, is a partner in Ernst & Young's Dallas office, where he is a member of EY's Southwest Region's Assurance Professional Practice and Risk Management group.



Mr. Jeff Slate, Partner

Prior to this role, Jeff spent approximately seven years in Ernst & Young's National Accounting Standards group in New York, where, among other responsibilities, he led the Ernst & Young professionals focused on the application and development of interpretive guidance for, various standards relating to revenue recognition for both United States GAAP and IFRS.

Jeff has been a member of the AICPA's Accounting Standards Executive Committee (AcSEC), the FASB's Revenue Recognition Resource Group, and Ernst & Young's Global IFRS Revenue Recognition Subject Matter Group. Jeff is a 1989 graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, and is a licensed CPA in the States of Texas and New York.

UTA'S ACCOUNTING ANNUAL CPE DAY 2015

On August 20, 2015, the UTA Accounting Department hosted its Fifth Annual CPE Day in the E. H. Hereford University Center. This annual event continues to grow with this year's attendance topping 220 participants, an increase of approximately 20% over 2014. It is our pleasure to offer our alumni and friends an opportunity to earn CPE credits by providing an interesting and diverse program with excellent facilitators.

The Department of Accounting and the Accounting Advisory Board would also like to extend a sincere thank you for the helpful support and sponsorship of this year's CPE Day to the following firms:

Becker Professional Education
Ernst & Young LLP
Weaver LLP
Whitley Penn LLP

Sales Tax Specialists of Texas
Sanford, Baumeister & Frazier, LLC
Tax Executives Institute, Inc
Financial Executives International

Thanks to the financial support of our sponsors and the generous support of all who participated in this year's event, more than \$10,770 was added to the Endowment for the Accounting Department Graduate Fellowship. Your generous support of UTA Accounting continues to provide important opportunities for our students. You have our grateful thanks. See you in August!

*ALUMNI NEWS***NEW JOBS & PROMOTIONS**

Tom Modisett (B.B.A. accounting), has been promoted to chief financial officer and secretary/treasurer of Lauren Engineers & Constructors, Inc.

Mekonnen "Mack" Asrat (MPA) has been named Senior Vice President and CFO of SGI, a global leader in high performance solutions for computing, data analytics and data management.

Steve O'Neal (BBA Accounting) has been hired by Wilmington Trust's Global Capital Markets Structured Finance Group.

Mary Goosens ('91 B.B.A. accounting) has been appointed the new Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

Accounting alumnus **Bill Guinn ('82 B.B.A.)** is retiring from his post as city manager for the City of Keene, Texas, on June 30. He was hired as the city's financial manager in 2007.

The Dallas Women's Foundation will present the 2016 Young Leaders Award to UTA accounting alumna **Brittany K. Byrd ('05 B.B.A., '06 M.S.)**. Byrd is associate counsel with Orix USA Corporation and the founder/chair of the nonprofit Girls Embracing Mothers, Inc.

Valero Energy Executive Vice President **Mike Crownover ('83 B.B.A. accounting)** announced his retirement from the San Antonio-based energy company, which he joined in 1997.

Accounting alumnus **Suryakant Desai ('74 MBA)**, professor of accounting at Cedar Valley College, received the 2015 William H. Mearly Faculty Member Award from the Association of Community College Trustees during the organization's annual conference in San Diego, Calif.

Paula Waggoner-Aguilar (B.B.A. accounting) has been named in the Business Journal's list of "Who's Who in Energy 2015,". Ms. Wagonner-Aguilar is president of The Energy CFO LLC in San Antonio, where she has more than 20 years of experience working with entrepreneurs, independent exploration and production, integrated energy, and other oil field services.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

ACCOUNTING SOCIETY

TSCPA softball, bake sales, Excel certification training, community service, and great Friday evening meetings...the Accounting Society had a very active fall semester. By helping mentor accounting students and by providing exposure to a variety of career opportunities, the UTA Accounting Society is working to help prepare our students for productive professional careers.

As always the Society is grateful for the support of firms such as Grant Thornton, Kimberly Clark, the city of Garland, and others who, through their Friday evening presentations to Society membership, have shared information about the work done in their respective firms, and about the people and culture our students can expect to encounter therein. The opportunity to learn first-hand and to be able to network with professionals is very important to the development of our students. We thank all of the firms and companies who continue to support our efforts to help UTA develop the excellence that our profession needs both now and in the future.

Finally, we had a great Chili Cook Off at the end of October. See the following notes and pictures about this year's event. We certainly did not let a little rain dampen our spirits. A very good time was had by all who attended!

Lastly, a note of thanks and appreciation is due for the leadership provided by the slate of Accounting Society officers for the semester just concluded. Officers for the fall semester of 2015 were:

President: Paul Anderson
Vice President: Paula Cespedes
VP Finance: Nhu La
Controller: Zunubia Qurashi
Secretary: Phuong Hoang
Webmaster: Anthony Vance

Faculty Advisors: Terra McGhee and Gene Elrod

*STUDENT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES***BETA ALPHA PSI**

Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi had a successful fall semester. During the semester, representatives of Weaver, Grant Thornton, and other accounting firms spoke to BAP members offering insights into how to find that first professional job and what to expect when they begin their careers. During the fall semester, BAP members spent many hours in service to the University and to the community of Arlington. BAP continues to strive to help our members develop both professional and personally. However, what's a little work without a little play? BAP participated in the Annual Chili Cook Off in October. It was a little damp...but everyone enjoyed the chili and had a great time.

Our Chapter would like to say thank you to our long-time faculty sponsor Mr. John Repsis. Mr. Repsis has helped guide our organization since 2011. Under his guidance, our chapter has received numerous awards and has successfully fulfilled our mission of helping guide our members into successful accounting careers. Many thanks to Mr. Repsis.

The active semester just completed was, in large part, the product of the hard work and leadership of this semester's slate of officers. Our thanks and appreciation to this semester's officer group for their dedication to BAP. Beta Alpha Psi officers for the fall semester of 2015 were:

President: Sarah DeVore
Vice President: Jeremy Smeltz
Secretary: Sakib Jamil
Treasurer: Suye Wang
Executive Events Coordinator: Lauren Armendarez
Director of Public Relations: Antonio Pazo
Director of Membership Activities: Vicente Rodriguez
Director of National Reporting: William Covalt
Director of Multimedia: Rachel Rhea Shaffer
Director of Fundraising: Ajeesh Nair
Faculty Advisor: John Repsis

ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF - OCTOBER 31, 2015

If it is fall, then it must be time for the annual Accounting Society Chili Cook Off! On October 31st all of the ghouls and goblins came to the courtyard and the street on the east side of the College of Business building to enjoy games, fun, and good chili. Our annual Chili Cook Off, although a bit damp, was a great success. Students, faculty, firms, and families all enjoyed the day of bounce house fun (for the little ones only), field games, costume competition, and the all of the different varieties of chili prepared by the various competitors. This year's Best Chili award went to the team from Weaver. However, Weaver was followed closely by Grant Thornton and Salmon Sims Thomas. We appreciate the support of all of the firms and organizations who helped to make this year's Cook Off a great success! Please plan to join the fun when the 2016 event comes around next fall.



Terra McGhee assists the following 2015 Chili Judges: Dean Rachel Croson, Dr. Allen, Saxe, Jimmy Bennett & Kathryn Wilemon.



In costume, Accounting Society joined efforts to make the 31st Annual Chili Cook Off an outstanding event.



The Blue Beats provided an eclectic mix of blues, Motown and rock that kept the crowd dancing and singing.



Face painting was a hit as Tabitha of *Your Enchanted Face* turned our friends into animals, princesses and characters of all kinds.

ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF - OCTOBER 31, 2015



Darth Vader, Chewbacca, and Stormtroopers were in attendance, as well as Disney characters and several other themes.



Faculty Advisors John Repsis (Beta Alpha Psi) & Terra McGhee (Accounting Society) celebrate another successful Chili Cookoff.



PSK won the Egg Spoon Relay and there was a 3-way tie between Weaver, KPMG & PSK for the Hula Hoop competition. In addition children enjoyed a bounce house.



Hundreds of UTA faculty, students & friends tasted original chili recipes and enjoyed Steel City Pops, Ruth's Rolling Café, & Maui Wowi.



Tug Of War was competitive between the moonwalkers and Toy Story characters.



Beta Alpha Psi won the competition, but it was not easy, as they were up against Smurfs, spies, Disney characters, cowboys, & more.

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ALUMNI UPDATE

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Business Position/Title: _____

Employer's Address: _____

News About You: _____
[recent _____
promotions, _____
professional _____
attainments, etc.] _____

Suggestions: _____
for future _____
articles (who _____
or what would _____
you like to _____
read about?) _____

Yes, I would like to support the Department of Accounting.

I am enclosing \$ _____/pledging an amount of

- \$10,000 \$5,000
- \$2,500 \$1,000
- \$500 \$100
- \$50 Other

My employer matches donation:
Yes No

- I would like my gift to be used to:
- provide for faculty development
 - provide for technology
 - provide for scholarships for qualified and deserving students
 - provide for general support for the Department of Accounting
 - other (please designate) _____

Checks should be made payable to the University of Texas at Arlington Department of Accounting and include an indication of the purpose for which the gift is intended:

Return this form and/or your check to:
Dr. L.C. Jennifer Ho, Department Chair
Department of Accounting
Box 19468
Arlington, Texas 76019

To make a gift online and for additional information if you prefer to make a gift by check, please click here: <http://www.uta.edu/giving/givenow.php>

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Please take the time to complete the Alumni Update form provided on this page. Alumni information we report depends greatly on feedback received from each alumnus regarding developments in his/her life and career. Also give us ideas on how we might improve future newsletters. If there is insufficient space on the form to make all of your comments, feel free to include an additional page(s) and extend your remarks.