

# ACCOUNTING ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



**CHANDRA  
SUBRAMANIAM**

After many years, the Department of Accounting at the University of Texas at Arlington is bringing back its newsletter. We hope this will provide a two way communication between the department and its alumni and friends. During our long hiatus, we have lost touch with one of the most important stakeholders - you. We hope to renew this relationship starting with this newsletter.

To start this process of communication, I would like to share with you some of the activities and changes within the department to maintain and improve the quality of the program. A big change in the department is in the leadership. Dr. Larry Walther, who was the chair since 2003, left for the mountains to become the Chair of the School of Accountancy at Utah State University. Dr. Chandra Subramaniam was appointed as Chair in October 2008.

The Department of Accounting has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 5 years, from 607 students enrolled as accounting majors in AY 2005/06, to 709 in AY 2009/10. The undergraduate program has increased consistently at about 2% a year compared to the masters program increasing at 7% a year. We also graduated 153 undergraduate and 74 graduate students in AY 2008/09. Finally, we also graduated several doctoral students in the last couple years who are now Assistant Professors at University of North Texas, St. Louis University, University of Minnesota-Duluth, California State University-Pomona, and Towson University, among others. In order to improve the quality of the accounting program, we have made some major changes in our curriculum. Starting in Fall 2010, any undergraduate accounting major receiving a grade of D or below in

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## SPRING ACCOUNTING BANQUET



**Beta Alpha Psi and the UTA Accounting Department  
cordially invite you to attend the**

**2010 Spring Accounting Banquet**

**on Friday, April 30, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the Academy Room of the  
University Center at the University of Texas at Arlington**

**Business Professional Attire; R.S.V.P. to Pam Wheaton  
(817) 272-3088; pwheaton@uta.edu**

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TSCPA DISCUSSES CPA EXAM CHANGES WITH STUDENTS



250 CPA CANDIDATES ATTENDED THE MEETING AT UTA, JOINTLY SPONSORED WITH FW TSCPA

On February 5, 2010, the Executive Director of the Texas State Board of Certified Public Accountancy, Bill Treacy and Qualifications Director, Donna Hiller presented an informative session to students and faculty at the UTA University Center.



FORT WORTH TSCPA BOARD MEMBER, NANCY CAREFOOT, UTA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. RICHARD MARK, AND UTA LECTURER, ALLISON MCLEOD (LEFT TO RIGHT)

The distinguished guests described the steps needed to qualify to sit for the CPA exam in the State of Texas.

They also detailed the examination process and changes in the topical areas students are expected to master, including IFRS which will be included in the exam content beginning January, 2011.

UTA is offering a graduate course in IFRS this semester. More than 250 students and faculty attended the forum which was followed by a healthy exchange of questions from the audience.



UTA ACCOUNTING CHAIR DR. CHANDRA SUBRAMANIAM, KIM WEBB OF TWU, AND TSCPA FW DIRECTOR LESLIE MOORE (LEFT TO RIGHT)

UTA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN VITA PROGRAM (VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE)

19 UTA accounting students are participating in a volunteer tax program with Foundation Communities, the only VITA site in Arlington. They offer a free income tax preparation service for low-income families to help them e-file their tax return and maximize their refunds through use of credits and deductions, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit. The average household income of the families they serve is \$18,000.

The students completed an 8 hour training program to become Certified IRS Volunteer Income Tax Preparers. They learn to use computer software to complete basic and intermediate tax returns. Once certified our students have volunteered 345 hours so far this tax season. The program is still running for another month, so that number will increase significantly.

One student, Tam Doan is in the lead for Volunteer of the Year at the tax center, having contributed 50 hours so far. Foundation Community is excited about the strong participation of UTA students this year, who have volunteered more hours than any other university. The program was publicized on campus through announcements made in tax classes and through the accounting student groups, Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi, who together sent five officers to participate in the program.

*Faculty Focus*

**Stephanie Rasmussen** received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Prior to earning her doctoral degree, she held a variety of accounting and finance positions at ON Semiconductor from 2000 to 2005. Her most recent position was Controller for Supply Chain Management. Dr. Rasmussen teaches courses in financial accounting, and her research interests include financial accounting/reporting choices, voluntary disclosures, and corporate governance.



**Billy Brewster** received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. His primary research interests are in the area of decision-making by understanding the factors that influence expert performance and improve auditor judgments. Before entering academics, he was an audit manager with Ernst & Young LLP in Ft. Worth.



**Cherie Henderson** received her Ph.D. from Auburn University. She is a Certified Public Accountant (Florida). Dr. Henderson has taught previously at the University of Texas at Arlington from 2001-2007 and at Texas State University. Her primary research and teaching interest are in accounting information systems, cost and management accounting.

*2008-2009 Faculty Academic Publications*

**Ho, Li-Chin Jennifer**, Chao-Shin Liu and **Tsay, Jeff**. "Further Evidence on Financial Analysts' Reaction to Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Implementation Announcements," *Review of Accounting and Finance* (2008), Vol. 7, No. 3, 213-235. This paper has been chosen as a Highly Commended Paper at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2009.

**McConnell, Donald K.**, and Charles H. (Chip) Schweiger "Better Evidence Gathering," *Journal of Accountancy* (April 2008), pp 32-35. This article was awarded the UTA COB Outstanding Professional Publication award in spring 2009.

**Winterbotham, Glyn** with Wayne Thomas and Ole-Kristian Hope "Geographic Earnings Disclosure and Trading Volume," *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* Vol. 28, No. 3, May 2009.

**Taylor, Martin** "The Narrative Reporting Project of the International Accounting Standards Board: Management Commentary," *The CPA Journal* November 2009.

***GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR*** (continued from page 1)

two upper division classes or twice in the same class will be advised to change their major. In addition, no classes beyond Intermediate II can be taken by students not declared as an accounting major, without departmental permission. In the graduate program, the biggest change is improving the quality of incoming students. A student accepted into the program has to have a minimum of 500 on the GMAT and a 3.0 undergraduate GPA. In the Masters in Tax program, all students are now required to take Tax Research as a pre-requisite before they can take any other tax course. In order to improve the communications skill of our students, we require all students planning to sit for the CPA exam to take a pre-specified communications class offered by the business college. As always, our students continue to perform well in the CPA exam with two of our students, Molly Smithee and Rachel Daniels being honored in the Texas Top Ten for their CPA exam scores during the May 2009 swearing-in ceremony in Austin. Following graduation from UTA, they are both employed by KPMG in the Ft. Worth office.

A growing program needs new faculty. In that regard, we have added several tenure-track faculty including Dr. Jap Efendi, PhD (Texas A&M), Dr. Glyn Winterbotham, PhD (Oklahoma), Dr. Billy Brewster, PhD (Illinois) and Dr. Stephanie Rasmussen, PhD (Texas A&M). These faculty members come not only with good teaching skills but also with a strong background in research related to financial, auditing and behavioral, and international accounting. We expect they will raise the research productivity of the department. We are again in the market this year for another tenure track position.

Our accounting student groups have also been active this semester. Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society, is rated a superior chapter and has been involved in presentations in both regional and national meetings. The Accounting Society organized 19 students to participate in the VITA program, volunteering more than 345 hours of free tax expertise to the program so far. Both organizations provide a forum for students to meet with public accounting firms, companies and recruiters.

As we continue to improve the accounting program, we hope to rely not only on the financial support of our alumni and friends, but also on the moral and constructive criticisms you provide us. In order to maintain our competitiveness and have the ability to recruit quality candidates, we need resources to support faculty's need for research funds, including data resources and travel funds to enable faculty to present cutting-edge research, in essence to promote excellence. On behalf of the department, I thank all of you who have contributed to the department last year. Your support, both financial and nonfinancial, is critical to our continued success.

***Forthcoming Publications***

**Hall, Thomas, Hoogduin, Lucas and Tsay, Jeff**, "Modified Sieve Sampling: A Method for Single- and Multi-Stage Probability-Proportional-to-Size Sampling," *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*.

**Ho, Li-Chin Jennifer**, Chao-Shin Liu and Thomas Schaefer, "Audit Tenure and Earnings Surprise Management," *Review of Accounting and Finance* .

**Ho, Li-Chin Jennifer**, Anne Wu and Cheng-Jen Huang, "An Empirical Investigation of the Parole Policy in Taiwan," *Journal of Social Sciences and Philosophy* .

**Mark, Richard**, Berra, R and **Taylor, Martin**, "Internal Control Liability Concerns Post Sarbanes-Oxley: Perspectives on Legal Liability and Reasonableness," *Journal of Forensic Accounting*

*Forthcoming Academic Publications (continued from page 4)*

**Mark, Richard and Subramaniam, Chandra**, "An evaluation of the FIN 46R consolidation standard" *Research in Accounting Regulation*.

**McConnell, Donald K.** with Brown, R., "The House that Billy Built," *Internal Auditor*.

**Tsay, Jeff** with Barra, R.A. and Savage, A., "Equational Zero Vector Databases, Non-Equational Databases, and Inherent Internal Control," *International Journal of Business Information Systems*.

Ahmed, A.S., McAnally, M.L., **Rasmussen, Stephanie**, Weaver, C.D., "How Costly is the Sarbanes-Oxley Act? Evidence on the Effects of the Act on Corporate Profitability," *Journal of Corporate Finance*.

*2008-2009 Faculty Presentations*

**Efendi, Jap** with Smith, L.M., and Wong, J., "Longitudinal Analysis of Voluntary Adoption of XBRL on Financial Reporting" 2009 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in NY, NY.

**Efendi, Jap**, Park, J.D. and **Subramaniam, Chandra**, "Information in Voluntary XBRL Reporting" 2009 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in NY, NY.

**Hall, Becky** with **Hall, Tom**, Price, K, and Skousen, C., "Haphazard Selection: Is it Time to Change Audit Standards?" 2009 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in NY, NY.

**Hall, Thomas**, with Hoogduin, L., "Modified Sieve Sampling: A Method for Single- and Multi-Stage Probability-Proportional-to-Size Sampling," 2008 Midyear Conference.

Butler, J.B., **Henderson, S. Cherie**, and Raiborn, C.A., "Sustainability and the Balanced Scorecard: Integrating 'Green' Measure into Business Reporting" 2009 Asian-Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues, 23. Las Vegas, NV.

**Herda, David** and **Taylor, Martin**, "A Worldwide Comparison of Assurance on Corporate Social Responsibility Reports: Are Audit Firms Willing to Sustain this Line of Service?" 2010 American Accounting Association Southwest Region Annual Conference. Paper received Outstanding Student Paper Award.

**Ho, Li-Chin Jennifer** and Chao-Shin, L., "Audit Committee Characteristics and Earning Surprise Management" 2008 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA.

**Mark, Richard** and **Subramaniam, Chandra**, "FIN 46R Consolidations — Miracle Cure or Placebo" 2009 American Accounting Association Southwest Regional Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Rasmussen, Stephanie J.**, "Sell-in versus Sell-through Revenue Recognition: An Examination of Firm Characteristics and Financial Information Quality." 2009 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in NY, NY.

**Subramaniam, Chandra**, "The Effect of Executive Option Repricing on Managerial Risk-Taking" 2009 University of North Texas workshop series.

**Subramaniam, Chandra** with Wang, F., "Performance-oriented Shareholder Proposals and CEO Compensation" 2009 American Accounting Association Annual Conference in NY, NY.

*Faculty Listing*

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*Out & About*



***Firm Night***

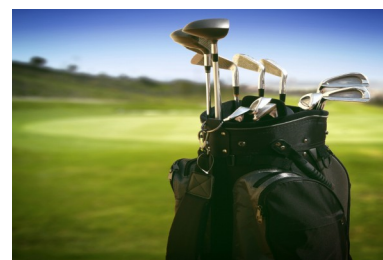
Friday, April 23, 2010 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

The UTA Accounting Society is proud to sponsor Firm Night this year on April 23, 2010 from 7-9pm. Firm Night is a career fair for accounting positions only. It is open to all accounting majors and is an excellent networking opportunity for our students. Students should dress professionally and bring copies of their resumes with them. Accounting faculty are also invited to attend. There will be hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments served during the evening. More than 10 firms are currently confirmed with more expected.

***Golf Tournament***

Friday, May 7, 2010

Beta Alpha Psi organizes the Second Annual Golf Tournament on May 7, 2010. We are excited about the new changes made to improve our golf tournament which will be held at Tierra Verde Golf Club. There will be a shotgun start at 1:30 pm, followed by a dinner and awards ceremony at the conclusion of the tournament. Beta Alpha Psi organizes the tournament to provide funding for student scholarships along with funding to attend the Annual National Conference. For additional information, please contact David Hall at 817.881.0232 or at david-hall821@hotmail.com.



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