

SPRING 2011

*GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR*

**CHANDRA  
SUBRAMANIAM**

Welcome to the spring edition of the UTA Department of Accounting newsletter. The fall semester was a busy semester getting the Fifth Year Accreditation Report ready for the AACSB. The AACSB Accreditation team will be visiting the Accounting Department and the College of Business February 20-22. The Department of Accounting was one of the first in the country to receive separate accreditation by the AACSB in 1984, and today is one of only 175 schools in the country that has such a distinction. We hope to continue that tradition.

Our students have consistently done well on the CPA exam. To improve the quality of the accounting program, we continue to make changes in the curriculum. For many years, we have offered several courses in accounting beyond those required to graduate with a Bachelors in Accounting. This was done to facilitate eligibility for undergraduate students to sit for the CPA exam. As of fall 2011, the department has decided to reduce the number of courses offered in the undergraduate program to 24 credit hours of accounting beyond Principles. This decision allows us to increase courses in the Masters program. Students interested in achieving eligibility for the CPA exam are strongly encouraged to get a Masters degree in Accounting. In order to financially support undergraduate students in pursuing a Masters degree in Accounting, the department is in the midst of raising funds for the Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Accounting. We are hopeful that the scholarship will encourage and motivate highly qualified students to continue and succeed in their graduate education at UTA.

There has been a long tradition of excellence in the department. We not only have high quality teachers as was identified in the last newsletter with three of our faculty receiving college teaching awards, we have faculty publishing consistently in academic and practitioner journals.

Last semester, Dr. Billy Brewster received notice that his paper had been accepted at *The Accounting Review*, the foremost academic journal in accounting. Dr. Stephanie Rasmussen's paper was selected for the CAR conference and will be forthcoming in *Contemporary Accounting Research* journal. Two other faculty, Dr. Tom Hall and Dr. Jeff Tsay published a piece in a premier AAA section journal, *Auditing: A Journal of Theory and Practice*. I would like to congratulate all of them.

(Continued on page 3)

*Spotlight on: Professional Program in Accounting (PPIA)*

The PPIA is an integrated five-year program that allows students to concurrently earn a bachelor's degree (either BBA-Accounting or BS-Accounting) and a master's degree (either MS-Accounting or MS-Taxation). The advantage of this program is that it permits students to earn both accounting degrees with fewer semester hours (and at a lower cost) than would be necessary if both degrees were pursued separately. Please contact Carly Andrews at [carly.andrews@uta.edu](mailto:carly.andrews@uta.edu) for additional program information and with any questions.

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**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS****VITA & UTA**

Accounting students from UTA serve as volunteers on behalf of the working poor of Tarrant County in the VITA program run by Foundation Communities of Arlington and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provides free income tax preparation for these hard working families. By using VITA, families are able to maximize deductions and credits available to them and avoid expensive tax preparation services and high interest refund anticipation loans (similar to payday loans). VITA also provides referrals for additional social and financial educational services.

In 2010 VITA volunteers in Arlington helped to prepare 1,300 tax returns and brought \$1,654,353.00 in refunds back into the community. While these refunds represent a huge impact on individual families, the economic affect on our community is even more impressive. The IRS estimates that for every \$1 received in Earned Income Tax Credit, \$2 is returned to the surrounding community.

UTA VITA volunteers serve as intake specialists, tax preparers, and quality reviewers. Volunteers train for an average of 16 hours and become certified by the IRS using their VITA curriculum. In 2010, we had 19 students volunteer for more than 350 hours between January 15 and March 15.

UTA will be participating in VITA again this spring. We hope to increase the number of volunteers dramatically. Over 50 students have already expressed interest in volunteering their time. If you would like to volunteer please contact Terra Brown McGhee at [tcbrown@uta.edu](mailto:tcbrown@uta.edu) for more information.

**UTA Internship Program & YOU . . .**

The Department of Accounting organized the first annual internship preparation program last fall. Over 100 students participated in the program, designed to prepare students for the busy spring recruiting season. Participants polished their job search skills with resume critiques, mock interviews, an orientation to services provided by The Career Center, lectures on what to expect during the recruitment process, and workshops on Dining Etiquette, Business Etiquette and Networking Skills. These newly polished students will be actively pursuing internship opportunities during the spring semester. Sixty or more UTA accounting students enroll in the internship course each year for college credit, while many more students complete internships on their own. For more information on our internship program, please contact Terra Brown McGhee at [tcbrown@uta.edu](mailto:tcbrown@uta.edu).

**UTA BAP Hosts Southwest Regional Meeting**

The Beta Alpha Psi Southwest regional meeting will be held on March 4-5<sup>th</sup>, in Dallas. The University of Texas at Arlington Gamma Phi Chapter will be co-hosting the event. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Lei Testa, Regional Finance Director for US Oncology. Lei is also a past President of the UTA Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi. She first served as Recording Vice President, and then as President when Sue Strickland was the advisor in 1992 and 1993. The theme of the conference is "Bridge to Professionalism". Students from surrounding states will attend.

**UTA BAP Finalist for EY Diversity Award**

Ernst & Young believes that it is important for future leaders of the business community to have a great appreciation and understanding of how to successfully team in a diverse and inclusive environment. Accordingly, EY initiated the "Ernst & Young LLP Diversity Award", which provides an initial \$500 award to 10 chapters to support the implementation of their proposed idea. UTA's chapter is one of the 10 finalists. Final awards of \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$1,000 will be presented at the National BAP conference in Denver, Colorado, in August, 2011.

*AY 2010-11 Faculty Presentations*

**Ho, Jennifer Li-chin**, Liu Chao-Shin, and Bo Ouyang “Bloated Balance Sheet, Earnings Management, and Forecast Guidance” 2010 American Accounting Association meeting in San Francisco

Cassell, C., Drake, M., and **Rasmussen, Stephanie** “Do Auditors Respond to Information in Short Interest?” 2010 Contemporary Accounting Research Conference.

**Winterbotham, Glyn, Taylor, Martin**, and Herda, David “The Relation between Voluntary Assurance and Voluntary Disclosure: Evidence from International Sustainability Reports” 2010 American Accounting Association meeting in San Francisco

*AY 2010-2011 Faculty Academic 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* 2010, Vol. 29, No. 1, 125-148.

**Ho, Li-Chin Jennifer**, Chao-Shin Liu and Thomas Schaefer, “Audit Tenure and Earnings Surprise Management,” *Review of Accounting and Finance* 2010, Vol. 9, No. 2, 116-138.

**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* 2010, Vol. 22, No. 1, 109-138.

**Mark, Richard**, Berra, R. and **Taylor, Martin**, “Internal Control Liability Concerns Post Sarbanes-Oxley: Perspectives on Legal Liability and Reasonableness,” *Journal of Forensic Accounting* 2010, Vol. 2, No. 2, 229-254.

**Mark, Richard and Subramaniam, Chandra**, “An evaluation of the FIN 46R consolidation standard” *Research in Accounting Regulation*. October 2010, Vol. 22, No. 2, 133-136.

**McConnell, Donald K.** with Brown, R., “The House that Billy Built,” *Internal Auditor*. February 2010, 65-67.

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*. June 2010, Vol. 16 Issue 3, p 352-369.

Houmes, B. and **Skantz, Terrance**, “Highly valued equity and discretionary accruals” *Journal of Business Finance and Accounting*. 2010, Vol. 37, Nos. 1-2, 60-92.

*GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR (continued)*

Finally, this year we plan on putting greater emphasis on alumni development. The department has over 6,500 alumni starting from our first batch in 1966. Most of our alumni live within the DFW metroplex. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at different events over the last two years. Although it is not possible to meet with all of you, we are always looking for ways to connect (or reconnect) with you. Your success and achievement have always been a source of great pride for the department. I know many of you continue to participate and are engaged in the activities of the department and students and we are grateful. Many alumni are also investing financially in the department and in supporting students through scholarships. We are honored and humbled by your generosity, and we thank each one of you. Your generosity is critical to maintain our continued success.

*AY 2010-2011 Faculty Academic Publications (cont'd)*

Dickins, D. and **Skantz, Terrance**, “The impact of regulation on economic bonding and auditor independence: an analysis of SOX and suggestions for future research” *Advances in Public Interest Accounting*, 2010, Vol. 15, 1-21.

Almutari, A., K. Dunn, and **Skantz, Terrance**. “Auditor tenure, auditor specialization and information asymmetry” *Managerial Auditing*, 2010, Vol. 24, No. 7, 600-623.

Barra, R.A., Savage, A. and **Tsay, Jeff** “Equational Zero Vector Databases, Non-Equational Databases, and Inherent Internal Control,” *International Journal of Business Information Systems*. 2010, Vol. 6, No. 3, 354-377.

Khallaf, A. and **Skantz, Terrance** forthcoming. “Does the Firm Long-Term Performance Improve Following the Appointment of the CIOs?” *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*.

*Alumni News*

*Stephanie Duelm – MPA 2005*

Stephanie Duelm was promoted to manager with Hartman, Leito & Bold, LLP. Ms. Duelm is a graduate of the Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) program and earned her MPA degree in 2005.

*Crystal Lanphier – PPIA 2005*

Crystal Lanphier was promoted to an audit manager with Whitley Penn, L.L.P as of January 1, 2011. Ms. Lanphier is a graduate of the Professional Program in Accounting (PPIA) program which enables a student to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously. Ms. Lanphier earned her BBA-Accounting and MS -Accounting in 2005.

*Honorable Glen Whitley — B.B.A 1976*

Tarrant County Judge, Honorable Glen Whitley received the 2011 Northeast Leadership Forum’s Distinguished Leadership Award Friday at the organization’s 20th annual meeting at Hilton Dallas/Southlake Town Square. Judge Whitley graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a B.B.A. in accounting. A certified public accountant, he co-founded in 1983 the accounting firm Whitley Penn in Fort Worth. Judge Whitley was elected to the Tarrant County Commissioners Court in 1996 and then to the post of Tarrant County Judge in 2006.

*TSCPA Scholarships Recipients*

**Fall 2010**

Anoop Baral  
Kirsten Watters

**Spring 2011**

Mary Golden  
Taraz Yazhari  
Zilong Zheng

Congratulations to all of you for your dedication and hard work!



ACCOUNTING SOCIETY CHILI COOK-OFF 2010 – UTA AND TSCPA ARE ALWAYS A WINNING COMBINATION. (PICTURE AT LEFT)

**GIFTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING  
FY 2009-2010  
FY 2010-2011 (AS OF JANUARY 2011)**

We appreciate all gifts from our alumni and professional firms and organizations. Gifts are reinvested in activities to benefit our students. We are in an excellent position to provide enhanced merit-based scholarships to our deserving students. These opportunities enhance the access to a quality education for many students. UTA continues to work hard on producing top-notch students, based on CPA exam results achieved. The competition is strong, but we always at least go toe-to-toe with the highest scoring schools in Texas. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the following individuals, firms and organizations for their generosity.

**\$1 - \$99**

Ms. Paula M. Cada  
Ms. Rachel Daniel  
Mr. Harold Gilliam  
Mrs. Deborah J. Harper  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Jorgensen  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Martin  
Mrs. Lisa D. Pearson  
Dr. David Stevens

**\$100 - \$499**

Mr. Brett M. Borre  
Mr. John L. Essman  
Mr. Jeffrey Jamieson  
Ms. Beth Looney  
Mr. Ramiro Ortiz  
Sandia Control Systems  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas  
Mrs. LaDana Washburn

**\$500 - \$999**

Ms. Kimberly S. Carpenter  
Drs. Tom and Becky Hall  
Institute of Internal Auditor, Fort Worth Chapter  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald McConnell  
Mr. Vince W. White

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Dallas Chapter  
Bayer Family Foundation  
Mr. Robert J. Bruns  
Dallas CPA Society  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Foster  
Mr. Stephen Hicks  
Mr. Paul M. Howell  
KPMG LLP  
Mr. Mark Moses  
Grant Thornton LLP  
Mr. Clyde Womack

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Tax Executive Institutes, Dallas Chapter  
Mr. Donald W. Watts

**\$10,000 - \$49,999**

Ernst & Young LLP  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Slate

**\$50,000 - \$74,999**

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Taniguchi

*Please note: Contributors listed in this report made gifts to the Department between September 2009 through January 2011. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If your gift was omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact Catherine Edgell at [cedgell@uta.edu](mailto:cedgell@uta.edu).*

*Faculty Listing*

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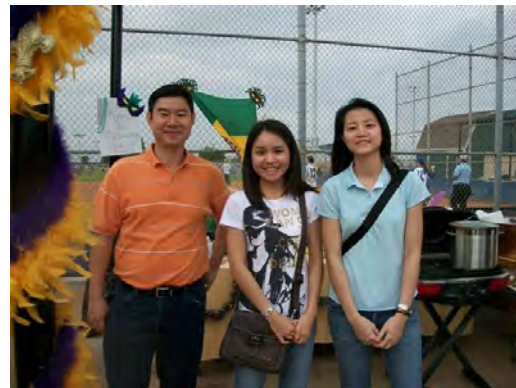
*Out & About*



DR. JOHN REPSIS, TAN VIRIYACHINKARN, (BACK ROW L TO R) HAIDER ABBAS, DR. JEFF TSAY AND KYO THONGPIPAT (LEFT TO RIGHT)

**Chili Cook-off**

Beta Alpha Psi and Accounting Society held the annual Chili Cook-off on October 23, 2010. For the first time, this event was held in conjunction with the Fort Worth Chapter TSCPA softball tournament. Firms participated in the tournament and chili cook-off simultaneously. Despite threatened storms all morning, the Chili Cook-off was a success, thanks to the participation of students, firms and alumni. Weaver won the coveted Best Chili Award this year, winning out over 13 other teams. We hope to see everyone again next fall for more Chili festivities.



DR. JAP EFENDI, TAN VIRIYACHINKARN, AND KYO THONGPIPAT (LEFT TO RIGHT)



ACCOUNTING SOCIETY CHILI COOK-OFF 2010 FACULTY (LEFT TO RIGHT)  
 BACK ROW: DR. JOHN REPSIS, DR. BECKY PIERCE, DR. TOM HALL, DR. JAP EFENDI  
 FRONT ROW: MS. CARLY ANDREWS, MS. SANDRA BITENC, DR. CHANDRA SUBRAMANIAM, DR. STEPHANIE RASMUSSEN, MS. TERRA MCGHEE (PICTURED LEFT)

**Firm Night**

Accounting Society will be hosting its annual Firm Night on Friday, April 22 in the University Center Palo Duro lounge from 7-10 pm. Firm Night is an excellent opportunity for accounting firms to get to know our accounting students and share with them the unique opportunities each firm has to offer. The event usually attracts 12-14 firms and around 150 of our top accounting students. If your firm or organization would like to participate, please email Terra Brown McGhee at [tcbrown@uta.edu](mailto:tcbrown@uta.edu).