

# UTA DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



**DR. CHANDRA  
SUBRAMANIAM**

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 7<sup>th</sup> in Audit and 10<sup>th</sup> in Regulation nationally for candidates with Advanced standing. Our own analysis shows that UTA comes in 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Free CPE Day for alumni. The event is set for August 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:accounting@uta.edu). Thanks as always for your generous support.

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*Faculty Presentations 2011-2012 Academic Year*

**Efendi, Jap**, Files, R., Ouyang, B., and Swanson, E. "Option Backdating and Executive Turnover" 2011 Financial Accounting Reporting Section Mid-Year Meeting in Tampa.

**Efendi, Jap, Subramaniam, Chandra** and Park, JinDong. "Do XBRL Reports Have Incremental Information Content? An Empirical Analysis" 2011 AAA Annual Meeting, Denver.

**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.

**Hall, Tom**, Higson, A., **Pierce, Bethane**, Price, K and Skousen, C. "Haphazard Sampling: Selection Biases Induced by Control Listing Properties and the Estimation Consequences of these Biases" 21st Audit & Assurance Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, May 12, 2011.

**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.

**Repsis, John.** "Corporate Transparency in an Age of Disclosure: The Revealing of Uncertain Tax Positions" University of Texas at Arlington, Department of Accounting Annual CPE, Arlington, Texas, August 18, 2011.

Kannan, Y., **Skantz, Terrance**, and J. Higgs, 2011. Managerial Incentives and Auditor Pricing, (August), presented at American Accounting Association national meeting, Denver, August 2011.

Kannan, Y., **Skantz, Terrance**, and J. Higgs, 2012. Managerial Incentives and Audit Pricing, (January), presented at Auditing Section Midyear Conference, Savannah, January 2012.

Park, JinDong and **Subramaniam, Chandra.** "Do Managers Curb Stock Price Rises Prior to Option Reissues?: Further Evidence from Stock Return Analyses" 2011 AAA Annual Meeting, Denver.

Hsiao, Daniel, **Subramaniam, Chandra**, and **Tsay, Jeff.** "Is SFAS No. 142 a Good Opportunity for Firms to Manage Earnings" 2011 AAA Annual Meeting, Denver.

*Faculty Publications 2011-2012 Academic Year*

**Brewster, Billy.** "How a Systems Perspective Improves Knowledge Acquisition and Performance in Analytical Procedures" The Accounting Review, Vol. 86, No. 3, 915-943.

**Efendi, Jap**, Smith, L. M. , and Wong, J. "Longitudinal Analysis of Voluntary Adoption of XBRL on Financial Reporting." International Journal of Economics and Accounting, Vol. 2, Issue 2, 2011.

*Faculty Publications 2011-2012 Academic Year (cont'd)*

Butler, J. B., **Henderson, Sandra**, and Raiborn, C. "Sustainability and the Balanced Scorecard: Integrating 'Green' Measures into Business Reporting," Management Accounting Quarterly, (forthcoming Winter 2011).

**Hall, Tom, Pierce, Bethane** and **Tsay, Jeff**. "How to Improve Audit Sampling Efficiency with the Excel Solver," Internal Auditing 26 (May/June 2011): 23-31.

**McConnell, Donald** and Brown, R.,. "Fraud Around the Clock," Internal Auditor, " (December 2011): 67-70.

Cassell, C.A., Drake, M.S., and **Rasmussen, Stephanie J**. "Short Interest as a Signal of Audit Risk." Contemporary Accounting Research Vol. 28, No. 4, 1278-1297, 2011.

Khallaf, A. and **Skantz, Terrance**. "Does the Firm Long-Term Performance Improve Following the Appointment of the CIOs?," International Journal of Accounting Information Systems, Vol. 12, No. 1, 57-78, 2011.

**Subramaniam, Chandra** and **Tsay, Jeff**, "Mandated recognition of employee stock option expense – The case of Canada" Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting, Vol. 23, No. 1, 62-91, 2012

**Subramaniam, Chandra** and Park, JinDong, "The effect of executive option repricing on managerial risk-taking" Journal of the Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies, (forthcoming)

*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.

# 2011 Chili Cook Off



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*

Name	email	Phone
Andrews, Carly	candrews@uta.edu	817.272.2736
Bitenc, Sandra	bitenc@uta.edu	817.272.1115
Brewster, Billy	bbrewste@uta.edu	817.272.0142
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Hall, Tom	tom.hall@uta.edu	817.272.3087
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Pierce, Becky	bpierce@uta.edu	817.272.3080
Rasmussen, Stephanie	sras muss@uta.edu	817.272.3047
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Skantz, Terry	tskantz@uta.edu	817.272.3065
Taylor, Martin	mtaylor@uta.edu	817.272.3030
Tsay, Jeff	jefftsay@uta.edu	817.272.6009
Winterbotham, Glyn	gwinter@uta.edu	817.272.3040

*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

*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

- 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. Chandra Subramaniam, Department Chair  
Department of Accounting  
Box 19468  
Arlington, Texas 76019

**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.