

# OF ACCOUNTING NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 Issue 1

Spring 2017

## Dear UTA Accounting Alumni and Friends:



Dr. L.C. Jennifer Ho

*Hello and best wishes from your UTA Accounting Department! Welcome to this edition of the UTA Department of Accounting newsletter. The academic year 2016-2017 got off to a very active and successful start with the fall semester of 2016. In the fall commencement, we proudly awarded 78 students the BBA/BS in Accounting degree, 19 students the MPA/MS in Accounting and 9 students the MS in Tax degree.*

*In the fall we also had the pleasure of hosting several of our annual events such as CPE Day and the Chili Cook Off. First was our sixth annual CPE Day for Alumni and other accounting professionals, which was held on August 11, 2016 in the University Center. I am pleased to report to you that the 2016 CPE Day was a tremendous success. This year's event attendance was 211. Among many excellent presenters, this year we were pleased to welcome UTA's Dr. Allen Saxe, Department of Political Science who made a very well received presentation entitled "What's Goin' On? The Presidential Election".*

*As in previous years, we would not have been able to conduct the 2016 CPE Day event without the support of our generous sponsors including Ernst & Young LLP, Weaver LLP, Sales Tax Specialists of Texas, Inc., Financial Executives International—FW Chapter, Tax Executives Institute—FW Chapter, Sutton Frost Cary, LLP, and Clifton Larson Allen LLP. We are grateful for the support of these firms. We are already planning our 2017 CPE event on August 11, 2017 and look forward to again hosting our friends and supporters of UTA Accounting.*

*Academic year 2016-2017 has begun in a very busy fashion for two of our accounting student organizations. Both Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Society continued their history of service to the UTA community by hosting presentations by a number of guest*

*The University of Texas at Arlington Department of Accounting was founded in 1963 and is the **Second largest Accounting Program in The University of Texas System**. The program is fully accredited and has over 6,000 alumni.*

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speakers from regional and national accounting firms as well as firms representing various industrial areas. BAP was again recognized as a Superior Chapter for its successful efforts during the 2015-2016 academic year. Congratulations to the officers and members of Beta Alpha Psi. A highlight of the fall semester was when BAP and the UTA Accounting Society hosted the Chili Cook-Off in late October. This 32nd year was outstanding! Everyone had a great time and enjoyed very good chili! See the photo spread on pages 6 & 7. For more about BAP and the Accounting Society see the Student Organizations page.

In February, UTA accounting students (supported by UTA Department of Accounting faculty members) will again participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program which is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and run by United Way of Tarrant County. UTA Department faculty members provide training for UTA students who will provide free income tax preparation services for low income Arlington residents. UTA's VITA Service Project is part of the University's effort to give back to the community and to help our students develop their accounting and taxation skills.

This month we also hosted the Lone Star Accounting Research Conference for faculty and PhD students from UTD, SMU, TCU, UofH, UT, UNT, Rice, Baylor, A&M, and UTA. See the story and photos on pages 8-9.

Also, in upcoming events, the Accounting Departments of UTA and TCU will co-sponsor the Distinguished Accounting Speaker series again on March 7, 2017. This year's event will be on the UTA campus in the Rosebud Theatre and will feature Mr. Max Carrier, National Partner-in-Charge of eAudit for KPMG. The topic is "Developing Accounting Professionals for the Data Age".

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](mailto:accounting@uta.edu). Thank you for your interest and support of UTA Accounting.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Ho

# SAVE THE DATES

**Spring Accounting Awards Banquet**

Friday, April 28

**2017 Annual CPE Day**

Friday, August 11



CPE Credits

# Faculty News

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Hall, T., Hoogduin, L., Pierce, B., and Tsay, J.** Does Systematic Selection Lead To Unreliable Risk Assessments in Monetary-Unit Sampling Applications? Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory, 2015. 34 (4): 85-108.

**Hall, T., Pierce, B., Tunnell, L., and Walther, L.** Heterogeneous Student Perceptions of Accounting Course Importance and their Implications for SET Reporting and Use. Journal of Accounting Education, 2014. 32 (1): 1-15.

**Ho, L.C., Liao, Q. and Taylor, M.** Real and Accrual-Based Earnings Management in the Pre- and Post-IFRS Adoption: Evidence from China. Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting, 2015. Vol. 26, No. 3, 294-335.

**Ho, L.C., Liu, C. and Wang, F.** To What Extent Does the Audit Committee Curb Downward Earnings Forecast Guidance? Review of Accounting and Finance, 2014. Vol. 13, No. 2, 110-133.

**McConnell, D. K., McConnell, S. C., & Schweiger, C.** The External Confirmation Process: New Guidance Under the Clarified Audit Standards. The CPA Journal, January 2014. pp. 40-43. 2014-2015 UTA College of Business Administration Outstanding Professional Publication Award.

Luo, S., and **Nagarajan, N. J.** Information Complementarities and Supply Chain Analysts. The Accounting Review, 2015. Vol. 90, No. 5, 1995-2029.

Thibodeau, N., Evans, J.H. III, and **Nagarajan, N.** Do You Get What You Measure? Research Opportunities Based on the Veterans Health Administration Experience. Accounting Horizons, 2014. Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 385-413.

J. H. III, Evans, Luo, S. and **Nagarajan, N. J.** CEO Turnover, Financial Distress, and Contractual Innovations. The Accounting Review, 2014. Vol. 89, No. 3, pp. 959-990.

Lee, J. Lee, Kwang and **Nagarajan, N. J.** Birds of a Feather: Value Implications of Political Alignment Between Top Management and Directors. The Journal of Financial Economics, 2014. Vol 112, Issue 2, pp 232-250.

Adams, J.C., Hayunga, D. K. and **Rasmussen, S. J.** The Restating of Financial Statements by REITs. Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance, 2015. 1-20.

Kachelmeier, S.J., **Rasmussen, S.J.**, and Schmidt, J.J. When do Ineffective Audit Committee Members Experience Turnover? Contemporary Accounting Research, 2016. Vol. 33 (1): pp. 228-260.

**Seat, S.** God's Money is Now My Money. Fraud Magazine, 2015.

Lai, K., **Srinidhi, B.**, Gul, F. and Tsui, J. Board Gender Diversity, Audit Fees and Auditor Choice. Contemporary Accounting Research, 2016. Forthcoming.

Chen, Y., Sadique, S., **Srinidhi, B.** and Veeraraghavan, M. (2016). Does High Quality Auditing Mitigate or Encourage Private Information Collection? Contemporary Accounting Research, Forthcoming.

Chen, L., **Srinidhi, B.**, Tsang, A. and Yu, W. Audited Financial Reporting and Voluntary Disclosure of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Reports. Journal of Management Accounting Research, 2016. Vol. 8, No. 2 Summer: 53-76

## Did You Know?

The 2016-2017 survey by TaxTalent, has again recognized the UTA Masters in Taxation program as one of the top 10 MS Tax programs in the nation. This is UTA's fifth consecutive year to achieve this ranking.

Accounting Degree Review has ranked the UTA'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.

(Continued from page 3)

Ghosh, S., Radhakrishnan, S., **Srinidhi, B.** and Su, L. Recognition of Future News in Earnings and Price Bubbles in Experimental Asset Markets. Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance, October 2015. Volume 30, Issue 4: 558-575

**Srinidhi, B.**, Tayi, G. and Yan, J. Allocation of Resources to Cyber-Security: The Effect of Misalignment of Interest between Managers and Investors. Decision Support Systems, 2015. Vol. 75: 49-62

Huang, Q. and **Skantz, T.** The Quality of Pro Forma Earnings: An Examination of the Adverse Selection Component of the Bid-Ask Spread around Earnings Announcements. Review of Accounting Studies, 2016. Vol. 21, No.1, 198-250.

Khallaf, A. and **Skantz, T.** R&D Productivity following First-Time CIO Appointments, International Journal of Accounting Information Systems, 2015. 16: 55-72.

Herda, D. N., **Taylor, M.** and Winterbotham, G. The Effect of Country Level Investor Protection on the Voluntary Assurance of Sustainability Reports. Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting, 2014. Vol. 25, No. 2, 209-236.

Lu, W and **Taylor, M. E.** Which Factors Moderate the Relationship between Sustainability Performance and Financial Performance? A Meta-Analysis Study. Journal of International Accounting Research, 2016. Vol. 15, No. 1, 1-15.

Lu, W and **Taylor, M. E.** A Study of the Relationships among Environmental Performance, Environmental Disclosure, and Financial Performance. Asian Review of Accounting, Forthcoming.

Shroff, P., **Venkataraman, R.**, and Xin, B. Timeliness of Analysts' Forecasts: The Informational Role of Follower Analysts. Contemporary Accounting Research, 2014. Vol. 31, No. 1, 202-229

Gigler, F., Kanodia, C., Sapra, H., and **Venugopalan, R.** How Frequent Financial Reporting Can Cause Managerial Short Termism: An Analysis of the Costs and Benefits of Increasing Reporting Frequency. Journal of Accounting Research, 2014. Vol. 52, No. 2, 357-387.

## FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

**Jennifer Ho** had the following paper presentations in the 2016 AAA Annual Meeting:

Are Short Sellers Sophisticated Investors? Evidence from Real Earnings Management (with Jap Efendi and Yu Zhang)

Enterprise Risk Management Implementation and Board Demographics (with Xiaohong Fan)

**Charles Miller** made a presentation to the Fort Worth Chapter of the Financial Executives Institute. The topic of the presentation was changes in Federal employment law with respect to minimum overtime wage requirements which became effective December 1, 2016.

## Did You Know?

UTA accounting students contribute to our community by serving as volunteers for the Tarrant County United Way in the VITA program? Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provides free income tax preparation for low income working families, enabling them to maximize the deductions and credits available to them and avoid expensive tax preparation fees.

The UTA College of Business has been named by The Princeton Review as an outstanding business school in the 2017 edition of its annual review, "The Best 294 Business Schools".

CEO Magazine Global MBA Rankings has, for the first year, showcased The University of Texas at Arlington, College of Business MBA program in its list of top business schools from around the globe.

U. S. News & World Report has ranked the UTA College of Business MBA at number 82 among 296 programs evaluated. This is the first time the UTA MBA program has broken into the Top 100 on the U.S. News list.

## Student Organization Officers

The success of any student organization is due in very large part to the efforts of the officers of the group. Officers for the fall semester were as follows:

### Accounting Society

President  
Jose Cervantes

Vice President,  
Finance  
Jessica Sojka

Treasurer  
Jasmine Cantu

Webmaster  
Sean Ayars

### Beta Alpha Psi

President  
Lauren Armendariz

Vice President  
Griselda Gaytan

Secretary  
Lazia Samin

Treasurer  
Vicente Rodriguez

Director of National  
Reporting  
Elijah James

Director of Fundraising  
Karun Someshwar

## Student Organizations



### Accounting Society

Fall 2016 brought preparation for our Annual Chili Cook-Off! Many alumni and friends of the Department visited the UTA campus to enjoy the event. The Cook-Off was a great opportunity to catch up with firms, alumni, students, faculty, and accounting professionals in a relaxed, casual setting. A number of firms, student groups, and our

faculty chili entries were tasted and enjoyed. A great time was had by everyone in attendance. We especially want to thank the firms who came to campus, shared their wonderful chili recipes and participated in this year's fun and games. For more information about the Accounting Society and future Cook-Offs, please contact faculty advisor Terra Brown McGhee at [tcbrown@uta.edu](mailto:tcbrown@uta.edu).

Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Society would also like to thank the firms who came to campus and shared information about future opportunities with the BAP and AS membership at our Friday evening meetings. Among the firms who made presentations during the fall semester were Grant Thornton, BNSF, Whitley Penn, and Kimberly Clark.



### Beta Alpha Psi

Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi at UTA had a very successful Fall 2016 semester. The semester was highlighted by Meet-the-Candidates Night and the Annual Chili Cook-Off. Meet-the-Candidates Night on November 4<sup>th</sup> was hosted at the home of Interim Dean of the College of Business, Dr. Chandra Subramanian. Many alumni from local accounting firms attended to wish the Fall 2016 Beta candidates success in their pledge period. The Chili Cook Off attendance was excellent as 12 firms joined Beta Alpha Psi, the Accounting Society, and the Accounting faculty in presenting tasty chili and themed booths.

During the year, BAP hosted a series of guest speakers from regional and national accounting firms including: Weaver, LLP, Ernst & Young, Travis Wolff, and Becker Professional Education. Many thanks to these firms and their representatives for taking the time to make their presentations and share their experiences with the students.

Alumni are invited to view the new BAP website at <http://mavor.gs.collegiatelink.net/organization/betaalphapsiaccounting>. The revised website provides posts of events, photos and other information regarding the Chapter. Alumni are always welcome to attend any of the meetings. If more information is needed, please contact faculty advisor Dr. Cherie Henderson at [Chender-son@uta.edu](mailto:Chender-son@uta.edu).

# 32ND ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

SPONSORED BY ACCOUNTING SOCIETY, BAP AND THE DEPARTMENT



Accounting Society super heroes (above) & BAP ancient Romans (top right); Dept. of Acct. "Electioneers" (right) served "Swamp Chili".



The Hulk & Miss America enjoy the festivities with Hawkeye of the Avengers.



Sack Races, Spoon Relays & 3-Legged Races brought zombies, CFA Cows, Ghostbusters, Harry Potter characters, Ghouls, & 80's gals together for friendly competition.



GAME WINNERS:  
1ST, WHITLEY PENN; 2ND, PSK; 3RD, BAP

# FIRM BOOTHS



Salmon Sims Thomas (far left), Sutton, Frost, Cary (left), Grant Thornton (bottom left) & Clifton Lawson Allen (bottom right) had creatively themed booths.



**2016 WINNERS**  
**BEST TASTING CHILI**  
 ACCOUNTING SOCIETY  
**BEST COSTUME**  
 BETA ALPHA PSI



KPMG's Harry Potter themed booth provided "Magic Bean Chili" (right). Ernst & Young (far right) brought their wit as Chick-Fil-A bovines holding "cow" quotes.



The "Fraudbusters", PSK, went all out with their booth and costumes. Dr. Elrod was pleased to present trophies for all the "BESTS": Tasting Chili, Chili Name, Costume (adult & child) & Game winners.

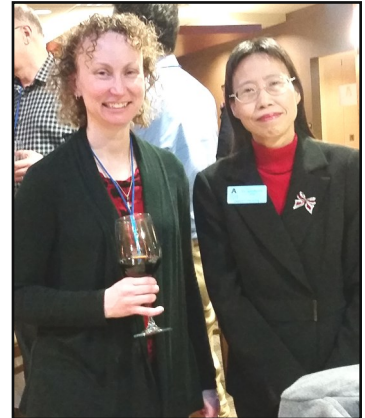
2017 Lone Star  
Accounting  
Research  
Conference



# 2017 Lone Star Accounting Research Conference

February 3 & 4, the UTA Department of Accounting was honored to host an annual regional conference in which faculty and PhD students of several highly respected accounting programs in the state of Texas present research papers. Represented this year were Baylor University,

Rice University, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Houston, & University of North Texas. From our department, 3rd year PhD student, Xiaoxiao Yu presented Readability of Financial Disclosures and the Cost of Raising Equity Capital and faculty member Bin Srinidhi shared Founder Control, Opacity and Value Creation in Family Firms.



Dr. Stephanie Rasmussen, Committee Chair, & Dr. Jennifer Ho, Department Chair, enjoy a moment of mingling.

A special thank you goes out to the following faculty members who planned the top-notch event: Stephanie Rasmussen, Committee Chair; Nandu Nagarajan; Terry Skantz; and Ram Venkataraman. Thank you for a job well done!



78 faculty members and PhD students from 10 Texas universities participated in the conference, sharing original research projects.

The 6th floor of the College of Business and University Hall 108 served as presentation venues and we enjoyed meals at the University Club in Davis Hall (above).





## Faculty and PhD students



Dr. Subramaniam, Interim COB Dean (left) proudly welcomed attendees to campus and applauded the research efforts presented during the 2-day conference. Colleagues from around Texas caught up on the latest research efforts & ideas.



UTA PhD students, Yuan Shi, (above on the right) and Prasad Thotapalli (below on the left) enjoyed discussing paper topics and getting to know other PhD students.

UTA PhD students (above) Nargiz Abdullayeva, Hannah Hurt, Wei Chen, Xiaozhe “Ben” Gu, Lei Hua, Xiaoxiao Yu and Prasad Thotapalli assisted with the logistics of the conference and were able to network with scholars from other universities.



Dr. Venkataraman as emcee, (above center) graciously introduced each speaker and kept us on schedule.

# Alumni News

## NEW JOBS & PROMOTIONS

**David Bradford (BBA, '99)** has been named Chief Financial Officer of Environmental Pest Service.

**Kimberly Casarez (BBA, '14)** is employed as an Accounting Specialist at Goodwill Industries, FTW.

**Rachel Casarez (BBA, '86)** has been promoted to Payroll Admin. Manager at TX Health Resources.

**Matt Cashion (MS-Accounting, -98)** is working with Accelerate Resources as Director of Accounting.

**Catherine "Cassie" Conroy (MPA, '11)** is a Sr. Accountant at North Central Texas Council of Governments.

**Mary Goosens (BBA, '91)** has been appointed Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

**Shirley Graham (BBA, '89)** is working with Child Study Center as Controller.

**Elaine Hart (BBA, '74)** has been named Interim City Manager of the City of Austin, Texas.

**Brandon Hayes (BBA, '99)** is now Sr. Manager, State & Local Tax and Advisory practice with the Altus Group.

**Andy Hines (MS-Accounting '11)** was promoted to Audit Manager at Whitley Penn.

**Greg Hudson (BBA, '95)** has been named City Manager of the City of Gilmer, Texas.

**Mary Kay Jorgensen, (BBA, '93)** recently returned to the workforce as a Business Office Associate for Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville, TX.

**Charlie Kennimer ( BBA, '07)** has been promoted to Senior Manager in Audit for Whitley Penn.

**Daniel Montgomery (MS-Tax '06)** is now a partner at Gollob Morgan & Peddy.

**John Pinkerton (MPA, '82)** has been named Chairman of the Board of Lonestar Resources US.

## ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

**Mike Crownover (BBA, '83)** announced his retirement as Executive Vice President of Valero Energy. Mike joined Valero in 1997.

**Bill Guinn (BBA, '82)** announced his retirement as city manager of the City of Keene, Texas. Bill joined the city as its finance manager in 2007.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

**Michael Ahart (MPA, '96)** was recently honored as the 2016 Fleet Executive of the Year as announced in [Fleet Financials](#).

**Brittany Byrd (BBA, '05 & MS, '06)** was honored by the Dallas Women's Foundation with its 2016 Young Leaders Award.

# ALUMNI UPDATE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

UTA Degree and year: \_\_\_\_\_

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?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Please 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. Feel free to include an additional page(s) and extend your remarks.

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

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_/pledging an amount

\$10,000     \$5,000

\$2,500     \$1,000

\$500     \$100

\$50     Other

My employer matches donations:

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 giving information, please click here.](#)

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