

UTA DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



DR. L.C. JENNIFER HO

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Dear UTA Accounting Alumni and Friends:

Hello and best wishes from your UTA Accounting Department!

Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of the UTA Department of Accounting newsletter. The academic year 2015-2016 has been very busy and productive for our department. In the Spring 2016 commencement ceremony, we awarded 74 students the BBA/BS in Accounting degree while 16 students received the MPA/MS in Accounting and 3 students received the MS in Taxation degree.

Each year the accounting departments of UTA, TCU's Neeley School of Business, along with the Forth Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants co-sponsor a Distinguished Accounting Speaker series. This year's event took place February 12th on the campus of TCU. We were pleased to present Mr. Felix Lozano, a partner with Whitley Penn. Mr. Lozano spoke to the combined audience of UTA and TCU faculty and students on the very timely topic of accounting fraud. The audience was treated to very informative remarks concerning the very real problem of fraud in today's business environment and the accounting profession's involvement in protecting businesses from fraud and in the detection of fraudulent activities.

We learned in April that the AACSB Peer Review Team's recommendation for a five year extension of accreditation of the business and accounting degree programs was concurred with by the Continuous Improvement Review Committee and the Accounting Accreditation Committee and ratified by the Board of Directors.

Our annual Spring Scholarship Banquet was held April 29, 2016. We awarded more than 50 scholarships worth approximately \$65,000 to our best and brightest students. We are very proud of our accounting students and congratulate each of the award winners. These competitive scholarship awards are a testament to our students' hard work and dedication to excellence. Keynote speaker, Dean Rachel Croson's remarks concerned the fast changing environment our future graduates will encounter. I must also note that the awards to our students are possible only by and through your generosity. Those of you who support the UTA Accounting Program with your gifts make it possible for our students to continue their work. We are deeply grateful for your support.

On May 4th our faculty and staff came together to celebrate the

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR *cont'd*

retirement of two of our long-time accounting faculty members. Dr. Jeff Tsay, who joined the UTA faculty in 1974, and Mr. John Repsis, who joined the faculty in 1987, are retiring at the close of this academic year. Jeff's teaching and research contributions to UTA are well known and documented as well as his work in the development of the abilities of many of our past and present Ph.D. students. John has been an outstanding instructor specializing in taxation and a tireless contributor to our students as the Graduate Advisor for the graduate accounting programs and advisor to our outstanding Beta Alpha Psi Chapter. We wish our friends the very best as they begin this new chapter of their lives. We will miss them very much.

I would also like to congratulate Dean Rachel Croson on her appointment as Dean of the College of Social Science at Michigan State University! While serving as Dean of the UTA College of Business, Dr. Croson led an inclusive strategic planning process, a successful reaccreditation by the AACSB, and a first-time ranking by U.S. News & World Report of UTA's part-time MBA program at #82 overall and #50 among public research universities. Additionally, external engagements were also enhanced, including the creation of new advisory boards for specialty programs. Under Dr. Croson's leadership, the UTA College of Business has experienced an impressive increase in philanthropic giving. Dr. Croson began her new position at Michigan State on August 1st, 2016. UTA Accounting is grateful to Dr. Croson for her leadership and service to UTA and to our department, and we wish her the best in her new position.

I am pleased to report to you that on Friday, June 17, 2016 Dr. Linda K. Johnsrud, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for UT Arlington, announced that Dr. Chandra Subramaniam has agreed to serve as Interim Dean for the College of Business. Dr. Subramaniam has most recently been serving as Associate Dean for Students and Programs, and was previously the Department Chair of UTA Accounting. We look forward to working with Dr. Subramaniam in his new and important capacity!

This year's sixth annual CPE Day for Alumni and other accounting professionals will be held on August 11, 2016. Attendance at this annual event has grown in each of the 5 previous years, and we look forward to another excellent turnout of UTA alumni and friends. Again, our expanded session offerings will be facilitated by a diverse mix of outstanding guest speakers. We will also host a networking event in the Rio Grande Ballroom B in the University Center at the conclusion of the day.

The successes of our students and faculty would not be possible without the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure that each of you so enthusiastically shares. I, along with the students and faculty, am grateful for your continued interest in and support of the UTA accounting programs. Because of your generosity, we are able to preserve our legacy and prepare our students to make significant contributions to the accounting profession! Thank you!

We hope you will continue to stay connected with UTA Accounting by letting us know where you are and what you are doing. At the end of this newsletter is our "Alumni Update" form. 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 continued support of UTA Accounting.

Regards,
L.C. Jennifer Ho
Interim Chair

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

Candace Blair, CPA ('05 M.S. taxation) is now a tax partner at Sanford, Baumeister & Frazier, LLP in Fort Worth

David Bradford ('99 B.B.A.) has been named Chief Financial Officer of Environmental Pest Service (EPS) in Tampa

Matthew Edmonson ('07 B.B.A.) is now Assurance Senior at J Taylor

Brandon Hayes ('99 B.B.A.) has been named by Itus Group as a senior manager within its State & Local Tax and Advisory practice

Adam Henning, CPA ('08 B.B.A.) is now Controller at LCR Contractors, LLC

Kaylee Le, CPA ('11 B.B.A., '11 M.S.) has been named Financial Leadership Development Account Analyst at Weir Oil and Gas

Shu-Wei (Thomas) Lin ('15 MBA NT Cohort) is now Director of Warehouse Operations at Foneso LLC

Daniel Montgomery ('06 B.B.A., '06 M.S. Taxation) has become a partner in the firm Gollob Morgan Peddy

Sanjok Timilsina ('15 B.B.A., '15 M.S) is now Finance and Accounting Manager at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC

DID YOU KNOW...?

- 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?
- Did you know that UT Arlington's Master of Science in Taxation program has ranked in the top 10 nationally for four consecutive years, according to Tax Talent.com?
- Did you know that U.S. News & World Report has ranked the UTA part-time MBA program as #82 overall and #50 among public research universities in the U.S. in 2016?
- Did you know that more than thirty firms participated in this year's UTA Accounting Society's 2016 Firm Night?
- Did you know that 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. By using VITA, families are able to maximize the deductions and credits available to them and avoid expensive tax preparation fees.
- VITA also provides referrals for additional social, financial, and educational services. 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 the VITA curriculum. VITA is one of the many ways that UTA accounting students contribute to the Arlington community in which we all live and work.

SAVE THE DATES

6th Annual UTA CPE Day

Thursday, August 11, 2016, University Center

32nd Annual Chili Cook Off

Saturday, October 29, 2016

College of Business



SPRING 2016 ACCOUNTING AWARDS BANQUET



Dr. Rachel Croson, Dean of the
UT Arlington College of Business

On April 29th, Beta Alpha Psi and the Department of Accounting held the Spring 2016 Scholarship Awards Banquet. During the evening more than 50 scholarships worth in excess of \$65,000 were presented to UT Arlington accounting students. You will find a list below of this year's award recipients. We are very proud of our honorees for their hard work and academic excellence. We are also extremely grateful to the alumni and friends of the Department who so generously provide the resources that enable so many of our fine students to continue their education.

Dr. Croson's remarks was "The Future of Business". We appreciated her fast paced and insightful remarks and are grateful for her support of UTA Accounting.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Rachel Croson, Dean of the UTA College of Business. The title of Dr. Croson's

Dean Croson joined the UTA family in 2013. Previously Dr. Croson served in positions at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and at the University of Texas at Dallas. While at UT Dallas, Dr. Croson took a two year leave to serve as the National Science Foundation's Division Director for Social and Economic Sciences

Dr. Croson earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, with a double-major in Economics and Philosophy. She earned her PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

Under her leadership, the UTA College of Business has achieved significant success, including increases in peer-reviewed publications, as well as in citations and press coverage of faculty research. Under her leadership we have launched new curricula, both within the College of Business and in collaboration with other units on campus. Philanthropic giving has increased by 187% since Dean Croson's arrival.

STUDENT AWARDS

The following students received the four top awards for Accounting Excellence for the 2015–2016 academic year:

Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Accounting Excellence Award

Awardee: Arsala Barakzai

Presenter: Mrs. Sandra Bitenc

Federation of Schools of Accountancy 2015 Student Achievement Award

Awardee: Suye Wang

Presenter: Dean Rachel Croson

Financial Executives Institute Outstanding Student Award

Awardee: Daliah Hamdan

Presenter: Associate Dean Chandra Subramaniam

TSCPA Accounting Education Foundation Scholarship

Awardee: Arsala Barakzai

Presenter: Associate Dean Greg Frazier

SPRING 2016 ACCOUNTING AWARDS BANQUET -CONT'D

2016 Departmental Scholarship Winners:

Mark Adams	Katherine Obennoskey
Paul Anderson	James Park
Arsala Barakzai	Antonio Pazo
Karen Bohannon	Seth Prewitt
Xi Cheng	Rachel Shaffer
William Covalt	Dawn Abraham Shaji
Priscilla Frederickson	Yuan Shi
Griselda Gaytan	Shilpa Shrestha
William Gough	Jeremy Smeltz
Daliah Hamdan	Bria Sneed
Sihame Hamdane	Xiaoxiao Song
Chris Hibbard	Yuetao Sun
Phuong Cao Hoang	Reena Thomas
Wei Hsu	Cynthia Vargas
Andrew Hutchinson	Meekha Varghese
Guowen Jiang	Catherine Wambui
Naoki Jitsuyama	Ji Wang
Aaron Kauffman	Suye Wang
David Kiema	Huiyun Wu
Oshmar Lindero	Xiaoxiao Yu
Myrna Madrid	Boyang Zou
Douglas Mann	
Anh Nguyen	
Huong Thi Nguyen	
Thinh Nguyen	

We are very proud of our scholarship awardees as well as all of our UT Arlington Accounting students! We wish each of these students continued success as they pursue their degree.

SPRING 2016 ACCOUNTING AWARDS BANQUET -



Texas Society of CPAs Accounting Excellence Award
Presented to: Arsala Barakzai Presented by: Mrs. Sandra Bitenc



Federation of Schools of Accountancy 2016 Student Achievement Award
Presented to: Suye Wang Presented by: Dean Rachel Croson



Financial Executives Institute 2015 Student Achievement Award
Presented to: Daliah Hamdan
Presented by: Associate Dean Chandra Subramaniam



TSCPA Accounting Education Foundation Scholarship
Presented to: Arsala Barakzai
Presented by: Associate Dean Greg Frazier



Bill Ross Endowed Scholarship
Presented to: Dawn Abraham Shaji Presented by: Dr. Jennifer Ho



Katherine M. Horstmann Endowed Scholarship
Presented to: Jeremy Smeltz Presented by: Ms. Terra McGhee

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ACCOUNTING SOCIETY

The Accounting Society had an active spring semester mentoring accounting students and providing exposure to the variety of career opportunities available to our students.



The Society's Friday evening meetings included presentations by various professionals who represented both public accounting as well as other types of career opportunities for accountants.

The Society's major event during the semester took place February 19th when the Accounting Society and the Department of Accounting hosted the annual Firm Night event. Each year this evening provides an excellent opportunity for public accounting firms and other companies to share their unique opportunities with our accounting students while allowing our students to sharpen their networking skills. This year's event included representatives from thirty-two firms. More than one hundred sixty accounting students participated.

Prior to the event, representatives of the UTA Career Development Center held several informational and coaching sessions with student-participants, the purpose of which was to offer coaching advice on appropriate dress, resume preparation, and networking technique.

Firm Night 2017 will be held on Friday, February 10, 2017. For more information please contact Terra McGhee or Gene Elrod at either cbrown@uta.edu or Elrod@uta.edu, respectively.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to each of the firms that participated in this year's Firm Night!

AuldridgeGriffin, PC
FW Institute of Internal Auditors
Becker
PMB Helin Donovan, LLP
CF Accountants & Consultants
Whitley Penn LLP
CliftonLarsonAllen
XTO Energy Inc.
Roger CPA Review
Essilor USA
TSCPA Fort Worth Chapter

Crowe Horwath
Chapman, Hext & Co.
High Profile, Inc.
Grant Thornton
Snow Garret Williams
Montgomery Coscia Greilich
Moss Adams, LLP
UPS Global Accounting
Pricewaterhouse Coopers
Weaver
PSK LLP

RSM US LLP
PriceKubecka PLLC
Salmon Sims Thomas
Sproles Woodward, LLP
Novitas Solutions
Sutton Frost Cary
Travis Wolff
UTA Career Development
Ernst & Young

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.



Accounting Society Officers networking at a professional event.

SPRING 2016 OFFICERS
President: Jose Cervantes
Vice President: Julio Colon
Vice President-Finance: Jessica Sojka
Secretary: Mattie Potter
Treasurer: Jasmine Cantu
Controller: Prasad Clement
Webmaster: Sean Ayers
Faculty Advisors:
Terra McGhee & Dr. Gene Elrod

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

BETA ALPHA PSI

Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi had a very successful spring semester. During the semester, representatives of numerous accounting firms and industry accounting firms spoke to BAP members offering insights into each of the firm's career paths as well as advice about landing that first professional job. One of the Friday night meetings was conducted by Becker offering information about the upcoming changes in the CPA exam. In March, a delegation of Gamma Phi Chapter attended the 2016 Southwest Regional Meeting of Beta Alpha Psi in Houston. In April BAP along with the Department of Accounting hosted the Spring 2016 Scholarship Awards Banquet. It was a busy spring semester.



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.

SPRING 2016 OFFICERS

President: Jeremy Smeltz
Vice President: Courtney Whitten
Secretary: Griselda Gaytan
Treasurer: Suye Wang
Director of National Reporting: Quynh anh Nguyen
Director of Membership Activities: Vicente Rodriguez
Director of Fundraising: Elijah James
Executive Events Coordinator: Warren Benjamin



Some of the BETA ALPHA PSI Officers representing the organization at a professional event.

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BETA ALPHA PSI			beta.alpha.psi@uta.edu

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 on donation options, please click here: [Department of Accounting Support](#)

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Please take the time to complete the Alumni Update form. Alumni information we report depends greatly on feedback received from each alumnus regarding developments in his/her life and career. We also welcome 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.