

Footnotes

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING



From the Department Head

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Department,

We are pleased to provide this year's newsletter documenting the exciting happenings of our department. Inside you will find updates on faculty, students, and our program. Our students continue to be involved in many organizations and competitions and find rewarding employment or continuing education opportunities following graduation. In addition, we are proud of the many awards our faculty have won, recognizing their excellence in teaching and research.

Rankings from the U.S. News and World Report continue to recognize the high quality nature of our program. The Eller College ranked #12 among public business schools and the Department of Accounting ranked #18 among public programs. Later this fall we will have the opportunity to achieve additional external recognition of the strength of our program as the AACSB (our

accrediting organization) will send a review team to evaluate our accreditation status. We are excited for the opportunity to showcase our commitment to continuous improvement and student success. Strong rankings and maintaining our accreditation status ensure that the degree you earned from this program will continue to represent a strong educational background.

Our success would not be possible without the generous gifts of time and money from our alumni and friends. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing efforts to help us maintain the quality and reputation of our program through being involved with our student organizations, speaking in classrooms, recruiting our students, and financial donations. Please contact me to discuss ways you can help us continue to improve the opportunities for our current students and faculty and to enhance the reputation of your alma mater. We look forward to your future contributions to our department.

Thank you,

Dan Dhaliwal
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Eller COLLEGE OF
MANAGEMENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

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DID YOU KNOW?

Almost seventy percent of Eller accounting graduates remain in Arizona.



◀ **Oliver Zhen Li** has joined the department as an associate professor from the University of Notre Dame. Oliver completed his Ph.D. at The University of Arizona in August 2003. His research interests include taxation and

capital markets. Oliver will be teaching Introduction to Federal Taxation in spring 2008.

▶ **Jenny Lewis** joined the department this July as Ph.D. program coordinator. Jenny was formerly an advisor in Curriculum Graduation Services where she audited degree progress for Eller undergraduates. She and her husband, Ron, moved to Arizona from North Carolina five years ago. Jenny completed a Master of Arts in English/TESL at Northern Arizona University in December 2005.



◀ **Katie Cordova** was named 2006 Outstanding Undergraduate Instructor for Small Class by the Eller College Student Council for her understanding of and enthusiasm for her subject and compassion for

students' needs.

▶ **Judi Doing** received the Eller College Dean's Course Innovation Award for the 2005-2006 academic year.



◀ **Leslie Cohen and Nancy Rochman** ▶ were both presented the Dean's Award for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence. Leslie and Nancy have the daunting challenge of engaging pre-business students



during their initial exposure to financial accounting. To improve class interaction and student understanding of key concepts, they have added 13 innovative in-class group activities which improved attendance, interaction, and comprehension.



◀ **Dan Bens** received the Eller MBA Distinguished Faculty Award in May 2007. This award was voted on by the graduating full-time MBA class of spring 2007. Dan taught financial accounting in the MBA program and also served as an advisor on several field projects for which MBA teams consulted with local and national companies.

▶ **Phillip Blanchard** was named 2006 Outstanding Undergraduate Instructor for Large Class by the Eller College Student Council. Phillip teaches Introduction to Managerial Accounting to all pre-business major students.



Congratulations to newlyweds Assistant Professor **Monica Neamtiu** (formerly **Stefanescu**) and her husband Julian!

Birth Announcements

Adjunct Lecturer **Amy Geile** and her husband Greg welcomed the arrival of their son, Gage Kash Geile, on August 2, 2007.

Associate Professor **Oliver Li** and his wife Lu Chen celebrated the birth of their third son, Thomas Li, on May 23, 2007.

Department Update

Undergraduate Program

Approximately 315 students are declared accounting majors this semester. Thirty-nine students graduated in December 2006, 87 students graduated in May 2007, and 12 graduated in August 2007. Forty students are expected to graduate this December.

The accounting undergraduate program is ranked #25 overall and #18 among public business schools in the latest *U.S. News and World Report* survey of Best Business Programs.

Master of Accounting Program

There are 37 students enrolled in the masters program this fall. Of those, 9 began the program in spring 2007 and 20 this fall. Sixteen students graduated last December, 21 graduated in May 2007, and 11 students are expected to graduate this December.

Ph.D. Program

The Ph.D. program has 14 students enrolled this semester. **John Campbell**, **Tim Hinkel**, and **Ben Hoffman** entered the program this fall. **Lance Fisher** and **Amy Geile** completed the program in May 2007. See the Alumni News section to learn their whereabouts.

STUDENT NEWS

Tanya Rice and Joel Vigil are inaugural recipients of the Ernst & Young Diversity Scholarships. Four of these \$5,000 awards will be presented to master of accounting students who have demonstrated "commitment to or interest in issues affecting underrepresented communities," academic excellence, and professionalism. Spring entrants to the master of accounting program will be eligible for the remaining inaugural awards.

ACCOUNTING CAREERS AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Department of Accounting and Ernst & Young sponsored the third annual Accounting Careers Awareness Program. This past June, 21 high school juniors and seniors from across Arizona participated in the weeklong residential program, which exposes students to college life and the field of accounting.

The program's goal is to ultimately increase the diversity in Eller College enrollment and also allow these students to network with various accounting faculty and professionals.

Throughout the week, students attend lectures from various professors, receive dining etiquette training, participate in a site visit to Ernst & Young's Phoenix office, and go on an excursion to the Desert Museum to learn about nonprofit accounting. Additionally, students create a business proposal, design an operating budget, and deliver formal presentations to Ernst & Young professionals in a case competition. Winners of the case competition receive a \$500 book scholarship to The University of Arizona.

ALUMNI NEWS

Kevin Smith (Ph.D., May 2005) and his wife Katrina celebrated the birth of their fourth son, Samuel Isaac Smith, on March 16, 2007. Kevin is an assistant professor at the University of Kansas.

Lance Fisher (Ph.D., May 2007) accepted an assistant professor position at Oklahoma State University.

Amy Geile (Ph.D., May 2007) joined the accounting faculty at The University of Arizona as an adjunct lecturer.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI

The first focus area of the Department of Accounting mission statement is to provide top quality accounting education programs that attract and graduate an excellent and diverse student body who enjoy productive and successful careers. As a graduate of one of our programs, we trust you are continuing to realize the benefits of the educational experience you gained while enrolled in our department.

The department continues to focus on providing both rigorous academic and relevant professional development opportunities to our current students. Many of you donate your time and expertise to our department in many different ways. We could not be successful without this support and we continue to be grateful for your willingness to volunteer. However, we also require financial resources to help ensure we maintain the high quality nature of our program. Consider that student tuition covers just 17% of the cost of an Eller College education. For this reason we must rely on financial supporters, like you, to help bridge the funding gap.

If you have contributed in the past, we appreciate your willingness to provide ongoing support to the program. If you have not contributed previously, we encourage you to consider a donation to help ensure future students receive the same high quality education that you did. The amount you contribute is not as important as the act of contributing, and with a matching gift program offered by many employers, you can quickly double your donation! Be sure your name appears in next year's newsletter on the donors list!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Accounting Student Association (ASA) welcomes all students, from freshmen to seniors, although it emphasizes accounting majors. Meetings are held alternate Thursdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in Harvill 305. Membership dues are \$35 for the fall semester and \$40 for the spring semester. Membership in ASA includes: eligibility to participate in the resume book (must meet requirements), admittance to the Annual Spring Banquet, food at every meeting, and a member t-shirt. ASA offers great networking opportunities with the variety of guest speakers that visit throughout the semester. Guest speakers range from the Big Four accounting firms to industry professionals.

In addition, ASA holds a variety of philanthropic, fundraising, and social events. Last semester ASA members spent many hours giving back to Tucson and local communities through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program for which students trained and prepared free income tax returns for underprivileged members of the community. ASA also sponsored and prepared dinner for those staying at the Ronald McDonald House, volunteered in the Habitat for Humanity store, and prepared 900 boxes (22,665 pounds) of food at the Tucson Community Food Bank! ASA raised funds for the organization through percentage nights at local restaurant No Anchovies and by hosting Accounting 210 exam reviews for students. Additionally, ASA built lasting relationships between its membership and the accounting community through bowling nights, movie on the mall events, a picnic with Protiviti professionals, and the MACSO/ASA/BAP Golf Tournament.

Additional information for ASA can be found at the ASA website, www.uaasa.com, or by contacting Christine Chao at cchao@email.arizona.edu.

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) is an international accounting organization that fosters three main goals:

- To provide the opportunity for self development, service, and association with members and professionals
- To promote the study and practice of accounting, finance, and information systems
- To encourage a sense of ethical, social, and public responsibility

The University of Arizona Beta Omicron chapter aligns itself with its parent organization's goals through professional meetings focused on technical accounting topics, interactions with business professionals, preparation for future employment, and service to the community.

Beta holds a weekly meeting at which professionals from the accounting industry, ranging from Big Four to governmental, speak on topics of interest that educate and inform members on issues within the profession. These meetings also give members the opportunity to meet professionals in a relaxed atmosphere and to begin the recruiting process.

Beta also strives to give back to the community and its fellow students. Beta members volunteer numerous hours every semester working in the local food bank, at the Ronald McDonald House, and with other charitable organizations. Beta members also hold accounting exam reviews for students in introductory accounting classes.

MACSO/ASA/BAP Golf Tournament

In fall 2006, MACSO (Master of Accounting Student Organization), ASA, and BAP invited professionals from accounting firms all across Arizona to participate in the MACSO/ASA/BAP Annual Golf Tournament. Accounting professionals were paired with students from these various organizations for a shot-gun start, 4-person team, 18-hole tournament. With four closest to the pin holes, two beat the duffer contests and various outstanding raffle prizes, the event was a great success!

Roman Eskue received the Outstanding Accounting Senior Award in May. Roman double majored in accounting and economics. Additionally, he served as Webmaster for the Accounting Student Association and as one of the Program Coordinators for the master of accounting program, where he is currently enrolled.

Priya Sood received the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in May. Priya entered the master of accounting program at Boston College this fall.

Congratulations to **Aaron Gandara, Trevor Goss, Adriana Martinez, Paul Cervantes, and Cristina Hurtado** for placing as one of the top two teams in the Regional KPMG/ALPFA (Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting) Case Competition in Orlando, Florida, this August. These students did an excellent job representing the department and The University of Arizona in their advance to the National KPMG/ALPFA Case Competition. Katie Cordova proudly served as the faculty advisor, and alumnus Bryce Hancock served as KPMG advisor.

Kayleigh Hotchkiss, Linda Barrett, and Joel Greer each received Arizona Society of CPA's Foundation for Innovation and Excellence Scholarships. The three students are juniors entering the accounting major this fall.

Tanya Rice, Christen Therrien, and Roman Eskue each received Arizona Society of CPA's Foundation for Innovation and Excellence Scholarships. These three students are currently enrolled in our master of accounting program.

The Eller College was one of only 22 schools invited to participate in the first KPMG National Audit Case Competition, a six-week auditing competition completed through a series of online modules. Congratulations to the four-student team comprised of senior, junior, and sophomore undergraduate accounting majors and a master of accounting student – **Joel Vigil, Jessica Baker, Tyler Moynihan, and Janeé Van Egmond**, respectively. Joel is now enrolled in our master of accounting program, and Janeé completed her masters in May 2007 and is now working at Clifton Gunderson in Tucson.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Arizona Accounting Benefactors

We are grateful to those who have made individual contributions and to employers who have matched individual gifts, given gifts in kind, or provided separate, designated grants. We would also like to encourage contributions by those of you who have been unable to give in the past.

Gifts to the Arizona Accounting Benefactors Club are divided into the following categories:

Platinum	\$3,000 or more (personal contribution, or personal contribution and employer match)
Gold	\$1,500 – \$2,999 (personal contribution, or personal contribution and employer match)
Silver	\$1,000 – \$1,499 (personal contribution, or personal contribution and employer match)
Bronze	\$500 – \$999 (personal contribution, or personal contribution and employer match)
Copper	\$100 – \$499 (personal contribution, or personal contribution and employer match)
Brass	up to \$99 (personal contribution, or personal contribution and employer match)

We wish to thank the following individuals and employers for their contributions from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 as posted by The University of Arizona Foundation. If we have excluded you, or have not correctly acknowledged your contribution, please call the accounting department at (520) 621-2697 so we can correct any error in acknowledging your generosity.

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Throughout the year, our alumni, donors, staff, faculty, students, and corporate partners make countless contributions to the Eller College. These generous partnerships and commitments help us strengthen our mission, achieve excellence, and educate students.

As the College continues to advance and grow, we hope you will make a commitment to invest in the future of the Department of Accounting.

Your gift provides opportunities for our students and faculty that would not otherwise be available. For more information, or to make your pledge now, visit www.eller.arizona.edu/invest.

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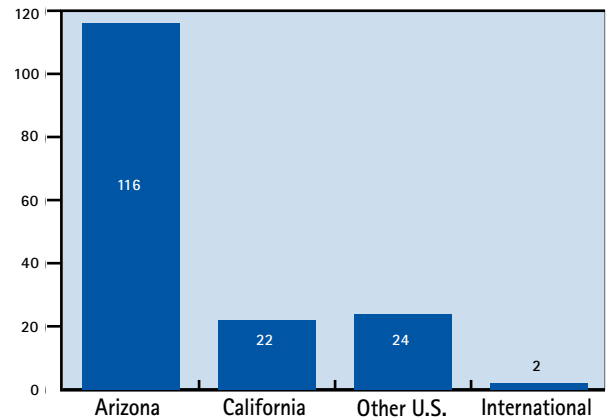
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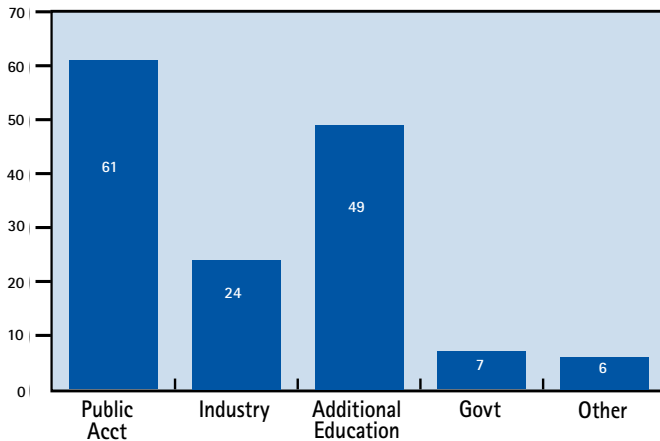
WHERE DO OUR GRADUATES GO?

A survey of our December 2006, May 2007, and August 2007 graduates says...

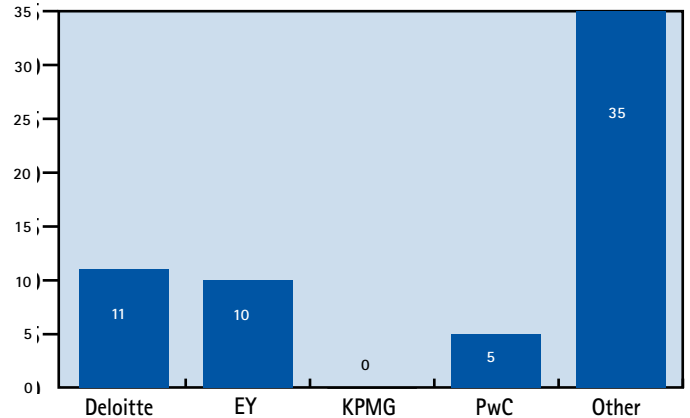
Location



Industries



Firms



These numbers do not reflect all Undergraduate and Master of Accounting graduates, just those reporting.

Where are you and what's new?

Please share news of your work, family, and adventures with us. We will include your news in future alumni notes. You can bring us up-to-date by filling out the form at www.eller.arizona.edu/alumni/updates or emailing the department at accounting@eller.arizona.edu.