FROM THE CHAIR...

Dear Alumni and Friends of Mihaylo Accounting:

I hope you enjoy this issue of our Department of Accounting Newsletter. It is sent to you with the hope that you will read it and find ways that you could reconnect with us to make the learning experience of our students more relevant, and, yes, even more exciting, as they strive to fill the challenging space you left behind when you graduated.

In September, we welcomed over 1,200 undergraduate and over 300 graduate students to our programs. We are determined to make a positive difference in the lives of all these students and to help them prepare for a very exciting career in Accounting. To this end, we have instituted a mentor/mentee relationship with each student new to the program. In addition, all accounting students have a faculty advisor who will help them understand the career opportunities in accounting as well as give them advice on the selection of courses in order to fulfill the requirements for sitting for the CPA Exam and the additional requirements to be licensed as a CPA.

We have further streamlined our Adopt-a-Firm program so each faculty member has now adopted two firms: the purpose—to have a closer relationship with firms in Orange County and to provide two-way communication so we can better prepare our students for an accounting career while at the same time meet the needs of the firms. As you well know, this is a time of tremendous change in the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful professional. We remain focused on providing a rigorous academic program, a skilled workforce, access for businesses to our talented students, and encouragement and support to students to graduate on time. One such support is the establishment of a formal peer tutoring program.

When you visit us here on campus, and we hope you will, you will be amazed at the changes made since you graduated. We are, of course, most proud of our business building, Steven G. Mihaylo Hall, our two orange tree groves and the overall beauty of the campus. To maintain or increase the quality of our students, we are initiating an Accounting Circle to raise funds to be used for graduate scholarships so we can attract the best talent for our two Master’s programs.

We hope to see you on campus soon. In the meantime, best wishes for the holiday season.

Cordially,

Betty Chavis
Betty Chavis, Chair
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"It is with great pride and fondness that I look back at my time as a student at Cal State Fullerton. My experiences while attending CSUF – both athletic and academic – provided me the foundation and skillset which has allowed me to build a successful career path in the business world.

The faculty and administration of the CSUF Business Administration program, and the Department of Accounting in particular, have done much to create a unique environment of learning and development which I believe rivals any in the nation, and I am a thankful beneficiary of their dedicated efforts. From growing up in nearby Riverside County and then attending college in Fullerton, my path in the business world has since taken me across the globe and exposed me to numerous countries and cultures, which has led to tremendous personal and professional growth.

I feel fortunate now – as a recently promoted partner at Ernst & Young, LLP – to be in a position to give back to the school and help recruit and work with the next generation of business leaders emerging from the Titan ranks. I believe the students from CSUF differentiate themselves in tangible ways from candidates of other universities, and the long track record of successful CSUF alumni in the business community serves as a validation of the program’s value and an ongoing inspiration to those who graduate from it.

I feel fortunate to have maintained a strong relationship with department faculty and enjoy spending time back on campus in a recruiting capacity and attending events to promote the ongoing collaboration between the program and business community. Though the campus is much transformed from the days I walked its halls, what’s clearly still present is the spirit of ambition and humility in the student body which inspires my outlook for the future.

My advice to future program graduates is to bring their “triple A” game into the workplace – Aptitude, Ambition, and Attitude (that is, no attitude) – and they will go on to accomplish great things.

I graduated CSUF in 2000, and I am so grateful for the opportunities made possible by the university. One of the most valuable parts of the accounting program at CSUF is its effort to connect potential employers with students. Early on, the professors encouraged me to join Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Society. These organizations and the events they held facilitated relationships with people from a wide variety of firms. Because of the strong program and the excellent reputation of the school’s accounting graduates, regional, national and international firms heavily recruit at CSUF, and these associations give students valuable tools to help connect with employers and learn about the profession.

For accountants, the day-to-day work is essentially the same regardless of the company you work for, but the student organizations at CSUF helped me find the firm that was the right fit for me. Through the recruiting process at CSUF, I discovered what I truly wanted from my career and was then able to choose the firm that fit me best. In my senior year, I accepted an offer with Haskell & White, LLP, a local CPA firm known for providing high-quality services to middle market companies in a variety of industries. I’m still with the firm today, which I think is a testament to the value of CSUF’s career services.

If it weren’t for the professors and student organizations at CSUF, I wouldn’t have had the confidence to push myself beyond what I thought possible academically, nor would I have had the knowledge to select an employer that fit my aspirations so perfectly. Beyond preparing students for the workforce, the professors took preparing students for the CPA exam very seriously. They weren’t afraid to be tough, but also were happy to give personal attention to students when needed.

I am eternally grateful to Dr. Betty Chavis and other professors for mentoring and guiding my career aspiration and helping me realize that I could be a successful businesswoman. As wonderful as the accounting program was when I attended, I know that it has grown even more throughout the past 15 years with the addition of Mihaylo Hall, new technologies and collaborative workspaces. I am so appreciative of my time at CSUF, and owe my success to the fellow students, professors and associations that helped me reach, meet and exceed my career goals. THANKS CSUF!

Jon C. Smith
Assurance Partner, Ernst & Young, LLP (Orange County)
CSUF Graduate 2002 – BA Business Administration with Accounting Concentration
Titan Baseball Pitcher 1998-2001

Jennifer Cavender
Audit Senior Manager at Haskell & White, LLP
New Faculty

The Department of Accounting welcomes Ms. Margaret H. Kim, a new faculty member who will earn her Ph.D. in Accounting from Arizona State University. Her teaching experience has been as a Teaching Assistant for Financial Accounting at Arizona State University. Her teaching interest is in Financial Accounting and Auditing.

Ms. Kim’s research interest is in the selection and retention of audit firms, Interaction of Governance Mechanisms, and the role of capital market reactions to information events in firm monitoring. She has professional experience in various areas such as Senior Auditor at Ernst & Young, LLP in New Jersey. She is an excellent addition to our Department and promotes educational success to our students.

Publications
April 2015 - October 2015

Guo, Ken (Assistant Professor)
Refereed Journal Articles

*Article in a second-tier refereed journal (Published)*

Woodward, Philip L. (Lecturer)
Book Reviews

Published book review (Published)
Woodward, P. L. (Introduction to *Microsoft Great Plains 8.0: Focus of internal controls & software.*)

CCRG Conference

The Center for Corporate Reporting & Governance (CCRG) advances high quality corporate reporting and governance through education, research and collaboration with the business community. Business leaders from across the country attend CCRG’s annual SEC Financial Reporting Conference held in September, to listen to regulators from the SEC, FASB, PCAOB and renowned expert speakers. This year’s conference *Top Trends Shaping Capital Markets, Governance & Financial Reporting* hosted 500 attendees and featured keynotes from John Campbell, Member of Congress 2005 – 2015, and Douglas S. Ingram, Board Member of Nemus Bioscience and Pacific Life Mutual Holding Company.

The CCRG is also globally recognized as an academic leader in blending theory with the practice of corporate governance and financial reporting. In September, the CCRG hosted the *Haskell & White Corporate Reporting and Governance Academic Conference* for professors, doctoral students and practitioners. The program featured individual presentations. Wayne Pinnell, Managing Partner of Haskell & White, spoke on the *Current Trends in Auditing*. The night concluded with an award ceremony for the best paper.

The final event for CCRG in 2015 is its Sixth Executive Compensation Summit. Hosted with the Forum for Corporate Directors, the Summit was held on November 19th at the Pacific Club.

Written by Dr. Mande
Meeting with Firm Alumni

The Department of Accounting scheduled morning meetings with various firms to meet at their offices with Fullerton accounting alumni who work for the firms. The visits are an opportunity for the Department’s faculty to give an update on programs, curriculum changes and on the vision for the future. These meetings provide an opportunity for alums to let the Department know what they are doing and how well prepared they were for their careers. The main objective is to reconnect with former students.

Aalen University Visit

The Department of Accounting was pleased to welcome two special guests, Dr. Reinhard Heyd and Dr. Robert Rieg from Aalen University in Germany. Dr. Heyd and Dr. Rieg visited our campus to explore a possible faculty exchange as well as offering a Cal State Fullerton internship for students in Germany. Our faculty got a chance to meet with them one on one and had the opportunity to join our guests for a presentation on Dr. Rieg’s research. Dr. Rieg presented his research areas, interests and results focusing on management accounting and control but with significant overlap with financial accounting and reporting to faculty from the Department of Accounting and Department of Finance.

Adopt-a-Firm

The Adopt-a-Firm program was established to form a closer association with firms in Orange County with a vision of a two-way line of communication. Faculty members update the firms on curriculum and program changes and how students are performing in the classroom. In return, firms share what they are seeking in interns and new hires. By providing what areas the students are doing well and where they may need more education or training, helps the Department know what improvements need to be made to make the program even stronger and more responsive to the needs of the profession so students can be successful. The key to a rigorous curricular is to keep up the quality of the program to not only benefit the College but most importantly the students at the Department of Accounting at CSUF.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dr. Hassan Retirement

Dr. Mahamood Hassan has retired, leaving behind an exceptional legacy of teaching and mentoring during his nearly 28 years of service to California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Hassan graduated with a BA Honors in Accounting in 1973 and BA Honors in Taxation in 1980 from the University of Cape Town, graduated with his masters in Finance in 1982 and Ph.D. in Finance in 1989 from the University of Arizona. He joined CSUF from the University of Cape Town in 1987. His experience and education background made him very suitable to join the family at the Department of Accounting. Since then, he has taught undergraduate and graduate students Corporate Finance, Investments, Advance Security Analysis, Options & Futures, Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, and Cost Accounting. Throughout his years at Fullerton he has been an active member to the California Faculty Association and has been the president for the past three years. During his teaching years, Dr. Hassan has taught and mentored hundreds of students. The impact of his contributions will be felt for many years to come, both at the Department level and in the lives of the alumni he has taught. The Department of Accounting wishes him the best in this next phase of his life.

Accounting Jeopardy-201B Comes To Mihaylo!

To help students prepare for the Final Exam, which accounts for 30% of the overall course grade, students compete for supremacy in ACCT 201B (Managerial Accounting) Jeopardy. The game is fashioned after the long running TV show Jeopardy! Similar in format, the game pits teams of 4-5 students against each other through several elimination rounds ending with the Championship Finals on the last day of class. Those students not on one of the eight finalist teams (four in each of the 8:30 AM and 1:00 PM class) compete against each other for the top score using their i-Clickers as questions are selected by the team who controls the board.

With approximately 50 teams in each class, the top ten advance to the semi-finals where the top three then advance to the finals. While the semi-finals are taking place, those teams who didn’t qualify for the semis battle it out for the top score, with the winner moving into the championship round.

“These teams have been working together all semester on case solutions and now get to take what they have learned to center stage,” said Randy Hoffman, course instructor. “The teams that advanced all worked together and didn’t rely on just one member for the answer,” he continued.

Right now the winners just have bragging rights, but Hoffman hopes to find a sponsor in the future and offer some prize money in the form of scholarships. It’s fun, it’s different and it promotes active and collaborative learning! What a great way to prepare for a test worth 30% of the course grade!
Graduate Reception

Fall 2015, the Department of Accounting hosted the Graduate Student Reception to bring together graduate students and accounting faculty. This event gives students from the MSA, MST, and MBA the opportunity to meet the accounting faculty in an informal environment to get to know them and learn from their experiences. This event is not only to benefit students, but also for our faculty to get to know the students and their goals. This event also opens the doors to newly admitted graduate students to meet other students already in the program and exchange information.

Meet the Firms

Each semester, Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi host Meet the Firms to give members the opportunity to network with numerous professionals in the accounting industry. It is the largest professional event of the semester and typically has an attendance of 40 to 50 firms including private, public, and government firms. This event is the best way to be able to meet multiple professionals in one central location. Networking at this event can be the key to an interview, summer leadership program, internship, or a full-time position. Having strong grades and technical knowledge is great, but meeting people at the firms with whom you are recruiting is crucial. Meet the Firms makes that possible!

Accounting Expo

On September 16th, the Department of Accounting hosted and sponsored the Accounting Expo in the Titan Student Union with the collaboration of the Mihaylo Career Services. The event was a success thanks to the 672 students who attended and the participation of 19 panelists. Panelists included professionals such as Dennis Parrott from KPMG, Greg Njoes from PwC, Mark Hughes from Grant Thornton, Gregory Coleman from White Nelson Diehl Evans, Shannon Haight from Ernst & Young, and Phillip Allred from HCVT. Students participated in the Opening Forum - Discussion with Public Accounting Executives. Students also had the opportunity to choose from two other panels: Resume/Interview Preparation – A Recruiter’s Perspective and Careers in Non-Public Accounting. Panelists were from McGladrey, HCVT, Grant Thornton, KPMG, Moss Adams, PwC, Ernst & Young, and Deloitte. Non-Public Accountants joined us from the Office of the Controller of the Currency, Defense Contract Audit Agency, Board of Equalization, and the Franchise Tax Board. The goal of the event was to increase awareness for accounting careers and educate students on the opportunities available by hearing from professionals in the industry who can share their knowledge and experience.
Awards Banquet — Fall 2015

Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi hosted their traditional Fall 2015 Awards Banquet. Bringing together numerous accounting students, faculty members, and professionals. This semester’s banquet was rather special as it was honored by the attendance of Dr. Anil Puri, Dean of the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics. Each semester the Awards Banquet takes place to celebrate the achievements of students. Scholarships were awarded, accounting case competition winners were announced, and the new Spring 2016 leadership for both Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi were introduced. This semester’s banquet recognized over 26 undergraduate and graduate students and gave over $15,000.00 in scholarships. The Department is proud of our outstanding students and hope they are on the verge of successful careers.

This semester’s banquet was also to recognize the Fall 2015 Outstanding Alumnus, Mr. Michael Biehl. Mr. Biehl is a Partner in KPMG’s Private Equity Practice where he focuses on serving KPMG Premier Marketplace Priority Accounts. As KPMG’s Vice Chair-CFO, he was also a member of KPMG’s Management Committee with active participation in KPMG Board of Director and Audit & Finance Committee meetings. He has over 32 years of professional experience in the public accounting industry. Mr. Biehl focused on providing audit, tax and advisory services to diverse, global companies. It was an honor and privilege to have Mr. Biehl recognized at the Fall 2015 Awards Banquet.

Each semester, Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi invite countless professionals to meet with students looking to enter the accounting profession, bringing with them internship and full-time career opportunities. The Awards Banquet is but one of the many events held by these two organizations, which work very closely with each other to plan many networking and recruiting events for students.
Ernst & Young - Speaker’s Meeting

Accounting firms are no strangers to the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics (MCBE). With its close proximity to many Orange County firms as well as its AACSB-accredited accounting programs, California State University, Fullerton is a prime campus for recruiters and professionals who are looking for talented students interested in entering the accounting industry. From public accounting firms to government agencies, professionals come semester after semester to meet and talk to students about what it means to be an accountant, what the culture of their firm is like, and what opportunities await those who decide to pursue an accounting profession.

Just as the career openings have experienced growth in the accounting industry, so has the competitiveness for attaining those openings. Two partners from the Ernst & Young (EY) Orange County office recently visited the campus to talk with students about how pursuing a graduate degree can enhance their competitive advantage in starting their career in accounting. During a guest speaker meeting held on Thursday, November 19th, John Belli, the Managing Partner for the OC office, and Jon Smith, a Partner in the OC office and a CSUF alumnus, both stressed that the requirements to become an accountant are steadily increasing. Firms are looking for students with broader knowledge, and the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) title itself is requiring more education before the license is granted.

Through the course of a graduate accounting program, students can gain a more comprehensive perspective of accounting fundamentals while sharpening critical thinking skills. In fact, as Mr. Belli and Mr. Smith explained, obtaining such skills through focused graduate coursework can prove useful in the profession, especially since CPA licensure now requires students to earn 150 college semester units. Mr. Smith concluded the meeting by noting that regardless of the type of program chosen, all students should earnestly consider the tremendous benefits of obtaining their master’s degree and how doing so can prepare them for a dynamic career in accounting.

Fall 2015 Case Competition

Mihaylo Accounting hosted its Fall 2015 Case Competition for all accounting students. Five teams were formed and consisted of undergraduate and graduate students. The chosen case require students to analyze revenue recognition for a contract with multiple performance obligations over years. A 15-minute presentation took place with an engaging question and answer session. The judging panel consisted of Accounting faculty and Summer Taylor and Bin Wu from Deloitte. Students learned the importance of teamwork, gained experience in researching and analyzing accounting literature, and improved their presentation skills. Experiences such as the Case Competition provide a great benefit for the students as they prepare to start their careers in the profession.

Each awarded team received a Department Scholarship. The awardees were announced at the Fall 2015 Awards Banquet.

1st Place
1. Phuong Do
2. Zimo Liang
3. Jianxin Liu
4. Roniea Munsell

2nd Place
1. Kimberly Hoang
2. Samantha Mendoza
3. Yingyang Pei
4. Kentaro Ueda

3rd Place
1. Qiuyuan Gao
2. Weiwei Gong
3. Xiaoming Ma
4. Travis Ottell
5. Travis Purcell
**Beta Alpha Psi**

Beta Alpha Psi is a professional organization on campus aimed at helping accounting, finance, and information systems students obtain professional, networking, and communication skills. They develop strong ties with fellow students, professionals, and communities through professional and peer mentoring and community service activities.

*Left to Right: Vicente Correa and Rheana De Leon*

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**Accounting Society**

Accounting Society is a professional student organization in CSUF. It is one of the largest organizations on campus with more than 700 members, and is mainly comprised of students within Accounting. The Accounting Society is committed to exposing students to opportunities for networking and career development that prepare them for the financial and accounting world. The foundation of the Accounting Society is based on three core values: integrity in business, the pursuit of knowledge, and professionalism.

*Top Row-Left to Right: Mark Tran and Nick Fabrizio*

*Bottom Row-Left to Right: Vu Luong and Barbara Tkach*

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**VITA**

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers free tax help for taxpayers who qualify. During the Spring semester, they offer free tax return preparation assistance and free electronic filing (e-filing). Tentative tax dates for the public are January 29, 2016 through April 16, 2016 (Friday and Saturday only, closed April 1 – 2).

*Left to Right: Phuong Do and Weiwei Gong*

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**Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting**

ALPFA is a national organization that builds Latino business leaders. Members learn leadership skills among other professional skills and have the opportunity to network with professionals. With a paid membership, students are able to attend events hosted by the ALPFA national organization such as the annual ALPFA convention and events hosted by the local professional chapter, ALPFA Orange County.

*Top row, left to right: Eunyoung Lee, Ernesto Rangel, Kin Lay*

*Bottom row, left to right: Tatiana Gonzalez, Sinuo Zheng*
Hani Muzaffar Abbas  
Joseph & Lisa K. Albers  
Kevin J. Ammann  
Christopher L. & Roberta A. Amy  
Michael Bader  
Pamela P. Ballan  
BDO, LLP  
John Belli  
Susan D. Bentley  
Michael Biehl  
Megan L. Boldizar  
Alfred W. & Donna S. Bottalico  
Cynthia A. Brown Trust  
Gregory S. Brunette  
Christopher Steven Cadena  
Robert S. and Nara Cery  
Betty Chavis  
Dennis L. Ciollia  
Karen Connair  
Danica Dang  
Deloitte & Touche, LLP  
Carl S. DiNicola  
Dennis Belfiore & Ruby A. Domingo  
E & Y, LLP  
Ann M. Fong  
Nicholas B. Fusca  
Anthony J. Gales  
Julie D. Gallant  
Zheman Gao  
Barry & Camille Gershenovitz  
Grant Thornton, LLP  
Kenneth W. Guchereau  
Martha E. Guzman  
John Halim  
Linda S. Ham  
Patricia A. Handy

Haskell & White, LLP  
Eric J. & Kelly Hawkins  
Manuel A. Henriquez  
Randy Hoffman  
Holthouse Carlin & Van Trigt, LLP  
Gary Howard  
David Y. Hu  
Letitia Dongmei Hu  
Tony M. Yeh & Jiaying Huang  
Bernadette W. Hunter  
Brian N. Igawa  
Institute of Internal Auditors, Orange County Chapter  
Min K. Kim  
Gregory Kling  
Rieko Komagome-Towne  
KPMG, LLP  
Mark D. & Helena A. Krikorian  
Upumoni S. Laolagi  
Michael A. Lawrence  
Steven C. Litwin  
Sue Ellen Martin  
Lynne L. Merkel  
William J. Michicoff  
Arie D. Miller  
Aysun B. Moritzky  
Moss Adams, LLP  
Duy H. Nguyen  
Tara Ongkowidjojo  
Orange County Chapter - Institute of Management Accountants  
Jennifer Orrick  
Charles J. & Carol L. Painter  
Sherlene Pajak  
Dennis Parrott  
Juan L. Partida

Leslie M. Pratt  
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP  
Alexander R. Ray  
Rebella Accountancy Corporation  
Sheldon & Judith A. Richman  
RSM, LLP  
Brian C. Sampson  
Dean M. Samsvick  
Dennis R. Santi-stein  
Lindie M. Sayman  
Philip R. Schimmel  
Christopher G. Schmidt  
Charles B. & Janet Shellenberger  
Xiao-Jun Shen  
David S. Sniezko  
Marcelo E. & Sarah Sroka  
Scott W. Stevenson  
Brian F. & Kathryn L. Stoffers  
James D. Tabush  
Tax Executive Institute Orange County Chapter  
Todd R. Taylor  
Vinton Thengvall  
Karina Torres  
Christopher D. Reese & Robin A. Utley  
Amy Vannase Trust  
David S. White  
White Nelson Diehl Evans, LLP  
Cindy M. Wilson  
Daniel T. Wright  
Stacy L. Yan  
Samantha J. Zanesco  
Adrian Zaragoza  
Robert & Carol Zinngrabe
We Need Your Support!

Dear Mihaylo Accounting Alumni and Friends,

Thank you for all the support you have given to the Department of Accounting. Your generosity enables us both to continue to offer scholarships to our students and to provide resources to our students and faculty.

Please consider donating today and becoming a Charter Member of the Accounting Circle, helping to sustain Orange County’s leading accounting educational program. Your pledge of $1,000 a year for five years will immediately support the Department of Accounting’s key priorities. For your convenience, we can provide you three methods to make your donation.

- Give Online at http://business.fullerton.edu/accounting/ with a credit or debit card.
  You may also give through the United Way Campaign (Code #ACC100).
- Write a Check made payable to “Department of Accounting, CSF Philanthropic Foundation,” account #10304 Accounting Circle, and mail to:

  Department of Accounting
  Steven G. Mihaylo Hall, SGMH-4313
  P.O. Box 6848, Fullerton, CA 92834-6848

  - Contact Betty Chavis at 657-278-2225 or by email at bchavis@fullerton.edu.

Only through your support are we able to continue offering a full range of professional development, alumni support activities, and scholarships to our students.

Cordially,

Betty Chavis
Betty Chavis, Ph.D.

Accounting Circle Members

- Michael Bader
- Gregory S. Brunette
- Gary Howard
- Arie D. Miller
- Robert & Carol Zinngabe

The AACSB separately accredited Department of Accounting
California State University, Fullerton

invites you to invest in accounting education by becoming a member of the

elite

Accounting Circle

The Accounting Circle provides scholarships for graduate students.

In exchange for your investment, you will receive complimentary conference admission and CPE credit through the Center for Corporate Reporting and Governance, as well as invitations to formal Accounting networking events. The Accounting Circle works to serve its mission to support over 250 graduate students to succeed in education and the accounting profession.
MISSION STATEMENT

Through excellence in teaching, a forward-looking curriculum, a culturally diverse environment, applied collaborative research and valuable alliances with the business community, we offer accredited accounting programs that develop globally aware business leaders with practical knowledge in the field of accounting.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation signifies a rigorous course of study, a well-qualified faculty, high standards for students, access to current technology, and an intensive library system. The Department of Accounting at California State University, Fullerton, is a separately accredited entity within the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics, which is among only 10 percent of business schools worldwide and 28 percent of those nationwide to have earned AACSB accreditation.