In Touch
MARKS OF DISTINCTION

One of the goals of any organization is to be recognized by peers and external stakeholders for its excellence. The past year has provided affirmations of our mission in a number of ways.

In January 2014, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) reaffirmed the Department of Accountancy’s accreditation for another five years — along with the NIU College of Business. AACSB accreditation — a rigorous and comprehensive peer-review process — represents the highest standard of achievement for accounting programs and business schools, worldwide. To achieve accreditation, programs must satisfy a wide range of quality standards relating to strategic management, advancing knowledge through faculty scholarship, providing high-caliber teaching and current curricula, interactions of faculty and students in the educational process, and producing graduates who have achieved specified learning goals.

Our AACSB peer review team’s summary report included the following comments (and we are proud of each):

The Department has a sustained reputation for excellence in accounting education. The programs have well-articulated learning outcomes that are clearly linked to the accounting curriculum. The Department follows a well-developed assurance of learning process that results in changes to courses and program initiatives when needed.

The Department employs a comprehensive strategic planning process that includes development, implementation, and assessment of its mission statement, core values, and objectives.

The most significant continuous improvement initiative during the past five years has been the development of the leadership and professional development components in the MAS program and the professional development components in the undergraduate program. These efforts are in keeping with the program’s mission to “prepare students for successful business careers” and the core value of professionalism. These initiatives should serve as a model for other accounting programs.

The Department makes a significant investment in the professional development of its students. Through the EY Leadership and Professional Development Center and a series of courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, students learn about the accounting profession, develop critical skills and begin to understand the importance of ongoing professional development activities.

Of the more than 5,000 collegiate business programs around the world, fewer than 900 have earned AACSB accreditation — and fewer than 200 of these schools have separate accounting accreditation. Effectively, this puts our Accountancy program among the top 10 percent of all programs in the world — a true mark of distinction.

But this was only the first of several marks of distinction received by the Department over the past year.

In October, professors across the nation once again rated Northern Illinois University’s accountancy program among the elite in the nation. Public Accounting Report’s 32nd Annual Professor’s Survey ranked NIU’s Accountancy program 16th in the United States. For more than twenty years, our program has been ranked among the top twenty-five schools nationally.

Department of Accountancy student performance on the CPA exam has ranked among the best in the nation for three decades. In April 2014, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy released pass rates for candidates taking the CPA exam in 2013. NIU Department of Accountancy students placed 26th in the country (out of more than 900 institutions). The CPA exam remains one of the most difficult professional examinations to pass — with an overall pass rate of only about 20 percent.

NIU Accountancy remains a special place because of the quality of our faculty and staff. Some of their accomplishments are noted in this newsletter — but those words cannot express the amount of time and energy they put into their tasks. Our students and the academy benefit greatly from their commitment. We are also proud of our students’ commitment to academic excellence and service — in the pages ahead, you’ll read about a number of their accomplishments this past year.

Finally, we cannot be successful as a Department without the strong support from our alumni, firms, and friends of the Department. Thank you for the many ways you support our mission. In these times of budgetary uncertainty in Illinois, we are grateful that so many of you have continued your financial support of our mission. About twice a month, I have the privilege of signing thank you letters to individuals who have taken the time to remember us financially. Although the letters may not fully express it, please know that your financial commitment — whether large or small — is something that encourages me and the Department. Thank you for remembering. Because of your generosity, we can provide our faculty and students with the tools needed to create an outstanding learning environment — and continue to gather marks of distinction.

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Distinguished Speaker Visits NIU

John O’Leary visited NIU for the second time in September 2013, to make another outstanding presentation entitled “Ignite Your Possibility!” As a child, John was horribly burned over his entire body while experimenting with gasoline and a match. The doctors gave his parents a probability of \( \frac{1}{2} \) of 1% that he would survive the first night, let alone all of the crises to follow. He survived challenges that are unimaginable and became an incredibly inspirational person and uplifting speaker. We first encountered John’s amazing life story when he was the keynote speaker at the Beta Alpha Psi Annual Meeting in New York in 2009. On that occasion, he received a standing ovation from more than 2000 people in a hotel ballroom. He first visited NIU to share his unique message of hope and excellence with our students in the fall of 2010. John received enthusiastic standing ovations both times he has spoken at NIU. Students commented afterward, “I have goose bumps!” and “I have been struggling, but this is life changing!” Readers are encouraged to visit John’s web site (www.rising-above.com), where they can see some of John’s video excerpts and other resources. His parents wrote a wonderful book, entitled Overwhelming Odds, about the ordeal that John and his family overcame. It is available through John’s web site, reads quickly and, like John’s presentations, leaves a lasting impression.

NIU Alumnus Selected as BAP’s Business Information Professional of the Year

A graduate of NIU’s Executive MBA program, Mr. Ralph de la Vega (an honorary member of Gamma Pi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi) was selected as the 2013 BAP Business Information Professional of the Year for Industry. In addition, the leadership of BAP selected him to be the opening keynote speaker for the annual BAP meeting in Anaheim. He received an enthusiastic standing ovation from approximately 1,500 students and professionals from across the country and around the world. Several faculty advisors later commented to NIU faculty advisor Don Tidrick that Mr. de la Vega’s speech was the highlight of the 2013 annual conference. The NIU contingent was delighted that our Dean, Denise Schoenbachler, made the trip to Anaheim to be there for an occasion that brought great honor to NIU. Fall semester chapter president Wali Rizvi presented a plaque to Mr. de la Vega on behalf of Beta Alpha Psi (see photo).

Mr. de la Vega has achieved incredible success in his professional career in the telecommunications/technology industry, beginning with an entry-level engineering position with BellSouth in 1974. In 2004, Mr. de la Vega was appointed chief operating officer for Cingular Wireless and became responsible for leading the merger of Cingular with AT&T Wireless in 2005, at that time the largest corporate merger in U.S. history. Since 2008, Mr. de la Vega has served as President and CEO-AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets with responsibility for all of AT&T’s wired and wireless businesses.

As impressive as his career accomplishments are, his personal life story is even more amazing and inspirational. Born in Cuba, Mr. de la Vega’s parents made arrangements for their family to leave Cuba for America shortly after the Castro regime came to power, which required them to leave all of their possessions behind. When they arrived at the Havana Airport, the parents were told by a communist official, who objected to something in the family’s paperwork, “Only the boy can go.” His parents hurriedly arranged for their son to fly 90 miles by himself to Miami, where he would be met by a young Cuban couple known to the parents. The plan was for his mother, father, and sister to follow as soon as they could. Little did they know that it would be four long years before the family would be reunited in Florida. Mr. de la Vega began his journey to a new country as a 10-year-old boy, alone with no possessions or money, unable to speak a word of English, to stay with people he did not know.

Mr. de la Vega authored an uplifting and insightful book that bridges his compelling personal story and his outstanding success in business entitled, Obstacles Welcome: How to Turn Adversity into Advantage in Business and in Life.
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI HONORED

NIU is privileged to have many outstanding accountancy alums who have achieved tremendous success in their careers. The support that we receive from our alumni provides a margin of excellence for our students, faculty, and programs. Each year we honor several alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and who have provided extraordinary support to the NIU Accountancy Program.

2013 Outstanding Alumni

John Hepp - Partner, Accounting Principles Consultation Group, Grant Thornton, LLP

In addition to his BS and MAS from NIU, John has a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. John started his professional career at Grant Thornton then left to work in internal audit at CAN Insurance and as a financial analyst and controller for the Agency for International Development, spending seven years in Asia and Africa. After returning to the U.S. to work as a project manager at the FASB, he spent an additional four years overseas in six different countries in Europe and Asia on accounting and auditing policy matters and professional regulation including adoption of IFRS, bank regulation, capital market regulation, university curriculum development, and continuing education design. John rejoined Grant Thornton in 2005 in the national office. He works with clients on complex real estate and lease accounting issues, employer accounting for postretirement benefits, and business combinations. A key part of his duties is monitoring standard setting nationally and globally and helping to prepare comment letters to the FASB and the IASB. As a spokesperson for Grant Thornton, John is frequently quoted in the business press.

John Kemnitz - Partner, KPMG, LLP

John began his career with KPMG in the Chicago office after graduating from NIU in 1991. He completed a rotation in KPMG’s Department of Professional Practice in New York in 2002 where he served as a firm resource on SEC filing issues and various technical accounting topics including stock compensation, debt & equity transactions, revenue recognition, and restructuring & impairments. From 2002 to 2005, John served in the firm’s U.S. Capital Markets Group in London where he worked with large foreign based entities that register securities in the United States. In 2005, he returned to the Chicago office serving as a partner in KPMG’s Consumer and Industrial Markets practice. In addition to his role as lead engagement partner for several clients, he serves as both an SEC reviewing partner, performing quality reviews on public clients prior to their filings with the SEC and an IFRS Reviewing Partner, assisting engagement teams throughout the U.S. with technical issues under International Financial Reporting Standards. John also serves as a national instructor for training sessions focused on technical accounting matters, audit process, and soft skills and is also a frequent presenter to the Chicago Chapter of Financial Executives Institute.

William LeRoy - Partner, Ernst and Young LLP and BDO

After graduating from NIU in 1965, Bill joined Ernst & Ernst in Chicago. One year later, he entered the U.S. Army and went through Officer Candidate School in Virginia. After finishing his Army tour of duty in California, he rejoined Ernst & Ernst in San Francisco, where he was promoted to partner in 1980. Bill retired in 1994 and started a firm specializing in auditing pension plans. After significant success with his practice, he merged his firm into BDO Seidman, and became BDO’s technical partner in charge of services to the pension industry. More recently, he specialized in auditing venture capital funds and helped develop a practice serving more than 100 funds in the Bay Area. Bill makes giving back to NIU a priority. He was the first to recognize and support the strategic initiative of creating an entrepreneurial emphasis in the College of Business and, in 2007, established the Paula M. and William M. LeRoy Entrepreneurship Fund. Bill and Paula also participated in the establishment of the Donald E. Kieso Endowed Chair. Retired since 2010, he has been active in various alumni events and is a valued advisor to the Department.
Marc Werner - CEO, Werner Media Partners LLC/Nature’s Sleep LLC

Marc joined Coopers & Lybrand after graduating from NIU in 1979. After two years, he accepted a position with Borg-Erickson, where he served as Vice President of Finance and CFO, and subsequently CEO of the operating company during the sale of the company to Dart & Kraft. In his extensive career, Marc has demonstrated an ability to take start-up, troubled and growth companies to success and profitability in short periods of time. He demonstrated numerous aspects of financial stewardship serving as CEO, CFO, and founder of various private equity, venture capital, and strategic consulting firms including Northlight Capital LLC and Cornucopia Capital Advisors, Inc. He has extensive expertise working with product and program design and sourcing in his capacity as CEO of United Sleep Products, Werner Media (electronic concierge systems in hotel lobbies across the country), and Werner Moto (Personal Transportation Products in China for distribution in U.S. markets). Marc currently serves as CEO of Nature’s Sleep LLC, where he has established a high growth, successful and profitable business selling specialty sleep products to some of the nation’s top retailers.

Elizabeth Young - CFO, Perspectives Charter Schools

Betsy graduated in 1983 and began her career as an auditor with Arthur Andersen, and moved on to The Deerpath Group, Inc., where as Vice President, she advised institutional equity investors in finance, real estate and leverage lease investments. In 1992, she joined Allstate Insurance Company where she was instrumental in the successful growth of its portfolio finance unit and high yield portfolio. Betsy further honed her energy asset management expertise as a Senior Vice President, Energy & Project Finance, with Heller Financial and General Electric Capital Corporation and as a board advisor for the Lost Lake Utility District. From 2008 through 2011, Young transitioned from her investor/lender role into clean energy asset management joining E.ON Climate and Renewables and then Acciona Energy North America, where she was responsible for designing and implementing a centralized and integrated asset management process to support rapid growth of their North American renewable energy businesses. Betsy currently serves as CFO of Perspectives Charter Schools, which operates five open enrollment public schools serving over 2,200 students committed to providing top quality education to economically disadvantaged students.

2013 Honorary Alumni:

Barry Shaw - Partner, Wolf & Co.

Barry graduated from Valparaiso University in 1972 and joined Wynn Wagner Co. in Chicago for five years. He served as a manager of Fox & Company (which later merged with Grant Thornton) for an additional seven years. He and four others left Grant Thornton to start their own firm which they operated for twelve years. Barry joined Wolf & Company in 1997 where he served much of his career as Partner in Charge of Employee Benefit Plans. He also served as partner for various profit and nonprofit entities. Barry is an original member of the Department’s Accountancy Executive Advisory Council and continues to serve in that capacity. He was instrumental in establishing and supervising Wolf & Co.’s recruiting efforts at NIU. He had been a strong advocate for the leadership and professional development changes made to the NIU Accountancy master’s program and is currently working as a mentor and career planning advisor to NIU master’s students.
NIU ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS WIN HIGH HONORS IN DELOITTE’S NATIONAL TAX COMPETITION

A team of NIU accountancy students who competed in Deloitte's national FanTAXtic Case Competition received a national honorable mention award for their performance. NIU was one of only 18 teams recognized from a pool of more than 150 competing teams from around the country. Congratulations to NIU accountancy students Dan Fietterer, Hannane Chazoune, Gabriel Hernandez Jr., Alex Weier, and Muhammad Zharfan Irawan, along with NIU Accountancy Faculty Advisor Suzanne Youngberg. As a result of their excellent work, the Deloitte Foundation will provide $2,000 in student scholarship support to the NIU Department of Accountancy.

NIU ACCOUNTANCY GRAD LANDS TOP INTERNSHIP WITH FASB

The Financial Accounting Standards Board has selected NIU accountancy graduate Michael Cahill for a coveted post-graduate technical assistant internship. For an accountancy student, this is the equivalent of a law student being selected to become a clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court. Mike is the first NIU accountancy graduate to land one of these internships, and we are extremely proud of his accomplishment.

The FASB is responsible for establishing accounting standards for organizations operating in the United States. During his one-year internship, Mike will be involved in the process of setting accounting standards and gain an in-depth understanding of the roles played by preparers, auditors and users of financial information. His duties will include analyzing published research, preparing memoranda on technical issues for FASB board members, drafting due process documents and evaluating standard-setting proposals from other organizations.

To be selected, candidates must be nominated by an accountancy faculty member and also supported by the department chair. They must have an outstanding academic record, strong oral and written communications skills and have completed course work that provides a thorough knowledge of accounting theory and practice.

Mike grew up in Downers Grove and graduated summa cum laude in December of 2012 with a B.S. in accountancy and earned his master’s degree in accountancy one year later. While at NIU, he worked internships at John Hancock Financial Services, BMO Harris Bank and Ernst & Young. He currently works at Ernst & Young in its Transaction Advisory Services practice.

Upon his acceptance to NIU, Mike was the recipient of the NIU Executive Club Young Professionals Network scholarship. He then benefited from two years of mentorship from NIU College of Business alum Brian Gillet, who helped him get acclimated to the NIU College of Business and build a network of alumni. Faculty in the accountancy program were also a great help to him.

“The accountancy faculty at NIU are among the best in the nation, and I could not have earned this position at FASB without their assistance,” Mike said. “They were always willing to help and were instrumental in helping me earn this opportunity.”

“I am looking forward to working with some of the best and brightest minds in accounting. I plan to continue to work hard and learn as much as possible during my time at the FASB,” Mike said. “There is so much going on at the FASB, and I plan to get involved and take advantage of every learning opportunity that I can during my year there.”

Congratulations Mike!
Favorite is one of my favorite words! Whether people or things, we all love favorites. Like…

Favorite ice cream (mine is Graeter’s Black Raspberry Chocolate Chip…it’s sinfully good)

Favorite movie (mine is Forrest Gump)

Favorite teachers (mine are my parents, who taught my brothers and me the importance of honesty and hard work).

So I thought I’d share four of my favorites connected to being Director of the NIU CPA Review:

One of my favorite things to do is to hear from those that have passed the CPA exam, and have called or written to thank us. Fortunately, because of our outstanding professors, this is a frequent activity for me! For example, a student recently wrote to say:

*I found out today that I am done with the CPA exam and I cannot thank everyone involved with the NIU CPA Review program enough. I never imagined passing all four parts on my first try, but I was able to in less than a year! I registered for this program based on recommendations from former coworkers and I would absolutely recommend NIU CPA Review to anyone in the future. THANK YOU!!! -- Meredith S.*

One of my favorite quotes -- that is now on the back of each of our CPA Review booklets -- resonates from our 16th president: “Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing.” It’s interesting that, years later, in essentially an echo of Lincoln’s great message, Einstein famously said: “Genius is 1% talent and 99% percent hard work…” What Abe and AI are trying to impress on us is emphatically true when candidates study for the CPA exam. It’s a hard exam; nationally, for every 100 candidates that take a section, only about 49 pass. Even for the best NIU students (and the students from the many other universities that come to us for our Review), it takes hundreds of hours of study. There are no shortcuts, and that’s one of the main reasons the CPA designation is so widely respected and valued.

Lee Trevino, one of my favorite pro golfers, once said: “I can’t wait ‘til the sun comes up the next morning, because I know I’ll get to play golf again.” Well, that’s how I feel about teaching -- because it’s one of my favorite things to do, I can’t wait ‘til the next time I get to do it. My brother Kevin (also a CPA), tells me I have a natural advantage when it comes to teaching and explaining things: “Mark, I know if you can understand it, then anyone can!”

Important Dates for Employers!

Awards Banquet—September 3, 2014
Career Fairs—September 25, 2014 and January 29, 2015
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UPDATE

Department Faculty Receive Graduate Education Innovation Award

Department of Accountancy faculty members Jen Ellis, Mark Riley, and Rebecca Shortridge received the Mark Chain/Federation of Schools of Accountancy Innovation in Graduate Education Award for their work on incorporating soft skills into the graduate accounting curriculum (“Expanding Soft Skills: Incorporating Feedback in an MAS Capstone Course”).

Delivering effective workplace feedback is a challenging skill to develop. In fact, prior research shows that nearly one-third of feedback interventions hurt employee performance. As part of an innovative approach integrated into the MAS program, students develop the ability to provide feedback to others. First, students are required to attend a workshop on developing and delivering effective feedback. After working in groups for several weeks, students meet face-to-face and provide feedback messages to each of their fellow group members. Then, they are allowed to ask questions and suggest how to improve individual and group contributions. As part of this process, students receive feedback from a faculty member and a communication consultant on how to improve their feedback skills. A final face-to-face feedback session, held after the project is complete, reflects on how well group members integrated the feedback they received.

This is the second time in four years that Department faculty have won this award (Rebecca Shortridge received it for her work on incorporating business valuation into the graduate accounting curriculum four years ago).

Tim West Receives Illinois CPA Society Educator of the Year Award

The Illinois CPA Society honored Tim West, Grant Thornton Professor of Accountancy, with its 2013 Outstanding Educator Award. The award recognizes Illinois educators at a community college, college, or university who excel in leadership and teaching, and who make continuous and outstanding contributions to accounting education in the state. Tim was honored for his work in helping students become problem solvers and leaders. In 2008, Tim was tasked with creating a unique and integrated master’s level course designed to enhance the leadership qualities of budding, young accounting professionals. What resulted was a course that meshes the accounting disciplines (such as auditing, financial and managerial accounting and tax) with insights from research involving judgment and decision making, management, business analytics and ethics. In recent years, Tim has incorporated Chicago’s famed Second City comedy club, theatre and school of improvisation to change the way students think about communicating with non-accountants. Tim’s award continues a long tradition in the NIU Department of Accountancy. Prior Illinois CPA Society Educator of the Year award recipients include NIU Accountancy members Don Kieso (1988), Pat Delaney (1991), Richard Baker (1993), Debra Hopkins (1997), Pam Smith (2008), Don Tidrick (2010) and Jim Young (2012).

Carol Yu Receives Department Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award

Carol Yu was selected by the undergraduate accountancy majors in the Department and undergraduate business majors in the College of Business to receive the 2013-2014 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. The award is given to a faculty member who instills and develops in students a deep interest in the class topics, demonstrates extraordinary commitment to students and their welfare, and works actively with students, faculty, and administrators to improve undergraduate education at NIU. This is a testament to Carol’s abilities in the classroom. Congratulations Carol!

Sandy Devona Receives Department Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award

Sandy Devona was selected by the Department’s undergraduate accountancy majors to receive the 2013-2014 Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award. This award was established by the Provost to honor excellent undergraduate teaching in the University, specifically among non-tenure-track educators. The award is given to an instructor who inspires students and stimulates student growth, applies rigorous standards to student performance, and works actively with students to promote their learning and understanding. Congratulations Sandy!
ACCOUNTANCY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following professionals have provided significant service to the Department by serving on our advisory council. We are grateful for the guidance and assistance that they provide.

Greg Bergmann, Deloitte
Howard Blumstein, BDO USA, LLP
Marcus Bode, SpearMC Consulting, Inc.
Gary Burge, Consultant
Matt Garling, SunCoke Energy Inc.
Gordy Gruszka, Power Packaging Inc.
Dianne Guensberg, United States Government Accountability Office
Steve Hajdukovic, KPMG, LLP
Julie Hansberry, Cincinnati Tool Steel Company
Anthony Harmon, Grant Thornton, LLP
Jim Hendricks, Emeritus Faculty – NIU
Kevin Hovorka, Crowe Horwath, LLP
Ernest Iannotta, PwC, LLP
Terry Jimenez, Global Major Deal Team
Joe Joyce, Joyce & Associates, LLC
Paul Keglevic, Energy Future Holdings
Mark Kramer, IDEX Corporation
Jim Kranjc, Ryan, LLC
George Krull, Grant Thornton, LLP
Gaylen Larson, Financial Accounting Standards Board
Jeff Markert, KPMG, LLP
Ricky Max, Miller Cooper & Co.
Dave Misura, Plante Moran, PLLC
Ian Nelson, PwC, LLP
Patrick Picha, Accenture
Christina Pierce, Grayson & Graham
Ken Pinsky, Warady & Davis, LLP
Adam Regelbrugge, Deloitte
Barry Shaw, Wolf & Co., LLP
Lance Smith, Ernst & Young, LLP
Russ Smyth, The HAVI Group, LP
Rob Stoettner, McGladrey, LLP
John Stomper, Grant Thornton, LLP
Dave Swinehart, Healthscape Advisors, LLC
Dave Templin, Caterpillar, Inc.
Jim Thomas, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
Rawley Thomas, LifeCycle Returns, Inc.
Rick Thompson, Sikich, LLP
Don Wagner, Caterpillar, Inc.
Matt Ward, PwC, LLP
Jim Wong, Brilliant Financial Search

NIU ACCOUNTANCY FACULTY

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ACCOUNTANCY STUDENT GROUPS CONTINUE TO EXCEL

Accountancy Leadership Advisory Council (ALAC)

ALAC members are nominated by student organization presidents, faculty members, or current ALAC members for their leadership potential. This group of students helps the department by serving as student liaisons at various department events, assisting with an etiquette dinner, talking to potential students/families at university open houses, and helping with teaching evaluations. Professor Rebecca Shortridge serves as the faculty advisor for ALAC.

Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA)

The Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) is a leading national professional association dedicated to enhancing opportunities for Latinos in accounting, finance and related professions. ALPFA is open to professionals and students of all races and majors who share our values, mission, and principles. ALPFA NIU's purpose is to develop the professional skills of its members by providing activities and events that promote growth and personal development, build relationships with business professionals, as well as create awareness of the accounting and finance professions within our communities. This is accomplished by presentations from global business leaders, national networking conventions, mentorship programs, community service, and a variety of cultural/social events. Membership is approximately 30 members. Professor Natalie Churyk is the faculty advisor.

Ascend Pan-Asian Leaders in Finance and Accounting (Ascend)

Ascend is the premier professional organization dedicated to enabling its members, business partners and the community to leverage the leadership and global business potential of Pan-Asians. The goal of the organization is to generate awareness of the growing influence of Asians in business globally while helping its members to be better prepared to take advantage of this change and grow professionally. Ascend’s goals are achieved through professional, social, and service events. Professor Carol Yu is the faculty advisor.

Beta Alpha Psi (Gamma Pi Chapter, Founded in 1971)

NIU’s Gamma Pi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) has continued to move forward throughout the 2013-2014 academic year, and remains recognized nationally as a “Superior Chapter.”

Two distinctive characteristics of Beta Alpha Psi membership at NIU are (1) at least a 3.2 GPA requirement associated with academic accomplishment; and (2) a commitment to at least 8 hours of designated service activities each semester. In 2013-14, we initiated 53 students into permanent BAP membership. Our speaker and guest-of-honor at our April 2014 initiation banquet was Mr. Todd Shapiro, President and CEO of the Illinois CPA Society, appointed to that position in June, 2013.

A group of NIU BAP members participated in the Midwest Regional Meeting in Indianapolis in March, and another group represented NIU at the Annual Meeting in Anaheim last summer, where NIU alumnus (and honorary BAP member) Mr. Ralph de la Vega (President & CEO, AT&T Mobility & Consumer Markets) received BAP’s prestigious Business Information Professional of the Year Award. [More on that recognition can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.]

We continued to benefit from presentations by outstanding professionals on Wednesday evenings each semester on a variety of interesting topics. A sample includes the following: “Having a Service Mindset” (BDO); “Transitioning from Student to Professional” (CliftonLarsonAllen); “Interviewing Tips” (Deloitte); “The Art of Communication” (Plante Moran); “The IIA’s 2015 Global Internal Audit Study” (PricewaterhouseCoopers & Protiviti); “Career Opportunities in Tax” (Ryan & Co.); and “Building Your Personal Brand” (Grant Thornton), to name just a few of the recent BAP programs.

Gamma Pi Chapter appreciates the continuing support of the many NIU alumni and friends who make our professional programs, service projects, and social events so meaningful for NIU students. Professor Don Tidrick, a longtime member of BAP himself, continues to serve as Gamma Pi’s faculty advisor.
The National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)

The National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) is the premiere professional association for developing and promoting greater participation by African-American and other minorities in the accounting and finance professions. The goals of the association are to promote and develop the professional skills of our members; to encourage and assist minority students in entering the profession; to provide opportunities for members to fulfill their civic responsibilities; to ensure long-term financial stability, and provide adequate resources to implement chapter, regional and national programs; and to represent the interests of current and prospective minority accounting professionals. These goals are achieved through the use of guest speakers and a variety of other activities. Professor Tim West is the faculty advisor.

Student Accountancy Society (SAS)

Student Accountancy Society (SAS) is a student organization dedicated to promoting a professional interest and attitude toward the study of accounting, encouraging scholarship, promoting a closer affiliation between the business world and the accountancy student, and encouraging accountancy students to become involved in leadership roles. Membership is open to all students, regardless of major, class standing, or GPA. SAS is truly a student-run organization, led by an executive board of approximately fourteen students. It is one of the largest professional groups on campus, with over 140 members during the 2013/2014 academic year. Professor Linda Matuszewski serves as the SAS faculty advisor.

On a weekly basis, SAS brings professionals from a variety of corporations and public accounting firms to campus to speak to the members about professional accounting careers and current business issues. Some recent topics included interviewing, professional ethics, leadership, networking, accounting internship opportunities, communication skills, and business etiquette. After these meetings, dinner is served in the atrium (and no, it's not pizza every week) and the students have the opportunity to personally network with the presenters from that night or just share a meal with fellow SAS members.

In addition to the weekly professional meetings, SAS sponsors numerous social and service activities throughout the year. Each semester, SAS sponsors a golf outing at which members have an opportunity to network with firm representatives and learn one of the favorite sports of the accounting profession. The Spring 2014 golf outing was one of our most successful events, with 14 foursomes that included students, firm representatives and faculty. Other popular events during the year included tailgate parties at NIU football games, social gatherings at Fatty’s Pub and Grill and Ollie’s Frozen Custard, and a whirlyball outing. Community service is important to SAS members. Each semester, SAS holds food, clothing, and blood drives, and members volunteer at local organizations such as Hope Haven and the Opportunity House. SAS members also participate in NIU Cares Day, and help with cleanup around Barsema Hall.
RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

Meghann Cefaratti
Presenter, American Accounting Association, Anaheim, CA, August 2013.
Member, American Accounting Association, Institute of Internal Auditors.

Natalie Churyk
"Examining the Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension Costs", with A. Reinstein and S. Thomas, Accountancy Business and the Public Interest, 2013, 12.
"Auditing and Accounting for the Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities", with A. Reinstein, Journal of Corporate Accounting And Finance, 2013, 24(6).
Lybrand Award, Strategic Finance, June 2013.
Presenter, various American Accounting Association Regional Meetings, April-October, 2013.
Member, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois CPA Society, American Accounting Association, International Association for Accounting Education & Research, Text and Academic Authors Association.
Faculty Advisor, Association of Latino Professionals in Finance & Accounting (ALPEA).
President elect – Midwest Region of the American Accounting Association
Incoming Vice President – Academic Teaching Learning & Curriculum section of the American Accounting Association

Doug Clinton
Director, Resource Consumption Accounting Institute.
Editorial Review Board, Behavioral Research in Accounting, Strategic Finance, and Management Accounting Quarterly.
Co-Author, CPAexcel:
Member, Institute of Management Accountants, American Accounting Association.

Brad Cripes
Editorial Board, Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation.
Member, American Institute of CPAs, American Accounting Association, and American Taxation Association.

Ann Dzuranin
Best Paper Award, Academy of Business Research, March 2013.
Member, American Accounting Association.

Chih-Chen Lee
Presenter, Institute of Fraud Prevention, Washington, D.C., June 2013.
Chair, AAA FIA section, Publications Committee.

Kate Mantzke

*For articles and textbooks, please contact faculty member for complete citation and co-authors.
Linda Matuszewski
Presenter, American Accounting Association, Anaheim, California, August 2013.
Reviewer, American Accounting Association, *Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research, Behavioral Research in Accounting*.
Member, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois CPA Society, Institute of Management Accountants, American Accounting Association.
Faculty Advisor, Student Accounting Association.

Mark Riley
Presenter, American Accounting Association, Anaheim, CA, August 2013.
Editorial Review Board, Issues in Accounting Education.
Member, American Accounting Association and American Institute of CPAs.

Rebecca Shortridge
Recipient, Mark Chain/Federation of Schools of Accountancy, Innovation in Graduate Education Award.
Board Member, Secretary Elect, Federation of Schools of Accountancy.
Director, MAS (Leadership) Program.
Member, American Accounting Association, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois CPA Society, Indiana CPA Society.

Dave Sinason
Reviewer, Journal of Accounting Education and Forensic Investigation and Accounting.
Committee Chair, American Accounting Association - Forensic Investigation and Accounting Section.
Member, American Accounting Association, American Institute of CPAs, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Illinois CPA Society, Institute of Internal Auditors.

Pam Smith
Awarded Presidential Teaching Professor, Northern Illinois University, April 2013.
Author and Presenter, CPAexcel.
Master Instructor, KPMG.
Reviewer, *Journal of Business Ethics, Issues in Accounting Education*, and AAA TLC.
Member, College of Business Ethics Program, Building Ethical Leaders with an Integrated Framework (BELIEF).

Don Tidrick
2013 AICPA Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award, American Institute of CPAs, August 2013, presented at AAA annual meeting, Anaheim, CA.
Faculty Advisor, Beta Alpha Psi (Gamma Pi Chapter).
Member, Comptroller General of the United State's Educators' Advisory Council.
Chair, Illinois CPA Society's Ethics Committee, Technical Subcommittee.
Member, American Institute of CPAs, Association of Government Accountants, Illinois CPA Society, Institute of Internal Auditors, Institute of Management Accountants, Academy of Accounting Historians, American Accounting Association.
Co-Author, CPAexcel.

Tammy Waymire
Reviewer, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*.
Reviewer, American Accounting Association Government and Nonprofit Section Meeting and American Accounting Association Annual Meeting.
Discussant, American Accounting Association Government and Nonprofit Section Meeting.
Chair, American Accounting Association Government and Nonprofit Section, Accounting Standards Committee and Education Program Committee.
Member, NRI Center for Governmental Studies Semantic Aware Framework for Financial Reporting (SAFFRe) Team.
Contributor, Wiley Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting Textbook.
Member, Association of Government Accountants, American Accounting Association, Institute of Management Accountants, and American Institute of CPAs.

Tim West
Outstanding Teacher in the Leadership MAS program, NIU Accountancy Leadership Advisory Council, August 2013.
Outstanding EMBA Teacher (Golden Apple Award), Northern Illinois University, May 2013.
Member, Academy of Management, American Accounting Association, American Institute of CPAs, Institute of Management Accountants, and Pathways Commission.

Jim Young
Commissioner, AICPA/AAA Pathways Commission.
Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Illinois CPA Society, Illinois Board of Examiners (BIOE) Education Advisory Task Force, AAA Accounting Programs Leadership Group, American Accounting Association Council.

Carol Yu
2013-2014 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, NIU Accountancy Department.
Presenter, American Accounting Association, Oak Brook, IL, October 2013, and Anaheim, CA, August 2013.
Congratulations to the following students for their excellent performance, which has resulted in their receipt of the following scholarships and awards. We also express our appreciation to the individuals, companies, and firms that provided the financial support for these awards. Over $536,000 of scholarships and awards were presented at our Awards Banquet in September.

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- Nicole L. Clark
- Matthew S. Crail
- Kara L. Davi
- Nader El-Khatib
- Jonathan A. Frighetto
- Leticia Gonzalez
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- Ashley M. Kaiser
- Jennie Kang
- Patrick T. Knapik
- Michael R. McParland
- Benjamin P. Ruhlig
- Ping Xiao
- Maximilian B. Yep
- Hongchen Zhang

**Accountancy Faculty Graduate**
- Caroline M. Haake
- Qingmeng Huang
- Logan J. Stukenberg

**Accountancy Faculty Undergraduate**
- Adam M. Blazekovich
- Daihee Cho
- Elyse Jares

**Accountancy Leadership Advisory Council Service Award**
- Janelle M. Wiesemann

**Accountancy Teaching Assistant Performance Award**
- Manling Ge

**Ascend Outstanding Service Award**
- Calvin J. Kunkel
- Tyler J. Swanlund
- Maximilian B. Yep

**Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting Outstanding Service Award**
- Araceli Flores
- Juan A. Rosales, Jr.
- Cristian E. Tinoco

**BDO USA, LLP**
- Bianca S. Arceo
- Taylor P. Heavington
- Lucero K. Lopez-Tinajero
- Voula Spyridis

**Beta Alpha Psi Outstanding Service Award**
- Patrick T. Knapik

**Brilliant Financial Search**
- Adam R. Ciccone
- Andrew G. Haroldson

**Burge Family**
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**Certificate in Internal Auditing**
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**Dean’s Scholars**
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- Stephanie Gutierrez
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**Ernst & Young, LLP**
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- Meghan M. Connell

**Federation of Schools of Accountancy Award**
- Amanda K. Whee

**Financial Executives Institute (Chicago Chapter)**
- John P. Ries

**Graduate School Diversity**
- Mayra Arellano
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- Madelene R. Velasquez

**Graduate School Fellowship**
- Taylor N. Patton-Genet

**Graduate School Outstanding Student Award**
- Annette T. Killian

**Grant Thornton, LLP**
- Richard A. Wright, Jr.

**Greg Hassler / NIU CPA Review**
- Mariela N. Valverde

**Ryan Newman/HSSC**
- Matthew J. Felsecker
- Carrie L. Huff

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- Gabriela Hernandez
GIFTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY
JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

Note: Contributors listed in this report made gifts to the Department between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If your gift was omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact Margaret Berg at margberg@niu.edu. We apologize for any mistakes or omissions with regard to this information.
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