The NIU Department of Accountancy has a storied history — written over many years. Our graduates have had incredibly successful careers – thanks, in part, to their time at NIU and the commitment of our faculty to prepare them for the profession. We continue to attract outstanding students . . . and our current faculty are fully committed to helping them succeed, while also making significant contributions to the academy and profession via their research and service. Our “story” continues to be written, and written well.

It has been the highlight of my academic career to be Chair of this Department. As Chair, my work has been interesting, widely varied, challenging, and stretched me in ways I could not imagine.

As with life, however, seasons come and go; as one season ends, a new one begins.

Earlier this year, after a decade as Chair of the NIU Department of Accountancy, I informed Dean Denise Schoenbachler of my plans to conclude my service at the end of this year.

I am honored to be chosen as the first woman chair of NIU’s Department of Accountancy. Many strong women have served as role models and mentors to me to make this opportunity a reality.

Leading the NIU Department of Accountancy is an exciting opportunity. First, NIU Accountancy students are top-notch. They are hard-working, intelligent students who strive to become professionals. Our program helps mentor their transition through strong academics, numerous internship opportunities, and a focus on career success.

I look forward to work every day at NIU. A primary reason for this is the outstanding faculty in the Department. My colleagues are dedicated to student learning. I enjoy listening to the conversations that faculty have with students as they assist with challenging course materials and career decisions. Further, faculty members are engaged with professionals in practice, active in academic organizations, and fun to be with!

(Continued on page 2)
Among the many benefits of being in this role is that it allowed me to interface with NIU Accountancy alumni and friends – an opportunity that would not have occurred had I not been Chair. Thank you for enriching my professional and personal life.

Thanks, as well, for the many ways you have supported the Department (both financially and with your time and energy). Your steadfast commitment to this Department is both humbling and gratifying. Quite simply, we cannot be successful without you. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our faculty and students.

As you have discovered already, Rebecca Shortridge has been appointed Chair effective January 1, 2016. Rebecca is uniquely qualified to assume this role. She has been our Department’s Assistant Chair for the past four years, and during that time she has developed a wonderful sense of our faculty, students, programs, and operations. She has an outstanding record of research and teaching (including a number of national awards for innovation in accounting education). Not surprisingly, Rebecca enjoys the strong support of our faculty. I am truly excited for both Rebecca and the Department and look forward to its continued success (on many dimensions).

So what’s ahead for me? Well, I am planning to return to my academic passions — research and teaching. A research project on income inequality awaits (using a unique U.S. Treasury Department data set) and I am looking forward to trying out some new ideas in the classroom (but I have much to learn as things have changed considerably over the last decade).

Finally, I want to acknowledge (and thank) our Dean, Denise Schoenbachler. Not only has she been a strong supporter of our Department, but she has been a wonderful mentor and friend through the years. And, whether you realize it or not, you have had a significant impact on my life as Chair of NIU’s Department of Accountancy — thank you for all you have done (and will continue to do) in writing our Department’s “story.” I hope that our paths will continue to cross in the years ahead.

Many of the accomplishments in the Department would not be possible without the support of our outstanding alumni and friends of the Department. For example, it is amazing to me that Barry Shaw volunteers significant time to work with our MAS students just because he believes in our program.

NIU faces many challenges as it wrestles with enrollments and the state budget. As such, I plan to focus on two key themes in the short-term:

**Student Enrollment, Outreach, and Marketing:** Given the changing higher education landscape, we need to renew our efforts to increase enrollments. One approach is to examine our efforts to provide a strong brand for our program. This might include a redesign of our website and our recruiting materials, continued outreach with community colleges and 4-year universities, and working to sell our brand.

**Financial Stability:** Given the increase in costs for students to attend universities and declining state support, external financial support is critical. While continued scholarship donations and support for faculty are important, increasing discretionary funds at the foundation is crucial. Discretionary funding allows us to support many initiatives in the Department.

I would like to thank Jim Young for guiding me in the role of Assistant Chair and MAS Director the past four years. As Dennis Barsema noted, I have big shoes to fill. I also appreciate the support of Denise Schoenbachler, College of Business Dean. Denise has worked diligently to move the College forward. I am honored and excited to continue working on the legacy Jim and Denise have forged at NIU.
Three distinguished alumni of NIU Accountancy recently came to campus for a panel discussion focusing on the interface between an entity’s internal and external audit functions. The speakers were Mr. Melvin Flowers (Microsoft), Ms. Terry Puchley (PwC), and Mr. Ian Nelson (PwC). Although insights were shared about how an internal audit function interacts with their external auditors, the highlight of the evening involved the speakers’ extemporaneous comments about their interesting career paths and life lessons learned that they shared for the benefit of the students in the audience.

**Melvin Flowers** earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from NIU in 1975. He has an impressive background in high-level management positions at a variety of companies. Mr. Flowers joined Microsoft in 2003, where he serves as corporate Vice President and Chief Audit Executive for Microsoft. In that role, he oversees the Company’s Internal Audit Department and Financial Integrity Unit with responsibility for evaluating and improving the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management, and corporate governance activities.

**Terry Puchley** earned her bachelor’s degree in finance from NIU in 1982. She then earned her MBA degree from Loyola University in Chicago. Beginning her career in an audit role, Terry moved into financial services, becoming Senior Vice President of First Options of Chicago. She left to join PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she is a Risk Assurance Partner and the national leader of the firm’s Risk Assurance Health Industries practice, working out of the firm’s Los Angeles office. As a partner, Terry has expertise in the development of the firm’s organization-wide risk analysis methodology, performing global risk assessments, managing complex outsourcing and co-sourcing engagements, and providing internal audit-related consulting services.

**Ian Nelson** earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from NIU in 1993. He joined PricewaterhouseCoopers as an audit professional and was admitted to the partnership in 2004. Ian is the leader of the financial services assurance practice for PwC’s Chicago practice. In that role, he oversees approximately 200 professionals serving clients in the financial services practice in Chicago and the Midwest, which includes Cleveland, Columbus, and Indianapolis, and which encompasses banks, broker dealers, insurance, investment management, and real estate clients.

In addition, we were visited by **Richard Caturano**, 2012-2013 chair of the American Institute of CPAs (the 100th chair in the AICPA’s history!) and a nationally prominent partner of McGladrey, associated with the firm’s Boston office. In his role as the firm’s National Leader of Culture, Diversity and Inclusion, Mr. Caturano spoke eloquently on “Lessons in Leadership & Inclusion.” NIU faculty and students attending the August 2014 Beta Alpha Psi annual meeting had the pleasure of meeting Rich in Atlanta, where he was a keynote speaker. It was a distinct privilege to welcome him to our campus.

In April, **Mike Cahill** spoke to an auditorium full of NIU accountancy students. Mike received his undergraduate accountancy degree from NIU in 2012, followed by his Master of Accounting Science degree in 2013. After graduation, Mike joined Ernst & Young’s Transaction Advisory Services practice. He applied for a highly competitive one-year “Postgraduate Technical Assistant” position with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), and was selected. As a member of the technical staff of the FASB, Mike assisted in drafting proposed and final accounting standards updates and conducted market and accounting research to assist in developing recommendations to improve U.S. accounting standards.
MIKE provided an overview of how FASB operates and discussed the many interesting projects he was part of during his time at the FASB. He also discussed the technical accounting and research skills that he gained at NIU, including a solid foundation in financial instruments and derivatives, which he said gave him a competitive advantage in the FASB selection process. He urged the NIU accountancy students to have confidence in their education and to pursue these sorts of opportunities as well. Among our guests at Mike’s presentation were Gaylen and Joann Larson. Gaylen is an NIU distinguished alumnus and a former FASB Board member.

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.

2014-2015 Outstanding Alumni

Jeff Eckmann

Jeff graduated summa cum laude from NIU’s accountancy program in 1974. Jeff was the first NIU student in any sport to be named a Division I Academic All-American. In his senior year, he was also named NIU’s Most Outstanding Student-Athlete and the football team’s Most Valuable Defensive Player as a defensive lineman. Jeff began his career at Price Waterhouse and after becoming a manager, moved to Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation. During his career at Brown & Williamson and its affiliated companies, Jeff held a wide variety of positions including Director of Audit, Controller, Vice President of Strategy and Chief Financial Officer. When Brown & Williamson merged with R.J. Reynolds to form Reynolds American, Jeff was responsible for integrating the two businesses and ultimately served as Group President. In that role he was responsible for four of Reynolds American’s five business units, corporate strategy, and mergers and acquisitions. Since his retirement in 2008, Jeff has remained active in the business community by serving on a variety of commercial, professional, educational, community, and charitable boards (including service on the NIU Foundation Board of Directors).

Julie Figueras

Julie Figueras was born in the Philippines and moved to the United States with her family in 1989. After graduating from NIU in 1994, Julie joined Arthur Andersen as an audit associate and then moved to Grant Thornton in 2002. Balancing her work and family (she is a mother of five), Julie was promoted to partner in 2009. With over 20 years of experience in benefit plan assurance, Julie is now an integral part of Grant Thornton as a knowledgeable specialist in auditing and reporting matters. Her experiences with career and parenting have influenced her dedication to gender diversity within the workplace, a passion she has exercised as a member in the Global Women’s Leadership Forum Steering Committee as well as a driving force behind the “Women at Grant Thornton in Chicago” initiative. Julie also honors her heritage through her membership in the Asian-American Executive Network of Chicago and as an executive sponsor of the new pan-Asian business resource group at Grant Thornton.
Robert Peterson

Bob Peterson, a 1978 graduate of NIU’s accountancy program, began his career with Ernst & Young focusing on manufacturing clients and was promoted to Manager in 1983. In 1985, Bob joined Farley Industries – a very entrepreneurial organization. Over the next few years, through a series of acquisitions, Farley’s business grew substantially. Bob served as Corporate Controller and Vice President during this time and gained significant experience in mergers and acquisitions and financing. He then became President of one of Farley’s operating units. In 1995, Bob, together with a private equity firm, co-founded Norcross Safety Products. At that time, Norcross was a domestic manufacturer of footwear serving the industrial, fire service and utility/high voltage markets and had sales of $40 million. Under Bob’s leadership as CEO, Norcross completed dozens of domestic and international acquisitions which expanded the range of products offered and geographies served. In 2008, it was the fifth largest safety company in the world when it was sold to Honeywell International for $1.2 billion. Today, Bob is Chairman of another safety company, a lead director of a NYSE publicly traded company, and a Trustee at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago.

Joseph L. Wisniewski

Joe Wisniewski graduated from NIU with a bachelor of science in accountancy in 1982 and joined Deloitte as an associate. He later received his Juris Doctorate with distinction from John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Currently, Joe is a partner with Deloitte Tax LLP, where he leads the real estate practice in the firm’s Central region (which stretches from Pittsburgh to New Mexico). In his role, Joe is responsible for the development and implementation of key strategic initiatives and works with senior management of leading real estate companies in the region. Joe has more than 32 years of experience helping clients on various tax matters, including in the areas of partnerships, real estate investment trusts (REITs) and unrelated business income tax for the real estate industry. Joe specializes in assisting clients with structuring fund formations for both domestic and international investment in real estate as well as REIT structuring, debt restructurings, merger and acquisition transactions, due diligence projects and ongoing operational tax matters. Joe is also involved with a wide variety of professional and civic organizations including the tax division of the American Bar Association, the AICPA, the NIU College of Business Board of Executive Advisors, and the Chicago Chapter of the American Youth Soccer Organization.

2014-2015 Honorary Alumnus

Jim Thomas

Jim Thomas graduated from Illinois State University’s accounting program in 1987 and joined Clifton Gunderson & Co. (now CliftonLarsonAllen) in Oak Brook. He later received his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University (Chicago). Jim has been with CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) since his internship and today is a partner focusing on health care issues while leading CLA’s Midwest region health care practice. Despite not being an NIU alumnus, Jim initiated CLA’s relationship with NIU’s Department of Accountancy in 1995. Over the past twenty years, Jim has devoted significant time and energy to building relationships between CLA and the Department’s faculty and students. In addition to leading CLA’s recruiting efforts on campus, Jim has served on the Department’s Executive Advisory Council, made numerous presentations to accountancy student organizations and classes, and spent time discussing interviewing techniques (and serving as a mock interviewer) in our ACCY 370 (Accountancy Careers) classes. His visibility on campus is so significant that most individuals believe he is an NIU accountancy alumnus (and we are pleased to honor Jim in this way).
The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy recently released data showing that over 73 percent of 2014 NIU Master’s of Accountancy students passed the CPA exam on their first attempt. This is the highest CPA exam pass rate for any graduate-level program in the state. Those earning bachelor's degrees in accountancy also fared well, with 54 percent of them passing all four parts of the exam. Overall, NIU accountancy students ranked 16th in the country.

Our graduate accountancy program focuses on critical thinking, communication and leadership, in addition to accounting and business knowledge. And while the CPA exam is the first career milestone, our goal is to prepare them for their careers, not just the CPA exam. We are fortunate to consistently attract a strong class of students, comprised of graduates from our own undergraduate program and many of the other top programs across the country.

While the 2014 results are difficult to beat, graduates of the program have a long history of outstanding performance on the CPA exam. Denise Schoenbachler, Dean of the NIU College of Business commented: “The performance of our graduate students last year is amazing, but the best endorsement of the program is the fact that the best firms in the world compete to hire our graduates. That is a testament to the quality of the education our students receive, and the faculty who provide it.”

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 125 competing teams from around the country. Congratulations to NIU accountancy students Ryne Brackmann, Jesse Laseman, Chris Lohse, Shanna Metzger, Michael Williams, 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.

From left to right: Ryne Brackmann, Michael Williams, Shanna Metzger, Jesse Laseman
Not pictured: Chris Lohse
“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…”
Dickens famously wrote in his *A Tale of Two Cities*, a fitting quote that springs to mind as I pen this letter. For though once again during this past year I was surrounded with a talented group of professors and administrative staff that continued to expertly prepare our candidates for the CPA Exam, and the feedback from those candidates was overwhelmingly positive, the sobering fact is that we simply do not have enough candidates (registrations), so we are in the process of winding down the NIU CPA Review. Our last “Live” classroom course (AUD in Naperville) wrapped up in July 2015, and we provided our ON-THE-GO materials until the end of September. As an accommodation to our existing candidates, we’ll continue to provide support, including being available to answer questions, through May 2016.

Though we are in wind down, as a strong compliment to our entire Review team, the thanks and effusive praise from our candidates remains as strong as ever. As an example, a candidate recently wrote to say: *I am glad to inform you all that I have passed all 4 sections of the CPA exam, and I can say this without any doubt that it would not have been possible without the NIU CPA Review program! I would rate it 10 out of 10. The material and information is concise and on point, with all the requirements. All of the professors were outstanding and on top of their respective sections. Thank you all for everything, you have helped me achieve my dream!*

As we look ahead, Sue Anderson (our IT coordinator) will work in our Advancement office, and Mary Hamell (our administrative lead) will work next-door in our MBA office. I also will be staying with the College of Business (more on this in a second).

But as we wind down the CPA Review, it’s important to highlight 2 things that will not change:

Our top-notch professors in our highly-ranked Accountancy programs will continue to provide strong preparation for accounting and business careers, including the education to successfully pass the CPA exam.

I will continue to be a resource to our CPA-minded students, providing advice on various aspects of the CPA exam -- including meeting the state educational requirements, the best courses to take as preparation, application process, the exam itself (which is being re-tooled; new version coming in 2017), licensing, and our pass rates. On that last note, as some readers already know, our Master’s students had the highest pass rate in the state for 2014!

Part of my changing role is that I will move from teaching students at the *end* of their accounting studies (as they review for the CPA exam) to working with them at the foundational *beginning* – I’ll have the opportunity to teach Introductory Financial Accounting (ACCY 206), which I’m looking forward to. Also, I’m very glad to say I’ll continue teaching in our excellent MBA program.

To all I’ve worked with in the NIU CPA Review -- professors, Sue, Mary, and grad assistants -- I cannot possibly thank you enough! Your work and dedication to help our students is nothing less than awesome. It has been my distinct pleasure and privilege to work with such a great team.

-- Mark

**Important Date for Employers!**

Spring 2016 Semester
Career Fair—February 4, 2016
Tim Dimond Receives NIU Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction and Department Outstanding Undergraduate Instructor Awards

Tim Dimond was selected by the Department’s undergraduate accountancy majors to receive the 2014-2015 Outstanding Undergraduate Instruction Award. Tim went on to receive the University’s 2015 Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award. These awards were established to honor excellent undergraduate teaching in the Department and the University, specifically among non-tenure-track educators. These awards are 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, Tim!

Brad Cripe Receives Department Outstanding Undergraduate Educator Award

Brad Cripe was selected by the undergraduate accountancy majors in the Department to receive the 2014-2015 Excellence in Undergraduate Educator 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 Brad’s abilities in the classroom. One student commented on the nomination, “His passion for the subject wore off on his pupils, and his humor kept the class engaged. He welcomed any type of question and made himself highly available. One of the top teachers I have had the pleasure of being taught by.” Congratulations, Brad!

Tim West Receives Department Outstanding Graduate Educator Award

Tim West is the recipient of the 2014-2015 Accountancy Outstanding Graduate Educator Award. Students in the MAS program nominated Tim based on the unique experiences that are a part of his course and his passion for supporting students. One student commented, “Dr. West’s class is one of the most challenging but most rewarding classes I have ever taken. Dr. West challenges each student to do their best and to raise their standards.” Another indicated that Dr. West “pushed me past my comfort level and consistently challenged me to do better. It is obvious how much he cares and how much effort he puts into teaching.” Congratulations, Tim!

Department of Accountancy Welcomes New Faculty Member

Ellen Stuart recently joined the Department of Accountancy’s Ernst and Young Leadership and Professional Development Center where she assists graduate students with written and oral communication skills and coordinates workshop registration and attendance for the Leadership MAS program. In addition, she will begin teaching a new writing-intensive course, required for all undergraduate accountancy students, in the Spring 2016 semester. Ellen received her Ph.D. in English from NIU in 2014. Prior to coming to NIU, she earned her J.D. from California Western School of Law and a B.A. in English and German from the University of Denver. Ellen brings a unique skill set to the Department having extensive experience in teaching, professional writing, human resources and law. Welcome Ellen!

Department of Accountancy Welcomes New MAS Advisor and Assistant to the Chair

Kelsey Johnson has joined the Department’s faculty as our MAS Advisor and Assistant to the Chair. In her role, she responds to inquiries about our MAS program from prospective students, develops academic plans for each of the MAS students, and provides advice to them throughout the program. In addition, she supports the Department Chair in a wide variety of ways including assisting with AACSB accreditation and NIU program reviews, maintaining our web and social media presences, and interfacing with a variety of our external constituents. Kelsey received her undergraduate degree in finance from the University of Illinois and her MBA from NIU. In addition, she brings a strong technology background having worked in the College’s technology office for a number of years. Her background and experience provides a unique skill set for our students and Department. Welcome Kelsey!
**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 LLP
- Howard Blumstein, BDO USA LLP
- Marcus Bode, SpearMC Consulting, Inc.
- Gary Burge, Consultant
- Matt Garling, SunCoke Energy Inc.
- Gordy Gruszka, Power Packaging
- Dianne Guensberg, United States Government Accountability Office
- Steve Hajdukovic, KPMG LLP
- Julie Hansberry, Cincinnati Tool Steel Company
- Tony Harmon, McGladrey LLP
- Jim Hendricks, Emeritus ACCY Faculty, NIU
- Kevin Hovorka, Crowe Horwath LLP
- Ernest Iannotta, PwC LLP
- Terry Jimenez, IBM
- Joe Joyce, Joyce & Associates LLC
- Paul Keglevic, Energy Future Holdings
- Mark Kramer, IDEX Corporation
- 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
- Mike Orchowski, Ryan LLC
- Patrick Picha, Accenture
- Christina Pierce, KPMG LLP
- Ken Pinsky, Warady & Davis LLP
- Adam Regelbrugge, Deloitte LLP
- Barry Shaw, BKD 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
- Matt Ward, PwC LLP
- Don Wagner, Caterpillar Inc.
- Jim Wong, Brilliant Financial Search

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**NIU ACCOUNTANCY FACULTY**

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ACCOUNTANCY STUDENT GROUPS UPDATE

Accountancy Leadership Advisory Council

Accountancy Leadership Advisory Council (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

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 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 2014-2015 academic year, and remains internationally recognized 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 2014-15, we initiated 34 students into permanent BAP membership.

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 Atlanta last summer. In Atlanta, Mr. Richard Caturano 2012-2013 chair of the AICPA and a nationally prominent partner in McGladrey, was a keynote speaker. Contact with Mr. Caturano in Atlanta led to him agreeing to speak at NIU in October. [More on Mr. Caturano’s visit to NIU can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.]

We continued to benefit from presentations by outstanding professionals throughout the year on a variety of interesting topics. A sample includes the following: “Having a Service Mindset” (Grant Thornton); “International Issues in Accounting” (KPMG); “Personal Branding” (Deloitte); “Enterprise Risk Management” (Protiviti); “Sustainability Reporting” (Baxter Healthcare); “Career Leadership Considerations” (Caterpillar); and “Putting Your GNP Skills to Work” (Lauterbach & Amen and the U.S. Government Accountability Office), to name just a few of the recent BAP programs. The annual “Mock Audit” at Crowe Horwath’s Oak Brook office each fall continues to be a very popular and unique event.

Gamma Pi Chapter nominated Dean Denise Schoenbachler for Beta Alpha Psi’s 2015 Outstanding Dean Award, and she was selected! Dean Schoenbachler received this prestigious recognition of her good work and her support of our student organizations at the August 2015 BAP Annual Meeting in Milwaukee.

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

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

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 2014/2015 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, 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, March 2014.
Member, American Accounting Association, Institute of Internal Auditors.

Natalie Churyk

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Accounting Education*.
Editorial Review Board Member, *Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting*.
Presenter, various American Accounting Association conferences, August-November 2014.
Member, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois CPA Society, American Accounting Association, International Association for Accounting Education & Research.
Faculty Advisor, Association of Latino Professionals in Finance & Accounting (ALPFA).
President, Midwest Region of the American Accounting Association.
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 and CMAexcel Review.
Member, Institute of Management Accountants, American Accounting Association.

Brad Cripe

Recipient, 2014-2015 NIU Department of Accountancy Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.
Nominee, Illinois Accounting Educator of the Year.
Editorial Board Member, *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation*.
Presenter, American Accounting Association, 2014.
Member, American Accounting Association, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois Society of CPAs, American Taxation Association.

Ann Dzuranin

Recipient, Most Valuable Professor, NIU Women’s Soccer Team, October 2014.
PwC Summer Research Grant for “Shadow IT Risk Assessment”.
Member, Institute of Management Accountants, American Accounting Association.

Chih-Chen Lee

Recipient, Global Research Fellowship, NIU College of Business.
Editorial Review Board Member, *Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting*.
Associate Editor, *Journal of Forensic Accounting Research*.
Presenter, Institute of Fraud Prevention, June 2014, American Accounting Association, March and August 2014.
Chair, AAA FIA section, Publications Committee.
Faculty Advisor, AIESEC.
Faculty Coordinator, International Business Seminar (IBS).

Kate Mantzke

Member, American Accounting Association, American Taxation Association, Illinois CPA Society.

*For articles and textbooks, please contact the faculty member for complete citation and co-authors.*
Linda Matuszewski
Editorial Review Board, Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research.
Member, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois CPA Society, Institute of Management Accountants, American Accounting Association.
Faculty Advisor, Student Accounting Association.

Mark Riley
Recipient, Weick Research Fellowship.
Editorial Board Member, Issues in Accounting Education.
Presenter, American Accounting Association, Atlanta, GA, August 2014.
Member, American Accounting Association, American Institute of CPAs.

Rebecca Shortridge
Board Member, Secretary, Federation of Schools of Accountancy.
Presenter, Conference on Teaching and Learning and American Accounting Association, August 2014.
Member, American Institute of CPAs, Indiana CPA Society, Illinois CPA Society, Accounting Program Leadership Group, American Accounting Association.

Dave Sinason
“Mentoring in Internal Audit Organizations”, Internal Auditing, July/August 2014, 3-9.
Committee Chair, American Accounting Association - Forensic Investigation and Accounting Section.
Member, American Institute of CPA’s, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Illinois CPA Society, Institute of Internal Auditors.

Pam Smith
Master Instructor, KPMG.
Reviewer, Issues in Accounting Education.
Co-Author and Presenter, CPAexcel.
Member, College of Business Ethics Program, Building Ethical Leaders with an Integrated Framework (BELIEF), American Accounting Association, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois CPA Society.

Don Tidrick
Chair, Illinois CPA Society Technical Subcommittee.
Member, Academy of Accounting Historians, American Institute of CPAs, Illinois CPA Society, Institute of Internal Auditors, Comptroller General of the United States’ Educators Advisory Panel.
Co-Author, CPAexcel.

Tammy Waymire
Chair, Standards Committee, American Accounting Association Government and Nonprofit Section.
Recipient, Anthony and Christine Speiser Research Fellowship, August 2014.
Member, Association of Government Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants, American Institute of CPAs, American Accounting Association.

Tim West
Mark Chain Graduate Innovation in Teaching Award, American Accounting Association, 2014.
Presenter, American Accounting Association meeting, March 2014, and Management Accounting Section Research and Case Conference, January 2014.
Member, Academy of Management, American Accounting Association, American Institute of CPAs, Institute of Management Accountants.

Jim Young
Commissioner, AICPA/AAA Pathways Commission.
South-Western Federal Taxation, editor and author, 2016 and 2015 editions.
Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Illinois CPA Society, Illinois Board of Examiners (IBOE) Education Advisory Task Force, Accounting Programs Leadership Group, American Accounting Association.

Carol Yu
Program and Paper Chair, 2014 Midwest Region Meeting Program Committee of the AAA Midwest Region.
ANNUAL ACCOUNTANCY SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS, 2014-15

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 $500,000 of scholarships and awards were presented at our Awards Banquet in September.

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Accountancy Faculty Undergraduate
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Maria Ziebinska

Accountancy Leadership Advisory Council Outstanding Service Award
Ryan D. Held

Accountancy Teaching Assistant Performance Award
Megan D. Rogers

Ascend Outstanding Service Award
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Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting Outstanding Service Award
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