These words – taken from an African proverb – have never been more relevant. In order for us to succeed, there needs to be a shared mission and constituents who are passionate about achieving that mission. We are grateful for our academic “village” (faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends) and the role each plays in contributing to our success.

Our Shared Mission

Detailed in full elsewhere in this newsletter, our shared mission is to “enhance the profession of accountancy . . . prepare students for successful business careers through teaching excellence . . . [engage in] research that will improve accounting education and facilitate accounting professionals . . . advance the profession by providing service.” This mission – affirmed by our constituents – provides the foundation for all our endeavors. But we cannot accomplish it alone. Our mission requires the engagement of a larger community – and we are grateful for our alumni and friends who stand beside us.

Our Faculty and Staff

There is a long tradition of excellence in the Department of Accountancy – established by the Department’s original faculty and entrusted to a new generation over the past decade. This new generation of faculty understands the responsibility that comes with that tradition of excellence and is committed to enhancing and broadening the impact of the Department. NIU Accountancy is a special place because our faculty and staff are fully committed to our mission. 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. This past fall, we welcomed three new faculty members to our family – Meghann Cefaratti, Ann Dzuranin, and Keith Robinson. You’ll find out a bit more about them as you read on. We are also blessed by the presence of our emeriti faculty – who are constant source of wisdom and experience – and continue to influence our mission.

Our Students

Our students are a constant motivator for our faculty. They push us – they prod us – occasionally, they frustrate us – but most often they simply amaze us. And in those moments of amazement, we are fulfilled. At our core of our existence, we desire nothing more than for our students to be successful – and although the world may measure success in terms of wealth – we measure success in very different terms. To us, success is the spark of learning and the commitment to service. And if we are able to generate active learners who look for opportunities to give back – then truly we have succeeded. In the pages that follow, you will read about some of their accomplishments. But one deserves special mention. Department of Accountancy student performance on the CPA exam has ranked among the best in the nation for three decades. In January 2010, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy released pass rates for candidates taking the CPA exam in 2008. NIU Department of Accountancy graduate students placed 18th 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 less than 5 percent.

Our Alumni and Friends

One of the joys of this job has been the privilege of meeting our alumni and friends over the past few years. Although it is not possible to meet all of you, we are always looking for ways to connect (or re-connect). We have over 9,000 alumni (and over 7,000 in the Chicagoland area). Your successes – in your work and in your lives – are a constant source of pride. And, your passion for our Department and its mission is a constant reminder of the role our emeriti faculty played in building this Department. We also are grateful for the many friends of the Department who – although not alumni – stand beside us in accomplishing our mission. You are engaged in the lives of our faculty and students – in the classroom, at student organization events, and recruiting our students. Thank you for investing your time and energy. But you also understand that time and energy are not enough – so you also invest in the Department financially (thank you). Words simply cannot express the depth of gratitude we have for all you do for us. But know we are grateful for your assistance as we continue to build our village.

Earned Excellence

THE BEST BUSINESS SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD
THE BEST ACCOUNTING PROGRAMS IN THE WORLD

Dates for Employers!

Alumni Golf Outing—June 7, 2010
Awards Banquet—September 1, 2010
Meet the Firm Night—September 8, 2010
Meet the Intern Night—October 27, 2010
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS VISIT NIU

John Veihmeyer, CPA, U.S. CEO and Deputy Chairman, KPMG visited NIU in October, 2009, to share his insights about important challenges and opportunities facing the accounting profession from his rather unique perspective as a leader of a Big Four firm. He was very complimentary of the national reputation of NIU’s accounting programs and the Department’s continuing commitment to academic and professional excellence and impact. He also shared interesting life lessons about integrity, leadership, and building trust that made lasting impressions on our students and faculty members. This memorable event was also well attended by our outstanding alumni affiliated with KPMG.

Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, executive director of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) spoke in March 2009, on the topic of “Improving Communication Between Government and Taxpayers.” AGA has advocated an interesting 4-page “Citizen-Centric Reporting Model” to more effectively communicate information regarding governmental entities that is understandable, updated regularly, accessible, and accurate. His suggested reporting model would reflect the following content guidelines: (1) strategic objectives and demographic information; (2) primary accomplishments and key performance metrics; (3) revenues and expenses (presented in pie charts); and (4) a discussion of future challenges and infrastructure issues. Dr. Van Daniker said, “Governments who embrace Citizen-Centric Reporting are on the forefront of making government more accessible to the citizens they serve.”

John Blumberg, CPA, is a Certified Speaking Professional, which is a distinction earned by fewer than 10 percent of the members of the International Speakers Federation. He is also the author of 2 books: (1) Silent Alarm, which might be described as a parable of hope for busy professionals; and (2) more recently, Good to the Core: Building Value With Values. Good to the Core focuses on identifying one’s personal and organizational core values and integrating those into daily life. Mr. Blumberg’s earlier career was with Arthur Andersen, where he became responsible for the Firm’s worldwide recruiting. He left the Firm in 1996 to pursue his passion for public speaking. Information about Mr. Blumberg, including his books and his thought-provoking blog (called “The Front Porch”) can be found at www.keynoteconcepts.com. Interestingly, our Chapter’s exposure to Mr. Blumberg first occurred in 2008 at the BAP national meetings in Anaheim, California, where he was a featured speaker. He was happy to visit NIU to make an outstanding motivational presentation in September, 2009, which was convenient to his home in Naperville!

C. Bryan Cloyd, PhD, CPA, the John E. Peterson, Jr., Professor of Accounting at Virginia Tech, made an inspirational presentation in April, 2009, entitled, “Finding Meaning in Life Through Service to Others.” A nationally prominent professor of taxation, this was Professor Cloyd’s second visit to NIU – his first was on February 14, 2009, to represent the Virginia Tech community at NIU’s Day of Remembrance. During that February visit, he met with most of the family members of the five NIU students taken from us one year earlier. Sadly, he knows their pain too well. His daughter, Austin Michelle Cloyd, was among the 32 students and faculty members taken in the Virginia Tech shooting on April 16, 2007, as she attended her freshman French class. One of our guests at this presentation was Mr. Gary Parmenter, whose son, Dan, a finance major, was among the victims of the NIU shooting. Professor Cloyd and his wife, Renee, have remained active in their support of Appalachia Service Project (www.asphome.org), which Austin had been active in serving. Gayle Dubowski, another of the victims of the NIU shooting, was likewise dedicated to Appalachia Service Project. At the conclusion of Professor Cloyd’s presentation, our Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) chapter presented him with an honorary check payable to Appalachia Service Project in the amount of $5000 in remembrance of NIU and Virginia Tech.
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.

2009 Outstanding Alumni

Gregory A. Bergmann - Partner, Deloitte Tax LLP

Greg graduated from NIU in 1983 and prior to joining Deloitte, he was a partner at Arthur Andersen. Greg has over twenty years of experience specializing in multistate income and franchise taxes. His clients include major retailers, distributors, manufacturers, and professional service firms. He is a CPA and a member of the AICPA. He is also a member of the state and local tax committees of the Chicago Bar Association and the American Bar Association. A frequent instructor and speaker on state tax matters, Greg has written several articles on various state tax issues. He currently co-teaches the Multijurisdictional Taxation class in the Masters of Tax program at the University of Illinois and serves on the NIU Accountancy Executive Advisory Council.

Lance J. Smith - Partner, Ernst & Young, LLP

Lance graduated from NIU in 1984. He has spent his entire career in public accounting, and has been with Ernst & Young since 1990, becoming an assurance partner in 1999. Lance’s client base consists of public and private real estate companies and includes REITs, private equity funds and independent developers. He is also a member of NAREIT, the AICPA and the Illinois CPA Society.

Lance is responsible for Ernst & Young’s recruiting effort at NIU and has been a frequent guest speaker in accounting classes and student organizations. He is a charter member of the NIU Accountancy Executive Advisory Council. Lance was also the recipient of the 2002 NIU Department of Accountancy Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Ralph Wiechert - Sr. Director of Finance, Motorola, Inc.

Ralph joined Motorola upon graduation from NIU in 1978, and has spent over 25 years in the cellular industry in a number of global finance leadership positions including Operations Controller for the Europe and Asia, Latin America and U.S. markets, V.P. of Finance for the America’s cellular networks group overseeing sales, engineering, and manufacturing operations, and various finance leadership assignments supporting research and development, product management, and pricing. In 2008, Ralph joined the corporate strategy team assigned to spin off of the cellular phone business from Motorola.

Ralph has served on the NIU Accountancy Executive Advisory Council since 2002 and on the NIU College of Business Executive Advisory Council since 2007.

2009 Honorary Alumni

Donald Kieso - NIU KPMG Peat Marwick Professor Emeritus

Don taught accounting at Northern Illinois University for 30 years, served as chairman of the Department of Accountancy, and was the University’s first recipient of an externally financed professorship – the KPMG Peat Marwick Professor of Accountancy (financed by 10 partners at KPMG, all former students of his and NIU alumni). He received his bachelor’s degree from Aurora University, his master’s and doctorate from the University of Illinois and did post-doctorate work as a visiting scholar at the University of California (Berkeley). He has public accounting experience with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Arthur Andersen & Co. and research experience with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Don is the recipient of numerous teaching, alumni and service awards and was the first recipient of NIU’s Teaching Excellence Award. He is the author of 24 accounting and business books, three of which are best sellers with translations in 13 languages. He has served on 18 corporate, institution, and foundation boards of directors and is currently serving as vice chairman and director of the KishHealth System, immediate past Chairman of the Board of Aurora University, and on the Board of the Illinois Hospital Association.
George W. Krull, Jr. - Retired Partner, Grant Thornton

George retired in 2000 as a partner in the Executive Office of Grant Thornton LLP, where he was the National Director of Strategic Learning from 1982 to 2000. He continues his involvement with business and accounting education through his participation in the AICPA, the American Accounting Association, and the AACSB Accounting Accreditation Committee, among others. He has served on numerous AICPA committees and task forces and is also a member of the NIU Accountancy Executive Advisory Council. George served two terms as a member of the AACSB’s Accounting Accreditation Committee, and he continues to do peer reviews of business and accounting education programs. In 2008, he was appointed to another three-year term on the AACSB’s Accounting Accreditation Committee. When that term finishes, he will have served the accounting accreditation effort in four different decades.

George is involved in recruiting high school students to study business and accounting and practitioners to enter doctoral programs in accounting. He is a frequent speaker and has authored several articles.

Rawley Thomas - President, LifeCycle Returns, Inc.

LifeCycle Returns supports investment funds, consulting firms and investment banks with process consulting and licensed platforms to create world-class capabilities in their use of Value Management principles. Prior to joining Life-Cycle Returns, Rawley served as Assistant Treasurer of SuperValu Stores, joined Callard, Madden in 1981, co-founded HOLT Planning in 1985, and directed Value Management research for The Boston Consulting Group for eleven years. Rawley is V.P. of Practitioner Services for the Financial Management Association International (FMA) and is Chairman of the FMA Practitioner Research Committee. Currently, he serves on the NIU Accountancy Executive Advisory Council and chairs the FMA Practitioner Demand Driven Academic Research Initiative (PDDARI) supported by the CFA Society of Chicago. The objective of PDDARI is to facilitate the development of cutting edge research useful to practitioners, their firms, and the profession and to encourage interaction between the practitioner and academic communities.

KPMG ENDOWS PROFESSORSHIP IN DEPARTMENT

In September 2009, KPMG alumni – with the assistance of the KPMG Foundation – created the first endowed professorship at NIU in the Department of Accountancy. Endowed professorships are one of the most prestigious faculty honors and support in perpetuity of an outstanding faculty member. The endowed professorship exemplifies a bond between KPMG and the Department of Accountancy that has been cultivated for more than three decades. Our KPMG alumni have been engaged in the lives of our Department in many ways – in the classroom, at student organization events, and recruiting our students. But they also understand that time and energy are not enough – they also know they need to invest in the Department financially.

Our alumni at Peat Marwick Mitchell (now KPMG) established the first named professorship at Northern Illinois University in 1986. In 2003, they provided funding to name our Department suite in Barsema Hall – another first at NIU. And in 2009, these alumni made a $675,000 financial commitment to permanently endow the KPMG Professorship – the first ever at NIU.

Things have changed a lot in higher education over the past 30 years – but one thing that hasn’t changed is the strong commitment of our KPMG alumni and the KPMG Foundation to our educational mission. We are grateful for this commitment – a lasting legacy from our KPMG alumni to future generations of Department faculty and students.
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY WELCOMES THREE NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Megan Cefaratti joined the NIU faculty in 2009 after receiving her Ph.D. in Accounting from Virginia Tech. She is a former auditor for the Air Force Audit Agency (AFAA) where her audit coverage included Andrews Air Force Base, the Pentagon and various Air National Guard installations. Prior to working with the AFAA, she worked as a tax associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Baltimore, Maryland.

Megan teaches financial accounting and assurance services. Her primary research interest involves the study of the effect of corroborating evidence on auditors’ fraud risk assessment judgments. She is also interested in research in auditors’ assessment of client truthfulness. She is a member of the American Accounting Association, and her research has received awards from the Accounting and Information Systems Educators Association.

Ann Dzuranin joined the faculty at NIU in 2009 following the completion of her Ph.D. at the University of South Florida. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Fairleigh Dickinson University and her Master of Business Administration degree from New York University. Ann is a CPA and has 15 years of experience in both public and corporate accounting. She was the Director of Management Accounting and International Reporting for a Fortune 100 financial service company prior to returning to academia to pursue her doctoral degree.

Ann’s teaching and research interests are in managerial decision-making, incentive compensation, and accounting information systems. Specifically, she is interested in biases in capital project investment decisions and the ways in which accounting information systems interact with those decisions.

Keith Robinson joined the Department as Director of Leadership Development in our revised Leadership MAS program. Keith brings to our program over 23 years of global and domestic talent development experience with a variety of Fortune 500 corporations (including Marsh, Inc., UBS, and Allstate). One of Keith’s passions is life-long learning and the impact it can have on an individual’s and organization’s ability to produce change and drive results. As a leader, coach and mentor in the business community, he stresses learning and communication combined with practical tools and hard work, as the keys to business success. His belief is that honest and thoughtful feedback at all levels in an organization will make it stronger. Keith holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resources from Western Connecticut State University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UPDATE

Tim West Earns the American Accounting Association 2009 Best Paper Award

In November 2009, Tim West was selected to receive the American Accounting Association (AAA) Management Accounting Section’s Best Paper Award for his article “Spending Patterns with Lapsing Budgets: Evidence from U.S. Army Hospitals”. Tim’s paper was published originally in the Journal of Management Accounting Research in 2007 and was co-authored by Ramji Balakrishnan from the University of Iowa and Naomi Soderstrom from the University of Colorado-Boulder. The authors’ research explores how a lapsing budget affects intra- and inter-year spending patterns and how managers accumulate and expend reserves in periods of uncertainty.
Don Tidrick Receives Illinois CPA Society 2010 Educator of the Year Award

Don Tidrick, Deloitte Professor of Accountancy, was named the Illinois CPA Society’s 2010 Educator of the Year. A highly intense state-wide competition, the Illinois CPA Society’s selection of Don as the award winner is a testament to his talents and abilities. Don’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) and Pam Smith (2008). The Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS) is a statewide, professional membership organization that serves students, educators, and related finance professionals. Founded in 1903, the ICPAS boasts more than 22,700 members and is the fifth largest CPA society in the nation. In addition to this accolade, Don was also selected to receive the Department’s 2009-2010 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award – presented to the 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. Congratulations Don!

Lisa Madlinger Receives Department Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award

Lisa Madlinger was selected by the Department’s undergraduate accountancy majors to receive the 2009-2010 Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award. This is a relatively new award 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 Lisa!

Trio of Accountancy Professors Earn Major Honors

Accountancy professors Linda Matuszewski, Rebecca Shortridge and Pam Smith all were honored in 2009 for the unique approaches they have brought to the classroom by earning what academics across the country consider to be premier awards for innovation in accountancy education.

Linda Matuszewski was awarded The Bea Sanders/AICPA Innovation in Teaching Award for developing a unique case (UCare) for her class in managerial accounting. The case requires her undergraduate students to organize a fictitious charitable event from start to finish, including a business plan that includes marketing and operations, budgeting, a cost-volume profit analysis and other components. The project compels students to evaluate unstructured situations, recognize the importance of documenting the assumptions underlying their accounting estimates and to apply managerial accounting concepts.

Rebecca Shortridge, Gaylen and Joanne Larson Professor of Accountancy, was awarded The Federation of Schools of Accountancy Innovation in Graduate Education Award for her efforts to prepare students for a broad view of the business world by revamping the MAS capstone class. The course focuses on business valuation and how different facets of business influence that concept. The approach, which is fairly common in MBA courses, means less time spent on lectures and more on team activities, guest speakers and case studies to demonstrate how various aspects of business interconnect. “It’s easy for accountancy students to get caught up in memorizing rules and learning formulas

(Continued on page 8)
Trio of Accountancy Professors Earn Major Honors (continued from page 7)

and to lose sight of the bigger picture”, Rebecca says. “In this class I try to get them to ask skeptical questions about how the markets work, and where accounting fits into the big picture. I prod them to question the assumptions that go into financial reports and challenge them to think critically.”

Pam Smith, KPMG Professor of Accountancy, was awarded the American Accounting Association Innovation in Accounting Education Award for her work related to derivative instruments. The ability to break down this complex topic is the foundation of Pam’s approach, which she has carefully honed over the last decade. The result has become what many consider to be the most comprehensive approach available for teaching the topic. “It’s a very intimidating topic. It crosses the line into finance, and the accounting is very complex,” acknowledges Pam. Her approach to the subject has been adopted by countless faculty across the country and so Pam’s efforts are impacting thousands of advanced accounting students each year.

NIU College of Business Dean Denise Schoenbachler pointed out that creativity in the classroom has always been a hallmark of NIU Accountancy’s program that long has ranked among the best. “Innovative teaching is one reason that NIU Accountancy always comes up in any discussion of the top accountancy programs in the country,” Schoenbachler says. “Classes like those developed by Rebecca, Linda and Pam not only keep us on the cutting edge, but also ensure that we graduate students who are ready to tackle the tasks expected of accounting professionals in today’s fast changing business world.”

Congratulations Linda, Rebecca and Pam!

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 Seidman LLP
Marcus Bode, SpearMC Management Consulting, Inc.
Gary Burge, Huron Consulting Group Inc.
Phil Fontana, KKP Group LLC
Matt Garling, Lawson Products, Inc.
Gordy Gruszka, Motorola
Dianne Guensberg, United States Government Accountability Office
Steve Hajdukovic, KPMG LLP
Julie Hansberry, Cincinnati Tool Steel Company
Anthony Harmon, KPMG LLP
Jim Hendricks, Emeritus Faculty –NIU
Ernest Iannotta, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Terry Jimenez, Newsday
Joe Joyce, Plante & Moran
Mark Kramer, Hewitt Associates
Jim Kranjec, Ryan

George Krull, Grant Thornton
Gaylen Larson, Financial Accounting Standards Board
Jeff Markert, KPMG LLP
Ricky Max, Miller Cooper & Co.
Erica O’Malley, Grant Thornton
Dino Orfanos, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Patrick Picha, Accenture
Christina Pierce, KPMG, LLP
Ken Pinsky, Warady & Davis LLP
Adam Regelbrugge, Deloitte
Barry Shaw, Wolf & Co.
Lance Smith, Ernst & Young LLP
Rob Stoettner, McGladrey & Pullen
Dave Swinehart, Recruiting Professional
Jody Taylor, RC2 Corporation
Dave Templin, Caterpillar, Inc.
Jim Thomas, Clifton Gunderson LLP
Rawley Thomas, LifeCycle Returns, Inc.
Rick Thompson, Sikich LLP
Charlotte Vrba, Crowe Chizek & Co. LLP
Jim Wong, Clear Focus Financial Search, LLC
ACCOUNTANCY STUDENT GROUPS CONTINUE TO EXCEL

Accountancy Leadership Advisory Council (ALAC)

ALAC is a group comprised of students with evidenced leadership abilities who provide service to the department. Professor Jim Young 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 25 members. Five students attended the national convention this past summer where the NIU Chapter was awarded the Midwest Region Student Chapter of the Year. Professor Natalie Churyk is the faculty advisor. The current officers are: Daniela Villa – President, Jennifer Miranda –Vice President, Leonel Herrera – Secretary, Krystal Hernandez – Treasurer, Armando Aguilar –Public Relations, Cesar Bonilla – Fundraiser Director, Lupe Ortiz – Social Chair Director, Martha Meraz – Director of Community Service and Christina Espinosa – Webmaster.

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

NIU’s (Gamma Pi) Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) had another outstanding year in 2009. In April, a group from NIU participated in the BAP Midwest Regional Meeting in Indianapolis, which was well attended and which received high marks. Participants attended from 5 states and the event was filled to capacity. Another group of BAP members represented NIU in August at the BAP National Meeting in Brooklyn; and our Gamma Pi Chapter was delighted to be recognized again as a “Superior Chapter.”

In 2009, we initiated 57 students into permanent BAP membership. Our speaker and guest-of-honor at the April initiation banquet was Mr. Asaf Kahn, Director, Financial Management and Assurance at the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

We continued to be fortunate to have outstanding professional programs throughout the fall and the spring semesters on an interesting variety of topics. A few highlights from 2009 are the following: Identity Theft (Mr. Chris Bosowski, U.S. Secret Service); From Backpack to Briefcase (Illinois CPA Society); Professional Ethics Enforcement (Keith Martin, Plante & Moran, and chair of the ICPAS Ethics Committee); Fraud & Forensic Accounting (Mr. Toby Bishop, director of Deloitte’s Forensic Center); Unclaimed Property Laws (Mr. Bill Buechler, Crowe Horwath); and a GAO Update (Mr. Steve Koons, GAO, Washington, DC) to name a subset of those professional meetings.

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. During 2009, the Chapter raised approximately $20,000 – thanks, in part, to matching programs – to contribute to two selected charitable organizations: (1) Appalachia Service Project, having a domestic focus (and which was a service priority to NIU’s Ms. Gayle Dubowski and Virginia Tech’s Ms. Austin Cloyd, representing another bond between these two great universities); and Opportunity International, a microfinance organization providing targeted loans to alleviate poverty on a global basis.

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 (Omicron Chapter), continues to serve as Gamma Pi’s faculty advisor.

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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 Natalie Churyk is the faculty advisor. The current officers are: Tim Njue – President, Wallace Gamble – Internal Vice President, Robert Payne – External Vice President, Patrice Richardson – Treasurer, Emma Asamoah - Public Relations Director and Pierre Taylor – Secretary.

Student Accountancy Society (SAS)

Student Accountancy Society (SAS) is a student organization that focuses on networking with accounting professionals and serving the community. SAS currently has approximately 110 members and is run by an executive board of fourteen members under the guidance of faculty advisor, David Sinason and Linda Matuszewski.

SAS brings professionals, organizations and public accounting firms together to speak to the members about the accounting field and current business issues. Some of the main topics discussed include professional ethics, leadership, academic accounting opportunities, communication skills, and business etiquette.

SAS is an active participant in many community service opportunities including a clothing drive, blood drive, and food drive; assisting on bingo nights at the Oakcrest Retirement Center; serving and preparing food at Hope Haven; and assisting at the DeKalb Animal Shelter. Other events include a golf outing, bowling, an ice cream social and attending sporting events.

NIU ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS WIN PWC xTAX CHALLENGE

Several NIU Accountancy students won awards in the 2009 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) xTAX Challenge. The xTAX (short for extreme tax) Challenge is a program designed by PwC to foster interest among students in the world of tax and provide them with exposure to a “real world” tax case. Each team must have five participants including two sophomores, one junior and two others at any college grade level. xTAX teams have two weeks to research an assigned high level question about an important tax issue that has no one correct answer. The topic is generally one that students have not encountered before. Teams must consider multiple stakeholder viewpoints, collect information about alternatives and select a course of action. Developing a position on these important issues is difficult, challenging and exciting. The teams then prepare a presentation supporting their conclusions for a team of PwC professionals.

In addition to gaining experience with teamwork, critical thinking and communication skills, students also network with members of the tax profession. According to Accountancy student Steven Yarger, an xTAX participant and one of the 2009 first place winners, “The PwC xTAX Challenge is a remarkable experience and is socially and professionally rewarding. It allowed me to meet new people and work with them to develop a professional presentation. Over the past three years, I have worked with great teammates in developing these presentations, and I am happy I could be a part of each of these fantastic experiences.”

NIUs first place team won $1,000. Congratulations to our winners!
Let’s begin by answering your first question: How are NIU students doing on the CPA exam? The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) reports that NIU undergraduates ranked 18th in the nation among first-time candidates passing all four sections upon first attempt. What a remarkable achievement. A ranking in the top 25 institutions is like making it to the NCAA tournament as a high seed. NIU was joined in the rankings by one other Illinois school – Illinois Wesleyan. More than 1,000 schools compete for the top 25 rankings.

Thank you to the class of 2008 for carrying on the NIU CPA passing tradition. You have performed well. It’s a collective effort among NIU College of Business faculty, especially the accountancy professors, the CPA Review faculty, and the graduates. All of the hard work pays off; our graduates have achieved and made a sound investment in their future. Thanks to the faculty who help give our graduates a solid foundation. Students we applaud you for working diligently to make the passing grade. If you haven’t passed the exam yet, there is no time to waste. Exam changes have been announced.

**IFRS is coming to the CPA exam.** Beginning January 1, 2011, both International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) will be tested. Craig Mills, Vice-President of the AICPA Examinations staff, states that many United States entities are preparing financial statements using both generally accepted accounting principles and IFRS. Entry-level auditors must be able to audit statements using generally accepted auditing standards, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board standards, and International standards on auditing. Anyone eligible to sit for the exam in 2010 should complete the Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR) and the Auditing and Attestation (AUDIT) sections first. If possible, avoid the extra preparation time required to become knowledgeable in the international standards. Pass FAR and AUDIT in 2010.

Don’t worry; if you aren’t eligible to sit for the exam until 2011 or after, the NIU CPA Review will be ready to help you. We plan to offer a tutorial and an on-line training tool to assist candidates in gaining the necessary competence in all International areas. To monitor our progress, see our website www.cpareview.niu.edu. The NIU CPA Review can be taken live, in a classroom setting, or on-line using MP3 format recordings. We are wherever our candidates go. This year, candidates from Switzerland, Germany, Iraq, South Korea, and Japan took our courses.

In last year’s newsletter, I reminded employers to encourage accountants to pass the exam. In these challenging times, a key hiring differential is the CPA credential. Employers, I know your employees appreciate your assistance and encouragement. I hear first-hand how grateful they are. Thank you to all employers for supporting their employees and for recommending that they take the NIU CPA Review. Your loyalty to our program is essential to our success.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have questions about the CPA exam or our review program, please contact me at (815) 753-6207 or email dhopkins@niu.edu.
RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

Natalie Churyk


Nominated and elected into Zeta Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Delta, an international honor society.

Treasurer, American Accounting Association Teaching Learning & Curriculum Section.

Co-Chair, American Accounting Association Forensic and Investigative Accounting Membership Acquisition and Retention.

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Committee member, Illinois CPA Society Women’s Executive Committee, Women to Watch Award Committee, and Financial Literacy Committee.

Committee member, Caterpillar University Relations Team and Strategic Planning Committee American Accounting Association Teaching Learning & Curriculum Section.

Program Mentor/Campus Recruiter, KPMG Future Diversity Leaders Program.

Faculty Advisor, Association of Latino Professionals in Finance & Accounting (ALPFA) and National Association of Black Accountants (NABA).

Doug Clinton

Recipient, Burge Family Faculty Research Fellow (two year research fellowship), 2007-2009.

Associate Editor, Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research.

IMA Contributing Editor for Strategic Cost Management.

Senior Content Advisor, IMA Centre of Excellence.

Editorial Board, Issues in Accounting Education, Strategic Finance, Management Accounting Quarterly, and Journal of Accounting Education.

Regent, Institute of Certified Management Accountants Board of Regents.

Director, Resource Consumption Accounting Institute Board of Directors.


Chih-Chen Lee


“Using Role-Playing Games in an Ethics Case”, Journal of Forensic and Investigative Accounting, 1(2). 


“Does Familiarity with Interviewee’s White Lying Make it Easier to Detect the Interviewee’s Deceptions”? with R.B. Welker. Presented at AAA annual meeting, New York, NY, August 2009.

Moderator, “Creating and Using Fraud Cases in Accounting Classes” at the AAA annual meeting.

Passed the Certified Fraud Examiner exam and became a CFE.

Recipient, NIU Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award.


Member at large, American Accounting Association, Information Systems.

Associate Editor, Web Services for Journal of Information Systems.

Committee member, American Accounting Association, Forensic Accounting Section, By-laws committee.

Chair of New Journal Committee, American Accounting Association, Forensic Accounting Section.

Member, Phi Beta Delta (Honor society for scholars interested in international research), Zeta Gamma Chapter at NIU, Illinois CPA Society, ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association), and ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners).

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Faculty Advisor, Taiwanese Students Association.

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Editorial Board, Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation.

Committee Member, American Taxation Association New Faculty Concerns Committee.

Debra Hopkins


President, of the International Association of CPA Review Exam Providers (APACPA).

Board of Director and Audit Committee (Financial Expert) of the National Bank & Trust, Sycamore, Illinois.

Kate Mantzke


*For articles and textbooks, please contact faculty member for complete citation and co-authors.
Linda Matuszewski
Recipient, Bea Sanders/AICPA Innovation in Teaching Award for “UCare: A Business Plan Project for Managerial Accounting Classes,” with F. Miller, presented in Effective Learning Strategy forum sessions at the American Accounting Association Midwest Meeting, St. Louis, MO, April 2009 and the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August 2009.

Mark Riley
Editorial Board, Issues in Accounting Education.

Rebecca Shortridge
Editorial Board, Issues in Accounting Education.
Member, Midwest Regional Meeting Steering Committee of American Accounting Association.

David Sinason

Pam Smith
“Ethics, Professionalism and You.” Presentation to the IMA Student Leadership Conference, St Louis, MO, November 2009.
Coordinator, College of Business Ethics Program, Building Ethical Leaders with an Integrated Ethics Framework (BELIEF) Initiative.
Faculty Advisor to LEAD (Leaders in Ethics and Academic Discipline) student organization component of the BELIEF Initiative.
Faculty Advisor to student team that represented NIU at the Eller Ethics Case Competition, University of Arizona, October 2009.
American Accounting Association, 2009 Innovation in Accounting Education Award.
Executive MBA, 2009 Golden Apple Award.
Associate Editor, Issues in Accounting Education.
Treasurer and Executive Board Member, DeKalb County Quilters Guild.

Don Tidrick
Recipient, Department of Accountancy’s Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.
Faculty Advisor, Beta Alpha Psi (Gamma Pi Chapter).
Member (and former chair), Institute of Internal Auditors’ Academic Relations Committee.

Tammy Waymire

Jim Young
“Inflation Adjustments Affecting Individuals in 2010,” Tax Notes, November 2, 2009.
South-Western Federal Taxation (2011 Edition); Series Editor.
Accounting Programs Leadership Group Board of Governors (American Accounting Association).
AACS Accounting Accreditation Committee.
Illinois Board of Examiners Education Advisory Task Force.

Carol Yu
Congratulations to the following students for their excellence performance, which has resulted in their receipt of the following scholarships and award. We also express our appreciation to the individuals, companies, and firms that provided the financial support for these awards. Over $246,000 of scholarships and awards were presented at our Awards Banquet in September.
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