


# Taking AIM


SPRING 2008


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## Warren Slagle Accounting Day October 4, 2008



Johnny Majors

**O**n Saturday, October 4, 2008, the Department of Accounting and Information Management will hold its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Warren Slagle Accounting Day at the Knoxville Marriott. Each year, Accounting Day hosts over 500 alumni, recruiters, students, faculty, and staff, making it the largest department-sponsored alumni event at the University of Tennessee.

Accounting Day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a social hour, followed by a buffet brunch. Our department head, Dan Murphy, will introduce the event by updating us on departmental activities over the past year. We then will be honored as former UT Football Coach Johnny Majors takes the stage as our keynote speaker.

Well-known to all University of Tennessee fans, Coach Majors led the VOLS to a 116-62-8 record over 16 seasons, from 1977-92, that included three SEC titles and numerous bowl-game appearances. In 2005, Coach Majors was inducted into the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Hall of Fame. At the induction ceremony, Chairman Leeman Bennett said, "Most football coaches are fortunate to be revered at one university during their career. It takes a special individual like Coach Majors to achieve the legendary status he has at both the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Tennessee."

Following the Accounting Day activities, UT's football team will take on the Northern Illinois Huskies at Neyland Stadium. Look for further information on obtaining tickets to both Accounting Day and this exciting football game. GO VOLS!

## Commencement Speaker Larry Evans of Dixon Hughes PLLC



Larry Evans

**T**he College of Business Administration is proud to have Larry Evans, CPA, as its 2008 commencement speaker. Larry is an alumnus of UT, earning both his B.S. in economics and MBA.

Larry is the managing member of the Dixon Hughes' Atlanta office. He concentrates his practice in the areas of tax planning and consulting, primarily in the finance, manufacturing and agribusiness industries. He serves the needs of corporate clients, providing such services as strategic planning and corporate merger and reorganization structuring.

Larry was a manager with an international accounting firm prior to co-founding a local firm in 1977. His local firm merged with Crisp Hughes & Co. LLP in 1996 to form Crisp Hughes Evans LLP, merging again with Dixon Odom PLLC to form Dixon Hughes PLLC in 2004.

# Department Head Welcome



Dan Murphy  
Department Head  
Accounting and Information  
Management

**A**s the memory of a dreary winter fades and the colors of spring arrive, the changing seasons remind us of the many exciting changes occurring in our profession and at UT. The Department of Accounting and Information Management takes great pride in our efforts to prepare our students to succeed in a global society, to conduct meaningful research, and to serve as leaders in the profession. Our pride and optimism reflects the increasing quality of our students, the dynamism of our curriculum, and our outstanding faculty.

The market demand for accounting graduates with outstanding content knowledge and skills continues to grow. In days gone by, mastery of technical knowledge was sufficient to ensure many graduates a good career. However, today's graduates must possess technical knowledge and excellent interpersonal skills, global business awareness, and proficiency in information management. We have been fortunate to attract a growing number of terrific students to the accounting major who are acquiring this portfolio of knowledge and skills in their classes, through their extracurricular activities, and from their internship experiences.

To make students aware of the many professional opportunities available to our graduates, the department has expanded its Accounting Stars receptions. High-performing students, regardless of major, are invited to meet with faculty and professionals and learn more about the major and the profession. Student reaction has been enthusiastic, and we have successfully attracted many students to the accounting major. Student awareness is furthered through the Professional Awareness Program integrated into our first financial reporting course and the expansion of our Beta Alpha Psi chapter.

Our Master of Accountancy accounting curriculum is designed to provide students both breadth and depth of knowledge. Students study the authoritative literature and develop an additional understanding of global business issues, advanced information management topics, team-building, communication skills, and contemporary professional issues. As the demands on our students increase, I am repeatedly impressed with their performance and professionalism.

I can't overstate how proud I am of our faculty. We are fortunate to have on our team a unique mix of nationally recognized scholars, award-winning classroom teachers, and professional leaders. While we all contribute in different ways, we share a culture of mutual respect and a deep commitment to our students' career success, our profession, and our department's mission.

The University of Tennessee has just launched its Campaign for Tennessee. I am proud to report that 100 percent of our faculty and staff have made campaign pledges! This is an incredible testament to our belief in what we are doing for our students. I ask each of you to join us in this effort — to take UT to “the next level” by contributing to the Accounting Excellence Fund. Thanks!

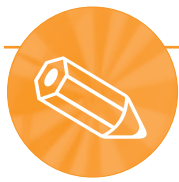
Dr. Murphy recently was named this year's Outstanding Educator by the Tennessee Society of CPAs. We are proud of this well-deserved recognition of our outstanding department head.



## Curriculum Corner

*UT's Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program has undergone several significant changes during the past year.*

1. To better prepare our MAcc graduates for the business environment of today and tomorrow, and to track with overall university and College of Business Administration globalization initiatives, the MAcc program has added a course, taught by Dan Murphy, that focuses on current global economic and business issues.
2. The program now contains a semester-long course, taught by LeAnn Luna, devoted to tax research, practice, and procedures; topics that previously were embedded in other courses. This course will give our MAcc students greater experience in these practical skills.
3. We have added another semester-long course, taught by Sarah Clinton, that provides extensive coverage of business acquisitions and consolidations for financial statements. This course complements the existing corporate tax course, which includes the tax ramifications of corporate mergers and acquisitions.
4. We have expanded coverage of derivatives and other financing instruments in one of the program's financial accounting courses. Increased exposure to these topics will give our MAcc students the necessary skills to deal with modern financing vehicles.



# Student Profiles

*The success of our educational mission relies on the high-quality students that we attract into our baccalaureate and graduate programs. Our department traditionally has attracted top business students, and this year is no exception. To provide you with added insight into our programs, we have profiled three of our outstanding students.*

## Ann Watts, Doctoral Candidate

Ann Boyd Watts, CPA, is a second-year accounting doctoral student. In 2001, Ann graduated from UT with her Master in Accountancy degree (tax concentration). After five years in the corporate world, Ann returned to UT to earn her Ph.D.

Ann serves as a research assistant in the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), a unit in the college that researches policy issues in Tennessee. Her responsibilities include writing reports for on-going research, including the monthly revenue reports that analyze the various taxes in Tennessee. She also has taught fundamentals of accounting.

Ann's research interests include the effects that federal tax legislation has on state tax policies, revenues, and economic climates. In November 2007, she presented at the National Tax Association's annual conference a paper she co-authored with Assistant Professor LeAnn Luna titled "State Conformity: Factors that Influence States' Decisions to Decouple from U.S. Federal Tax Provisions." The article recently was published in the conference proceedings as well as in *State Tax Notes*. Ann plans to pursue an academic career after completing her degree.



Ann Watts  
Ph.D.

## Beata Deitrick, MAcc

Beata Deitrick earned her bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Tennessee in May 2007. She graduated summa cum laude and earned the Chancellor's Top Collegiate Scholar Award.

Immigrating to the United States from Hong Kong when she was 11 years old, Beata speaks fluent Chinese, English, and business-level Japanese; she studied in Japan for nine months in 2005.

Since joining the Master of Accountancy program, Beata has worked as a student auditor in UT's internal audit department; interned with Dixon Hughes for two summers; and served

as president of Beta Alpha Psi, UT's accounting honor organization. She also has taught Junior Achievement courses and has sung in the UT concert choir.

Beata's MAcc focus currently is tax. She is working as a teaching assistant in a systems course and teaching two lab sections on the functionality of Microsoft Access, queries, forms, and reports. In 2007, she received the Guy L. Lachine Memorial Award for accounting professionalism and the Singleton B. Wolfe Federal Tax Conference Outstanding Accounting Student Award. After graduation, Beata will be joining Dixon Hughes in Atlanta.



Beata Deitrick  
MAcc

## Caroline Murphy, Undergraduate

Caroline Murphy, a senior accounting major, will pursue her Master of Accountancy degree beginning August 2008. As an undergraduate, Caroline completed a summer internship with Dixon Hughes in Atlanta, Georgia, which solidified her decision to pursue a career in taxation. This summer, Caroline will intern with the Deloitte and Touche international tax group in New York City.

Caroline has been afforded numerous opportunities to travel, including a semester studying in Barcelona, Spain, and trips to South America,

China, Japan, and Europe. She cites her love for traveling and discovering new cultures as a major influence on her decision to pursue a career in international taxation.

Caroline has been actively involved on campus during her four years at UT, serving as president of the Daughters of the American Revolution, executive board member of the Student Alumni Associates, Mortar Board Honor Society treasurer, and member of Chi Omega Sorority and the Financial Management Association.



Caroline Murphy  
Undergraduate



# Faculty and Staff Highlights

## AIM Welcomes New Faculty



Sarah Clinton  
Assistant Professor

### Sarah Clinton, Assistant Professor

Sarah Clinton joined UT's Department of Accounting and Information Management after receiving her Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Georgia. She received her B.B.A. and M.S. in accounting from Texas A&M University and has been a Certified Public Accountant since 2000. Prior to obtaining her Ph.D., Sarah worked with

PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, in both the Dallas, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, offices. Her research interests include examining what information firms choose to voluntarily disclose and what leads firms to make their disclosure decisions. Sarah is teaching financial accounting to both undergraduate and graduate students.



Vicki L. Mayfield  
Lecturer

### Vicki L. Mayfield, Lecturer

Vicki Mayfield joined the Department of Accounting and Information Management as a full-time lecturer following careers in both public accounting and law. She received her Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Tennessee in 1981 and worked for eight years in public accounting, focusing on corporate taxation and taxation in the publishing industry. In 1989, she returned to Knoxville to work for Whittle Communica-

tions, one of her former clients, and its affiliate, Edison Schools, Inc. She remained with Whittle until 2000 when she returned to UT to earn her law degree. After graduating in 2003 with her J.D., Vicki practiced bankruptcy and commercial law for the Knoxville firm of Bailey, Roberts & Bailey, PLLC. At UT, she teaches individual taxation and business law.



Alice R. West  
Lecturer

### Alice R. West, Lecturer

Alice West has been affiliated with UT's Department of Accounting and Information Management for many years, earning both her bachelor's degree in accounting and Master of Accountancy degree at UT. Since graduation, she has been a computer programmer for Tennessee Valley Authority, an internal auditor for UT, a controller for a medical practice, and helped a convenience

store chain through reorganization. She also has installed and implemented Great Plains Accounting software, now owned by Microsoft, Inc. Before joining the department as a full-time lecturer, Alice taught part-time. Her academic interests include designing effective, electronically enhanced learning environments.

# Beta Alpha Psi – *Bridging the Gap*

Bridging the gap from student to professional, Beta Alpha Psi shines in leadership, service, and adventure! From learning about the NFL's internal auditing function at the NFL headquarters in New York City to volunteering at a local Knoxville-based Junior Achievement chapter...from attending professional awareness programs to studying business ethics and etiquette, the students of UT's Alpha Lambda chapter of Beta Alpha Psi are moving, serving, and growing.

Beta Alpha Psi is an international accounting, finance, and information management honors organization that encourages scholastic excellence and service. In fall 2007, 14 Beta Alpha Psi students traveled to New York City with faculty advisors Jack Kiger and Karyn Valades. The group participated in educational programs at the New York Stock Exchange. They also visited Federal Hall (our nation's first capital); NFL headquarters; the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft LLP; and PriceWaterhouseCoopers NYC. They enjoyed a bountiful brunch at The View, a 360-degree revolving restaurant at the top of the Marriott Marquis in Times Square; attended a Broadway play; and took time to explore the wonders of the city on their own. Students commented: "NYC is amazing; I think I'd like to live and work here," "I feel so privileged to have been chosen to come to one of the great financial capitals of our world,"

and "Even navigating the subways was a learning experience."

As future financial professionals, UT's Beta Alpha Psi students are working with the AICPA's 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program and the UT Economics Club to host a series of educational programs for their fellow students, culminating in a Financial Fitness Day with the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. Why a Financial Fitness Day? The AICPA reports average student credit card debt of \$4,088, average student loans of \$20,000 upon graduation, and 24 percent of income spent on debt payments. Clearly, financial literacy is needed among college students. Partnering with professionals in service and leading the way for other students to learn how to get and stay in control of their financial life is one of the ways that our Beta Alpha Psi students are making an impact — and difference — at UT.

Beta Alpha Psi also helps the department each year with its Meet the Firms and Accounting Day events and helps faculty with exam proctoring and other functions. At its 2007-08 annual awards banquet, Beta Alpha Psi honored Robert Fuller as Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Beta Alpha Psi helps students bridge the gap from college life to the professional world, helping them to bring a wide range of skills and competencies to their future employers.



Beta Alpha Psi students visit the New York Stock Exchange



# Donor Honor Roll

*We are extremely grateful to the following individuals, businesses, and foundations who contributed to the department this past year. Your support allows us to achieve a level of excellence that we could not achieve if we relied solely on state funding. To all of you ...THANKS!*

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Mr. Paul J. Yoo



# Scholarship Recipients

## Department of Accounting and Information Management 2007-2008 Scholarships

### **ACCOUNTING ANONYMOUS SCHOLARSHIP**

Coleton Bragg  
Jeremy Haber

### **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS SCHOLARSHIP**

Shanika Sanders

### **BIBLE HARRIS SMITH STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

Wesley Lee

### **BURKHART & COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING**

Megan Bethmann

### **JOHN WESLEY CAMPBELL AND CECIL MATTOX CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING**

Jacob Pratt

### **CROWE CHIZEK AND COMPANY LLC OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

Andrew Allen

### **BERNARD I. DAHLBERG SCHOLARSHIP**

Samuel Coyne  
John Jennings  
Daniel Kittrell  
Paul Mountain  
Matthew White

### **DELOITTE & TOUCHE SCHOLARSHIP**

Brian Carver

### **DIXON HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP**

Matthew Hoag

### **ERNST & YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP**

Allison Beck  
Ann Watts

### **DAVID & JEANNE CLAIR JONES ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP**

Michael Borth

### **EDWARD E. JUDY SCHOLARSHIP**

Stacy Mastrolia

### **JACK E. KIGER SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING**

Russell Sites

### **GUY LACHINE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

William Irby

### **THOMAS S. LEWIS, JR. SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING**

Michael Borth  
Brian Carver  
Carl Hollingsworth

### **A. DAVID MARTIN SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING**

Julie Anderton  
Anna Badalova  
Megan Bethmann  
Brittany Corum  
Carolyn Dillon  
Amanda Hawkes  
Brittany Hicks  
Andrew Holloway  
Mary Kauffman  
Sarah Monday  
Kristen Pannell  
Julie Thacker  
Leigh Wilhite

### **G.W. MCCALL, SR. SCHOLARSHIP**

Megan Blevins

### **JERRY W. OGLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Angela Montreuil

### **PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS SCHOLARSHIP**

Rebekah McCarty

### **PUGH & COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP**

Greg Minardo

### **W. HAROLD READ SCHOLARSHIP IN ACCOUNTING**

Andrew Allen  
Jeremy Bivins  
Julie Davis  
Donald Earls  
Kathryn Feliu  
Abigail Flittner  
Catherine Griffin  
Jeremy Haber  
Lean Hamilton  
Carolyn Harmon  
Mary Haynes  
Bethany Houghton  
Melissa Hyde  
Blair Irby  
Alina Kirillia  
Wesley Lee  
Rachel McAlexander  
Kelly McNamara  
Brittany Miller  
Caroline Murphy  
Jonathon Papaik  
Rebecca Pevey  
Stacey Pitts  
Jacob Pratt  
Eric Robertson  
Wenzhu Saloom  
Heather Thomas  
Judy Tran  
Anna Weinhold  
John Wright  
Todd Wright

### **MICHAEL SHAFFER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Jonathan Papaik

### **SHELBY ACCOUNTING CAREER SCHOLARSHIP**

Colin Reid

### **STEPHEN R. TROTTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Matthew Davis

### **SINGLETON B. WOLFE SCHOLARSHIP**

Cristina Perez

The following students were awarded scholarships for 2007-08 by the Tennessee Society of CPAs:

#### **MAcc:**

Allison Beatty  
Bethany Blankenship  
Megan Blevins  
Coleton Bragg  
Megan Copple  
Maggie Cunningham  
Jake Holmes  
Anna Hooker  
Candace Hooker  
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