

UCA Alumna Moran Participates in Leadership Greater Little Rock

Gina Morgan Moran, a 1995 UCA Accounting graduate and Certified Public Accountant, recently graduated from the Leadership Greater Little Rock (“LGLR”) Class XXIII. The Leadership Greater Little Rock is aimed at developing a network of competent leaders for present and future community needs. The program seeks to develop community leaders by training and informing participants on a wide array of local public policy issues and concerns. The program covers a full slate of topics, including government, the area’s economy, education, social services, military, health care, the arts, and much more.

Gina has worked in public accounting for the past 13 years. She is a partner with Hudson, Cisne, & Co. LLP in Little Rock where she serves in both audit and tax services in the areas of closely-held businesses, financial institutions, nonprofit organizations, employee benefit plans, and more. Gina is involved in many civic and community organizations including: member of Arkansas Bankers Association; member of North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce; member of Rogers Chamber of Commerce; Gaines House, Board member; volunteer of American Cancer Society and Relay for Life; volunteer of CARTI; volunteer and fundraiser for American Heart Association; Arkansas Scholar Volunteer; and member of East Union Baptist Church. Gina is also a member in good standing with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants and an associate member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Gina is married to Heath Moran and they have one daughter, Taylor, who is six years old.



Gina Morgan Moran (BBA-'95)

Becker CPA Review Live at UCA

This summer, the UCA accounting faculty teamed up with Becker CPA Review to hold a review course on campus for candidates preparing for the CPA exam. The course was a great success. Although some participants have not yet taken all four parts and some are awaiting scores, the candidates achieved a pass rate of over 70 percent of the individual parts taken. The thirteen participants included recent UCA accounting graduates, students in the Master of Accountancy program, and professionals in the community. To date, **Hillary Davis**, **Anita Mize**, and **Whitney Nolan**, have passed all four parts of the exam. Hillary Davis and Whitney Nolan received their BBA in accounting from UCA in May. Hillary Davis now works as an auditor for BKD, LLP in Little Rock. Whitney Nolan serves as a tax accountant for JPMS Cox, PLLC in Little Rock. Anita Mize is the Manager of Accounting for IC Bus, LLC in Conway and is also an alumna of UCA.

The review course was held from early June to early August

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Fred & Louise Malpica

Thank you for your generous donations. We sincerely appreciate your continued support of our students and faculty. These contributions help fund student scholarships, provide development opportunities for our faculty, and pay for BAΨ members to attend and compete in regional and national conferences.

Accounting Partner CPA Firms Recognized

State Society of CPAs recognizes JPMS Cox, PLLC

The Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants Public Service Award for Firms recognizes firms for their public service contributions on the local, state and national level. JPMS Cox, PLLC, is the state's fourth largest accounting and consulting firm and its employees are dedicated to the central Arkansas community and the State of Arkansas. The group of 54 employees, including partners, managers, and staff are involved in many nonprofit and charitable organizations and devote considerable time, expertise and money to assisting those organizations in providing their missions throughout the state. UCA alumni contributing to this success include Partner **Gary Cooper** (BBA-'91) and professional staff **Susan Held Richards** (BBA-'05), **Beth McCarron Knipscheer** (MAcc-'06), **Amy Henderson** (BBA-'06; MAcc-'07), **Nicole Hobbs** (BBA-'07; MAcc-'08), **Marie Allen Gieringer** (BBA-'08), **Miranda Mendenhall** (BBA-'08), **Whitney Nolan** (BBA-'08), and **Jillian Yant**.

Accounting Today Names BKD to list of Best Accounting Firms to Work For

BKD is one of only 15 CPA firms in the large firm category to be named to *Accounting Today's* list of Best Accounting Firms to Work For! Firms from across the country entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Accounting Firms to Work For. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated firm's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking. Best Companies Group managed the process and determined the final rankings. The actual rankings will be published in the January 5, 2009 issue of *Accounting Today*. UCA alumni employed at BKD include partners **Kevin Kemp** (BBA-'93) and **Susan Miller**, and professional staff **Brittani Whitman Garrett** (BBA-'05; MAcc-'06), **Zach McCoy** (BBA-'01), **Katie McGuirt** (BBA-'05), **Candice Parish** (BBA-'06; MAcc-'07), **Hilary Barham Holloway** (MAcc-'07), **Amber Hester** (MAcc-'07; MAcc-'08), **Alex Blankenship** (BBA-'07; MAcc-'08), **Hillary Davis** (BBA-'08), **Rochelle Gann** (MAcc-'08), **Laura Miller** (BBA-'08), **Jonathan Nichols** (BBA-'08), **Matt Phillips** (BBA-'06; MAcc-'07), and **Jeannie Wilson** (BBA-'08).

Fred & Louise Malpica Endowed Accounting Scholarship

The Fred and Louise Malpica Endowed Scholarship has been established by family and friends of the Malpicas. Named in honor of the well-respected local CPA, the late Fred Malpica, and his devoted wife, Louise, the Fred and Louise Malpica Scholarship Fund will be used to award scholarships to UCA accounting majors with a 3.5 grade point average with plans of becoming a CPA. Mary and Ron Edwards, daughter and son-in-law of the Malpicas, are both UCA employees. Mary is a Licensed Professional Counselor for Counseling Services and Ron is Assistant Director of Cooperative Education. The Accounting Department, its faculty and students are deeply grateful to Mary and Ron for their part in creating such a wonderful tribute to the Malpicas and for their commitment to UCA and its accounting majors.

The Malpica family and the Accounting Department thank the following contributors:

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry B. Adams
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Mr. Jerry & Dr. Patricia Mounce
Senator Stanley Russ
Mrs. Katherine Satterfield
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If you would like to join us in growing this fund, please contact Pat Otto with the UCA Foundation at (501) 450-3377. Checks may be made payable to the UCA Foundation with a notation indicating "Malpica Scholarship".

Becker *(continued on page 2)*

and was divided into four parts, one for each part of the CPA exam. The participants met for class three times a week and worked on homework and computerized simulations outside of class. UCA accounting faculty and alumni served as the course instructors. The non-credit course will be offered again in summer 2009. If you are interested in receiving additional information about the Becker course at UCA, please email dharmon@beckerreview.com or lyoung@uca.edu.

As indicated in Becker's literature, students who complete the Becker course pass the CPA Exam at twice the rate of candidates who did not take a Becker review course.

focus on alumni

Staff Sergeant (E6) **Camelia Ellis** (BBA-'06) serves her country as a soldier. She also serves UCA and the Accounting Department as a wonderful ambassador.

An accounting degree offers many career paths. Sometimes those paths take unexpected turns, and careers take second place to more important responsibilities. Camelia had her accounting education at UCA interrupted in 2004 by a deployment to Iraq with the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Camelia returned to UCA in 2005 and received her BBA in accounting in May 2006. She started her career as a tax auditor with Arkansas Revenue Division, Corporate Income Tax. In 2008, the 39th Infantry was deployed again to Iraq. Camelia was deployed to Camp Shelby, MS for training before beginning her second tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq.

In a recent e-mail, Camelia wrote, "Time seems to go by so slow to me and hearing from friends and family really uplifts my spirits! I can't wait to get home and start work again." She keeps up with UCA sports and recently asked if we could send her some UCA paraphernalia. The Dean's office, the Provost's office and accounting faculty members contributed items of purple and gray for Camelia. We are very proud of Camelia and look forward to seeing her in December. Please keep her in your thoughts as she completes her tour of duty.

focus on faculty

Dr. Pam Spikes joined the accounting faculty at UCA in 1980. Her bachelors and masters degrees in accounting are from the University of Arkansas, and her Ph.D. in accounting is from the University of Mississippi. Pam is a CPA and has published over 30 articles in such journals as the *Journal of Accountancy*, *The CPA Journal*, *The International Tax Journal*, and *Issues in Accounting Education*. Pam received the Teaching Excellence Award in the College of Business in 2004. Her primary teaching responsibilities include both undergraduate tax classes and the graduate tax research class. Prior to joining the faculty at UCA, Pam's work experience included four and a half years in public accounting in Tulsa and Little Rock.

Away from UCA, Pam is passionate about golf. She has been the Arkansas women's state golf champion six times and, in 2005, was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Golf Association Hall of Distinction. Pam currently serves as treasurer of the Women's Southern Golf Association, vice-president of the Arkansas Women's Golf Association, and a board member of the Arkansas Girls Golf Council. She has also served as a volunteer golf coach for Mount St. Mary Academy. The faculty and students look forward to Pam's perspective on the latest sporting events and to her light-hearted attitude. And sometimes you can even spot her giving advice on a golf swing to a fellow faculty member using an umbrella!

focus on students

Kristin Vest is a senior accounting and finance major. She is originally from Clinton, Arkansas where she graduated in 2005 as the valedictorian of her class. Kristin first experienced accounting in high school, and loved it from the start. She came to UCA on a Trustee Scholarship and is happy with the decision she made. "I knew I wanted to be an accounting major, I just didn't know what school I wanted to go to when I was a senior in high school. My choice to attend UCA was mainly based on scholarships, but once I was introduced to the Accounting Department here at UCA, I knew I had made the right decision."

Kristin currently serves as the Vice President of Service Activities in Beta Alpha Psi and says, "It's great to have such an active group that cares about their futures as well as helping others". She is also a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Beta Lambda and works part-time as a teacher's assistant in the Accounting office. Kristin previously served as an intern with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Spring and with Dillard's Inc. in the Summer.

Kristin's future plans include graduating from the undergraduate program in May and another internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Summer. She plans to start UCA's Master of Accountancy program in the Fall with an expected graduation date of August 2010. Her career plans include passing the CPA exam and working in public accounting.

Zak Hemmer is currently a student in UCA's Master of Accountancy program. Zak graduated from Russellville High School with high honors in 2004. Four years ago Zak would have never guessed that he would one day be a CPA, but once he was at UCA he found Accounting to be his calling.

After spending a year or two undecided as to what he wanted to do Zak found Accounting to be fun, interesting, and most of all a good career with excellent potential in the marketplace.

Once Zak had declared his major, he immediately became involved in Beta Alpha Psi, and served with Matt Wilkins and Jamison Jackson (also MAcc students) heading up the newly started campaign for financial literacy. After some prodding from friends and faculty Zak took a vested interest in the program and really began to see the benefit in trying to help others understand financial concepts that can be challenging to others. Zak considers it a privilege to have been involved in this effort to educate dozens of students across campus about their financial futures.

"After UCA I plan to attend Law School and practice as a JD/CPA. After looking back on my years at UCA I believe that my education in the Accounting Department has prepared me to compete with others extremely well in the marketplace."



Staff Sergeant Camelia Ellis (BBA-'06) in Baghdad, Iraq



Beta Alpha Psi Theta Lambda News

After being recognized by Beta Alpha Psi as a Distinguished Chapter for the 2007-2008 academic year, the officers and members are trying for Superior this year. To achieve this goal, each member and pledge must participate in eight hours of service and eight hours of professional activities each semester. Towards that end, we are offering even more meetings and events this year.

Meet the Firm was a success this year with 15 firms (10 CPA firms, 3 industries, and 2 government agencies) and 37 students in attendance. Our members have also had the opportunity to meet several firms at chapter meetings including Ernst and Young, JPMS Cox, and for the first time at UCA, Wal-Mart Ethics Division.



John Gregory of Ernst & Young introduces Wendi Miller, senior, to the Bentonville Ernst & Young office at Meet the Firm.



At Meet the Firm, Justin Bickell (left), senior, finds out about the careers an accountant can have at the FBI from Rick McLain (right).

In addition to professional meetings, our members are involved in many service activities including preparing for Financial Literacy again in the Spring, tutoring accounting students, identify-theft deterrence with a shredding campaign, and we will be stuffing Christmas stockings for Bethlehem House and answering phones for an AETN telethon in the coming months.

Our chapter is being led this year by **Tori Watkins** (President), **Jessica Rucker** (VP of Membership), **Rachel Foster** (VP of Professional Activities), **Kristin Vest** (VP of Service Activities), **Wendi Miller** (Event Coordinator), **Amanda Servedio** (Publicity Coordinator), and **Michael Watson** (Treasurer).

All About Alumni

Attention Alumni: Send alumni updates, high-resolution photos and contact information to currentaccount@uca.edu.

Liana Marchetti (BBA-'03) opened her own Accounting Firm called Marchetti & Associates, PLLC out of her home in February 2008. In May 2008 the Firm grew so rapidly that she was forced to move into new offices in Conway, AR. The firm handles all types of accounting issues such as general accounting services, tax return services, federal income tax audits, tax resolution services, payroll services, penalty abatement requests, and IRS representation. Marchetti & Associates prides itself on tailoring services to meet client needs. Liana's goal is to offer professional and personal service to every client/business that walks through her door. Liana currently resides in Conway, AR with her husband Dan Marchetti and son Jonathan.

Jeremy Jeffery (BBA-'03) recently accepted the position of Assistant Controller/Accounting Manager at Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff.

New CPAs

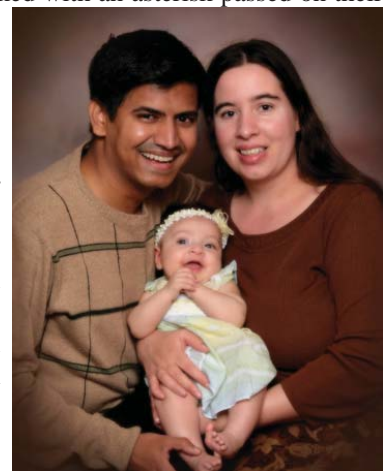
Congratulations to **Brian Hall** (BBA-'97), **Jennifer Shields** (BBA-'04) and **Gerri Wolfe** ('03-'04) for successfully passing the Uniform CPA Examination during the April-May testing window.

Congratulations to **Travis Matkin** (BBA-'06; MAcc-'07) **Kelly Turner Dement** (BBA-'06; MAcc-'07), **David Cleveland** (BBA-'05; MAcc-'06) **Hillary Davis*** (BBA-'08), **Anita Mize***

(BBA-'83), and **Whitney Nolan*** (BBA-'08) for successfully completing the Uniform CPA Examination during the July-August testing window. Those alums marked with an asterisk passed on their first attempt!

Marriages and Births

Congratulations to **Azhar Qureshi** (BBA-'06) and his wife Trina Qureshi on the birth of their daughter Maliha Qureshi born on July 13, 2008 in Bentonville, AR. Maliha weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces at birth.



Azhar, Trina, and Maliha Qureshi

Congratulations to **Drew Smith** (BBA-'08) on his marriage to Sydney Bonner on July 19th. Drew and Sydney live in Little Rock where Drew works in Retail Revenue Accounting at Windstream.

Congratulations to **Marie Allen** (BBA-'08) and **Rob Gieringer** on their recent marriage. They were married at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Marche on June 7, 2008.



Chair's Corner

BY PATRICIA MOUNCE

As our fall recruiting events and campus interviews come to a close, the accounting faculty members are reminded of why we are here and why we love teaching. We enjoy seeing the students in their new suits and listening to them discuss interviews and compare pros and cons of companies or firms. We enjoy the friendly competition among students and the excitement when they get offers from the best companies and firms in the region.

We bask in the success of alumni coming back to recruit. Recruiters, students, faculty and young alumni have enjoyed good food, fellowship, and fun at this year's tailgates. The homecoming chili cook-off was a huge success. Thomas & Thomas won the judged competition and Dr. Watson won the popular vote. Contact me if you are interested sponsoring



At the Chili for Charity tailgate, Windstream's Ryan Roberts (BBA-'07) and Drew Smith (BBA-'08) brought chili and visited with Rachel Foster, MAcc student.

the meal at a tailgate next football season.

Thank you for supporting our students and Department and for your commitment to our educational mission and goals. Without you, our program would not be what it is! Last year our focus was increasing scholarships for MAcc students. Because of our Accounting Partners' generosity, every MAcc student received a larger scholarship this year including one full scholarship. This coming year, we would like to increase scholarships to MAcc and undergraduate students. Please consider giving to help fund the cost of an accounting education.

FACULTY FACTS

What do our faculty members do when they are not teaching, researching, or serving the university, community or profession? Listed below are some items submitted by faculty members. See if you can guess who they are. Answers are on page 6.

A. The Antique Lady - this is what Mike Moore calls me. You wouldn't recognize me after an all-day estate auction, in a ball cap and scruffy clothes, dirty from digging through old barns and attics, looking for treasures. It is hard, hot and dirty work, but it is so much fun. I love talking to customers who come into my store. Almost everyone collects something. Stop by sometime and tell me what you collect.

B. The worst day fishing is better than the best day working. My usual January birthday gift is a weekend of trout fishing at Lindsey's resort on the Little Red. One weekend in October or March, you can usually find me in Lafitte, LA fishing for redfish and speckled trout.

C. I love camping and biking with my nine grandsons, but not all at the same time!!! My spouse and I enjoy visiting Branson several times a year.

D. One night a week, I get together with friends and family to play games. Pictionary is my favorite. In my alone time, I like to paint. I had never painted until I was in upper-division accounting courses in college, and I needed the artistic outlet to balance out all the analytical thinking.

E. During summer vacations I enjoy hiking and camping in the Colorado Rockies. Recently, my spouse and I have discovered cruising and are now hopelessly hooked; we have cruised to Alaska and plan to cruise the Eastern Caribbean next May. I also enjoy golf although I must confess that of the

department golfers, I would rank last.

F. My son and I attended Porsche Parade in Charlotte NC from June 26, 2008 until July 3, 2008. This is the annual US gathering of Porsche enthusiasts. We attended the Porsche Paddock, which covered 10 blocks of downtown Charlotte, and the Porsche Parade autocross at Lowe's Motor Speedway. In autocross, I was the 8th fastest Porsche in a field of 247.

G. Unlike every summer since I was eight, my summer of golf was disrupted when I rode my bicycle off a cliff and broke my arm. Rumors as to the cause included "chased by a bobcat" and "intentionally run off the path by a fellow faculty member." Coincidentally I did not begin playing golf until age eight since at age seven I also broke that same arm.

H. I love to hunt, play golf and fish in my spare time (probably in that order). I believe in a balanced life, and if you can't find the right balance, err on the side of recreation.

I. My favorite hobby is spending time with my spouse. We enjoy many things together: movies, yard work, walking our dogs, or just talking. We started dating in high school in Odessa, TX. My first academic interests were in chemistry and physics. My spouse's professional interests are in the fine arts. Some say I've got the left side of the brain covered while my spouse has the right. We think our two children are a great mix of both.

J. My spouse and I enjoy traveling to National Parks. We visit Yellowstone at least once a year. We took a cruise to Glacier Bay last summer and plan to tour Alaska by car next summer. I don't miss many football or basketball games.

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Accounting Faculty Having Fun

The hobbies and pastimes of the Accounting Faculty at UCA are varied. When we aren't thinking about accounting, you might find us reeling in the big ones or racing cars. Look at Faculty Facts on page 5 to see if you recognize the pastimes of our faculty.



A faculty member fishing in Tahlequah, Oklahoma with Dave and Emily Whitlock.



A faculty member racing his Porsche and going so fast that the inside front wheel is not on the ground. (Photo © Marvin Ross)

Answers to Faculty Facts (from page 5): (A) Donna Smith (B) Patricia Mounce (C) Danny Vance (D) Stephanie Watson (E) Mike Moore (F) Tom Oxner (G) Pam Spikes (H) Paul Jensen (I) Laura Young (J) Roy Whitehead.