

Internship Program Introduces Students to the “Real World” of Accounting

Preparing students for successful accounting careers is our primary focus. Students lament, “I can’t find a job because everyone wants experience, but how can I gain experience while I am a student.” This semester we implemented an internship program that allowed senior students to work full-time with accounting professionals during January and February, receive credit for their work experience, and complete twelve additional semester hours before the end of the regular semester. We believe this first attempt was a huge success and we expect to work with our Accounting Partners in the future to make the program even better.

The internship program benefits our students, first and foremost, by providing them some real-world experience. It also gives them a nice boost to their income and allows them to keep their full-time student status. The internship program benefits employers by providing them with extra employees during their peak season, and it gives them an opportunity to recruit those students they see as a good fit for their organizations.

BKD, LLP, employed six UCA accounting students this spring. Kevin Kemp, BKD Partner, said, “BKD is very excited about the new internship program at UCA. Having interns during the eight weeks of our peak audit season allowed us to provide excellent client service in a timely manner while providing training and real world experience to potential full-time employees. Based on the feedback from both sides, it was a win-win for everyone. We look forward to our continued participation in the internship program.”

Students find the experience rewarding as well. Senior accounting student Amber Hester said, “Participating in the internship offered by the UCA Accounting Department was the experience of a lifetime. Being at BKD, a public accounting firm, eight weeks out of their busy season helped me learn so much about my career choice and about myself. I feel that although an education is very important, you can never really know how to do anything until you get out in the real world and do it. At BKD this is just what I was able to do.”

We appreciate those CPA firms and companies that participated in this endeavor and hope the experience will prove to be helpful to students and professionals in the future.

New Business Building In Immediate Future

As UCA celebrates its Centennial Campaign, the College of Business celebrates the beginning phases of construction on the new College of Business building. The new building will face Donaghey and will be situated between Wingo Hall and the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center. You will have many opportunities to be a part of this exciting project. When you receive a call requesting you to invest in the UCA annual fund, please give generously, designating your gift to the new Business Building Fund.

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**Supporters of UCA's
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Department**

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- BKD, LLP
- Bell & Company, PA

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- Mr. & Mrs. Roy Whitehead, Jr.
- Dr. Jeff R. & Mrs. Laura Young

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! We truly appreciate the financial support we receive from alumni and friends. Your financial gifts make the department one you can be proud of. The contributions listed above have been made to the Accounting Department Foundation account during the 2006-2007 school year.

New Opportunity to Partner

Join the Accounting Department at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) in our efforts to produce the best educated and trained accountants in the region by becoming a UCA Accounting Partner. Together we can prepare high-quality, ethical leaders for the accounting profession. Accounting professionals in public practice and private industry play an important role in developing our students who become your associates and influence the profession in Arkansas and the surrounding states. Help us make them better.

A UCA Accounting Partner has many opportunities to influence the education of our accounting students and to get to know them in the process.

- Our Partners are given the primary opportunity to speak at Beta Alpha Psi professional meetings;
- Our Partners attend Beta Alpha Psi's annual "Meet the Firm" event;
- Our Partners hire interns and help train and educate students through experience;
- Our Partners speak to classes and bring real-world applications to the classroom;
- Our Partners participate on the Accounting Advisory Board which evaluates and shapes the curriculum in the Accounting Department;
- Our Partners have access to comprehensive student resumes, biographies, and links to courses taken and projects completed (available beginning in Fall 2007);
- Our Partners attend the annual Accounting Department Honors Banquet with students and their families, faculty, and staff; and
- Our Partners support the UCA Accounting Department financially.

We invite you to partner with the UCA Accounting Department and be a part of the education of our students long before they become a part of your organization. If you are interested in becoming a UCA Accounting Partner, please contact Dr. Patricia Mounce at 501-450-5311 or pmounce@uca.edu for additional information.

To become an accounting partner, we are asking for a minimum annual contribution of \$1,000. Accounting partner funds will be targeted to the following specific needs: Master of Accountancy (MAcc) assistantships, MAcc scholarships, undergraduate scholarships, funding for an annual Accounting Department Honors Banquet, faculty development, faculty teaching innovation monetary award, Beta Alpha Psi events, and alumni relations.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:
The University of Central Arkansas
(note "Department of Accounting" on the memo line).

MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:
The University of Central Arkansas
Department of Accounting
201 Donaghey
Burdick Business Bldg. 309
Conway, AR 72035

We appreciate the support you give our Department and our students. Your participation is a valuable part of the academic experience.

Chair's Corner

By Dr. Patricia Mounce



Thank you alumni and friends for generously supporting our efforts to attract bright students who develop into accountants prepared to succeed in the accounting profession. Without your commitment our students would not have scholarships that your monetary contributions fund; they would not have exposure to current issues that your classroom visits present; they would not have information on career choices and expectations that your Beta Alpha Psi presentations offer; they would not have interactions with professionals in a casual setting that your tail-gate parties and pizza parties provide; they would not have the great jobs you have given them. Without your commitment, our faculty would not have the connection to the "real world" that makes them better teachers; they would not have faculty development opportunities that your monetary gifts provide, they would not have a chance to make friends with such great people! Again, thanks for your generosity to our students'

academic and professional success and our faculty's professional development.

The greatest joy in teaching is seeing graduates move from being students to professionals. Our desire is that this newsletter will be a source of information about your successes. We want to share with faculty and friends news about your career choices, your community involvement and your personal growth. We would like to stay connected to our recent graduates and reconnect with those not-so-recent graduates that we still cherish but have failed to keep in touch.

As most of you know, Keith Atkinson was promoted to Interim Associate Provost January 1, 2007. As a result, I am currently serving as Interim Chair. I look forward to working with you and pledge my energy and enthusiasm in our combined efforts to produce accounting graduates that you will be proud to have as fellow alumni and colleagues.

FACULTY FACTS

UCA's Accounting Faculty: Excellence in Teaching and Serious about Service

For the third year in a row, an accounting faculty has received the College of Business Excellence in Teaching Award. The award winners were **Pam Spikes** (2005), **Stephanie Watson** (2006), and **Patricia Mounce** (2007). **Mike Moore** also received the award in 2001.

Accounting faculty members remain committed to excellence through academic research and publishing. During 2006 the accounting faculty produced a total of 13 articles and several faculty members presented papers at academic conferences.

Faculty members continue to serve their university, their community, and their profession. Listed below are just a few of the activities in which faculty members are involved:

- Junior Achievement leader, 2nd & 3rd grades
- UCA Honors College Thesis Advisor
- Treasurer, ASCPA Student Education Fund
- FBLA Competition Judge

- Financial Advisor to Arkansas Science Teachers Association
- Junior University: What is Accounting? Through keeping a checkbook ledger
- Director of Assessment for the College of Business
- Volunteer Golf Coach for Mt. St. Mary Academy
- Arkansas Girls Golf Council, Director
- Women's Southern Golf Association, Director and Chair, Finance Committee
- UCA Student Life Committee
- Church Budget and Finance Committee
- Coordinator of Continuing Education for Faulkner County Bar Association
- Reviewer for various professional and academic journals
- Member of the UCA Athletic Committee
- UCA's Welcome Week WebCT Trainer
- College of Business Honor Banquet Chair
- Christian Athletes Golf Classic Volunteer

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Students Stand Out

Our majors are hardworking, intelligent, and willing to go that extra mile to learn and grow. Organizations outside our University have recognized several of these students as evidenced by the following list of recent accolades.

Brad Klingsporn, a December 2006 graduate, was a summer intern with the GAO in Washington, DC. Brad was named the 2006-2007 UCA Intern of the Year. In addition, he was named by The Cooperative Education and Internship Association as their national Intern of the Year. Brad is currently employed with the GAO in Washington, D.C.

Allison Dulaney, a senior and Beta Alpha Psi officer, was named to Who's Who Among College Students for the 2006-2007 year. Allison plans to begin our Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program in May.

Elizabeth Alumbaugh and **Kelly Turner** received first place in the UCA Business Plan Competition this spring. Their Campus IDEAS business plan proposed forming a non-profit organization with the purpose of providing investing and debt education to alumni and students. Elizabeth and Kelly will be completing the MAcc in August and have accepted positions at Deloitte. The UCA Business Plan Competition was a part of the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup, which awards \$108,000 to various students annually.

BKD's generosity provides several MAcc students with academic fellowships each semester. This year's recipients are **Elizabeth Alumbaugh, Tiffany Edwards, Areta Hill, Kara Loggins, Travis Matkin, Candice Parish, Aeden Sangka, Shelby Scarborough, and Kelly Turner**. These MAcc students will graduate in May and August of 2007.



BKD, LLP Accounting Fellowship winners: Candice Parish, Elizabeth Alumbaugh, Shelby Scarborough, Areta Hill (front: l-r), Aeden Sangka, Travis Matkin, Kara Loggins, Tiffany Edwards, Kelly Turner (back: l-r), pictured with Kevin Kemp, Partner at BKD.

Bell & Company's generosity provides two MAcc students with academic scholarships each semester. This year's recipients are **Jareta Moore** and **Nakeeta Danielle Moncrief**.

Each year, Becker CPA review course awards a full-paid review course scholarship to one UCA student. This year's recipient was **Kara Loggins**.



Internship Awards Banquet: Mrs. Laura Young, Accounting Instructor; Dr. Patricia Mounce, Interim Chair of the Accounting Department; Mr. Brad Klingsporn, National Intern of the Year; Dr. Pat Cantrell, Dean of the College of Business, and Mr. Victor Puleo, College of Business Internship Coordinator

Kelly Turner and **Mary Ann Goodwin** received scholarships from the Arkansas Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants. Mary Ann plans to graduate in May 2008 and begin the MAcc program.

Debra Palmer, Randa Elkins, and Hillary Vinsant recently received scholarships from the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants. Hillary is a senior, and Debra and Randa are completing their degree requirements in May 2007 and finishing up their 150 hours.

Jermey Byford was awarded the student scholarship by the Central Arkansas chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors. Jermey is a junior.

Beta Gamma Sigma is the national scholastic honor society for business students in AACSB-accredited programs. The following accounting majors were invited to join Beta Gamma Sigma this year: seniors are **Lindsey Diebold, Mitchell Doss, Stacey Hefner, Amber Hester, Andriy Nagay, Kristen Rawls, and Hillary Vinsant**; juniors are **Oluwafunmilyo Afelumo, Rachel Foster, Sarah Kemper, Donna Merriman, Jessica Rucker, Drew Smith, Sara Stancil, Courtney Wald, Tori Watkins, and Michael Watson**. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest national recognition a business student can earn. Senior nominees were selected from the top ten percent of their class, and junior nominees were chosen from the top seven percent of their class. Of the 37 students invited to join this year from UCA, 17 (46 percent) were accounting majors.

Many of these students were honored at the 2006-2007 College of Business Student Honors Banquet in April. In addition, **Kelly Turner** and **Alex Blankenship** were named outstanding graduate and undergraduate accounting students for the academic year; Alex is entering the MAcc program this fall. **Brad Klingsporn** was named outstanding College of Business undergraduate student.



Beta Alpha Psi Theta Lambda News

Six Beta Alpha Psi members and officers attended the 2007 Southwest Regional Beta Alpha Psi Conference in Fort Worth, Texas this Spring. Three of our students, **Kelly Turner**, **Alex Blankenship**, and **Brad Eberle**, competed at the meeting by giving a Best Practices speech entitled “The Life Cycle of Matt: Encouraging Involvement in Professional Organizations.” Of the four competing schools in the professional organizations category, UCA won 1st place! In August, they are off to compete at nationals in Chicago along with **Amy Henderson**. Kelly is completing the MAcc in August, Alex is beginning the MAcc in August and Brad is an upcoming senior. *Thanks to BKD’s generous financial support that allows us to travel with our students.*



BAΨ award winners with faculty sponsors: Brad Eberle, Dr. Patricia Mounce, Kelly Turner, Dr. Stephanie Watson, & Alex Blankenship

Chapter membership is soaring! The Theta Lambda chapter is growing. This spring the chapter has 33 returning members and 33 pledges, 27 of whom were initiated this semester. We encourage membership as early as Principles of Accounting I and through graduate school, which has led to more involvement, dedication, and officers who serve multiple terms. We are proud to have the following four officers returning in the Fall of 2007: incoming president **Alex Blankenship** (outgoing VP of Meetings), incoming VP of Membership **Brad Eberle** (outgoing Treasurer), incoming VP of Meetings **Amy Henderson** (outgoing President and former Service Coordinator), and incoming VP of Events **Allison Dulaney** (former Service Coordinator).

Where Are Our Alumni? *We Really Want To Know!*

We were excited to hear that several graduates recently completed the CPA exam or have taken new positions in their careers. We would love to include you in our next newsletter!

Congratulations to **Donna Mattingly** (MAcc, May 2006) who recently passed the CPA exam on her first try! Donna works with the Air Force Audit Agency.

Jonathan Shipman (BBA, May 2003) has taken as position as Assistant Director of Business and Finance for Minor League Baseball.

Kinnari Vyas (BBA, December 2005) has accepted a position as a Fund Accountant with Archon Group, a division of Goldman Sachs, in Dallas.

Gaye Dallas Odom (BBA, 1982) is a CPA and has prior work experience with PriceWaterhouse and Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, and worked with Danny Vance and Lloyd & Co. and Deloitte. She has been the Financial Manager of Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, LLP law firm since 1985. Gaye is an active member of the American Society of Women Accountants and has chaired the Scholarship Committee for about 20 years. She has an affinity for helping accountants find good jobs and helping accounting students get some funding.

Danny Vance (BBA, 1970), former partner with Deloitte and financial officer with Alltel, has been teaching auditing and financial accounting at UCA for five years. Mr. Vance advises many of our students concerning obtaining employment with the firms, companies, and other organizations that recruit and employ our graduates. He also assists with developing and maintaining our relationships with employers.

UCA Alumni Association Accounting Chapter

As alumni of the Accounting program at the University of Central Arkansas, we have a special opportunity to help enhance the Accounting program by becoming involved in the Accounting Chapter of the UCA Alumni Association. As a member, you can contribute financially or contribute your time and ideas to support exciting programs and activities that are on the horizon for the Department. Additionally, there is a great opportunity for networking, recruiting and educational activities with your fellow UCA Accounting graduates.



Alumnus Gary Cooper (right), Partner at JPMS Cox, speaks to accounting major Chad Bridges (left) at Meet the Firm

So join us and encourage other UCA grads to join us to help to make a great accounting program that we are all proud to call our own, even better. If you are a member of the UCA Alumni Association, and are not a member of the Accounting chapter, contact the alumni office and let them know you want to be recognized in the Accounting chapter. Also, please contact the Accounting Department or me personally if you would like more information. Stay on the lookout for upcoming events! Thanks,

Jeremy Jeffery
jjeffery@hc-cpa.com
Accounting Chapter, President



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Attention Alumni:

We want to know what our grads are doing in their personal and professional lives and so would your fellow alumni! Please share your news or news about your UCA accounting alumni comrades. You can send us news and updates to currentaccount@uca.edu or pmounce@uca.edu. High-resolution electronic photos are also welcome. Help us keep in touch with any lost alumni by sharing this newsletter with UCA accounting alums and ask them to send us their contact information.

We also want **your email address**, so that we can contact you about events we plan between newsletters.

UCA Department of Accounting Mission and Vision Statement

Our mission is to prepare students to be accounting professionals and future business leaders, capable of contributing to the business community and succeeding in a dynamic environment.

Our priority is to develop the knowledge and abilities of our students. Professional service and intellectual contributions support the achievement of this priority. We are committed to the following:

- Delivering a relevant and innovative accounting and business law curriculum;
- Developing the learning experience by emphasizing communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and information literacy;
- Participating in the business and accountancy profession through research and professional involvement; and
- Promoting life-long learning, integrity, and ethical behavior.

Our vision is to be recognized by our stakeholders as a leading regional accounting program, distinguished by excellence in teaching and enhanced by service and scholarship.