

ACCOUNTING NEWS

Fall 2010

Inside the College of Business Administration

Vol. 3, No. 1

College of Business and Accounting Program receive reaffirmation of accreditation

The College of Business Administration and the Accounting Program have received reaffirmation of accreditation from AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). AACSB, founded in 1916, is an association of nearly 1,200 business schools in 74 countries and territories worldwide. Its mission is to “advance quality management education worldwide through accreditation and thought leadership.” AACSB is the leading accrediting body for schools of business and represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools, with less than five percent of business schools worldwide earning the achievement. Currently, there are 593 business schools in 37 countries that maintain AACSB accreditation. Similarly, 173 institutions now maintain an additional specialized AACSB accreditation for their accounting programs.

Maintaining accreditation involves rigorous internal review, evaluation, and adjustment over five years. During these five years, the school develops and implements a plan to meet the 21 AACSB standards requiring a high quality teaching environment, a commitment to continuous improvement, and curricula responsive to the needs of business that maximize student learning. To achieve accounting accreditation, an institution must first earn or maintain AACSB business accreditation. Then, in addition to developing and implementing a mission-driven plan to satisfy the 21 business accreditation quality standards, accounting accreditation requires the satisfaction of an additional set of 15 standards that are specific to the discipline and profession of accounting.

At the end of each five-year cycle, the College of Business and the Accounting Program each submit comprehensive reports documenting compliance with each and every standard. A visitation team, consisting of business school deans for the college and accounting professionals or chairs of accounting departments for the Accounting Program, undertakes a rigorous



review of the reports and other supporting documentation. Then, the team spends two days on campus conducting interviews and examining additional documentation. The team made its site visit to the College of Business on February 21 to 23. The visit started with a dinner meeting with the Executive Advisory Board hosted by Edison Chouest Offshore. The team

also met with representatives from the faculty, students, alumni, and administration to verify information, solicit feedback, and ensure their involvement in fulfilling the missions of the College of Business and Accounting Program.

Not only did the College of Business meet or exceed all standards, but the visitation team

Accreditation continued on page 3

Congratulations, Students!

Accounting Department Graduates 44 for 2009-2010 term

(**denotes Outstanding Accounting Graduate)

Spring 2010: Brittany Barnes, Raymond Barnes, Mary Borne, **Cherie Boudreaux, Michelle Boudreaux, Justin Bourgeois, Marion Chebet, Chris T. Fourroux, Brittany Gayon, Brynn Lambert, Sara S. Leger, Madison Martin, Misty Orgeron, Melanie Prevost, Whitney Vanderson, Hannah White, Devin Wright

Fall 2009: **Aaron Ayme, Kaile Blouin, Jennifer Bourgeois, Melissa Bourgeois, Logan Callahan, Sharon Celestin, Paul Daugherty, Kayla G. Dupre, Ahmed Elsayed, Nicholas Falgoust, Samantha Fazio, Karli Gaubert, Donald Gautreaux, Jr., Katie Gautreaux, Nga Le, Shelly McCollum, Casey Naquin, Steven Naquin, Chloe Dufrene, Jacob Prestenbach, Daniel Ramsey, Bridget Thomas, Kyle Tizzard, Vida Carriere, Ashley Dempster, Jennifer Allen, and Anjelle Borne

Beta Alpha Psi *The International Honorary Organization for Financial Information Professionals*

View from the President, Dustin Cavalier

Beta Alpha Psi enters the fall with a lot planned for the semester. We will begin the semester by selling N's for \$1 to show our support for the Colonels at homecoming. Raising over \$200 last year at this fundraiser made it a huge success! Following the selling of the N's, the annual "Operation White Socks" will begin; we take in donations or pairs of white socks for the soldiers in Iraq. In October, BAP as well as the South Central Chapter of the LCPA will be sponsoring our annual CPA student night. This event gives BAP members a great chance to talk one-on-one with local business managers and owners to better understand what local employers look for in their prospective employees. BAP will also help to organize and operate the annual CPE hosted by the Department of Accounting and the LCPA. This event is designed to inform current CPAs of the issues present in the accounting profession.

Throughout the semester BAP will invite informational speakers to come and discuss a variety of topics ranging from the CPA exam to the local economy. These speakers are rich in information and offer all students the opportunity to understand how the information taught in the classroom really affects a student in the real world. Another service available to every student is BAP's tutoring lab; this lab offers tutoring to all students enrolled in Accounting

205. This is the most underutilized service we offer, but with your help we can turn things around and create a great opportunity for these students to learn and succeed in accounting. With all that BAP has to offer, we could not be where we are without the help from our sponsors and Nicholls' faculty.

With the passing of our faculty advisor, Michele Guidry, Nicholls State University became a lesser of a place; all who met Guidry are better people for having known her. We honor, respect, and pray for her; God Bless you Guidry. Her shoes were hard to fill as the faculty advisor of BAP, but our newly appointed faculty advisor, Stacy C. LeJeune, has filled her shoes spectacularly. BAP would like to thank her for all of her hard work. With all the tools needed to succeed, we look forward to a very productive fall with all students, BAP members, faculty, and professionals.



Beta Alpha Psi News



Danielle Burgo, Beta Alpha Psi senior, accepts the outstanding member award at the College of Business Honors Banquet held in April 2010. Presenting the award is Stacy LeJeune, faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi.



Beta Alpha Psi members selected officers for 2010-2011 at their final meeting of the Spring semester. From left are Jacques Boudreaux, Communications; Katelyn Vroon, Corresponding Secretary; Dustin Cavalier, President; Brittany Hebert, Vice-President; and Joseph Charpentier, Treasurer.



One of the major activities of the year for Beta Alpha Psi is our CPA/Student Night function. On October 13, 2010, 18 members of BAP met individually with 23 members of the CPA profession in a "speed-dating" format. Members were given about 4 minutes to interview with each CPA and then rotated to the next CPA. After the interview process, students and guests were treated to a buffet meal by the CPAs and their firms. We would like to thank all those CPAs that participated and contributed monetarily to help us coordinate this event. Thanks also to the LCPA and the South Central Chapter of LCPA for their continued support, as well as for the support of the Accounting faculty of Nicholls.



In conjunction with CPA/Student Night, the South Central Chapter of the LCPA holds their annual President's visit. Seen here is South Central President Bryce Ledet, addressing the students and introducing LCPA President Bob Angelico.



Shown here are members of Beta Alpha Psi who attended Student Night. Missing is Christina Landry.

During the spring of 2010, Cherie Boudreaux 2009-2010 President, Justin Bourgeois 2009-2010 Vice-President and Jacques Boudreaux Communications presented a report at the Southeast Regional Conference of BAP. The topic of their report was the CPA/Student Night function. It was held in Orlando.

On October 19, 2010 BAP made a donation of \$100 to Operation White Socks, which is a movement across the US that provides new pairs of white socks for soldiers stationed abroad. The donation was raised in conjunction with a spirit week of selling paper Ns for \$1 during the week of homecoming. Tracy Purvis of the NSU Dyslexia Center accepted the donation on behalf of Operation White Socks.

Accreditation, Continue from page 1

also mentioned several strengths, innovations and unique features they observed while here. In particular, the team noted that the college “has developed an environment that is student-focused and learning-oriented. Faculty members take their teaching responsibilities seriously. Small classes and personal interaction with faculty have led to strong loyalty and program satisfaction among students and alumni.” They also commented positively on the culture of collegiality among faculty as well as their “tremendous commitment to students, school values, and mutual respect.”

The Executive MBA program was given special recognition for being innovative. In particular, the team commended the program’s hybrid format which makes the program more accessible to working professionals.

Reaffirmation and the positive feedback received from the visitation team confirmed what most of us already knew. The College of Business at Nicholls offers a quality business education in an environment of care and concern for each individual student. In other words, students truly do receive “excellence with a personal touch.”

Nicholls. Who cares? You should!

Nicholls State University President, Dr. Stephen Hulbert, proposed a “Call to Action” on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. Hulbert addressed the University community with a letter posted on his website, A Call To Action From President Hulbert. The letter outlines the current financial state of Nicholls State University, the steps the university is taking to remedy this situation, the results which may arise and how the community, faculty, staff and students can get involved. To read Dr. Hulbert’s letter click “Nicholls. Who Cares? YOU Should!”

“Nicholls State University is in dire need of our help. This institution is not only crucial to the survival of Thibodaux, but our region. I firmly ask for your support in the campaign which the university recently released. Together, we can overcome this obstacle and ensure the livelihood of Nicholls and our community.”

The link below provides a PDF brochure that explains how the budget cuts have and will impact Nicholls State University. Please be pro-active in your efforts to fight for Nicholls future. Please share this information as you see fit.

<http://www.nicholls.edu/news/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Fight-for-Nicholls-Future.pdf>

Alumni News

Tracy A. Guidry, BS 2004, recently passed the 4th and final part of the Certified Public Accountant exam on May 29, 2010. He plans to continue his education in the Masters of Business Administration program at Nicholls. Congratulations, Tracy and Welcome Back!

We are interested in what you are doing and want to hear from you.

Please contact Gina Lagrange through the departmental website:

http://www.nicholls.edu/accounting_cis/

In memory of Michele Guidry, Instructor of Accounting

It is with deep sorrow and profound regret that we announce the departure of our dear friend and co-worker, Michele D. Guidry from this world. This sad event occurred on Friday, December 11, 2009. We will miss her for the joy she brought to everyone around her.

Michele Guidry began teaching accounting courses in 1989, leaving behind the day-to-day tasks of preparing tax returns and generating financial statements. However, in 2003, Guidry decided to put into practice again what she had been teaching for 14 years. Guidry completed a professional internship with Charles Theriot, CPA, where she served small business accounting clients. This opportunity allowed her to sharpen her skills, update her knowledge of some of the main areas in accounting and see once again the workings of a CPA firm. Prior to becoming an instructor of accounting, Guidry, a Certified Public Accountant, worked at Nicholls State University as the payroll and grants coordinator in the Controller's Office. Being a part of university life and interacting with students was what Guidry enjoyed most about being an instructor. She was also the faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary organization for finance information professionals.

Says Cherie Boudreaux, past president of Beta Alpha Psi, of Guidry... "In my first years at Nicholls, she was always so enthusiastic about teaching. She would



come into class at 7:30 prompt and ready to go. I think maybe only once she was late. When we would complain about it being 7:30, she would tell us of her previous day's events and what she had coming up. In her classes, her expectations of us were high. She never settled for anything less than what she knew I could do. She was constantly pushing me for better than my own expectations. Her family was usually the topic of her examples. This was also helpful in connecting dots to the profession I was choosing. Her class taught me how to be organized and aim high, which I took into many other classes, my job, and my position as president."

Colleagues, family, and friends paid tribute to Michele at this year's College of Business honors banquet. Grady Hazel, executive director of LCPA was on hand to present the LCPA 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award to Michele's family on her behalf.



Accounting Club News

Accounting Club members Justin Bourgeois, Danielle Burgo, Brittany Hebert, and Sophie Thibodaux visited the Lafourche Parish School Board Business Operations in Thibodaux on October 29, 2009. Don Gaudet, LPSB Business Manager, led the students in a tour of their newly renovated facility, which includes Accounting and Financial Reporting functions, Payroll, Grants Reporting, Sales Tax Collections, and Risk Management. Thanks to Gaudet and Tracy Guidry, LPSB Head Accountant, as well as Bobbie McDonald, LPSB Head Accountant.

THE ACCOUNTING CLUB - FALL 2010

A professional accounting designation can help you distinguish yourself in today's business world and the Nicholls State University Accounting Club can help you learn what each designation has to offer.

The Accounting Club meets regularly, is student driven and combines activities that are academic and social in nature. Some of the activities include monthly meetings, committee meetings, community service projects, fundraisers and an end-of-the-semester social. Dues are \$10 per semester.

The Accounting Club's first meeting was a great success in which 12 new members were recruited and officers were elected. The following students were elected to three offices of the Accounting Club:

President - Christina Landry, Senior
Vice-President - Benjamin Adams, Senior
Secretary - Nellianna Anthony

Various community service projects were discussed at the meeting and plans were made to participate in Family Day, scheduled for October 23, 2010.

The Accounting Club, along with Beta Alpha Psi, is also very excited to be sponsoring a presentation on the subject of Forensic Accounting to be given by Ralph A. Litloff, Jr., CPA, Director of Business Consulting Services with Bourgeois Bennett – one of the largest locally-owned regional CPA firms in Louisiana. Ed Bouterie, CPA, Director in Charge at Bourgeois Bennett, will also be on hand at the presentation which is scheduled for October 5, 2010 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in Room 217 of Powell Hall.

Special Thanks

- The Department of Accounting would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the manner in which Wiley Publishers and their representative, Dayna Leaman Bordelon, chose to honor Michele Guidry. The donation of the Intermediate Accounting textbook, which covers 3 courses, was a fitting tribute to Michele and the student recipient, Brittany Domingue. Brittany is a beginning accounting major who successfully completed her beginning course.

- During the month of May 2010, the firm of Charles C. Theriot, CPA of Houma met with faculty and staff of the Department of Accounting at Fremin's Restaurant for lunch. After the lunch meeting, Charles Theriot made a \$2,500 donation to the department for travel funds. Theriot felt that in light of the current budget situation at Nicholls and the importance of faculty attendance at conferences, that his donation for these purposes would be welcomed.

- We are in the process of renovating 105 White Hall. The funding for this renovation is being provided by Jude Guidry, the NSU foundation, and the EMBA program. The room will look very similar to the Barker executive classroom in the Duhe building and will be named in memory of Michele Guidry. The room will be used for the EMBA program, executive education, board meetings, etc. The hall is also getting a facelift so that we can host various functions in the room with sufficient space for overflow. This is a much needed improvement to the College of Business facility and will certainly be something that we can be proud of. We are grateful to Jude and his family for their support of this project.

Faculty News

Department adds 3 new faculty to staff

Stephanie Merrell is a CPA who earned both her bachelor's degree and MBA from Nicholls. She began her career as a Staff Accountant for International Shipholding Corporation in New Orleans where she worked for over two years. She was then offered a position with Bollinger WorkOver, Inc., now known as Suard WorkOver, where she was tasked with performing all functions of the accounting process from data entry to financial statement preparation.



Stephanie Merrell

While working on her MBA at Nicholls, Merrell also enrolled in undergraduate classes in Computer Information Systems and upon completing the MBA program, accepted a position with CHAND, LLC, a division of Bollinger Shipyards, as a Programmer/Systems Analyst. In this position, she gained invaluable experience in programming, networking as well as various computer software programs. During her years at CHAND, she served as the project lead for a successful E-commerce development project as well as the project lead for the successful implementation of a document management system.

Merrell's most recent position before coming to Nicholls was as a consultant/programmer with Lorelei Walker, CPA, LLC in Houma where she supported clients in various accounting software programs as well as utilized her expertise in programming and report writing. She continues to support clients with their accounting, programming and software needs. Welcome, Stephanie!

Margaret Diaz-Fugetta comes to Nicholls from Kenner with a CPA license and as a CIA. She has over 15 years of working in industry, most recently as a CFO for TCI Trucking, Inc. and as a CFO for Bryan Chevrolet, Inc. Margaret was a Senior Auditor for Postlewaite and Netterville, the largest CPA firm headquartered in Louisiana. She also has experience in the banking and oil and gas industries. She will be teaching auditing, beginning financial accounting, and beginning intermediate accounting. Welcome, Margaret.

Linda Nelsestuen returns to Louisiana from Florida. She earned her PhD in Accounting

from the University of South Florida in 1996. Linda has over 20 years of teaching experience, most recently at UNO, University of Tampa, and St. Leo University in Florida. She has co-

authored many journal articles and proceedings, primarily in the area of taxation. Linda will be teaching income tax courses, as well as at the graduate level. Welcome, Linda!

Other Faculty News



Dr. Shawn Mauldin, dean of the College of Business Administration at Nicholls State University, has been selected by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to appear in a video slated for Web-posting at the end of June.

The purpose of the video, featuring at least five accounting professionals from various fields and industries in the United States, is to motivate and inspire college students to pursue careers in accounting. Pictured during his recent interview with a film crew from North Carolina, Mauldin was chosen as a certified public accountant who pursued a career in higher education.



Assistant professor of accounting at Nicholls State University Kevin Breaux (center) works with master of business administration students Roy Sampey (left) and Carl Hebert Jr. in Houma in the College of Business new Executive MBA program.

Photo by Abby Tabor

Accounting students recognized at the College of Business Administration Spring 2010 Honors Banquet

On Sunday, April 25, 2010, the College of Business honored its best and brightest students at an awards ceremony held in the Cotillion Ballroom. Several accounting students were honored at this time.



Katelyn Vroon and Brittany Hebert were each presented with the Association of Government Accountants scholarship (\$250 each).



Dustin Cavalier, 2010-2011 Beta Alpha Psi President, received the Institute of Management Accountants scholarship for \$500.



Joseph Charpentier received the South Central Chapter of Louisiana CPAs scholarship from Steve Pontiff for \$250.



Zachry

Dr. Benny Zachry, Professor of Accounting has a Business Valuation case that was accepted for presentation at the 2010 Academy of Business Disciplines Conference, which will be held in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida on November 10 - 13. Dr. Jim Cater of the Department of Management and Marketing will also be presenting this case. Dr. Zachry also published an article in the August/September 2010 issue of NEW ACCOUNTANT, entitled "The Organizational Implications of Sarbanes-Oxley: Eight Years Later, pp 5, 32-34."



LeJeune

Stacy C. LeJeune was invited to be a member of a focus group, scheduled to meet in Chicago in October. The purpose of the focus group, sponsored by McGraw Hill, will be to discuss better ways of approaching the beginning accounting course and other new tools to meet the challenges of the many, varied ways that our students learn. LeJeune was also recently voted the President-Elect of the South Central Chapter of the LCPA for 2010-2011. She will resume the office of President in the next fiscal year.



Dr. Shawn Mauldin,
Dean



Dr. Mike Chiasson,
Department Head



Dr. Kevin Breaux,
Associate Professor

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, accounting faculty members have been busily performing research and authoring articles for inclusion in professional journals. The article "CPAs Beware: Disclosure or Use of Taxpayer Information Requirements Under IRC Section 7216" appeared recently in The CPA Journal, while "Accounting Curricula: Does it Influence Recruiters' Hiring Decisions of Entry-Level Accountants?" appeared in the Journal of Education for Business. "Tax Incentives of Going Green" is also to be included in The CPA Journal, and "Employee vs. Contractor: Controversial Battlegrounds, the Courts Rule" will be featured in the Journal of Business and Behavioral Sciences.

Department of Accounting Advisory Board

We deeply appreciate the commitment of time and knowledge given to the department by our advisory board. This group of individuals has helped guide us through the initial phase of accreditation and our successful re-accreditation process. Thank you.

Ed Bouterie, CPA
Bourgeois Bennett, LLC

Bobby L. Howard, CPA

Nolan Falgout, III, CFO
First American Bank & Trust

Faye Harris, CPA
Camnetar & Company, CPAs

Tommy Lanaux, CPA
Lanaux & Felger

Barry Melancon, CPA
President & CEO
American Institute of CPAs

Melanie Weisheit, CPA

Don Gaudet, CPA
Business Manager
Lafourche Parish School Board

Brett Terrebonne
Accounting Manager
Entergy Services, Inc.

Charles Theriot, CPA
Charles Theriot CPAs

Glenn Vice, CPA
COO
The J. M. Burguierres Co., Ltd.

Matt Bernard, CPA
Executive VP, CFO
Gulf Offshore Logistics

Homecoming Court



Holden Ledet, accounting senior from Cut Off, was elected to this year's homecoming court. Congratulations, Holden.

Retirement

After more than 25 years of serving our students as an adjunct professor of tax and managerial accounting, Fred Sollars has retired at the end of the Spring 2010 semester. We appreciate his dedication to the Department of Accounting and wish him well.

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Department of Accounting Mission Statement

Consistent with the College of Business, the mission of the Accounting program is to prepare students for careers in accounting by continuously improving its teaching, research, and service.