

ACCOUNTING NEWS

Inside the College of Business Administration

Fall 2011

Vol. 4, No. 1

Executive MBA classroom dedicated at Nicholls



Scores of faculty and staff members, community leaders and family members of the late Michele Dantin Guidry, former instructor of accounting at Nicholls State University, gathered for the dedication of the new Michele D. Guidry Executive MBA Classroom at the Nicholls College of Business Administration on Wednesday, March 16, 2010. Funded via a \$50,000 commitment from Guidry's husband Jude, a \$10,000 commitment from the Nicholls Foundation and approximately \$11,000 in additional private donations, the classroom accommodates 20 students in a boardroom environment. Suitable for case discussions, seminars and lectures, the room encourages interaction among students and professors via state-of-the-art, user-friendly technology. Teaching tools include a viewing monitor that allows interactive writing and recording on the screen, ceiling-mounted surround speakers and a high resolution projector. Nicholls maintenance personnel built the classroom. Pictured from left are Guidry's children – Thad, Taryn and Trisha – her husband Jude and Dr. Shawn Mauldin, dean of the College of Business Administration. •

Accounting Professors receive awards



Dr. Mike Chiasson, Head of the Department of Accounting, Finance & Information Systems, (center) received the 2010 College of Business Excellence Award in Research at the COB Honors Banquet held in April 2011. Presenting the award is Dr. Laynie Barrilleaux, NSU Vice-President for Academic Affairs. **Dr. Kevin Breaux**, Associate Professor of Accounting, (second from left) received the College of Business Excellence Award in Teaching.

Department adds new faculty member to staff

Dr. Rodger Holland, Associate Professor of Accounting

Although new to Nicholls State University, Dr. Holland is not new to Louisiana. He taught at Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge) from 1990 to 1994 before moving to Georgia. He began his professional teaching career in 1981 at Florida State University before moving to LSU in 1990. Dr. Holland taught at other regional universities in Georgia and South Carolina before moving to Nicholls State in 2011.

Dr. Holland received his Bachelors degree in Accounting from the University of Alabama in 1975 and immediately completed his Masters in Accounting from Alabama in 1976. He received his PhD from Ohio State University in 1991.

Dr. Holland will be teaching managerial accounting, advanced accounting, and managerial decision support for Nicholls. Welcome, Dr. Holland! •

Dean Mauldin named to LCPA Office

Dr. Shawn Mauldin, Dean of the College of Business and Cenac Chair in Accounting, has been named President-Elect of the Society of Louisiana



Certified Public Accountants. He received the LCPA's Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award in 2005 and is a past president of the local chapter of the accounting society.

He holds bachelors and master's degrees in business administration from Nicholls State and a Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Mississippi. Congratulations, Shawn. •

Accounting students are recognized at the College of Business Administration Spring 2011 Honors Banquet

On Sunday, April 10, 2011, 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.



Prior to the honors banquet, three accounting students were inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. **Dustin Cavalier**, **Jamie LeBlanc**, and **Stephanie Ferrell** are pictured with Dr. Betty Kleen, BGS advisor. All three inductees are also members of Beta Alpha Psi.



Accounting students, **Kshitiz Shrestha** (second from left) and **Katelyn Vroon** (third from right) received the Gerald Gaston College of Business Scholarship from Dr. Sonya Premeaux, Associate Dean of the College of Business.



Dr. Kevin Breaux (right) presents **Dustin Cavalier**, Beta Alpha Psi President, with a Becker Professional Education Scholarship for Success Award, one of only 50 scholarships that Becker (CPA Review Course) awards throughout the United States.



Florina Nosca (Spring 2011) and **Danielle Burgo** (Fall 2010) received plaques for Outstanding Accounting Graduates. Pictured with them is Bryce Ledet, President of the South Central Chapter of LCPAs.



Kristin Duplantis received the South Central Chapter of Louisiana CPAs scholarship from Bryce Ledet, President, for \$250.



Amanda Lasserre and **Sarah Sullivan**, accounting majors, receive the Norman Swanner Memorial Business Scholarship from Dr. Jim Cater.



Chris Breerwood and **Cuiping Saam** received the Association of Government Accountants scholarship (\$250 each). Pictured is Chris Breerwood with Mr. Bill Burch of the Baton Rouge Chapter of AGA.



Hanh Chung and **Amanda Lasserre**, accounting majors, received the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network Scholarship presented by Dr. Mike Chiasson, Accounting Department Head.



Katelyn Vroon, 2010-2011 Beta Alpha Psi Secretary, received the Institute of Management Accountants scholarship for \$500 from Larry Celestine.

Awards continued on page 3

Nicholls Accounting Department Graduates 50 for 2010-2011 term

Spring 2011: Desiree Allemand, Jarrad Billiot, Jacques Boudreaux, Dustin Cavalier, Paige Cipolla, Warren Couch, Shelly Goetz, Melinda Gray, Brittany Hebert, Patrick Juban, Christina Landry, Kasey Landry, Tu Le, Jamie LeBlanc, Holden Ledet, Christy Lovell, Adam Martin, Huong-Tra

Nguyen, ** Florina Nosca, Matt Ortego, Cuiping Saam, Salena Tabor, and Marshall Waire.

Fall 2010: Betsy Arcement, Amanda Ayo, Bret Badeaux, **Danielle Burgo, Donna Comeaux, Jennifer Cook, Lauren Daigle, Nicholas Damen, David Dominique, Amanda Fakier, Lacie Falgoust,

Boyd Fink, Toni Gaffney, Brooke Guillot, Michael Guillot, Shawanda Harris, Gabrielle Hernandez, Allyson Kirby, Colette LeBlanc, Megan Marie, Naomi Neal, Lynn Rhodes, Ashley Russo, Zelma Smith, Brittany Thomas, Micah Trosclair, and Zachary Young.

(**denotes Outstanding Accounting Graduate)

Spotlight on Students

Awards. Continued from page 2



Kristin Duplantis and **Dustin Cavalier**, receive a Louisiana Society of CPAs scholarship award from Shawn Mauldin, LCPA President-Elect. These awards are based on an application process that includes students from throughout the state.

Other Awards and Honors

Natalie Breaux was the recipient of the Spring 2011 Michele Guidry Intermediate Accounting textbook award. This award is sponsored by Wiley Publishing and given to a sophomore entering their junior year of accounting courses.

Kaleb Plaisance received the E.R.T. Marquette, CPA, scholarship of \$100. This award is given to an accounting senior, who completed his/her junior year with the highest gpa of all accounting juniors.

Janice Hutchinson received the New Orleans Chapter of Association of Government Accountants 2011 scholarship. Janice attended a luncheon in the spring hosted by the AGA to receive her award of \$500.

Katelyn Vroon, Beta Alpha Psi Secretary, was recently notified that she was chosen to participate in Capital One's Finance Rotation Program. It offers a 2 ½ year opportunity to develop highly sought-after analytical skills and gain a wealth of experience from leaders in business finance, treasury management, planning, and accounting. Successful completion of the program leads to promotion and admission to top business graduate schools.

Accountant listed in 50 Best Careers of 2011

In a December 2010 article, US News and World Report listed accountant as one of the 50 best careers of 2011. Related careers of actuary, financial adviser, and financial analyst were also included in the list of careers, which were based on job-growth projections from the US Labor Department, jobs that were expected to add jobs at an above-average rate over the next decade, as well as those that provide above-average median income. Where possible, job satisfaction, turnover, and impending retirements were also considered.



Accounting Department.

Charles Bashkiharatee was born in Kingston, Jamaica and made his way to Houma, after leaving Canada with his wife and three young children. His wife had received a job offer as a registered nurse at St. Anne's Hospital in Raceland. Charles fell in love with south Louisiana because it reminded him of his birthplace: fishing industry, sugar cane farming, fruits and vegetables, and the water. He worked in the oil and gas industry until 2008, when he decided to come to Nicholls full-time. Charles originally joined the Culinary program before deciding to switch his major to accounting. He credits Mrs. Stacy LeJeune and Mrs. Gina Lagrange for encouraging him to pursue his accounting degree. Charles also felt that Nicholls has a top-notch



Johannes Kotze (pronounced Lohan) of Pretoria, South Africa found his way to Nicholls because of an offer to play golf for the men's team. He has two family members, Theunette and Eben Vander Walt, that are also attending Nicholls. Johannes decided on a career in accounting because his mother works in the accounting field in South Africa, and his grandfather was an accountant for John Deere. His goal is to pass the CPA exam and pursue jobs in auditing and forensic accounting. Johannes is very grateful for his experience thus far at Nicholls and appreciates the support from faculty regarding his absences during golf season.

Accounting Club News

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, community service projects and fundraisers. Officers for the 2011-2012 school year are: President, Benjamin Adams; Vice-President, Jimmy Steward and Secretary, Danae Himel.

On November 8, 2010 the Accounting Club hosted representatives from Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick CPAs for a presentation on Accounting and Technology, as well as what their firm looks for on a resume and in an interview. The presentation was held in Powell Hall on campus. Beta Alpha Psi sponsored a reception immediately following the presentation.



Pictured above at the reception are Sara Barilleaux and Lauren Hebert of Darnall, Sikes, Gardes, & Frederick with accounting students: **Justin Falcon**, **Chris Chiasson**, **Dustin Cavalier**, **Joe Charpentier**, and **Patrick Juban**.

Beta Alpha Psi News



Hanh Chung and **Jamie LeBlanc**, Beta Alpha Psi seniors, accept the outstanding members award at the College of Business Honors Banquet held in April 2011. Presenting the award is Stacy LeJeune, faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi.



As part of their reaching out efforts, Beta Alpha Psi members organized an informational session and reception this spring for all interested potential new members. Shown above is **Dustin Cavalier**, BAP President, making the presentation.



Beta Alpha Psi President, **Dustin Cavalier**, presents a check to Tracy Purvis of the Dyslexia Center, to help purchase pairs of white socks for our soldiers. During Fall 2010, BAP collected \$100 for "Operation White Socks" by selling paper "Ns" for \$1 near the College of Business Powell Auditorium.



Also this spring, Beta Alpha Psi sponsored a presentation by Kaplan CPA Review. Laramie McClurg of Kaplan explains the exam-taking process.

Spring 2011 Beta Alpha Psi Inductees

From left: **Patrick Juban, Desiree Allemand, Kristen Armond, Jamie LeBlanc, Kshitiz Shrestha, Huong-Tra Nguyen, and Benjamin Adams.**



Accounting Students Excel at Other Interests

The Nicholls State University Chamber Singers performed “A Baby Boomer Christmas,” directed by Dr. Kenneth S. Klaus, professor of music and director of choral activities, on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010.

This 24th edition of the Chamber Singers’ Christmas Dinner Series began at 7 p.m in the Cotillion Ballroom of the Bollinger Student Union. Costumed singers performed Christmas carols and other popular music from 1945 to 1966. Selections included “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” featuring music from the animated Peanuts special of 1966; “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Silver Bells,” “Blue Christmas,” the Carpenters’ “Merry Christmas Darling,” “Silver and Gold” from the “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” TV special; “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” Mel Tormé’s “The Christmas Song,” and “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” among others.



Pictured above are Accounting students **Sarah Sullivan** (first row, third position) and **Madison Martin** (second row, second position).

Other Faculty News



At an installation banquet held in June, the South Central Chapter of Louisiana CPAs elected **Stacy LeJeune** as President. Other Nicholls alumni elected to board positions are Barbara Watts, President-Elect, Kandace Mauldin, Treasurer, and Buddy Breerwood, Board Member-at-large.



Margaret Diaz-Fugetta graduated on May 20, 2011 from the University of New Orleans with a “Master of Science in Accounting - Taxation Option”.

Accounting Graduates Listed in Who’s Who

Nicholls State University will be represented by 54 students in the 2011 edition of “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.”

The junior and senior honorees were selected as national student leaders by a campus nominating committee and editors of the nationwide annual directory. Each university may select up to one percent of its students for inclusion in Who’s Who.

“Nicholls is very proud of these students,” said Dr. Eugene A. Dial Jr., vice president for student affairs and enrollment services. “We honor their contributions to the campus and their communities, and we look forward to the great things they will accomplish in their post-college years.”



Accounting majors pictured from left on the first row are **Morgan Bourgeois** of Thibodaux and **Lauren Daigle** of Labadieville. Seventh from the left on the third row is **Holden Ledet** of Cut Off. Congratulations



Professor Retires after 18 years of teaching

After more than 18 years of serving our students as a professor of accounting at the graduate and undergraduate levels, Dr. Benny Zachry has retired at the end of the summer 2011 semester. We appreciate his dedication to the Department of Accounting and wish him well.

Continuing Professional Education Seminars Offered at NSU

Department of Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems at Nicholls State University and the South Central Chapter of the LCPA are co-sponsoring Continuing Education Seminars on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, and Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

The seminars provide timely topics from highly qualified speakers that

benefit all CPAs. Most importantly, they are convenient and cost effective. The proceeds from the seminars help us maintain our nationally accredited (AACSB International) accounting program. Registration materials can be requested from or any questions can be directed to Shawn Mauldin at shawn.mauldin@nicholls.edu or Gina LaGrange at gina.lagrange@nicholls.edu.

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Nicholls State University, Betsy Cheramie Ayo Auditorium

SESSION I (4 Hours - Specialized Knowledge)

7:45 – 8:15..... Registration (Coffee, pastries, and fruit will be provided)

8:15 – 8:20..... Welcome – Shawn Mauldin

8:20 – 11:50..... Town Hall Meeting – Grady Hazel

11:50 – 1:00..... Lunch provided in the Galliano cafeteria

SESSION II (4 Hours – Management)

1:00 – 2:40..... Technology Update (Cloud Computing, Virtual Servers, Virtual Applications, SharePoint and other Recent Developments) - Charles Coe, Coe & Co., LLC

2:50 – 4:30..... IFRS Update – April Little, LFRS Tax Practice Leader, Grant Thornton, LLP

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Nicholls State University, Betsy Cheramie Ayo Auditorium

SESSION I (4 Hours – Management)

7:45 – 8:15..... Registration (Coffee, pastries, and fruit will be provided)

8:15 – 8:20..... Welcome – Shawn Mauldin

8:20 – 10:00..... Tax Update – Bob Perez

10:10 – 11:50..... A & A Update (Latest Developments in Compilations, Reviews, and Auditing standards) – Chad Becnel, Director, Postlethwaite and Netterville

11:50 – 1:00..... Lunch provided in the Galliano cafeteria

SESSION II (4 Hours – Professional Ethics)

1:00 – 4:30..... LA Ethics: Overview, Non-Attest Services, Integrity & Objectivity – Grady Hazel

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 will help guide us through the upcoming 5-year AACSB accreditation process. Thank you.

Mr. Ed Bouterie, CPA,

Bourgeois Bennett, LLC

Mr. Nolan Falgout, III

Chief Financial Officer, First American Bank & Trust

Mrs. Faye Harris, CPA

Camnetar & Company, CPAs

Mr. Tommy Lanaux, CPA

Lanaux & Felger CPAs

Mr. Barry Melancon, CPA

President & CEO, American Institute of CPAs

Mrs. Melanie Weisheit, CPA

Senior Network Pricing Consultant, United Health Care

Tim Gallagher, CPA

Waguespack & Gallagher, LLC

Alexis Duval, CPA

Duval Shearer CPAs LLC

Mr. Don Gaudet, CPA

Business Manager, Lafourche Parish School Board

Mr. Brett Terrebonne

*Business Operations Manager
Cox Communications*

Mr. Charles Theriot, CPA

Charles Theriot CPAs

Mr. Glenn Vice, CPA

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Ms. Cindi Cook

Accounting Manager, Gulf Island

Jodie Arceneaux, CPA

Beyer Stagni & Co CPAs

Tony Ruiz

Postlethwaite & Netterville

Travis Brown

Charter Communications

Derek Boudreaux

Chief Financial Officer, Montco Offshore, Inc.

Mitch LeCompte

ES&H

Cynthia Aucoin, CPA

Bryce Ledet, CPA

A Professional Corporation

Barbara Watts, CPA

Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick

Greg Piazza

Business Development Manager, Ryan

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Stephen T. Hulbert, University President • Shawn Mauldin, Dean

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.

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