

## Greetings from the department head

Dr. Michael Chiasson



Since our last newsletter we have been busy working to prepare for our first maintenance of accreditation. The faculty and advisory board gathered for a mini-retreat to gather ideas on the development of a revised mission statement, strategic plan, and student learning goals. Through this process and several additional hours of meetings, we now have a new mission statement, a strategic plan, and a set of student learning goals. All of these initiatives are aimed at ensuring that we have a quality

accounting program and that we are continuously improving, so that we can be recognized as a leader in accounting education.

## Professors of accounting publish research papers



Dr. Kevin Breaux



Dr. Michael Chiasson



Dr. Shawn Mauldin



Stacy LeJeune

Dr. Kevin Breaux, assistant professor of accounting, Teresa Whitney, a former graduate student, Dr. Mike Chiasson, head of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems, and Dr. Shawn Mauldin, dean of the College of Business, recently had a paper titled "Ethics Education in Accounting Curricula: Does it Influence Recruiters' Hiring Decisions of Entry-Level Accountants?" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Education for Business*.

Stacy LeJeune, instructor of accounting, participated in a research paper titled "An Evaluation of Pay for Performance: National Security System," which was recently published in the *International Journal of Business and Public Administration*. Lead authors include: Dr. Aaron Caillouet, Dr. Charles Chekwa, and Gregory Rush of Troy University, as well as Dr. Mmuta Chukwuonu of Allen University.

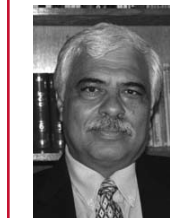
Department of Accounting Mission Statement  
Consistent with the College of Business, the mission of the Accounting program is to prepare students for careers in accounting by continuously improving its teaching, research, and service.

Our AACSB accreditation team has been selected. The team is composed of four members from business schools and accounting programs. The accounting chair will be Dr. James Scheiner, dean of the School of Business Administration at Stetson University. The team visit is scheduled for February 21-23, 2010.

As always, our alumni are important to the future success of our program. It is important that we have feedback from alumni for purposes of continuous improvement. We will be sending out surveys to recent graduates as well as those who have graduated in the past 5 and 10 years. If you receive a survey, please take the time to complete and return it to us.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter, and we appreciate your continued support of our accounting program. If you have any information that you would like to share, please send an e-mail. Also, if we can be of assistance to you please let us know.

## Department of Accounting seminar scheduled for November 19



Dr. Neset Hikmet

The Nicholls State University Department of Accounting will hold its annual continuing education seminar for CPAs on November 19 from 1-5 pm at Powell Auditorium on campus. The featured speakers are Bob Perez, retired partner of KPMG, and Dr. Neset Hikmet, professor of information systems and Otto Candies endowed chair in information systems. Bob will begin the program with a tax update, followed by a small break. Dr.

Hikmet will continue the afternoon with an emphasis on the use of current software in practice. The fee for both sessions is \$100, with checks payable to NSU Foundation. Mail to Department of Accounting and Information Systems, PO Box 2015, Thibodaux, LA 70310. The Department of Accounting appreciates the service of Mr. Perez and Dr. Hikmet for participating in the seminar.

## Accounting professor attends focus group



Dr. Benny Zachry

In April of 2008, Dr. Benny Zachry, professor of accounting, was one of ten accounting faculty nationwide to be invited to participate in a two-day "Financial Accounting Focus Group" held at the corporate headquarters of McGraw-Hill/Irwin publishers in Chicago. The purpose of the program was to discuss how technology, learning styles, and events beyond the academic environment are shaping the way financial accounting is taught today.

Congratulations, Dr. Zachry.

## Department of Accounting upgrades its website

If you are interested in what is happening in the Nicholls Department of Accounting, please check out our upgraded website under the College of Business Administration link or simply type: [www.nicholls.edu/accounting](http://www.nicholls.edu/accounting).

There you will find a wealth of information on current Department of Accounting faculty and staff, job postings, updates on alumni, CPE workshops, and the activities of Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Club.

Please e-mail any job openings you have to Gina Lagrange, [gina.lagrange@nicholls.edu](mailto:gina.lagrange@nicholls.edu), so that we can post them on our website. Also, let us know what you are doing, so that we can post that on the website as well. Keep in touch.



## Accounting majors meet the firms



Michelle Guidry

The Iota Sigma chapter of Beta Alpha Psi national honor society hosted its “CPA/Student Night” on October 21 at Envie restaurant in Thibodaux. The event featured speaker Shawn Mauldin, dean of the College of Business.

The event allows students to interact with area firms in a professional setting. Participating students rotate around tables sponsored by contributing companies, meet potential employers, exchange business cards and résumés, and get a feel for the interview process.

Undergraduates are matched with prospective employers, primarily members of the South Central Chapter of Louisiana CPAs, and spend five minutes with each interviewer. To conclude the event, participants are treated to a buffet dinner. This year’s “CPA/Student Night” was sponsored by the South Central Chapter of Louisiana CPAs. Donations were also made to Beta Alpha Psi.

Beta Alpha Psi recognizes outstanding academic achievement in the field



of accounting, provides opportunities for self-development and association among members and practicing accountants, and encourages a sense of ethical, social, and public responsibilities. Michele Guidry, instructor of accounting, is the Beta Alpha Psi adviser.

## Nicholls accounting club elects new officers

The Nicholls accounting club elected new officers at its first meeting of the Fall 2008 semester. They are Justin Bourgeois, president; Devin Wright, vice-president; Gabrielle Martinez, secretary and Whitney Vanderson, treasurer.

The club consists of accounting majors who participate in campus service

opportunities, visit accounting departments of area businesses, conduct fund-raising activities, and organize campus lectures. Most recently, members of the club visited Duplantis Design Group, a local engineering and architectural firm, to get a “real-world” view of how the company operates and the design of their accounting function. Thanks to Veronica Gonzales, accounting manager, and

## Dean selected as Arlen B. Cenac chair and appointed to AICPA committee



Dr. Shawn Mauldin

Dr. Shawn Mauldin, CPA, CMA, CFP, dean of the College of Business, has been selected as the Arlen B. Cenac Jr. Chair in Accounting. After a national search, Dr. Mauldin was chosen based on his distinguished record in teaching, research, service, and administration. He maintains a high profile in the accounting profession by serving in various professional capacities. He recently served as president of the South Central Chapter

and is currently serving on the board of the Louisiana Society of CPAs. In 2004, Dr. Mauldin was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in Accounting Education from the Louisiana Society of CPAs. According to Dr. Mauldin, “It is an honor to serve in this capacity. I believe my current role as dean and chair complement each other quite well. I will continue to provide the leadership to move forward with our strategic plan, maintenance of accreditation in business and accounting, and other initiatives that we have established.”

Most recently, Dr. Mauldin has also been appointed to the AICPA’s education executive committee. This committee reports directly to the AICPA board and recommends improvements in curricula and pedagogy at a national level. Congratulations, Dr. Mauldin.

## Accounting students recognized at the College of Business Administration spring 2008 honors banquet

### *South Central Chapter of Louisiana Society of Louisiana CPAs*

**Outstanding Accounting Graduates:**  
Samantha Tran, Kristina Trosclair, and Lafon Ortis

### *ERT Marquette CPA Scholarship*

Cullen Clement and Casey Guillory

### *South Central Chapter of Louisiana Society of Louisiana CPAs Scholarships*

Matthew Berthelot, Sherri Bailey, and Casey Guillory

### *Association of Government Accountants Scholarships*

Anjele Borne and Casey Guillory

### *Baton Rouge Chapter of Institute of Management Accountants Scholarship*

Barret Ellender

### *COPAS of New Orleans Acknowledgement*

Erin Lacey

## Fall 2007 Graduates



Lacey Adams, Napoleonville  
Sumbra Anjum, Raceland  
Adam Ayme, Destrehan  
Janine Diehl, Opelousas  
Monica Ellender, Houma  
Amanda Fremem, Houma  
Mary C. Gonsoulin, Houma  
Kristi Jarveaux, Houma  
Hilliary Knox, Labadieville  
Sandi LeBlanc, Houma  
Clemisha Mingo, Thibodaux  
Bonnie Naquin, Houma  
Lafon Ortis, Morgan City  
Lasha Patterson, Gonzales  
Dana Pellegrin, Schriever  
Ryan Percle, Berwick  
Tina Pisani, Patterson  
Alaina Politz, Belle Rose  
Keith Sauce, Jr., Thibodaux  
Kayla Sparks, St. Francisville  
Sharon Steib, Thibodaux

## Spring 2008 Graduates

Brett Adams, Morgan City  
Sherri Bailey, Houma  
Richard Borne, Houma  
Nicholas Boudreaux, Baton Rouge  
Chyna Hardin, Thibodaux  
Ruth Dubis, Thibodaux  
Antoine Foret, Thibodaux  
Catherine Freeman, Houma  
Joey Landry, Houma  
Claire Ledet, Thibodaux  
Melissa Moran, Houma  
Bobby Ratcliff, Houma  
Mandy Reulet, Thibodaux  
Emiri Shimada, Thibodaux  
Elizabeth Lirette Voisin, Houma,  
Samantha Tran, Houma  
Donna Tregre, Hahnville  
Kristina Trosclair, Thibodaux  
Jacob Watkins, Houma



## LCPA South Central Chapter installs 2008-2009 board members

During its May 2008 meeting at Café Milano in Houma, the South Central Chapter of LCPAs installed new officers. All five of them are Nicholls College of Business Administration alumni. The organization’s past president, Mark Felger, is also a Nicholls graduate. The new board members are: Matt Bernard (BS '92) president; Steve Pontiff (BS '90) vice-president; Bryce Ledet (BS '97) secretary; Stacy C. LeJeune (MBA '96) treasurer and Barbara Watts (BS '99) board member-at-large.

The LCPA is a non-profit professional association with more than 6,600 members statewide that works with CPAs in public practice, industry, government, and education. The LCPA is dedicated to unifying CPAs under a high standard of ethics and professionalism.