NMSU Accounting

The Aggie Update 2011-2012

business.nmsu.edu
Alumni, Donors and Accounting Advisory Council Members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and contributions to the NMSU Department of Accounting and Information Systems. I would also like to introduce myself. As many of you know, Ed Scribner retired in June after 32 years of service. Ed was a great mentor to students and faculty members and will truly be missed.

I grew up in Las Cruces and I am a NMSU alumnus (Class of ’98) with a Bachelor of Accountancy. I spent time as an internal auditor with Texas Utilities (TXU) in Dallas, and received my Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Arizona. Following my doctoral studies, I was on the faculty at Louisiana State University for three years, and jumped at the chance to return home and be a part of the NMSU College of Business. I am pleased to say that my education in the accounting program not only prepared me for my job at TXU, but it also prepared me to be successful as I pursued my academic career and entered a doctoral program. Our faculty is outstanding and truly cares about the success of our students. I am proud to be an Aggie and excited about the opportunity to serve as the Department of Head of Accounting and Information Systems.

I am pleased to report that our programs, through the support of our faculty, donors and recruiters continue to be successful. In 2011-2012 52 students received their Bachelor of Accountancy degree and 29 students received their Master of Accountancy degree. We have been successful placing our students at regional and national public accounting firms, in Albuquerque, El Paso, Los Angeles, Dallas, and San Antonio. Additionally, we have been very successful in securing excellent student internships including two undergraduate internships in NYC with Big 4 firms. We are continually grateful for the support our students receive from our recruiters, thank you.

Our department continues to be led by our outstanding faculty, Mary Jo Billiot, Rusty Calk, Kevin McNelis, Sherry Mills, Cindy Seipel, Bill Smith, Dale Spencer, and Larry Tunnel. I am honored to be able to serve as Department Head for such a devoted group of faculty. They truly are outstanding and are committed to our students.

We still have some strides to make toward achieving even greater academic excellence for the success of our students. With the assistance of alumni, friends, and donors we are able to provide exceptional opportunities for our students to reach their ultimate educational and professional goals. Our top funding priority is to raise funds for the first NMSU endowed chair in accounting. Through a generous gift from Mike and Judy Johnson we have a head start and now have the Lionel Haight Endowed Professorship. In addition to this gift, Mike and Judy will match gifts up to $100,000 to reach our goal of establishing the accounting chair. We have made considerable progress toward this effort but still need your help to make this happen.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Kevin Melendrez (kdm@nmsu.edu)
Department Head
The Albuquerque College of Business alumni event was a huge success. We had about 90 people in attendance and everyone had such high enthusiasm that we were there. This is really the first event we’ve put on for our business alumni in ABQ so we clearly see the need for having an event each year and providing a consistent activity for our students, alumni and faculty to get together up North. Many thanks to our faculty who made the quick day trip, Joe and Larry Lujan who hosted the event, and our friends at REDW who kindly provided the perfect venue in Albuquerque.

The donor reception hosted by Dean and Mrs. Carruthers at their home was well attended with about 100 supporters of the College. This is the largest turnout since initiating this event. The reception is the Dean’s favorite event as he loves to extend his personal appreciation to our donors.

We had another very successful event in El Paso for our accounting alumni. The reception was hosted by our alumna and Foundation Board member Lee Ellen Banks and Mike Mitchell. We had about 50 attendees including accounting faculty, students, and alumni. Special thanks to Lauterbach, Borschow and Co. for presenting a $5,000 check to establish an endowed accounting scholarship and a commitment to reach at least $10,000. We appreciate the faculty and students who made the journey down I-10 during finals week.

Let’s keep up the momentum NMSU accounting alumni and supporters! There are a number of ways to give back to advance the accounting profession and our NMSU students. Attend an event, hire our graduates, provide internships, brag about our Aggies, or give a gift to the NMSU accounting department. For more ways to give please contact Dr. Andrea Tawney atawney@nmsu.edu or 575-646-4917.

To make a secure online contribution visit: http://fndforms.nmsu.edu/giving.php
I am a 1972 Graduate of NMSU with a BBA in Accounting.

I have been married to Patsy for 38 years and have two sons. Brad who works with us at Beasley, Mitchell and Company CPA’s and David who attended graduate school at NMSU and is now an attorney in Omaha, Nebraska. We have two grandsons Zachary living in Omaha and Beaux of Las Cruces.

I came to NMSU on a football scholarship, every college needs a 5’ 9” quarterback, but quickly decided there must be a safer way to go to college. I was fortunate enough to get accepted in the Cooperative education program my Sophomore year and worked half time and went to school half time for next three years.

Enjoying both math and business classes in high school I took a bookkeeping class and found that I really enjoyed the class and the accounting rules made sense to me. My high school bookkeeping teacher encouraged me to consider accounting. My advisor at NMSU was Lionel Haight, who taught accounting from 1927-1972 and guided me through my college years.

After college I went to work for Neff and Company CPA’s. I found that I really enjoyed the tax portion of accounting and have worked in that area during my career. In 1987 Paul Mitchell and I decided to start our own firm and presently there are 4 partners and 28 staff. We perform tax, consulting, accounting and audit services for our clients. I am the tax partner for the firm and specialize in working with our business clients and assisting them in making their businesses more successful and profitable.

The most challenging aspect of my job is keeping current on the tax law changes. Prior to 1972 we had only had 5 major changes to the tax code since its inception in 1913. Since 1972 we have more than 20 major changes. Add to that the state and local changes and it is a daunting task to keep up.

I think accounting is a great field for new graduates. Every aspect of business requires accounting knowledge. Whether you want to practice in public accounting, private accounting or own your own business the knowledge you gain in accounting will be helpful.

Being a CPA has allowed me to meet and work with a wide variety of individuals. I learned a lot from them and hope I have added some value to their lives.

I was president of the alumni association in 1985-1986. I am a past president of the NMSU foundation.

Currently I am on a committee established by President Couture and Chaired by Dean Carruthers working on recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and efficiencies of New Mexico State. There are many talented and knowledgeable people working on this committee and I have learned a lot about the university.
Jon and Kalyn Blazak

Kalyn and I graduated from NMSU with our Masters of Accountancy in December 2011. Prior to that Kalyn graduated with her Bachelors of Accountancy in December 2010 and I graduated with mine in May 2011. I currently work for CliftonLarsonAllen LLP the nation’s 7th largest accounting firm and the second largest firm in Arizona. With 3,600 employees nationwide and $600 million in annual revenue, we are the only firm of our size that focuses solely on privately held businesses and their owners. Kalyn works for Deloitte (no further explanation needed). We are both associates, I do tax Kalyn audit. On a typical day I complete returns for corporate clients with assets ranging from 1 to 50 million and personal returns for high wealth clients. I also perform tax research in the areas of state and local compliance, corporate reorganization and federal compliance. Kalyn works on public client engagements within the education industry and also works on sports and entertainment clients.

We are both currently studying for the CPA exam and hope to have all four sections done by the end of the year. During our free time in Phoenix we like to play golf.

Tiffany Kane

When do you expect to graduate?
May 2013

What degree(s) will you have earned upon graduation?
Master of Accountancy

What are your post-graduate goals?
Start work at a public accounting firm

Why did you decide to study accounting?
Because I enjoyed ACCT 252 and decided to try some more classes

What have you enjoyed most about going to NMSU?
I love the professors in the accounting department. They are extremely helpful and seem to really care about students’ success

What is the most important thing you have learned while in school?
Dedication and doing the best I can and then some

What advice would you give a student who plans to pursue an accounting degree but has never taken an accounting course?
To get to 301 and then decide

Why did you decide to become the president of BAP?
To further my skills as a leader and my presentation skills. Because I believe in what BAP stands for to improve accounting students in many different areas such as working together and working to help one another

Which NMSU course has been your favorite and why?
Not for profit- Dr. Billiot is a wonderful professor and I really enjoyed the content because I like governmental accounting

Which professor has influenced you the most and why?
Dr. Calk- Worked a lot with him during being president of BAP and he helped guide me in my goals as being president without telling me exactly what and how to do it so that I was able to have some freedom in planning and working on my goals

What are your biggest fears for entering the workforce?
That I won’t be able to cut it in public accounting. Not being able to learn quick enough or not passing my CPA exam
The Delta Lambda Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi organizes and participates in a wide variety of activities. Professional meetings are held weekly throughout the semester. Speakers range from professional representatives of public, private and governmental accounting and speak on various accounting and business related topics, and recently personal qualities that allow accounting professionals to stand out in their field.

Leadership
At the beginning of every semester the officers attend a leadership retreat to plan for the upcoming semester. The retreat was hosted by Moss Adams in Seattle in August and Phoenix in January. The students are guided by accounting professionals who attend the retreat, most notably Brandon Fryar (Moss Adams), Mandy Funchess (Shlenker & Cantwell), Brian Grega (KPMG), Brandon Haines (CliftonLarsonAllen), Suzette Longfellow (KPMG), and Shelly McGuire (PwC).

Community Service
One of Beta Alpha Psi’s largest commitments is to promote social responsibility. We offer our members a chance to build this responsibility through community service activities. Our members volunteered at the Renaissance Fair, Keep State Great, The Big Event, Junior Achievement, The Audubon Society, and Relay for Life. Our members and pledges donate hundreds of hours of service beautifying the city and planting trees, and fundraised over $1,500 for the American Cancer Society this year.

Professional Development
Beta Alpha Psi is committed to offering professional development opportunities to accounting students at NMSU. Our annual Meet the Firms accounting career fair was held in the fall, A total of 18 regional, national and international employers and over 50 students for attended. In the spring Beta Alpha Psi hosted our annual Professional Development Seminar which brings students and firms together for mock interviews, a resume workshop, a professional dress workshop, and an etiquette luncheon.

Building Connections
Beta Alpha Psi prides itself on connecting accounting students with other students, professionals, and faculty. During the spring semester, the officers held a team-building workshop to allow members and pledges to get to know new people and work towards common goals.
ALPFA News

“As a student chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance & Accounting we are the bridge between being a student and becoming a professional. That bridge keeps building with being able to become a national member of ALPFA for as long as you are a professional in the Business field. Our student chapter has grown each semester with the help of its members and advisors, Dr. Smith and Dr. Martin. We hold bi-weekly meetings throughout the school semester. We also merge meetings with the Financial Management Association and Delta Sigma Pi to open opportunities for all business students. This past school year we had had speakers from different companies, for example: Boeing, HACU, USDA, and RedW.

Community Service
This past year we have participated in the Big Event and Keep State Great. These events are sponsored by our student government, ASNMSU. Members of ALPFA got together in the Fall to clean up Apodaca Park picking up trash for the Keep State Great. In the spring, ALPFA was assigned to the Farm & Ranch Museum to do community service for the Big Event. We also did NM MOM, which is an event that holds free dental clinic services. Our volunteer work included helping register patients, feeding the other volunteers, and cleaning up. We also helped out an organization called SPJ - Siguiendo los Pasos de Jesus. We did a food and clothing drive with them at Lowe's. Items that were donated were gathered and picked up and taken to Juarez, Mexico. ALL members participated on at least one or more of our community service events.

ALPFA brings in Mayor of Las Cruces
In the fall of 2011, Mayor Ken Miyagishima spoke to the students at our meeting about transitioning from student into a professional. He talked of the stress of being in politics and gave us a rundown of how he got into his position of being the Mayor of Las Cruces and how he got to own his own businesses. The students were very glad to have the opportunity to have him as speaker and ask questions.

Comedy Central’s Bill Santiago
This past spring, ALPFA got together with PACE and CAMP to put on a comedy show for the students of NMSU. We got together and brought in Bill Santiago, a nationally known comedian (Comedy Central) and author. With the cooperation from PACE and CAMP and help of Hispanic Council (in which ALPFA actively participates in) and ASNMSU the show had a great turnout! Afterwards, Bill signed books, DVDs, etc. This event was held on March 8, 2012.

*ALPFA is always looking for new speakers for our meetings. The meetings usually last about an hour and the topics of discussion range widely. If you are interested in coming to speak to ALPFA NMSU please e-mail Samantha Myers: smyers11@nmsu.edu or Dr. Smith: smith@nmsu.edu or Dr. Martin: kjmartin@nmsu.edu
Mary Jo Billiot

Russell Calk
“A Course Format for Problem-Based Learning in Accounting” with P. Carr, Journal of Accounting & Finance, 11(2), 139-154, 2011.

L. K. McNelis

Kevin Melendrez

Sherry Mills


Cindy Seipel


William Smith


Dale Spencer


Larry Tunnell


“Advanced Tax Strategies for LLC and Partnership Transactions” and “Basis and Distributions of Pass-Through Entities” and “LLC and Partnership Taxation: Beyond the Basics” and “Taxation Essentials of LLCs, LLPs, LPs and Other Partnerships” and “Advanced Tax Strategies for LLC and Partnership Transactions” and “Basis and Distributions of Pass-Through Entities” and “LLC and Partnership Taxation: Beyond the Basics” and “Taxation Essentials of LLCs, LLPs, LPs and Other Partnerships” with R. Ricketts, American Institute of CPAs, 2011, 2012.

“Great Tax Saving Moves for Employees” and “Implications of Turning Home into Rental” and “Filing of 2010 Personal Tax Returns Starts and Ends Late This Year” and “Tax Considerations in Turning Your Home into a Rent House” with C. Wright, Las Cruces Sun-News Newspaper, Business Section, 2011.
Thanks to Our Contributors

Individuals

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KPMG Foundation

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