A Note From the Department Head...

As many of you know, after many years as Head of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems, Pete Dillaway decided last year to step down as Department Head, and he passed those responsibilities on to me in January. We should all join in thanking Pete for his hard work and excellent leadership of the Department over the years. I would like to give him an extra thanks for his help in making my transition to Department Head a smooth one.

It has been a very busy year for the Department. We were given approval to replace Dr. Foster and Dr. Dillaway with two new faculty, not an easy task in the current University budget environment. The new faculty are actually two familiar faces, since Dr. Bill Smith is one of them and Dr. Kevin Melendrez is the other. Most of you already know Dr. Smith from his years as a College Professor in the Department, but he is now moving into a tenure-track Assistant Professor position. Dr. Melendrez is a 1998 NMSU accounting graduate who received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and is currently on the faculty at LSU, but decided that he would rather teach at NMSU than anywhere else. We are glad that both of these new faculty have that kind of enthusiasm for the students we have here and what the faculty do here.

Ed Scribner and the information systems faculty have been undergoing extensive training on SAP, the Enterprise Resource Planning software program used by many corporations in the U.S. and around the world. All students in the College will get exposure to SAP in the core IS classes, and the accounting students will get (in fact, are already getting) some extra SAP exposure in the Accounting Systems class. We believe this will give NMSU students yet another advantage when they enter the job market.

Elsewhere in the Department, enrollment in the Master’s of Accountancy program is higher than it has ever been, Beta Alpha Psi seems to be doing better than ever, and the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) group here is off to a great start. These types of things don’t happen on their own, but are the result of hard work by the students and the faculty involved. However, we could not do any of the things we do without help from the donors to the Department, and I would be remiss if I did not thank them for their contributions. Donations to the Department help pay for things like continuing education (every faculty member is currently a CPA), support for our student organizations, trips to Albuquerque to meet with the New Mexico Society of CPAs, training in SAP, expenses necessary for continuing accreditation, presentations of papers at scholarly meetings, and many other items. A partial list of our donors (we have to get permission from the donor to list a donor on-line) is at http://business.nmsu.edu/~is/donors.html. Please join us in thanking them for their generous contributions toward furthering accounting education at NMSU.

Larry Tunnell
Spotlights

The Department of Accounting and Information Systems would like to “spotlight” a few special people among many that have been or are currently involved with the department. We have chosen a faculty member, alum, and student and asked them to share their thoughts on the profession and study of accounting.

Faculty Spotlight:
Dr. Ed Scrinner, Ph. D., CPA

What degrees have you earned?
Ph. D. (Accounting)
MS (Mathematics)
BA (Mathematics)

Where did you earn your degrees?
Oklahoma State University, New Mexico State University, and Fort Lewis College, respectively

What classes do you teach?
Accounting Information Systems
Advanced Accounting Theory
Mergers & Acquisitions

What did you do before becoming a professor?
CPA in small-firm public accounting

What do you enjoy most about your job?
Seeing students learn.

What makes NMSU a great place to study accounting?
A critical mass of bright students with integrity and a strong work ethic, and a faculty that actively engages in research without letting it get in the way of their concern for students.

What is the most important thing that you think students should know before beginning their first accounting job?
That, as Coach Reggie Theus said at a recent accounting students luncheon, hard work and perseverance are the keys. Most people are too quick to bail out of a challenging situation, not realizing that smoother waters lie ahead.

Note: Current NMSU head basketball coach Reggie Theus recently spoke at the New Mexico Society of CPAs student luncheon on the topic “Play or Lead…The Choice is Yours.”

Alum Spotlight:
Shelly McGuire, CPA

When did you graduate from NMSU?
May, 1995

What degrees did you earn from NMSU, and if applicable, where have you earned additional degrees?
I received a Bachelor of Accountancy degree from NMSU. I have not received any other post-secondary degrees.

Where are you currently employed?
I am a partner in Grant Thornton LLP.

What is your job title and what do you do on a typical day at work?
I am a tax partner and the tax practice leader for the New Mexico office of Grant Thornton. My typical work day generally involves helping others resolve tax issues. That’s a broad statement, but it generally involves meetings, telephone calls and planning to help my clients’ minimize their overall income tax cost.

What do you like about your job?
I work with brilliant and fun colleagues and clients! I learn so much every day about business, tax and my community. Of course, I am a self-proclaimed ‘tax geek’ so I love dealing with the law and understanding how it applies to every situation my clients encounter.

What is the most challenging aspect about your job?
Time management is challenging. There are so many opportunities to do so many great things for our clients and our people that, at times, it can be difficult trying to fit everything in during the waking hours. Fortunately, I have the benefit of working with a great team, both locally and nationally, so I’m able to meet my clients’ needs by reaching out to my team.
**Why did you become an accountant?**
It was entirely a social decision. I changed my major from journalism and decided to pursue accounting since my best friend was pursuing accounting. Who knew I’d love it so much??

**What has been the most important thing you have learned since graduating from NMSU?**
I’ve learned so much….more than anything, though; I’ve learned the importance of making a decision. So often, people are afraid to make decisions since many have unknown consequence or risk. However, in order to be successful in all aspects of your life, I believe you need to make decisions and then focus on making them right.

**What advice would you give to someone just starting out in a career in accounting?**
It’s such an exciting time in business right now! The profession is changing and evolving in so many ways and it is creating so many opportunities for us all. Work hard, play hard and be confident in your abilities.

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**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:**
**FRANCISCO ARCHULETA**

**When do you expect to graduate?**
May 2007

**What degree(s) will you have earned upon graduation?**
BAcc and a MAcc

**What are your post-graduation goals?**
I have recently accepted an audit position with KPMG in their Albuquerque office. My start date is August 14, 2007. I will spend one week in the office, then off to Orlando, Florida for training with other national new hires.

I am looking forward to beginning a career in public accounting. I am currently studying for the CPA exam. As challenging as public accounting is known to be, I am sure the environment will ingrain a solid foundation of the practice of business while nurturing professional growth and networks. I am not totally positive that additional education lies in my future, but law school has always been a lingering interest of mine.

**Why did you decide to study accounting?**
I really lucked out in my choice to study accounting. Prior to my return as a student to NMSU I was working two jobs in San Antonio, Texas. As nice as the city is known to be, it was pretty hard for me to enjoy it, as I was roofing houses in the summer heat during the day and waiting tables at night. I think it was the hottest day in San Antonio history, or it may have just felt like it when the thought came to me as I stood slightly heat stroked on a three story roof that

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When I completed intermediate accounting, I joined Beta Alpha Psi. The honorary accounting organization was just the outlet that I needed to access the professional community. I became comfortable with the decision to study accounting and I felt that accounting was in fact what I wanted to pursue. The decision to study accounting didn’t occur all at once, but slowly I was sure I was doing the right thing.

**What have you enjoyed most about going to NMSU?**
The people that have become a part of my life are one of the most important things that I have gained from being a student at NMSU. Sure people come and go, yet lessons that I learned from my experiences with them remain. I am not sure if it is like this at other universities, but I am very grateful for my experience with the faculty at NMSU. I know today that they really cared about us. Nearing graduation I feel a little bummed out that I didn’t
extend myself earlier to begin nurturing the friendships I currently have. But hey, we all agreed that we would do our best to enjoy our final run in school and try to keep in touch as we go our separate ways.

**What is the most important thing you have learned while in school?**

“If it was easy and the pay off was great we would all be doing it.” More words of wisdom by Dr. Smith. I am not sure when it happened but somewhere along the line I learned that I could do whatever I wanted, as long as I was willing to do the work. Sometimes I look at school as a piece of paper that does not truly reflect who I am, although that piece of paper appears to be the entry fee that opens doors to opportunities that were otherwise inaccessible. Good fortune and opportunity can only strike me when I qualify and am accessible. I try to suit up and show up and remember the common denominator in all my affairs is me.

**What advice would you give a student who plans to pursue an accounting degree but has never taken an accounting course?**

I appreciate honesty! The work is hard, and at times, I am confused, and my ability to succeed is sometimes questioned. Because of those factors the time, energy, and willingness that I put into challenging situations makes the whole thing that much more exceptional. The best part of accomplishing something that is challenging is looking back and remembering where I started. Upon completion of my studies, I reflect and remember the questioning and uncertainty that I had about school and my ability. I acknowledge that I made it, and most importantly, I realize that I had what it took all along. What can I offer a new student? Maybe nothing really new, but I can offer what works. “As long as you don’t quit, you will always get to the other side.”

**Note:** Francisco is currently in his second semester of teaching Accounting 251-Management Accounting, and served as Beta Alpha Psi President in the fall of 2006.

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**Accounting and Information Systems Current Events**

**NEW MEXICO SOCIETY OF CPAs HOSTS ANNUAL STUDENT LUNCHEON**
The Doña Ana chapter of the New Mexico Society of CPAs hosted a luncheon on February 2, 2007 at the NM Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. The event brought together teachers, students, and professionals to raise money for scholarships to give to deserving NMSU accounting students over the next year. Current NMSU men’s basketball coach and former NBA all-star Reggie Theus was the special guest speaker at the event. We would like to extend a sincere “thank you” to the CPA firms, financial institutions, and private donors who helped raise over $2,700 for our students!

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**BETA ALPHA PSI HOLDS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR**

Beta Alpha Psi hosted the annual Professional Development Seminar on Friday, April 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Ramada Palms Hotel. The seminar presents the opportunity for students to learn about the transition from life as a student to life as a professional while interacting with recruiters from a variety of companies. In the past, the Professional Development Seminar has offered résumé workshops, mock interviews, sessions on personal budgeting, etiquette luncheons, and a professional dress fashion show. This year, door prizes included two $500 gift certificates to Dillard’s, one complete Kaplan CPA review course, and study materials for one section of the CPA exam provided by Gleim.

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**ALPFA STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL ACCOUNTING CASE COMPETITION**

The Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) will be holding its 35th annual national convention in Orlando, Florida on August 4th-8th where students from schools across the country will have the opportunity to compete in a case study and presentation consisting of current issues dealing with...
Recent Grads...Where Are They Now?
This is an incomplete list of students who have recently graduated and where they are currently employed:
Brad Alto (KPMG)
Laura Beltran (Meyners + Company)
Heather Carrasco (KPMG)
Sarah Clifford (Ernst & Young)
Brad Gass (KPMG)
Jason Grevig (Meyners + Company)
Jeremy Hageman (PriceWaterhouse Coopers)
Travis Jones (Beach, Fleischman & Co.)
Davey Juarez (Meyners + Company)
Mike Mendoza (Ernst & Young)
Brandon Miller (Grant Thornton)
Mandy Oler (Ernst & Young)
Mariah Raventon (Grant Thornton)
Dan Robertson (KPMG)
Mury Sutherlin, Jr. (KPMG)
Ashley Takala (REDW)

Upcoming Grads...Where Are They Going?
This is an incomplete list of soon-to-be graduates, and where they will be working in the near future:
Gina Abeyta (Ernst & Young)
Francisco Archuleta (KPMG)
Ivan Carillo (Ernst & Young)
Ann Gagliardi (ConocoPhillips)
Adriana Saldivar (Ernst & Young)
Zack Springfield (Deloitte & Touche)

Right: Beta Alpha Psi members talk to future Aggies about the College of Business and the Department of Accounting and Information Systems.