Congratulations MAcc graduates! This year’s MAcc graduates have been placed at the following companies:

December 2015 Graduates
- Chase Bank — Phillips 66
- Pwning Do — Hogan Taylor
- Alex Moyer — Grant Thornton
- Jennifer Barrnett — Hogan Taylor
- Ashley Sharp — PriceWaterhouseCoopers
- William Turner — Hogan Taylor
- Azza Zahid — Ernst & Young

Mentor/Mentee Spotlight
Katie Baney, Xuan Nguyen, Christine Jung

Katie Baney has served as a mentor to both Xuan Nguyen and Christine Jung through the Master of Accountancy program at TU. Baney regularly meets with each mentee to give career or personal advice. She has known Nguyen for over a year and Jung since August. Both Nguyen and Jung note that Baney has been invaluable in helping them understand the differences between public and industry accounting, as she has experience in both areas.

“I enjoy meeting with Katie because she is a positive person who always makes time despite how busy she is,” said Jung. Nguyen added that “Katie is a not only a mentor, but also a friend who supports me in all of my decisions.” Both students appreciate the help that Baney has provided.

Student Spotlight
Paul Moses

“When I first visited The University of Tulsa as a senior in high school, it was little more than a stop on the way to visit schools I thought I was more interested in. After visiting TU and speaking to several professors in the Collins College of Business, the university quickly stood out as an excellent place for me to prepare for a career in business. Three years later, I couldn’t be happier with my decision to attend TU. The members of the accounting faculty truly go above and beyond to help students make the most of their opportunities. As a current junior, I’ve already been able to intern with a minor league soccer team in Tulsa and Phillips 66 in Bartlesville, and will intern with Grant Thornton this spring. The accounting program at TU has provided excellent preparation to begin a career in accounting after 1 graduate.” — Paul Moses, Class of 2017

Sun participates in faculty internship
Accounting Professor Li Sun completed a two-week faculty internship at BKD in the summer of 2015. Faculty internships provide an opportunity for university professors to gain exposure in an accounting work environment, allowing them to bring that experience back to the classroom.

Sun worked in the insurance department at BKD, where he worked with clients in the healthcare industry.

Alumna Spotlight
Kala Sharp (BSBA ’99)

Kala Sharp, vice president, controller/natural gas at ONEOK, has more than 15 years of experience in accounting at ONEOK. Sharp previously held roles as the accounting director for SEC Reporting, Natural Gas Pipelines and Energy Services segments, as well as the assistant controller-natural gas.

She is a charter global management accountant (CGMA), and a member of the American Institute of CPAs, where she was elected to the AICPA Leadership Academy in 2013. Sharp served as the former chairman and is a current board member of the TU Conference of Accountants.

Sharp is active in Leadership Tulsa Class 52 and ONEOK Women’s Resource Group. She serves on the advisory council for Dress for Success Tulsa and was involved in the Margaret Hudson Program, where she served as treasurer. Additionally, Sharp serves on the President’s Advisory Council for the Child Abuse Network, where she was former president (2011-2012), and board member (2008-2014).

Tamara Wallinger (BSBA ’01)

An accounting degree from the University of Tulsa provides opportunities in many sectors, as Tamara Wallinger discovered.

“As a performance auditor with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General (OIG), I have the opportunity to use my accounting degree from TU, which differs from the norm of financial statement auditing,” said Wallinger. “My auditing college textbook had very little on the topic of performance auditing. Nonetheless, the education I received at TU prepared me for an auditing career outside of the financial statement area.”

“Performance auditing requires not only consuming compliance with rules and regulations, it also requires critical thinking about how entities that receive HUD funding can better use the funds to accomplish their purpose. With the various HUD programs and the different rules within each HUD program, the ability to grasp these concepts quickly is vital. I have also had the opportunity to work with several offices within the Department of Justice to resolve misuse or fraudulent use of funds. Using my analytical skills to complement the legal abilities of Assistant United States Attorneys has provided wonderful experiences that have increased my knowledge to help me in future assignments. I look forward to continuing my career in performance auditing with HUD OIG.” — Tamara Wallinger

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Faculty Spotlight
Wray Bradley

Wray Bradley, associate professor of accounting, started at The University of Tulsa in 1998. He currently teaches courses in taxation, fraud detection and prevention and forensic accounting.

Bradley’s research focuses on topics such as legal aspects of taxation and behavioral research related to accounting, information technology and fraud prevention. He was the recipient of the 2010 Behavioral Research in Accounting (BRBA) Book Award that annually recognizes a paper with the greatest impact on behavioral or organizational research in accounting. For his research efforts, Bradley also received the Collins College of Business Mayo Research Excellence Award in 2011.

Bradley earned his Bachelor of Business Administration at the University of Evansville in 1992, Master of Business Administration from Pace University, Ph.D. degree from the University of Arkansas and J.D. Doctorate from Cleveland State University.

He is a certified management accountant and is currently a member of the American Accounting Association, among other professional organizations. Bradley brings his practical experience as a former arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, practicing CPA and tax attorney, along with over 25 years of teaching experience to the classroom.

Collins College of Business holds annual career fair

The Business Career Center at the Collins College of Business organizes an annual career fair aimed at business majors and minors seeking full-time or summer internship positions. More than 45 companies in varying sectors and 240 students attended the fair this year, which was located on all three floors of Helmerich Hall. Calvin Moritz, assistant dean and director of the Business Career Center, notes that, “the business career fair provides an excellent opportunity for students to network with professionals and learn about different employers, giving them an advantage prior to the fall internship search.”

The Business Career Center also sponsors workshops for students throughout the year, bringing professionals to campus to teach the basics of business interactions. Workshops focus on interview strategies, how to excel in business settings, and various tips. Students can then apply their new knowledge from these information sessions to carry out successful career preparation and conduct meaningful interactions with professionals.

Business, UTulsa
Sun and Bajaj attend Koch Faculty Summit

Professor Li Sun and Akhlleb Bajaj attended the Koch Faculty Summit in Wichita, Kansas, in July 2015. Organizers of the exclusive two-day event invited faculty from surrounding universities for an informative glimpse inside the Koch Companies. Sun and Bajaj enjoyed keynote speeches from executives, attended breakout sessions facilitated by Koch leaders and learned how Koch applies classroom principles to the company's decision-making process.

Sun noted, "The summit gave us opportunities to get to know the company and interact with employees." Bajaj added, "I continue to be impressed by Koch's business philosophy, its strong corporate culture founded on market-based management, and the genuine warmth and hospitality that one experiences while there. It was also a pleasure to meet students in the program who are successful employees." Since TU is an active student recruiting locale for Koch, company representatives frequently attend recruiting events on campus.

Beta Alpha Psi hosts fall events

Beta Alpha Psi is an international honor and service organization for accounting, finance, and MIS students. The primary objective of the organization is to encourage and give recognition to scholarship and professional excellence in the business information field.

The University of Tulsa and Collins College of Business established the Eta Rho Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi in 1996. The chapter hosts monthly networking meetings for students and local professionals that include a free lunch and a speaker. Additional networking opportunities occur throughout the semester and include events such as Meet the Firms and The Challenge.

Meet the Firms attracted 18 employers to The University of Tulsa, and gave students the opportunity to learn about and interact with professionals at the beginning of the school year. The Challenge provides a chance for professionals and students to socialize in a more informal setting before interview season. This year's Challenge took place at a bowling alley in Tulsa and was a successful event for professionals from nine organizations as well as students.

MIS Certification Program

As future information technology (IT) professionals, management information systems (MIS) students focus primarily on issues between computing technologies and people. Information Technologies United (TU) is a student organization at TU that focuses on bringing attention to careers in the growing field of MIS. The organization offers hands-on skills certification study program for motivated MIS majors and minors with the opportunity to participate in study sessions for the CCENT and Security+ certifications. The certificate study programs will meet monthly in the MIS lab for three-hour study sessions facilitated by Professor Sal Aryanegui. Students who earn these certifications will enhance their knowledge in computer networking and security, providing them an advantage when seeking IT jobs and performing IT roles regardless of industry type. The Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician (CCENT) certification is the first stage of Cisco’s certification system and covers basic networking knowledge such as installing, managing, maintaining and troubleshooting a small enterprise branch network. The CCENT curriculum covers networking fundamentals, WAN technologies, basic security, routing and switching fundamentals and configuring simple networks. CompTIA Security+ is the certification globally trusted to validate foundational, vendor-neutral IT security knowledge and skills. As a benchmark for best practices in IT security, this certification covers the essential principles for network security and risk management, making it an important stepping stone to an IT security career. CompTIA Security+ certification covers network security, compliance and operations security, threats and vulnerabilities as well as application, data and host security. Also included are access control, identity management and cryptography. Both certifications validate the skills essential for entry-level network support positions.

Fraud cases a growing concern for businesses

Fraud, the intentional misrepresentation of facts in order to deceive, is on the rise in both size and frequency, costing billions of dollars each year. Corporate scandals such as Enron and WorldCom and Madoff’s Ponzi scheme are still relevant today; however, fraud has taken on many different, less-publicized faces that have the potential to cause devastating effects as well. Having an understanding of how and why the varying schemes are committed against individuals and organizations can provide an advantage to current students and future fraud fighters.

The School of Accounting in the Collins College of Business is recognizing the growth area by offering graduate courses related to the study of fraud. Current courses include Fraud Detection and Prevention and Forensic Accounting and Litigation Support, both taught by Professor Wray Bradley. These two courses provide students with an overview of the nature of fraud, the different types of fraud, how fraud could be found or mitigated in organization, and methods to conduct fraud investigations. Additionally, students gain a working knowledge of forensic accounting and the variety of services offered by CPA firms related to financial forensics.

While taking fraud detection and prevention, I was surprised at the ever-growing realm of fraudulent behavior, from misappropriation to identity thieves in their pajamas filling out fraudulent tax returns, and how fast new and creative schemes arise. This class helped me develop critical skills to ask deeper, analytical questions, trust but verify and further understand the psychological and environmental factors that lead to fraudulent behavior. Furthermore, it gave me tools to help combat this growing epidemic such as recognizing the ethical climate of an organization with a strong tone at the top, learning how to use data analytics to uncover anomalies and recognizing the symptoms that suggest fraud may be occurring. I look forward to incorporating my education in fraud detection and prevention in the Forensic Accounting club, where we will learn more about investigation techniques.” - Joshua Bartlett, MACE ’16

These courses help students gain a better understanding of possible career paths they may pursue in the future. As the number of frauds and the amounts of losses continue to increase, so do the opportunities for successful careers in fighting fraud. Fraud examination has been recognized as one of the fastest growing career opportunities and a variety of employers in different sectors continue to hire fraud-fighting professionals. An employee interested in finding fraud is not limited to working for CPA firms. Law firms, government agencies, corporations and consultants look to hire employees with fraud-fighting skills as well. Knowledge about identifying and mitigating fraudulent behavior is a great tool for accounting students now and in the future.

Accounting and MIS students honored at TU Homecoming

The School of Accounting and MIS would like to congratulate Arman Singh, Snehal Hackbarth, and Kelly Srivastava for their accomplishments at TU and in the Collins College of Business. They were each recognized during halftime of the Homecoming football game in fall 2015.

Snehal Hackbarth is a junior Accounting student at TU, an award-winning honor society senior who demonstrates exceptional academic and service achievement. Singh is a double major in accounting and finance, an officer in Beta Alpha Psi, and served as a freshman orientation leader. He has been a consecutive member of the President’s Honor Roll and has received scholarships from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the Tulsa Chapter of the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants. Singh has also interned in accounting and finance roles internationally and in Tulsa. He will graduate in May of 2016 and plans to start an auditing career with Ernst & Young in Tulsa.

Hackbarth and Srivastava were recognized by Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, as Top Ten Freshmen. The organization pays tribute to ten students who were freshmen last year and are recognized last year’s leadership and versatility. Both Hackbarth and Srivastava are accounting majors in the Collins College of Business and are recipients of TU’s Presidential Scholarship, the most prestigious academic merit award given by the University. Additionally, they both are current candidates in Beta Alpha Psi. Hackbarth has held leadership roles in Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Student Health Advocates Association, and is also active in University Ambassadors and the Student Advisory Committee for TU Research Colloquium and Presidential Scholars. She has accepted a summer internship position at Phillips 66 in Bartlesville, Okla. for summer 2016. Srivastava has held leadership roles in Chi Omega Sorority and is an upcoming freshman orientation leader for summer 2016. She is also active in University Ambassadors, Make-A-Wish Oklahoma, and Student Association, where she serves as a senator.

Kelly Srivastava

Shelley Macken

Akhilesh Singh

Kelly Srivastava

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