Ben Holman, assistant professor of professional practice in accounting, started at The University of Tulsa in 2016. He currently teaches courses in accounting for the MBA program and undergraduate accounting. Prior to TU, Holman had 18 years of experience in the international oil and gas industry, including an expatriate assignment in South America. Most recently, Holman served as CFO, CAO and controller of Apco Oil and Gas International, Inc. and director of international accounting at WPX Energy.

Holman earned a BSBA with a major in accounting and a BS with a major in Spanish from TU in 1997, and a Master of Accountancy from TU in 2016. He is a certified public accountant who brings his international business and financial reporting experience to the classroom.

TU’s Collins College of Business Distinguished Lecture Series hosted Binoy Agarwal (BSBA ’01, MBA ’06), assistant director of information technology at the Federal Trade Commission on April 14, 2016. Agarwal was the first graduate of TU’s prestigious Cyber Corps program to simultaneously earn an MBA (with a concentration in Management Information Systems). He was hired by the Federal Trade Commission in 2007 and three years later was promoted to associate executive director tasked with a quarter-billion dollar operating budget, personnel hiring, growth forecasting and managing the capabilities of the IT infrastructure. A proud and active alumnus, he also served as the TU Alumni Association national president from 2013 to 2015.

Modern businesses of all sizes are challenged by evolving security threats to information resources within their organizations. However, experience has shown that even the best security technologies are not enough by themselves—a robust information security posture requires early management focus and continued diligence. Agarwal’s presentation, “Managing Modern Cyber (in) Security,” explored management aspects of information technology that apply not only to the FTC, but also to organizations of all sizes. Attendance at his presentation included TU students and faculty, and several local and international companies interested in learning how to better improve their organizations’ overall information security posture. Agarwal also conducted an informal Q&A session with TU MIS students about transitioning from student to IT professional and growing into management positions.

At the spring 2016 Collins College of Business Honors and Awards Banquet, many faculty and students of the Accounting and Management Information Systems departments received an array of awards.

Two seniors, Jocelyn Sheffield and Anshuman Singh, received the 2016 David R. Lawson Outstanding Senior Award. Sheffield was a triple major in management information systems, international business and language and Spanish. When she wasn’t buried in her books, she was out on the diamond playing for the TU softball team. Somehow, she still found time to serve around campus, in the community and to be a part of many university organizations. Her dream is to first excel in a career and then eventually start a nonprofit. Singh was a double major in accounting and finance. While at TU, he was recognized as a member of Beta Alpha Psi and a TU Top 10 Senior with the Jess Chouteau Outstanding Senior Award. After graduation, Singh began working at Ernst and Young and hopes to someday become a partner.

Recognizing our faculty, Sal Aurigemma received the Mayo Teaching Excellence Award, an award which honors his commitment to excellence in teaching. (See page 2).

Master of Accountancy student, Hannah Smith, received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Sixteen students were recognized as Beta Gamma Sigma Initiates. This is the highest level of national organization award available to business students. Of those, two were from Management Information Systems: Viviana Abrego and Yanling Liu.

Seven accounting students were recognized: Kaylonna Gill, Ahren Gutschenritter, Chauncy Johnson, Nicholas McVey, Joel Moffitt, Elly Vosburgh and Meiqi Wang. Of the Master of Accountancy students, an additional seven were recognized: Joshua Bartlett, Chase Bovaird, Taylor Costley, Ashley Griffin, Christine Jung, Xuan Nguyen and Hannah Smith.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to four students: Rachael Gantner (MIS), Mark Hamilton (MIS), Bingtao Niu (Accounting) and Mohammad Zahid (Accounting).

Finally, two graduates were recognized as Outstanding Undergraduate Students: Kimberly Huey (MIS) and Evan James (Accounting).
In Professor Anna McColl’s “Analysis of Financial Statements” accounting class, Analysis of Financial Statements, students had the opportunity to listen to Sarah Peters during a class visit. Peters is a bank examiner and recruiter for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), an agency of the Department of Treasury. Peters related her experience in the banking industry with the topics studied in the class. To finish her presentation, she taught the students about career planning. Students were able to learn about the real-world application of the information they were learning in class and had the following observations:

“I found the presentation interesting because I work at a bank, so the information helped make sense of the rules and laws that we have to abide by every day.” — Derek Hodge

“What I found interesting about Sarah’s presentation was her job. While I knew banks were regulated, I was not aware of the specific organizations that personally go in and analyze them from the inside out.” — Viviana Abrego

“I found today’s speaker very interesting and related to what we have been learning. It was cool to see how all of the stuff we have learned this semester is actually used in examining banks. She was engaging and gave great tips for our careers. I did not know much of anything about this department before she spoke. I believe I might be interested in looking into this job at some point after I have some work experience.” — Andrew Stiehler

The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program offers a MAcc Experience course that helps students better prepare for the professional world. Because this course is a core component of the program, MAcc students enroll in it every semester to build experiences and confidence beyond the classroom. The class meets once at the beginning of the course to outline expectations and introduce the students and professors. Then, students use the remainder of the semester to complete requirements in three main areas: supporting professional organizations on campus, preparing for a successful beginning to a career and connecting with professionals off campus.

In support of professional organizations on campus, MAcc students become members of Beta Alpha Psi, an honors organization for the fields of accounting, finance and information systems. As part of the organization, members attend lectures, events and service projects with local professionals. Another on-campus organization is Friends of Finance (FOF), which includes business professionals, TU alumni and supporters of the Collins College of Business. FOF hosts an executive lecture series and student sessions that allow students to ask questions of top executives of international companies.

To further prepare for a successful career, MAcc students complete mock interviews, attend workshops sponsored by the Business Career Center or participate in a mentor program with TU alumni. Completing the course, students attend local chapter meetings of professional organizations they are likely to affiliate with in the future, such as the Oklahoma Society of CPAs, the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium.

The three areas of the MAcc Experience course provide opportunities for students to network with employers and learn valuable career skills, essential components for success in the professional accounting environment. This course offering has proved beneficial in launching the careers of both December 2015 and May 2016 graduates, all of whom secured employment prior to graduation.

Aurigemma receives Mayo Excellence in Teaching Award

During the Annual Honors & Awards Banquet for the Collins College of Business, Salvatore Aurigemma, assistant professor of management information systems, was recognized with the Mayo Excellence in Teaching Award. Aurigemma is a professor of telecommunications, information security and business programming concepts. As there are many deserving faculty in several departments within the Collins College of Business, this is a prestigious honor for Aurigemma and the School of Accounting and MIS.

TU hosts Robots4U

This past summer, TU and the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance teamed up to host Robots4U. Led by Ms. Xan Black of Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, Robots4U was a five-day Robotics Camp for students ages 7 through 14. Two sessions were held each day, so students learned the basics of building pre-programmed robots, then worked their way up to building more complex programmable robots. Professor Akhilesh Bajaj, a member of the Computer Innovations Room (a group that meets to explore new opportunities for STEM education in Tulsa-area schools), stated, “The camp was a great success, and it was interesting to see some of the robot projects developed by the attendees.”
The School of Accounting and MIS focuses on preparing students to become professionals, including equipping them with a variety of life skills, such as those in the accounting class above learning to tie a tie.

Two senior accounting students, Hattie McFerron (left) and Kaitlyn Schneider (right), were the recipients of the Outstanding Accounting Student Award presented by The Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA). The students who receive this award show outstanding academic excellence throughout their college career. Both are currently enrolled in the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program at TU and are graduate assistants with the School of Accounting and MIS.

Students gain hands-on experience in information security

Students in Professor Sal Aurigemma’s spring 2016 Information Security class had the opportunity to research emerging issues in the field of information security. With a focus on home users and small businesses, student teams prepared videos, presentations and action guides on the dangers of Ransomware and means to protect organizations and individuals from this growing threat. They also looked at the use of password manager applications for better information security hygiene and technology baselining for personal security. This research prepares students for the dynamic nature of the modern data and application-driven workplace in which new threats in security will compel rapid procedural and technical solutions to apply safeguards to protect their organizations. Jessica Meyers, senior security analyst at ONE Gas, attended the presentations to observe how the students focused on applications in real-world settings and provide feedback on current and future information security projects and topics. This exposure to threat discovery and problem solving is one of the features of our curriculum that enables our students to make an immediate contribution in the workplace.

On April 25, 2016, the MIS seniors presented their senior projects after working with five organizations from a variety of areas. Kim Huey managed the projects of three of the organizations: Tulsa Data Convening, Neighbors Along the Line and TU’s Management Information System (MIS) department. Rachael Gantner managed the projects of two organizations: Total Source for Hearing-Loss and Access (TSHA) and Tulsa Fire Department (TFD)/Mental Health Association (MHA). The following is a brief description of each project:

**Tulsa Data Convening** – The team created a social networking site to enable the various Tulsa data projects to exchange information about each project.

**Neighbors Along the Line** – The team created a web-based application that allows NATL to manage and report on relevant information regarding their food pantry.

**University of Tulsa MIS Department** – The team created a web portal/website that houses relevant resources for various stakeholders, including students, faculty, alumni and employers.

**Total Source for Hearing-Loss and Access (TSHA)** – The TSHA team created an Interpreter Connection System that connects TSHA’s customers to it’s qualified interpreters. The system refined and condensed their processes to allow for more efficient matching of interpreters to available jobs.

**Tulsa Fire Department (TFD) and Mental Health Association (MHA)** – The TFD and MHA team created a social services referral application for first responders. The app allows administrators to see submission history in order to track important trends that could lead to better serving the Tulsa community.

Keeping it in the family

Accounting majors and sisters, Carley and Taylor Costley, enjoy studying together in between classes. Taylor (pictured right) is currently a Master of Accountancy student who also completed her undergraduate accounting degree at TU. Her younger sister, Carley (pictured left), is following in her sister’s footsteps as an accounting major with hopes to pursue a Master of Accountancy at TU as well.

Life skills

The School of Accounting and MIS focuses on preparing students to become professionals, including equipping them with a variety of life skills, such as those in the accounting class above learning to tie a tie.
MIS certification program

As future information technology (IT) professionals, management information systems (MIS) students focus primarily on issues between computing technologies and people. Information Technologists United (iTU) is a student organization at TU that focuses on bringing attention to careers in the growing field of MIS. The organization offers a technical 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, sponsored by Phillips 66, meet monthly in the MIS lab for three-hour study/review sessions facilitated by Professor Sal Aurigemma. Students who earn these certificates enhance their knowledge in computer networking and security, providing them an advantage when seeking IT jobs and performing in 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 of an IT security career. CompTIA Security+ certification covers network security, compliance and operation 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.

MIS department hosts
TU Tech Camp

TU’s MIS department hosted a new summer camp this year: Tech Camp. “The camp was conceptualized to provide outreach to the high school student community in Tulsa,” said Professor Akhilesh Bajaj, one of the camp’s co-teachers.

“Its larger goal is to introduce STEM opportunities to local students and to raise awareness of the MIS program we have here at TU.” Professor Sal Aurigemma assisted in leading Tech Camp, which was a four-day business technology camp open to students entering grades 9-12. Nineteen students participated in the program, enhancing their programming skills in activities that included creating webpages using JavaScript, programming video games, designing code and personal computer security.

Congratulations MAcc graduates!

December 2015 Graduates

Back row left to right: Brett Arnold – ConocoPhillips, Bartlesville; Nick Bakula – PwC, Tulsa; Josh Bartlett – Capin Crouse, Dallas; Taylor Costley – Hogan Taylor, Tulsa; Paula Eku – EY, Tulsa; Ben Holman – University of Tulsa; Christine Jung – Cohen Reznick-Tysons, Washington DC; Casey McCreery – Eide Bailly

Middle row left to right: Hannah Smith – Deloitte, Nashville; Yue Yu – Deloitte, Tulsa; Xuan Nguyen – Deloitte, Tulsa; Xinyi Zhang – Deloitte, Tulsa

Front row left to right: Laura Stabbs – Deloitte, Tulsa; Ashley Griffin – Phillips 66, Bartlesville; Junyang Zheng – EY, Bartlesville; Jake Pirtle – EY, Houston

Accounting majors row to victory in Lawless Cup

On April 16, 2016, the Tulsa women’s rowing team won the 10th Annual Lawless Cup by placing first in all four races of the regatta. Three seniors — all accounting majors — not only saw success in athletics, but also in the classroom.

Samantha Tober, or “Sammy,” is from Fonthill, Ontario, Canada. She was a four-year letter winner and competed in 33 regattas. Tober’s academic awards include the C-USA Academic Medal, C-USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll, Tulsa Dean’s List and the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association Scholar Athlete. She is enrolled in the JD/MBA joint degree program at TU.

Kaitlyn Schneider is from Buffalo, New York, and was a four-year letter winner who competed in 30 regattas. She won a gold medal at the American Athletic Conference Championship in the 3rd Varsity 4+ during her junior year, is a C-USA Academic Medal winner and a Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association Scholar Athlete. She also was named to TU’s President’s List, Dean’s List, and the Intercollegiate Rowing Association All-Academic team. She is enrolled in TU’s Master of Accountancy program.

Sarah Ringler, from Folsom, California, was a four-year letter winner and competed in 29 regattas. She was named to the Tulsa President’s List and the Dean’s List. She also was a C-USA Academic Medal winner and a Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association Scholar Athlete. Ringler, who is now employed at OneOK, said, “I chose TU because I wanted a small school with a great accounting program and Division I athletics, and I’ve had an amazing experience in both areas.”