Students in action

Mike Kaucher is in his second year of the Masters of Accountancy program and works as a graduate assistant in the School of Accounting and CIS. Kaucher participated in the spring compressed classes program, which allows students to pursue a typical “busy season” accounting internship for the first eight weeks of the semester, followed by a compressed set of classes lasting until the end of the semester. During this time, Kaucher worked as an audit intern for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Tulsa, where he gained firsthand experience of what to expect during a public accounting firm’s busiest time of year. This past summer, he also worked as an intern for ONEOK’s NGL forecasting analyst group. Having both public and industry experience in accounting roles allowed him to make a more informed decision on what would best suit him and his interests upon graduation, which is an opportunity many of his peers have had the chance to pursue as well.

Drew Port worked at Devon Energy this past summer as an intern in the company’s Enterprise Asset Management Group. “My primary responsibility was mapping relationships in the back end of SAP to track plant maintenance and vendor costs across Devon’s assets,” said Port. He also had the chance to test custom transactions in Devon’s pre-production environment and test mobile solutions for plant maintenance. He took on a special project that involved researching and presenting augmented reality (AR) solutions for O&G, including the use of Microsoft Hololens in AR-related demonstrations and research. With this technology, Port provided new emphases on innovation and technology that Devon could use in the future. In addition to Port’s impressive internship and research experiences, he is heavily involved on campus in organizations including RUF, iTU, Orientation Leaders, University Ambassadors and Greek Life.

Marni Stilson worked as an intern for the Tulsa County IT department. She and another intern were responsible for spearheading a project that involved searching for an effective inventory system to track all hardware and software bought, used and retired from Tulsa County. In addition to this inventory project, Stilson also created and implemented a new naming system for all computers in the county and shadowed the client services group on IT service calls to meet colleagues and gain exposure to more technicalities of the county’s operations.

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Beta Alpha Psi hosts community service event with ConocoPhillips

On April 7, 2017, Beta Alpha Psi hosted a community service event with ConocoPhillips at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. In addition to scholarship and professional networking, community service is an integral part of Beta Alpha Psi membership. Candidates and members enjoyed interacting with ConocoPhillips professionals while giving back to the community and having fun. Beta Alpha Psi hosts two to three similar events with different companies each semester, allowing students the opportunity to meet with professionals in the Tulsa area while serving their community.

CIS seniors present final projects

In April 2017, CIS seniors presented their final projects as a part of the capstone class. The purpose of the senior projects is to work with fellow CIS students in conjunction with various Tulsa organizations to provide these clients with technological and systematic solutions that ease the flow of operations, ignite new ideas for their departments or make processes more efficient and user friendly. Amy Cairns served as the project manager for the Tulsa Fire Department, The University of Tulsa Office of Admission, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma and the Tulsa Literary Coalition. Following is a brief description of each project.
Collins College of Business honors outstanding seniors

At the spring 2017 Collins College of Business Honors and Awards Banquet, faculty and students from the School of Accounting and Computer Information Systems were recognized for their dedication to academics as well as to campus and community involvement.

Two accounting students were recognized as 2017 David R. Lawson Outstanding Seniors. Claire Thompson is a triple major in accounting, economics and finance. Claire was active throughout campus in organizations including Beta Alpha Psi, Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, and University Ambassadors. She began her career as an accounting and finance analyst for ConocoPhillips in Bartlesville. Paul Moses is a double major in accounting and finance. At TU, he was involved with Beta Alpha Psi, Student Finance Association, the Collegian, and University Ambassadors. He joined Grant Thornton this past fall as an audit associate in Tulsa.

Two graduates were recognized as Outstanding Undergraduate Students: Joel Moffitt (Accounting) and Ryan Token (Computer Information Systems). Five students in the Master of Accountancy program were recognized as Outstanding Graduate Students: Jake Bechen, Maggie Gore, Evan James, Madison Ross and Mackenzie Walker. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Viviana Abrego (CIS), Curri Chandler (Accounting), Kaylonna Gill (Accounting), Ahren Gutschenritter (Accounting), Renata Kuricova (CIS), Yanling Liu (Accounting) and Elaine Schilling (CIS).

Thirty-three students were initiated into Beta Gamma Sigma, a prestigious national organization recognizing students at the top of their classes. Of these students, three are CIS students: Shelby Hackney, Andrew Kellehan and Matthew Schmitz. Fourteen accounting students were also recognized: Remington Brooks, Carly Costley, Philip Gamble, Maggie Gore, Shelby Hackney, Evan James, Linh Phan, Madison Ross, Kelly Scrivner, Muriel Unseth, Kelly Voss, Mackenzie Walker, Karl Watkins and Katarina Webster.

Finally, a TU accounting alumna was awarded the 2017 Fast Track Alumna for her dedication to career development upon her success at The University of Tulsa. Ashley Jackson, who received her B.S.B.A. in accounting in 2008, serves as the customer success integration manager for General Electronic Digital. During her tenure with GE, Jackson has had exposure to positions in controllership, financial planning and analysis, and pricing and was promoted to her managerial position at GE Digital in January 2017.

Tulsa Fire Department
Lead by Keli Boatman, this team developed a social services application that helps bridge the gap between first responders and long-term care providers. The team worked to make this previously existing application simpler and more user friendly while improving patient location and data quality.

University of Tulsa Admissions
Lead by Lee Schulz, this team was responsible for working with TU’s customer relationship management (CRM) system. The team helped transition the old CRM system to a more updated, easier-to-navigate system while transferring historical data into the new system for ease of information flow and authorized accessibility.

Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma
Lead by Viviana Abrego, this team consolidated separate reporting tools into a centralized system while pushing user data into a new database and creating greater accessibility through various devices. The Food Bank was able to take this new, easy-to-use application and create their own reports given documentation provided by the team.

Tulsa Literary Coalition
Lead by Ashley Etter, this team created a database to store crucial information for the organization. The team used Salesforce to develop a database that contains information regarding books, authors, members and book groups to allow the coalition to access and generate reports summarizing this information in a central location.

CIS seniors present final projects (continued)
TU’s Master of Accountancy program turns five

On April 17, 2017, the School of Accounting and CIS celebrated five years of MAcc graduates. Faculty, graduates from previous years, 2017 graduates and incoming MAcc students gathered to celebrate the success and growth of the program. Faculty recognized alumni who have remained involved within the department and honored 2017 graduates for their success and future endeavors.

Congratulations to our May 2017 graduates!

- Evan James – Grant Thornton, Tulsa
- Mohammad Zahid – Ernst & Young, Tulsa
- Matt Linscott – Grant Thornton, Tulsa
- Jake Bechen – Grant Thornton, Tulsa
- McKenzie Walker – Grant Thornton, Tulsa
- Kaitlin Schneider – BKD, Tulsa
- Shannon Odom – Deloitte, Dallas
- Maggie Gore – Deloitte, Tulsa
- Hattie McFerron – Ernst & Young, Tulsa

iTU hosts annual awards banquet

On April 12, 2017, Information Technologists United (iTU), the CIS campus organization, celebrated another successful academic year by holding its annual awards banquet. Students, faculty and alumni gathered over dinner and recognized an outstanding alumnus and a presentation of the year. The outstanding alumnus is chosen by CIS faculty members for career success with dedication and contribution to the CIS program at The University of Tulsa after graduation. This year’s recipient was Katie Brown of Devon Energy. The presentation of the year is determined by student feedback highlighting which company provided the most insight into IT careers and opportunities with energy, enthusiasm and positive interaction with attendees of the monthly meetings. For the second year in a row, Angela Kouplen and WPX Energy were presented with this award. Banquet attendees also recognized retiring and upcoming iTU officers and 2017 graduates, who have dedicated their time and energy to their studies over the years and will carry on the TU CIS legacy through the starts of their professional years.

FA17 Beta Alpha Psi Challenge

On September 27, 2017, the School of Accounting and CIS hosted the annual Beta Alpha Psi Challenge at Andy B’s Bowling Alley. Students had the opportunity to network with a variety of companies and professionals from the Tulsa area as well as catch up with old friends, while enjoying dinner and a few rounds of bowling to compete for the coveted Challenge Trophy. After four rounds of rotating teams to give students the chance to play and connect with different companies, Ernst & Young was crowned the Challenge victor and will hold on to the trophy until next year. The Challenge is one of Beta Alpha Psi’s most popular and eagerly anticipated events during the school year for students, faculty members and professionals, and provides students with great connection opportunities to pursue through the rest of the school year.
In August 2017, the School of Accounting and CIS hosted the Summer Tech Camp for students entering grades 9 through 12. Professor Akhilesh Bajaj led this program by introducing a variety of valuable programming skills through hands-on activities including creating webpages with JavaScript, working with different programming simulations and introducing the critical role and components of cyber security in today’s technological world.

On April 28, 2017, the CIS department participated in the STEM Fair and Community Night at Roy Clark Elementary School. Professor Akhilesh Bajaj led the group in setting up an exhibit that showed students the importance and power of building applications using computer codes in a fun and interactive way. Approximately 800 people attended this event, which included additional fun activities (such as face painting and carnival games) while introducing young students to various STEM opportunities.

The Fuselier mother-son duo—Teresa and Jackson—has been an impactful and warming presence over the last couple of years at TU. Jackson graduated in the spring of 2017 with an accounting degree and will begin his career at ONEOK. Teresa graduated in the summer of 2017 and will start at BKD in the tax group.

Professor Akhilesh Bajaj participated in the IT University Partnership Program hosted by ConocoPhillips. The two-day retreat in Bartlesville gathers various academics and introduces them to the newest technologies used by the company in addition to how they address business challenges. This year’s theme was IT Security and Data Analytics, topics that are increasingly important responses to today’s technological growth.