

# theDividend

Spring  
2012

The Middle Tennessee State University **Department of Accounting** Newsletter

## Letter From The Dean



Dear Alumni, Supporters,  
Faculty, and Students

I am thrilled to tell you that we hired three new faculty members to join our distinguished accounting faculty starting last fall. Drs. Stan Clark, Mark Jobe, and Anne Wilkins are very welcome additions. There is more about these new faculty members elsewhere in this newsletter.

As you may know, we had lost seven members of our accounting faculty—two to administrative jobs elsewhere, three to the retirement buyout offer, and two to serious personal or family illness. These losses could not have happened at a worse time—just at the point of our AACSB International maintenance of accreditation review. The review team was very concerned about the loss of roughly one-third of our faculty. However, the president and provost stepped up to the plate and assured the team that we would have their support in the hiring process. We went into one of (if not the most) difficult job markets in the academic environment in search of five new accounting faculty members. Most schools are very pleased if and when they can fill one new accounting position in any year. With the hard work of our search committee, we were successful in hiring three, and we are continuing our search for two additional faculty members with specialized skills in tax and auditing and for a permanent chair for the department. I am confident we will be successful again.

The department continues to find new ways to serve students and alumni. We now offer two opportunities per year for continuing education—one in December and one in May. And the faculty is constantly evaluating the curriculum to see what changes are required to update the skills of our graduates.

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## Letter From The Chair



Writing a department chair's letter for our newsletter, *The Dividend*, is not easy. There are just so many questions: (1) what to write? (2) who to write about? (3) how much detail to include? It would probably be easier if we published these newsletters on a regular basis, but this is our first one in three years. Whenever I write an email to send students, I always try

to make sure I cover five points: who, what, when, where, and why. The way I look at it, a newsletter should not be any different.

### Who: Our Alumni and Friends

You did a good job listening to your professors when you were a student at MTSU. Otherwise, you would not have achieved alumnus status. Now that you are away from school, you no longer have to listen to us. However, this newsletter is our opportunity to communicate with you and let you know what is going on at your school.

The newsletter also gives you the opportunity to stay in touch with the folks you went to school with. How? By sending us a note from time to time to let us know what you are doing professionally and personally. I received the following note from a recent graduate.

### Hello, Dr. Smith,

**I'm nearing the end of busy season and it's crunch time! I am really enjoying working at Crowe. I have learned a lot in the past three months, and I have really loved the experience! I can definitely see this as a lifelong career, and I'm working hard to learn all that I can. It's challenging but great!**

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I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who support the department. As you know, state budget issues have affected the University budget significantly. Tuition increases, which have been painful but necessary, do not make up the difference. So private support from folks like you is absolutely necessary.

Your contributions help us in two very important ways. Scholarships to assist outstanding students continue their studies are always needed and always important. Equally needed and important are unrestricted funds that can be used for faculty needs such as research. We appreciate every contribution of any and every size. Thank you!

As for the Jones College as a whole, we are doing well. Our admissions policies are working to help us manage the student population and to improve the quality of our incoming students. We are working with the Concrete Industry Management Department to begin an M.B.A. concentration in Concrete Industry Management, which we intend to roll out in the fall. We have a new financial trading room online that allows real-time access to the markets via Bloomberg terminals, and we have installed additional terminals in the 24/7 computer lab and Walker Library for convenience.

Again, thank you for your support of the Accounting Department and Jennings A. Jones College of Business. Every current improvement helps increase the value of the diplomas our graduates receive. Therefore, when you invest in us today, you invest in yourselves as well.

Sincerely,

E. James Burton, Ph.D., CPA, CFE  
Dean, Jennings A. Jones College of Business

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**I will definitely stay in touch. It is my desire and wish to have a continuing relationship with the MTSU Accounting Department. I am in a wonderful career and owe the department greatly for the education I received. I received the information in the mail and would love to come to the Alumni Appreciation Day, but I will be out of town on business that day. I am definitely planning on making a donation to the Accounting Department. It was honestly one of the first things I thought about when I started my career.**

**Take care, Dr. Smith. And please keep me updated with the happenings in the department. I can definitely say that I am proud of the education I received at MTSU. The Accounting Department really is the BEST! Have a great rest of the semester!**

**Sincerely,**

**Jessica Harrell (Class of 2011)**

I do not have to tell you, this email made my day! Everyone I have shared it with has enjoyed it. I hope you did, too.

I also hope you will let us know what is going on in your life. If you change jobs, change family status, move, make a hole-in-one, get a promotion, climb Mt. Everest, or do most anything you would like others to hear about, please let us know. You will then become part of our next newsletter.

#### **When Do We Write Our Newsletter?**

The answer to that question is “Not often enough!” Certainly, we hope this year is our return to a regular schedule.

#### **What Is Going on at MTSU?**

Since Jeff Hamm wrote the chair’s letter in our last news

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letter three years ago, there have been a lot of changes in the department and around campus. If you haven't been on campus in a while, you need to come visit us. You will see the new education building right next door, the new Student Union going up, and all the changes in traffic flow around campus. A good time to make that visit is during one of our CPE sessions.

The department has changed, too. Not long after Jeff wrote that letter, he left to be dean at Henderson State University in Arkansas. Kevin James left soon thereafter to be the chair of the department of accounting at North Carolina A&T University. Six other faculty members have retired: Jim Bush, Carol Cox, Larry Farmer, Betty Harper, Phil Harper, and Dan Reynolds. Fortunately, we have hired some new people the last few years. Some of you will remember Denise Leggett, who earned her undergraduate degree and M.B.A. here and stayed for a few years as an instructor and special assistant to the chair when Paula Thomas held the position. After that work, she left for the University of Alabama, where she earned a Ph.D. She returned to MTSU in 2010 as a regular member of the faculty. And if you have read the dean's letter, you know that we hired Stan Clark, Mark Jobe, and Anne Wilkins at the start of the 2011–2012 academic year. It is great having all these fine professors as members of our faculty. Finally, we added a new administrative professional to our front office. Angi Easter joined us in March 2011, replacing Melanie Nichols. Angi recently passed the rigorous Certified Administrative Professional examination administered by the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

Changes in the faculty and staff have certainly been the big news in the department, but a lot else has been happening, too. When Jeff left in December 2009, the dean asked me to step in as interim chair and guide the department through the

process of maintaining our accreditation. Our review year was 2010–2011. Because we lost so many faculty members before the start of that academic year, it was pretty plain that to have our accreditation reaffirmed would be a close call. Since we were so short of faculty, the AACSB gave us a 6th-year review to see if we could recover from the losses and continue to provide the quality education required for accreditation. Many people, including members of the accreditation team, did not think we could take the necessary actions to get back up to the faculty strength we needed. However, hiring three new faculty members helped us demonstrate we could do just that, and the reaffirmation of our accreditation has been ratified by the Board of Directors of the AACSB.

The quality of our students continues to be recognized by awards and events that showcase their work. This year—for the first time in quite a while—the Beta Alpha Psi chapter entered a team in the competition at the Southeast Region meeting. Their presentation, recruiting high school students into accounting and Beta Alpha Psi, finished an admirable second out of 45 university chapters in attendance. An accounting major has been recognized with a

Financial Executives Institute Student Award in each of the last three years: Brandi Parton in 2010 (now working for Ernst & Young), Michele Ebel in 2011 (now working for LBMC), and Emily Haynes in 2012

(only a junior—so, employers, be watching for her!). Caitlin Carroll received a PCAOB scholarship—she was a member of a select group that received the scholarship in the first year of its existence. Finally, 25

students received TSCPA scholarships, and another received a special recognition scholarship from the Nashville chapter.

**"Changes in the faculty and staff have certainly been the big news in the department, but a lot else has been happening, too."**

Now we are ending the 2011–2012 academic year. We continued searching for more faculty members this year and were able to fill one of two positions. Rebekah Heath will be joining us in the fall 2012 semester. We still desperately need another tax person, and we will be recruiting for one again next year. Finally, we had a search for a new chair for the department, and I was notified recently that I will be the full-time chair starting August 1, 2012.

#### **Why Write a Newsletter?**

That is a valid question. The principal answer is to blow our own horn. After all, if we do not blow it, no one is going to blow it for us. In the previous section, I told you about all the losses we have had. More importantly, many of the faculty members you had for classes are still here. I am in the process of completing my 13th year. Seven members of the faculty and staff have been here longer: Bob Colvard, Lara Daniel, Jeannie Harrington, Horace Johns, Violet Rigsby, Paula Thomas,

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and Terry Ward. Other longtime members include Elizabeth Abernathy, Tammy Bahmanziari, Sandy Benson, Monica Davis, Rebecca Foote, Toby Gilley, Charles Kile, Tim Koski, Bill Mooningham, Mary Phillips, Pat Wall, and John Wermert. Finally, more recent hires, other than ones already mentioned, include Susan Bradley, David Eichelberger, Amy Farrar, and Tracy Smith.

All members of the faculty and staff continue to do what they do best: teach new students who will become alumni like you; do accounting and business law research necessary to maintain currency in our selected fields; and provide a variety of service activities to our students, alumni, and our profession. Rebecca Foote, our accounting instruction coordinator, has garnered the most attention recently for her teaching. She was named Outstanding Professor in the College of Business by the insurance fraternity, Gamma Iota Sigma, for the third time in the last four years. Also, she received an MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award at the fall 2011 faculty meeting. By the way, recipients of the latter must be nominated by alumni, so I hope you will consider nominating someone in the future. All tenured and tenure-track faculty must publish to be academically qualified, and we have a fine publishing record in the department in academic and practitioner journals. This year, the dean started a program to give summer research grants to members of the faculty who submit

quality projects for consideration. I am very proud to report that Stan Clark, Terry Ward, and

Anne Wilkins received grants for 2012. Finally, all faculty serve on committees within the department to improve the quality of our instruction and other activities, and many serve on college and University committees. Below is a list that gives you an idea of some of our outside service activities.

Paula Thomas is once again serving on the AICPA board of examiners, which is responsible for the CPA exam.

I serve on the AICPA financial accounting and reporting subcommittee, which is responsible for that part of the CPA exam. I also continue to serve as academic advisor to the governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting committee of the Government Finance Officers Association and just finished my six-year term as a member of the governmental accounting standards advisory council for the GASB.

Pat Wall has been named to the major field test committee of the Educational Testing Service. You will remember the major field test as that exam you took the semester you graduated. It will be nice to have one of our professors on this committee. Also, Pat continues to serve on the business law committee for the CLEP exam and as the department's representative in the Faculty Senate.

Jeannie Harrington continues to be very active with the international accounting section of the American Accounting Association, where she has been a past officer and serves as the newsletter editor.

Mary Phillips continues as Nashville chapter director on the TSCPA state board.

### Where Are We Going?

I am proud to report that the department continues to move forward. We attract outstanding faculty members; we strive to continuously improve our programs; we want to offer excellent continuing education and seminars to our alumni. Our faculty continues to offer great accounting courses for our undergraduate and graduate students. Several years ago, we started a certificate program in tax for our graduate students. I hope we can offer more of these programs in the future.

Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day is only a short time away (April 26), and that program continues to offer our alumni and friends a full day of CPE and helps raise money for our student scholarships. This year, we are awarding \$15,000 in scholarships that are funded with profits from this event. A few years ago we started a fall CPE Day in December (this year it is on Thursday, December 6, 2012) to help raise money for faculty development. These programs can be successful only if you, our alumni, attend and continue to support the department in other ways.

In the end, that is what it all really boils down to: support. We tried to support you when you were a student at MTSU by giving you the knowledge and skills you have used to succeed in your career. Now, we ask for your support, which can come in many ways—participating in our programs and events, hiring our new graduates, and financially supporting the department. Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

G. Robert "Smitty" Smith Jr.  
Interim Chair, Department of Accounting

## Want to learn more about us?

Visit the digital home of the College of Business. Investigate our diverse departments and learn more about our talented faculty members. Read about more college news, special events, scholarship opportunities, and more!



[www.mtsu.edu/business](http://www.mtsu.edu/business)

## Scholarships and Awards

The Department of Accounting disbursed approximately \$17,000 in scholarships and awards in 2011. Several scholarships were funded by generous donors to the department. The remaining scholarships and awards were funded with proceeds from Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day, an annual CPE event hosted by the faculty in April. A list of 2011 scholarship and award recipients is as follows:

Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day Outstanding Senior Award: **Michelle Ebel**

Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day Outstanding Junior Award: **Kristen Pierce**

Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day Service Award: **Kfir Alexandroni**

Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day MS Scholarships: **Brittaney Hammond, Jeremy Coop, Renee Vannatta, Jana Lowe**

E. W. (Wink) Midgett Accounting Scholarships: **Tyson Kimbrel, Mohammad Ansari, Samer Khoury, Scott Miller**

Crowe Chizek & Co. Outstanding Accounting Student Scholarship: **Christopher Carter**

W. Wallace Robertson Accounting Scholarships: **Samer Khoury, Shane Gibson, Jeremy Coop, Kristen Pierce, Renee Vannatta**

Alumni Day Merit Scholarships: **Jing Yu, Silvia Guaz-Nelson**

Bill and Linda Mooningham Scholarship: **Daschia Rand**

Once again, MTSU accounting majors successfully competed with students from across the state to secure scholarships from the Tennessee Society of CPAs (TSCPA). The following 25 students were awarded TSCPA scholarships in 2011: **Patrick Belton, Calvin Bibby, Michael Bolton, Heather Brown, Joseph Coop, Lauren Eddings, Shane Gibson, Ryan Good, Emily Haynes, Jordon Holloway, Spencer Jackson, Henok Kebede, Sam Khoury, Jana Lowe, Nu Nguyen, Gretchin Reich, Duresha Rice, Nathan Robertson, Mariya Rybolovleva, Jessica Sartain, Alisa Sechrist, Joseph Stevens, Randall Thomason, Amber Watson, and Brady Watson.** Also, **Mariya Rybolovleva** received the Nashville Chapter Award, which recognizes the most outstanding scholarship applicant from the middle Tennessee area.

## Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day

Accounting Alumni Appreciation (AAA) Day for 2012 is approaching. If you received an email announcing it, you know that it is April 26. It has been a very eventful year, and it will be good to see everyone again.

I know that many of you had parking and building access issues last year, and you let us know about it in your evaluations. I won't take credit for the improvements since then, but you simply must come back to campus to see the changes.

The front door of the BAS building is open again! Parking will be easier, you should be able to get closer to the building. Most of the fences around the building are gone now (maybe all by AAA Day). The new College of Education building is open, and work is progressing on the new Student Center.

For us, AAA Day is a highlight of the year. When else can we meet with our supporters; tell them about developments in accounting, tax, auditing, and other areas; and get feedback on how to make the department better. The faculty is working hard to make AAA Day a success, but alumni and friends make it an event to remember. Remember that proceeds from this event are used to fund scholarships and awards for our accounting majors! We hope you'll be able to join us again this year.



Register online at  
[www.mtsu.edu/accounting](http://www.mtsu.edu/accounting)  
All profits fund student scholarships!  
AAA Day schedule follows on the next page.

# Accounting Alumni Appreciation Day Schedule • April 26, 2012

7:30 - 8:00	East Lobby	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 8:10	State Farm Auditorium	Welcome (Dean Burton, Department of Accounting Chair G. Robert Smith Jr., Alumni Office)

## General Sessions

8:10 - 9:00	State Farm Auditorium	Ethical Issues in Accounting, Dean E. James Burton
9:00 - 9:50	State Farm Auditorium	Expert Witnessing By The Book, Jim Wilson, Wilson & Wilson, PC, CPA, CFE, MTSU Alumnus
9:50 - 10:10	East Lobby	Networking Break

## Breakout Sessions

10:10 - 11:00	State Farm Auditorium	FASB Update, Paula Thomas, MTSU Alumna and Faculty
	Room S308	Advanced Excel, Tammy Bahmanziari, MTSU Faculty
	Room S316	The Expert Witness on the Witness Stand – Cross Examination, Jim Wilson
11:00 - 11:05		Change Break – change rooms or speakers only – no beverages
11:05 - 11:55	State Farm Auditorium	Issues in Taxation, Tim Koski, MTSU Faculty
	Room S308	Microsoft Access, Tammy Bahmanziari
	Room S316	Employment Law Update, Pat Wall, MTSU Faculty
11:55 - 1:00		Lunch Buffet (Be sure to sign in again after lunch)
1:00 - 1:50	State Farm Auditorium	Audit Update, Bill Mooningham, MTSU Alumnus and Faculty
	Room S316	Update on the Healthcare Law, Lara Daniel, MTSU Alumna and Faculty
	Room S341	GASB Update, Smitty, MTSU Faculty
1:50 - 1:55		Change Break – change rooms or speakers only – no beverages
1:55 - 2:45	State Farm Auditorium	Communicating Negative Information, Anne Wilkins, MTSU Faculty
	Room S316	Update on Private Company Financial Reporting, Stan Clark, MTSU Faculty
	Room S341	GASB Update, Smitty (continued)
2:45 - 3:05	East Lobby	Networking Break

## General Session

3:05 - 3:55	State Farm Auditorium	Regional Economic Update and Forecast, David Penn, Director, MTSU, Business and Economic Resources Center
3:55 - 4:45	State Farm Auditorium	Data Storage and Retrieval, Steve Brugman, President/CEO, The Nexus Group
4:45	East Lobby	Sign out and turn in white copy of CPE form

**Door prizes will be awarded at 4:55 p.m. You must be present to win!**

## Faculty Changes

We have experienced both the challenge and reward associated with significant faculty changes over the past two academic years. We would like to recognize the following stalwarts of our department who retired in 2010:

**Jim Bush** – 25 years  
**Larry Farmer** – 30 years  
**Betty Harper** – 37 years  
**Phil Harper** – 43 years  
**Dan Reynolds** – 36 years

We appreciate their collective 171 years of service, dedicated to building a well-respected program and mentoring multiple generations of accounting students. We are grateful for their legacy, and we seek to honor their achievements by continuing their tradition of excellence.

We are excited to announce the addition of four new tenure-track faculty members in the last two academic years.

- **Denise Leggett** joined the faculty to begin the 2010–2011 academic year. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in 2012. She teaches Introduction to Federal Income Tax, and her research interests include taxation and real earnings management.
- **Stan Clark, Mark Jobe, and Anne Wilkins** joined the faculty to begin the 2011–2012 academic year.
- Stan earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky, and he comes to us after a distinguished 26-year career at the University of Southern Mississippi. He teaches Intermediate Accounting and pursues research on management manipulation of reported information.
- Mark received his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi in 2011. His teaching experience includes Principles of Accounting and Intermediate Accounting, and his research interests include accounting history, auditing, and organizational behavior.
- Anne received her D.B.A. from Kennesaw State University in 2012, and she comes to us with 25 years of experience in public accounting. Her research interests include auditing, governance, and forensic accounting, and she is teaching Internal Audit and Principles of Accounting II.



## BAP Is Booming!

The Zeta Gamma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP), the international organization for financial information professionals, got the spring 2012 semester off to a great start. The chapter has already had some exciting events, and there are plenty more to come.

At the chapter's second meeting, a senior audit official with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) provided members insight on how the CPA exam is administered and graded. During another recent meeting, new members were initiated, and a faculty meet-and-greet was held. It was a great opportunity to socialize and meet fellow members and candidates as well as faculty.

The chapter is also involved in the local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, in which members prepare taxes for low-income persons who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford professional tax preparation. Recently, some members also participated in and helped judge the local DECA competition.

In mid-April, the chapter will host mock interviews to better prepare members for the job market. Around the same time, plans are to have a forensic accountant from the FBI visit and speak about the many job opportunities with the bureau that are available to accounting graduates. Also, chapter officers and a small presentation team went to the southeast region BAP conference in Raleigh. There, the presentation team competed in a best-practices competition. They won second place even though this was their first time competing as a team.

Dr. Paula Thomas, chapter advisor, is planning an end-of-the-semester social event at her home, which should be lots of fun!

Zeta Gamma is rocking this semester and is looking forward to exciting events ahead!



*Left and above: Zeta Gamma Chapter Members at a local DECA Judging.*

## Faculty Accomplishments

Rebecca Foote was selected to receive an MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award for the 2010–2011 academic year. She was chosen for this University-wide award in recognition of her superior instructional accomplishments as reported by her students, department chair, and tenured colleagues. Rebecca was also chosen by business students as the 2012 Outstanding Professor in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business in an election sponsored by the insurance fraternity, Gamma Iota Sigma. She received this same honor in 2009 and 2010.

We congratulate three faculty members for recent appointments to board of director positions. Paula Thomas was recently appointed to the MidSouth Bank board of directors. Mary Phillips is serving her second year as chair of the board of American Leprosy Missions, and she is also on the state board of the Tennessee Society of CPAs. Tammy Bahmanziari accepted an invitation to sit on the national board of directors of the Weight Loss Surgery Foundation of America.

Pat Wall recently received an appointment to serve as a member of the Committee of Examiners for the Major Field Tests (MFT). She is also serving her third year on the Business Law College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Committee for Educational Testing Services. In these capacities, Pat will write business law questions and help develop and approve the final versions of the MFT and CLEP exams administered by universities across the country.

Tim Koski received the Best Paper Award at the 2012 Orlando International Academic Conference for his paper “Increase in Medicare Tax Base on the Horizon: Higher Income Taxpayers Subject to New 3.8% Tax on Unearned Income and Additional 0.9% Tax on Earned Income Beginning in 2013.” This paper is scheduled to be published in an upcoming issue of Practical Tax Strategies.



Pictured left to right: Rebecca Foote, Paula Thomas, Mary Phillips, Tammy Bahmanziari, Pat Wall, and Tim Koski

## IMA Chapter: Important Speakers, Important Topics

The student Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) chapter continues to bring notable speakers to MTSU. Last fall, accounting majors had the chance to hear Laura Kennelly, vice president, finance and operations, FSi Inc.; Angie Grissom, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Rainmaker Consulting Group; Hope Tenpenny, accounting manager and CPA, Reeves-Sain Family of Medical Services; and Joanna Nagelhout, assistant controller, Bridgestone Americas Manufacturing Group. Kennelly spoke on leadership; Grissom discussed marketing opportunities for small- and medium-sized CPA firms; Tenpenny spoke about costing in a private medical services provider; and Nagelhout introduced various reports provided in a large manufacturing company. Students were exposed to a variety of topics and expressed their appreciation.

The chapter is busy planning the spring semester speakers, and it hopes to take a plant or office tour in the coming months. Last year, IMA members were fortunate to tour the inner workings of Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, courtesy of Eddie Cloud, controller, and Keith Jackson, accountant.

## A Rose by Any Other Name

The Department of Accounting is proud to announce the redesignation of its master's program. The former Master of Science in Accounting and Information Systems (M.S.A.I.S.) is now the Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.). This designation was selected due to its broader recognition in the accounting profession and because it better reflects the expanded accounting requirements of the program. Currently, over 100 students are enrolled in the M.Acc. program. For additional information about enrolling in MTSU's Master of Accountancy program, please contact Dr. Terry Ward, M.Acc. program advisor, at (615) 898-2341.



## BLAW Corner: New Option for Jennings A. Jones College of Business Students

Beginning in fall 2012, students in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business will have the option of selecting their minors. Before he retired, longtime faculty member Larry Farmer championed the idea that students in the College of Business should be able to do so. This year, the proposal passed through college and University channels. At present, students who are majoring in the College of Business all have a default minor. For accounting students, the default minor is Business Administration. With the new option, students may select a different minor. One option open to accounting students will be a business law minor. Accounting majors now must take BLAW 3400, Legal Environment of Business, and BLAW 3430, Commercial Law. These courses cover many of the law topics that are on the CPA exam. These courses will continue to be required. If the accounting student chooses the business law minor, he/she must complete an additional nine (9) hours from business law electives. Because law is intertwined so intricately in the practice of accounting, a business law minor might be a good choice for many accounting students. Below are course descriptions of current business law electives.

**Employment Discrimination Law.** A detailed examination of the legal rights and responsibilities of employers and employees with respect to fair employment practices; emphasis on significant statutes, administrative regulations, and judicial decisions forming the body of antidiscrimination law.

**Real Estate Law.** Legal rights and limitations of ownership of property, estates, titles, methods of transferring titles, abstract of titles, mortgages, leases, easements, restrictions on the use of property, real estate development and planning, application of contract law to real property, and the administration of wills.

**Insurance Law.** Risks covered by the insurance contract, their selection and control; making, constructing, and enforcing the contract; negotiation and settlement of claims; misconduct of agents. Government regulation of the insurance industry. Emphasis on current principles, policies, procedures, and practices in insurance.

**Industrial Relations Legislation.** Economic background and effects of government regulation of labor relations; emphasis on a detailed examination of the National Labor Relations Act as amended or expanded by the Labor Management Relations Act, the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosures Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

## Advisory Board Members



**Jonathan W. Cooke** is a CPA with diversified experience in a variety of industries including manufacturing, distribution, health care, and food service and has significant experience in federal and state taxation for large and multistate corporations and publicly held companies. His experience includes over 18 years of accounting and tax practice with Lattimore, Black, Morgan & Cain. He graduated from MTSU

with a major in accounting and a minor in business administration. He has continued his education annually through ongoing continuing professional education programs. Jonathan serves on the Small Business Committee of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He serves on Scholarship Committee of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and sits on the MTSU Accounting Advisory Board. Involved in various other civic and community activities, he is also a member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce.



**Kim Holleman** is an assurance partner with Ernst & Young. She has significant experience in the coordination of services for growth companies, including projects related to mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, recapitalizations, implementation of internal control requirements for Section 404 attestation, and consultations with SEC staff on accounting issues and comment letters. Her experience includes private

placements of equity and debt, SEC filings, and public equity and debt offerings. Kim serves as leader of the Nashville alumni relationship efforts, leader of women's advancement initiatives for the firm's southeast area, and leader of strategic growth initiatives for the Tennessee market. Kim received a B.B.A and master's in accounting from MTSU. She is a member of TSCPA and AICPA and is actively involved with United Way and the American Heart Association.



**Kyle Ingram** is director of finance for manufacturing, purchasing, and logistics for Nissan North America. He is a director/controller of finance, responsible for manufacturing assembly and power train plants, purchasing, and logistics activities in the U.S. and Mexico. Kyle's finance responsibilities also include management of capital investment for the Americas. Before joining Nissan in 2006, he was group

controller of manufacturing and purchasing for the North American division of Schneider Electric. An 18-year veteran of Schneider, Kyle has held senior finance roles supporting most business functions, including marketing, manufacturing, purchasing, engineering, and product development. He earned

a bachelor's degree in accounting from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.



**Amy C. Jamison** is a senior tax manager at Byrd, Proctor & Mills. She graduated from MTSU with a B.B.A. (accounting). Amy works in the areas of tax planning and compliance for partnerships, corporations, and individuals. She has served clients in a variety of industries including retail, construction, professional service, and real estate. She is a member of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public

Accountants and serves as secretary of the Nashville Chapter. She is active on the Young CPA and State Taxation committees. She is a member of the MTSU Accounting Advisory Board and a graduate of the Young Leaders Council.



**Bill M. Mooningham** graduated from MTSU with a B.S. in accounting in 1968 and became a licensed CPA in Tennessee and Florida. He was a partner at Ernst & Young, working in auditing and serving both publicly and privately owned companies. He retired from Ernst & Young in 2007 and became an adjunct professor at his alma mater. He teaches external auditing, forensic accountancy and fraud auditing, and advanced auditing and public accountancy practices. His wife, Linda, is director of marketing at the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and specializes in municipal finance.



**Larry Morton** is the partner in charge of assurance services for Crowe Horwath's offices in Tennessee. He has over 34 years of public accounting experience. Crowe Horwath is one of the ten largest CPA firms in the U.S., and the Nashville office is one of the largest in the region. Larry has extensive experience providing assurance and advisory services for businesses in a variety of industries including health care, manufacturing and distribution, not-for-profits, construction, service, printing and publishing, and others. He graduated from MTSU with honors. He has been involved in numerous professional and community organizations including, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Tennessee Society of CPAs, the Exchange Club of Nashville, the Financial Executive Institute, the Construction Financial Management Association, and the Accounting Advisory Board at MTSU. He is also on the board of directors and serves as treasurer of Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity.

*Continued on page 9*



**Lisa T. Nix** is an M&A accounting director in Deloitte's Nashville office and a member of its National Health Care and Life Sciences M&A Transaction Services practice. She has over 20 years of public accounting experience and over ten years of experience leading health care M&A transaction services teams for both strategic and financial buyers. Lisa's experience includes leading and managing assurance

and advisory services for health care companies including not-for-profit and for-profit private and public entities, and her transaction experience includes leading multifunctional health care M&A teams serving on transactions ranging in size from several million to over \$7 billion dollars. Lisa has significant experience in the health care industry and has assisted clients with many completed or proposed transactions in a broad cross-section of health care sectors. She has served various clients in bankruptcy and reorganization and in managing services for initial public offerings and secondary equity and debt offerings in the health care industry. She has worked with Leadership Health Care, an initiative of the Nashville Health Care Council, serving on the board of directors and Education/Events and Strategic Development Committees. She is a member of the Youth About Business Southeast Advisory board of directors and the MTSU Accounting Advisory Board (past chair). She is involved with the Tennessee chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America and has held several past leadership roles with that organization, including serving as an executive committee member of the board of directors and as president and treasurer. Lisa received a B.B.A. (accounting) from MTSU. She is a member of the Nashville chapter of Women Business Leaders of the U.S. Health Care Industry Foundation, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Tennessee State CPA Society.



**Joey Peay** is CEO of Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, a position he has held for nine years. Previously, he served as the clinic's CFO for more than four years. Joey graduated with honors from MTSU in 1988 with a bachelor's in accounting. He passed the Uniform CPA Exam in 1988 and spent the first ten years of his career with KPMG, an international public accounting firm, leaving in 1998 as a senior manager.

Joey serves as chair of the Rutherford County Board of Directors of the American Heart Association. He has also served as president of the Leadership Rutherford Council and chair of the American Red Cross Heart of Tennessee Chapter. He serves on the board of directors of the Kittrell Volunteer Fire Department and the Accounting Advisory Board at MTSU. Joey is also a 2001 graduate of the Leadership Rutherford Program, a member of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, a member of the Medical Group Management Association, and a Certified Medical Practice Executive (American College of Medical Practice Executives).

**Jami Pope** earned a B.B.A. with an emphasis in accounting from MTSU in 1989. He became a CPA in October 1990. He is a member of Puryear, Hamilton, Hausman, and Wood, an accounting firm in the Cool Springs area. Though he is in charge of accounting services, he spends most of his time performing and reviewing audits of financial statements, specializing in the health care and not-for-profit industries. He has been a member of the Shelbyville Civitan Club since 1985. He is a member of Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, where he serves on the finance committee. He is first vice chair of the Accounting Advisory Board at MTSU and a member of AICPA and TSCPA.



**Timothy L. Priddy** is CFO for Smith Seckman Reid Inc. His responsibilities include the oversight and direction of all corporate finance, accounting, treasury, and information technology services. Tim has over 27 years of experience in various areas of accounting, auditing, treasury, and financial management. Before joining SSR, Tim was a vice president of financial operations with PhyCor Inc. from 1994 to 2000 and treasurer of ImageAmerica Inc. from 1990 to 1994. Tim began his career with Touche, Ross & Co. CPAs. He received a B.A. in accounting from MTSU in 1984 and an M.B.A. from Lipscomb University in 2011.



**Todd Ravin** is a manager in KPMG's Nashville audit practice. He has more than seven years of experience providing audit, accounting, and business advisory services to public companies in various industries. He obtained a B.S. from Vanderbilt University and a master's in accounting from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. His audit experience with KPMG Nashville has included working with clients in the retail and consumer markets, manufacturing and industrial products, and transportation and logistics markets. He has planned, staffed, and directed engagement teams providing audit and Sarbanes-Oxley services to public companies. He has experience in coordinating and executing international audits, including timely completion of SEC and statutory audits. He has significant experience in working with large SEC audit engagements.



**Joe Steakley** is senior vice president in the Internal Audit and Enterprise Risk Department for Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). Before joining HCA in 1997, Joe was a partner at Ernst & Young, where he worked for 22 years. Joe oversees HCA's 140-person Internal Audit Department, which is responsible for auditing facility

financial statements, ensuring audit compliance, and providing revenue cycle/recognition support. He is also responsible for the Enterprise Risk Office and Business Continuity Planning of HCA, as well as the company's antifraud and foreign corruption programs. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. He also sits on the MTSU Accounting Advisory Board. He was on the list of *Treasury & Risks* "100 Most Influential People in Finance" in the publication's June 2010 issue.

He is the Audit Committee chair of J. Alexander's, a publicly traded restaurant company, a board member of Nashville's Frist Center for the Visual Arts, an executive board member of the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, an advisory board member of the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, a board member of Grace Manor Senior Living Adult Homes,

past president of CommunityNashville, and past president of the Nashville Downtown Lions Club. A native of Nashville, Joe graduated from MTSU in 1975.

**Clare Tucker** graduated from MTSU with a bachelor's in accounting and an M.B.A. She marched in the Band of Blue as a member of the color guard. She has been working with the Tennessee Department of Audit since 1983. She is a legislative audit manager in the Division of State Audit and also serves as a college recruiter. Clare lives in Donelson, Tennessee.

*Other Advisory Board members not included in this year's update are Rebecca Upton, Dempsey, Vantrease, and Follis, Chair; Jimmy Jobe, Jobe Hastings, Second Vice Chair; Beverly Horner, KraftCPAs; Brian Kidd, NHC; and Andy Lile, Winnett and Associates.*

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*For information about supporting the Department of Accounting, contact Nick Perlick in the Division of Development and University Relations at (615) 898-2502 or nick.perlick@mtsu.edu*

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