

# MIHAYLO ACCOUNTING NEWS

FALL 2015 | Accounting News



## FROM THE CHAIR...

Dear Alumni and Friends of Mihaylo Accounting:

I hope you enjoy this issue of our Department of Accounting Newsletter. It is sent to you with the hope that you will read it and find ways that you could reconnect with us to make the learning experience of our students more relevant, and, yes, even more exciting, as they strive to fill the challenging space you left behind when you graduated.

In September, we welcomed over 1,200 undergraduate and over 300 graduate students to our programs. We are determined to make a positive difference in the lives of all these students and to help them prepare for a very exciting career in Accounting. To this end, we have instituted a mentor/mentee relationship with each student new to the program. In addition, all accounting students have a faculty advisor who will help them understand the career opportunities in accounting as well as give them advice on the selection of courses in order to fulfill the requirements for sitting for the CPA Exam and the additional requirements to be licensed as a CPA.

We have further streamlined our Adopt-a-Firm program so each faculty member has now adopted two firms: the purpose—to have a closer relationship with firms in Orange County and to provide two-way communication so we can better prepare our students for

an accounting career while at the same time meet the needs of the firms. As you well know, this is a time of tremendous change in the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful professional. We remain focused on providing a rigorous academic program, a skilled workforce, access for businesses to our talented students, and encouragement and support to students to graduate on time. One such support is the establishment of a formal peer tutoring program.

When you visit us here on campus, and we hope you will, you will be amazed at the changes made since you graduated. We are, of course, most proud of our business building, Steven G. Mihaylo Hall, our two orange tree groves and the overall beauty of the campus. To maintain or increase the quality of our students, we are initiating an Accounting Circle to raise funds to be used for graduate scholarships so we can attract the best talent for our two Master's programs.

We hope to see you on campus soon. In the meantime, best wishes for the holiday season.

Cordially,

*Betty Chavis*

Betty Chavis, Chair

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Jennifer Cavender**  
*Audit Senior Manager at  
Haskell & White, LLP*

I graduated CSUF in 2000, and I am so grateful for the opportunities made possible by the university. One of the most valuable parts of the accounting program at CSUF is its effort to connect potential

employers with students. Early on, the professors encouraged me to join Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Society. These organizations and the events they held facilitated relationships with people from a wide variety of firms. Because of the strong program and the excellent reputation of the school's accounting graduates, regional, national and international firms heavily recruit at CSUF, and these associations give students valuable tools to help connect with employers and learn about the profession.

For accountants, the day-to-day work is essentially the same regardless of the company you work for, but the student organizations at CSUF helped me find the firm that was the right fit for me. Through the recruiting process at CSUF, I discovered what I truly wanted from my career and was then able to choose the firm that fit me best. In my senior year, I accepted an offer with Haskell & White, LLP, a local CPA firm known for providing high-quality services to middle market companies in a variety of industries. I'm still with the firm today, which I think is a testament to the value of CSUF's career services.

If it weren't for the professors and student organizations at CSUF, I wouldn't have had the confidence to push myself beyond what I thought possible academically, nor would I have had the knowledge to select an employer that fit my aspirations so perfectly. Beyond preparing students for the workforce, the professors took preparing students for the CPA exam very seriously. They weren't afraid to be tough, but also were happy to give personal attention to students when needed.

I am eternally grateful to Dr. Betty Chavis and other professors for mentoring and guiding my career aspiration and helping me realize that I could be a successful businesswoman. As wonderful as the accounting program was when I attended, I know that it has grown even more throughout the past 15 years with the addition of Mihaylo Hall, new technologies and collaborative workspaces. I am so appreciative of my time at CSUF, and owe my success to the fellow students, professors and associations that helped me reach, meet and exceed my career goals. THANKS CSUF!



# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## Meeting with Firm Alumni

The Department of Accounting scheduled morning meetings with various firms to meet at their offices with Fullerton accounting alumni who work for the firms. The visits are an opportunity for the Department's faculty to give an update on programs, curriculum changes and on the vision for the future. These meetings provide an opportunity for alums to let the Department know what they are doing and how well prepared they were for their careers. The main objective is to reconnect with former students.



Ernst & Young



Deloitte



Haskell & White