Acc, CIS, Fin

News

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The Chair’s Corner: Dare to be Bold!

The Division of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and Finance continues to experience many challenges; but, through it all, we “Dare to be Bold!”

**Daring to be BOLD!** As you no doubt are aware, the economy is a mess! This has impacted DSU and our Division. The University has had budget reductions, has had to cut programs and layoff staff. In our Division, we have had to hold positions vacant and have had reductions in travel funding.

Despite these funding challenges, we continue to receive great marks from employers throughout the Delta, state, and region. Each discipline was successful in placing most of our recent graduates in full-time jobs or graduate school — the economy played a factor here. Employers continue to provide great feedback on the quality of our graduates and academic program; and, our graduates continue to call us and send us emails expressing their appreciation for their education and how well they have been prepared, even over others at sister institutions, for their careers. For this, we are truly blessed and rewarded!!!

While our graduate enrollment in the Master of Professional Accountancy and the MBA is climbing, undergraduate enrollment in each of our disciplines continues to slip downward. The sagging economy has helped us in our graduate programs as more students are seeking additional education to be more marketable and has hurt us in our undergraduate programs as parents and students find it increasingly difficult to find funding for higher education. In the 2008-2009 academic year, we were able to award over $40,000 in scholarships and awards to students throughout the Division thanks to the generosity of many supporters and donors to our programs. During the 2009-2010 academic year, we have not been so fortunate as many of our endowed scholarships have fallen below their corpus levels; therefore, we must wait for the market to turn around to continue awarding scholarships at the previous year’s levels. Despite this downturn, we have awarded about $15,000 in scholarships this year.

Division faculty, students, and I continue vigorous recruiting efforts by attending several high school recruiting events and several alumni events. Our Division faculty continues to be very active in conducting research and making presentations throughout the state, nation and world. DSU is very fortunate to have the faculty in our Division!

I am excited to announce that two faculty in our Division won honors of distinction this year: **Ms. Lisa B. Sandifer** was awarded the 2009 Kossman Award, the highest award presented to any faculty member at Delta State; and, **Mr. Jimmie Blount** received the 2009 AT&T College of Business Faculty of the Year Award, the highest award presented to faculty in the College of Business. Also, it is with pleasure that I report that **Dr. Jennifer Ziegelmayer** successfully defended her dissertation in Management Information Systems in August, thereby earning a Ph.D. in Business Administration from The University of Mississippi. I am also pleased to announce that **Ms. Ashley Soliz** has joined us again beginning this fall 2009 — she passed her comprehensive exams, is currently

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Congratulations!!! Faculty Awards, Appointments and Honors

Mr. Jimmie Blount, Instructor in Accountancy, was selected by students within the College of Business as the 2009 AT&T COB Faculty of the Year award winner. This award was presented at the COB Award Ceremony in April.

Dr. Billy Morehead, Division Chairman, was elected to a one-year term as the National President of the Association of Government Accountants, effective July 1, 2009.

Ms. Lisa B. Sandifer, Instructor in Accountancy, was selected as the 2009 Kossman Award Winner, the highest honor bestowed on any DSU faculty. The award was presented the May 2009 commencement ceremony.
ABD, and if all goes well will be Ph.D. in 2010 – we are so excited to have one of our own DSU graduates on our TEAM! Finally, you will want to know that Mrs. Mary Robbins decided to retire in June after 25 years at DSU and Ms. Theresa Holloway joined our staff in September after 13 years in a different division at DSU.

**Daring to be BOLD!** Thank you for your continued support and interest in DSU! Our alumni are a vital part of the success of our programs here in the Division of Accountancy, CIS, and Finance. You hire our graduates, you send us students (both your own children and others), you support us financially through your gifts, and you market this institution wherever you go. If I can ever help you or provide you any additional information, do not hesitate to contact me at 662-846-4180 or at wmorehed@deltastate.edu.

### Honor Societies News

The Accounting Honor Society and Alpha Iota Mu CIS Honor Society held a banquet this past spring to induct new members. The banquet followed the Delta Mu Delta induction ceremony. In addition to the faculty and parents, Dr. Moore, Dean of the College of Business, and DSU Provost Dr. Ann Lotven were in attendance to congratulate the students who earned the honor of being inducted into these prestigious fellowships. The keynote speaker for the event was the Hon. David Norquist of the Mississippi House of Representatives, who represents the people of the Twenty-Eighth District. Rep. Norquist earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting at Delta State University and is a staunch supporter of DSU.

**Alpha Iota Mu** is an international honor society of information systems majors organized to recognize outstanding academic achievement in the field of information systems, provide a forum for academic, professional, and social development, promote high ethical standards, and encourage the growth and integrity of the information systems profession. To be nominated for membership, students must be a declared Computer Information Systems (CIS) major at DSU, be classified as a junior, senior, or graduate student, and have an overall grade point average not less than 3.5.

Students inducted into Alpha Iota Mu during the 08-09 school year were Sean R. Jackson, Indianola, MS; Joseph B. McCallum, Cleveland, MS; Randall W. (Randy) Geimer, Madison, MS; and Benjamin L. Steen, Kosciusko, MS.

The purpose of the **Accounting Honor Society** is to recognize superior achievement in accounting; to promote, encourage, and maintain academic and professional excellence in accounting; to instill high ethical standards; and to encourage service in the accounting profession.

Membership is extended to a select group of accounting majors. The standards are high and include only those accounting majors who have (1) a 3.5 GPA in two or more upper-level accounting courses or (2) a 3.2 GPA in four or more upper-level accounting courses. In addition, the student must have achieved at least a 3.2 overall GPA at Delta State University and must be in the top 20 percent of his or her class.

Members who were Inducted into the Accounting Honor Society in April 2009, include Alexa Hendrix, Vidhya Bhavani Kalyanaraman, Cemper A. McGarrr, Ann Marie Smyth, Elizabeth Ann Youngblood, Kelsey Renee Jones, Ashley J. King, Karishma Patel and Jacob C. VanNamen. Dr. Sharon Ford is the faculty advisor.

### Insurance and Real Estate Review

On Thursday, September 25, Jim Brown and several Insurance and Real Estate majors attended the 27th Annual MS Insurance Education Day in Jackson, MS. Experts gave presentations on topics including shifting trends in the insurance industry, current insurance issues, and career opportunities. In addition, students had an opportunity to meet and interact with potential employers in a career oriented environment. One of our students, Jon Brown, received a $1000 scholarship from a sponsoring organization.

### SABA at Delta State University, 2008-2009

The SABA (Student Accountants and Business Administrators) Organization continues to be an active organization on the campus of Delta State University. During each semester meetings are held that feature key speakers from around or outside the community.

- September 2008, Jason Pryor, DSU graduate and staff accountant with Meridian Life Science, Inc. shared with the organization the importance of setting goals and following through. Jason is a graduate of Delta State University and because of his tenacity, he recently completed the CPA exam. Congratulations to Jason! We are very proud of him!

- October 2008, Lance Mohamed, staff accountant with Kellebrew and Moss in Greenwood, spoke about the differences of working in a large public accounting firm and a local public accounting firm.

- November 2008 featured Jamie Bailey, a DSU graduate and an international auditor with FedEx, speaking about the internship program at FedEx and the many opportunities that this provides to the students.

- February 2009 our very own Christie Dill Sledge, Director of the Small Business Development Center at DSU, shared the challenges of transitioning from college life to a full-time job in public accounting and explained the many duties she has with the SBDC.

- April 2009, the last speaker of the semester was Karen Swain, a criminal investigator with the Mississippi State Auditor’s office. Karen has performed many investigations which have led to the arrest and conviction of many fraudsters. She completed her accounting hours at DSU and was the gold medal winner of the CPA exam.

Delta State is blessed to have so many alumni and friends who are willing to take time out of their busy schedule to come and share with our students. Many thanks to all of you who have shared with us. If you would be willing to come to Delta State and share with our students, please contact Lisa Sandifer at lsandifr@deltastate.edu. “We are always looking for new speakers!! We also want to thank Viking Range who has donated a barbeque grill which is raffled off for the SABA fundraiser. The funds raised are used as scholarships each year. The scholarships awarded are listed in the newsletter. A special thanks to Brian Waldrup and Viking Range who make these scholarships possible.
Students Honored - April, 2009

Accounting Student Awards and Scholarships

Outstanding Accounting Principles Award
Vidhya B. Kalyanaraman

Outstanding Cost Accounting Award
Alexa J. Hendrix

Outstanding Governmental Accounting Award
Alexa J. Hendrix

Outstanding Intermediate Accounting Award
Alexa J. Hendrix

Outstanding Advanced Accounting Award
Cemper A. McGarrh

Outstanding Accounting Systems Award
Ann Marie Smythe

Outstanding Tax Accounting Award
Vidhya B. Kalyanaraman

Outstanding Auditing Award
Cemper A. McGarrh

Department of Accountancy Faculty Award
Jacob C. Van Namen

Mississippi Society of CPAs Medal
Karishma Patel

Delta Chapter of CPAs Outstanding MPA Award
Matthew S. Sellers

John P. Quon Outstanding Accounting MPA Award
Kamica White

Cellular South College of Business Scholarship
Rachel Cabell  Randall Geimer
David Kent  Jonathan Street
Katherine Stroup

Mississippi Society of CPAs Scholarship
Karishma Patel

Delta Chapter of CPAs Scholarship
Alexa J. Hendrix

John P. Quon Undergraduate Accountancy Award
Randall Geimer  Ashley King  Cemper McGarrh

Florence Eubank Campbell Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Karishma Patel  Rachel Sistrunk  Jacob Van Namen

SABA – Viking Range Corporation Scholarship
Randall Geimer  Alexa Hendrix
Ashley King  Cemper McGarrh
Rachel Sistrunk  Jacob Van Namen

Gibson-Yurkow Scholarship
Randall Geimer  Katherine Stroup

William Benoit Holloway Scholarship
Jo Birdlong-Hendrix  Terri Marie Brister
Dylana Brook  Jessica Dumas
Charlise Henson  Melyssa A. Hitchcock
Racine B. Howard  Frances Clair Jenkins
Melissa G. Jones  Rachel McGeehe
Lashanda C. Moore  Sabrina C. Morton
Paul D. Mounce  Matthew Sellers
Ashley Rochelle Smith  Michelle Cunary Wade
Gwendolyn Walls  Kamica White
Brandon Whitmire

John Yurkow Accounting Fellowship
Brandon Whitmire

John P. Quon Graduate Accounting Scholarship
Frances Clair Jenkins

Tarver Scholarship
Alexa J. Hendrix

CIS Student Awards and Scholarships
Clay Rayner Brock Memorial Award
Brittany N. Granger

CIS Faculty Award
Randall W. Geimer

O. Darrington Hardy Award
Sean R. Jackson

Hilton Hotels Information Technology Award
Azrie Vassel  Sandra R. Smith

Holiday Inns—CIS Outstanding Senior Award
Michael A. Koehler

Holiday Inns Scholarship
Joseph B. McCullum

Merchants and Farmers Bank CIS Award
Joseph B. McCullum

Finance Student Awards and Scholarships
Mid South Association for Financial Planning Professionals
Outstanding Treasury Management Award
Kirill Pervooun

W. A. Duckworth Memorial Financial Planning Award
Bradley A. Skipper

Regions Bank Finance Award
Jeffrey A. Blackstock

Outstanding Investment Award
Bradley A. Skipper

Outstanding Intermediate Finance Award
Gina Elaine Whitmire

Outstanding Bank Management Award
Bradley A. Skipper

Victor G. Byas Business Award
Curtesia Y. Leslie

Mississippi Young Bankers Leadership Scholarship
Bradley A. Skipper

Insurance and Real Estate Student Awards and Scholarships
Yazoo Delta Independent Insurance Agents Award
Jonathan W. Street  Benjamin W. Whelan

Mississippi Insurance Education Scholarship
Jonathan Brown

Outstanding Real Estate Student Award
Jason S. Cole

College of Business Student Awards
James L. Williams Memorial Business Scholarship
Freddie A. Watt

Cleveland State Bank N.L. “Nap” Cassibry, Jr Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Jeffrey Blackstone  Jacob Van Namen

Hayden-Mitchell College of Business Endowed Scholarship
Cemper McGarrh

Tim Davis-State Bank and Trust Memorial Scholarship
Kelsey Jones

Raynold Chiz Memorial Scholarship
Michael Koehler

Land Bank of North Mississippi Scholarship
Cemper A. McGarrh
Association of Information Technology Professionals

The DSU chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals was extremely active during the 2008-2009 academic year. They hosted speakers from many organizations including Hilton Hotels, the Mississippi Center for Supercomputing Research, and Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company. AITP members also helped to host the DSU Community College Programming Competition.

In October, nine members attended the AITP Region 3 Conference in San Angelo, TX, and in March, ten members spent three days in Oklahoma City attending the AITP National Collegiate Conference. Students participated in skills based competitions, took certification exams, interviewed for jobs, and engaged in professional networking activities.

Because of their high level of activity in the 2008-2009 academic year, the DSU chapter was awarded the Student Chapter Outstanding Performance Award. Only nine schools in the nation earned this award. In addition, three of the eight students who were awarded Student Individual Performance Awards are from Delta State: Marcus Caswell, Ramona Greer, and Michael Koehler.

Plans are underway for AITP members to attend both the Region 3 Collegiate Conference in Dallas, TX and the National Collegiate Conference in St Louis, MO. Members are currently selling tickets for a mega-raffle in the spring to help fund the trips.

In addition, AITP has begun a new initiative with IT Montgomery Elementary School in Mound Bayou. AITP will host students from the school's After-School program on monthly field trips to the DSU campus. Each field trip will focus on a different career and the students will see how technology and mathematics are applied in that field. Field trips are planned in Aviation, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Geographic Information Systems, Education, and the Music Industry. The pupils and their parents will have the opportunity to interact with our students and to learn about college life. The program has two goals: to introduce pupils from IT Montgomery Elementary School to the importance of mathematics and technology, and to demystify the college experience and encourage the students to attend college.

Business Abroad Program

Seven members of the Delta State community traveled to London and Paris this summer to learn more about business in the European Union. The trip was part of the Business Abroad program, a new initiative offered by the DSU College of Business. Dr. Billy C. Moore, Dean of the College of Business said, “The goal of the program is to help participants become more globally engaged. Business operates in a global society and we must expose our students to the global business environment. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity and I expect the program will grow as more students understand the importance of international business.”

Dr. Billy Morehead, Chair of the Division of Accountancy, CIS, and Finance said, “The Business Study Abroad program began when Dr. Jennifer Ziegelmayer, Assistant Professor of Computer Information System, and a couple of faculty discussed the potential benefits of getting our students into other cultures to see that business operates differently from the way we do things in the States.

The Business Study Abroad program involves taking an annual short-term study tour to expose students to other cultures and business practices. The inaugural tour took place this past summer from June 9-22. Participants spent two weeks in London and Paris learning about the cultural, political, and legal factors that influence business in a multi-national context. In addition, students had the opportunity to visit historic and cultural sites.

This year, Business Abroad will take place in the Spring 2010 semester. Students may enroll in International Marketing, International Accounting, or Global Information Systems. They will have the option of participating in a trip to Japan during Spring Break or a trip to Europe during May. Students taking the trip for course credit may be eligible for financial aid to assist in the costs. For detailed information about these trips, contact Dr. Ziegelmayer at ziegelmayer@deltastate.edu.

Last year’s participants included former faculty member and alumna Dr. Laurie Barfitt of Silver City, New Mexico, alumna Jennifer Artichuk of Ottawa, Canada, and four students: Melissa Wilkes, Southaven, Curtisha Leslie, Greenville, Slexia Neal, Cleveland, and Melissa Jones, Lambert. The tour was led by Dr. Ziegelmayer.

Finance Student Organization

The Financial Management Association club met on September 16, 2009, with Dr. Chad Denson as faculty sponsor. The following officers were elected: President—John Mauney; Vice President—Patrick Strack; Treasurer—Sean Nichols, and Secretary—Gina Whitmire.