

# ACC, CIS, FIN News



Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2007

## Special points of interest:

Faculty Update

College of Business  
Homecoming Alumni  
Breakfast

Accounting Alumni  
Meeting

High School Computing  
Fair and Competition

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## The Chair's Corner

In late July 2007, Laurie Barfitt announced her resignation as Assistant Professor of Accountancy in the Department of Accountancy to accept a similar position with Western New Mexico University. This move gave Laurie an opportunity to be near her parents. We understood and wish Laurie the best in her new position.

The Accountancy Department welcomes two new full time faculty members for the academic year 2007-2008. Ashley Beckett Soliz and Jennifer Hill have been hired and both are hard at work learning the ins and outs of the teaching profession. Ashley and Jennifer are both outstanding alumni of the Accountancy Department of Delta State University.

Ashley Soliz received her BBA in Accountancy from Delta State University in 2001 and the MACCY from the University of Mississippi in 2003. She is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. Accountancy program at the Uni-

versity of Mississippi. Ashley is near completion of her course work and will very soon be ABD for her Doctorate in Accountancy. In addition to her educational qualifications, Ashley brings a wealth of real-world experience to the classroom having served as a bookkeeper for the family owned business of Soliz Industrial Contractors, Inc. of Cleveland, a Staff Accountant for Jackson and Braswell, CPAs of Cleveland, and a self employed part-time bookkeeper and tax consultant.

Jennifer Hill received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting in December 2003, and the Masters of Business Administration degree in May 2005 from Delta State University. Jennifer comes to us from Delta and Pine Land Company of Scott, MS, where she most recently served as the Payroll/Benefits Accountant for DPL. In 2006, she successfully completed the CPA exam and plans to enroll in an Account-

tancy Ph.D. program during the 2008-2009 academic year.

In the FIN/IRR Department, we welcome Debra Joel to part-time status as Instructor of IRR. Debra has taught for us for several years as an adjunct faculty member of the IRR faculty. She brings a wealth of knowledge and real world experience to the classroom. Debra is a licensed Real Estate Broker/Appraiser and owns Debbie Joel Real Estate located in Cleveland, MS.

During the spring 2006 semester, Dr. Jerry Kandies was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor and received tenure. Dr. Sharon Ford was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

## Dr. Billy Morehead, Interim Dean

Congratulations to Dr. Billy Morehead. Billy recently completed his dissertation for his Ph.D. at the University of Southern Mississippi.

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## College of Business Alumni Breakfast

The College of Business will be hosting a Continental Breakfast for all alumni. The breakfast will be held in the foyer adjacent to the Baioni Conference Center (Room 132) in Broom Hall beginning at 9 am. Faculty will be available to welcome alumni and answer any questions about our current curricula and plans for the future. We look forward to your visit during homecoming. Please contact Mary Robbins

(662-846-4425 or Susan McCreary (662-846-4180) or just email me if you plan to attend so that we might adequately prepare for our homecoming activities. If you are unable to attend, please do not hesitate to just drop by any other time or give us a call. My email address is [dhardy@deltastate.edu](mailto:dhardy@deltastate.edu) and my office number is 662-846-4411.

## Accounting Alumni Meeting

Accounting alumni are invited to attend our annual meeting immediately following the breakfast on homecoming. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide feedback to the accounting faculty and find out what has been going on at Delta State University. Please make every effort to attend. The accounting department is a success because of you, the accounting alumni.

**College of  
Business  
Homecoming  
Breakfast  
  
Computing  
Fair and  
Competition**

**October 27, 2007  
9:00 am-3:45 pm**

**Broom Hall  
DSU Campus**

Dr. Billy Moore, past Dean of the COB is now serving as Interim Provost and Academic VP for Delta State University. A Provost Search Committee is in the process of searching for the new Provost and Academic VP of Delta State University.

### **New CIS Course: E-Commerce Application**

The department of Computer Information Systems is offering a new course in website development. The course is CIS 475/575 E-commerce Application Development. The course focuses on the development of database driven websites for e-commerce including the application of scripting languages, cascading style sheets, online payment processing, security procedures, accessibility design, and ethics. Suggested prerequisites for the course include CIS 300 – Management Information Systems, and CIS 331 – Systems Analysis and Design. Students without the prerequisite courses can participate with the instructor's permission. Every student that participates in the course will have the opportunity to create not only personal websites, but at least one website for a community organization or

small business. For additional information, contact Vicki Webster by phone at 662.843.4423 or via email at [vwebster@deltastate.edu](mailto:vwebster@deltastate.edu)

### **High School Computing Fair and Competition**

The department of Computer Information Systems faculty and the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) student members will be hosting a high school Computer Competition and Fair in conjunction with other homecoming activities on Homecoming day. High school juniors and seniors from around the state will be competing for scholarships and trophies in several competitions which include Office Applications, Web Design, PC TroubleShooting, and Programming. Seminars in 3D Modeling, Vector Graphing with Inkscape and Geospatial



Information Systems will be offered to participants.



### **Microsoft Office 2007 Online Training**

The CIS Department has adopted the use of a new online training program for the CIS 205 Microcomputer Applications course. Myitlab is a web-based software application that is being used to enhance the technology skills of their students. It allows instructors of the course to deliver course content, assess that content, and offer training in needed areas of Microsoft Office 2007.

CIS 205 is the introductory Microcomputer Applications course that is designed to teach software applications using Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2007. Emphasis is placed on Word 2007, Excel 2007, Access 2007, PowerPoint 2007, and the use of the internet. If additional information is needed concerning the course or the myitlab software, contact Lynn Byrd at 662.846.4422 or send email to [hbyrd@deltastate.edu](mailto:hbyrd@deltastate.edu).

### **Accounting Honor Society**

Five new members were inducted into the Accounting Honor Society on September 25, 2006. Membership in the Honor Society is limited to those with a 3.5 GPA in two or more upper level accounting courses or a 3.2 GPA at Delta State. The new members are Sue Ann Berry, Jamison Lindsey, Erin Meador, Brandon Whitmire, and Laura Woods. Dr. Sharon Ford is the advisor.

### **Finance Student Organization**

The Financial Management Association club met on September 19, 2007. Dr. Chad Denson is the faculty sponsor of this group. The following officers were elected: President—Mark Sanford; Vice President—Andrea McMath; Treasurer—Laura Eddins, and Secretary—Stephanie Barrett.

### **Student Accountants and Business Administrators (SABA)**

The SABA Organization is a very active organization at Delta State University. Guest speakers are invited to attend the monthly meetings and provide insight to the students. Speakers were from local public accounting practices, large multinational accounting firms, private companies, publicly traded companies, the Internal Revenue Service, local governments, and much more. We are extremely thankful to Viking Range for their continued support. We are fortunate to have so many former students with such a wide variety of talent who are willing to speak at the SABA meetings. The SABA has a fundraising activity and the proceeds are used to provide scholarships to students. Lisa Sandifer serves each year as the advisor for SABA.

## Students Honored

### Accounting Student Awards and Scholarships

- Outstanding Accounting Principles Award**  
William Ryan Pllum
- Outstanding Cost Accounting Award**  
Sue Ann Berry
- Outstanding Governmental Accounting Award**  
Brandon Chase Whitmire
- Outstanding Intermediate Accounting Award**  
Erin Elaine Meador
- Outstanding Advanced Accounting Award**  
Sue Ann Berry
- Outstanding Accounting Systems Award**  
Debbie Inez Boswell
- Outstanding Tax Accounting Award**  
Sue Ann Berry
- Outstanding Auditing Award**  
Brandon Hill Vance
- Department of Accountancy Faculty Award**  
Erin Elaine Meador
- Mississippi Society of CPAs Medal Award**  
Erin Elaine Meador
- Outstanding Accounting Student Award**  
Sue Ann Berry                      Erin Elaine Meador
- Delta Chapter of CPAs Outstanding MPA Award**  
Kamilah Sabrina Woods
- John P. Quon Outstanding Accounting MPA Award**  
Tove Leann Peacock                      Erin Elaine Meador
- Cellular South Scholarship**  
Morganne S. Montgomery      Betty C. Gray  
Randall Geimer                      Frances Clair Brewer  
David J. Kent
- Mississippi Society of CPAs /Hamp King Scholarship**  
Erin Elaine Meador
- Delta Chapter of CPAs Scholarship**  
Sue Ann Berry
- John P. Quon Undergraduate Accountancy Award**  
Laura Elizabeth Woods
- Florene Eubank Campbell Johnson Memorial Scholarship**  
Jamison Hood Lindsey
- Tim Davis Memorial Scholarships**  
William Ryan Pllum                      Brandon C. Whitmire
- SABA – Viking Range Corporation Scholarship**  
Sue Ann Berry                      Mary Gregory Porter  
Erin Elaine Meador                      Jamison Hood Lindsey  
Brandon C. Whitmire                      Laura Elizabeth Woods
- Gibson-Yurkow Scholarship**  
Randall Wayne Geimer                      Erin Elaine Meador
- William Benoit Holloway Scholarship**  
Hussein Kamal Ahmed                      Sonia Renna Reddics  
Lotis Yvette Richardson                      Daffany Dendee Fields  
Kimberly Olivia Huffman                      Dynetha Smith Love  
Tanya Nicole Ellington                      James C. Pittman, III  
Joseph Drake Collins                      Kamilah Sabrina Woods  
Tove Peacock                      Mitchell Cunary Wade

- John Yurkow Accounting Fellowship**  
Tove Leann Peacock
- John P. Quon Graduate Accounting Scholarship**  
Kamilah Sabrina Woods

### CIS Student Awards and Scholarships

- Clay Rayner Brock Memorial Award**  
Shamona Patton
- CIS Faculty Award**  
Marcus Caswell
- Delta and Pine Land Award**  
Tiffany Blalock
- Hilton Hotels Information Technology Award**  
Claire Pitts
- Holiday Inns Award**  
William Ryan Pllum
- Merchant and Farmers Award**  
Leandra Nipper

### Finance Student Awards and Scholarships

- Mid South Association for Financial Planning Professionals  
Outstanding Treasury Management Award**  
Andrew Read Carter
- W. A. Duckworth Memorial Financial Planning Award**  
Leslie Michelle Griffith
- Regions Bank Finance Award**  
Zachary Gene Smith
- Outstanding Investment Award**  
John Arnold Fioranelli
- Outstanding Intermediate Finance Award**  
Joshua Lee McPherson
- Outstanding Bank Management Award**  
Joshua Lee McPherson
- Victor G. Byas Business Award**  
Richardia Dyan Jenkins

### Insurance and Real Estate Student Awards and Scholarships

- Yazoo Delta Independent Insurance Agents Award**  
Kyle Nichols  
Matt Mullins
- Mississippi Insurance Education Scholarship**  
Jennifer White
- Outstanding Real Estate Student**  
Angela Carter



**Division of Accountancy,  
Computer Information  
Systems, and Finance**

**P. O. Box 3223 DSU  
Delta State University  
Cleveland, MS 38733**

**CIS/FIN/IRR  
662-846-4425**

**ACC  
662-846-4180**

**Fax  
662-846-4193  
662-846-4429**

**Chair's E-mail  
dhardy@deltastate.edu**

**College of Business Web Site  
www.deltastate.edu/pages/250.asp**

**ACC/CIS/FIN Division Web Site  
www.deltastate.edu/pages/1548.asp**

**CIS Community Outreach Site  
www.dsutechnology.com**

## New CIS Course: Information Security and Assurance

In response to business and industry demand for IT professionals with knowledge of and experience with network security, the Department of Computer Information Systems is offering a new course in Information and Data Security. The course is CIS 375, Principles of Information Security and Assurance. The course will offer our students hands-on experience with setting up firewalls, attacking firewalls as well as exposure to intrusion detection software.

The course is being taught in Broom 105, which is a special-purpose lab for various courses in operating systems, hardware support, and network administration. The lab is a self-contained network facility that consists of a network hardware cabinet that has a router, switches, and three servers within. The lab has 24 workstations networked through the servers. The university's Information Technology group, the Office of Information Technology, has agreed to install a virtual private network so that we can simulate security breaches without endangering the campus networks. Future plans for instruction in IT security include seeking certification from the National Security Administration as a program of "Academic Excellence in Information Assurance". For additional information, contact Eckward McKnight by phone at 662.843.4421 or via email at [eck@deltastate.edu](mailto:eck@deltastate.edu).

## Insurance and Real Estate Review

### New Major!

New for 2007/2008 academic year is the "Insurance and Financial Planning" degree track. In addition to the insurance core courses, the student will take FIN 430 Employee Benefits & Retirement Planning, FIN 435 Estate Planning, FIN 450 Investments and FIN 460 Personal Financial Planning to give a background in Finance topics that are related to sound financial planning practices. The student will also take ACC 451 Tax Accounting I to assure a foundation in tax planning.



We are hoping to use this major as a springboard for a program that will help candidates earn the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) Designation.

### Student Trip Planned

On Thursday, September 27, Jim Brown, Instructor of Insurance, and several students will attend the Annual Mississippi Insurance Education Day in Jackson, MS. Seminars on topics such as "flood insurance," "workers compensation reform," and "insurance careers" will be available for our students to attend. In addition, the students will have an opportunity to meet potential employers in a career-oriented environment..



College of Business  
Division of Accountancy , Computer Information Systems, and Finance  
DSU Box 3223—Broom Hall  
Cleveland, MS 38733

### Divisional Newsletter Committee

**Jim Brown, Instructor of IRR  
Lynn Byrd, Instructor of CIS  
Sharon Ford, Associate Professor  
of ACC  
Jerry Kandies, Professor of CIS**