

Accounting

Your connection to the School of Business Accounting Department

CONTENTS

Chair's Message	1
Spotlight: Eickhoff	2
\$50K Gift	2
Ulrich Recognized	3
Alumni Picnic	3
New Faculty	4
Student Organizations	4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, April 2
School of Business
Scholarship &
Awards Program
11:00 a.m.
Morris University Center

Saturday, May 5
Commencement
Vadalabene Center

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to share news about the accomplishments of our students and faculty in the Department of Accounting.

Most of you know that Al Ortegren has retired from the faculty to devote even more time to his favorite hobby – golf. We were fortunate to have recruited Dr. Allen Hunt as Al's replacement. Allen has already proven to be a great colleague and has added recognition to the department with his recent publication in the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*.

Dave Mason resigned from our faculty to accept a position at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Margaret Boldt, has been with us this year as a "visiting" faculty member and has accepted our offer to become a permanent member of the faculty next year.

Brad Reed has participated in the Research Synthesis Program that "is designed to provide a synthesis of existing relevant research for selected Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) standards projects. The goal of the program is to accumulate existing research findings that are relevant to issues that may be addressed in potential new standards." Brad participated in a presentation to the PCAOB and co-authored a paper that will be published in *Accounting Horizons*. Brad's work in this program gives the department visibility on a national level and adds to the value of your SIUE degrees.

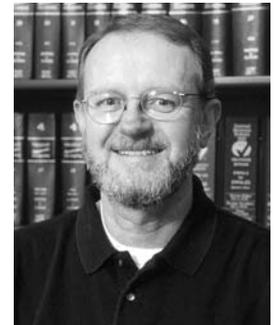
Our student organizations and their leaders continue to be very active. Mike Ulrich and Ryan Sims attended the national Beta Alpha Psi meeting in Washington, DC,

this past August.

The Accounting Club continues to sponsor a variety of social and professional activities, and we appreciate those who have made time in their schedules to be involved. As usual, our top accounting majors were honored with more than \$10,000 in awards at the Fall Beta Alpha Psi Banquet, which included the naming of three new Stuart White Award recipients.

Additional awards will be presented during the School of Business' Spring Scholarship Luncheon, including the third annual Phoenix Award. The Phoenix Award was created by an anonymous donor in recognition of the value the department has provided to him during his career. (see article p. 2)

The Department is working on a modification to our spring schedule that will accommodate the growing demand for internships from both our students and from the profession. Beginning in January 2008, some spring courses will be offered in an eight-week session that begins in early March. This will allow students to participate in full-time internships for the first eight weeks of the semester and still complete some course work to make progress toward graduation. If you work for an employer who might be interested in employing interns during that period, please let me know. I would be happy to discuss our plans with you. (continued on p. 4)



Dr. Michael Costigan

Alumni Spotlight: Susan Brune Eickhoff

Partner, KPMG



Susan Brune Eickhoff

Susan Brune Eickhoff (BSA '93) is no stranger to hard work—and she is the first one to say that it pays off. After working at KPMG for 10 years, Eickhoff was promoted to partner this past October.

Those who knew her while at SIUE are not surprised. Even then, Eickhoff dedicated herself to what she loved. “You can do 10 things half way, or give one thing 100 percent of

your energy. That’s what I do now, and what I did when I was at SIUE,” she says.

As a junior, Eickhoff was president of the Accounting Club. It was then that she first met one of the partners at KPMG, who is now her colleague. As partner, Eickhoff shares the responsibility of overseeing the public service practice. This includes monitoring all aspects of professional services available to clients as well as various administrative duties. Eickhoff’s clients include the city of St. Louis and the University of Missouri system. In addition to those duties, Eickhoff is a national instructor for KPMG, which means that she teaches new hires—as well as fellow partners—about KPMG’s business practices. Despite her busy work schedule, Eickhoff remains involved in the SIUE community. She is currently KPMG’s primary recruiter for SIUE

and can often be found conducting on-campus interviews. In addition, Eickhoff is a member of the Accounting Advisory Board.

One reason Eickhoff says she stays so involved is because she is grateful for the time she spent at SIUE. “While at SIUE, I had two wonderful mentors. Both Tom King and Nancy Starnes played vital roles in my success,” she says.

King, who was Chair during Eickhoff’s time at SIUE, was active with Eickhoff while she was working in the Accounting Department. “He gave me great advice and coached me on the path I should take,” explained Eickhoff.

Starnes, on the other hand, offered support in other ways. “She often served as a mother figure and helped me in various aspects of life. In fact, she was instrumental in my husband and me getting together.” Susan and her husband, **Robert Eickhoff (BSA '93)**, were married in 1995. He is also in accounting and currently works as controller and assistant treasurer at Vi-Jon Laboratories.

When Eickhoff isn’t working, she enjoys tinkering in the yard of her South St. Louis city home, playing with her daughter, and being active in her daughter’s school. Eickhoff and her husband are expecting their second child this May.

“You can do 10 things half way, or give one thing 100 percent of your energy. That’s what I do now, and what I did when I was at SIUE.”

Accounting Department Receives \$50K Anonymous Gift

This fall, the School of Business announced that an area businessman, who has requested anonymity, donated \$50,000 to the Accounting Department for the Phoenix Fund endowment.

The Phoenix Fund was created to help undergraduate accountancy students fund their education. The award is based on financial need and academic merit.

Since its inception in 1999, only two students—**Erin R. Pirok (BSA '03)** and **Amy C. Donaldson**

(BSA '07) — have received the Phoenix Fund Scholarship. With the addition of the new gift, however, more students can be recognized.

Dr. Michael L. Costigan, chair of SIUE’s Department of Accounting, said, “It is wonderful to be able to help deserving students fund their education. This generous gift helps us do just that.”

Michael Ulrich Receives Prestigious Enterprise Student Leader Award

Michael D. Ulrich of New Douglas, Ill., recently was honored with the first-ever Enterprise Rent-A-Car Student Leader of the Month Award. Ulrich will graduate from SIUE this May with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA) degree.

The Student Organization Leader of the Month Award recognizes students who are nominated by their organizations for outstanding efforts in a School of Business student organization. Ulrich's award is in recognition of his work as president of Beta Alpha Psi, the national honor accounting society for top accounting majors. The organization fosters relationships with fellow accounting majors as well as faculty and future employers.

Norris Manning, program director of Student Services for the SIUE School of Business and head of the award selection committee, said, "This award is a great way for students to recognize and honor their peers who are bettering our student organizations. Michael was chosen for his professionalism while representing Beta Alpha Psi and the SIUE community at the society's national meeting."



Bob Zoelzer, Group Recruiting Manager (right) for Enterprise Rent-A-Car, congratulates Michael D. Ulrich

"I greatly appreciate Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation's involvement at SIUE," Ulrich said. "Through awards such as this, students are motivated to be active in their community and student organizations."

Weather Doesn't Dampen Annual Department Outing and Ortegren Retirement Party

By Dr. Linda M. Lovata

The alumni picnic in 2005 brought weather over 100 degrees, so this year's event was moved to September. And guess what – it was unseasonably cold! In spite of the weather challenges, about 70 people participated on Sept. 29 at Belk Park in Wood River.

Although golfers were putting through waves of rain, 29 participated in the golf outing. The Scheffel team shot the winning score while many others won prizes for beating Al Ortegren's shots. Additional alumni and faculty joined in for the barbecue that followed, and it was great to reminisce and share with friends we haven't seen in some time.

While Al has officially retired, not much has changed in his routine. He still is in the office on all cold or rainy days, and comes in for the afternoon on the warm days. He seems to have transitioned into retirement very easily, though some of you may suggest he started the transition before his official retirement date!

If you missed this year's picnic, keep an eye out for next year's event. September seems to be a good month for activities, but maybe next year, we'll plan an indoor event.

New Faculty

The Accounting Department welcomes two new faculty members, **Dr. Margaret N. Boldt** and **Dr. Allen K. Hunt**.

Boldt is an associate professor who earned a doctorate in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma. Boldt's teaching interests include managerial/cost accounting and financial accounting. Boldt is joining SIUE from Murray State University.

Hunt is an assistant professor who earned a doctorate in Accounting from Louisiana State University. Before joining the SIUE faculty, Hunt taught at the University of Southern Indiana. Hunt's main teaching interest is financial accounting.

Accounting Department Student Organizations

The Accounting Club is an SIUE student organization open to all accounting majors. It meets monthly and serves as a precursor club for the national accounting honor society.

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) is the national honorary accounting society. SIUE hosts a student chapter of BAP for top accounting majors. It holds monthly meetings and hosts technical and informational professional presentations by various companies. Involvement fosters relationships with fellow accounting majors as well as networking opportunities with faculty and future employers.

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program is an excellent way for accounting majors to gain real-life tax experience and to cultivate community involvement. Members volunteer their time to assist students and low-income citizens with tax returns.

Message from the Chair (continued from p. 1)

The Department could not continue to prosper without the support of our alumni. Your participation in student activities and recruiting events is invaluable in introducing our students to the accounting profession, and your financial support makes it possible for us to add activities that increase the value of an SIUE accounting degree. If you have a chance to visit campus, please drop by the department office for a personal update on our progress.

*Dr. Michael Costigan
Chair, Accounting Department*

Change Service requested

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
School of Business
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1051

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PAID
PERMIT NO. 68
EDWARDSVILLE, IL

Accounting Department Faculty

Dr. Margaret Boldt, Assoc. Prof.
mboldt@siue.edu

Mr. Steve Brant, Instructor
sbrant@siue.edu

Dr. Michael Costigan,
Chair Professor,
mcostig@siue.edu

Mr. James Dixon, Instructor
jadixon@siue.edu

Dr. Allen Hunt, Asst. Prof.
allhunt@siue.edu

Dr. Thomas King, Prof. Emeritus
tking@siue.edu

Dr. Linda Lovata, Professor
llovata@siue.edu

Dr. Alan Ortégren, Professor (retired)
aortegr@siue.edu

Dr. Brad Reed, Assoc. Professor
brreed@siue.edu

Dr. Ena Rose-Green, Asst. Professor
erosegr@siue.edu