Message from the Department Chair

It is my great pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Accounting faculty and students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In our last newsletter, I began by reporting that the environment in higher education is challenging, but the UMSL Accounting Department is thriving. I am happy to report to you that while the environment in higher education remains challenging, UMSL Accounting is still thriving.

Our Accounting programs remain among the largest and the most successful at the university in terms of numbers of students, quality of students, and career placements. Our graduates earn high quality positions at outstanding CPA firms, companies, government agencies, and not for-profit corporations. They also pass the CPA Exam at rates well above national and state averages.

A student must earn 150 credit hours to sit for the CPA Exam. As a result, the majority of UMSL accounting majors graduate with either a Master of Accounting or an MBA with an emphasis in Accounting. We pay particular attention to the CPA Exam pass rates for our masters-earning graduates as one indication of program quality. I am pleased to report to you that our results remain very strong. In the most recent year for which data is available (2016), candidates with a graduate degree from UMSL passed 75.3% of parts taken, far exceeding the 48.7% national average. Candidates with a graduate degree taking a part for the first time passed 84.6% of those parts. Graduate degree earners taking parts for the first time and sitting for those parts of the exam within one year of their graduation date passed an amazing 93.8% of those parts. We are thrilled and awed by our students. These students often work full-time jobs, take their classes at night and still perform amazingly in our classes, on the CPA Exam, and then in their careers.

In August 2017, UMSL Accounting faculty members moved into beautiful new offices in Anheuser-Busch Hall. On behalf of the students and the faculty, we offer sincere gratitude to all of you who played a part in making Anheuser-Busch Hall a reality. I hope that you will come visit us and tour this great facility. Among the highlights of the new building are the
Dr. Stephen R. (Steve) Moehrle
Chairman and Professor, UMSL Accounting

Message from the Department Chair  
continued

Accounting Hall of Fame, a state-of-the-art trading room, an impressive Executive Education classroom on the main level, and the Dave Ganz classroom on the garden level. When you come by please also visit the Accounting faculty in their offices on the top floor and say hello.

The UMSL Accounting Hall of Fame recently inducted George Paz (Chairman of the Board at Express Scripts) and Warner Baxter (CEO of Ameren UE). These distinguished leaders join Sandra Van Trease, Steve Swyers, and Dave Ganz in this prestigious circle. With so many more worthy alumni, we look forward to growing the Hall of Fame each year.

On the faculty front, we welcomed back Tom Kozloski, who will resume leadership of our Auditing curriculum. You can read more about Tom in this newsletter. I am also happy to report several promotions as well. Greg Geisler and Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle have been promoted to Professor. Marcia Countryman, Johanna Murray, and Paul Van Wert have been named Assistant Teaching Professors. Our faculty colleagues have also earned prestigious teaching and research awards. Please read more about these awards and the awardees in this newsletter.

There are a lot of exciting things happening in the UMSL Accounting family. We invite you to partner with us as we continue to change the lives of young people across our great city while simultaneously enhancing the value of the world-class degree you hold. I hope you will take the following actions to this end.

- Please email me so that we can expand our electronic distribution list and be in touch with you more frequently. In this email, indicate where you are currently working as well. We promise not to bombard you with minutia. We do enjoy reading about the great things going on in your career and life. Please contact me at Moehrle@umsl.edu or (314) 516-6142.

- Please encourage your fellow UMSL Accounting alumni to email me as well.

- Please continue your support of UMSL Accounting. You can do so by visiting www.umsl.edu and clicking “Give.” Please designate your gift to the Accounting Department so your gifts go directly to our Accounting students and programs. UMSL Accounting is very strong. Together, we can get even stronger! I hope that you enjoy the information in this newsletter. I look forward to hearing updates about your career and life.

Dr. Stephen R. (Steve) Moehrle
Chairman and Professor, UMSL Accounting.

Keep in touch!

Email me directly at moehrle@umsl.edu

Tom Kozloski

Tom Kozloski rejoined the UMSL Accounting faculty in 2017.

Many alumni remember Tom as their Auditing Professor during his years with UMSL in the early 2000s. Tom grew up in Pittsburgh earned a BBA in Accounting from the University of Notre Dame, an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, and a PhD from Drexel University. Prior to joining academia, Tom served as a Captain in the Army followed by eight years of practice experience in Auditing and Consulting at Price Waterhouse, Coopers and Lybrand, and Ernst & Young. Tom most recently served on the faculty at Saint Mary’s University (SMU) in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he rose to the position of Associate Dean and earned SMU’s most prestigious teaching award (the Reverend William A. Steward, S.J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching) in 2016. He was also named the Commerce Professor of the Year twice. On the research side, Tom earned the prestigious American Accounting Association (AAA)/Wildman Medal for his significant contribution to the advancement of the practice of public accountancy. Obviously, we are thrilled to have him back at UMSL!
University leadership and elected officials cut the ribbon outside Anheuser-Busch Hall, marking the official opening of the College of Business Administration’s new building in August 2017.

(Photo by August Jennewein)

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UMSL Accounting faculty members are business leaders and innovators. They bring years of experience from time spent at some of the country's top companies and institutions of excellence.
The Dave Ganz Classroom in Anheuser-Busch Hall

The College’s Anheuser-Busch Hall opened in August 2017. Among its centerpiece classrooms is the Dave Ganz classroom named in honor of long-time UMSL Accounting Professor Dave Ganz. UMSL Accounting alumni and other friends of Dave provided generous gifts totaling over $1,000,000 to honor Dave’s impact on generations of UMSL Accounting students.

UMSL Accounting Faculty Receive Prestigious Awards

UMSL Tax Professors won prestigious research and teaching awards.

In August 2017, Professor MICHELE MECKFESSEL was awarded the American Accounting Association (AAA)/Deloitte Teaching Innovation Award for her teaching case entitled, “The Not So Pokey Hokies.” This is the premier AAA teaching award for innovations in tax education. Dr. Meckfessel has been with UMSL since 2014. She is a retired Navy Commander who then enjoyed a second career in public accounting. She holds a baccalaureate degree in Mathematics from Illinois Wesleyan, a Master of Accounting from Appalachian State, and a PhD from Virginia Tech.

In September, at his annual State of the University Address, UMSL Chancellor Tom George presented GREG GEISLER with the 2017 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award is presented to one UMSL faculty member each year to recognize sustained excellence in teaching. Professor Geisler also received the 2017 Montgomery-Warschauer Award for the most outstanding contribution to the betterment of the financial planning profession for his January 2016 Journal of Financial Planning article, “Could a Health Savings Account Be Better than an Employer-Matched 401(k)?” Spoiler alert—it can! Dr. Geisler has been with UMSL since 2002. He holds a baccalaureate degree in Accounting from the University of Notre Dame, an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh and a PhD from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
Congratulations New CPAs

Among our state’s new CPAs each year are 40-50 UMSL alumni. UMSL graduates successfully completing the CPA exam in 2016 and the first few months of 2017 include Amanda Agne, Jordan Anthony, Madeline Brinker, Scott Bruce, Susan Cogan, Cynthia Cook, Elizabeth Dean, Chelsea Ducote, Anthony Eck, Michael Ermeling, Andrey Feygin, Nicholas Frasca, Jessica Gallyoun, Stephanie Haley, Keely Hasselhorst, Michael Horton, Paige Hurt, Michael Kramer, Timothy Jackson, Samantha Laforest, Thomas Lang, Carrie Logan, Nicholas Matheis, Kyle Mertens, Paul Moritz, Kelly Morris, Anthony Mueller, David Muich, Mary Noble, Stephanie Parrish, Celia Pearson, Brandon Pfaff, Douglas Rames, Joshua Runge, Scott Sanders, Michael Sneller, Jack Stamm, Charles Steib, Andriana Sterling, Vanessa Pierce Teran, Charlotte Thornton, Sandsang Tie, Katie Tousignant, Daniel Tracy and Zhenyan Zhang

Congratulations to each of these new CPAs. We look forward to seeing where your careers take you. If you successfully completed the CPA exam in 2016 or early 2017 and your name is not shown on this list or you completed the CPA Exam outside of Missouri, please let us know so we can add you to our list.

VITA Completes Another Record Year

UMSL once again sponsored and staffed the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Under this program, UMSL students and alumni prepare federal and state tax returns free of charge for area citizens who cannot afford a paid preparer. Sites staffed by UMSL include two in the city (Schlafly Library and Barr Library), one in Ferguson, one on campus, and one in St. Charles County. During the 2017 tax year, UMSL students completed 1,167 Federal tax returns, 1,223 state tax returns, 299 earned income tax credit returns, and 400 Missouri property tax credit returns. These over 3,000 returns saved area citizens several hundred thousand dollars in preparation costs. The returns generated tax refunds totaling nearly $1,000,000, including earned income tax credits of over $320,000.

Once again, this initiative was led by Professor Linn Chew. Professor Greg Geisler provided training to the student volunteers and also served at the UMSL site on Fridays and the Ferguson site on Saturdays throughout tax season. Professor Bob McCarthy from the UMSL Information Systems department also helps with the initiative. UMSL students and alumni manage the staffing and day-to-day operations at the five sites. Managers and site leaders in the most recent year included Brittany Basler, Samantha Chism, Devon Cook, Steven Craig, Alex Kaloyeros, and Blaire Paubel.
Accounting Advisory Board Update

The UMSL Accounting Advisory Board is instrumental in shaping and refining UMSL Accounting events and programs. We view it as the Board of Directors for the UMSL Accounting brand charged with providing advice regarding the drivers of the UMSL Accounting brand. Also, via its four-committee structure, the Board sponsors and conducts events to benefit UMSL Accounting students including The Professional Skills Workshop (the Student Engagement Committee), a Leadership Day Event (the Professional Engagement Committee), and the Accountants’ Networking Night (the Student Engagement Committee, the Professional Engagement Committee and the Development Committee). In addition, the Young Alumni Advisory Group is currently planning an Internship Bootcamp to prepare the over 100 UMSL students serving internships each year for his/her first day on the job. The Board also has a Curriculum Committee which is charged with ensuring that the UMSL Accounting curriculum is optimally preparing our students for success in their entry-level positions and their careers.

The 2017-2018 UMSL Accounting Advisory Board is chaired by John Goessling. John is a 1975 graduate of UMSL and currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Arch Express. Board members include Ryan Dodson (PWC), Matthew Doyle (PWC), Christine Figge (RubinBrown), Dave Ganz (UMSL), Chris Hogland (Boeing), Ryan Hollrah (Edward Jones), Phillip Huiswoud (Deloitte), Audrey Katcher (RubinBrown), Tracy Lee (CLA), Quinn Martin (Mueller Prost), Stacey Massa (UHY), Jim O’Hallaron (MOCPA), Sue O’Leary (Concourse Sports), Jeff Smith (Brown, Smith, and Wallace) and Kevin Varty (Emerson). Allyse Lobonc (Nelly Holdings Inc.) currently serves as the Young Professionals Advisory Committee liaison to the Board.

John Goessling took the gavel as Board Chair from Ken Marx. We are grateful to Ken for his leadership and his years of service on the Advisory Board. We are also grateful to the other Board members that recently completed their terms: Rex Carter (St. Louis Cardinals), Mike Prost (Mueller Prost), and Dale Woods (Boeing).

If you would like to serve on one of the Advisory Board Committees or place your name into consideration for membership on the Board, please contact Steve Moehrle (Moehrle@umsl.edu).

Big Events in Beta Alpha Psi

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) kicked off the 2017-2018 academic year by sending Katie Allensworth (President), Robin Kinquist (Recording Secretary), and Shu-San Lam (member) to the national meeting in Anaheim, California. It was four days packed with adventures, working, and learning. The students spent their first day in Los Angeles and worked their way through the city. Some of the iconic spots visited included the Hollywood sign, the Walk of Fame, the Chinese Theater, Rodeo Drive, Sunset Boulevard, the San Fernando Valley, and various celebrity houses. They even reported a Russell Smith sighting on their bus tour! Day two of the activities was dedicated to KPMG’s International Literacy Day. The BAP members got to “travel the globe” with area school children as they played games on each continent and learned about the importance of reading. Each child also received a book as a gift from BAP. Day three included seminars and best practices events during the morning and afternoon. The day culminated with a Disneyland visit.

The fall semester has been quite busy for BAP. The annual Accountants’ Networking Night was a huge success. The accounting faculty and students are especially grateful to Alice Kofman, BAP Treasurer, for her role in managing the event. Most large St. Louis area firms and companies (31 in total) were represented and 160 students attended. BAP and the Accounting faculty thank the sponsors of the event that provided valuable donations to fund the year's BAP activities. Other popular events include an ethics meeting with UMSL alumnus and BKD tax partner Francis Godfrey, a round-table networking joint meeting with the Accounting Club, and a CPA Exam workshop with Becker Professional Education. In the most recent semester, BAP hosted professional meetings on “Achieving Financial Freedom Using Tax,” led by Professor Greg Geisler, and “CPA Firm Leadership,” led by Mr. Fred J. Zrenner, CPA.

In the spring semester, BAP will be co-hosting events with the Accounting Club, the Student Investment Trust, the MIS Mentoring group, Delta Sigma Pi, and the Missouri Society of CPAs. Members will also be volunteering in community activities including the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, the International Business Career Conference, and Colleges Against Cancer’s Relay for Life. If you have any questions about BAP or wish to attend any events please email faculty sponsor Professor Johnna Murray at murrayjo@umsl.edu.
The UMSL Accounting Young Alumni Group

The Young Alumni Advisory Group has been providing refreshing energy and a valuable perspective on our Accounting programs for several years. Allyse Lobonc currently serves as the Chair of the Group. The mission of this group is to enjoy fellowship with UMSL colleagues, provide advice to the Accounting Department, create new programs to benefit UMSL students, and enrich existing activities to help students succeed in the profession. To this end, the group holds periodic meetings/happy hours and participates on behalf of UMSL Accounting in various recruiting and student development activities. You are a young alumnus as long as you feel like a young alumnus! To join them, please email Allyse Lobonc at allyse@derdyent.com.

Named Scholarship Donors

The Accounting faculty and students thank the following accounting scholarship donors for their support during the 2016-2017 academic year. The awardees of the scholarships in the most recent year are shown in brackets.

$5,000 - $9,999 Level:
- David R. Ganz Accounting Scholarship
  [Abigail Boenker & Stephanie Belosi]
- Ernst & Young Scholarship
  [Katherine Allensworth, Caleb Cone, Stefanie Mittelbuscher & Cooper Vinz]

$2,500 - $4,999 Level:
- Jack Cox Accounting Scholarship
  [Austin Fischer, Shu-San Lam, Mark Fetters, Thomas Kabbani & Stephanie Nahm]
- Rubin Brown Graduate Student
  [Honey Di Dela Pena & Kara Marler]

$1,000 - $2,499 Level:
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners – St. Louis Chapter
  [Phuc Nguyen]
- Campbell Family Scholarship
  [Rachel Tosh, Andrew Smith & Peijia Wang]
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Anita Palmer Corbin Scholarship
[Aidan Leisti & Jose Guerrero]

BKD Accounting Scholarship
[Mina Rezaie & Luke Walker]

If you are interested in providing a named accounting scholarship please contact Beth Krumm in Development (krumme@umsl.edu).
Friends of UMSL Accounting

The Accounting faculty and students thank the Accounting Department’s many financial supporters from the 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 academic years.

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