ECU Students Wow AICPA in CPA Exam Simulation Workshop

In the last edition of the ECU Accountant, we featured a story on the AICPA CPA Exam Simulation Workshop November hosted by the ECU Department of Accounting. The workshop involved ECU accounting faculty working with colleagues from the AICPA Examinations Team from New Jersey developing simulation exam questions to be considered for use on the CPA Exam.

The purpose of field testing is to pretest new item types and gather data for preoperational item improvement. Some specific objectives are: to enhance quality assurance processes for simulation creation and development, check that the buttons and software are working and performing as expected, and to gather detailed comments from participants to enhance our program and/or address any problems occurring in events. Our field testing program uses seven schools: East Carolina University, University of Southern California, University of Portland (Oregon), Penn State University, Wake Forest University, North Carolina State and University of Texas at Austin.

The following is feedback from the AICPA:

“We had 34 students in attendance, they were very well-behaved and took the event very seriously. All were on time, focused and friendly. The attendance was one of the highest for a university since the program’s inception. All in all, we were quite impressed with East Carolina University Accounting students and look forward to maintaining this newly-created and quite beneficial relationship in the future.”

Way to go ECU Accounting students!!

ECU Study Abroad in China

During June 2011, Dr. Ed Doty and his wife accompanied the ECU summer abroad program visit to China. During the 3 weeks in China, the group of 38 students (including 18 from the University of Alabama) and faculty visited businesses, universities and many of the historic sites in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Beijing. After a 14 hour plane ride, the group hit the ground running in historic Hong Kong, the island city, ending the trip in Beijing, with a trek up the Great Wall near that historic capital.

In a non-stop adventure, the exceptionally well-organized and executed tour, treated the group to real Chinese cuisine at every meal, while visiting such sites as the Hidden City, the Great Wall, Tiananmen square, the emperor’s summer place, the exciting shopping districts, the busiest shipping port in the country (i.e., 7,000 containers per day), the commodity trading floor, and numerous parks and gardens. The tour visited the Federal Express Hub, the UPS Hub, a Toyota Assembly plant, Lenovo Headquarters, the Olympic Village, the 718 Art District, plus traveled on the world’s only magnetic train, and the Chinese bullet train.

The tour included spending a day at the China Pharmaceutical University and Zhong Shan University with the Chinese students, visiting their dorm rooms, classes, sharing lunch and email addresses.

For pictures and impressions, visit the ECU China visit blog at: blog.ecu.edu/sites/cobsummerabroad/blog/
Dear Accountancy Alumni:

Another year has begun for ECU and the ECU Department of Accounting. We thought last year was a tough budget year – it pales in comparison to the budget information received this summer. Luckily, we were able to avoid any personnel layoffs and actually were able hire a very new Assistant Professor just before the hiring gauntlet came down. Dr. Rebecca Fay just completed her Ph.D. at Virginia Tech University and will teach her first classes as a Pirate this fall. We welcome her aboard with open arms.

Even with the budget shortfalls, our programs are growing, especially at the graduate level. We now have over 130 MSAs in the program. In my opinion, this growth is due to two main factors. First, the reputation of our program’s quality and the students’ ability to pass the CPA exam continues to be topnotch. Our graduates have never been better and have more opportunities because of the path many of the readers of this newsletter have paved. Second, as with any economic downturn, more individuals are looking to retool their education/qualifications. Thus, the more quality Pirates we produce the better. As always, if you (or your company) are looking to hire accounting personnel, let me know and I will distribute the positions to our Pirates first.

This year was not without tragedy in our program. As many of you know, Mandy Kelly died in a car accident in March of this year. Mandy was the President of BAPsi and was due to graduate with her MSA in May. She had accepted a position with McGladrey in Charlotte to begin this fall. The Accounting Department established an endowed scholarship in Mandy’s name. With generous donations from McGladrey (both individuals and the firm) and BAPsi, the endowment has eclipsed $30,000. However, this is still short of the desired $50,000 level needed to guarantee the scholarship will continue in perpetuity. Please donate to this cause if possible.

Our big recruiting event “Meet the Firms” is scheduled for September 15, in the Murphy Center. This event is open to CPA firms and industry alike so if you are in the market for talented new accounting personnel, please call me to get scheduled. We would love to have you or your firm represented. I am optimistic that the job market will be a little better this year. Please join us if you can.

Now is the time in the letter for my plea for funds – you knew it was coming. Your donation, no matter how large or small, is vital to the survival of our program. The Accounting Department private funds help the department to function these days not to mention allowing some the important extras like student travel or pizza at the student meetings. I know times are tough. However, if you do donate to the University, please make sure your funds reach the accounting department and its students by making the check payable to the ECU Department of Accounting (or online at https://onestop.ecu.edu/onlinegiving/). If you wish to give to the Mandy Kelly Scholarship fund, you can do so at this location as well or write Mandy Kelly fund on your check. Every little bit helps. If you are in a position to give, please do so. Very few of the extras that make our program great are funded through state appropriations. I cannot express how important your continued support, both through involvement and through financial gifts, is for the department.

We, in the Department of Accounting, continue to strive for excellence. Additionally, if you would like to be added to our alumni and friends email distribution list, please contact me at the below email. Numerous job announcements for experienced hires and other information are sent out. If there is ever anything we can do to help you or your organization, please feel free to contact me at 252-328-6055 or schislerd@ecu.edu. Take care and Go Pirates.

Sincerely,

Dan Schisler, PhD, CPA
Chair, Department of Accounting
Beta Alpha Psi Updates

The Iota Xi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAPsi) posted another solid year, in which 53 accounting majors were inducted into the 2010-2011 pledge class, entitling the group as the primary academic honor for accounting majors.

BAPsi pledges, members, and other accounting majors were informed about changes made to the CPA Exam by attending presentations by the NC State Board of CPA Examiners as well as by the exam study group, Becker CPA.

In addition, professional presentations were given by Dixon Hughes Goodman, Ernst & Young, the IRS, KPMG, Deloitte, McGladrey, Dr. Niswander (currently Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance at ECU and the Dean’s Representative on the BAPsi Board of Directors), and the “True Colors Leadership Test.”

Pledges volunteered at “Give2theTroops”, where they prepared packages to be sent to U.S. Troops that are serving overseas, as well as at the Pirate Tutoring Center where they tutored introductory accounting students. At the induction dinner banquet, pledges were formally inducted into BAPsi, in the presence of their parents and significant others, who also attended the event.

New officers assumed responsibility in January 2011: Ashley West, President; Jordan Myers, Vice President; Charlie Walker, Treasurer; and Natalie Tetterton, Secretary. The officers represented ECU’s BAPsi chapter at the regional meeting in Charlotte, NC, in February 2011, and at the Annual Meeting in Denver, CO in August 2011.

BAPsi’s chapter advisors are Dr. Joey M. Hagan and Dr. Douglas K. Schneider. More information and photos about the BAPsi chapter can be found at the chapter’s Facebook page, http://www.facebook.com/ECUBAP.

In order from left to right are: Jordan Myers, Ashley West, Charlie Walker and Natalie Tetterton at the regional meeting in Charlotte, NC.

Student Accounting Society Updates

The Student Accounting Society (SAS) continues to be a professional service organization for all accounting students. During this past year SAS held meetings bringing various industry representatives to campus to present opportunities in accounting to students outside of public accounting. Among these presentations were Keith Jones of Greenville Utilities, Scott Sarbey of Sarbey, Kaufman, LLC, Lawrence Young of the State Bureau of Investigation, and Darol Tucker of the Internal Revenue Service.

Additionally, SAS provides opportunities for students to serve the Greenville community. Several times a year SAS serves meals to the Greenville Community Shelter and the individuals of the Shelter are always grateful for the assistance. SAS is in the fifteenth year of participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program, and has placed emblems on the signs marking its stretch of highway 264 that the group keeps free of litter.

The Student Accounting Society is advised by Dr. Joseph Hagan, Dr. James Kohlmeyer, and Dr. John Reisch. The president for the coming year is Krystal Hicks. The other officers are Emily Hass, Camille Hefner, Virginia Bridge

ECU Student Accounting Society sponsored Adopt-A-Highway on highway 264 in Greenville.

man, Ranu Manik, Nicole Ricciardi, Alexandria Conner and Brian Ferguson.

More information and photos about the chapter can be found at the SAS Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/.
The Accounting Department at ECU welcomes new Assistant Professor, Dr. Rebecca Fay!

Dr. Rebecca G. Fay, CPA, joined the faculty as an assistant professor in fall 2011. Becky is originally from Virginia and comes from Virginia Tech where she earned her PhD. She holds both a BS and an MBA from Liberty University. Becky is a licensed CPA and has eight years of experience in public accounting. She worked as an audit manager with Cherry, Bekaert & Holland before returning to academia.

Becky’s primary research interests are in IFRS and improving auditor judgments. She was the lead author on “Incorporating International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) into Intermediate Accounting,” a textbook supplement developed by a team of authors from Virginia Tech that has been implemented in classrooms across the country. She has provided IFRS training seminars to accounting educators (2010 NCACPA Education Forum, 2008 & 2009 annual conferences for the American Accounting Association) and investors, and has contributed IFRS questions to the CPA exam. Along with Dr. John Brozovsky and Dr. Patricia Lobingier, she developed an IFRS conversion case that was published in Issues in Accounting Education in May. Her dissertation “Facilitating Configural Processing within the Audit Team: An Additional Benefit of the SAS 99 Fraud Brainstorming Session” aims to improve auditor judgments by enhancing cognitive processes at the team level.

Becky’s husband Patrick also works for ECU as the Marketing and Communications Manager for the Office of Admissions. The two enjoy spending their free time with their 3 year old daughter Erin.

Profiles of our current faculty

Rose Bailey, J.D., LL.M, CPA, Esq. is entering her fourth year as a professor in the accounting department teaching tax and accounting in the ECU graduate programs. She joined the university after over twenty-five years of experience of practicing in public accounting and law in Kentucky, Texas and North Carolina. Professor Bailey’s publications for the prior academic year can be reviewed in the Campbell Law Review, the International Journal of Disclosure & Governance, and Construction Accounting & Taxation. Also during the previous academic year, Professor Bailey created online test banks to support all chapters in the recent publication of the 9th Edition of Raabe’s Federal Tax Research as well as presented seminars during the fall semester on “Innovative Tax Planning” for both the Charlotte and the Albemarle/Outer Banks chapters of the NCACPA. She was invited to participate in a review of the use of e-books linked to online practice problem sets in the March, ECU eBook/eReader Education Exposition and continued her ongoing volunteer services to work with outreach to low-income clients through the Greenville Legal Aid Taxpayer Controversy Clinic. However, by far, her favorite activity these days are all things involving her spirited new ten-month old mini-goldendoodle, Chloe!

Rachel Brassine joined the department as a teaching instructor Spring semester of 2009. Rachel, a CPA, has her BSA/MSA from ECU graduating in 2000. Prior to teaching, Rachel worked mainly in the state and local tax field in Charlotte where she joined Arthur Andersen then Deloitte & Touche. Prior to going into industry she joined Reznick Group for a few years, which is a firm that specializes in partnership tax with low-income housing credits. Rachel got out of public accounting and worked for RH Donnelly (now Dex One) in their tax department. She was the state and local tax supervisor. Rachel, her husband, Brian, and daughter, Gwyn enjoy being back in Greenville which allows them to be closer to family. When Rachel is not teaching, if she is not spending time with her family, you can find her hitting the pavement with her running friends and trying to train for an upcoming race.

Rachel Brassine

Dr. Cal Christian has just completed his 12th year at ECU and is currently teaching Intermediate I. Over the last several years Cal has used teaching CPE as a way to stay abreast of the current financial changes taking place. Last year Cal taught a FASB update course to 12 Deloitte and Touche Managers in New York City and also updated the Florida CPAs at a Florida Society of CPAs meeting in Tallahassee, FL on the current state of IFRS (I think being an FSU grad helped get Cal down to this meeting)! In addition to these CPE courses, Cal has traveled around North Carolina teaching North Carolina ethics courses for the NCACPA and was awarded the 2010 Outstanding Seminar Discussion Leader Award. Teaching these courses has allowed Cal to visit with and get to know CPAs throughout the State and also enabled him to plug ECU at every stop. Cal is now teaching these ethics courses online using ECU’s Learning Management software called Blackboard, which provides a royalty to the College of Business, helping support student scholarships and faculty travel and education. Cal has also written a CPE course for the AICPA titled the “The Top Ten GAAP Speed Bumps in 2010.” Cal was also able to publish an article last spring with Denise Dickins in Internal Auditing titled “Ethics and the Internal Auditor.”

In addition to these items Cal is involved on campus as he serves as a College of Business faculty senator and has a three year appointment as Chair of ECU’s NCAA Recertification. Every 10 years all Division I Institutes must go through a reaccreditation process with the NCAA. Cal was appointed by the Chancellor to chair this process through the end of 2013. This is a major appointment as he will oversee the entire process which consists of four different committees and approximately 40 committee members. Through this responsibility Cal is also serving on several other athletic committees as the University goes through its own SAACs accreditation.

Dr. Denise Dickins, CPA, CIA, Assistant Professor of Accounting has had a number of recent publications including, “Should those Charged with Governance Care about Auditor Offshoring?,” in International Journal of Disclosure and Governance, “Negative PCAOB Inspections of Triennially Inspected Auditors and Involuntary and Voluntary Client Losses,” in International Journal of Auditing, “An Examination of Perceptions of Auditor Independence and Financial Reporting Reliability When Former Auditors are Hired,” in Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research, “The Impact of Regulation on Economic Bonding and Auditor Independence: An Analysis of SOX and Suggestions for Future Research,” in Advances in Public Interest Accounting, and “Prospects for Utilization of the Dodd-Frank Whistleblower Program,” in Regulation. Denise has also presented papers at several conferences and workshops, and served as a judge for Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year Program.
Ms. Patricia Fritz, CPA joined the faculty in spring 2007. Patricia graduated from ECU in 2001 with her BSA/MSA. Prior to teaching, she worked full-time with McGladrey & Pullen, LLP in New Bern as an audit supervisor. During her summer break from teaching, Patricia has a part-time CPA practice which provides audit and review services for small not-for-profit organizations.

Patricia has worked in the accounting field for the past 25 years. She is a Pitt County native, but has lived in New Bern for the past 9 years. Patricia is a past president of the Coastal Plains Chapter of the NCACPA. She is very involved with Rotary International and is the past president of the New Bern Breakfast Rotary. Patricia is married to Eric Fritz and her son Mark, an artist and teacher, is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Patricia teaches financial, managerial and international accounting.

Dr. James Kohlmeyer, III, CPA, associate professor of accounting, began his 10th year at ECU in fall of 2011. He recently had a paper accepted in Advances in Accounting Education with Larry Seece (Old Dominion University) and Terry Sinich (University of South Florida). The results of this study revealed that public accounting firm professionals, in general, strongly prefer to hire a candidate with a traditional face to face (FTF) accounting degree as opposed to a candidate with an Online (OL) accounting degree. Even when both candidates (traditional vs. online accounting degrees) had passed the CPA examination, public accounting firm professionals still preferred the traditional accounting degree. Dr. Kohlmeyer is now investigating whether reputation of a school and AACSB accreditation could mitigate some of these differences. Other projects examine organizational justice and mentoring relationships in CPA firms.

Dr. Kohlmeyer presented a paper entitled “Procedural Justice and Information Sharing during the Budgeting Process” with Robert Parker at the 2011 annual meeting of the American Accounting Association in Denver, Colorado in August 2011. Jim begins his sixth year as a co-faculty advisor for the Student Accounting Society (student accounting organization) in fall 2011. He usually leads students twice a semester in the serving of a meal for the local homeless shelter in Greenville. Lastly, he serves as a director for the IMA Research Foundation. In his work for the Institute of Management Accountants Jim reviews papers for research funding and attends foundation meetings.

Dr. Malcolm H. (Mac) Lathan, Jr., joined the faculty as a Teaching Associate Professor in fall 2008 after retiring from the faculty at the McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia in May 2008 after twenty-five years. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also holds an M.B.A. from Duke University and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Lathan is a certified public accountant (CPA) with extensive business experience in both public accounting and industry. Prior to attending graduate school, he was employed with Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young LLP) and with Goodman & Company, CPAs. He also was employed as Director of Internal Auditing at Durham Life Insurance Company. Prior to joining the faculty at the McIntire School of Commerce, Mr. Lathan was a faculty member at the University of Georgia and at Duke University. He also was a faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Lathan is an active participant and speaker in the accounting and auditing community. He is a member of the American Accounting Association, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants, the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants, and the Harley Owners’ Group (HOG). He has taught executive education courses in financial statement analysis internationally in such locations as Colombo, Sri Lanka; Manila, the Philippines; Bangkok, Thailand; Amman, Jordan; and Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Dr. Lathan’s professional interests lie in the fields of auditing, forensic accounting, and fraudulent financial reporting. He has published articles in The Journal of Accounting, the CPA Journal, and other auditing and auditing journals. He is a former Associate Editor for Accounting Horizons and The Kent/Bentley Review.

Dr. Lathan is married, and his wife, Linda O. Lathan, a family nurse practitioner, is a critical care nurse at Wilson Cardiology Associates. They reside in Wilson and Morehead City, NC. They have two children, both married, and three grandchildren. Dr. Lathan’s hobbies include motorcycling; surf fishing; and collecting autographed pictures of Andy Devine (six and counting), volumes of Hemingway, and books on corporate fraud. He is also an avid “Parrothead”.

Dr. Mark McCarthy, CPA, professor of accounting, is serving on the AICPA’s Financial Accounting & Reporting Simulations Development Subcommittee. He travels to Durham, NC several times a year to work with AICPA staff members and faculty from other universities writing simulations for the FAR section of the CPA exam. This past year Mark was one of several Department of Accounting faculty members participating in an AICPA simulation workshop held on the ECU campus. Mark’s publication “Change in Reporting the Funded Status of Pensions: Impact on Debt-Asset and Debt-Equity Ratios” with Dr. Schneider and Dr. Lisa Austen of Dalton State College was published in the Spring 2011 issue of Coastal Business Journal. Mark also teaches the quantitative part of the GRE and GMAT review classes offered through Professional Programs in the College of Business.

Brian O’Doherty joined the Accounting Department in 1984. So he has seen a lot of changes at ECU since then; but one interesting constant, though, is that the demand for accounting graduates has remained strong or at least steady over the entire period. This claim is probably unique across the entire academic spectrum. Brian graduated with a PhD from the University of Florida and received his undergraduate degree, a BSc, from Sydney University (Australia). His research interests are in using psychometrics to help understand and improve the teaching of accounting, and in cost accounting topics, generally. His three children all graduated from ECU with undergraduate degrees; and these degrees have proved an invaluable stepping stone for each of them.
Dr. John Reisch, PhD, CPA is starting his 13th year at ECU where he has taught a variety of classes including the auditing seminar, internal auditing, IT auditing, fraud examination, and principles of financial and managerial accounting. During the last year, John applied for and completed the university’s Engaged Outreach Scholarship Academy (EOSA). The academy teaches strategies for conducting research while engaging in community programs that are primarily targeted at underserved citizens. As part of his participation in EOSA, Dr. Reisch received a grant to teach financial literacy in an impoverished part of Pitt County. During the last academic year, John has published articles with other accounting faculty in the International Journal of Disclosure and Governance, Journal of Case Research in Business and Economics, and Commercial Lending Review. In addition to serving as an MSA advisor, he also served on various university-wide committees and begins his third stint on the university’s Faculty Senate.

Michele Reisch began her teaching career at ECU in 2000. Michele has an undergraduate degree in accounting from Mary Washington College and an MBA from Florida Atlantic University. She is also a CPA. Before teaching, Michele spent 10 years in corporate accounting for large healthcare companies, specializing in reimbursement. Her corporate career spanned several states – Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, and Florida, finally settling in North Carolina. When Michele is not at work, she enjoys playing tennis, and spending time with her husband, John, who is also on the ECU faculty, and their two children – Thomas (13) and Megan (11).

Dr. Audrey Scarlata, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Accounting is beginning her 4th year at ECU where she teaches Accounting Information Systems as well as principles of managerial accounting. Audrey joined the faculty in the fall of 2008 from the University of Kentucky, where she received her PhD in May 2009. Dr. Scarlata is originally from Kentucky and received both her BBA and MBA degrees from Morehead State University.

Dr. Scarlata’s research focuses on how technology and knowledge interact to alter decision outcomes in financial analysis tasks as well research on the current and future state of the accounting profession. Recent publications include work with Dan Stone, Keith Jones, and Clement Chen entitled “The O’NET: A Challenging, Useful Resource for Investigating Auditing and Accounting Work,” which will be published in Accounting Horizons in December.

Dr. Scarlata’s hobbies include reading, cooking, and sports. She and her husband Curran have a 5 year old son Nicholas and a 2 year old son Brandon.

Dr. Dan L. Schisler, Ph.D., CPA is currently a Professor and Chair of the Accounting Department at East Carolina University. He holds a Ph.D. from Memphis State University, a Masters of Accounting, Tax Concentration, from Auburn University, and a B.S. in Accounting from Southeastern Louisiana University. In addition to public accounting experience with Peat Marwick Main & Co, Dr. Schisler has published numerous articles in national academic and practitioner journals such as Journal of the American Taxation Association, Advances in Taxation, and Accounting Horizons (among others). Additionally, Dr. Schisler is a co-author of the tax text Fundamentals of Taxation published by McGraw/Hill Irwin publishers. Dr. Schisler teaches tax and accounting at the graduate and undergraduate level at East Carolina where he has been recognized for teaching excellence by his receipt of numerous teaching awards at the department, school, and university level. Dr. Schisler holds CPA certificates in North Carolina and Louisiana.

Debra Schisler received her undergraduate degree in Accounting from Southeastern Louisiana University, a Masters in Accounting, Audit Concentration, from Auburn University, and is licensed as a CPA in both Tennessee and North Carolina. Debra worked for the audit department of Deloitte & Touche in Memphis, TN, for two and a half years where she audited corporate, governmental and not-for-profit agencies. Upon locating in North Carolina in 1992, Debra continued in the public accounting arena working for a local firm and then later by opening up a home based accounting business doing write up work and tax returns for corporations, individuals and not-for-profits. She sold her practice and began working as a teaching instructor at ECU in the fall of 2006, teaching both the Survey of Accounting class for nonbusiness majors and the Governmental/Not-for-Profit class for accounting majors. She has served as Treasurer on the board of the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina since January of 2010. Debra spends her free time exercising, reading and relaxing at the ocean with her husband, Dan, and two daughters, Jessica and Samantha. She is excited to add that her oldest daughter joined the Pirate nation this fall as a business major.


Dr. Schneider was also selected with honors as Hooder for the Graduate Recognition Ceremony for MSA Graduates, in both the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters the Graduate Recognition Ceremony. Dr. Schneider is on the Review Board of Issues in Accounting Education. In addition, he has been a CPA Exam simulation writer for the AICPA and also a mentor for writers of objective questions for the CPA Exam. Dr. Schneider continues to serve as co-faculty advisor for the Beta Alpha Psi Chapter at ECU.

Other ECU Accounting faculty not profiled include Ed Doty, Kim Everett, Joey Hagan, Dennis O’Reilly, and Jan Workman.
Alumni Spotlight

One of ECU’s Accounting Alumni, Mark Copeland, has been named Office Managing Partner (OMP) for EY Charlotte. Mark was also recently recognized by The Charlotte Business Journal as one of the "40 Under 40" for his career and community efforts.

From the Charlotte Business Journal
Alumni Updates

We recently reached out to ECU Accounting Alumni to see what they have been up to. Their career paths are varied and quite impressive! Here is what some ECU Accounting Alumni have been up to.

**David Englert** (BSBA 1975) became a CPA in 1980. He left government service in 1981 and accepted the position of Controller with Southern Tile Distributors, Inc. in Norfolk, VA; a full line distributor of floor covering products, serving all of Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. He was promoted to the position of Vice President-Finance/Treasurer in 1986, and recently was recognized for 30 years of service with the company. His wife Gail teaches 7th grade math at Blair Middle School in Norfolk, VA. Their son Michael Rowe is a 1997 graduate of Virginia Tech, and received his doctorate in cognitive psychology from the University of Memphis in 2008.

**Mark A. Tanner** (1978) worked for the FBI for 22 years. In his time working for the FBI, he has worked mostly criminal violations, spent 5 years as the Deputy Chief Information Officer, and retired as Director of the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force. Mark has now entered his second career as VP, Digital Forensics with INDUS Corporation and lives in Annapolis, MD.

**Howard J. Tucker** (BSBA 1982) is a CPA and currently works as a Human Resources Manager for Leith Automotive Group in Raleigh, NC. He is married to Frankie Taylor Tucker. Their son Jackson is a junior at ECU majoring in Business MIS.

**Ralph Milton Howell** (1988) is currently a CPA and CSEP (certified specialist in estate planning). He has worked with the Greensboro firm of Davenport, Marvin, Joyce & Co., LLP since 1994 and is currently the partner in charge of tax for a three-building, 60-person firm.

**Cathryn M. Meegan** (1990) received BA in Anthropology from UNC-Charlotte, MBA from Queens College of Charlotte, and both her PhD and MA in Anthropology from Arizona State University. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Accounting in the Ken Blanchard College of Business at Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ. Cathryn teaches both undergraduate and graduate accounting courses, serves on the Faculty Development Advisory Committee, and works with her university’s student chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants.

**Matt Barfield** (MSA/BSA 1997) is Managing Partner of Matt Barfield, CPA, PLLC, a professional services accounting firm specializing in tax compliance and tax consulting for small to mid-sized businesses and individuals, which he established in 2003. Matt began his career with Ernst & Young, LLP in Raleigh and worked there for over six years.

**John Daigle** (1999) was recently promoted from Director of Finance to General Manager of Overton’s. John recently celebrated his 10 year anniversary with Overton’s and has held various positions with increasing levels of responsibility.

**Carmin (Pollard) Ipock** (MSA/BSA 2002) and her husband Joe Ipock would like to announce the birth of their first son Kolby Franklin Ipock. He was born on June 4, 2011 at Pitt County Memorial Hospital weighing in at 6 Lbs., 15.4 OZ, and a height of 20.7 inches. Carmin currently works for Hatteras Yachts in New Bern, NC.

**Justin Jones** (MSA/ BSA 2002) currently works for Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, LLC, a joint venture of Constellation Energy and Électricité de France S.A., as an Associate in the Financial Accounting department. Justin and his wife are expecting their first child in October 2011.

**Robert Strickland** (BSBA 2003, MBA 2004) is married to Elisabeth Strickland. They have 2 boys ages 2 years old and 6 months old. Robert is currently employed with BB&T as a commercial banker in Raleigh, NC.
Glenn Cusick (MSA/BSA 2004) currently works for American Funds as a Business Analyst supporting the Mail Centers and the Compliance and Business Intelligence Groups. Glenn’s wife, who is also an ECU alumnus, stays at home with their 1 year old son Will. They are currently expecting their second child in April 2012. Glenn and his wife recently celebrated their 5 year anniversary and currently live in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Tim Thornton (2006) went to work for a CPA firm in Downtown Norfolk formerly known as Goodman and Company, LLP, but has since merged with Dixon Hughes to form Dixon, Hughes, Goodman, LLC. He worked at Goodman until 2009. Tim is currently employed as CFO at Shuttleworth, Ruloff, Swain, Haddad, & Morecoek, P.C., a local law firm in Virginia Beach, VA. He bought his first house in August of 2009 and is working towards sitting for the CPA exam.

Chris Jordan (2007) currently works for NRG Energy, Inc. in Princeton, NJ as a Senior Internal Auditor. NRG serves as one of the largest power producers in the country by primarily operating in areas in the West, Northeast, and Texas. He has been working at NRG for about a year and a half. He lives near the infamous Jersey Shore with his girlfriend, Tricia FitzPatrick.

Brandon R. Gray (MSA/BSA 2008) married Jessica L. Gray on May 30, 2009. He is a shareholder at Kenneth E. Banks, CPA, PA in Goldsboro, NC.

Cristen Jones (MSA/BSA 2008) currently works for Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP in Charleston, SC. She is a tax associate who specializes in dealer services groups. She travels to ECU football games whenever she can and continues to support the pirates.

Morgan (Dorman) Norris (2009) married Matt Norris in January 2010, and began working with Langdon & Company the following February. She currently works in both the audit and tax departments. She was licensed in January 2011 and also attended the NC CPA inauguration this year.

Robby Manning (MSA 2010) is currently working with Pittard, Perry & Crone, Inc in the Williamston office as a Staff Accountant.

Daniel Roebuck (BSA 2010) graduated from NC State University with a Master’s of Accounting in May 2011. He is currently working with KPMG in Raleigh as a Tax Associate. Daniel has passed two parts of the CPA exam and is waiting to hear back on the last two parts in September.

Kathy Burns, co-founder of Burns & Bynum CPA, received the Entrepreneur Women in Business Award from the Triangle Business Journal for the class of 2011. The Women in Business awards program recognizes Triangle women who have proven to be dynamic and outstanding leaders with established track records of significant accomplishments in business and/ or community service. Cary-based Burns & Bynum, CPA, which was founded in 2004, has been listed in the Triangle Business Journal’s Top 25 Accounting Firms for the past 5 years.

James Coffey works for Tyson foods in Springdale Arkansas. He is the Senior Accountant for the Case Ready Beef and Pork Division. He is currently working on his Masters Degree at Webster University. James is engaged to marry Shanah Fahey in December.

Kirk Lao lives in Garner, NC with his wife Beth, and their two children Brandon and Lana. He currently works at IBM as a SAP business software consultant in the Washington, DC area. Kirk would be happy to discuss the role of business software consulting with interested alumni.

LaQuan Lucas-Harris is currently working at First Citizens Bank as Senior Credit Support Analyst. Since Graduation, she has gotten married and is expecting her second child in September. LaQuan currently resides in Raleigh, NC.

If you would like to be featured in a future edition of Alumni Updates, please send a brief biography to scarlataa@ecu.edu.
Student Spotlights

Stephen Watson

I moved around a lot when I was a kid, when my mom remarried a marine that was a part of the territory. We eventually moved to Jacksonville, NC where I graduated from Jacksonville High School. As I was deciding where to go to college, my stepdad was constantly getting deployed to Iraq. With this in mind, I wanted to stay close to my mom in order to help her out with anything while my stepdad was deployed. I chose East Carolina University because I knew they had a great business school and it was only an hour and a half drive from home.

Business has always been something that interested me. Growing up I had a dream of becoming an entrepreneur, so when I first arrived at East Carolina I chose the management concentration. Fall semester of my sophomore year I had my first accounting class with Anne McCarthy. The class was very demanding. Nevertheless, it was obvious from the beginning that accounting was one of the most important components to running a business. I finished the class as one of the top students. At the end of the semester Mrs. McCarthy asked if I had ever considered a career in accounting, going on to describe the endless opportunities of getting a CPA license. It was that first financial accounting class, and a little help from Mrs. McCarthy, that made it an easy decision to pursue a career in accounting.

Last spring I had the opportunity to participate in a tax internship for Dixon Hughes Goodman in the Greenville, NC office. The internship was a great experience and I learned a lot on the job, more than can possibly be taught in the classroom. During my internship I worked with a variety of different clients from industries such as manufacturing, dealerships, farms, construction, and many more. I prepared tax returns and the supporting work papers for individuals, partnerships, corporations, trusts, and estates. Overall I completed over one hundred tax returns during the fourteen week internship. After the internship, I feel more prepared to begin a long successful career in public accounting. With the goal in mind of becoming an entrepreneur one day I will use my past and future experiences in public accounting to be successful.

Davidson Gillette

Coming to East Carolina University in 2005 began an amazing journey for me, centered around and facilitated by this amazing educational institution. ECU is somewhat of a family tradition for me, as both my parents graduated from here, as well as many other family members. I entered ECU in 2005 under the auspices of the EC Scholars program, the University’s flagship scholarship program. I graduated in 2008 magna cum laude and University Honors with a BA in History and a Minor in Business Administration.

After paid internships with both U.S. Senator Richard Burr in Washington, D.C. and U.S. Rep. Walter Jones in Greenville, I returned to ECU to pursue my MBA. However, after one semester, I transitioned into the MSA program. While I would have never thought about a career in accounting when I originally joined ECU, I have found both ECU’s program and the career at large to be both challenging and fascinating. The amazing and accessible faculty have fostered an environment that is tremendously conducive to learning and very applicable to the real-world practice of accounting.

I have been fortunate enough to receive both the College of Business Graduate Student Scholarship and the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners Scholarship, and I am a member of Beta Alpha Psi and Phi Kappa Phi Honors Societies. During my graduate studies, I have worked as a researcher in the ECU College of Education, and have continued volunteer work and community service for the Pitt County Schools, United Way, and EC Scholars Program. This summer, I accepted an offer for an internship with the KPMG office in Norfolk, Virginia, where a split program provided the opportunity to work in both Federal Tax and Audit practices, as well as attending the firm’s National Training in Orlando, Florida. I am currently scheduled for a May 2012 graduation.
## Accounting Student Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Scholarship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Sobel Anderson</td>
<td>Archie R. Burnette Scholarship</td>
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<td>Philip Tyler Barr</td>
<td>Beta Gamma Sigma Scholarship</td>
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<td>Jessica Hope Boyd</td>
<td>Gwen Potter Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle A. Bryce</td>
<td>UBE Business Scholarship</td>
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<td>Virginia Driggers</td>
<td>NCACPA Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Davids Ebili</td>
<td>NC Board of CPA Examiners Exam Coupon</td>
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<td>Brian James B. Ferguson</td>
<td>NCACPA Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davidson Burton Gillette</td>
<td>NC Board of CPA Examiners Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Gulette</td>
<td>Department of Accounting Book Scholarship</td>
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<td>Charles Scott Gupton</td>
<td>Department of Accounting Book Scholarship</td>
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<td>Kevin J. Hale</td>
<td>Mark F. and Tracy W. Copeland Scholarship</td>
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<td>Brandon David Hall</td>
<td>RBC Bank Scholarship</td>
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<td>Kendell Harris</td>
<td>Frank &amp; Rene Floyd Scholarship</td>
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<td>Mark Andrew Hatcher</td>
<td>Michael Bunting Business Scholarship</td>
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<td>Camille Marie Hefner</td>
<td>McGladrey &amp; Pullen Alumni Scholarship</td>
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<td>Joy Ruth Holleman</td>
<td>James &amp; Deborah Hooper Scholarship</td>
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<td>Cody Lawson</td>
<td>Department of Accounting Book Scholarship</td>
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<td>Isabell Katharina Maegebier</td>
<td>McGladrey &amp; Pullen Accounting Scholarship</td>
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<td>Keturah Mayberry</td>
<td>Frank &amp; Rene Floyd Scholarship</td>
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<td>Emily Irene Molgaard</td>
<td>Elsie &amp; Silas Abernathy Scholarship</td>
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<td>Jordan Blaine Myers</td>
<td>Mandy Kelly Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship</td>
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<td>Tamon Myrick</td>
<td>Audrey J. Smith Scholarship</td>
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<td>Lucas William Nash</td>
<td>McGladrey &amp; Pullen Alumni Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maci Raney</td>
<td>Benton Family Access Scholarship</td>
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<td>Samantha T. Reed</td>
<td>Department of Accounting Book Scholarship</td>
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<td>Stephanie W. Rose</td>
<td>NCACPA Scholarship</td>
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<td>Alesha M. Schillig</td>
<td>Ernst and Young Accounting Scholarship</td>
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<td>Kseniya V. Shakotko</td>
<td>Student Accounting Society Scholarship</td>
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<td>Abigail Lynn Shoemaker</td>
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<td>Danielle Oleta Stanley</td>
<td>Latney Pittard Scholarship</td>
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<td>Andrew David Steffensen</td>
<td>Commerce Club Scholarship</td>
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<td>Travis Jackson Strickland</td>
<td>Frank Booth Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<td>Natalie Allen Tetterton</td>
<td>Mark F. and Tracy W. Copeland Scholarship</td>
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<td>Walter Douglas &quot;Trey&quot; Vliet</td>
<td>Ernst and Young Accounting Scholarship</td>
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<td>Amanda Hooper Walters</td>
<td>Margery W. &amp; R. Roy Pearce Scholarship</td>
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<td>Stephen Allen Watson</td>
<td>David and Pamela Bond Access Scholarship</td>
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<td>Christina Weaver</td>
<td>Institute of Management Accountants Scholarship</td>
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<td>Ashley West</td>
<td>Elizabeth &amp; Kenneth Schneider Accounting Scholarship</td>
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Important Dates

First Day of Classes  Tuesday, August 23
Meet the Firms  Thursday, September 15

Attending:
Becker Professional
Deloitte
Ernst & Young
Grant Thornton
IRS recruitment office
Kaplan Professional:
KPMG LLP Norfolk Virginia
Langdon & Company
McGladrey
Pittard, Perry & Crone
Rives & Associates LLP Lexington

Homecoming Parade Social  Saturday, October 29th, 9:30-11:30
Last Day of Classes  Tuesday, December 6

Career Services Available to Alumni

All of the services in the career office are open to alumni, from career counseling, to resume review, interview suggestions, and searching for new job opportunities. CareerShift makes it easier to search job postings and find company data online. It is now available for free to students and alumni through our office. To access the system alumni must go to the career services webpage at www.ecu.edu/cs-bus/careers and click on the alumni tab. When prompted the group code is cobcareers. There is no charge at this time for alumni to access the program.

CareerShift offers the most comprehensive online resource, designed to support the #1 request of job seekers: an easy to use website to conduct and organize their job search. CareerShift’s set of tools and applications provide a very unique opportunity for job hunters. While other web services provide bits and pieces of the job hunt process, only CareerShift provides an easy-to-use approach for bringing all these parts together to crack the “hidden job market” and for managing the job hunt all in one place. With CareerShift, you can:

- Search and store jobs from all the major job boards, company websites, newspapers, and anywhere else a job is posted on the internet.
- Get inside contact information immediately, including email addresses, for millions of companies, even alumni, then save and manage your lists.
- Create as many targeted resumes and cover letters needed or upload your current documents.
- Automatically create unlimited e-mail campaigns with your saved contacts, resumes, and cover letters. You can choose to send your lists to yourself for a postal campaign. Since you choose your resume’s destination, it’s like a confidential marketing campaign.
- Campaigns are automatically saved and recorded. In MY CALENDAR, you can keep notes, and set reminders for follow-ups.