Even though it has been almost five years, it seems like a very short time ago that I wrote my first Director’s Letter for the Tull Update. Today, I am writing to let you know that I have decided to retire at the end of this academic year. While I have mixed feelings about this decision, on balance I feel it is the right time for new leadership and the right time for me to retire.

When I accepted the position of Director, it was clear to me that the Tull School had outstanding students, faculty, staff, and programs. I believe they are even better today than they were in 2000. We have an outstanding faculty that is dedicated to quality research and teaching. Our wonderful staff members work together to enhance the atmosphere of the School of Accounting for students and faculty. All three of our programs have excellent reputations, and our graduates are highly sought after. Our alumni and the firms that hire our graduates are committed to the success of the School. In short, our next Director will have a solid foundation on which to build.

Good programs are constantly changing.

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ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT

Ruth Bartlett

Ruth Bartlett has been a dedicated change agent for the accounting community since her graduation from the J.M. Tull School of Accounting in 1976. Currently, she is the head of Frazier & Deeter, LLC’s Assurance Department and has made many contributions to the Atlanta community and accounting profession over the years. Not only has she played an instrumental part in Frazier & Deeter’s status as one of the largest independent CPA and advisory firms in the southeast, Ruth became the first woman partner in the Atlanta-based firm in 1993. Upon graduation, she began her career at Price Waterhouse for nine years and then moved to Laventhol & Horwath for six years as head of their audit department prior to coming on board with Frazier & Deeter in 1990.

“It has been an interesting ride through the audit departments of three CPA firms,” Ruth says. “When I entered the Big 8 accounting world in the 1970’s, audit was the leading service offered by CPA firms. Through changes in accounting firms’ business models in the 1990’s, the audit became a less profitable and sometimes commoditized service — lending way to consulting services and complex tax strategies being offered by CPA firms. Now CPA firms are coming back full circle where auditing is the tail that wags the dog.”

Ruth has always been one to give back to the accounting profession. She served as the first female president of the Georgia Society of CPAs in 1993-94 and received the Society’s Distinguished Member Award in 2000. She also served many years on the AICPA Council and was the Georgia delegate for the CPA Vision project.

Her family, which has deep roots in the accounting industry, influenced her decision to become an auditor. Her sisters, Linda Marrett and Terri Vann, and their husbands, Bill Marrett and Carl Vann, all graduated from the J. M. Tull School of Accounting and are practicing CPAs. Often asked about her parents, Ruth adds, “No other accountants in the family. My father graduated from Georgia Tech in management and my mother stayed home raising us. My sisters and I were always good in math and it is interesting that we ended up CPAs and they married CPAs. Makes for real exciting conversations around the dinner table.”

Ruth has also taken some prestigious positions in the community. She is heavily involved with many civic organizations in metro Atlanta, most notably the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Georgia Chapter, where she recently served as president. One of the most rewarding elements of her career is her work with the University of Georgia. Since 1999, she has been involved with the Alumni Board of the Terry College of Business where she currently serves as President. She is also a member of the Campaign Steering Committee (the fundraising arm of the college). Ruth enjoys coming on campus at UGA. She is heavily involved with the recruiting efforts of Frazier & Deeter and is also a guest lecturer in accounting classes. She states the firm has had its best year ever recruiting accounting

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News About Tull Graduates

Now that the CPA exam is computerized and can be taken throughout the year, it’s harder to keep track of successful candidates. However, we’ve heard that recent graduates Michael Glatzer, Rebekah (Redden) Walters, Stacey Wong, and Paul Woody passed all four parts on their first attempt. Please let us know if you did the same and we’ll report you in our next newsletter.

Now participating as a member of the AICPA’s Auditing Standards Board is Barton W. Baldwin (BBA ’68). Barton notes that this is a very interesting group to work with, with the need to sort through the PCAOB standards and to converge U.S. and international auditing standards. He recently visited Paris for a meeting of the International Federation of Accountants. Barton is presently chairing the International Qualifications Appraisal Board, which performs reviews of foreign organizations seeking reciprocity in our country.

Governor Perdue recently appointed three new members to the Georgia State Board of Accountancy — and all three are Tull graduates! They are W. Carter Bates III (BBA ’79), J. Sam Johnson (BBA ’75), and Farrell Nichols (BBA ’74). Carter is a consumer representative on the Board and is a partner at the law firm of James, Bates, Pope & Spivey, LLP in Macon. Sam is president and owner of J. Sam Johnson, CPA, PC in Toccoa. Farrell is a partner with Nichols Cauley & Associates in Dublin. Congratulations to all three!

Now a member of the class of 2007 at the Mercer Law School is Ivy Cadle (MAcc ’02). He hopes that college friends will drop in to visit wife Leslie and him in their Macon home.

Reflex Security, Inc. of Atlanta announced the appointment of Michael Casey (BBA ’85) as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer in December. Reflex Security is a leading provider of network intrusion prevention solutions. The company has a network of channel partners in the U.S., Korea, Japan, and China.

After receiving his accounting degree from the Tull School in 1999, Bruce Daniels worked for Arthur Andersen in both auditing and consulting. He then earned his MBA from New York University’s Stern School of Business in 2004 and is now working with Bear, Stearns Inc. in investment banking. Bruce notes that his family (including a son) is enjoying New York City and they are slowly becoming Yankee fans. But he also misses the weather and football at UGA and hopes to make it down for a game in the coming season.

T. Heath Fountain (BBA ’97) a Raymond James financial advisor, and assistant vice president of Heritage Asset Management, Albany, has fulfilled the requirements to become a Certified Financial Planner practitioner. The CFP certification is awarded by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. to individuals who pass a comprehensive examination, along with rigorous experience and ongoing education requirements. A graduate of Leadership Albany, Heath is the past president of Generation Success, a youth leadership program. He is on the board of the Anchorage and the Albany-Dougherty Board of Zoning Appeals. He is a member of First United Methodist Church.

In December, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) presented John M. Greene (BBA ’59) with the William H. Van Rensselaer Award. This award was established by NASBA to honor the memory of its first full-time Executive Director. It recognizes individuals who have been dedicated to the improvement of the regulation of accountancy and who have demonstrated excellence in leadership.

In addition to being a former Chair of NASBA, John served the organization in many other capacities including Regional Director, Director-at-Large, Vice President-Finance, Treasurer and Vice Chair. He also served as Chairman of the South Carolina Board of Accountancy for two years and a total of six years on the Board. John continues to be involved with UGA as a member of the Georgia Museum of Art Board.

Caroline (Thompson) Hester (MAcc ’02) has left Ernst & Young in Atlanta to become an internal auditor for UGA. Caroline was married in June and is now living in Monroe. She notes “the commute is definitely a lot better than driving to Atlanta every day!”

Last July Rick Kasnick (BBA ’95) moved from Atlanta to Charlotte to become Managing Partner of Elliott Dendorfer LLP. He reports that Charlotte reminds him “of a ‘big’ Athens” and that he lives and works in uptown and walks most places.

Michael Kesler (BBA ’68) reports that he is working at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Patrick Kim (BBA ’98, MAcc ’99) has been promoted to Manager with Porter Keadle & Moore.

Yane Kim (BBA ’02) completed her MAcc degree at Georgia State University in 2004 and joined Moore Colson in Atlanta.

Ashley Marsh, who earned her BBA last year, is now a first year student at the University of Georgia Law School. Ashley plans to complete her MAcc in 2006.

Stephanie and Guy Morris (both MAcc ’01) report that they now have two sons: Miles, age 3 and Charlie who just turned 1. Tate is working at McNair, McLemore & Middlebrooks and has earned both Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Valuation Analyst designations. Stephanie is teaching full-time at Macon State College and also teaches professional development courses, does some part-time accounting work, and “spends a lot of time chasing little boys!”

In September, Fay Ann (Norris) Sherris (BBA/MAcc ’02) left Deloitte & Touche to join Home Depot’s Internal Audit Leadership Program.

Featured on the University’s web site as an Amazing Student in August was Kristina Taylor (BBA ’03). The story noted that Tina had received a medical waiver from the NCAA to play a sixth year of basketball with the Lady Bulldogs team. Unfortunately, a subsequent knee injury cut her athletic career short. But she is now working on her MAcc degree that she expects to receive next summer. Last year Tina picked up a second undergraduate degree — in finance — and her next goal is to gain her CPA certificate in the near future.
Tull Student Receives Rotary Scholarship

This is a slightly edited version of an article that originally appeared in Columns, the weekly newspaper for UGA faculty and staff members.

Travis Canova, a senior Honors student in the Tull School of Accounting, is the recipient of the Ambassadorial Scholarship, awarded by the Rotary Foundation.

Canova, who is from Rome, Georgia, expects to graduate this May with a dual degree in the BBA/MAcc program in the Terry College of Business and plans to use the scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in international politics at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth. The Graduate School of International Politics, founded in 1919, is the world’s first university department of international relations.

“Tull Student Receives Rotary Scholarship

The University of Wales came highly recommended by Professor Loch Johnson,” according to Canova. “It should prove to be a special educational and developmental opportunity and I greatly look forward to representing the University of Georgia abroad.”

Since 1947, the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships program has enabled more than 30,000 men and women from 100 nations to study abroad. It is the world’s largest privately funded international scholarships program. More than 1,100 scholarships were awarded for study in 2002-03. Through grants totaling approximately $26 million, recipients from some 69 countries studied in more than 64 nations.

“Winning the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship is an outstanding achievement for Travis,” said David S. Williams, director of the Honors Program. “I am proud of his exemplary record of leadership and scholarship at UGA, and wish him continued success at the University of Wales.”

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to advance international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The program sponsors several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

Canova is a William Moore Crane Leadership Scholarship recipient and a member of Leadership UGA. He is one of 30 Terry College students participating in the Bebe and Earl Leonard Leadership Scholars Program, which prepares future business leaders with skills and strengths to add value to their organizations and communities. He is a member of the Arch Society, a group of UGA ambassadors who represent the university at various university functions. From fall 2001 to spring 2002, Canova was president of the Dean William Tate Honor Society, a group of the top 12 outstanding male and female students of their year’s respective freshman class. In the summer of 2001 and 2002, he served as a leader of the UGA Big Event, mentoring a group of 10 upcoming university freshmen and promoting leadership.

Contributions from Rotarians worldwide support students who are Ambassadorial Scholars.

— By Cynthia C. Hoke, UGA News Service

Director’s Message

and ours is no exception. This year also marks the departure of two valued colleagues, Ken Gaver and Karen Braun.

When Ken Gaver joined the Tull faculty in 1990 he had already received eight awards for outstanding teaching at other universities. In the 15 years since then, he has made important teaching contributions to all three Tull programs. He has regularly taught introductory accounting to sophomore-level honors undergraduates, and he prides himself on the number of these students he has converted to the accounting major. Throughout his time as Georgia he has also been a teacher and mentor for PhD students. Along the way, he garnered six more teaching awards, including the prestigious Lothar Tresp Outstanding Honors Professor Award. Ken’s contributions as an accounting scholar continued to grow as well. In particular, his work on audit pricing and executive compensation is widely cited in the literature. We will miss his many contributions, and we wish him an enjoyable retirement.

Karen Braun joined the Tull faculty as a lecturer in 1996. Karen earned a Ph.D. in accounting at the University of Connecticut in the same year, but she was not interested in a tenure-track position because of the responsibilities associated with having two young daughters. At UGA she has been an outstanding instructor of managerial and cost accounting, and she has received several teaching awards. Students praise her enthusiasm and her ability to present complex information in a manner that they find interesting and accessible. Karen, her husband Cory, and their two daughters have relocated to Cleveland, Ohio.

In closing, I want to tell you how much I have enjoyed my time here. It has been both stimulating and challenging, and I value the support our alumni and friends have provided. Our accomplishments would not be possible without your help. I know our next Director will also benefit from your loyalty and support.

Bartlett

students at UGA.

Ruth lives in downtown Atlanta, overlooking Centennial Olympic Park, with her dog, Goldie, and cat, Stoli. She enjoys golfing, running, yoga, the beach, and traveling—including two international trips this year to Scandinavia and Australia. One of her favorite trips was in 2000 when she went with other UGA Alumni to Cortona, Italy (Tuscany), where UGA has a campus abroad.

ONLINE?

Then drop by www.terry.uga.edu/accounting/ for the latest Tull School news and information!

Spring 2005

Tull School Update • 3
Behind Every Nationally Ranked Academic Program is . . .

...a strong network of individuals. This means faculty, students, and definitely staff. In the Tull School of Accounting, we have three particular individuals who oversee the smooth running of the School’s office. These ladies make sure that accounts are balanced; that faculty, staff, and TAs are paid; exams are typed and copied; extensive mailings are processed in a timely manner; special events are planned; and faculty are supported. Most of our graduates have had some contact during their studies at UGA with these folks, whether helping them find classrooms, faculty and advisors, accepting end-of-the-semester projects and evaluations, or providing general information. These dedicated staff members handle it all, even the time a monsoon arrived just before the MAcc fall picnic. Ever try moving wheeled carts of accounting paraphernalia through sopping wet grass while trying to keep your umbrella from turning inside-out? With pants wet from the knees to the ankles, they laughed, set up under cover, and we had a successful picnic!

Marsha Dickerson, Paula Smith, and Regina Lagarino manage the nuts and bolts of the office management. We are fortunate to have such a staff and thought you might like to hear more about them.

Marsha Dickerson is our Senior Administrative Secretary. She oversees the general operations, works with the director, and oversees all the budgets and accounts for the School. Marsha has been with us for 11 years. She originally started as an Accounting Assistant, and then changed jobs to work with Linda Bamber as an editorial assistant with the nationally recognized academic journal, The Accounting Review, for three years. With the combination of The Accounting Review moving to another school and Karen Rutledge’s retirement after 30 years at UGA (see Tull Update, Spring 2004), we were extremely fortunate to have Marsha return to the School as the Senior Administrative Secretary. She was recognized for her contributions to the Terry College as a recipient of a Terry Staff Achievement Award in 2002. Marsha lives in Bowman with her husband, Jeff, and 9 year-old son, Josh.

Paula Smith, our Senior Secretary, is also another “long timer” with the School. Paula came to our office almost 10 years ago from the UGA Vet School. She’s that nice person that greets everyone as they come into the School office or calls. Paula answers all those initial questions or directs them to the appropriate resource. She also assists in a variety of projects that come up in the School . . . you know, that statement on all job descriptions that ends with “and other required duties”? Paula lives in Lexington with her husband Bob and 5 year-old son Conner and VERY new son, Hunter, born January 26th. She is on maternity leave until May and we look forward to her return.

Regina Lagarino is the latest addition to our office staff. She started just over a year ago and it feels like she’s been here for years! She actually was recommended to our office by one of our instructors — Stephanie Miller — who was Regina’s accounting instructor at Athens Tech! As Administrative Secretary, Regina handles a lot of the special projects that always arise in an office. In fact, during her first week as a new employee we greeted her with a major project to print, label, and mail over 6000 letters to alumni. She was instrumental in coordinating our Accounting Banquet last year — something that had been abandoned for a few years, so it was a ground-zero project. She is also assisting with Accounting Career Day, and will work more with the MAcc program in the future. Regina lives in Athens with her 7 year-old daughter Jessica.

We are most fortunate to have such a great group to support the School. It makes a big difference to have a helpful and happy group of people to work with you and contributing to the success of the program!

From Accountant to Entrepreneur

Stephanie (Burr) Sharp received her BBA from the Tull School in 1994. But unlike most of our graduates who work primarily in the accounting profession, Stephanie expanded her horizons and began what is now a successful Internet business. Here is her first person account of that interesting career progression.

I was like many students who attended the University, in that I found it hard to leave after graduating, so I commuted from Athens to Atlanta during my first several years in the “real world.” There I sharpened my business skills and delved into what was then a burgeoning industry, the Internet. In 1997, I realized that there was an overwhelming need to create real solutions to difficult web challenges in Athens, so I took on my first client and founded Plexus Web Creations.

Steve Baginski presented workshops on changes in voluntary disclosure relevance at Florida State University and New York University. He also served on the planning committees for two national academic accounting meetings, the 2005 New Faculty Consortium and the FARS mid-year meeting. Steve will also serve as a discussant at the FARS meeting.

Over the past six months Denny Beresford made presentations to the Georgia State University Conference on Financial Reporting, University of Texas at Dallas Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance Seminar, Centergy Corporation Board of Directors seminar in St. Petersburg, FL and the Deloitte & Touche Audit Committee Seminar in Chicago. His article on “Can We Go Back to the Good Old Days?” was published in the December issue of The CPA Journal. Also, Denny was appointed to the Policy Council for Proxy Governance, Inc., a new organization involved in making recommendations on proxy voting matters for institutional shareholders.

Ken Gaver will receive the 2005 Lothar Tresp Outstanding Honors Professor Award. This is Ken’s second teaching award this year. Earlier he received a Student Government Association Teaching Award as a result of a nomination by 15 Terry PhD students from three departments.

In October, Jackie Hammersley presented her paper “Industry Specialist Auditors and Pattern Recognition” at the Symposium on Auditing Research at the University of Illinois. Jackie presented the same paper to the accounting faculty at the University of Wisconsin in November.

Silvia Madeo is chair of the joint AICPA/American Accounting Association Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award Selection Committee. The award, which is presented at the AAA annual meeting, recognizes a paper published in the past five years that makes an outstanding contribution to accounting education, practice, and/or future accounting research.

Paul Steer is serving as a member of the Georgia Society of CPA’s Continuing Professional Education Committee. He recently developed and taught a course on “Fundamentals of Estate and Gift Taxation: What Every CPA Needs to Know About Transfer Taxes and Financial Planning,” for the Georgia Society.

Sharp

continued from previous page

I am especially excited to report on a current project with the College of Pharmacy, Continuing Education Division. Plexus was retained in the late summer to plan and engineer an interactive web application that will allow Continuing Education participants to register for conferences online and view their Continuing Education Credit history. Administrative functions will include managing conference schedules and reporting to accrediting agencies.

In late 2003, I began to recognize the barriers that persons with visual or physical impairment constantly encounter on the web and accepted my responsibility to provide easy, meaningful experiences for ALL users. To accomplish this, I decided to modify the company’s business model to reflect our guarantee to deliver standards compliant web sites that meet U.S. Section 508 Guidelines for Accessibility.

Today, I am very proud that my company can deliver highly successful web applications that result in highly successful business performance for our clients. Many business practices I employ today stem from the distinguished education I received at the J. M. School of Accounting.
The J. M. Tull School of Accounting is proud to recognize and thank the alumni, friends, and organizations who contributed to our success in 2004. Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this Honor Roll.

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Nancy Hall Brunner
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Joseph Eugene Mahany & Joan Coons Mahany
Lisa Whisnant Meitin
Jacinda Neal Norvell
Amanda Fletcher Portnell
Joseph Alfred Richwine
A. Frank Settlemyer III
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Fay Norris Sherris
Faye Perry Sklar
Dorothy Kaufmann Steinheimer
William Preston Suggs
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Robin Masbruch Winkler
Richard Haworth Young
MAcc Student Tastes Taiwan Life

Eddie Moe decided to spend a year studying abroad before completing his MAcc at the Tull School. Here is his account of his experiences so far.

What do squid soup, night markets that abound in everything from Levi’s to the newest snap-shot cell phones, and the tallest building in the world have in common? All of these things can be found in the great city of Taipei, Taiwan. Taipei is truly a city of sites, sounds, and wonders, and I’ve been discovering new ones every day. My name is Eddie Moe, a (proud) Accounting undergrad student at the University of Georgia, and I am currently studying abroad at National Taiwan University in Taipei. Although I’ve only been here for four months, I feel like my life has already been positively impacted from this truly unique study abroad experience.

My initial interest in studying abroad came about through my living situation at UGA. My sophomore year, I chose to stay in Morris Hall, an international-student dorm on North Campus. There I got my first true international college experience, being able to talk, share, and interact with students from around the globe. I enjoyed it so much that my junior year I decided to renew my dorm contract and remain in Morris Hall. That term my roommate was a student from Taiwan (luckily, because I had started to take Chinese…it’s always nice to have a “human dictionary”). I took advantage of this great opportunity to ask my roommate a number of questions about Taiwan, and thus became more and more interested in going abroad.

When I landed in Taiwan, it was a little like my compass had been turned upside down. I guess it was because my “far east” had gotten just a little less “far” on my map. Luckily, the University here had an idea of that beforehand, as they assigned all foreign exchange students student volunteers to help them acclimate. I had heard the food here was good, but before I landed in Taiwan, I had no idea just how good. As we walked along the crowded streets bustling with a mixture of cars, mopeds, and bicycles, we were constantly being bombarded with lively requests by the cooks and employees to choose their restaurant. We finally picked one of the more typical “cafeteria” style restaurants, which gave you a tray and let you walk and pick out foods a-la-carte style. The food was good, but, because it was my first time trying out traditional Chinese food, I was grateful the restaurant had a bathroom close by!

The dorm itself looked really impressive from the outside, so I figured the rooms would be pretty nice. My room turned out to be nothing short of an engineering feat: one wall was lined with nothing but shelving with the opposite side having two beds. One raised up so that closet space could be stored under it, with the other bed lowered (I’m still trying to figure out why). But, thanks to their “we don’t really mind nails in the wall” policy, it was pretty easy to spice the place up a little. Communication with people on the floor was pretty easy too, as we were all exchange students and the main language in our hallway was English.

About 90% of the students here bike, because of the ease of use and also because there aren’t any buses that travel through campus. Every morning it’s hard not to stop and admire the environment around campus. Old men and women line the university sidewalks, starting off each morning with a half hour of tai chi to get their blood circulating. The language program at NTU seems to operate almost as a different entity from the rest of the classes here, in that it is divided into trimesters rather than semesters. It is really a great program and the main reason for that is that each class has only has six to eight students, giving students a lot of direct interaction with the teacher (as well as keeping them from sleeping in class!). The classes go on Monday-Friday for two hours straight, with a five minute break mid-way between.

Luckily, there is still time in the day for all the extra-curricular activities that any normal university has to offer, such as the fitness center, a large student activities center (with a variety of clubs to join – I am currently in one called Rover, which is something of a nature club [camping, learning how to survive in the wilderness, etc.]), and even a large

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Moe

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Grassy area in front of the main library to sit down and talk with friends.

There are a number of activities that exist outside of the University as well. For instance, a Taiwanese friend and I enrolled in a Japanese cooking class on another campus, and travel there Friday nights to learn new recipes (well, I just go there for a 2nd dinner!). Also, one of the biggest attractions for teenagers and adults alike are the many night markets. These are reminiscent of the markets in India everyone knows so well from the movies, with alley-ways packed tight with street vendors selling everything from the latest fashion in clothing to tomatoes covered in rock hard candies.

Life in Taiwan is definitely fun, and it is sometimes easy to forget my main purpose in choosing to partake in this exchange program. So, then, why did I decide to come here? Although I truly enjoy immersing myself in new cultures and experiences, I also enjoy deriving a practical benefit out of the activities I choose to participate in. If given the chance, I would like the opportunity to return here and use my accounting background and skills to work with one of the big four in the heart of Taipei. The city here is a place with thriving businesses, and is obviously growing every day. Many opportunities exist in Taiwan to apply my accounting-related abilities in an international setting (although I’m still flipping the mental coin as to whether it’s Tax or Audit).

Interestingly enough, after talking with an accounting professor here at the University, I have discovered that, although they use essentially the same textbooks (for instance, they use the international version of Keiso’s Intermediate Accounting book — the same as at the UGA), some of their accounting standards are a little different than that of the U.S. This being the case, I would also like the opportunity to try and narrow the differences in accounting standards between Taiwan and the rest of the world so as to make it easier for investors, no matter their country of origin, to feel confident that the companies they invest in in one country are being held to the same standards and methods as companies located in another.

But one thing’s for sure, no matter which career avenue I choose to go down, I’ll always have great memories and experiences that will last a lifetime from a place that I can now call my home away from home. ■

Since fall 1994, Professor Mark Dawkins has taught Intermediate Accounting I at UGA. As the instructor for one of the first major accounting classes that future accountants must pass, Mark has played a significant role in determining the career path of about 2,500 Tull graduates. Like his students, Professor Dawkins vividly recalls the difficulty of his Intermediate Accounting I experience, and thus makes every effort to help his students successfully complete this rigorous and challenging foundation course.

Professor Dawkins usually receives only a few thanks from students upon completion of his class (which he attributes to the perceived pain they endured from him during his class), but he is quick to point out how often past students return to thank him as they successfully move through the remainder of the accounting program at UGA. A thank you, even when delayed for a few semesters, reinforces Professor Dawkins’ sense of accomplishment, as well as his appreciation for the quality of accounting students he interacts with daily at UGA.

What path brought Mark to UGA? Well, most certainly not a typical path for a Georgia Bulldog. For starters, Mark was born in Tuskegee, AL, and moved to Jacksonville, FL when he was 3 years old. If you ask him where he is from, Mark will tell you Jacksonville, FL since he has few memories of time spent in Tuskegee, AL. He was fortunate (or unfortunate depending on your perspective) to grow up in a house with six brothers: three older, and three younger. Mark explains his large family size by saying his parents really wanted a girl, and continued trying until his two youngest brothers arrived at one time (i.e., twins). His parents took this as a sign that a girl was not in their future, and were grateful for the seven wonderful boys they were blessed with (emphasis added by Professor Dawkins).

Like all UGA parents, his parents emphasized education to all their boys, and Mark and his six brothers spent their K-12 years in Catholic school in Jacksonville, FL. After graduating from Bishop Kenny High School in 1981, he started his college education at the Georgia Institute of Technology. For some reason that Mark cannot explain to this day, he initially thought he wanted to be a mechanical engineer. However, freshmen chemistry and physics cured him of those wishful notions.

Luckily, the only option Georgia Tech engineering cast-offs had at the time was the School of Management, where Mark took his first accounting class and was hooked. Hooked might be a slight overstatement because, like some of his current students, Professor Dawkins did not initially appreciate the time commitment required to be successful in accounting, and had the pleasure of taking Introductory Accounting I more than once (he withdrew the first time).

After graduating with a B.S. in management (concentration in accounting) from Georgia Tech in 1985, Mark enrolled in the MBA program at the nemesis university in Gainesville (the one Professor Dan Smith is so fond of). Given his solid accounting background, he majored in finance during his MBA program and waived the accounting classes. While nearing completion of his MBA Mark tried to register for the CPA exam in Florida, only to be told that he did not have enough accounting credit hours since, unbeknownst to him, Florida had adopted the 150-hour rule in 1983. To become CPA eligible, Mark extended his time in Gainesville one year and completed a master’s degree in accounting (1988) after completing his MBA (1987).

After completing his masters’ degrees Mark worked with Barnett Banks, Inc. (since acquired by NationsBank, now part of Bank of America) for two years. The first year he worked as a financial analyst for the Trust Company, and the second year he worked as a strategic planning analyst and asset/liability analyst for the holding company. While

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working at Barnett Banks, Mark passed the CPA exam and the CMA exam. He also
met Janyce (his future wife) at Barnett.

After two years in a corporate environ-
ment, the teaching bug bit and he enrolled
in the strategic management PhD program
at Florida State University in fall 1990.
Mark switched to the accounting PhD pro-
gram at FSU in fall 1991, and used his
strategic management coursework as his
PhD support area. Janyce enrolled in the
School of Law at Florida State University in
fall 1991, and they were married on

Due to their dual careers and family obli-
gations, Mark and Janyce settled in
Atlanta after finishing their graduate work
at FSU. Mark commutes to UGA, and
Janyce is a practicing attorney in Atlanta
specializing in workers’ compensation.
They have one daughter (Klair, 25) and one
son (Ian, 8). Fortunately, both Mark and
Janyce have family in Atlanta, including
three of Mark’s brothers. Janyce’s parents
also live in Atlanta, in the same neighbor-
hood as Mark and Janyce. Thus, Mark,
Janyce, and Ian are able to enjoy Janyce’s
mom’s Cajun cooking on a regular basis
(Janyce’s parents lived in New Iberia,
Louisiana for more than 35 years before
moving to Atlanta).

In addition to teaching Intermediate
Accounting I at UGA, Mark directs the
undergraduate and graduate internship
program for accounting majors. His
research interests include bankruptcy,
market effects of information asymmetry,
and market reactions to information dis-
closures. He has published in The Journal
of Finance, the Journal of Accounting,
Auditing and Finance, the Journal of
Business, Finance & Accounting, the
Journal of Banking and Finance, and the
Journal of Managerial Issues. He also has
developed textbook cases on strategic
management issues.

Mark co-coordinates the GSCPA High
School Residency Program at UGA. This 3-
day on-campus program is in its seventh
year, and is designed to expose high
school students to career opportunities in
accounting. The program is co-hosted by
the Georgia Society of CPAs, the College
of Business Administration at Georgia
Southern University, and the Terry College
of Business at UGA, and is funded by stu-
dent sponsorships from accounting firms,
publicly held corporations, and private indi-
viduals. Mark is extremely grateful for the
financial support this program continues
to receive from graduates and friends of
the Tull School of Accounting.

On April 1, 2004, Mark was appointed
Director of Diversity Relations for the Terry
College of Business. In this position Mark
is responsible for (1) identifying opportuni-
ties for the College to increase the diversi-
ty of its students, faculty and staff, (2) pro-
posing and implementing action plans that
increase diversity, and (3) monitoring the
College’s performance in achieving the
short-term and long-term goals related to
diversity. Mark also serves as the faculty
advisor for the UGA chapter of the National
Association of Black Accountants, and the
Graduate Minority Business Association.

Mark received the 2003 Beta Alpha Psi
Outstanding Teacher of the Year award at
UGA (co-recipient with Dan Smith), the
Alpha Kappa Psi 2003 Accounting Teacher
of the Year Award, and the 2004 University
of Georgia Accounting Teaching Award. He
is a member of the American Accounting
Association, the American Institute of
CPAs, the Institute of Management
Accountants, and the Georgia Society of
CPAs.

When Mark is not teaching, conducting
research, or engaged in service activities,
he can be found playing golf, coaching his
son’s soccer team, or spending quality
family time at his beach house at Amelia
Island, Florida.

AICPA Awards Gold Medal to Denny Beresford

Just two months after being admitted to the Accounting Hall of Fame (see the last issue of this newsletter) Professor Denny Beresford capped off
2004 by being awarded the AICPA Gold Medal for Distinguished Service. The photo above shows him receiving the Institute’s highest honor at its
October Council Meeting in Orlando. Committee member Tom Rimmerman introduced Denny and noted that he “has contributed significantly to both
the financial markets and the accounting profession though his long and distinguished career spanning more than 40 years.”
My Internship at the FASB

I graduated from UGA in May 2004, and have been working for the past six months at the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) as a Postgraduate Technical Assistant (PTA). I am responsible for various tasks, such as analyzing written submissions received on documents issued for public comment, reviewing and analyzing published research, preparing memorandums on technical issues for Board members’ information, drafting due process documents, and evaluating accounting proposals of other organizations.

As an accounting student at UGA, I was frequently asked, “What do you want to do—audit or tax?” My answer was always audit. At one time, I did not realize that other opportunities existed. However, when Professor Beresford approached me about a one-year position at the FASB, I was immediately interested. In my accounting classes, I often found myself wondering about the conceptual basis for the rules that I was learning. At the FASB, I am definitely learning the reasoning behind certain standards. In fact, one of my assignments is the conceptual framework project. The objective of this project is to develop a common conceptual framework, based on and built on the existing International Accounting Standards Board and FASB frameworks that both Boards would use as a basis for their accounting standards. Being involved in this project will certainly build skills that will help me understand why certain standards are the way that they are once I leave the FASB.

One exciting aspect of my experience is that I have already seen two final Statements issued related to the short-term international convergence project: FASB Statement No. 151, Inventory Costs and FASB Statement No. 153, Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets. I helped analyze the comment letters received on the related Exposure Drafts and helped draft the final Statements. I am fortunate to have seen Statements issued on one of my projects as many PTAs do not get that chance due to the short-term nature of the position.

Some of the other topics that I work on deal with earnings per share, financial instruments, servicing rights, and consolidation of variable interest entities. Many topics have been quite a challenge to understand, and I believe that the accounting department at UGA prepared me well for this experience.

What do I want to do after I leave the FASB? My answer is still audit. My time at the FASB will end in July, and I will be returning to Atlanta to work in Deloitte’s audit practice. I know that I will continue to enjoy my time here at the FASB. I have learned so much about financial accounting and reporting, and I believe the knowledge that I have gained will be of great use in my future endeavors.

I thank the JM Tull School of Accounting for nominating me for this position and for preparing me well for my career.

— Rachel Varian

What’s New With You?

What are you doing and what’s “news” with you? Please take a few moments to fill in this form and return to us so we can keep your classmates informed of your activities. If you wish, please attach a separate sheet with more information. Or you can email: phoy@terry.uga.edu.

(Note to married female graduates, please be sure to include your maiden name!)

Name:

Mailing Address: City: State: Zip:

Email: Degree(s): Graduation year(s):

Currently Employed at:

My News:

Rachel Varian