MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you have had a chance to read the latest Terry College magazine, you saw a rather in depth look at the high marks that Tull students have earned for passing all four parts of the CPA exam on their initial attempt. This success has been a noteworthy achievement for our students and a source of pride for the School. The School has never focused our classrooms on the CPA exam, but instead, has strived to provide students with a rigorous program of study that prepares them for success in their careers. Hence, we view CPA exam success as more of a byproduct of a program with outstanding students and a faculty committed to offering rigorous courses that provide a strong fundamental understanding of accounting and tax and enhance lifetime learning, research, and communication skills.

I am pleased to provide the latest CPA exam performance update for Tull students. In mid-January, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy released the most recent performance data for 1st time pass rates for the CPA exam. Seventy-eight

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Bill Lankford

Bill Lankford is a familiar face around the University of Georgia. Bill is Managing Partner of Moore Stephens Tiller, LLC. In addition to being the head cheerleader for Moore Stephens Tiller, Bill is also an active member of the Tull School Advisory Board and loves very much his association with the Tull School of Accounting, its faculty and student body. Bill graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting in March 1971 and then a MAcc degree in March 1972. In those years, the U.S. was involved in Viet Nam and Bill was in Advanced ROTC. The U.S. Army allowed him to get his graduate degree and subject to completing coursework, Bill reported for duty as a Second Lieutenant in the field artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Upon completion of his military obligation, Bill joined the accounting firm of Fuller and DeLoach in Brunswick, Georgia. The firm had three offices at that time, including Brunswick, Statesboro, and Atlanta. In 1977, the firm transferred Bill to Atlanta where he became a member of the tax department. Over the years, Fuller and DeLoach morphed into its present name, Moore Stephens Tiller LLC. Also, Bill grew with the firm rising not only to Director of Tax, but also to Managing Partner of the firm. He enjoys boasting that he has never had but one job. He recognizes this is an anomaly in today’s marketplace.

Bill’s firm belonged to both an accounting association and a referral network - one national in scope and one international in scope. One of his greatest accomplishments was recognizing that the two organizations should become one. Bill established a mission and goal for such a merger and he is most proud of the fact that he was able to orchestrate the combination of firms with diverse interests.

In addition to being Managing Partner of the firm and Director of Tax, Bill serves on numerous charitable and professional boards and organizations. He is past chairman of the Atlanta Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, past co-chairman of Atlanta Charity Clays, a member of the Tull School Advisory Board, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Federal Tax Conference, a member of the Board of The Atlanta Tax Forum, a member of the Planned Giving Advisory Board of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, a member of the Atlanta Estate Planning Council, a member of the Editorial Board of The Tax Adviser, and a member of the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Finance Committee. He previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of First Newton Bank of Covington, GA, chairman of Moore Stephens North America (MSNA), and Associated Accounting firms International. In addition, Bill was recently inducted into the YMCA of Georgia Hall of Fame.

Bill’s wife, Ann, is a 1972 graduate of UGA. He has two children - Angela Nix and Courtney Lankford both of whom graduated from UGA and are big bulldog fans. Angela is an OB/GYN in Atlanta and Courtney is attending graduate school at Georgia State. Angela’s husband, David, is also a graduate of UGA and they have created for Bill and Ann what is the ultimate in life - a grandson, Tyler, who is now approximately three months of age. Tyler was born wearing the red and black!
Amazing Accounting Student

The University of Georgia’s website regularly features “Amazing Students” along with regular campus news, etc. In early October, the featured student was MAcc student Susan Guo. The text of Susan’s story from the website follows.

Senior Susan Guo has found numerous opportunities at UGA. She is in J.M. Tull School of Accounting’s five-year MAcc, which allows her to finish her BBA in accounting and simultaneously work on her Master of Accountancy. Through the Leonard Leadership Scholars Program, Susan is working with five fellow Leonard Scholars in providing business consulting services to the East Athens Development Corporation. She received a $5,000 Financial Services Roundtable Scholarship in Honor of James H. Blanchard for the 2008-2009 year. The scholarship was established by Financial Services Roundtable and honors UGA alum James H. Blanchard who is retired chairman of the board and CEO of Synovus Financial Corporation. As part of the Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities, Susan conducted research in domestic terrorism with a concentration in Sri Lanka. After graduation, she will be getting married. She also plans to get her Certified Public Accountant certification and begin her career in Atlanta with a public accounting firm.

**Expected graduation:** May 2009

**Degree Objective:** Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in accounting

**University highlights, achievements and awards**

UGA has allowed me to develop professionally and personally by providing opportunities for me to explore my wide range of interests. I researched domestic terrorism in Sri Lanka during my freshman and sophomore years as a CURO apprentice. I served the CURO program as a teaching assistant my junior year. My time as a Leonard Leadership Scholar has allowed me to meet and talk with many business executives and develop key leadership skills. I currently serve as vice president of programs of Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Honors Society and am a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. I just completed an internship with Dixon Hughes where I was able to work with tax compliance and tax consulting for both corporations and partnerships. I have also earned the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship and the Henry King Stanford Scholarship. A few other UGA highlights include my time singing in the University Chorus, performing in the musicals, “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and “Bye Bye Birdie” and studying abroad in Greece. UGA has been the perfect university to develop myself into a well-rounded individual!

**High School:** Tift County High School

**Hometown:** Tifton, GA

I chose to attend UGA because...

...of all the opportunities! I knew UGA would allow me to explore all of my interests. This school is perfect for me because I thrive on being busy and there are so many things I want to do here! Of course, football season is amazing! I love the excitement of the games and the energy from the cheering fans. And yes, the scholarships I received were helpful in my decision making process.

**My favorite things to do on campus are...**

Five of my favorite things are sitting in the Founder’s garden, walking around North campus in the fall, eating in the dining halls (I really miss being on the meal plan!), playing Frisbee at the intramural fields and going to football games!

**When I have free time, I like...**

...to go to aerobics classes, play with my adorable puppy, spend time with friends, goof off with my fiancé and watch musicals.

**The craziest thing I’ve done is...**

...hike around an active volcano on Santorini, Greece during my study abroad trip. The tour guide even let us stick our hands in one of the smaller openings of the volcano so we could feel the heat from the lava!

**My favorite place to study is...**

...the first floor of the main library near the windows. I really enjoy being able to see the beautiful day outside. The library also has a quiet atmosphere and being around other hard-working students encourages me to also work hard.

**My favorite professor is...**

...Andy Call. He was my Intermediate Accounting II professor. I loved the enthusiasm with which he taught! Dr. Call technically and conceptually explained everything with extreme clarity. Not only is he an extremely thorough teacher, he cares about his students and takes the time to chat with students outside of class. Dr. Call and his wife even came to my performance in the musical “Bye Bye Birdie!”

If I could share an afternoon with anyone, I would love to share it with...

...Howard Schulz, CEO of Starbucks. He is an amazing businessman and speaking with him would be an incredible learning experience about how to become an effective business leader. I love the way he has effectively integrated business profitability and corporate social responsibility into a delicious product!

After graduation, I plan to...

...get married to Jake Richardson (BBA ’08, now enrolled in UGA Law School) on August 1! Then, I will remain at UGA to complete my master in accountancy degree with a specialization in taxation. I will also be taking the C.P.A. exam, and I hope to pass all four parts before I begin working full-time.

The one UGA experience I will always remember will be...

...my four hour exams! Almost all of my accounting exams have been around four hours long. I will never forget my countless hours of studying in preparation for these extremely long exams!
Accounting Student Helps Feed the Homeless

One night, over Christmas break 2007, accounting major Robert Thrasher and fellow Terry student Brad Brizendine were sitting around talking about the problems of poverty and homelessness in America. And they decided that they were tired of just talking about it and were going to do something about it!

Thrasher and Brizendine went to an Atlanta grocery store and using their own money bought bread, peanut butter, jelly, raisins, chips, cookies, bottled water, and brown paper bags. They made 18 lunches and drove around downtown Atlanta delivering meals to homeless people two days before Christmas. They knew there were many more homeless people with similar needs in the Athens community.

Thinking they would be more effective if they applied their business skills to their new enterprise, Thrasher and Brizendine started a nonprofit organization called Athens PBJs — and they’ve been dispensing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the homeless ever since. They delivered about 1,200 meals in the first three months of existence. Then, through donations and a benefit concert at Nowhere Bar, they raised more than $8,000 to continue this effort. They now have about 30-40 active volunteers who deliver meals to homeless people in the Athens community.

A third Terry student, finance major Jonathan Hull, is also part of the leadership team at Athens PBJs, which has a larger purpose in mind with regard to Athens’ homeless population. They were surprised to learn that Athens homeless shelters aren’t open to individuals all year long. Their dream is to raise enough money and get enough committed volunteers together to help create a full-time homeless shelter that would be open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Athens Homeless Shelter is open year round, but it can only handle six families with children at a time — and it doesn’t take individuals. The Salvation Army operates year round, but it is just an overnight shelter. Interfaith Hospitality is a faith-based shelter, but it normally houses only one family at a time.

To make up for what social welfare agencies cannot provide, Athens PBJs is currently getting together at 1 pm on Sundays to make brown bag meals. They meet their volunteer teams at 2 pm at The Grill on College Avenue. From there, the brown bag meals are distributed to homeless people downtown and to the two main areas where homeless people congregate in appreciable numbers — “Tent City” near the intersection of Lexington Road and the Athens Bypass, and the North Avenue bridge.

“The people are so appreciative,” says Thrasher, whose father, Ken Thrasher (BBA ‘73, MAcc ‘74) is a member of Terry’s Alumni Board. “They know our names, we know theirs, and over time our mission at Athens PBJs has changed a bit. We will continue to dispense food so that these people — many of whom have jobs — can use the $5 they would have spent on lunch to take care of themselves and their families. We now see food as a medium or a bridge to develop friendships.”

Accounting students lift school spirit – Joseph Farmer has been team mascot Hairy Dawg for the current school year and Dana Luker was named by Sports Illustrated as national “Cheerleader of the Week” in November.
News About Graduates

In our last newsletter we reported that Hartley Burt (BBA & MAcc ’06) won a Gold Key for one of the five highest scores on the CPA exam. That information turned out to be incomplete as we now know that four of the five Gold Key winners were Tull grads! The other three were Lauren Elizabeth Clark (BBA ’07), Meredith Gould (MAcc ’07) and Lee Mimbs (BBA ’05). Lauren and Meredith now work for Ernst & Young and Lee is at Grant Thornton. By the way, Lee’s brother Brian was the punter on UGA’s football team this past season.

Others who we’ve learned passed all four parts of the CPA exam on their first attempt are Scott Jones (BBA ’07, MAcc ’08), Lillian Un (BBA ’07), John Seymour (BBA & MAcc ’07), and Courtney Stillwagon (BBA ’07, MAcc ’08).

Brian Bodker (BBA ’79) of the Atlanta law firm Bodker, Ramsey, Andrews, Winograd & Wildstein has been designated Super Lawyer by Atlanta magazine for 2008 in the category of Business/Corporate. This is Brian’s fourth consecutive year receiving this honor!

Probably our only accounting graduate who also has a physical therapy degree is Lori A. Bolgla (BBA & MAcc ’85). Lori is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Interestingly, she writes that she still uses some of the skills learned in the late Earl Davis’ tax research class in her current physical therapy research interests. Dr. Davis’ legend lives on!

Ernst & Young promoted John Buice (BBA ’93, MAcc ’94) to Partner in July. John is a tax partner who specializes in business tax issues, specifically federal tax consulting. John and his wife Mandy were recently married so it was a very good year for him!

Tarpley & Underwood, PC has promoted Anita (Beaver) Burkes (BBA ’03) to Tax Manager and Andrew Randall (BBA & MAcc ’05) to Senior Tax Accountant. Also, several Tull grads became CPAs this year: Andrew Randall, Julie Kang (BBA ’03), Paula Crowe (BBA ’03, MAcc ’04), and Donna Finlayson (BBA ’03, MAcc ’05).

L. Travis Canova (BBA & MAcc ’05) reports that he is now with the Internal Audit group of Science Applications International Corporation in McLean, VA.

Katie (Bass) Curtis (BBA & MAcc ’07) is another recent grad who passed all four parts of the CPA exam on her first attempt. Katie works for KPMG. She and new husband, Philip Curtis, recently bought a house so it’s been a very busy year for her as well.

The Metro Atlanta YMCA has named Kelly Dixon (BBA ’03) as its Volunteer of the Year for 2008. Kelly was a camper and then counselor at YMCA Camp High Harbour on Lake Burton for many years and met her husband there about five years ago. Kelly, a business assurance manager for Moore, Colson in Atlanta, presently is an active member of the Camp High Harbour board of directors.

Andy Grant (BBA ’09) is with Aarons, Grant & Habif, which was selected as the winner in the Small Employer category as 2008 Best Place to Work by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Andy and his wife had their first child in January 2008.

Sammy J. Grant (BBA ’07, JD ’00), founder of SG Financial Advisors, LLC, was recently named by Worth magazine as one of the top 250 wealth advisors in the U.S. He reports that “wife Tracey, who I met at UGA, and I have three fun kids so there’s never a dull moment at home!” This fall Sammy spoke to one of the classes in the Terry College Executive Program for Financial Planning Certification.

Accounting Today has named Roger Harris (BBA ’73) to its 2008 Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting list. Roger is President of Padgett Business Services. Acting on behalf of Padgett’s small business clients throughout North America and associations of tax practitioners, Roger has testified several times on IRS reform including appearances before the Senate Small Business Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. Accounting Today described him as “a veteran tax policy advisor to the IRS and Congress - his influence and insight are welcomed in Washington as well as on Main Street.”

Cox Enterprises, Inc. has named Jimmy W. Hayes (BBA ’74, MAcc ’75) as Chief Executive Officer. Previously he was President and Chief Operating Officer, a position he held for about three years. Jimmy started at Cox in 1980.

Dana R. Hermanson (BBA ’86) and three co-authors received the 2008 Deloitte/ American Accounting Association Wildman Award, which recognizes research judged to have made or be likely to make the most significant contribution to the advancement of the public practice of accountancy. Dana and his co-authors received the award for their June 2006 Accounting Horizons article on auditor risk assessment. Wildman Committee Award Chair and Tull professor Denny Beresford presented the award to the authors at the AAA annual meeting in Anaheim, CA. Dana is the Mary and Jack Dinos Eminent Scholar Chair of Private Enterprise and Professor of Accounting at Kennesaw State University.

Jamie Hurley (BBA & MAcc ’08) presently serves as Director of Finance at Post Properties, Inc. in Atlanta. That follows five years with SunTrust and an earlier start to his career with Arthur Andersen.

In November, Georgia Keadle (BBA ’04, MAcc ’05) married Heath Hardison (BS Forestry Resources ’00). Georgia is currently working as an Education Program Specialist with The University of Georgia Athletic Association. Georgia’s very proud father is Tim Keadle (BBA ’78), a member of the Tull School Advisory Board.

Ami Kherbouch (MAcc ’97) and wife Christine Chevalier welcomed daughter Magalie in August. Ami was recently promoted to Corporate Finance Manager of privately-held ColorMatrix, which specializes in the manufacturing of liquid colorants and additives.

Recently celebrating her 10th anniversary with Chick-fil-A, Inc. in the Financial Reporting group is Wendy (McCombs) King (BBA ’92). She reports that husband Scott heads the science department at Eagles Landing Christian Academy and coaches varsity softball and baseball. The Kings have a son, Tyler, who is in first grade and enjoys playing ice hockey and baseball.

Tiffany (Brannen) Kunkle (BBA ’00, MAcc ’01) has left PricewaterhouseCoopers after seven years as an audit manager in both Atlanta and London. In her new position, she is Director of Finance and Accounting Litigation Support for the Alston & Bird, LLP law firm in Atlanta.

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Ronald McDonald House Charities has named David Jon Lerner (BBA ’90) to the Board of Directors of its Atlanta affiliate. David is a partner with Harshman Phillips & Company, LLC. His responsibilities include traditional business consulting to small and middle-market companies on accounting and auditing matters, acquisition reviews, business plan, financial forecasts, negotiating bank debt, private offerings, SEC reporting issues, and strategic capitalization requirements.

Jonathan Levens (BBA ’03) has been promoted to Manager in Moore Colson’s Tax Services department. In 2006 he received the PricewaterhouseCoopers Excellence in Corporate Income Tax Award as the top student in corporate income tax classes at Georgia State University.

Bethany Cochran Morris (BBA & MAcc ’04) and husband Shaun (BS Agriculture Poultry Science ’01) welcomed son Tyler Dank to their family on August 23. Bethany currently works for Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC in their Albany, GA office.

Rennie Pepper (BBA ’02) reports that she is working for Bank of New York Mellon, selling mutual funds in the southeast for Dreyfus. She previously worked for Bear Stearns but left two years ago to start a career in financial sales.

Tony Pritchett (BBA & MAcc ’05) is now Financial Reporting Manager for Premiere Global Service, Inc., a New York Stock Exchange listed company in Atlanta. He reports that he does a lot of accounting research in this position and that “Professor Beresford’s Accounting Policy and Research class really has helped me in my career so far.”

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC has admitted Leslie Rahn (BBA ’97) as a partner of the firm. Leslie joined CRI in 2002 after several years with a Big 4 accounting firm. Leslie oversees assurance services for banking, financial services, manufacturing and non-profit clients. She has extensive experience working with SEC-registered companies and is a member of CRI’s SEC Committee.

Lindsay Richardson (MAcc ’05) recently moved from Ernst & Young to Asbury Automotive Group in Duluth, where she is a Senior Tax Analyst.

Moore Colson has admitted Andy Starnes (BBA ’98, MAcc ’99) as a Partner in its Tax Services Practice. With expertise in federal and state tax planning, Andy’s business background includes serving clients in the manufacturing, retail, healthcare, and construction industries.

Travis Storin (BBA ’07, MAcc ’08) and Justin Cash (BBA ’06, MAcc ’08) report the following: “In September, the two of us were selected to participate in KPMG’s Global New Hire Training event in Athens, Greece. This is the second year that the firm has sent a portion of its new-hires abroad for training. We met up with about 400 colleagues from all around the world to spend two weeks in Athens and gain insight on working with multinational teams.

It was an absolutely terrific experience. When we were outside class we had plenty of opportunities to visit the landmarks (and there are quite a few) of the city and soak in its history. The food was excellent and it was wonderful learning about the country’s culture.

For our actual training we were split up into class rooms of about 30 people from all over. Even our instructors were from across Europe. The curriculum basically consisted of the firm’s audit methodology, which I felt pretty comfortable with since there were many parallels between course content and what I learned at UGA. Some of our international friends had a little more trouble; apparently in the UK it is acceptable to start in accounting even if you didn’t major in accounting!

In my classroom I sat and worked with people from the UK, Switzerland, France, and Germany on a week-long project that was ultimately presented to a group of partners.

It was a really great way to build teamwork and learn how to understand some pretty thick European accents!”

Bryan Langley (BBA ’07, MAcc ’08) and Tim Dumbacher (BBA ’07, MAcc ’08) also were among the 50 new hires chosen by KPMG to participate in their Global Internship Program in 2008.

Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company has elected Scott Voynich (BBA ’75) to its board of trustees. Scott is Managing Partner of Robinson, Grimes & Company, P.C. in Columbus and a few years ago served as Chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Northwestern Mutual, headquartered in Milwaukee, WI, is an industry leader with more than $1 trillion of life insurance protection in force.

Investor Relations Update, a publication of the National Association of Investor Relations, featured discussion about Isabel Wang’s (PhD ’05) research in an August story, “Reflecting on the Small-Cap Company.” Isabel, an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University, noted that “Small-cap companies that replaced pre-Reg FD selective disclosure with post-Reg FD silence experienced more intense stock price reactions to earnings announcements and steeper decreases in analyst coverage than larger-cap companies did.” Her research “underscored the point that if lack of disclosure has negative consequences, plenty of public disclosure has potential for positive consequences.”

Jeffrey Williamson (JD ’03, MAcc ’05) is now with Dabbs, Hill & Cannon, LLP in Statesboro. He handles the firm’s more complicated tax research and consulting projects and also assists with most of the firm’s tax controversy work. Jeffrey is developing a specialty with executive deferred compensation.

David Wood (BBA ’86), a partner with Porter Keadle Moore, LLP, has been appointed to the AICPA’s Depository Institutions Expert Panel.
The American Tax Association presented its Tax Manuscript Award to Ben Ayers and co-authors Craig Lefanowicz (University of Virginia) and John Robinson (University of Texas) for their research article “Capital Gains Taxes and Acquisition Activity: Evidence of the Lock-in Effect.” The award goes to the top tax manuscript published in the preceding three years. Ben’s paper appeared in the summer 2007 issue of Contemporary Accounting Research. He previously won the Tax Manuscript Award in 2003.

Directorship magazine selected Denny Beresford as one of the 100 most influential people in corporate governance for the second straight year. In January, the Athens Banner-Herald ran a front-page story about him titled, “In His Spare Time, Accounting Professor Fixes Finances at Fortune 500 Companies.”

Denny’s article, “Board-Shareholder Communications: The Time Has Come,” (co-authored with Richard Koppes) was published in Directors Monthly in September. The article was based on the “Report of the National Association of Corporate Directors Blue Ribbon Commission on Board-Shareholder Communications,” which Denny and Richard co-chaired. In December, Denny was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of NACD.

During the last several months Denny made the following presentations: Athens Area Board of Realtors, “Implications of the Government Takeover of Fannie Mae;” 2008 PricewaterhouseCoopers Financial Services Audit Committee Forum, panelist on “Regulatory, Accounting & Auditing Outlook for the Financial Services Industry;” New York City; NACD Annual Corporate Governance Conference, moderator for panel on “Identifying, Monitoring, and Avoiding the Risks That Matter the Most;” Washington, DC; and Terry College Fundamentals for New Directors conference, keynote speaker, Atlanta.

In October, Andy Call presented his paper, “Are Earnings Forecasts More Accurate when Accompanied by Cash Flow Forecasts?,” at the 2008 Review of Accounting Studies Conference held at Duke University. The paper, co-authored with Shuping Chen (University of Texas-Austin) and Yen Tong (Nanyang Technological University) has been accepted for publication in the Review of Accounting Studies.

The Accounting, Behavior & Organizations section of the American Accounting Association selected Tina Carpenter’s research, “The Effects of Tone at the Top and the Presence of Fraud on Auditors’ Fraud Risk Assessments on Identified Audit Procedures and on Professional Skepticism,” as the Best Paper at the annual ABO conference. Tina’s co-author on the paper is Jane Reimers (Rollins College).

Margaret Christ presented her dissertation and related research at the Institute of Internal Auditors International Conference in San Francisco, CA. The title of her session was “Do Control Systems Cause a False Sense of Security? How control systems can undermine trust and cooperation.”

Mark Dawkins was featured as one of the PhD Project’s “Movers and Shakers” in the Project’s summer 2008 newsletter. The PhD Project’s mission is to increase the diversity of corporate American by increasing the diversity of business school faculty. According to the newsletter, “Mark has served as faculty advisor for The PhD Project’s Accounting Doctoral Students Association Planning Committee and has always made himself available to students who have needed support, mentoring, and encouragement.”

Jenny Gaver spoke at the AICPA Accounting Doctoral Scholars (ADS) Conference in December in Chicago. The ADS Program is a new initiative by the AICPA Foundation, sponsoring firms, and state CPA societies to encourage professionals in public accounting to enter doctoral programs. The University of Georgia is participating in the program, and will be admitting one ADS scholar as part of the entering class of PhD students in fall 2009. The ADS Orientation Conference was attended by faculty from participating universities, the ADS planning committee, and professionals who were selected by the committee to participate in the program. Selected faculty and current doctoral students discussed the realities of doctoral programs in accounting, life as a faculty member, and other topics.

Jackie Hammersley’s paper co-authored with Ananda Ganguly, “Covariation Assessments with Costly Information Collection in Audit Planning: An Experimental Study,” has been accepted for publication in Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory. Also, Jackie was recently named to the Editorial Board for Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory.

Jackie presented the paper, “The Influence of Documentation Specificity and Fraud Risk Priming on Auditor Fraud Judgments and Evidence Evaluation Decisions,” co-authored with Michael Bamber and Tina Carpenter at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario in November and at the University of Florida International Conference on Assurance and Governance in Sarasota, FL in January.

Jackie also presented her paper, “Does Information about Material Weaknesses Facilitate Auditors’ Fraud Detection?,” co-authored with Karla Johnstone (University of Wisconsin) and Kathryn Kadous (Emory University) at the University of Missouri in September, the University of Illinois Audit Symposium in October, and the Mid-year Meeting of the Auditing Section of the AAA in St. Petersburg, FL in January.

Stacie Laplante’s paper co-authored with Ping-Sheng Koh and Yen Tong, “Accountability and Value Creation Roles of Corporate Governance,” that was published in Accounting and Finance in 2007 won the Peter Brownell Manuscript Runner-up Award. In addition, her paper, “Credit Ratings and Taxes: The Effect of Book/Tax Differences on Ratings Changes,” was accepted for and presented at the 2008 Contemporary Accounting Research Conference in Quebec City in November. The paper is co-authored with Ben Ayers and Sean McGuire, PhD ’08 (Texas A&M University).
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Matt Wieland

Matt Wieland is currently in his fourth year at UGA and has enjoyed every minute of it. He came to UGA from Indiana University upon completing his PhD in 2005 and he currently teaches the Financial Statements Analysis course in both the MAcc and MBA programs. In his spare time, he enjoys playing softball, basketball, and golf. He has become a big Bulldogs fan in the short time that he has been here although he still roots for the University of Akron Zips and Indiana Hoosiers.

Matt started his undergraduate studies at Akron in biology with the intention of pursuing a medical doctor degree. However, after seemingly long and what he considered boring hours in laboratories, he decided to change to a business major. While taking his first accounting class, the professor pulled him aside to tell him that he had a natural ability for accounting and he should consider an accounting degree. He took the professor’s advice and graduated with an accounting degree in 1997. During his junior year, he interned for two companies: Arthur Andersen in Cleveland, Ohio during the spring semester, and Rubbermaid Financial Services in Wooster, Ohio during the summer. This provided him with insights into what it is like working in public accounting and the corporate setting. One of the neatest experiences he had at Rubbermaid was being able to work the third shift one weekend and see the manufacturing process up close.

Matt went to work for Arthur Andersen in their state and local tax consulting practice after graduation. He worked on projects that focus on reducing a corporation’s state tax liability in addition to identifying and quantifying state tax credits available to clients. After three years, Matt decided to pursue a graduate degree. As he began to inquire about graduate programs, his former professors suggested an academic career. Although he hadn’t considered it before, he did some research and followed their suggestion. He entered the doctoral program at Indiana University in 2000. As a basketball fan, he was disappointed when Bobby Knight was fired during his first semester. He did enjoy playing basketball on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch with business school professors.

In the summer prior to his first semester at IU, Matt began dating his future wife, Laura. They continued a long distance relationship for two years until they were married and Laura moved to Bloomington. For their honeymoon, they spent two and a half weeks traveling across England and France. Laura worked at IU and was the major wage earner in their family for the next three years until Matt finished his doctorate.

After criss-crossing the country interviewing at ten different schools, Matt and Laura were excited to receive an offer from UGA. He was especially thrilled to have the opportunity to teach financial statements analysis because it gives him an opportunity to show students how to use financial statement information rather than just how to create it. The class also fits well with Matt’s research interests. His dissertation develops two models for identifying when a consensus analyst forecast accurately predicts the directional change in one-year-ahead earnings. He also has a paper that uses information in financial statements to identify investment positions to take in firms with a consensus analysts’ hold recommendation, in addition to the other recommendation levels. His first published paper will appear in the March 2009 edition of the Review of Accounting Studies, a premier accounting journal.

Matt and Laura have now been married for six years but since moving to Georgia their family has grown by leaps and bounds. On September 13, 2006, they were blessed with a son, Emerson. Emerson has a lot of energy, is seemingly athletic, and loves balls. On January 13, 2008, they were doubly blessed by the birth of twin daughters, Corinne and Ella. The girls are growing every day and are currently crawling around, which keeps Matt and Laura on their toes.

Matt and Laura are very busy now but have been blessed to receive lots of help from the people at their church in Watkinsville where their kids have even adopted a Georgia grandma (their natural grandparents live in Ohio). At the church Matt and Laura stay busy by helping with the young people ages 13 to 25. Matt also serves on a committee to guide a building program. Matt believes this proverb fits his life aptly: “In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.”

Accounting Professor Steve Baginski has had the unique perspective of teaching Matt in his doctoral program at Indiana, working with Matt as a colleague at UGA, and dealing with Matt’s aggressive defense on the basketball court. Steve notes that UGA students receive great benefit from Matt’s cutting-edge knowledge of how financial statement information is used in the setting of security prices. They will also receive great benefit from emulating his disciplined approach to accounting and his kind and professional approach to dealing with people. Matt is a valuable contributor in many ways to the Tull School’s emphasis on professional excellence. (Note: Professor Baginski does not recommend that students emulate Matt’s basketball style unless no officials are present and the other players are well insured!)
$100k and Up
Ernst & Young
PricewaterhouseCoopers

$50k and Up
Deloitte
KPMG
Reznick Group
Thomas Wells Scott III and Lori Cleland Scott
Trinity Accounting Group

$25k and Up
Dixon Hughes
Elliott Davis

$10k and Up
M. Brantley Barrow and Sharon B. Barrow
Dennis R. Beresford and Marian Beresford
Terry Steven Brown and Lisa Brown
Coca-Cola Company
William W. Douglas III and Lisa Layman Douglas
Mr. Gary P. Fayard
Kenneth G. Jackson and Jody Jackson
Stephen M. Joiner and Sarah Schulze
Gerald A. Shirk
Clarence B. Stowe and S. Scott Vosnin and Rhonda Vosnin
Tom B. Wight

$2,500 to $4,999
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We thank the following individuals and companies for their contributions to the Tull School in 2008.
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College Break
Lifetime Impact

Several years from now when Meredith Stewart, a student at the University of Georgia, looks back at her college experience, she won’t remember spending college breaks getting a tan at the beach. But, the Lilburn resident will remember the lives she touched and the people that touched her heart.

During her sophomore year of college, Stewart became involved with Alternative Spring Break—a program designed to give students an affordable, substance-free experience that encourages them to gain an understanding of social issues. Her first experience with the program involved helping to raise awareness about AIDS. “After I was a participant, I knew I was hooked,” she says.

Stewart prepared for her second trip to help others by becoming a site leader where she led a group to Orlando to work with Give Kids the World—an organization that creates magical memories for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families at a non-profit village resort in Central Florida. On her last night of the trip, Stewart drove a little girl through the village on the train, gave her the conductor’s hat and told her she could blow the whistle.

“I will never forget her face and the huge smile that appeared as we rode around.” Later that night, Stewart realized the direct impact of her actions. “I found out that little girl was what Give Kids the World describes as a ‘rush wish’... The little girl had probably been rushed there to enjoy one of her last weeks with us.”

Stewart, who became the executive coordinator of the program, spent her 2008 Spring Break working in New Orleans, helping to repaint the outside of a three-story home for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Before summer ends, Stewart wants to go back to New Orleans to help rebuild houses. This month, Stewart will also be working at a summer camp.

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What’s News 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: phoyt@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:

percent of our BBA students passed all four parts of the CPA exam on their initial attempt, which ranks 2nd in the country among all schools and programs. Please join me in congratulating our recent alumni on this outstanding accomplishment!

The Tull School’s national program rankings continue to move closer to our rankings for 1st time CPA exam pass rates. In the latest Public Accounting Report survey the Tull School undergraduate and MAcc programs ranked 4th and 7th, respectively, among public schools and 7th and 10th, respectively, among public and private schools. The Tull School’s PhD program also weighed in with an impressive 6th ranking among public schools and an 11th ranking among public and private schools.

The School takes great delight in the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and programs, but we recognize that success is never achieved alone. Our students, faculty, and programs have benefited greatly from the leadership of our Advisory Board, the assistance and support of the accounting firms and companies that employ our students, and from the time, talents, and resources of our alumni who have given generously to the School. Thank you for your continued interest and investment in the School. Your commitment to our students, faculty, and programs has been key to our past and current successes and will continue to pave the way for the Tull School to provide an outstanding education to our students as we strive to be the very best accounting program.