



The ACCOUNT

GSU School of Accountancy Alumni Group | SPRING 2011

Note from the Director

Dear Alumni:

I am happy to introduce the School of Accountancy alumni newsletter, The Account. This publication will allow for a meaningful connection between the School of Accountancy's proud past and its bright future. In this issue you will find information about upcoming alumni events. You will learn about the exciting new things our world-class faculty and alumni are achieving.

As you read The Account, I hope you feel a renewed sense of pride in your alma mater and its continued accomplishments. These accomplishments would not be possible without a successful alumni population. Using the knowledge and experience you gained during your time at Georgia State, you have enhanced the strong reputation of the School of Accountancy. You will find that this reputation will only grow as the School of Accountancy continues to accept and advance only the best and the brightest students.

I hope you are having a productive busy season, and I thank you for your continued dedication and service to the School of Accountancy.

Sincerely,

G. Sevcik

Dr. Galen Sevcik
Director, School of Accountancy



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Join Us on LinkedIn

Trying to reconnect with old classmates? Looking for a new career opportunity? Want to be a part of a growing network of accounting professionals?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, join the School of Accountancy Alumni Network on LinkedIn. To get started, please [click here](#).





Faculty in the Spotlight: Dr. Jennifer Joe

Recently The Account had the opportunity to chat with Dr. Jennifer Joe, a School of Accountancy faculty member who teaches audit and assurance to undergraduates.

Have you ever worked as anything but a professor?

After high school, I had two clerical jobs: first at an insurance company and then at a major bank in New York. After working for two years I knew that was not going to be a satisfactory long-term option so I enrolled in college — part-time for the first year and then full-time after that. My biggest accomplishment was saving enough money so I could finish my last semester as a non-working student — free to enjoy the entirety of college life.

Why did you decide to pursue a Ph.D.?

I received encouragement from two academics. I was an RA for an ecology and environmental science professor and he encouraged me to pursue a Ph.D. in the sciences. Later, one of my favorite accounting instructors told me that he was leaving to pursue his Ph.D. He explained the doctoral education process and suggested that it was something I should consider. So the thought of pursuing the degree was percolating at the “back of my mind.” When I was in public accounting I began leading training sessions for staff auditors, and our education division approached me about a full-time position developing our junior auditor curriculum. After much thought I decided that since I enjoyed the training aspect of my career so much I should make the move but that I should do so with “both feet” and enter academia. It also helped that I had two good friends who were academics in other fields that enjoyed their careers.

Why did you choose to teach at Georgia State?

It was a good fit. I like an urban life style with all of the ensuing amenities and conveniences. I have close relatives living in Atlanta, and Atlanta was also attractive in that my husband had better job opportunities here than in our previous location.

What is your favorite thing about Georgia State?

Georgia State reminds me a lot of my own undergraduate experience. It has a large, diverse student body with many first-generation college students. I like that I can be part of an institution that can make a life-changing impact on the lives of many students. I worked while I was in college and know how difficult it can be. I admire our students who are able to master juggling work and academic responsibilities.

If you could give one piece of advice to accounting professionals, what would it be?

Whatever task you are given, do it to the best of your ability with a positive attitude. Invest in knowledge acquisition. You want to be the person that people consult — that adds value to your unit. The best way to do that is to be that pleasant person that folks feel comfortable approaching and that they feel confident they will obtain the right answers from.



The Future of the School of Accountancy Alumni Network

2010 Recap

Last year could be described as the rebirth of alumni outreach for the School of Accountancy. The year started off with Beta Alpha Psi hosting an alumni phone-a-thon. The phone-a-thon’s purpose was to reestablish ties with recent graduates. The phone-a-thon in early spring led to the creation of the School of Accountancy Alumni Network on LinkedIn. In less than a year, the group has grown to more than 430 members. Over the summer, the School of Accountancy sponsored an alumni happy hour at RiRas. As the year progressed, the School of Accountancy tailgated at the last home game of the new Georgia State football team. In November, in conjunction with the Atlanta affiliate of the American Women Society of CPAs, the School of Accountancy hosted the Glass Ceiling Conference.

2011 Outlook

Compared to last year, alumni outreach will be bigger and better than ever. Please look for the following events:

- Spring Picnic at Centennial Olympic Park
- Summertime CPE Conference
- Homecoming Tailgate
- Fall Back & Give Back Happy Hour

These alumni events are only successful when you attend. The School of Accountancy Alumni Network hopes to see you at many of these events throughout the year.

Alums on the Move: ANDREW POULOS



The general path for accounting students is well outlined. First, do well in school. Second, join Beta Alpha Psi or a similar organization. Third, go through the recruiting season.

Fourth, receive and accept a job offer. Finally, sit for the CPA exam.

Well, what happens when things do not go according to plan? This is the question Andrew Poulos, 1994 School of Accountancy graduate, had to answer for himself nearly 16 years ago.

As a student at Georgia State University, Andrew served both as vice president and president of Beta Alpha Psi. Under his leadership, the chapter received honors at the national level for its performance. Not surprisingly, as president of Beta Alpha Psi, he received numerous interviews. However, more surprisingly, he received not a single offer.

A good friend and colleague helped Andrew realize that he had the spirit of an entrepreneur and that traditional public

accounting might not be the best fit for him. Recognizing the wisdom in this advice, Andrew armed himself with his mother's credit card and the newly incorporated business list from the courthouse.

Andrew cold-called these new businesses, offering his bookkeeping and tax services. Persistence and hard work paid off, and today Andrew is president and founder of Poulos Accounting & Consulting. The firm offers a variety of services, from accounting to representation before the IRS.

Also, as if being his own boss is not enough, Andrew teaches as an adjunct instructor for the Continuing Professional Education department at Auburn University. Ever the entrepreneur, Andrew's latest undertaking includes the creation of the QuickBooks Ultimate Lesson Guide, a 16-hour training tutorial, available on DVD. Already, Andrew is filming a 60-second commercial for the DVD scheduled to air late March. You can read more about Andrew by visiting www.poulosaccounting.com.

The one thing all accounting students are strongly encouraged to do is to become a CPA. Andrew may not have "CPA" behind his name, but his other designations are

just as impressive. Andrew is an Enrolled Agent (EA), Accredited Business Accountant (ABA) and Accredited Tax Preparer (ATP).

Andrew's background and experience demonstrate that a degree in accounting from the School of Accountancy can be your best asset.

Global Impact Project

The Global Impact Project is the global social responsibility initiative of the Beta Alpha Psi Beta Mu chapter. To date, the chapter has raised over \$15,000 and has sent five young women in Kenya to earn their degrees in business, medicine and teaching.

To find out more about this project and to donate, please visit www.bapgsu.org.



School of Accountancy Alumni Network Executive Board

The School of Accountancy is re-establishing the School of Accountancy Alumni Club. We are seeking volunteers for a brand new 2011-2012 Board. Open positions include:

- *President*
- *Vice President*
- *Treasurer*
- *Fundraising Chair*
- *Social Chair*
- *Communication Chair*

If you are interested, please contact Allison Jacobs, ajacobs@gsu.edu.



SAVE THE DATE

School of Accountancy/ Beta Alpha Psi Spring Picnic

Hosted by Beta Alpha Psi
Saturday, April 16, 2011
2 p.m.
Centennial Olympic Park

Tau Alpha Chi Spring Golf Outing & Cookout

Hosted by Tau Alpha Chi
Friday, April 22, 2011
Trophy Club
To play or sponsor a student,
contact Professor Tad Ransopher
(acctdr@gsu.edu)

Homecoming Tailgate

Hosted by the School of
Accountancy Alumni Network
Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011
More details to come



MTax Writing Website

The School of Accountancy would like to thank McGladrey for their \$2,000 contribution to fund the MTax Writing Website.

The School of Accountancy MTax Writing Website is a one-of-a-kind resource that helps students and professionals master communicating tax issues. The MTax Writing Website received the 2004 American Taxation Association/Deloitte Teaching Innovation Award. The website is used in the Master of Taxation program and is also used by many well-known accounting firms. To access the website, please visit <http://www2.gsu.edu/~accerr/>.

GIVING

Support the School of Accountancy in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University by making a donation by credit card at www.gsu.edu/giving (Gift Designation: Accounting Excellence) or send your tax-deductible donation* by mail to:

J. Mack Robinson College of Business
Office of Development
P.O. Box 3989
Atlanta, GA 30302

Gifts to the School of Accountancy fund scholarships and professorships and build the reputation of the school



as a robust and premier accounting program. We greatly appreciate your support in any amount.

**Tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Please consult your tax advisor.*

Share Your News

Have you recently passed all four parts of the CPA exam? Do you have a new job or were you recently promoted? Have you recently gotten engaged or married? Have you welcomed a new member to your family? The School of Accountancy wants to know what is going on with you!

To share your news, please e-mail Allison Jacobs, ajacobs@gsu.edu.