

University of North Carolina Wilmington  
Cameron School of Business  
Accountancy and Business Law



# The ABL Journal

Spring 2017

Edited by Daye Gore



From the Chair  
David Mautz

Happy New Year from Wilmington!

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the academic year. As our Spring classes and your busy season get underway, please take a few minutes to catch up on events and activities in the Department of Accountancy and Business Law at UNCW. This newsletter includes:

- An update from MSA Director Bill Kerler,
- News of the MSA Internship Program provided by Allison Evans, our new Director,
- A report from Beta Alpha Psi Chapter President Charles Dorcelien,
- Details of the 2017 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program led by Vicki Hansen,
- Information about our upcoming Business Week,
- An introduction to our newly-hired MSA Coordinator, Sarah Smith, and
- Detailed guidance for employers seeking to advertise positions through the UNCW Career Center and instructions for alumni who wish to search for positions in SeaWork.

We are also very pleased to announce the appointment of the **EY Faculty Fellow, Dr. Allison Evans**, two **DHG Faculty Fellows, Dr. Bill Kerler and Dr. Lorraine Lee**, and the **Cameron Distinguished Professor of Accountancy, Dr. Susan Hermanson**. Dedicated faculty members and generous donor support are a powerful combination, and we are very grateful to donors who allow us to recognize and reward excellent performance. Retaining qualified accounting professors is critical to our success, and these positions are valuable tools. If you believe that you and your colleagues might be able to provide this type of support, please contact me to discuss the details. When you next visit campus, please look for the beautiful posters advertising these awards in our office suite—we can make room for more!

In addition to faculty fellowships, we appreciate the generous scholarships, event sponsorships and unrestricted donations of firms and alumni. Our main office is now brightened by professionally designed posters recognizing endowed scholarships and an “honor roll” of all donors to the Department of Accountancy and Business Law. Professionally developed signs are also displayed at all sponsored events. At the conclusion of this newsletter, you will find a link to give to the department and information about the UNCW Society. Please consider including us in your giving plans for 2017.

Best Wishes for a Healthy and Successful 2017!

David



# MSA Program Update

By Bill Kerler

Sixty-three students, representing the MSA Class of 2016 graduated this past summer, with a placement rate of over 90%. As normal, the majority of placements were in North Carolina (82 percent) with the remaining students being placed in California, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. We are excited to have great graduates representing UNCW across the country! The MSA Class of 2017 arrived on campus in August. We have a class of 44 students this year with 24 (55 percent) already placed through prior internships. As of the end of December, through the tremendous support of our many employer friends and alumni, 34 students (77 percent) have full-time jobs lined up after graduation!

I want to extend a special thank you to all the employers who have supported our MSA program so far this year by hiring our students. This list includes: Clifton Larson Allen, Deloitte, DHG, Elliott Davis Decosimo, EY, GreerWalker, KPMG, Pesta, Finnie & Associates, PWC, and RSM. The students and faculty will continue to work hard to reach our placement goal of 100% by the MSA Commencement in June 2017. If you have any opportunities for our students, or know of any opportunities, please contact me via email at [kerlerw@uncw.edu](mailto:kerlerw@uncw.edu) or by phone at (910)-962-7632.

In August, we welcomed Sarah Smith as our MSA Program Coordinator. Sarah's position is one the MSA program really needed! While her role involves many responsibilities, her main functions will be marketing and recruiting MSA students and coordinating MSA events. Sarah will also support our AACSB accreditation data collection and analysis. Please check out Sarah's background article later in this newsletter.

This year we are implementing a CPA exam faculty mentoring program where each MSA student will be paired with a faculty mentor. The role of the mentor will be to help the student develop a plan for completing the CPA exam before the fall of 2017. Mentors will also meet periodically with their mentees to evaluate progress. We thank all of our alumni and recruiters for stressing to our students the importance of completing the CPA exam early.

Looking forward to next year, the admission deadline for the MSA Class of 2018 is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with a priority deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>. We expect to have a class size of 60. We are excited about the students who have already been accepted and are looking forward to having a very strong class for 2018. The MSA program continues to attract students from around the state of North Carolina and beyond. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our alumni, current students, recruiters, faculty, staff, and friends of the MSA program who continue to recommend our program and thus have helped us recruit outstanding MSA students year after year! Your support makes it possible to maintain the quality program that we have at UNCW.



# Internship News

By Allison Evans

We are excited to report that 31 students have accepted internship positions for 2017 through the MSA Internship Program. (Students are accepted into the program based on GPA and GMAT scores.) After completing their internships, these students will be part of the MSA Class of 2018.

Ten members of this year's class accepted internship offers through summer leadership conferences. The remaining internship-seeking candidates had a busy fall semester. During the first week of class in August, they attended a day-long orientation and four *Careers in Accounting* panel discussions. Over the next two weeks, they participated in four *Meet the Firms* evening events, where they interacted with representatives from 19 employers, including the Big 4, national, regional and local public accounting firms, corporations, and the State of North Carolina. Over the next two or three months, the intern candidates participated in mock interviews, on-campus interviews and related firm events, and travelled for office visits. During this intensive recruiting process, the students still maintained a full academic course load.

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*"A busy season later, I could not be more excited to go back to work with the same firm after completing the MSA program," reflected on MSA student who was an intern in the 2015-2016 internship class.*

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We are grateful to the organizations that travel to UNCW to recruit our students and provide such a valuable learning experience. Our hope is to continue to grow the internship class so more students can gain the knowledge and understanding only an internship can provide. If your organization would like to participate in the internship program, or if you would like to offer feedback, please contact me at [evansal@uncw.edu](mailto:evansal@uncw.edu).



# Beta Alpha Psi News

By Charles Dorcelien, Chapter President

UNCW's Iota Alpha Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is off to another great start this year. By the end of the fall semester, we will have hosted eight technical meetings with speakers from the public and private sectors, a service event, a social event, a "Reaching Out" event, a fund raising event and free tutoring every week for introductory accounting students. We would like to thank the following firms and professionals who made technical presentations this Fall semester:

KPMG  
RSM  
Becker CPA Review  
Leslie Wright, UNCW Career Center  
Pesta Finnie & Associates, LLP  
Adam Shay, CPA  
Hughes Pittman & Gupton, LLP

We look forward to a productive Spring semester, with seven additional technical meetings and our initiation banquet..

Officers this year are: Charles Dorcelien (President), Andrew Sellitto (VP of Reporting) Megan Grisham (Treasurer), Charise Neal (VP of Communications), Franz Schmid (VP of Meetings), Catherine Del Casino (VP of Information Technology), and Morgan Rachmiel (VP of Socials/Service). In December, Andrew Sellitto, Megan Grisham, Franz Schmid, Catherine Del Casino, and Morgan Rachmeil will complete their terms and graduate. I would like to thank them all for their enthusiasm and hard work in serving the chapter this year.

Fall 2016 semester highlights: Cameron School of Business Student Organizations Halloween Social, Cape Fear Heart Walk by the American Heart Association, "Why Choose Accounting?" Reaching Out event, and multiple fundraising events.

### **Dates to remember:**

- **Thursday, April 20, 2016 - Beta Alpha Psi Spring Induction Ceremony**
- **Friday, April 21, 2016 - Annual Accountancy and Business Law Golf Outing**



## 2017 Free Tax Assistance

Need help filing your taxes? Do you want to file for free? Take advantage of the Accountancy and Business Law's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. Qualified tax payers can prepare their federal and state income tax returns for FREE.

Volunteers trained and tested in current tax law will assist you!

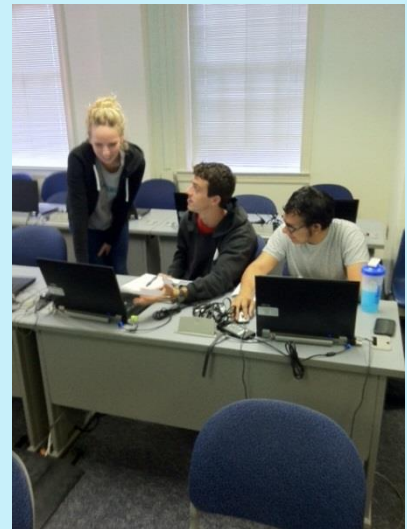
FREE \*Tax Preparation Software (Federal and State)

\* For income less than \$62,000

**Location: 803-G College Road  
Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

### Scheduled Dates and Times:


<b>Saturday, February 18</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 22</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, February 25</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 15</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 18</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 25</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 29</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 5</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, April 8</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>



# Business Week 2017

By Randy Hanson

We had a wonderful Business Week here at UNCW last March. Thanks to all of you who participated and gave financial support to make Business Week happen. We sincerely appreciate all of our friends in the accounting field and the loyal alumni who helped as speakers at Business Week. We had almost 70 presenters in Accounting. We know how difficult it is to squeeze this event into your busy schedules and we are so thankful for all of your help.



**Business Week 2017 will be on March 28 and 29. Mark your calendar and watch for details soon!**

**Note that Lorraine Lee is taking over the responsibility for arranging Business Week this year. Be on the lookout for an invitation to participate.**

**If you have any questions about the upcoming Business Week, please contact Lorraine at [leel@uncw.edu](mailto:leel@uncw.edu).**



## **MEET SARAH SMITH**

### **MSA Program Coordinator**

We are delighted to welcome Sarah Smith to UNCW. Sarah graduated from East Carolina University with her BSBA in Finance (Financial Services) in 2006 and her MBA in 2008. Sarah's professional experience includes six years of commercial and retail lending with community banks and credit unions in Greenville, NC. During that time, she was also employed as an adjunct instructor teaching Corporate Finance/Financial Management at East Carolina University and University of Mount Olive.

In 2013, Sarah transitioned into higher education where she held the position of Assistant Director of Graduate Programs for ECU's College of Business. In this role she served as an admissions counselor, advisor and recruiter for ECU's graduate business programs. Sarah's academic interests include corporate and personal finance and real estate.

Sarah's position as our MSA Program Coordinator involves many responsibilities, including marketing and recruiting MSA students and coordinating MSA events and supporting our AACSB accreditation data collection and analysis.

We are happy Sarah joined the Department of Accountancy and Business Law and are already realizing the benefits of her efforts.



# Faculty Appointments

**Allison Evans, Ph.D., CPA**  
EY Faculty Fellow



**Bill Kerler, Ph.D.**  
DHG Faculty Fellow



**Lorraine Lee, Ph.D., CPA**  
DHG Faculty Fellow



**Susan Hermanson, Ph. D., CPA**  
Cameron Distinguished Professor of Accountancy





# For Alumni:

## Search for Jobs in SeaWork

Visit our **Students & Alumni** page at [www.uncw.edu/career/students.html](http://www.uncw.edu/career/students.html) for more information about the resources and services you have lifetime access to as a **UNCW alum!** Use **SeaWork** to search for jobs, view **Career Center Events**, and access other powerful job search resources like **CareerShift**, **CandidCareer**, **InterviewStream** and **GoinGlobal!**

### Access Your Account

- **Login to SeaWork** at [www.myseawork.com](http://www.myseawork.com) (Your username is your 850# and your password is the portion of your **UNCW** email address before the “@”).
- Update your profile: hover over the “My Profile & Docs” tab and click “My Profile.”

### Search for Jobs

- Hover over the “My Job and Internship Search” tab and click “Job Search.”
- Search by Keyword, Job City, and/or Position Type. Click “Advanced Search” to also search by Job ID, Employer Industry, Organization Name and more!

### Upload Documents

- Hover over the “My Profile & Docs” tab and click “My Documents.”
- Upload your cover letter, resume, letters of recommendation and/or references to use when applying for jobs which require applicants to “Drop Resume” through SeaWork (visible in the job posting).

### Unable to Access Your Account?

- Click “Reset Forgotten Password” and a new password will be sent to the email address on file in your account.
- Contact the Career Center at 910.962.3174 or [careercenter@uncw.edu](mailto:careercenter@uncw.edu)

**UNCW Career Center** • [www.uncw.edu/career](http://www.uncw.edu/career) • **Fisher University Union 2035** • [careercenter@uncw.edu](mailto:careercenter@uncw.edu) • **910.962.3174**

# For Employers: Post a Job or Internship in SeaWork

Visit our **Employers Page** at [www.hireaseahawk.com](http://www.hireaseahawk.com) for more details about advertising job opportunities with UNCW and ways you can be involved with the Career Center to connect with students.

- Login to SeaWork at [www.myinterfase.com/uncw/employer/](http://www.myinterfase.com/uncw/employer/) or click “Register” to create a new account if you have not used SeaWork before.

- The first screen will prompt you to find your organization (employer name) in the system; if it does not auto-populate, you can add it as a new employer by clicking “Can’t find your organization?” Complete the appropriate fields with contact information for your organization.

- In the next section, you will input your personal contact information, since you will be the contact linked to the job. Click Save and submit your profile. After you have submitted your information, you will be logged into SeaWork.

- To post the job, hover over the “My Jobs” tab at the top of the screen and click “New Job” from the drop-down menu.

- Enter your job posting information and click Save.

*Carefully review the following fields in the posting information section:*

- Post Date** - enter the date you wish this job posting to be available to applicants.

- Expire Date** - enter the date you wish this job posting to no longer be available to applicants.

- Show Contact Information** - allows applicants to view your contact information.

- Allow Students to Apply Online via SeaWork** - you will receive an email notification for each submission.

- After you have completed and saved the job, it will go into a pending file to be approved typically within one business day.

- To edit or close your job, login to SeaWork, hover over “My Jobs” and click “Job List.” Select the job you want to edit, or click “Close Job.”

**UNCW Career Center • [www.uncw.edu/career](http://www.uncw.edu/career) • Fisher University Union 2035 • [careercenter@uncw.edu](mailto:careercenter@uncw.edu) • 910.962.3174**

Please consider a gift to the **Accountancy and Business Law Fund** and explore opportunities to enhance the impact of your contribution through matching gift programs. **Membership in the UNCW Society** is a great way to help **Seahawk** students enjoy the same powerful learning experiences that helped propel you into the profession.

Thank you!

[Give Now](#)



**MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

PARTNER \$250 - \$499

AMBASSADOR \$500 - \$999

LEADER \$1,000 - \$2,499

VISIONARY \$2,500

Each level of membership provides unique opportunities to establish a closer connection to the university. However, the greatest benefit is knowing that you are making a meaningful difference in the lives of UNCW students.

# Recent Publications by Accountancy and Business Law Faculty

Brink, W., and Lee, L. (2016). "Data Visualisations: Looks Can Be Deceiving," *CGMA Magazine*, Winter 2016, in-press.

Evans, A., Harris, J., and Irving, J. 2016. U.S. "Exporters Leaving Tax Dollars on the Table," *Journal of Accountancy*.

Hermanson, S., W. Kerler and J. Rojas (2017). "An Analysis of Auditors' Perceptions Related to Fair Value Estimates," *Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance*. (March/April 2017): forthcoming.

Lee, L. (2016). "Big Data and Internal Auditors," *Internal Auditor*, October, 20-21.

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**Your classmates want to know how you're doing! Please send your information for the next publication to [mautzr@uncw.edu](mailto:mautzr@uncw.edu)**