TCU Accounting Meets Capitol Hill

TCU MAc students traveled to Washington D.C. to gain in-depth perspectives on taxation, budgets, health care, congressional committees, regulators, securities markets, economic impact and policy making.

“Our goal was to give them an understanding on how each of these seemingly independent factors culminate into key influencers of the business world,” said Renee Olvera, faculty advisor for the TCU MAc.

“We saw first-hand how Congress runs and explored several unique career paths in the accounting field. It definitely exceeded my expectations,” Michael Nakhleh MAc ’17 said.

In partnership with The Washington Campus, a nonprofit, non-partisan, higher education consortium, students met with representatives from the U.S. Senate Education and Training Office, American Health Policy Institute, National Security Council, American Enterprise Institute, PCAOB, IRS, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Center for Audit Quality.

They also met staff members from U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger’s office and took an exclusive tour of the U.S. Capitol building and the House of Representatives.

“This experience opened my eyes to how accounting is associated with the inner-workings of the government, congressional decision-making and lobbying activities,” Mary Frances Cargile MAc ’17 said. “It showed me opportunities and careers in accounting that I had not considered before.”

Dr. Karen Nelson joins TCU as M. J. Neeley Professor of Accounting

Karen K. Nelson previously served on the faculty at Rice University and Stanford University, and as a visiting professor at the University of Michigan. She earned her PhD at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Nelson is a passionate researcher and dedicated educator. Her research focuses on financial reporting and disclosure issues, including the role of regulators, auditors and private securities litigation in monitoring financial reporting quality.

In addition to numerous academic publications, she has published refereed commentaries on accounting standards and high-impact practitioner articles, and held research seminars at over 50 business schools around the world.

Dr. Nelson is an award-winning teacher who has taught financial accounting courses to undergraduate, MBA and PhD students, and is the author of an undergraduate financial accounting textbook. She recently was appointed to the Standing Advisory Group of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.
Department Chair’s Letter

There are many exciting things happening in the TCU accounting department. Our outstanding faculty members have been awarded for their teaching and we’ve added impressive new professors to increase our national recognition and expand our curriculum. Our students continue to work hard and remain sought after in the marketplace. Their CPA pass rates are among the highest in Texas. TCU MAc graduates in May 2015 had 100 percent placement within 60 days of graduation, landing jobs at Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG, PwC and more.

We enjoy hearing success stories from our accounting alumni, and your fellow alumni want to hear what’s new in your professional and family life. I encourage you to submit your news and photos to the Class Notes section of the Neeley Magazine, neeley.tcu.edu/classnotes. I look forward to reading all your announcements. Also, please look for the TCU Master of Accounting Group on LinkedIn.

Mary Stanford
Duncan Fellow and Professor of Accounting
Chair, TCU Department of Accounting

Bob Loritz BBA ’93
Named 2015 Outstanding Accounting Alumni

Bob Loritz, CPA and partner in assurance services at Weaver, the largest independent accounting firm in the Southwest, began his career with Weaver upon graduating magna cum laude from TCU with a BBA in accounting and finance. He was named a partner in 2005 and currently serves on Weaver’s executive committee.

Bob frequently participates in events that benefit current and former TCU students and serves on the TCU Neeley accounting advisory board. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, Texas Society of CPAs, Fort Worth chapter, Texas Hedge Fund Association, Independent Petroleum Association of America and the Petroleum Accounting Society of Fort Worth.

“I’m proud to be a TCU alumna and contribute directly to the TCU Department of Accounting to support the continued academic excellence of the program.”

Bob Loritz BBA ’93

The TCU Outstanding Accounting Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have consistently maintained support of the department through their time, advisory board involvement, financial means, serving as guest speakers, and providing student internships and fulltime employment.

2015-2016 Donor Honor Roll

HONORS & AWARDS

Top 10 in Texas
Cole Frederick Mac ’14 was honored by the State of Texas for scoring in the top 10 Texas candidates who passed all parts of the Uniform CPA exam at the initial sitting.

TCU Neeley Student Awards
Brian Grady BBA ’15 was honored with the Neeley Heritage Scholarship for academic excellence and leadership potential or accomplishments. Brian also was awarded the Henry Key Award for outstanding service to the accounting department and TCU Neeley School of Business.

Samantha Filips BBA ’16 and Francesca Roberts BBA ’16 were named Senior Accounting Scholars for academic excellence.

Miles Goodman BBA ’17 received the Junior Accounting Award for academic excellence.

Sergeri Chunksorsky Mac ’16 was honored with the Texas Society of CPAs Accounting Excellence Award for academic excellence and good prospects for a successful career in accounting.

MaryRose Short Teaching Excellence Award
Dr. Pat Walters was honored with the 2016 MaryRose Short Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. Walters teaches Financial Reporting Research at the undergraduate and graduate level. She meets with students one-on-one to help them improve their research and writing skills.

“What makes Dr. Walters an exceedingly effective and memorable teacher is her ability to relate to her students. I always felt welcomed and encouraged to raise my hand in class. She treated us like colleagues, which created an environment conducive for open discussion,” said Anthony Fortino Mac ’16.

Teaching Awards & Research
Dr. Chad Proell was honored with the TCU Neeley Undergraduate Teaching Award for core classes. Dr. Proell teaches Fundamentals of Accounting to Neeley Fellows and University Honors students.

Dr. Renee Olvera was honored with the TCU Neeley Undergraduate Teaching Award for elective classes. Dr. Olvera’s teaching comprises professional knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and dedication.

Dr. Ray Pfeiffer’s research on redundant language in 10-K disclosures was cited by the SEC in a report on disclosure reform.

Promotions
Dr. Elizabeth Plummer was promoted to full professor. She has been loaded by distinguished tax professors around the country for her research and outstanding teaching.

New Faculty
Dr. Karen E. Nelson was appointed the M.J. Neeley Professor of Accounting. She joins TCU from Rice University. Dr. Nelson brings a national reputation and extensive teaching and research experience to TCU.

Dr. Anne Albrecht joins TCU as assistant professor of accounting after completing her PhD at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She will utilize expertise she gained at Deloitte & Touche to teach new auditing techniques.

Dr. Marc Nerj joins TCU as assistant professor of professional practice in accounting after completing his PhD at the University of North Texas.

Your Support Matters
Your contribution of any size can directly assist current TCU accounting students and raise the reputation of the department, which ultimately increases the value of your TCU accounting degree.

In its inaugural year, outstanding alumni and friends of TCU Accounting, like you, contributed more than $60,000 to the Robert Vigeland Accounting Excellence Fund, which honors Dr. Vigeland upon his retirement. Special thanks to Pat and Sondra Admire for their $25,000 matching gift.

If you missed this opportunity or wish to continue your support, you may specify the Robert Vigeland fund on the pull down menu for gift designation on this web page: https://spg.tcu.edu/make_a_gift/newgiftonationact

Questions? Contact Dr. Mary Stanford at m.stanford@tcu.edu or call 817-257-7223.

TCU Accounting Alumni and Friends Dinner

Casino Night
Saturday, October 15, 2016
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Dee J. Kelly Alumni & Visitor Center
TCU Campus
Deadline to register is October 10.
Register at www.neeley.tcu.edu/AccountingRSVP
AMONG THE BEST IN TEXAS AND THE NATION

TCU MAc graduates boast exceptional pass rates for the Texas CPA exam each year, consistently placing in the top five schools in Texas. For end-of-year 2015, TCU came in No. 3 in Texas with a 70.1 percent pass rate, behind only UT (1) and A&M (2), and ahead of Baylor (4), SMU (5), UTA (6), UTD (7), UNT (8) and ACU (9). For the second year in a row, the TCU BBA and MAc programs rank among the best in the nation in the Public Accounting Report. The TCU undergraduate accounting program ranks No. 15 and the TCU MAc ranks No. 16 among the top 25 accounting programs of similar size throughout the nation (16 to 21 accounting faculty members), and No. 46 and No. 49 among all colleges and universities in the U.S. offering accounting degrees. TCU MAc students have a 100 percent placement rate at graduation for the past two years in a row, with placement rates of 97-98 percent in preceding years.