A message from the Chair

I am pleased to share the many accomplishments of the TCU accounting department with our alumni and friends. Our undergraduate and graduate programs are ranked in the top 40 in the Public Accounting Report, and in the top 15 for programs our size.

The MAc has grown from 48 graduates in 2015 to an incoming class of 68 students. Participation in the PPA has grown from 155 in 2014 to 215 this year.

Our students’ CPA pass rates are among the highest in Texas, and job placement was 100 percent for MAc grads within 60 days of graduation, with jobs at Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG, PwC and more.

We could not be as successful as we are, nor achieve the vision we have for the future, without the support of our alumni and friends. Our advisory board members provide strategic direction. Scores of you give your time to talk to students about career paths. And many of you provide financial support to enable us to do far more than we can do on our own.

Thank you, and please read on for more about what’s happening in and around the TCU accounting department.

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

TCU Accounting Ranks High in PAR

The TCU undergraduate and graduate accounting programs rank in the top 15 in the nation for programs of similar size and the top 40 among all U.S. colleges and universities in the 2015 Public Accounting Report. This is especially impressive for the Master of Accounting program, which was not ranked in 2014.

Among the top 25 schools with 16 to 21 accounting faculty, the TCU MAc ranks 12 in the U.S. for 2015. The undergraduate accounting program rose to 13, up from 17 last year.

Of the top 50 universities in the U.S. offering accounting degrees, the TCU MAc ranks 35 in the nation. The undergraduate accounting program ranks 36, up from 43 in 2014.

The rankings are based on accounting professors’ assessment of accounting programs at all U.S. colleges and universities.

“Tattribute this increased recognition to the innovative changes we have made to our programs and curriculum, especially the Professional Program in Accounting, which provides a seamless transition from undergraduate studies to graduate,” department chair Mary Stanford said. The PPA serves TCU students in their sophomore, junior and senior year by introducing them to the accounting profession, helping them choose between tax and audit internships, and preparing them for the graduate program.
Rayford High BBA ’93 Selected as TCU Outstanding Accounting Alumni of the Year

Rayford High, partner with KPMG in Dallas, has more than 20 years of experience serving public and private clients in the retail, manufacturing, energy and financial services industries. In 2002 he was chosen to participate in KPMG’s Global Service Center to support domestic and international engagement teams to implement the audit of internal control over financial reporting.

“Rayford supports the teaching, research and service mission of the Neeley accounting department and exemplifies the career to which our students aspire,” department chair Mary Stanford said.

Bob Vigeland, department chair when Rayford graduated in 1993, said Rayford was an “excellent student with the interpersonal skills and affable personality that made it easy to predict his success in public accounting.”

An active Horned Frog, Rayford serves on the Accounting Advisory Board and consistently volunteers his time, insights and assistance to the accounting department. As the lead TCU recruiter for KPMG, he visits campus to identify potential interns and full-time candidates. He speaks to classes and at events about accounting careers. He also liaisons between TCU faculty members and KPMG to facilitate research projects and keep professors up-to-date on the latest practices.

“TCU, the Neeley School and the accounting department are very special to me, so I am thankful to continue my relationship with the students and faculty,” Rayford said. “I continue to be impressed with the talent of the students and their preparedness for the professional world, which is a direct result of their own hard work and the unparalleled guidance and instruction from the outstanding faculty in the accounting department.”

Former department chair Ray Pfeiffer praised Rayford’s enthusiasm for his alma mater. “Over the years, every time I needed something, Rayford was quick to volunteer. I can’t remember him ever saying ‘no’.”

Rayford also serves the accounting profession and the community through membership in the Texas Society of CPAs and on the finance committee for the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas.

Support Your TCU Accounting Department

Many of you contribute to TCU, but did you know that you can designate your support to the TCU accounting department? Your contribution of any size can assist students and help raise the reputation of the department, which ultimately increases the value of your TCU accounting degree.

Giving to the TCU accounting department is simple:

- MAKE A PLEDGE
  Go to www.advancement.tcu.edu/annualgiving.asp.
- Click on MAKE A GIFT in the top right corner.
- Under GIFT DESIGNATION, select OTHER and type in NEELEY ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT. We also welcome your gifts of time and talent.

To get involved, contact Dr. Mary Stanford at m.stanford@tcu.edu or call 817-257-7223.

Dr. Robert Vigeland Retires After 26 Years of Teaching Accounting at TCU

Robert Vigeland has taught accounting for 38 years, 26 at TCU, and led the development of the TCU MAc in 1996. He has served as chair of the accounting department, director of the Master of Accounting program, and Interim Dean of the Neeley School of Business. He has served on the boards of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the TSCPA Accounting Education Foundation.

As a testament to his service to the accounting discipline and thousands of students who have received exceptional accounting knowledge in his classroom, the Department of Accounting is establishing the Dr. Robert Vigeland Accounting Excellence Fund.

“Dr. Vigeland has been one of the most important influences throughout my time at TCU and into my professional career today,” said Keith Bunch BBA ’95, senior vice president and treasurer for The Headington Companies.

Vigeland has won numerous teaching accolades, including the TCU Dean’s Teaching Award twice and the Mortar Board Preferred Professor Award nine times. He has been honored with the Fort Worth Chapter TSCPA Award for Distinguished Service to the Accounting Profession and the TSCPA Lone Star Pathfinder Award.
Dr. Sandy Callaghan Named 2015 Neeley Alumni Professor of the Year

Sandy Callaghan, associate professor of accounting, has been named the 2015 Neeley Alumni Professor of the Year.

“I have the opportunity to nurture the intellectual spirit in students. Every day, I teach topics I am passionate about. Yet by far the best aspect is the relationships that I have developed with current and former students,” Callaghan said.

2015 graduate Amy Otte, a financial analyst at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, said: “Dr. Callaghan did not teach with the end goal that students find the right answers, but rather that students learn to think critically for themselves. She held us to a high standard, and we learned that we should have those same high expectations for our own work.”

Callaghan has taught at TCU since 1998. She has been honored with the Neeley Teaching Innovation Award and as the Neeley School nominee for the Dean’s Teaching Award. She teaches graduate and undergraduate financial accounting, tax and study abroad courses. She has taught in the TCU High School Investors Challenge, TCU Global Academy and the training program for KPMG tax professionals. A certified public accountant, Callaghan previously served as a tax professional for Ernst & Young.

HONORS & AWARDS

Accounting Professors’ Honors and Engagement

Bob Vigeland is the nominee for the 2015 Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Achievement as a Teacher-Scholar. In-Mu Haw was the nominee in 2014. The award recognizes sustained high-quality teaching and scholarship that is the hallmark of the TCU professoriate.

Janice Cobb was honored with the Innovation in Teaching Award.

Shana Clor-Proell was promoted to associate professor of accounting with tenure.

Chad Proell was promoted to assistant professor of accounting.

Numerous faculty members presented their research in China, Macau, Germany, London, Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong. Ray Pfeiffer was invited to attend the Financial Reporting Issues Conference at the FASB and the Aspen Institute for improving undergraduate business education.

MAc Scholars

Five MAc graduates were honored for outstanding academic success at the May 2015 Hooding Ceremony: Patrick Barringer (Top Neeley Scholar), Katharine Kolepp, Maria Jose Abuawad Roda, Cameron Pulsifer and Jaclyn Taylor.

Neeley School Awards

Outstanding TCU accounting majors were honored at the May 2015 BBA Awards Banquet: Katherine Oster, Senior Accounting Scholar; Jared Cline and Francesca Roberts, Junior Accounting Awards; Katharine Kolepp, Texas Society of CPAs Accounting Excellence Award; and Lorena Lomeli, Henry Key Award for outstanding service to the accounting department and Neeley School of Business.

Award Named for Dr. Dan Short’s Wife Maryrose

“Maryrose loved everyone at TCU, so I thought the best way to honor her memory is to recognize the outstanding faculty members who inspire our talented students,” Dan Short, professor of accounting and former dean of the Neeley School, said.

The Maryrose Short Teaching Excellence Award was established in 2014. The first recipient was Elizabeth Plummer, associate professor of accounting. In 2015, the award was given to Ray Pfeiffer, associate dean of undergraduate programs for the Neeley School and professor of accounting.
Save the Date

TCU Accounting
Alumni and Friends Dinner

October 24, 2015
Dee J. Kelly Alumni & Visitors Center

Register now at www.neeley.tcu.edu/AccountingRSVP.