

TCU ACCOUNTING *news*



Neeley School
of Business

The Annual Newsletter of the TCU Neeley School's Accounting Department

Fall 2017



FASB and GASB Hire a Record Three TCU Mac Students

Only 14 accounting graduates in the nation are selected as postgraduate technical assistants, and three are TCU Mac 2017 graduates. Francesca Roberts, Jared Cline and Laura Beth Harville were selected to serve the prestigious one-year term.

They passed all the criteria to be considered – outstanding academics, strong communication, critical thinking, demonstrated leadership – and were nominated by the TCU accounting department. Each received an invitation to an interview, followed by a job offer.

“It’s rare to have even one student get an interview, so to have three nominated and all three hired reflects the quality of the students and the dedication of the faculty and staff who helped them develop such high credentials,” said Ray Pfeiffer, associate dean of undergraduate programs. TCU Neeley had one student land the position in 2009 and two in 2011.

As postgraduate technical assistants, Francesca, Jared and Laura Beth will be highly involved with the accounting standards-setting process and the roles played by preparers, auditors and users of financial information.

Learning About the PhD Path

Accounting professors Karen Nelson, Marc Neri and Elizabeth Plummer sat down to talk with students about their path to careers in academia.

“Hearing their personal experiences gave me great insight into the process of pursuing a PhD in accounting. I was surprised to learn about the vast research methodologies that our professors study and was particularly intrigued by the behavioral research topics,” Whitney Early MAC ’17 said.

“Most discussions about career opportunities are about public accounting or industry, so it was very interesting to hear about other educational and career

opportunities,” Jett Jenkins MAC ’17 said.

“It helped me have a better understanding and expectation about this professional choice,” Mia Dinh MAC ’17 said.

Matt Kubic MAC ’09 is currently pursuing his PhD at Duke University. Matt spent a year as a postgraduate technical assistant at the FASB, worked for PwC for five years, and then decided to get his PhD.

“During my time at FASB and PwC, one thing became clear to me: transactions are becoming more complex. Business schools must ensure future accounting students have the necessary skills. I want to produce research that is useful to capital markets

and help students understand the complex transactions happening across the world.”





Service Learning: Accounting for the Heart of the Matter

When TCU Neeley accounting students work on projects for local nonprofit agencies, it adds up to a win for everyone. Throughout their studies at TCU, accounting students use their skills to help others.

Students research, analyze, solve and improve business processes for nonprofits in Dr. Laurie Wood's class (undergraduate) and Dr. Renee Olvera's Advanced AIS class (MAc).

"It helps United Way to have students come in as internal auditors to show us ways to improve our processes," said Britton Pavlic BBA '05, controller for United Way of Tarrant County. "We were very impressed with their questions, thought processes, feedback and suggestions."

Many students also participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, an IRS-supported, free income tax preparation program for low to moderate income individuals and families.

"These service learning projects showed me the challenges of implementing internal controls in the nonprofit sector, while volunteering through VITA allowed me to improve my tax skills by doing tax returns for low-income families," said Francesca Roberts MAc '17.

"Combining accounting and community service is important, because both the community and I benefit from our interactions," Francesca said.

Brenda Cline BBA '82 Named 2016 Outstanding Accounting Alum

Brenda Cline, CFO of the Kimbell Art Foundation and a TCU Trustee, is a 1982 summa cum laude graduate in accounting from TCU. She has an esteemed legacy for business acumen and community service.

Cline has been with the Kimbell Art Foundation since 1993, currently serving as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Previously, she was with Ernst & Young for more than 10 years.

She serves on the board of directors of Range Resources Corporation and Tyler Technologies Inc., is an independent trustee of the American Beacon Funds, and has served as a Trustee for Texas Christian University since 1998. She has served in leadership positions for Trinity Valley School, Cook Children's Health Foundation and Christian Church Foundation.

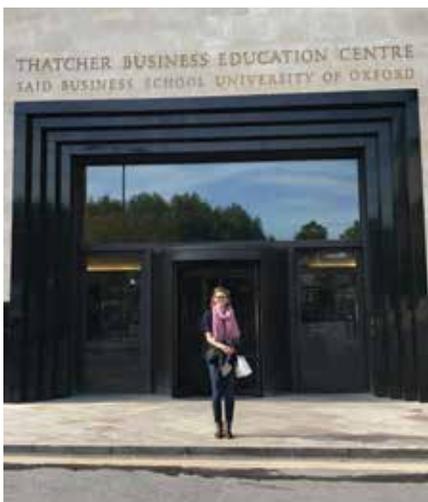
Cline was awarded the Bob Bolin Civic Leadership Award in 2016, presented by O. Homer Erekson, the John V. Roach Dean of the Neeley School of Business.

"I am grateful for the many opportunities I have been given to serve, to contribute, to give back and to encourage others to do the same, because isn't that what really counts? Isn't it through serving and giving that we find meaning and richness in our lives? I certainly do," Cline said.



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Brenda Cline BBA '82



Getting a Global Outlook

London. Brussels. Trier. These were the cities Celeste Campbell BBA '16 MAc '17 visited in May as part of TCU's Global Outlook Institute. Celeste and her fellow TCU students visited Oxford, Roehampton and the University of Trier to research and discuss different countries' educational systems as part of their exploration of future academic careers.

"The biggest difference I identified in European systems is the concept of teaching and learning. Professors focus more on research, and students learn mostly through self-study. Students also enter universities

with a good understanding of their field and often graduate after a few years. Graduate students are not expected to teach, which expedites the process of obtaining their PhD," Celeste reported.

Celeste is working with a PhD candidate in neuroscience on educational systems and their effect pre-university, especially in STEM fields.

The students also enjoyed a Shakespeare play, visited Platform 9 ¾ (known to Harry Potter fans), and attended a German Catholic Mass.



TCU Team Wins Grant Thornton Competition

TCU Neeley accounting students brought home the trophy and \$7,500 in a competition among TCU, UNT, UTD and UT-Arlington.

The team of Sam Witherspoon, Demi Fritz, Hunter Pallasch (shown above), Jason Cline and Jared Cline (MAc), worked hard and walked away the winners of the 2016 Grant Thornton Metroplex Case Competition.

“We learned new topics, applied knowledge in different ways than in the classroom, and gained valuable experience presenting to judges as if they were directors on a board,” Jared said.

“I am very proud of the team. They worked hard to prepare for the case and think through the critical issues. They presented their case beautifully,” said Renee Olvera, associate professor of professional practice in accounting and advisor to the team.

Honors & Awards

► On the Job

All 61 of the TCU MAc students who graduated in May had signed full-time job offers by December 2016.

► Student Awards

Meaghan Houston BBA '17 - Senior Accounting Scholar for academic excellence.

Hayley Greenspan BBA '17 - Junior Accounting Award for academic excellence.

Michael Nakhleh MAc '17 - Texas Society of CPAs Accounting Excellence Award for academic excellence and good prospects for a successful career in accounting.

Taylor Storm MAc '17 - Federation of Schools of Accountancy for academic excellence and high potential.

Jared Cline, Samantha Filips, Michael Nakhleh and Francesca Roberts - Texas Society of CPAs Accounting Education Foundation Scholarships.

Tu Vu - Henry Key Award for outstanding service to the TCU accounting department.

► Teaching Awards

Dr. Shana Clor-Proell was honored with the TCU Neeley Graduate Teaching Award for core classes.

Dr. Patricia Walters was awarded the TCU Neeley Graduate Teaching Award for elective classes.

Emily Davis was awarded the Top Non-Tenure Track Professor Award.

► MaryRose Short Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Renee Olvera, associate professor of professional practice in accounting and faculty advisor to the PPA/MAc program, was honored with the 2017 Maryrose Short Teaching Excellence Award.

► Vigeland Accounting Excellence Award

Dr. Shana Clor Proell, associate professor of accounting, was honored with the first annual Bob Vigeland Accounting Excellence Award for her outstanding research.

► Promotions

Dr. George Drymiotis was promoted to associate professor. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses and has won recognition for his accounting research.

► New Faculty

Dr. Jeff Chen joins TCU as assistant professor of accounting. He previously taught at the University of Colorado at Boulder and worked for PwC in Shanghai. He holds a PhD from the University of Houston, MBA from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and BS from Fudan University.

Dr. Stephen Lusch joins TCU as assistant professor of accounting from the University of Kansas. He holds a PhD from the University of Arizona, MS from the University of Notre Dame and BBA in accounting from the TCU Neeley School of Business.



Three Cheers
for
20 years

TCU MAc

Let's Celebrate

20th Anniversary

TCU Neeley Master of Accounting

Saturday, September 16, 2017

TCU vs SMU Tailgate Come-and-Go

12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

MOPAC Event Center

Register at
www.neeley.tcu.edu/AccountingRSVP

Your Support Matters

Your contribution, no matter the size, directly assists TCU accounting students and professors. There are many ways you can give:

- Robert Vigeland Accounting Excellence Fund
- Maryrose Short Teaching Excellence Award
- Patrick H. and Sandra K. Admire Accounting Scholarship
- General funds for the Accounting Department

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



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STUDY ABROAD 2017

"The MAC study abroad trip to Budapest, Munich and Athens was an incredible experience. From company visits to exploring European cities with 18 of my classmates, I gained further understanding of the different business environments and challenges each country faces," Brent Bolton MAC '17 said. In Budapest, students visited PwC and the U.S. Embassy, and enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Danube River. In Munich, they visited BDO, BMW and learned the local game of curling. In Athens, they visited the Bank of Greece, Taf Coffee and participated in a Greek cooking class.



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