

DIVISION DISCLOSURES

Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall Semester 2017

A Message from **Dr. Nancy Lankton**

Newly Elected Chair of the Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment



I feel very honored to have been elected as the new Chair of the Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment, and would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.

As most of you already know "I Love Accounting"! I am excited to work with faculty, students and alumni to attract more Accounting majors and to increase enrollments. Marshall Accounting grads will continue to fill critical positions in our profession.

In addition to learning valuable skills and concepts in the classroom, our Accounting students here at Marshall have many opportunities to engage with the profession outside of the classroom. This is a unique aspect of our program, and one that is key to career development and life-long learning. We thank everyone for helping us make this happen.

Please let me know if you have any ideas you think would make our Division and students even more successful. Stay tuned for some exciting things happening in the new year!

A Message from the Dean **Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee**



As an alum or friend of the Lewis College of Business Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment, you are an indispensable part of our future success. This newsletter will keep you up to date on all of our new developments. We have excellent accounting students at Marshall, and they rely upon your support to provide internships, jobs, scholarships, etc. While the commitment of our faculty and staff provides the foundation for excellence, your support provides the margin of excellence that separates the Marshall University from the rest.

Please consider becoming a donor to the Lewis College of Business. No matter how large or small your donation, as more alums and friends support the LCOB this inspires our faculty and students to greater levels of excellence.

New faculty facts...

Tom or Tessa?

How well do you know our two newest faculty members? **Before you turn the page**, challenge yourself with this faculty trivia. Which facts are about Tom Norton and which are about Tessa Carr?

Which new professor...

1. Was once a cheerleader for Marshall University?
2. Has a dog named Hercules?
3. Grew up in Charleston, WV?
4. Has a double major in Finance and Accounting?
5. Has a daughter?
6. Received the President's Award for Outstanding Service?
7. Enjoys snowboarding?

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New Faculty BIOS



Tessa Carr was born in South Korea and was adopted by Steve and Katy White at three months old. She grew up in Charleston, West Virginia and attended Charleston Catholic High School. Tessa then pursued her college career at Marshall University, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a BA degree in Accounting, minor in Economics, and an MBA with an emphasis in Accounting.

She recently left her position as a Senior Manager in the tax department at Arnett Carbis Toothman LLP, where she began in January 2009. She provided tax and accounting services to a variety of clients, including small businesses, non-profit entities, manufacturing companies, and publicly traded companies. She also specialized in Affordable Care Act consulting.

Tessa is a new faculty member at Marshall University in the Lewis College of Business, Accountancy and Legal Environment Division. She also provides various tax and consulting services to various companies and individuals in the area.

Tessa earned the West Virginia Society of CPA's Merit Award in 2008, Woman to Watch Emerging Leader award in 2011, Young CPA award in 2012 and President's Award for Outstanding Service in 2014. Tessa is very active outside of work in her community. She currently serves on the boards of the YWCA of Charleston, WV, the Charleston Area Alliance, and the Charleston Chamber of Commerce. She is an alumna of the Leadership West Virginia Class of 2016.

Tessa lives in Charleston with her husband, Shannon Carr, and their daughter, Taylor. She enjoys spending time with her many family members, travelling, snowboarding, playing the piano, and attending various sporting events.



Tom Norton, Esq. is a Huntington, WV native who has been a Marshall fan for his entire life – so much so that he was a cheerleader for Marshall in 2006 and 2007. He graduated from Marshall in 2009 with a double major in Accounting and Finance, then passed the CPA exam while preparing for and beginning law school. Tom got his J.D. from West Virginia University in 2013 and then passed the WV Bar Exam. He

spent the next five years practicing law at various government agencies including the WV Supreme Court and the 30th Judicial Circuit of WV.

Tom and three others were sent to the 30th Circuit after the former judge was found corrupt, charged with federal crimes, and sent to federal prison. Now, Tom is teaching LE 207 and 308 at Marshall, while he will do taxes with a local firm this coming season. He always wanted to teach and was called in to replace an ill professor. However, Tom is up to the challenge. He hopes to continue working as an adjunct professor and eventually gain more permanent status at Marshall, as well as opening his own business on the side. On a personal note, Tom got engaged in August. He enjoys trail running and mountain biking, and he has a Yorkie named Hercules. Tom has also been accepted into a Master of Laws in Taxation (LL.M) program, which is a post-graduate academic degree. He has not yet decided which school he will attend to complete his LL.M.

Proud of our Alumni

Here is a list of our alumni who have passed the CPA exam this year:

Adam Adkins, BBA 2014
Lakin (Boggs) Walters, BBA 2016, MS 2017
William Koontz, BBA 2015, MS 2016
Michelle (Gibbs) Petty, BBA 2009
Trisha Tamraker, MS 2015
Ye Tao, BBA 2011, MS 2012
Brandon Walters, BBA 2016, MS 2017

Congratulation to all!

December 2017 Graduates

BBA Accounting

Jacob Alton Jon Runion
Emily Billups Kylie Seaton
Madison Brown Corey Wade

Kuehyun Choi

MS Accounting

Shelly Clifton Shawna Bartram
Jordan Dillon Lakin Walters (Boggs)
Nghie Doan Brooke Burgess

Margaret Dunford
Jerod Easter
Sarah Frame
Dakota Kelly
Andrew Looney
Briana Mefford
Mark Nelson
Tyler Reeves

Student **ACTIVITIES**



2017-2018 Beta Alpha Psi Officers

Tatyana Hall -President
Andrew Campbell-Vice President of Communication
Kasun Wijayagurusinghe-Vice President of Finance
Savannah Perry and Kris McMillion-Vice President of Professional Development
Casey Klages-Special Events Coordinator
Ashley Taylor and Bill Choi-VITA Coordinator
Kaylee Stengel- Reporter



Fall 2017 Beta Alpha Psi Inductees

Adam Campbell, Chase Coe, Brandi Hill, Shaun Hunley,
Robert Martin, Haley Phillips, Phillip Taylor

Fall 2017 Beta Alpha Psi Events

The following lists the Beta Alpha Psi events that took place this Fall. As you can see, the group was very busy! Thanks go to all the firms that supported these events and made the learning both experience informative and enjoyable!

- Dixon Hughes Goodman, Jim Sutherland and Nikki Kettenacker: Cybersecurity (11/16)
- Bowling Night: Informal networking with students, faculty, and professionals (11/9)

- Suttle and Stalnaker, Patricia Clark and Chris Lambert: Community Service (11/2)
- Brown Edwards, Carly Proctor: The Internship Process and How to Transition from Intern/Student to a Professional (10/26)
- NASBA: Alfonzo Alexander: Ethics (10/19)
- Arnett Carbis Toothman: Stephanie Davis and Brittany Hewlett: Ethics (10/12)
- Ernst and Young, Nathan Copley and Leah Woodworth: Data Analytics (10/5)
- Visit the Firm: Participating firms included Gray, Griffith & Mays, Ernst & Young, Suttle & Stalnaker, Arnett Carbis Toothman, Dixon Hughes Goodman, Gibbons & Kawash, and WV State Auditor's Office. (9/28)
- Somerville & Co., Barry Burgess, Mendy Aluise, and Brooke Burgess: Motivation (9/21)
- Gray, Griffith, & Mays, Rob Henson: Big versus Small Firms (9/14)
- Meet the Professionals-18 Companies and organizations attended (9/7)
- Interest Meeting: Employer Panel (8/31)

Student Awards

- **Top Students** from the Undergraduate program won memberships in the IMA Honor Society: Jordan Dillon, Tayla Ebersohl, Tatyana Hall, Thomas Robert Martin, and Emily Moreland.
- **Top Three Scorers** on the ACC 499 Comprehensive Quiz: Ashley Taylor was the top scorer and won a half-price scholarship for the Becker CPA review system, and Briana Mefford and Tyler Reeves were the second and third place scorers and won CMA Scholarships from the IMA.
- **Top two graduate** students from the MS in Accountancy program won CMA scholarships: Shawna Bartram and Lakin Boggs
- **Four graduate students** won the 2017-2018 Prentiss Lee and Diane Ramy Falconer Scholarship: Sarah Davis, Mary Day, Kendrick Templeton, and Eric Ulbrich.

Student **ACTIVITIES**

Graduate Assistants

This year the Division has two Graduate Assistants (GAs): Sarah Davis and Eric Ulbrich. They are a great asset to the Division and help with research, grading, copying, and more! This semester we are featuring Sarah Davis.

Sarah Davis is a student in the MS Accountancy program who comes from Manteno, IL (50 miles south of Chicago). She graduated Summa Cum Laude, First in Class from Milligan College in May 2017; along with her Accounting major she got a Business minor, Humanities minor, and Spanish minor. She plans to graduate from Marshall in May 2018. In her undergraduate studies, Sarah was awarded the Bill Rhoades Outstanding Accounting Student Scholarship, and at Marshall she recently received the Prentiss Lee and Diane Ramy Faulconer Scholarship. She is also part of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. In addition to her Accounting studies, Sarah has always been involved in music. At Marshall she plays trumpet in the Jazz Ensemble and sings in the University Chorus. Sarah also speaks Spanish conversationally; she spent her last semester as an undergraduate student studying abroad in Costa Rica. After she graduates from Marshall, Sarah hopes to continue speaking Spanish and making music, as well as sit for the CPA Exam and begin working full-time in the Accounting field.



Student **ENGAGEMENT**

The West Virginia State Board of Accountancy held its quarterly Board meeting at Marshall University's Foundation Hall. Faculty, students, and the community were invited to attend the meeting to hear the Board discuss important issues facing CPAs including licensure and conduct matters. Afterward, the Board held a reception with Beta Alpha Psi students. The day ended with a lively ethics presentation by Alfonzo Alexander from NASBA (the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy). Students learned a lot during this special day! We are grateful to the Board members and Mr. Alexander for giving us the opportunity to become more informed about our profession.

The Huntington Chapter of the West Virginia Society of CPAs held its annual Student Night at Guyan Country Club on October 10. Approximately 75 students and professionals showed up to hear the West Virginia Society of CPAs President Cheryl McKinney talk about how she got involved in the accounting profession. Her motto is "I'm a CPA, what is your Superpower?" A presentation was also made by Chapter President, Anna Neil, who awarded three student scholarships. The winners were Ashley Taylor, Phung Hong, and Haley Phillips! This is a very generous gift from the Chapter, and we thank them and the Society for supporting our students and our program!

"Always be diligent in the classroom, active in the community, and never lose your thirst for knowledge"

—Tatyana Hall

Undergraduate Accounting Program

Kathy Eddy Scholars **CLASS OF 2017**

The Kathy Eddy New Horizons Fund was established by the Marshall University Foundation in 2014. Kathy Eddy, who grew up in Harrisville, West Virginia, is a 1972 Marshall graduate. The fund provides financial assistance for motivated students to visit established professionals in the field of accounting. This past summer five Marshall Accounting students, Kasun Wijayagurusinghe, Kaylee Stengel, Franklin Carter, Kris McMillion, and Haley Phillips, were chosen as the new Kathy Eddy Scholars. The students attended the Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Society of CPAs in June, along with professors Dr. Jean Price and Amanda-Thompson-Abbott, and the former Interim Dean Robert Simpson. The students attended continuing education events, society and social events, and got to meet the Chairman of the AICPA, Kimberly N. Ellison-Taylor, CPA. We are very thankful to Kathy Eddy for offering this opportunity for students that will have a lasting impact on their future careers.



Left to right in photo – Owitigala (Kasun) Wijayagurusinghe, Dr. Jean Price, Bob Simpson, Kathy Eddy, Kaylee Stengel, Franklin Carter, Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Kris McMillion, and Haley Phillips

Alumni Spotlight **MAEGAN WILSON**



Maegan Wilson is a CPA at Hess, Stewart & Campbell, PLLC in Huntington, WV. She graduated from Marshall in 2011 with her BBA in Accounting. Since then she has passed the CPA exam and has had many opportunities to grow and advance in her career. Most important, she has gotten a chance to use her skills to help the community and support a cause that is important to her as the Treasurer of the Little Victories no-kill

animal shelter in Ona, WV. When asked how Marshall prepared her for her current career, Maegen responded that it provided a great opportunity for her to interact with professionals in the community. She feels organizations such as Beta Alpha Psi are committed to helping students find internships, and the professors provide many ways to network through projects that give students a chance to interact with local businesses. She says, "Having these opportunities gave me confidence when beginning my career. These opportunities also helped me to get to know business leaders in our community."

Maegan strongly suggests that students start studying for the CPA exam directly out of school while their workload is light. Her advice is to stay focused. Says Maegan, "There are many people that I know who struggle to pass because they wait until the last minute to study. Give yourself time to know the

"I enjoy forming relationships with my clients and being a source of trust to them. I also enjoy working with the students at Marshall and seeing them grow into professionals."

material, not just memorize the material. Stay dedicated and do not give up!"

Maegan also believes that many students (and people in general) have a misconception of accountants as being people who sit behind a desk all day, do their work, and then go home. When first beginning a career in accounting, this may be your life. However, as you continue to grow into your career and get clients of your own, you will learn that much of what an accountant does is forge relationships with people in the community. According to Maegen, yes, you will still have times where you are sitting behind a desk, but much of your day is spent in meetings with, on the phone with, or at the offices of your clients. In addition, accounting is not just math, there is a great deal of reading and writing involved!

Faculty **RESEARCH**

Dr. Susan Lanham published a paper this past semester titled:

"Reasonable Degree of Certainty" During Expert Testimony.

The following is the paper abstract.

Abstract: In many U.S. jurisdictions, forensic accountants who testify as expert witnesses are asked during deposition or trial if their opinions were formulated to a reasonable degree of accounting or economic certainty. The reasonable degree of certainty standard also is used on expert witnesses testifying in other disciplines, such as medical, scientific, and psychological. The determination of whether an expert's testimony is reasonably certain is a requirement for admissibility of that testimony, and although the standard is used commonly during litigation, a review of the literature and case law provides no consistent definition of the phrase. This study addresses how judges and justices across the U.S. define and regard the phrase reasonable degree of certainty as it relates to expert testimony. Results suggest agreement regarding the importance of the phrase and its use by expert witnesses, but also suggest inconsistencies concerning the definition or meaning of

the phrase. Most participants agree that an expert's opinions must be reasonably certain to be admissible, and that the phrase lacks a consistent definition. A gap exists in the literature regarding the definition and importance of the phrase reasonable degree of certainty, resulting in broad variations in the way the phrase is interpreted and used in the legal profession.

For Our December 2017 Graduates:

- 63%** had an Internship
- 72%** had a job at the time of graduation
- 82%** of those reporting salaries indicated a salary of \$40,000 or greater
- 45%** of those reporting salaries indicated a salary of \$50,000 or greater

Faculty ACTIVITIES

Continuing Professional Education Offered

In conjunction with the Huntington Chapter of the West Virginia Society of CPAs, two of our faculty members led continuing professional education sessions this semester. Tessa Carr gave a four-hour ethics seminar in November. The materials were very informative about the AICPA ethics criteria. Tessa used several fun and interactive activities including Ethics Bingo, Family Feud, and Scenario Justifications to keep the attendees involved and engaged. The session was held at Fat Patty's in Huntington and concluded with a buffer lunch.

Dr. Parporn Akathaporn gave a one-hour seminar in December on the new standard ISA 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements". In this presentation, she summarized the new ISA auditor's report in comparison to that of the US audit report, and discussed how auditors are supposed to obtain and present the information required by the new reporting standard. This session was held at the Cellar Door as a "lunch and learn" on December 12, 2017.

Parporn Akathaporn also presented a six-hour seminar in Thailand last May. This presentation provided retail investors an in-depth analysis of the financial statements of highly publicized companies listed on Thailand's securities markets. Her presentation covered how to recognize when a company is "window dressing" its financial statements, and how the new auditor's report, which is similar to the new auditor's report prescribed by the International Standards on Auditing (ISA 700 (revised)), can be used to improve investment decisions.

Division and College Research Workshops

On October 4 and November 1, the Division's faculty met to share research in progress. The presenters were:

Dr. Junwook Yoo- Progressive Income Taxation and Investment Risk-Taking: Analytical Approach

Dr. Chuck Stivason-Using Scenarios to Understand Users' Information Security Practices Intention

Dr. Casey Baker-Unclean Hands and (Not Actually) Legal Cannabis: A Word of Caution to Prospective Investors

These research workshops give faculty a chance to get comments and feedback on their research ideas. It also stimulates ideas for other collaborative research projects.

On November 10, the Lewis College of Business celebrated its inaugural "Research Day". This event provided an opportunity for our faculty to present their current or recently completed research projects. The event was organized by the LCOB Faculty Development Committee, which Tessa Carr our new faculty member serves on. It featured three of our Division faculty: Dr. Jean Price, Dr. Nancy Lankton, and Dr. Junwook Yoo. Drs. Nancy Lankton and Jean Price were runners-up for the best presentation award.

Conferences and Papers

Conferences Attended

- Dr. Susan Lanham attended the National Symposium on Student Retention held November 6-9 in Destin, Florida, sponsored by The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange.
- West Virginia Council of Accounting Educators Annual Conference held September 21-23 in Charleston WV. Dr. Marie Archambault led the Employers' Panel. Also attending were Professors Dr. Jeff Archambault, Prof. Tessa Carr, Dr. Susan Lanham, Dr. Nancy Lankton, Prof. Amanda Thompson-Abbott, and Dr. Junwook Yoo.
- America's Conference on Information Systems held on August 10-12 in Boston MA. Dr. Nancy Lankton presented her paper titled *Paying Attention to News Briefs about Innovative Technologies*.

Papers Accepted/Published

- Dr. Susan Lanham with Keri Lucas (in press), *Reasonable Degree of Certainty during Expert Testimony*, *Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting*, Accepted May 2017.
- Dr. Nancy Lankton with D. Harrison McKnight and John Tripp, (November, 2017), *Facebook Privacy Management Strategies: A Cluster Analysis of User Privacy Behaviors*, *Computers in Human Behavior*, 76, pp. 149-163.

New Director of the MS Accountancy Program

Marshall University's MS in Accountancy offers our students a path to CPA eligibility by delivering an advanced accounting curriculum and helping fulfill the 150 hours of college credit most states require. Dr. Susan Lanham was named Director of the MS Accounting program this fall, and has been busy implementing several new initiatives. She has contacted every student with junior and senior status and a declared major of accountancy with information on our 3+2 program and its benefits. She also created brochures and posters for marketing purposes using photos and information obtained from recent graduates of the program, and she set up a table at our Meet the Professionals event where information was provided to interested students. She also created an Exit Survey and sent it to all MS Accounting students graduating this semester. Our goals for the MSA program are to double enrollment within two years, make the program easier to complete for our working students by offering courses predominately at night, mentor every student within the program, and create an effective system where the progression of current and prospective students and graduates of the program can be tracked.

Dr. Jeff Archambault: **PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**



As of September 1, Dr. Jeff Archambault was promoted from Division Head of Accountancy/Legal Environment to Associate Dean for Academic Programs. We interviewed him to find out more about his new position.

Q: What are your responsibilities as Associate Dean for Academic Programs?

A: My responsibilities include managing student issues, working on enrollment growth, and improving the operations and quality of our programs.

Q: How is the Associate Dean position different from being Division Head?

A: Instead of just the Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment, I'm responsible for the entire College of Business. One major difference is the coordinating among division heads; for example, five years ago I wrote the Graduate Program Review for the Accounting Department. Now I'm the one collecting program reviews from the various department heads.

Q: What similarities do you see in the positions?

A: I have similar duties but over a broader group of people. I still teach one class per semester and am involved in mentoring.

Q: What are your goals as Associate Dean?

A: I would like to improve interdepartmental coordination and strengthen things like double majors with 4-year plans. I want to address some recruiting issues. For instance, the emphasis on STEM in high schools can hurt business programs. I want to build connections between Business and other areas of study. The emphasis is on change and where the program is going. My end goal is to make this a better program.

Q: What do you like most about your new position?

A: I'm excited about having time to start a new research project. I also look forward to coordinating the business programs.

Q: What do you miss most about your old job?

A: I miss being in the classroom. I'm not as tied in to the daily work of teaching, I'm less in tune with the Accounting division. In administrative positions, you get further removed from the field and the teaching process.

Q: What prepared you to take on this role?

A: A lot of it started with the MS of Accountancy program. From drafting the proposal to where it is now, I got to know a lot of people. I think it was building those connections that led to my being the Division Head at the time and now ending up here.

Accounting Advisory Board **MEETING**

The Fall 2017 Accounting Advisory Board Meeting was held on Friday, November 3. Members attending were Rachel Burdette, Barry Burgess, Shayna Chapman-Burris, Drema Foster, Jered Green, David Hill, Ray Langdon, Anna Neil, Jay Porter, Melissa Price, Akia Rice, Patrick Smith, J.R. Yost, and Robert Simpson, along with the Division faculty and guests. One topic discussed was Community-Based Learning with Damien Arthur, the Director of Community-Based Learning. The Board helped us think of ways to identify, develop, and coordinate student-client-based research projects. The faculty also led discussions about MS Recruiting and Student Mentoring, with the Board giving valuable input about ways to improve these processes. Dr. Casey Baker presented his ongoing research project about how professionals can help clients deal with the differing Cannabis laws. We also discussed the prospect of requiring a second tax course for undergraduate majors so when they obtain their accounting degree they will have the necessary courses to sit for the CPA exam in West Virginia.

The meeting was concluded with an update of Beta Alpha Psi from Tatyana Hall, the Beta Alpha Psi President, and lunch at the John Marshall Room. We thank all our Advisory Board members for a very successful and informative meeting! Plans are to hold a second Advisory Board meeting in late April 2018.

For the complete list of Accounting Advisory Board members and their photos, please visit our new webpage.
<http://www.marshall.edu/cob/undergraduate/accounting/accounting-advisory-board/>

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTANCY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

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