

THE DIVISION IN REVIEW

Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment

Issue 2, Spring 2017

AWARDS

Amanda Thompson-
Abbott winner of the
2016/2017 Council of
Chairs Award for
Excellence in Teaching

Jean Price winner of
the 2017 West Virginia
Society of CPAs
Educator of the Year

See More Inside . . .

ACCOUNTING MENTORING

All accounting majors are assigned faculty mentors, who formally meet with students every semester. Mentors review each student's communication portfolio and plan of study. They also discuss career goals, and stress the importance of internships, job opportunities, and professionalism. This Spring faculty met with 86 students making the mentoring sessions a huge success! Says, Jeff Archambault, Division Head, "This is a program that has been beneficial in the past and will continue to be in the future."



"It's great to take what I have learned in class and use it to help the community."
Josh Ison, Student Vita Coordinator



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Edited by Brandon Walters, Jessa
Wilson, & Dr. Nancy Lankton



Vita Volunteers, April 2017



BAP UPDATES AND STUDENT AWARDS

This semester our Kappa Phi chapter of Beta Alpha Psi was recognized internationally as a Superior Chapter. According to Bob Simpson, interim dean for the Lewis College of Business. "Recognition as a Superior Chapter is an amazing accomplishment," Simpson said. "Under the leadership of our college's faculty adviser and accounting faculty member, Amanda Abbott-Thompson, the Kappa Phi Chapter has far surpassed the baseline requirements of Beta Alpha Psi and has excelled in the areas of leadership, academics and professionalism." To achieve Superior Chapter status members must obtain at least 12 hours of professional development and 12 hours of community service. Additionally, the chapter is also required to participate in regional and national events," Abbott-Thompson said. Abbott-Thompson said as reward for the achievement, Marshall's Beta Alpha Psi chapter will be recognized and given a monetary award at the annual national meeting Aug. 3-5 in Anaheim, California (excerpted from the Herald Dispatch).

The Spring Beta Alpha Psi banquet was a huge success! It was held at Guyan Country Club and many students, faculty, and business professionals attended. Twenty students were inducted (see list below), and nine members were recognized as graduating (see list to the right). The dinner featured a speech by the new President, Tatyana Hall, and the Business Professional of the Year, Tomi Webber (see last page). Also, Kathy Eddy presented the winners of the Kathy Eddy New Horizon Fund, an opportunity for students to expand their knowledge of the accounting profession by visiting the WV Society of CPAs annual meeting at the Greenbrier.

The following students were inducted as new members of BAP: Colin Bielat, Nghi Doan, Tayla Ebersohl, Kaitlin Francis, Stephen Gaal, Andrew Gibb, Kelli Halsted-Herr, Chenhui Hao, Phung Hong, Allison Kellerman, Kasey Klages, Jeremy Laster, Nick Lawson, Kris McMillion, Cullen Mears, Tyler Moles, Savannah Perry, Josh Ross, Kaylee Stengel, and Kasun Wijayagurusinghe.

Other Student Awards:

IAHS (IMA Accounting Honors Society): Phung Hong, Haley Phillips, Jacob Alton, Andrew Campbell, Nghi Doan, Dakota Kelly

CMA (Certified Management Accountant) Scholarship: Kaylin Westfall, Travis Grimm, Jessa Wilson, Shelby Reynolds, Brandon Walters

Becker Scholarship: Jordan Dillon

FSA (Federation of Schools of Accountancy) Student award: Jessa Wilson

Honors Convocation: Outstanding Accounting Students-Lakin Boggs and Brooke Burgess, and Beta Alpha Psi Service Award-Josh Ison

Spring 2017 Graduates

BBA Degree

Josh Ison
Samantha Lengyel
Jenna Jenkins
Katherine Cauley
Tongyan Wen
Andrew Gibb
Lyndsie Guzek
Kaylee Dillon
Steven Hanshaw
Allie Kellerman
Jason West
Colin Bielat
Travis Grimm
Jorden Dillon
Trent McCutcheon
Jared Tucker
Ashlee Miller
Hayley Irvine
Erika Popp
Kaylin Westfall
Katelyn Farr
Colten Floyd
S. Elizabeth Cartmill
Shelly Clifton

MSA Degree

Brandon Walters
Shelby Reynolds
Jessa Wilson
Yingzhuo (Effie) Li
Peyton Miller

VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a program in which our Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) chapter partners with the United Way to prepare tax returns for the underprivileged in the community. The program is coordinated by Josh Ison, our student Vita Coordinator and Amanda Thompson-Abbott, faculty advisor. This semester VITA had approximately 30 student volunteers preparing 210 returns and putting \$140,000 back into the community, free of charge.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

This year the Division has two Graduate Assistants (GAs): Brandon Walters and Jessa Wilson. They are a great asset to the Division and help with research, grading, copying, and more! This semester we are featuring Jessa. Jessa Wilson is a student in the MS Accounting program from Chesapeake, Ohio. She got her BBA in Accounting and Finance from Marshall in May 2016. She will be graduating in May 2017 with her MS in Accountancy and will start at Walls and Associates, PLLC as a staff tax accountant. She is beginning the CPA exam this summer, and hopes to be finished with all four parts by January 2018. During her time in college, Jessa was a four-year member of the Marching Thunder and Vice President of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. She was a recipient of the first round of the Kathy Eddy New Horizons Fund and received the FSA Student Award. Jessa is engaged to a recent graduate of the accounting program, Guy Parker, and will be getting married in September 2017. Jessa enjoys watching Netflix with a pint of ice cream and loving on her coonhound/lab mix, Riley.

STUDENTS TAKING THE CPA EXAM

Our Accounting majors get ahead on taking (and passing) the CPA exam. Students that are currently taking the exam include:

1. Lakin Boggs
2. Shelby Reynolds
3. Peyton Miller
4. Shawna Bartram
5. Jessa Wilson

Congratulations to Brandon Walters, our GA and current student in the MS Accountancy program (graduates May 2017), who passed all four parts! Great work, we are proud of you!

ACCOUNTING ACCREDITATION EXTENDED

The AACSB Continuous Improvement Review Team visited the Marshall campus in February. They recommended extension of accreditation for our accounting programs. The report reads; “The recommendation of the Continuous Improvement Review Team is that the accreditation of the undergraduate and master’s degree programs in accounting offered by the Lewis College of Business be extended for an additional five years with a Continuous Improvement Review to occur in 2021/2022.” (Full report is available.) Congratulations to the Division for its hard work in maintaining accreditation!



“I went back to school to get my accounting degree because I like problem solving and math and it is a good combination of the two. Numbers Rule!” Shelly Clifton, BBA Program

ACCOUNTING TRIVIA

Which of the following was not an accountant?

- a. Erin Brady 2013 Miss USA
- b. Arthur Blank owner of the Atlanta Falcons
- c. Walter Diemer inventor of bubble gum
- d. Neil Armstrong first person on the moon



COMMITTEE DAY

The WV Society of CPAs Annual Committee Day is on May 12th at the Charleston Marriott. As usual this event will be free of charge for student members. The WVSCPA markets this event as “an excellent way to become familiar with the Society, network with accounting professionals from across the state and get involved with the different Committees that the Society supports.”

The WVSCPAs have 7 committees and allows you to serve on two of them. The committees include:

- Accounting & Auditing Standards
- Awards
- Banking, Industry & Government
- Recruiting & Career Opportunities
- Small Firm & Sole Practitioner Development
- Taxation
- Young CPAs

Why are these committees important? The WVSCPAs use the committees to accomplice strategic goals and initiatives. They do this in many ways, some of which are specialized conferences, social and networking events, meetings with government officials and other organizations, the coordination of informative publications, legislative advocacy and determining award winners.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Accepted Research Papers and Conferences Attended

- Dr. Junwook Yoo: “Can a Uniform Performance Evaluation System Be Efficient? Analysis of a Multi-Period Agency,” the AAA 2017 Ohio Region Meeting, May 12, Columbus, Ohio
- Dr. Nancy Lankton: “Paying Attention to News Briefs about Innovative Technologies,” the 23rd Americas Conference on Information Systems, accepted May 1, 2017.
- Drs. Jean Price and Nancy Lankton: “Distinguishing the Effects of B2B Information Quality, System Quality, and Service Outcome Quality on Trust and Distrust,” *Journal of Strategic Information Systems*, accepted January, 2017.

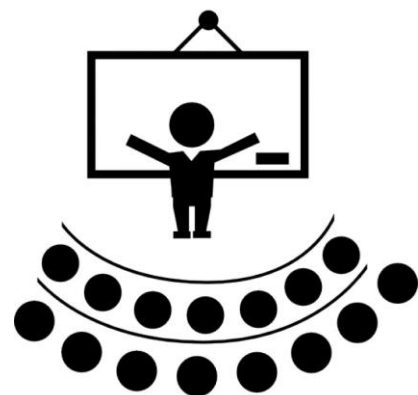
- Dr. Nancy Lankton: American Accounting Association, Accounting Information Systems and Strategic and Emerging Technologies Conference, January 2017, Discussant and Reviewer.

Classroom Guest Speakers

Our faculty engage students by inviting guest speakers from the “real world” to discuss important topics.

- Special Agent Scott Noullet with the Department of Health and Human Services visited Dr. Susan Lanham’s ACC 480-Fraud Examination class. He brought surveillance cameras used in their investigations that are hidden inside common objects like key chains. He also brought his bullet proof police vest to pass around the room--it weighs 40 pounds!
- Les Harbour from Hayflich, PLLC came to Dr. Parporn Akathaporn’s ACC 429-Auditing class to explain Audit software. Dr. Akathaporn also had a Mock Board of Directors in the accounting capstone class (ACC 499) consisting of Jason Kelly with Hess, Stewart & Campbell; Steve Roberson, with Kelley Galloway Smith Goolsby, PSC; Rachel Burdette, with Dixon Hughes Goodman, and Les Harbour, with Hayflich, PLLC.
- Natalie Luppold with Suttle & Stalnaker PLLC, visited Dr. Nancy Lankton’s ACC 632-Auditing Accounting Information Systems class. She brought in sample audit workpapers and planning documents, and told the students about her audit test where she pretends to be having trouble carrying boxes to try and get in locked facilities without a key.

We thank all these guest speakers for taking valuable time away from their busy schedules to enhance student learning!



FORENSIC ACCOUNTING SPOTLIGHT

An Interview with Dr. Susan Lanham

What is Forensic Accounting?

Any accounting related work that is suitable for use in court.

What do you do in the field?

I work mostly in civil cases and less often in criminal cases. I have been involved in 1000 – 2000 civil matter cases, and only around 10 criminal cases.

In both types of cases, the attorneys on either side call on me to value economic damages such as loss of income potential and future medical expenses, and discount them to present value. I then present this information to a jury if needed.

Why did you choose this field?

I interviewed for many positions but this was the one that clicked and I loved it from the start.

Is Forensic Accounting new?

Forensic Accounting isn't new. However, its popularity has increased in the last 10 years because many universities have started to offer degree programs in forensic accounting. Also, it is gaining more exposure on TV.

Who is looking to hire forensic accountants?

More large accounting firms have a litigation services division, which is typically civil litigation support. In this area the firms typically hire from within the firm. Law enforcement and hospitals are hiring forensic accountants to work on criminal cases.

What is the job market like in WV and surrounding states?

There will always be a need for forensic accountants to value economic damages in civil litigation and to uncover fraud in criminal cases. However, individuals new to the field may need to move to a more urban area to get started. Once started they can move back to WV to get a job that requires experience.

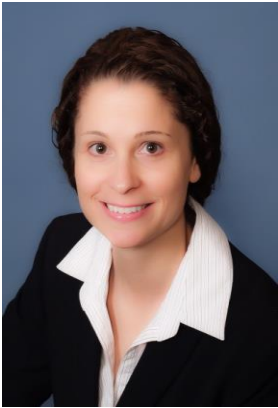
What kind of credentials do you need for this work?

There are no required credentials although it is recommended that you have at least a Master's degree and some professional designation as you will be compared to your counterpart on the other side of the case. A CPA is a preferred designation but CFF (Certified in Financial Forensics) and MAFF (Master Analyst in Financial Forensics) are also desired certifications. Attorneys love for the hired accountant to have a PhD as they love to call you doctor during the case!



FORENSIC ACCOUNTING SPOTLIGHT (Continued)

Get to Know Dr. Susan Lanham



Dr. Susan Lanham is originally from the Tucker County, Canaan Valley, Black Waters Falls area. She received her BBA from Marshall in 1994, her MBA from Salem in 2004, and her PhD from North Central in 2013. She is a CDFA- Certified Divorce Financial Analyst and a MAFF- Master Analyst in Financial Forensics. She has been named the Forensic accounting expert in over 100 separate legal cases and has performed over 1,000 separate evaluations on economic damages. After joining Marshall in 2014, Dr. Lanham developed the undergraduate course that focuses on criminal forensics and the graduate course that focuses on the civil side. She teaches fraud examination, civil litigation, survey of accounting, accounting principles, and first year seminar. Her favorite class is Survey of Accounting because despite the fact it has 50 students, she enjoys the diversity in the class with a large international presence. On the personal side, Dr. Lanham is married with three children—all boys! Her husband is a federal agent. Her oldest son just got his learner's permit, the next oldest will get his in two years, and the youngest in two more. Dr. Lanham said jokingly, "The next 6 years will be spent terrified in the car!" She loves gardening and looks forward to planting her large vegetable garden in May. She has a twin brother named Steve who flies a helicopter that has a giant saw hanging from it to cut right- of-ways. Finally, Dr. Lanham says teaching is in her blood because her Father was a principal, her Mother taught and was a high school guidance counselor, and her older sister teaches middle school.

FACULTY AWARDS

This year we have been lucky to have three faculty win awards for their excellence in teaching and research. With our small department this is very impressive and just goes to show the kind of Accounting and Legal Environment education we provide.

Our first award winner is Amanda Thompson-Abbott. She won the University's Council of Chairs Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award recognizes teaching excellence in Marshall University's full-time term and temporary faculty. The selection process is very lengthy, and included the Selection Committee stopping by to observe classroom teaching. This would be nerve racking for most but Amanda was able to go through the process and win the award! A \$1000 cash award was presented to Amanda at the Spring General Faculty Meeting on April 24th. Congratulations Amanda on your award! You are truly an asset to the division and to the many students in the classroom and in Beta Alpha Psi that you help become leaders!

Our other winner is Dr. Jean Price. She won the West Virginia Society of CPAs 2017 Educator of the Year award. This award recognizes excellence in classroom teaching and motivating students, and is given annually to a past or current full-time accounting educator at a WV post-secondary educational institution. Dr. Price received this

award for her great teaching and her work in helping our students become involved in professional activities with the Society, including her involvement in interviewing and selecting students for the Kathy Eddy New Horizons Fund. Our warmest congratulations to Dr. Price, who will receive the award during the WVSCPA's annual meeting this June at the Greenbrier!

Our last award winner is Dr. Nancy Lankton, who received the College's 2017 Robert P. Alexander Award for Research Excellence. This award was given at the College's first annual spring banquet, and recognizes impactful research that engages students and the community. Dr. Lankton's research appears in top-tier journals and promotes the College's mission. She has also published conference proceedings and practitioner articles, and is on a review board for a top-tier journal. Congratulations Dr. Lankton on your award!



Amanda
Thompson-
Abbott and
her parents,
April 2017

BUSINESS INFORMATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Tomi Webber is this year's Marshall University Nominee Business Information Professional of the Year. Beta Alpha Psi annually presents the Business Information Professional of the Year award to one professional in each of the following segments: education; industry & government; and professional services. Beta Alpha Psi chapters provide the nominations for this award to honor their own outstanding alumni members or honorary members. Award winners are recognized at the Beta Alpha Psi Annual Meeting.

Tomi is currently a member at Hess, Stewart & Campbell in Huntington, WV. She has her BBA in accounting from Marshall and is a West Virginia licensed CPA. Tomi isn't only successful in her career she is very active in the community with some of her most prominent work coming from what she has done with Dress for Success a local charity that provides professional dress to help people gain employment. She has also served as president for the Huntington chapters of WV Society of CPAs and American Society of Women Accountants in the past. Whenever Tomi can find time she enjoys teaching a cycling class. In her acceptance speech she talked about how there are many deserving people so it means a lot that she was chosen. Congratulations Tomi and good luck in the national competition!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Melissa A. Price, CPA started at Gibbons & Kawash, A.C. in the spring of 1998 just two weeks after graduating from Marshall. Over the next several years, she moved up through the ranks and became a Director just 9 years after starting her professional career. She has received the Generation Next: 40 Under 40 award in 2012, a statewide awards program sponsored by the State Journal that highlights young professionals who push forward every day with their own dreams and plans to make West Virginia a better place. Her current position at the firm is Director/Shareholder.

Melissa says her favorite part of the job is "interacting with a wide variety of clients and helping them solve problems in their businesses. I also enjoy recruiting and training young professionals in an effort to help them get their career started on the right path."

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Did you know . . .

Jeffrey Porter, CPA the founder and owner of Porter & Associates, CPA in Huntington, WV studied accounting at Marshall and is this year's Marshall University Distinguished Alumnus.

Did you know . . .

Mark Morgan, CPA the currently the CEO of HIMG in Huntington, WV has his accounting degree from Marshall and received this year's Lewis College of Business Award of Distinction.

ACCOUNTING TRIVIA ANSWER

Neil Armstrong was not an accountant, although his father was an auditor.

In order to maintain our AACSB accreditation, the Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment
needs your financial support.
Please make checks payable to:

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**Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment
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**All donations are greatly appreciated and will help us continue to provide a
high quality, successful learning experience to our students.**

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