Welcome Aboard!  
Get to know the three new faculty members joining our team

Instructor **John Eckroth, MBA ‘07, CPA (Oregon and California)**, holds a B.S. from the California State University, Bakersfield, an MBT from the University of Southern California and an MBA from Portland State University. John’s teaching experience includes financial accounting and financial statement analysis.

John’s work experience includes five years at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, nine years as a partner in a small CPA firm in Claremont, Calif. and another five years as Controller, and later CFO of a U.S. based subsidiary of the Spanish banking firm BBVA. Since 2002, John served as a consultant for BBVA’s US operations, working with its Houston-based subsidiaries in the areas of financial reporting and analysis, internal controls and regulatory compliance.

Assistant Professor **Cass Hausserman, CPA (Illinois)**, received a B.A. and M.S. in Accounting from Michigan State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Before starting her Ph.D., she worked for KPMG’s Federal Tax Group in Chicago as a tax senior.

During her doctoral studies, Cass taught courses in managerial accounting and taxation. Her primary research interests include taxpayer behavior, perceptions of the IRS and fair treatment of taxpayers, as well as factors that improve taxpayer compliance. Cass is also interested in characteristics unique to accounting and tax professionals and how they relate to job performance and career satisfaction.

Assistant Professor **Joleen Kremin, CPA (Utah)**, has a B.S. and MAcc from Southern Utah University and a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. Prior to obtaining her Ph.D., Joleen worked in the audit practice of Tanner LC in Salt Lake City, Utah as an audit senior. Her audit experience includes SEC filings, ERISA, manufacturing, mining, non-profit and service organizations.

Joleen’s teaching experience includes audit and financial accounting.

Her primary research interests center on behavioral decision theory specifically in an audit setting. She is engaged in research that applies psychological and social psychological theories to current issues in accounting such as auditor independence, professional skepticism, investor decisions, auditor judgments and audit quality.
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

GREETINGS FROM THE ACCOUNTING AREA AT PSU! On behalf of the Accounting faculty, it is a pleasure to share our updates with you. It seems like some things are constantly changing, yet others remain the same.

Faculty News We again have a year of tremendous change. It is with great sadness that we announce the retirements of Professor Ray Johnson and Professor Tom Johnson. Ray and Tom have a combined 63 years of service to PSU, and our program will not be the same without them! We are, however, delighted to announce the hiring of three new outstanding faculty - Dr. Cass Hausermann (tax), Dr. Joleen Kremin (auditing), and John Eckroth (financial accounting). All bring strong academic credentials, engaging classroom presence and depth of practice experience to their subjects. We are lucky to have them join our team!

Student News We continue to see high numbers of students and are on target to have almost 200 graduate again this year. This term I am teaching many of our students who will be graduating in the next six months, and I’m awed by their work ethic and wealth of previous experience they bring to their accounting education. Placing these talented students in our still tight economy is our biggest challenge. This is where you as alumni can help! If your organization is seeking new accounting professionals, please consider posting your position at PSU by contacting Becky Einolf at beckye@pdx.edu.

Alumni and Supporter News In these times of tight state budgets, we are more grateful than ever for the financial support of donors. These funds ensure support of student professional development activities and faculty continuing education, both of which strengthen our program and the quality of our graduates. So please consider passing on the gift of education to the next generation of accountants!

Warm Regards,

Elizabeth Almer, Accounting Area Director

PROFESSOR TOM JOHNSON RETIRES

H. THOMAS JOHNSON, THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESSES’ FIRST RETZLAFF CHAIR IN MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT, has retired after 26 years as an Accounting Professor at the SBA.

Johnson started teaching at Portland State in 1988. Exploring new ways of thinking with SBA Dean Roger Ahlbrandt (1993-1999) and exchanging new ideas with so many bright young MBA students rank among the highlights of his time at PSU.

In addition to teaching, Johnson is a prolific author and researcher. He is considered an authority on economic history, management accounting, quality management, and operations management. Author of seven books and more than 100 articles, he has received many honors for his publications, including the American Accounting Association’s Wildman Gold Medal. His best-selling Relevance Lost: The Rise and Fall of Management Accounting, co-authored with Robert S. Kaplan, was named by Harvard Business Review as one of the most influential management books published in the 20th century.

Among his many professional and academic appointments, Johnson is a former President of The Academy of Accounting Historians and has served on the editorial boards of professional journals, including Accounting Review, and the International Journal of Strategic Cost Management. He has served on several boards including the Oregon Quality Award Board of Overseers, the USA TODAY Quality Cup Judges Board and the Procter & Gamble Quality Forum.

“Never assume that your professors or bosses are asking the right questions,” Johnson said, when asked if he had parting advice for current business students.

“The world needs more people who keep looking for better questions, even when others say their answers are wrong. Our world is being crushed under the influence of those who always have the right answers to the wrong questions.”

Everyone in the School of Business wishes Tom the very best. We’d like to thank him for his many years of service. Congratulations, Tom!
Friends of the Accounting Program

The School of Business Administration would like to thank all individuals and companies who support the accounting program. The following generous individuals and companies made outright or matching contributions between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

2012-2013 Accounting Circle Members (in green)  † = deceased

INDIVIDUALS
$5,000 to $9,000
Stephen and Janet Tolopka ‘88

$2,500 to $4,999
Ron Chu ’93
Rick Hawkins ‘69 and Deborah Hawkins

$1,000 to $2,499
Elizabeth Almer and Anthony Almer
James Brown
Darrell Brown and Deb Janikowski ‘04 †
Judy Dauble
Shirley Dunn ‘75
Debora Erb and Marshall Erb ’86
Trina Headley ‘00
Dennis Johnson
Joe Karas ’77 and Jan Karas

Lynn Kingston ’88 and Harry Kingston
Marilyn Lindgren and John Lindgren
Randy Lund and Teri Lund
Art Miles ’72 and Robin Miles
Paul Mueller ‘05
Ron Odermott ’08 and Hilary Odermott
Kris Peterson ’94
Don Riggs ’83 and Melinda Riggs
Don Schmidt ’73 and Marilyn Schmidt
Linda Sullivan ’98 and Tom Sullivan
Vicki Tagliificio ’79
Craig Vagt
Paul Waldram ’82 and Margaret Waldram
Donald Watne and Patricia Watne ’78
Edward Wistos ‘12
Annetta Young ’82

$500 to $999
Abdulaziz Alsaygh

Kamala Austin ’96 and David Austin
Donald Corbett
Drew Corrigan
Constance Degerstedt ’81
and Ross Degerstedt
Bill Kenny
Art Miles ’72 and Robin Miles
Jim Miller ’86
R. Sean Monahan
Dick Solomon ’69 and Alyce Flitcraft
Daniel Swain ’80 and Janet Swain

COMPANIES
$10,000 and more
Moss Adams, LLP

$2,500 to $4,999
Intel Corporation
KPMG, LLP

$1,000 to $2,499
Deloitte & Touche Foundation
Edison International
Life Easier Fund of California
Perkins & Company
Toyota Financial Services

Please support the accounting program in 2014! Gifts to the accounting program enable us to provide scholarships; enhance faculty development, recruitment and retention; and cultivate our reputation for quality. Please consider making a gift online: www.foundation.pdx.edu/publicgift

PROFESSOR RAY JOHNSON RETIRES

AFTER 37 YEARS OF TEACHING, Professor Ray Johnson is retiring. Professor Johnson joined the PSU faculty in 1977 as an adjunct, becoming a full-time professor in 1981.

Professor Johnson taught auditing and advanced auditing, areas of expertise he developed as an international audit researcher. In 1982 he spent a year conducting research as a post-doctoral fellow for a number of English Chartered Accounting firms in England. In 1988, he spent a sabbatical year in New York City as a staff member on the U.S. Auditing Standards Board. Johnson says these experiences allowed him to bring knowledge and practical experience back to his students at PSU.

Although he counts his professional development opportunities among his career highlights, he is quick to emphasize how much interacting with students meant to him throughout his long career.

“PSU has been the launching pad for so many CPAs that have contributed to the profession, and to the Oregon business community,” Johnson said. “Their individual successes, in which I have played only a small part, have been the wind beneath my wings.”

Professor Johnson also credits Portland State for allowing him to participate in the accounting profession in a number of ways. He has served as President of the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants and was a member of many professional organizations, including the Oregon Board of Accountancy, Board of Directors of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the U.S. International Qualifications Appraisal Board, the Consultative Advisory Group of the International Accounting Education Standards Board and the AICPA Professional Ethics Executive Committee.

Johnson was also the first recipient of the Harry C. Visse Excellence in Teaching Fellowship from Portland State. When asked if he has any parting words of advice for current students, Johnson said, “Never stop learning.”

“At PSU, students are just beginning to launch careers and they will continue to learn much more in the decades after they graduate,” Johnson said. “The Business and Accounting Faculty at PSU offer them the skills to build their own human capital. Becoming a CPA is one of the best things to have happened in my career, and the one thing that is constant for me is that I am still learning.”

INTRODUCING THE RAYMOND N. AND MARILYN L. JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

THE CHALLENGE

The Johnsons have agreed to match all new and increased gifts to any accounting scholarship fund up to $75,000! To make a gift, visit foundation.pdx.edu or contact Hilary Elgin at helgin@pdx.edu.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to their matching gift, the Johnsons have established an annual scholarship for accounting students. A $3,000 scholarship will be awarded to an accounting student each year. The recipient must declare his/her intent to practice public accounting, have a minimum 3.4 GPA and demonstrate strong leadership skills and financial need.

When Ray Johnson decided to retire this year, he and his wife Marilyn knew they wanted to help make education more affordable for serious accounting students. Both Ray and Marilyn were among the first in their families to earn college degrees and are grateful for the opportunities and upward mobility that an affordable higher education have given them. The School of Business would like to thank the Johnsons for their years of service to PSU and for their inspiring generosity.

“Our goal is to raise significant funds for accounting scholarships,” Ray said. “If we can get new donors to help support the next generation of CPAs, or get existing donors to raise the level of their scholarship funding, Marilyn and I will match those gifts. In so doing, we hope to help the next generation of CPAs. And, hopefully, if we can help this generation in meaningful ways, they will help the generation that follows them.”
ACCOUNTING ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

LOCAL ACCOUNTING FIRM KIECKHAFER SCHIFFER & COMPANY LLP (KS&CO) has offered a unique internship program for Reynolds High School students and Portland State undergraduate accounting students for the past four years. Founded by KS&Co partners Greg Fletcher ’97 and Peter Buss (both Reynolds alumni), the internship program accepts up to four students per year for what Fletcher describes as “real accounting work.”

“These are meant to be working internships,” Fletcher said. “We don’t just give them filler work.”

The students are recruited through the Cascade Academy Foundation and at on-campus business events like Meet the Firms and Beta Alpha Psi meetings. The PSU students are paid on an hourly basis and perform tax preparation, auditing functions and other basic accounting tasks that a KS&Co full-time employee would. This has made for a seamless transition for several past interns who have been hired upon graduation.

“By interning with us first, it gives us the opportunity to test out the students and it gives students the ability to see what our firm is like,” Fletcher said. “It’s definitely a win-win situation.”

KS&Co Intern: Jamie Boardman ‘13

Jamie Boardman ’13, holds a B.S. in Accounting from PSU and is a current MSFA student expecting to graduate this spring. She has been a KS&Co Audit Intern for the past five months. Below, Jamie shares some highlights from her experience:

My favorite part of my internship has been the exposure to new connections and the exposure of what it is like in the audit field. This internship has helped my career in three main ways.

One, it gave me hands-on experience in public accounting. People may initially think they want to go into public accounting, but don’t really know what they are in for until they get thrown into it. Having the ability to be in the atmosphere has helped ensure that I do want to go down the public accounting track.

I have also applied what I have learned in school and expanded my skill set. Being a small firm, I have had a lot of exposure auditing many different accounts. In my five months I have been able to audit internal controls, cash, prepaid expenses, other current assets, fixed assets, accounts payable, accrued expenses, and income statement accounts.

Third, it has introduced me to many individuals who have been in my place before and can help me and lend me advice whenever I need it. Public accounting can be tough and a good support system is a key to success.

My KS&Co internship has reaffirmed my desire to be in public accounting, taught me how to apply what I learned at school to the workplace and helped me create professional relationships.