IN MEMORIAM: DON WATNE
Based on the eulogy delivered by Emeritus Professor Dick Visse

MANY OF OUR ALUMNI FONDLY REMEMBER PROFESSOR DON WATNE who taught auditing and international accounting at Portland State University from 1976 until his retirement in 2001. Though sadly Don passed away on February 3rd, 2015, he left behind a legacy in the lives of so many Portland accountants who he taught over his 24-year career at PSU.

Don joined PSU at a transitional moment in the history of the business school as the faculty was moving from being part-time professionals to full-time doctorally qualified faculty.

Don was not only an accomplished author he was also a very effective teacher in the classroom. His affable personality and dry wit were very much appreciated by students. Furthermore, Don enjoyed contact with students and was able to advise and mentor many students both before and after graduation. Don’s efforts significantly elevated both the quality and the prestige of PSU’s accounting program.

Don will always be remembered as a deeply valued colleague. When asked about his friend, Dr. Raymond Johnson, CPA, said, “Don was a very approachable colleague. He was readily available to talk with about professional issues and research ideas, and he was available to read drafts of manuscripts that I was working on. Everything he did supported integrity and high standards in the accounting and auditing profession.”

As computers became commonplace in the early 80’s he understood the complexities they would put on the auditing function and realized that the current texts covering the subject were outdated. Drawing on his experiences in public accounting, his work in the Peace Corps, and his time with IBM, he wrote a text on Auditing Electronic Data Processing Systems. The text was well received and widely used in the US and other countries.

The world of business and accounting were also at a transitional moment. In 1976 there was no Apple, the IBM PC was 5 years away, the accounting department secretary used an IBM non-selectric typewriter, voicemail didn’t exist and the Commodore 4 function calculator cost $140.

Quickly the accounting profession started to change as technology became available to the masses. Don, being a visionary, embraced the changes, continually adapting to the new technologies.

Donations in remembrance of Don may be made to the School of Business at www.pdx.edu/sba/how-to-give
GREETINGS FROM THE ACCOUNTING AREA AT PSU!

After seven years, Elizabeth Almer has passed on the reigns of Accounting Area Director. For those of you who I have not yet met, let me introduce myself. I joined the faculty at PSU in 2006 after completing my PhD at the University of Washington. Originally from Montana, I practiced in Portland as an Audit Manager at KPMG, a CPA at Irvine & Co., a Project Manager at Two Degrees, and a Medicare Auditor at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon prior to entering academia. Serving as Accounting Area Director has been a wonderful new challenge, and I have enjoyed working more closely with our faculty, members of the community, and students beyond those in my classes!

This has been a busy year with accreditation reviews, dean searches, and faculty changes. Three new faculty members joined the accounting area this fall – John Eckroth (Financial), Cass Hausserman (Tax), and Joleen Kremin (Audit). We are so pleased with their dedication and passion! This has also been a year of change as we say goodbye to one of our retiring accounting faculty, Cherie Francisco and our Dean, Scott Dawson. Please join us in thanking them for their many years of service! We are excited to announce the hiring of a new faculty member, Kelly Lutz (Financial) and a new Dean, Dan Connolly. Both bring strong credentials and experience to support their positions and we are very fortunate to bring them on board!

Taking over the Accounting Area Director position this year has given me a deep appreciation for all that our community and faculty do to support our accounting program! Alumni, Accounting Advisory Board members, and others in the community support our program continually by teaching classes, donating computers, serving as mentors, hiring our students, and donating to student scholarships and accounting programs. Faculty members dedicate countless hours mentoring, grading and creating classroom innovations. Thank you all for all that you do!

I am so proud of our students' accomplishments – participating in student groups, winning awards at competitions, volunteering for CASH Oregon, interning, receiving scholarships – to name a few! It is impressive to see the expertise our students bring to the table when competing against other students in the region. I would like thank you every one of you who have helped contribute in various ways to our students' success!

Regards,

Kathy Rupley

Accounting Area Director

FACULTY UPDATES


Elizabeth Almer was named to the OSCPA Educational Foundation board.

Darrell Brown was named Principle Investigator on a NSF supported Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT), focusing on Ecosystem Services supporting Urbanizing Regions (ESUR). He also published “Madécase: Competing with a “4x Fairtrade” business model”, Case Studies in Social Entrepreneurship, The Oikos Collection. Volume 4. Greenleaf Publishing Limited.

Cass Hausserman received an SBA research grant for her work on effects of tax deductions on charitable giving and the relationship between charitable giving and tax policy preferences. She also presented her research paper “Inducing Creativity in Accountants’ Task Performance: The Effects of Background and Environment” to the SBA.

Joleen Kremin presented her research paper “Control yourself! The Impact of self-control on auditors’ ability to practice professional skepticism” at the BYU Accounting Research Symposium and the American Accounting Association (AAA) ABO and Audit meetings. She presented her research paper “External Auditors’ Perceptions of and Willingness to Work in Outsourced and In-House Internal Audit Functions” at the AAA Audit meeting and her research paper “Growing Up: How Audit Internships Affect Students’ Commitment and Long-Term Intentions to Work in Public Accounting” at the AAA ABO meeting.

Kathy Rupley and Elizabeth Almer were appointed to Associate Editor positions for Advances in Accounting.

When Teresa Spada enrolled in the Accounting Program at Portland State University in 1969, she was one of only two women in her class.

Spada, who grew up in Southwest Portland, says she always knew she wanted to be an accountant. Teresa enjoyed her high school bookkeeping class, and was influenced by the respect she heard in her father’s voice when he spoke of the family’s CPA.

Once at PSU, Teresa juggled working her way through school and thrived learning from beloved and charismatic professors like Joseph O’Rourke and Hjalmar Rathe.

“I think the value of the education I got at PSU was incredible,” says Spada. “In accounting, many of our professors had industry and accounting practitioner experience and invaluable connections. This exposed us to real-world, as well as theoretical perspectives.”

Upon graduation, Spada went to work for a local accounting firm, but quickly realized that in the mid-1970s being female would limit her opportunities to become a partner.

After earning her CPA license she quit and opened up her own practice, building a client-base from ground zero. It took her more than two years to begin to earn a profit, but she never gave up.

During that time, Spada persisted through hard work, networking, seeking out mentors and asking questions.

A strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit run in Spada’s family – her grandparents, Italian immigrants, began a small produce business that is now United Salad Co., a full-line wholesaler to the local retailer trade in the Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho regions.

Spada currently maintains her own accounting practice and also serves as United Salad’s CFO. The company, which continues to grow and expand, is in its fourth generation of family leadership.

“My favorite part of working in accounting is the relationships you build with clients and the ability to help people solve problems, while affecting positive change in their lives. PSU and my accounting courses helped enable me to do this – it’s just an excellent school with an excellent accounting program!”

Friends of the Accounting Program

The School of Business Administration would like like to thank all the individuals and companies who support the accounting program. The following generous individuals and companies made contributions between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

*2013-2014 Accounting Circle Members (in green) † = deceased

**INDIVIDUALS**

$5,000 and more
Raymond and Marilyn Johnson
Lynn and Harry Kingston

$2,500 to $4,999
Gary Homesly
Dick and Sandy Visse
Phil Bogue
Les and Nancy Fahey
Rick and Deborah Hawkins

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Please support the accounting program in 2015! 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
OUR AWARD WINNING STUDENTS

KPMG/Seattle University Case Competition: 2nd Place
PSU accounting students Sean Baker, Stephanie Shao, Jessica Hoffman, and Matt Hromalik (pictured below from left to right with Professor Kathy Rupley, center) took second place in the annual KPMG/Seattle University Case Competition, earning a $1,500 cash prize. Students prepared a case on revenue recognition for smart watches and presented to a panel of four KPMG judges. This is the first year that PSU has participated in the competition, placing ahead of Oregon State University, University of Portland, University of Washington, Boise State University, Central Washington University, Gonzaga University, Seattle University, Holy Names University, University of Alaska, and University of Montana.

Regional 2015 Beta Alpha Psi Awards
Jeffret Madondo and Stephanie Shao took second place for the Deloitte Best Practices: International Impact Award. Their submission reported on the chapter’s program to involve more international students in leadership positions, and to foster a culture of inclusion and cultural understanding between international and domestic students. The PSU team placed ahead of Western Washington University, Seattle University, Pacific Lutheran University, and University of Portland.

Superior Chapter Status: 2013/2014
For the second year in a row, PSU’s BAP chapter earned Superior Chapter Status which designates achieving the highest level of member engagement, professional development activities and hours, and community service and outreach. This significant recognition was first accomplished under the leadership of 2012/13 BAP President Andrew Wheeler and then again in the 2013/14 academic year with BAP President Michael Lu.

International Beta Alpha Psi Awards
Jeffret Madondo and Stephanie Shao took second place for the Deloitte Best Practices: Financial Literacy Award. Their submission reported on the chapter’s program to provide financial literacy workshops to PSU students. The team placed ahead of University of Washington, Western Washington University, Seattle University, University of Washington– Bothell, Oregon State University, Washington State University–Vancouver, Eastern Washington University, and University of Portland.

International Beta Alpha Psi/EY Inclusive Leadership Award:
PSU’s BAP chapter was selected as a Top 10 finalist for the BAP/EY Inclusive Leadership Award out of over 300 international chapters for the second year in a row. Their winning project proposal built on last year’s first place finish by creating a comprehensive business simulation to engage college and high school students through realistic business ethics challenges. BAP officers Sarah Dunbar, Abigail Therrow, Jeffret Madondo, and Jessica Hoffman led these efforts. PSU BAP will go on to compete for a top prize in this category at the 2015 BAP Annual Meeting.

International Beta Alpha Psi / Grant Thornton Ethics Award:
PSU’s BAP chapter was selected as a Top 10 finalist for the BAP/Grant Thornton Ethics Award out of over 300 international chapters for the second year in a row. Their winning project proposal built on last year’s first place finish by creating a comprehensive business simulation to engage college and high school students through realistic business ethics challenges. BAP officers Sarah Dunbar, Abigail Therrow, Jeffret Madondo, and Jessica Hoffman led these efforts. PSU BAP will go on to compete for a top prize in this category at the 2015 BAP Annual Meeting.

workshops and public speaking opportunities. The team was led by BAP officers Jeffret Madondo and Rahnia Beuter with contributions from Thao Tran, Alex Gibson, Jessalyn Schuhknecht, and Alma Menchaca. PSU BAP will go on to compete for a top prize in this category at the 2015 BAP Annual Meeting.

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