



**ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION
SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT**
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



Attendees of the 2017 AIS Banquet



Julie Dahlberg

ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS
ADVISORY COUNCIL 2015-2018 CHAIR

License/Certifications:
CPA, CISA, CFE, CIA, MBA

What was your most memorable UTEP experience? My most memorable experience about UTEP is graduating with my degrees. This allowed me to sit for the CPA exam (and pass it) setting me up for a fulfilling career in Accounting and CIS.

Was a faculty/staff member instrumental in your growth at UTEP? If so, who and how? This is a loaded question! I had a good relationship with all my professors while in school. The professors who I kept in touch with after graduation through the CPA and other professional societies really made a long-term impact. I consulted their expertise related to my career and graduate school aspirations. It's those long-term friendships as professionals (after college) that really enriched my UTEP experience.

How has UTEP prepared you for your professional life? UTEP has a top tier business school with an AACSB accreditation. UTEP's Accounting and CIS programs are among the best in the US! My UTEP degree allowed me to get my CPA license and have a very rewarding career in Accounting and CIS which has stood the test of time.

What advice would you give to students? My advice to students is to find a way to meet your ultimate career goals, first by meeting your academic goals. Find a way to finish the bachelors' degree and don't stop there. Accounting majors should get the masters' degree as well. Sit for AND PASS the CPA exam. Do all of this while you are young so that you have these requirements behind you. A strong education and professional license sets people up for successful lifelong careers and all the benefits that go along with that.

AIS BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ **50 Years.** The Accounting Department was established in 1968. One year after the inception of the College of Business Administration in 1967. In 2012, the Accounting Department and the Information Systems Department merged.
- ▶ **22** Accounting and Information Systems students acquired internships for credit. Of those internships, 12 were undergraduate and 10 were graduate
- ▶ **197** Accounting and Information Systems students graduated with Bachelors of Business Administration degrees in 2017
- ▶ **30** Students graduated with Master of Accountancy degrees in Fall 2017 - Record Breaking High
- ▶ **\$37,473** - Total scholarships awarded in 2017
 - Fifth Year Scholarship Texas State Board of Public Accountancy
 - Earl Landry
 - Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants - El Paso Chapter
 - Outstanding Senior - Thomas Geller
 - Outstanding MAcc - April Samaniego



Joselyn Contreras

UNDERGRADUATE
ACCOUNTING SENIOR

Graduation date: December 2018

Internship: PwC Internship in Houston – Summer 2018

Organizations: Beta Alpha Psi- Community Service Chair, The Terry Scholars Organization-treasurer, YMCA Volleyball League, El Divino Salvador Baptist Church- Choir member

Why did you choose your major? Math has always been my forte, and Accounting is perfectly suited for my personality. After my first Accounting course, I knew it was the perfect fit for me.

What are your career aspirations? Work for a “Big 4” public accounting companies and incorporate my profession to help those in need in developing countries.

What is your favorite thing about COBA? The endless opportunities for professional development.

What are your plans for graduate school? Pursue a Master’s degree in Accounting and obtain my CPA



Tony Ruvalcaba

MACC STUDENT

Concentration: Taxation
Graduation Date: May 2018

Organizations: United Way’s Young Leadership Society, UTEP Alumni Association’s Young Alumni Network, Young Certified Public Accountants (YCPA) Member, Beta Gamma Sigma Member

Honors: 2016 Gibson Ruddock Patterson Scholarship Recipient, Cum Laude with BBA in Accounting, Dean’s List from 2014-2016

When do you plan to sit for the CPA Exam? I plan to begin sitting for the CPA exam by Fall 2018, in hopes to complete all exams by mid-2019.

Most beneficial MAcc course: Federal Tax Research & Procedures with Julie Dahlberg. This course taught me how to conduct efficient tax research, since my prior knowledge was general. We were encouraged to take an active role in our learning during every class.

Where do you see yourself in the next five years? I have really enjoyed my time at Hunt Companies and feel valued as an employee, I would like to still be a part of the company in five years. I will join other organizations in hopes to be able to give back to college students and the community. More specifically, I want to help students transition into the workforce by sharing with them the useful knowledge I learned through my academic journey.



Iris Smith

MACC ALUMNI

Current Position: Assurance Associate at PriceWaterhouse Coopers

License/Certifications: CPA

What was your most memorable UTEP experience? I would say the trips I took for competitions or conferences and the close friendships I formed.

What faculty/staff member instrumental in your growth at UTEP? So many. Mrs. Stevens and Ms. Marinovic who convinced me to join the Master’s program and obtain a CPA, and Mrs. Houghton for providing support personally and in the profession.

How has UTEP prepared you for your professional life? The university is designed for professionals and working students. Classes focused on real-world application of everything I learned. Specific courses I took mirrored my current job, and other courses helped me develop necessary skills such as excel and writing.

What advice would you give to students? Take advantage of what the university has to offer, ask questions, get involved, and develop relationships with colleagues and faculty.



Xiang (Gail) Gao

PHD STUDENT

What skills have you gained while pursuing your PhD and being a part of the AIS Department? Teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, conducting research in Accounting and related fields, and further developing critical thinking

What area of accounting research do you wish to focus on? My research interest is in the real earnings management and the market reaction to them. My current research project is stock repurchases related to the market expectation manipulation. I am also interested in the impact of technology on accounting reporting and executives self-dealing activity adjustments.

How do you believe/hope your research will benefit others? I hope that my research could help investors understand the potential impact from real- earnings management and identify the signs of such earnings management usage. I also hope my research can be used by lawmakers in regards to regulation of financial disclosures and other market regulations. My development in research has enhanced my teaching, as I bring in more discussions and demonstrate the importance of accounting to students.



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