The Lion Statue of Old Dominion University is seen in an undated file photo. (Courtesy of Old Dominion University)

Md Hasan and Hong Kim Duong – graduates of UTEP’s Accounting doctoral program – are set to join the faculty of Old Dominion University as professors in Fall 2019.

Located in Norfolk, Virginia, Old Dominion University is a doctoral research university that serves more than 24,000 students across more than 120 undergraduate and doctoral programs.

UTEP’s doctoral program in Business Administration which, offers specializations in accounting, finance, information systems, management and marketing, ensures its full-time program emphasizes strong quantitative research methods and business sequences.

Hasan cites the program’s “perfectly

A Note from Giorgio Gotti

On behalf of the UTEP Department of Accounting and Information Systems, I'd like to share with you our Spring 2019 Newsletter.

In our latest edition of our department newsletter, I'm happy to share the stories of success the University has achieved in recent months, along with updates from our graduates and current students.

I'd also like to welcome Dr. James Payne to UTEP, who began his deanship of the college in May. I am excited to continue the college’s tradition of excellence with him.

As a department, our successes are worthy of note and celebration: This academic year, we have awarded more than $45,000 in scholarships to our students. In Fall 2018, we partnered with members of Beta Alpha Psi and offered more than 470 hours of accounting tutoring to our students. Our student body is strong, with more than 600 AIS students enrolled and more than 65 Master of Accountancy and certificate students enrolled.

I encourage you to connect with us through social media and keep up-to-date on our latest news!
Lecture Series Brings Renowned Scholars to El Paso

Renowned scholars Tony Kang, Ph.D. and Erv Black, Ph.D., visited El Paso and discussed their latest research as part of The Accounting Speaker Series. The series connects leading academics in the industry to UTEP students, alumni and area professionals. Kang and Black presented talks on their latest research at the Graduate Business Center in Downtown El Paso in the fall and spring. Lectures are sponsored by the AIS Department, the Graduate Business Center and Dr. Gary J. Mann Family Accounting Endowment.

Q&A: Advisory board chair stresses importance of industry networking

Omar Rodriguez understands the importance of networking within the accounting industry – and he’s keen on creating such opportunities for students and graduates of UTEP’s Accounting and Information Systems (AIS) Department.

Rodriguez currently works as a CPA with Lauterbach, Borschow & Company in El Paso as an Audit Supervisor. With nearly a decade in the accounting industry, Rodriguez networks with professionals locally and abroad. He’s also active within the community, sitting as vice chair on Project BRAVO’s Board of Directors and he currently sits as chairman for the UTEP Accounting and Information Systems (AIS) Advisory Council.

How does the advisory board function within the AIS Department? What’s your role within it?

The UTEP Accounting and Information Systems Advisory Council is made up of 25 professional leaders from private, public, and/or for profit and nonprofit organizations that have a strong interest in accounting and information systems education and research. I currently serve the council as its chairman. The purpose of this great group is to provide counsel to the Chair of the AIS Department, currently held by Dr. Giorgio Gotti, regarding the mission, goals, and strategic planning of the Department. We also look to find ways to strengthen and enhance the financial resources of the department. Moreover, we look for ways to promote the AIS – and COBA as a whole – locally, nationally and internationally.

What aspects of accounting research do you enjoy keeping up with?

The beauty of our profession is that it can relate to every field out there... but I'll keep it simple: Sacrifice some time out of your day to keep up with research behind you. It empowers me to seek out any and all applicable research for my client base. The more accountants keep up with research, the better they serve their clients.

New Corporate, Alumni Relations Director Named

Vanessa G. Leon has been named Director of Corporate Partnerships and Alumni Relations for the College of Business Administration. Leon is responsible for cultivating strong relationships with COBA’s corporate partners and building an engaged network of business alumni.

Leon comes to the University from United Way of El Paso County, where she served as the nonprofit’s development director.

The College of Business Administration actively partners with global industry leaders – including ADP, Lockheed Martin, and Prudential Financial – to offer corporate academies that integrate specialized courses, industry-specific technologies, and co-curricular activities for enrolled students.

Is there a way for alumni or community partners to get involved with advisory board or the department?

It sounds easy, but to give back: Simply reach out. I myself reached out to Dr. Gotti a few years ago because I wanted to get more involved and give back to UTEP and COBA. It was important for me to go back and support not only the institution of UTEP, but the department where I learned my craft and was able to build a career from the education I received there. The AIS Department produces skilled and competitive graduates in the industry and it’s important to support the department as it moves ahead. I highly recommend all current and former students to get involved with the department.

What is the most important part of your job as the Advisory board chair?
The University of Texas at El Paso has attained a coveted R1 designation (top tier doctoral university with very high research activity) in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

UTEP is one of only 130 (4.5%) top tier universities among the 2,883 four-year higher education institutions across the U.S. to earn this prestigious R1 distinction, joining the ranks of such universities as Stanford, M.I.T., Michigan, Arizona and California-Berkeley.

The Carnegie Classification process analyzes higher education institutions in the U.S. on the basis of such factors as research expenditures, undergraduate and graduate instructional programs, enrollment profile, size and setting, and basic classification.

“This newly earned Carnegie R1 classification in the top tier of national research universities strongly validates UTEP’s success in delivering on our innovative access and excellence mission,” said President Diana Natalicio.

Thirty years ago, the university boldly set a goal of expanding the scope and quality of research activity and increasing the number of doctoral programs. Since then, annual research expenditures have grown from $6 million to $95 million.

The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education’s unique classification system of colleges and universities supports its program of research and policy analysis and is an important framework widely used in the study of institutions of higher education.

A group of students traveled with Giorgio Gotti, Ph.D., as part of a faculty-led study abroad trip to Venice, Italy in December 2018. The short-term trip was part of the business course “Global Business Environment,” which explores the issues confronting business enterprises in the global economy. A major component of the course includes the trip to Venice.

The trip included a series of cultural tours and historical site visits, including a stop at Barovier & Toso, one of the oldest family businesses in the world known for producing its world-renowned Venetian glass. Students also visited the Economic Research Office of The Association of Small and Medium Companies of the Veneto Region, which bridged the gap between the real-world activities of enterprise and the concepts explored in traditional classroom settings.

Students engaged in topics of strategy and corporate governance peers from the University of Ca’Foscari, famous for being the first business school in Italy and among the first in Europe.
balanced” approach between academic research and time in the classroom as one of the components that prepared him for life as a professor.

“Becoming a professor gives me the opportunity to disseminate knowledge through teaching and create knowledge through research,” Hasan said. “Published research further spreads this knowledge across the world and being able to practice both passions in an environment like ODU’s greatly excites me.”

Hong Kim Duong, currently an assistant professor of accounting at Salisbury University, moves to ODU after completing the doctoral program in 2016. For Duong, the transition to ODU creates opportunities to expand her research on international accounting, her specialization.

“Part of my research looks at the different approaches to accounting – each industry in each country across the world has its own legal systems, culture and more,” Duong said. “There are so many factors and with globalization, we need to think about knowledge and how it transfers across borders.”

Backed by an accreditation from AACSB International, UTEP’s business degrees stand out in the job market as less than five percent of schools worldwide carry this distinction.

“It’s so exciting when you see the students finish and defend their dissertation and then they come to your office to show you their job offer letters,” said Richard Posthumna, Ph.D., director of the doctoral program at UTEP. “It’s a life changing moment.”

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