Reconnect with Accounting Classmates and Professors at Alumni BBQ

The LMU Alumni BBQ is the largest alumni gathering of the year and is the perfect opportunity for alumni, family and friends to come together and reconnect. This year, the Accounting Society will have its own tent and invites all accounting alumni and their families to campus on Sunday, September 28th for a day of fun.

This is a great opportunity for our accounting alumni to come back to campus and reconnect with fellow accounting classmates and professors. Given the many festivities associated with the Alumni BBQ that you may also want to enjoy, we are designating the hours between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. for accounting alumni to assemble together in the tent.

Tickets to the Alumni BBQ can be purchased online at alumni.lmu.edu/bbq. We hope to see you there as it promises to be an exciting day on the bluff!
Distinguished Speakers Bring Valuable Insights to LMU

The Center for Accounting Ethics, Governance, and the Public Interest welcomed author and leadership expert Chris Lowney to campus in February as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series (organized by Larry Kalbers). In his lecture, titled “Noble Vocation or New Idolatry? Business Leadership Lessons from Pope Francis,” Lowney challenged the audience by asking them if they are using their power to serve only themselves (new idolatry) or to serve others (noble vocation)? Lowney is the author of four books, including Heroic Leadership, Heroic Living and A Vanished World. His latest work, Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads, explores the Pope’s leadership approach and draws crucial life lessons which were highlighted in his lecture.

Mike Wallace discusses the topic of sustainability reporting.

Last fall, the Center for Accounting Ethics also brought in Mike Wallace, director of GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) Focal Point USA, for a lecture titled “Sustainability Performance: Measuring, Managing and Reporting.” Wallace gave an in-depth overview of the current state of corporate sustainability reporting across the world. The GRI is a leading organization in the sustainability field that promotes the use of sustainability reporting as a way for organizations to become more sustainable and contribute to sustainable development. Wallace took time to explain how the guidelines have evolved over time and highlighted some of the latest disclosures.

One of the most powerful figures in accounting visited the LMU campus in October as part of the Paul A. Grosch Lecture Series (organized by Ross Bengel).

Leslie Seidman, former chairman of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), presented an informative lecture on “Setting Standards” in which she discussed how the FASB sets standards, the political pressures FASB members confront, and convergence efforts with the International Accounting Standards Board. Seidman started off by giving an overview of how the FASB is structured and its relationship with the SEC. She went on to explain the FASB standard setting process and discussed the top five issues raised by stakeholders.

All LMU students and alumni are invited to attend these special lectures at no cost. Invitations are sent via email several weeks leading up to the event. If you haven’t been receiving invitations and would like to stay updated on future lectures, please send your updated contact info to cbacommunications@lmu.edu.

Chris Lowney signs a copy of his book for a student.

Leslie Seidman addresses the audience.

Mike Wallace discusses the topic of sustainability reporting.

Former FASB Chairman Leslie Seidman

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SUMMER 2014
It’s been another remarkable year for LMU Accounting. At the Accounting Society Banquet in April, the Department of Accounting awarded over $280,000 in scholarship funds to 50 deserving accounting students. Not only that, we had a record number of attendees this year – many of whom were alumni we hadn’t seen in years. Thank you to all of our alumni who continue to be very supportive and involved in the LMU Accounting Program. And a big thanks to Professor Nancy Coster for coordinating the scholarship application process.

Accounting enrollment reached a record high this year as employment opportunities continued to stay strong. Many of our graduating seniors received multiple job offers. In fact, over 75% had accepted a position by May, two thirds of those with Big 4 international accounting firms.

Our program continues to gain national recognition, with *U.S. News & World Report* ranking the LMU Accounting Program #19. According to the 2013 National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) report, the LMU accounting graduate passing rate on all four parts of the CPA exam significantly exceeded both state and national averages.

Our Accounting Advisory Board continues to be very active and supportive. We are grateful to James Hindman, chair, Noelle Repetti, vice chair, and the rest of the members for their guidance, service and significant contributions to LMU Accounting, particularly to the Master of Science in Accounting Scholarship fund. We launched the Master of Science in Accounting program in fall 2013 and are happy to report that two students graduated this spring. Applications have increased significantly and another round of qualified candidates will begin the program this fall. Many thanks to Professor Michael Moore, MSA Director, for his hard work and dedication to making this program a success.

The Paul A. Grosch Lecture Series and Center for Accounting Ethics’ Distinguished Speaker Series brought in high-profile guest speakers which attracted many alumni, staff, faculty, accounting professionals, and business students. A special thanks to my colleagues, Professor Larry Kalbers and Professor Ross Bengel, for their leadership in organizing these impactful events.

We said farewell to our longtime colleague, Professor Alan Cherry, who retired in May after 31 years of service to the Accounting Department. With the new academic year upon us, I am pleased to welcome our newest faculty member – Dr. Timothy Haight – whom you’ll learn more about in this issue.

I would also like to acknowledge several individuals for their strong support of the Accounting Department, including Dr. Dennis Draper, Dean; Natalie Drdek, Communications Manager; Nancy Donovan, Special Events Coordinator; Roberta Kuhlman, CBA Director of Development; and Sarah Harris, Executive Assistant to the Dean.

I hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to another exciting year ahead!

Mahmoud Nourayi, Ph.D., CPA

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
Alan Cherry Retires; Wins Professor of the Year

Alan Cherry retired in May after 31 years as an accounting professor at LMU’s College of Business Administration. Highlights from his accomplished career at LMU include helping transform the Department of Accounting into a nationally-recognized program, forming the Accounting Advisory Board in 2000, spearheading the Paul A. Grosch endowment fund, and increasing alumni engagement and financial support for scholarships.

“I’m also very proud of the many students I taught at LMU who are having successful careers and fulfilling lives,” said Alan. “They did most of the heavy lifting but I think I helped some of them get started on the right path.”

In a fitting send off, Alan was named the 2014 Professor of the Year at the Accounting Society Banquet in April, a recognition he also received in 1999 and 2008. In his acceptance speech, he gave a heartfelt and witty recap of the huge impact LMU made on his life and career, detailing his early years at the university when he met his wife Lucy (who still teaches in the English Department), his disdain for meetings and early mornings, and the joys he experienced teaching students and forming tight bonds with his fellow faculty members.

“I will especially miss the regular, ongoing interaction with faculty and staff, both in the CBA and around campus,” said Alan.

Now that he’s retired, Alan is looking forward to watching a lot of basketball, reading a lot of books, and traveling the world with Lucy. He also plans to stay connected to LMU by volunteering to help with alumni relations and fundraising for the CBA and Department of Accounting.

“This is actually quite selfish as it will allow me to keep in touch with many of my former students.”

Prior to LMU, Alan taught at USC, the University of Maryland, California State University, Los Angeles, and UCLA. He is a member of the American Accounting Association, served on the editorial board for Advances in Accounting and Advances in Accounting Education, and consulted for several law firms and the District Attorney’s Office. He has published research-based articles, case studies, and textbook supplements, and made numerous presentations at academic conferences. A native of New York, Alan earned his Ph.D. and B.S. degrees from UCLA and a B.B.A. from Baruch College - The City University of New York.

Timothy Haight

Timothy Haight joins LMU’s accounting faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor. His research areas of interest include financial reporting, capital markets, voluntary disclosure and financial analysts. Timothy taught intermediate accounting at the undergraduate level and was a teaching assistant for five years during his doctoral studies at the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine.

Timothy recently received his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of California, Irvine and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of California, San Diego. He gained professional experience as a financial analyst with Carpenter & Company. In addition, Timothy has presented at a number of conferences and was the recipient of the California Society of CPAs Accounting Doctoral Scholarship in 2012.
Ask Mitch Butier what the secret to his success is and the response may surprise you: “I got to where I am by being who I am and doing what I do.” Sounds rather logical, but the deeper meaning behind his answer is the culmination of working hard, being honest and ethical, and challenging the norm. Mitch is a firm believer in this philosophy and is focused on instilling a similar mindset in the next generation of business leaders.

As senior vice president and CFO of Avery Dennison, Mitch leads the company’s financial strategy and operations, including the audit, financial reporting, investor relations, planning and analysis, tax and treasury functions, as well as oversight of the finance functions of the company’s businesses. He loves everything about his job, especially the ability to have a tremendous amount of autonomy.

“The people at Avery Dennison really care and put the business ahead of themselves,” says Mitch. “That’s what attracted me to the company in the first place. I enjoy challenging not only myself but the entire organization to continue to push forward.”

Mitch first joined the global labeling and packaging giant in 2000 and has served in a number of positions over the years, including corporate vice president, global finance; chief accounting officer; vice president, finance and retail information services; group finance director, office products North America; and finance director, Roll Materials Europe. Prior to joining Avery Dennison, Mitch was a senior manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

As the seventh of nine children raised in Torrance, Calif., Mitch always enjoyed business and discussions about business. When it came time to choose a college, he didn’t have to look far for guidance. His father and older sister both graduated from LMU so he was aware of the university’s respectable accounting program. It was his sister, in fact, who opened his eyes to the accounting industry and ultimately inspired him to pursue it as a career.

“I always wanted to go into business,” he says, “and accounting is the language of business.”

At the Accounting Society Banquet in April, Mitch was honored as the 2014 Accounting Alumnus of the Year. Almost as exciting as being selected for this prestigious award was the opportunity to reconnect with Dr. Alan Cherry, a professor whom Mitch says greatly impacted his life and career. Mitch gave an inspiring acceptance speech encouraging accounting students in the audience to constantly challenge themselves and others, get out of their comfort zone, ask questions, and take risks.

“Accounting always has to be linked back to business economics – you’ll be a much better business leader,” says Mitch. “Successful accountants actually see themselves as business people trained in accounting. It’s a lens you look through that allows you to see the world from a different perspective.”

Mitch has had a long list of accomplishments throughout his career, but he’s most proud of the positive impact he’s had on others, the strong relationships he’s formed over the years, and the reputation he’s built as a leader who focuses on both individual and team successes.

“I look at myself in the mirror with pride,” says Mitch. “I’m proud of the way I’ve handled myself in tough times and that I had the courage to stand up and push for what’s right.”

Despite his busy schedule, Mitch devotes as much time as possible to his wife Teresa and two sons. The Butiers are an active bunch who enjoy spending time outdoors – skiing, hiking and canoeing are family favorites.

Staying involved with his alma mater is also a high priority. In the fall of 2013, Mitch was instrumental in bringing a course to LMU called “The CFO Perspective,” which provides a unique opportunity for MSA and MBA students to hear from and interact with CFOs from top businesses in Southern California. The class is being offered again this fall, and Mitch is looking forward to returning to campus and sharing his perspectives and insights with graduate students.

“LMU is and will always be a huge part of who I am,” says Mitch. “I never find busy as being a reason not to do something. I will continue to do my best to make a positive impact and look for opportunities to enhance value.”
If you were tasked with building a resume for the ideal LMU accounting student, look no further than Michael Tran. Double major in accounting and finance. 4.0 GPA. Accounting Society President. Writing tutor. Beta Gamma Sigma member. Research assistant. Scholarship recipient. Dean’s List. Community volunteer. The list goes on and on.

Michael has worked hard to get to where he is and credits the LMU Accounting Program for much of his success. He initially started out as a management major but switched to accounting after taking a class with Professor Alan Falcon.

“Switching my major to accounting was the best decision I’ve made at LMU,” said Michael. “I’ve been given so many incredible opportunities and met so many amazing, intelligent and driven people in this program.”

Michael spent the summer working as an assurance intern at Ernst & Young, a position he hopes will turn into a full-time job after graduation. Over the past three years, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership, teamwork and communication skills through his activities on campus and in the community. Now entering his senior year, Michael is looking forward to his new role as Accounting Society President where he will continue to improve upon the momentum of the accounting program.

“The Accounting Society has helped me so much, and my ultimate goal is to open as many doors as possible for other LMU students to attain a job in the accounting profession,” said Michael. “Also, I feel that the LMU accounting faculty is truly the best out there, which is why I hope to have more events throughout the year that allow professors to share their expertise and brilliance with students.”

In addition, Michael will continue to serve as a Rains Research Assistant for Finance Professor Chun Lee where he conducts research on topics such as futures estimates, bond markets and executive compensation. This opportunity came about through his involvement as a financial analyst with the Student Investment Fund. He will also continue to mentor and tutor undergraduate and graduate students with writing assignments and grammar workshops through the LMU Academic Resource Center.

After Michael graduates in May 2015, he hopes to have a full-time accounting job lined up. He also plans to do some traveling abroad. He’s always wanted to go to Europe and watch a professional soccer game. (Chelsea is his favorite team.) When he returns to Los Angeles, he’ll begin studying for the CPA exam and complete as many sections as possible before beginning what is sure to be a remarkable accounting career.

Mahmoud Nourayi Appointed to Grosch Professorship

Mahmoud Nourayi has been selected to serve as the next Grosch Professor for a three-year term beginning this fall. The Grosch Professorship is named after Paul Grosch, who was an accounting professor at LMU for 32 years. Professor Grosch’s vision for educating competitive and ethical accounting professionals is still at the core of the LMU Accounting Program. Distinguished faculty who hold the Grosch Professorship perpetuate this legacy and ensure that the Department of Accounting sustains its tradition of excellence in accounting education. Past holders of the Grosch Professorship include Ross Bengel (2011-2013) and George Dasaro (2005-2006).

“Commitment to academic excellence, individual integrity, and good professional judgment are Professor Grosch’s legacy and I am grateful to be selected as holder of the professorship in his name,” said Mahmoud.

In this role, Mahmoud will be responsible for organizing the Grosch Lecture Series, which brings prominent executives and local business leaders to campus each semester to recount their experiences and share their knowledge on some of the biggest issues in global business today. In fact, he already has a speaker lined up for fall so mark your calendars!

J.D. “Dave” Power, founder of J.D. Power and Associates, will speak on Wednesday, October 29th at 7:15 p.m. in Hilton 100 on “The Challenge of Running an Ethical Business in Today’s World.” In 1968, Power established J.D. Power from his kitchen table with a primary focus on the automotive industry. Since then, the firm has successfully influenced the everyday lives of consumers and industries worldwide by delivering insights to drive improvement in clients’ products and services. Power is an expert on market research and customer satisfaction and is looking forward to sharing his insights with the LMU business community.
**WHY WE GIVE**

Chris ’86 and Joe Mauthe

Chris Koprowski Mauthe ’86 and her husband Joe were both raised in families where they were taught to be grateful for what they had and to help others. They are trying to teach these same values to their three children. The Mauthes recently pledged a generous gift to the Accounting Faculty Emeriti Scholarship fund honoring Professor George Dasaro. Chris recalls learning so much from Dasaro during her time at LMU and says his classes provided a great foundation for launching a successful career in accounting.

Chris and Joe, a partner at Deloitte, wanted to do even more and decided to start their own endowed scholarship fund for LMU accounting students. Fortunately, they have the benefit of using the generous match from Deloitte to double their gift. Joe continues to be involved in recruiting LMU accounting students to Deloitte while Chris (who previously worked at Deloitte) is a stay-at-home mom. In an exclusive interview with *The Accounting Times*, Chris opened up about her wonderful experience at LMU and why now is the right time to give back.

What inspired you to give to the Accounting Faculty Emeriti Scholarship fund?

Joe and I had been considering a donation to LMU for some time. When I heard about the Faculty Scholarship fund, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to show my gratitude for the excellent professors who taught me at LMU, especially Drs. Cherry, Dasaro and Falcon. I felt like they really cared about each of us in the accounting program and gave us a lot of time and attention, even outside of class, to introduce us to the accounting profession and help us get a foot in the door.

What do you remember most about your time as a student at LMU?

I remember the great friends I made and how we felt like a family at LMU — going to Mass together, cheering at basketball games, playing flag football, feeding the rabbits in Sunken Garden. I loved being a part of this great intellectual community that was also very spiritual.

How did the LMU Accounting Program prepare you for a successful accounting career?

Two things stand out. First, the professors did not coddle us. They challenged us to study hard and learn the material. I remember after the first test in Dr. Dasaro’s advanced accounting class, many of us earned substantially lower grades than we had ever received. Dr. Dasaro warned us not to get ahead of ourselves and make sure we were prepared for the jobs we were trying to attain. I studied so hard for the next exam that I not only earned a good grade, but more importantly, it prepared me to assist my clients going through business acquisitions during my career at Deloitte.

Second, the relationship that LMU has with the accounting firms is so beneficial for students trying to begin a career in accounting. The activities hosted by the Accounting Society provided us the opportunity to meet and interact with accounting professionals. The firms came on campus for initial interviews, which made the whole job hunting process less scary.

You and Joe recently started your own endowed scholarship fund for LMU accounting students. What prompted this decision?

Joe and I both worked hard to get our college educations but we had help along the way. I am most grateful to my parents, Jim and Tere Koprowski, who did all they could so that I could attend LMU. I also had help from a handful of organizations providing grants or small scholarships. Without their help, it would have been much more difficult to attend a private university for four years and focus on my studies. We both feel like it’s even harder for families these days. The accounting profession was a good career choice for both Joe and me and we just felt it was time to “pay it forward.”

Please visit cba.lmu.edu/acctfund to learn more about the Accounting Faculty Emeriti Scholarship fund supporting deserving undergraduate and graduate accounting students. If you would like to learn more about starting a named scholarship fund, please contact Roberta Kuhlman, CBA Director of Development, at roberta.kuhlman@lmu.edu or 310-258-5483. Thank you for your support and for helping us keep the LMU Accounting legacy alive!
On April 24, the LMU Accounting Society held its 34th annual Spring Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel. A record 200 guests attended, including students, faculty, staff, alumni and industry professionals. This year, 82 scholarships totaling more than $280,000 were given to 50 students by 30 donors (in parenthesis):

Kate Blackwell (LMU Accounting Department Scholarship for Sophomores); Lauren Carandang (KPMG); Francesco Catullo (Green Hasson Janks); Stephanie Chau (LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Nicole Conrad (Accounting Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship and Moss Adams Foundation & Moss Adams Partners Scholarship); Davelyn Couch (Frank Rimerman & Co and LMU Accounting Department Scholarship for Sophomores); Anna Diaz (Accounting & Financial Women’s Alliance Scholarship and AICPA Scholarship); Bryanna Dooley (California CPA Society Scholarship); Roderick Fermin (RBZ); Lauren Flinn (LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship and PricewaterhouseCoopers); Lauren Frederick (Deloitte and LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Kara Fukushima (LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship and PricewaterhouseCoopers); Adam Gannon (KPMG); Carlos Gaudinez (LMU Accounting Department Scholarship for Sophomores); Christian Gutierrez (John Garstka Scholarship); Brendan Henderson (California CPA Society Scholarship); Jacob Henderson (Arthur Andersen Alumni Scholarship, Deloitte and LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Taryn Ishii (LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship and PricewaterhouseCoopers); Jillian Jaccard (California CPA Society Scholarship); Andrew Kelinsky (Deloitte, J.C. & Kristi Frey Family Endowed Scholarship, Knott Family Endowed Scholarship and LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Chris Kilkuts (Accounting Advisory Board Scholarship); Maggie Kusnadi (LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Carlton Lew (Moss Adams Foundation & Moss Adams Partners Scholarship); Sarah Liaw (Accounting & Financial Women’s Alliance Scholarship, California CPA Society Scholarship, Dreier Family Endowed Accounting Scholarship, Ernst & Young and Keys Family Scholarship); Candice Margiotta (Deloitte, J.C. & Kristi Frey Family Endowed Scholarship and Joseph & Carol Page Family Accounting Scholarship); Mason McMurtry (Roger CPA Review); Yunhee Na (Keys Family Scholarship); Nareh Nazaryan (California CPA Society Scholarship); Daphne Ngo (California CPA Society Scholarship); Khuyen Nguyen (Ernst & Young and Keys Family Scholarship); Vivian Nguyen (Arthur Andersen Alumni Scholarship, J.C. & Kristi Frey Family Endowed Scholarship, Keys Family Scholarship and PricewaterhouseCoopers); Alejandro Parras (PricewaterhouseCoopers and Provencio/Arias Family Scholarship); Markesh Patel (CohnReznick and Poladian Accounting Scholarship); Alexandra Popping (Hindman Family Annual Scholarship); Courtney Ramsey (Accounting & Financial Women’s Alliance Scholarship); Scott Reif (Deloitte and LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Mollie Richard (LMU Accounting Department Scholarship for Sophomores and RBZ); Nikki Robles (J.C. & Kristi Frey Family Endowed Scholarship); Stephen Rocco (Accounting Advisory Board Scholarship and Holthouse Carlin & Van Trigt); Daniella Ryskina (LMU Accounting Department Scholarship for Sophomores and Windes); Evania Santy (Stephen & Judy Page Endowed Scholarship); Elizabeth Sepetjian (Keys Family Scholarship); Jeremy Sites (California CPA Society Scholarship); Weston Strum (Becker Professional Education); Takako Sugiyama (Stephen & Judy Page Endowed Scholarship); Sarah Tillemans (Deloitte and LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Michael Tran (Ernst & Young and Stephen & Judy Page Endowed Scholarship); Nicholas Watkins (Frank Rimerman & Co and LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship); Tyler Whitney (Ernst & Young); Michael Zaino (Deloitte and LMU Accounting Department Annual Scholarship)

ACCOUNTING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Nicole Agnew
Thomas Bernardi
Alex DeAngelis
Zachary Haffer
Brendan Henderson
Nareh Nazaryan
Khanh Daphne Ngo
Colin O’Brien
Teresa Penilla
Courtney Ramsey
Jeremy Sites
Nico Uy
Lucas Vetter
Dianna Wiegand

PAUL A. GROSCH AWARD
Nicole Agnew

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE AWARDS
Lauren Faber
Devin Falcon

INCOMING MEMBERS OF THE 2014-2015 ACCOUNTING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD
Michael Tran, President
Sarah Liaw, VP, Career Planning & Employer Relations
Khuyen Nguyen, VP, Member Activities & Recognition
Keith Elliott, Secretary
Trevor Gill, Treasurer
Savannah Juhan, Director of Service & PR
Stephanie Chau, Historian
Vivian Nguyen, Mentor Coordinator
Jacob Henderson, Program Coordinator
Shannon Low, Director of Technology
Roderick Fermin, Special Events Coordinator
Prof. Scott Delaney, Faculty Moderator

2014 Accounting Society Spring Awards Banquet