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The University of Florida had unprecedented national success in the last year with its basketball and football championships. The Fisher School is no stranger to national success. We’ve been a top ranked accounting program for many years.

Our success is built on the high quality and sustained effort of our students, faculty, and staff. Our alumni and friends nurture and sustain our efforts with their significant support.

This report highlights recent activities of Fisher School students, faculty, and alumni. Our current students remain the best that the University of Florida has to offer, Fisher School alumni are making a real difference in the profession and in their communities, and Fisher School faculty continue to make international contributions through their research, teaching, and service. This report is merely a snapshot in time. Please visit our webpage often to keep abreast of information about the Fisher School.

The Fisher School is committed to being the very best accounting program in the nation. Each generation of graduates contributes to our success. Alumni become leaders in the business world and academia, their accomplishments attract attention to our current students, and generous alumni and friends provide the financial support that allows us to offer a world-class environment for learning and scholarship. This environment in turn attracts outstanding faculty members and students so that we may build on the foundations created by those who have worked so hard in the past.

I began my academic career at the University of Florida over 20 years ago and I am very honored to serve the Fisher School as its Director. I take great pleasure in the success of our students and faculty and I am committed to furthering our tradition of excellence.

Gary McGill
Director

**Accounting Degree Programs**

The Fisher School of Accounting awards the Bachelor of Science in Accounting (BSAc) degree and the Master of Accounting (MAcc) degree. The School’s premier professional program is the 3/2, an integrated five-year program of study that culminates in the awarding of both degrees. A concentration in accounting is offered within the PhD in Business Administration.

Features of the accounting degree programs include:

- **U.S. News & World Report** recently ranked the University of Florida seventh among the nation’s public universities with respect to accounting programs (see chart).

- The School’s student population is 51% male and 49% female and is composed of 71% White, 12% Hispanic, 9% Asian, 4% Black, and 4% other students.

- 202 BSAC and 139 MAcc degrees were conferred from Fall 2005 through Summer 2006.

- The average GPA for undergraduate students admitted Fall 2006 was 3.60. Graduate students admitted for Fall 2006 had average upper-division GPA, accounting GPA, and GMAT scores of 3.52, 3.35, and 614, respectively.

- Career Resource Center data indicate the vast majority of graduates begin their career in public accounting with starting salaries averaging $47,000.

- Graduate fellowships totaling approximately $70,000 were awarded to 25 students at the 2006 Awards Banquet. Over 20% of the students in the School’s degree programs are engaged in graduate studies (see chart).

- The most recent CPA exam results (2005) show the School’s BSAC graduates had a passing rate of 52% (national; average: 27%). Students with a graduate degree had a 59% passing rate (compared to the national average of 35%).

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Joel Demski Honored

The birthday of Joel Demski, Frederick E. Fisher Eminent Scholar in Accounting, was marked by a research conference held in his honor at the University of Florida during the Fall 2006 semester. Organized by more than a dozen of his former doctoral students, the conference recognized Demski’s contributions to accounting research and to the careers of faculty members throughout the country.

Demski was a faculty member at Columbia, Stanford, and Yale prior to joining the University of Florida. Among his numerous honors are membership in the Accounting Hall of Fame, the American Accounting Association’s Outstanding Educator Award, and an honorary doctorate from Odense University.

The 50 attendees came from 19 different universities. Among the speakers were William Beaver (Stanford University), Ron Dye (Northwestern University), Charles Horngren (Stanford University), Katherine Schipper (Financial Accounting Standards Board), and Shyam Sunder (Yale University).

New Faculty Join Fisher School

Between 1991 and 2004, state funding deficiencies caused the number of full-time accounting faculty to drop from 21 to 14 (a 33% decrease). In the last two years, however, the Fisher School has been able to add four new assistant professors to the faculty ranks, bringing our total to 16:

- **Vicki Dickinson** began teaching at the University of Florida in Fall 2006, after completing her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. Dickinson’s background includes serving as Vice President and Treasurer of Minnesota Delta Corporation. She currently teaches managerial accounting to MBA students.

- **Haijin Lin** joined the University of Florida in Fall 2004 after completion of her Ph.D. degree from Carnegie Mellon University. Lin also holds degrees from Fudan University and Shandong University in China. She currently is a Grant Thornton Term Professor and teaches both doctoral and master’s courses in accounting.

- **Surjit Tinaikar** is a Fall 2006 addition to the faculty. His Ph.D. is from the University of Toronto. He also holds degrees from Boston College and the University of New Delhi, and has worked at the Securities and Exchange Board of India and John Hancock Financial Services. Tinaikar currently teaches the intermediate financial accounting course.

- **Jenny Tucker** has been a University of Florida faculty member since Fall 2004. Tucker was a project manager for the China North Industrial Corporation before earning a master’s and a doctorate degree from the University of Illinois and New York University, respectively. She is the Luciano Prida Sr. Term Professor, and teaches in the financial accounting area at both the master’s and doctoral level.

John Simmons Retires

John Simmons, KPMG Professor of Accounting and the first Director of the Fisher School of Accounting, retired at the end of 2004 after more than 30 years at the University of Florida. He was a central figure in the establishment of the Fisher School and its rapid rise to national prominence, in the founding of the Federation of Schools of Accountancy, and in the state’s adoption of the 150-hour requirement for a CPA license. Simmons served in numerous leadership roles for national and state organizations of the academic and professional communities. His stature as a national leader was evidenced by his selection as the AICPA’s Accounting Educator of the Year, Beta Alpha Psi Accountant of the Year Award in Education, and as President of the American Accounting Association.
Fisher School Faculty Members Receive Honors

• The J. Michael Cook Award is presented annually to recognize excellence in teaching on the part of Fisher School faculty. Doug Snowball, J. Michael Cook / Deloitte Professor of Accounting, was presented with the 2006 award by Mr. Cook at the School’s Spring banquet. Recent previous recipients have been Deborah Garvin (2005) and Stephen Asare (2004).

• Sandra Kramer received the American Taxation Service Outstanding Service Award at the 2004 meeting of the American Accounting Association (AAA).

• Hadley Schaefer was a recent recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for the Management Accounting Section of the AAA.

Gary McGill Wins Research Award

Research by Gary McGill, PricewaterhouseCoopers Professor of Accounting, has received national recognition from the American Taxation Association. Along with co-author Edmund Outslay, McGill was presented with the Outstanding Manuscript Award at the American Accounting Association’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The award recognized McGill and Outslay’s National Tax Journal article “Lost in Translation: Detecting Tax Shelter Activity in Financial Statements”.

W. Robert Knechel was selected by the University of Florida as a 2005 Distinguished International Educator.

Faculty Service Activities

In addition to their teaching and research duties, faculty are expected to make service contributions to the university, to academic and professional organizations, and to the broader community. Some examples of such activities are:

• Gary McGill is a board member of the Federation of Schools of Accountancy, a member of the Educational Committee of the Florida State Board of Public Accountancy, and recently completed two terms as a board member of the American Taxation Association, a section of the American Accounting Association.

• Deborah Garvin was recently appointed to the Board of the Florida United Methodist Foundation. The Foundation was established 40 years ago and manages over $161 million of assets.

• Charles McDonald has provided expert testimony in a number of cases involving accounting and auditing issues.

• Jesse Boyles serves as Chapter Advisor and Alumni Board member for University of Florida’s Florida Blue Key organization. He is also a member of the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida.

• Dominique DeSantiago is a member of the University of Florida’s University Advising Council.

• W. Robert Knechel and Doug Snowball are members of the Warrington College of Business Administration Faculty Advisory Council.

Fisher School, Ernst & Young Host Auditing Conference

A mini-conference on auditing and corporate Governance was held in Gainesville on January 15, 2007. The event was the latest in a series of conferences hosted by the Fisher School and Ernst & Young since 2002. W. Robert Knechel, Ernst & Young Professor of Accounting, is the organizer of the conference which featured participation by auditing researchers from around the world.

Fisher School Research Productivity on the Rise

The quality and quantity of research publications by the Fisher School faculty has increased markedly in recent periods. At least in part, this reflects the hiring of new faculty after years of declines in faculty numbers. Listed below are articles published (or accepted for publication) since January 2004.

Articles by Faculty (2004-2006)


Major Gifts

Fisher School Receives Major Gifts

Fisher School alumni and friends continued to support our programs with generous contributions in the last year. Approximately 25% of the Fisher School’s budget is funded with annual gifts and endowment income and we are grateful to all our donors who consider the School in their yearly charitable contributions. The University of Florida (including the Fisher School) is embarking on our largest ever capital campaign in late 2007 and we are seeking partners to help secure the future of our students, faculty, and programs. Several significant new contributions from the past year have made a significant impact at the Fisher School.

Lu Prida Sr. Term Professorship - This professorship honors a family with deep University of Florida and Fisher School roots, beginning in 1948 with the graduation of Lu Prida, Sr., the honoree of the Prida Sr. Term Professorship. A decorated WWII veteran, Lu was able to attend the University of Florida on the GI Bill. Thereafter, Lu used his entrepreneurial skills to begin the Prida Firm in downtown Tampa, which is now known as Prida Guida & Company. Since that time, the Prida family has graduated three more outstanding members of The Gator Nation. Lu Jr., a 1972 Accounting graduate and Principal in Prida Guida & Company, his brother Xavier, a 1975 Liberal Arts and Sciences graduate who is a practicing cardiologist in Tampa, and Lu Jr.’s son, Andres, a 2000 MAcc graduate and member of the family accounting firm.

Grant Thornton Term Professorship - The Fisher School of Accounting is grateful to Stan Levy of Grant Thornton for his assistance in securing a gift of $75,000 to create the Grant Thornton Term Professorship. Levy, Southeast Region Managing Partner with the firm, was instrumental in establishing this professorship, which is funded with an annual gift of $25,000 for three years.

Jack Kramer Professorship - In honor of Dr. John L. “Jack” Kramer’s significant contributions to tax and accounting education and the University of Florida, we are creating a professorship to honor Jack. Bob Lowe, a 1980 and 1981 UF accounting graduate, has pledged the lead gift to create the Jack Kramer Professorship endowment. Bob has served on the Advisory Boards for both the School and the College, and is the CEO of Alvarez & Marsal.

For more information, please contact Erik Kahill at erik.kahill@cba.ufl.edu or (352) 273-0236.

Students Organization Activities

Beta Alpha Psi

The UF chapter of this honorary was established almost 70 years ago. Beta Alpha Psi conducts a very active professional program each year, including:

• co-sponsorship of the UF/Florida Institute of CPAs Graduate Accounting Conference
• the Speaker Series (a formal course featuring speakers from the professional community)
• panel discussions (including the Internship, Local Firms and Mid-Market Firms panels)
• charitable activities (March of Dimes and Ronald McDonald House)

Three officers (Kelly Honniak, Tracy Frady and Brandon Duany) attended the Beta Alpha Psi National Convention in Washington D.C.

Fisher School of Accounting Council

The Fisher School of Accounting Council (FSOAC) is part of the campus-wide Board of College Councils. The FSOAC serves as a liaison between faculty and students and undertakes a variety of activities such as:

• social events involving students and faculty
• the fall orientation program (including mentoring) for new accounting students
• charitable activities (Bread of the Mighty Food Bank)
• activities to assist students in making career choices (the Annual Spring Trip, the careers workshop, and a speaker series on opportunities outside the Big 4 firms)

The FSOAC also hosts the School’s annual Spring Awards Banquet.

Alumni

Recent Alumnus Tops Nation

For the first time, a graduate of the Fisher School has earned the Elijah Watt Sells Gold Medal Award given for achieving the highest grade in the nation on the Uniform CPA exam. Alison Mathis had a near perfect score (396 out of 400), the highest earned among the 59,500 students taking the November 2003 exam.

Alison, a native of St. Petersburg, received the BSAc and MAcc from the University of Florida in May 2003. She maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout her studies and was selected by the faculty as the Outstanding Tax Student for 2002-2003. Alison joined the Tampa office of PricewaterhouseCoopers after graduation, and currently is a Tax Manager in that office.

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