

The ECU Accountant



Department of Accounting

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FALL 2020

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Greetings!

I hope everyone in our ECU Accounting Family is well and prosperous. As I write this, we have just wrapped up the Spring semester after having moved everything online due to COVID-19 and are trying to sort out details of what Fall classes will look like. No one is sure what the future holds, but we are hopeful that by the time this newsletter goes out that normalcy has returned or, more likely, that we have settled into a new-normal.

As most of you know, I have been serving as Interim Chair of Accounting since July 2019 while **Dr. Reisch** serves a term as the Interim Associate Dean of the College of Business. Soon, I will be leaving leadership of the department in the very capable hands of **Dr. Cal Christian**. The department has a mixture of talented professors hired over the past five years and a solid long-term group of stalwarts (not any less talented, but older). **Dr. Paul Schwager** was named Dean of the COB this past year and has been extremely supportive of our department.



Dr. Dan Schisler

Prior to the campus shut down, it was still an odd year. Due to hiring freezes caused by a decrease in state budget allocations, we have been unable to hire replacements for **Drs. Doty** and **Hagan** who retired last year. Our stellar faculty, as usual, stepped up and covered extra classes without a hitch – well – until COVID-19. Faculty who had never taught online basically had one week to move their classes online. Adding to the mayhem, ECU was in the middle of changing the online teaching platform from Blackboard to Canvas. For the most part, faculty and students seem to have survived the transition. But it was an interesting and educational Spring semester. Be sure to check out the "I NEVER..." section of this newsletter for a few of the things we learned.

For some more uplifting news, our faculty continue to publish, our MSAs are passing the CPA exam, and our undergraduates are finding jobs. Enrollments in the MSA program have risen which is extremely important to our funding model. **Dr. Denise Dickins** was named the academic co-editor of the American Accounting Association's journal, *Current Issues in Auditing*. In the academic world, this is an honor for Dr. Dickins and the Department of Accounting. More good news – having successfully gone through the tenure and promotion process, **Dr. Linda Quick** begins the Fall semester as an Associate Professor.

Our students are also making waves. MSA student, **Tyler Bayless-Edwards** was rated the No. 8 intern in the country by WayUp.com. He interned with KPMG. Closer to home, MSA student, **Taylor Chappell** was named both Outstanding Senior in Accounting and Homecoming Queen. Taylor also established a scholarship in 2019 to honor **Dr. Amanda Peterson** and **Ms. Jan Workman** who have been her mentors.

In February, we hosted our third annual ARR! The ARR! event invites four to six Ph.D. candidates to present their research and share ideas with the accounting faculty. The event is inspiring for our faculty and we get a chance to showcase ECU to potential faculty-candidates that may never have considered us for future employment. The only glitch was that this year's event coincided with the one snowfall this year (and we all know what happens in Greenville when there is four inches of snow). Nevertheless, an educational and fun time was had by all.

If you have not been to campus or Greenville lately, you would be amazed at the growth of ECU and uptown Greenville. A student that graduated in 2011 visited the other day. He told me he had a difficult time finding the Bate Building – but the new Student Center and parking deck are great! The COB still patiently awaits a new building which will, hopefully, come to fruition. For a \$50 million dollar donation (probably a little less), it could be yours! Which is a nice segue into my usual ask for funding.

Recent, and likely future, state budget cuts mean your donations are of utmost importance. Private money helps pay for everything from helping to recruit and retain faculty, to pizza at BAPsi and Student Accounting Society meetings. Fewer than six percent of our alumni give back to the Department or College, compared to a national average of 13 percent. Every donation helps. For larger donations, we have classroom, department, and building naming opportunities. If you are interested in any of these please email or give me a call. For smaller donations, here is a direct link to give to the accounting department: <https://bit.ly/2KWZqAV>.

We are always trying to improve our programs and appreciate your contributions of time (e.g., recruiting our students and speaking at or attending our events) and money. Please feel free to drop me or Dr. Cal Christian a note with suggestions.

Lastly, our annual student recruiting event, Meet the Firms, is scheduled to be held at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium – Club Level on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Plans are still evolving at this point, but I hope to see you there (in person or virtually)!

Sincerely,

Dan

schislerd@ecu.edu
252-328-6622

PIRATE ALUMNI... *are Successful*

Margaret (Mitchell) Henry (MSA '05) is the Vice President and Controller at SmartSky Networks, LLC in Morrisville, NC. Prior to SmartSky Networks, she was an Audit Manager at Grant Thornton for ten years. At SmartSky Networks, Margaret is responsible for financial reporting, internal controls, and overseeing tax reporting. SmartSky Networks is working with leading aerospace and technology partners to roll out an innovative, air-to-ground network that will enable a productivity experience in the air similar to at home or the office. Margaret enjoys spending time with her family, husband Ed, son Everett (3), and dog Ficklen. They are often found attending and watching as many ECU athletics events as possible. She was a three-time Academic All-American as a member of the women's golf team and the 2004 ECU Scholar Athlete of the Year. She is currently the President and Treasurer of the Wake County Chapter of the Pirate Club and was recently named Chapter President of the Year. We caught up with Margaret to find out more about her post-ECU life.



Margaret Henry

What do you like best about your current job?

I enjoy that SmartSky is a startup company and you have to roll up your sleeves to accomplish the company's goals. When I started, we had about 30 employees. I was the first accounting employee and was responsible for all aspects of the accounting function. Now we have almost 100 employees and the accounting department has grown. Supporting the company's growth as it deploys its nationwide, air-to-ground network is both exciting and challenging.

How did your experience at ECU prepare you for your career?

As a student-athlete, I had to learn how to juggle priorities which helped my transition into the fast-paced world of public accounting. Missing classes for tournaments also taught me I could not do everything on my own and to ask for help from professors and classmates. It is important to seek answers and advice in the workplace. You grow by gaining knowledge from others! The ECU accounting program was instrumental in providing a solid accounting foundation to help pass the CPA exam in an efficient manner.

What advice do you have for today's accounting students?

Accounting is an interesting field because you see all aspects of how a business operates. Really embrace the opportunity to learn and try to look at the big picture even when you are at an entry-level position. Don't be afraid to ask questions like, how does the project I am working on impact other areas? Also, there are few things you can control in the workplace (and in life), but you can control your work ethic and attitude! Being positive and hard-working are characteristics I find prevalent in Pirate Nation students and graduates!

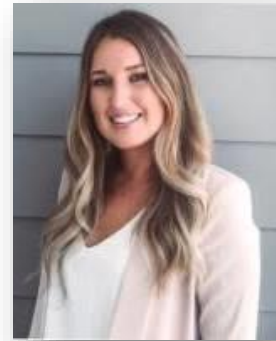
PIRATE ALUMNI... *are Busy*

Anthony Bechtel (MSA '16) received his CPA license last year. Congratulations Anthony!

Carrying on the tradition of Pirate service, **Jessica Boyd** (MSA '17) and **Elsa (Swenson) Watts** (MSA '10) joined the NCACPA's Young CPA Cabinet. Jessica works at Williams Overman Pierce in Wilmington, and Elsa works at Martin Starnes in Hickory. They join our own **Dr. Linda Quick** on the Cabinet.

Drew Flowers (MSA '13) has a new job as Accounting Supervisor at Gregory Poole Equipment Company.

Marcel Migliore (BSBA '16) is a Senior Consultant in Deloitte's Washington D.C. office where, among other things, he works on clients that help distribute and oversee disaster relief. As you can imagine from recent events, he keeps busy!



Jessica Boyd



Elsa Watts



McKinley Lawrence

Jessica (Schisler) Lawrence (MSA '16) and husband, Evan, welcomed McKinley Blake on March 27, 2020. **Dr. Dan** and **Mrs. Debra Schisler** are proud grandparents!

Sarah Davis Phillips (MSA '11) works at Sykes & Company, PA in Edenton. She is happy to now use the CPA-credential having passed the CPA exam.

Friends, **Dr. Quick**, **Melanie Burke**, and **Margaret Henry** (all MSA '05), were lucky enough to be able to take in an ECU baseball game before the season was shut down due to COVID-19. Melanie is the Corporate Debt Manager at Duke Health Systems and Margaret is the Vice President and Controller at SmartSky Networks.



Quick, Burke & Henry

Vishal Shah (MSA '16) opened a Cinnaholic franchise in Cary, NC.

Crazy-busy, **Jared Stone** (MSA '12) is currently serving as Corporate Tax Director and US Tax Leader for Bakkavor, Inc., an international leading food production & development company headquartered in London, UK. He also started a vacation rental company, Stone Castle Vacation Rentals based out of Oak Island, earlier this year.

This year, **LeeAnn Vinson** (MSA '13) became a NC Certified Local Government Finance Officer through UNC School of Government. She works for the Town of Morehead City as the Assistant Finance Director.

Sam Weldon (MSA '17) is officially a NC-licensed CPA and is working at Blue Ridge Atlantic Development a workforce and senior housing development company based out of Wilmington, NC.

If we left you out of this year's updates, please send news you'd like to share in next year's newsletter to Dr. Denise Dickins (dickinsd@ecu.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.

PIRATE ALUMNI... *are Generous*

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who have contributed financially to the success of our accounting students, faculty, and programs. We could not do what we do without your support. **You can make sure your donations benefit accounting students by** visiting: <https://bit.ly/2KWZqAV>.

The following is a list of individuals and organizations contributed at least \$100 to support the Accounting Department during the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. If an individual donated through their organization, they may not be individually listed below.

Mrs. Tracey Hill Allen	Mrs. Anne Howard Gregg	Dr. Frederick D. Niswander
Mr. James R. Anderson	Mr. Charles Caldwell Burke Gullette	Mr. Robert D. Norman
Mr. James Zachary Bailes	Mr. Kenneth M. Gunn, Jr.	Dr. Dennis Michael O'Reilly
Mr. Sanford Walter Bailey	Dr. Dan M. Guy	Mr. Jay Arthur Parris
Rose L. Bailey, LL.M., Esq.	Mr. William Andrew Haddock	Mr. Robert Earl Poole, II
Mr. James Michael Baker	Ms. Meredith Anne Hardison	Mr. William H. Powell, III
Mrs. Mary H. Bartlett	Mrs. Keri Shaffer Hayes	Mr. Charles Raymond Powell
Mr. Ryan Andrew Beeson	Mr. Jonathan Stuart Henry	Mrs. Linda Rusnak Quick
Mr. Sequoya Santana Borgman	Mrs. Margaret Mitchell Henry	Dr. John T. Reisch
Ms. Tsvetelina Petrova Boyd	Mr. Ralph Milton Howell, III	Mr. John Michael Rosal
Mr. David J. Bradley	Ms. Lisa Bunch Hunter	Mr. Ryan Rowland
Mrs. Rachel Lindsey Brassine	Ms. Zana Ismail	Mr. Charles Edgar Sams
Mrs. Kimberly Harper Braxton	Ms. Allison Somers Johnson	Mr. John Bruce Satterfield, Jr.
Mr. Jason Nicholas Brown	Mr. Justin Warren Jones	Dr. Dan L. Schisler
Mrs. Leslie Gray Bunch	Ms. Cristen Anne Jones	Dr. Douglas Kenneth Schneider
Mrs. Deborah Goodson Bunn	Mr. Jeffrey Thomas Joyner	Mr. Ronald Vincent Siengo
Mrs. Angela Mitchell Cayton	Mrs. Margaret Williams Keasler	Mr. Robert Jonathan Speece
Ms. Taylor Jaye Chappell	KPMG Foundation	Mr. Constantine Steve Stephanos
Dr. Eugene G. Chewing, Jr.	Mr. William L. Lanier, Jr.	Mr. Taylor Bradford Stewart
Mr. Andrew Lavar Coleman	Ms. Brenda Sue Ledbetter	Mr. Johnny Ray Stone, Jr.
Mrs. Janette Florence Conklin-Crumley	Mr. Daniel Edward Lefavre	Mr. Thomas Churchill Swanner, Jr.
Mr. Willie Ray Creech	Mr. Luther Gary Leonard	Mrs. Constance Whisnant Taylor
Ms. Lisa Nicole Crouse	Ms. Diane Lynn Mahoney	Mr. Lowell Godwin Taylor
Ms. Mary Margaret Cunningham	Ms. Rachele Manansala	T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable
Mr. John Morris Davis	Mrs. Janice Modlin McGowan	Giving
Mr. William Fulton Dickenson	Mr. Joseph E. McKoy	Ms. Toni Mari Thereault
Dr. Denise E. Dickins	Mr. Christopher Edward McLawhorn	Mrs. Stacie Lea Tronto
Mrs. Jennifer W. Dostert	Ms. Katelyn E Metcalf	Mr. Timothy Carlyle Underhill
Mr. John Wesley Dostert	Mr. Patrick B. Mitchell	Mr. Justin Adam Waller
Dr. Edwin A. Doty, Jr.	Mr. Robert Howard Mitchell, Jr.	Mrs. Debra Bryant Wheeler
Mr. Robert Grant Edwardss	Mrs. Azita Da Movahed	Mr. John Randolph Wiley, Jr.
Mr. David H. Englert	Ms. Tiaria Shantez Mulbah	Mrs. Pamela Matthews Williams
Mrs. Kimberly Mallard Everett	Mr. Jordan B Myers	Mrs. Kellie Ann Woodruff
Exelon Foundation	Mr. David Rhett Nance	Mrs. Jan Skillen Workman
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	NC Association of CPAS	Mrs. Lauren Suggs Worley
Mr. John R Futrelle	Mrs. Terry Pritchard Ng	YourCause LLC Trustee
Mr. Davidson Burton Gillette	Mr. Douglas Heath Nisbet, II	

OUR STUDENTS... *Standout*

Philip Unger is Vice President of Beta Alpha Psi, a Graduate School Representative for the Student Government Association, and works as a graduate assistant in the College of Business, assisting with research and organizing course material. Previously, he worked as an intern in the ECU Office of Internal Audit for 1.5 years. Philip also has experience working as an audit intern for KPMG and a financial analyst intern for Thermo-Fisher Scientific.

To what or whom do you attribute your success?

I attribute most of my success to **Dr. Linda Quick** and my fellow accounting students. Dr. Quick taught one of my first accounting courses and helped push me to opportunities that I didn't believe I was qualified for. She helped me connect with people outside the University that led me to find my internships. Also, my fellow students pushed me to never get complacent and to strive for nothing but the best.



Philip Unger

Who at ECU has influenced you the most?

Dr. Amanda Peterson would be the person who has influenced me the most. I haven't had a class of hers for 2 years now, but that hasn't stopped me from going to her office at least once if not twice a week. She has been a constant source of inspiration and advice. Dr. Peterson has helped me set career goals, decide where to start my career, and remind me to continue to branch out and network. She is the one that pushed me to take on extra opportunities even when I didn't think it was possible.

What are your post-graduation plans?

I plan to obtain my CPA license and have accepted a post-graduation position with KPMG in their Federal Audit practice in Washington D.C.

OUR STUDENTS... *are Active*

We are grateful to all the firms and individuals who sponsor ECU's Accounting Honorary Fraternity and Societies including, but not limited to, Becker Professional Education, Dixon Hughes Goodman, EY, Hughes Pittman & Gupton, RSM, and Tatum & Edwards.

BETA ALPHA PSI

Thirty-eight accounting majors were inducted into honorary fraternity, BAPsi - Iota Xi Chapter during the 2019/2020 academic year. BAPsi officers, **Drew Hill**, President, **Jill Coffey**, Treasurer/Secretary, and **Aaron Prince** and **Philip Unger**, Vice Presidents, assumed their positions in January.

During the academic year, BAPsi pledges and inductees attended numerous meetings, presentations, and events including those made or sponsored by RSM, Thomas, Judy & Tucker, EY, KPMG, Wall, Einhorn & Chernitzer, Hughes, Pittman & Gupton, DHG, ThermoFisher, JohnsonLambert, and NC State Auditor. BAPsi members also volunteered at NCPacks4Patriots and helped students taking introductory accounting courses by volunteering at the Academic Success Center.



Dr. Douglas Schneider has served as faculty advisor of BAPsi for the past 25 years. You can visit the ECU BAPsi Chapter's Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/ECUBAP>.

STUDENT ACCOUNTING SOCIETY

SAS Officers for the 2019/2020 academic year were: **Marianne Moore** - President, **Kendle Hansen** – Vice President, **Emma Renfrow** – Secretary, **Jacob Heintze** – Community Event Chair, **Adam Garzon** – Social Media Coordinator, and **Lisa Khare** – Treasurer.

During the year, SAS members heard presentations by representatives from AICPA, Wells Fargo, and ThermoFisher. They also participated in the NCACPA's Student Speed Networking Event and the NCACPA's 100 Days of Service helping with highway clean-up in the Greenville area. SAS has taken responsibility for annually maintaining a section of Route 264 between AgriSupply and DSM Pharmaceuticals for more than 20 years.

To find out more about SAS, visit the SAS Facebook page. If you are a prospective employer willing to speak at an upcoming SAS meeting, please contact one of the SAS faculty advisors, **Dr. Quick** or **Mrs. Rachel Brassine**.



NCACPA's Student Speed Networking Event

CPA EXAM FIELD TEST



Thanks to the efforts of **Dr. Schneider**, ECU continues to serve as one of the few host schools in the country for the CPA Exam Field Test. The Field Test is operationally identical to the actual CPA Exam, so students learn how to navigate the exam platform and get practice questions that could later appear on the actual exam. Approximately 28 students participated in the Fall event, and 14 students participated using their home computers this past spring.

OUR STUDENTS... are Recognized



Taylor Chappell

Taylor Chappell was recognized by the Accounting Department as this year's Outstanding Senior. She was also Homecoming Queen!

As recipients of NCACPA Foundation scholarships, **Mary Kate Battle**, **Tyler Bayless-Edwards**, **Taylor Chappell**, **Oakleigh Hogg**, **Tori Lee**, **Marianne Moore**, and **Hannah Moyles** were all featured in the March 2020 issue of the NCACPA's publication, *Interim Report*. Mary Kate and Tyler's pictures made the cover!

Rachel Hull was the recipient of \$10,000, merit-based scholarship sponsored by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The purpose of the scholarship program is to encourage accounting students to pursue careers in audit. Only 207 students nationwide were selected this to receive these scholarships in the 2019/2020 academic year.



Rachel Hull



Marianne Moore



Tyler Bayless-Edwards

Marianne Moore was the recipient of the Rebecca Fay Memorial Scholarship, and **Tyler Bayless-Edwards** was the recipient of the Zeke Sigler Memorial Scholarship. These scholarships are awarded annually with funds raised through a partnership of the NCACPA and the accounting faculty. Scholarship recipients are provided with full tuition and fees for up to three semesters in the MSA program – a value of over \$13,000 per student. The Zeke Sigler Memorial Scholarship also covers the cost of taking all four parts of the CPA exam.

At a November meeting of the NCACPA’s Young CPA Cabinet hosted by ECU, **Tyler Bayless-Edwards**, **Taylor Chappell**, and **Marianne Moore** spoke about their experience and receiving scholarships. Each expressed their sincere gratitude for the NCACPA scholarships they were awarded,

discussed the impact that the scholarship funding had on their education experience, and how the financial relief, in conjunction with diligent preparation of course work and involvement in extra-curricular activities, opened doors to internships and other professional development opportunities.

Other accounting students receiving scholarships this year included: **Matthew Cates**, **Nicholas Tauber**, **Matthew Thomas**, and **Mackenzie Yetman**.

The following accounting majors were inducted into the honorary business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, during the 2019/2020 academic year: **Charles Aushman**, **Jesse Bailey**, **Austin Bland**, **Elizabeth Blythe**, **Philip Bowling**, **Jillian Coffey**, **Jonas Cole**, **Mary Deans**, **Victoria Ebeling**, **Cody Ellison**, **Hannah Farber**, **Colin Gough**, **Cody Harrell**, **Jordan Hess**, **Matthew Jones**, **Mary King**, **Andrew Lundgren**, **Rebecca Mallo**, **Elizabeth Martin**, **Musawenkosi Mpondi**, **Lauren Mussler**, **Keaton Pagani**, **Alessa Pereira**, **Jonathan Pierce**, **Nicholas Pittman**, **Courtney Radley**, **Manuel Reyes**, **Faith Roberts**, **Natalie Royal**, **Aliya Sanderson**, **Russell Sherrod**, **Daniel Signorelli**, **Ashlyn Watkins**, **Jessica Whelan**, and **Jimmy Williams**. Pictured below are Fall 2019 BGS inductees and **Dr. Peterson**.



For always going above and beyond as a Peer Mentor, **Marianne Moore** was this year’s recipient of the Zeke Sigler Peer Mentor Award. **Nya Houston** also represented the Accounting Department as a Peer Mentor.

Students in the ECU Honors College are required to write a thesis in order to complete their course work. This past year, two accounting majors were Honor’s students, **Taylor Chappell** and **Rachel Hull**, and both worked with **Dr. Quick**. Taylor’s project was titled, “Media and Fraud - Accounting and Accountability,” and Rachel’s project was titled, “Most Effective Study Methods for High-Stakes Tests: The CPA Exam.” Rachel’s project received a grant from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, and both projects were presented at ECU’s Capture 180 Competition.



Hull and Chappell

OUR STUDENTS... *are Sought After*

Congratulations go out to **Tyler Bayless-Edwards** who, as an intern with KPMG, was recognized on WayUp's list of 100 top interns. Tyler ranked #8 in the nation! The selection process was based on a combination of public votes and the recommendation of a judging panel made up of HR and industry experts.

Josh Ragland interned at Thermo Fisher Scientific. He also won ECU's Internship photo contest!

Other accounting students receiving internships this year included: **Anastasia Douds** at Charter Spectrum, **Marianne Moore** at EY, **Mackenzie Yetman** at Katy LaBarbera CPA, **Alisa Diercksen** at Rödl & Partner, **Camryn Lamm** at RSM, and **Tyler Smith** at both WellsColeman LLP and CliftonLarsonAllen.



Josh Ragland

OUR STUDENTS... *are Multi-Talented*

Alisa Diercksen, a junior and a member of ECU's tennis team, is originally from Germany. She chose ECU because she really liked the team and loved the Pirate Nation atmosphere. Being an athlete requires balancing 20-hour practice weeks with school assignments which can be daunting for anyone, but especially accounting majors! Alisa credits her success to having a set schedule and being disciplined about her priorities. Her normal daily schedule: school from 9 to 1, tennis from 2 to 4, weights from 4 to 5, training and rehab from 5 to 6, and homework after 6. This year, about half of the tennis season was cancelled due to COVID-19. Many of her international teammates returned home which made taking classes and working out more difficult. Alisa credits the faculty and athletic department for their support and encouragement during this difficult time. In her words, "The support I received from all around campus has shown me once again why coming to ECU was the best decision of my life." We're glad you're here Alisa!



Alisa Diercksen

Harrison Schodt is a dual-degree accounting and music major who graduated Spring 2020. He completed his music performance studies under Prof. Kwan Yi (piano) and Prof. Andrew Scanlon (organ) of the ECU School of Music. During the Department of Accounting's Spring 2019 Graduate Recognition Ceremony, instead of the usual recorded music, Harrison played classical music prior to the start of the ceremony, Pomp and Circumstance as graduates and faculty marched, and ECU's alma mater, "Hail to Thy Name So Fair" at the close of the ceremony. **Drs. John Reisch, Dennis O'Reilly, and Cal Christian, and Ms. Jan Workman** attended Harrison's senior recital and were amazed by his talent.



Harrison Schodt

OUR STUDENTS... *are Moving On*

Although there were no in-person graduation ceremonies this past Spring, we are looking forward to future ceremonies! Pictured below are Fall 2019 grads **Harold Luke Holloman**, **Raleigh Guthrie**, **Julissa Marlene Canas**, and **Rikki Etheridge Cone**.



OUR FACULTY... *are Student-Focused*



Dr. Linda Quick

Continuing a tradition, **Dr. Linda Quick** supervised the Senior Honors Projects of two ECU Scholar-students this past year. She attributes her dedication to students to **Dr. Cal Christian** and the impact he had on her as an ECU undergraduate accounting student. She recently shared her full-circle story.

Dr. Quick first met Dr. Christian when she was interviewing for scholarships as a high school senior. Because she had worked at the Firestone Tire plant in high school, her plan was to get an undergraduate degree in business and work in industry. She had no idea there were other options. Dr. Christian told her that she was NOT going to do that – she was going to earn a Master’s-degree and work for a Big 4 accounting firm. She was shocked both because she’d never thought about the possibility of a graduate degree, and that someone she’d just met thought she was capable of more. That meeting was a turning point in her life.

Dr. Christian ultimately took her on as an undergraduate research assistant for a program ECU was piloting to get students from underachieving public-school backgrounds involved in research, and he supervised her Senior Honors Project. It was then that Dr. Christian mentioned she should consider earning her Ph.D.

Dr. Quick earned her MSA in 2005. After several years working for KPMG, she returned to school and earned her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina in 2013. The rest, as they say, is history. She returned to ECU as a member of the accounting faculty in 2013 and was promoted to Associate Professor effective Fall 2020.

Dr. Quick attributes the change in her life's trajectory to Dr. Christian which is why she is so devoted to our students – supervising projects, reviewing applications, practicing interviews, serving as Faculty Advisor of the Student Accounting Society, and mentoring students as needed. She likes to say that it is her small way of giving back to a program that did so much for her.



Dr. Doug Schneider

In addition to serving as Faculty Advisor for Beta Alpha Psi for the past 25 years, **Dr. Doug Schneider** has served as Treasurer and Faculty Advisor for Alpha Delta Pi sorority for the past 28 years. This year, he was recognized by the Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC) for his continued support and involvement in student success. He has been repeatedly selected by BSBA students as a graduation marshal, and by MSA students as a graduation hoodler, and he received the 2019 Panhellenic Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award.

Dr. Dennis O'Reilly was one of only about 100 professors selected to attend the technology company, Course Hero's, 2019 Education Summit. The two-day event, held at the company's corporate offices in Redwood City, California, brought together top educators across the nation from the fields of accounting, math, and science.

OUR FACULTY... are Research-Focused

Here are summaries of two faculty publications we thought might be of interest to our alumni.

The first, "Mind the gap: Examining the gap between accounting academics and practitioners," was co-authored by **Dr. Amanda Peterson** and published in *Tennessee CPA Journal*. It examines the gap between the research produced by accounting academics and the types of studies relevant to accounting practitioners. It also makes practical suggestions to better align the two communities. For example, academics should consider joining and becoming active in organizations like the AICPA and State CPA Societies, while practitioners should consider reading relevant academic articles, co-authoring with academics, and becoming involved in campus activities.

In the second, "Standard-setting in auditing: Insights from PCAOB inspections" published in *Journal of Accounting & Public Policy*, **Dr. Denise Dickins** and her co-authors combine the reports of audit partners, the timing of enacted auditing standards, and the issuance of PCAOB inspection findings. They find evidence that in some instances auditors were penalized by the PCAOB for omitting evidence from their working papers which is not specified in the standards, in effect, changing or removing auditor judgment in the amount and nature of audit evidence to be gathered in corroboration of management's assertions and creating new auditing standards outside of the formal standard-setting process.

In addition to the above faculty publications, **Dr. Cal Christian** updated his CPE courses "North Carolina Accountancy Law: Ethics, Principles & Professional Responsibilities," and "North Carolina Professional Ethics."

In her role as Chair of the Auditing Standards Committee of the Auditing Section of the American Accounting Association (AAA), **Dr. Dickins** co-authored three commentaries on proposed auditing standards which were published in *Current Issues in Auditing*. She also co-authored "Cybersecurity Risks and Regulations – Is the AICPA's SOC for Cybersecurity a Solution?" in *CPA Journal*, and was this year's recipient of the COB's Stansell Research Fellowship.



Dr. Denise Dickins &
Dean Paul Schwager

Dr. Zhan Furner and **Dr. Dickins** co-authored, “How Closing a Tax Loophole Helps Resolve an Accounting Loophole” in *CPA Journal*.

Drs. Mark McCarthy and **Doug Schneider** co-authored, “ASU 2016-07: Simplification for Equity Method Reporters” in *Tennessee CPA Journal*.

Dr. Amanda Peterson co-authored, “Interlocking Boards in Nonprofit Organizations” in *Accounting Horizons*.

Dr. Dan Schisler co-authored, “South Dakota v. Wayfair: Analysis and State Reaction” in *The Contemporary Tax Journal*, and he and **Dr. Rick Niswander** updated their co-authored textbook, *Fundamentals of Taxation*, now in its 13th Edition.

Demonstrating the Accounting faculty's dedication to teaching and pedagogical research, **Drs. John Reisch** and **Dickins** are represented on BYU's Accounting Research Rankings for publication of Educational Accounting Research. Dr. Dickins is ranked No. 10 (tied) for publication of educational accounting cases over the last six years, and No. 13 (tied) for all educational accounting research over the last six years, and Dr. Reisch is ranked No. 9 (tied) for publication of educational accounting cases over the last 20 years.

As reported in a recent article published in *Issues in Accounting Education*, ECU is tied for 8th place in the nation for faculty publishing in accounting practitioner journals which bridge the gap between academics and practice. Leading this achievement is accounting faculty member, **Dr. Dickins**, who is tied for 7th place in the nation.

OUR FACULTY... are Service-Focused

Our accounting faculty members continue to help advance the missions of various professional accounting associations. Here are a few examples.

Rose Bailey, LL.M., Esq. is a member of the NCACPA's Tax Committee.

Dr. Cal Christian continues to teach ethics courses for the NCACPA, is ECU's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative, and is a member of the Pirate Club Executive Committee. He is also a frequently requested speaker, including at Summer Orientation sessions which are attended by approximately 4,000 Pirate-Freshman.

Dr. Denise Dickins just completed a 3-year term on the Auditing Standards Committee of the AAA. In her last year as Chair, the Committee responded to a record four Requests for Comment from various auditing standards-setting organizations. Dr. Dickins was also recently appointed to serve as the Academic Editor of the AAA's publication, *Current Issues in Auditing*.



Dr. Cal Christian



Dr. Linda Quick & Hope Gibson

Dr. Rick Niswander is the Chairman of the Lifelong Learning Committee of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). The Committee is responsible for the creation and administration of the CGMA exam. CIMA is a U.K.-based joint venture with the AICPA that has over 220,000 members in over 170 countries.

Dr. Linda Quick is a member of the NCACPA's Young CPA Cabinet. ECU hosted a meeting of Cabinet members in November that included an outing at Stumpy's Hatchet House. In case you were wondering, Dr. Quick and MSA-student, **Hope Gibson**, have excellent throwing arms!

OUR FACULTY... *are Having Fun*

At this year's COB holiday party, the accounting faculty dominated the Christmas trivia contest. We promise our win had nothing to do with the official tally being conducted by **Drs. Reisch and Christian!**



OTHER NEWS

AARG!

The Department of Accounting hosted its third annual Accounting Research Roundtable Gathering (ARRG!) this year. Four accounting doctoral students presented their research ideas in an informal format much like a roundtable discussion. Ph.D. candidates represented University of Central Florida, University of Alabama, University of Nebraska, and Virginia Commonwealth University.



Pictured Above (l-r):
Xiao Song, Leah Hall,
Jacob Lennard, and
Davidson Gillette

MEET THE FIRMS

Our annual Meet the Firms event will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium – Club Level, from 6 – 8 pm. More than 120 accounting students typically participate in this event. Firms participating last year included Blackman & Sloop, Clifton Larson Allen, DHG, EY, HPG, KPMG, Langdon & Company, Myers & Stauffer, RSM, Thomas Judy Tucker, Wall, Einhorn & Chernitzer, and Williams Overman Pierce.

If you or your company would like to participate at this year's event, please contact **Dr. Cal Christian** (christianj@ecu.edu).

NCACPA CPE COURSES

One of the NCACPA's greatest services is its comprehensive curriculum of CPE. Since 2010, the accounting faculty has teamed with the NCACPA to offer online ethics courses. Through this partnership, a percentage of the revenue generated benefits ECU students enrolled in our MSA program that plan to pursue a career in public accounting. This year's scholarship recipients are reported in the "Student News" section of the newsletter. You can help ECU students by taking your annual ethics CPE on-line through the NCACPA (available at: <https://www.ncacpa.org/ethics/>).

I NEVER...

In many ways the Spring 2020 semester was one for the record book. We learned a lot about pandemics, teaching online, learning online, and even about life. Here are just a few of the things we never...

... realized how much I enjoy my classmates or how hard it would be for me to stay on track with studying without the accountability of my peers. **Holly Campbell** (MSA '20)

...wavered in my belief that the ECU College of Business is comprised of some pretty incredible people with the ability to adapt to life's roadblocks, push forward, and potentially be better for it. From the start, I knew that our faculty and staff would rise to the challenges that COVID-19 brought and had confidence in the scrappiness of our students. **Dr. Paul Schwager**, COB Dean

...realized how much I appreciated having access to the library and printing on campus. It made studying so much easier! I also didn't realize how much I appreciated walking to class. **Oakleigh Hogg** (MSA '20)



Holly Campbell submitted photo



Jacob Heintze

...realized how much I love to slackline (<https://bit.ly/3c2GMnk>). I learned how during the Pandemic. It is awesome! **Jacob Heintze** (BSBA '20)

...imagined that the thing I'd hate most about online teaching was getting freeze-faced with my mouth wide-open! **Dr. Denise Dickins**

...thought how much I'd miss Joyner Library! CPA exam material is already difficult enough to work through and it definitely felt isolating to be away from a traditional classroom environment but being home during social distancing meant that my family was always around to help lift my spirits. Finding a quiet place to study and work in a house full of stir-crazy people isn't exactly easy. **Kayla Saffer** (MSA '20)

...imagined how much I miss just shaking someone's hand in greeting. **Dr. Dan Schisler**, Interim Department Chair

... realized how much I enjoyed my walk to campus, seeing all the students, and grabbing a quick bite before class until I wasn't able to do it every day. Who knew that an introvert like me could miss the hustle and bustle of ECU so much? I also never realized the complexities of online education and the lack of motivation that seemed to pair with it so well. This semester opened my eyes to things that I needed to work on like time management and self-motivation. The experience has shown me that I have the aspirations and drive to do great things. Obstacles won't stop me! **Maia Lew** (MSA '20)



Maria Lew

...knew how much I enjoy working with my hands. When I was younger, I would work on cars with my dad, but recently I started a flower bed garden. **Dr. Joseph Reid**

... realized how much social interaction with friends, classmates and professors are valuable for growth as an individual and professional. **Ugo Umeofia** (BSBA '20)



Taylor Chappell

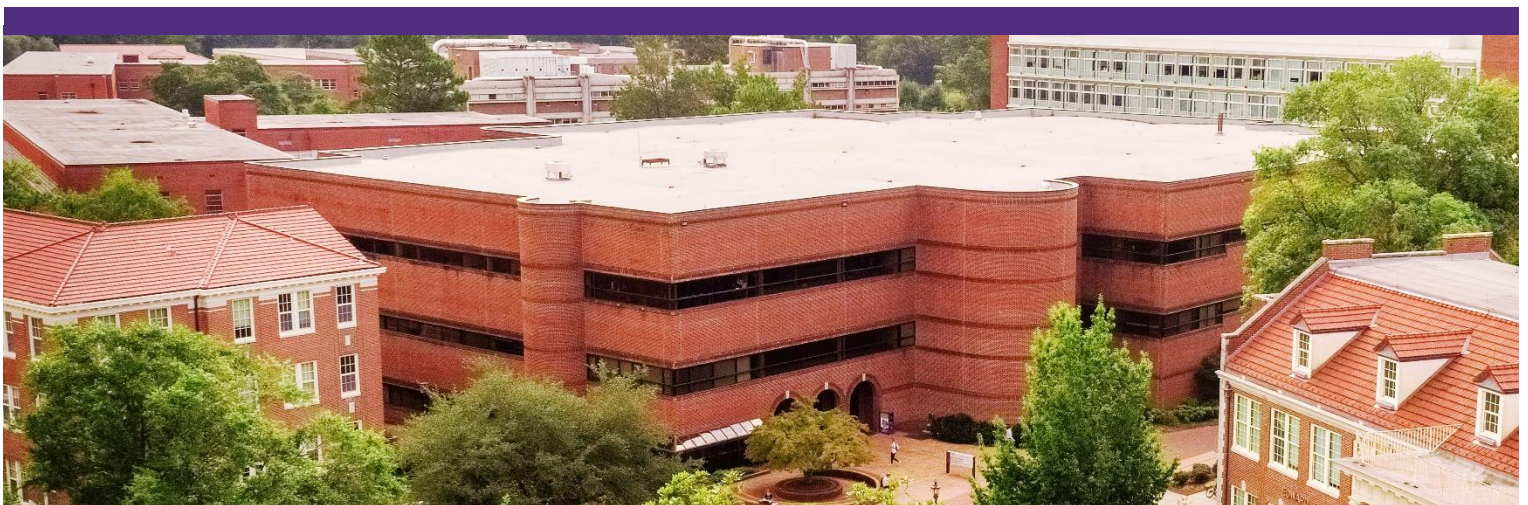
...realized how much I appreciated Eduroam - ECU WiFi. **Taylor Chappell** (MSA '20)

...thought I would miss walking back to my office from my classroom in an unexpected spring rain shower. I never realized how much I have taken for granted my casual/ impromptu conversations with college of business colleagues in our Slay office building. I work with some terrific and encouraging people. I hope I will not get into trouble for hugging them all when we can get back together. **Ms. Jan Workman**

... realized how much I appreciate the busy life of being on campus. **Philip Unger** (MSA '20)



Philip Unger



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