

## The Doyle Z. Williams Chair in Professional Accounting

The University of Arkansas has established a new chair in accounting in honor of **Doyle Z. Williams**. The surprise announcement was made in February before a crowd of 785 business and civic leaders at the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame dinner at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Dean Williams initiated the leadership recognition program seven years ago.

The Doyle Z. Williams Chair in Professional Accounting will be endowed by funds from the university's \$300 million gift from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. Dean Williams will be the first holder of the chair, beginning July 1, 2005, when he completes his service as dean of the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

The chair is designed to support issues-oriented teaching and research activities in areas such as financial reporting, tax policy, audit effectiveness, regulation of the accounting profession, licensing, ethics, and auditor independence. The chairholder is also expected to participate actively in state, national or international professional organizations with the objective of improving financial reporting, tax policy or auditing standards and practice.

Department chair Karen Pincus notes that "Doyle Williams has been a visionary leader who did many things that brighten the teaching, research and service future of the Walton College. It's a fitting tribute that this new chair will carry Dean Williams' name long into that future."



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Accounting Recognition Day Banquet will be on **Tuesday, April 19**, at the Radisson hotel in downtown Fayetteville. At the banquet, we will recognize two outstanding alumni for 2005. These alumni will also be featured on our website as role models for our students.

In industry, we will honor **Sheila Pruitt [BSBA '85]**, Executive Tax Director, Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, a Fortune 1000 Company headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In public accounting **Paul Parette [BSBA '89]**, a Partner in the Audit and Enterprise Risk Services Practice of Deloitte & Touche, LLP, one of the largest professional services firms in the U.S., will be honored.

Another highlight of the banquet will be the presentation of undergraduate and master's scholarships for 2005-2006. See the *Student & Faculty News* column for a preview of some of the key awards.

Two new scholarships will be presented at this year's banquet for the first time. Moore Stephens Frost has made a three-year commitment to fund a Walton College MAcc Scholarship of \$1,500. The first award will go to **Natalie Hughes** from Smackover, AR. The Arkansas Society of CPAs through its Student Education Fund has developed a new scholarship program for undergraduate and master's students. Six Walton College accounting students will receive scholarships from this program for \$500 to \$1,000 this year: **Rivka Berman, Sarah Garton, Lacey LaRue, Adi Masli, Steven Nye, and Ryan Webb**.

The banquet is a great time to renew old acquaintances and meet students who will soon join the work force. If you haven't been to a banquet in the last few years and want an invitation, please phone the department (479-575-4051) soon.

## Meet Our **Welcome!** New Faculty Members

This summer, the Department of Accounting will welcome two new accounting faculty members, **Dr. Vernon J. Richardson** and **Dr. B. Charlene Henderson**.

Dr. Vernon Richardson, who will hold the rank of Professor, earned his doctorate at the University of Illinois and is currently on the faculty at the University of Kansas. He will be teaching courses in financial accounting next year and will be working with accounting doctoral students as well. He is experienced in international education, including teaching at the China Europe International Business School in Shanghai from January to July 2004.

Dr. Richardson is considered one of the top researchers in the accounting information systems field. This area of expertise is an excellent match for our graduate programs in accounting and for our college-wide focus on IT as a priority area. His second area of research interest is capital markets.

The Richardson family is delighted to move to Arkansas this summer. After whirlwind adventures in Russia, China and Indonesia, Vernon, his wife Connie and their nine children are excited to settle down in a wonderful, family-

oriented community like Fayetteville. The Richardson children, who range in age from four to fifteen, have quickly converted from "Jayhawks" to "Razorbacks." Each has their own "Razorback" t-shirt that they wear proudly at school. The entire family loves music and the older children play violin and/or piano. The kids (and mom) dream of putting together a family fiddling show someday.

Dr. Charlene Henderson, who specializes in tax and financial accounting, earned her doctorate at Arizona State University and is currently on the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. She will teach tax classes next year and work with other Walton College faculty and doctoral students on research. She will hold the rank of Assistant Professor of Accounting.

Dr. Henderson's research interests are primarily concerned with corporate tax policy and the role of taxes in corporate investment and financing decisions. She also focuses on regulatory and tax issues affecting commercial banks and electric utilities.

Outside of the university, Charlene enjoys gardening, running, and step aerobics. She is also an active community volunteer, who says the best hours of her week are those she spends each Sunday as a direct care volunteer in Austin for a shelter for children in foster care.

## Academic Alumni Reunion

The Sam M. Walton College of Business is hosting an Academic Alumni Reunion for alumni who are currently faculty and staff or who are retired from an institution of higher learning. The reunion will be held May 19-21, 2005 on the University of Arkansas campus.

The theme for the reunion program will be "Return, Renew, Rekindle, Rewind." Program highlights include updates, progress reports and initiatives of the University of Arkansas and the Walton College; discussions of administrative challenges and academic life; a panel of deans; and a reception and dinner with top business executives. There will also be tours of Northwest Arkansas, the University of Arkansas campus, and the Walton College.

We have good information to contact our accounting Ph.D. program graduates in higher education, but don't always know about bachelor's or masters graduates who have careers in higher education. So please feel free to contact us if you would like an invitation to the reunion. For more information, contact Amy Harkins in the Office of External Relations at (479) 575-6146 or e-mail: [aharkins@walton.uark.edu](mailto:aharkins@walton.uark.edu)



## Student and Faculty News

Among the top students to be recognized at the *2005 Accounting Recognition Day Banquet* are **Outstanding Seniors Sarah Garton** and **Adi Masli**. This year's **Outstanding Juniors** are **Rivka Berman** and **Lacey LaRue**. Also being recognized is **Kyle Stacey** for the FSA MAcc Award.

The Department of Accounting was very well represented at the AAA Management Accounting Section Mid-Year meeting in Scottsdale. The program included presentations of a paper coauthored by **Professor Carolyn M. Callahan** and **Assistant Professor Rodney Smith** on "Firm Partnerships and Alliances: The Impact of Operating Risk Assessment On Financial and Market Performance" and another paper coauthored by **doctoral student Mary Stuebs**, **Professor Carolyn M. Callahan** and **Associate Professor Tim West** on "The Impact of Labor Flexibility on Equity Risk and the Cost of Capital." **Doctoral student Maureen Butler** also represented the Walton College at the

doctoral consortium held in conjunction with the meeting.

The Department of Accounting is happy to announce that several Walton College Honors students and accounting majors were awarded SURF grants from the state to support their honors theses, including **Heather Hughes** (advisor: Jim Millar), **Theresa Lincicome** (advisor: Tim West), and **Amanda Smith** (advisor: Deborah Thomas).

**Professor Karen Pincus**, in her role as President-Elect of Beta Alpha Psi, participated in best practices judging and spoke at the Northwest Regional Meeting in Boise, Idaho and the Missouri Valley Regional Meeting in Ames, Iowa.

**Angela Adams [BSBA '04]** had something extra to celebrate for graduation. Her paper, "An Investigation of Electronic Tax Filing in Arkansas" was published in *Inquiry: Undergraduate Research Journal of the University of Arkansas*.

The annual Beta Alpha Psi Bowl-a-Thon was held on March 17. The winning team, by four-tenths of a point was **S.F. Fiser**. Second place went to **Moore Stephens Frost**. Senior Steve Nye was the top student bowler.

**Professor Don W. Finn** served as a discussant at the AAA Auditing Section Mid-Year meeting in January in New Orleans for a paper on factors affecting external and internal whistle-blowing by auditors. **Assistant Professor Gary Peters** presented a coauthored paper on "Earnings management, litigation risk, and audit fees" and **doctoral student Dennis López** represented the college at the doctoral consortium held in conjunction with the meeting.

Our chapter of Beta Alpha Psi was represented at the Southwest Regional Meeting in New Orleans by students **Sarah Garton**, **Craig Manatt**, **Albert McDougal**, **John Rainwater**, and **Meredith Upchurch**, as well as **Clinical Associate Professor Charles**



**Leflar.** Sarah's and John's presentation on the Southwest Regional Director chapter's community service project with the Boys and Girls Club won second place in the best practices competition.

The AIMA World Conference on Management Accounting Research in May will feature cutting edge paradigms and methodologies. The program includes a paper linking agency theory to managerial incentive factors in the defense industry. The coauthors include **doctoral student Maureen Butler** and **Professor Carolyn M. Callahan**.

Accounting majors who recently received Beta Gamma Sigma invitations include **juniors Rivka Berman, Jessica Bieker, Phillip Brick, Harley Caudle, Corey Coston, Scott Fretheim, Geeve Golmirzaie, Emily Hampton, Meredith Hartz, Millie Jones, Lacey LaRue, Luke Matthews; senior Sherri Smith; and MAcc students Haihong He and Louis Rowland**.

**Doctoral student Kim Church** and **Assistant Professor Rodney Smith** were honored by the selection of their paper for presentation at the *Journal of Information Systems*' New Scholars Research Workshop held in January in New Orleans in conjunction with the AAA Information Systems Section Mid-Year meeting.

Congratulations to the newly elected 2005-2006 Beta Alpha Psi Officers: **President Sarah Garton; VP - Programs Meredith Upchurch; VP - Membership Meagan Davis-Epperly; Treasurer Phil Brick; Corresponding Secretary Millie Jones; and Recording Secretary Lauren Young.** **Laura Caviness** will be the first student to hold the new position of Webmaster.

**Assistant Professor Michael Mosebach** attended the AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section Mid-Year meeting in San Diego earlier this semester. **Doctoral student Angela Spencer** represented the college at the related doctoral consortium.

**Doctoral students Ali Serhan and Martin Stuebs, Jr.** successfully defended their doctoral dissertations earlier this semester. Congratulations Dr. Serhan and Dr. Stuebs!



## Alumni News

**Mike Haigh [BSBA '69]**, is retiring from the practice of public accounting just after graduation this year. Mike, who won the Department of Accounting's alumni award in public accounting in 1992, has served as partner-in-charge of Deloitte & Touche's Arkansas practice. Among his many community service activities, Mike served as chair of the Murphy Commission, an initiative to help make Arkansas state government performance driven and create accountability measures. While Mike is retiring from public practice, he plans to be even more active in community service with his church and other organizations once his calendar opens up.

**Tara Thompson Box [BSBA '98]** and husband John recently welcomed their second child. Jude Elvin Lee, born October 21, joins big sister Julian (three years old). Tara works as administrator at Countryside Healthcare in Huntsville where she has been the last ten years.

**Erin Burris [BSBA '02]** is finishing law school at the University of Texas-Austin. Her post-graduation plans include a job with the law firm, Clark Thomas and Winters doing estate planning.

**Harun Kazmi [BSBA '96]** is a founding partner of a new law firm, Kazmi and Sakata, in San Diego. He practices Business and Family Immigration Law. He finds immigration law very rewarding and enjoys meeting people from all over the world.

**Karl Kuhn [BSBA '87; JD '90]** Army Judge Advocate was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in May of 2004. He is currently a contract and fiscal law professor at the Army JAG School in Charlottesville, VA and has been on active duty for fourteen years.

**Jewell Lindsey [BSBA '97]** became the new controller for Northwest Arkansas Community College on December 1, 2004. Congratulations, Jewell!

**Stephanie Rhea [BSBA '98]** and husband John celebrated the birth of their daughter Madison on December 21. Big brother Jacob reports "she can only drink milk, but when she is a big girl she can have juice."

**Judy Weishar [PhD '97]** and husband Kevin, who is in the foreign service, have moved to Nairobi, Kenya. Son Doyle started kindergarten and loves school and the whole family has enjoyed traveling in Africa. Judy is now working with PACT World, an organization that helps distribute aid to African countries. Her duties include both being an accountant (e.g., assessing the organization's financial accounting system) and teaching accounting both in house and for projects. Her first project involves teaching accounting to literate Sudanese people.

**Leigh Evans [BSBA '01; MAcc '02]** and her husband Matt are the proud parents of a daughter, Emily Anne, born on January 7. "Emma" weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20.5 inches long – but has grown already!

**Bart Scivally [BSBA '69]** retired from the Arkansas Division of Legislative Audit last December. Bart was recognized as an outstanding alum in government at the 2000 Accounting Recognition Day banquet and holds one of the records for the longest unbroken string of banquets attended.

*Have you joined the Arkansas Alumni Association career network? Employers looking for experienced professionals can post jobs and alums can post resumes. Check it out at [www.arkalam.org/career](http://www.arkalam.org/career)*

*Keep in touch!*

*Visit our home page at <http://waltoncollege.uark.edu/ACCT/default.asp> Use e-mail or the form below to send your news for the next edition.*

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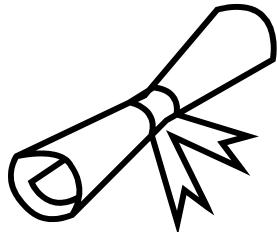
**News to report in next newsletter:**

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**Congratulations Class of 2005!  
Best wishes for  
long, successful careers!**

*Razorback Accounting News*

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