



Beta Alpha Psi September Newsletter

A PUBLICATION BY MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

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SOA Welcome Back Picnic By: Katherine Fotopoulous, Member

What better way to spend a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon than to be surrounded by accounting students, faculty and family? That is exactly what 400+ people did at the School of Accountancy Annual Welcome Back Picnic on September 18, 2010. Thanks to an off-shore tropical system, the day was perfect for a picnic, filled with blue skies and plenty of sunshine. The event was held outside of the College of Business, across from the Sun Dome, but the ever-prepared Dr. Bryant also had the Atrium set up in case of a stray shower. The picnic provided a wonderful opportunity for students to interact with professors and accounting firm personnel in a more casual environment.

The tunes of Bob Marley and other mellow artists set the scene for a com-

fortable, outdoor atmosphere on such a beautiful day, and looking around, one could spot a variety of activities from corn-hole to Frisbee. Lines formed around the popular Professor Jozsi and Dr. Murthy, as students took advantage of the rare opportunity to speak to their professors outside of the classroom, and about non-academic topics. Recruiters from local and national firms were also in attendance. The event truly was a family affair, as students, employers, and faculty brought their children and spouses to the event as well.

After all the mingling and gaming, the next logical step was a stop by the food tent. Upon rendering the ticket received at check-in, the options were abundant to satisfy a hungry army of intellectuals! From barbeque

ribs to pulled pork sandwiches, salad, baked beans, bread, and desserts, it was impossible to leave the picnic with an empty stomach. The Atrium served as the perfect location to cool-off and enjoy a meal with a table of people – some friends, some classmates, and some new acquaintances.

In such a competitive environment, any chance to network and connect with potential employers, to make friends among classmates, and interact with extremely intelligent professors, was a simply priceless opportunity (I am not referring to the fact that the event was FREE!). The pic-



Chris Rosales, Dr. Stephanie Bryant and Crystal Davis at the SOA Welcome Back Picnic



Ingrid Avendano, Rupal Patel, Stephanie, Karen Simms and Dr. Lander at the SOA Welcome Back Picnic



Interview Workshop Prepares Career Seekers By: Jeffery Creel, Candidate

The School of Accountancy's long awaited interview workshop has come and gone, and by all appearances it was a smashing success. The workshop was a chance for 60 accounting students to prepare for their day at the career fair.

SOA Director, Dr. Stephanie Bryant, gave a brief but impassioned presentation on what NOT to do at the career fair: chewing gum, texting, wearing casual clothing, having a resume full of typos. She emphasized that students would have only about 5 minutes to impress a recruiter and warned, "you are being judged on how you present."

But the mood lightened somewhat with the hilarious yet informative presentation from Protiviti's Ali Hall and Met-Life's Jason Pandolfo and Ryan Ratigan. Besides warning students about the dangers of wearing bike helmets and dancing drunkenly at the career fair, their presentation advised students to let their personalities shine through and to demonstrate personal responsibility and passion. They also

suggested preparing a few specific anecdotes of a time when the student solved a problem or demonstrated leadership.

After the presentations, a professional worked with groups of students at each table to help students answer some common interview questions. Our group first spoke with Bob Watts of Resources Global, an accounting consulting firm. As he started asking questions, it was obvious that students underestimated how nervous they would be in this situation. However, Bob did a great job at making students feel at ease, and soon there was a strong sense of camaraderie. This turned out to be the best and most valuable part of the event. It's much better to get nervous at the mock interview than the real thing, so students who attended will be that much better prepared for the career fair.

Later, the groups of students rotated to other tables. My next group spoke with Aaron Lamb of Kforce, a recruiting and HR consulting firm. He was

energetic and very knowledgeable about interview techniques, and he helped us answer the trickiest interview question of all, "What's your biggest flaw?" ("I work too hard." won't work.) He also gave us general networking and job-seeking advice and gave out his card, saying he'd be available any time to help with the search.

When asked how she would sum up the event, Dr. Bryant simply said "60 students getting together with 15 professionals—a fabulous event." The students who attended are likely to agree.



CBH Wii Night Social By: Eric Nitz, Member

The Cherry Bekaert & Holland (CBH) Wii night social on September 20th was a little different than most USF Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) socials. This social was in conjunction with the USF St. Pete BAP chapter. There were several different types of professionals at the social including staff, senior, managers and partners. Professionals from both audit and tax were in attendance.

Playing Wii was a good way to break the ice with the CBH staff. BAP members received good information from the recent staff hires. They informed members of the hiring process that they went through at CBH, what companies are looking for in students, and what members can do to make their selves more marketable to firms.

While meeting with the member of BAP St. Pete, we were able to learn much about their organization including member and candidate requirements and how they interact with firms in the community.

Work Hard...Play Harder By: Amanda Kerney, Candidate

On Saturday, September 18th, 2010, Beta Alpha Psi candidates and members came together to enjoy a fun day in the sun Leadership Conference. The conference started off with a name your birth date ice-breaker and then led into a sudden rush to find your Beta Buddy.

After being paired up with your buddy (a tricky question and answer icebreaker), we moved into the business building for a presentation by Cindy Mull: director of operations at KRMT, a public accounting firm. Cindy explained her career path along with tips for becoming a good leader. Some advice she gave was to always listen to your elders, keep humor in the workplace, and "Work Hard, but Play Harder." Cindy was a wonderful speaker and Beta was grateful to have her present.

After Cindy's presentation, the leadership competition between the Beta teams began. Teams of nine to ten members and candidates competed against each other in entertaining activities such as The Sac Race, Dodgeball, and even Cornhole. I still have blisters from the Tug-of-War Battles!

Overall, the Leadership Conference

was an exciting way to meet your buddy and interact with other members of Beta Alpha Psi. The day ended with pizza and drinks along with the announcement of the team winners (Good Job "Team 5 with a ph"!).



Candidate Information Session By: Tanya Connaughton, Candidate

An exciting semester for Beta Alpha Psi began with the Candidate Information Session. The multipurpose room was full of prospective future BAP members. The officers shared the many benefits of joining Beta, and also provided information to the candidates about all of the many and varied requirements and responsibilities for the upcoming semester.

Some of the more important requirements for BAP candidates include participation in:

- Mock interviews.
- Two fundraising activities, and the
- Grant Thornton Speech Contest

There are many benefits of membership in Beta Alpha Psi. Numerous firms from all over Tampa come to talk to BAP students. Members also have the opportunity to meet with firms one on one in a casual, social setting. Participating in community service work and learning leadership skills are two other very important benefits of Beta Alpha Psi. All of the candidates were truly excited to embark on this journey, as they realized that membership in BAP translates to "the best of the best in accounting at University of South Florida."

Accent on Academics: Dr. Jerry Lander By: Leslie Lushman, Candidate

Dr. Jerry Lander arrived at USF Tampa as an Adjunct Professor, after spending 20 years at USF St. Petersburg. He teaches Intermediate Financial Accounting III and Advanced Accounting at our campus. An interesting fact is that this is actually Dr. Lander's second time around at USF Tampa. He taught Auditing and Accounting Information Systems for 10 years before transferring to the St. Pete campus.

With a bachelors degree in Economics, and a masters and Ph.D. in Accounting, Dr. Lander has a remarkable record. He has been published more

than 16 times, with publications that explore the need for transparency in financial reporting, the valuation of intangible assets, variable-interest entities, among many others. Throughout his career at USF, Dr. Lander has also taught a total of seven courses in the Accounting department.

Dr. Lander also received the *Outstanding Teacher Award* in 2004 from the College of Business, evidence to his commitment to our university. In addition to his academic achievements, he also spent time working in management and public accounting prior to teaching. He also has Big 4 experience,

having worked at Deloitte. We are proud to welcome back such an accomplished professor to USF Tampa for the second time around.



Look for more professor profiles in our next newsletter!

Accent on Academics: Dr. Ryan Huston By: Linda Wolf Wilson, Member

Dr. Ryan Huston comes to USF's School of Accountancy with a wealth of teaching and professional experience. He currently teaches Taxation of Business Entities and Advance Partnership Taxation.

Prior to arriving at USF, Dr. Huston was an Assistant Professor at Florida State University where he taught Estate and Gift Taxation and Partnership Taxation. While at FSU, Dr. Huston was awarded the Graduate Teaching Award for 2009-2010. Prior to FSU, he was an instructor at Texas A&M University where he taught Introduction to Taxation. Dr. Huston also worked in public accounting for

KPMG and Arthur Andersen in Dallas before beginning his career in academia.

Dr. Huston holds a B.B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. in Accounting—all from Texas A&M University. His current research interests include archival empirical taxation and the associated impact on financial accounting and earnings management. His current publications under review include topics such as earnings targets, tax incentives, income taxes, tax planning and worldwide vs. territorial tax systems.

He has presented numerous times for the American Taxation Association on multiple areas of taxation, investment

and earnings management. Additionally, Dr. Huston has been invited to present at some of the leading universities around the country including Baylor University, Auburn University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Notre Dame, Arizona State University and a host of others.



Please make sure to stop by his office and welcome Dr. Huston to USF.

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