Greetings and welcome to the Winter 2012 semester. Most of you have settled into your routine and are working hard on your courses. Good luck and my best wishes for a successful semester.

I’m pleased to announce that we received the official approval of AASCB accreditation for the Seidman College of Business and the School of Accounting. Both are major accomplishments and the result of a lot of hard work.

So what does accreditation, especially our separate accounting accreditation, mean to you? It is similar to the ISO 9000 certification that is discussed in Managerial accounting. It is proof that the Seidman College of Business and the School of Accounting have demonstrated the high standards necessary to earn AASCB accreditation. Just as your future certification as a CPA, CMA, CIA, CISA or other professional certification will indicate to the public your hard work and knowledge, so too does AASCB accreditation indicate the College’s and School’s hard work and talent. As one of a few University’s with AASCB accreditation for the College of Business and even fewer schools with separate accounting accreditation, you can be assured that you made the right choice in choosing the GVSU School of Accounting for your education. Finally, and most importantly to you, employers value AASCB accreditation when choosing which schools to interview and how many offers to make to potential future hires. Our success in achieving AASCB accreditation will continue to attract firms looking for strong candidates to hire.

I would like to offer a special thank you to all the individuals in the School of Accounting who worked so hard to achieve this goal. Good job!

Please be alert to the scholarship opportunities available to you. We are blessed with sponsors who have strongly contributed to the scholarship funds. So get those applications in as soon as possible. Also, recognize that it is a competitive event so please submit a professional application.

Our Annual Accounting Awards banquet is scheduled for April 20. I look forward to seeing many of you there. It is a good time to rejoice in the community that is our School of Accounting.

One other note: I would like to welcome Dan Carter who has graciously step aside for the semester. Dan is a longtime supporter of the GVSU School of Accounting who is excited about sharing his experience in the world of auditing with the students in Accounting 414 and 614. You are in good hands.

I leave you another inspirational link http://tilthelasthemlockdies.blogspot.com/2011/01/spider-man-33-part-ii.html

Excelsior! Kurt

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**School of Accounting Scholarships**

The application for the School of Accounting Scholarships was emailed to all accounting majors on January 10. Accounting majors with an overall cumulative GPA of 3.2, an accounting GPA of 3.5 or higher and who have completed ACC 310 are invited to apply for scholarships offered through the School of Accounting. Applicants need not apply for each of the scholarships shown on this form individually as this application will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee to determine qualifications for specific awards.

Submit your application by February 13, 2012 5:00 p.m. to Prof. Lara Kessler (479C DEV) or School of Accounting, 489C DEV. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the Writing Center while writing your scholarship essay. Direct questions about the scholarships or application to Prof. Lara Kessler, kesslara@gvsu.edu.

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**Annual Accounting Awards Banquet**

Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend the annual awards banquet. All accounting majors are sent a complimentary (yes, that means free) dinner invitation for the banquet. This is an opportunity to celebrate with fellow students who will be receiving scholarships and enjoy networking with peers, friends, faculty and business colleagues from our supporting businesses and firms. The banquet will be held at The University Club of Grand Rapids in the Fifth Third building. More information will be forthcoming later this semester via email.
Gleim CPA Review

GSU is enrolled in the Gleim CPA Academic Site License program. This allows you to receive discounts when you order your CPA Review materials directly from Gleim. To order your CPA review materials at the discounted prices, call 800.874.5346 and dial 'zero' to speak with an Accounting Training Consultant. You may also order from the Gleim website: https://www.gleim.com. Contact Justin Widerman, Professor Relations Coordinator justin.widerman@gleim.com with any questions.

Beta Alpha Psi – Aaron Hennesey, President

The Kappa Beta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is looking forward to an exciting semester. January 12 kicked off our meetings for the winter and included some quality time networking between members and those interested in learning about and pledging Beta.

The preparations for our Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program in conjunction with the United Way are in full swing. The VITA program offers free income tax preparation to underprivileged individuals and families. This program affords Beta the opportunity to truly give back and benefit the community by employing knowledge and skills gained during our education. Further, it provides our members with additional knowledge and practice in tax preparation under the guidance of trained professionals. This year we are looking to extend the program and assist several families with graduating high school students to both file their taxes and fill out their FAFSA.

During the winter semester, Beta invites local accounting professionals and business leaders to share their business acumen and personal stories of corporate success and failure. The speakers come from a wide range of backgrounds within both the accounting profession, and business at large.

This April 13th and 14th the Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University chapters are hosting the Midwest Regional Beta Conference in Chicago. We have been hard at work arranging speakers and planning all the details for accommodations.

In addition to hosting the event, two of our members, Kayleigh Nor-dine and Samantha Schaeffer, are planning a presentation on the best practices for the implementation of social media in organizations. Part of the preparation for this involved ramping up our social media utilization and bringing in a speaker this past fall to present on the use of social media for hiring purposes.

In conclusion, the Kappa Beta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is looking forward to fun and busy Winter 2012. It should be a great semester for learning and professional growth with presentations from local business leaders, service opportunities, and the build up to the regional conference this spring.

Tutoring—ACC 212 & ACC 213

SOA Graduate Assistants are now tutoring ACC 212 and ACC 213 in room 468C DEV. See your instructor for the schedule or pick one up at the School of Accounting office, 469C DEV.

Institute of Internal Auditors-Student Chapter – Josh Wood, Vice President

The student chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors will hold meetings as shown below. Please note that dinner will be provided at all meetings. The meetings are in Eberhard Center classrooms. Please contact Josh Wood at woodjo@mail.gvsu.edu with any questions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 24, 2012</td>
<td>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>EC 515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 07, 2012</td>
<td>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>EC 515</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 10, 2012</td>
<td>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>EC 423</td>
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Summer Study Abroad

Are you interested in an exciting summer? Join the School of Accounting in London and study international accounting topics and see the fascinating sights: Hampton Court, Buckingham Palace, Stonehenge, Tower of London, Greenwich, and many, many, more! You can earn 6 credits and have the experience of a lifetime! Please contact Dori Danko for more details at dankod@gvsu.edu or 331-7397.

Backstage Pass — Careers in Accounting

The School of Accounting is proud to host the fourth annual Backstage Pass/Careers in Accounting event on March 26, 2012. Backstage Pass is a fun and entertaining way to learn about career opportunities in accounting. Accountants from both local and national firms will put on skits, network with students, and provide giveaways and raffle prizes in addition to free food and soft drinks. You will hear about jobs, travel, social life, and other opportunities that an accounting education can provide. You will learn how accounting is not just number crunching and how an accounting education is a great way to develop business skills desired by employers and graduate schools.

Backstage Pass is an invitation only event. You must be an ACC 212, ACC 213, ACC 240, or ACC 310 student. In addition, you must have a B average or better in your accounting classes. Study hard and keep your grades up. You don’t want to miss this event! Invitations will be e-mailed out in February.