From the Incoming Director— Kurt Fanning

I would like to take this opportunity to say a warm hello to the accounting body of Grand Valley State University. Starting with the Winter Semester 2012, it is my pleasure to serve as the Director of the School of Accounting. I am looking forward to helping the accounting department provide our students with a high quality education. This starts with a classroom experience providing you with the knowledge to prosper in your future endeavors. Just as importantly, I look forward to helping the School provide you with an environment filled with profession interaction. This professional interaction should allow you to judge where your wants and desires fit when choosing your career path.

Here is my short bio for those unfamiliar with me. Born in Chicago, Illinois back when Eisenhower was President, migrated through Cleveland, Boston, and Scarsdale NY as kid to Farmingdale NY where I spent my "wonder years (allusion to old TV show)" growing up. I worked as CPA and Controller in New York City late 70’s early 80’s and was lucky enough to be in NYC in 1977 (best year in music Google it). Also, I do enjoy going to Ford Museum and seeing the NY Post paper where Gerald Ford tells NYC to "drop dead" during its financial crisis since I remember those days very well. Bailouts were not the norm and being too big to fail was not the way of thinking. Later, I decided to get an aerospace engineering degree from Iowa State University to hopefully work on the lunar colony contract. Yes, there was a time when the USA cared about the Space program. My thanks to those of you who spoke to the peer reviewers and we appreciate the kind comments you made regarding the impact we have on your education and lives. I hope the next few years will continue this trend.

Paraphrasing Newton’s comment on standing on the shoulders of giants, I would like to thank our prior recent Directors Steve Goldberg, Denise de la Rosa, and H. James Williams who are the reasons why the peer reviewers had an easy call in the accreditation process. A separate thank you for Rita Grant and Kathy Goralski for the work and time they devote to the School of Accounting. It would not even cross my mind to choose be the director without the knowledge that they are available to assist me as I attempt to be your director. To my fellow faculty, thanks for your efforts and look forward to working with you in the future. I wish you all the very best for the end of the semester and the holiday season. I look forward to helping you in the future. Finally as you approach finals and wonder whether it is worth it I link you to Sam’s Speech from the Two Towers http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEMdTnO-Wk. Excelsior! Kurt

Winter 2012 Adjuncts

The success of the School of Accounting depends on having qualified faculty to teach the courses that we offer. In addition to our regular full-time faculty, we depend on our highly skilled adjunct faculty to complete the schedule. Adjuncts bring a professional, real-world emphasis to the classes they teach and we are proud to introduce the adjunct faculty who are working in the classrooms this winter.

Joanne Brouse, CPA, CISA, MBA. Ms. Brouse is teaching ACC 213 and has also taught ACC 2132. Ms. Brouse received her MBA from GVSU and her background as a senior auditor has proved invaluable in the classroom.

Christopher Harper, CPA, MBA. Mr. Harper is teaching ACC 310; he has also taught ACC 212, 213, 310, 318, 511 and 615. He has been an adjunct instructor since 2005 and hundreds of our students have benefitted from his teaching and guidance. Mr. Harper is a senior manager with Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, P.C.

Erich C. Harrison, CPA, MST. This semester Mr. Harrison is teaching ACC 632 and has also taught ACC 639. Mr. Harrison received his MST from GVSU. He is employed by the IRS as a Large Case International Examiner. Mr. Harrison enhances his teaching by bringing his work experience from the IRS and his extensive background in public accounting to life in the classroom.

James Radgens, MBA, CPA. Mr. Radgens is teaching ACC 213 and also has taught ACC 212. He is the Director of Personal Tax Services at Varnum Riddering Schmidt & Howlett, LLP and also has an extensive background in the public accounting field.

Wayne Smith, MBA. Mr. Smith is teaching ACC 511 and has also taught ACC 321, 611, 212 and 213. Mr. Smith has been bringing his expertise into the classroom since 1999. He consistently offers outstanding teaching, guidance and practical experience to undergrad and graduate students. Mr. Smith is VP of Commercial Lending at Mercantile Bank.

William B. Smith, MST, CFS. Mr. Smith received his MST from National University in San Diego, CA. He was employed by the IRS as a Supervisory Special Agent, Criminal Investigation until his retirement.

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Study Abroad: Was It Worth It?
Chelsea Baumgardner

Studying abroad was, hands down, the best decision I’ve made, academically or otherwise. I was, in total, an 18 month journey from the time I decided I wanted to go to the time my plane departed the United States. There were many times along the way when I wasn’t sure I was making a good decision or wasn’t sure I could afford the trip, but in the end, all of the frustration and the, “Mom, *Taken* was just a movie” conversations were more than worth it. I spent 17 incredible weeks in the United Kingdom and Europe. I was able to watch history being made. The trip exceeded every expectation I could have ever hoped to have.

I participated in the Kingston University-GVSU partnership program for the Winter 2011 semester. People in the program were from all over the United States, China, Europe, Africa, etc. I knew that some of the people I would meet would turn out to be great friends, but I never imagined how close I would get to some of them. Things my friends Lica, Corry, and Angela taught me along the way: If you sit under a hand dryer, 9 hours in a freezing ferry port in Wales isn’t so bad; or, if you go out in Central, make sure you know how to get home after midnight.

Although my trip was the best time of my life, there were plenty of mistakes along the way. I couldn’t even begin to count the number of times I got on the wrong train at Camden Town station, when trying to get back to Waterloo. There were times that a night out in Central resulted in waiting until morning for the trains to start running, or taking an hour-long N87 bus ride just to wait another 30 minutes for the 281 to come, all because we missed the last train by 2 minutes. Or, buying a Eurail Pass from STA without first pricing out how much buying the individual tickets would be (hint: for me, it would have been £200 cheaper—that’s about $300).

Through all the mistakes, and getting lost, I still would not trade that time for anything. It is my sincere suggestion that if you have any inclination to study abroad, DO IT WHILE YOU CAN! Don’t fool yourself with silly excuses like, “I’m too close to graduating,” “the classes won’t transfer,” “I can’t afford it,” or “I can’t be away from home that long”. All of these concerns, and many more, are addressed everyday by the awesome people in the Padnos International Center or by the wonderful ladies in the International Business program.

London Program
Summer 2012

Registration for the London Study Abroad begins 2/1/12. An information session about the program will be held in January so watch for information about that event. Contact Dori Danko, London Study Abroad Program Co-Director, at dankod@gvsu.edu or phone 331-7397 with any questions about this opportunity.

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.

Advising Notes

ACC 212 and 213 students planning on taking upper-level accounting courses should take ACC 240 (1 credit) as soon as possible. ACC 240 is a prerequisite for ACC 310 and ACC 340.

The School of Accounting faculty encourages all accounting majors to take CIS 231 (Advanced Spreadsheets). We will count it towards your graduation requirements as satisfying a 300/400 level business course. A new section was recently added for winter semester on the Pew campus and a few spots remain.

Any Accounting major who was hired for an internship for winter 2012 should meet with their faculty advisor to determine whether they should take the internship for credit and whether it should be BUS or ACC credit and undergraduate or graduate. If you do plan on taking it for credit, you must contact Professor de la Rosa, Internship Supervisor, before the end of this fall semester. You can reach her at delarosd@gvsu.edu or 616-331-7411. The internship packet can be accessed at http://www.gvsu.edu/business/internship-packet-78.htm.

Winter Adjuncts (Continued from page 1)

in 2008 and currently is the General Member/Owner of Wm. Smith Group, LLC, a licensed private investigations firm specializing in general/financial investigations and forensic accounting. Mr. Smith has taught ACC 608 since Winter 2008.

Holly J. VanDreumel, CMA, CFM. Ms. VanDreumel received her MBA from GVSU. She is teaches ACC 213 and has been adjunct faculty since Fall 2007. Ms. VanDreumel is employed by Booth Newspapers as Budget Manager.