From the Chair —
Steve Goldberg, Accounting & Tax

I hope the year is going well for you! The outlook continues to be bright for accounting graduates. Internship and employment opportunities continue to look excellent. In the Winter 2008 semester, we have 27 students holding many well paid internship positions and receiving class credit. Many other students are in internship positions without receiving course credit. Thanks to the continuing strong job market for accounting graduates and the foresight of students, enrollments in all three accounting programs continue to be strong. In Fall 2007 we had 397 students enrolled as accounting majors in the BBA, 101 in the Masters of Science in Accounting and 44 in the Masters of Taxation programs.

The GVSU chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is co-hosting the mid-west regional meetings of BAP chapters in April in Chicago. Our chapter achieved superior status for the fifth time in six years. It is one of the largest chapters in the country and may be the only BAP chapter in the country to have over 80 members (currently at 87 members) and consistently achieve superior chapter status. This brings some level of prestige in the academic accounting and (Continued on page 2)

Beta Alpha Psi
Melissa de la Rosa, President

The Kappa Beta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi kicked off the New Year well. Welcoming nearly twenty new members this semester, the Chapter continues to offer its members numerous opportunities, both on and off the Grand Valley campus.

The Chapter recently attended the Michigan State University Diversity Career Fair in East Lansing where members had the opportunity to speak with recruiters from over 150 different employers. The Big Four accounting firms (Deloitte & Touche, Ernst & Young, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, and KPMG), Perrigo Company, Lockheed Martin, 3M, Pfizer, and General Mills are a sampling of the various companies that were present. The Chapter was fortunate to have had a charter bus donated by a firm based in Lansing, Maner, Costerisan & Ellis, P.C., and is grateful for having had the opportunity to network with firms outside the West Michigan area.

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Think Global — Study Abroad

Have you ever wished you could stand in Westminster Abbey, view the Crown Jewels or visit Scotland? This summer the Accounting Department and the Seidman College of Business will be offering a study abroad Program on International Corporate Governance. Students will meet in Grand Rapids two nights a week for four weeks and then spend two weeks in London studying British Business Culture and Corporate Governance. Students will receive six credits which can be graduate or undergraduate credit.

In addition to the unique academic experience, you will be amazed at the new perspective you gain when you travel, as you develop new contacts and make friendships that could be with you for many years. Give serious consideration to the many different travel opportunities GVSU offers and study outside the box. Contact Rita Grant with your study abroad questions.

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Accounting Alumni & Friends Organization

If you’re looking for a way to keep in touch with the friends you’ve made at GVSU after graduation, keep in mind that we have an Accounting Alumni & Friends Organization that will welcome you as part of the group. The organization hosts several events, including a Happy Hour the second Tuesday of every month and an annual alumni reunion. They have initiated a mentoring program for current students that we hope will expand considerably in the future. Plans are in the works for a spring family event. The Alumni & Friends organization is working to develop stronger ties between alums and the department, to provide opportunities for networking and to maintain friendships begun at GVSU. Alums are counted on to visit campus as classroom speakers in their areas of expertise. There are many important functions filled by alums and it’s hoped you will continue your contact with GVSU once you leave the classroom. Information about the alumni organization can be obtained by contacting Jacque Schafer, President, Accounting Alumni & Friends, at jacqueline.schafer@53.com.

Annual Accounting Awards Banquet

The Annual Accounting Awards Banquet is scheduled for Friday, April 18, 2008 at the Elks Highland Club. All declared accounting majors, MSA and MST students will receive a complimentary invitation to this event and we hope you will attend as a guest of the Accounting & Tax Department. Students who have received accounting department scholarships for the next academic year will be introduced to the guests. Scholarship winners will be notified in advance of the banquet.

It has been 30 years since the inception of the Richard H. Giles Memorial Scholarship and we are pleased that Mrs. Millie Giles will join us at the banquet this year. Mrs. Giles has continued to take an active interest over the years in the students who have received scholarships in her husband’s memory and we are hoping that many of the previous Giles scholars will be able to attend this year to renew their acquaintance with Millie. For those who have not had an opportunity to meet Millie, this will be a heartwarming experience for you.

Watch for your invitation to arrive in the mail and if you have any questions about this event contact the Acc & Tax Department.
Faculty Profiles

The Accounting & Tax Department is pleased to announce that Emily Drogt and David Centers have accepted positions as Affiliate Instructors of Accounting.

Ms. Drogt has been teaching at GVSU since Fall 2006 as a Visiting Instructor. She received her BBA and MAcc from the University of Michigan. Emily taught at Simpson College in Iowa and Western Illinois University before returning to Michigan and GVSU. Emily teaches ACC 212, Principles of Financial Accounting, ACC 213, Principles of Managerial Accounting, as well as ACC 310 and ACC 311, Intermediate Accounting I & II.

Mr. Centers also has been with GVSU since Fall 2006 as a Visiting Instructor. Dave received his BBA and MBA at Western Michigan University and has taught at Kalamazoo College, Indiana University-South Bend, Michiana College and Davenport University before coming to GVSU. Dave teaches ACC 212, Principles of Financial Accounting, ACC 213, Principles of Managerial Accounting and ACC 618, Advanced Accounting.

Please extend a warm welcome to Dr. Bartosz Kurek who comes to us from the beautiful city of Cracow, Poland. Dr. Kurek is teaching two sections of ACC 213, Principles of Managerial Accounting, during this semester. Bartosz has recently received his Ph.D in Economics (P KT classification: Accounting) from Cracow University of Economics. This is the second time Bartosz has spent time at GVSU, as he was here in 2006 for a two month visit as a research scholar.

From the Chair

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For the current academic year, thirty-seven scholarships and awards were given to accounting students for approximately $70,000. We thank supporters for their generosity to our students.

The University Academic Senate unanimously approved the prospectus from the Department of Accounting to become the School of Accounting. The prospectus stated: “Such reorganization would be more representative of the scope and intensity of the department’s activities and would position it to better execute the department’s, college’s and university’s missions.” This change would reflect the significance of the accounting programs and opportunities for the future. Hopefully, the prospectus will receive final approvals in the next month or two. After approval, we will seek input from students, alumni, and other stakeholders and supporters of the GVSU accounting programs on directions for the future as well as activities to introduce the school.

Increasingly, there is recognition of the importance of understanding of corporate social responsibility and ethics in business. This is particularly important for accountants as they are preparers as well as assurers of financial information used by banks, investors, management and others to make important decisions. Ethics for Accountants is now a required course in the Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) program. Also, beginning in the 08-09 academic year, we will be offering an undergraduate course in ethics for accountants.

My door is open. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please let me know. Best wishes for the remainder of the school year.

Welcome new pledges to the Chapter and welcome back returning members. Upon returning from spring break, an internship panel made up of members who have interned in public and private accounting positions will offer insight and advice on how to acquire an internship, how best to obtain the maximum benefit from the internship, and how to transform that internship into a full-time position. For the remaining meetings, presentations from Stryker Corporation, Becker CPA, The Rehmann Group, among others will be given to better acquaint members with the diverse opportunities in the industry.

With the continuing support of firms in the Grand Rapids area, the Chapter is proud to announce that in the fall it will continue to visit public accounting firms in the Grand Rapids area. On Thursday, September 18, 2008, the organization will host its annual “Accounting Talent Recruiting Night,” where over twenty different accounting firms and companies will be present. The event is free for members of Beta Alpha Psi, with early admission at 6pm. There will be a $15 fee for all others interested in attending with doors opening for general admission at 7pm.

As an honors society, members are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA in their upper-division (300-level or higher) accounting courses and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, each semester members are required to regularly attend weekly meetings, complete a ten-hour community service hour requirement and pay dues of $65 for members and $120 for pledges. Membership in Beta Alpha Psi presents students with good networking opportunities in the accounting profession. An informational meeting this fall will be held to welcome new students for the 2008-2009 academic school year. More detailed information can be found on our website at http://www.gvsu.edu/bap/.

Beta Alpha Psi

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The Chapter will be co-hosting the Midwest Regional Conference with Northern Illinois University the weekend of April 6th and is currently in the process of planning and organizing the event. With approximately 15 members attending, the conference is expected to further promote and recognize the Chapter and its successes, while giving rise to the opportunity for Grand Valley members to network with Beta Alpha Psi members from surrounding universities.

For the remainder of the semester, weekly meetings will include a variety of activities. An upcoming winter ice cream social will provide opportunities for networking and relaxation.