From the Chair
Steve Goldberg, ACC & TAX

I extend a belated welcome back for the new school year. We hope your summer went well and your semester is off to a good start. We welcome four new faculty to the department. We have included in this edition of the General Ledger brief bios for Professors Paulette Ratliff Miller and Lara Kessler and visiting instructors Anne Sergeant and Colleen Boland. Thanks to a very strong job market for accounting graduates, enrollments remain strong in our 3 programs; the BBA with an accounting major, the Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) and the Master of Science in Taxation (MST). MSA student enrollment is over 100 students. We are now offering three sections per year of required MSA courses.

We always appreciate your input on ways that we can improve accounting programs. Please let me know of any suggestions on course schedules, course offerings, advising or other matters.

In accounting we have several influences on course requirements. The accounting department is separately accredited by the AACSB, the business school accrediting body. State boards of accountancy have specific licensing requirements to become CPAs and there are other specialized credentials in accounting. Therefore, we strongly encourage all accounting majors or students considering accounting as a major to talk to accounting faculty as you plan your program. Please contact me if you are not sure to whom you should talk.

The Institute of Internal Auditors Academic Relations Committee (ARC) recently announced that GVSU has been accepted into the IAEP (Internal Audit Education) program. In the near future we will announce specifics of requirements to earn this prestigious credential in internal auditing.

I would appreciate your input on what information you would be interested in seeing in the GL. In future issues, we will continue answering students’ questions. In past editions we have been asked for bios for faculty.

(Continued on page 2)

Beta Alpha Psi
Joe Trombka, President

The Kappa Beta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is on pace for another great year in the 2007-2008 academic year. The support of Faculty and Staff, along with dedication from students in the Accounting program allowed the chapter to continue to thrive at GVSU as we welcomed nearly 50 new members into our organization. Beta Alpha Psi continues to promote academic and service achievement while providing members with professional development and an opportunity to form lasting friendships.

The Kappa Beta chapter is thankful for another strong showing from area firms in supporting our chapter. Our Accounting Pre-Recruiting night, co-sponsored with tremendous help from Career Services, was the largest to date. We had over 20 public accounting firms as well as a few private and governmental organizations to allow accounting students the opportunity to meet and network with those in the industry. On-campus interviews for internship and full-time positions follow the Pre-Recruiting night to give students convenient access to the firms.

Many of those same firms are also inviting us into their offices so members can see what it’s like in the real world. BAP has visits set up with six area firms, allowing us to tour the offices, ask questions to firm employees, and gain valuable networking experience. In addition to the office visits, we have a few presentations from various groups for our Thursday meetings. Once again, we would like to thank all the businesses for their support in helping us put together our meeting schedule.

As always, service to the community is an important part of Beta Alpha Psi. We are continuing our strong partnership with Second Harvest Gleaners, and plan to send large groups several times throughout the year to help feed the hungry. BAP is getting involved in several charity walks and Make a Difference Day to give back to the community. Beta members also continue to be academic leaders by volunteering to tutor fellow accounting students.

(Continued on page 2)

Internship Dream or Nightmare
Dori Danko

Internship interviews are right around the corner and while most students focus on interview techniques or performing research on the different firms, there are a few other issues to consider once you have received an offer: taking the internship for credit or not, how many credits to register for, and what class to register for, ACC 490 or BUS 490. Please review the following actual student situations I have experienced as coordinator of the accounting internship program:

Dream student 1, this student did an in depth study of what credits she needed to graduate and registered for 6 credits in ACC 490. She printed out her degree analysis, saw an advisor, and studied what credit she really needed to complete her 150 hour requirements. She took the course as ACC 490 since she only needed 6 more general credits to graduate. (If she needed an upper level business elective course, then she would have needed BUS 490.) This student did her homework and used all of GVSU’s resources to ensure she had exactly what she needed from her internship experience to graduate.

Student 2 received a dream internship offer and registered for 3 ACC 490 credits since he only needed general credits to finish his graduation requirements. This almost satisfied his graduation requirements with the exception of being short 2 small little credits. He walked on graduation day, posed for pictures with his grandmother, ate cake and received presents but did not graduate. He then came back to GVSU while working full time at his dream job to finish up his graduation credits. He was not aware of these two credits he needed to graduate until it was too late.

The Nightmare on Elm Street situation involves student 3. She received the internship of her dreams and decided on her own that

(Continued on page 2)

Don’t do it

Accounting professionals have a special role in society ensuring that financial information is communicated with accuracy and transparency. To fulfill this role properly, we must act with honesty and integrity. So the reason doesn’t matter, whether you are too busy with work, had an argument with your significant other, didn’t study, have other classes, or just don’t “get” it. Don’t cheat. That’s it, plain and simple, don’t cheat. You will get caught sooner or later. Students try to cheat using a variety of methods from stealing exams from faculty offices, using calculators or wireless devices during exams that have programmed answers, bringing in “cheat sheets” on everything from paper, notes jotted on baseball caps, or answers written on the palm of their hand. Cheating also includes plagiarizing the work of others.

Your fellow students don’t like cheaters. More often than not, cheaters are turned in by their classmates. Faculty also watch for cheating and will take steps to discipline the student. This can range from losing credit on the assignment, failing the test, failing the course or expulsion from GVSU. If you are a student worker, you will lose your job if you are caught cheating. If and when you graduate, you will be less employable when you can’t deliver what your boss is expecting from you.

You might want to reconsider your options if you can’t get through class without cheating; remove yourself from the university and choose a different path for your life.
The Department of Accounting & Taxation is pleased to announce that, effective with this 2007 Fall Semester, Dori Danko has agreed to serve as Assistant Chairperson of Seidman’s Accounting & Taxation Department. Dori has contributed significantly to the department for more than 10 years, excelling in her teaching and service activities, as well as in her publication record. As Assistant Chairperson, in addition to her teaching and research responsibilities, she will focus on coordinating activities with alumni, accounting firms and other employers, and other stakeholders plus other administrative responsibilities. Please join us in congratulating Dori!

From the Chair (Continued from page 1)

swered questions such as the following: Why should I join Beta Alpha Psi? When can I (and should I) take the CPA exam? What are employers looking for? What kinds of jobs are available with a degree in accounting besides public accounting? For our newer students, we will again have employers and faculty answer these questions. Please let me know what questions you would like to have answered. (goldbers@gvsu.edu)

Internship Dream… (Continued from page 1)

ds not need to register for credit. Later, she learned she needed 6 credits to complete her 150 hour requirements. She could have easily satisfied those credits on her internship! She now has to take 2 courses after her graduation while working at her dream job. With appropriate advising and research she could have been completely done.

Moral of the story… Ensure you have obtained the appropriate advising from faculty and undergrad advising before you register (or not register) for internship credit. After obtaining the internship offer of your dreams, visit an advisor in the Undergrad Advising office and a faculty advisor in the accounting department. For any questions, contact Dori Danko 331-7397 or dankod@gvsu.edu.

Beta Alpha Psi (Continued from page 1)

In addition, the Kappa Beta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is proud to be working with the AICPA as co-hosts of the Midwest Regional Leadership Convention. The event will be taking place in Chicago during the winter semester and our members will be putting in their valuable time and effort to make sure the planning and running of the event goes smoothly. Our chapter welcomes the opportunity to take a more active role in Beta Alpha Psi as a whole.

With help from the Accounting Department, area businesses, and GVSU, we are on par to maintain our “Superior” chapter status and continue to provide our members with resources to help them grow and succeed in the public accounting realm. Have a wonderful school year.

- Fourth Annual Accounting Alumni & Friends Reunion scheduled for 10/25/07. Contact the Acc & Tax Dept for more information. 331-7190
- Rising Above the Grade Accounting Excellence T-shirts were recently distributed to 49 students who received a grade of “A” in both ACC 212 & ACC 213 this past academic year. Congratulations to all of you on this fine achievement.