



- ▶ **TIME LINE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL** 2
- ▶ **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS MOVES** 3
- ▶ **IMPORTANT DATES** 3
- ▶ **FREE LOCAL ONLINE JOB BANK** 4
- ▶ **VITA VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION** 4
- ▶ **SAS MEETING** 4



PPA



Newsletter

Upcoming Events for the PPA Program

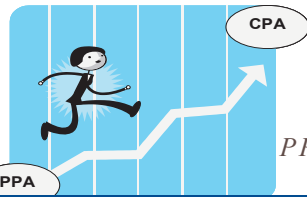
The Accounting and Business Law department is offering exciting events for PPA students! Together with Career Services Events, there's a lot to do! We hope these events will enhance your PPA experience.



Electronic etiquette and social media presentation— Friday, September 9th at 1 pm, (Room 363); This presentation addresses the importance of establishing or maintaining a personal online presence through social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Current research indicates that potential employers and human resource personnel are increasingly turning to social networks to aid in screening applicants. In addition, electronic communication is often the source of first impressions of applicants. Tips and recommendations are provided to assist young professionals in navigating this area to help ensure success and avoid embarrassing situations or lost opportunities. For PPA students only. **Please RSVP to Shav.Lee@tamucc.edu**

Business etiquette dinner—Tuesday, October 4th 2011, In a highly competitive work world, proper business etiquette skills are extremely important. “Interview meals” are becoming very popular among employers; and beyond the interview, business is often conducted during lunches, receptions and formal dinners. If you’ve ever sat down to a formal meal and wondered “What are all of those forks for?” or “Is this topic appropriate to bring up?” the Career Services **Business Etiquette Dinner** will put you at ease. The dinner is presented by a certified business etiquette trainer and is a fun, non-threatening way to learn business etiquette skills while enjoying a three-course meal! Some of the topics covered are: How to confidently enter a room full of strangers; how to introduce yourself and properly shake hands; how to use utensils and dishes appropriately. The Business Etiquette Dinner is for TAMUCC students only, and **tickets must be pre-purchased from Career Services.** Join other PPAs and TAMUCC students for this insightful event.

The PPA pinning ceremony is scheduled for November. The pinning ceremony, a tradition that began with the PPA program, is an event where new PPA students are honored before their family and guests after a program by a panel of prestigious speakers. All PPA members are invited to attend.



Look for important career opportunities on page 4!

PPA - AN OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON

Timeline for Graduate School Application

To become a licensed CPA in Texas, you must first complete 150 hours of college credit. For most, it makes sense to get a graduate degree (30 hours) in addition to an undergraduate degree (120 hours). To make applying for graduate school easier, here's a handy timeline:

First Semester of Senior Year:

Make appointment to meet with Director of Master's Programs.

Complete online application at <http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/application.html>.

Take GMAT (information at www.mba.com).

Optional: Register to take 1 to 2 graduate courses second semester of senior year. (Assumes GMAT scores are acceptable.)

Second Semester of Senior Year:

Submit goals statement.

Submit resume.

Submit two letters of recommendation.

If accepted to graduate school, meet with Director of Master's Programs to obtain departmental permission to enroll in first semester graduate school courses.

Application Deadlines:

Fall Semester:	July 15
Spring Semester:	November 15
Summer Session I:	April 15
Summer Session II:	May 15



The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi community, Alumni and friends would love to hear what's new in your life. To keep us tuned in, you may fill out the form and email **Dr. Donald Deis** at Donald.Deis@tamucc.edu or mail it back to us at TAMUCC, College of Business, 6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5808, Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5808. We'll share your news in the next PPA Newsletter.

Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Employer _____ Position/Title _____

City/State _____ Email _____

News about you _____

AICPA's Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop

By J.D. Henshall

I am a new graduate student in the College of Business. I recently represented Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at the 2011 Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop, which was put on June 2-4 by the Minority Initiative Committee (MIC) of the AICPA. The Workshop gives minority students the chance to meet with other students studying accounting, as well as talk to, interact, and network with other CPA and accounting professionals.

The workshop's sessions were incredibly informative and interesting. There were group sessions on information technology, alternative certifications, financial planning, and even the CSO outlines for the new CPA exam with IFRS content. I found myself taking down notes on the advice they gave and information they showed us. We also had breakout sessions in smaller groups of about 20 where we got to ask 1-on-1 questions in a more informal setting with CPAs on the MIC committee.



The AICPA event staff was incredibly helpful and anxious to be of service. They treated us as equals, and as future peers and colleagues, and that itself left a lasting impression with me. The Minority Initiative Committee poured out their confidence in us and their desire to see us succeed. The Committee created an alumni group on LinkedIn for us to stay in contact with each other. The event also set time aside for us to networking, trying to get everyone to meet everyone else at least once. I left home with a handful of business cards, having handed out over a dozen, and even from my own networking, my LinkedIn connections increased to 93 people, and my extended

network doubled to 1.3 million professionals.

The environment was also amazing. The hotel accommodations were absolutely incredible, and the Workshop treated us to all the meals, and even refreshments between sessions. This year's event was held in the Washington Duke Inn and Gold Club which resides on the Duke University Campus. Some of us ventured out into the forest near the golf course, and even toured the campus and went to the Fuqua College of Business.

If I had to pick the one thing the workshop meant to me, it would be that it was a “call to arms” reminding me of why I picked this profession to study in the first place. Being in the company of brilliant accounting students from nearly every state in the country, and CPAs in positions ranging from CEO's to non-for-profit boards reminded me of the power, breadth and prestige the accounting profession holds. The CPA license continues to be the gold standard in business-related certifications and the one thing that business professionals look for other than an MBA. One of the most memorable quotes was the “it's a war out there” and that the “CPA designation is your Howitzer.”

The best part is, that the Workshop is an all-expenses paid event, the AICPA covers the cost of student attendees' transportation, hotel accommodation and meals. You also get a free student membership with the AICPA. I did have to pay baggage fees (\$50 total, \$25 each way), but many students were able to get by with just a carry-on bag, since it is only a 3 day event. There was about an even split of male and female students, as well as an equal mix of undergraduate and postgraduate students. I met everyone from an accounting junior starting his core accounting classes, to a 1L law student was finished her CPA exam and was waiting to see if she passed.

I urge any accounting student to attend. I was proud to represent Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, and south Texas as the only scholar south of Houston. In fact, my project group and I actually won the case competition for the event! All this reminded me that accounting is a profession that doesn't care about your degree as much as it cares about that CPA license. We all have to pass the same test. Going to this conference will show you how others did it, and place you in the company of peers in the same boat as you. It was definitely an experience I won't forget, and when you drive away from Washington Duke Inn next year, you'll see what I mean.

Find out more at www.thiswaytocpa.com/aslw and at <http://www.aicpa.org/Career/DiversityInitiatives/Pages/aslw.aspx>

Free Local Online Job Bank for Students – Get That Job!

The Corpus Christi Chapter of TSCPA has added an online job bank where student job seekers can post their resumes in .pdf or .doc(x) format at no charge.

The job bank has 4 objectives: 1) increase awareness of local employment opportunities for accounting graduates and CPAs; 2) promote the chapter to local students; 3) provide members with a forum to promote their job openings; and 4) add membership value for members seeking employment.

CPA candidate and members can also post resumes for free; there is a charge for non-member CPAs. Student resumes remain online for 90 days. Employers will also post positions there (free).

To submit a resume or job posting, or ask additional questions contact mbentley@tscpa.net.

To view this website, go to <http://corpuschristi.tscpa.org/JobBank.asp>



Meet Your Mentor!

Beginning with the Fall semester, our mentoring assignments will be more student-led. Previously, students joining the PPA programs were assigned mentors. This was an efficient way to begin a new program. As we mature as a program, we're changing to be more responsive to student preferences. Specifically, you will be asked for your top three choices of mentors. While we cannot guarantee that you'll get your choice, every effort will be made to accommodate students' preferences.

SAS Meeting Dates and Locations.....

- 8/31/11 @ 7:00pm UC Oso Rm 221
- 9/14/11 @12:00pm UC Bayview Rm 320
- 9/28/11 @ 7:00pm UC Oso Rm 221
- 10/05/11 @ 12:00pm UC Tarpon Rm 323
- 10/12/11 @ 12:00pm UC Bayview Rm 320
- 10/26/11 @ 7:00pm UC Oso Rm 221
- 11/09/11 @ 12:00 pm UC Bayview Rm 320
- 11/30/11 @ 7:00pm UC Bayview Rm 320

Contact

bhoneycutt@islander.tamucc.edu

PPA - *An opportunity that you can count on*

Achieve your goal to become a CPA through a 5-step process

Take the 1st step and schedule an appointment with Sharon Polansky at 361-825-3448

Application Fast Facts can be accessed at <http://www.cob.tamucc.edu/prstudents/graduate/>



Faculty Updates

This fall the faculty of the Department of Accounting and Business Law welcome two new faculty members. **Dr. Anne-Marie Lelkes, Assistant Professor** recently completed her Ph.D. in Accounting at Oklahoma State University. She received the Gold Medal for highest score on the CPA exam in the State of Oklahoma in 2010 (94.75% average). Dr. Lelkes teaching and research interest is primarily in managerial and cost accounting. Her office is OCNR 356. **Mr. John Brashear, Adjunct Instructor** has a MAcc from Rice University, MBA from Baylor University, and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He is a Texas CPA. His office is OCNR 380. Sorry no photos – see the next issue. **Dr. Brian Elzweig** was promoted to Associate Professor. Recently retired **Professor Paul Cameron** was appointed to Emeritus Professor at the Summer 2011 university commencements. A Texas House of Representatives resolution honored Professor Cameron for his more than 30 years of service to the profession (HR 2494).

Important Dates

Electronic Etiquette and Social Media Presentation

Friday, September 9, 2011

1:00 PM OCNR 363

Business Etiquette Dinner

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

6:00 PM UC Ballroom

All Major Career Fair

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

10:00 AM -2:00 PM, UC Ballroom

Graduate & Professional School Fair

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

10:00 AM -2:00 PM, UC Ballroom

Discounts on CPA Exam Review Courses!

Two popular CPA Exam Review companies are offering discounted prices on their courses to TAMUCC students and alums. **Gleim CPA Review** course is \$890.96 for all four sections (normal list price is \$989.95). The Gleim course includes study manuals, test prep software, audio CDs, online materials, and book bag. Individual sections are \$247.46 each (list \$274.95). The order form is available in both at islanderonline courses ACCT0041 and ACCT0051 (Blackboard). **CPAexcel's Video Gold Medal** course is available at \$1,190 for all four sections (normal list price \$1,690). CPAexcel is an online review course that with university professor created streaming video lectures and internet-based test prep software. Along with the online materials students will also receive printed study manuals for each section. Individual sections are \$400 (list \$580). You can order the course by going to the website:

<http://tamucc.cpaexcel.com>. Gleim includes an 18 month guarantee for free updated materials. CPAexcel has an unlimited guarantee for free updates until you pass. Contact Dr. Donald Deis for more information: donald.deis@tamucc.edu or call (361) 825-2826.

TSBPA Education Requirements for CPA Exam Candidates

The Texas State Board of Public Accountancy has the following education requirements to become a candidate to take the CPA Exam:

- ◆ Hold a baccalaureate or higher degree
- ◆ Complete at least 150 semester hours
- ◆ Complete at least 30 semester hours of upper level accounting courses (at least 15 hours must be “in-class” rather than online)
- ◆ Complete 24 semester hours of upper level business courses
- ◆ Complete a 3 semester hour ethics course approved by the board (ACCT 5345 *Ethics for Accountants and Business Executives* is the approved course at TAMUCC)
- ◆ Complete a minimum 2 semester credit hours in research and analysis (ACCT 5371 *Tax Consulting, Planning and Research* is the TAMUCC course TSBPA recognizes to meet this requirement or you can satisfy the requirement if you have completed **both** ACCT 3321 *Federal Income Tax I* and ACCT 4311 *Auditing Principles & Procedures*)
- ◆ Complete a minimum of 2 semester credit hours in accounting or business communications (MGMT 3315 *Communications in Business*, ACCT 5341 *Advanced Auditing & Assurance Services*, and ACCT 5381 *Accounting Theory* are TAMUCC courses TSBPA recognizes to meet this requirement)

TSBPA lists specific upper level accounting and business courses that “count” and identifies courses that do not count. There are special rules that must be met in order for to have a 3 semester credit hour internship. Since TSBPA can change its rules at any time, it is important that you periodically visit their website:

<http://www.tsbpa.state.tx.us/exam-qualification/examination-requirements.html>