

# The University of Baltimore

# ACCOUNTING

Newsletter | Summer 2021



## **JOBS. JOBS. JOBS.**

### **A Message from the Department Chair**



When it came time to write my chair's letter, I felt I should discuss the job climate in the accounting profession. Students come to The University of Baltimore to become accountants, and most importantly to secure a job in their field when they graduate. To that end, the accounting department has been able to remain very attractive to firms seeking to recruit accounting talent for internships and full-time positions.

One of the reasons that employers recruit our students is the deep diversity of UBalt's student population. Employers, realizing their future success depends on their diversity and inclusion initiatives, find UBalt and its students a perfect fit for their recruiting efforts. Our Accounting Advisory Board's members' firms and other employers, which participate in our annual Accounting Career Fair, support our student events and recruit on campus, have long realized that strength.

Employers also direct their recruiting efforts to UBalt because they recognize the strong curriculum which the accounting faculty has built. The accounting faculty is constantly improving the curriculum to meet the ever-changing needs of employers for our students to have greater technology fluency and data analytics skills for success in today's world. The faculty is constantly refocusing the curriculum to meet the American Institute of CPAs' (AICPA) and the National Association of State Boards of Public Accountancy's (NASBA) CPA Evolution which has proposed changes to sit for the CPA exam and be successful. My six years of service and **Dr. Jan Williams'** current service on the Maryland Board of Public Accountancy, the licensing board for CPAs in Maryland, as well as both of us being members of NASBA and the AICPA, has contributed greatly to making sure our curriculum meets the standards to sit for the CPA exam and for licensing in Maryland. Furthermore, Dr. Williams serves on the AICPA's Academic Executive Committee where she is the task force chair for the Effective Learning Strategies (ELS) teaching awards.

Equally important to a strong curriculum is how effectively it is taught. Our accounting faculty, not only bring their academic credentials into the classroom, but also their professional certifications and real-world experience. They are CPAs and Chartered Global Management Accountants (CGMA). Dr. Williams, Professor **Kate Demarest** and myself, among our other academic credentials, have an M.S. in Taxation, as well as experience in the field of taxation. We have also conducted research and published in the area of taxation. **Dr. Mikhail Pevzner** has recently completed two separate research fellowships at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is about to begin working with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). **Dr. Lourdes White** is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) and serves on the editorial board of the IMA's International Educational Case Journal.

The last component of the accounting education at UBalt is the networking opportunities to build relationships with potential employers. Our Theta Iota Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi has hosted weekly meetings with accounting firms, government agencies and other employers, the annual Accounting Career Fair and Back to UBalt Night where alums return to present to students. Currently we have applied for a student chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Our students working with the members of the Baltimore Chapter of the AGA, coupled with accounting faculty members' contacts with government employees and agencies, should broaden, even more, employment opportunities for our students in the government arena.

The attributes of our accounting programs discussed above have assured us the ability to continue to attract students to our programs and to secure them jobs in the accounting profession when they graduate. Even COVID has not stopped employers from continuing to offer remote or COVID guideline compliant internships and full-time jobs upon graduation to our accounting students.

**Phillip J. Korb, CPA, M.S. '78 (Taxation)**

Associate Professor of Accounting and Chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics

### **Student Voice - Ali Filali, B.S. '20, and current graduate business student**



I enrolled into the Master's program in Accounting and Business Advisory Services with the intention of furthering my expertise as an accounting professional. I chose the specialization in data analytics within the program. I realized early on in my career, that I needed to excel in data analytics and incorporate it into my work to diversify my skill-set. Although challenging at times, I know the technical skills I have been acquiring will benefit me in my career. It will allow me to navigate the technological disruptions and the increase efficiency in the workplace. I believe that entire educational experience was enhanced by the staff and faculty who are extremely engaged with us as students and that the overall quality has helped me in my career aspirations.



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BALTIMORE**

**Merrick School of Business**

## AWARDS

Accounting majors are some of the most talented and driven students in the School of Business. In a May ceremony, the following students received awards of distinction and merit in accounting for Academic Year 2020-2021.

- **Mary Lou Hudson Award in Accounting**  
Caralyn Stevens,  
B.S. in Business Administration, May '21
- **Accounting Merit**  
Ryan Claggett  
B.S. in Business Administration, Dec. '20
- **MACPA Outstanding Student Award** Ali Filali  
B.S. in Business Administration, Dec. '20

## ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We're highlighting some of the accounting majors who earned scholarships in 2020-2021.

- **Amivi Atsu**, University of Baltimore Foundation Award
- **Kelley Barksdale**, Wilson Foundation Accounting Scholarship
- **Franshay Barnett**, AICPA Minority Student Scholarship
- **Sa'Kiara Hopkins**, Bob Parson Scholarship & Gleim CPA Review Scholarship
- **Lalla N'diaye**, 2021 Featherstone College Scholarship, Wilson Presidential Scholarship, and Spring 2021 Student Services Award- (UBalt) Eubie Award
- **Crystal Watkins**, University of Baltimore Foundation Award



## ELEVEN UBALT ALUMNI LEAD 25 LARGEST ACCOUNTING FIRMS IN THE BALTIMORE AREA

For the past two decades, alumni from The University of Baltimore have served in senior leadership positions for the majority of Baltimore's largest

accounting firms—a claim that can be made by no other university, public or private. Over those years, UBalt alumni have earned significant senior leadership roles in the metropolitan area's 25 largest firms, with a concentration holding University of Baltimore graduate degrees in accounting or taxation. Currently, University of Baltimore alumni are serving in top leadership positions in 11 of the firms. The leaders and their firms' respective ranking in the 2020/2021 Baltimore Business Journal Book of Lists are:

- **Jeffrey N. Berman**, M.S. '96, CPA, CFP, PFS, managing partner, KBST&M, P.A. (#22)
- **Patrick M. Byer, Sr.**, MBA, '94, CPA, managing principal, CLA – Baltimore (#7)
- **Simpson H. Gardyn**, M.S. '80, CPA, CVA, managing director, Gorfine, Schiller & Gardyn, P.A. (#10)
- **Andrew W. Garrett**, B.S. '88, CPA, managing partner, Weil, Akman, Baylin & Coleman (#21)
- **Donald Hoffman**, M.S. '84, B.S. '78, CPA, managing partner, Hoffman Group (#25)
- **Ofer Lurman**, M.S. '88, CPA, MSE, CFF, managing partner, Handwerger, Cardenga, Funkhouser & Lurman (#24)
- **Harold Mohn**, M.S., '91, CPA, managing director, UHY Advisors Mid-Atlantic, MD (#15)
- **Howard J. Rosen**, B.S. '71, CPA, co-managing partner, RS&F Chartered (#14)
- **Len Rus**, M.S. '91, CPA, managing partner, Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates (#13)
- **Frank G. Savarese**, B.S. '79, M.S. '86, CPA, managing partner, Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra Chartered (#17)
- **Arun Subhas**, M.S. '04, CPA, managing partner, EY-Baltimore (#4)

## BETA ALPHA PSI

As one of the most active student groups on the UBalt campus, Beta Alpha Psi continued its momentum during a year where the University was fully virtual.

### Incoming BAP Officers

Timothy Spurrier, President  
Josephine Toe, Vice President  
Jason Barber, Secretary  
Amivi Atsu, Treasurer

### New Member Inductees

Zakiya Arnold	Alania Foster
Amivi Atsu	Anthony Reed
Kimberly Banks	Becky Roberg
Jason Barber	Timothy Spurrier
Kelley Barksdale	Ben Wiebusch



### Moving Forward During the Pandemic. How BAP Responded.

In March 2020, the student leaders of Beta Alpha Psi were suddenly faced with the challenge of transforming a face-to-face weekly networking event into a virtual format. Led by President **Ryan Claggett**, the Spring 2020 officers of Beta Alpha Psi quickly developed a new format and delivery structure. While it might have been easier to suspend activities for the remainder of the semester, they realized that students needed to continue their professional development in spite of world events, and that developing a new platform was essential. The first virtual Beta Alpha Psi session included presentations by officers on a variety of topics related to adapting to change. Subsequent sessions included presentations from **Paul Geraty**, a member of the Accounting Advisory Board and a recent retiree from KPMG, and Becker CPA Review.

For the 2020/2021 academic year, Beta Alpha Psi has continued to meet virtually on a weekly basis. Students have had the opportunity to network with each other and to meet industry professionals. Presenters in the current year include:

SB&Company | RSM | KPMG | PwC | Aronson | CohnReznick | Ellin & Tucker | Clearview Group | T. Rowe Price | MECU | MACPA | Comptroller of Maryland | Maryland Office of Legislative Audits | Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service | BNIA | Surgent, Becker, and Gleim CPA Reviews.

In November 2020, we also hosted our first virtual "Back to UBalt Night" which focused on "Thriving in Unsettled Times". The panel was comprised of four University of Baltimore Alumni:

- **Brian Schwartz**, PwC
- **Isabel Cumming**, Inspector General of Baltimore City
- **Brett Sanders**, PwC
- **Muhammad Owais**, EY

The exceptional leadership demonstrated by **Ryan Claggett** in our first semester has been sustained by Fall 2020 **President Lalla N'Diaye** and Spring 2021 **President Ali Filali** and their outstanding teams.

## ACCOUNTING PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATES AT UBALT

- B.S. in Business Administration, Accounting Concentration
- M.S. in Accounting and Business Advisory Services (available fully-online and on campus)
- M.S. in Taxation (a collaborative program with UBalt Law)

### Certificates

- Accounting Fundamentals (graduate)
- Business Valuation (graduate)
- Government Financial Management (graduate)
- Internal Audit Services (graduate)
- Accounting Certificate / CPA Prep (undergraduate)