We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our alumni in response to the \(1000^2\) campaign. At our kickoff breakfast in November, two naming gifts were honored. As managing partner at the Buffalo office of Ernst & Young, Mike Murray BS ’75, MBA ’85 and his wife, Cathy, thought it was the perfect time to strengthen their long-standing support of the department. This gift, which names the Michael and Catherine Murray Mezzanine in the Alfiero Center, gives them the opportunity to invest in the current and future needs of the department with gifts to the endowment and department operating funds.

Along with his personal gift, Mike sought out a group of Ernst & Young partners to support an additional gift in E&Y’s name. This gift brings the total to four named spaces provided through the generosity of E&Y partners. These gifts signal the intentions of just 10 of the more than 50 individuals and companies who currently support the department at the leadership level of $1,000 or more per year.

Given the current economy and related budget cuts, your generosity allows us to continue delivering quality programs, providing our graduates with excellent career opportunities.

The first class in our new MS program graduates in the spring, and we will start offering the MS tax track in the fall. All our courses are continually updated, a challenging feat as requirements change regularly. For example, this year we have adopted the Codification, forsaking the old standard numbers.

Please join us for the annual department banquet in April, which will include an after-dinner reunion for UBAA alumni.

Happy holidays!

Susan Hamlen
Ann Burstein Cohen, MBA ’82, Honored as Accountant of the Year

The Department of Accounting and Law held its annual accounting awards banquet at Sean Patrick’s restaurant on April 22. Department Chair Susan Hamlen welcomed a crowd of more than 150 students, faculty, alumni and other accounting professionals. She presented updates on programs and activities in the Department of Accounting and Law.

The outgoing executive boards for both Beta Alpha Psi and the UB Accounting Association were recognized for their contributions during the past year, and incoming officers were introduced.

Ann Burstein Cohen, MBA ’82, was the recipient of the 2009 Accountant of the Year Award. Cohen is an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Accounting and Law. In addition to teaching tax courses, she is faculty director of the MS in Accounting program. Cohen is a past president of the Buffalo Chapter of the NYSSCPA, a past president of the Foundation for Accounting Education, and previously served on the board of directors of the NYS Society of CPAs. She is the chair of the COAP (Buffalo Career Opportunities in the Accounting Profession) program.

The awards ceremony included the following presentations to students: Beta Alpha Psi/KPMG Scholarships to Rose Hu and Michael Quinn; the New York State Society of CPAs Buffalo Chapter Awards to Libin Liu, Jihye Kim, Michael Steenberge and Adam Osteryoung; the Federation of Schools of Accountancy Award to Rose Hu; the Institute of Internal Auditors Annual Scholarship to Amy Pan; the Michael S. Dockery Memorial Award to Eric Fogelfis and Janelle Provo; the Lisa Friedman Memorial Award to Julie Schlosky; and the Beta Alpha Psi (Zeta Theta Chapter) Awards to Rose Hu, Michael Quinn and Michael Steenberge. Jeffrey Bassen, Marcos Manunta and Adam Osteryoung were also recognized for their work in organizing the 2009 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Students Excel in PricewaterhouseCoopers xAct Case Competition

In 2009, the University at Buffalo School of Management was one of only 42 schools nationwide invited to participate in the PricewaterhouseCoopers xAct Competition.

Students formed teams of five students each, working as consultants to a fictitious client. This year, the case involved the role of accounting consultants in helping an aeronautics firm that was facing possible bankruptcy. Students had two weeks to research the assigned accounting issue and develop a 12-minute presentation. Each PwC team was assigned a faculty coach and a PwC mentor. PwC staff members, playing the roles of company executives, judged the event. A total of 60 students competed, including 24 sophomores. The winning team received $1,000 and advanced to the national competition in New York City. The members of the top team were Nathanael Carbrey, Ashleigh Blank, Matthew Waxman, Jaclyn Viola, En Yong Chen and faculty coach Mary Ann Rogers, adjunct assistant professor. The second-place team, coached by Kathy Nesper, adjunct assistant professor, also received a $1,000 award.
Gift Intention Form

I, ______________________________________ would like to support the University at Buffalo School of Management by making a gift in the amount of $______________. I understand that a gift in this range will afford me membership into the following gift club (please check one):

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**Please note that you can double, even triple, your contribution to the school. Check with your HR Department, or www.matchinggifts.com/buffalo to find out if your company has a matching gift program**

Please designate my gift to:
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*Special Note: All gifts are tax-deductible. Annual gifts starting at $1,000 will afford you membership in the school’s leadership giving club, the Shareholders Society. In addition, gifts at this level will gain you access to the University Circle, the university-wide giving society. Membership entitles you to special discounts and invitations to select UB events, a free UB parking permit, as well as recognition in the University and School of Management’s reports of private giving. Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) can join with a minimum gift of $500.

Name(s), degree(s) and class year(s) ________________________________________________

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Gifts and pledges can also be made online by visiting: http://mba.buffalo.edu/support/how.

Here you will find additional information on ways to give as well as a link to the secure server at the UB Foundation. If you have additional questions, please contact the Development Office at 716-645-3303. Please mail completed form to University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc., PO Box 730, Buffalo, NY 14226-0730.

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The University at Buffalo
School of Management
is offering a greatly expanded one-year MS
in Accounting Program beginning with this
academic year. While the school has offered
an MS in Accounting program for many years,
the program has been totally revamped and
expanded in anticipation of New York State’s 150-
hour requirement for CPA licensure that will
affect this year’s seniors.

The new program has been approved as a
Registered Program by the NYS Education
Department, which means that our graduates will receive automatic approval of the educational component of the CPA licensing process (additional components include passage of the CPA exam and satisfaction of an experience requirement).

The new MS includes a core curriculum of advanced accounting topics including courses in advanced income taxation, auditing and accounting information systems, courses in research and ethics and a course in current issues in financial reporting. In addition, students will choose courses from three professionally oriented specialization tracks—taxation, financial accounting and assurance, and internal audit and risk management.

Alternatively, students can plan a self-directed track, subject to departmental approval. This revised MS in Accounting program is designed not only to meet the requirements of the new 150-hour licensing requirement of New York State (and most other states), but also to provide a competitive advantage for students seeking professional employment for their initial position and subsequent opportunities.

You can find information about the program, including specific course offerings and application procedures, at http://mgt.buffalo.edu/programs/ms/accounting or contact Professor Ann Burstein Cohen at abc@buffalo.edu.