A Message from the Chair…

Reporting standards are converging, the entire revenue recognition model is changing and the distinction between capital and operating leases has blurred. What next? We in the Department of Accounting and Law stand ready to meet every challenge as we continue to prepare students for the changes ahead. Our MS program is in full swing, with close to 50 students distributed between our three tracks: financial assurance, internal audit and tax. Students gain knowledge and experience in dealing with current issues in such topics as fair valuation, international audit standards and the latest systems technology, and can nimbly research issues using the FASB Codification.

Our student clubs continue to do outstanding work. At the international conference in San Jose this summer, our Beta Alpha Psi chapter was one of only 15 chapters worldwide to receive the KPMG Gold Chapter award. Our chapter also received special recognition from the IRS for running the largest Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in the nation during the 2010 tax season. One of our students was on the winning “Project Run With It” team, a conference competition requiring teams to present solutions to problems faced by not-for-profit organizations in San Jose. In November, officers in the UB Accounting Association attended the IMA Student Leadership conference in Anaheim. Both clubs are active with networking and community service events.

Your generous contributions make possible the faculty training we need to keep ahead of the curve, student attendance at regional and national events, and many other activities. Thank you and happy holidays! ~ Susan Hamlen
Ronald J. Huefner Retires After 42 Years

In Fall 1968, Ron Huefner joined the UB faculty as a 27-year-old new doctoral graduate from Cornell University. This past summer, Ron retired after 42 years on the UB faculty. Over that time, Ron has taught most of the courses in our accounting curriculum, from sophomore to doctoral level. At various times, he taught introductory, intermediate and advanced accounting, cost accounting, auditing, taxation, accounting systems, and fraud examination, as well as a graduate finance course in financial planning and control. Ron estimates that he has taught about 8,000 students over his career. He received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 1993 was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, the only accounting professor in all of SUNY to hold that rank.

Ron received his CPA in 1970, achieving New York’s gold medal for the highest score on that exam. He took the CMA exam in 1972, the first year that credential was offered. He was awarded the national silver medal and holds CMA certificate #2.

Ron served as chair of the Accounting and Law Department on three different occasions, in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. He also served three different terms as chair of the school’s MBA and MS program committee. He was instrumental, with Alex Ampadu, in establishing the department’s program in internal auditing.

An active writer, he has published more than 40 journal articles, in both academic and professional journals, on a variety of accounting topics. He also has authored or co-authored a total of 22 editions of five different books. Ron is continuing his writing activities in retirement, as he currently works on a short executive-level book on revenue management as well as several articles. He has made numerous presentations at academic and professional meetings, and recently was asked by the New York State Society of CPAs to conduct a seminar on understanding financial statements for about 50 members of the financial press.

Ron has been actively involved in student, academic and professional organizations. He served as faculty advisor to UB’s Beta Alpha Psi chapter from 1983-88 and again from 1994-99. He has been active in the American Accounting Association, the organization for accounting faculty, serving as president of the Northeast Region and as the region’s first webmaster. Ron served as president of the Buffalo chapter for both the Institute of Management Accountants and the NYS Society of CPAs. He also has served extensively at the state level for the NYS Society, chairing the Higher Education Committee and two special task forces. The Society honored him with its Outstanding CPA in Education Award in 1994 and its Distinguished Service Award in 2010.

Ron says, “I really enjoyed my 42 years of teaching, working with so many students. I always enjoy visits or communications from former students. My wife is always amazed how often, whether in Buffalo or out of town, someone comes up to me and says ‘You probably don’t remember me, but I was in your class in ….’ More often than not, I do remember them. It’s been a great 42 years; I couldn’t have chosen a more satisfying profession.

Fund Created to Honor Professor Ronald J. Huefner

The School of Management has created a fund in accounting to honor longtime faculty member Professor Ronald J. Huefner. Scores of Accounting and Law Department alumni fondly remember Professor Huefner, one of only two School of Management academics to be honored as a State University of New York Distinguished Teaching Professor, which places honorees at a rank above full professor.

A certified public and management accountant who earned his MBA and PhD in accounting and finance at Cornell University, Huefner has taught at UB since 1968, specializing in financial and managerial accounting and fraud examination. He co-authored an advanced financial accounting text, now in its tenth edition, and served as chair of the school’s MBA program.

Like many of our UB accounting and law faculty members, Ronald Huefner infused energy into his classroom to bring out the best in his students. Many of our alumni appreciated having such a leader who pushed them through the rigorous accounting curriculum, while also playing a mentoring role.

Through the Professor Ronald J. Huefner Fund in Accounting, the school will make the most effective use of critical resources necessary for advancing the study of accounting, including student scholarships, faculty research and enrichment, assistance for doctoral fellows, curriculum development and activities through Beta Alpha Psi and the UB Accounting Association.

The Professor Ronald J. Huefner Fund in Accounting will have immediate and lasting impact on the school and the students and faculty who wish to matriculate here. Your support would encourage others to invest in the institution that is at the core of future opportunity for the region. Your generosity will create an enduring legacy for Ronald Huefner and will inspire confidence in UB and the school to continue to aim high. To make a gift to the fund, please see the Gift Intention Form located on the opposite page.
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New Accounting Scholarship Is Awarded

School of Management accounting students Tiantian Cong and Kathryn Crawford are the recipients of the 2010 Undergraduate Accounting and Law Scholarship funded by Judy Felong Twinkwald ’78 and Allan F. Twinkwald ’78.

Tiantian’s plans include either working in an accounting firm after obtaining her CPA license or pursuing a master’s degree at UB in accounting and finance. Ultimately, however, her final goal is to work for the World Bank to help developing countries and students like herself.

Kathryn is a fifth-year student who will continue attending the School of Management next year to earn her master’s degree in accounting. Expressing her gratitude to the Trinkwalds, she stated: “I hope that in the future I will be able to do for someone what you have done for me.”

Allan Trinkwald is a native of Long Island and executive vice president of the Simpson Investment Company in Tacoma, Washington while Judy is originally from Buffalo. Upon establishing the undergraduate scholarship, the Trinkwald’s stated that their UB education made all the difference in their lives.

Providing generous School of Management scholarships is a traditional, time-proven approach in attracting and retaining the most capable and talented future business leaders. For some students, these scholarships mean the difference between attending and not attending business school. For more information, contact Steve Ebsary, senior director of development, at 716-645-3303.