The University at Buffalo School of Management's Zeta Theta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi celebrated its 30th anniversary with a cocktail reception and dinner at the Center for Tomorrow on UB's North Campus on November 12. Faculty, alumni and current students attended the event.

The chapter honored the current president and five past presidents who were in attendance. Mark Tronconi, principal at the accounting firm of Tronconi Segarra & Associates and School of Management alumnus, gave the keynote speech.

Kathleen Nesper, assistant professor of accounting and law and chapter advisor, spoke of the many accomplishments of the organization during the past year. The Zeta Theta chapter was awarded the KPMG Gold Chapter award at the national BAP meeting in August, an honor bestowed on only seven chapters. Zeta Theta also received special recognition from the IRS at the conference for having the largest Beta Alpha Psi-run Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in the nation, based on the number of volunteers who contributed at least five hours of service.
Sufrin Lecture Features Speakers on White Collar Crime and Ethics

On October 11, Enron whistleblower Sherron Watkins spoke to students, faculty and community members on ethics in accounting. U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul Jr. presented information on white collar crime. The lectures were presented at the Center for Tomorrow on UB’s North Campus as part of the Helen and Oscar Sufrin Lectureship in Accounting. The event was coordinated by Professor Kathleen Nesper and the Zeta Theta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi.

Watkins is the former Enron Corp. vice president who alerted then-CEO Ken Lay in 2001 to accounting irregularities within the company. She testified before Congressional committees from the U.S. House and Senate investigating the demise of Enron. TIME magazine named Watkins as one of their 2002 Persons of the Year, and Barbara Walters included her as one of the 10 Most Fascinating People of 2002. She has received the National Academy of Management’s Distinguished Executive Award, the Court TV Scales of Justice Award and the Rolfe Award for Educating the Public about Business and Finance. She is a co-author of “Power Failure: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Enron.”

Hochul is the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. He is responsible for overseeing the prosecution of any federal criminal case brought within the 17 counties of Western New York. After serving with the Department of Justice in Washington, Hochul joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of New York in 1991. He prosecuted many cases involving notorious violent and white collar criminals, racketeering and other complex schemes, and multiple cases targeting violent street gangs and emerging international organized crime groups. He led the successful prosecution of the Lackawanna Six.

Students Demonstrate Skill in PwC xAct Case Competition

Team WeputourSOXon won the top prize of $1,000. In addition, the team’s presentation video was sent to the New York office of PricewaterhouseCoopers for the national competition. Participating on the winning team were Matthew Epstein, Timothy Maleck, Matthew Wells, Patrick Wolf and Elizabeth Quinn. Professor Kathleen Nesper served as faculty coach.

Building Blocks, the second-place team, also won $1,000. Team members were Richard Karpie, Erica Kelly, Victoria Fortman, Paul Kirsch and Joanne Ye. Professor Weihong Xu served as faculty coach. Team WoN took third place in the competition. Team members Michael Laskowski, Matthew Silver, Narang David Kim, Alayna Hersch and Sammy DiSalvo were coached by Professor Shelby Collins.

The judges from PricewaterhouseCoopers were Keith Stolzenburg BS ’81 MBA ’86 and Andrew Peer ’06. Eric Chapman ’08 and Julie Amato ’09 were the project coordinators.

After the presentations, participants enjoyed a catered dinner and interacted with PricewaterhouseCoopers staff. In addition, all participants received a gift card. Congratulations to the students and coaches who took on the challenge in this year’s event.
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Each year, the Turnaround Management Association of Upstate New York awards five scholarships to outstanding accounting students in Western New York. This year, an accounting major from the University at Buffalo’s School of Management received one of these prestigious awards.

The Turnaround Management Association (TMA), based in Chicago, is the only international, non-profit association dedicated to corporate renewal and turnaround management.

Olivia Tylutki, an accounting major in the School of Management’s 3/2 program, received the top award of $5,000. She was honored at the TMA's Annual Student Night Dinner at St. John Fisher College in Rochester on October 23.

Professors Muriel Anderson and Lorrie Metzger were also present for the awards ceremony.

Tylutki is a member of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP). She has participated in BAP’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and the Best Practices Competition. She also co-chaired the organization’s community service committee.

Tylutki participated on the winning team in the Steven C. Verney Strategy Case Competition and competed in the Hada Labo Marketing Case Competition.

Following her graduation in June 2012, Tylutki will join the internal audit staff at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC in Los Angeles.