It is with great pleasure and pride that I write this introduction to our newsletter. For those of you who may not know about this already, I was appointed chair as of July 1, 2007. Kathy Petroni was the acting chair last year when she took over the reins from Tom Linsmeier who left the Broad School in June 2006 to become a member of the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

For me, joining the Broad School faculty is a coming home of sorts. Like many of you, I am an MSU alumnus having earned my doctorate from MSU in 1990. Apart from the PhD degree, my wife, Kiran, and I have many fond memories of our five-year stay in East Lansing that included the birth of our second daughter. After graduating from MSU, I took a faculty position at Arizona State University and for the last 17 years Arizona was home to our family. Many people have asked us why we came back—and I can tell you it was not because of the snow! Seriously though, the pull to come to the Broad School can be summarized in three words—programs, people and promise. I want to take the opportunity to explain my thinking and in doing so share with you my goals and aspirations.

**Programs**—The Broad School has highly ranked undergraduate, master’s and doctoral programs. According to the Public Accounting Report’s 25th Annual Survey of Accounting Professors, the Broad School’s undergraduate accounting program ranked 8th, its master’s program ranked 10th and its PhD program ranked 12th.

**People**—I am honored to join faculty colleagues who are the envy of many schools. Members of this faculty have won numerous national and university-wide awards for their scholarship in teaching, research and service to the profession. For example, Broad School faculty have received the American Accounting Association’s highest awards for notable contribution to literature, outstanding service and the best dissertation, and as of next year five of the MSU faculty will have served as president of the AAA! I was told during my interview visit that the staff was great, and they were right. I could not have asked for a more knowledgeable, hard-working, and caring group. The last but perhaps the most important group of people that drew me to the Broad School is the students and alumni. Examples of their accomplishments abound. For instance, two of our recent graduates (the Piwko twins) won the AICPA’s 2006 Elijah Watts Sells award for being among the top 10 candidates nationally passing the CPA exam. Similarly, the alumni’s loyal and generous support provides a tremendous endorsement of how well this institution is fulfilling its educational mission. Currently, funds from alumni support eight faculty chairs/professorships and nearly $300,000 in scholarships to students.

**Promise**—Michigan State’s great tradition, culture, and institutional philosophy as a pioneer land-grant institution provides a phenomenal promise for institutions of higher learning in this country. The university’s president has laid out an inspiring vision—“Boldness by Design” that aims to translate the great land-grant values into world-grant values.

Given these pulls, I am sure you will understand why I feel honored at the confidence the Broad School has placed in me to assume the important task of being the chair and humbled by the incredible talent and opportunity that surrounds me. What I intend to do with this opportunity is detailed in the inside story, but in a nutshell my priorities are simple—continue firing on all cylinders and more.

I want to conclude with a note of sincere thanks to Kathy Petroni for stepping in to do the acting chair’s job (for the second time) and patiently helping me transition into my job.

I hope you will take a moment to read this newsletter and share with me any thoughts, reactions, or suggestions you may have. I also hope we will be in frequent touch with each other!

Sanjay Gupta
McCarthy Receives AAA Outstanding Service Award

Professor of Accounting and Information Systems and KPMG Fellow William McCarthy received the Outstanding Service Award from the American Accounting Association this past August. The honor has been awarded only six other times since 1991.

This year the Executive Committee of the Association recognized Bill for his efforts in conducting the AIS (accounting information systems) bootcamp at the MSU Kellogg Center from 2002 to 2006. The boot camp was an intense 14-hour, 6-day learning experience for college AIS teachers where they learned how to teach accounting systems the way it is taught so successfully at MSU in our ACC 321 course. Over this five-year period, Bill has led over 170 college teachers through his course. Participants have come to MSU from small schools (Montevallo, Siena, Otterbein, Rhodes), large schools (Texas, Wisconsin, Iowa, Oregon), and overseas universities (Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain). Bill was assisted by three of his former doctoral students: Julie Smith David, Guido Geerts, and Cheryl Dunn. Also helping were some very skilled Broad accounting systems master’s students who acted as computer teaching assistants: Tim Dixon, Samantha Lew, Adrian Tirtarahardja, and Matt Kammann.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to Bill at the AAA’s 2007 annual conference in Chicago. The plaque for his award reads: “In recognition of your commitment to creating transforming learning opportunities for both colleagues and students; and your service to the American Accounting Association through developing and mentoring a vital faculty community.” The award is signed by the AAA President, Shyam Sunder of Yale University, and by Tracey Sutherland, the executive director of the AAA, who also helped Bill organize and run the boot-camp.

Grabski Earns National Honors

Professor Severin Grabski has received two significant recognitions highlighting his scholarly contribution to the research literature as well as his professional service. He was awarded the 2007 Notable Contribution to the Literature Award from the Information Systems Section of the American Accounting Association for the paper “An Investigation of Localization as an Element of Cognitive Fit in Accounting Model Representations” coauthored with Cheryl Dunn of Grand Valley State University. The criteria for this prestigious award include: uniqueness and potential magnitude of contribution to accounting education, practice and/or future accounting research; breadth of potential interest; originality and innovative content; clarity and organization of exposition; and soundness and appropriateness of methodology. This award-winning paper was published in Decision Sciences in March of 2001.

Additionally, Severin has been honored for his service to the Artificial Intelligence/Emerging Technologies Section of the American Accounting Association. The section gave him the “Distinguished Service Award” for his service as president of the section in 2006-2007.

Judy Rayburn, of the University of Minnesota and past president of the AAA, presents Bill his award.
The man is Sanjay Gupta, and we are proud to welcome him as our new department chair and Russell E. Palmer Endowed Professor in Accounting. He was formerly the Henry & Horne Professor and Dean’s Council of 100 Distinguished Scholar as well as director of the School of Accountancy’s Masters programs at the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. Sanjay’s primary research interests are in the areas of corporate and individual tax policy issues. His research has been published in the National Tax Journal, the Accounting Review, the Journal of Accounting & Economics, the Journal of Law and Economics, the Journal of the American Taxation Association, the Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, and Tax Notes.

For the department, Sanjay is also a link to our past. He earned his doctorate in business with an emphasis in taxation from Michigan State University in 1990. Prior to joining the ranks of our Ph.D candidates in 1985, Sanjay earned his Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.) in accounting and auditing from Bombay University (India), Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Calcutta University in India, and a Master of Accountancy from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. We are proud to welcome him back after 17 years. He spent that time building a successful career at Arizona State University. He has steadily climbed the ladder of academic success, serving as an assistant, associate and full professor. In 1998 he took on the leadership of ASU’s Master of Taxation program and in 2003 he also became responsible for directing the Master of Accountancy & Information Systems program. Along the way he has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments that demonstrate his commitments to research and teaching. His work includes 16 papers published in refereed business journals, 12 different courses taught (8 of them at the masters or Ph.D. level), and he has served on 15 doctoral dissertation committees (on six of which he was the student’s advisor and committee chair).
But we did not invite Sanjay to join our faculty because of what he has already accomplished, we asked him to join us because of what we hope to accomplish in the future. His goals for the future of the department are ones that we think students, alumni, and faculty can all agree on. His priorities include:

- Recruiting and retaining the best and brightest faculty
- Fostering an environment that will continue our legacy of excellence in teaching and research
- Building upon relationships we already enjoy with alumni and friends

When asked about his priorities he responds with an infectious enthusiasm, “Above all, it is my sincere and passionate hope to make a difference! I invite you to join me in this effort and welcome any suggestions you may have to make the future of the Broad School’s Department of Accounting and Information Systems the brightest possible.”

Most people do not have 17 year-old t-shirts prominently displayed in their offices. So right away you have to understand that this is no ordinary shirt. Sanjay received this shirt, along with its clear, yet important message of aspiration, hard work, and the goal of inspiring others, from Ed Outslay while he was a student in our doctoral program. Ed handed out many of these shirts, but the message seemed to strike a chord with Sanjay. For years he has taken his shirt to the introduction of the doctoral seminars he has taught. His message to his students is simple. By joining the ranks of Ph.D. candidates they have already demonstrated the aspiration to change their lives through education. However, he warns them, the road ahead is not an easy one; there will be a great deal of hard work to get to the finish line and earn the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The final part of this three-part message, is that once the degree is completed, and the student has become a faculty member, he or she has a unique opportunity to inspire students to meet the challenges that await them.

Of course, this three-word philosophy to live by is not limited to Ph.D. students and professors. All of the graduates of the Broad School have aspired to better themselves through education, demonstrated the work ethic required to complete the degree, and have the opportunity to inspire others to do the best work possible.

Both the shirt and Sanjay’s return to the department are representative of the continuity in our unit. Sanjay graduated in the spring of 1990, and 17 years later, the department still has a large core of faculty members that were here then, and are still working to inspire students. The faculty and staff members pictured on these pages were here back when Sanjay was a doctoral student. These members of the faculty and those hired after have most certainly helped to fulfill many students’ aspirations; been responsible for quite a bit of student perspiration; and have motivated many students to reach for their full potential.

Please join us in welcoming Sanjay back to the Department!
Anderson Works for Diversity and Inclusion

Professor Matthew Anderson was the keynote speaker at the KPMG Foundation PhD Project/Accounting Doctoral Student Association dinner at the American Accounting Association annual meeting in Chicago. The KPMG Foundation PhD Project seeks to bring about systemic change in business and society, and specifically increase the diversity at the front of classrooms in business schools. Matt was asked to speak to this group because of his involvement in the PhD Project and because he has been very involved in similar efforts at MSU.

This past June, Matt was also elected to serve as president of the Black Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Association of MSU (BFSAA). BFSAA’s primary goals are to promote a culture of inclusion at Michigan State, and to identify means and provide assistance in the recruitment and retention of Black students, faculty, administrators and staff. Matt’s invitation to speak before the PhD Project participants, and his election to serve as the leader of the BFSAA are indications of the leadership roles our faculty take on in all areas of academic endeavors.

K. Ramesh Named Academic Fellow at the SEC

In May of 2007 the Securities and Exchange Commission’s Office of the Chief Accountant announced the selection of Stephen Brown of Emory University, William R. Kinney, Jr. of the University of Texas at Austin and MSU Ph.D. alumnus, and our own K. Ramesh as Academic Accounting Fellows for one-year terms beginning this summer.

Academic Accounting Fellows serve as research resources for SEC staff by interpreting and communicating research materials as they relate to the SEC. In addition, Academic Accounting Fellows have been assigned to ongoing projects in the Chief Accountant’s office that include rulemaking, serving as a liaison with the professional accounting standards-setting bodies, and consulting with registrants on accounting, auditing, independence and reporting matters.

The long-term success of the department’s graduates is evident in the selection of these Fellows. Bill Kinney is a 1968 Ph.D. graduate of the department and Ramesh is a 1991 graduate. Currently Ramesh serves as the director of our Ph.D. program and is the Plante & Moran Faculty Fellow. He teaches financial reporting topics in our Master of Science in Accounting program, and leads a Ph.D. seminar on capital markets. Our students will benefit from the greater insight he will be able to bring to their classes. Way to go Ramesh!

Sollenberger Receives Honors College Award

Harold Sollenberger was selected as one of this year’s recipients of the Honors College Award for Distinguished Contributions to Honors Students. The Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions in teaching, advising or mentoring, was presented at the University Undergraduate Scholarship Recognition Dinner this past May.

For over 35 years Harold has been teaching accounting to Honors College students. Additionally, he has served as the department’s advisor for Honors College accounting majors since 1972, taking intermittent breaks to act as Department Chairperson and Associate Dean for MBA Programs.

Over the years, he has strived to boost the attractiveness of Honors College membership for accounting majors. As a result of his recent efforts, Honors College membership with accounting majors has grown from approximately 45 in 2001, to over 100 in 2007.

Harold has been very involved in Honors College activities. He was a member of the Alumni Distinguished Scholar Scholarship Selection Committee, has participated in the MSU Honors College High School Quiz Bowl, and he was a member of the Advisory Committee to Develop an Evaluation and Review System for Honors College Advising and Advisors. The most significant aspect of his Honors College involvement however, is not this long list of activities; it is his devotion to students. As his nominators wrote, “Not only has he advised, taught, and assisted Honors College students, but he has done so with heart. Through the years, Dr. Sollenberger has not only served students as a teacher and advisor, but also as a mentor and friend. Students know and love Dr. Sollenberger’s gregarious personality—he’s ambitious, enthusiastic, lively, and most of all fun!” Congratulations to Harold on this well-deserved award.
In many firms, there is significant anxiety about how to initiate and sustain business innovation through IT. Utilizing a constant stream of new research and led by a team of faculty experts from the Broad School and key industry partners, including Dow Chemical, Chrysler, Motorola, IBM, and Solectron, the center is focused on exploring how executives can create and lead an effective digital enterprise.

The center looks at current evolutions and revolutions taking place in the business environment and develops the strategic thinking processes needed to promote the constant freshening that every management team must implement to avoid the otherwise inevitable obsolescence. CLODE’s current research themes focus on digital enterprise insights, governance and strategic orientation.

CLODE has also expanded its vision this past year to engage more actively in entrepreneurship and economic development, with primary focus on the State of Michigan’s economic development. We are collaborating with micro-enterprises (i.e., small, entrepreneurial entities seeking their first batch of customers) and with the State of Michigan to frame creative ideas for economic development. The transfer of knowledge about marketing, operating, financing, and managing digital enterprises from CLODE to these new partners should yield promising results to CLODE and its new partners.

For additional information on CLODE, please visit our web site: www.bus.msu.edu/clode
Faculty Publications

The 2006–2007 academic year saw the faculty of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems continue to make major contributions to the academic literature. A partial list of the research publications of the faculty follows.

Sanjay Gupta

Sue Haka

John Jiang

Marilyn Johnson and Kathy Petroni

Ranjani Krishnan

John Luft

Scott Bronson

Jennifer Butler Ellis

Steve Dilley

Severin Grabski

JOE ANTHONY AND SEVERIN GRABSKI

Sue Haka

John Jiang

Marilyn Johnson and Kathy Petroni

Ranjani Krishnan

JOAN LUFT

JOAN LUFT AND MIKE SHIELDS

Bill McCarthy

Departmental Teaching & Research Awards

Edward Li
Ph.D. Student Excellence in Research Award

Michael Hopwood
Ph.D. Student Excellence in Teaching Award

Harrison McKnight
Faculty Excellence in Research Award

Steve Dilley
Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award
This past spring we had two new awards initiated by and voted on by the students in the undergraduate and M.S. programs:

**Ed Outslay**
Outstanding M.S. Program Teacher

**Lori Jackson**
Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher
**Ranjani Krishnan**

Ranjani Krishnan is our department’s newest full professor. Ranjani earned her MBA and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1993 and 1998 respectively. She has been on our faculty since 1998 and she teaches strategic management accounting, and operational management accounting in the MBA and Ph.D. programs. Ranjani’s research has been published in journals such as *The Accounting Review*, *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, *Strategic Management Journal*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *Journal of Health Economics*, and *Behavioral Research in Accounting*. She is also the recipient of the 2006 Notable Contribution to the Accounting Research Award, the 2005 Notable Contribution to the Management Accounting Literature Award, and the McLaughlin Prize for Research in Accounting Ethics for her paper “Honesty in Managerial Reporting” (co-authored with John H. Evans, Lynn Hannan, and Donald Moser), published in *The Accounting Review* in 2001. She is on the editorial boards of *The Accounting Review* and *Journal of Management Accounting Research*. She is the recipient of the Teacher-Scholar Award from Michigan State University (2003), the Withrow Endowed Emerging Scholar Award from the Broad School (2006), and the Faculty Excellence in Research Award (2002), and the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award (2004) from our department.

**Karen Sedatole**

Karen Sedatole is the most recent addition to our tenured faculty. Karen joined our faculty as an untenured associate professor in the fall of 2006 from the University of Texas at Austin. She was awarded tenure over the summer of 2007. Karen earned her BSE in computer engineering from Baylor University in 1987, her MBA from The University of Texas at Austin in 1989, and her Ph.D. from The University of Michigan in 2000. Karen’s research focuses on the role of non-financial performance measures as a performance management tool, and the determinants and consequences of management control mechanisms, both within the firm and across firm boundaries (e.g., in inter-firm collaborations). Grants supporting her research have been awarded from the PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation, the Institute of Internal Auditors Research Foundation, and the Institute of Management Accountants. Her research, which includes archival, field research and experimental methodologies, has been published in *The Accounting Review*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *Accounting Horizons*, and *Accounting, Organizations and Society*. She is on the editorial board of *Journal of Management Accounting Research*.

**Congratulations to Ranjani and Karen on achieving these professional milestones!**

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**Randy Johnston**

Randy Johnston joins the faculty as a professor of practice. Randy will be teaching intermediate accounting and principles of managerial accounting. Randy has both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in accounting from Clarkson University and a master’s degree in educational administration from St. Lawrence University. Prior to joining the faculty at the Broad School, he was a business school faculty member at The Pennsylvania State University (14 years), Michigan Technological University (two years), and Clarkson University (three years). Randy’s research interests are in the areas of educational assessment and educational standards.

**Hal White**

Hal White joins the faculty as an assistant professor. Hal earned his Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 2007, and holds a B.S. in accounting and an MBA degree from the University of Alabama. He will be teaching intermediate accounting II in the spring semester. While at Penn State, Hal was recognized as an excellent teacher, winning the Dillwyn P. Paiste III Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Smeal College of Business. His research interests include earnings management, accruals and cash flows, disclosure, analysts’ earnings forecasts. As a student, his research was published in the *Journal of Financial Economics*.

**Faculty Promotions**

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Broad School Department of Accounting and Information Systems
STUDENT AWARDS

FSA Student Achievement Award
Lisa Hopcian

Daniel Collins Accounting Research Award
Christina Anibal, Jacqueline Matthew, Andrew Kramer

Accounting Student Association Member of the Year
Jennifer Matera

Beta Alpha Psi Outstanding Member of the Year
Denise Lator

National Association of Black Accountants Outstanding Member of the Year
Malcolm Neal

2006 DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP WINNERS

Becker Conviser
Adeline Gan, Rebecca Murray

BDO Seidman LLP
Laya Adibsereshki, Ryan Coe, Kristina Delly, Katherine Lanspeary, Jeffrey Vander Boon, Eric Aytes, Yan Dai, Michelle Kenney, Garret Mausolf

D. Jean Sanders Beck
Adeline Gan, Dalena Tran, Emily Nelson

William and Carol Brink
Anna Fisher, Michele Hendrich, Nicole Kesinger, Joseph Krystyniak, Craig Riffel, Eun Hye Sung, Kendall Gillis, Tiffany Holloway, Dale Kim, Kara Omell, Thomas Solomon, Jie Wang

Arthur H. Carter
Michael Banish, Mason Barker, Joel Bosch, Rick Chasney, Andrew Corsi, Adam Fitchpatrick, James House, Kevin Konwinski, Chad Baragar, Joe Basilio, William Chamberlain, Seth Connors, Edward Curry, Kevin Horal, Oliver Isaacs, Robert Kramer, Won Hee Lee, Ryan Lionas, David Lucio, Steve Malik, Steven Meyer, David Muckley, Aaron Pahl, Matthew Pruente, Ronald Risinger, Daniel Ruehle, Matthew Smith, Geoffrey Wait, Cody Leipprandt, Brendan Long, Ryan Macke, Philip Mathew, Darjan Moralic, Travis O’Connor, Matthew Peterfi, Tyler Radde, John Robinson, Thomas Scott, David Treado, Yonggang Zhu

Daniel J. and Bette H. Church
Matthew Fuglie, Thomas Kasper III, Richard Pratt, John Rademacher, Jacob Sutter, Robert Howley, Brendon Mika, David Presar, Jin Hyu Shin, Frank Wiegand

Crowe Chizek
Christine Cervenak, Michelle Gleason, Bridget Glazier, Kyle Price

Deloitte & Touche LLP
Lindsay Brookins, Neeti Chokshi, Nikola Dimovski, Erica Finan, Joseph Green, Nicholas Lang, Kevin Schulmeister, Joseph Snook, Myles Talbot, Xiaolan Zheng, Ming-UN Chang, Monte Cooper, Jonathan Elson, Arika Gerstler, Jessica Kubacki, Yawar Rizwan, Stephen Shonce, Jennifer Stewart, Kylie Verhelle

Doeren Mayhew
Shea Bryant, Brian Lehnerer

Ernst & Young LLP
Aaron Jenkins, Jenna Lemke, Megan Messana, James Murawski, Sze-Kar Wong, Nam Woo Kim, Stuart Machisak, Jamison Messer, Anthony Vultaggio

Scott and Patricia Eston
Stacy Lomonaco, Bryan Schulmeister, Christopher Scharra, Ziv Weizman

Grant Thornton
Melanie Crowther, Amy Flory, Alison Hull, Lauren Kritcher, Stephanie Messano, Dana Salinger, Sarah Wilson, Audrey Dafoe, Diana Horoi, Constance Jasiak, Jennifer Lucas, Christie Parker, Kathryn Wheatley

Gardner M. and Pauline A. Jones
Datus Tomasovich

Marlins and Jack Gray
Ge Bai

KPMG LLP
Marcus Belanger, Kasey Marshall, Jon Davison, Olga Mendez

William C. and Delrose Marlene Martino
Kimberly Phillips

James E. McCartney
Sarah Harla, Diana Rombola, Chuqiao Zeng, Alison Mueller, Maureen Scarff

Richard and Barbara McWhirter
Lauren Mautis, Collin Taggart, Molly Ohara

Plante & Moran LLP
Josh Engelkemier, Nicholas Magina, Alexandria Meinsner, Brittnye Novak, Nathan Vejclik, Natalie Hughes, Christopher McDoniel, Lindsey Naglick, Yaman Subei, Alyssa Weingartz

PriceWatherhouseCoopers LLP
Audrey Andison, Mark Cosgrove, Katelyn Esch, Andrea Guertin, Mariella Mercer, Anthony Pero, Yuanjing Xu, Bryan Beck, Bryce Endline, Rebekah Gorzalski, Stephen Klein, Ashley Morris, Lianna Wilson

Glenn and Susan Schafer
Andrea Dery, Tuo Zhao, Jennifer Matera

Frank N. Sidoti
Lesley Bergquist, Fuk Hung Choi, Yekaterina Kasymnina, Kelly MacKenzie, Kristen Reid, Sonal Wagh, Jenna Zerwas, Jessica Bodis, Yang Ju, Rishi Khetrapal, Tyler Neal, Ian Tarrant, Lynsii Ward, Bradley Zuyddyk

Constance Richards Smith
Brian Dooly, Kelly Koczara, Rebecca Murray, Gabriel Ramirez Jr., Brian Dykla, Michelle Krause, Eric Nixdorf, Ryan Sikorski

Cecil R. and Beatrice M. Upham
Boshu Li, Jingjing Su

Roger E. and Laura Hamill Wilkinson

STUDENT A WARDS

2006 D EPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP /F ELLOWSHIP W INNERS

Broad School Department of Accounting and Information Systems

Fall 2007 Newsletter 11
Piwko Brothers in National Top 10 on the CPA Exam

Twins Keith (BA ’04, MS ’05) and Kurt (BA ’04, MS ’05) Piwko seem to do everything together … They chose the same career field of accounting, went to the Broad School together and completed the Master of Science in Accounting program, and they both went on to work for Plante & Moran. As if that weren’t enough, the Piwkos have now achieved a new high—scoring among the top 10 CPA Exam scorers last year.

The pair were two of 10 accountants nationally that received The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) 2006 Elijah Watt Sells Award presented annually to the 10 candidates earning the highest cumulative scores on the four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination.

“I don’t think that the exam was a breeze, and I never walked out thinking that I knew I passed,” says Keith.

His brother, Kurt, had similar feelings. “I didn’t walk out feeling like there was absolutely no way I failed it, but I would have been very surprised if I didn’t get a 75. Even after knowing I did really well on the first section, I still came out of the later sections with the same feeling.”

In preparation for the exam both Keith and Kurt used the Becker CPA online review program which, according to Keith, is “generously paid for by Plante & Moran for their employees.”

“I’m not going to pretend that we didn’t study very hard for the exam but we simply went through the program as Becker suggested,” says Keith. “This included watching the lectures, reviewing the chapter, and then practicing the homework questions.”

In addition, both brothers also agreed that their accounting studies at the Broad School have helped them succeed. “I think my MSU education really did help with the exam and helped me excel professionally once I started at P&M,” says Kurt. “As I was studying for each section, I began to realize how much of the information I already knew. The classes at MSU, including the Master’s program, were great learning tools for everything that I have done since I graduated.”

Keith joined Plante & Moran’s assurance department in its Auburn Hills office. He focuses on international manufacturing and distribution, but he also works with school districts. Kurt works in the tax department in the Clinton Township office primarily working with manufacturing clients and is a part of the Emerging Tax Issues Committee.

Five Broad Students Win Michigan Accountancy Foundation Awards

Each year, the Michigan Accountancy Foundation (MAF) awards scholarships to deserving accounting students attending Michigan’s colleges and universities. Once again, Broad accounting students have been successful in earning the MAF awards. We take great pride in these outstanding students. This particular scholarship is provided through the generosity of Michigan CPAs and provides up to $4,000 to each student to help complete their final year of education. This year’s award winners are Tiffany Holloway, Nicole Korinek, Jennifer Matera, Ashley Morris, and Matthew Pruente. They competed against other scholarship applicants from 22 accredited Michigan universities and were selected because of their high academic and outstanding civic achievements. Thank you CPAs of Michigan for honoring our students!
Department Loses Old Friend Don Neebes

The department was sad to learn of the passing of longtime friend, Don Neebes. Don was a 1965 accounting graduate and kept involved in the department over the years. He was a founding member of the External Advisory Board and served as its first chairperson. As such, he was responsible for establishing the principles under which it continues to operate. He provided leadership for and was a major contributor to the Ernst & Whinney (now Ernst & Young) professorship presently held by Sue Haka. In 1989 the department named Don its Alumnus of the Year.

Al Arens remembers Don fondly as a mentor when he was department chair and a good friend throughout his career. Al looked forward to having dinner with Don and Martha each year when they returned for a home football game to renew friendships with faculty and visit the campus Don loved.

Don had a long and distinguished career. He retired from Ernst & Young in 2005 after 40 years. He chaired the AICPA auditing standards board from 1989 to 1991. He received the first John J. McCloy award given by the AICPA’s Public Oversight Board. A dedicated advocate of responsible auditing and record keeping, he led the creation of a peer review program for the Securities and Exchange Commission. In 1992 he was appointed to the 15-member Government Auditing Standards Advisory Council.

Don died in June of this past year and is survived by his wife of 41 years, Martha; daughter Kristin; son Kevin; four grandchildren; and a brother.
HONORING AL ARENS’ 40-YEAR COMMITMENT: 
ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING INTRODUCTORY ACCOUNTING

Upon Al Arens’ retirement, alumni, colleagues, and friends did some brainstorming on how to pay tribute to Al in light of his outstanding contributions to the Department over the past 40 years. In response, we are launching an effort to raise funds to create the Al Arens’ Fund for Teaching Excellence.

It is our goal to make this a permanent endowed fund to honor Al while supporting his passion of excellence in teaching. The monies generated from the fund will be used primarily to support the use of teaching assistants in our introductory accounting classes, classes that Al taught very successfully for many years. Consistent with Al’s dedication and generosity to the department and its students, Al has agreed to contribute $125,000 in matching funds to the endowment.

The teaching assistants play an integral role in leading recitations and running help rooms. These activities supplement the large-group lectures given by a faculty member.

Budgetary constraints have threatened the continued use of teaching assistants. Monies generated by this fund will help ensure that we have enough assistants to keep recitation class sizes small, adequate help room availability, and fair compensation for these assistants that play an important role in providing more personalized instruction to our students.

We are seeking those who would be interested in joining Al as lead donors to launch this campaign, with the goal of raising $1.5 million. If you are interested in getting involved in the effort, please contact Kathy Petroni (petroni@msu.edu or 517-432-2924). The creation of this fund allows us to make certain that Al’s contributions to the department will be associated with countless future generations of accounting students and teaching assistants.

Calling All Former Teaching/Student Assistants!

We would like to get in touch with you. We would like to start a database of all teaching/student assistant alumni. Would you please take a moment and register with us?

Please go to our website www.bus.msu.edu/acc/

Look for “Calling all former teaching/student assistants!” Please follow the link and instructions provided. Thank you!
Profiles of Former Teaching Assistants

George S. Gans is a senior manager in the Lead Tax Services group of Deloitte Tax LLP. He joined the firm’s Los Angeles office in 1998 upon graduation from MSU. George received a Master of Business Taxation from the University of Southern California in 2002.

George has served a wide variety of tax clients including both public and private companies in the life sciences, hospitality, electric utility, and manufacturing industries. He currently serves as the lead senior manager on some of the largest tax clients in Deloitte’s Pacific Southwest region. He is a member of the national Federal Accounting Methods and Periods group for Deloitte, and currently serves as the Los Angeles office representative for the national group.

George speaks highly of his TA experience. He attributes it as being important in the development of his communication skills. George said, “In today’s professional environment, the ability to stand in front of a group, speak clearly and confidently, and present a topic—anything from a deep technical topic to a 5 minute overview of how to log in to your computer—is essential to one’s success. Throughout my career I have been asked to teach classes, present topics, and speak in front of various sizes of audiences. I attribute much of my ability to accomplish these tasks successfully to my years as a TA. Working as a TA taught me to prepare for my presentations, be ready for any and all questions that may come up, and deliver my materials efficiently and effectively.”

As a teaching assistant, George also appreciated the opportunity to work closely with faculty. He was a TA for Kathy Petroni and the two still keep in touch. He said, “Working with Kathy Petroni was an amazing experience. She was really the one that made it all work. Her amazing personality—energetic, fun but very focused—filtered down to all of us and really set the tone for our interaction with each other and with the students.”

George, his wife Daphna, and their children Jonathan and Ella reside in Los Angeles, California.

During his time with the TSRS practice, Tim has worked providing risk services to various multinational clients mainly in the manufacturing and financial services industries. He passed the CPA exam and is a CPA in the State of Michigan.

Tim has had some exciting experiences since graduating. E&Y’s global presence and client base has given Tim the opportunity to work in several international locations. While advising clients in the automotive industry, he has had the opportunity to travel to Switzerland, Spain, Scotland, and England. In 2006, Tim spent three months working in Athens, Greece under E&Y’s “Resource Sharing Program.” He worked on a team with individuals representing more than 10 countries from 4 continents. This project involved advising a financial services client on Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, including evaluation of IT systems. In July 2007, Tim started an 18 month assignment working for E&Y in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, Tim is part of the Multinational Companies Group, which provides IT audit support for attest clients, and risk advisory services over financial and IT processes for non-attest clients. He resides in the city of Breda.

Tim fondly remembers his days as a TA, especially the gatherings at BW’s (local watering hole of the more recent generation) after weekly staff meetings. Tim credits his experience as a teaching assistant as being important in his development as a professional. Tim said, “Working as a TA has definitely prepared me to deal with interpersonal conflict, and work in a leadership role. Most importantly it prepared me to teach and develop new staff as they start working at E&Y.”

Marjorie Powers earned her Master of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting in 1977 and is presently Employee Payments Manager for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. She is a lead recruiter for Ford at Michigan State and she serves on our External Advisory Board from 2001 to 2004.

In her 30 years with Ford, Marjorie has held 20 different positions within the finance organization including financial reporting, operations accounting, internal audit, systems audit, financial analysis and internal consulting. Her various positions have included the development of global policy and the management of staff around the world. Her work has taken her to locations throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Great Britain, Ireland, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. She has a CPA certificate of examination, and is a Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Internal Systems Auditor.

Marjorie feels that being a teaching assistant helped her develop leadership and supervisory skills. Marjorie said, “Being a TA is really a tremendous opportunity to develop and hone your leadership behaviors. The interactions with students and your fellow assistants provide hands-on experience in developing employees and in fostering teamwork. The ability to provide direction and motivation to students easily translates into doing the same with employees.”

She thought the experience helped her perform better in her classes as well. She said “Teaching reinforces the concepts you’ve already learned and strengthens your technical expertise. It also helps you to ‘think on your feet’ while you are up there in front of the class.” And, she joked, “I wasn’t paying to obtain these experiences, they were paying me!”

Marjorie resides in Troy, Michigan with her daughter, Meggie who is also a Spartan and is currently attending MSU.
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Broad School Department of Accounting and Information Systems
Paul M. Balas is a senior partner in the Assurance Services group of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”). He joined the firm in 1979 upon graduation from Michigan State University and was admitted to the partnership in 1992.

Paul has directed a wide variety of audit engagements for both public and private companies in the automotive OEM, automotive supplier, and manufacturing industries. Paul is also experienced in providing transaction support and due diligence assistance, particularly to automotive related companies.

Paul is a PwC Technical Liaison partner and serves as the Risk Management partner for the Greater Michigan Practice with responsibilities for matters related to client acceptance, quality review processes, and both internal and external peer reviews. He has also served as the primary editor for the annual PwC Global Automotive Financial Review.

Paul has been active throughout his professional career in maintaining ongoing personal, professional and financial interests in MSU. Paul currently serves on the Department of Accounting and Information Systems External Advisory Board and has also served on the Broad School Greater Detroit Management Conference Committee (now known as the Broad Executive Forum). Paul has recently served as the PwC/MSU Relationship Partner, with responsibilities for all aspects of PwC’s interaction with MSU, including the annual fundraising campaign and coordination of recruiting activities.

In addition to his memberships in the AICPA and the MACPA, Paul is also currently a member of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and Chairman of the Audit Committee. He was a past member of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan Central Allocations Committee as well as Chairman of the MACPA Automotive Task Force. Paul is a frequent instructor for local and national PwC continuing education programs and also for external programs.

Paul, his wife Brenda, and their children Anna and Benjamin reside in Troy, Michigan.