

# ACCOUNTING NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 2

### Welcome from Dr. Hollingsworth, Department Head of Accounting



The Department of Accounting in the Gary W. Rollins College of Business continues its tradition of providing an outstanding education to a diverse group of talented students. We appreciate the support of our advisory board and alumni in

hiring our students and providing financial resources. Our dedicated faculty continue to provide superb teaching and high-quality research and service that is the key to the department's success. The Beta Alpha Psi and IMA student organizations are doing great work with students participating in a variety of programs. In summary, the faculty, staff, and students in the Dept. of Accounting are working together to be innovative, engaging, and provide an impact on the Chattanooga area.

### CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

The Accounting Department's Circle of Excellence (ACE) comprises business leaders and others who make an annual commitment to invest in accounting education at UTC. ACE members invest both money and time in a way that enhances excellence in regional accounting education, which leads to an increased quality of students entering the profession. To learn more, visit [give.utc.edu/accounting](http://give.utc.edu/accounting). You may mail donations to:

UC Foundation  
615 McCallie Avenue, Dept. 6806  
Chattanooga, TN 37403

### MAcc PROGRAM AT UTC RECOGNIZED

MAcc Program Recognized by  
AccountingEDU

AccountingEDU.org recently published an article featuring UTC's Master's degree program as a top recommendation for 2018-2019. AccountingEDU considered affordability, quality, and programs with strong first-time CPA exam pass-rate. According to AccountingEDU, "a program that's able to turn out graduates that clear the exam hurdle on their first try at a rate that is better than the national average is doing its job". AccountingEDU stated further that UTC's MAcc will "sharpen your research and communication skills...increase your awareness and understanding of contemporary and emerging issues facing the accounting profession."

### ASSESSING I.T. RISK

Assistant Professors of Accounting, Dutch Fayard, Ph.D., MBA and Nishani Vincent, Ph.D., ACMA, CGMA, collaborated on an article titled "Assessing IT Risk" published by Strategic Finance Magazine in January of 2018. The article describes how management accounting personnel within organizations can use their training to help companies manage IT risks.

Visit [goo.gl/CrBNNi](http://goo.gl/CrBNNi) to read more.

For additional updates from the Gary W. Rollins College of Business, follow @UTCRollinsCOB on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook!

Gary W. Rollins College of Business | 615 McCallie Ave.  
Dept. 6206 | Chattanooga, TN 37403 | 423.425.2112

NEW to UTC! Handshake is an online tool connecting students and employers. Visit [utc.joinhandshake.com](http://utc.joinhandshake.com) to join!

Students can search and apply for your job postings through their job feed.

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## Q&A WITH JAKE HUFFINE

Undergraduate Accounting Student



Jake Huffine, a graduating senior double majoring in Accounting and Finance, sat down for an interview with the Accounting Department to walk us back through his successful four-year collegiate career. Throughout his time at UTC, Huffine has sustained a 4.0 GPA, partaken in two internships with PlayCore and TVA, was named SoCon Wrestling Student Athlete of the Week (Dec. 26, 2018), and served on the Rollins College of Business Dean's Student Advisory Council.

### What made you choose Accounting?

"Coming into college, I knew that I wanted to do something in business and took my dad's advice to declare Accounting. I had my first Principles I class my freshman year of college and really enjoyed it. I was pretty good at it and decided that it was something I wanted to pursue."

### What stands out to you about the UTC Accounting Program?

"I'd say it's probably two elements: the bond with accounting students and the relationships built with professors. One of my highlights of going through the Accounting program has been working alongside the same people and bonding over the work we have done together. One of the things I will remember the most about college is the hard projects that you get through with a close friend or classmate. Another aspect is the relationships I have built with professors. It's been nice to go to professors when I have had job offers and ask them for advice. I know I'll be able to come back after working a couple of years and catch back up with these professors."

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS:

The Institute for Management Accountants at UTC hosted 10 speakers from the Chattanooga area business community in the 2018-2019 academic year. The UTC IMA encourages students from all majors to join and learn about a variety of business topics from Accounting and Finance in the public sector to Humor in the Workplace. Eight accounting students were sent to the National IMA Student Leadership Conference in St. Louis, and had the opportunity to tour the Federal Reserve. The UTC IMA also hosted a tour of a local manufacturing facility, Chattanooga Whiskey, to learn more about how they account for their inventory.

### BETA ALPHA PSI:

The Eta Kappa Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi at UTC had 36 members this past academic year. During the semester, the organization hosted the annual Meet the Firms event, volunteered for the Ronald McDonald Children's Festival, and hosted several speakers from the community. This spring BAP is volunteering with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program sponsored by the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga. Through this program, members will volunteer an estimated 250 hours preparing income taxes for local taxpayers.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



### Heather S. Batson (2003)

Heather Batson, CPA, is an Audit Partner in the Chattanooga, TN office of the public accounting firm Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. Heather graduated from UTC with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance in 2001 and a Master of Accountancy in 2003.

Her experience includes audits for financial institutions, including public companies (SEC), not-for-profit organizations, and employee benefit plans. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA). She currently serves on the state board of directors for TSCPA and has held various officer positions for the Chattanooga chapter. She also serves on the accounting advisory board for UTC.

