Fred Mittelstaedt Testifies in Congress

On May 16, 2002, Accountancy Professor Fred Mittelstaedt testified at a U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on an Employer-Employee Relations hearing, entitled “Assessing Retiree Health Legacy Costs: Is America Prepared for a Healthy Retirement?” The hearing was prompted by the growing number of firms reducing retiree health benefits and requests by the steel industry for the U.S. government to assume its retiree health obligations. Professor Mittelstaedt was asked to testify because of his research on pension and retiree health benefit plans. A more complete description of the hearing and Professor Mittelstaedt’s written testimony can be found at: http://edworkforce.house.gov/hearings/107th/ere/retiree51602/wl51602.htm.

Tax Assistance Program Has Its Busiest Year

The Vivian Harrington Gray Notre Dame-St. Mary’s Tax Assistance Program had its busiest year since its beginnings over thirty years ago. Over 1,600 taxpayers were served and almost 3,000 tax returns were filed this spring through this program.

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Awarded

Assistant Professor Lisa Sedor was presented with the 2001 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award from the Accounting, Behavior, and Organizations Section of the American Accounting Association at their annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas on August 15, 2002. Professor Sedor’s dissertation is entitled, “An Explanation for Unintentional Optimism in Analysts’ Earnings Forecasts.” Her study addresses whether analysts’ forecast optimism is an unintentional consequence of their reaction to the structure of information that management discloses about future plans. A paper from Professor Sedor’s dissertation appears in the October 2002 issue of The Accounting Review.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Notre Dame’s Department of Accountancy has a long history of excellence. Because of an outstanding national student body, the department is able to offer its students a rigorous curriculum through both an undergraduate major in accountancy and a Master of Science in Accountancy degree program. We are blessed with a faculty dedicated to excellence in achieving our mission and educational objectives. Our challenge is reflected in the opening lines of our mission statement:

“Our mission is to advance accountancy through programs and research that provide outstanding education for students, create and disseminate knowledge, promote the understanding and ethical practice of accountancy, and serve the community. We are guided by the missions of the University of Notre Dame and the Mendoza College of Business.”

In ongoing efforts to assess and improve our curricula, a faculty Curriculum Review Committee conducts annual reviews of each of our courses—both undergraduate and MS-Accountancy after receiving significant input from five faculty sub-committees that focus on specific areas. Faculty experience, input from our Accountancy Advisory Board, current literature, and student and alumni survey results all factor into maintaining an academi-

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**Accountancy Advisory Board Members 2002-2003**

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cally rich and professionally relevant curricula. These formal efforts help immensely. Moreover, excellence in teaching is our passion and part of our daily conversations.

We are also grateful to the many professionals who devote their time in actively participating in classroom and extracurricular experiences for our students. Jim Breen of KPMG, Pat Dolan of KPMG Consulting, Steve Kukanza of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Jeff McGowan of Kruggel, Lawton, and Co., Pete Sweeney of Vladem, Lerman, Sweeney and Co., and Joe Tapajna of Deloitte & Touche continue to add their professional expertise and talents in various Master of Science in Accountancy classes. At the undergraduate level, this year were pleased again to host the Deloitte & Touche Student Case Competition and for the first time, a new PricewaterhouseCoopers X-Tax 2000 Student Case Competition involving both graduate and undergraduate students. At the graduate level, we are delighted to continue our relation with Ernst & Young in providing an outstanding curriculum to their new employees.

The combination of a dedicated and talented faculty, an outstanding student body, energetic staff, and the willing and enthusiastic support of the professional community comes together in our accountancy programs at Notre Dame. It’s a great place to study, to work, and to come back to. Thanks to all for your many contributions to our efforts.

The latest poll reports that the undergraduate accountancy program remains fourth nationally. The industry newsletter Public Accounting Reports (PAR) rankings are based on a poll of faculty members at colleges and universities with accredited accounting programs. Notre Dame’s accountancy program long has been rated among the nation’s top 10 by PAR, and Bowman’s Accounting Report annually cites the University as one of the nation’s leading educational sources for partners in the country’s largest accounting firms. In the undergraduate survey, the University of Texas was ranked first, followed by the University of Illinois, Brigham Young University, Notre Dame and the University of Southern California.

Of the 138 graduating seniors this spring, over 60% (64) continued on to graduate studies. Forty-three stayed for the M.S. in Accountancy at Notre Dame. Several seniors decided to spend their initial years in volunteer service, and the remainder continue to join accounting firms, though a few have joined industrial firms, consulting groups, and governmental and military service.

Last year twenty juniors were awarded Excellence in Scholarship Awards. They are: Maria de la Paz Arosemena, Richard T. Biebl, Carolyn E. Billick, Jessica M. Boehm, Michael Canfield, Stephanie Cook, Jennifer Dobosh, Alexis Dowdle, Anne Gallagher, Bradley W. Golf, Abby Holtz, Valerie R. Kruse, Stephanie R. Lee, Peter Marsh, Leslie Odmork, Ann K. Oleniczak, Elizabeth T. Scheib, Tarun Talwar, Sue Varnum, Ramon Villalpando and Robert Woods. The 2002 winners are pictured and listed on page 8.

The graduate program moved up one place to fifth, in the annual survey of academic quality by the PAR. The University of Texas was first in the graduate rankings, followed by Illinois, BYU, USC and Notre Dame. The Master of Science in Accountancy Class of 2002 consisted of 60% Notre Dame undergraduates and 40% undergraduates from other universities such as Boston College, University of Florida, University of Tennessee, Florida State University, and BYU.

Students specializing in the Financial Reporting and Assurance track accounted for 68%, the Tax Service track consisted of 27%, and the Managerial Accounting and Operations track had 5%. In addition to track and core requirements, students were presented with a Lyceum on the Enron debacle. Offered in the lecture series was a course on Managing Conflict and Differences, which features business leaders from across the nation addressing culture and conflict in the workplace.

While the accounting industry suffered several blows last year, the students were able to learn from the industry’s mistakes, thus expanding their knowledge and
Kevin Maguire was honored as the 2002 Beta Alpha Psi Alumnus of the Year. Kevin is an assurance partner in the consumer and industrial products practice of the Chicago office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. He began his career in Chicago in 1978 and became partner in 1989. He has served a variety of clients during his career including, among others, Devry, Inc., Dade Behring, Inc., McMaster-Carr Supply Co., Moore Business Forms, UOP LLC and Vienna Beef Ltd.

In addition to his practice responsibilities, Kevin serves as a Chicago office Risk Management partner. In this capacity, he is responsible for interacting with the national accounting, auditing and SEC consulting groups of PwC, tracking trends and promulgations of the SEC and FASB and consulting with his partners in the Chicago office regarding difficult accounting and auditing matters.

Kevin has also been very involved in the Accountancy program here at Notre Dame. He has been an active member of the Accountancy Advisory Board and was instrumental in securing a $100,000 grant from the PwC Foundation for an ND Mendoza College initiative on e-commerce curriculum.

Kevin is a member of the AICPA and the Illinois Society of Certified Public Accountants, and a past board member and treasurer of The Oak Brook Association of Commerce and Industry, The Oak Brook Jaycees and The Hinsdale Community House. Kevin and his wife, Mary Jo, reside in Wheaton, Illinois with their four sons, Brian, Patrick, Timothy and Brendan.

Seventy Years Ago

1-2. The Fundamentals of Accounting, Bro. Cyprian

A presentation of the fundamentals in the keeping of accounts, through a detailed study of the compilation and recording of original evidence of business transactions, and the analysis and interpretation of the formal reports made therefrom. A consideration of the principles and procedures in double-entry accounting for partnerships and corporate forms of organization, and valuation. Throughout the course, the principles involved are developed by laboratory questions, problems, and exercises, supplemented by practice sets. Prerequisite: Finance 21 (22). Four hours a week, for the year: eight semester hours of credit. Source: The ND Bulletin, 1930/31 p.231
An Address at the Annual Beta Alpha Psi Awards Banquet, April 25, 2002

by James Dincolo, Jr., CPA

On behalf of my father and the Dincolo family I congratulate all the award recipients and Lisa for a job well done. We express our appreciation to the faculty and staff for their good work and another successful year.

Sixty-five years ago when my father came to South Bend to begin his term as an accounting professor, Notre Dame was a small Catholic university with a total enrollment of less than 3,000. My father and the other legends of accountancy at ND, men like Finnen, Slowey, Brady, Powell, and Aaronowski, those whose pictures hang in the faculty lounge and others like them were dedicated to making the accounting department at Notre Dame one of the best in the United States. That tradition of excellence is continued today and proof of the high regard that the outside world holds for you, the Notre Dame accounting graduates, is the number of firms that come to recruit you and support events like this dinner.

However, those men would be saddened by the recent events that have besmirched the reputation of accountants and our role in the financial world. You know accountants have long been considered the watchdogs, the score keepers by the investing public and our approval of the procedures and activities of managers has provided a sense of security to investors. That reputation has received a serious blow in the last several months with Enron and other scandals. The job of rebuilding public confidence and integrity in public accountants is going to fall squarely on your shoulders. Now you are young and we understand that you will not actively influence significant corporate financial decisions upon your graduation. But you are the youth on which the recovery must be built, you are the leaders of the future and you will ultimately acquire the power to make the right decisions.

Some critics have accused Notre Damers of being conceited, stuck up and having a “better-than-thou” attitude, but I submit to you that the distinction between confidence and arrogance is often very narrow and sometimes only in the way the attitude is delivered. Being the best we can is what this university is all about. We do not aspire to be average... we demand excellence... excellence of intellect, excellence of attitude and integrity.

We do not aspire to be average... we demand excellence... excellence of intellect, excellence of attitude and integrity.

- James Dincolo, Jr., CPA
Promotions & Recognitions by the University President on May 21, 2002

Sandra Vera-Muñoz has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. She received an MBA from Pennsylvania State University and the Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. She joined the faculty at Notre Dame in 1994. Her scholarly interests focus on empirical-behavioral research that blends managerial accounting and assurance services. Her work has been published in *The Accounting Review, Decisions Sciences,* and *Behavioral Research in Accounting.* She teaches managerial accounting and has received the 2000 Dincolo Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. She has recently been appointed to the Editorial Board of *The Accounting Review* and has been elected as an at-large member of the Executive Council of the American Accounting Association. She lives in Granger with her husband, Rafael Muñoz, and their three children, Michelle, Austin, and Jenny.

Robert W. Williamson has been promoted to Professor Emeritus. His academic credentials include an undergraduate degree in business from Notre Dame and an MBA and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He joined the Department of Accountancy at Notre Dame in 1967, serving as Chairman of the Department from 1976 to 1979, and as Associate Dean of the College from 1987 to 1994. Professor Williamson is the author of several articles in academic, educational, and professional journals and is the co-author of an introductory text in managerial accounting. He has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Notre Dame Australia. He served as Resident Director of the Notre Dame’s Australia BBA program (Fall 1996), London MBA program (Fall 1997), London BBA program (Spring 2000) and the Santiago MBA program (Fall 2000). He and his wife, Joni, recently acquired a new home in Michigan City, Indiana. Besides travel, Bob plans to continue teaching part-time at Notre Dame as needed.

Professor William Nichols and Deloitte & Touche Professor David Ricchiute were each recognized for twenty-five years of service at Notre Dame.
perceptions of their chosen career path. Additional course offerings and several discussion groups were organized to assist those students that found themselves back in the job market. However, the majority of our students had job offers from reputable national accounting firms.

With the graduation of 94 students in August of 2002, the University of Notre Dame completed its fourth summer session with the Ernst & Young “Your Master Plan” M.S. in Accountancy Program. To date, 227 students have graduated from the program at Notre Dame with a similar number from a sister program at the University of Virginia. Students were recruited to the program from over 100 different universities and they provide a diverse workforce for the profession. For example, 55 percent of the students starting the program in the summer of 2002 speak more than one language compared to 18 percent for other Ernst & Young employees in the United States. In addition, 65 percent of that group lived, worked, or studied in another country and 13 percent (not including three Canadians) were on employer-sponsored visas.

The program is delivered in two intense summers, along with a distance-learning component during the nine months between summers. The students become Ernst & Young employees at the beginning of the first summer and are assigned to spend full time studying each summer. The non accounting majors (80 percent) take undergraduate accounting courses in an “Accounting Immersion Program” during the first half of the first summer. They are then joined by the undergraduate accounting majors (20 percent) and begin thirty credit hours of graduate core courses leading to the M.S. in Accountancy Degree. Between summers the students serve clients for Ernst & Young, with released time for study during the distance learning classes.

**Faculty Remembered**

Adjunct Professor Hassen “Jim” Abraham died this year on Monday, June 24 in his home in South Bend (he was 83). He was a member of the Accountancy faculty during the late 1970’s and through the 1980’s.

**“Enron” Lyceum Offered**

The troubling business and accounting issues associated with the collapse of Enron were examined in a new course offered Spring 2002 by Professor Tom Frecka. The one-credit hour lyceum was available at no charge to interested students, accounting professionals, and to the general public. Enron’s collapse has brought to the forefront questions concerning accounting and auditing practices, financial services, off-balance sheet financing, tax accounting, and the deregulation of utilities. “The Enron debacle is the most important event to impact the accounting profession in recent memory,” said Professor Frecka. “We would be remiss if we didn’t provide a forum for our students and members of the financial community to explore these issues.”
2002 Senior Student Award Winners, Department of Accountancy

ACCOUNTANCY FACULTY AWARD
Melissa Rauch
Collingswood, New Jersey

THE PETER BRADY AWARD
Megan McCauley
Aberdeen, Washington
Sara Sosinski
Bronson, Michigan

THE BROTHER CYPRIAN, CSC AWARD
Matthew Bohnenkamp
Le Mars, Iowa
Brian DeVirgilio
Malvern, Pennsylvania
Jennifer Wolfe
Fremont, Ohio
James Zito
Schaumburg, Illinois

THE JAMES DINCOLO AWARD
Margot Howard
Williamsville, New York
Lisa Jansen
Schaller, Iowa
Catherine Sanders
Lakewood, Ohio
Michael Vossen
Burnsville, Minnesota

THE ELMER LAYDEN AWARD
Timothy Curran
Irwin, Pennsylvania
Carolyn Curry
Heidelberg, Germany
Debra Keim
O’Fallon, Missouri
Elizabeth Roggi
Arlington Heights, Illinois

THE HAMILTON AWARD
FOR ACCOUNTANCY
Mark Panza
Barrington, Illinois

The University of Notre Dame Accountancy Excellence Scholarship Winners 2002

Kara Alworth
Brooke Buckman
Erin R. Clayton
Vito Giovingo
Julie Gulyas
Andrew Heinlein
Michelle L. Ivill
Kelly Kaltenbacher
Melissa Kean
Matthew Kerls
Brent Lawton
Dennis Mathews
Kara S. McClain
Margaret McCourt
Katie McDermott
Richard Mordini
Michael D. Murphy
Lauren O’Brien
Jessica Panza
Monica M. Smith
Brendan Welteroth

(pictured, above left)
Master of Science in Accountancy students of Class of 2002 not only attended and diligently studied for classes to fulfill the rule requiring accounting majors have 150 hours to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam, but, also, contended with national issues and tragedy.

The Class of 2002, through the horrific circumstances surrounding the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001, began their school year by coming together in shock and disbelief with an idea to infuse a sense of solidarity and unity throughout the Notre Dame Community. Through team effort, the students assembled 30,000 red/white/blue ribbons pinned to cards inscribed with “The Prayer of Saint Francis Assisi.” The cards with ribbons were then distributed by the students to fans campus wide before the Michigan State football game.

In addition, the students combined their efforts for other community service projects. The group adopted an underprivileged family at Christmas providing them with gifts and food to make the holiday a brighter, more joyful time. Throughout the year, several collections of canned goods were organized to help local food banks keep their shelves stocked. Christmas in April and Habitat for Humanity were among the projects the students eagerly volunteered their service and time.

Aside from the community outreach efforts and their studies, the class participated in a 2-day orientation prior to the start of classes in August. This included an icebreaker cookout in the Senior Bar backyard, followed by an all day teambuilding/ropes course exercise at The Res in Mishawaka. Activities were structured to enable the students to get to know each other, while assessing the roles each may play in the upcoming school year through their participation in team projects in the classroom. The event finale consisted of dinner in the Atrium of the Mendoza College of Business followed by a theater production of “Fuddy Meers” at the South Bend Civic Firehouse Theater.

Social events throughout the year included bowling night, movie night, monthly lunches, a trip to Chicago for a Cubs game, to name a few. Since the students are together so briefly during their time at the University of Notre Dame, they were anxious to share their personal time, as well as, their academic time with others in their class to enhance friendships and networking for the future.

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Faculty Activities

Carl Ebey, CSC, continues to teach Accounting I during the fall semester. He serves as international steward for the Holy Cross order and as trustee for the University of Portland and Stonehill College.

At several universities and international conferences, Paquita Davis-Friday has presented co-authored research reports on “The Role of Non-US Firms’ Financial Reporting in International Mergers and Acquisitions”, “Which Firms Choose to List as American Depository Receipts?: Evidence from Mexican Firms”, “The Effect of Macroeconomic Changes on the Value Relevance of Accounting Information: The Case of Mexico and the 1995 Financial Crisis”, and “Does Accounting Choice Affect the Level of Voluntary Disclosure?” Her article with Thomas Frecka was published in the Review of Accounting and Finance. She serves as faculty adviser to the Women in Business Club and the Business Hispanic MBA Association, both associated with the Mendoza College of Business.

Thomas Frecka co-authored an article with Paquita Davis-Friday on “What Managers Should Know about Earnings Management: Its Prevalence, Legality, Ethicality, and Does It Work?”, published in Review of Accounting and Finance. He gave related Enron presentations to the Whirlpool Corporation finance group and at the International Business Student Council annual conference. His paper (with Paquita Friday) on earnings management was published in Advances in Accounting and Finance. His other activities include serving as President, Michiana Chapter, Financial Executives Institute; and as member, Notre Dame Academic Council.

Chao-Shin Liu was awarded a university 2002 Kaneb Teaching award. His paper, “Materiality Judgments and Disclosure of Retiree Health Care Costs Under SFAS No. 81,” co-authored with Fred Mittelstaedt has been accepted for publication in the Review of Accounting Studies. Chao also coordinated the Deloitte & Touche Case Study 2001 Seminar.

Notre Dame’s Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning named Ken Milani as Faculty Fellow for the 2002-2003 academic year. Ken’s Summer 2001 Management Accounting Quarterly article on “Medical Practice Management: A Strategic Financial Management Approach to the Income Statement” (with Richard Rhoad) received a certificate of merit by the Institute of Management Accountants. He also published articles recently in Practical Tax Strategies and The Journal of International Taxation as well as Tax Tips for the 2002 Graduate available through South-Western College Publishing.

Jeff Miller presented “Pro Forma Disclosures: Do Analysts and Nonprofessional Investors React Differently?” at the Accounting, Behavior and Organizations Research Conference in 2001. He also served as an advisor for the Notre Dame Deloitte & Touche Case Study team that attended the national case competition in Scottsdale, Arizona. He is also a reviewer for The Accounting Review.

Kevin Misiewicz served last year as a member of the Graduate Tax Education Committee and serves this year as a member of the Tax Technology Committee for the American Taxation Association. He completed a two-year term as University Ombudsperson for Discriminatory Harassment. Last fall, he was appointed Faculty Director of the College’s Master of Science in Administration Program. On March 8, Kevin presented “Notre Dame Today” to the Notre Dame Club of Phoenix.


Michael Morris continues to serve as the Faculty Director for the E&Y Masters of Science in Accountancy program. He is a member of the Editorial Review Board of Issues in Accounting Education and of the Board of Directors of South Bend’s Early Childhood Development Center.

Bill Nichols spent the spring semester serving as acting Associate Dean. He continues to work with MBA students and the staff of the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies on social entrepreneurship projects in the black townships of Cape Town, South Africa. He serves on the Editorial Review Board for Notre Dame Press.

Ram Ramanan published a co-authored paper, “Kincaid Manufacturing and the supply chain strategy” in the Management Accounting Quarterly,
Spring 2002. He continues to serve as the College Diversity Officer, Faculty Advisor for Beta Gamma Sigma and as the Chair, University Academic Affirmative Action Committee. He was also featured as the favorite accounting faculty in a Business Week article on Notre Dame MBAs.

The seventh edition of David Ricchiute’s book, Auditing & Assurance Services, was published in the spring. Recent research appears in Accounting, Organizations & Society. He serves on the Editorial Board of Accounting Horizons and on committees of the American Accounting Association Audit Section.

Juan Rivera spent the fall semester of 2001 in Mexico as a Fulbright Scholar. While in Mexico, he taught at the University of Monterrey and conducted research on the local stock market at the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey. A paper co-authored with Ken Milani on international business budgeting is forthcoming in Management Accounting Quarterly. In the spring 2002, he was director of Notre Dame’s foreign studies program in London.

Norlin Rueschhoff chaired a task force for the International Association for Accounting Education and Research that has drafted a Global Code of Ethics for Accounting Educators. His recent research was discussed at a panel session at the 9th Asia-Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues. Last fall, he directed the Notre Dame’s MBA program in Santiago, Chile. Norlin received a university 2002 Kaneb Teaching award.

Thomas Schaefer is president-elect for the American Accounting Association’s Accounting Programs Leadership Group for 2002-2003. He has recently been appointed to the Accounting Accreditation Committee of the International Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Federation of Schools of Accountancy.

At the annual conference of the American Accounting Association, Margaret Shackell-Dowell presented research papers on “Do Managers Use the Information that their Incentive Plans Encourage?” and “Separating the E from the Commerce: The Relationship Between Routines and Stock Return Volatility for Internet IPOs.” Besides receiving an AAA 2002 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation award, Lisa Sedor was granted the Department of Accountancy’s 2002 Dincolo Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

James Seida published research in the Journal of the American Taxation Association on “Evidence of Tax-Clientele-Related Trading Following Dividend Increases.” Further, he recently presented research at workshops at the University of Arizona and at Louisiana State University and at the 2001 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting.

Articles by Dan Simon and his co-authors at the University of South Carolina and the University of New South Wales, Australia, were published recently in the International Journal of Accounting, the International Journal of Auditing, and Research in Accounting in Emerging Countries.

Thomas Stober just completed a term on the editorial board of The Accounting Review. Tom also served as Coordinator for the AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section for the 2002 Midwest Regional Meeting in Milwaukee.

Besides receiving an AAA 2002 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation award, Lisa Sedor was granted the Department of Accountancy’s 2002 Dincolo Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Sandra Vera-Muñoz presented “Towards a Framework for Understanding the Antecedents of Knowledge Sharing in Audits” (co-authored with J.L. Ho and C.W. Chow) at the 2002 AAA annual meeting. She also presented “Planning a Successful Research Agenda in Accounting” at the KPMG Ph.D. Project’s Accounting Doctoral Student Conference in San Antonio, Texas in August 2002.

Jim Wittenbach is a contributing author to the 2003 Pratt & Kulsrud Taxation Series which consists of three textbooks: Individual Taxation; Taxation of Corporate, Partnership, Estate and Gift Taxation; and Federal Taxation. He has been appointed to the Department of Accounting Advisory Council at Ferris State University in Michigan and is a faculty mentor in the Notre Dame’s academic Honors Program for Student Athletes. Jim directs the Masters of Science in Accounting degree program.