A MESSAGE FROM THE ACCOUNTING CHAIR AND CLUB ADVISOR

Parveen P. Gupta, LL.B., Ph.D.
Chair and Professor of Accounting

Dear CBE Students:

As faculty advisor to the Accounting Club and Chair of the Accounting Department, it is my pleasure to present to you the annual newsletter of the Accounting Club, Dollars & Sense.

I am delighted to be part of this year’s newsletter. This newsletter was compiled by Ms. Allison Huckfeldt as its editor with the goal of sharing with you many opportunities that the Club and the Accounting Department make available to CBE and other Lehigh students considering accounting as their major at Lehigh. I thank Allison for her efforts and time in preparing this newsletter. I also thank EY, a Big-4 public accounting firm, for partnering with the Accounting Department and investing in the success of our students through various programs and activities including sponsoring this newsletter. The 2012-13 academic year was filled with abundant opportunities and unique experiences for students who are currently pursuing accounting as their major and students considering accounting as their major.

The Accounting Department supports four student organizations: The Accounting Club, the Lehigh Chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA), the Lehigh Chapter of the Beta Alpha Psi, and the Lehigh Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). Except for the Beta Alpha Psi, which is a national honors organization for the Accounting Majors, the other three student organizations serve the needs of students across the University during their four year academic careers by providing them with a variety of extra-curricular learning and networking opportunities. Through programs and activities organized by these student organizations, our students not only learn about the abundance of opportunities available to

Accounting Club members gather in front of Rockefeller Center during the Spring trip to NYC.
them in the ‘world of accounting’ but they also get opportunities to develop the skills needed to succeed upon graduation from Lehigh. Thus, our accounting majors continue to be highly sought after by the firms from both within the public accounting, financial services, insurance and other industries. The close association and cooperation that exists between the student organizations and the Accounting Department is exemplary. This partnership further extends as we work closely with the University’s Career Services throughout the year to help accounting majors obtain relevant and meaningful career opportunities including winter externships, summer leadership programs, internships, and full-time entry-level positions.

The Accounting Club was formed by the department more than 20+ years ago. Since then many changes have occurred in the profession of accounting. Consequently, the mission of the Accounting Club has also evolved over time. Today your Accounting Club serves all CBE (and Lehigh) students considering or already pursuing accounting as their major. Each year, the Executive Board of the Club working with me and the club’s associate advisor, Professor Manzo, puts together a program of activities with the goal of providing club members with networking opportunities to meet and learn from accounting professionals and Lehigh accounting alumni about many career paths available to Lehigh’s accounting majors. Interaction with successful alumni from public accounting, financial services, insurance, and manufacturing companies not only inspires students but also provides them with a peek into what shape or form their professional careers may take five-to-ten years later. Accounting club programs also focus on helping students develop softer-skills such as effective interviewing, resume writing, business etiquette and social interaction, ethical leadership, global mind-set, community service, and embracing diversity and inclusiveness in their personal and professional lives. Membership in the Accounting Club is open to all CBE (and Lehigh) students interested in exploring careers in accounting, current accounting majors, and the MSAIA students. I strongly encourage you to reach out to your fellow students serving on Accounting Club’s Executive Board to become a member and to start taking advantage of the opportunities that we have to offer you. By participating actively in the Accounting Club programs, your one-time membership fee of $20 will pay you back many times over. It is the best investment you will ever make in your career. This newsletter includes stories about many programs that occurred during the 2012-13 academic year. I hope that reading your fellow students’ experiences and perspectives will excite you to consider accounting as one of your potential majors.

I would like to thank the outgoing Executive Board of the Accounting Club: Jessica Liu (President), Geoffrey Newmann (Vice President), Meaghan Bricker (VP-Community Service), Mark Fonseca (Secretary), Jordan Levy (Treasurer), Allison Huckfeldt (Editor), and Rachel Kourakos and Scott Prichard (Community Service Coordinators). I thank these student leaders for contributing their time, energy and leadership to run the Accounting Club during the 2012-13 academic year. Concurrently, I also welcome the incoming Executive Board for the 2013-14 academic year: Erika Schmidt (President), Neha Rachumallu (Vice President), Mitchell Biler (Treasurer), Emily Lan (Editor-in-chief), Rebecca Holko (Communications Director), Jacob Mutchler (Community Service Coordinator), Darby Wieand (Story Development Editor), and Reid Chisholm (Creative Editor). I am delighted to be working with this new team of leaders and officers.

I would also like to thank my faculty colleague, Professor Joseph Manzo, for serving as Accounting Club’s Associate Advisor. Each year, the student-led Executive Board transitions into the senior year after serving its one-year term but it is Joseph who provides much needed continuity into the new academic year. I invite you to enjoy the rest of the newsletter. After reading the newsletter, I hope that you will agree with me that the Accounting Club’s activities provide invaluable learning, career, and networking opportunities to you. Should you wish to chat with me in more detail about any of the activities mentioned in the newsletter or regarding any issues concerning your accounting education at Lehigh, please do stop by my office in RBC 345 or email me at ppg0@lehigh.edu. I look forward to seeing you at various events hosted both by the Accounting Club and the Department of Accounting during the academic year.

I wish you all the best in your studies at Lehigh!
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF
THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTING CLUB

OUTGOING ACCOUNTING CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD (2012-2013)

President
Jessica Liu ’14
Major: Accounting
Minors: Global Studies and Chinese
Job Offer: PwC

Vice President
Geoffrey Newman ’14
Major: Accounting
Minor: Entrepreneurship
Job Offer: Ernst & Young

Secretary
Mark Fonseca ’14
Majors: Accounting and Finance
Minors: Real Estate and Music
Job Offer: KPMG

Vice President-Community Service
Meaghan Bricker ’14
Major: Accounting
Minor: Health, Medicine, and Society
Job Offer: PwC

Treasurer
Jordan Levy ’14
Majors: Accounting & Finance
Minor: Entrepreneurship
Job Offer: KPMG

Community Service Coordinator
(Fall 2012)
Rachel Kourakos ’14
Major: Finance
Minor: Real Estate
Internship: Morgan Stanley

Editor
Allison Huckfeldt
Major: Accounting
Job Offer: KPMG

Community Service Coordinator
Scott Prichard ’14
Majors: Finance and Accounting
Minors: Psychology and Earth & Environmental Science
Job Offer: SEI Investments Co.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Rebecca Holko
Major: Accounting
Internship: KPMG

INCOMING: ACCOUNTING CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD (2013-2014)

President
Erica Schmidt
Major: Accounting
Internship Firm: E&Y

Vice President
Neha Rachumallu
Major: Accounting
Minor: Psychology
Internship Firm: E&Y

Treasurer
Mitchell Biler
Majors: Accounting, Finance
Internship Firm: PwC

Community Service Coordinator
Jacob Mutchler
Major: Supply Chain Management
Minor: Business Information Systems and Chinese

Communications Director
Rebecca Holko
Major: Accounting
Internship: KPMG

Editor in Chief
Emily Lan
Majors: Accounting, Journalism
Internship Firm: E&Y

Story Development Editor
Darby Wiegand
Major: Supply Chain Management

Creative Editor
Reid Chisholm
Majors: Accounting, Finance
Internship Firm: KPMG advisory

Parveen Gupta
Professor and Department Chair
Faculty Advisor: ppg0@lehigh.edu

Joseph Manzo
Professor
Associate Faculty Advisor: jmm6@lehigh.edu

Courtesy of Ernst & Young
The 2012-2013 academic year showcased another vibrant agenda and outstanding set of accomplishments for the Accounting Club. As the language of business, accounting skills hold a special place in business schools and in professional business environments. There are so many diverse opportunities available to students who major in accounting or pursue accounting course concentrations within other majors. The leaders of the Accounting Club worked very hard this past year to demonstrate this to the club members and to the entire CBE student body.

Bringing executives to campus to present and network with our students has been a hallmark of the club for many years. This year, the leadership of the club placed additional emphasis on programming details for both on-campus and off-campus events. Specifically, the club’s leaders wanted to ensure members come away with tangible benefits that can change the course of their future careers and ultimately their lives. To achieve this goal, the club’s executive board, led by Jessica Liu, began planning the topics and themes for AY 2012-2013 shortly after they were inaugurated in April 2012. The overarching theme they tackled was providing the club membership with the skills they need to build professional relationships. The programming that was assembled to achieve this goal included events that helped students develop skills such as networking, interviewing, resume writing, and team building. In addition, the leadership team also expanded the club’s involvement in community services initiatives.

For the two off-campus events, the club held its biannual trips to New York City. During the fall trip with Ernst & Young, club members were split up into three groups and visited teams of EY auditors who were working on site at client locations around Manhattan. During these on-site visits, students were able to see first-hand what skills are needed and used on the job. For the second half of the trip, the club members were led through a career planning workshop at EisnerAmper. For the second trip to NYC in the spring, club members were engaged in a team building workshop at PwC, and then worked on a community service project at Deloitte. The experiences the club members had during these events will surely have a significant impact on their progress through their years at Lehigh and the start of their professional careers.

As mentioned, another key element to this year’s programming was expanding the club’s community service initiatives. Led by Vice President of Community Service, Meaghan Bricker, the club was more involved in campus community service events such as Spooktacular (a Halloween event for children in the community) and the South Side Clean Up, in which Lehigh students clean up sidewalks and streets in the south side of Bethlehem. These events demonstrated the club’s desire to give back to the community and also helped to strengthen relationships and camaraderie between club members.

It is a privilege for me to work with the leaders of the Accounting Club and help them develop skills that go beyond the classroom. Working with veteran executives in the accounting profession, leading their peers, and succeeding in their courses are formidable challenges for these ambitious students. Few student-run organizations pursue and deliver such a robust agenda of events and activities. I am very proud to be a faculty advisor for this organization and look forward to working with the club’s leaders in the future.
Welcome to the Fall 2013 edition of Dollars & Sense! This newsletter connects students with classmates, faculty, alumni, and firms and it will give both current and future Accounting majors a deeper understanding of the Accounting Club and the Accounting profession. The articles cover the Accounting Club’s activities during the 2012-2013 academic year and provide valuable insights from club members who address topics ranging from the benefits of studying accounting overseas to how parents can influence the choices we make when it comes to declaring a major. Even for me, the road to declaring Accounting as a major was not very obvious at first.

When I came to Lehigh, I had no idea what I wanted to major in, and was not even enrolled in the business school. It was not until my Introduction to Economics course that prompted me to transfer into the College of Business and Economics. However, once I was enrolled in the CBE, the task of declaring a major did not get any easier. After taking prerequisite classes in a number of different fields, I decided to major in accounting. After listening to my friends, and several CBE professors, explain how accounting is the language of business and therefore at the center of any business, I was convinced that majoring in accounting would provide me with significant career opportunities.

As I have pursued my degree, the benefits of the Accounting program have come alive through classroom challenges and real world experiences. In addition to technical, problem solving, and critical thinking skills, I was able to network with Lehigh alumni and recruiters from the Accounting profession through a variety of programs hosted by the Accounting Club and the Accounting Department. This has culminated in me being selected for an internship with KPMG this summer. There is no question that the work I have done as an Accounting major prepared me for my interviews and I am confident I will be prepared when I start my internship next summer.

This past year there were a number of individuals who greatly contributed to this newsletter, and I cannot thank them enough. The outgoing Executive Board played an instrumental role in easing the transition. Professor Manzo and Professor Gupta provided valuable support and advice. My fellow Executive Board members worked very hard this past year and it is their dedication that has made the club a huge success. The students who contributed articles to this edition of Dollars and Sense did a great job and I sincerely appreciate all of their hard work. I would also like to thank all of the firms who have supported the Accounting Club this year. Lastly, a special thank you goes to Ernst & Young for sponsoring this edition of the Dollars & Sense.

I hope you all enjoy the 2012-2013 edition of Dollars & Sense. For freshman and sophomores, I hope the newsletter helps you make a more informed decision about choosing a major. For all of the current accounting majors and professionals, I hope this newsletter reminds you why we chose Accounting as our major and profession!
As the academic year 2012-2013 came to a close, it is safe to say that the Accounting Club has completed yet another successful year. It has been a great privilege to serve as this year’s Accounting Club president. However, this success was not incumbent on just me, but rather the collective work Professor Manzo and the Executive Board put in together. For this, I am extremely grateful. Under the encouraging and watchful eye of Professor Manzo, I have not only gained much insight on becoming a professional, but also developed a tremendous amount of respect for his hard work and commitment to excellence. As for my Executive Board, we have grown close despite small setbacks and I think we can all say that this year was a great learning experience. So a sincere thank you goes to Professor Manzo, Geoffrey Newman, Meaghan Bricker, Allison Huckfeldt, Mark Fonseca, Jordan Levy, and Scott Prichard for an unforgettable year.

The Accounting Club has continued to be an integral part of the Accounting department at Lehigh because of its ability to expose its students to the big global accounting firms by offering numerous high quality workshops and networking events. This year was no exception since most of the accounting majors were able to snag internship opportunities from these prestigious firms and gain valuable knowledge about the profession. Without these dedicated students, the club would not be able to maintain such an ambitious agenda each semester.

Perhaps the biggest takeaway this year was the emphasis on leadership. Taking this high position of leadership was easier said than done. I did not anticipate the many challenges that being President of the Accounting Club entailed. This year, Lehigh was fortunate enough to have Ernst & Young’s Americas Vice Chair of People, Nancy Altobello speak to an intimate group of student leaders within the Accounting realm. She shared her trials and tribulations while she worked her way up the corporate ladder. It was beneficial to hear first hand experiences and understand that the problems I dealt with as Accounting Club president were also issues to be dealt with in a much bigger and professional scale. The most important lesson I learned was that things do not go as planned all the time, and it was important to accept and understand that this was fine.

I am confident that as I have left my mark on the Accounting Club, the newly selected Executive Board will be able to uphold the strong reputation the club has at Lehigh. I wish the best of luck to the incoming Executive Board and hope they enjoy the leadership experience as much as I have.
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MY DAD IS AN ACCOUNTANT

When asking students why they chose to major in accounting, it is not uncommon to be given the answer, “My dad is an accountant….” This article explores how parents influenced the decision of a few students to major in accounting. In addition to helping decide a major, another theme these students mention is that their parents have been a vital resource in helping plan their path into the accounting profession.

Jessica Liu, the 2012-2013 Accounting Club president, states, “….never in a million years did I think I would end up choosing the same career path as my father.” She goes on to explain that her decision to become an accountant was “inevitable” ever since PwC’s annual “Take Your Child to Work” day. At a mere ten years old she proclaimed, “I’m going to be an accountant like daddy!” Jessica explains that everything her dad did seemed glamorous from fighting white-collar crime, to all the perks of working at a prestigious accounting firm. Since her proclamation at 10 years old, Jessica has nearly completed her undergraduate degree majoring in accounting at Lehigh. She states, “It’s funny how that one day jump-started the rest of my life, but I have not looked back since.” Throughout her undergraduate years at Lehigh, Jessica explains how having a dad as an accountant helped her understand all the requirements and courses that she would need to become licensed CPA. This has not only benefited her academically but has helped her to better understand and know her father. She states, “….our understanding is mutual. I like it because now I can relate to him.”

“If my dad wasn’t an accountant, I would’ve thought accounting was just a boring desk job.”
– Jessica Liu and her dad.

“We discuss things, like controversies, and he give me updates about the accounting profession.”
– Wyatt Bebout with his dad.
Caitlin Keefe, Accounting Club member, shares Jessica’s views on how valuable a parent can be when deciding on a major. She explains, “It’s not like he was in the pressuring department, but he was definitely the information provider.” Caitlin explains that not only did her father help in deciding a major, but he was also a valuable resource as she worked on her accounting courses. Caitlin is near completion of her degree and is currently a member of the executive board for Lehigh’s Beta Alpha Psi accounting honors fraternity. Caitlin is confident that the benefits her father provided during her undergraduate years will extend well into her professional career. She explains, “I don’t just have an advisor for four years, I have someone I can turn to, whether it is a question on subject matter or the work environment”.

Meaghan Bricker, 2012-2013 Vice President of Community service, explained that her father was instrumental in motivating her to work through the challenges of the accounting major curriculum. She states, “Lehigh University is ranked as having one of the top accounting programs in the nation for a reason; the classes within the major are very challenging.” As she worked through the accounting curriculum, Meaghan’s father kept reassuring her that her hard work will pay off when she graduates. She explains, “I think having a parent as an accountant is helpful in realizing that all of the effort I put into my accounting classes will pay off shortly.”

When deciding whether to major in accounting or finance, Wyatt Bebout, Accounting Club member, said if were not for his dad, he might have chosen finance. However, similar to Caitlin Keefe’s father, Wyatt’s father provided him with valuable insights into the accounting profession. He explains, “…accounting often has a negative reputation as being a boring profession, but it’s really not.” He goes on to say, “Accounting opens up a wide variety of opportunities. You can really go anywhere with an accounting major.” Looking back on his decision, Wyatt is glad he chose to major in accounting and is grateful for the input and advice he received from his dad.

“I don’t just have an advisor for 4 years, but I have someone to turn to, whether it’s a question about the subject matter or the work environment.”

– Caitlin Keefe with her dad.

“Besides viewing my father as a dad, he is also becoming a useful contact for my future career since he is a part of my network as it continues to expand.”

– Meaghan Bricker and her dad.
Almost every accounting major at Lehigh will have taken a class with Kenneth Sinclair, an accounting professor who has been at the University since 1972. I had the pleasure of interviewing him about his experience at Lehigh and his thoughts about Lehigh’s outstanding accounting program.

After teaching accounting for the first time, while completing his Masters and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Massachusetts, he interviewed at Lehigh and says “the rest is history.” In Professor Sinclair’s 41 years at Lehigh, his teaching style has not changed. He uses the Socratic method of teaching, in which he asks students questions virtually 100% of the time. This rapid fire, communication approach, typically used in law-school, results in students very engaged throughout the entire classroom experience.

When asked a question, “I don’t know,” is never an acceptable response, and each student can be sure he or she will be questioned during class. “Every response to a question brings another question,” Sinclair said. “It forces students to learn the material, rather than just memorize facts.”

In his years at Lehigh, Sinclair has molded his teaching to become uniquely his own. He learns all of his students’ names within the first two weeks and refers to them as Mr. or Miss. “The formality of names allows us to kid with each other,” he said. His students say that humor, especially sarcasm, plays a large role in the dynamic of his classroom. His sarcasm is not aimed at any one individual; it just lightens the class. Seriousness is important, but humor is important too.

An aspect of Sinclair’s humorous classroom behavior is also the way in which he repeats sayings day after day. Students have dubbed the sayings “Sinclairisms.” Although students say they look forward to the routine of the “Sinclairisms,” at the same time they are always wondering what will happen next.

When asked about giving advice to the accounting major, Professor Sinclair believes, “A balance between academics and extracurricular activities is extremely important. The students that are most successful and have an enriched college experience are the ones that are able to be active inside and outside the classroom.” He also comments on why the accounting program has been so successful. “The course work and the classroom atmosphere are very challenging, and students know what they are getting into. They graduate well-prepared for their first job and are on a path for a position of leadership.”

In the Accounting Department there are also a large number of extracurricular activities that supplement the classroom experience. Besides Department activities, there is an Accounting Club and an honor society, Beta Alpha Psi, which also offer many opportunities. Accounting students not only get academic training, but they are also exposed to the accounting profession from the very start of their major. There is also considerable faculty advising, since there are so many options for accounting students. Faculty work very closely with their students, so that their students can achieve their multiple college goals.

“My ultimate goal is to foster self-confidence, a work ethic and the pursuit of excellence in my students,” Sinclair said. “These are the characteristics for which the firms are looking.” The end result is that just about every Lehigh graduate with an accounting background is able to obtain a meaningful job at time of graduation.

To conclude our interview, I asked Professor Sinclair his thoughts on working at Lehigh for many years. He says that working at Lehigh has been a pleasure and quite fulfilling because of the outstanding students, the amazing faculty, the hard-working staff, and the many professionals and alumni with whom he interacts all the time. Seeing students do well, both at time of graduation and years later, is also very gratifying to him. Most importantly, he is always touched with how appreciative students have been of their professors and their Lehigh experience.
Professor Sinclair and Professor Gupta visit CPA firms in New York City on the annual junior trip.

Professor Sinclair has been an iconic member of Lehigh University’s Accounting program for 40 years. Any student that takes his class can easily recite his many “Sinclair-isms.” When researching this article we looked back at past Dollars and Sense issues, and found an article from 1996 listing the Top 10 Lines of Professor Sinclair. This list, however, is just as relevant today as when it was published 17 years ago.

**TOP 10 LINES OF PROFESSOR SINCLAIR**

1. I got ten past… we start.

2. Homework for Tuesday – you told me that you would read Chapter 5 and along with that I have a fantastic handout.

3. The way we do the homework is you take your own and pass the pile along. That’s how homework works.

4. Ms. ______ tells us that he used a pencil at home and pen in class.

5. That may be true, I’ll ask my question again.

6. It turns out that Thursday’s class is the most important of the semester.

7. We have a librarian in the class. You do the reading at home, Mr. ______.

8. Does anyone want to argue with him, Mr. ______?

9. Notice he gives you the debit first.

10. While you are waiting and have nothing to do, you probably wanna re-familiarize yourself with Problem 3. It’s a great problem.
THE ACCOUNTING CLUB GIVES BACK TO BETHLEHEM
A MESSAGE FROM THE VP OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year the Accounting Club made a commitment to give back to the Bethlehem community through a variety of events and activities. The commitment to community service is very strong on the Lehigh campus, and we are also seeing many firms in the accounting profession embrace a strong commitment to community service and social responsibility. In addition, commitment to the community and social responsibility is one of the key strategic objectives for the Accounting Department. As a result, we believed it was important to do our part and provide our club members with opportunities to participate in community service events throughout the year.

The first community service event our members participated in was Spookatcular. This event was hosted by Lehigh and is a fun Halloween-themed event for children from the surrounding Bethlehem community. Children ranging from toddlers to teenagers arrived on the Lehigh campus with their families dressed in Halloween costumes to participate in activities created by various student run organizations at Lehigh. The Accounting Club created a “counting game” for this event. The game consisted of two sets of paper plates numbered 1 through 10 scattered on the ground. Children would race one another by tapping the plates in numerical order with the objective of reaching the number 10. Many club members enjoyed watching even the smallest children play the game. Club member Sharon Yun Xie states, “We enjoyed our time with the kids and serving our community.”
Other community service events the club participated in were the Southside Cleanup and Spring Fling, which occurred during the spring semester. The Southside Cleanup is an activity where members from several student run organizations at Lehigh participate in picking up trash from the streets and sidewalks of Bethlehem. It was a rather cold morning, but we felt a huge sense of gratification in helping to clean up the neighborhood. Scott Prichard, the club Community Service Coordinator, states, "...this was a great way for the Accounting Club to get involved in and help the community.” Similar to Spooktacular, the Spring Fling event was an opportunity for student run organizations at Lehigh to interact with children from the Bethlehem community. Jacob Mutchler, the 2013-2014 Community Service Coordinator, helped to organize and run this event for the club. A number of club members volunteered for this event, which took place on the UC front lawn. The activity that our club hosted involved making ‘bunny crafts’ with kids from the community. The club members had a great experience interacting with the children, and more importantly, it was clear that the children and their parents had a good time too. Overall, the event was a great success. I am very pleased with the community service events the Accounting Club participated in this year. Each event was a truly rewarding experience for all members who participated. In addition, these events gave club members an opportunity to meet and get acquainted with each other. I look forward to seeing the Accounting Club’s commitment to our community continue in years to come.
Each year the Accounting Club brings junior accounting majors to meet with firms in NYC and attend the annual alumni reception. This year the club visited with Ernst & Young and EisnerAmper. Afterward, the alumni reception was hosted by Grant Thornton. The trip was a great success and gave the students a chance to not only visit the firms and network with professionals but to also see firsthand what auditing teams do onsite at client locations around Manhattan.

The first part of the trip was a visit to Ernst & Young’s office in Times Square. After a brief introduction and presentation by Partner Sal Restivo and Lehigh Campus Recruiter Victoria Hess, Lehigh alumni working at EY gave the students a tour of the office. Afterward, the students were divided into three groups and visited EY clients in Manhattan which included Time Warner, Cantor Fitzgerald and Fortress Investment Group. Upon arrival at the client’s site, the students were given an office tour, as well as a chance to meet current EY professionals working with that particular client. This was especially insightful for students because accounting professionals generally spend most of their time working at their client’s site as opposed to their firm’s office.

After lunch sponsored by EY, the next leg of the trip was a visit to EisnerAmper. This visit gave students a chance to engage in an in-depth workshop on career planning. Eisner Amper is a large regional firm serving clients such as the NBA, NHL, and an NFL team. After a short presentation and introduction to the firm, the students were able to participate in several activities and group exercises that focused on useful skills, such as communication and professionalism in the accounting field. In one such activity, students were divided into groups and each group was given the chance to interview a current EisnerAmper employee. Then the students were able to practice these skills by presenting what they learned.

The second part of our visit to EisnerAmper included a career planning workshop. The group was split up into small teams and brainstormed ideas as to what we should be doing at Lehigh to ensure we are well positioned to start our careers in the Accounting profession. Each team then wrote their ideas on the walls. Yes, you can actually write on the walls at EisnerAmper! The walls are coated with a special paint that essentially turns them into “dry-erase boards.” To complete the workshop, each team presented their ideas back to the group. What was most beneficial about this part of the trip is that we walked away with clear plans we can put into action when we get back to campus.

The final leg of the trip was a visit to Grant Thornton, who concluded the night with an alumni reception. GT professionals gave a short presentation about their firm, followed by a tour of their midtown offices and concluded with a walk through the Chrysler Building to a nearby restaurant for the alumni reception.

This trip was an extremely valuable experience to all club members who participated. The opportunity to visit client locations is a first for the club and it undoubtedly gave us a great view of what the Accounting profession looks like in action. Additionally, the students really appreciated the networking opportunities and will surely benefit from the training sessions as they work toward obtaining internship and full time job opportunities during their junior and senior years at Lehigh.
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2/11/2013  7:30 AM
In Mid-February, the Lehigh Accounting Club sponsored their annual sophomore trip to New York City. Professor Manzo accompanied us on the trip to visit PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte. Dressed in business attire, we met outside the Rauch Business Center early Monday morning.

9:00 AM
We finally arrived at PricewaterhouseCoopers after sitting in rush hour traffic and dealing with a temporary closure of route 78. After meeting Jessica Franco, Lehigh’s campus recruiter, we assembled in one of PwC’s multi-purpose rooms to meet with Lehigh alumni working at PwC. The first topic that was addressed is how to transition from college life to professional life at a top accounting firm. A change in sleeping schedules was a common theme between many of the employees, but they all felt that Lehigh’s accounting curriculum and ample job training had fully prepared them for this transition. During the second part of our visit, we engaged in a team building activity. We were given a collection of random supplies that we had to use to create a “structure” that can withstand the “forces of nature.” The assignment required collaboration, communication, and creativity. Each structure was put on a table and had to remain standing while PwC associates shook the table (earthquake), poured water on the structures (rain storm), and briskly fanned the structures to create wind (tornado). The team’s structure that was still standing at the end was given a prize. This was definitely a fun activity that accentuated the team skills needed to succeed in a professional environment.

1:00 PM
We arrived at Deloitte’s office in the iconic Rockefeller Plaza where we were escorted to a large conference room. Melissa Sette, Lehigh’s campus recruiter, introduced the firm and briefly discussed many upcoming opportunities such as Deloitte’s summer leadership program.

We then proceeded on a tour of their office. The tour gave us a chance to see and observe the environment where many of us could potentially start our careers. After the tour, we joined Deloitte employees for dinner. Seated at a table with Lehigh alumni, dinner was a relaxing chance to personally interact and ask questions. The young employee seated at my table shared her experiences living in New York City, and how she balances her personal and work life. Before we departed, Deloitte surprised us with a Ben & Jerry’s ice cream bar to end the day.

6:30 PM
We arrived back at Lehigh in front of Rauch. After reflecting on the days events during the ride back to campus, I realized that these visits gave me an appreciation for Lehigh’s reach into the accounting world. Many of the alumni reminisced about their college years and emphasized how prepared they felt after graduating from Lehigh.
At KPMG, we seek truly outstanding people and provide them with opportunities for global experiences, leadership development, a great work environment and more.
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THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME:
THE MARTINDALE STUDENT ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

Elizabeth Pines ’16
Accounting Major

Madeline Weiss (far right) with her classmates in Columbia.

Each year since 1980, The Martindale Student Associates Program allows a selected group of juniors and seniors from Lehigh University to explore global business and economic matters overseas. This unique opportunity allows these students to take their education outside of the traditional classroom. Students selected to participate in this program are taken on a 10 to 12 day research trip for an in-depth study and fact gathering assignment. The following academic year, students draft a research report which is published in the Martindale Center’s undergraduate journal, Perspectives on Business and Economics, which is distributed to over 1,500 people and libraries in the U.S., Canada, Europe and South America.

Accounting major Maddie Weiss participated in this highly selective program during the summer of 2012 by travelling to Columbia to study healthcare. Maddie explains how peer collaboration was her favorite aspect of the program. She states, “In the fall semester there were weekly meetings where students gave progress reports on their articles. Throughout different stages of my paper, I found myself using points of information from nearly all of the other students’ topics in order to provide a more comprehensive overview of the healthcare system. I am very excited to read the works of my peers once our edition of Perspectives on Business and Economics is published.”

Maddie explains how this program was a refreshing change to her traditional accounting classes. The program enables students to research and communicate with others, contributing to a well-rounded education at Lehigh. She feels she now has the necessary tools to begin her career at Ernst & Young as an assurance associate in the Banking and Capital Markets division of the Financial Services Office.

The extremely competitive application process begins January of each year and is open to all students with a GPA of at least 3.4. Students wishing to receive more information about this program can go to the Martindale Center located on the 3rd floor of Rauch Business Center.

Contributions from Ly Nguyen.

THE TRAVELLING ACCOUNTING MAJOR:
COURTNEY ENDERLE IN PRAGUE

Darby Wiegand ’15
Accounting Major

Courtney Enderle in the Czech Republic

Famous American writer, Henry Miller, once wrote, “One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” The following saying epitomizes Courtney Enderle’s experience this past semester in Prague, Czech Republic, where she studied accounting at a local university. According to Enderle, a senior accounting major at Lehigh, the greatest overall benefit of studying abroad is the unique opportunity to “see the world from a different perspective, and learn about the history of your host country firsthand.” When asked how studying in a foreign country has impacted her education in accounting specifically, Enderle says, “the experience of studying abroad has taught me to try new things and take advantage of every opportunity presented to you, even if it is different than what you are used to.” She later goes on to say that the new skills and materials she was taught while in Prague, allow her to “think about problems through multiple perspectives.” Enderle clearly exemplifies how studying abroad not only provides you with an opportunity to fully immerse yourself into the culture of a foreign country, but it also allows you to build a diverse repertoire of business skills, granting you that coveted competitive advantage over the other college graduates in the professional world.
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Leadership conferences at CPA firms have exploded in popularity over the past few years. All of the Big 4 firms, along with many smaller firms offer leadership conferences for students the summer before entering into their junior or senior year of college. These conferences help students develop their soft skills while getting to know the different personalities of the firms. To help us gain more insight, I interviewed Allison Pelletier, the Lehigh recruiter from KPMG.

WHAT BENEFITS DO STUDENTS TAKE AWAY FROM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES?

When students attend leadership conferences they have the opportunity to learn more about public accounting, meet professionals at the firms, and get a jump-start on the internship recruiting process. It is a great opportunity to network, gain information, and really get a sense of the firm from both formal and informal activities. KPMG’s program involves networking, workshops, teambuilding, and community service activities in most offices. Students walk away with a stronger understanding about future career paths and opportunities in public accounting.

WHAT ROLE DO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES PLAY IN FUTURE INTERNSHIPS AND JOB OFFERS?

At most firms leadership conferences give the students opportunities to interview “early” for a summer internship for the following summer. This allows them to be considered ahead of the typical fall on campus interviews. Many firms use the leadership conferences as a large source of recruitment for their internship programs. The leadership conferences are a great way for students to “test drive” a firm before they commit for a summer internship experience.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS SAYING ABOUT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES?

Senior Caitlin Keefe, intern at KPMG and Secretary of the Lehigh University Beta Alpha Psi chapter explains, “The leadership conferences I attended were a very beneficial experience, allowing me to gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between each firm. This assisted me in deciding which firm was the best fit for me and where I wanted to intern.”
The 2012-2013 academic year marked a period of truly looking ahead and thinking about the role that the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) would play at Lehigh. Still fairly new to campus, the LU NABA Chapter took a major step in January when it gained full-recognition by the Student Senate. To achieve this, we highlighted valuable internship and leadership program experiences that our current e-board members had, and communicated how NABA played a role in helping us get those opportunities.

NABA is an abode for professional development, aimed at preparing members for successful careers in accounting, finance, and other business related fields. This past year, we had a number of events that were hosted by our corporate sponsors, Ernst & Young, PwC, Deloitte, KPMG, and Prudential, to name a few. Among the events were an interview and resume writing skills workshop hosted by KPMG and a networking social held by Ernst & Young. Representatives from these firms were able to interact with students, enabling them to hone their professional soft skills. This can be attributed to the intimate environment offered by NABA that is conducive to growth. Our members expressed that interviewing, resume writing, and networking were all areas in which they wanted to improve upon, and our e-board worked with recruiters and professionals to bring the aforementioned events into fruition.

While this year has been one of accomplishment, it is imperative that we form a strong e-board, as LeVaughn Nesbitt, the chapter’s former president and founder, has graduated to start full-time at PwC. NABA’s main goal for its third year on campus is to gain chartership by the National Organization, which requires a full e-board and 10 paid members. To do this, we will leverage our institutional resources at Lehigh by collaborating with CBE departments and other student organizations such as the Accounting Club and the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA). This will aid us in increasing the number of minority students pursuing undergrad majors in accounting and finance, and ultimately make a lasting impact on our members that goes beyond campus into the professional world. NABA’s motto is “Lifting As We Climb”, and fostering leadership and professional development now will ensure the success of the LU NABA Chapter in the future.
# ACCOUNTING CLUB EVENTS
**FALL 2012 / SPRING 2013**

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<tr>
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<td>8/30/2012</td>
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THE 2012-2013 ACCOUNTING CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD.
Front row: Allison Huckfeldt, Meaghan Bricker, Jessica Liu
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