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In this newsletter you will see several articles that relate to the themes from the 2016-17 academic year. One of our feature articles covers the impact a great mentor can have in building a successful career. Students selected a mentor that had a lasting impact on both their academic and professional careers: Professor Parveen Gupta. Professor Gupta has not only been a great mentor for many Accounting Majors, he has also been a tremendous mentor for me. The feature article in this newsletter highlights the gratitude and appreciation current and former students have for Professor Gupta.

The Accounting Club continues to partner with and support other student-run organizations at Lehigh. This effort started during the 2015-16 academic year under the leadership of the club’s former president, Erika Schmidt ’16. Since then, the club has continued to provide financial resources for new and emerging student organizations, as well as partnering with clubs to organize and co-sponsor events. This year, the club worked with the Lehigh Student Athlete Council (SAC). Lehigh athletes face a tremendous challenge in balancing academics and the demands of their sports. Events held by the Accounting Club have traditionally started at 4:00pm, which overlaps with practice times. This year, the club partnered with SAC to hold an event that began at 8:00pm. This provided our athletes with a great opportunity to network with and learn from the firms brought to Lehigh by the Accounting Club.

It has been a pleasure serving as advisor for the Accounting Club. The dedication of the Accounting Club executive board continues to be exemplary, and it is wonderful working with such a talented and ambitious group of students each year.

Welcome to the 2016-2017 AY edition of Dollars & Sense! To those who are unfamiliar with this publication, Dollars & Sense is a resource for students who are interested in gaining insights into the accounting profession. This year, our publication strives to explore our overarching theme of leadership and how it relates to and strengthens the field of accounting.

This year’s publication of Dollars & Sense highlights the many ways in which Lehigh accounting students have the opportunity to not only explore their major and potential careers that accounting leads to, but to also explore who they are and can become as leaders. Additionally, this newsletter includes pieces of advice and lessons from accounting professors, students, and Lehigh alumni. This culmination of experiences presented in Dollars & Sense hopefully opens new doors and sheds a new light on accounting, both as a major and as a profession. From students’ experiences with the Lehigh in Prague trip to the success story of a previous student athlete/accounting major, the broad range of articles found in this issue emphasizes the true variety of ways one can be successful and stand out as a leader in the Lehigh accounting community.

Through the theme of this newsletter, there is great potential to inform and intrigue current and potential accounting majors to enrich their careers that accounting leads to, but to also explore their major and potential careers that accounting leads to, and how it relates to and strengthens the field of accounting.

The network within the Lehigh University Accounting Department and among current and former Lehigh accounting students is so strong and presents countless opportunities. This was greatly taken advantage of and leveraged by the entire Accounting Club, through our year’s efforts, and especially by the Newsletter team. So many students, professors, recruiters, and alumni deserve a great amount of thanks and appreciation for all that they have contributed to this year’s Dollars & Sense. I would like to thank all the firms who have not only supported the Accounting Club throughout the years, but have also been more than eager to host events for our students. I want to give a special thanks to PwC, the sponsor of this edition. Both the outgoing and incoming Accounting Club executive board deserve immense recognition for their input, support, and tireless efforts in making our club a success. Thank you to Julie Scheller and Brooke Porcelli on the production team for working on making Dollars & Sense look the way it does. I also owe a huge thank you to Jaclyn Leon for her outstanding job as our assistant Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, whose support and constant hard work is the reason for the publication of this issue. Also, thank you to Ada Tao for your hard work on making this newsletter the best it can be. Finally, I owe a huge thank you to Professor Joseph Manzo for his guidance, knowledge, and support. He is the reason the Accounting Club remains such a successful presence year after year. I truly am grateful to everyone who gave the Dollars & Sense their two cents.

The opportunity to be Newsletter Editor-in-Chief has been a truly amazing experience. Being able to further this long-standing publication has been a pleasure of mine and I am excited to see what the future of it holds. I hope this edition helps to open new doors, pose unique ideas, and spark new interests to explore all that the Lehigh Accounting Department and the world of accounting hold.
It has been an honor to serve as President of the Accounting Club for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Accounting Club provides the students of the College of Business and Economics with an understanding of the accounting major and profession. It hosts events with various accounting firms to allow students to network and gain the tools needed to launch their careers. This past academic year, the club’s executive team focused on promoting the club as a source of mentorship to students. In addition, the club’s programming focused on the impact of mentorship in the workplace.

Throughout the year, we focused on keeping our events interactive. Our events provided students with insights on topics that are not typically taught in the classroom. Two of our events were entirely forum based, allowing students to ask professionals questions relating to college and career outlook. In hosting these events, we tried to collaborate with many organizations in the business school, including Finance Club, Business Information Systems Club, ASCEND, and NABA (National Association of Black Accountants).

To tie in with our mentorship theme and become better connected to the student body, the club launched its own email and Facebook page. We encouraged students to send us any school or career-related questions. Because of the club’s strong Facebook page, we were able to provide our members with insights that helped many launch their career, whether by landing an internship or full-time offer. I encourage all CBE students to get involved in the accounting club for their career development.

My experience with the accounting club shaped my own successes. Being president challenged my leadership and communication skills. It allowed me to grow a vast network of professionals and recruiters. The knowledge I picked up from the events combined with Lehigh’s rigorous accounting program allowed me to secure an internship with KPMG.

The Accounting Club is a huge asset to the CBE and all of its students. I look forward to seeing it grow in the upcoming years. It is an honor to hand over the club to the incredibly talented new officers. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to seeing their achievements.

I would like to thank Professor Manzo for his advice and guidance. Without him, the club would not have been as successful as it was. It has been a pleasure and an honor working with the Accounting faculty, Lehigh alumni, and firm recruiters to bring together our events.

I am incredibly grateful for the support of all the firms that contributed to the success of the Accounting Club this year: PwC, KPMG, EY, Deloitte, EisnerAmper, Prudential, Lutron, and J&J. Finally, I would like to thank the talented team of leaders that have worked incredibly hard to make this year as rewarding as it was: Alexandra Mangino (Vice President), Alison Slivon (Treasurer), Liz Gregori (Communications Director), Madison Hirsh (Newsletter Editor), Jaclyn Leon (Assistant Newsletter Editor), and Ada Tow (Assistant Newsletter Editor). I am honored to have served as President of the Accounting Club and look forward to seeing the success of the club and its leaders for years to come.
My experience as a student athlete at Lehigh majoring in accounting was one that required an immense amount of planning, dedication, and a little bit of luck. I was incredibly lucky to have a coaching staff that prioritized academics above athletics. This was always a practiced principle, but entering my most rigorous semester, fall of junior year, I started to feel the pressure of being a double major who swam and sang in University Choir. I went to my coaches and we sat down to talk about what was important, and what mattered most in my college experience. Without much discussion, we all knew academics would top the list. We adopted a different workout regimen and I was able to take some time off to focus on nailing my swimming. Being a college athlete teaches time management skills in a very sink-or-swim way. You either master time management, or your academics and athletics suffer. There is very little room for error. After practice, it was almost always a quick dinner, then to the library for another four to five hours of studying.

Being an Accounting Major at Lehigh requires the exact same dedication as athletics, though execution is different. I tutored as a member of Beta Alpha Psi each Friday, which oftentimes helped reinforce concepts I’d overlooked or hadn’t used since being an undeclaredmen. Additionally, I utilized my professors’ office hours in the most efficient way possible, oftentimes aggregating core questions I had until enough had compiled to warrant conversation. Fortunately my professors were incredibly understanding of the demands of being a student athlete, so they understood when meets would have me out of class, but the standards they set were never lowered. This made forethought and planning so essential to success because assignments that were due on a Thursday, even if I were out of state, were still due on Thursday. Their willingness to help and accommodate seemed to be largely driven by my own desire to make sure everything got done. I learned that unless you put the effort forth to make tough situations work, nobody else is going to reciprocate. That skill was vital, and I still use it today as an auditor with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

My time as a member of the Lehigh wrestling team greatly improved my time management skills, increased my work ethic, and taught me the importance of applying myself to activities I am passionate about. Lehigh’s rigorous Accounting Program has prepared me to tackle the wide array of complex issues my clients face. Equally as important, the personal connections I made through my involvement in accounting and wrestling will shape my career for many years to come. “

“Participation in men’s crew while studying at Lehigh as an Accounting Major has given me great insight into quickly understanding the inner workings of a company and participating in conversations that add value to clients. As a CPA, we gain certain exposure to understand what impacts/influences a company’s bottom line. The Accounting Major has allowed me to add value through effective communication with controllers and CFO’s of both large and small corporations.”

“Having the opportunity to be an athlete at Lehigh was one of the greatest experiences for me personally. Likewise, I think Lehigh’s Accounting Program was the best preparation for me academically and professionally. My professors and my coaches were extremely flexible and helpful, ensuring that I always had balance between academics and athletics. Together, I feel as though both experiences have given me a strong base to be successful in my career at EY.”

“It was a great experience working with the Accounting Club to schedule an event that better suited the time constraints that athletes have. Most events are held during practice and games times which makes it very difficult for most athletes to attend career development and networking events. As a member of the Student Athlete Council (SAC), I look forward to continued cooperation and teamwork with the Accounting Club to improve our career development program.”

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This past summer I had the opportunity to travel with my peers and professors on the Lehigh in Prague program. This experience was undoubtedly the best of my entire career at Lehigh. Within four weeks on the program I was able to make new friends, gain real world working experience, get ahead in my classes, and immerse myself in the culture of the Czech Republic. Every day was a new adventure as we went to the Old Town Square for live music, food stands, and street performances, visited different districts of the city, journeyed to the Buda Castle, or took a paddle boat on the Charles River. While seemingly a short trip, with only a 4-day work week we had the ability to travel around Europe beyond the area of Prague. Every weekend we went to a new location such as Budapest, Amsterdam, Munich, or Vienna.

In addition to exploring the sites, the opportunity to enroll in Intermediate Accounting 315 is a great way to get ahead in your studies. This is especially true if you are planning on being an Accounting or Finance major on the accounting track. While in Prague, we went to class at the PwC headquarters once a week, then studied for our exams and did homework in the Prague Public Library. This gave us a true experience of studying abroad and made us feel more like residents of the city rather than tourists.

The final aspect of the trip was our internships set up by Lehigh faculty. Working in Prague is not only a great way to get internship experience, but also a way to see the cultural differences that exist. I was lucky enough to work for AAA Auto with a great group of eight other Lehigh students from all different majors. Together we worked on projects assigned to us under an open schedule by our boss, Jakub. Jakub took us golfing for the afternoon, to a pub to watch the Czech Republic in the Euro Cup, a limo ride around the city, and to a wonderful farewell dinner at a renowned restaurant. Our experience was made not only by the meaningful work we felt we were doing but by our time spent together as a team.

Between exploring the city, learning a new topic, and working for an amazing company, I would say that traveling with Lehigh in Prague was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Alexandra Mangino ’18
Accounting Major

THE BEST EXPERIENCE
OF MY LEHIGH LIFE!

LEHIGH IN PRAGUE

Professor Sami with students in the Lehigh in Prague Study Abroad Program.

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Professor Sami with students in the Lehigh in Prague Study Abroad Program.
Throughout the accounting profession, “mentorship” is an extremely common theme across all firms. Having a mentor is seen as a “must” as they serve as someone to go to for advice on how to improve, how to excel and how to become a better leader. During the fall semester on the Accounting Club trip to NYC, EisnerAmper presented on the importance of mentorship in the accounting profession, and elaborated on how their firm-wide mentorship program functions. One of the biggest takeaways from this presentation was that mentorship does not end after the beginning years at the company. In fact, EisnerAmper employees will always have a mentor throughout their career. At Lehigh, mentorship begins in the Lehigh Department of Accounting. Accounting Majors are assigned an advisor who also serves as their mentor to guide them not only throughout their time here at Lehigh, but to guide them as an emerging leader in the accounting profession following graduation. Many Accounting Majors at Lehigh are lucky enough to cross paths with a standout professor and mentor, Parveen Gupta.

Professor Gupta started at Lehigh in 1987, and since then he has served as the head of the Accounting Department for nine years (2001-2016), and taught accounting courses covering a broad range of topics such as financial accounting, managerial accounting, corporate governance, risk management, and internal controls. Professor Gupta has received many awards celebrating his work at Lehigh, including the 2016 Statewide Outstanding Accounting Educator Award. Students at Lehigh recognize Professor Gupta as an extremely passionate teacher, as well as an incredible mentor. His door is always open for any student who needs help, ranging from answering a simple question on an accounting problem to deciding which job offer to accept. Professor Gupta truly embodies what it means to serve as an educator and a mentor at Lehigh. His impact on the students in the Lehigh community and within the Accounting Department certainly does not go unnoticed.

**HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF PROFESSOR GUPTA’S PROFOUND IMPACT ON STUDENTS:**

**“Aside from his immense knowledge in the field, Professor Gupta’s enthusiasm towards accounting, which many people see as a dry subject, and the joy he expresses teaching truly makes him one of a kind. He shows unparalleled care for his students and their futures.”**

JUSTIN TAYABJI  
Accounting and Finance Major  
Class of 2017

**“It was a pleasure having Professor Gupta as one of my accounting professors. He was always there for his students inside and outside the classroom, which showed he truly cared about his students and their successes.”**

MATTHEW LAWRENCE  
Accounting and Finance Major  
Class of 2017

**“Professor Gupta was a great teacher who constantly used examples that allowed students to gain a greater understanding of the how the concepts we were learning could be applied in the real world.”**

CAROLINE DEEHAN  
Accounting Major  
Class of 2017

**“Professor Gupta is an amazing professor! He really explains the material and applies it to real life situations to help his students truly understand what they are learning. With real life application, Professor Gupta helps his students see beyond the classroom to better understand and apply knowledge in the future. He teaches his students life lessons that will benefit them forever.”**

KIRSTEN OLSEN  
Accounting Major  
Class of 2018
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT COMBINING BIS AND ACCOUNTING?

In a world that is rapidly growing more and more dependent on technology and innovation, firms recognize candidates with technology backgrounds as greater assets. Only 40 years ago, the first cell phone was invented. In the last 10 years, the first laptop was invented. In the last 5 years, cloud computing has boomed and in the last 3 years, artificial intelligence, and powerful robots and technologically capable systems have taken over. These technological breakthroughs alone have revolutionized the way we see the world, communicate with one another and conduct business, making the thought of what the future holds unimaginable.

At many of our events this year, accounting firms have discussed the growing importance of knowledge and understanding of technology. Recommendations for improving your technological skills range from taking a class or two, to completing a minor or minor paired with an Accounting Major goes a very long way in fulfilling this much needed skill that many firms are seeking today. This not only diversifies an individual in a crowd of Accounting Majors, it builds skills that go beyond the accounting profession. Being knowledgeable in your major is important, but being worldly and knowledgeable about how to benefit your future and the future of business is equally important.

Cloud computing, artificial intelligence, social media, and many other new technologies have the potential to provide great changes in the accounting profession. To keep up with these changes, it is important for students to consider what the future may bring and how to best mold their education to fit that future. A major or minor in BIS poses an advantage to students in accomplishing this goal and providing a great complement to the Accounting Major.

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As a Tauck Scholar, I chose to participate in the Lehigh in Prague program last summer, following my sophomore year. The timing was perfect, as I was able to intern with PwC Czech Republic, as only a rising junior, an opportunity that is hard to come by in the US. Participating in Lehigh in Prague and interning at PwC was the best way I could have imagined spending my summer, and the learning experience was unforgettable.

The internship entailed working with another Lehigh student researching successful startup companies that could be considered “disruptive” to their respective markets. Uber and Airbnb were the example companies we were given to start off. Both companies upset their industries by introducing completely new business models, and we set out to find companies across the globe that did the same in the Betting, Energy, Food, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Leisure, Manufacturing, Postal, Retail, and Transportation industries. After compiling research, we presented our findings to the Mergers & Acquisitions Strategy team and received feedback on both the content of our presentation and our delivery. Considering this was my first time ever giving a professional presentation in a corporate setting, the feedback was incredibly helpful and hopefully prepared me better for future presentations.

Not only was the actual work interesting and applicable to my business education and career, but getting to experience working for a US firm while abroad was eye opening. The office environment and company culture was much more relaxed than that of the New York office. In addition, unless we spoke to them first in English, everyone spoke Czech to one another, so it was our jobs as interns to be inquisitive and initiate conversations with our coworkers. In the future, I hope to work abroad, so broadening my horizons and going outside my comfort zone on this trip made me better able to adapt and succeed. With that, the fact that Lehigh offers these experiences to its students is what makes us attractive to recruiters and prepared to enter the workforce following graduation.

The structure of the Lehigh in Prague trip also allows students plenty of time to explore Prague and even travel to other cities. I was able to visit Budapest and Munich, both easy weekend trips from Prague. Essentially, the Lehigh in Prague program allows you to take and complete a required course for the Accounting Major, complete an internship, and travel, so the experience you have is as well rounded as possible. I would highly recommend the program to any student looking for a fun way to gain valuable experience and supplement their Lehigh education.

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Every year the Accounting Club plans a spring trip to NYC to visit two public accounting firms. The spring 2017 semester was mostly mild with only one day of snow while classes were in session (a large snowstorm hit over spring break). Unfortunately, the one day it did snow was the day we had planned to go to New York City which forced the trip to be cancelled. As a result, we will show you a few pictures from past Accounting Club trips. Enjoy!

Lehigh grads Jack Curran ’17, Joe Juca ’17, and Alexander Fitzgerald ’17 at the Accounting Alumni Reception in NYC.

Professor Sinclair with Lehigh alums Neha Rachumallu ’15 and Steven Einstein ’76.

Students meet with Chris Lovasz, Lehigh Alum and partner for Deloitte, at 30 Rock headquarters in NYC.

President Simon with the 2015-16 Accounting Club executive officers.

Accounting Club members visit PWC’s headquarters in New York City.
The National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) is a professional association dedicated to bridging opportunities for people of color in Accounting, Finance, Information Technology, and other business professions. At Lehigh, NABA serves students of all backgrounds and majors to help promote and develop the professional skills of our members. NABA is a small, close-knit group of students looking to “Lift As We Climb,” the association’s motto, to the best of our ability.

Like most professional clubs in the CBE, we have events with recruiters from various companies including EY, PwC, and other accounting firms. Every year we travel to PwC’s Philadelphia office to meet with other NABA chapters in the area and develop interviewing skills, review our resumes, and network with NABA professionals. Last semester we visited the Comcast headquarters and learned about the company and the opportunities available for students. Later in the fall, we traveled to Pittsburgh for the Eastern Regional Convention that not only gave students opportunities to interview for jobs and internships in an expedited process, but was also a fun, life-changing experience.

Lehigh’s NABA chapter is a growing club that has close ties with other CBE clubs such as the Accounting Club, Ascend, and ALPFA (Association of Latino Professionals For America). We are known for our professional events like resume builders and simple information networking sessions. We also do fun events such as EY’s Spaghetti & Marshmallow dinner, bowling, barbecues, and even a trip to Skyzone, free for our members. NABA is a well-rounded club with opportunities in leadership roles and exposure to the professional business world. If you are interested in a club made up with students of similar interests, committed to professional and academic excellence, NABA is the club for you.

Danielle Williams ’17

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