



The ECU[®] ACCOUNTANT

FALL 2024

In this Issue

◀ Chairman's Report ▶

◀ Our Alumni ▶

◀ Our Students ▶

◀ Our Faculty ▶

Chairman's Report

Greetings from Pirate Nation!

I am excited to share highlights from the Accounting Department and reflect on the accomplishments of our students and faculty over the past year, as well as look ahead to the coming year. As I begin my 25th year at ECU, I am continually amazed by our students' achievements. Every year, our students impress not only with their classroom performance but also with their community involvement. In today's environment, our students face numerous demands on their time outside the classroom. One student who exemplifies the Pirate spirit and the value of an accounting degree is Evelyn Morales Rosales, our Howard Award Winner. Evelyn gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on May 1st in Raleigh and walked at graduation on May 3rd. If you ever doubted the significance of a degree to our students, Evelyn's story will change your mind.



Dr. Cal Christian

I am particularly proud of our faculty's dedication to working with Honors College Accounting students on their Honors theses. This past spring, five of our Honors College Accounting students' Signature Honors Projects were highlighted in the NCACPA's Interim Report. These research papers require significant effort from students and their faculty mentors. No other department in the College of Business mentors its students like ours. Each year, we typically mentor 2-5 students, helping them explore complex, real-world issues through research.

Our faculty's excellence is well-known. While I am starting my 25th year, we have four faculty members who have been here even longer. Drs. Schneider, McCarthy, Schisler, and Reisch have been integral to our department and continue to be highly productive. Our program would not be where it is today without all that they have done. This year, we welcome Dr. Nikki Chappell from Florida State as a new faculty member. You can read more about her in the newsletter. However, we will be losing one of our most valuable instructors, Rachel Brassine, who has completed her DBA from Marshall University and accepted a position at Virginia Tech. Rachel has been a student favorite since she joined ECU in 2009 and has been a great colleague.

I must also mention our 6th Annual Accounting Research Gathering (ARRG!). We invited six PhD candidates from across the country to present their research at ECU. Our commitment to this annual event has been rewarding for both the department and the broader accounting community. Several years ago, Nikki Chappell participated in ARRG and loved ECU so much she came back permanently!

I am proud to share that we are experiencing unprecedented growth in our accounting program. As I am writing this letter, our 2024 fall enrollment for the BSBA is currently 408 students, and for the MSA, it is 116 students. Just three years earlier, we had 306 students in the BSBA and 51 in the MSA. Both of our programs are offered online, and this has contributed to the growth. The MSA program is attracting students from diverse educational backgrounds without any accounting

experience. This growth necessitates continual updates to our curriculum to cover new CPA exam topics and incorporate relevant technology instruction into our BSBA degree.

We have also seen increased alumni support. This past year, we awarded 66 scholarships totaling over \$205,000, up from 52 scholarships and \$121,000 in 2023. Our faculty and students are deeply grateful for your generosity. During Pirate Nation Gives, the Accounting Department received the second-highest amount of donations among all university funds. Alumni support extends beyond financial contributions, with many returning to campus to recruit and encourage prospective students to consider ECU and accounting. Active alumni engagement is vital to our community.

If I could wish for two things, it would be to award every MSA student one semester's tuition and to establish another Professorship for our faculty. If you would like to help with these initiatives, please reach out to me or see the giving information later in the newsletter.

Your accounting faculty love what we do, and we appreciate your continued interest and investment in ECU. Whether you are back on campus or watching the Pirates on TV, please drop us a note and let us know how you are doing. One of our greatest pleasures is sharing in your accomplishments.

Go Pirates,

Cal Christian

Our Alumni Are...*Successful*

Katie Stille Henry (BSBA '05, MSA '05) is an attorney at James, McElroy & Diehl, P.A. devoting her practice to family law matters, including issues of divorce, child custody, child support, spousal support, equitable distribution, domestic violence, alienation of affection and criminal conversation. Katie received her Bachelors and Masters of Science in Accounting from East Carolina University in 2005 and went to work in audit and assurance services at PricewaterhouseCoopers ("PwC") in Charlotte, NC. Later, Katie went to the University of North Carolina School of Law where she received her Juris Doctor. She has been with James, McElroy, and Diehl, P.A. since graduating from law school in 2010. When she is not working, Katie enjoys playing tennis, visiting the beach, and being with her family.



Katie & Jonathan Henry

What do you like best about your current job?

The absolute best part of my job is getting to work closely with my clients on issues that are vitally important to them and their family. It is an honor to be an advocate for my clients. My practice also allows me to work on complex financial cases that leverage my accounting education and experience in a unique way.

How did your experience at ECU prepare you for your career?

I utilize what I learned in the accounting department at ECU nearly every day in my work. Family Law requires a solid understanding of technical accounting and tax principles, and ECU prepared me well. But, maybe more importantly, my experience at ECU prepared me to work in teams, collaborate with more experienced practitioners, and secure a job I love. My professors always had an open door, welcoming questions about classwork, the profession, and the job market.

What advice do you have for today's accounting students?

Trust your instincts and enjoy the experience you gain from all of your career endeavors. My time at ECU and PwC prepared me for law school and my current practice. Each step of the way was important and gave me invaluable experience.

Jonathan Stuart Henry, CPA, CFP® (BS '02, MSA '05, MBA '12) is a Wealth Advisor and Principal at Trust Company of the South. Upon graduation from ECU's MSA program in 2005, Jonathan began his career as a tax associate in the Personal Financial Services group at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Charlotte. After getting introduced to financial planning for tax clients while at PwC, he chose to pursue a full-time career as a financial planner and was hired within Wachovia's Wealth Management group for that role. In 2011, Jonathan joined Trust Company of the South as an associate advisor and, subsequently, Director of Financial Planning, before transitioning into his current role as a lead Wealth Advisor in 2015. He is primarily responsible for providing integrated wealth management counsel and solutions for Trust Company's clients. Outside of the office, Jonathan enjoys being active outdoors, reading, going to the coast, and spending time with Katie and their three children, ages 4, 9, and 11.

What do you like best about your current job?

I recently read that the two biggest issues that cause individuals stress and anxiety over the course of their lifetimes are health and money. At Trust Company, we deliver comprehensive financial planning to our clients that provides them with peace of mind when it comes to their personal finances. Our clients often remark, "I always feel so much better after our meetings," and that is personally gratifying for me, knowing that we are providing complete solutions that simplify their lives and alleviate financial stress.

How did your experience at ECU prepare you for your career?

Being able to directly apply what I learned in class to the tasks I was performing in my first job at PwC, preparing tax returns and working on audits, is what comes to mind first. The accounting courses also helped me prepare for the CPA exam, which has been very beneficial for me throughout my career. The professors were all terrific, but I'm particularly grateful for **Dr. John Reisch**. I spent a lot of time outside of class talking to **Dr. Reisch** about the different career paths that an accounting degree, and a CPA license, could offer. I wouldn't be where I am today without his guidance and advice.

What advice do you have for today's accounting students?

Get to know your professors. Visit them during office hours and introduce yourself. If you have questions about the course material, set up a time to meet with them. Stay engaged during class and raise your hand - be visible. Getting to know my professors during my time at ECU not only helped me understand the material and earn good grades, but it also ultimately helped me land a job offer well before graduation.

Our Alumni Are...*Busy*



Anthony Bechtel

Anthony Bechtel (BSBA '15; MSA '16) is ECU's Student Affairs Divisional Financial Specialist. Anthony will also be teaching a section of COAD1000 in the coming fall semester.

Ava Deann Bullins (MSA '95) has a new position as Corporate Controller at Roush Yates Engines & Roush Yates Manufacturing Solutions in Mooresville, NC.



Taylor Chappell

Taylor Chappell (BSBA '19; MSA '20) served as the commencement speaker for the Arthur School Graduate Recognition Ceremony this spring where she delivered an inspiring speech to graduating MBA and MSA students! Taylor serves as Alumni Advisor to ECU's Beta Alpha Psi chapter and is a recent addition to the ECU Foundation Board as the youngest Foundation Board Member ECU has had. In addition, Taylor was recently promoted to Accounting Supervisor at Vulcraft South Carolina, a division of Nucor Corporation.

Sabrina (Paschall) Cobb (BSBA '16) is currently the Director of Finance/Clinical Administrative Manager for the Department of Internal Medicine at Brody School of Medicine.



Justin DiMascio

Ilesha Carter (BSBA '13; MSA '14) has a new position as a Budget & Management Analyst at Forsyth County Government. Previously, she was their American Rescue Plan Administrator.

Theresa DeCosta (BSBA '11; MSA '13) was recently promoted to Director of External Reporting at Republic Services, located in Phoenix, AZ. In this role, Theresa oversees all SEC filings, 8-Ks, 10-Qs, and 10-Ks, as well as the technical accounting for stock-based compensation, debt, derivatives, leases, pensions, and asset retirement obligations.

Justin DiMascio (BSBA '16) was appointed as the team lead for the Financial Intelligence Collection & Analysis Unit at UBS in Raleigh, NC.

Liz Driver (BSBA '15) started her own bookkeeping company over the last year, Ledgers By Liz. Liz works remotely, focusing on her client base in the Matthews area, just outside of Charlotte.



Kevin Hale

Kevin Hale (BSBA '11; MSA '14) is currently an Assistant Professor of Accounting at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He recently won the *Accounting Horizons* Best Paper Award, awarded by the American Accounting Association!



George Harris

Sherwood Wayne Harp (BSBA '80) retired in June 2023 after 43 years in the banking industry. Congratulations!

George Harris (BSBA '75) has been enjoying retirement for several years after a long accounting career, of which he spent the last 25 years with Ecolab. George credits ECU for giving him a great foundation that led to a very fulfilling and successful career.



Robert Nelson

Camille Hefner (BSBA '11; MSA '13) was recently promoted to Controller for the Intermodal Division at STG Logistics. STG Logistics is North America's largest provider of port-to-door services and supply chain solutions. Camille has also endowed a scholarship at ECU.



Camille Hefner

Cameron Jones (BSBA '18; MBA '19) is currently working as a Senior Accountant at Artemis Wax and is working on the CPA exam!

Robert Nelson (BSBA '14; MSA '15) recently took a new job as the VP of Accounting at Routeware, Inc, a PE backed provider of cloud-based technology solutions for the waste and recycling sector.



Phillip Price

Phillip Price (BSBA '00; MSA '01; EdD '10) started a new position as the Vice President for Business and Finance and Chief Finance Officer of the NC Community College System. Previously, he was with Central Carolina Community College for 10 years, serving as the Vice President of Administrative Affairs and most recently as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Before working in education, he served as an Assistant State Auditor at the NC Office of the State Auditor with a focus on audits of community colleges, universities, and Clerks of Court.



Phillip Price

Rhonda Turner (BSBA '77) retired from New Hanover County Schools in 2022, where she was most recently Director of Special Projects. Rhonda's career began in public accounting, moved to manufacturing accounting, and then she spent the last 10 years in the public school system as an accountant. She now enjoys ECU Baseball season tickets, in addition to ECU Football!

Ugochukwu Umeofia (BSBA '20; MSA '23) started a position with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as an IRS agent in March. Ugo has enjoyed applying the knowledge he gained in ECU's MSA program to this new position and is learning a great deal!

Rhonda Turner

JB Wyatt (BSBA '13; MSA '22) passed all 4 parts of the CPA exam. Congratulations!

If we left you out of this year's updates, please send news you would like to share in next year's newsletter to Dr. Mandi Peterson (petersonam@ecu.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.

Our Alumni Are...*Generous*

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who contributed financially to the success of our accounting students, faculty, and programs. We could not do what we do without your support.

You can make sure your donations benefit accounting students by visiting:
<https://bit.ly/2KWZqAV>

The following is a list of individuals and organizations that contributed at least \$100 to support the Accounting Department during the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. If an individual donated through their organization, they may not be individually listed below.

Tracey Allen	Tyler Lindsey
Steven and Jody Ayers	D. Kirk & Dasha Efird Little
Bank Of America Charitable Gift Fund	Kimberly Mallard
Matt Barfield	Rachele Manansala & Galen Olsen
Tina Barter	Joe McKoy
Shelley Basnight	Christopher McLawhorn
Sequoia and Nicole Borgman	Wesley & Leslie Measamer
Lee and Jessica Bowman	Michelle Miller
Rachel & Brian Brassine *	Patrick Mitchell
Sarah & William Bruce	Robert H. Mitchell, Jr. & Meaghan C. Mitchell
David Bryan	Caroline Montgomery
Leslie Bunch and Jason S. Bunch	Azita Da Movahed and Assad Movahed *
Deborah and Henry Bunn	Tiaria Mulbah
Kani Caldwell	Christine & James Nance
Stephen R. Campbell	David Nance
Russell & Angela Cayton	Lucas Nash
Taylor Chappell	National Christian Foundation
Eugene G. Chewning, Jr.	NC Association of CPAs

Cal Christian & Kay C. Christian *
Andrew Coleman
Lloyd E. Cooper, Jr. & Virginia F. Cooper
Willie & Linda Creech
Karl Deonanan
William & Kathleen Dickenson
Denise Dickins
John & Jennifer Dostert
Edwin A. Doty, Jr. & Carol Doty
Jared & Rachael Edens
Ernst & Young Foundation Matching Program
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Blackmon & Sloop
John R. Futrelle
Davidson Gillette *
Anne & Ronald Gregg
Kenneth M. Gunn, Jr.
William & Kristi Haddock
Meredith Hardison
Blake Harrington
Margaret Mitchell Henry & Edwin L. Henry
Jade Hill
George William Holt, Jr. & Jan Phillips Holt
Ralph M. Howell, III & Angie Howell
Allison Johnson
Jeffrey & Lee Ann Joyner
Michael & Gail Joyner
Christopher Judy
KPMG Foundation
Luther & Kathryn Leonard
Amanda Kay Scarborough
Dan & Debra Schisler *
Douglas Schneider *
Russell E. Sherrod, Jr.
Thomas C. Swanner, Jr. & Pamela K. Swanner
Lowell & Lori Taylor
Terry Ng, CPA, PLLC
Phillip & Susan Tetterton
Thomas Judy & Tucker, PA
Jack Thomas Thompson, Jr. & Debbe Thompson
Samuel & Patricia Townsend
Stacie Tronto *

Robert Nelson
Anthony Cheuk-Shoon Ng & Terry Pritchard Ng
Frederick & Debi Niswander
Mandi & Greg Peterson *
Robert E. Poole, II
William H. Powell, III
Linda & Brandon Quick *
John & Michele Reisch *
Ryan & Angie Rowland
RSM US Foundation
Matthew Rukasuwan
Charles Sams
James & Adria Walker
Andrew & Mackenzie Wasilick
Stephen A. Watson, Jr.
Ashley West
John R. Wiley, Jr. & Katherine D. Wiley
Robert L. Woodruff, Jr. & Kellie Ann Woodruff
Lee & Jan Workman * Jerry Wilson
John Satterfield
Michael Edwards
Angel Trujillo
Lawrence Steven & Lisa Burke
Latrish Davis
Holly Perry
Pam Williams
David Melton
Rachel Beauchamp
Andrea Decuzzi
Jay Motsinger
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
DMJPS, PLLC
Earney & Company, LLP
Frost, PLLC
Hughes, Pittman & Gupton, LLP
Johnson & Lambert
Langdon & Company
Mauldin & Jenkins
Norton, Collar, Lund, Lilley, PLLC
Williams, Overman & Pierce
Wall, Einhorn & Chernitzer
American Online Giving Foundation

* Current accounting faculty

Our Students Are...*Outstanding*



Philycia Carmon

Philycia Carmon is an accounting major graduating in December 2024. She is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma, and Phi Kappa Phi. She also served as Communications Officer for the Student Advocacy and Democracy Initiative (SADI), a student-led organization focusing to promote civic engagement among students and to increase knowledge on local and federal government. In April 2024, she began an internship as an Accounts Payable Intern at ECU within the Financial Services department, aiding in data entry, invoice processing, and reconciliation to accounts payable records. Throughout her time at ECU, Philycia has received various scholarships such as the Garfield Locklair Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Michael Bunting Scholarship, and the David and BJ Fisher Scholarship.

To what or whom do you attribute your success?

My family has always and will continue to be my support system throughout my academic and professional success. They continuously provide me with the motivation and strength to continue onwards during both good and bad times. Specifically, my mother and grandmother are two women who have instilled in me the values and mindset I cherish and still uphold to this day. My mother is the embodiment of hard work and perseverance, who showcased to me how to be resilient and adapt to any obstacles that may come my way. Additionally, my grandmother taught me the importance of leading with kindness, grace, and to treat others the way I want to be treated.

Who at ECU has influenced you the most (Explain how)?

During my time at ECU, I've had the privilege of being guided by professors who not only possess profound knowledge but also extend unwavering support towards me and my ambitions. Specifically, **Dr. Zhan Furner** has been a professor who has influenced my academic journey the most. Dr. Furner is someone who truly cares about her students and their advancement both within and beyond the classroom. While having a very challenging course with difficult material, Dr. Furner consistently put her students first and wanted to see them succeed. Whether it was adjusting her office hours to better fit my schedule or responding to my relentless emails for the tax return project, Dr. Furner exemplifies the significance of having a professor in my one's corner who is genuinely invested in their academic and professional success.

What are your post-graduation plans?

Following graduation, I aim to intern as a tax or audit intern at an accounting firm in Spring 2025, where I can apply the concepts I am learning in the classroom to practical situations. Additionally, in Fall 2025, I plan to continue my education by pursuing a Master of Science in Accounting degree at ECU.



Cole Miller

Cole Miller is an Accounting and Finance major set to graduate in December 2024. He is President of ECU's Student Leadership Board, the Succession Advisor for ECU's Technology Summit, and a regular attendee of several other student organizations. He will be an audit intern at BDO US this summer after completing an internship at the NC Department of Revenue last semester. Cole has received multiple awards for ECU's Technology Summit, recognized for ECU's NACE Career Readiness Competencies Certification, and ECU College of Business Leadership 7 Competencies Certification. Cole has also volunteered his time helping out with multiple ECU College of Business events as a greeter and is currently on his high school's Alumni Leadership Board.

To what or whom do you attribute your success?

I contribute the success I have seen so far to my friends and family. Without their support, I truly would not have been as opportunity driven and passionate about career development.

Who at ECU has influenced you the most (Explain how)?

Although many have influenced me during my time at ECU, **Savanna Pulver** (current student) and **Christian Hill** (BSBA '17) have influenced me the most throughout my time as an undergraduate. They have helped me understand the importance of finding opportunities, responsibilities as a leader, professional development, and self-development.

What are your post-graduation plans?

Following my graduation, I plan to find and complete at least one more internship, obtain a masters degree, and set out on a career as a professional in accounting and finance. I also plan to attend as many seminars, webinars, and conferences as I can to continue expanding my knowledge in accounting, finance, and beyond.

Athletics

Our multi-talented students shine on the field too! Our current student athletes are: **Carter Busse** (Men's Golf); **Ragan Holloman** (Softball); **Payton Hudson** (Softball); **Martina Muzzolon** (Women's Tennis); and **Erik Ritchie** (Baseball). Go Pirates!



Carter Busse



Ragan Holloman



Payton Hudson



Martina Muzzolon



Erik Ritchie

Research

Our Students Are...Active

In the accounting department this year, we have 3 Honors College students that are completing their Signature Honors College Projects: **Connor Bruss; Bryce Herring; and James Vassallo**. These students were mentored by **Dr. John Reisch, Dr. Cal Christian, and Dr. Zhan Furner, respectively**. One requirement of these students is to present their Signature Honors College projects for an audience.



Bryce Herring



Connor Bruss

Connor Bruss and **Bryce Herring** presented their senior Honors College projects at the Society of Business, Industry, and Economics (SOBIE) conference in Destin, Florida in April. **Connor Bruss'** project entitled "Assessing the Impact: Student Perception of Athletic Fees and University Athletics Funding at East Carolina University" was mentored by **Dr. John Reisch**. **Bryce Herring** presented "Beyond the Ledger: Exploring Student Perspectives of Accounting and Investigating the Growing Shortage of Accounting Professionals," which was mentored by **Dr. Cal Christian**.

James Vassallo presented his senior Honors College, "The Role of Accounting Information in the Success of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in North Carolina," to the accounting faculty in April. This project examines what accounting knowledge is lacking in the average SME business owner in NC and how gaps here may hinder the entity's success. The results of this study show a lack of basic accounting knowledge like bookkeeping and financial statement comprehension in these business owners. Furthermore, findings revealed that most business owners studied in this limited sample were not directly involved in the accounting of their business, relying on professional CPAs instead.



James Vassallo

Earlier this year, we had five Honors College Students' Signature Research Projects highlighted in the NCACPA's Spring 2024 Interim Report. These five students (**Jordan Anderson, Madison Cullipher, Noah Fox, Evelyn Gonzalez and Mason Hudnall**) recently graduated with their BSBA and are all pursuing their MSA at ECU. These research papers examined real-world issues from exploring the underrepresentation of Hispanic Students in accounting to investigating fraud in youth sports organizations. Here are the topics explored by these five students:

"Student and Professional Perceptions of CPA Evolution" - Jordan Anderson

"Investor's Perceptions Regarding Fraudulent Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Disclosures" - Madison Cullipher

"Accounting Students' perception vs. Reality of Stress in Accounting" - Noah Fox

"Understanding the Factors Which Influence the Choice to Not Pursue a Career in Accounting Among Hispanic Students" - Evelyn Gonzalez

"Investigating Fraud and Strategies to Decrease Fraud Within Youth Sports Organizations" - Mason Hudnall

Beta Alpha Psi

During the Fall 2023 semester, BAPsi began with a Pledge Kick-off social. During the semester, members heard presentations from EY, KPMG, RSM, Carr, Riggs & Ingram and FORVIS with service activities for NC Support Our Troops and the Williams-Ross Purple Pantry ECU food bank. The Spring 2024 semester started with a virtual Beta Alpha Psi and North Carolina Association of CPA's State Society student night and a Pledge Kick-off social the following week. In subsequent weeks, a presentation was made by Elliot Davis, and an explanation of accounting certifications provided by ECU accounting faculty member Dr. John Reisch. Additional meetings hosted Roedl, a CPA firm from Charlotte, the Institute of Internal Auditors Student Night and Hyster-Yale. A Trivia Night including prizes for students was also held. Service activities included NC Support Our Troops and the Yam Jam at ECU to address food insecurity in the community.



Our Students Are...Recognized

Thirty accounting majors were inducted into the honorary fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi (BAPsi) - Iota Xi Chapter during the 2023/2024 academic year:

Fall 2023: **Zachary Ambrose, Sara Beaman, Jackson Bostic, Kaitlin Carter, Owen Chrisman, Braeden Cooper, Dania Yoselin Hernandez Garcia, Sean Patrick Leahy, Jordan Mercier, Katherine O'Brien, Aseel Sami Qasem, ReQuan MarQuis Sessoms, Colin D Smith, Bailey Autumn Spell, Jantzen Garrett Weathers, Jordan Williams.**

Spring 2024: **Keifer Boyd, Emily Brown, Philycia Alexis Carmon, Hannah Carte, Jessica Casey, Jackson Godwin, Emily Caroline Huey, Hayden Christopher Humphreys, Zakaryah Jaghman, Brandon Lilley, Martina Muzzolon, Evelyn Morales Rosales, Skylar Sustek, James Van Wie.**



The 2024 BAPsi officers are **Jaelyn Woods**, President; **Bailey Spell**, Reporter; **ReQuan Sessoms**, Treasurer; **Mazie Murphy**, Vice President; **Emily Huey**, Vice President; **Skyler Sustek**, Vice President; and **Taylor Chappell**, Alumni Advisor. **Dr. Doug Schneider** has served as faculty advisor for more than 29 years. You can visit the ECU BAPsi Chapter's Facebook page to learn more at: <http://www.facebook.com/ECUBAP>.

The following accounting majors were newly inducted into the honorary business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, during the 2023/2024 academic year:

Fall 2023: **Mason Adamof; Andrew Allen; Phu Aung; Keifer Boyd; Zainah Brady; Philycia Carmon; Anna Grantham; Emily Huey; Brandon Lilley; Kaitlyn McCraw; Martina Muzzolon; Carson Nance (MSA); David Perdrisat; and Ami Tazawa.**



Spring 2024: **Hayley Banner; Allison Carlyle (MSA); Grace DeNoia; Olivia Elgin (MSA); Andrea LeEds; and Makayla Wallace.**



Emily Huey



Zachary Watford



Bryce Herring



Mazie Murphy



Jaelyn Woods

With your help, this year we were able to award 66 scholarships totaling \$205,350! The recipients include: **Sara Daughtry and Bryce Herring**, each awarded a \$15,000 Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) scholarship; **Megan Duhig**, recipient of the \$10,000 Zeke Sigler Memorial Scholarship; **Emily Huey and James Vassallo**, each awarded a \$10,000 MSA Scholars' Fund Scholarship; **Anna King**, recipient of the \$7,500 McAdams Scholarship; **Mazie Murphy**, recipient of the \$7,500 Rebecca Fay Memorial Scholarship; **Zachary Watford and Jaelyn Woods**, each awarded a \$7,500 NCACPA scholarship; and **Hayden Humphreys**, recipient of the \$5,000 Elizabeth & Kenneth Schneider Scholarship. The Rebecca Fay Memorial Scholarship and Zeke Sigler Memorial Scholarship are awarded annually with funds raised through a partnership with the NCACPA. In addition, we were able to award 16 additional NCACPA scholarships, varying in amounts, through this partnership to the following students: **Zachary Ambrose; Phu Aung; Jacob Bourbeau; Dalton Davis; Chloe Deschamps; Melal Deso; Ashlynn Dodge; Kaylin Feliciani; Nathan Ferreira; Gray Godley; Kaitlyn King; Andriana Mahairas; Hau Nguyen; Marcus Ouvry; A.J. Pridgen; and Bailey Spell.**



Sara Daughtry

Other accounting students receiving ECU scholarships this year include: **Kehinde Akinola; Angie Alcantar; Heather Aldridge; Mohammed Alhassan; Hayley Barber; Rolando Bonilla; Keifer Boyd; Emily Brown; Mason Byrum; Philycia Carmon; Hannah Carte; Angel Chestnut; Taylor Cooper; Katie Council; Peyton Cowin; Edwin De Jesus; Grace DeNoia; Liley Flanagan; Jackson Godwin; Anna Grantham; Christian Gunter; Kendall Hough; Zakaryah Jaghman; Maggie Jones; Jaden Jones; Jordan Mercier; Karen Nwanedo; Bailey Ryan; Liliana Sanchez; ReQuan Sessoms; Jackson Shulmistra; Lindsay Summerlin; Christian Walter; and Loren Willifor.**

We also had several students receive National and Regional Scholarships. Mason Hudnall received an AICPA Legacy Scholarship while **Evelyn Gonzalez, Bryce Herring, Mason Hudnall and David Perdrisat** received NC CPA Foundation Scholarships.



David Perdrisat



Evelyn Morales Rosales



Jaelyn Woods

David Perdrisat was recognized at this year's Creed Awards Ceremony, which recognizes students, faculty and staff members who are nominated by their peers and selected for categories related to the ECU Creed: integrity, diversity, responsibility and citizenship. David won the Creed Award for citizenship. Congratulations, **David!**

Evelyn Morales Rosales was recognized by the Accounting Department as this year's Howard Award recipient. The Howard Award recognizes successful students who overcome great obstacles. Evelyn gave birth to her second daughter on May 1st during finals week and still walked during graduation on May 3rd. We are very proud of her!

Jaelyn Woods was not only recognized by the Accounting Department as this year's Outstanding Senior, but she also received the Excellence in Student Leadership Award, sponsored by the Truist Leadership Center, for her commitment to service. Furthermore, Jaelyn was recognized at the First-Gen Graduation Celebration as a first-generation graduate. Way to go on all counts, **Jaelyn!**

Our Students Are...*Sought-after*

Accounting students receiving internships this year include: **Zainah Alizade** at EY (summer); **Jordan Anderson** at EY (winter); **Jackson Bostic** at Grady-White (summer); **Beatrice May Carter** at RSM Charlotte (summer); **Chloe Deschamps** at EisnerAmper (summer); **Melal Deso** at CEMEX (summer); **Connor Gorlesky** at Cherry Bekaert (summer); **Lindsay Hedrick** at Forvis Mazars (spring/summer); **Emily Huey** at Sykes & Company, PA (summer); **Moh Moayed Javid** at The Baumgardner Group (spring/summer); **Cole Miller** at BDO US (summer); **Martina Muzzolon** at Rödl & Partner (summer); **Samuel Olivares** (fall/spring) at ECU Internal Audit; **Tyler Peacock**

at PwC (winter); **Melissa Peaks** at Wesley M Measamer CPA PA (spring); **Skylar Sustek** at with Monday & Monday, CPA (spring/summer); **Seth Wade** at BSB - CPA and Business Advisors (summer); **Hannah Walker** at TRP Sumner (summer); **Jaelyn Woods** at the Office of the NC State Auditor (summer); Alexa Williams at Michael V. Joyner & Co., CPA, PA (fall/spring/summer); and **Trinidad Martinez Zarco** at Johnson Lambert LLP (summer).

ECU welcomed accounting firms from across the region for our annual Meet the Firms event where students and firms can meet and discuss future opportunities for internships and full-time positions. The firms that participated this year were: BGW; Blackmon & Sloop; Carr, Riggs & Ingram; CliftonLarsonAllen; Cherry Bekaert; DMJPS; Earney & Company; Elliott Davis; EY; Frost, PLLC; Forvis; Global Tax MGMT; Hughes Pittman & Gupton; IRS; Johnson Lambert LLP; KPMG; Langdon & Company; Mauldin & Jenkins; Myers and Stauffer; Mitchell & Nemitz; NC State Auditor; Norton Collar Lund Lilley; PBMares; PwC; RSM; TJT; VA Auditor of Public Records; Wall Einhorn & Chernitzer; and Williams Overman Pierce.



Our Faculty Are... *Research-Focused*

ECU Accounting faculty members continue to be in the top 20% of the country for the number of Accounting cases published in totality, and in the top 30% over the last 12 years and in the last 6 years ([source](#)).

Dr. Cal Christian updated his CPE courses “North Carolina Accountancy Law: Ethics, Principles & Professional Responsibilities,” and “North Carolina Professional Ethics.” Since 2010, the accounting faculty has teamed with the NCACPA to offer online ethics courses. Through this partnership, a percentage of the revenue generated benefits ECU students enrolled in our MSA program that plan to pursue a career in public accounting.

Dr. Davidson Gillette and **Dr. Doug Schneider** co-authored, “Roth Distributions and Tax Avoidance on Social Security Benefits and Medicare Premiums,” in the Journal of Financial Service Professionals (July 2024).

Dr. Davidson Gillette, along with co-authors, also has two accepted articles forthcoming in the ATA Journal of Legal Tax Research, “A Critical Analysis of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax,” and, “Fill in the Blank? A Discussion of Prefilled Tax Returns in the U.S.” Dr. Gillette was also quoted in a *Washington Post* article ([link](#)) on prefilled tax returns, titled, “The IRS has all our tax data. Why doesn’t its new website use it?”

Dr. Anna Johnson, along with co-authors, has two articles forthcoming: “Decision Making by Expert Reviewers in Auditing” in the Coastal Business Journal and “Towards Auditing Firm Success: Factors That Reduce Auditors’ Intention to Leave” in the Journal of Leadership Accountability and Ethics.

Dr. Mark McCarthy and **Dr. Doug Schneider** published, "Accounting Standards Codification 326: Three Years of Expected Credit Loss Reporting," in the January/February issue of The CPA Journal.

Dr. Mandi Peterson was selected as a Bureau of Business Research (BBR) Sponsored Activities Fellow this spring. This is the pilot year of this program in which interested faculty members submitted research proposals and then attend various workshops to learn to tailor these proposals toward sponsored research. The goal of the program is to encourage and educate faculty to apply for funded research opportunities.

Dr. John Reisch presented, "DEI Case Studies for Use in Accounting Courses," at the American Accounting Association's Teaching, Learning and Curriculum conference in Bethesda, MD in October. The paper is co-authored with **Dr. Mandi Peterson** and Dr. Phebian Davis-Culler from Clemson University and offers case studies focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion considerations in the accounting profession that can be introduced and addressed in the classroom. **Dr. Reisch** also presented "Investigating Fraud at Tri-County Auto: A Case Study" at the SOBIE conference in April. This manuscript is co-authored with **Dr. Dennis O'Reilly** and **Lynn Cale** (BSBA '98; MBA '00).

Dr. Dan Schisler and **Dr. Rick Niswander** (ECU retired) are co-authors of the tax textbook, "Fundamentals of Taxation," published by McGraw Hill. The book is in the 17th edition with the 18th edition expected to be published in December 2024. **Dr. Schisler** and **Dr. Niswander** are responsible for nine of the 15 chapters and overall editorial issues.

Our Faculty Are...*Service-Focused*

Our accounting faculty members continue to help advance the missions of various professional accounting associations and other organizations that are important to them. Here are a few examples:



Our accounting faculty members volunteer with Greenville's Community Crossroads Center several times each year. Started in conjunction with the Student Accounting Society nearly thirty years ago, the accounting faculty provide meals several times a year. This service project involves purchasing, preparing, and serving food to those in need. In addition, our faculty has volunteered with Beast Philanthropy throughout the year.

Dr. Cal Christian continues to present ethics classes on behalf of the NCACPA (40 online and in-person classes over the year!), earning royalties to be contributed to ECU. **Dr. Christian** also represents the entire ECU faculty in welcoming approximately 4,000 freshmen and their parents to ECU during the ten new student orientation sessions each summer.

In addition, **Dr. Christian** has served as ECU's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) for 9 years. The FAR is recognized as the representative of the University and its faculty in the relationship between the NCAA and the ECU campus. This year he will be serving a two-year term as the Chair of the American Athletic Conference FARs.

Dr. Dennis O'Reilly and **Dr. Linda Quick** represented the College of Business on Faculty Senate this year. In April 2024, **Dr. Quick** completed her term, and **Dr. Zhan Furner** and **Dr. Mandi Peterson** were elected to serve the following term. The Accounting Department now holds three of four College of Business seats.

Dr. Mandi Peterson is the Education Chair for the American Accounting Association's Government and Nonprofit Section and organizes an education panel each year for the section's midyear meeting. In addition, **Dr. Peterson** is on the Board of Directors and Finance Committee of the Ronald McDonald House Chapter - Eastern North Carolina (RMHC-ENC).

Ms. Debra Schisler became a board member of the Crystal Coast Hospice House in the spring, and she also serves on their Finance Committee. Crystal Coast provides a warm and supportive environment for terminally ill hospice patients of the Crystal Coast in NC.

Dr. Doug Schneider has served as Faculty Advisor and Treasurer of the Alpha Delta Pi House Corp. for over 30 years and he spent time this year reviewing Panhellenic scholarship applications. In addition, **Dr. Schneider** and **Dr. Linda Quick** reviewed MSA and Accounting applications for College of Business scholarships. Furthermore, **Dr. Schneider** coordinated at ECU a CPA Exam Research Test in the Fall 2023 semester where the AICPA Examinations Team assessed test-takers ability to use spreadsheets when completing simulations and provide valuable insights into how candidates might use spreadsheet functionality to analyze data beyond standard math and financial formulae.

Our Faculty Are...Recognized

In honor of his impact on her, **Dr. Doug Schneider** was invited to the First-Gen Graduation Celebration this year by **Jaelyn Woods**, first generation student from Pennsylvania, President of BAPsi and Outstanding Senior. At the ceremony, **Dr. Schneider** presented Jaelyn with a "First Gen" stole for graduation. According to Jaelyn, she invited **Dr. Schneider** to present the stole because of the great impact he made on her during her time at ECU. Our department is very grateful for **Dr. Schneider's** consistent commitment to his students!



The Arthur School completed their inaugural Teaching Fellowship cohort this year, of which **Dr. Dennis O'Reilly** was a part. The Arthur Teaching Fellows are expected to research, train, adopt, implement, and deploy innovative learning techniques or other pedagogical innovation in their graduate teaching and share applicable knowledge with others in the College of Business. According to **Dr. Linda Quick**, "The Thomas D. Arthur Teaching Fellowship is intended to recognize and encourage a continued commitment to excellence and innovation in graduate teaching and instruction." **Dr. Mandi Peterson** was selected this spring as one of the coming year's Arthur Teaching Fellows.

Dr. John Reisch won the university's Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award for his work with nine honors college students over the years! This award was presented at the Honor's College Medallion Ceremony in April. **Dr. Reisch** has spent a great deal of time and energy working with the Honors College students and has served as a faculty mentor to many students over his tenure with ECU. We are very grateful for all his efforts!

The inaugural cohort of the Arthur Immersive MBA completed their program this year, of which **Dr. Mandi Peterson** is a faculty member. The Arthur IMBA is an accelerated pathway through the school's MBA program which culminates in a professional, immersive experience with a regional company that has a national or international footprint.



Dr. Doug Schneider was selected as a Marshal by the BSBA students at the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 College of Business Commencement Ceremony. At the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Arthur School Graduate Recognition Ceremony, **Dr. Mark McCarthy** was selected as Marshal by the MSA students, and **Dr. Dan Schisler** and **Dr. John Reisch** as Hooders. **Dr. Mandi Peterson** was selected as a Marshal at the Spring 2024 Graduate Recognition Ceremony by the MBA students.



The Department of Accounting hosted its sixth annual Accounting Research Roundtable Gathering (ARRG!) this year. Six accounting doctoral students presented their research ideas in an informal format much like a roundtable discussion. Ph.D. candidates represented Texas Tech University, Florida Atlantic University, University of Tennessee, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, and University of Mississippi.



ECU has been ranked #23 on the list of Best Online Bachelor Degree Programs in Accounting released by Best Accredited Colleges (BAC)! BAC considers hundreds of institutions across the country and ranked ECU using data around financial aid awards, the quality of education, faculty, campus resources, and more ([source](#)).

This year we said goodbye to a beloved faculty member - **Dr. Rachel Brassine**. **Dr. Brassine** completed her DBA in Accounting from Marshall University this spring, and she has accepted a faculty position at Virginia Tech. **Dr. Brassine** has been an integral part of our department for years, and she will be missed. We are so proud of her and excited for her future at VT!



Dr. Rachel Brassine



Dr. Nikki Chappell

We are excited to announce that **Dr. Nikki Chappell** is joining the accounting faculty in fall 2024! Dr. Chappell recently completed her PhD at Florida State University after spending over 20 years in accounting practice, primarily with financial services companies and auditing firms. Welcome to ECU, **Dr. Chappell!**