FROM THE CHAIR

With this edition of our newsletter, it is my pleasure to share our accomplishments and find ways to continually improve our national reputation. We work hard to educate a well-rounded student and such is evidenced by:

• the strong demand for our majors.
• feedback from alumni about leadership roles they are taking on in the workplace and how their Villanova education helped get them there.
• the continued momentum over the last five years to attract prestigious faculty.
• our exceptional rankings. Recently, VSB was ranked #1 for Undergraduate Accounting Professionals by LinkedIn University Ranking and #9 in the Top 10 U.S. Colleges for an Accounting Degree by USA Today.

And still, we strive to improve and find new and better ways to continue this momentum.

In this issue, we highlight the many awards and accomplishments of our students. The most prestigious are the Bartley Medallion Awards, which are given to the most outstanding students for each discipline during the graduation ceremonies. Helen Lin of Accounting and Marc LePrince of MIS were the selected recipients for this past academic year. We also recognize more of our best and brightest who have received other awards and scholarships.

This issue also provides updates on the accounting advisory board. I want to personally thank Bob Mulhall ’80 VSB of EY and Laura Iacona ’96 VSB for their efforts while serving on this board and the different ways they worked to benefit both students and faculty. Bob will continue to share his talents as a new member of the Dean’s Advisory Council.

At the end of the day, these successes would not be possible without the support from our friends, so thank you for all your help. I must also thank our students for continuing to inspire us in ways that make us better each passing year. I hope you take the time to read and enjoy this newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, please be sure to contact me.

Best Regards,

Michael F. Peters, PhD
Chair, Department of Accountancy & Information Systems
Villanova School of Business

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Undergraduate Accounting Professionals
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NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brendan Cox

Brendan Cox ’92 VSB is a Partner and serves as a Revenue Recognition Leader for Tax in EY’s Northeast Region. Federal Tax Practice, with over 20 years’ experience as a tax professional and 13 years of specialized federal tax planning experience. He also serves the EY Center for Tax Policy (CTP), where he focuses on tax policy issues and provides guidance on legislative procedure, modeling and planning.

He has spent substantial time working with clients in the pharmaceuticals, life sciences, manufacturing, consumer products, retail, media, telecommunications, computer software, and utilities industries. Because of this experience, he is frequently asked to speak on federal tax matters and has addressed the Tax Executive Institute, internal EY education programs and client seminars.

Brendan holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Villanova University and an MBA from the University of Notre Dame. He is licensed by the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey as a Certified Public Accountant.

David Burns

Villanova Accounting Advisory Council welcomed David M. Burns in the fall of 2014. Burns is an audit partner and the Local Practice Leader of Financial Services in the Philadelphia’s Grant Thornton office and leads the office’s Private Equity Group. With more than 25 years of experience providing professional services to the financial services industry, he specializes in regulations and compliance issues affecting public companies, mortgage and equity REITs, investment partnerships, private equity, registered investment advisors, real estate operations, specialty finance companies, broker-dealers and banking as well as initial and secondary public offerings, mergers and acquisitions.

Burns is an active member of the Association for Corporate Growth, Banker Member, Inc., NJ Bankers Association, PA Bankers Association, Financial Managers Society and the American and Pennsylvania Institutes of Certified Public Accountants. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in accounting from Loyola College.
STUDENT FEATURES

BASF Scholarships
This past spring, representatives from BASF presented $2,500 BASF Academic Excellence Scholarships to Elizabeth “Liz” Anne Suizzo ’17 VSB and Julia Roop ’16 VSB. Students considered for this scholarship must be a sophomore or junior majoring in Accounting with a GPA of 3.2 or above, and have an interest in pursuing a career in corporate accounting.

From Orlando, Fla., Liz is majoring in Accounting and MIS with minors in International Business and Business Analytics. She is actively involved in several student groups on campus such as VSB Ambassadors, the Multicultural Business Association, and MIS Society. She also tutors at the Center for Multicultural Affairs and is a current sister and former secretary of Sigma Psi Zeta. Liz has recently worked on a consultancy project with an Italian company through VSB’s Business and Culture in the Italian Context (BCIC) study abroad program in Urbino, Italy. This summer, she is interning at BASF in Florkham Park, N.J.

Julia is a dedicated student and active member of the Villanova community. She is the former vice president of finance for her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, a peer tutor, and a member of Gamma Kappa Alpha, Beta Alpha Psi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Order of Omega and the National Society of College Scholars. Julia has completed an auditing internship with KPMG New York and KPMG Singapore and is currently interning through the PDP program in Corporate Accounting at BASF, Florkham Park, N.J. Originally from Madison, N.J., she will graduate in May 2016 with a double degree in Accounting and Real Estate and a minor in Italian Language.

TEI Scholarship
Established by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Tax Executives Institute, Inc., the TEI Scholarship is awarded to a high-achieving rising senior with an interest in pursuing a career in taxation. Nestor Zavala Bedolla ’16 VSB from Parkesburg, Pa., was selected as the recipient of a $2,000 TEI Scholarship.

Triple-majoring in Accounting, Finance, and MIS, Nestor serves as president of the Business and Leadership Society, vice president of the Student Leadership Advisory Council, and a mentor for the Leadership Academy. He is also a member of the Accounting Society, MIS Society, Campus Activities Team, and the indoor and outdoor intramural soccer team. Along with his involvement at Villanova, Nestor is interning with EY as a tax intern in Philadelphia this summer.

Barlty Medalion Winners

The Bartley Medalion, named after Rev. Joseph C. Bartley, OSA, PhD, STL, founding dean of the Villanova School of Business, is awarded annually by the faculty of the school in recognition of outstanding achievement in a specific discipline. It is the highest distinction the school can bestow upon a graduating student. In recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of Information Management, and her leadership potential, PHISIM’s mission is to connect leaders in Information Technology with the community by funding scholarships to students at the local Philadelphia universities who are pursuing degrees in the IT discipline.

From Broomall, Pa., Jeanette is double-majoring in Management Information Systems (MIS) and Finance, with a minor in Business Analytics. An active member of VSB, she has an interest in pursuing a career in accounting.

The Philadelphia Philanthropic Society for Information Management Foundation (PHISIM) awarded Jeanette Ding ’16 VSB a Student Achievement Award for her excellence in the classroom, her pursuit of a career in the field of information management, and her leadership potential. PHISIM’s mission is to connect leaders in Information Technology with the community by funding scholarships to students at the local Philadelphia universities who are pursuing degrees in the IT discipline.

From Brossail, Pa., Jeanette is double-majoring in Management Information Systems (MIS) and Finance, with a minor in Business Analytics. An active member of VSB, she has been accepted into the accounting program at Villanova College and has completed an auditing internship with KPMG.

PHISIM Student Achievement Award

The Philadelphia Philanthropic Society for Information Management Foundation (PHISIM) awarded Jeanette Ding ’16 VSB a Student Achievement Award for her excellence in the classroom, her pursuit of a career in the field of information management, and her leadership potential. PHISIM’s mission is to connect leaders in Information Technology with the community by funding scholarships to students at the local Philadelphia universities who are pursuing degrees in the IT discipline.

From Brossail, Pa., Jeanette is double-majoring in Management Information Systems (MIS) and Finance, with a minor in Business Analytics. An active member of VSB, she has an interest in pursuing a career in accounting.

treasurer of the Accounting Society during her junior year. In addition, she is a member of the Women in Business Society and has participated in Villanova’s Day of Service every year. She also works in the VSB Office of Communication and Marketing as a website and marketing assistant. Jeanette participated in the inaugural Global Citizens Program in Singapore during her spring semester freshman year where she interned with KPMG in its audit practice. The following summer, she interned at SAP Americas in its Mission Central Center. This summer, Jeanette accepted an intern position with Deloitte Consulting in its technology consulting practice in Philadelphia.

PICPA Most Outstanding Student

Mara Picca ’16 VSB from South River, N.J., was recognized as this year’s PICPA (Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants) Most Outstanding Student. A recent cum laude graduate, Picca majored in Accounting and Management Information Systems and minored in Real Estate, Business Law, and Business Analytics. During her four years at Villanova, she was actively involved on campus serving as president of the Accounting Society, a teaching assistant for the Accounting Department, a student leader on the Dean’s Student Advisory Council and a VSB peer tutor. She participated in the EY Emerging Leaders Program, the Deloitte Tax Mentor Program, the KPMG Fast Forward Program, and BASF’s rotational accounting internship. After graduation, she accepted a full-time position as a Real Estate Federal Tax Associate at KPMG in New York.

Jennifer L. Kane Scholarship

The Jennifer L. Kane Endowed University Scholarship at Villanova, named after Jennifer L. Kane ‘97 VSB, is awarded to a accomplished female accounting student who possesses the qualities that Jennifer exemplified. A CPA employed by Marsh & McLennan on the 100th floor of the north World Trade Tower, Jennifer lost her life on September 11, 2001. Jennifer believed in the importance of traditional values as well as a strong academic and professional work ethic. The 2015 recipient of the two-year scholarship is Stephanie Pastena ’16 VSB of Chatham, N.J. An Accounting and Finance double major who hopes to pursue a career in public accounting, Stephanie has participated in several leadership programs including PwC National Leadership Conference, EY Emerging Leaders Program and KPMG Discover Program, and interned at Constellation Wealth Advisors. Stephanie serves as the current president of the Villanova Ambassadors and the co-president of the VSB Peer Advisors Program. This summer, she accepted an internship in the Private Client Services Assurance practice in the Florham Park, N.J. office of PwC.

SIM Future Leader Award

Karl Li ’16 VSB was awarded the Society for Information Management (SIM) Future Leader Award for outstanding achievement and potential for leadership in the Information Systems field. SIM is a not-for-profit professional association comprised of Information Technology leaders including CIO’s, CTO’s, Directors and other key professionals within the technology community. With over 3,000 members and 31 chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada, SIM is the premier society for IT executives focused on networking, leadership, and education.

Born in Pingshu, China and raised in Hickssen, Del. Karl recently graduated with a double degree in MIS and Finance and minors in Business Analytics and Chinese. He has demonstrated significant leadership through competitions, school involvement, and summer work experience during his time at VSB. In the 2013-2014 academic year, Karl served as president of the Villanova MIS Society where he initiated a series of emerging technology workshops, hosted several guest speakers, and helped organize site-visits to local businesses. For these efforts, the MIS Society was awarded Villanova’s Business Society of the Year. Karl was also a resident assistant to over 50 student residents, and led his mobile application development team to first place in Villanova’s Mobile Application Competition. Karl’s internships included Vanguard, the microfinance company HOPE International, and the Technology-to-Business incubator division of Siemens Shanghai.

This summer, he is working for a small software company near Oakland, Calif., and will join Deloitte Consulting in Philadelphia as a business technology analyst this fall.
A Visit to Pepperidge Farm

Most college students believe their days of riding a yellow school bus are long behind them, but that was not the case for several dozen auditing students this past April when they traveled to Denver, Pa., to tour a Pepperidge Farm plant with Assistant Professor Denise Downey, PhD, ’05 VSB, ’08 MA. Campbell’s Soup Company owns Pepperidge Farm, and Campbell’s senior managers Thomas Brady and William Mclndoe ’96 VSB were instrumental in facilitating the trip. Once onsite, Plant Controller Barry Bentini and several members of the management team in Denver, as well as Campbell’s Soup internal auditor, introduced students to the world of “bakery and biscuits.”

After receiving an overview of the facility, output, and demand, each member of management took a small group of students on a tour of the plant. Students watched as Goldfish® crackers came out of ovens and were sent along to be “flavor blasted” or mixed with other shapes. They closely observed how raw materials enter the production process, watched the packaging of Milano cookies, and learned about the facility’s soft-baked cookie line. Through each phase of the tour students gained a greater appreciation for internal controls over inventory and production, particularly automated controls that are often difficult to visualize in the classroom. And if the tour and hands-on education weren’t enough, Pepperidge Farm graciously sent students home with some tasty treats from the Company store.