Every year during graduation our department takes great pride in watching our students transform into professionals. We see how confidently they move from Villanova to the working world and graduate school. We rest assured that they are well prepared to tackle the challenges that await them.

To that end, the Department of Accountancy & Information Systems (AIS) has put a great deal of energy into revamping its curriculum to make it as relevant as possible. In this edition of our newsletter, I'd like to highlight the intermediate accounting sequence—which we call the Business Activities Model (BAM)—a critical part of our program.

BAM is a two-semester case that tracks one company each year during seven fiscal years. It focuses on student-led learning, teamwork, and the continual reinforcement of sound principles and practice.

BAM organizes students into teams who are charged to investigate and resolve the accounting issues that arise during each of the seven fiscal years studied. Students present recommendations to the firm, creditor, or superior—roles played by the professor. In each of the seven fiscal years, new accounting concepts are introduced and ones previously studied are reinforced. Students then learn how to apply these lessons to new situations. This fulfills a major goal of our program: making knowledge transferable. And the emphasis on student-led learning and teamwork reflects a typical work setting, preparing students to smoothly transition to the professional world.

Most alumni, even those who initially struggled with the challenges of BAM, tell us that the sequence provided stellar training. They were forced to learn independently, improvise, and work in an unstructured environment. BAM, they report, builds professional character, just as we had intended.

The department has other good news to share. Approximately 40 students have enrolled in VSB’s Master of Accountancy (MAC) program, a testament to the time we have spent developing the MAC curriculum and making the program more flexible for students. This year’s class is an exceptional group, joining us from undergraduate institutions including Villanova, University of Michigan, and Penn State University, with an average GPA of 3.5. They can earn the bulk of their courses in one summer and, with proper planning, can be “150-ready” the summer after their senior year.

Read on in the newsletter for more AIS successes. We share our placement record for graduating students, introduce you to the Villanova Accounting Society, and show off our latest (and numerous) award winners. As always, we welcome any ideas and suggestions, so please contact me at any time.

Have a wonderful summer.

Michael Peters, PhD
Chair, Accountancy & Information Systems
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The Philadelphia Business Journal’s 2010 “40 Under 40” awards were presented this spring to the region’s top business leaders. The twentieth annual event honors up-and-coming leaders who make Philadelphia a better place to live and do business. Villanova School of Business graduates Scott King VSB ’92 and Kristina Parker VSB ’94 received top honors from the journal for their work in the accounting industry.

Since graduating cum laude from the Villanova School of Business and building his career at Deloitte and Touche LLP, Scott King’s workplace philosophy has remained the same. “It’s simple,” he says, “treat your employees and colleagues with respect and honesty.” King believes he’s only as successful as his team. “So I strive to be a role model and mentor for everyone I come into contact with at Deloitte. I’ve stayed with the firm for 17 years primarily because of the relationships I’ve made at every level.”

King also brings his relationship-building skills to the larger community. He has a passion for community work, is involved with many of Deloitte’s community-focused activities, including the firm’s annual day of volunteerism and the company’s United Way campaign. Through recruitment efforts and work with VSB students, King helps his firm identify the next generation of top talent. He is actively involved in VSB’s student accounting society, and can often be found on Villanova’s campus working with the group or serving as a guest lecturer in a VSB class.

Scott King VSB ’92 and Kristina Parker VSB ’94
Honored as Philadelphia’s Top “40 Under 40”

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King shares the “40 Under 40” honor with Kristina Parker, an audit-partner in the investment management practice of KPMG LLP’s Philadelphia office with over 16 years of public accounting experience. “As a female partner, I see great opportunities in mentoring young women and cultivating their career paths,” says Parker. To this end, she was instrumental in creating a networking series in KPMG’s Philadelphia office that connects young women in the company to women who have already achieved corporate success. She also helps lead the Philadelphia chapter of KPMG’s Network of Women (KNOW).

As one of the firm’s lead recruiters for VSB, Parker has successfully brought top students to KPMG for internships and full-time employment. She remains active on Villanova’s campus, serving as a guest lecturer for several MBA classes and for five years as president of Villanova’s Chester County alumni chapter which earned her the Villanova University Alumni Leadership Award in 1998.

King and Parker were profiled in the special “40 Under 40” edition of the Philadelphia Business Journal published on May 7. VSB’s Department of Accountancy & Information Systems congratulates them for their outstanding achievements.
I have always known that I would someday want to work internationally, but I never imagined having such an opportunity before I graduated. Yet, as a junior accounting major, I recently wrapped up a Spring Accounting Internship (SAI) with KPMG LLP. My experience with the firm in Philadelphia was wonderful, but the internship surpassed my expectations when it went global. After an intensive selection process, I was chosen to be part of KPMG’s Global Internship Program. I was surprised, excited, and nervous. The program allows interns to work internationally through two KPMG member firms. This winter six interns from around the United States were chosen. I was to spend a month in Singapore.

While in Singapore, I interned in the U.S. GAAP unit and worked on two Fortune 500 Company engagements. On both teams I had some client interaction and my assigned tasks were often similar to those given to interns in the U.S. I noticed the differences between the U.S. and Singapore firms, and gained a better understanding and appreciation of the audit process, business practices, and reporting between countries. I was also able to familiarize myself with KPMG’s global culture.

Arriving in Singapore with only two weeks of audit experience, much of my technical success can be attributed to the strong accounting foundation I received at VSB. I believe that even more crucial to my success in Singapore were the interpersonal skills that VSB emphasizes with group work, presentations, and networking events. During my short time at KPMG Singapore I met, worked, and socialized with professionals of all levels and nationalities, from interns to partners. Singapore is heavily influenced by Chinese culture, but I was also conversing with Malaysians, Filipinos, Indians, Indonesians, Aussies, Kiwis, British, and Americans.

I relished the opportunity to live and work in another nation, as opposed to visiting as a tourist. Still, I made time for as much sight-seeing as I could. I took the subway to work, and, at the urging of my co-workers, tried foods such as stingray and chicken rice. In the evenings I enjoyed KPMG events, including paintball. During weekends, I played tourist, wandering around Chinatown, enjoying the theater, and taking a ferry to the Indonesian island of Batam.

This incredible global experience and exposure to a different culture would not have been possible without the solid preparation I received at VSB. For this I would like to thank all VSB faculty and alumni who encourage and support students to test their skills in new ways. My advice to other VSB students: take advantage of all opportunities presented to you and don’t be afraid to go global!

**Villanova Accounting Society**

VSB students looking for an enjoyable way to boost their opportunities in the working world have a place to rub shoulders with the professionals. The Villanova Accounting Society is a student-run organization that brings firms and students together at bi-weekly events. Upperclassmen can attest to the powers of networking through the society, and the proof is in the internships and jobs they secure. Through the society, students often come to know accounting professionals on a first-name basis, and learn the culture of these firms well before it’s time to interview. The goal is familiarity with the accountancy world before joining it as a professional.

During the Spring 2010 semester, the society aimed to show accounting majors attractive career options they may not have considered. The society’s executive board showcased a variety of job opportunities at smaller public and private firms. In the fall, the board will continue its campaign to educate students about the broad range of job opportunities available to them.
Student Awards & 2010 Bartley Medallion Recipients

Society for Information Management Future Leader Award
Presented to Arushi Goel VSB ‘10

Arushi Goel has been awarded the Society for Information Management (SIM) Future Leader Award for outstanding achievement and potential for leadership in information systems. Goel graduated with a double major in MIS and management, and a minor in business law. She was a summer scholar with Deloitte and Touche LLP, and an intern with Educational Testing Services. Goel will work at Deloitte Consulting LLP as a business technology analyst.

Brianna Ipjian VSB ’10 Selected as the 2010 Bartley Medallion Winner for Accountancy

Brianna Ipjian’s many roles at Villanova included coxswain and captain of the varsity women’s rowing team, campus ambassador for Ernst & Young, and head of the student government’s external affairs group, which works to establish a positive relationship between the university and its surrounding communities. Ipjian interned with Ernst & Young in Philadelphia and also served as a constituent services intern for U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. She will work for Ernst & Young in Philadelphia.

The Bartley Medallion for MIS
Goes to Eric Borun VSB ’10

Eric Borun belongs to the Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, and Gamma Phi honor societies, and studied in the honors program since he came to the Villanova School of Business. Each summer he worked at Finnerty Economic Consulting, a New York-based consulting firm, as a research intern and research assistant. He served as webmaster for Gamma Phi Honor Society and the Villanova Curling Club, and was the coordinator of the Villanova Pastoral Music and Select Ensemble. A double major in accounting and MIS, Borun was also an active member of the Villanova Accounting Society. He will begin working this summer as a business technology analyst with Deloitte Consulting LLP.

Dean James Danko and Professor Michael Peters met with VSB alumni of Deloitte and Touche LLP in New York City on January 22 to identify partnership opportunities between the firm and the business school.

Pictured left to right: John Doyle VSB ’83, Michael Peters, Chair, Department of Accountancy & Information Systems, Robert McNeil VSB ’88, Erin Scanlon VSB ’86, William Bacic VSB ’78, Scott King VSB ’92, Michael Malloy VSB ’89, Andrew Hickey VSB ’93, James Danko, The Helen and William O’Toole Dean of the Villanova School of Business.

Katelyn Fanto VSB ’10 Recognized as PICPA’s 2010 Outstanding Student

Katelyn Fanto has been recognized as this year’s PICPA (Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants) Outstanding Student. Fanto was involved in numerous activities during her time at Villanova, including her service as president of the Villanova Accounting Society and treasurer of Chi Omega Sorority. She interned with both Johnson & Johnson and Ernst & Young, and studied abroad in Rome. Fanto will work for PriceWaterhouseCoopers’ audit division in New York City.
Professor Daniel O’Mara, a pillar of the Department of Accountancy & Information Systems (AIS), will retire at the end of the 2009 – 2010 academic year.

O’Mara VSB ’62 came to teach at the school in 1976, and was soon after appointed chair of the accounting department. He served in this role for 17 years. During his tenure, among the longest in VSB’s history, the department developed a program that gained national recognition, and put its students at the top of the Big Fours’ recruiting lists.

In the years that followed, O’Mara worked to keep the AIS curriculum challenging and relevant. Following his belief that the department should maintain strong ties to the profession, he forged a lasting relationship between Villanova and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). O’Mara has served in various leadership roles at PICPA, including a term as president in 1995. To date, he has been the only academic to ever hold such a position.

In recognition of his dedication to students and to VSB, he received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1993 and was appointed the Alvin A. Clay Professor of Accountancy in 2007.

O’Mara had a rewarding career even before returning to VSB. After graduation, he served three years in the Marines as a supply officer and company commander. Upon leaving the military, O’Mara joined Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young). During his seven years there, he completed an MBA from Fordham University. He left New York City to accept an offer from Syracuse University, and served as its assistant controller and director of internal audit. At Syracuse, he also completed all the coursework toward a PhD in accountancy.

Returning to Villanova, O’Mara knew he had found a home not only for himself, but for his family. He had always felt a strong connection to the Augustinians, having graduated from an Augustinian Academy on Staten Island in 1953. With pride he saw his four children and wife graduate from Villanova.

As for his retirement plans, O’Mara and his wife Peggy, who have been married for 47 years, will travel, relax at their house in Cape May, and spend time with their four children and seven grandchildren. He is also counting on more time with his model railroads.

For his many decades of service to VSB and the department, we give him the heartfelt thanks of thousands of Villanova students past and present, and wish him all the best as he embarks on this new stage in life.

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Congratulations to James M. Emig, PhD
Recipient of the 2010 Gerald A. Dougherty Endowed School of Business Faculty Award

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BusinessWeek Ranks Accountancy Program in Top 15!

The accountancy program at VSB placed #14 in the Bloomberg BusinessWeek 2010 Undergraduate Specialty Ranking. This ranking further strengthens VSB’s consistent position of being recognized among the nation’s top business schools. Congratulations to AIS faculty, staff and students for this terrific achievement!
Deloitte Sponsors IT Case Competition

This spring, 23 upper-level MIS students entered a competition sponsored by Deloitte LLP to solve a complex “real world” business problem using information technology. Deloitte provided a utility case scenario that required students to consolidate multiple data centers and green technologies, and to integrate customer relationship management (CRM) applications. Students also built interactive customer and management dashboards using Xcelsius from SAP to help showcase their solutions.

Divided into four teams that worked together for five weeks, students were mentored by VSB alumni currently working as business technology consultants for Deloitte. Professor William Wagner served as the faculty sponsor, and hopes that the competition may be expanded next year to include underclassmen.

The first place team of Pari Patel VSB ’11, Adrienne Iwicki VSB ’10, Katherine Ball VSB ’10, John Dailey VSB ’10, Matthew Ryan VSB ’10, and Matthew Lamers VSB ’10 received a $300 cash prize. The second place team of Alexander Rosen VSB ’11, Sophia Bartolini VSB ’11, John Basile VSB ’11, Eric Borun VSB ’10, and Michael Distasio VSB ’11 received $300 worth of iTunes downloads.

Participants from Deloitte included sponsoring principal Ian Wright, from the Philadelphia office, and key VSB alumni mentors Rocco DiNiglio VSB ’08, Douglas D’Ambra VSB ’07, and Stephen Mezzanotte VSB ’09.

The contest was judged by Professor William Wagner, Professor Janice Sipior, Professor Sue McFarland Metzger; and Ian Wright and Melissa Miller of Deloitte.