From the Chair

“They were the epitome of professionals and everyone who met them thought they did Villanova proud.”

Valerie Wieman ’92 VSB of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) was speaking about five Villanova School of Business (VSB) sophomores who were competing in PwC’s national case study program, eXtreme Accounting. But, she could have been talking about any of the students in our Accounting & Information Systems (AIS) department. This has been another successful year for AIS. Our 2013 graduates have enjoyed a high placement rate, as over 95% of seniors found jobs in their fields by graduation.

Even in a trying business climate, our program is able to prepare students for the challenges they will face in the professional world. Most of our graduates will begin their careers as auditors, tax professionals, consultants, analysts, corporate finance professionals, bankers and actuaries. But, our program aims to provide the foundation for success in any field. For this reason, a recent ranking listed Villanova as one of the top 10 undergraduate programs in the country, as voted on by tax hiring authorities.

In this issue, we will feature the accomplishments of students, past and present, including the Bartley Medallion winners, the PICPA Outstanding Senior and the many other awards that are presented this time of year. We were also excited to welcome two leaders from the accounting firms to our campus, who were kind enough to share their insights and experiences with students. We also thank one firm for their gifts to our school and congratulate two advisory board members for recent promotions. Whether it is an undergraduate earning a selective scholarship or an alumnus receiving a promotion, I am always pleased to present the accolades of our students.

We will also introduce you to our newest faculty member, Danielle Lombardi. She joins a strong faculty, with such members as James Bierstaker and Tim Monahan, recent winners of the Critical Incidents Award.

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
Scholarships and Awards

Kane Scholarship
The Jennifer L. Kane Endowed University Scholarship at Villanova, named after Jennifer L. Kane ’97 VSB, is awarded to an accomplished female 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 award winner for the 2013 Jennifer L. Kane Endowed University Scholarship is Samantha Scibilia ’14 VSB from Allentown, New Jersey. Samantha, shown above, accepted an internship with Marsh & McLennan Companies for this summer in Philadelphia, established in the memory of Jennifer L. Kane. At Villanova, Samantha is involved in multiple activities, including being a member of the Villanova Ambassadors, Villanova Club Lacrosse team, a VSB Peer Advisor and a tutor for varsity athletes. Samantha spent six weeks studying abroad in Rome, in addition to participating in a Habitat for Humanity service trip in Maryville, Tennessee.

BASF Scholarship
On Friday, March 22, three representatives from BASF presented $2,500 BASF Academic Excellence Scholarships to Mara Pisco ’15 VSB and Jeffrey Stevens ’15 VSB. Students considered for this scholarship must major in Accounting with a GPA of 3.2 or above, and have an interest in pursuing a career in corporate accounting.

Mara is active in numerous student groups on campus, serving as president of the Accounting Society, member of the Villanova Entrepreneurship Society, MIS Society, Women in Business Society and tutor for the Gamma Phi Business Honor Society. Along with her involvement at Villanova, Mara worked as a business assistant at Rutgers University and has accepted an internship with BASF for this summer.

Jeffrey is actively involved on campus and is a member of the Accounting Society, vocalist member of the Pastoral Musicians for St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, a vocalist member of the Villanova Select Pastoral Musicians and a resident assistant for Villanova University. Jeffrey is currently an intern with Johnson & Johnson.

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. Paula Pilipovic ’14 VSB from Middletown, New Jersey, was selected as the recipient of a $2,500 TEI Scholarship.

Double majoring in Accounting and Finance, Paula is a Villanova Presidential Scholar involved in many activities on campus, including serving as the student chair of the President’s Environmental Sustainability Committee (PESC), the administration chair for Villanova’s Annual St. Thomas Day of Service, as well as a tutor for the Writing Center. She has experience as an investment banking intern at BPC and will be working in KPMG’s Real Estate Tax department this summer.

Sister Mary M. Cribben Award
Maria Campanile ’13 VSB won the Sister Mary Margaret Cribben Award. Since 1985, the Villanova Athletic Department awards the Sister Mary award to the student-athlete who “unselfishly sacrifices time, effort, body and soul to lead and motivate their teammates in excelling for Villanova athletics through inspiration.”

Maria received the award due to her selflessness and commitment to the water polo team both in and out of the pool. As team captain, Campanile led by example through her hard work and dedication.

“Maria displays the highest level of commitment and spirit as she sets the standard of a student athlete at Villanova. She maximizes her potential in the pool, and she helps lead the team behind the scene with composure and dignity. The Sister Mary Margaret Cribben Award is one of the highest honors you can receive at the school, and Maria proudly represents the water polo team and the University,” said Damon Newman, head coach of the water polo team.

Maria is also a three-year representative of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), a VSB Peer Advisor, a member of the Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Fraternity, and a member of the Athletics Leadership Institution. After Villanova, Maria will be joining PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago.

Bartley Medallion
The Bartley Medallion, 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 and serves as a visible reflection of the significant contribution made by the

(L to R) Michael Licata, PhD, Professor, Accountancy; Neeti Dewhan ’13 MST, TEI Director; Joanne Tempone ’87 MST, TEI Director; Paula Pilipovic ’14 VSB; Michael Peters, PhD, Chair of the Department of Accountancy and Information Systems

(L to R) Jeffrey Stevens ’15 VSB, Toni Miller, Mara Pisco ’15 VSB, John Mahoney ’83 VSB, Jim Stone
recipient to the life of the school community. This year’s Bartley Medallion winners in Accounting and in Management Information Systems are Monica Van Horn ’13 VSB and Daniel Newell ’13 VSB, respectively.

Monica is an Accounting and MIS double major from Chichester, Pennsylvania. During her time at Villanova, Monica participated in two Habitat for Humanity trips, acted as a POWER peer educator for the Office of Health Promotion and was a member of the Accounting Society. Monica also spent her time as an accounting tutor for the athletics department and participated in a six-month forensic accounting CoOp at the Delaware County District Attorney’s Office. This summer, Monica will study for the CPA exam, and in the fall she will begin working at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Philadelphia as an audit associate.

Daniel is an MIS and Economics double major from Downingtown, Pennsylvania. During his time at Villanova, Daniel was involved in Business without Borders, various Campus Ministry activities and many intramural sports teams. This summer, he will begin working at Deloitte Consulting in Philadelphia as a business technology analyst.

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PICPA Most Outstanding Student
Matthew McSherry ’13 VSB was recognized as this year’s PICPA (Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants) Most Outstanding Student. Matthew is a double major in Accounting and Finance and participated in numerous activities during his time at Villanova. Along with the Accounting Society, Matthew was involved with the Villanova Band, the Special Olympics, Beta Gamma Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi and worked in Villanova’s Tech Zone. Additionally, he spent time volunteering with the St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Matthew will work for Ernst & Young as an assurance associate in Philadelphia.

SIM Student Achievement Award
The Philadelphia Society for Information Management (PHISIM) awarded Allison Williams ’14 VSB a Student Achievement Award for her excellence in the classroom and her pursuit of a career in the field of information management.

Allison is majoring in Management Information Systems, with a minor in Business Analytics. An active participant in the Villanova community, Allison works at VSB on a part-time basis, supporting the Clay Center’s website and tutoring fellow business students in Excel. Allison is also a member of the Villanova volleyball team, and has served on the executive board of the MIS Society.

Allison interned with a consulting firm last summer that deployed wireless technology for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Allison has accepted an internship with Risk Assurance at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Washington, D.C. for the upcoming summer.

PricewaterhouseCoopers xACT Competition
A team of VSB students was named one of five national finalists in the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) eXtreme Accounting (xACT) Competition. Joseph Brady ’15 VSB, Douglas Jadis ’15 VSB, Nicholas LaTorre ’15 VSB, Christian Ludwig ’15 VSB and Richard Ulrich ’15 VSB comprised Villanova’s team.

The xACT challenge is a high-level case competition that tests students’ critical thinking, decision making, collaboration, time management and presentation skills. Each team has two weeks to develop a solution to a real-world accounting issue, which they then present to a panel of PwC representatives. The winning team from each participating campus is considered to compete in the national finals in New York City, but ultimately only five teams are chosen. Nearly 50 schools from across the country participated this year in the xACT competition.

As a finalist, VSB’s student team received $10,000. “The team did an outstanding job at the xACT finals in NYC. Many people told me how impressed they were with our team,” said Kenneth Hiltebeitel, PhD, who advised the team along with James Borden, PhD. This marks the fifth occasion that the VSB team has reached the finals in the xACT Competition.

AICPA Scholarship
Eighty-four accounting students won the AICPA Scholarship for Minority Accounting Students for the 2012-2013 academic year. The recipients, who were chosen from among 286 applicants, maintained a minimum 3.3 grade-point average and plan to pursue CPA licensure. Ronald Dukes ’12 VSB, ’13 MAC was awarded the Robert Half International Scholarship.

Ronald graduated from VSB with a degree in Accounting and MIS and a minor in Peace & Justice as well as a Masters of Accountancy. This fall, Ronald will begin his full-time job with PricewaterhouseCoopers.
Ernst & Young Provides $500,000 Endowment to Clay Center

This past fiscal year, E&Y completed its commitment of a $500,000 endowment to The Clay Center at VSB. The E&Y endowment supports VSB’s Read to Lead program. This gracious donation exemplifies E&Y’s dedication to the professional development of VSB’s undergraduate students. It is due to support like E&Y’s that our AIS Department is consistently recognized as one of the top programs in the country. The Clay Center at VSB, named in honor of the late VSB Dean Emeritus Alvin A. Clay, offers students exemplary academic resources that enable them to be active members of the student body, to explore and develop educational and career goals, and to successfully apply their unique talents and knowledge to become socially responsible members of the global business community. We thank the E&Y community for the generous gift and support of Villanova University.

Global Accounting Firms Case Competition 2012

The fourth annual Villanova School of Business Global Accounting Firms Case Competition was held this past fall during Parents Weekend. First Place went to “The Counting Crew,” Sarah Milligan ’16 VSB, Kyle Mulligan ’16 VSB, Nick LaTorre ’16 VSB and Nick Petrow ’16 VSB.

The case competition was designed to provide students with an understanding of the interplay of Accounting and MIS and to expose students to professionals from the accounting firms. Each year, the lead firm in the competition is represented by Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Grant Thornton, KPMG or PricewaterhouseCoopers. This year’s lead firm in the competition was Deloitte. A total of 66 freshman students participated on 16 different teams. Partners, directors and associates of the five firms served as advisors, guiding each team in preparing a case analysis throughout the spring semester. The winning team was judged on the basis of organization of presentation, quality and validity of issues raised, professionalism in delivery, effectiveness in communication, preparedness and level of effort, and quality of recommendation of their case analysis.

Accounting in Action by Laura Iacona ’96 VSB

My experience with Grant Thornton began while I was a student at Villanova. I became aware of the Spring Accounting Internship program in my junior year, and was lucky to have Dr. Emig’s help in setting up interviews. After meeting and interviewing with representatives from different firms, I decided to complete my Spring Accounting Internship with Grant Thornton, and had a phenomenal experience. I traveled to client locations, worked overtime for the first time and learned how to be a professional. I saw the profession at its busiest time and worked side-by-side with my future co-workers through stressful moments. I realized that these were the people and this was the firm that I wanted to build a career with. In 1996 I began as a full-time Audit Associate with Grant Thornton.

It has been over 16 years, and I am still a proud part of Grant Thornton. I have had many opportunities to grow as a professional and contribute to Grant Thornton’s goals and vision. I have contributed to my clients’ successes and become a trusted advisor. I have developed friendships with co-workers and have provided mentoring to other professionals. I have also stayed in touch with Villanova. Whether it is through recruiting efforts, discussions with faculty or my own personal visits to campus, I am thankful to have kept this tie strong.

I became a Partner with Grant Thornton in August of 2007. Just as my career was growing, my family grew! In September of 2007, my husband and I welcomed a baby boy to our family and in April of 2009, we welcomed a baby girl. Through these personal events, Grant Thornton supported me, just as they have been there for me professionally. In 2011, I became Audit Practice Leader for the Philadelphia office of Grant Thornton. In this role, I maintain a client ledger but am also responsible for running the business of the Audit Practice, which includes recruiting and retention, compensation, career development, resource management, audit quality, client service and retention, revenue growth, financial metrics, etc. I have the solid foundation of a Villanova education to support me and the networks that I built there to lean on when I need it.

My time at Grant Thornton and in the public accounting profession has been full of opportunity, challenge and change. I encourage students considering a career in public accounting to take every opportunity to experience the profession early on, ask questions, seek the counsel of professors and spend time with all of the firms so you can find the place, as I did, that will be your home after graduation.
This past summer, I had an amazing opportunity to kick off my career with an international rotation. Through KPMG’s Global Internship Program, I was one of twenty-three students from the US selected to spend half of my accounting internship abroad. For me, this meant that I was going to be working four weeks in the Philadelphia office and four weeks in Malaysia.

Situated right outside of Kuala Lumpur, three other interns and I embarked on an unforgettable journey. As a member of the audit department in Malaysia, I utilized my Chinese minor while working on two different client engagements. My first client offered the perfect chance to practice my Chinese language skills in a business context. Not only did I effectively use my Cantonese abilities to interact with an executive for my assignment, my Mandarin skills were also challenged in a one-on-one interview with a manager. While I have always been told that being at least bilingual is a valuable skill set, it was this experience that allowed me to truly appreciate my language abilities, as well as realize how I can leverage this in my career. Many assignments were new and challenging and made me recognize how well the curriculum at VSB had prepared me for the tasks. From the intense accounting program to the core business courses, I found everything I learned to be applicable in my daily work in Malaysia.

Outside of work, there was much to see and do for a cultural taste of Malaysia. I visited Penang, checked out famous caves and temples, and saw the stunning Petronas Twin Towers lit up at night, a majestic scene that pictures will never do it justice. Like a melting pot of Asia, Malaysia is comprised of an ethnically diverse population, creating a unique fusion of traditions, particularly in their ultimate source of pride: food. Needless to say, my fellow interns and I indulged in what seemed like a month-long food excursion, sampling a wide range of cuisines from the fragrant coconut rice of the Malay to the spicy Indian curry.

While I enjoyed all the attractions and dishes that Malaysia had to offer, what truly defined my four-week experience abroad were the people. From my arrival in the country to the bittersweet end of the internship, I am so grateful for what can only be called the “Malaysian hospitality” that I received throughout my stay. I enjoyed participating in the KPMG social events, as well as living like a local with my colleagues through late-night chats over Malaysian desserts. I not only widened my professional network, but built meaningful friendships that made my experience more memorable and goodbyes even harder.

In such a short time, I grew a great deal from both a personal and professional standpoint. I realized that there is so much more to learn out in the vast world that we live in, making it crucial to always keep an open mind and an attentive eye. This international rotation has shaped me into a more confident and culturally versatile business professional.

Thanks to VSB for helping me build such a strong foundation for my future and KPMG for an opportunity of a lifetime. With that, I highly encourage other VSB students to kick it up a notch. VSB has equipped us with the tools, so now it is your turn to take it even further by going global!
Accounting Placements 2013

Two Thousand Thirteen has been another great year for placement of accounting majors here at the Villanova School of Business. As of graduation, we conferred accounting degrees to 98 total majors, over 95% of whom have accepted a full-time position by graduation.

This year’s group of employers are primarily accounting firms, with a large assortment of international firms. In addition, our graduates will be taking positions as analysts and bankers, and one student took a job as an actuary.

This year for the first time in several years we do not have any students planning a year of service, but we will have one student being commissioned into the US Army. We also have 14 students committed to doing graduate work, most of whom returned to Villanova in late May to begin the Master of Accountancy Program before beginning their full-time employment.

As always, the Department is committed to placing 100% of all of our graduates seeking employment, and we continue to assist in securing a position for all remaining students.

MAC Placements 2013

The Masters of Accountancy Program (MAC) at The Villanova School of Business has opened many doors for graduate students. Villanova MAC students are in great demand among international accounting firms. Forty-three percent of the MAC students entered the program committed to employers, with the remaining seeking full-time and spring accounting internship employment opportunities. For the students who came into the Program employed, the top employers were PwC (5), KPMG (4), Deloitte (3) and Parente Beard (3)). Of the students who were seeking employment, 98% secured a job before graduation. One of the strengths of the MAC Program is its lock-step professional development program (PDP). The PDP—which consists of job search help, resume support, networking and other career management tools—prepares MAC students for Villanova’s On-campus Recruiting Program (OCR), which starts late summer/early fall semester. Opportunities to network with on-campus firms are planned and scheduled for the students, from picnics to formal meet-and-greets—leading to multiple touch-points with key recruiters and accounting executives. Armed with a strong academic background, as well as sharp job searching skills and business savvy, most MAC students participating in a job search received job offers through a school-facilitated source. For job-seeking MAC students, the largest employers were PwC (8), McGladrey (2), Grant Thornton (2), Deloitte (2) and KPMG (2). The Villanova MAC degree is unmatched in the marketplace. The combination of our comprehensive curriculum, PDP, dedication of staff and high caliber of students prepare MAC students to meet the real-world, real-time challenges of global business and the accounting industry.

VSB Rankings 2013

Villanova’s undergraduate accounting and LLM Tax programs were both ranked among the top ten in the country in the JobsinTax.com survey. The undergraduate survey was based on the responses of 106 heads of corporate tax departments throughout the United States, while the LLM Tax survey was based on the responses of 151 heads of corporate tax departments. Schools were ranked on the total number of votes they received from these tax hiring authorities. Villanova received 8.41% of votes to tie for eighth place in the undergraduate survey, and received 5.9% of votes to finish in tenth place in the LLM survey.
Vice Chairman of KPMG Visits Students

Villanova School of Business welcomed Jeffrey LeSage ‘82 VSB into its classrooms this past fall. LeSage, Vice Chairman of KPMG’s tax practice, was kind enough to share his experience in the accounting profession to VSB students. LeSage spoke at length about the professional development opportunities in the accounting field, hoping to give perspective to students pursuing internships in the near future.

LeSage was recently promoted to his current position after serving 26 years with KPMG. As the Vice Chairman for KPMG’s tax practice, he oversees a team of almost 5,500 partners and professionals across all tax disciplines—federal, international, state and local, as well as specialty practices such as mergers and acquisitions, economic and valuation services and international executive services.

In addition to the success in his professional life, LeSage also serves on the Board of the American Heart Association in New York City, The Trump Operations Board and Villanova School of Business Dean’s Advisory Board.

PwC Visits VSB

PwC hosted a keystone session during VSB-Week. Reggie Butler, PwC director of educational methods in learning and development, delivered thought-provoking insight on learning one’s own thinking style and how to effectively work with others of similar or different styles. Butler is a well-known corporate consultant and educator with more than 25 years of experience in education and learning solutions. The event was interactive and engaging, and students walked away with a newfound knowledge of their own personal style and how to best apply this in their day to day interactions. Thank you to PwC for providing CEO level sponsorship of VSB-Week and hosting this great event.

Robert McNeill Named Deloitte’s Greater Philadelphia Managing Partner

Robert McNeill ‘88 VSB was selected to serve as the new managing partner (OMP) for Greater Philadelphia for Deloitte LLP. As OMP, McNeill will join the Northeast region leadership team to help drive client and business growth in the Greater Philadelphia marketplace, as well as continue to improve strategic positioning.

McNeill joined Deloitte more than 24 years ago and serves as the lead client service partner (LCSP) for Urban Outfitters, Inc., and Wawa, Inc. Previously he served as LCSP for Rite Aid Corporation, GSI Commerce, Inc., P.H. Glatfelter Company and DuPont Dow Elastomers LLC. Here at Villanova, McNeill serves on the Accounting Advisory Council to VSB.

He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, a licensed CPA in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is Vice Chair of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia.

New Faculty Danielle Lombardi

Danielle Lombardi, PhD, began as an assistant professor of Accounting in January 2013 after earning her PhD from Rutgers, The State University. Dr. Lombardi holds a BS in Accounting from The College of New Jersey, and is a member of several sections of the American Accounting Association (AAA), including the Auditing, Information Systems and Strategic and Emerging Technologies sections. In 2011, she won the Executive Women of New Jersey Graduate Merit Award, and was a finalist for the George Krull/AICPA Teaching Innovation Award. Prior to pursuing her PhD, Dr. Lombardi spent six years in industry as an auditor. She specializes in audit research and teaches Intermediate Accounting at VSB.
The following Accounting Society members have put their best foot forward this semester. They have fulfilled all member requirements, including paying annual dues and attending several society events. Thank you for all of your efforts and for helping to continue to improve the Department of Accountancy & Information Systems.

**Class of 2013**
- Elisabeth Houlik
- Damon Pisello

**Class of 2014**
- Danielle George
- Haley Hruska
- Kyle Mahlstedt
- Chris Major
- Allison Meade
- Tyler O’Regan
- Remmington Pope
- Tiffany Savich
- Adriana Serrano Ramirez
- Lauren Ronan
- Alex Tsouprakos
- Henry Walker
- Ryan Wallace
- Hank Yu

**Class of 2015**
- Christa Allen
- Mary Jo Bailey
- Joe Brady
- Justin Chaimowitz
- Erin Collins
- Anthony Dominguez
- Alex Dvoretsky
- Meredith Giuliani
- Marissa Jensen
- Andrew Kang
- Michelle Karasik
- Haeni Kim
- Haley LeDonne
- Kevin Link
- Mya Lofton
- Angelie Lopez
- Caroline McCarthy
- Jackie McCay
- Daniel Pang
- Daniel Petrocelli
- Ernest Pettway
- Mara Pisco
- Zach Raibley
- Molly Ray
- Michael Schanne
- Christine Surabian
- Vu Tran
- Rick Ullrich
- Alvin Varghese
- Ted Wilm

**Class of 2016**
- Susan Anderson
- Kaylin Brown
- Ryan Chan
- Jessica Chang
- Jeanette Ding
- Carina Fairfield
- Daniel Gatti
- Mark Gianforcaro
- Sun-Hae Kim
- Michael Lamb
- Kathleen McAssey
- Nicholas Miller
- Denis Venturino
- Nestor Zavala-Bedolla
- Theresa Zuschlag