CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION, A NEW DEAN TAKES OFFICE

AT ROSS
It’s hard to remember a more dramatic school year at Michigan Ross than 2015-2016. The most important change that occurred was the naming of the dean to replace Alison Davis-Blake who stepped down as dean after five years of service. A global search was conducted, but the perfect candidate was found close to home: Scott DeRue. Scott came to Ross in 2007, taking on multiple leadership roles over time, including associate dean for Executive Education; professor of management; director of the Sanger Leadership Center; and faculty director of the Emerging Leaders Program. He believes that business is the most powerful force for economic and social impact, and that it is the responsibility of Ross to develop the next generation of business leaders. (The faculty and staff associated with the Paton Center couldn’t agree more.) Read about his plans for the school on his blog: michiganross.umich.edu/deans-blog.

The other key development of last year relates to the ongoing construction project within the Ross complex. Planned improvements included the demolition of the Computer and Executive Education Building, construction of a new academic building named for Jeff T. Blau, comprehensive renovation of the Kresge Business Administration Library and the addition of exterior building finishes (or cladding) to Sam Wyly Hall, the Executive Learning & Conference Center and the nearby parking structure. By the time students completed the Winter 2016 semester, more than 90 percent of the work had been finished, and the buildings are now open to the public.

The Paton Center continues to be housed on the third floor of the Ross School of Business Building.

AT THE PATON CENTER
The past year at the center was marked by steady progress in our academic programs and several newsworthy accomplishments. The Paton Fellows program continued to thrive, and currently boasts 37 students with an interest in exploring a career in accounting. The Master of Accounting program graduated 101 students in April 2016, and in 2015, six graduates earned the Elijah Watt Sells Award. The PhD program contained nine scholars of note. Faculty accomplishments included a Golden Apple Award—bestowed by U-M students on their favorite faculty member of the year—for Professor Ryan Ball and recent promotions for Professors Venky Nagar and Christopher Williams. And two inaugural Honorary Paton Fellows — the late Carl Griffin, former faculty member and Deloitte partner, and Dave Noonan, partner at EY and a member of Ross’ Alumni Board of Governors — were selected and celebrated.

Gregory S. Miller
Ernst & Young Professor of Accounting and Faculty Director, Paton Center for Research in Accounting

“Our core purpose is to develop leaders who have confidence, capabilities and connections to transform the world through business.”

—Scott DeRue
The Paton Fellow Scholarship Program was established in 2013 to encourage and influence Ross BBA students to consider an accounting-related career. Each year, 20 Ross BBA sophomores are chosen as Junior Paton Fellows. At the time of application, they must have completed one semester at Ross, as well as an ACC 300 and be enrolled in ACC 301. Most applicants are unsure of their career path at the time of submission. As part of their application, they must submit a 500-word essay addressing the question: “What is the role of an accountant in today’s business world? Even if you don’t intend to pursue a career in public accounting, how would you thrive in this role?”

If students selected as Junior Fellows achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.8 in the fall term of their junior year, they are automatically promoted to Senior Fellow. If Senior Fellows decide to pursue admission to the MAcc Program and maintain a 3.8 cumulative GPA at the time of application, they are guaranteed MAcc Program tuition assistance of at least $15,000 if admitted to the program.

The Paton Fellowship Scholarship Program was established in 2013 to encourage and influence Ross BBA students to consider an accounting-related career.
It bears repeating: Ross is the birthplace of modern accounting research. We continue to build on this tradition through our PhD program, which develops academic leaders who excel at Michigan and the nation’s other top research-oriented universities. Placement in previous years includes Chicago, Cornell, Harvard, MIT and Stanford.

Featured on this page are three of our current students, part of a group of just nine students who benefit from close contact and real-world research opportunities with our faculty.

CURRENT PhD STUDENTS
John Aland
Andrea Down
Reginald Edwards
Maily Fernandes
Ruby Lee
Jerry Mathis
Ryan McDonough
Nayana Reiter
Maddy Thompson

2016 PhD GRADUATE
Christina Synn
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PhD PROFILES

ANDREA DOWN
Second-Year Doctoral Student
Andrea Down grew up in Stratford, a mid-sized Canadian farming community, and earned her MBA from the Ivy Business School at the University of Western Ontario. “I started considering the pursuit of an advanced degree in accounting after completing a research elective as an undergraduate,” she notes.

Where to pursue her PhD was an easy choice: “Michigan was ideal for me, because of its outstanding reputation and collaborative environment.”

Down reports that year one in the program was challenging, but that she learned a lot and grew as an academic. Her first summer paper examined the factors associated with changes in accounting estimates. Throughout the process, she received useful feedback from her advisor, Professor Christopher Williams. “I’ve really appreciated the opportunity to interact with faculty on a regular basis,” she says.

MAILYN FERNANDEZ
Second-Year Doctoral Student
Maily Fernandes is a Florida native who completed a BBA in finance and accounting at the University of Miami. For seven years, she served as a commercial banker for BNY Mellon and BNP Sabadell. “While there, I also developed an interest in Latin America,” she explained, leading to a master’s degree in regional studies which included researching the relationship between financial reporting and the political climate.

Fernandez’s reasons for coming to Michigan included faculty expertise in capital markets financial research and an excellent placement record. She described her first year at U-M as both “rigorous and rewarding. In addition to quantitatively-intensive courses, we had to replicate several published papers to improve our programming skills.”

JERRY MATHIS
Second-Year Doctoral Student
Jerry Mathis is a Florida native who completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting at the University of Florida. He also holds a master’s degree in business analytics and is one class shy of a third, in economics. What made him come to Michigan for his terminal degree? “I originally looked into PhD programs focused on tax research, but when I met with the folks at Michigan and heard about their areas of research and what questions they were asking (and answering), it was incredibly persuasive. So, I switched my emphasis to financial empirical research and took a chance — it’s been a great experience so far.”

Over the summer, Mathis studied the use of differences between financial accounting and tax accounting by equity market traders. He is also working with advisor Lindsey Gallo on examining the equity-market consequences of environmental, social and governance issues.

MAcc AND PhD SCHOLARSHIPS
STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to the generosity of our incredible donors, almost 80 advanced degree students began or continued their accounting studies at Michigan Ross this fall!

For information about contributing to an existing fund for accounting students or establishing your own scholarship, call 734-763-2176.

Macc SCHOLARSHIPS

William J. Adams
Accounting Scholarship
Quantum Trusteed

William J. and Donna W. Adams Scholarship
Lu Fang
Yian Ma
Nicole Mogay
Robert Perry
Ryan Sunshine
Jawes Zhou

Pamela Jane
Bryan Accounting Scholarship
Adrienne Corona
Ralph C. Conger, Jr.

John Bostefos
Adrian Benders
David Desett
Kasey Gardner
Martha Siddo
Garrison Smith
Jacob VanHoeft
Matthew Wellman
Howard J. Cooper Scholarship
McKenna Bailey

Deloitte Foundation-
Carleton Griffin MAcc Scholarship
Vivian Hu

Ernst & Young Scholarship for Excellence in Accounting Education
Sheyaa Bhate
Rena Mortimer
Kristen Woolk

Macc Alumni Scholarship
Luke Everell

Elisa Medow Scholarship
McKenna Bailey

Danna C. Michelle
Scholarship
Robert Perry

Michigan Ross General Fund Scholarship
Madison Bailey
Shang Chen

“Even as a former Paton Scholar, I was intimately by the financial burden of graduate school, until I discovered the Paton Scholarship. It made it possible for me to enroll in the MAcc program at Ross, where I’ve spent the past four years growing both academically and personally. The Paton Scholarship is a huge reminder of the continued support I am lucky to receive as an accounting student at Michigan.”

—Angela Pae

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FACULTY NEWS

Ross Accounting faculty are consistently recognized for their service and teaching excellence. The notices on this page reflect the most recent accomplishments of our incredible team.

OTHER FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS

Victor L. Berned Faculty Award for Leadership in Teaching
Gregory Miller

Henry Teaching Excellence Award Winners (as voted by Ross students)
MBA: Ryan Ball
Nico: James DeSimplera
Global MBA: William Larten

Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council Membership:
Catherine Shakespeare

2016 Deloitte Wildman Medal Award (presented by the American Accounting Association):
Christopher Williams

RYAN BALL EARNS GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

In early 2016, Accounting’s Ryan Ball became the first business professor to receive the 2016 Golden Apple Award. The Golden Apple is presented by Students Honoring Outstanding University Teaching at U-M, and is the only student-selected teaching award on campus. Honoree undergraduate and graduate faculty members who continuously seek to engage students in the classroom.

“The best part of it,” Ball told the University Record.

Recipients of the Golden Apples are asked to give a lecture as if it were the last of their career. Ball’s talk had a unique title: “Accounting for Ambiguity: Lessons from Denmark, IFRS, and ‘Improv’.” Delivered on April 13, it contained “a smattering of different topics with the focus on lessons I’ve learned over the years,” he noted in the University Record. “How to grapple with uncertainty, and how to move on in life when your future is uncertain. That was the angle of it.”

NAKAR NAMED NEW KPMG PROFESSOR

During the 2015-2016 school year, Verkky Nakar was dually honored with appointments recognizing his accomplishments as an educator. He was named both the KPMG Professor of Accounting and the Teitelbaum Research Scholar. The second honor, funded by G. Leonard Teitelbaum (BBA ’64, MBA ’65), will support Nakar’s research on accounting systems and organizational performance.

Nagar was educated at the Indian Institute of Technology and Dartmouth College in computer science and engineering, respectively. A career change led him to the Wharton School at Penn, where he earned a PhD in accounting. In addition to his U-M accolades, he was asked to serve as an editor at “The Accounting Review,” the flagship journal of the American Accounting Association.

WILLIAMS ACCEPTS NEW APPOINTMENT

Christopher Williams was recently appointed to the position of associate professor (with tenure). He was also presented with the 2016 Deloitte Wildman Medal by the American Accounting Association. Williams shared the latter honor with three colleagues, all co-authors of a paper comparing IFRS-based and US GAAP-based accounting amounts that appeared in the “Journal of Accounting Economics.”

Williams is a graduate of Brigham Young University and earned his PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He focuses his research on the role of accounting information in capital markets, the reporting and regulation of financial institutions, and international financial reporting issues. He also serves as faculty coordinator for the accounting PhD program.

KAPNICK CONFERENCE PROVES POPULAR

In its second year, our annual conference — held April 14-15 at the Ross complex — brought together top accounting academics from around the world to share their current research with Ross faculty and PhD students. Among the topics discussed were the risks associated with inter-firm transactions and the role of information frictions in the global economy.

Featured speakers included Irem Tuna, London Business School; Rebecca Harris, University of Maryland; Rodrigo Verdi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Green Ts, Harvard University; and Michigan’s own Anna Costabile.

The Kapnick Accounting Conferences are sponsored by the Harvey Kapnick Workshop Series and were provided by Harvey Kapnick (MBA ’49) and the Kapnick Foundation in 1997.

PATON CENTER LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

In April 2016, the Paton Center went live with a new presence on the web. Found at paton.bus.umich.edu, the website was written, designed and developed with the assistance of Michigan Creative, the university in-house ad agency.

The site’s features include easy-to-use navigation tools and eye-catching graphics that blend modern photos of the center with images of prominent figures from the Accounting department’s past.

The new site raises the profile of the Paton Center, positioning it prominently among the business school’s other research entities and initiatives.

Paton Center for Research in Accounting

1100 Beal Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1227

paton.bus.umich.edu

Check us out and share your favorite Paton Center memory by sending an email to patoncenter@umich.edu.

OTHER ACCOUNTING NEWS
We gratefully thank everyone who contributes to our scholarship and research funds. Your generosity helps us stay on the cutting edge of research and to recruit the best and brightest minds into our program.

A special thanks to Marianne Gellatly Brackey for her gift to the William A. Paton Center for Research in Accounting, which enables us to attract the best and brightest minds into our program.

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF $100 OR MORE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-16

PATON CENTER HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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On March 31, 2016, the Paton Center held a reception to announce the inaugural recipients of its Honorary Paton Fellow Award honoring alumni and individuals who have made significant contributions to the accounting industry and positively impacted accounting education at the school.

The recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award was the late Carl Griffin, who had a profound impact on the Paton Center throughout his career. Griffin received both his BBA and MBA degrees from Michigan before beginning his career as an instructor at the Army Finance School and as a CPA with the legacy firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP. He later joined the business school faculty as a professor, teaching undergraduate accounting courses and serving as director of the Paton Center. Griffin’s wife, Mary Lou, accepted the award on his behalf.

Dave Noonan was the second recipient of the evening, earning the Active Partner Award. Following his graduation from U-M’s BBA and MAcc programs, Noonan joined Ernst & Young. He has managed the accounts of a broad range of public and private clients there for the past 21 years. Noonan was also recognized for his service on Ross’ Alumni Board of Governors as well as the Paton Advisory Board, which he formerly chaired.

Beyond recognizing service and excellence in the industry, the Honorary Paton Fellow awards program was established to inspire students and young practitioners of accounting to aim high and act with integrity.

Paton Advisory Board members nominate individuals for consideration and vote to determine each year’s honorees.

We are accepting nominations for consideration in the Fall of 2017. Submit your recommendation by visiting the Paton Center website at paton.bus.umich.edu/scholarships-honors/honorary-fellow-program.

The Paton Advisory Board is comprised of industry leaders (who are also Michigan alumni) and Ross accounting faculty. The Board meets on campus twice per year and participates in various subcommittees throughout the year. Many thanks to our Board members for their guidance and time.
ACCOUNTING FACULTY

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