ACIS EMERGING LEADERS BOARD
**Faculty Directory**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td><strong>Retired Faculty:</strong></td>
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<td>Rosalind N. Cranor</td>
<td>Wayne E. Leininger</td>
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<td>James O. Hicks, Jr.</td>
<td>Frederick M. Richardson</td>
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<td>Sam A. Hicks</td>
<td>Tarun K. Sen</td>
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<td>Larry N. Killough</td>
<td>James A. Yardley</td>
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<td>Konrad W. Kubin</td>
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GREETINGS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The ACIS department continues to produce highly sought after graduates leveraging their excellent work ethic as well as their high quality education. We have many accomplishments to report to you. Our program has moved up in Public Accounting Report rankings. Relative to all other large programs nationally, we are listed as #21 for undergraduate programs and #23 for master's programs. The success of our graduates over time ranks us among the top ten programs in the country. Our Ph.D. students had multiple job offers and joined top universities to contribute to education and research. Due to recent retirements, the department has and is facing challenges. However, as they say: “in every challenge lies opportunities”. In this tight market, we have been able to recruit excellent new faculty who are featured in this newsletter. We believe that these new faculty will contribute significantly to the teaching, research, and service missions of the department. With the leadership of Dean Sumichrast, we have revised all documents that guide policies in the Pamplin College and identified strategies to move Pamplin and the ACIS department to greater excellence. Business analytics, entrepreneurship, and global impacts are the new pillars of the Pamplin strategy, which will also guide the new initiatives for ACIS. The ACIS department is well known for its core competency of using technology in accounting and is well positioned to contribute to the big data and business analytics trends in accounting education.

Every five years, top business and accounting programs go through a rigorous re-accreditation process. We prepared the AACSB documents for accreditation for Pamplin and separately for ACIS. I thank Shirley Edwards, Lynne Doughtie, Doug Curling, and Kevin Lane, who represented the ACIS advisory board and Pamplin in a meeting with this group. I am happy to inform you that both Pamplin and ACIS continue to be accredited for another cycle. Accreditation requires more effort when you have major leadership changes, given that clear plans for new and bold strategies to make significant improvements need to be articulated and illustrated.

We have new incentives in the Pamplin College for rewarding positive outcomes by providing more time...
for active researchers to allocate to research. The new assistant professors are on three-course teaching loads per year for the first three years, instead of the traditional four-course teaching loads, in order to provide them more time to focus on their research.

In addition, President Timothy Sands brings excellent vision and tested leadership from Purdue University to inspire the colleges and departments at Virginia Tech. The President’s focus on “value of education” is particularly suited for our department, given that our students have consistently enjoyed the highest number of interviews on campus. Our graduates have given back in numerous ways to the department by serving on the advisory board, serving as advocates of the ACIS department, and supporting the department financially. Virginia Tech is building on UT Prosim for global positive impact on humanity. I know that our great alumni find this focus close to their hearts.

I believe that we will continue to do well with our dedicated faculty and staff, excellent advisory board, and wonderful Hokies and friends who contribute their time, funds, and valued support. It is because of all of you that the ACIS department continues to provide our students with the best education and excellent career paths and our faculty with excellent opportunities to engage fully in scholarship, teaching, service, and advising. Hokies are amongst the most passionate alumni of any university that I have ever seen and the ACIS alumni are a truly special group of Virginia Tech alumni. Thanks to all of you, the ACIS department will continue to build on its past success and surpass the bold new expectations that we have set for our department and Pamplin College in the years to come. Go Hokies!

Best wishes,
Reza Barkhi

Phyllis Neece is the Executive Secretary Senior for the department. She has been with Virginia Tech for 35 years and with the department for 29 years. Phyllis has also worked in the Dean’s office of Arts and Sciences and Rural Sociology at Virginia Tech. Phyllis has gained tremendous institutional knowledge over the years and has an exemplary work ethic. She has positively influenced many students, faculty, and alumni. We are lucky to have her in the department, given her excellent professionalism and dedication.

Arnita Perfater has been in the ACIS Department since July 1985. She has been at Virginia Tech since April 1975. Arnita’s job duties within the department includes working with the MACIS program, the Virginia Accounting & Auditing Conference, and serving as the fiscal technician for the department. Arnita and her husband, John, have three sons, two daughter-in-laws, two grandsons and a granddaughter. Students and faculty enjoy working with Arnita and appreciate her dedication and work ethic.

Darian Runion joined the ACIS department in August 2014. Prior to Virginia Tech she worked in the criminal court system, and with a local attorney in both real estate and criminal law. A resident of Virginia, Darian moved to Blacksburg in 2010 with her fiancée and his children. They also have a 2 year old son together. Darian has a great attitude and provides a welcoming environment for those who visit the ACIS office and is very helpful and responsive to requests.
Welcome to Our New Faculty

Brooke D. Beyer is an assistant professor in the Department of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business.

Beyer received a Ph.D. in accounting from Oklahoma State University in 2013 and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting from Kansas State University in 1996 and 1997, respectively.

He worked in Kansas City, Missouri, as a finance director at the Dairy Farmers of America in 2002-09 and as a senior auditor at Ernst & Young in 1997-2002.

Beyer’s dissertation is titled “Disaggregated Capital Expenditure Disclosures: Determinants and Value Relevance.”

He has co-authored articles on earnings management constraints, audit committee financial expertise, and stock repurchases and investment efficiency. His co-authored article, “What It Means to be an Accounting Professor: A Concise Guide for Doctoral Students in Accounting,” was published in Issues in Accounting Education in 2010.

He received two student teaching awards from the Spears School of Business, the Robberson Trust Dissertation Fellowship, and Phillips Dissertation Fellowship Award. He was a AAA/Deloitte/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium Representative.

E. Scott Johnson is an assistant professor in the Department of Accounting at Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business.

Johnson received a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. He also received three degrees from the University of Florida: a master’s in accounting, a bachelor’s in accounting, and a bachelor’s in telecommunications.

Johnson’s research interests include real earnings management, executive compensation, corporate governance, and financial capital markets. His dissertation is titled “Do Changes in the SG&A Ratio Provide Information About Changes in Future Earnings, Analyst Forecast Revisions, and Stock Returns?”

Before coming to Virginia Tech, Johnson taught Managerial Uses of Accounting Information and Fundamentals of Taxation at the University of Arkansas, and Introduction to Financial Accounting at the University of Florida.

His public accounting experience includes working in Deloitte’s Atlanta office as a tax staff member in the state and local tax group and as a tax senior in the national total state tax solutions group. He also worked in the tax department of luxury developer WCI Communities in Bonita Springs, Florida.
Sarah E. Stein is an assistant professor in the Department of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business.

Stein completed her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting from Truman State University and is licensed as a certified public accountant in Colorado. She received a 2011 Deloitte Foundation Doctoral Fellowship.

Her research interests are in auditing and financial accounting, including industry specialization, audit quality, audit market structure, and asset impairment decisions. Her dissertation examines whether specialist auditors enforce more conservative recognition of long-lived asset impairments.

Stein’s teaching interests include undergraduate and graduate auditing courses. She has taught auditing and introductory accounting courses at the University of Missouri and Truman State University.

Before entering the Ph.D. program at the University of Missouri, Stein worked as an audit manager at Deloitte in Denver.

Michael C. Wolfe is an assistant professor in the Department of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business.

Wolfe received a Ph.D. in accounting from Oklahoma State University, where he earned three previous degrees: a master’s degree in quantitative financial economics, an MBA, and a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

His research interests include accounting and disclosure issues relating to financial instruments, accounting for financial institutions, international accounting issues, and financial capital markets.

His co-authored article, “The Impact of Eliminating the 20-F Reconciliation Requirement for IFRS Filers on Earnings Persistence and Information Uncertainty,” was published in Accounting Horizons in December 2012. Another co-authored project has received a grant from KPMG and the International Association for Accounting Education and Research under their program for research related to the decision process of the International Accounting Standards Board.

Wolfe’s dissertation is titled “The Effect of Mandatory Quantitative Input Disclosures on Investor Perception of Mark-to-Model Fair Value Estimates.”

His work experience includes more than 10 years in the banking and energy marketing industries.
Jingjing (Jing) Huang joined the Department of Accounting and Information Systems in the Pamplin College of Business in the fall of 2014. She holds an accounting Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, a Master's Degree in accounting from the Iowa State University and a Bachelor's Degree in business administration from the Shanghai University of Electric Power. She is licensed as a CPA in the state of Iowa. She has previously taught at the University of Oregon.

Huang's research interests include tax, financial accounting, corporate finance and R&D innovation. Her dissertation examines the role of taxes in foreign earnings management for multinational companies. Her working paper investigates how companies tradeoff tax incentives against nontax costs in R&D investment decisions.

Jing has worked as a federal tax associate at KPMG in Des Moines, Iowa, and was an accounting intern at Deloitte and Touche in London and at HNI Corporation in Iowa and Hong Kong. She received doctoral fellowships from the Deloitte Foundation and the University of Oregon.

As I reflect upon my 20 plus years as a member of the ACIS Advisory Board and as its Chair for the past 3 years, I cannot help but recall the many associations and true friendships that I have had with fellow ACIS alumni. These friendships are part of my extended family. It is an experience of a lifetime and one that I will never forget.

It is easy and quite natural to refer to “Hokie Nation,” in our ongoing reference to Virginia Tech and the loyal alumni who support it, but to experience the passion and witness the many career successes of the graduates of Accounting and Information Systems is uniquely special. Personally, I feel very strongly that my career success in banking was directly attributable to my Virginia Tech education. That is why I give back with my time, energy and support ACIS with my philanthropy, just as many of you do as well.

Since I graduated with my MACIS degree as a member of the Class of 1972, I have seen many changes and witnessed the ACIS Department and the Pamplin College of Business face many challenges. But today the Department and the College have demonstrated that excellent leadership and support from our alumni base can make a difference. National rankings continue to advance. This is amazing in light of the continued serial reductions in financial support from the Commonwealth. If it were not for you, our loyal alumni base, this would not be possible.

I am truly blessed to be one of the Virginia Tech alumni who represent the very best and most loyal alums on the planet. We, my friends, have something very special: we are Hokies!

Ut Prosim

Jim Hatch, Chair
ACIS Advisory Board
Debra Salbador Named Martin Junior Faculty Fellow

Debra A. Salbador, associate professor of accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech, has been named a Martin Junior Faculty Fellow by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

The Darrell D. and Betty R. Martin Junior Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems was established in 2008 with a gift from alumnus Darrell Martin and his wife, Betty Martin, to support faculty excellence. The Martin Junior Fellowship appointment is for three years.

Salbador has been a member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 1994. Her research interests are tax policy and how this policy affects taxpayer decisions. She has published in such journals as *The Journal of the American Taxation Association*, *Advances in Taxation*, *Journal of Accounting Literature*, *Tax Notes*, *The Tax Adviser*, and *Oil and Gas Tax Quarterly*.

She has presented her research at conferences sponsored by the American Taxation Association, the American Accounting Association and the National Tax Association. She has given seminars on tax planning at the accounting and auditing conference organized by Virginia Tech and the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants. She has also taught continuing tax education programs for public accounting firms and the American Institute of CPAs.

Salbador, who teaches a variety of accounting and tax courses, is widely considered one of the best teachers in her department and has received numerous college and departmental teaching awards. She has chaired several dissertation committees.

She has served as KPMG Faculty in Residence and contributes significantly to practice as well as research.

Salbador received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of New Orleans and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina.
John J. (Jack) Maher enjoys the Extra Miles!

John J. (Jack) Maher is currently the John F. Carroll, Jr. Professor and has been a member of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech for over 25 years. After several years of professional experience in public and private accounting, Jack elected to become a university educator and obtained his Ph.D. degree at The Pennsylvania State University. Professor Maher has taught courses related to Accounting and Information Systems as well as leading a doctoral seminar on Accounting and Capital Markets. Professor Maher’s emphasis on the importance of teaching as well as research is evidenced by the multiple teaching awards he has received during his time at Virginia Tech.

Professor Maher continues to have faith in the principles of honesty, integrity, and service promoted by the University and genuinely believes in the importance and merit of a Virginia Tech education. This is conclusively demonstrated by the reality that all four of his own children have graduated with at least one degree from Virginia Tech. Overall, Jack believes Virginia Tech students are an honest and unpretentious pleasure to work with and enjoys the daily interactions with both undergraduate and graduate students.

Professor Maher has been the Director of the ACIS Ph.D. program for the past 14 years. During this time, he has observed a continual increase in the overall quality of entering Ph.D. students. Part of this increase can be attributed to Virginia Tech’s acceptance a few years back into the inaugural Accounting Doctoral Scholars (ADS) program administered by the AICPA foundation. The ADS program was developed to help address a national shortage of qualified accounting professionals entering academia particularly from the audit and tax areas. The program offered $30,000 yearly scholarships to each of 30 new Ph.D. students each year for four years. Four new cohorts of roughly 30 students a year were admitted into the ADS program. Although the competition from all the leading accounting programs in the country was intense for these new students, Virginia Tech was successful in enrolling at least one new ADS scholar each of the four years. These ADS scholars have helped contribute to a general overall increase in the quality of Virginia Tech’s Ph.D. students which has subsequently translated into an increase in the quality of placements upon graduation. In recent years Virginia Tech’s Ph.D. graduates have joined the faculty at Auburn University, Baylor University, Case Western Reserve University, University of New Mexico, Northeastern University, Seattle University, University of Virginia-McIntire, and University of Waterloo. With only 150 to 200 new Accounting Ph.D.’s created each year in the entire USA, Virginia Tech is doing very well in developing and producing high-quality young professors to contribute to the future of accounting academia.

In addition to recruiting, supervising, and mentoring undergraduate and Ph.D. students, Professor Maher has also cheerfully engaged in handling his share of the overall workload essential for the effective functioning of the ACIS Department. In recent years, this has included serving on the Faculty Recruiting committee, the ACIS and College Promotion and Tenure committees, the Academic Programs committee, and the ACIS Strategic Planning committee.

Important to the success of any university professor is the development and publication of academic research. During his academic career, Professor Maher’s research has examined the proper measurement, valuation, and reporting for ill-defined corporate liabilities such as defined benefit pensions, medical benefits for retirees, and environmental obligations. Additionally, Maher has explored the effects of book-tax differences on corporate credit markets, the effects of auditor industry expertise on earnings quality, and the effects of non-audit service fees on perceived audit quality. Maher’s more current research interests involve the effects of real earnings management on credit markets, the effects of earnings quality on IPO’s, and the effects of timeliness of governmental reporting on municipalities cost of debt. Generally speaking, Professor Maher’s research focuses on decision modeling directly related to accounting and auditing with particular emphasis on debt markets.

On a more personal level in giving back to the community, Maher has spent many years volunteering his time and talent as coach of youth soccer and basketball programs at various levels. He has also been a 20 year member of the Recreation Advisory Board in his community. Finally, Professor Maher has helped build houses for Habitat for Humanity and has been active in his church as a member of the Finance Council and Sunday lector. Jack’s current plans are to continue to contribute to the teaching, research, and service missions of Virginia Tech.
Greg Jenkins, professor of accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business, is one of three researchers who recently received the 2014 AAA/Deloitte Foundation Wildman Medal Award for their study on how brainstorming meetings can help auditors detect fraud.

Jenkins received the award, along with co-authors Joseph F. Brazel, of North Carolina State University, and Tina D. Carpenter, of the University of Georgia, for their article, “Auditors’ Use of Brainstorming in the Consideration of Fraud: Reports from the Field,” published in the July 2010 issue of The Accounting Review.

The award, sponsored by the Deloitte Foundation, was established in honor of a former partner of the firm and to encourage and recognize excellence in research that is relevant to accounting practice. This year’s medal was presented to Jenkins and his co-authors at the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association in August.

Their study, Jenkins says, can help auditors improve their decision-making processes related to fraud detection, as it identifies best practices from high-quality brainstorming meetings.

Such meetings are required on every audit to allow auditors to discuss the potential for fraud and responses to fraud risks. The benefits of brainstorming sessions, however, are not uniformly experienced. “Low-quality sessions likely incur the costs of such interactions without reaping the benefits,” the co-authors note.

The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), Jenkins says, has raised concerns about variations in the quality of brainstorming sessions and the effectiveness of auditors’ responses to fraud risks.

He and his co-authors developed a measure of brainstorming quality to examine whether and how it affects the relationships among fraud risk factors and assessments and auditors’ responses to fraud risks. They tested their measure with data from a field survey of auditors’ actual brainstorming sessions and fraud-related judgments for 179 audit engagements.

Jenkins, who holds the Curling and William S. Gay fellowships, has authored or co-authored articles in numerous academic and professional publications as well as textbooks and other course materials.

He serves as co-editor of Current Issues in Auditing. His recent professional activities include serving on a practice monitoring task force of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and chairing the Virginia Accounting and Auditing Conference. He has led a task force of the American Accounting Association that assisted the PCAOB with research related to auditor independence and mandatory audit firm rotation and served on an earlier task force that assisted the board with research related to revisions of quality control standards.

Before joining academe, Jenkins worked as an auditor with Ernst & Young and McGladrey. He received his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from Appalachian State University.
Lynn Almond joined the ACIS faculty in the summer of 2010 with over twenty-five years of varied business experience. He acquired industry experience in very traditional to high-tech startups. He was the Controller and/or CFO of multiple manufacturing companies. Immediately prior to joining the ACIS faculty he worked with a consulting firm that focused on companies experiencing financial crisis. His clients were in bankruptcy, insolvent or had fraudulent activities occurring. These varied experiences have proven invaluable in the classroom. Lynn has taught the entire sequence of financial accounting courses and the introductory managerial accounting course. He coordinated Principles of Accounting since the fall semester of 2011. Lynn’s interest in the learning process led to a variety of different approaches in the classroom in an effort to understand the best way to help students learn. He participated in several CIDER workshops and off-site teaching conferences to understand the learning process and develop ideas to improve the classroom experience for his students. Lynn is developing a “flipped” introductory accounting class with lecture and study materials online and meeting with students in person for problem solving sessions. Lynn plans to offer this “experiential learning” concept class in fall semester of 2015.

Cintia Easterwood is an instructor in the Department of Accounting and Information Systems. She received a B.B.A. and an M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. She holds a CPA certification from the state of Texas. Dr. Easterwood, who has been on the faculty in the Department of Accounting and Information Systems since August of 1992, has taught a wide variety of courses. Included among these courses are: Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Auditing, Personal Computers in Business, Accounting Systems and Controls, and Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting. She currently coordinates Principles of Managerial Accounting and the Becker FastPass CPA Review Course. Although her classes, especially Intermediate, can be very rigorous, they are designed to prepare students for successful careers in business and accounting. Cindy adds significant value to the ACIS department and serves as Chair of the search committee for identifying other excellent instructors to the department. She also is very active in communicating the importance of passing the CPA exam to ACIS students and she teaches in the CPA “boot camp” each summer.

Eric Martin joined the faculty of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech as an instructor. He comes from the University of Tennessee where he taught courses in Principles of Accounting, Cost Accounting and Information Management. Prior to teaching, he worked as an Internal Auditor with the AICPA. Before that, Eric worked as an External Auditor with the firm of Johnson & Lambert LLP. Eric’s excellent industry experience includes working as a Senior Financial Analyst and Manager with IBM for six years. He holds an undergraduate degree in Accounting and Information Systems from Virginia Tech and a Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Tennessee with an Audit concentration. He is a licensed CPA in the state of North Carolina and a member of the NCACPA. The department interviewed many candidates to fill this position and we are very happy to attract Eric to join our department and we look forward to see Eric effectively teach our students well given his vast experience in academia and industry. In his spare time he enjoys playing basketball, tennis, and soccer as well as watching independent films at the Lyric.
It seems like it was yesterday, (actually it’s been more than 30 years), since I was sitting in Dr. Brown’s Cost Accounting class learning about rate/volume variances and the economic order quantity model. Today I have the privilege to serve as the volunteer chair of the ACIS Development Committee. Although the appearance of the campus has changed since I graduated from Tech, some things seem to remain the same. As you may be aware, the Accounting and Information Systems and Pamplin College of Business continue to face increasing budget and financial challenges that threaten the quality of business education that Virginia Tech offers.

The ACIS Development Committee is working on several initiatives this year to boost support and involvement. These initiatives include:

1. Identification of 3 to 5 companies that may have a large base of ACIS/Pamplin graduates or friends of Virginia Tech and solicitation of possible donors and related corporate matching funds.
2. Continue to encourage and achieve 100% philanthropic participation from ACIS Board members.
3. Contact prior years’ Banquet Award/Scholarship recipients to discuss and encourage those beneficiaries to consider a charitable contribution.

While the initiatives are ongoing, they support the excellent progress that has been made by Dr. Barkhi and the Department in the quality of programs and opportunities provided to students. Specifically the department has hired four new faculty members during 2013, one new faculty member in 2014, and received authorization to hire two new faculty members during the next fiscal year to replace retired faculty members. We continue to make progress and I believe we are headed in the right direction.

Certainly charitable giving is a personal decision. Currently, less than 1 in 5 graduates has given to the Virginia Tech Foundation for the benefit of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems. Please join us to strive to have 100% philanthropic participation. I know Hokies rise to the challenge when given a goal.

If you would like to contribute please direct your contributions towards the Department of Accounting and Information Systems unrestricted fund #881158: You can make a gift by accessing the online site: https://webapps.es.vt.edu/givingto/academic/gift and click on “Enter your own” and type “ACIS.” Please email Reza Barkhi at reza@vt.edu to let him know about your gift. I would like to thank you in advance for your philanthropic support.

Warmest Regards,
Steve Parker

Please read the success story of Kenneth Cooke ’92, who serves on the ACIS Advisory Board, and is a succesful alumnus of the department: http://www.vtmag.vt.edu/winter15/philanthropy.html. After congratulating Ken on this success story, he sent the following email to share with members of the ACIS Advisory Board and with his permission is being shared with you.

“One of the main reasons I am even able to “qualify” in being able to give under philanthropic activities is because of the outstanding education I received at Virginia Tech! My accounting degree and the leadership training I received while being involved at the University, a key one being the transportation chair of Business Horizons one year, enables me to excel at Goldman Sachs and my Chairmanship with the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc. As we all know, the value we receive from a VT ACIS degree is immeasurable, but I can put some value on it, through regular generous donations to help make the path a little easier for the next generation.”
Jim Hatch was elected Vice President/President Elect of the Pamplin Advisory Council at the annual meeting of the PAC on October 31, 2014.

In June, Shirley Edwards was appointed as EY’s Americas Deputy Vice Chair of Assurance. In this role, she provides oversight to the firm’s audit, financial accounting and advisory services, fraud and investigative dispute services and climate change and sustainability services. She works with EY’s leaders to manage the approximately 19,000 people in these practices in Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Central America, South America and Israel. Shirley is a 1982 accounting graduate of the Pamplin College of Business and is active with the ACIS Advisory Board and Pamplin advisory council. Congratulations to Shirley!

Sherri Kelly was promoted to executive director from senior manager. Kelly is a member of Ernst & Young LLP’s Advisory practice where she serves clients in a variety of sectors, including media and entertainment, financial services and technology. She received a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from Florida State University and a master’s degree in Accountancy specializing in information systems from Virginia Tech. Kelly is a certified public accountant licensed to practice in California and a certified information systems auditor.

Kenneth Cooke ’92, vice president at Goldman Sachs, who serves on the ACIS Advisory Board was selected as the Chair of the board of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), and presented at the NABA Chapter at Virginia Tech.

France Belanger, Professor of ACIS, was featured on NPR about her research on mobile information privacy. She discussed her research about individual’s lack of awareness for safe privacy practices, particularly with respect to location information on pictures. She also discussed her new app, the Privacy Helper, recently featured in the Pamplin News magazine.

Several faculty members assumed roles as Associate Editor for various journals.

We had two successful Accounting and Auditing conferences in Roanoke and Virginia Beach where more than 400 CPAs participated in each conference. We are planning to offer a new conference on September 24-25 in Falls Church, Virginia.

Bryan Cloyd, Professor of ACIS, received a full year research leave to focus on his research on tax. He also provided mentorship for three groups of students who participated in a national tax competition sponsored by PwC in Fall 2014.

Sarah Stein, Assistant Professor of ACIS, was selected to serve as a member of the 2014/2015 Trueblood Seminars Planning Committee. This committee helps to plan the content for next year’s Trueblood Seminars for professors and represents a national service role through the American Accounting Association. She also co-authored a research article titled “Auditor Industry Specialization and Evidence of Cost Efficiencies in Homogenous Industries” that was conditionally accepted at The Accounting Review.

We hosted a very successful ACIS Tailgate on October 20th and more than 200 alumni and friends of the department participated. Thanks to KPMG, Deloitte, PwC, and EY for sponsoring this tailgate. They had tents set up during this event and interacted with alumni and students.

Larry Killough, KPMG Professor of ACIS, retired in May 2014 after more than 40 years of valued service to the ACIS department. He was one of the founders of the department and many of his former students are successful alumni of the department.

Sam Hicks, Associate Professor of ACIS, retired after more than 30 years of valued service to the ACIS department in May 2014.

We had an ACIS Advisory Board meeting on May 9th where more than 45 successful alumni and selected faculty and staff participated for an all-day meeting. This was followed by an ACIS awards banquet where the department gave more than 112 scholarships to our students, thanks to our generous donors.

Lynn Almond has received a Design and Develop Award from TLOS (Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies) to utilize online technology tools for enhancing the Principles of Accounting (ACIS 2115) course during the summer of 2015. This will facilitate adding technology based tools to the course and being able to offer parts of the class online.
Special Thanks to Our Donors

The students and faculty of the Virginia Tech Department of Accounting and Information Systems are most grateful for the gifts received between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 from the following alumni, friends, faculty, and parents. Alumni are listed by the class with which they received their degree from Virginia Tech. Names include donors to departmental endowment accounts and unrestricted giving to the department. If your name is omitted, please accept our apologies and notify the department immediately.

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45th Annual Virginia Accounting and Auditing Conference

2014 marked the 44th year of the two-day Virginia Accounting & Auditing Conference. Since the conference began in 1971, thousands of CPAs who live and work in Virginia and surrounding states have looked to the Virginia Accounting & Auditing Conference to stay up to date on contemporary accounting and business topics. In recent years, the Roanoke and Virginia Beach conferences have hosted almost 900 CPAs annually.

Due to the ongoing success of the Roanoke and Virginia Beach conferences and the growth and number of Virginia Tech alumni throughout Virginia, we are expanding the conference to include a new location in Northern Virginia this year! Each of the two-day conferences will offer attendees an opportunity to earn up to 17 hours of CPE, while satisfying requirements related to A&A and Yellow Book, as well as, Virginia’s 2 hour annual ethics course.

2015 Conference Dates and Locations

September 21 – 22, 2015 – Roanoke, VA at the Hotel Roanoke

September 24 – 25, 2015, Falls Church, VA at the Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park – New Location!!
(www.vscpa.com/AANOVA)

November 19 – 20, 2015, Virginia Beach, VA at the Founders Inn

You may contact Greg Jenkins (greg.jenkins@vt.edu), Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, if you have questions about the conferences. Also, look for more information about the conferences in the coming months from the Virginia Society of CPAs, our conference partner. We hope to see you there!