

Tiger Tactics

ACCOUNTING NEWS ► 2024



Department of Accounting

LSU

E. J. Ourso College of Business

A Note from the Chair

Greetings, alumni and friends.

I am pleased to present the latest issue of *Tiger Tactics*, the Department of Accounting's annual magazine. As you read about our students, faculty, and alumni, know that your generous support contributed to their success.

Student achievement has been a key theme for us in 2024. This is evident in several notable accomplishments: Beta Alpha Psi's impressive international award for Best Practices, our student's selection for the LSU Global Ambassadors Program in Ghana, our two students selected for the Ourso Outstanding Eight, and the prestigious Gold chapter status for our Beta Alpha Psi chapter. The success of our students, along with the recruitment efforts from our accounting faculty supported by Beta Alpha Psi and the National Association of Black Accountants, has resulted in an impressive 52.7 percent increase in undergraduate enrollment in the last one and one-half years.

Other articles focus on international experiences, an exceptional Master of Accountancy cohort, the achievements of alumnus Patrick Brandau, managing partner at Deloitte in New Orleans, who was recently inducted into the E. J. Ourso College of Business Hall of Distinction, and the LSU Center for Internal Auditing & Cybersecurity Risk Management.

As always, *Tiger Tactics* highlights faculty and doctoral student research and achievements. We are excited to recap our spring banquet and share more about the impact of your giving.

We hope these stories spark a sense of pride and renew your connection to the department and your Alma Mater. If you would like to support our work, see the inside back cover to learn more about investment opportunities. Whatever you give, we are always sincerely thankful for you.

We send our warmest wishes for the year ahead.

Geaux Tigers!

Best Regards,



Thomas J. Phillips Jr.
Department Chair & Professor
Thomas H. Daigre Endowed Chair
LSU E. J. Ourso College of Business
Department of Accounting



Please visit our website lsu.edu/business/accounting for more information, and remember that you can reach us at: accounting@lsu.edu or 225-578-6202.

Follow us on social:

 **Instagram**
[@lsu_accounting](https://www.instagram.com/lsu_accounting)

 **LinkedIn**
LSU Department of Accounting



On the cover: Beta Alpha Psi members show off their LSU pride and international award—story on page 5.

Contents

1. FACULTY & PHD

2. STUDENTS

8. INTERNAL AUDIT

10. ALUMNI

12. DONOR IMPACT

Faculty and PhD Program News

Faculty/Staff News

In Memoriam: Julie Chenier Abrams

With deep sadness, we acknowledge the passing of Julie Chenier Abrams, a beloved former accounting instructor at the E. J. Ourso College of Business. Julie was a trailblazer in her field, becoming the 64th Black CPA in Louisiana and further dedicating over 35 years of her career to educating and mentoring thousands of students. Her impact extended far beyond the classroom, where she served as a passionate teacher and a guiding force in her roles as assistant dean and faculty advisor to Beta Alpha Psi. Julie's commitment to fostering excellence in her students and her warm, caring spirit will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and the students she inspired.



Julie Chenier Abrams



Assistant Professor **Stephanie Walton** received the LSU E. J. Ourso College of Business Research Excellence Award. She is currently ranked first in Archival Accounting Information Systems (AIS) in the BYU Accounting rankings, and third in all methods for AIS. Walton was also asked to speak at the 2024 Accountability in a Sustainable World Conference, hosted in conjunction with New York City's Climate Week by Accountability in a Sustainable World Quarterly (Notre Dame) and Climate Action on September 25 – 26, 2024.



Stephanie Walton

Assistant Department Chair and Distinguished Instructor **Laura Wiley** was recently selected to serve a two-year term as a member-at-large on the board of the Society of Louisiana CPAs (LCPA). Wiley also joined the author team of Kieso, Weygandt, and Warfield for the 19th edition of *Intermediate Accounting*, set to be published by John Wiley & Sons in 2025.



Laura Wiley

Assistant Professor **Zhenhua Chen** received the E. J. Ourso College of Business Dean's Award for Undergraduate Teaching.



Zhenhua Chen

New PhD Students

Shane Burkholder earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana, and then moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to begin his career as a CPA. Later, he returned to Louisiana Tech to begin teaching there and discovered a love of being on the instructional side of education, eventually deciding it was time to pursue a doctoral degree to continue his journey through academia. Outside of academics, Burkholder enjoys sports — mainly wrestling — as well as assembling and painting miniatures, reading books and comics, playing games with friends, and spending time with his wife of nine years and their beloved dog.



Shane Burkholder

"The pedigree of the professors in the accounting department made LSU extremely appealing. Additionally, being a Louisiana native, I am excited to experience our flagship university!"

Daniel Forsman completed his undergraduate degree at Mercer University in Quebec City, Canada, and his master's degree at the University of Georgia. He comes to LSU with a decade of accounting experience working as a Big 4 auditor, a corporate controller, and most recently, an accounting and assurance consultant. Beyond the classroom, Forsman enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling, diving, and hanging out with his dog.



Daniel Forsman

"I chose LSU because I wanted to participate in a high-quality program and work with well-published professors. As an accounting academic I hope to utilize my practical experience and knowledge to equip students with skills needed to achieve their career aspirations. *Geaux Tigers!*"

PhD Program Graduates

Alisha Blush graduated in May 2024 and joined Coastal Carolina University as an assistant professor. She is working on publishing her dissertation, which she presented at the April 2024 AAA Southwest Regional Conference in Galveston, Texas. She has a working paper with Associate Professor William Buslepp and Professor Ken Reichelt regarding tax account quality and audit firm organization.



Alisha Blush

Nick Mitchell graduated in May 2024 and joined the University of Texas at Arlington as a clinical assistant professor. He also received the E. J. Ourso College of Business Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. In addition to working on publishing his dissertation, Nick has two research projects with faculty and former students. One paper has been presented at the 2022 AAA Government and Non-Profit Section Meeting, the 2023 European Accounting Association, the 2023 Zoom Workshop at the University of Aston, and the 2023 AAA Annual Meeting. He is also working on publishing a paper about the DEI movement and earnings announcements with Assistant Professor Zhenhua Chen, Hilary Hughes, an LSU PhD graduate now at Creighton University, and Associate Professor Paddy Sivadasan.



Nick Mitchell



Students



Ourso Outstanding Eight

Two LSU accounting majors were selected to the inaugural cohort of the Ourso Outstanding Eight, a prestigious honor for LSU business undergraduates demonstrating success in at least two of the following categories: academics, leadership, professional development, and campus/community service.

Clarence Magee II | Dallas, Texas | BS Accounting – December 2024

When asked what advice he would give a first-year student, Clarence Magee II enthusiastically says, “Hit the ground running. What you do during your freshman year sets the mark for the rest of your college career. Do well in your prereqs so it won’t hurt you in the future.”

His LSU career demonstrates the value of early action. Magee serves as president of the National Association of Black Accountants at LSU and has completed internships with KPMG and Ernst & Young.



Check out Clarence’s bio and interview.

Katherine Whatley | Shreveport, Louisiana | BS Accounting '24, MAcc '25

If you associate accounting with solitude and spreadsheets, Katherine Whatley would like a word. “Accounting is wrongfully seen as a field that might not be as interesting or collaborative, but it’s an extrovert’s field. We should really embrace that.”

Whatley, whose passion for accounting was cultivated during internships and KPMG’s Global Advantage Program in Belgium, serves as the president of Beta Alpha Psi, putting her enthusiasm for the field into action.



Check out Katherine’s bio and interview.

MAcc Students on Location

How does a graduate program provide a lasting educational experience? One way is by offering study abroad opportunities to experience different cultures, where our students learn firsthand how commerce evolves and shifts across different regions and cultures.

Costa Rica

In March, 19 Masters of Accountancy (MAcc) students traveled to Costa Rica for a spring break study abroad experience. Starting from San José, students ventured to the surrounding areas of Alajuela, Cartago, Turriabla, and the Pacific Coast. Highlights of the trip included visits to the following:

- ▶ **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** – The group walked the trails through the park seeing amazing waterfalls and local wildlife.
- ▶ **Hacienda Alsacia** – The group visited the only coffee farm in the world owned by Starbucks, a research and development hub situated on the slopes of Poás Volcano.
- ▶ **Pineapple Tour** – The group toured a pineapple farm with an interactive tractor ride through the pineapple fields.
- ▶ **Nortico Cacao Farm** – The group learned about cacao farming and chocolate production, and even made their own chocolate bars!

Past excursions traveled to Brazil, Nicaragua, and Hawaii. Stay tuned for where we will be in 2025!

“This was such an incredible trip that I will always remember! I loved all the planned activities of course, but the best part of the whole thing was forming such close bonds with my classmates.”

— Kristyn Brewer, BS '23, MAcc '24

“It was truly amazing to see how I experienced so much personal growth in such a short amount of time. This trip changed who I am. Costa Rica will forever be one of the best memories I have from college.”

— Sydney Melder, BS '23, MAcc '24



Iceland

In August 2024, MAcc students Hayden Cowart, Caroline Moses, and Meredith Gauldin traveled to Iceland for 10 days to participate in the International Business Seminars program. Visits on the trip included Iceland Ocean Cluster, where they learned about sustainable fishing, and the United States Embassy in Iceland to learn about the interplay between diplomatic relations and economic development. Iceland is known as the land of fire and ice thanks to its plentiful volcanoes, geothermal features, and glaciers; our students made sure to see the contrast for themselves by visiting gorgeous locations such as Glacier Lagoon and Diamond Beach.

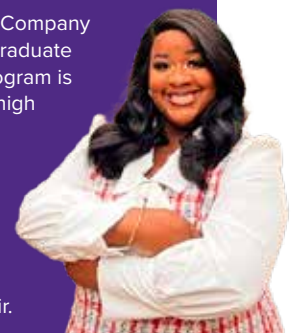


Accounting Student Receives PCAOB Scholarship

In June, accounting major **Alexandria Nettles** of Brandon, Mississippi, was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The PCAOB Scholarship Program awards funds to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in an accounting degree program at a regionally accredited US college or university. The merit-based program is awarded to those who demonstrate interest and aptitude in accounting and auditing while maintaining and demonstrating high ethical standards.

“This scholarship means a lot to me because it relieves the financial pressure of paying for college during a hectic time as I am a full-time graduate student and a full-time staff member at Hannis T. Bourgeois LLP. This scholarship shows me that hard work pays off, further motivating me to strive for excellence in my academic and professional relationships. I view this scholarship as an investment in my future, and I would like to thank the LSU Department of Accounting for recommending me and the PCAOB for giving me this opportunity.”

Nettles began the MAcc program in August. She continues her leadership role in Beta Alpha Psi as the public relations chair.



Beta Alpha Psi Achieves Gold Status

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) is a prestigious honors organization for accounting, finance, ISDS, and ISA majors. Members meet weekly to enhance their networking abilities and gain insights into professional development topics presented by top firms from across the nation.

The LSU Phi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi fosters a unique networking experience by embracing a cutting-edge approach. The chapter focuses on empowering professional relationships through engaging meetings in a relaxed yet impactful setting while promoting technological familiarity for the members. Each meeting includes dinner, a presentation from a leading firm, and ample opportunities for members to engage with professionals and explore potential career paths. Check out what our busy BAP chapter has been up to!

The LSU Phi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi earned international recognition as a Gold chapter for its activities during the 2023-24 academic year. BAP hosted 22 professional meetings of 94 members and candidates, supported by 21 corporate sponsors.

Community service remains a cornerstone of the chapter's mission. A few member-favorite events were volunteering at the Baton Rouge Food Bank, packing sandwiches at St. Vincent de Paul, and participating in the Krewe of Mutts parade downtown. "Volunteering with Beta Alpha Psi at the Krewe of Mutts parade was such a rewarding experience," said member Kylee Burns. "It was a great opportunity to connect with the community while showcasing our chapter's values. I enjoyed collaborating with my peers in BAP and giving back to others." BAP teaches its members that giving back to the community is essential, regardless of where they are in their careers.

Social events foster a strong community and allow members to network with peers and sponsors. In the fall semester, BAP enjoyed an exciting night at Main Event with its sponsors and hosted its first Winter Soiree. The group also organized a lively social at Red Stick Social, featuring bowling, live music, crawfish, and more! BAP member Brent York commented, "My favorite experience was the BAP Social, as it allowed me to connect with others pursuing similar opportunities. I formed friendships and bonded with fellow students and employers while enjoying bowling and great seafood!"

The year concluded with an initiation brunch downtown, celebrating the semester's achievements and the growth of its members.

This year, BAP collaborated with LSU Women in Business to host SheLeads: Empowering Women to Lead Every Step of the Way, a special event designed to empower and inspire female members and the LSU student community with a night of connection and stories of successful women in industry and the college. In addition, our Careers in Accounting Night offered LSU business students the chance to explore various career paths within accounting through presentations and networking with seniors and graduate-level accounting students.

Beta Alpha Psi continues to expand, welcoming more students each year. The organization offers an excellent opportunity to connect with peers, strengthen networking skills, and gain valuable insights from professionals. BAP recruits new members at the beginning of every semester. Visit bapphi.org/join-bap for further details.

"Beta Alpha Psi has been instrumental in my professional development, offering unparalleled networking opportunities and experiences. I can't wait to see how this club grows," said Vice President of Membership Avery Aucoin.

BAP is excited about what the future holds for the chapter and looks forward to another successful year!



LSU Phi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi Wins International Competition

Thanks to its innovative approach to empowering professional relationships, LSU's Beta Alpha Psi – Phi Chapter earned first place in the Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) Best Practices Competition, sponsored by Deloitte. The competition is open to more than 300 chapters of the international honor organization for financial information students and professionals.

In the competition, chapters are encouraged to design and execute programs promoting awareness and involvement in projects exemplifying values shared by BAP and Deloitte. In the process, students sharpen professional skills, develop resilience, and grow confidence.

The chapter's journey to victory began in February when five BAP executive team members attended the national BAP mid-year conference in San Diego, California. Katherine Whatley (BS Accounting '24 and Master of Accountancy candidate), Hailie Meyer (BS Accounting '24), Alexandria Nettles (BS Accounting '24 and Master of Accountancy candidate), Preston Gravley (BS Accounting '24 and Master of Accountancy candidate), and Anastasia Engelman (BS Accounting '24 and Master of Accountancy candidate) participated in community service events and presentations from other chapters. Both teams from LSU competed in the best practices competition, marking the chapter's first entries in this event. The project titled "Leveraging the LSU Way: A Technology-Driven Networking Blueprint" by Whatley, Meyer, and Gravley won first place, advancing them to the finals to be held at BAP's international annual meeting in July.

The winning project showcased a plan known as the "L.S.U. Way" to foster robust professional relationships in the organization. The **L**inkedIn group, **S**ponsor directory, and **U**tutilization of Outlook tools was the three-step plan of success that skyrocketed membership and sponsorship engagement, sending these Tigers to victory on the big stage!

The BAP Phi Chapter was represented in Orlando, Florida by Whatley, Meyer, and Mary Caroline Wilcox (BS Accounting '25). With over 800 members in attendance from 36 states and three countries, our LSU team proudly secured first place in its category.

After the win, Meyer said, "Joining BAP was a significant step outside my comfort zone. I found a welcoming community of passionate individuals who were equally invested in their careers. After my first year with BAP, I was grateful for the opportunities I had received. Little did I know how much more BAP had in store for me through these competitions! These experiences shifted my mindset and motivated me to push my limits. The competitions have helped me grow and turn my fears into excitement."

Wilcox serves as the chapter's competition coordinator and commented, "The mid-year and annual BAP conferences offer invaluable opportunities to showcase our chapter's innovations and learn from other chapters worldwide. Competing at the annual conference allowed me to better understand the competitive atmosphere and events. As the mid-year coordinator, I will guide and support our teams as they prepare for their various event categories. I'm beyond excited for the year ahead as we prepare to showcase the 'L.S.U. Way' further and continue our legacy of success."

"Competing on an international stage was an incredible experience that showcased our chapter's hard work and dedication," remarked Whatley. "Our chapter's success at the conference highlights the strength of the program we have built, and I am so proud of each member of the team and each member of BAP. We look forward to building on these achievements as we continue to grow and excel in the coming year. Every long night of work and early morning is worth bringing home the memories, learnings, and the first-place trophy back to our club, incredible accounting department, and sponsors who have supported us thus far! "

"As faculty advisors, we are proud of the team's dedication and hard work. It is incredible to see our students shine and excel in such a distinguished competition," said advisors and Department of Accounting faculty Tracy Morgan and Zhenhua Chen.

The BAP Phi Chapter won \$2,250 for wins during the regional and final rounds.





National Association of Black Accountants

Officially chartered in 2011, the LSU student chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) serves to develop Black business leaders in accounting, finance, and entrepreneurship. NABA offers student members personal and professional development opportunities through networking, internships, scholarships, and mentorship. During the 2023-2024 academic year, NABA organized professional development meetings, service opportunities, and social events. NABA has also emphasized collaborating with other organizations to foster a greater community.

NABA is grateful to be sponsored by Deloitte, EY, KPMG, and PwC. These companies host professional development meetings with NABA and allow students to network with industry professionals. Sponsored professional development meetings are centered around topics that give students the confidence and knowledge they need for their professional careers. These meetings also allow students to learn about internships and full-time career opportunities. Students have also leveraged summer internships with companies such as Deloitte, EisnerAmper, EY, and KPMG to further develop professional skills.

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, NABA focused on increasing student engagement and recognition. The chapter aims to continue these efforts into the new academic year to create a community where students feel welcomed and represented.

Follow [@nabaatlsu](#) on Instagram for additional information regarding meetings and events.

Right from the top:

NABA members and officers attend a professional development hosted by PwC.

Simone Barnum (SCREP Coordinator), Clarence Magee II (President), and George Johnson (Treasurer) at the annual Accounting Awards Banquet.

NABA members and officers participate in a kickball tournament hosted by the National Society of Black Engineers LSU Chapter.

NABA members volunteer with members of Pre-Law Society at LSU at the Family & Youth Service Center of East Baton Rouge.



Accounting Major Joins LSU Global Ambassadors Program in Ghana

Accounting senior Bertha Campos was one of 10 undergraduates selected to spend spring break in Ghana as part of the inaugural cohort of the LSU Global Ambassadors Program (GAP). GAP is a collaborative effort between the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Global Engagement. The program nurtures the skills, behaviors, and mindset needed to thrive in the global economy.

Program participants were selected through a competitive, multi-step application process, which included an interview. Campos said that while the interview was slightly stressful, it was essential to ensure a good group dynamic with globally-minded participants.

“Every single one of us learned from one another; it is an experience I will never forget. The people on the trip made the program tremendously better. We all came from diverse backgrounds but always took the time to listen to everyone’s stories.”

The university covered the costs for the eight-day trip to the western African country. In addition to students from across campus, the travel party included leaders from the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and the Office of Global Engagement.

The trip offered a rich blend of historical exploration, cultural immersion, and education about contemporary Ghanaian society. Participants visited sites from the transatlantic slave trade, met with officials at the US Embassy to learn about its role in US foreign policy and explore careers in foreign service, spent time with local families, and visited organizations focused on aiding unhoused youth.

“The program was a well-thought-out experience,” said Campos.

“My favorite activities were touring the Elmina Castle in Cape Coast (a major center of the slave trade), spending a day with locals, having dinner at a remarkable restaurant called Roots, and all the non-profits we visited. Watching videos of the talented performers at Roots transports me back to that moment, as if I were sitting next to my friends again. There were countless joyful moments throughout the journey.”

The trip also highlighted pressing global challenges. Campos was drawn to the issue of homelessness among children, a situation she was familiar with from her upbringing in Honduras.

“I grew up in a poor country where you see homeless children constantly. Even on my way to school, I saw kids asking for money outside the gates. As a child, I repeatedly asked my mom why these children were not at home with their parents. That is the innocence of any child, but once you grow up, you realize things are not black and white. Seeing the same issue in Ghana reminded me of Honduras. Our visits to Future of Africa and Fafali, non-profits serving unhoused youth, were eye-opening. They help children succeed by providing them with knowledge and nurturing their creativity. The organizations inspired me to create a non-profit in Honduras someday.”

Campos’ experience in Ghana and her plans for the future underscore the lasting impact of the Global Ambassadors Program, which aims to foster a lifelong commitment to global engagement and service.



LSU Center for Internal Auditing & Cybersecurity Risk Management

LSUCIA&CRM

The LSU Center for Internal Auditing & Cybersecurity Risk Management (LSUCIA&CRM) celebrated its 40th anniversary in January with a reception and training session attended by alumni and friends of the program. LSU was the first university to establish an internal auditing program. Today, LSUCIA&CRM is recognized as a worldwide leader, with students and staff earning thirty-two international awards and the program serving as a model for many others.

The center remains at the forefront of addressing current and emerging organizational risks. In addition to cybersecurity risk management and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) topics, the LSUCIA&CRM now offers students training in artificial intelligence (AI). This aligns with the center's strategic plan, which focuses on equipping students to address the evolving challenges within the internal audit profession and the broader business landscape. The goal is to produce the most well-prepared entry-level auditors with a forward-looking vision for the future.



IIA Baton Rouge Chapter and LSUCIA & CRM Annual Conference

LSUCIA&CRM, in partnership with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Baton Rouge Chapter, hosts an annual two-day training conference for internal auditors at all experience levels. The conference gives auditors opportunities to learn from presenters and fellow professionals, earn continuing professional education credits, and network. This year's conference took place on September 23 and 24. It featured the following alumni speakers: Paul Douglas from EisnerAmper, Chad Bourque from Gallagher Benefits Services, and Jude Viator from EAG Gulf Coast LLC.

Internships

Over its 40-year history, the LSUCIA&CRM program has placed 2,905 students in internships. The program is grateful for our sponsor companies' continued dedication and support.

Camille Lachney and Elizabeth McFeaters interned at Halliburton in Houston this summer. Lachney had the opportunity to travel to Villahermosa, Mexico, while McFeaters joined a global audit in Bangalore, India. Both experiences enhanced their understanding of Halliburton's international operations and sharpened their auditing, compliance, and professional relationship-building skills.

"During my internship at Halliburton, I focused on risk management and compliance. A key experience was traveling to Mexico with an audit team, which broadened my global business perspective and honed my communication and teamwork skills. I value travel and look forward to exploring new opportunities in my career."

— Camille Lachney, BS Accounting '25



Camille Lachney

"I am originally from Queensland, Australia, and a senior at LSU majoring in accounting with a minor in internal auditing. During my internship with Halliburton, I gained valuable experience in risk mitigation and auditing, including a global audit in Bangalore, India, alongside the Dubai audit team. This opportunity deepened my understanding of the energy sector and sharpened my compliance and professional relationship-building skills as I prepare to start my career."

— Elizabeth McFeaters, BS Accounting '25



Elizabeth McFeaters

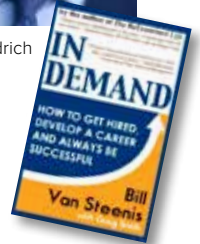
Reading Across the Lifetime

LSUCIA&CRM students volunteered to read books over the summer and present their insights in the fall. This initiative promotes lifelong reading by demonstrating the diverse benefits of engaging with various genres and perspectives. By sharing their experiences and insights, students highlight the value of continuous learning and encourage a commitment to reading throughout one's life. This approach aims to foster a culture of intellectual curiosity and personal development, illustrating how regular reading contributes to professional and personal growth. Examples of the books include *The Black Swan* (Taleb) and *The Undiscovered Self* (Jung).

Keith Aldrich (BS ISDS '24) presented the professional growth book *In Demand* by Bill Van Steenis.



Keith Aldrich



LSU Cybersecurity Clinic

The LSU Cybersecurity Clinic, led by Aisha Ali-Gombe, an associate professor in computer science and engineering, provides hands-on cybersecurity experience through pro bono services for small businesses. It operates three sub-clinics: Threat and Vulnerability Assessment, Cyber Risk Assessment, and Cyber Defense. Under the mentorship of alumnus Wes Ladd, LSUCIA&CRM students Adam Bourque (BS ISDS, '25), Lillian Andino (BS Computer Science '26), Fatimah Avendano (BS ISDS & Management '25), Mireia Jordan (MBA '25), and Jeremiah Huynh (BS ISA '25) comprised the Cyber Risk Assessment team. They performed detailed risk assessments and produced reports to help businesses enhance their cybersecurity. The clinic also hosts seminars and counseling sessions to educate and support local businesses in managing threats.



IIA Student Chapter Officers

Brisa Gawlikowski, BS Accounting '24, is the current president of the 2024-25 LSUCIA&CRM class.



Brisa Gawlikowski

Vice President — Programs:
Madeline Nair, BS Finance '25

Vice President — Membership:
Mimi Le BS Accounting '25

Secretary: Mireia Jordan, MBA '25

Treasurer: Danny Ha, BS ISDS '26

Certification Update & CISA

A key focus of the LSUCIA&CRM program is helping students achieve high certification goals. Earning professional certification greatly enhances their marketability and provides an early advantage in career development. In addition to the IIA Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) credential, students are encouraged to pursue the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification. By providing targeted resources and guidance, the program aims to equip students with the skills and credentials necessary for success in the fields of internal auditing and information systems audit. This certification approach enhances students' professional qualifications and broadens their expertise, preparing them for various career opportunities and advancements in their respective fields.

Jeremiah Huynh, majoring in ISA with minors in internal audit and analytics, is the first student in the 2024 LSUCIA&CRM class to pass the CISA. Huynh served as a risk and financial advisory intern at Deloitte in Houston. "The CISA seemed to be the perfect certification for my career path," said Huynh.



Jeremiah Huynh

AI Club

The LSUCIA&CRM Program is sponsoring a student-led AI club. The group's roundtable discussions focus on a holistic view of AI and feature student presentations. Student members give presentations and lead discussions highlighting the impact of AI on governance, risk, and controls. The flexible format includes virtual sessions by AI practitioners and educators. The objective for the students is to be well-versed in the applications and future of AI.

President: Skylar Burke, BS Finance '26

Vice President — Membership:
Josephine Lacour BS Psychology '25

Vice President — Programs:
Stephen Kappel, BS Finance '25

Secretary: Lillian Andino, BS Computer Science '26

Treasurer: Julian Bakalov, BS Business Analytics '25

IAEP Global Student Conference

The Global Student Conference is an annual event hosted by the IIA in Orlando. This international event invites students and educators associated with the internal audit profession to connect and gain insight into how to become competent internal auditors. Professionals provided guidance on joining the field and discussed trending topics such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. This year, the event was held from April 28 to April 30. From left to right, are LSUCIA&CRM representatives who attended the conference: Sophia Gebel, Lillian Andino, Lydia Lafleur, Zoey Marton, and Brisa Gawlikowski.



Alumni News

Patrick Brandau 2024 Hall of Distinction Honoree

Patrick Brandau, BS Accounting '96, was recently inducted into the E. J. Ourso College of Business Hall of Distinction, an honor which recognizes individuals who make significant contributions in the areas of business, academia, or government as well as their community.

Brandau is the New Orleans managing partner for Deloitte & Touche LLP. He serves as an audit and assurance partner at Deloitte and is a certified public accountant. In these roles, Brandau helps drive the local strategy for growth, business development, social impact, and other strategic initiatives.

Brandau has over 28 years of experience serving large, complex companies, with a primary focus on the energy, resources, and industrials industry. He has broad experience serving clients on technical issues associated with complex business transactions and significant experience in assembling, organizing, and overseeing large client service teams. Brandau uses his strong knowledge of SEC requirements to advise clients on initial and secondary public securities offerings.



Brandau has served clients through a variety of corporate transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, and initial public offerings of their securities. He communicates regularly with senior members of management and the audit committees of large companies on a variety of matters, including SEC and GAAP reporting requirements, internal control structure, and audit committee leading practices.

Brandau currently serves as the lead relationship partner for LSU, one of Deloitte's priority universities. He has also been a valuable member of the E. J. Ourso College Dean's Advisory Council since 2014. Brandau was born and raised in Louisiana.



"LSU taught me many things that allow me to be successful ... it taught me grit; from a humble beginning, I had to work hard to earn some of my achievements. It taught me relationship-building; no matter if you're the CEO or the individual cleaning the CEO's office, always treat others with respect. It taught me how integrity is non-negotiable. Each of these traits allow me to be successful in leading our teams and serving our clients.

I'm proud to be an LSU alumni [and] proud to be from the state of Louisiana. I've been very fortunate throughout my career to start my career in Louisiana and stay here as well. I think as LSU goes, the state of Louisiana goes."

— Patrick Brandau

To listen to Patrick Brandau's speech scan the QR code. ▼



The Brandaus have a strong connection to the LSU Department of Accounting. Both Patrick and his wife, Vanessa, graduated from the program in 1996. Their daughter, Brooke, is carrying on the family tradition as a current accounting student.



MAcc Class of 2024 Celebrates with a Final Tailgate



The **LSU Master of Accountancy (MAcc) Class of 2024** gathered for a final tailgate in April, celebrating their years of hard work and camaraderie. Despite the unpredictable Louisiana weather forcing the event indoors, the graduates enjoyed a memorable time of fellowship and reminiscing.

Hayden Cowart, BS Accounting '22, MAcc '24, delivered a moving speech recalling fun times and hard work.

“Our time at LSU and in the Department of Accounting has turned a group of wild, unique, fun students into friends and a family that will last forever. We sit here amongst the stately oaks and the broad magnolias that shade the inspiring halls of LSU. In just 15 days, right down the hill, we will walk across the stage one final time as an LSU student and member of the LSU Master of Accountancy Class of 2024.

After graduation, we will leave this place we have called home for the last five years and embark on the next chapter of our lives as we enter the real world. Some of us will stay local, some will return home, while others are headed off to new cities or states. Some of us might be nervous about the next chapter of our lives, it stings to say it, but we will not have each other all within a short drive.

But what we do have are the relationships and bonds we have created. And I hope everyone knows that no matter what happens or where we are, we will have each other. Whether we are a text, call, drive or plane ride away, we have each other and all of the memories we have made at LSU.”

Connections Count

New address? New job? Career accomplishments?

Share what's new with you.



Department Honors Outstanding Students and Faculty

The Department of Accounting held its annual Accounting Awards Banquet on April 24 at the Business Education Complex. The popular annual event once again allowed the department to highlight student and faculty accomplishments.

“We are incredibly grateful to the sponsors who make this evening possible,” said Laura Wiley, assistant chair of the Department of Accounting. “Our banquet highlights the brightest and best in the Department of Accounting. It is an honor to share this occasion with scholarship donors and other accounting supporters who come out to celebrate our outstanding students and faculty.”



Faculty Awards

Outstanding Teacher Award

Tracy Morgan

Brenner Research Award

Stephanie Walton

Banquet Sponsors

Becker Professional Education

Hannis T. Bourgeois

Deloitte

EisnerAmper

EY

KPMG

LaPorte

Society of Louisiana CPAs

WeggmanDazet

John Wiley & Sons Publishing



Student Awards:

- ▶ Undergraduate awards — **\$42,250**
- ▶ Master of Accountancy awards — **\$44,010**
- ▶ Doctoral awards — **\$2,500**

External Awards:

The President and CEO of the Society of Louisiana CPAs, **Ron Gitz**, presented **10 LSU students** with a total of **\$15,750** in scholarships. These are scholarships offered on a statewide basis, so our students competed with students from across the state.



Donor Impact | The Department of Accounting

The Department of Accounting appreciates generous contributions from alumni, friends, firms, and corporations. These gifts allow us to serve students and the business community while expanding the body of accounting research.

- ▶ Donor support ensures that graduates entering the accounting profession are well-prepared by strengthening academic programs and initiatives that promote student success.
- ▶ Contributions to the Accounting Development Fund are used to acquire research software, which contributes to our broader comprehension of accounting and its influence on economic decision-making.
- ▶ Thanks to our donors, we can support with local business community with affordable training opportunities.
- ▶ Gifts to the Department of Accounting Development Fund create working capital that can be used immediately wherever it is most needed and where it can have the most significant impact. These include—among many others—experiences that enrich the quality of students' education, resources to fuel innovation, professional development, and many other purposes.

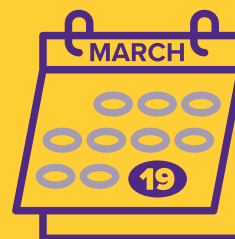


To make a gift, use the enclosed envelope. If you prefer to give online, visit givelsu.org and search for the Accounting Development Fund or another fund of your choosing.

LSU Giving Day returns March 19, 2025!

Consider volunteering as a peer-to-peer or social media ambassador to show your LSU pride and raise money for the areas of campus that matter most to you. Ambassadors are essential to raising awareness of—and creating excitement for—LSU Giving Day.

To learn more or sign up today, contact annualgiving@lsufoundation.org.



FY24 Giving By the Numbers

160

donors contributed to the
Department of Accounting

\$176,122

to the Accounting Development Fund

\$236,779

to Accounting Scholarships



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Accounting

2800 Business Education Complex • Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Need CPE or CLE hours?

Each July, the Department of Accounting hosts the Fraud & Forensic Accounting Conference — an affordable continuing professional education (CPE)/continuing legal education (CLE) event. The conference is two days, allowing professionals from all over the region to earn up to 16 hours of CPE, or 13.67 hours of CLE, for the event. Hear from leaders in the field of fraud detection and prevention, and forensic auditing.

2025 Fraud & Forensic Accounting Conference

July 24 – 25, 2025

Visit lsu.edu/business/fraud for more information.

