

**INFORMATION FOR QUADRENNIAL REVIEW OF
W. MARK WILDER
Dean - Patterson School of Accountancy**

Academic administrators on this campus are reviewed every four years. My quadrennial review occurs this year, and I am pleased to provide information and comments about the Patterson School of Accountancy for this review. It has been my privilege to serve in the dean's office from October 1, 2006 through present. My last quadrennial review occurred during fall of 2010.

I. Overview of the Patterson School of Accountancy

The Patterson School of Accountancy has been a separate autonomous school since 1979. The School is fully accredited and was among the first 40 programs in the country to receive separate AACSB Accounting accreditation.

The school offers four accountancy degrees on three different campuses. The campuses include UM-Oxford, UM-Desoto, and UM-Tupelo. The degrees are the Bachelor of Accountancy (BACCY), Master of Accountancy (MACCY), Master of Taxation (MTAX), and Doctoral (PHD) degree. The BACCY degree is offered on all three campuses, while the MACCY is offered on the UM-Oxford and UM-Desoto campuses. The MTAX and PHD degree programs are only offered on the Oxford campus.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, the school has 12 tenure-track faculty, 4 clinical faculty, and 1 instructor. The 12 tenure-track faculty includes 3 administrators (Provost Morris Stocks, myself, and Associate Dean Dr. Dale Flesher). Therefore, there are only 9 'pure' tenure-track faculty members. We also have courses taught by retired faculty. Dr. Jimmy Davis has taught four courses per year for us over the past five years and Dr. Judith Cassidy is teaching 1 or 2 courses for us each year. We also utilize adjunct faculty and have five of those teaching for us this fall. These include Dr. Jim Crockett (retired faculty member from USM), Mr. Bill Taylor (retired bank president), Ms. Brenda McVey (experienced instructor who taught accounting principles for more than 20 year in the Pacific northwest), and two others (Christina Adams and Elizabeth Weatherall) who are teaching in the Patterson School for the first time this fall. In addition, our doctoral students assist in our teaching mission, primarily in the area of principles of accounting.

The school's official enrollment for 2014-2015 has reached its ninth consecutive all-time high. We have 1,089 total students (982 on the Oxford campus and 107 combined at our Desoto/Tupelo campuses). Of the 1,089 total students, 962 are undergraduates with 127 graduate students (113 in the masters programs and 14 doctoral students).

II. Vision and Mission of the Patterson School of Accountancy

The Mission of the School of Accountancy has been recently reviewed and updated. Four years ago, our faculty approved the inclusion of a formal Vision statement. The Vision and Mission statements are below.

VISION

The vision of the Patterson School of Accountancy at The University of Mississippi is to be one of the leading institutions in accounting education in the nation.

MISSION

The mission of the Patterson School of Accountancy is to (i) offer intellectually challenging education at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels that will facilitate the development of students as accountancy professionals; (ii) support and produce nationally and internationally relevant accounting research; and (iii) engage meaningfully with the academic and professional communities.

In support of our Vision and Mission, the Patterson School of Accountancy is committed to continuous improvement in all areas; further developing the national image of the programs; monitoring changes in accounting education; and, adopting innovations that further our goals as a professional school of accountancy. The Patterson School will maintain state-of-the-art computer and library resources, will continually update curriculum, and will encourage strong relationships with other departments and schools, alumni, and potential employers. These efforts will help place students in significant and fulfilling positions with CPA firms, industries, governmental units, and educational institutions. By recruiting and retaining quality faculty and outstanding students from diverse populations, the school will maintain its excellence, autonomy, and financial integrity.

III. Enrollment and Graduation Numbers

As mentioned previously, the Patterson School has enjoyed nine consecutive years of all-time enrollment highs. Our enrollment for 2014-2015 is 1,089 total students, consisting of 962 undergraduates and 127 graduate students (113 in the masters program and 14 doctoral students). The 1,089 total enrollment includes all three of our campuses (Oxford, Desoto, and Tupelo) with 982 on the Oxford campus and 107 at Desoto/Tupelo combined.

Total enrollment grew 7.5% this year, with growth of 42.7% over the past five years and 60.4% over the past eight years. Our growth has been fueled in recent years by increases on the Oxford campus. Enrollment on the Oxford campus has grown 53.7% over the past five years (962 students in fall 2014 compared to 626 in fall 2009). By comparison, university-wide enrollment on the Oxford campus has grown 33.7% over the past 5 years. See table below for Accountancy enrollment numbers over the past 9 years.

Year	TOTAL Enrollment	Undergrad	Graduate (Masters-Doctoral)
2006-2007	679	580	99 (87-12)
2007-2008	700	600	100 (84-16)
2008-2009	726	625	101 (85-16)
2009-2010	763	639	124 (109-15)
2010-2011	817	689	128 (111-17)
2011-2012	852	725	127 (109-18)
2012-2013	910	788	122 (107-15)
2013-2014	1013	869	144 (130-14)
2014-2015	1089	962	127 (113-14)

Average ACT scores in the School have also been increasing in recent years. As one example of this, the freshmen average ACT score for the PSOA was at 25.3 in fall 2014 (an all-time high). This is up from 24.8 in fall 2013, and 24.1 in fall 2012.

With strong enrollment growth, it is not surprising that our graduation numbers are also increasing. The table below shows graduation numbers for the past 8 fiscal years. The numbers for 2013-2014 include graduates from August 2013, December 2013, and May 2014. For 2013-2014, the PSOA had 276 total graduates which is an all-time high.

Year	Total Graduates	BACCY	Masters (MACCY-MTAX)	Doctoral
2006-2007	185	119	63 (53-10)	3
2007-2008	192	120	69 (45-24)	3
2008-2009	202	133	67 (56-11)	2
2009-2010	235	164	70 (54-16)	1
2010-2011	224	131	90 (71-19)	3
2011-2012	239	154	85 (72-13)	0
2012-2013	239	146	90 (79-11)	3
2013-2014	276	170	104 (93-11)	2

IV. Faculty

As mentioned previously, the School has 17 full-time faculty. These faculty consist of 12 tenure track faculty, 4 clinical faculty, and 1 instructor. We have an outstanding group of highly qualified, highly active faculty members. They are willing to work together toward our common goal and vision of having one of the top accounting programs nationally. They are a key reason we have enjoyed so many successes.

Faculty Changes

Over the past 4 years, there have been several faculty changes. One faculty member has retired (Dr. Judith Cassidy) while two other faculty have left Ole Miss voluntarily. Both of those (Ms. Suzanne McCaffrey and Dr. Annette Pridgen) left for family reasons. In addition, three new faculty have been hired as replacements. Dr. Brett Cantrell and Dr. Rachna Prakash were hired into tenure-track positions beginning fall 2013. Ms. Louise Burney was hired as instructor and just joined our ranks this fall. All three of these faculty have strong educational backgrounds and relevant professional experience. Dr. Cantrell is a CPA and received his PhD from the University of Texas. His bachelors and masters degrees are from the University of Mississippi. Brett spent time with KPMG in Birmingham prior to starting his doctoral program. Dr. Prakash is a Chartered Accountant and is currently sitting for the CPA exam having already passed one section. She received her PhD from Emory University with a masters degree from MIT and bachelors degree from the University of Delhi. She worked for KPMG in Delhi and Smith Barney in New York. Ms. Burney received her bachelors degree from Ole Miss in accountancy and has a masters degree from Millsaps. She is a CPA and spent nearly a decade with Arthur Andersen and Peat Marwick Mitchell before serving for a number of years as Vice-President for Finance at Millsaps College.

Faculty Strengths

The faculty continue to be a great strength for the School. Of the 17 full-time faculty, 16 are terminally qualified. In addition, all of our faculty hold the CPA designation with the exception of one and she will be a CPA soon. Our faculty have leadership roles in the profession (e.g., State Board of Public Accountancy, MSCPA, AICPA) and in the academy (American Accounting Association). Our faculty are actively engaged in research and have had great success. Four of our faculty members have recent publications in *The Accounting Review*. Five of our faculty have won the MSCPA Outstanding Educator Award and one (Dr. Dale Flesher) has won the AICPA National Outstanding Educator Award. Dr. Flesher also received the University's Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award. Our faculty also remain steadfastly committed to teaching excellence and we have 4 professors who teach for us who have won the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award, which honors only one outstanding teacher campus-wide each year. Our faculty also do more than their share in terms of the teaching mission. For several years now the PSOA has led the university in student credit hours generated per full-time equivalent faculty member. In 2013-2014, we generated more than 400 SCEs per FTE faculty member for both the fall and spring semesters.

V. National Rankings

The tables below provide the national rankings for the Patterson School of Accountancy over the past 5 years (as well as the 2014-2015 top 30 undergraduate accounting programs).

National Rankings			
	Undergraduate	Masters	Doctoral
2010	20	19	23
2011	10	11	12
2012	9	9	8
2013	4	5	8
2014	6	17	9

2014-2015 Undergraduate Rankings	
1. Texas	16. Pennsylvania
2. Illinois	17. Miami Ohio
3. Brigham Young	18. Virginia
4. Notre Dame	19. Washington
5. Southern California	20. NYU
6. Ole Miss	21. Wake Forest
7. Texas A&M	22. Tennessee
8. Alabama	23. CUNY
9. Indiana	24. Penn State
10. Georgia	25. North Carolina State
11. Florida	26. Arizona State
12. Ohio State	27. Bentley
13. Wisconsin	28. Iowa
14. Michigan State	29. Utah
15. Missouri	30. Arizona

The School is pleased to have been a nationally ranked (top 30 in the nation) accounting program for 9 consecutive years in the *Public Accounting Report*. The *Public Accounting Report* has been ranking the top accounting programs nationally on an annual basis for the past 33 years. We have been ranked in the top 20 for 7 consecutive years and one or more of our programs have been among the top 10 nationally for each of the past 4 years. Two of our three degree programs are currently ranked in the top 10 nationally (these rankings for 2014-2015 were released in late August). Our undergraduate program is #6 nationally and is #1 in the Southeastern Conference for the second consecutive year.

The PAR also provides rankings of accounting programs most frequently voted No. 1 by professors at other schools. In these rankings, our undergraduate program comes in at #4 nationally and our masters program is tied for #3 nationally.

Our overall masters ranking is #17 for 2014-2015, which is well below our undergraduate ranking of #6. Typically, the undergraduate and masters rankings are highly correlated given the integrated or semi-integrated nature of 5 year degree programs. This correlation has been evident in our rankings in all other years other than 2014-2015. In addition, the fact that our masters program came in tied for #3 nationally in the table below is also inconsistent with our overall masters ranking for 2014-2015.

2014-2015 Rankings of Accounting Programs Most Frequently Voted No. 1 by Professors at Other Schools	
Undergraduate	Masters
1. Texas	1. Texas
2. Brigham Young	2. Brigham Young
3. Illinois	3. Illinois
4. Ole Miss	TIE. Ole Miss
5. Alabama	5. Alabama
6. Notre Dame	6. Texas A&M
7. Texas A&M	7. Missouri
8. Missouri	8. Notre Dame
9. Indiana	9. Florida
TIE. Pennsylvania	TIE. Michigan State

VI. Private Support

Our program of private support continues to grow in significant ways. I continue to be both humbled and inspired by the loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends. Over the past 5 fiscal years, private support of \$10,295,573 has been provided to the School. More than half of this total was a result of charitable remainder type gifts which were provided in 2012 and 2013 and which are on hand in the UM Foundation.

Fiscal Year	Total Giving for FY	PSOA Endowment at June 30
2010	\$989,799	\$10,446,046
2011	\$675,802	\$12,604,117
2012	\$4,724,751	\$16,315,013
2013	\$3,051,614	\$20,487,929
2014	\$853,607	\$23,776,377

This private support over the past five years has, along with market gains, allowed our endowment to more than double from 2010 through 2014. The Patterson School's endowment at June 30, 2014 is \$23,776,377. In addition to endowment resources, the School is fortunate to have around \$600,000 in unrestricted/restricted foundation funds available. Private support is absolutely critical to our ability to compete at the highest level.

VII. Internships and Full-Time Placements

The School has had a formal internship program for 11 years now (the program started during spring 2004). The program is extremely successful, and continues to be a capstone experience for many of our students. In spring 2014, we had a total of 102 students participate in internships (an all-time high). We had 86 interns in 2013, 76 in 2012, and 57 in 2011. Of the 102 interns in spring 2014, 86 were in public accounting with 56 interning with the Big 4. We had interns in 13 states (an all-time high) stretching from coast to coast. Ole Miss accounting students interned in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia/Washington DC. We also had a student who did half her internship in Dallas and the other half in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The School continues its commitment to 100% placement of graduates from our masters program. We continue to fare extremely well in this regard and typically all of our masters students have accepted positions prior to their graduation or within a month or so after.

The School is fortunate to be designated a “premier” or “key” recruiting school by many of the large global and national public accounting firms. These designations help the School and our students tremendously as it makes it easier for these firms in pursuing placements for our students in various locations.

VIII. CPA Review Course

The School of Accountancy continues to offer a for-credit CPA Review course (which is an accountancy 3 hour elective in the masters program). The course has now been in place for 6 years in its current form, having been initially taught in spring 2009 and then every spring semester thereafter. The School partners with Becker, and uses the Becker materials - with our faculty delivering the course. Dr. Dave Nichols and Dr. Howard Lawrence are instructors of record in the course. Most students in the course sit for the actual CPA exam during the spring semester while they are taking the class. The results (on the CPA exam) from students taking the course continue to be strong with an average pass rate on individual sections at approximately 85% over the past 6 years (compared to a national average pass rate on individual sections between 45% and 50%). A total of 82 masters students were enrolled in the course during spring 2014 (an all-time high), with approximately half of them passing the entire CPA exam during spring and summer 2014.

IX. National Library of the Accounting Profession

The School continues to be proud to be home to the National Library of the Accounting Profession (former AICPA Library). The library continues to be active, with our staff fielding two to three hundred inquiries each month from practitioners and researchers from around the state, region, nation, and world. Digitization projects are ongoing, with more and more of the library materials each year in online searchable formats. We are currently in the process of trying to raise several hundred thousand dollars in private support for the purpose of engaging in a comprehensive multi-year digitization project to significantly expand the reach of our National Library resources to users around the globe. The Library generates tremendous national visibility for the School of Accountancy and The University of Mississippi.

X. Curriculum Changes and New Initiatives

Curriculum Changes

We evaluate our curriculum on an ongoing basis and make revisions and refinements as needed. Two changes have taken place relatively recently, one at the masters level and the other at the undergraduate level. At the masters level, we have partnered with the School of Business such that accountancy masters students are able to participate in the Business School’s successful Speakers Edge course. This is taught in winter intersession, and accountancy masters students participated in both January 2013 as well as January 2014. We created a new 3 credit hour course offering (ACCY 503 Speakers Edge) for our masters

students to receive course credit. ACCY 503 serves as a nonaccountancy elective in the masters program. We had 8 students participate in 2013 with 14 in 2014. We expect to have more than 20 students in the January 2015 course. We are pleased that an accountancy masters student won the overall Speaker's Edge competition in both 2013 and in 2014.

At the undergraduate level, we recently embarked on an innovative way to address attrition challenges as it relates to accountancy students completing the Honors College curriculum (in particular the senior year Honors Thesis). We are very pleased with our partnership with the Honors College and want to grow the number of Honors College Accountancy majors. It is challenging for accountancy students to complete the senior year Honors Thesis since most of these students participate in senior year spring semester accounting internships. Firms begin recruiting our students in the spring semester of the junior year and unless students work very hard in the spring of their junior year and summer after their junior year on the thesis, many of them end up dropping out of the Honors College. So, a new Honors Thesis Alternative program was created for accountancy students such that they take 6 hours during their junior year. They take a course in the fall where various firms and companies come to campus to make current issues presentations, with course requirements for the students each week around these presentations. In the spring semester, students complete research activities and then write-up their results and defend their theses. These courses were taught for the first time in 2013-2014 and we are now in the second year of the program (Dr. Vicki Dickinson serves as instructor for these courses). I believe this program will be highly successful with the primary benefits being that accountancy students are able to complete the thesis requirement prior to their senior year and the fact that this program provides a structured environment in which to complete the thesis.

We are currently beginning the evaluation process of how to best incorporate data analytics into our curriculum. This is a major focus by the large accounting firms as well as those in industry. Very preliminary discussions have taken place with a faculty member in the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies who has expertise in this field. A meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2014 to continue the discussion.

Other Initiatives

Our undergraduate/masters students now have the opportunity to participate in three fall semester case competitions. Two of these competitions take place on campus including the KPMG Case Competition and the PwC Case Competition. Dr. Vicki Dickinson coordinates both of these competitions and coaches/prepares the students. Approximately 75 students participate in each of these competitions (competing on teams of 4 or 5 students). The winning team for the KPMG competition automatically advances to the regional level and the winning team for the PwC competition has an opportunity to advance to the national round. The third is the Deloitte Tax Case Competition and Dr. J Shaw travels with two teams of five students each to Atlanta in early November to participate. All in all, these competitions result in helping our students enhance their analytical, teamwork, and speaking skills.

Our research workshop series continues to grow and thrive. The School typically brings in to campus 6 or 7 outside researchers each academic year. These researchers make a presentation on one of their current projects and also interact with our faculty and doctoral students. The workshop series is a great way to expose our faculty/doctoral students to some of the top researchers in the nation while also exposing those researchers to the Patterson School, the University, and Oxford. Examples of faculty researchers who have recently visited our campus include those from U. of Texas, U. of Illinois, Ohio State, Columbia, Emory, and U. of Georgia.

The School is pleased to have launched a new student organization on campus during 2013-2014. We have a new chapter of NABA (National Association of Black Accountants). Most universities in the Southeastern Conference have NABA chapters on campus. We are pleased to have the only NABA chapter in the state of Mississippi. The chapter is off to a great start with approximately 25 members. Dr. Tonya Flesher and Ms. Suzanne McCaffrey helped get the chapter started and chartered during 2013-2014 and Dr. Brett Cantrell is serving as chapter advisor.

The School continues to be involved with programs on campus designed for high-achieving students. These include the Honors College, the Center for Manufacturing Excellence (CME), and the Croft Institute for International Studies. During fall 2014, there were 81 accountancy majors in the Honors College. Our involvement with the CME continues to grow with 14 accountancy majors in the new freshmen class of 50 CME students. In addition we continue to have several students each year participating in the joint double degree program between the School of Accountancy and the Croft Institute for Institutional Studies.

XI. Wilder - Teaching and Research Activity

In addition to administrative responsibilities in the dean's office, I am committed to remain active in both the teaching and research missions of the School.

Teaching

I am the director of our internship program, a responsibility which grows each year as our enrollment numbers increase. I also serve as instructor for our ACCY 520 Accounting Internship course which is offered 3 times per year (fall, spring, and summer). For fall 2013, spring 2014, and summer 2014, I was instructor for a total of 112 students in the ACCY 520 course. In addition, I teach ACCY 303 Intermediate Accounting 1 each fall semester, and currently have 62 students enrolled in my course. Every odd spring semester (spring 2011, spring 2013, etc.) I teach ACCY 304 Intermediate Accounting 2 with 60+ students enrolled. In even spring semesters (e.g., spring 2012, spring 2014) I team-teach with Dr. Vicki Dickinson ACCY 714 which is a doctoral seminar in empirical financial accounting and capital markets based accounting research. The ACCY 714 course is taught once every 2 years (every other spring semester).

Research

I continue to be actively engaged in research and in helping doctoral students. Since my last quadrennial review, I have served as 2nd year paper advisor for three doctoral students. I advised (now Dr.) Barbara White's 2nd year paper which she successfully defended in June 2011. I also advised (now Dr.) Ryan Seay's 2nd year paper which he successfully defended in July 2013. I am currently advisor for Tyler Williams and he is making good progress with his 2nd year paper which should be defended sometime within the next couple of months. In addition, I have actively served on the dissertation committee of Ashley Soliz (Provost Stocks is chairing the committee). Ashley defended her dissertation proposal in May 2013 and I have been actively involved with the data collection process over the past few months.

Over the past four years, I have been a co-author on several manuscripts presented at national American Accounting Association meetings. A total of 4 papers have been presented at the AAA Annual meeting while three other papers have been presented at AAA Sectional Mid-Year meetings (including one each at the AAA Behavioral, AAA Auditing, and AAA International Accounting sectional mid-year meetings).

In addition, I have had three publications since my last quadrennial review, with two of those at American Accounting Association journals. One of these was at an Association-wide journal (*Accounting Horizons*) which appeared in print late in 2013 while the other AAA publication was in *Journal of International Accounting Research* in 2011. The third publication was at *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting* and also occurred in 2011.

I currently have three manuscripts that have been in the journal review process during 2014. One of these papers is currently under review at *Current Issues in Auditing*. The other two papers are in a status of being revised for submission.

XII. Challenges Facing the Patterson School of Accountancy

Faculty Compensation

Even though our undergraduate program has been first in the SEC in each of the past two years in the PAR National Rankings, we continue to lag below the SEC *average* in terms of faculty salaries. We are making progress but much work remains to be done. In 2013-2014, our overall salaries were 9.2% below the SEC average, the best position we have been in for some time. I applaud the commitment our central administration has made to provide raises to our faculty and staff for several years in a row now. I also applaud the leadership of the UM Foundation as well as central administration, to commit substantial resources to serve as incentives to create chair-level faculty support endowments. I am also profoundly grateful to our alumni and friends who have recognized the importance of faculty support. I am very pleased that three new faculty support endowments have been created at the chair level over the past 4 years including the Burns Chair, the KPMG Chair, and the Krei Chair. Other faculty

support commitments have been made at the lectureship level including the Horne Lectureship and the Deloitte Lectureship. In addition, the PwC Endowment is growing quickly and will be approaching the lectureship level soon.

Growing Enrollment

We are very pleased that our University and School of Accountancy are in such high demand which has resulted in substantial growth in enrollments. This growth, however, presents challenges. We are teaching several sections each fall and spring semester in Lamar Hall. We have many of our senior level classes with 60 or more students in them (our classrooms seat 63). We also have several graduate courses with more than 50 students in the class. Therefore, effectively managing larger class sizes and a growing enrollment is, and will be, a challenge going forward.

UM-Desoto and UM-Tupelo

Our UM-Desoto and UM-Tupelo accountancy programs have not experienced growth in recent years, which also creates challenges. Our Master of Accountancy program at the UM-Desoto campus (which has been offered since fall 2006), has dwindled and we only had 1 student enrolled in the ACCY 601 course during spring 2014. This fall, we have 4 students enrolled in ACCY 690 (and 4 enrolled in ACCY 610) at UM-Desoto. Two of the four students are from the Oxford campus and will likely finish their degree here in Oxford. Determining how to most efficiently and effectively provide accountancy offerings at our branch campuses (or to consider adding/eliminating programs) will be another challenge facing the school in the coming years.

Physical Space

As our enrollment continues to increase, we are quickly running out of physical space. Up until spring 2013, for about 15 years we have taught all of our UM-Oxford accountancy courses in 4 classrooms on the second floor of Conner Hall. These classrooms are in almost continual operation throughout the day. It has been extremely helpful to be able to teach several sections in Lamar Hall in fall 2013, spring 2014, fall 2014 and going forward. It has also been extremely helpful to be able to teach our spring semester post-internship courses (ACCY 407 and ACCY 411) in the Jackson Avenue Center in both spring 2013, spring 2014, and going forward. An additional constraint to hiring new faculty (in addition to the fact that there are limited resources to hire them with), is the lack of physical office space to house them. We have pursued grant money for an addition to Conner Hall, but have not had success to date. Over the next several years, it will be essential for the School to have an addition to Conner Hall so that we will have access to more physical space.

XIII. Concluding Remarks

Although the School of Accountancy faces many challenges, in my opinion things are going extremely well with us. We have been nationally ranked in the top 20 for 7 consecutive years with one or more of our programs in the top 10 nationally for each of the past 4 years (and with our undergraduate program #1 in the SEC in each of the past two years). We are home to the National Library of the accounting profession, and we are a premier or key recruiting school for all of the large accounting firms. So, there is evidence that we are having some success in achieving our vision of being one of the leading institutions in accounting education in the nation. In addition, enrollment has been at an all-time high for 9 consecutive years, and the School's endowment is at an all-time high. Although things are going well for us, we have much work to do and it is imperative for the School, myself, and our faculty to take nothing for granted and to continue to work hard in improving our program.

It has been my privilege to serve as Dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy for the past 8+ years. I thank our faculty for their hard work, their spirit of cooperation, and their willingness to do what is best for the School. I am grateful to our faculty for their commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service and for their willingness to selflessly work together towards our common goal of having one of the top accounting programs in the nation. I also thank our staff for their hard work on various fronts to make things run smoothly in the school, to serve our students, and to generate financial resources for the School.

I appreciate the support our Provost Dr. Morris Stocks has provided the School. He is in a unique position to understand the School's strengths and weaknesses, and is willing to help us (and all other academic units on campus) as needed. I am also grateful for the help and support of Mr. Wendell Weakley (President and CEO of the University Foundation, Patterson School alumnus, and Chair of the School's Professional Advisory Council). Finally, I am grateful to our alumni and friends for their generous financial support, for assisting us with recruiting top students into the School, for hiring our graduates, and for helping us in countless other ways.