SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
CHARLES W. LAMDEN SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

2015 Annual Report
The Charles W. Lamden Annual Report contains a snapshot of our many activities over the past year and provides information on our continuing student and faculty efforts in the undergraduate and graduate accounting programs. The learning experiences gained through our award-winning student organizations — the Association of Latino Business Students (ALBIS), the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), Delta Zeta, and Alpha Chi Honor Society — are especially important.

On a sadder note, we said farewell this past spring at the memorial for one of our esteemed colleagues, Professor Gene Whittenburg, who contributed to the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy in numerous ways during his nearly 40-year career at San Diego State. We note and appreciate all the generous gifts from alumni and friends to initiate an endowed scholarship to remember Gene. More information on Gene’s storied career can be found on page 18.

One of the most common inquiries I receive is from alumni wishing to find a way to give back. In addition to using your financial gifts to further enhance the quality of our programs, we also like to find ways to get our alumni involved with our student organizations and in the classroom. If you are interested in coming back to campus, feel free to drop me an email and we will find the right avenue for you to have a positive impact on our students.

I hope to see you on campus in the coming school year.

Sincerely,

C. Janie Chang, Ph.D.
William E. Cole Director
Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy
San Diego State University

Message from the Director
International Business and Accounting Practices
SDSU students form bi-national teams

The trip to Germany really opened my mind as to why culture matters and how it influences accounting politics.

Making its debut in the spring semester of 2015, Accounting 596 (International Business and Accounting Practices) is designed to help students gain experience by presenting them with real-world challenges in trans-Atlantic business scenarios. It also gives students a forum to research specific solutions.

Students work directly with international students from the Berlin School of Economics and Law to form bi-national teams. Through the use of interactive learning strategies, interviews of industry managers, and international travel (with German students coming to San Diego and SDSU students traveling to Berlin) teams create a joint resolution that they present to their professors and classmates at the end of the semester.

The class is taught by Dr. Victoria Krivogorsky, who was honored for her teaching of this course during the SDSU College of Business Administration’s spring awards event.

Student comments included:
“The course was educational, exciting and provided me with the opportunity of a lifetime to visit Germany and learn about their culture and business practices.”

“The learning experience gained during this course cannot compare with any other subject. We had the opportunity to visit real corporations who shared information not available to the public.”

Pictured left: SDSU students in Berlin at Berlin School of Economics and Law
Analytics in Accounting

In order to effectively plan and forecast, businesses are increasingly relying on their financial and accounting staffs to provide top management with analytical feedback on company inventory, labor, sales and expenditures. Analytical software, such as the SAP Business Intelligence suite of solutions, has become an indispensable resource in managing the acquisition, analysis and reporting of data that encompasses operations and informs the decisions that will impact the future of the company.

Employers require accounting graduates to be skilled in accessing enterprise systems and analyzing data. The accounting program launched the Analytics in Accounting course in the spring of 2015 to address these needs. Students in the course use actual business data attained from Tyson Foods, Sam’s Club and several other large companies. They use SAP and GoldSim software applications in conjunction with their critical problem solving skills to organize, analyze and present their findings to class instructor, Nancy Jones and their classmates for discussion.

Student comments included:

“Having data from a real company that I was familiar with really clicked with me. Being able to see and use actual information the way an employee of one of these organizations actually did was the best part of the class for me.”

“Most of the course work made me feel like I was working for a real company and it was good preparation for my future career. Also, the fact that we used new technology/software for our analysis, predictions and simulations gives me an advantage in the job market.”

“Data analytics usage is on the rise and I like knowing that SDSU prepares us for our future careers by not only teaching us accounting skills, but also giving us an opportunity to apply it in a real world situation.”

Forensic Accounting


Although unpleasant, they are some of the inevitable challenges faced by today’s businesses, both big and small. The Forensic Accounting course teaches accountants how to investigate potential fraud and financial misconduct, as well as how to create reports and communications that are suitable for courtroom settings.

Course instructor John Cooper, uses a series of case studies that offer students the opportunity learn how to evaluate losses, compile potential evidence and prepare written reports that comply with federal standards. Students also participate in a simulated courtroom setting as expert witnesses.

The class was first taught during Fall 2014 and is available to students pursuing their graduate accounting degrees.

Student comments included:

“I was exposed to real-life situations where accounting made a difference to individuals. It was interesting, encompassing and it trained me on the importance of paying attention to details.”

“The course was taught from a real-world perspective and it combined important elements from the textbook and relevant skills needed to conduct forensic accounting work. I was impressed with the curriculum and by the end of the course work, I will definitely consider forensic accounting as a potential career.”

“The real-life case studies presented by John Cooper reinforced the concepts and provided for a truly unique learning experience.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Lee Duran

University study abroad programs for business students were few and far between when Lee Duran earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from SDSU in 1982. But that didn’t stop him from gaining an education abroad.

A Different Kind of Education

After graduation, Duran served in the Peace Corps as a business and accounting advisor in the island nation of Palau before he embarked on his career goal to work as a CPA in one of the Big Eight (now Big Four) accounting firms. That experience impacted his life in ways he could not imagine.

“The islands were a Japanese territory prior to World War II and many people who lived there during that time spoke Japanese,” said Duran, a Midwest native. “I realized that if I learned Japanese, I could communicate with the older generation and I could utilize my English for the younger generation.”

In the process, he got more than just the ability to speak Japanese. “My Japanese language instructor in Palau is now my wife,” he noted.

Coming to America – Temporarily

Upon leaving the Peace Corps in 1985, Duran returned with his new wife to the U.S. where he earned a master’s degree. In 1986, he fulfilled a promise to himself to work in one of the Big Eight firms in the Seattle office of Peat Marwick (later, KPMG), four years after he graduated from SDSU.

Long before graduation, Duran chose to major in accounting, which he said he gravitated toward naturally. While he says he didn’t have one favorite professor at SDSU, he does remember the influence of the late Dr. Gene Whittenburg on him. “He taught me a lot about the human side of accounting by making me realize that accounting was actually a reflection of our principles,” recalled Duran. “Plus, his Texas charm and storytelling kept me focused and enthused.”

“Accounting is the Language of All Business”

While Duran has used his expertise in the Japanese language to propel him to success on an international basis, he has stayed close to his Aztec roots by serving on the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy Advisory Board and he credits the school for taking him to where he is today. “I owe so much to my SDSU education and experience,” he said. “At SDSU, I learned the importance of diversity and all the interesting information to be had in this world. Accounting is the language of all business, but business itself is rooted in the ability to provide a solution, service or product to people.”

Off to Tokyo

But it was Duran’s enthusiasm for the Japanese language and culture that provided him with his focus at KPMG where he offered tax preparation and other accounting services to U.S. and Japanese companies, along with other international businesses. His passion for Japan culminated in his transfer to KPMG’s Tokyo office in 1991 where he eventually served as a partner in the firm until 1999. At that time, he accepted a position as a partner in the San Diego office of the international accounting firm, BDO, where he still works today.

Not wanting to leave his Japanese experience behind, he took over the coordination of BDO’s Japanese business dealings and also serves as the firm’s assurance managing partner for the San Diego office, as well as the private equity industry lead on a national basis.
Jessica Wu

Discipline and curiosity: These are the words that best describe SDSU accounting graduate, Jessica Wu ('09, MSA).

“I have found through years of mathematics study that I am a meticulous person, but I am also passionate about pursuing new knowledge, skills and information,” said Wu. The combination of those two attributes and the opportunity to grow intellectually from a global business perspective is what led her into a career in accounting.

Wu hails from Qufu, in the Shandong Province in eastern China, which is best known as being the hometown of the Chinese philosopher, Confucius. While earning her bachelor’s degree in law at a university in China, she was given the opportunity to study at a university in Northern California. That study abroad experience motivated her to choose San Diego State to earn her graduate degree.

“Af ter researching several graduate programs, I con- cluded that the Master of Science in Accountancy pro- gram at SDSU was my best option,” Wu noted. “SDSU’s MSA program emphasizes the understanding of the real business world along with the application and integration of knowledge and skills with professional quality.”

Today, Wu is a tax manager at the EY office in San Diego, California, passed all sections of the California CPA exam and will tell you the same thing: Accounting graduates hold one of the most sought-after degrees in the business world.

Holly O’Brien

Follow your passion.

Holly O’Brien did what most career advisors tell students when embarking on a career choice: Follow your passion.

Since O’Brien loves movies, she earned a bachelor’s degree in business with an emphasis in cinema/television. “I had always loved movies – all of the magic of it and how it could transport you to different times and places,” she said. “That is what drew me into the industry.”

After college she worked in Los Angeles at a large talent agency and then at a film production company, but it wasn’t everything she was hoping for. “I could see that it wasn’t an environment where I wanted to be long term, so I started thinking about an alternative,” said O’Brien. “I had always been good with numbers and I enjoyed my accounting courses, so I took a risk and decided to head back to school to get a master’s degree in accounting.”

She chose to enroll in the Master of Science in Accountancy program at San Diego State in 2008 and earned her degree in 2009. Shortly thereafter, O’Brien – a native of Hudson, New Hampshire – began work at Deloitte and she let it be known that she was interested in working overseas. In 2013, she got her wish and she was transferred to Brussels, Belgium where she currently works for Deloitte’s U.S. tax group.

“Wouldn’t be where I am without SDSU,” said O’Brien. “The program gave me the solid base I needed to be successful in my career and the connections I needed in order to land that first job.”

Edgar Pimentel

Start understanding.

Anyone who has ever sat for the California CPA exam will tell you that it is a very tough test to pass.

Edgar Pimentel, a native of Compton, California, passed all four parts on his first attempt and he credits his education at SDSU for his success. “SDSU’s rigorous accounting curriculum provided me with the foundation to pass the CPA exams,” he noted. “In an effort to become a well-rounded financial professional, I am now pursuing a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. I recently found out that I passed the Level I exam and am now preparing for Level II.”

Pimentel chose to major in accounting because of his interest in business and, specifically because he wanted to “develop an understanding of the important connection between a business’ operations and their financial statements,” he said. “Majoring in accounting was my start to understanding what financial statements reveal about the health of a company.”

Not only is he the first accountant in his family, but he was also the first to attend college. Pimentel chose to attend SDSU because of “its outstanding business program” and by the time he graduated in 2009, he had been active in the Student Accounting Society, was a member of the Gamma Zeta Alpha fraternity, and had created many happy memories at SDSU. His favorite instructor was accounting lecturer, Will Snyder and one of his best memories was of the Aztecs beating a then-ranked Air Force basketball team and being among the crowd who rushed the court.

Today, Pimentel is a senior financial analyst for Sempra Energy, a San Diego-based energy services holding company, where he’s been working since 2012. But no matter where he goes, he remains a dedicated Aztec, saying: “I am proud to have graduated from a great institution that only gets better as time passes by.”

Vicky Nguyen

Sought after.

Nearly all business career surveys will tell you the same thing: Accounting graduates hold one of the most sought-after degrees in the business world.

Vicky Nguyen knew that.

After earning a dual bachelor’s degree in economics and psychology, she realized that she needed to change career paths. “I graduated with my undergraduate degree during the peak of the financial crisis and, while I had a stable job, it didn’t offer a lot of professional or personal growth,” recalled Nguyen. “But during that job search, I noticed that the positions that interested me required some knowledge of accounting and that many people in leadership positions started their careers in auditing.”

After discussions with her friends and family, Nguyen – a San Jose native – chose to enroll at SDSU to earn her master of science in accounting (MSA) degree. “I chose SDSU because it is well-known for its accounting program and has a strong relationship with the “big four” accounting firms,” she said.

During her time at SDSU, Nguyen took advantage of all the school had to offer to gain relevant experience. She worked with Dr. Victoria Krivorgosky as a graduate assistant and helped to teach undergraduate classes with Dr. Gary Grudnitski. She was also involved in SDSU’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, in which IRS-certified accounting students provide free tax preparation to middle- and low-income community members.

Shortly before earning her MSA in 2011, Nguyen got an internship with Deloitte in San Diego and was hired to work at the firm full-time. She took a break from Deloitte in 2013 when she was selected for an internship with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), where she gained a unique experience in setting industry standards. She parlayed those experiences into her present position as an ERS manager at Deloitte’s office in San Francisco, where she has worked since January of 2014.

“SDSU’s Career Services and the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy were extremely helpful in preparing me for office visits and interviews at firms,” noted Nguyen. “My education and experiences at SDSU have greatly accelerated my career.”
Ulysses Salanguit

After Mississippi native Ulysses Salanguit, earned his master’s in public health, he joined the U.S. Navy in 2002 to work in his chosen field.

During his time in the service, Lt. Salanguit worked as an assistant controller/head of materials management for Naval healthcare facilities in Okinawa, Japan and other locations throughout the world. Toward the end of his service in 2006, he decided to attend graduate school to study accounting, but when the Navy could not accommodate his request, he chose to leave the service to attend school full-time.

“I chose to attend San Diego State because I love San Diego and because of (now retired) Professor Andy Barnett,” said Salanguit. “I spoke to him the year before I left the service and he was very encouraging and he outlined my path to get into graduate school.”

Salanguit made the most of his time at SDSU where he was a teaching assistant for Dr. Damon Fleming. “My favorite class was the late Dr. Gene Whittenburg’s corporate tax class,” he said. “I still use my textbook as a reference for highly technical transactions.”

Currently a tax manager at CBIZ MHM, LLC, a national accounting and tax services firm, Salanguit credits his education at SDSU for offering him a solid career foundation. “The accounting program at SDSU provides a strong understanding of the fundamentals of generally accepted accounting principles and tax accounting,” he said. “That understanding allowed me to solve some of the most highly technical accounting and tax transactions.”

James Burke

The Burke family has built an interesting legacy at San Diego State. The three brothers, James (‘02), John (‘96) and Edward (‘06) all earned accounting degrees at SDSU. James, the oldest, earned his degree after a five-year stint in the Marine Corps and was persuaded to pursue an accounting career thanks to John’s thriving career.

James Burke, a San Diego native, enrolled in college on the East Coast right after high school, but didn’t know what type of career he wanted to pursue. “I decided I needed a little adventure while I figured things out, so I decided to join the Marine Corps,” he said. “I loved my time in the Marine Corps and even extended my four-year term by an additional year, but I always knew that I would return to school to finish my education.”

When Burke left the Marine Corps as a sergeant in 1999, he immediately enrolled at SDSU because “it had a great business program and my younger brother John was already enjoying in a successful accounting career.”

‘This prompted Burke to take some courses in accounting which he chose as his major shortly thereafter. And, like his brother John before him, he was elected president of SDSU’s Student Accounting Society, however, he noted his youngest brother, Edward, was president of another campus accounting organization. “He became president of Beta Alpha Psi. I guess he had to change things up.”

Today, Burke is a director of assurance services at McGladrey’s San Diego office and he is grateful for the undergraduate education he got at SDSU. “I believe my education truly gave me the tools to succeed in my career and I continue to be impressed by the SDSU grads we hire for the firm,” he said. “And I would definitely recommend a career in accounting to my fellow Marines: the hours, rank structure, chains of command and camaraderie are similar, but the pay is so much better.”

Dale Lee

Unlike many high school seniors, Dale Lee knew exactly where his path would lead following graduation. “My brother was at the Naval Academy and both my grandfathers served in the U.S. Army, so I wanted to follow in their footsteps and serve in the military,” he said. “I earned a Naval ROTC scholarship that I used to pay for my undergraduate college tuition. Upon graduation, I was immediately commissioned as a Naval officer.”

The Honolulu-born Lee was based in San Diego and when he left the Navy in 2009, he decided to earn his master’s degree in accounting because he enjoyed previous accounting classes and felt that it would be a good career fit for him. “When I left the Navy, the economy was going through a global recession,” he said. “I felt that a master’s degree was necessary to be a competitive candidate in the San Diego accounting market. I chose SDSU because it had a well-respected accounting program and was reasonably priced.”

Lee was very busy during his time at SDSU as he was a preparer for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a member of Beta Alpha Psi, a graduate assistant for Professor Damon Fleming and a teaching assistant for an Accounting 201 class for two semesters. He also honored by SDSU’s Charles W. Lamden School of Accounting as the top graduate student for 2011.

Currently working as a revenue recognition senior analyst at San Diego-based Cubic Corporation, Lee says he has the excellent reputation of SDSU’s accounting program to thank for launching his career. “Because they are well respected in Southern California, all the top-tier and mid-tier accounting firms come to SDSU’s campus to recruit students,” he said. “During my first year in the master’s program, I went through the recruiting cycle and was offered an internship by PwC, which later turned into a full-time position. My SDSU education has opened up an alumni network that has been invaluable to my career.”

Romulo Cachuela

Like many high school seniors, Romulo Cachuela didn’t know what he wanted to do once he graduated. A friend convinced him to join the U.S. Navy which he did in 2000, spending most of his nine years of active duty as a medical corpsman.

After leaving the Navy, Cachuela, a native of Memphis, Tenn., chose to enter college to move forward in the medical field, but his plans changed. “I originally wanted to be a nursing student because of my military training, but found I was also good at accounting,” he said. “I decided to change my major to accounting and transferred to San Diego State (from Southwestern Community College) since SDSU has one of the best accounting programs out there.”

Cachuela, who still serves in the Navy on Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) is now in his senior year as an accounting major. He plans to pursue a position as an accountant in a medium-sized corporation after he graduates in the spring of 2016.
Each year, the faculty members of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy choose the top accounting graduate and undergraduate student. Additionally, all faculty members of SDSU’s College of Business choose a top graduate student and undergraduate student for the college as well.

Those top students choose their most influential faculty member to share the honor of sitting on stage with SDSU’s president and the top administrators for the university during the commencement ceremony.

For 2014 – 2015, the top accounting students were Christina Stevens (undergraduate) and Isaac Peck (graduate). Additionally, accounting student Daniel Rakad was chosen as the top undergraduate for SDSU’s College of Business Administration.

Stevens and Rakad both chose Paul Sager as their most influential faculty member and Peck chose Dr. Janie Chang.

**Daniel Rakad**

**OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**Hometown:** Frydlant nad Ostravicí, Czech Republic

I came to study in the U.S. because: I was attracted to the opportunities and challenges of studying in the U.S.

Why I came to SDSU: SDSU is a very well-known and well-ranked school. When I took a tour of the campus, my wife and I knew it was the right place for me.

The best thing about SDSU? I was challenged and motivated by my fellow classmates, the faculty and student organization members who helped me to achieve my goals.

Where do you work now? I am working as an audit associate at Ernst & Young.

**Christina Stevens**

**OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT**

**Hometown:** San Diego, California

Why I came to SDSU: SDSU’s accounting program has an excellent reputation and it’s affordable.

I chose to major in accounting because: I had previously worked as an assistant controller, but was laid off during the economic downturn. I decided right away to return to school to earn my accounting degree.

The best thing about SDSU? The professors. I could tell right away the professors loved to teach and they really cared about their students.

Where do you work now? I am an intern at PwC’s assurance department where I’m hoping to become full-time in January 2016.

**Isaac Peck**

**OUTSTANDING MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTANCY STUDENT**

**Hometown:** San Diego, California

Why I came to SDSU: SDSU’s Master’s in Accountancy program has an incredibly strong reputation in the accounting profession and, since many accomplished professionals are alumni of SDSU, it gives students an extensive network to draw upon.

Where do you work now? I am the director of marketing for the Organization of Real Estate Professionals, a national insurance provider in the real estate industry.

How has your MSA degree helped you in your career: While it has given me greater insight into the financial side of the business, my MSA degree has also helped me to learn about accounting information systems. This has allowed me to drive new IT initiatives in my company including an online insurance portal and payment system, an auto-renewal system and a more dynamic CRM application for the company.

The best thing about SDSU? The best part about attending SDSU was the faculty, who were very experienced, knowledgeable and helpful. Many of them had accomplished professional careers before coming to SDSU to teach.
Video Documents
the Contributions of
Charles W. Lamden

The namesake and founder of SDSU’s School of Accountancy, Charles W. Lamden, was the first dean of the SDSU’s College of Business Administration and is responsible for much of the success the school and the college enjoy today.

Dr. Lamden’s accomplishments have been documented in a new video released by the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy. Interviews with students and faculty that knew Dr. Lamden, along with dozens of historic photos are part of this intriguing story.

To view the video, please visit cbaweb.sdsu.edu/accountancy or use your smart phone to view here:

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**Beta Alpha Psi**
**FACULTY ADVISOR: BRETT KAWADA**

Formed in 1919, Beta Alpha Psi is an international university honors organization for accounting and finance students with more than 300 chapters on colleges and universities throughout the globe.

The Beta Eta chapter at SDSU Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy at San Diego State University, was formed in 1960 and is now in its 26th straight year as being ranked as a “superior” chapter.

For the second time in two years, the Beta Eta chapter placed second in the nation in the Best Practices Competition at the organization’s annual meeting held this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, held in August 2015.

This year, a three-person team of students consisting of Shannon Biggs, Ernesto Nunez and Savana Kalafayan placed second in the financial literacy category for their community service work with fellow college students. They faced competition from eight other teams from universities across the U.S.

**ALPFA**
**FACULTY ADVISOR: STEVE GILL**

The Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA) was founded in 1972 as a national business organization to expand opportunities for Latino leaders. It was the first national Latino professional association in the U.S. ALPFA currently counts more than 72,000 professionals and students as members.

ALPFA Students of SDSU has a close relationship with the San Diego ALPFA chapter, providing students important networking opportunities with working professionals. The SDSU chapter also sends a team of students to the KPMG Case Competition held at the annual ALPFA convention where the chapter has made a strong showing each year.

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**Student Accounting Society**
**FACULTY ADVISOR: DR. NATHAN OESTREICH**

The objective of the Student Accounting Society at San Diego State University is to assist accounting students to learn about the accounting profession, to offer mentoring and networking support, and to provide them with career opportunities and guidance.

This past year has been an especially busy one for the organization with a number of professional and community activities including:

- **Light the Night** (November 7, 2014) The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s annual fundraising walk.
- **Mission Beach Cleanup** (April 11, 2015)
- **Relay for Life** (April 25, 2015) Relay for Life is a fundraising event organized by the American Cancer Society.
- **Meet the Firms** (October 3, 2015) This event gives students the opportunity to meet accounting firms from public, private and government industries.

**Executive Board Spring 2015**

**Services Provided by SAS**

**Mentor/Mentee Program**
SAS provides the Mentor/Mentee program to help guide new accounting students through their first semester in the accounting major by pairing a student with an SAS volunteer mentor.

**Tutoring Program**
SAS provides tutoring for Accounting 331 and 332 students in order to help them succeed in their first semester as accounting majors. The tutoring program consists of 5-6 tutoring sessions taught by students who excelled in Accounting 331 and 332.

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From left: Rosy Caito, Anthony Quintero, Louis Calderon, and Javo Azmi
Debra Woodman Recognized for Workplace Excellence

Debra Woodman, the administrative support coordinator for the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy and the management information systems department, was honored for her outstanding contributions to the College of Business Administration during the college’s Faculty Staff Awards on, May 13, 2015.

Woodman was awarded the college’s “Unsung Hero” award as one of only four staff members recognized.

Comments from her nominations included:

“Deb is amazingly organized and extremely knowledgeable about financial matters and how to get things processed through the maze that is the university process and procedures. She is always patient and kind even when it is obvious she is very busy. She manages to handle many tasks at once. She is amazing.”

“Many of the things Deb handles would be unseen by most staff. She’s managed to clean up and enhance budgetary processes in her area and even enhanced the processes.”

Farewell to Dr. Carol Venable

Professor Carol Venable has retired from the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy where she has taught and conducted research since 1988. Her areas of expertise included teaching auditing, accounting information systems, ethics, regulatory affairs and professional responsibilities to graduates and undergraduates.

Venable was the founder of the College of Business Honors program in 2001 and has been its only director until her retirement this year. She spent over 15 years advising for the Masters of Accountancy (MSA) and the Accounting Certificate Programs. She also taught Accounting 790, the capstone class in the MSA program, for 17 years.

In addition, Venable provided valuable services to the university and professional communities. She served on the University General Education Committee for eight years, worked with the California Education Foundation, and taught ethics and regulatory affairs courses as continuing education for CPAs.

Though she says her current plans are “to not set the alarm clock” she will stay busy in retirement. “While I look forward to not having plans and appointments, I’m told that things will keep coming up and time will still be short,” said Venable. “I haven’t had any friends who have had a boring retirement.”

And while Venable looks forward to retirement, she will miss working with her students. “I’ll miss seeing the students grow and mature,” she said. “Seeing them change and develop into responsible professionals is a rewarding experience and that’s reinforced whenever I run into students that I taught 20 years ago.”

Krivogorsky Honored for Outstanding Teaching

Professor Victoria Krivogorsky was awarded for her outstanding teaching during the college’s Faculty Staff Awards on May 13, 2015.

She was recognized for her work in her Accounting 596 class (International Financial Reporting) in which she leads a group of SDSU accounting students in a study abroad program and joint project with students at the Berlin School of Economics and Law in Germany.

Krivogorsky was one of only three College of Business faculty members honored during the awards ceremony.

New Faculty: Jeff Wang

Dr. Jundong “Jeff” Wang has joined the faculty of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy this fall. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2014 and he recently passed all three levels of the chartered financial analyst (he was granted his charter in July 2015). He previously worked in the banking industry in Hong Kong.

Wang’s co-authored research, titled “Serial Correlation in Management Earning Forecasts” was published in the Journal of Accounting Research in 2011.

When he’s not working, Wang enjoys spending time with his family and a variety of sports activities.

Gary Grudnitski Awarded 2015 Faculty Monty

Dr. Gary Grudnitski was named the 2015 recipient of the Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributor from the College of Business Administration. Known as the “Faculty Monty”, it is SDSU’s most prestigious faculty award, which is presented annually to one faculty member from each of SDSU’s seven colleges. Grudnitski was presented with his Monty during the SDSU’s annual All-University Convocation on August 20, 2015.

Nominated for his “significant service to the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy, the College of Business Administration, San Diego State University and California State University”, Grudnitski has been instrumental in implementing the college’s new undergraduate curriculum which commenced in Fall 2015. He has also played an instrumental role in numerous committees on a college, university and system-wide level including the College Steering Committee, the University Promotions and Tenure Review Panel, and the CSU Accounting Review Team.

“Dr. Grudnitski’s numerous contributions have been substantial and have had an immense impact on the college, the university and the CSU system,” said Dr. Dennis Cradit, dean of SDSU’s College of Business Administration. “He continuously strives for excellence in his teaching, his research and his administrative work and brings with it the ability to work through the details of each initiative he undertakes to reach a successful implementation.”

Grudnitski currently serves as the director of undergraduate programs for the College of Business Administration and has been a professor of accounting at the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy since 1988. He joined the SDSU from the University of Texas at Austin.

Grudnitski earned his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) in 1975 and earned both his MBA and Bachelor of Commerce degrees from the University of Saskatchewan.
San Diego State University (SDSU) accounting professor, Dr. Gerald E. (Gene) Whittenburg passed away unexpectedly at his home in Alpine, California on Sunday, March 8, 2015. He was 68 years old.

As a dedicated educator, Dr. Whittenburg taught thousands of SDSU undergraduate and graduate students and he served as adviser and mentor as they launched their successful accounting careers. For the past decade, he was responsible for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at SDSU where accounting students provided income tax return preparation to thousands of low- and middle-income taxpayers.

Dr. Whittenburg won numerous awards, including the Outstanding Faculty Contribution award (the "Faculty Monty") from SDSU’s College of Business in 1990 and 2013, the Trustee's Outstanding Faculty Award in 1991 (given to one professor in the entire California State University system) and he was designated as a Senate Distinguished Professor in 1990. He also served as the Director of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy from 1984 – 1988 and again in 2012 – 2013.

The Gene Whittenburg Memorial Tax Scholarship has been established in Dr. Whittenburg's memory. To date, we have received over $75,000 in gifts from former students, friends and colleagues. If you are interested in a donation to support student scholarships in Gene's memory, checks should be made payable to the Campanile Foundation and mailed to 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182. Please write “Whittenburg Tax Scholarship Fund” on the memo line.
Dr. Ira Horowitz – Visiting Professor
I am confident that I am not the first of his colleagues to value his friendship much, much more than I did our professional ties. There will be a glaring hole in my life this coming summer, when I will no longer enjoy the chats in his office or in mine, and the discussion as to where to go lunch and what new places he’s uncovered since the previous summer.

Mark Lindsay – Partner at Lindsay & Brownell, LLP ’79, MSA
I found my initial meeting with Gene was quite an experience. He was enthusiastic about what was then a fledging program and why it would be GREAT! Needless to say, he talked me into becoming one of the early students in the program. Gene’s enthusiasm certainly carried over into the classroom.

Narelle MacKenzie – SDSU Accounting Lecturer
The tax program at SDSU is a great testimony to Gene’s vision and drive, and is a great legacy he leaves for all of us to continue and expand in honor of his memory. Thank you, Gene, for all your contributions to the tax program at SDSU and for supporting me in my efforts to be a part of that process. Your counsel and wisdom is missed.

Dr. Nancy Marlin – Former SDSU Provost
I was so pleased and honored to present Gene with his well-deserved faculty “Monty” a few years ago. I know throughout Gene’s long career he personally helped literally thousands of students and faculty members.

Dr. Howard Toole – Former SDSU Accounting Professor
There are so many good memories and things to say about Gene. Foremost, perhaps, was his commitment to bettering SDSU. He was the father of the modern tax program at SDSU and taught tax research and other tax courses to many generations of SDSU students.

Ken Van Damme – Director at RPR Partners LLP, ’94, MSA
Gene was a fantastic instructor and somebody I very much enjoyed seeing when I visited campus through the years. I recall visiting with Gene last fall at which time I asked him when he will retire. Surely, after 40 years of teaching he would retire soon, I thought. Gene’s response was that he was having too much fun to retire. His death was sadly too premature, but I take comfort in the fact that he did what he loved in life, teaching, until the day he died.

Gene Whittenburg Honored with Posthumous Advising Award

Dr. Gene Whittenburg was honored posthumously with an inaugural 2015 Provost’s Outstanding Academic Advising Award. The award is presented to SDSU faculty, staff and peer advisors who are nominated and selected by committee for their outstanding advising to SDSU students.

According to Sandra Williams, director of SDSU’s Office of Advising and Evaluations, Whittenburg was presented with the award “because of his unwavering commitment to providing exceptional academic and career advising to students in the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy.”

“Gene’s dedication to his students did not stop with a class or two. He took a personal interest in making sure that his students got good jobs and succeeded.” – Dr. Ray Whittington

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The Language of Business

SDSU accounting senior, Roberto Rosas, enjoys complementing his analytical and technical studies with lessons on culture and languages. “When I opened the textbook on my first day of my first accounting class, the message on page 3 read ‘Accounting is the language of business’ in big blue letters,” said Rosas, a San Diego native. “Since studying foreign languages is a passion of mine, this piqued my interest right away.”

His passion for learning new languages was only one of the reasons he chose a study abroad experience in Hong Kong during the spring semester of 2014. That trip introduced him to the Cantonese language and gave him a better understanding of international accounting and business.

A Worldly Scholar

Rosas is a veteran of study abroad programs. After spending time in Grenoble, France during a tailor-made high school study abroad experience and then studying in Florence, Italy while he was enrolled at a local community college, Rosas already knew he wanted to study abroad again during his time at SDSU.

“I chose to study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong because Hong Kong is the gateway to Asia in many ways,” Rosas recalled. “Hong Kong is a good blend of East and West, and the U.S. has a mutual recognition agreement with the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs which means a CPA from the U.S. doesn’t need to get re-credentialed while working there. Also, I wanted to explore Asia and thought Hong Kong would be a very good introductory step to this new corner of the world for me.”

When Rosas arrived in Hong Kong, he also took some time to meet and enjoy the people from many different countries who were studying, living and working in Hong Kong. For example, he played sports with the international and local students he met, took tai chi lessons from one of his professors, and played guitar at a school dinner with ambassadors and consulate members in the audience.

The Hong Kong Study Adventure

Rosas embarked on the academic exchange program in Hong Kong during the spring of 2014. But accounting and business weren’t the only lessons he learned there. “Hong Kong has an interesting history and is undergoing a lot of changes,” he explained. “I learned about their history, culture and language since I took a Cantonese language course. Getting acclimatized to a culture so different than mine was fun and exciting.”

But even with all that learning, Rosas also took some time to have fun with the people he met from many different countries who were studying, living and working in Hong Kong. For example, he played sports with the international and local students he met, took tai chi lessons from one of his professors, and played guitar at a school dinner with ambassadors and consulate members in the audience.

“Get out there!”

Reflecting on his own experiences, Rosas offers the following advice to SDSU accounting students who are considering studying abroad: “Get out there, have fun, learn as much as you can, meet as many people as you can, and be open-minded. Above all, be adventurous and thrill sensibly.”
The Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy is fully accredited by AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. In 1982, The School was the first accredited accounting program in the state of California.