GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF TAXATION

WINTER/SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

Mary Says
Celebrating Our Adjunct Faculty

All is well at Golden Gate University's School of Taxation: enrollment growth continues to exceed annual projections; we are piloting a new video-capture product to enhance, add dimension and bring live lecture segments to our online course offerings; and our newest elective courses have drawn practitioners back into the classrooms — many sharing that they prefer the depth and concentration of our curriculum to the one or two day CPE seminars.

I recently attended a symposium for tax educators from institutions throughout the US offering tax courses. One attendee was surprised when he heard a GGU professor speaking of our advanced International tax courses and asked how many electives we offer. The question was bounced to me and when I shared that we regularly offer over 20 different electives throughout the year, he exclaimed that we must be huge. We are "huge" – this past Fall combined enrollments at our San Francisco, Seattle, LA and cyber program exceeded 1,250. Whereas the size of our program allows us to offer advanced tax electives, the continued growth in enrollments by students seeking and demanding quality for their careers is the endorsement we value most.

Obviously we couldn't exist without students, staff, classrooms and an online learning platform, but the leaders of the above initiatives and the assurance of quality and relevance of our curriculum are our faculty — full time and adjunct. We could not increase our student enrollment, develop and offer advanced industry niche electives, and launch new teaching technology without the contributions of our practitioner-experienced adjunct faculty both as instructors in the classroom, partners in our lecture series and contributors to our advisory boards. Most of our adjunct faculty are full-time practicing tax professionals. We are fortunate to have some retired practitioners and tax firm partners, even a retired Tax Court Judge, all of whom currently consult and teach for us. Tax attorney Belan Wagner, who has taught our MS Tax courses for close to 30 years described the relationship of the adjunct with our program "adjunct professors teach because they love to teach. It keeps them in contact with practicing CPAs and attorneys as well as prospective licensees which encourages the exchange of ideas and information. With the various demands placed on professionals coupled with rapidly changing laws, too often the technical knowledge can get stale or out of date. An easy and enjoyable way to avoid this is to teach. The combined factors of commitment and fear of embarrassment in front of one's own students encourages thorough and current understanding of the relevant subject matter and fosters the skill of communication."

Be sure to see our list of illustrious and devoted adjunct (page 3) and our list of elective offerings for Spring (back page). Consider joining our adjunct faculty!

— *Mary Canning (JD 81, LLM 82), Dean*

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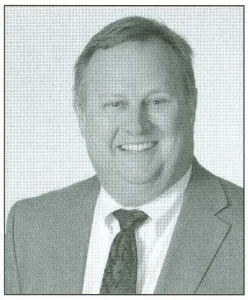

Chris Strand

An accomplished and respected tax professional in the Seattle business community, Chris Strand (MS 87) began his career in the tax department of Laventhol & Horwath after graduating from the University of Washington in 1980. When the firm disbanded in November 1990, Strand stayed with his colleagues to form Bader Martin, P.S. where he is now a principal in the firm's tax practice and its director of High Net Worth Services.

A colleague recommended to Chris that he pursue his masters in taxation at Golden Gate University's Seattle campus to advance his career. "I checked the program out and loved it," he recalls. "After taking my first class in 1982, I was hooked. The teachers were always prepared and expected students to be prepared. They made you focus in on issues and really learn them. You were in a room with recent graduates, but also with tax professionals from the community. It gave you a chance to argue tax positions without consequences."

As a tribute to this dedicated teacher, Chris created the Robert J. Shaw Memorial Endowed Scholarship which provides an annual scholarship for a student that is not receiving employer support.

Chris became good friends with his favorite instructor, Bob Shaw, who sadly passed away from cancer in 2000. As a tribute to this dedicated teacher, Chris created the Robert J. Shaw Memorial Endowed Scholarship which provides an annual scholarship for a student that is not receiving employer support. "The Seattle tax community stepped forward and contributed generously," Chris says.

A devoted family man, Chris attended preschool with his future wife, Colleen, on Mercer Island. They started dating in junior high and have been married for 32 years with two grown children, Kirty and Alex, and a one-year old grandson, Cade.

Over his long career, Chris is proud of the network he has established in the Seattle business community and values his relationships with clients and colleagues. "Every day when you come to the office, you don't know what phone call you will get or what tax opportunity or issue will arise," says Chris. "The pace is so fast, especially with continuing advances in technology. Everyone wants information and advice now."

Strand continues his connection with GGU by serving on the School of Taxation's Seattle advisory board. Carrying on the tradition, Bader Martin also sends staff members to GGU's Seattle campus for their MS in taxation degrees.

Looking back on his student experience, Chris says, "The highlights of the program were the intense tax discussions between the instructors and students throughout all the classes. It was a great place to really learn, discuss, and argue tax."

— *Kate McNulty*

Honor Roll of Tax Donors

My heartfelt thanks to all alumni and friends who made a gift to the School of Taxation during the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009). — MC

$10,000 +

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All gifts, no matter the size, make a difference. Due to space constraints, the printed Honor Roll of Tax Donors includes those who gave $500 or more. To be included in the 2010 Honor Roll of Donors, please make your gift before June 30, 2010, at www.ggu.edu/giving.

THANK YOU, TEI!

TEI Chapters Support GGU Students

The Tax Executives Institute ("TEI") has continued its long tradition of supporting Golden Gate University with student scholarship funds during the past year, contributed from the San Francisco, Santa Clara Valley and Los Angeles chapters.

"We are so grateful to each of the TEI chapters for their support of our tax students' educations," says Dean Mary Canning. "Additionally, the chapters all invite the students to a breakfast, lunch or dinner meeting to recognize them publicly before the membership and allow them to network with professionals from corporate tax departments."

Taxation Adjunct Faculty

The School of Taxation has been fortunate to have a dedicated team of adjunct professors. Many have taught for us for years while building very successful careers. The following tax attorneys or accountants have been teaching in our classrooms for 5-20+ years. The instructors teach because they enjoy teaching to a new crop of tax practitioners and potential colleagues. To support an increasing demand for classes, we're looking for additional enthusiastic adjuncts to join the illustrious faculty listed below:

William Amon, Deloitte LLP
Earl Bender, Sole Practitioner
James Carreon, Alvarez & Marsal
Randy Churchill, Moss Adams LLP
Diane Comi, Law Offices of Diane M. Comi & Associates
Richard Degroot, Berntson Porter & Co.
Igor Drabkin, Holtz, Slavett & Drabkin APLC
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Gregory Roer, Roer & Co.
Michael Schinner, The Schinner Law Group
Martin Silver, Sole Practitioner
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Michel Stein, Greenburg, Glusker & Machtinger
Bill Sturges, Deloitte LLP
Diane Tebelius, LeSourd & Patten
Mark Tizabgar, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Gary Tober, Lane Powell Spears Lubersky LLP
Belan Wager, Wagner Kirkman Blaine Klomparens & Youmans LLP
Mark Weiner, IRS Area Counsel (TE/GE)
John White, Jr., Livengood, Fitzgerald & Alskog

Joining us in the past five years:

Ross Allen, Ernst & Young LLP
Michael Anthony, Clark Raymond & Co., PLLC
Yodit Araya, Ernst & Young LLP
Laura Belote, Internal Revenue Service
Lloyd Born, CPA
Caroline Chen, Internal Revenue Service
Marcus Contro, Ernst & Young LLP
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Helen Hayes, Ernst & Young LLP
Jeffrey Howson, Howson & Simon LLP
Darek Jarski, LeSourd & Patten
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Paul Kangail, Rothstein Kass & Co.
Gregory Kling, Kling & Pathak, CPAs
Michele Leitchman Weiss, Sole Practitioner
Judd Marten, LeSourd & Patten
Kathryn Meyer, Internal Revenue Service
Richard Morris, Ernst & Young LLP
Richard Perkins, Deloitte
Jason Petersen, KPMG
Edward Ratcliffe, Internal Revenue Service
James Regan, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP
Jeffrey Rosenblum, Deloitte
Laura Ross, Harb, Levy & Weiland LLP
Brian Santa Cruz, UTStarcom, Inc.
Chrystell Santa Cruz, California Teachers Association
Ferdinand Santos, Burr, Pilger & Mayer
William Seaway, Ernst & Young LLP
Navin Sethi, Rothstein Kass & Co.
Philip Shemanski, Retired partner Ernst & Young LLP
William Torres, Mendoza, Berger & Co. LLP
Stephen Turanchik, Paul, Hastings, Janosky & Walker LLP
Rebecca Walden
Sydney Walker, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Philip Welch, Lippenberger, Thompson, Welch, Soroko & Gilbert LLP
Gregory White, White Thompson & Co., PS
Roger Wilkins, RSM McGladrey, Inc.

If you have an interest in teaching, please contact Mary Canning at mcanning@ggu.edu

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

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Golden Gate University School of Taxation Newsletter

hiring

Hiring Needs?

The GGU School of Taxation can work with your firm or practice to both help you gain the talent you need for your business and to provide our students and alumni with valuable career-enhancing experience, even as students earn academic credit. To find out more or for recruiting assistance, please contact Kim Chun at 415-442-7898 or kchun@ggu.edu. Kim can help connect GGU tax students and alumni to assist with your recruiting needs for staff at all levels.

on course

In addition to required courses, the following elective courses will be offered in the spring trimester:

- TA 321 Principles of International Taxation (SF, LA, online)
- TA 322B Federal Income Taxation of Corporations and Shareholders II (online)
- TA 325 Estate and Gift Taxation (online)
- TA 333 Consolidated Income Tax Returns (SF)
- TA 337 Individual Retirement Plans and Distributions (LA)
- TA 344 Federal Income Taxation of Trusts and Estates (SF*, online)
- TA 348 California Sales & Use Tax (SF*)
- TA 350A Taxation of Foreign Persons with US Activities (online)
- TA 356 Limited Liability Companies and S Corporations: A Choice of Entity (SF, LA, online)
- TA 396G Accounting for Income Taxes (SF, online)

*accelerated format

For a full schedule of course offerings, please visit www.ggu.edu/schedule.

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Photo of Mary Canning by Kris Davidson