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Charles W Lamden School of Accountancy Faculty

Sitting (clockwise): Janie Chang, Sydney Shu, Yan Luo, Gun Joh, Nathan Oestreich, Brett Kawada, Pablo Machado, Nancy Jones, Gary Grudnitski
Standing (from left): Paul Sager, Jeff Wang, Damon Fleming (director), David DeBaskey, Leon Chan
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the 2016-17 edition of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy annual report. One of my true pleasures as director is engaging with alumni and countless other stakeholders who have helped build the school into a beacon of excellence in accounting education. This report provides a glimpse into the activities from the past year and is one way for us to stay connected.

San Diego State University announced the largest philanthropic gift in the history of the university in October 2016. Local philanthropist and San Diego Padres executive chairman Ron Fowler and his wife, Alexis, pledged a $25 million endowment gift to name the Fowler College of Business. This endowment will provide scholarships and professorships, develop a lecture series, and provide international experiences and expanded programming for SDSU business students.

Lance Nail, Ph.D. was appointed the new dean of the Fowler College of Business and took the helm in August 2017. Dean Nail previously served as dean of the business schools at both Texas Tech University and the University of Southern Mississippi. Most recently, he served as founding chairman of the board of advisers for the Texas Tech University Innovation Hub and Research Park. Dean Nail has come to SDSU during a transformative time in the university’s history, and his experience and leadership will help take the Fowler College of Business to new heights.

This fall semester we also welcomed Hannah Smith to the faculty. She joined us from the University of Tennessee Ph.D. program to become part of our core group of taxation faculty. We look forward to Hannah’s positive impact on the school through her teaching and research.

I am privileged to work with an exceptional team of faculty and staff. Together, we help students realize their personal and professional aspirations to enter the accounting profession. I invite you to explore all the exciting news about our successes this past year.

Thank you for all the continued support to advance the mission of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy. Go Aztecs!

Damon M. Fleming, Ph.D., CMA, CFA
Professor and William E. Cole Director
Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy
Lance Nail, Ph.D. has been named as the new dean of the Fowler College of Business. Nail previously served as dean of the business schools at both Texas Tech University and the University of Southern Mississippi. Most recently he served as founding chairman of the board of advisers for the Texas Tech University Innovation Hub and Research Park.

“Lance has an extraordinary record of success improving the national rankings and increasing philanthropic giving at the universities he has served,” said Chukuka Enwemeka, SDSU provost and senior vice president.

Nail earned his Ph.D. in finance at the University of Georgia and his bachelor’s degree in finance at the University of Alabama.

“I believe in the vision of the Fowler College of Business and look forward to supporting our students, faculty and staff as we look to grow our programs and lead an already excellent business school to achieve even greater success,” said Nail. “I saw the passion for SDSU and the Fowler College of Business and I am excited to be a part of it.”

Ron and Alexis Fowler recently made a transformational $25 million donation to SDSU’s College of Business as a matching gift, challenging the university to raise an additional $25 million. The donation provides funding for scholarships, professorships, a lecture series, international experiences and expanded programming for SDSU business students.

“Lance Nail will be a tremendous asset to SDSU and I look forward to working with him as the college continues its growth as a world-class top business college,” said Fowler, co-owner and executive chairman of the San Diego Padres.

While at Texas Tech, Nail increased annual philanthropic giving from an average $5.9 million per year to more than $16 million. While at Southern Miss, he grew the college endowment by more than 10 percent and successfully raised $36 million for the college.

Beyond fundraising, Nail also has proven success in improving national rankings for both undergraduate and graduate business programs. During his tenure at the Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech University, the undergraduate programs were ranked in the top 100 in both U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg BusinessWeek for the first time in college history.
Three SDSU accounting graduate students share their stories about their passion for accounting and their willingness to help fellow students as graduate assistants (GAs) by teaching ACCT 201 (financial accounting fundamentals).

**Kylie Capps** – Kylie, who graduated this past May, was an accounting major in the BMACC program where she specialized in financial reporting.

“My favorite thing about teaching ACCT 201 has been helping students discover that they like accounting,” said Kylie. “I was not an accounting major when I took ACCT 201, but switched after I really enjoyed the course. It’s been very rewarding to see the same thing happen to some of my students.”

Kylie began her job in the fall of 2017 at the San Diego office of Deloitte in their audit practice department.

**Jenna Crosthwaite** – Like Kylie, Jenna is a BMACC student who completed her studies in May. In addition to her accounting degrees, she also earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

“As a grad student, I loved having the opportunity to share my love of accounting with younger students,” Jenna noted. “I immediately switched to accounting after my 201 class and I hope to show some of my students how easy accounting can be. It’s rewarding when I can see how accounting finally ‘clicks’ for them.”

Jenna began her new position in the assurance department of PwC in September 2017.

**Carolyn Keating** – Carolyn chose to become a teaching assistant (TA) for ACCT 201 while she completed her BMACC program. She earned her degrees this past May.

“I wanted to be a TA for ACCT 201 because of the difference my TA made in helping me choose accounting as my area of study,” she said. “Now I enjoy helping students with the course and learning more about the opportunities available in the field of accounting.”

After a semester of studying abroad in Germany, Carolyn has made it her eventual goal to work overseas. Currently, she is working at EY’s San Diego branch in the audit department.
2017 INCOMING MSA STUDENT SNAPSHOT

MSA STUDENT STATS

CPA PASS RATE

SDSU MSA graduates taking the CPA exam within a year of graduation had the highest pass rate of any university in the state of California.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES

SDSU USD USD USD

UC Irvine UC Irvine UC Irvine

Golden Gate Golden Gate Golden Gate

61% female 39% male

32% international 68% domestic

NUMBER OF STUDENTS 87
ADMITTED

AVERAGE UNDERGRADUATE GPA 3.39

AVERAGE GMAT SCORE 623

AVERAGE AGE 26

AVG. YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE 2.5

GENDER

61% FEMALE
39% MALE

STUDENT RESIDENCY PERCENTAGE

32% INTERNATIONAL
68% DOMESTIC

SDSU MSA Student Stats

Number of students admitted: 87
Average undergraduate GPA: 3.39
Average GMAT score: 623
Average age: 26
Average years of work experience: 2.5
Gender: 61% female, 39% male
Student residency percentage: 32% international, 68% domestic

CPA Pass Rate:
- 77.2%
- 70.8%
- 70.2%
- 64.7%
- 61.9%
- 42.9%

Estimated Annual Tuition and Fees:
- SDSU: 14,446
- USD: 33,960
- UC Irvine: 51,648
- UC Davis: 44,100
- Golden Gate: 44,850
- USD: 70,200
DIVERSITY IN NUMBERS

With nearly 25 percent of the undergraduate students at the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy identifying as Hispanic or Latino, the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA) has become an important voice on the SDSU campus for those students wishing to pursue an accounting or finance degree.

In addition, women make up 53 percent of the undergraduate accounting majors and nearly 68 percent of students pursuing graduate accounting degrees were women. Slightly over 42 percent of graduate students at The Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy identify themselves as international students and total of 22 percent of undergraduate students identify as Asian.

Overall, SDSU is among the top 25 educational institutions in the country for ethnic diversity—a point of pride for SDSU, where students from all backgrounds achieve academic excellence.

UNDERGRADUATE FALL 2016 TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 1007

- **URM 28.1%** (Hispanic/Latino 24.6%)
- **Men 46.8%**
- **Pell-Eligible 42.0%**
- **Not URM 71.9%**
- **Women 53.2%**
- **Not Pell-Eligible 58.0%**

GRADUATE FALL 2016 TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 118

- **URM 9.3%** (Hispanic/Latino 6.8%)
- **Men 32.2%**
- **Not URM 90.7%**
- **Women 67.8%**
With 44 professional and over 160 student chapters, the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA) was founded in 1972 as a national business organization to expand opportunities for Latino leaders in the global market. It was the first national Latino professional association in the U.S. and currently includes more than 72,000 professionals and student members.

ALPFA-San Diego State chapter targets accounting and finance majors that are underrepresented students. Working together with ALPFA-San Diego, members are able to receive the benefits that ALPFA has to offer both at a national level and with the SDSU chapter.

This year, the San Diego State chapter of ALPFA had between 31 – 34 members who participated in a number of group activities.

KPMG/ALPFA Case Study Competition

The SDSU chapter of ALPFA participated in the KPMG/ALPFA Case Study Competition, which traditionally provides students with the challenge of resolving real-world accounting issues in a collegial and competitive environment.

It is held during the annual ALPFA convention and chosen members have the opportunity to work one-on-one with KPMG advisers. In August 2016, SDSU ALPFA members Elias Diaz, Raymon Guzman, Joyce Mattingly, and Marcos Olivarez participated in the challenge and competed against other ALPFA teams in Dallas, TX.

SDSU ALPFA Case Study Competition

On April 14, 2017, ALPFA hosted its first annual student case competition. Six teams of three-to-four students from SDSU and one team from CSU San Marcos analyzed a business case related to Emirates Airlines. They presented key accounting policies, strategies and risks, and recommendations to help mitigate the risks identified in the firm to a panel of judges consisting of professionals from Deloitte, E&Y, PwC and BDO. These firms are also credited with sponsoring the event.

“This first year was a great success, with students having the opportunity to meet with professionals, and display their presentation skills,” noted Jen Xu, ALPFA director of finance.

The winning team was SDSU’s Aztec Consultants. Each member of the team was awarded $100.

BDO Community Service

The SDSU chapter of ALPFA participated in a community service event with the accounting firm BDO on April 8, 2017. During this event, the students learned about the San Diego Humane Society, toured the facility, and assisted with the animals.

Faculty adviser: Pablo C. Machado
Student Organizations

**Beta Alpha Psi**

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

The Beta Eta Chapter at SDSU’s Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy was formed in 1960 and has been continuously recognized as a “Superior Chapter” among other Beta Alpha Psi Chapters for nearly 30 straight years.

During the current academic year, the Beta Eta Chapter has achieved great success in the various competitions that it participates in. At the Beta Alpha Psi Western Regional Meeting, the SDSU chapter finished in first place in the Leadership Development category and third place in the Community Outreach category of the Best Practices presentation competitions. The Leadership Development team will now be competing against finalists from other regions at the Beta Alpha Psi National Meeting, which will be held in Anaheim, California in August 2017.

Faculty adviser: Brett Kawada

**Student Accounting Society**

Established over 40 years ago, the Student Accounting Society (SAS) at San Diego State University assists students in learning about the accounting profession, offers mentoring and networking support, and provides them with career opportunities and guidance. SAS continues to be very active with regular weekly meetings and other professional and community service events. In the fall, SAS organized a very successful Meet the Firms event in Montezuma Hall in the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union. Approximately 140 professionals from 35 employers came to this annual event and networked with over 200 students.

In the spring, SAS organized its third Annual Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy Spring Leadership Connection in Montezuma Hall of Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union. The 2017 event was by far the biggest Spring Leadership Connection with approximately 20 firms and 80 sophomores, junior and BMacc students. This event provides these students with the opportunity to be potential candidates for the firms upcoming Summer Leadership Programs which have become instrumental for students landing full-time positions prior to graduation.

Faculty adviser: Nathan Oestreich
Two of accounting senior Josh Munoz’s many passions are math and eating healthy.

His passion for business led to his decision to pursue an accounting degree at SDSU. And it’s his passion for healthy eating that inspired him to establish his own fledgling business, WellWare.

Once it gets past the launch stage, WellWare will offer a line of non-toxic plastic food storage containers. According to WellWare’s profile for the SDSU Zahn Innovation Platform (ZIP), Josh has proposed the creation of food storage containers that are “free of any toxic leaching, which has been linked to various health problems.”

Munoz founded WellWare because there was no other product on the market like it. “After reading the latest health news about the perils of plastic toxicity, I tried to find a natural alternative, but I wasn’t pleased with the current offerings," he said.” While I was doing some research, I ran across an article in a scientific journal on the incorporation of natural materials into various products that sparked my interest and ultimately led me to devise my own solution by starting WellWare.”

Currently, Munoz is in the portion of the Launch Track phase of the ZIP Launchpad where he now has to determine the best product iteration for his target market. He plans to have a product prototype ready by the summer of 2017.

When Munoz graduates in the spring of 2018, he wants to continue to lead WellWare as the company’s CEO. “I hope to grow the business to its full potential,” said Munoz. “WellWare started with a passion to see people thrive in optimal health and I’m highly motivated to produce products that benefit both our families and the planet.”
**OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE**

**Inzali Soe Han**

The top accounting undergraduate for the Fowler College of Business in 2017 was Inzali Soe Han.

Han, who is also a U.S. Naval Veteran, was given the honor of sitting on the podium during the 2017 commencement ceremonies with Dr. Yan Luo, who she selected as her most influential professor.

After she and her family immigrated to the United States in 2008 from Myanmar, Han chose to pursue a career in the field of accounting to help people avoid financial pitfalls. “Taxation is an area where many people are not familiar with the rules and regulations,” she pointed out. “As a tax accountant or consultant, I can help them to plan and achieve their financial goals.”

Immediately after graduation, she will be studying for the CPA exams and then will join the San Diego office of EY in their tax division.

**Ryan Waltermire**

Ryan Waltermire was named as the outstanding MSA student for 2017 by SDSU’s Fowler College of Business. Waltermire was given the special privilege of sitting on the podium during the college’s commencement ceremony on May 13, 2017. He named Dr. Steven Gill as his most influential professor and Gill was also honored during the ceremony.

Waltermire is a native San Diegan and a second generation graduate of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy in that both of his parents – William (’77) and Holly (’83) – earned their bachelor’s degrees in accounting at San Diego State.

Shortly after graduation, Waltermire began his work as a full-time tax consultant at Deloitte’s San Diego office.

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Inzali Soe Han (left) with her most influential faculty member, Yan Luo during the Fowler College of Business commencement ceremony on May 13, 2017. Ryan Waltermire was the top MSA student for 2017.
The Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy held its annual Spring Awards Banquet on Friday, April 28, 2017 at the Admiral Baker Golf Course clubhouse. The event was attended by SDSU faculty, students, staff, alumni and recruiters from the Big Four accounting firms.

Awards totaling over $70,000 were given to 33 students by 11 scholarship funds. They are:

Students

- Bryant Cafferty
- Katrina Christensen
- Hillary Clarke
- Courtney Corradetti
- Matthew Covert
- Ngoc Do
- Josephine Elia
- Vivian Eli
- Gabriel Glaser
- Ryan Goff
- Luca Gonzales
- Carolyn Han
- Amber Ho
- Cherine Kalfayan
- Jinqiu Liu
- Joshua Munoz
- Daniel Nelson
- Emily Nguyen
- Linh Nguyen
- Thuan Nguyen
- Sara Nilsson
- Phillip Pentsakov
- Bethlehem Salinas
- Chantel Schweigert
- Zenah Shamoon
- John Sleman
- Yuiia Tan
- Lu Tang
- Ying Tao
- Jared Torres
- Ryan Waftermire
- David Yanke
- Xiaoqing Ye

Scholarships

- Accounting Associates
- Bernard John Nydam Jr. Memorial
- Catherine M. Stiefel
- Charles W. Lamden Memorial Endowed
- Considine Accounting
- Dr. Sharon Lightner Beta Alpha Psi Endowment
- Elias J. Katzen Accountancy
- Gene Whittenburg Memorial Tax Endowed
- James E. Williamson and Francine J. Lipman Endowed
- Robert Edmond Duke
- Toole Family
NOT Business as Usual: Students Get Cross-Border Business Lesson

While it’s been only 45 years since the U.S. re-established diplomatic relations with China, the two nations have grown into primary business partners with many U.S. companies establishing a major presence in China and vice versa.

This relationship between the two countries means that accountants are required to have cross-border tax training in order to serve companies doing business in both the U.S. and China.

As part of SDSU’s Faculty-Led Study Abroad program, accounting lecturer Narelle MacKenzie led 11 students from the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy to Shanghai in July of 2016. “The purpose of the trip was to provide the students with an understanding of the interaction of the U.S. and Chinese tax systems, and to meet companies engaged in cross-border business,” said MacKenzie. “This trip was based on the regular syllabus for the ACCT 503 class with an international overlay that combined U.S. and Chinese tax rules for individuals. This addresses the market demand for accountants who have the skills to weave together two contrasting business worlds and tax systems for seamless financial reporting and other accounting functions.”

The students - who included both graduate and undergraduate students - arrived in Shanghai on July 8, 2016 and almost immediately launched into both classroom work and meetings with four companies. All the companies were engaged in international business and included PricewaterhouseCoopers and Hilton Worldwide group. The students returned to the U.S. on July 22.

One of the key lessons learned by the students was “the art of bargaining.” “Many of the students enjoyed learning how to bargain – it is a key part of business in China with historical roots,” said MacKenzie. “The most critical takeaways were the business connections for international student internships and employment opportunities, as well as the practical experience of preparing a U.S. income tax return for expatriates working in China.”
Over the top five years, the faculty at the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy have had their research published in some of the top academic journals in the world, as rated by the Association of Business Schools (ABS). The following is a listing of the faculty member, the article and journal that published the paper (the accounting faculty members are in bold).

### ARTICLES PUBLISHED

#### ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES


**Aubert, F., Grudnitski, G.** (2014, June). The Role of Reconciliation Quality in Limiting Mispricing of Non-GAAP Earnings Announcements by Euro Stoxx Firms. Advances in Accounting, 30(1), 154-167.


Nancy Jones Honored with Excellence in Teaching Award

Nancy Jones’ outstanding contributions were recognized with a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Fowler College of Business.

Jones is a nationally recognized leader in the field of SAP education and is known for developing classroom content in the field of accounting information systems (AIS) and data analytics used in colleges and universities throughout the world. She was instrumental in the establishment of SDSU’s strong SAP program within the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy and will teach two online courses in undergraduate degree program as well as graduate level courses during the fall of 2017.

Lecturer Katie Jaques Says “Goodbye” After 36 Years

SDSU accounting professor, Dr. Gene Whittenburg called Katie Jaques in 1981 to ask if she would be interested in teaching a course on California state income tax at the college. Her first class commenced in the fall of that year and she’s been teaching the course at SDSU ever since.

“At every job I’ve ever held since then, I’d let them know that I taught a course at SDSU on Monday nights during the fall semester,” said Jaques. “They would say ‘okay’ and that was that.”

Jaques retired from SDSU after teaching her last course (Acct. 656) at the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy during the fall semester of 2016. However, she will still be an active volunteer in the AARP TaxAide program she has participated in since 2010 at the Joan B. Kroc Center in San Diego.

Dr. Hannah Smith Joined the Faculty

Dr. Hannah Smith joined the faculty of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy during the 2017 fall semester as an assistant professor. She teaches two sections of the taxation of business entities course (ACCT. 332) and focuses her research on U.S. corporate taxes.

Smith earned her MAcc and Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee. She is a licensed CPA in the state of Georgia, and, previous to her career in academia, she worked at PwC as a tax associate in the firm’s Atlanta office.
NEW FACULTY MEMBERS
AND THEIR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Dr. Brett Kawada

Brett Kawada joined SDSU in 2013 as an assistant professor after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. Previous to his career in academics, he worked at the Honolulu office at KMPG where he held the position of a senior associate in assurance. He specializes in research that focuses on auditing and accounting education issues. His research has been featured at annual meetings and auditing section meetings of the American Association of Accounting (AAA).

Dr. Yan Luo

Yan Luo is an assistant professor of accounting who began her career at SDSU in 2014 after earning her Ph.D. and master’s degrees at Queen’s University in Canada. Her research portfolio includes: corporate governance quality, the transparency of corporate disclosures, audit quality, and the usefulness of auditing information to macroeconomists and equity market investors. Her work has been published in Corporate Governance: An International Review, Research in Accounting Regulation, and Review of Accounting and Finance.

Dr. Jeff Wang

Assistant professor Jeff Wang started at SDSU in 2015. He received his Ph.D. in accounting and his M.S. in finance, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He researches market crash risk, the impact of analysts’ forecasts on the markets, executive compensation, and analysts’ behavior. His research has been published in the Journal of Accounting Research and Contemporary Accounting Research.
Dr. Pablo Machado

Pablo Machado came to SDSU after earning his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Arizona in 2016. Before earning his Ph.D., he was an assurance associate at PwC and also worked as a police officer. His areas of research include the impact of activist investors on financial reporting and auditing, the costs and benefits of employee diversity policies, and auditor regulation. His work has been presented at the American Association of Accounting (AAA) annual meeting and the AAA auditing section midyear meeting.

Dr. Sydney Shu

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with her Ph.D. in accounting in 2016, Sydney Shu came to SDSU as an assistant professor of accounting. She has done research on financial reporting, corporate governance, executive compensation, tax avoidance and international accounting. Her research has been published in the Journal of Management Accounting Research.

Dr. Hannah Smith

The newest addition to the faculty of the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy, Hannah Smith, comes to SDSU after earning her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. As a Ph.D. student, she presented her research “Implicit Taxes of U.S. Domestic and Multinational Firms over the Past Quarter-Century” at the University of Illinois Tax Doctoral Consortium; this research was co-authored with two of her professors there. Her dissertation titled “Implicit Taxes in Imperfect Markets” explores a related area and examines how competition impedes implicit tax formation.
Richard and Susan Seiler’s gift is “an investment in the future.”

By Coleen L. Geraghty

Richard Seiler has always been proud of his association with San Diego State University’s College of Business Administration, recently renamed the Fowler College of Business.

As an undergraduate, he majored in accounting, recognizing it as a well-respected academic program. Although Seiler’s career eventually took him in a different direction, he values the lessons he learned and the professors who mentored him as an accounting major. A recent gift to SDSU from Seiler, (’78), and his wife, Susan, (’79), could be seen, in part, as a tribute to one of Seiler’s professors: Charles Lamden, namesake of SDSU’s Charles Lamden School of Accountancy. The Richard and Susan Seiler Endowed Faculty Fellow in Taxation will support a faculty member within the school.

“Having the right professors in place allows the college to offer curriculum that will benefit the greatest number of students,” Seiler said. “We also believe in giving to scholarships, but right now, the need is for a professor in this field.”

The Seilers met at SDSU in the 1970s. Susan, who majored in fashion merchandising in the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, became a buyer for Macy’s after graduation. Richard is a certified financial planner and wealth management adviser in the Bay Area.

A greater impact

One of their many gifts to SDSU over the years helped to build the Page Pavilion in the Fowler College of Business. Recently, they decided to make a larger endowed gift to SDSU after Susan joined a philanthropic organization whose beneficiary is the College Bound Program, a charity that raises money to help students attend and graduate from college.

“We attended an event at which those students talked about being the first in their family to go to college and described how happy they were to have the opportunity,” Richard Seiler said. “That got us thinking about making a greater impact on helping to create educational opportunities. Increasing our giving to San Diego State was the logical answer. And then I got a call about joining the Bay Area Regional Council.”

The organization is one of seven regional councils comprised of loyal SDSU alumni and friends. Members donate to SDSU each year, provide internships for students, mentor students and young alumni, help locate “lost” Aztecs and strengthen the Aztec presence in their region.

“We appreciate the Seilers’ deep commitment to SDSU through their gifts of time and treasure,” said Mary Ruth Carleton, vice president of University Relations and Development. “Endowments that support new and existing faculty positions are crucial to the advancement of our university.”

More student engagement

Both Seilers are impressed with changes to the campus since they graduated. Apart from the physical transformation, there’s an atmosphere of student engagement that was less pronounced decades ago, Seiler said. Today’s high achieving SDSU students are clearly committed to making their mark in...
the classroom, on campus and in the community.

The Seilers also appreciate the opportunities for interaction between alumni and current students, particularly through the regional councils.

“I think it’s important to increase the level of involvement across the country,” Richard Seiler said. “With the success of the campaign, SDSU has achieved a new level of respect and visibility, not only locally but also on a national scale. People are really engaged, and it makes the university more competitive. Making a gift is really an investment in the future of our country, our communities and ourselves.”

This gift will help meet Ron and Alexis Fowler’s challenge to match the $25 million they gave last October to SDSU’s Fowler College of Business. The Campaign for SDSU began in 2007 as an effort to generate philanthropic support for SDSU students, faculty, staff and programs. More than 67,000 donors have contributed to help SDSU surpass its campaign goal of $750 million.

If you ask Ed Cannizzaro about his most influential professor, he would tell you that Charles W. Lamden had the biggest impact. Lamden, for whom the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy was named, taught one of Cannizzaro’s auditing classes. “As a former senior partner with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. (now KPMG), he was able to bring real life experiences to the classroom,” recalled Cannizzaro. “And of course, Charles did it with such grace and class – he was always the consummate gentleman.”

In fact, Cannizzaro followed Lamden into the San Diego office of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. after he earned his accounting degree from SDSU in 1982. Furthermore, he also followed in Lamden’s footsteps when he ascended to the position of partner within the KPMG San Diego office.

Also like Lamden, Cannizzaro has also been devoted to SDSU and has given both his time and resources to both the Fowler College of Business and the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy and has served on the advisory boards of both. He has been a mentor to undergraduate accounting students in recent years, is a donor and lifetime member of the SDSU Alumni Association.

He and his wife, Mary Lee (’83, psychology), recently made a significant commitment to the Edward G. and Mary Lee Cannizzaro Endowed Scholarship in Accountancy which offers financial assistance to SDSU students pursuing accounting degrees. Along with the anticipated matching donation from Cannizzaro’s employer, KPMG, the gift is expected to eventually total $100,000.

Though Cannizzaro’s heart is at SDSU, his work has taken him to New York City where he is now KPMG’s national managing partner – risk management. The Cannizzaros still own a home in Los Gatos, California where they return frequently to enjoy the weather and tend to the small vineyard on the property.

When asked what advice he would give to today’s SDSU accounting students, Cannizzaro pointed out that they should be congratulated for “making a great decision selecting SDSU’s accounting program.” Then he added: “Be open to all possibilities and opportunities that will come your way and don’t let fear of failure hold you back. Finally, build upon your skills and competencies throughout your career. If you do, you will always be well-positioned in the marketplace.”

“P.S.: Have fun along the way.”

(Note: This article was reprinted from the January 6, 2017 edition of SDSU NewsCenter)
QUALCOMM FOUNDATION GIFT HONORS SDSU ALUMNUS

In recognition of Raymond V. Dittamore, the endowment will support students in the Lamden School of Accountancy.

By Coleen L. Geraghty

In recognition of Raymond V. Dittamore’s 15 years of service on the Qualcomm Incorporated Board of Directors, the Qualcomm Foundation has established the Dittamore/Qualcomm Foundation Endowed Scholarship in Accountancy at San Diego State University.

The $500,000 gift is the largest endowed scholarship designated exclusively for students in SDSU’s Lamden School of Accountancy, and will match funds from Ron and Alexis Fowler’s $25 million challenge gift, announced last October. It will endow scholarships for high-achieving accounting majors from diverse backgrounds, including student-veterans.

“Ray served on the Board of Qualcomm Incorporated from 2002 to 2017 and was chair of the Audit Committee during a time of rapid growth globally for the company, while establishing a reputation for world-class financial discipline and transparency,” said George Davis, chief financial officer for Qualcomm. “We are deeply grateful for Ray’s many contributions.”

From engineering to accounting

A San Diego native, Dittamore was the first in his family to earn a university degree. He enrolled at SDSU intending to major in engineering, but switched to accounting and graduated in 1966. Vern Odmark, a legendary accounting professor and chair of the department, was a seminal influence on the young man.

“He made the subject come alive for me,” Dittamore recalled. “When you find something that you really enjoy and relate to, it’s not work, it’s fun. I enjoyed the problem-solving aspect of accounting.”

Dittamore worked to pay for his education and also held several coveted internships, one with Pacific Bell and another with the IRS. A top student, he passed the CPA exam before graduation.

“The education and guidance I received from my professors at SDSU played a key role in preparing me for a career in the business world,” said Dittamore. “I am very fortunate to have attended this great institution, and it’s an honor and privilege that through Qualcomm’s generosity we are able to establish this endowed scholarship for the Lamden School of Accountancy.”
GIVING BACK TO THE CHARLES W. LAMDEN SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY: HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Aztecs Hiring Aztecs

As an SDSU alum, there are many ways you can share your professional expertise and experience with current students such as hiring an Aztec employee or intern for your company, participate in career fairs, provide information sessions, and more!

Aztec Mentor Program

Mentors are professionals who guide and advise students in their career paths to help them succeed. A mentor’s role is to inspire, encourage, and support their students.

A San Diego State University strategic priority and collaboration between Career Services and Alumni Engagement, the Aztec Mentor Program’s (AMP) purpose is to engage alumni and professional mentors to connect with juniors, seniors and graduate students to support them to become career ready.

Mentor registration is open year-round. For more information, email careerservices@mail.sdsu.edu or call 619-594-6851.

Lifetime Membership

Stay connected to SDSU for life by becoming an SDSU Alumni lifetime member. A lifetime membership supports student scholarships and comes with benefits including special discounts, exclusive invitations, membership gifts and much more.

Alumni Groups

Our SDSU Alumni Groups are volunteer-led groups of SDSU alumni and supporters who have a shared connection with the university who work with the SDSU Alumni office to support the goals and missions of the university, SDSU Alumni and their respective campus partners through building alumni networks, supporting student success programs and giving back to the university. Our alumni groups do this through organizing events, networking with fellow alumni and supporting the efforts of the colleges and programs at SDSU.

For more information, email alumni@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-2586.

Teach Our Students

One of the best ways to get involved with the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy is to teach our current students. Whether it’s doing a guest lecture for one afternoon, joining our alumni panels at student orientation, or teaching for a semester, the real-world experience our alumni bring to students is invaluable to their education.

For more information, please call 619-594-5070 or email us at accounting@sdsu.edu.

Donate

An annual donation of any amount to The Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy, the VITA program, our scholarships helps our students and faculty to create an outstanding learning environment.

For more information, email accounting@sdsu.edu or call 619-594-2586.
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Not pictured: Mark Clemens, Scott Farber, Mark Fisher, Ken Gerstel, Jim Givens, Mike Howard, Trevor Mihalik, Chris Roberts, Laura Roos