

State students with advanced degrees scored in the top 10 nationally in at least one of the four parts of the CPA examination. Our accounting program ranking, based on the CPA examination pass rate, ranged from second to seventh nationally as reported by NASBA in the 2007, 2008, and 2009 editions of their candidate performance publication. There were only four other programs nationally with similar performance.

The Business Information Systems (BIS) program in the department also achieved national recognition in 2010. With the guidance of BIS Club cofaculty advisors Matt

Nelson and Rosie Hauck, the BIS program at Illinois State launched a charter student chapter in the Association for Information Systems (AIS). In its first year, the Illinois State chapter was recognized for outstanding achievement among student chapters. The Illinois State chapter was the recipient of the Outstanding Professional Development award. This significant accomplishment will help raise

95%
Accounting

95%
Finance

85%
Marketing

95%
Management

90%
Legal and Social
Environment Issues

95%
Information Systems

85%
International Issues

the awareness of the BIS program at Illinois State University.

The Department of Accounting Alumni Network on LinkedIn was officially launched August 24, 2010, at the Midwest Accounting and Finance Showcase in Rosemont, Illinois. Thirty Department of Accounting alumni participated in an alumni luncheon and welcome event. Please help us grow the alumni network on the premier social network for business professionals, LinkedIn, by joining the alumni network by July 31, 2011. It is easy and free to setup your profile on LinkedIn and join the alumni network.



Once you become a member of LinkedIn, search for the Department of Accounting profile. Alumni network members will receive department updates twice a year and additional significant department and college news as it becomes available.

Another significant event related to program support was the naming of a College of Business Team Room for Sikich LLP in October. The team room named for Sikich is primarily used by accounting students to study between classes and to work in teams on accounting problems and projects at all hours of the day and evening. This generous support will provide leadership development opportunities for accounting students and research and teaching development opportunities for faculty for five years.

I think you will agree that the Department of Accounting had an outstanding year in 2010. The department continued to attract high-quality students that performed at the highest level on national benchmarks. The faculty continues to be the "secret weapon" of the department by adding significant value to our students and to the academic and professional accounting and BIS communities. The continuing support and strong relationships with our firm partners, alumni, and friends in 2010 helped provide important opportunities for faculty and students that otherwise would not be possible.

In closing, I hope many of you will continue to stay connected with the department by joining the department of Accounting Alumni Network on LinkedIn. Please keep in touch with the department by e-mailing nferrero@IllinoisState.edu to notify us of career updates and other significant events.

Warm regards,

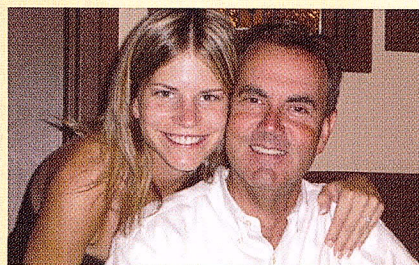
Gerry McKean

AN ACCOUNTING LEGACY

By Lisa Shelton

When Lindsay Biernacki '07 spent time working with her father's business she had no idea it would start a family tradition.

"I actually worked for him in high school during the busy season," she said. "It was there that I picked up on what accounting was like and realized it was some-



thing I wanted to pursue." When Lindsay expressed her intentions to follow in her father's footsteps, he recommended the Department of Accounting at Illinois State University. "He told me it was the best school for that major," she said.

David Nissen '80 would know since he attended Illinois State for accounting. "I really like the school," he said. "The school has such a great reputation from the Department of Accounting to the size of the school. It's big, yet small. There's nothing inferior about an education at Illinois State. You learn a good work ethic. You learn to study and work hard. Those skills transfer over into the real working environment. Nothing replaces that."

David received instruction, attention, and experiences in the Department of Accounting that distinguished him from his peers. "Illinois State has such a tremendous accounting program. They were focused on educating you. The other thing that impressed me was professors were accounting professionals. They were in the accounting field and moved to the education field. They had so much real life experience."

As a student, David was recruited by Mueller and Co. and has been there ever since. "They took a chance on hiring me and I've been there 30 years. Now I'm the managing partner of the firm."

Three out of four of his children have a history with Illinois State. Lindsay, who is a senior tax associate for McGladrey in Schaumburg, also met her spouse on campus. Her brother Kevin '07, a finance and marketing major, did as well. David's younger son, Brandon, is a junior on campus. Their older brother, Matthew, attended another college.

David is grateful for his Illinois State education and the life it has afforded him. "That's how important college is," he said. "It kind of sets the table for life. I'm pretty entrenched with Illinois State. Illinois State's been good to my family."