Happy Holidays!

As the end of 2016 quickly approaches, I have been reflecting on all the amazing things happening in the UNLV Department of Accounting and wanted to share some highlights with all our friends.

Every year the Public Accounting Report (PAR) publishes rankings of accounting programs. This year UNLV did better than ever with our undergraduate program ranking 10th and our Master’s program 11th in our size category. It is always rewarding to be recognized by our peers and we will continue to focus on high quality teaching, research and service to maintain this status.

Dr. Robyn Raschke won the American Accounting Association’s Strategic and Emerging Technologies Award for Outstanding Service. This award recognizes her work advancing the teaching of technology and big data across the globe. Dr. Michael Cummings won the Best Paper award in the International Management Division at the Academy of Management’s annual meeting. Their work and recognition help elevate our brand and improve our rankings.

Dr. Jason Smith has been reappointed as the EY Faculty Fellow. The sponsorship of research active faculty is an essential part of our growth and efforts to support the UNLV Top Tier initiative and our efforts to rise in the PAR rankings. We are grateful to EY for continuing their support and commitment to our department.

Our Alumni Social in November was a huge success. Over 100 people attended and we were able to reconnect with so many. A special thanks to Rich Wightman & Co. for sponsoring this event once again! We could not have done it without them.

Other alumni news - Jessica Sayles, CPA, Principal at Houldsworth, Russo & Co, P.C. was named our outstanding alumni of 2016!

We have three teams currently working on their videos for the IMA case competition in February. This is our first time participating in this competition and look forward to the experience. We also sent a team of students to the Deloitte FanTAXtic regional competition. We know these experiences enhance student education and help develop analytic and communication skills, so expect to hear about more of these activities in the future.

Beta Alpha Psi earned the Superior Chapter award after another remarkable year of activities, service and engagement. This year they are working hard to earn another Gold status award, so I wanted to thank all the firms and alumni who support Beta in achieving their goals.

UNLV students once again did extremely well on the CPA exam, beating the national average pass rates on all four parts. We want to extend our thanks to the NV State Board of Accountancy for sponsoring the purchase of our student specific report. This allows us to assess areas we can work on to help students reach higher levels of achievement.

While I may have missed something in our news above, I wanted to make sure I sent out a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has generously donated to our department in the last year. These donations - be it scholarships, other funding, or time - really do make a huge difference in what we are able to accomplish each year. Without your support our ability to send students to competitions, faculty to research seminars, and host student events would be limited. Thanks!