

MENDOZA EXCHANGE

News & info for faculty and staff at Mendoza College of Business

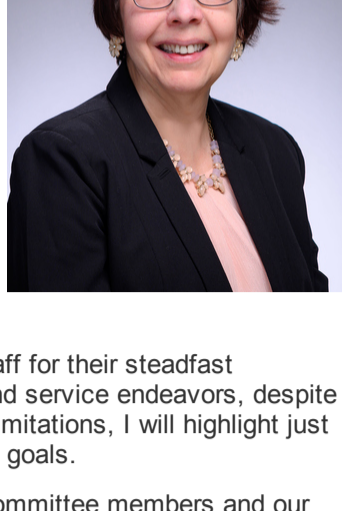
NOVEMBER 30, 2020

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Guest column: Sandra Vera-Muñoz

Dear Colleagues,

When it was clear earlier this year that the COVID-19 pandemic was here to stay for a while, many of us found different ways of coping with our "new" normal, both at work and outside of work. For example, my husband and I found new socially distanced ways of interacting with our two young grandsons using Caribu, the kids' version of Zoom. I've been listening to Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton" during my drive to and from work. (We also adopted a kitty, Moti, from the Humane Society of St. Joseph County, but that's another story.)



In one of my favorite songs, Alexander Hamilton and his fellow young revolutionaries sing, "And when our children tell our story, they'll tell the story of tonight!" This got me thinking, what will be our collective memories of our story of how we overcame the many challenges brought by the pandemic?

Today, I want to highlight the Accountancy Department's faculty and staff for their steadfast commitment and collective efforts to advance our teaching, research and service endeavors, despite the many disruptions. We have much to be proud of, but due to space limitations, I will highlight just some of the Department's many accomplishments and related strategic goals.

Owing to the hard work of our graduate and undergraduate curriculum committee members and our highly dedicated faculty, this year we were able to expand our course offerings, from principles courses to graduate-level courses. This fall, we rolled out our new Accounting Data Analytics concentration in our M.S. in Accountancy program, consisting of 8 credit hours, available to MSA students in our two tracks, Assurance & Advisory Services and Tax Services. Our new courses, Accounting Data Exploration and Visualization (ACCT 70080) and Accounting Data Management (ACCT 70180), taught by new colleague **Elizabeth Chorvat**, have been well received by our students and recruiters.

In spring 2021, we will offer Advanced Accounting Analytics (ACCT 70291) and a new undergraduate course, Tools for Accounting Analytics (ACCT 30180). These courses expand our current offerings, Data Analytics in Accounting (ACCT 70281), taught by **Jeff Burks**; Fraud and Audit Analytics (ACCT 40520/ACCT 70521), taught by **Keith Urtel**; and Data Analytics in Accounting (ACCT 30280), taught by **Jeff Burks** and **John Donovan**.

Another new MSA course offered this fall, **Hal White's** Corporate Disclosure: Accounting Institutions and Academic Research (ACCT 70831), introduces students to capital market research with an emphasis on corporate disclosure research. This course joins **Brad Badertscher's** Accounting Research I (ACCT 40930), which acquaints undergraduate students with research methods and protocols to interpret and understand the implications of research findings. One of our strategic goals with these courses is to continue inspiring future generations of accountancy Ph.Ds.

Our cross-college and cross-department collaborations have also expanded. This fall, we offered a new course for non-Mendoza students, Fundamental Financial Literacy (ACCT 10100), developed and taught by **Ed Hums**. The course is designed to present the advantages of effective financial planning for the students' personal and professional lives. In addition, our 15 credit hours Accountancy Minor program for non-Mendoza students continues to grow, with over 100 students from the Colleges of Arts and Letters, Science and Engineering bringing diverse perspectives to the intellectually stimulating discussions in our accountancy courses.

One of our strategic goals with the Accountancy Minor program is to offer our multi-talented students a path to our MSA program and open more doors for future careers in accounting and finance, among others.

In spring 2021, we will offer a new undergraduate course, Sustainability: Accounting and Reporting and Impact Investing (ACCT 30160), a collaboration between the Accountancy department and the **Notre Dame Institute for Global Investing**. Brendan Maher and Tara Kenney, both ND alumni and experts in socially responsible investing, will be joining me in this new course, which is open to Mendoza and non-Mendoza students who have completed ACCT 20100/ACCT 20200.

Even with a compressed 2019 filing season and the many challenges imposed by social distancing, with **Colleen Creighton's** leadership, our domestic **Tax Assistance Program (TAP)** was able to serve 352 low-income taxpayers in our community with the assistance of 50 Notre Dame students, 11 Saint Mary's College students, five ND/SMC faculty volunteers, and one volunteer from Crowe LLP. And with **Ken Milani's** leadership, our International TAP was able to prepare 1,696 returns for 828 international taxpayers with the assistance of 20 MSA students.

This year we also had several student-recruiting efforts and student-centered events, among them (not an all-inclusive list):

- **MSA webinars.** Our thanks to **Jim Seida** and **Shane McCoy** for their many webinars offered this year to current and prospective MSA students. The fall webinars included students from North Carolina A&T State University and the University of Puerto Rico – Mayagüez campus. The webinars and personal follow-ups are contributing to increasing MSA enrollments projections for the MSA class of 2022. We also are enhancing our diversity and inclusion MSA recruiting efforts.
- **Events and services sponsored by Beta Alpha Psi**, which recently received international recognition as a Superior Chapter for their outstanding efforts during the 2019-2020 academic year. Our thanks to **Janet O'Tousa** for her outstanding leadership as BAP faculty adviser.
- **Deloitte Case Competition.** Owing to **Sam Ranzilla's** outstanding leadership, we held this year's competition virtually earlier this month, assisted by our Deloitte partners and managers and by the dedicated faculty who advised the six competing teams: **Brad Badertscher, Erik Beardsley, John Donovan, Stephanie Larocque, Fred Mittelstaedt** and **Jessie Watkins**.
- **Accountancy Excellence Scholarships reception.** This annual event, held virtually this year, gives us the opportunity to come together to congratulate our outstanding undergraduate scholarship recipients and to connect them with our benefactors – the Big 4 and Grant Thornton LLP. We plan to use these scholarships to enhance our undergraduate diversity and inclusion recruiting efforts.

Two of the busiest persons in our department, **Jamie O'Brien** and **Amanda Rink** are instrumental to our Department's efforts. In everything they do, Jamie and Amanda always go beyond the call of duty while exhibiting a highly supportive and upbeat attitude. Thank you!

And yes, we did not pull through this year unscathed. We settled for virtual graduations, advisory board meetings, and department socials. We also faced cancellations of research conferences, workshops and study abroad programs. We look forward to reconnecting virtually with our Advisory Board members on Dec. 10. And next year, we will celebrate the retirement of two of our dear colleagues, **Sam Ranzilla** and **Tom Schaefer**, former department chair, and thank them for their distinguished service to the Department, Mendoza, Notre Dame and the accounting profession.

We also look forward to the first of two conferences on the topic of Accounting for Sustainability and Responsible Investing, hosted by the **Center for Accounting Research and Education**. The first conference, to be held in 2021, will be virtual; the second, scheduled for 2022, will be held in-person at Mendoza. Our thanks to **Peter Easton** and **Lorie Marsh**, who, despite the incredible pandemic-related challenges, have endeavored to reimagine the 2021 conference in creative ways.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas holiday with your loved ones!

Yours in Notre Dame,

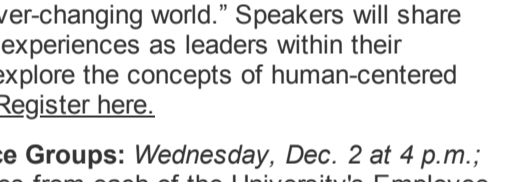
Sandra C. Vera-Muñoz
Deloitte Foundation Department Chair
Department of Accountancy

MENDOZA HAPPENINGS

Submissions welcome! Click [here](#) or email mendozabusiness@nd.edu.

UPCOMING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EVENTS

◆ **Thrive Webinar: A Conversation with Provost Marie Lynn Miranda:** *Tuesday, Dec. 1; noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom.* The Thrive! professional development and networking committee, along with the Thrive! board and steering committee, invite everyone to a special, interactive conversation with Provost **Marie Lynn Miranda**. She will share stories of impactful moments from her own professional and personal journey to the University, including insights on topics such as mentorship and encouraging the next generation of female leaders. [Register online here](#) by Monday, Nov. 30.



◆ **Inspiring Conversations: Richard Leider, author and founder of Inventure–The Purpose Company:** *Tuesday Dec. 1 at 1 p.m., online.* This digital speaker series sponsored by ND's [Inspired Leadership Initiative](#) provides the opportunity to hear from leaders across many disciplines and industries. This fall, the theme is "Leading people in an ever-changing world." Speakers will share stories, perspectives and lessons learned from their own experiences as leaders within their organizations and in their communities. Participants will explore the concepts of human-centered leadership: mission, empathy, courage and adaptability. [Register here.](#)

◆ **Diversity & Inclusion Workshop: Employee Resource Groups:** *Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m.; online (see Kara's email invitation for link).* Representatives from each of the [University's Employee Resource Groups](#) will share more information about their respective ERG's purpose, activities and how faculty and staff can be involved. ERG's are voluntary, employee led groups created by a shared characteristic, interest, or life experience. They help support networking and provide social outlets; they also assist the University with recruitment, retention, and educational activities.

Current University ERG's include the following:

- Adelante Hispanos
- Black Faculty and Staff Association
- ND Staff of International Descent (NDSID)
- SPECTRUM (LGBTQ & Ally)
- THRIVE! Inspiring ND Women
- ND Veterans Association
- Young Leaders of Notre Dame (YLND)

◆ **COVID-19: What Comes Next:** *Friday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m.; online.* This forum hosted by Notre Dame's [Health and Well-being Initiative](#) and the [Social Determinants of Well-being Task Force](#) will include four sessions covering the topics of women's health, infrastructure, learning, and social underpinnings, organized around nine 20-minute presentations with Q&A sessions.

Participants are invited to attend the full event or to participate during a session of greatest interest. [You can view the event schedule, including speakers and presentation topics, here.](#) The event is free but registration is required. [Register here.](#)

FAC/STAFF UPDATES & INFO

Submissions welcome! Click [here](#) or email mendozabusiness@nd.edu.

ELECTRONIC W-2

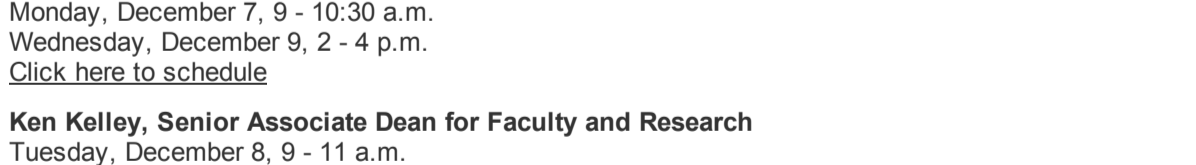
Faculty and staff members have the opportunity to elect to receive their W-2 electronically rather than to receive a printed statement through the mail. Opt in by Thursday, Dec. 31. [Details here.](#)

DAILY HEALTH CHECKS

REMINDER! Beginning **Monday, Nov. 23**, and continuing for the entirety of Winter Break, faculty, staff, and graduate and professional students will continue to receive daily reminders, but are only expected to complete their daily health check if they reside on campus or are coming to campus during the break.

VIDEO TRIBUTE

In **Case You Missed It: Father John Jenkin's Thanksgiving message** introduced a [video tribute](#) to honor the efforts of the faculty, staff and students of the Notre Dame community during a tough fall semester. Set to the song "For Good" from "Wicked," the video features 163 graduate and undergraduate students forming a heart stretching from the steps of the Main Building to the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the center of the God Squad.



SIGN UP FOR OFFICE HOURS

Schedule a 15 minute 1:1 with Mendoza leadership:

Martijn Cremers, Dean
Monday, December 7, 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 9, 2 - 4 p.m.
[Click here to schedule](#)

Ken Kelley, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Research
Tuesday, December 8, 9 - 11 a.m.
Wednesday, December 9, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
[Click here to schedule](#)

Kara Palmer, Director of Administration
Tuesday, December 8, 2 - 4 p.m.
Friday, December 11, 9 - 11 a.m.
[Click here to schedule](#)

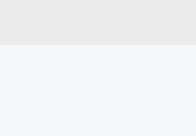
Kristen Collett-Schmitt, Associate Dean for Specialized Master's Programs
Monday, December 7, 10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, December 9, 2 - 4 p.m.
[Click here to schedule](#)

Walt Clements, Associate Dean for Executive Education
Wednesday, December 2, 10 a.m. - noon
Friday, December 4, 2 - 4 p.m.
[Click here to schedule](#)

Mike Mannor, Associate Dean for the MBA Program
Monday, December 7, 10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, December 9, 2 - 4 p.m.
[Click here to schedule](#)

Jim Leady, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
Monday, December 14, 10 a.m. - noon
Tuesday, December 15, 2 - 4 p.m.
[Click here to schedule](#)

SUBMIT NEWS!



Contact: Carol Elliott
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