



BUSINESS CHAPTER SACRAMENTO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

September 2007

Business Chapter

600 Members Strong

Mission—A network of business professionals working together to support the continued improvement of the Alumni Association, the College of Business and Sacramento State; to promote individual member achievement and career advancement; and to make a positive impact in the communities where our members work and live.

Alumni Spotlight—John G Robison

By Deanna Schluter

John Robison is a business man by nature and a family man at heart. John started his career in accounting in 1998 when he took a position with James Nicholas CPA. While with James Nicholas, he gained experience in government and non-profit auditing, including HUD, CDE (California Department of Education), and A-133 audits. He also gained extensive experience in audits of mortgage banking and brokering clients.

In 2001, John graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accountancy. This gave him the educational foundation he needed to join the international accounting firm of Ernst & Young LLP in the Assurance and Advisory Business Services practice.

While with Ernst & Young LLP, John had the opportunity to work on financial statement audits, debt offerings, SEC filings, audits of foundations with endowments, and benefit plan audits for clients in the following industries: Health Care, Technology, Telecommunications, Manufacturing, and Entertainment. He later returned to work with James Nicholas, and in the fall of 2002, the two established the

firm of Nicholas & Robison CPAs.

Now, he has over 10 years of experience and knowledge in the accounting and auditing field. He has worked primarily in the audit area specializing in audits of small to medium sized companies in both for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. He has comprehensive knowledge and experience in HUD, CDE (California Department of Education), A-133, and retirement plan audits.

Since John joined the partnership, business has tripled. He loves his work and describes his current working environment as "flexible." John admits to working long hours but says he enjoys the ability to manage a healthy work/life balance. He is able to spend time with his wife, Karen, of 11 years and his 4 children (3 girls and a boy) and also enjoy a rewarding career.

In his spare time he enjoys boating in the summer and riding quads and motorcycles year round. He also regularly attends church with his family. When asked what his greatest challenge was, he said it was transitioning between working for a large company to being self-employed. Size brings very different

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Theresa Milan
Marc Fechner

Alumni Spotlight—John G Robison: continued

challenges to the stakeholders in a business. John found that he had to reinvent himself to effectively handle those differences. He says his greatest accomplishment is his relationship with his family and says he looks forward to having more time for them as the business grows and they are able to hire additional talent.

His goals for the future include growing and expanding the business into other states, diversifying the client base, and better balancing his workload during busy season.

With John's experience in attest work and his business partner's experience in tax (James Nicholas has a master's degree in taxation) Nicholas and Robison CPAs is a well rounded accounting practice that provides a full range of attest, tax and general accounting services to its clients. If you have any questions or would like further information on their services, please contact John Robison at 888.672.7201 or by e-mail at john@nrcpa.com

Sac State Upcoming Events

Date: Saturday, September 1st

Event: Alumni Bus Trip to Fresno State
First Football Game of 2007 Season –
First Football Game Coached by New
Coach Marshall Sperbeck
Sac State vs Fresno State
Cost: \$70 includes game ticket, bus
fare, tailgate party admission and re-
freshments on bus.
Time: Bus departs Alumni Center at
2:00 p.m. and returns to Alumni Center

around Midnight.

RSVP: Call Toni Brown, 278-4263.

Date: Saturday, October 13th

Event: Happy 60th Birthday Herky! Home-
coming Festival/Tailgate Party
Time: 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Football game – 2:00 p.m.
Montana vs Sac State.



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Dictionary Project

Karen Gee is chairing the chapter's dictionary project. Our chapter is buying dictionaries and donating them to third grade classes at schools that we've identified as lacking in resources.

Karen, with the help of Deanna Schluter, has been visiting local area dollar stores to buy dictionaries for the project. We plan to make this a reoccurring event.

If you'd like to get involved with this project please contact Karen Gee at kgee2@edd.ca.gov.

Mentors Needed!

The Business Chapter is seeking Mentors! In a recent survey at the College of Business at Sac State, 34 students expressed a desired a mentor. Students provided specifics regarding the skill/subject areas they wished to gain from interaction with a knowledgeable and willing mentor.

The Business Alumni Chapter is now recruiting mentors, both alumni and non-alumni (friends of the university), to participate in the mentor process. Our goal is to pair students with professionals that have the experience that would meet the students' interests. We want to make sure that the matches are a good fit, so

Business Alumni Scholarship Awarded

By Deanna Schluter

Hieu Cao, a Junior at Sacramento State and second year Business student, was awarded the Business Alumni Chapter Scholarship last Spring for academic year 2007-2008. Her Sac State GPA was 3.038 with an overall GPA of 3.179. She'll earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Business with a concentration in Accountancy in the Spring of 2008.

She is involved in several organizations and Honor Societies including Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Society.

Business Speaker Series

Paul Finn has volunteered to revive the Business Speaker Series. Our chapter started the speaker series in August 2005 and our goal was to bring in exciting speakers to discuss various topics relevant to the current greater Sacramento area business community. Our first event featured the publisher of Prosper Magazine, a Sacramento business magazine.

Paul is currently planning events for the near future. If you're interested in getting involved or attending these events, please contact Paul Finn at Paul.f.finn@usps.gov.

receiving a student to mentor will depend on the pool of students we have available at the time of your application. If you do not receive a student to mentor immediately, we will keep your information in our database for a future student match.

If you are interested in applying to be a mentor, visit our chapter website and complete the on-line form. If you have any questions, you may contact the chair of the mentor process: Margo Murray at (510) 531.9453

or margo@mentors-mmha.com.

When asked about her career goals, she says that she'd like to work with an accounting firm where her values are shared with those of the organization. She says she'd like to work in an organization where the "culture of the firm correlates with what I believe in. I want to build my skills and eventually move up to higher level positions in the firm."

Congratulations Hieu!

Upcoming Events

Monday, 09/17/07

Career Boost 101
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Location: Alumni Center
www.SacStateAlumni.com

Wednesday, 09/19/07

Board Meeting
6:30 PM Pot Luck & Mixer
7:30 PM Meeting
Contact: Kevin Nakano (800) 477-0075

Monday, 10/01/07

Speed Networking Event
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Location: Alumni Center
Register on-line, visit:
www.SacStateBizChapter.org

Wednesday, 10/17/07

Board Meeting
6:30 PM Pot Luck & Mixer
7:30 PM Meeting
Contact: Kevin Nakano (800) 477-0075

Wednesday, 10/13/07

Government Employee Career Fair
Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Location: University Ballroom
Info: 916-278-6231

Wednesday, 11/21/07

Board Meeting
6:30 PM Pot Luck & Mixer
7:30 PM Meeting
Contact: Kevin Nakano (800) 477-0075

www.SacStateBizChapter.org

On the Move

Every issue, we feature member updates. If you'd like to be in this section, please send your information to kevin@nakanorealty.com.

Marc Fechner, 2007 Executive Master Business Administration (EMBA) has recently accepted a position with Vision Service Plan (VSP) as Manager of Supply Chain and Logistics. Formerly a Strategic Business Manager at Hewlett Packard, Marc's new role will be to develop, implement and manage a supply chain excellence program for VSP and VSP's Family of Companies.

Laura P. Dannels, 2007 B.S. Business Administration with concentration in Human Resources has been named Director of Campus Recruiting for the Fobes Financial Group of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. She will be responsible for recruiting, selection, contracting and licensing, and coordinating the internship for the CSU Sacramento, University of the Pacific, and CSU Stanislaus campuses.

Thomas M. Gilbert, CPA 1981 MBA has been elected to his third term as the President of the Boy Scouts of America, Golden Empire Council. The Council serves over 20,000 youth in the greater Sacramento Valley, from Amador/Vacaville to Redding.



SPEED

NETWORKING

Alumni & Non-Alumni Welcome!!!

Helping expand your business network

***Sac State Alumni Association
& Business Alumni Chapter***



Present...

Speed Networking

Monday, Oct. 1, 2007 * 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Alumni Association at Sac State

RSVP On-line

www.SacStateBizChapter.org

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Sacramento State Alumni Association
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