

# ACCOUNTANT'S APPRENTICE

FALL 2015 ISSUE 4

*Minty Trakalsaeng, Director of Public Relations, Layout Designer*  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Club Meeting : Wells Fargo Bank

October 7th, 2015  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
At RH 207

### Club Fun Event - UAA Hockey Game

October 9th, 2015  
8:00 p.m.  
At Sullivan Arena

### Volunteer Opportunity: Bean's Cafe

October 11th, 2015  
November 8th, 2015  
11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.  
At Bean's Cafe

### Haunted Halloween Fun Night

October 24th, 2015  
1:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
At Student Union

### Holiday Arts & Crafts Vendor Fair

November 7th, 2015  
11:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
At Student Union

## PAST EVENT: POPCORN DAY

Popcorn Day was a club promotional fundraiser event that was held over the first two days of September. Raffle tickets for our Fall Social were sold as were baked goods, popcorn and Accounting Club T-shirts/Sweatshirts.

We also encouraged UAA students to join the Accounting Club by highlighting all of the amazing opportunities our club provides.

If you missed this event and are interested in purchasing Accounting Club clothing merchandise, please email us.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The air is getting crisp, the leaves are falling off trees, and the snow is making its way down the mountains. Autumn is here and so is our fourth newsletter!

This past September was packed with lots of activities such as **Popcorn Day, Fall 2015 Social, College Involvement Fair and club meetings with KPMG, BDO and State of Alaska Division of Legislative Audit.**

We would like to thank all of the volunteers of these events. Whether you donated your time to man the table at Popcorn Day or helped with the check-in process of our Fall Social, your hardwork and dedication made these events very successful.

We, especially, want to extend our thanks to the many businesses who sponsored the raffle and door prizes to our Fall Social. We appreciate your continued support of the UAA Accounting Club. For a full list of these local businesses, please look at the advertisement section of this newsletter.

Midterms are here and if you are feeling stressed about an accounting class, we suggest you visit Room 207 at Rasmuson Hall to meet with an Accounting Tutor. These juniors and seniors of Accounting are here to help you prepare for the upcoming exams.

Volunteers are needed for Sunday, October 11th and November 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bean's Cafe. If interested, please email us at [uaa\\_acct@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:uaa_acct@uaa.alaska.edu)

Holiday Arts & Crafts Vendor Fair- Get a head start on holiday shopping while supporting your local craftsmen, vendors and the UAA Accounting Club. Purchase raffle tickets for door prizes.



# PAST EVENT: FALL 2015 SOCIAL

By Minty Trakalsaeng

This year's Fall Social was held at the Marriott in downtown Anchorage on September 4th. This event gave students the opportunity to network with industry professionals, faculty members, and their fellow accounting students.

I had the chance to talk to Mr. Josh McIntyre, AKCPA President. He provided six tips on what an accounting student should know in preparing for a career in Public Accounting. The following are his tips:

**ONE:** The most important item is to learn how to work with people with all different types of personalities.

**TWO:** Understand that we have something to gain by working well with others.

**THREE:** Get involved and interact with people who are in the accounting profession.

**FOUR:** Ask for feedback on what the professionals are doing and what they are looking for in accounting applicants. This will assist students in determining what we want to do early in our accounting careers.

**FIVE:** Always keep working on our career, because not everyone can find themselves early on in their career.

**SIX:** Always keep learning.

The next Social will take place on April 22nd, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. We hope to see you there.

## FALL 2015 SOCIAL PHOTOS



# PAST EVENT: FALL 2015 SOCIAL PHOTOS



# PAST EVENT: CLUB MEETING: KPMG

By Amy Noe

The first meeting of UAA's Accounting Club on September 9th opened with guest speakers Daniel Mitchell and Melissa Jay from KPMG sharing with attendees what KPMG is looking for in potential job candidates.

Beginning with a list of ten attributes, Mr. Mitchell described how the ultimate candidate would have a passion for public accounting. Ideal candidates would have an ability to grow and push themselves with enthusiasm on their career path, embracing challenges and welcoming opportunities to grow within the accounting profession.

He next stressed the importance of being flexible. As the business climate changes, professionals must be able to adapt by multitasking and transitioning quickly to meet the ever-changing needs of their clients. Resourcefulness and the ability to innovate are valuable skills KPMG seeks in a job candidate.

Leadership was another important trait that a candidate must have. This is where all of those team projects that we have done at UAA will come in handy! (Remember CIS 280??) A prospective leader shows the ability to take on a project and see it through to completion. KPMG believes in building their employees' supervisory skills right away – typically, within the first year of employment.

Being goal-oriented is another essential skill. Goal-oriented candidates will have a vision for their success, set achievable objectives and be able to measure them both quantitatively and qualitatively. KPMG offers frequent feedback to new hires, providing encouragement and mentoring to help them achieve success on their career path.

Next Mr. Mitchell discussed the value of confidence. As clients look to us for answers we must be confident that we have given them the best service possible. Confidence breeds credibility, but perhaps more importantly, so does a professional presence. An ideal candidate has an awareness of business etiquette and is mindful of the image they are projecting. It is a fact that people form an opinion within the first few seconds of meeting someone. This initial impression is critical in establishing credibility with the client.

Ms. Jay then shared the value of strong communication skills. (CIS 280 again anyone?) The ability to communicate clearly and concisely is vital to the success of building and maintaining robust relationships with not only clients, but with colleagues as well.

As we neared the end of Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Jays' visit, they concluded with the top three attributes sought after in the ideal candidate: technical/academic achievement, a high level of integrity, and being a positive team player. KPMG looks at a candidate's work experience, skills, and academic success to ensure a firm grasp of the material and the ability to absorb new information quickly. Integrity followed as a critical core value sought after in every candidate. KPMG prizes integrity among their employee as it is the cornerstone of their reputation. Finally, another trait required of any future hire is that they be a positive team player. Most of the work done at KPMG is done in teams, making good interpersonal skills indispensable.



# PAST EVENT: CLUB MEETING: BDO INTERN PANEL

By Amy Noe

If you did not attend the September 15 club lunch you missed out! We welcomed Linda Andersen, office administrator at BDO and Kayte Stochmal in recruiting, as our featured guests. Joining them was a panel of BDO associates who had served as interns in the areas of tax and assurance. They conducted an open forum interview, fielding inquiries from active club members. The range of questions were broad, covering areas such as the difficulty of working while studying for the CPA exam, whether or not associates travel internationally, and how a career path projection is set up at BDO.



The question and answer session was particularly informative for those of us participating in Accounting Week. The advice shared by the panel included nuggets such as how to prepare for our upcoming interviews and what made each panelist decide that BDO was the right place for them.

To the latter, the panelists responded by expressing how the challenge is to find a group of people with whom you can live and work and still feel at home. Each associate shared an experience they'd had with BDO that made them feel valued and when they knew that BDO was the right fit for them.

Most questions posed by the club concerned the nature of work as a new associate.

Individuals inquired about how much travel is involved in the first year of an audit associate. The panel responded that it is approximately 25% of the time, but technology continues to decrease the time needed away, as the new client portal enables clients to upload their materials online. A job can be started in Anchorage before the audit team arrives

at the client's business, saving valuable time. Another significant question was about employee evaluations. The panelists described scorecards they are given during the year that are used to provide a self-evaluation on a project they have completed.

## PAST EVENT: CLUB MEETING: BDO INTERN PANEL (CONTINUED)

Key questions such as whether or not the associate exhibited BDO core values or if client services were met. After a self-evaluation, someone who reviewed the work initially provides a score and it will eventually go to whomever does the final review. At year end an aggregate of the scores is compiled and the employee will meet with his or her career advisor to discuss the results and obtain constructive feedback.

Some of the most practical advice accounting students received was which Excel functions are used most by the associates. (In case you are wondering, they are VLOOKUP, the creation and use of pivot tables, data/string manipulation and shortcuts.) Panelists concluded with describing how BDO is actively involved in the community through such outreaches as Habitat for Humanity and highway cleanup days. Jeans Friday, usually for tax associates who are not going to visit a client, involves “paying” \$5 to wear jeans. The money is deposited in a jar with a BDO corporate match, and all donations go directly to the designated local charity. BDO boasts sports teams such as year-round soccer and softball in the summer. It is activities such as these and the associates’ strong sense of identity which creates the community atmosphere at BDO. We appreciate Ms. Andersen,

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### The Alaska Society of CPAs - Paul Hagelbarger Memorial Scholarship Fund

The primary objective of the Paul Hagelbarger Memorial Scholarship Fund is to provide financial support to promote accounting education for the practice of public accounting in the State of Alaska. The awarding of scholarships will be based on the scholastic achievement, the student’s intent to pursue a career in public accounting in Alaska and financial need. The scholarships are open to all junior, senior, and graduate students who major in accounting and attend a four year institution in the State of Alaska.

Although the size of the scholarships can vary, the minimum award has been set at \$2,000.

The deadline for receipt of applications is November 20th.

Visit [www.akcpa.org](http://www.akcpa.org) for more information.

## OTHER AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

**Scholarships for Accounting Major**  
*See more details on their websites!*

**Accounting Club Scholarship**  
<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/scholarships/accounting.cfm>

**KPMJ Accounting Scholarship**  
<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/scholarships/kpmg-accounting-scholarship.cfm>

**Melissa J. Wolf Scholarship**  
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**UAA Accounting Club**

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Traditional Review System (1 section)	\$299.00	\$269.10
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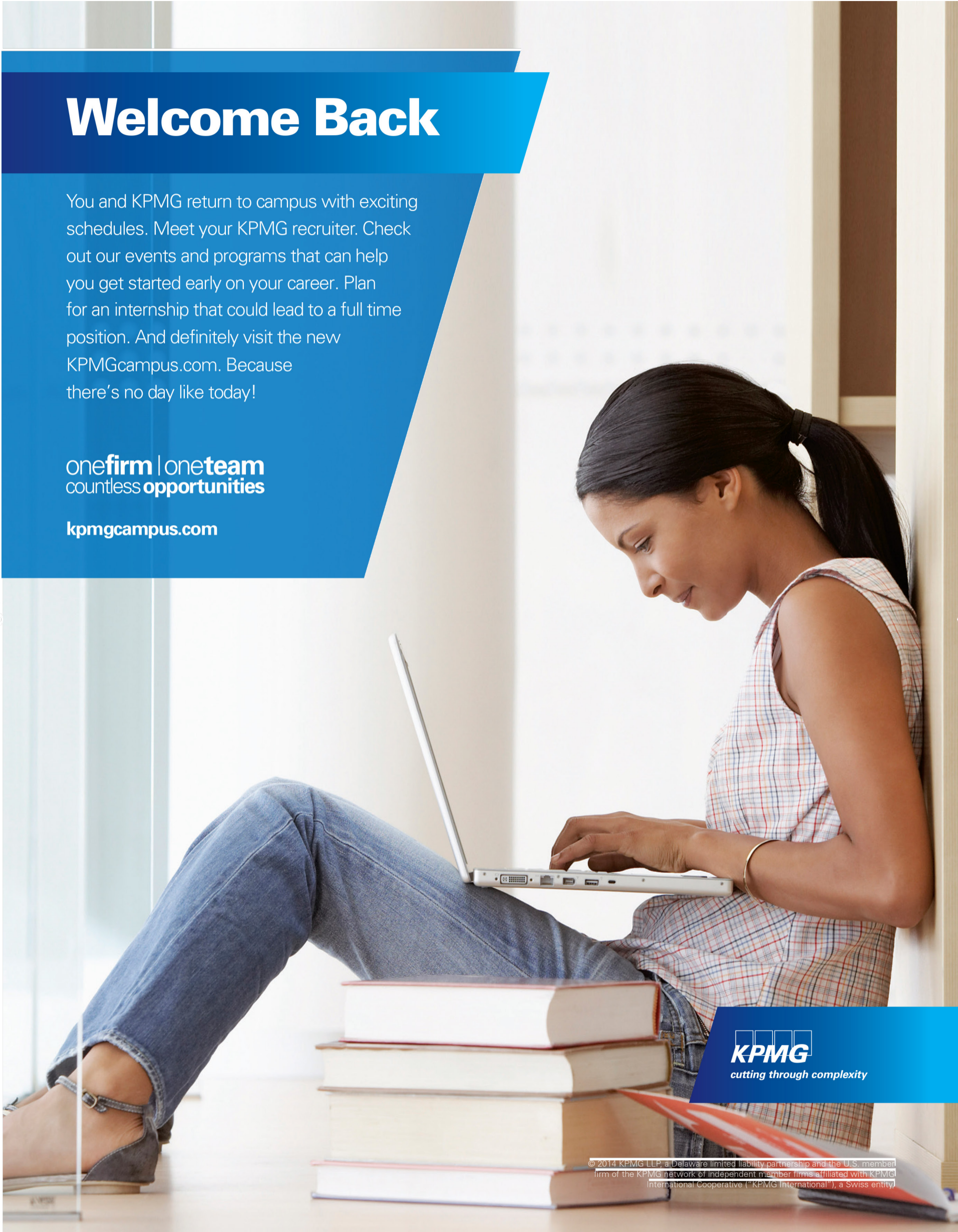
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