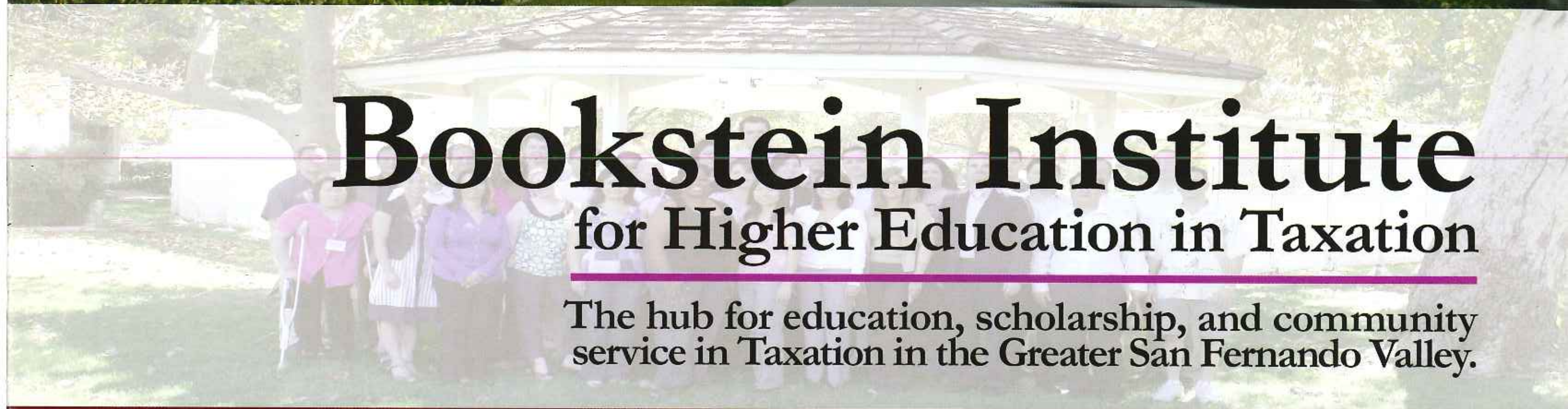
Newsletter
Fall 2010



Bookstein Institute
for Higher Education in Taxation

The hub for education, scholarship, and community service in Taxation in the Greater San Fernando Valley.

California State University
Northridge

COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS and
ECONOMICS

Director's Note

Exactly five years ago, Harriet and Harvey Bookstein ('70) took a bold and visionary step in creating the Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation. Two years later, the Bookstein Institute was formally launched by welcoming the first cohort of students in the newly designed graduate program in taxation. At the same time, the Institute began co-sponsoring an annual forum on estate taxation with the Warner Center Estate and Tax Planning Council. A year later, the Bookstein Institute opened its door to the community by offering free representation to low income taxpayers facing collection, audits and other disputes with the Internal Revenue Service. Last year, the Institute launched its innovative online Tax Development Journal publishing manuscripts authored by top tax practitioners and our very own graduate tax students.

In this edition of the newsletter, we will reflect on these and other promising initiatives of the Bookstein Institute. As always, we welcome your input and involvement during this exciting period at the Bookstein Institute.

Best wishes,

Rafi Efrat

Dr. Rafi Efrat
Director, Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation

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History of the Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation

The Bookstein Institute has been established in 2005 through the visionary and generous contribution of Harvey Bookstein, CPA ('70) and his wife Harriet. Mr. Bookstein, a prominent practitioner and a philanthropist in the Los Angeles area for many years, has embarked on this initiative as platform for transforming the tax curriculum at Cal State Northridge and beyond.

The Bookstein Institute focuses on delivering a number of innovative programs in the field of tax. The Bookstein Institute has been instrumental in launching a high quality, graduate education in taxation for mid-career professionals. It is also facilitating the publication of a tax journal that disseminates relevant, cutting edge, practice-based scholarship in the field. Moreover, the Bookstein Institute awards scholarships to support deserving students in the pursuit of tax education. Finally, it provides much needed controversy and education related services to low income taxpayers in our area.

Our Mission

A. Promote advanced education in the area of taxation through the support of a skills-based, practice oriented Masters of Science in Taxation;

B. Support professional growth and development of students pursuing a career in the field of taxation;

C. Facilitate the pursuit of scholarly projects in the field of taxation;

D. Facilitate service learning opportunities for our students in taxation through partnerships with community organizations.

What is New?

Warner Center's Estate Planning Seminar

The Bookstein Institute along with the CSUN Foundation co-sponsored the 3rd annual Warner Center Estate and Tax Planning Council Seminar. The Warner Center Estate and Tax Planning Council is a group comprised of life insurance agents, CLUs, CPAs, and attorneys who meet regularly for continuing education, and for networking. Last fall the seminar featured a talk led by John Balian and Sharyn Fisk, two professors from our graduate tax program. Professor Balian is currently the managing partner of Burgh, Balian & Bergstein LLP, a tax and estate planning law firm in Studio City. Professor Balian is a Certified Specialist in Taxation Law, certified by the Board of Legal Specialization of the California State Bar. Professor Fisk is a Principal at Hochman, Salkin, Rettig, Toscher & Perez, P.C., where she specializes in civil tax and criminal tax controversy. She is also a certified specialist in taxation law, the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization. The two led a vibrant discussion titled "Accidentally Disinherited."

Luncheon Seminar Series

To further enrich our graduate tax program's curriculum, the M.S. in Taxation Program continued its Luncheon Tax Seminar Series. As part of our program, our graduate tax students attend monthly full day Saturday classes. During lunch time we offer the students the opportunity to attend a continuing education session. During those seminar sessions, we invite guest speakers to talk to our students about various emerging issues in the tax field. Over the past year, we were fortunate to welcome to campus a number of leading tax professionals. Last October, Mr. James DeBree, a tax partner at Deloitte, spoke to the graduate students about tax implication of distressed debt. During the following monthly luncheon, we had David Benz, a managing director at WTAS, who spoke on choice of entity. In January we welcomed to campus Mr. Harvey Bookstein, a co-founding partner at RBZ, LLP, ('70) to speak to our graduates on client development strategies. Finally, in February, Mr. Brian Tam from Rothstein Kass concluded our Tax Luncheon Series.

If your firm would be interested in sponsoring its own luncheon seminar, please contact our M.S. in Taxation Office at: (818) 677-3600 or at mstaxation@csun.edu

Tax Development Journal

The Tax Development Journal, which sets a new standard in practitioner based tax scholarship, is set to publish its second edition in the fall of 2010. As an innovative forum for intellectual discourse on emerging issues for tax practitioners and policy makers, this student run journal uniquely combines tax expertise with scholarly discourse to provide timely, insightful, and important contributions to scholarly discussion in a broad array of topical tax areas.

The following articles are scheduled to be published in the second edition of the Tax Development Journal:

- *State Taxation of Accounting Method Changes,* by Robert Johnson, CPA, M.S. (Taxation) and Seb Moosapoor, J.D.
- *Computation of a Trusts Adjusted Gross Income,* by Boyd C. Randall, J.D., Ph.D., Shannon L. Charles, Ph.D., and Peter K. Yoho, Ph.D.
- *Economic Nexus: A Broader Definition in Today's Economy,* by Edward R. Martinez III, M.S. (Taxation)

To read any of these articles and/or to subscribe to the online journal, please visit the journal at http://tdjournal.csunacctis.com/index.php/home/index, email us at taxdevelopmentjournal@csun.edu or call us at (818) 677-3600.

Tax Fellowship Program

This past academic year we substantially expanded the Tax Fellowship Program, which is jointly offered by the M.S. in Taxation Program and the Department of Accounting & Information Systems at Cal State Northridge. This is an innovative collaboration with a select number of accounting firms in the Los Angeles area with the goal of identifying and cultivating the next generation of leading tax practitioners. The participating firms are: Ernst & Young, LLP, Deloitte, RBZ, LLP, Rothstein Kass, LLP, Singerlewak, LLP, and Moss Adams, LLP.

Each year, a select number of high achieving junior-level undergraduate students, who express an interest in pursuing a career in taxation, are matched with seasoned tax practitioner-mentors. During the summer the Fellows spend six to ten weeks learning about the practice of tax along side their mentor. Aside from receiving a scholarship during their senior year, the Fellows are offered admission to the graduate tax program at CSUN. The firms that sponsor the Fellows pay in full for the degree's tuition.

Welcome Roberto Aguirre, New Program Coordinator

Starting out as an exemplary student assistant with the Bookstein Tax Clinic, Mr. Roberto Aguirre has risen through the ranks and has demonstrated a unique set of skills and talents in administering the day to day affairs of the graduate tax program and the Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation. Following his graduation with a B.S. in Finance from Cal State Northridge in the summer 2009, Mr. Aguirre joined the Institute on a full time basis as the Program Coordinator. Roberto's top notch interpersonal and organizational skills have earned him widespread praise from our graduate students, clinicians and low income clients served by the Institute. Roberto is aided by two student assistants, Sagar Kirit Bhikhu and Jae Hyun.

Meta a Tax Fellow

Laura Costalonga-Lim
Tax Fellow, RBZ, LLP

The CSUN Master of Science in Taxation Fellowship Program has played a pivotal role in supporting my career in tax accounting. Six years ago, I made the difficult choice of setting out to college when my son was only two, fueled by my determination for a brighter future. Thanks to the support I've enjoyed as 2009 RBZ Tax Fellow, I have laid the foundations for a successful career in accounting, while role modeling the values of education, time management, priority setting, and integrity to my little one.

Determination, hard work, and creativity can flourish into tangible achievements only when sustained by the alignment of organized resources. That kind of support is exactly what the Institute is all about. Because of the donations and passion of our generous donors, the Bookstein Institute and Tax Clinic has established itself as a high caliber hub for honing the education and practical skills of our tax accounting professionals, while providing invaluable tax advocacy services in the San Fernando Valley.

I am immensely grateful for the outcomes of my tax fellowship: a summer Internship with RBZ, LLP translated into a job offer, the fellowship stipend which helped me financially throughout my graduating year and mentorship from top-notch tax practitioners and tax lawyers which has given me precious insights into an amazing professional field. The accounting profession is rewarding in as many ways as the levels one is engaged in. I am eager to start my master in taxation as I strive to further develop my knowledge in tax accounting.

Each year, a select number of high achieving junior-level undergraduate students, who express an interest in pursuing a career in taxation, are matched with seasoned tax practitioner-mentors.

Jack Karagulleyan
Tax Fellow, Ernst & Young, LLP

I was relieved to hear the words "You will be able to graduate after all." That is what my teacher told me as she found out my grades were just barely good enough to graduate high school. At that point, I never saw myself pursuing a college degree, and even more so, a graduate degree. However, I decided to take a chance and enrolled in Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC). After three successful years in LAVC, I developed a passion to learn and was driven to maximize my potential in college by transferring to a four-year university such as California State University of Northridge (CSUN).

After my first year as an accounting major, I knew I wanted to pursue a graduate degree in Taxation due to all of the challenging complexities that exist in the field of Tax. Personally, I chose the Masters in Taxation at CSUN because it clearly distinguished itself from other schools. Not only did the program allow students to obtain your degree while you work full time, but they also made it convenient to professionals, by not having any classes during the busy season. Furthermore, I believed that the combination of having experienced tax professionals as faculty members and a unique schedule of classes which taught students theoretical and practical knowledge of tax by allowing the students to apply what they learn in real world applications truly differentiated their product from other schools.

Being a Tax fellow has benefited me in many ways. First, it allowed me to obtain a job offer from a firm that I considered to be the best place to launch my career, Ernst & Young LLP. Second, they allowed me to pursue my passion for a career in Taxation by obtaining a Master's in Taxation which was to be paid for by Ernst & Young. Last but not least, they allowed me to continue my educational experience at CSUN where I have had the opportunity to interact with faculty that truly care about my career and spend extra time in their office hours to help me reach my goals.

Harvey Bookstein's Column

I recently attended several services at my Temple and found myself contemplating why I was there. As one of my daughters, Roni, describes me, I am not an overly religious man, but a spiritual one.

In not being very religious, it makes me question why I attend these services. Do I go because I know how much it meant to my mother when she was alive? Do I go because I know it makes my wife, Harriet, feel good? Do I go to set an example for my family so they receive some good foundations? I believe that I go for all those reasons, but also because it provides me time to reflect on my life and of those around me without the normal distractions.

During the services, there are two specific times which I spend in reflection. First, when the services are in Hebrew, as I do not understand a word of it. Here, I find myself examining my past. Second, is when we stand in silence to think our own thoughts; I begin considering my hopes for myself and each of my family members, our community and for the world as a whole.

During the Jewish New Year, it is said that God will decide if you will live or not in the coming year. We need to atone for any sins that we as individuals or we as a community have committed in the prior year. We ask for forgiveness in order to get a chance to live in the upcoming year. Our Rabbi had us look at the "A–Z" list for individual reflection.

The A–Z's read:
Abuse our health
Boast our success and status
Close our eyes to the poor and hungry
Deny the importance of our faith
Enjoy the downfall of others
Forget the covenant between God and Israel
Give into peer group pressure
Hate others without cause
Ignore the needs of family and friends
Jeer at others more religious than ourselves
Kid others without regard for their feelings
Listen to voices at odds with what we know is right
Make no time to study Torah (Bible)
Notice only the faults of those close to us
Openly criticize others without knowing the facts
Prevent others from showing their strengths
Quietly listen to prejudiced statements
Refuse to be generous
Scapegoat our loved ones when we are under stress
Trifle with other people's feelings
Use money as a way of evaluating people
Vilify those with whom we disagree
Wait too long to restore friendships
eXcuse ourselves for hurting others by saying, "It's their fault"
Yield to cynicism and disbelief
Zip past ideas worthy of deeper consideration.

Harriet and Harvey Bookstein

As a human being, it would be hard for me to believe that any religious or non-religious person could not agree with these points. Imagine the kind of great community, nation, or world we would have if everyone adopted these simple values. Maybe we all need to take time to reflect in order to improve our individual and community's attitudes toward life.

People Watch

Our third cohort of students is diverse and highly accomplished. Here is a profile of some of the students in our program.

Michelle Moloian

I am currenlty a Manager in the Unclaimed Property Practice at True Partners Consulting, but formerly with both Arthur Andersen and KPMG. We provide consulting services to Fortune 1000/500 and middle-market companies. I work primarily with high level corporate individuals including Controllers, Directors, VP's and CFO's who are challenged with the dynamic tax issues facing their companies resulting from constant and sweeping law tax changes. Over the last few years, it became increasingly clear that I needed to be more knowledgeable in the tax challenges facing my clients, especially since these challenges have a direct impact on every aspect of corporate governance, including tax, audit and operations.

I considered many programs at various schools but after researching the CSUN Masters of Science in Taxation program, I decided this was just what I needed – a curriculum specifically focused on tax planning, tailored to mid-career professionals and administered by experienced tax practitioners. Moreover, I chose the program at California State University, Northridge because of the reputation of the school, being accredited by both the AACSB and the WASC.

Since starting in October 2009, I have not been disappointed. The weekly Tuesday night class and one Saturday a month schedule works extremely well with my busy work week. I have benefited from this program on many levels, the most significant being the technical knowledge and confidence I now have in my ability to analyze, understand and communicate with clients on these complex tax issues. I think this program is a "must" for any tax professional.

Carrie H. Ngao

After my first introductory accounting course in high school, I decided that I was going to be an Accountant. However, this aspiration did not come true until after ten years of raising a family and working as a cosmetologist. I finally have the opportunity to realize my goal when I graduated from CSUN in December of 2008 with an accounting degree. After graduation I joined Ernst & Young and am currently working in the tax service line. Now I am taking a step further in my goal by obtaining a graduate degree with the M.S. in Taxation program at CSUN, and completing the CPA certificate, which I am half way there.

I chose the M.S.in Taxation program at CSUN for the structured schedule. This program is designed for the tax professionals so the classes are scheduled around our Busy Seasons. Also I like how each cohort starts the program together and everyone goes through the whole program together in every class. The Cohort idea enables you to network and build a relationship with your classmates.

The program has really helped me with my work. The classes I have taken so far have given me a deeper understanding of the tax rules and regulations. I have only been working for a little over year, and there are many areas that I have yet to experience. However, through this program I am exposed to many different aspects of taxes which I know will prepare me well for the roads ahead.

Rob Razani

My name is Rob Razani. I graduated from San Diego State University (SDSU) in 1987. I am a licensed CPA in California.

I have been employed with the Internal Revenue Service for close to twenty years. Presently, I am a Senior Team Coordinator in the LMSB Division of the IRS. In this position, I coordinate the examination of the consolidated tax return for one of the nation's largest corporations. As such, not only does my knowledge and expertise in the application of tax laws affect my own performance, a team of other individuals rely upon my competence and abilities. With my daughter old enough to allow me the time to go back to school, I found a perfect opportunity to pursue my graduate studies again.

I find that California State Northridge's MS in Taxation program is a perfect fit for my need. I can easily assimilate the class schedule and the study time into my work and family schedule. The program is focused and targets almost every area of skill and knowledge necessary for my professional life. I started putting the new skills I learned in this program to work at my job right away. My communication skills have become sharper as a result of the team effort and the projects in the curriculum. I have sat in many classes where the topic lectured was an area of taxation in which I have been directly involved at work. As a result, my performance on the job has improved. I have also been able to bring into the classroom some of my practical experience from my years of service with the IRS.

Completing this program will open many doors of opportunity in my professional life. The IRS has many technical and managerial positions where the literacy and technical competence gained from a program such as this. There will also be teaching opportunities that I hope to participate in, both within the IRS and in academic settings.

Finally, I have developed friendships and professional relationships that I intend to maintain long after the program ends.

Lior Temkin

My name is Lior Temkin, Tax Senior Manager at SingerLewak LLP and I head the exempt organization tax practice for the firm. I am married and have a two year-old daughter.

The reason I decided to come back to school after graduating eight years ago was due to the great things I heard from my colleagues who attended the first cohort. I remember them working on various projects together and talking about issues that relate to our clients and how taking some of the courses really helped them understand what the major issues were and how to fix them. I have to admit, I was scared about coming back to school after so many years and having to learn how to study again. However, because this program is geared towards tax professionals, the transition was very easy. The professors are great and they give relevant "real world" examples that I could really relate to.

The best thing about this program is that it is scheduled around busy season. This allows me to really focus on my studies when school is in session.

I have to say that although the program does not focus on exempt organization issues, it really helped me with my clients. I feel like I am a better consultant and am able to spot issues when, and sometime before, they happen. So far, I am really happy with my decision to come back to school.

People Watch *continued*

George Gans, Faculty

Professor George Gans joined the faculty of the M.S. in Taxation program in the winter of 2010 teaching introduction to corporate taxation. Professor Gans has managed to captivate the student body in providing clear, well organized and engaging discussion of the subject matter. Some of the end of the semester comments that he received following his first engagement at teaching include the following:

- "Professor Gans was great! Very good communication skills. Really cares about his students' understanding of the subject matter. He gives instant feedback."
- "The professor went out of his way to meet individually to help struggling students."
- "Professor explains the code section and the textbook example really well."

During the day, Professor Gans is a tax partner at Deloitte LLP in the Lead Tax Services group. He joined the firm's Los Angeles office after graduating from Michigan State University with a Bachelors degree in accounting. He received his Masters of Business Taxation from the University of Southern California in 2002. In his professional practice, he has served a wide variety of tax clients including both public and private companies in the life sciences, hospitality, electric utility, and manufacturing industries. He currently serves as the Lead Tax Partner on some of the largest tax clients in Deloitte's Pacific Southwest region. Professor Gans is a member of the national Federal Accounting Methods and Periods group for Deloitte. He is also a member of the AICPA and the California Society of Public Accountants. Professor Gans is a frequent instructor for local and national tax training for Deloitte and has taught classes on a variety of tax and career management topics.

In reflecting about his experience teaching in the graduate tax program at CSUN, Professor Gans said, "I thoroughly enjoyed teaching my first class at CSUN. I love teaching and enjoy my job as a tax professional - so being able to combine both is something I truly appreciate. What makes teaching at CSUN so interesting and challenging is the diverse background of the students in the classroom - with 38 students ranging from Big 4 professionals, to IRS agents, to private practitioners - it was a challenge to keep the class challenging yet simple enough to keep everyone engaged. I had a great group of students and I can only hope that the next class is just as fun."

Rob Rousselet, Outstanding Student of the Year

The exceptional talent our students have brought to this program has tremendously benefited the program's learning environment. All students have contributed and had wealth of insight and knowledge to share with their classmates during so many engaging class discussions. Some of our students have particularly excelled. The University standard for graduation with distinction is a minimum GPA of 3.86 for graduate students. Two students were honored last spring at a special ceremony of the University. They are Rob Rousselet and Dan Lovejoy. Also, the Tax Executive Institute has donated $1,500 scholarship to the outstanding student of the year in our program. The Tax Executive Institute held a special ceremony of recognition for our Outstanding Student of Year at the Beverly Hills Hilton. This year recipient was Rob Rousselet, MBA, CPA.

Mr. Rousselet retired in 2007 as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of The Voit Companies. For more than 19 years, Robin Rousselet was responsible for overseeing debt and equity financing, financial and tax reporting, treasury, insurance and legal compliance, human resources and management information systems of the company. Mr. Rousselet was formerly controller for three subsidiaries of Carlsberg Corporation, which were involved in real estate development, mortgage banking, and escrow services. In addition, he was a senior accountant with Deloitte & Touche for five years, specializing in real estate and financial services. Mr. Rousselet received his Master of Business Administration degree from the Anderson Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles. He also earned a Master of Science in Accountancy from Cal State, Northridge after graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from the same university. Mr. Rousselet is licensed to practice accountancy in the state of California and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Financial Executive Institute. He is currently the President and CEO of Rousselet Accountancy.

Jim Givens, Outstanding Faculty of the Year

Our faculty makes up an outstanding group of excellent practitioners and also remarkable teachers. We have asked our graduates to make a tough choice and identify their favorite faculty. The winner of this year Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award was Professor Jim Givens. Professor Givens is a tax partner at Ernst & Young LLP in Los Angeles and has more than 18 years of experience is public accounting. He serves a wide range of both public and privately held companies in diverse industries. He has extensive experience with corporate tax issues as well as state and local tax and FAS 109. He holds a master of science degree in taxation from Golden Gate University and a bachelor of science in accounting from San Diego State University. He teaches advanced corporate taxation.

Student Scholars

With an overwhelming generosity of our alumni and friends, we have been able to provide financial support for many students in our graduate tax programs over the past year.

Select students admitted to the M.S. in Taxation program receive up to $4,000 in scholarship funds to help them fund their educational pursuits. The selection process is highly competitive and is based on merit and financial need.

Our donors included firms, the Bookstein Institute, as well as members of our advisory board and faculty members. In particular, we would like to recognize three of our faculty members: Professor James Givens, Tax Partner at Ernst & Young, LLP, Professor Moshe Kushman, Tax Partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and Fred Wooldridge, Tax Partner at Ernst & Young, LLP, who have donated their faculty salary to fund a number of scholarships to deserving students. We are thankful to the following contributors for their giving.

HARVEY & HARRIET BOOKSTEIN ENDOWMENT:

Katherine Gluck	$2,500
Kristina Lengyel	$2,000

JAMES DEBREE, TAX PARTNER, DELOITTE:

Young Kang	$2,000

RBZ, LLP:

Steven Post	$2,000

ROTHSTEIN KASS, LLP:

Dana Gibbel	$2,000

ERNST & YOUNG LLP:

Marina Kunitskaya	$3,000

SINGERLEWAK, LLP:

Jonah Cohen	$2,500

To fund a future scholarship for our graduate tax student, please contact the M.S. in Taxation Office at (818) 677-3952 or at mstaxation@csun.edu.

The Bookstein Institute gratefully thanks all of our sponsors

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M.S. in Taxation Update

Commencement 2010

At a private ceremony in the University's Grand Salon last May, 28 graduates along with their 120 guests were honored and recognized for completing the graduate degree in taxation in just eighteen months. During the ceremony, the Associate Dean of the College Dr. Judith Hennessey, and the Department Chair, Dr. Paul Lazarony, welcomed the graduates, their family and friends. The student speaker that was voted in by his peers was Mr. Dan Lovejoy, CPA. Marianne King, CPA, was awarded the Outstanding Service Award for her display of commitment and dedication in serving low income clients as part of the Bookstien Tax Clinic. Also, Lillie Johnson, CPA, a recipient of the Bookstein Institute's scholarship, introduced Mr. Harvey Bookstein ('70), who addressed the graduates providing them with inspiring farewell.

The 28 graduates demonstrated exemplary perseverance completing their graduate degree in taxation under two years while working full time. Despite the challenging demands of the program, over 80% of the students that began the program in the fall of 2008 graduated on-time.

Also, a year after graduation, the graduates were asked to complete a survey. From it we have learned that all of the graduates either "agree" (37%) or "strongly agree" (63%) that the degree they have earned from CSUN has positively affected their careers. Almost 90% of the graduates indicated that they have obtained greater responsibilities at work following graduation. Likewise, 62% of the respondents have either received or were promised an imminent promotion after obtaining their degree. Similarly, 87% reported an increase in their salary over the past year anywhere from $7,000 to $40,000 per year, with 75% of the graduates report an annual income in excess of $100,000. Overall, the graduates seem to be pleased with their experience in the program with 75% of them describing themselves as "very likely" to recommend to their peers the M.S. in Taxation program at CSUN.

Orientation 2009

Last October, we welcomed to campus 38 highly accomplished tax professionals to join our fall 2009 cohort of the M.S. in Tax program. The Master of Science in Taxation is offered by the College of Business and Economics in collaboration with The Tseng College. Unlike other programs offered in our region, the M.S. in Tax program at Cal State Northridge is offered in a cohort format whereby each fall a group of approximately 30 mid-career tax professionals are selected to participate in this evening and weekend graduate program. Over a period of 18 months, each member of the cohort is guaranteed enrollment in every class. Classes are presented one at a time in an accelerated mode and the class schedule is set for the entire program at the outset. Courses are taught primarily by leading practitioners in the field.

Given our small class size, admission to this program is highly selective. The typical admitted applicants were primarily CPAs who had on average a 3.3 grade point average in their undergraduate studies, and five years of professional tax experience. About sixty percent of our entering students for came from tax practice in public accounting, but almost twenty percent came from private industry, and another twenty percent were from government or operated their own practice.

Those who applied and were admitted to our program regarded Cal State Northridge by in large as their first choice as displayed by an acceptance yield rate of over 90%.

Tax Clinic Update

The Bookstein Tax Clinic has received a $64,000 matching grant from the U.S. Treasury Department to support its activities and the clinic's service in the community. The Bookstein Tax Clinic provides free federal tax controversy resolution services to low-income taxpayers residing in the Los Angeles area. The clinic opened in 2008 as a component of CSUN's Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation in Northridge's College of Business and Economics.

"With the increased financial distress of many in our community over the past year, we have witnessed a tremendous increase in the demand for the services the Bookstein Tax Clinic offers to the public," said Dr. Rafi Efrat, Director of the Bookstein Institute. I was delighted to learn that the Bookstein Tax Clinic has been chosen by the Treasury Department to receive this grant. It will allow us to increase the level of services we offer the public at this time of need."

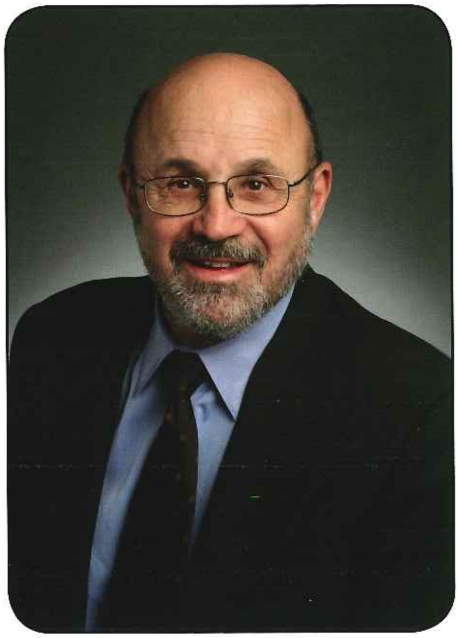
> "I was delighted to learn that the Bookstein Tax Clinic has been chosen by the Treasury Department to receive this grant. It will allow us to increase the level of services we offer the public at this time of need."
>
> - Dr. Rafi Efrat
> Director of the Bookstein Institute

The Bookstein Tax Clinic also provides tax education to taxpayers not proficient in the English language by participating in numerous community-outreach programs on a wide array of tax issues. Over the past year, students facilitated more than 40 seminars and workshops to low income and self-employed taxpayers throughout the Los Angeles area, topics including Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Additional Child Tax Credit, Elderly and Disabled Credit, New Car Sales Tax Deduction, Energy-Efficient Home Improvement Credit, and Payroll Tax. As part of their community service efforts, the students also have authored several short articles on tax issues affecting low-income taxpayers. Several of these articles, including some in Spanish, have appeared in local newspapers.

The student clinicians receive instruction on the intricacies of tax law and tax practice and procedure. The students are given an opportunity to handle various aspects of controversies with the Internal Revenue Service, including interviewing clients, preparing cases for appeals conferences and appearing at the conferences, preparing offers-in-compromise and negotiating settlements with the IRS.

In January, the Bookstein Institute hosted a recognition luncheon for all the clinicians that took part during the second year of operation of the Bookstein Tax Clinic. Aside from hearing from Mr. Bookstein, the clinicians also heard from Professor Todd Reinstein, who first started a tax clinic in the 1980s and who now serves as a member of the tax clinic's Pro Bono Panel.

The Origin of the Tax Clinic



"The then District Director of the IRS in Los Angeles approached us about taking the VITA Program, that the CSUN and the Department of Accounting pioneered decades before to another level. Low income families when audited need to be represented by a qualified professional or, alternatively, a graduate student in tax on a pro bono basis. And, the IRS offered some funding if we would structure such a program. We, indeed, put together the Tax Clinic as part of our then Master of Science in Taxation Program. The IRS would enroll graduate students as temporary practitioners, if approved by a faculty member and mentored by them. A pilot program began with the Van Nuys and Woodland Hills IRS offices, which included CSUN Tax Clinic flyers, offering pro bono tax audit services, included with the audit letters that went out to taxpayers below a certain income level. I as the head of the Tax Clinic selected the cases our graduate students would handle, pro bono, for those taxpayers that qualified. Suffice to say, that our students got wonderful results and the Tax Clinic was off and running, and now is incorporated in the current Bookstein Master of Science in Taxation Program."

- Todd Reinstein, Professor Emeritus
Department of Accounting and Information Systems

For more information about the Bookstein Tax Clinic, call (818) 677-3600 or visit the Department of Accounting and Information Systems' Web site at http://www.csun.edu/acctis/.