Texas McCombs was fortunate enough to have two Elijah Watt Sells Award winners in 2017: Hyungmin Kim and Maureen Sweet, both MPA Class of 2016 graduates. Let’s learn more about one of our winners, Maureen Sweet.

Maureen Sweet exemplifies what it is to be a top student and accounting professional. She’s hard-working, smart, and an Elijah Watt Sells Award winner. The 2016 Texas McCombs Master in Professional Accounting alumna is one of only 58 Sells Award recipients in 2017.

Maureen grew up in northeast Ohio and completed her undergraduate studies at Fordham University in the Bronx. She received her BA in Spanish Language Literature and minored in Business, and she especially enjoyed her undergraduate accounting courses. After graduating from Fordham, she managed the finances for Stupid Cancer, a nonprofit in New York City that leads the way in advocacy, research, and support for young adults with cancer. Something clicked for her while she was filling Stupid Cancer’s annual statements. She loved how she could use financial statements to gain insights into how a business operates. “It gave me a holistic picture of the company, and I learned how to problem solve,” Maureen said.

Maureen knew she had found her calling. When she began considering graduate accounting programs, Texas McCombs made her short list. Three things came to mind to explain why she chose to attend UT-Austin: the program’s prestige, the city, and her future. “The reputation of the MPA program speaks for itself. And I knew I’d love Austin,” Maureen added. “Plus, the program would help me get all my credits for the CPA exam in a short amount of time.”

While in the MPA program, Maureen grew relationships with the faculty and MPA staff members, as well as other students. She attended four of her classmates’ weddings last year!

Maureen knew she only wanted to take the CPA exam once, so studying was a top priority. A few months after completing the exam, she was contacted by the AICPA and told that she was a recipient of the esteemed Elijah Watt Sells Award. Needless to say, Maureen was beyond ecstatic. “I was extremely excited and honored to receive the Sells Award,” she commented.

In the fall of 2016, Maureen started her new career at Deloitte Tax in San Jose, California. Before she hit her two-year anniversary, Maureen was promoted to Tax Senior. “This is exactly what I wanted. I love consulting with interesting clients.” Additionally, she is taking advantage of the beautiful outdoors in the Golden State.

As for the future, Maureen plans on staying in public accounting and enjoying the opportunity to see a broad range of experiences with her clients. “I’m looking forward to continuing to be in a career that challenges me every day,” Maureen said. And we here at Texas McCombs cannot wait to see how she changes the world.

Texas McCombs’ other Sells Awards winner in 2017, Hyungmin Kim, is a BBA graduate of Seoul National University and earned his MPA in 2016. He is currently employed with The Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan.

### CPA Exam by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative score</td>
<td>Sells Award winner must achieve across all four sections of the CPA exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of individuals who sat for the CPA exam in 2017.</td>
<td>95,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of individuals who took the CPA exam and received the Elijah Watt Sells Award in 2017.</td>
<td>0.0006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Texas McCombs students who passed the CPA exam in 2017. This compares to a 48% pass rate nationally.</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year the AICPA created the Elijah Watt Sells Award in honor of Elijah Watt Sells (1858 – 1924), one of the country’s first CPAs.</td>
<td>1923</td>
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FROM THE CHAIR  MICHAEL CLEMENT

DEAR FELLOW ACCOUNTING LONGHORNS:

I arrived on the 40 Acres in 1997 not thinking I would ever occupy the Department Chair’s Office, but here I am. I grew up on the East Coast and studied accounting as an undergraduate at Baruch College in New York City. Baruch had a good accounting program and I did not know much about the University of Texas’ accounting program. One day I walked by a bulletin board that listed the top accounting programs in the country. This was around 1980 and the University of Texas was ranked number one. I remember asking myself, “Who is this University of Texas?” Then I noticed that most of my accounting textbooks were written by UT professors.

My first interaction with the University of Texas came when I was a doctoral student attending a PhD Project meeting and I met Robert Freeman and Paul Newman. I remember thinking they were from the famous University of Texas Department of Accounting.

When I graduated from Stanford I was thrilled to have an offer from UT. I had not lived in Texas before we moved to Austin, but my father, who was born in Paris, Texas, always told me that one of my mistakes was that I never lived in Texas. He was the first person I called when I accepted the offer.

I am honored to be here with such a talented group of faculty, staff, and students. Together we will pursue the University’s core purpose which is to “transform lives for the benefit of society.” I appreciate the support I have received from faculty and staff with the surprisingly big transition from Professor to Department Chair. I especially appreciate the help of former Department Chairs Robert Freeman, Lil Mills, and Ross Jennings and our Interface Manager, Becki Henry.

2018 has proven to be an exciting year in which we have crossed many milestones. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the inception of the Master in Professional Accounting program here at the University of Texas at Austin. Can you believe it? 70 years of excellence in the first graduate accounting program in the nation!

We also grew to over 20,000 accounting alums this year. That’s 20,000 people spread over 40 countries across the globe proudly showcasing their burnt orange.

Additionally, we saw our largest incoming BBA class in over ten years at Texas McCombs, with 1,033 students enrolled in the fall of 2018. With business school programs becoming more competitive, we are happy to see so many exceptional and unique students attending the McCombs School of Business year after year.

Becki Henry also retires at the end of the year, after 14 years as a Longhorn. Becki is the Department of Accounting’s Interface Manager and has been instrumental in keeping faculty and staff on track with everything from payments to paychecks to timesheets. We will miss Becki and all she does for us, but we are thrilled for her to explore the next chapter in her life!

The Department has once again been awarded the top designation from U.S. News and World Report and the Public Accounting Report. That marks nine years in a row that we are the number one accounting school in the U.S. at every level and across all major accounting rankings. We are extremely proud and privileged to have such exceptional faculty, staff, students, alumni, and donors who continue to make our accounting department simply the best. Thank you to all of you!

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition of The Accounting Times as we welcome new faculty members, acknowledge awards and achievements, learn more about our outstanding alumni and donors, and see some interesting statistics about our students and programs.

Hook ‘em!

THE BULLETIN

FACULTY AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Patrick Badolato was recently awarded the University of Texas’ McCombs School of Business 2017-2018 Jim Nolen Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

Steve Kachelmeier was honored with the Referee of the Year Award by the Journal of Accounting Research in 2018.

Lil Mills has been named a 2018 Presidential Scholar by the American Accounting Association (AAA). Lil delivered her first presidential research lecture at the AAA Annual Meeting on August 7 in Washington D.C.

HOLBROOK SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Roughly 40 million U.S. borrowers have over $1 trillion in student loans, and 70% of undergrad students graduate with some amount of debt. Terri Holbrook, an accounting faculty member, and her husband, Ed Blechschmidt, started the Holbrook Scholar Program in 2014 to help MPA students interested in tax reduce their need to borrow. As Terri said, “We believe it is a crisis, and in reviewing our potential philanthropic possibilities we couldn’t think of a better place to try and make a difference.”

This year, 17 students received a scholarship ranging from $1,000 to $10,000 to help cover the cost of graduate school. Scholarships are awarded to third, fourth, and fifth year integrated and traditional MPA students with high academic merit and financial need.

Terri and Ed have committed $1 million to this scholarship over a ten-year period. Once a student applies, an independent committee of faculty and staff awards the scholarships. According to Terri, “This is our fifth scholarship class and simply said, we love our Holbrook Scholars and know they will be successful in their own professional lives, eventually giving back to others.”

HOLBROOK SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2018-2019 RECIPIENTS

CONTINUING
Nicholas Baquera  Vinizha Matus
Jiaying Han  Alison Strealy

NEW
Raegan Bass  Elizabeth Morgan
Christina Connealy  Adam Schor
Hannah Edwards  Alyssa Suddhi
Lydia Elseth  Weijun Tang
Elijah Foster  Kaitlyn Walt
Jerry Lam  Tyler Wilridge
Aimee Low

13 of the 17 recipients appear in the photo. Terri, bottom right, and Ed, bottom left, are also pictured.

RECIPIENT NICK BAQUERA ●

WHAT’S YOUR STORY, NICK?
I’m a fifth year iMPA first-generation college student from El Paso, Texas on the tax track. I’m a cyclist, former swimmer, outdoor enthusiast, music lover, and sports advocate.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY ACCOUNTING?
In high school, I took a Microsoft Programs class and became interested in Excel. My teacher noticed and challenged me to enroll in an upcoming UIL Accounting competition. I scored very well, and the following summer I came to UT for the DYNAMC summer program and never looked back.

WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM MEAN TO YOU?
As a three-time recipient, I can certainly attest to the efforts of the Holbrook Scholar Program and the positive outcomes for the students.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR SCHOLARSHIP?
I will primarily use it for tuition, though some of it may go towards CPA exam costs.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?
I will be joining EY’s tax department in Seattle, Washington where I plan to spend my free time enjoying the outdoors of the Pacific Northwest!

RECIPIENT LYDIA ELSETH ●

WHAT’S YOUR STORY, LYDIA?
I graduated with a BA in Economics from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2014. I worked for a few years in an unrelated industry before deciding to change directions and pursue a career in accounting.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY ACCOUNTING?
I chose accounting because I sought to develop a technical skill set that would pair well with my academic background. Accounting was the perfect choice for me!

WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM MEAN TO YOU?
I chose to pursue tax out of genuine interest in the subject; this scholarship has helped assure me that this field will suit me best.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR SCHOLARSHIP?
It will help fund my tuition.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?
After graduation, I’m planning to work in Washington D.C., which I’m very excited about. I have not yet completed the interview process, so I have not made any final decisions regarding employment.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

LALE GULER CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
» FALL 2018 CLASSES: Intermediate Accounting in the BBA program
» PRIOR TEACHING POSITIONS: UT Dallas, Baruch College - City University of New York, Koç University
» RESEARCH INTERESTS: Corporate governance and managerial incentives
» EDUCATION: PhD, Texas A&M University; MA, UT Arlington; BA, Boğaziçi University

ANINDITA ROY BARDHAN LECTURER
» FALL 2018 CLASSES: Introductory Financial Accounting in the BBA program
» PRIOR TEACHING POSITIONS: UT Dallas
» PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: 15 years of public and corporate accounting experience in India and the U.S.
» EDUCATION: MBA, Bentley University; BS, University of Madras

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WHERE DO YOU CALL HOME?
Ann Arbor, Michigan is where I was born and lived for most of my childhood. However, my wife's hometown of Liverpool, England is my adopted hometown. I lived in Liverpool for ten years, our three kids were born there, and we go back at least two or three times every year.

WHERE DID YOU ATTEND SCHOOL?
I received a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown (I originally planned to pursue a career as a diplomat), an MS in African Studies from University of Edinburgh, an MBA from Manchester Business School, and a PhD in Accountancy from University of Illinois.

WHEN WERE YOU PROMOTED?
My official promotion date to Associate Professor was September 1, 2018.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY ACCOUNTING?
Necessity is the mother of invention. My wife and I bought her family business—a small chain of retail stores based in Liverpool—from her grandparents when we were both 24 years old. She had grown up in the business and I had worked as a retail manager in high school and college, but neither of us had any experience running a business. We divided up the duties, and accounting was one of mine. I quickly decided that I needed some more training, so I applied to the evening MBA program at Manchester Business School. While I was there, I focused on accounting and finance because it was so relevant to what I was doing every day at work: tracking and reporting revenues and expenses, designing compensation plans for our employees, managing the annual audit (which was required for nearly all UK companies back then), etc. I also found I was pretty good at accounting, and it was interesting. Ultimately, I ended up becoming a CPA. When I decided to pursue an academic career, a PhD in accounting was the natural choice.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO WORK AT UT?
The combination of our incredible students, world-class faculty, and the city of Austin made it a very easy choice.

WHAT CLASSES DO YOU CURRENTLY TEACH?
I teach the core financial accounting class to all of our incoming full-time MBA students. I also teach the same course in our Houston MBA program. Next fall, I'm looking forward to teaching the PhD seminar on behavioral research in accounting for the first time.

FAVORITE PUBLICATION THAT YOU'VE WRITTEN?
That's like asking me to choose between my children! If I have to choose, I will go with a paper that I published with Shana Clor-Proell (from TCU) and my Texas McCombs colleague Lisa Koonce. The paper is titled, "How do experienced users evaluate hybrid financial instruments?" It was published in the Journal of Accounting Research in 2016. Hybrids—financial instruments that have characteristics of both debt and equity—are a tricky issue in accounting because it is difficult to know how to classify them on the balance sheet. In the paper, we find that experienced finance professionals rely primarily on disclosed features of hybrid financial instruments, rather than their classification, suggesting that accounting standard setters may want to focus on disclosure. It's been a fun paper in part because we have had the opportunity to discuss it with board members at the FASB and IASB.

FAVORITE PUBLICATION THAT YOU'VE READ?
That's a tough one too! I'm going to go with Jeffrey Hales' 2007 paper, “Directional preferences, information processing, and investors’ forecasts of earnings,” published in the Journal of Accounting Research. That was the paper that convinced me I wanted to do behavioral research in financial accounting. Jeff shows that simply holding stock in a company can change investors’ beliefs about the company’s future performance via a cognitive process known as motivated reasoning.

ON THE OTHER HAND... FAVORITE PUBLICATION THAT YOU’VE READ?
That's a tough one too! I'm going to go with Jeffrey Hales' 2007 paper, “Directional preferences, information processing, and investors' forecasts of earnings,” published in the Journal of Accounting Research. That was the paper that convinced me I wanted to do behavioral research in financial accounting. Jeff shows that simply holding stock in a company can change investors' beliefs about the company's future performance via a cognitive process known as motivated reasoning.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT MANY PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?
I played the bass guitar in a number of different bands in high school and college. Maybe even more unbelievable is that at the same time I had long, curly hair!
THE RACE IS ON! The Texas McCombs' Accounting Department had not one, not two, not three, but FOUR teams participate in the Zilker Relays on September 7, 2018. Bragging rights were up for grabs as these teams ran the 10-mile loop and competed to be the top-ranked team in the Accounting Department. Here are the runners.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

BBA

275

Texas McCombs BBA students were accounting majors in 2017-2018

MPA

93%

of 2018 MPAs received full-time job offers on or before graduation

EMPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN

FINANCE 2%
CONSULTING 4%
INDUSTRY 10%
ADVISORY 16%
TAX 22%
AUDIT 46%

EMPLOYMENT BY REGION

7% WEST
2% MIDWEST
1% INTERNATIONAL
77% SOUTHWEST
3% SOUTH
10% EAST

PARTIALLY DEPRECIATED PROFESSORS

SARA TOYNBEE
LIL MILLS
PATRICK BADOLATO
BRADY WILLIAMS

GOOD SHOES, BETTER SOX

LAURA SAVOIE
LAURA KETTELL
JAKOB INFUEHR
DAN RIMKUS
DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

Since August 1, 2017, the Department of Accounting has received 864 gifts from alumni and friends, totaling approximately $1,002,000. Of these gifts, 238 were from first-time donors, totaling approximately $28,600.

DONATIONS FROM BUSINESSES

Since August 1, 2017, the Department of Accounting has received gifts from the following business partners:

- Chevron
- ConocoPhillips
- Deloitte
- Dow Chemical Company
- Enbridge
- ExxonMobil
- EY
- Intel
- KPMG
- Phillips 66
- PwC

THANK YOU, DONORS!
Nathan Sharp coauthored “Inside the ‘Black Box’ of Sell-Side Financial Analysts” with Lawrence Brown, Andrew Call, and our very own Department Chair, Michael Clement. The FARS (AAA) recently selected that paper as the best financial accounting paper published in the last five years. Nate sat down and chatted with us about life post-Texas McCombs, working at Texas A&M, researching with Michael Clement, and much more. He is pictured below with his wife (Holly), daughters (Kennedy, London, and Kate), and sons (Jackson and Austin) in the fall of 2018.

THE TAKEAWAY
NATHAN SHARP

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF.
I spent much of the early part of my life in Utah, but I got to Texas as fast as I could. Next summer will mark 17 years since I moved to Texas, and I have been so happy to stay in Texas, and I have been blessed with great colleagues and great students at Texas A&M.

HOW DID THE UT DOCTORAL PROGRAM SHAPE YOU TO BE THE PROFESSOR YOU ARE TODAY?
I have thought often of the tremendous debt of gratitude I owe to the faculty at UT-Austin. I was so fortunate to begin my journey into accounting academia at a place where I could be taught and mentored by many of the top scholars in our field. UT’s accounting faculty has a depth and breadth that is unmatched by any other program I know of. The foundations of my career were laid in the PhD program at Texas McCombs, and any successes I’ve had in my career since then trace back to the way UT’s PhD program shaped me.

CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH PAPER “INSIDE THE ‘BLACK BOX’ OF SELL-SIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSTS”?
In many ways, this was a ground-breaking paper in the analyst literature. We were the first scholars to survey sell-side financial analysts to gain detailed insights into the inputs and incentives that influence their research. Using a survey allowed us to ask questions that no other research paper had asked before. Our team of researchers complemented each other very well, and we had a lot of fun working together on this paper and seeing our idea come to fruition. In 2016, our paper became the most highly cited paper in the Journal of Accounting Research among all papers published in that journal during the preceding eight years. One of our coauthors had a relative who worked in finance at a Fortune 100 company, and I still remember the day he reached out to share that the CFO of his company had discovered our paper on SSRN and shared it with the entire finance team at the company. It was neat to see that our paper was making an impact not only within but also outside academia.

Our study also received a lot of attention in the popular press; journalists at The Wall Street Journal, Fortune, CNBC, Yahoo! Finance, and The Economist wrote stories about our paper.

YOU HAVE WORKED WITH MICHAEL CLEMENT ON OTHER PAPERS BEYOND THIS ONE — WHAT IS IT LIKE WORKING WITH HIM?
Michael is the type of colleague and coauthor everyone wants to find. I think part of what makes Michael so unique is that he brings together incredible institutional knowledge and experience with one of the top scholarly backgrounds in the country in the areas in which he researches. That is a rare combination. We followed up our sell-side analyst study with research on buy-side analysts, which was published in 2016 in the Journal of Accounting and Economics. Our latest study on investor relations officers is forthcoming in 2019 in the Journal of Accounting and Economics. These three papers are a trilogy of studies that complement each other and provide unprecedented, rich detail about each of these important participants in our capital markets. Frankly, no other team could have completed these three papers without Michael. He brought so much to the table that was invaluable for these projects. I have never had more fun working on research, and I have never learned more than I did through the trilogy of papers we published together. Michael has been the mentor of a lifetime.

WHAT’S NEXT, NATE?
I am enjoying researching and teaching more than ever. The awesome thing about this career is that there are always new challenges, new research ideas, and new frontiers. I hope to follow in Michael’s footsteps by making a positive impact on students and colleagues in our field for many years to come.
WE WILL MISS YOU, BECKI!
AFTER 14 YEARS AS A LONGHORN, BECKI IS RETIRING

ONE OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES of working with Becki was decorating the office for the holidays in 2014. Becki’s enthusiasm and competitive spirit was in full force that year—she even managed to secretly make a seven-foot tall statue of “Big Tex” which greeted visitors to our “Holidays Around the World in Texas” display. Needless to say, we won the office decorating contest that year!

- KELLY FINN, PhD PROGRAM COORDINATOR

BECKI AND I LEARNED how to run the Department together. I appreciated her unflappable decision making, and most especially, her ability to say “No!” matter-of-factly whenever I was about to creep into noncompliant spending. I see Becki’s retirement blossoming into the role of full-time grandma, and maybe (I hope) a role in community theatre if she wants to come full circle to her degree in theatre.

- LIL MILLS, PROFESSOR AND FORMER CHAIR

HERE’S SOLID EVIDENCE of Becki’s excellent work as head of staff for the Department. In 2015, my first act as the newly appointed Department Chair was to give Becki a very important (as least to me) and challenging assignment. I warned her that I was not familiar with University rules, regulations, or protocols, and had no plans to become an expert in them. Therefore, one of her highest priorities would be to monitor my activities and keep me out of trouble with Deans, Provosts, Presidents, and especially the police. I remained in office for three years and did not spend a single day in jail. Thanks, Becki!

- ROBERT FREEMAN, PROFESSOR AND FORMER CHAIR

BECKI HAS SUCH A PERSONALITY. She studied drama in college and even went back for her Master’s degree, so it is fun hearing Becki tell stories because she always knows how to add some dramatic flair to make others smile.

- SHELBY CORDELL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES!