

# CBET NEWSLETTER

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## GRADUATION INFORMATION

\* Commencement Rehearsal - Friday, May 10th  
Patterson Student Center, 10:00 am

\* Commencement Ceremony - Saturday, May 11th  
Patterson Student Center, 9:00 am & 11:30 am

## Dean's Corner

The future of business and engineering higher education in the 21st Century faces multiple challenges, including, but not limited to, increasing competition, the cost of education, effective delivery methods, funding restraints, and uncertain workforce demand. Business and engineering colleges are forced to think and innovate new ways to generate income, reduce expenses, and offer relevant programs for 21st-century workforce needs, while students seek more personalized, flexible, and engaging experiences in higher education.

On the employer's side, the skills and experience required by employers are constantly changing. Employers today expect students to have broader skills, such as digital technology literacy, critical thinking, creativity, flexibility, social skills, and data analytics. Although these are challenging times, business and engineering schools can evolve and thrive with the right tools and strategies. University administrators, faculty, and staff must work together as we enter this exciting, new, and challenging realm of education!



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



***Paul R. Goodchild, Ph.D.***  
***Assistant Professor of  
Accounting***

Dr. Paul R. Goodchild completed his Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut with concentrations in Accounting and Taxation. Paul began teaching in the Ph.D. program in 2006 and has been teaching full-time since 2014. He joined Texas A&M -Texarkana in 2023.

When discussing his educational and professional journey, Paul shared, "After a decade in retail, I returned to college to become a business major, choosing accounting in my first year due to a great advisor. I worked for several companies and various jobs in accounting, including cost accounting, auditing, and financial accounting, before becoming a professor in accounting. This is the most rewarding career for me. I love what I do, and I am happy to help many students achieve their life goals."

Paul hopes his students learn accounting-specific language and the importance of accounting within the business community. His advice for students interested in this field is to search for an employer that will give them broad exposure to as many branches of accounting as possible, whether financial reporting, taxation, auditing, forensic accounting, governmental, academia, etc.

Paul and his wife, an artist, enjoy spending time with their family and three Schnoodles.



**Dr. Paul R. Goodchild**  
**Assistant Professor of Accounting &  
Director of VITA**





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



*Sydul Arefin, MBA  
Information Technology  
2023 Alumni*

Sydul Arefin, CISA, CBCA, graduated in 2023 with an MBA degree with a concentration in Information Technology. He is currently employed with SHAFIQ HASAN, CPA P.L.L.C./ Ameritax Consulting as a Financial System Analyst. His primary responsibilities in the Optional Practical Training (OPT) role focus on the management and enhancement of financial software systems and assisting with the selection and customization of financial software. This role involves collaboration with financial professionals to tailor systems to their needs, ensuring data accuracy and facilitating system migrations or integrations. Sydul believes that several courses have significantly impacted his job performance such as Cyber Security, Technology Project Management, Data Analytics, and Supply Chain Management. He shared, "When taken as a whole, these courses have strengthened my capacity to fulfill my responsibilities and guarantee the effectiveness, security, and integrity of financial systems all of which support the business's operational and financial objectives."

Sydul's encouragement to students beginning a similar journey to his is for students to have a versatile skill set, as well as a "never stop learning" attitude. Sydul shares this important advice: "Developing soft skills such as leadership, cooperation, and communication are essential since they are the qualities that set successful professionals apart in a collaborative setting."



**Sydul Arefin, MBA  
TAMU-Texarkana, 2023 Alumni**





## CBET Contacts

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## Staff Spotlight John Howington



John Howington is the Graduate Assistant for CBET. His primary responsibilities are to assist staff and faculty with whatever needs they may have, whether compiling information into spreadsheets, setting up for events, escorting VIP guests, or transporting university equipment across campus.

John is pursuing a Master of Science in Accounting degree and plans to graduate in December 2024. He is also currently employed at Defense Finance & Accounting service, and his plans after graduation are to continue his career in the federal civil service with aspirations of becoming Director of Accounting.

John's hobbies include cooking, weightlifting, woodworking, and video games. He and his wife recently installed a home gym where they will continue to pursue their health goals.

Welcome, John!

## Upcoming Events:

- 5/6-8 Final Exams
- 5/11 May 2024 Commencement
- 5/13 Final Grades Due
- 6/3 First Class Day
- 6/19 Juneteenth Holiday - Campus Closed
- 7/4 Independence Day - Campus Closed

## VITA Program

The VITA grant program is an IRS initiative designed to support free tax preparation service for the underserved through various partner organizations. This service helps low-to-moderate income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers file their taxes each year.

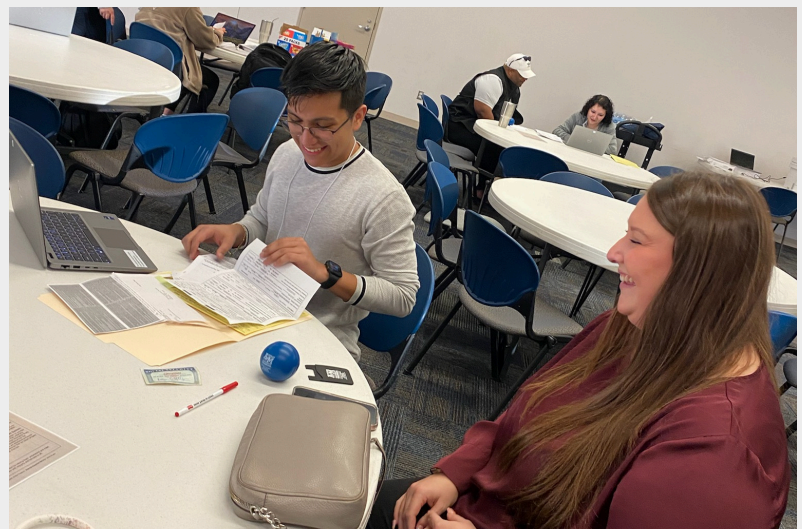
The VITA program was spearheaded this year by Dr. Paul R. Goodchild, Assistant Professor of Accounting, and assisted by Jay Davis, Executive Director of Financial and Entrepreneurship. Tax assistance services were offered from 4:00 - 8:00 pm every Tuesday and Thursday from February through April 15th.

The program uses volunteers

who undergo a required IRS training in order to prepare income tax returns. The volunteers were comprised of six students, one staff member, one student from TISD, three faculty spouses, and three faculty members.

This year the volunteers completed 80 federal returns and 24 state returns, mostly Arkansas. They also completed seven returns from 2022 or 2021. There were roughly 70 different taxpayer households served. The average estimated saving per taxpayer was \$200, which amounts to \$16,000 cumulatively saved for taxpayers served on campus.

Yadira and Valerie Flores were named the co-MVPs as they were present almost every session and did a great job!



VITA volunteer, Ruben Guerrero, assists a client with her taxes.