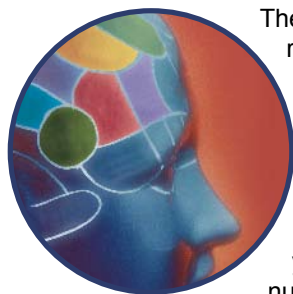


GSCPA Principles of Real Estate Program



The GSCPA Real Estate Section recently concluded a very successful Principles of Real Estate Program. This summer's program included a good mix of interns from various Georgia colleges and universities, as well as first year accounting staff from a number of local companies. The internship program began in 2007, and initial structure was to keep it open to rising college seniors or graduate accounting students only. As the program developed, it became obvious that the interns would learn more if first year accounting staff were added to the mix. They would benefit from the interaction created by someone with a little experience in the field. In 2008, the program attracted attention from students all over the state by pulling in over three dozen applications from almost about every school in Georgia with a business program. From the pool of applicants, six interns were selected to participate.

The Principles of Real Estate Program is part of the GSCPA's on-going efforts to promote the CPA profession and to encourage entry into the profession. The program is designed to provide students and first year accounting staff with training, hands on accounting and real estate experience, as well as an introduction to potential job opportunities upon completion of their education (for the interns).

The program lasts approximately nine weeks, from the end of May through the end of July, and each participant is expected to work forty-hour weeks at their sponsoring firm, or in GSCPA training programs. Participants also attend four half-day training sessions at the GSCPA office to enhance their "on-the-job" experience.



Pictured (l-r): Anita Pittman, Christy Pierce, Jason Nelson, Alexandra Pongracz, Gregory Rockenbaugh, Dono Kabilova, Betsy Smith, Jason Norris, Kim Riggins, William Curry, Olu Jordan, Kate Dondero and John Bradley.

The GSCPA Real Estate Section's task force for this program reviewed all intern applications, conducted student interviews, selected intern participants and matched interns with sponsor firms. The task force is also responsible for putting together the training sessions and producing all of the materials. At least ten internships in the metropolitan Atlanta area are planned for 2009. For more information on how you can take part in next year's program, please contact one of the task force members.

Principles of Real Estate Program Task Force

Anita Pittman, chair – apittman@cbh.com
Christine Pierce - cpierce@bspj.com
Don Cook, staff liaison – don.cook@gscpa.org

2008 Principles of Real Estate Interns

- **Betsy Smith**, Valdosta State University – IDI
- **Dono Kabilova**, Georgia State University – Branch Properties
- **John Bradley**, North Georgia College and State University– Windham Brannon, PC
- **Jason Norris**, University of Georgia – Aarons, Grant, & Habif, LLC
- **Kim Riggins**, Clayton State University – Frazier & Deeter, LLC
- **William Curry**, Valdosta State University – Braver, Schimler, Pierce, and Jenkins LLC

2008 Principles of Real Estate First Year Accounting Staff

- **Gregory Rockenbaugh**, IDI
- **Alexandra Pongracz**, Aarons Grant, & Habif, LLC
- **Olu Jordan**, Braver, Schimler, Pierce, Jenkins LLC
- **Jason Nelson**, Frazier & Deeter LLC
- **Kate Dondero**, Windham Brannon

"I have to say this internship experience has been more than fulfilling; there have been numerous benefits such as gaining real world experience, expanding my accounting knowledge in the area of real estate, and also creating a network of professionals that I can keep throughout my career. This internship has been so exciting for me."

"The real estate internship program was excellent. It's not often that an intern gets direct training from partners at multiple firms."

"The program is a great way to network and especially gives you the 'basics' you may not necessarily get in a new job – it also goes a long way in helping you understand how the pieces fit together."

<http://sections.gscpa.org>