

## President's Message

We had a great kick-off meeting this month. I was glad to see so many people at the meeting. I hope that everyone enjoy Debbie Anstine's presentation and learned a bit about exploring your strengths and applying them to work and life.

I hope everyone can make it to the September meeting. Don't forget that it is a social function – we are putt-putt golfing at Pacific Springs! I hope everyone takes this opportunity to focus on networking and getting to know your fellow members.

The combined Student Night and Membership Drive will be in October as part of our regular meeting, starting at 5:30 on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Please take the time invite someone that you think would be interested in our organization. Let them know early, so they can mark their calendars.

Our annual Public Relations Dinner and Educational Seminar will be held November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Omaha Country Club. We will again host a seminar with both CPE and non-CPE topics in the afternoon. One of the main events is our famous basket raffle fundraiser for our scholarship program. You can help by asking your employers and other business associates to donate items or cash for this great cause. Contact Keeley Lammers at

klammers@lutzcpa.com or Jessica Ward at jward@lutzcpa.com if you have any questions, items to donate or to be added to the mailing list.

Race for the Cure will be Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004. Terri Fuqua is again coordinating our ASWA team. The registration form is due to Terri no later than September 19<sup>th</sup>. This is before our next regular meeting, so please contact her if you need a form or have any questions.

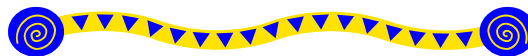
The early registration deadline has past, but it is not too late to register for the National Conference in Philadelphia. It is September 28 – 30. Please visit the national website or contact me if you have any questions.

*Kristen Van Foeken*  
President 2005-2006



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Chris Carlson for achieving your Master's Degree from UNO on August 12, 2005.



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## September Social Meeting

Putt-Putt Golf at Pacific Springs!!

**Date:** September 21, 2005

**Time:** 5:30 Registration and networking  
6:00 Play putting course

We will pair you up with a playing partner. If you have a putter, you may bring it with you, or you can use one provided by the golf course. After playing the putting course, the food will be ready at approximately 6:45 (see below for menu choices).

**Menu:** Choose one of the following and note your choice when making your reservation:

1. Mesquite Barbecue Chicken
2. Buffalo Chicken Wrap
3. Ham and Swiss Melt

Each comes with Chips OR Fries and a drink

**Cost:** \$15 Includes meal & putting course fee

**Location:** Pacific Springs Golf Club  
16810 Harney Street  
Omaha, NE 68118

## August Speaker Recap

Debbie Anstine of the Gallup Organization began with a brief introduction on what programs and services Gallup provides. We learned that public opinion polls are only a small percentage of their business. She also discussed the importance of knowing your personal strengths along with those of your co-workers and teammates. Gallup has several tools to assist a person in determining some of the books that she recommended are

“How Full is Your Bucket? Positive Strategies for Work and Life”

“First, Break All the Rules: What the world’s greatest managers do differently?”

“Now, Discover Your Strengths: How to develop your talents and those of the people you manage.”

## Educational Foundation for Women in Accounting Announcements

The EFWA announces the 2005 Women in Transition and the 2005 Women in Need scholarship recipients. The Women in Transition scholarship was awarded to Linda Kuhlmann, who is attending the University of Phoenix. The Women in Need scholarship winner was awarded to Rae Fackrell. She is attending Black Hills State.

The EFWA is also looking for candidates to serve on its National Board. Interviews will be conducted at the National Conference in Philadelphia. If you are interested in being considered, please contact the nominating committee via their web site ([www.efwa.org](http://www.efwa.org)) or by contacting the nominating chair ([tdtgilley4@comcast.net](mailto:tdtgilley4@comcast.net)).

## Mentor Briefing

There will be a short (15 minutes) mentor training before the September meeting. All those interested in serving as a mentor for the upcoming year as well as those who have served as a mentor in the past are asked to participate. We will be discussing what is expected of a mentor and what has worked and not worked for our seasoned mentors. New members needing a mentor will also be assigned. Please try to arrive at Pacific Springs about fifteen minutes early to attend this informal session.

**Questions???**

Contact Pam Fischer at 898-1255.

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## Beware of the Top 5 Interview Mistakes

We've all heard stories of job candidates who looked great on paper but who were absolute disasters in person. With fewer interview opportunities available in our competitive job market, it's essential to make the best possible first impression. Learn from the mistakes of others and avoid these top five worst interview blunders:

### 1. Not preparing for the tough interview questions.

Like every job seeker, you probably have your own set of tough interview questions you hope will never be asked. The best strategy is to prepare ahead of time with answers to ALL of these questions. A career coach can be a great resource for helping you work out suitable answers with a positive spin on negative or challenging career situations.

### 2. Failure to match communication styles.

Making a great first impression is easier to do when you communicate effectively with your interviewer. The best way to do this is by mirroring his or her communication style. Allowing your interviewer to set the tone of the conversation will put him or her at ease and makes the conversation flow more naturally.

For instance:

- \* If the interviewer seems all business, don't attempt to loosen him or her up with a joke or story. Be succinct and businesslike.
- \* If the interviewer is personable, try discussing his or her interests. Often personal items on display in the office can be a clue.
- \* If asked a direct question, answer directly. Then follow up by asking if more information is needed.

### 3. Talking too much.

In my recruiting days, I abhorred over-talkative candidates, and so did most of my client employers who interviewed these candidates.

Over-talking takes several forms:

- \* Taking too long to answer direct questions. The impression: This candidate just can't get to the point.
- \* Nervous talkers. The impression: This candidate is covering up something or is outright lying.

To avoid either of these forms of over-talking, practice answering questions in a direct manner. Using role-playing in preparing for your interview will help you avoid excessive, nervous talking.

### 4. Saying negative things about your current or past employers or managers.

Even if your last boss was Attila the Hun, avoid stating your ill feelings about the person or work situation. No matter how reasonable your complaints, your negative comments will be viewed as disrespect towards your boss. When faced with the challenge of talking about former employers, make sure you are prepared with a positive spin on your experiences.

### 5. Giving away too much salary and earnings information.

Candidates often weaken their future earning potential by speaking too freely about their current income. No matter the official salary range of the position you are interviewing for, your current earnings have an enormous effect on the size of the offer. Investing in a career coach to help you answer salary questions can add thousands of dollars to your new job offer.

You already know that it takes a strong resume that sets you part as a candidate of choice to be invited for an interview. The next step is to hone your interviewing skills to actually win job offers. Polishing your

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interviewing skills can mean the difference between getting the job and being a runner-up.

We would like to thank Deborah Walker, CCMC, (Career Coach ~ Resume Writer) for submitting this article.

Read more job-search tips and resume samples at  
[www.AlphaAdvantage.com](http://www.AlphaAdvantage.com)  
<<http://www.alphaadvantage.com/>>

Email: [Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com](mailto:Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com)

## Member Profiles

### Kelly Martinson

Board Position: Past President  
Graduated from: Dana College  
Company: Lutz & Company PC  
Position: Tax Manager  
Birthday: February 22  
Hobbies: Golf & Volleyball  
Spouse/kids/pets: Russell/none/Josie (yellow Labrador retriever)  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Trip to Cancun to celebrate 10 yr wedding anniversary  
Favorite Ice Cream: Butter Brickle  
Favorite Movie: Miracle (but Grease was a close second)

### LaTonya Bennett

Board Position: Vice President  
Graduated from: Texas A&M University  
Company: OPPD  
Position: Financial Analyst  
Birthday: January 16  
Hobbies: Reading, exercising, traveling  
Spouse/kids/pets: none  
Most Exciting Event(s) of the past Year: Music festival in New Orleans  
Favorite Ice Cream: Rocky Road  
Favorite Movie: Too many great options to choose from!

### Kerry Clark

Board Position: Secretary  
Graduated from: UNO  
Company: Seim, Johnson Sestak & Quist  
Position: Staff Accountant  
Birthday: April 24  
Hobbies: Golfing, Reading, Shopping  
Spouse/kids/pets: Tim  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Building a home  
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chocolate Chip  
Favorite Movie: Meet the Parents

### Paula Eastman

Board Position: Treasurer  
Graduated from: Bellevue University  
Company: Baas & Associates, PC  
Position: Senior Accountant  
Birthday: July 22  
Hobbies: Reading  
Kids: 4 sons  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Trip to Mexico (zip line through the jungle)  
Favorite Ice Cream: Bunny Tracks  
Favorite Movie: Dances with Wolves

### Caryn Kirkebak

Board Position: Director  
Graduated from: Creighton University  
Company: First Data Resources  
Position: Financial Policy Manager  
Birthday: July 17  
Hobbies: Shopping, Reading  
Husband: Adam  
Dog: Jack  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Vacation to Hawaii  
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chocolate Chip  
Favorite Movie: Sixteen Candles

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