

S. Michael Groomer

Professor of Accounting

Mike Groomer has a few specific passions that may not be known to his colleagues. For example, he serves as the principal snare drummer in a community concert band. He also delights in taking springtime spins in his red Corvette. And Mike has a taste for the martial arts; he's a black belt in Taekwondo and Hapkido.

If these particular passions eluded his colleagues, it's probably because they were focused on one of Mike's other amazing qualities—like the fact that he's a technology wizard, or that he can teach IT auditing concepts like nobody's business, or how he's quick to offer guidance and support to a new faculty member. But perhaps Mike's "claim to fame" is his genuine passion for teaching, and in the past 34 years he has proven this passion repeatedly.

Mike earned his undergraduate degree in business from the University of Evansville and his master's and doctoral degrees in accountancy from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Then in 1974, after having worked for the Marathon Oil Company and Ernst & Ernst, Mike came on board as a professor of accounting and information systems at Indiana University's School of Business. Mike taught Introductory Accounting (serving as the course coordinator), Intermediate Financial Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, and Auditing at the undergraduate and graduate levels. While at IU Mike gained additional business experience with Touche Ross & Company, serving as a faculty resident. He also served as a consultant to KPMG Peat Marwick where he participated in projects dealing with efforts to reengineer the audit process.

Though he may be lacking in band groupies, Mike has a legion of devoted fans in his former students. Steve Farber is one such fan—not only because Professor Groomer clearly explained accounting concepts in an understandable way, but also because he often tied personal, real-world anecdotes into his lectures: "When Professor Groomer learned that I had grown up in a family business, he was able to relate any problems I was having in class to my family's business," recalls Farber, who notes that Mike stayed available to him throughout his collegiate career. "The fact that his door was always open was an invaluable resource during A-Core and Medicus," says Farber, now the CEO of Chicago at Your Service, the Lupus Foundation of America–Illinois Chapter. Despite the passage of time, Farber's appreciation for his former professor has not faded. "In the 30 years since leaving Bloomington, I am reminded of the teachings and discipline that Professor Groomer spoke about," says Farber. "I credit much of my success to Mike's passion and encouragement."

In 1990 Mike designed the present undergraduate business honors program and developed and taught the Undergraduate Business Honors Seminar. He is also one of five faculty members who designed the current-day Accounting Graduate Program. He has

been involved in the curricular use of SAP in the Kelley School and recently served as a member of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association's Model Curriculum Task Force for IS Audit and Control.

Mike's immense knowledge is impressive, but equally as impressive is his intense commitment to passing on that knowledge to his students. Dino Falaschetti met Mike 20 years ago following an internship that he completed between his junior and senior years. Falaschetti, now a business professor at Florida State University in Tallahassee, says it wasn't until he debriefed with Professor Groomer that he began to truly understand what he was contributing to the audit process, and to financial market information more generally.

This understanding grew deeper as I subsequently benefited from Professor Groomer's upper-level course in auditing. The skills and encouragement that he offered were life-changing, as I immediately passed the CPA exam with flying colors, quickly advanced in my professional career to managing audit engagements and corporate financial matters, and ultimately followed Professor Groomer's passion for scholarship by becoming a professor myself. I only hope that I can offer as much to my students as Professor Groomer has given me.

Mike's research has appeared in numerous leading accounting journals including *The Journal of Information Systems*, *Decision Sciences*, and *The Accounting Review*, among others. He is also a co-author of *Accounting Information Systems: A Database Approach* (www.cybertext.com), the first electronic book in the business. This e-book initiative received an Innovative User of Technology Award from the Indiana CPA Society.

Mike has been recognized for teaching excellence at the national, state, and local levels. He is a co-recipient of the American Accounting Association's Innovation in Accounting Education Award, the Indiana CPA Society's Outstanding Educator award, and a number of school and departmental teaching awards including a three-year recognition as the KPMG Peat Marwick Alumni Faculty Fellow.

Those who have sat in Mike's classes know that his teaching accolades are well deserved. "Mike was my dissertation chairman. He essentially 'took me under his wing' and was an invaluable mentor to me in my formative years in the academic accounting community," says Uday Murthy, professor and Quinn Eminent Scholar of Accounting Information Systems at the University of South Florida. Murthy recalls spending countless hours with Mike discussing, designing, and refining his dissertation research project—something so many professors simply wouldn't take the time to do. "Mike went the extra mile to leverage his contacts with several of the international public accounting firms to garner support for my dissertation research," says Murthy. "In fact, he and I made several trips to Chicago, Indianapolis, and St. Louis to meet accounting firm partners regarding my dissertation research."

Upon retirement, Mike will most assuredly be tinkering with his umpteen computers and associated technological gadgets. He'll also devote much of his free time to drumming, driving, and dropping his martial arts opponents to the floor. And he plans to continue to pursue work endeavors in academia and business. Why? Because it's his passion. It's good to know that true passions never die.

Christy Heitger