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VAN DER STEDE

ACCOUNTING MATTERS

LSE ACCOUNTING ¹⁰

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In the past year, accounting kept mattering in the usual substantive way we care for it in the Department of Accounting. It is well known that our approach to research, education, and public engagement builds on the faculty's expertise across multiple areas and disciplines, where everything we do in accounting at LSE is research-led and social science-based with an intended impact on regulation, practice, or the profession.

The contents of this magazine offer a selection of the cutting-edge research on pertinent issues that colleagues in the department conduct, including on the real effects of accounting policy on firm's R&D investments (p.10); the nature and effects of disclosure in crowdfunding (p.14); and "integrated" risk management practices (p.16), just to offer a glimpse. The Academic Highlights (p.26) list a larger number of some of the recent research publications in the department along with several other activities the faculty partake in, including a wide variety of presentations and other ways of knowledge exchange with academic and professional audiences. And, our extensive departmental seminar series (p.20) reveal a wealth of inbound engagement from visitors sharing their latest research with us. Faculty from across the department are also involved in the activities of **carr**—our research centre (p.18)—to sustain and develop the accounting content that critically underpins **carr**'s unique focus on regulation from an interdisciplinary outlook (a taste of which is illustrated in the "vulnerability" article on p.12).

But, this year, I wanted to especially single out the other pillar beyond, but equally fundamental to, the research and knowledge exchange mentioned above: students. As you will see from these pages, our students at all levels—BSc (p.8, p.22), MSc (p.23-25), and PhD (p.4-5)—have done us proud by so selflessly

taking ownership of their student societies and by supporting one another, and the department, with creatively and professionally taking on a wide variety of initiatives. Just to mention one of these, please check out the entirely student-led **Act.Count.Think** podcasts on some of the most pressing matters in accounting, finance, and business (p.2).

Of course, our two (relatively) newly-appointed programme directors also have made an enormous difference to the student experience which encompasses not only the excellence of the classroom teaching but, importantly, also the community—the glue—that makes the department the professional home for our students, faculty, and wonderful professional services staff (p.29). The programme directors play a pivotal role in this. One of our programme directors gives his perspective (p.6) on what this role entails, the various initiatives tried (and some tested)—e.g., the Insights speaker series and various extra-curricular activities, as well as some reflections going forward.

Also on the student front, for our BSc students, the department introduced so-called Leadership Lunches, where third-year BSc students have a small-group lunch with a senior member of the faculty (p.3). Students really appreciate this, but what they don't always realise is that the faculty immensely enjoy these informal get-togethers with our students over a lunch, too! Maybe there is such a thing as a "free lunch" after all?

I hope you will enjoy reading this latest edition of the Accounting magazine. We will keep you posted. Reciprocally, never hesitate to reach out to us in the meantime.

Wim A Van der Stede
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