Louisiana Tech Business Graduate Receives Prestigious 2011 Elijah Watt Sells Award

Timothy Andrew Smith, a graduate of the School of Accountancy at Louisiana Tech University with both a BS in Accounting (2010) and a Master of Professional Accountancy (2011), received the 2011 Elijah Watt Sells Award presented by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA).

The 2011 award was presented to candidates from throughout the nation who obtained a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination, completed testing during the previous calendar year and passed all four sections of the Examination on their first attempt. More than 90,000 candidates sat for the Exam in 2011. Thirty-seven candidates met the criteria.

Dr. Thomas J. Phillips, Jr., Director of the School of Accountancy and KPMG Endowed Professor said, “Tech’s School of Accountancy faculty members take great pride in the success of our graduates, including outstanding performances on the CPA exam. We commend Tim for his spectacular performance on the 2011 examination, and we look forward to hearing more about Tim as he works to maintain the rich tradition of Louisiana Tech’s successful alumni.”

Tim stated, “The education I received while at Louisiana Tech, as well as all the faculty and staff who advised me throughout my college career was instrumental in my receiving this award.”

Louisiana Tech University’s School of Accountancy maintains separate accounting accreditation at the bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral levels by the AACSB, the international Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Tech was among the first accounting accredited programs in the U.S., the first in Louisiana.

The Elijah Watt Sells Award program was established in 1923 by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) to recognize outstanding performance on the Uniform CPA Examination.

Elijah Watt Sells, who passed away in 1924, was one of the country’s first CPAs under the provision of a New York State law enacted in 1896 and a leader in advancing professional education. He was active in the establishment of the AICPA and was a founder of New York University’s School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance. The Sells award was created by the AICPA in 1923 in his honor.

Tim Smith, a native of Bossier City, Louisiana, is currently employed with Deloitte, an International “Big-Four” CPA firm and he resides in Dallas, Texas.