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**ISSUE #9**

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Without CPAs, businesses don’t run. CPAs rarely get credit for doing super important stuff because they work behind the scenes. You hardly ever see a CPA as the “face” of a company—leave that to the public relations manager or a celebrity spokesperson. But the things they do behind the scenes are critical, such as:

- Budgeting
- Making sure payments are coming and going
- Keeping companies out of financial trouble with the law
- Assisting with buying and selling of other companies
- Securing money to support big, new ideas

Without CPAs, companies don’t know where the money is, where it’s going or where it came from. And money is what keeps a company in business. So if there are no CPAs, boom. There go all our favorite stores, products and services.

Without CPAs, we’re stuck in yesterday. The world of business is getting more complicated every day: globalization, advancing technology, increased competition. How can companies possibly keep up? They need people who know the way the business world works and where it’s going. And there are few people who have that knowledge besides CPAs. Their ability to create, analyze and interpret financial information makes them the first to know where a company stands and where it’s headed. So we count on CPAs to keep us out of the past and propel us into the future.

Without CPAs, chaos ensues. A business can operate without a secretary or a groundskeeper. But without a CPA? Oh no. When one company skimps on accounting, it can have a ripple effect through the entire industry, even the world. No exaggeration.

Look at it this way. If a large airline company lied about paying its bills, it doesn’t just affect the airline company. There are all the other companies that work with it, such as fuel suppliers and airports, that will also pay a price for their mistakes. And the cost will eventually trickle down to us individuals who fly, and that’s even worse.

The moral of the story? When companies hire CPAs, they practice good accounting, and the business world operates in peace and harmony.

Without CPAs, the world has no reason. If all businesses operated without CPAs, we’d be in trouble. Without serious
accounting know-how, companies wouldn’t know if they were ready to grow or needed to scale back. They wouldn’t know if their marketing was successful or if their information systems were out of date. They might even be unwittingly (or deliberately) breaking the law.

In other words, businesses would be flying by the seat of their pants. We’d probably see a lot of them trying to get bigger and bigger, only to eventually realize they don’t even have enough money to buy toilet paper. It wouldn’t be a very smart world to live in. That’s why one of the most intelligent things a company can do is keep a CPA on staff.

Luckily, this worst-case scenario is highly unlikely. CPAs are in greater demand than ever. And if you choose to become one, you can tell everyone you know that the world would implode without you. How’s that for making a difference?

We are smart.
We aren’t nerdy.

It’s true that to be a full-fledged Certified Public Accountant (CPA) you need a college degree and you have to pass a pretty hard exam and then get licensed. To completely master the financial workings of a business is no simple task. However, you don’t have to be a genius to do what we do. And you definitely don’t need to wear short pants and a pocket protector. All you need is a willingness to work hard, know your stuff and be honest in what you do. Just like most other careers, really.

We are numbers-savvy.
We aren’t mathematicians.

Yes, as CPAs we deal with financial data and information, which largely revolves around numbers. But we weren’t all calculus majors and we didn’t all ace the math portion of our SAT. The fact is, while we are comfortable working with digits, we also have to be good at other things: working with people, being good communicators, thinking creatively and making the right decisions for businesses. If all we did was solve equations all day, we’d be bored out of our minds.

We are great money managers.
We aren’t Uncle Scrooge.

It isn’t our job as CPAs to pinch pennies. It’s our job to do the right thing at the right time with the money available. So if that happens to mean saving, we’ll do it. Or if it happens to mean spending, we’ll do that instead. We’re responsible for making smart choices and making sure the business we work for doesn’t tank—so we’ll do whatever it takes to achieve that.

We are good at doing taxes.
We aren’t only good at doing taxes.

Somehow, it came to be known that accountants just do taxes. And while it’s true that some of us do make a living that way, it’s also true that many of us have nothing to do with taxes at all. As a CPA you can take all kinds of different career paths, from tracking down financial criminals to teaching to managing celebrities’ money. So if the idea of doing taxes doesn’t interest you, don’t worry—there are about a million other ways you can go.
Who knew that a television show where the characters perform show tunes and chart hits each episode would become such an instant phenomenon? CPA Tim Jorstad didn’t. But he’s sure glad now that Glee took off like it did.

Why would a Certified Public Accountant care if Glee was successful? Guess you could say he’s a Gleek by association. Remember the song “Don’t Stop Believin’” which was featured in the pilot episode back in May 2009? Or the songs “Any Way You Want It,” “Faithfully” and “Lovin’ Touchin’ Squeezin’,” which were used in the episode “Journey to Regionals”? Well, Jorstad happens to be the business manager for the band Journey. So when Ryan Murphy, the show’s creator, wanted to include these songs in his show, Jorstad was on hand to help work out the details—everything from licensing to royalties for the band.

“I’m basically the dad for the band,” Jorstad says. “I oversee every aspect of Journey’s business enterprise. They’ve got many contractual relationships that we oversee. Royalties come in through license agreements like the Glee TV show, which I license.”

Jorstad has also worked with another popular television show to license music—American Idol. “Randy Jackson was in the band Journey,” he says. “So he and I talk pretty frequently about licensing the songs for that program as well.”

“But wait, that doesn’t sound like the boring number crunching job that people associate with accountants and CPAs. Probably because it’s not.

“When you take on music industry clients, you have to be prepared to do everything in their lives that has anything to do with money.”
settlements and administer their royalties, copyrights and more. Basically, if you’re not willing to go to school and learn all these areas, you really won’t get (or keep) these rock bands as clients.”

And of anyone, this CPA should know. In addition to Journey, his client roster includes the Grateful Dead, Carlos Santana (pictured above), the Doobie Brothers, Jefferson Starship, Jefferson Airplane and Grace Slick. Not to mention, he manages the estates of Jerry Garcia, John Lee Hooker and Jimi Hendrix.

Pretty good for someone who came from humble beginnings. Drafted into the U.S. Army at the age of 18, right out of high school, Jorstad went on to college where he first enrolled as an economics major but soon realized he needed “a more practical major to prepare for a job upon graduation.”

“I decided to get an accounting degree mainly because I needed a way to support my wife and child coming out of college,” he explained. “And having a degree in accounting provided a definite career path.”

After graduation, Jorstad worked for a large public accounting firm for a while, moved on to work for a tax law firm, earned his master’s degree in business administration and from there bought half interest in a company that represented the bands Journey and Jefferson Starship. His walk with fame began.

According to Jorstad, the education CPAs get is universal in business. It’s not just math, numbers and taxes. It’s also about relating and talking to your clients and helping them with their business matters.

So, take it from a CPA with a rockin’ group of clients. Go to school, take advantage of the opportunities you’re presented with and learn as much as you can so you can have a wide variety of services to offer your clients.

“When clients have a need, we go find the solution to the need rather than sending them down the street to look for a solution.”

That’s one Supernatural explosion anyone would love to be a part of!

Tim Jorstad, CEO, Jorstad Incorporated Certified Public Accountants (right)

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It’s true: even accounting can be

By Joann David-Parrilla, AICPA

When you imagine yourself as a CPA, you probably see yourself in an office, perhaps in a suit, making smart business decisions like any good CPA would. But what many don’t realize is, not all CPA jobs are that traditional. In fact, some are just plain quirky.

Take Dominic Ortiz. He’s a licensed CPA and CFO of Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation, a casino in Topeka, Kansas. But his path to getting there has been anything but conventional.

For instance, one of his early roles landed him in a Level 10 bio hazards research facility where he was responsible for conducting audits to verify the number of E. coli bacterium strains present in a petri dish. Dominic would begin his day by dressing head-to-toe in a chemical-resistant suit and head down to the lab with a scientist, where he would perform audits of random petri dishes. Though the work after some time seemed mundane and repetitious, he learned a set of skills such as patience, observance and tenacity that make him successful in his job today.

Then there’s Jamie McCoy. One of his earlier jobs led him to work in a Big 4 firm—a huge achievement. The client he was assigned to could also be considered an accomplishment … because Jamie turned into a chicken auditor! Yep, you read correctly. He visited a poultry farm and conducted inventories of the business’ commodity: chickens.
Jamie would start his day at 3 a.m. to arrive on site by 4 a.m. He would be met by the poultry farm’s compliance officer at the locker room where he was instructed to enter the shower for a full hygienic cleanse and then was met at the other end of the shower stall with a set of boots, socks, coveralls and a t-shirt (cleanliness is a top priority at these chicken farms that are required to meet federal compliance standards and prevent contamination).

Jamie and the compliance controller would then head out to the first sector of the farm which contained a total of 30 chicken houses, each 100 yards long. He’d enter the first house and begin conducting his audits. The chickens came in a variety of specimens that included the genetically modified to the average run-of-the-mill bird. When done, he’d head back to the locker room for another shower. This would take place about 10 or 11 times during his visit, each time getting into a fresh set of clothes and disinfected boots. Jamie was one clean guy, but enjoyed the work and experience which ultimately projected him through his career path to his present job at Jay & Associates, P.C. as Audit Manager.

So what advice do these two mavericks of accounting have? Follow your passion. Because in the end, your chances of success are far greater when you enjoy who you serve and what you serve. Even if it is a bit quirky.
Pick Your Path

The accounting profession offers many paths, and you’re going to have to pick one. Take a look at the options that lie ahead.

When you decide you want ice cream, the decision-making doesn’t stop there. You still need to choose a flavor, right? Not to mention toppings. Accounting is the same way. Once you’ve chosen to major in it, you’re not done yet. Because it’s such a broad field with so many career options, you’ll have to make some more choices to get yourself to where you want to be. But (just like ice cream) isn’t it great to have options?

To help you understand the different paths, we’ve boiled down some of the most important decisions you’ll make along the way to your first job as an accountant. Knowing what they are will help you start thinking about which way you might possibly want to go.

**ACCOUNTING**

If you’ve already chosen to make a career in accounting, excellent choice. You can declare accounting as your major when you apply to colleges and start the coursework your first semester. If you’re still on the fence about it, no worries. Typically you don’t have to declare your major until sophomore year.

**PUBLIC**

After college you can either go into public accounting or private industry. Think of public accountants as “external”—they work for an outside accounting firm that provides services to different companies. If you decide to go with public, you can have many different clients, from sports teams to clothing companies. It’s a great way to get exposed to a lot of different businesses and projects so most college grads end up here.

**PRIVATE**

This is another option for your first job. Private accountants are “internal” accountants, meaning they work for one company, not-for-profit organization or government agency. Since you’ll only work for one organization, you’ll get to know it really well and could potentially rise through the ranks of the accounting department to become Chief Financial Officer or President. On the other hand, you won’t get exposure to a variety of companies and industries.
INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL
Should you go big in public accounting? There are some huge firms with offices around the world, which opens the doors for international travel. You’ll make great money and learn a lot but also work very hard. The standards for getting into these big firms are high, so don’t plan on slacking in college.

REGIONAL
If you’re more of a “happy medium” person, go with a regional firm. They’re big enough that you won’t know everyone, but not so huge that you’ll feel lost. If you have your heart set on staying in a certain region of the country, this is a good choice. You might not make as much money starting out as you will in the big firms, but you’ll still make a good salary and get plenty of perks and opportunities to move up.

LOCAL
If you think you want a smaller, more “community” feel in your first job, this is the way to go. Just know that you’ll have to do some research to find these places and they may not all have job openings. But if you do get in, you’ll get to work with a tight-knit bunch and still make a good salary.

CORPORATION
Every company out there needs CPAs and that’s a fact. So if you have a real passion for a particular industry, such as sports, fashion or entertainment, you can go straight to working as an accountant for any company in that industry. Just make sure you really like the company, since you’ll be working for them and only them.

GOVERNMENT
Government agencies and departments need CPAs, too. Even your home town and state need them to make sure they’re spending money efficiently and fairly. So if you’re interested in the financial future of your state or the whole country, head this way after college.

NONPROFIT
You can be an accountant AND save the world at the same time. Every nonprofit needs a team to help them stay on track financially. So if there’s a particular cause that’s close to your heart and you also have a knack for accounting, the nonprofits of the world would love to have you.

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ACCOUNTING: How do I choose?

PUBLIC ACCOUNTING:

- I am a people person and good at working with others.
  - THAT’S ME • NOT ME •

- I don’t mind a heavy and stressful workload.
  - THAT’S ME • NOT ME •

- I want to be exposed to a large number of companies and projects.
  - THAT’S ME • NOT ME •

PRIVATE ACCOUNTING:

- I am up for “paying my dues” early in my career (working long hours in my first job after college).
  - THAT’S ME • NOT ME •

- I can’t imagine working in only one industry (entertainment, government, fashion, etc.). I prefer to sample a variety.
  - THAT’S ME • NOT ME •

If you answered mostly THAT’S ME, you may be more comfortable in the hectic but varied world of public accounting.

If you answered mostly NOT ME, you’re likely to prefer the more focused private accounting field.

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TODAY’S MONEYMAKERS
The people, products and places that are raking in the cash these days.

$59 billion
Bill Gates
CEO/Co-Founder of Microsoft

$44 billion
Warren Buffett
CEO/Investor

$36 billion
Larry Ellison
CEO/Co-Founder of Oracle

The Richest People in America

Other Notables:
#52 Ralph Lauren
#117 Stephen Spielberg
#128 Donald Trump
#139 Oprah Winfrey

Oh, to be Mark Zuckerberg’s CPA
The Facebook founder, the youngest billionaire ever, is worth $17.5 billion.

Billion-dollar Baseball Team
Few things actually cost a billion dollars. That’s why the L.A. Dodgers made news when they sold for $2 billion(!) in March 2012.

$61,690
Average salary for an accountant in 2010

Ooo GaGa
Lady Gaga took home $90 million last year.

How much is a billion?
A billion is a thousand million or one with nine zeroes.

Sources: Forbes.com, usnews.com, apple.com
07260
America's most expensive zip code to live in (Alpine, N.J.).

World's Richest Countries

Qatar
Luxembourg
Singapore
Norway
Brunei

Had the most sales of any company in the world last year.

Big Bucks and Big Hearts
These companies donated the highest percentage of their profits to charity last year:

Kroger Company
Macy's
Safeway

10-15%
Percentage higher your first accounting salary will be if you have a CPA license.

The Invincible iPad
Three million third-generation iPads were sold in the product's first week on the market, at $499-$829 each. (Which means Apple raked in at least $1.5 billion. In seven days. Yep.)
Jeff Parkison, CPA, CGMA
Administrator - Forecasting
City Utilities of Springfield, MO

The skills of a CPA are like super powers. These powers have the potential to allow you to help others through service on charitable boards, advise professional athletes on money matters or provide start-up business advice to the local ice cream shop. You could even join the FBI. The opportunities are endless.

Darwin C. Jones, CPA
Manager, Mergers & Acquisitions
Tax Services/Private Equity
KPMG LLP

The best kept secret is the potential to travel to really cool destinations around the world for client meetings and presentations. Although I’ve spent the majority of my career in tax, I’ve had the opportunity to travel both domestically and internationally for client meetings and presentations (favorites include London, Guernsey and The Cayman Islands). If you love to travel abroad, and have dreams of collecting passport stamps from fascinating locations, the possibilities are limitless as a CPA.

Nicole Morris, CPA
Assistant Professor of Accounting
Champlain University

The opportunities are limitless. If you want to focus on your career throughout your lifetime, you can. If you want to focus more on family, you can. If you want to focus on both … you can. This is a career that grows with you, and will always meet the needs and priorities of your “today”!

Christine D. Sturtevant, CPA
CEO
Premier Medical Group, Inc.

The typical CPA profession with ledger paper and an adding machine is a part of our past. CPAs shape much of the business world as we know it today. The typical stereotype no longer exists. You can be a CPA for a minor league baseball team, a CPA for a major television broadcasting company or an income tax preparer. Regardless of the path you choose, everything you do will have meaning for those you work for.

Brian Beckett, CPA, CGMA, CMA
Senior Investment Accounting Analyst
Principal Financial Group

For those who travel … Hotel points and frequent flier miles!
Scholarships come in many shapes, sizes and dollar amounts. You’ll find cash for everything from academics to community service to creating prom outfits out of duct tape (seriously). All the variety out there can make funding your education seem challenging, especially when you’re starting out in the process. However, the following tips should give you an edge over your competition and help with the process.

**BEFORE COLLEGE**

- A great starting point is to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Sounds intimidating, but FAFSA’s website (fafsa.ed.gov) is very user-friendly. Completing this form will let you know if you’re eligible for low-interest loans and grants. Deadlines vary depending on your state of residence so start early.
- Use the Internet to find scholarships you might be eligible for. However, don’t forget to also ask around in your community, school, even your parents’ workplaces.
- Apply to as many scholarships you can find regardless of the value.* Many scholarships may only be worth a few hundred dollars, but winning several small scholarships adds up and reduces your overall debt for school.

*Disclaimer: View any program that requires an “application fee” with suspicion. Not all scholarships are legit and you don’t want to give away your personal info to just anyone. Research the sponsor organization to make sure they’re reputable.

**DURING COLLEGE**

- A little-known secret is that students can actually apply for scholarships during college. That’s right, many organizations provide scholarship awards, especially to accounting and business students (need proof? Check out the Start Here, Go Places.® listing of dozens of scholarships for high school students and www.ThisWayToCPA.com for college scholarships).
- Use your resources to find other forms of financial aid. Check with your school’s financial aid office to learn if you’re eligible for school-sponsored scholarships, for example.
- Got a job or internship? Find out if your company offers a tuition reimbursement plan.
- Keep up your grades (very important if you have a scholarship that is contingent on good academic performance).

Know that each scholarship application processes can vary A LOT. Most programs will want your basic information (school name, GPA, etc.) while others may only require an essay. More prominent scholarships (i.e., more $$) will ask for references, possibly even an interview. Know what you’re getting into before you embark on an application process.

Whatever your situation, don’t give up on finding scholarships for school. A little effort can go a long way. Good luck!
Although she’s just a senior in college, Trisha Phadke is already quite the world traveler. Majoring in accounting and finance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Trisha has already spent a semester in Hong Kong and traveled throughout Asia. Not to mention, she completed a three-week summer internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in London.

In addition to all of her globetrotting experience, Trisha is heavily involved on campus and in the community. But how does Trisha do it all in addition to a full-time class load? She simply made a choice to maximize her college experience from day one—and never looked back.

Arriving on campus, she joined Phi Gamma Nu — a fraternity at her school open to anyone with an interest in business. The fraternity encourages its members to attend college career fairs, where Trisha met representatives from the public accounting firm PwC during her first year. From there, Trisha landed a job starting in the accounting and advisory section of the Chicago office.

Trisha also got involved in the off-campus community through volunteering in various awareness events like “Compete for a Cure.” She also served as the Philanthropy Chair in Phi Gamma Nu, where she was involved in leading efforts to raise awareness and money for the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) following a brain cancer diagnosis of a fellow fraternity member.

As an AICPA Student Scholarship recipient, Trisha has served as an ambassador for the accounting profession as a Legacy Scholar. Being a Legacy Scholar requires
Trisha’s advice to college freshmen is straightforward. Going to college is a unique opportunity that allows you to experience a variety of different things and the detours you take along the way may lead you to discover some completely unexpected and wonderful pursuits. “Be open to taking risks and have an open mind,” she says. “The only limits you have are the ones you put on yourself.”
A SNEAK PEEK AT THE CLASSES YOU MIGHT TACKLE IF YOU MAJOR IN ACCOUNTING.

Entering the world of dorm life, cafeteria food and roommates can be a bit overwhelming. But what may be even more overwhelming is your course load. As a college accounting student, you’re thrown into a world of reasoning, analysis, planning and management on top of everything else! Don’t panic though—all of these skills sets will prove to be critical once you embark on your career as a professional (and it’s okay to take it slow if you need to).

While you’ll never know exactly what to expect until you’re actually sitting in class and going through it, we wanted to give you a sneak peek into what you can anticipate in your menu of classes. (Note: School accounting programs vary, so this is a general overview. Make sure to check with your department advisor before signing up for a specific class).

First: The Fundamentals

To start off, one-third of your courses will be business and economy classes such as financial management, investments and portfolios, economics of financial institutions and personal finance. These will pretty much consume your early accounting classes, but perfecting these fundamentals will prove to be worth the time in the end. In these courses you’ll learn problem-solving techniques, how to understand financial reports and how to have an enhanced insight when it comes to
financial planning. A lot of the basics will be recurring themes throughout your accounting program, so it's important to pay attention even if things seem to be common sense at this point (remember repetition, repetition, repetition).

**Later: Specialize**

As you sail along, depending on what path you take, you’ll add a dash of auditing, information systems and/or managerial courses to the mix. These courses are designed to dig into the meat of your specific area of concentration and prepare you for the 400-level courses and internships you will experience as an upperclassman. These courses will help you bring a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate an organization’s processes, flow of information and analyze the implications of financial data. Some companies will require a more detailed report than others and these classes will groom you to understand what type of thought process needs to happen in order to produce the most effective report. Some examples of these courses are internal auditing, database management and communication and conflict management.

As you let those classes simmer, the flavors of your concentration will become even stronger. The ability to make insightful contributions and develop analyses will prove to be invaluable. You’ll begin to apply what you’ve learned at your internship or, if you’re fortunate, at your first job! The career opportunities will come and you’ll feel prepared for what’s ahead. All of these experiences will add to your palate and at the end of your four years, you’ll be ready to face the world as a top notch accounting professional. It’s no easy feat, but we know you’ve got it.
Credit Cards:

Fun. Yet dangerous.
Credit cards are amazing little pieces of plastic. With that one simple card, you can buy just about anything. But you should think of credit cards as essentially short-term loans. Every time you swipe one, you’re borrowing money from the credit card company that you’ll pay back later. This may seem simple, but a lot of people run into trouble with credit cards by spending more money than they can pay back by the card’s deadline. And if you miss the payment deadline, the credit card company will charge you interest—and that can add up fast. If you let months and months go by, you could end up paying double, triple or even more for one trip to the mall. So if you know that you’re only going to be earning money for a couple of months, or you can’t resist the urge to buy the season’s new jeans—even if you can’t afford them—a credit card probably isn’t for you right now.

The bonus that comes with owning a credit card (aside from the freedom) is that you’ll build your credit score—which basically shows companies how reliable you are with money. Your credit score will come into play later if you buy a car, a house or even cable for your college apartment. Since you’re young and don’t have credit history yet, if you decide you’re ready to apply for a credit card, you’ll most likely need a guardian to co-sign with you. This means if you get into trouble and can’t pay your bills, that person will be held responsible for making the payments. It might sound tempting to run up the charges and figure it out later—but remember that any charges, missed payments or penalties will hurt your credit score—which will stay with you forever.

Money Tips: Credit or Debit?

There’s nothing like the feeling of getting your first paycheck. Whether it’s from a summer job or part-time job during the school year, it’s the first time you have *your own* money. And it won’t be long before you wonder: how do I spend it?

If you’re like most people, the answer is: plastic. Those two little cards, credit and debit. They’re all you need to blow thousands of dollars in one weekend if you want to. But while spending is fun, there are a million ways it can also get you in trouble. So get a handle on these cards now, whether you’re making a paycheck or not—to make sure you make the right choices with your hard-earned dough.
SAVING:
A fabulous, card-free alternative.
Of course, while spending is fun, not all the money you make has to be blown on movies and clothes. You can take your stash of cash and watch it grow by putting it all in a savings account—even if your paycheck isn’t very big. The money you put in a savings account will earn interest, which means your money will be making money over time—something your piggy bank can’t offer. And who would turn down free money?

So the next time you see your name on a paycheck or think about getting yourself some plastic, remember these tips. You and your bank accounts will be very glad you did.

DEBIT CARDS:
Less fun. But keep you out of trouble.
Debit cards are a safer alternative to credit cards, because they limit you to spending the money you actually have (a great habit to get into). When you make a purchase with a debit card the money is pulled straight from your checking account. So if you have zero dollars in your account, sorry—that sweet snowboard purchase will be declined at the register. Your only option is to get out there and earn more paychecks.

To get a debit card, you’ll need to set up a checking account at your bank. Most checking accounts will have a monthly or annual fee, but they’re typically small and definitely less than the interest you’ll have to pay on a credit card.

Babysit Your Cash
There are great online and mobile tools that can help you track every penny you spend—literally. Check out the mint.com app or moneystrands app (just run it by your parents first, since it will involve giving up some personal info).

Beware the Junk Mail
Starting in college, you might get mail from credit card companies offering you some sweet incentives to sign up for a card. Don’t fall for it! Signing up for a card is a big deal, and jumping at every offer you see will damage your credit score (and only make you more tempted to spend).

Save Bigger
If you really want to see your money grow, talk to your parents about investing your paychecks. Putting them in something like a mutual fund offers a lot more growth potential than a regular bank savings account.
It’s spelled C-P-A, but it’s pronounced “clout.”

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