

Welcome to the Winter edition of our Inside Swenson newsletter. We are pleased to provide you with the latest news and update you on some of the exciting happenings at Swenson.

## CELEBRATING SWENSON ADVISORS' 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**The team at Swenson Advisors is delighted to celebrate our 25th year in business!**

This mile marker is one that reflects God's blessings on our business and our many clients who have made this possible. Swenson has matured into a well-recognized, highly-skilled, regional CPA firm with offices in downtown San Diego and in Murrieta, CA.

In many ways Swenson is a global entity with business relationships around the world through our active participation in one of the largest accounting associations in the world. **Swenson joined Integra International in 2000 and has benefited and grown with that association over this 25-year period.** Integra provides resources with its 155 offices in 75 countries and over 5,500 professionals to meet the needs of our local and global clients.



**Swenson Advisors Was Named Integra International's 2019 "Firm Of The Year,"** having been selected out of a group of more than 125 firms in the United States and globally based on overall participation and contribution to the Integra organization.

With its roots as a satellite office of Price Waterhouse in 1990 and an ultimate buyout from PW in the mid-1990s, the firm has grown into one of the top 25 firms in San Diego and Riverside counties.

# CELEBRATING SWENSON ADVISORS' 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY (cont.)

**Under the leadership of its Managing Partner, Steve Austin,** the firm became a PCAOB member to work with public companies, led with innovative SOX consulting, worked on large fraud cases during the Enron era to the expansion of offices in Asia (Hong Kong), and ultimately, 6 years ago, became National Thought Leader in the new Lease Accounting work. The firm was one of the first, If not the first, CPA firm in the US to work with a public company and assist in the calculation of disclosure of the new Topic 842 accounting, which requires all companies to record their off balance sheet lease accounting liabilities on their balance sheets.

**Swenson has had a great opportunity to work with such leading companies as AT&T, San Diego Connect, The NTC Foundation at Liberty Station, AOTI, Garret Properties and scores of other notable enterprises. In addition, we have invested thousands of hours in the Swenson Children's Foundation established in 2015** and have supported in time and financial responses well over a dozen non-profit organizations in Southern California. We have also sponsored several NASCAR cars on the nationally-televised Saturday Infinity Races, along with our good friends at the Miami Integra firm KSDT, who led us into something most folks would not imagine a CPA firm might do.

During these years, we worked with EBS (Integra firm in the Ukraine), Mance Creative, Primero Systems, AccuVisors, and Swenson Corporation as part of the Swenson family.

With an average work week of 42 hours, we respect our great employees by allowing them to have a balanced lifestyle . . . that like Chick-fil-A, respects Sundays off and limited nights and weekends . . . all part of our Core Values as noted on our website.

Many of our employees work locally and in offices in Los Angeles, Kansas, Colorado, Texas, Mexico and the Ukraine. With technology we are able to provide seamless service with a global employee base.

**Years ago, we developed and trademarked the Swenson Experience . . . Trademark: "SwenEX™."**

1. Return emails, texts and phone calls in 30 minutes....letting folks know we heard them and can respond to their needs then or set a plan and time to do that.
2. Plan and manage our workload so we can deliver our service 10 days in advance of a deadline.
3. Honor our clients three times a year by recognizing them with gifts (like Harry and David products), books, or an evening with the Padres in a private suite.



# CELEBRATING SWENSON ADVISORS' 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY (cont.)

Rapid Response has been a driver of our success and has distinguished us from the competition.

Over the next three 2023 Newsletters, we will share with you how we will celebrate this 25th Anniversary time. Stay tuned.

## A LOOK BACK AT 2022

### 2022 SWENSON HIGHLIGHTS

- Swenson Advisors was pleased to be once again in the top 25 San Diego Accounting Firms in the *San Diego Business Journal's Book of Lists*.
- **2022 was another year of growth** for Swenson Advisors. We welcomed many new lease accounting clients and expanded AccountLease™ nationally as well as internationally, including Europe and Africa.



# A LOOK BACK AT 2022 (cont.)

- **Swenson welcomed three new team members:**

**Ramon Valdivia, Audit Senior.** Ramon's experience includes technology, utilities, and financial services industries.

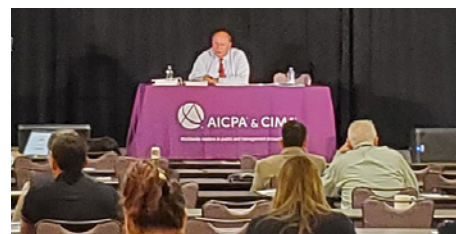
**Grace Brentlinger, Lease Accounting Analyst and Tax Staff Member.** Grace has over 15 years of accounting experience and a Master's degree in Accounting and is a State of California Certified Public Accountant.

**Julia Shchurovska, Outsourced Senior Audit Manager.** Swenson Advisors worked with Helen Volska, Managing Partner and Director of EBS, headquartered in Kyiv, Ukraine to engage Julia Shchurovska to work remotely as Swenson's Outsourced Senior Audit Manager.

- San Diego County honored Steve Austin on April 19, 2022 with a **Certificate of Recognition** presented on its behalf by **SD County Supervisor, Joel Anderson.**



- Steve Austin presented **“Successful Implementation of the New FASB Lease Accounting Standard . . . Last Laps”** at the **2022 AICPA & CIMA CFO Conference** held in April at Loews Coronado Bay, CA Resort.



- **Jim LoPresti and Ramon Valdivia attended Integra International's 2022 Global Conference in London** in October. EBS, our member firm in Ukraine, was given Integra's award as firm of the year. **Swenson had received this honor in 2019.**

## OTHER FIRM ACTIVITIES AND SPONSORSHIPS:

- **Cheering for the Padres at Petco Park is an annual event for Swenson Advisors.** This year the Swenson team, friends and family were in attendance for a most exciting game. The Padres competed against the Chicago White Sox and subsequently made the playoffs for the first time in a full season since 2006. It was a great afternoon, and although our Padres did not make it to the 2022 World Series, we'll be rooting for them next season.



## A LOOK BACK AT 2022 (cont.)

- **Swenson and Integra Miami firm KSDT** sponsored Cars Nos. 4 and 6 at the **NASCAR Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, CA** on February 26th and at the **Las Vegas, NV Motor Speedway** on March 6th. **Steve Austin's son-in-law and grandson, Raul Gonzalez and Raul Gonzalez, Jr.** represented Swenson in the pit and grandstands in Fontana. Swenson and its affiliates have sponsored 5 cars over the last 2 years.



- Swenson Advisors partnered with the Swenson Children's Foundation to sponsor the **Vision of Children Foundation's "Springtime, Tea Time"** on May 25th at Morgan Run Club and Resort in Rancho Santa Fe, CA. This very successful event raised funds to support critical vision research to find cures for genetic vision disorders and childhood blindness and provide support services for children living with blindness or visual impairment and their families.
- **Swenson Advisors was proud to be a supporter of the International Bipolar Foundation's Starry Night Event** on September 24, 2022. The Gala was held at the Ultimate Sky Box at the Diamond View Tower in San Diego and celebrated the Foundation's 15th year of service. **The evening's featured speaker was Gregg F. Martin, PhD, a 36-year Army combat veteran and retired Two-Star General, who shared the story of his battle with bipolar.**
- **Murrieta Genomics, Swenson Advisors' client, was a presenter at the Murrieta Innovation Center (MIC) Evening of Innovation** in June. Jim LoPresti and Ramon Valdivia hosted a table, and their guests included executives from Wells Fargo. The Murrieta Innovation Center's (MIC) supports innovative start-up companies that are focused on biotech, medtech and healthcare technologies and devices.



# STEVE AUSTIN'S INTEGRA WEBINAR PRESENTATION

INTEGRA INTERNATIONAL®  
YOUR GLOBAL ADVANTAGE

Audit and Accounting CPE Webinar

Lessons Learned from Recent Audit Failures  
and New Audit Risks

PRESENTED BY:  
Stephen G. Austin  
January 13, 2023



**Integra International** sponsored an audit and accounting webinar in January 2023 at which **Steve Austin, a long-standing Global Board member of Integra**, gave a presentation on “**Lessons Learned from Recent Audit Failures and New Audit Risks.**” His presentation was a great success with a record number of international participants and received very positive feedback.

Topics addressed included Historic Cycles of Fraud; Current Understanding of Audit Failures; New Red Flags to Look for in 2023 Audits in a Recessionary Economy;

The Effects of Wirecard and FTX; New AICPA Quality Management Standards; and New Proposed PCAOB Audit Standards Exposure Draft.

Please go to: <https://swensonadvisors.com/assets/Integra-Webinar-1-13-23.pdf> to view Steve Austin's presentation.

## WELCOMING OUR NEW CLIENTS



### Our Mission

Our mission is to provide  
transitional living and restore lives.



# WELCOMING OUR NEW CLIENTS (cont.)

**EAST COUNTY TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER (ECTLC), founded in 2009, is a faith-based, non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization whose goal is to end chronic homelessness in San Diego County.** ECTLC provides transitional housing, biblical training, emergency housing, job skills development, opportunities to earn a GED, case management, and linkage to other resources which provide a “hand up” to individuals and families, enabling them to become productive members of their community.

ECTLC provides this “hand-up” approach to individuals who are ready to take responsibility for their lives, leave behind negative relationships, criminal behavior, substance abuse and other choices which have led to chronic homelessness, broken lives, and broken families. ECTLC services are available to all men, women and their minor children regardless of their culture, ethnicity and/or faith.



**ALLIANCE OUTDOOR LIGHTING, headquartered in Temecula, California,** provides high-quality products at reasonable prices that fit the tough standards of architectural grade products along with the economy requirements of today's market. Alliance has carefully developed an approach to product development that takes practical concepts in low voltage outdoor lighting and creates an easy-to-specify and easy-to-install method.



# SUPPORTING EBS AND UKRAINE



**Focus on growth . . .  
We'll do the rest!**

**EBS, a leading consulting company headquartered in Kyiv, Ukraine, was founded in 1998.** The company provides services in the areas of outsourcing of accounting, audit, consulting on taxation and transfer pricing, HR consulting, legal support, management consulting, and business process automation. EBS is regularly included in the ratings of the best consulting companies in Ukraine according to SBR, International Tax Review, DS. Currently, the company serves more than 800 Ukrainian and foreign enterprises and organizations in various sectors of the economy. **Michelin, Armstrong, 3M, The United States Agency for International Development (US Aid), and Western Union are among the many clients of EBS.**



**Helen Volska is the Managing Partner and Director of EBS and works with Steve Austin on the Global Board of Integra.** The EBS team, which consists of more than 250 qualified experts, intensively studies each client's business and all the factors affecting it in order to choose the best methods for solving emerging problems and unleashing the potential of the company.

EBS has been able to sustain its presence and continue operations while many of its employees have been displaced. **Swenson Advisors took the initiative and forged a mutually beneficial relationship with EBS** to supplement our audit and lease consulting practice and support this firm and its very business existence by outsourcing work to a very capable team of EBS employees. Swenson contracted with EBS to bring on Julia Shchurovska to provide outsourced Senior Audit Manager services for the company and Max Mokhomor as outsourced Audit Manager.

**Swenson Advisors, as well EBS, our member firm in Integra International® participated in Integra's Global Conference** which took place in October, 2022 in London at the Leonardo Royal Hotel London St. Paul's. A highlight of the event was the presentation of the award for Integra's Firm of the Year. **Swenson Advisors was Integra's Firm of the Year in 2019, and this year's award was given to EBS.**



# MEET GRACE BRENTLINGER



## **Grace Brentlinger, MSA, CPA**

Lease Accounting Analyst and Tax Staff Member,  
Swenson Advisors

**Grace Brentlinger joined Swenson Advisors as a Lease Accounting Analyst and Tax Staff Member in 2022 with more than 20 years of accounting experience.**

Grace came to the US in 1991, after graduating cum laude with a degree in Business Management from Universitas Padjadjaran in Indonesia. She received her Master of Science in Professional Accountancy from San Diego State University. **Grace recently reactivated her Certified Public Accountant license, State of California. CONGRATULATIONS, GRACE!**

Grace's career experience, prior to joining Swenson Advisors in 2022, includes public accounting, the County of San Diego, and a non-profit organization.

**While growing up in her native country, Indonesia, she was actively involved in swimming, roller skating, and martial arts.** She has earned 30 medals/trophies from various local, regional, and national roller skating championships. While studying towards her bachelor's degree, Grace won several medals from Shorinji Kempo martial arts championships.

**Grace has two sons whom she absolutely adores, Preston and Evan.** She home schooled them when they were very young. Preston is now a student at San Diego State University, and Evan is a senior in high school. They both enjoy playing the piano and listening to and composing music.



*Grace and her sons at Swenson's  
Padres Game Event*

# UPDATE ON THE CHICKS

## THE CHICKS INVITE YOU ON AN EXCLUSIVE VISIT TO THEIR RESIDENCE



**WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!**



**Home Sweet Home**

We are very secure against all predators, can enjoy the ocean breezes in nice weather and a cozy, heated interior as winter approaches.



**Dave Ncaise**

Architect, Contractor and Builder of the Chicks' Custom Residence  
(Third Generation Egg Rancher)



**Our Personal Staff**

A/K/A Raul Gonzalez, Jr. and Stephanie Gonzalez, Steve and Gail Austin's Grandchildren





# FOUNDATION UPDATE: PARTNERSHIP WITH ECTLC

SWENSON  
**Children's  
Foundation**



***Building Faith.  
Changing Lives.***



**The Swenson Children's Foundation had a wonderful year in 2022 and is looking forward to what is ahead in 2023!** We were able to brighten and inspire many children's lives through educational art classes and our Christmas outreach. **Our Annual Christmas Outreach was unique this year as we were able to merge both the Swenson Advisors team and the Foundation with our giving efforts for the children and families at East County Transitional Living Center (ECTLC).** Our Swenson team worked to gather gifts such as blankets and daily essentials to present to ECTLC along with a generous monetary gift from the Foundation at our annual Swenson Christmas luncheon. Swenson was honored to be joined at the luncheon by Michael Branch, LCSW, CEO of ECTLC, who spoke about the work of the organization. Also joining us from ECTLC were Helen Zamora, Director of Development, and Wendee Andujar, Development Coordinator.



**ECTLC aligns with the Foundation's core, faith-based values and has been able to positively impact many children going through challenging times in their day-to-day lives.** Swenson Children's Foundation will continue to invest in children's creativity and education through dedicated collaborations with ECTLC.

We pray that 2023 will be another great year of growth and opportunity for our Foundation to give back to the community and share God's love with those who need it most.



Michael Branch, LCSW  
Chief Executive Officer  
ECTLC



A Full Service Accounting Firm  
with Global Capabilities  
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