



# Accounting Department

Annual Newsletter  
2021-2022



CalPolyPomona

College of  
Business Administration  
Accounting Department



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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Magdy Farag

## **Dear Cal Poly Pomona Accounting Community:**

As we wrap up a remarkable year, on behalf of the Accounting Department's faculty I extend my congratulations to the recent accounting graduates. We are so happy and proud of all our students who worked hard to have a successful year. The pandemic did not make it easy, but you managed to go through it.

Accounting continues to develop with the persistent race of technology. The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) jointly work together to transform the CPA licensure model to recognize the fast-changing technological skills needed for the accounting profession today. The Accounting Department at Cal Poly Pomona reacted promptly to update its undergrad and graduate curricula to match this transformation and prepare its students for the future. We developed several new courses that will prepare our students for the future. Analytics in Accounting, Advanced Analytics in Accounting, and Cybersecurity in Accounting are examples of courses that will enhance the skills of accounting graduates at Cal Poly Pomona and prepare them for the changes in the profession.

Due to the growing demand for accounting professionals with specialized skills and knowledge of technology, the Accounting Department signed an agreement with the AICPA to participate in a program that prepares students to become CPA technology professionals and credential holders of the AICPA's Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) Credential. The Accounting Department at Cal Poly Pomona is the first department nationwide to initiate such an agreement with the AICPA.

Finally, I hope you find this newsletter informative. We appreciate you, our alumni, employers, and friends. Your support is critical to our accounting students' success.

Sincerely,

Magdy Farag, Ph.D., CPA

Professor and Chair  
Accounting Department



# Accounting Advisory Board

The Accounting Advisory Board holds a meeting every year to provide feedback and advice to Cal Poly Pomona's Accounting Department about its curriculum. Despite the pandemic, the Department held the meeting virtually in 2021 and 2022. We thank our Advisory Board members for their valuable information, support, and time.

## Advisory Board Members

- Nancy Corrigan with California Board of Accountancy (CBA)
- Ana Rodriguez and Renee Graves with Clifton Larson Allen (CLA)
- Alex Serafin, Brianna Wickham, Cheryl Cotte, and Steven Wright with Deloitte
- Ryan Santacruz and Jane Rutledge with IIA Inland Empire
- Donna Bateman and Steve Chhuor with KROST CPAs & Consultants
- Greg Hellmold with LA County Auditor
- Mark Dunham with Moss Adams
- Matthew Tutor and Mel Hudson with RSM US LLP
- Garrett Shakstad with Baker Tilly/Squar Milner



# Nathan Si

**Current MSA Graduate Student;  
Upcoming Audit Associate at Eide Bailly**



## Student Spotlight

Nathan Si is a Cambodian American who was born and raised in Walnut, California. He is very passionate about various trading card games and strategic video games. Throughout his undergraduate program, he worked at Ding Tea, a tea shop, and Kumon, a tutoring center.

Nathan also volunteered in Cal Poly's VITA program for a semester and shares his experience while being in the program:

"Overall, although stressful at times, I believe that VITA was a very beneficial program. It gave me an opportunity to learn how to work and interact with clients that you just can't get in a typical class. The program gives you a taste of what it is like to work in the field of accounting and I find that experience invaluable. Furthermore, it teaches you how to adapt and think on your feet when dealing with various clients and their tax forms."

Nathan graduated CPP as a McPhee Scholar due to his cumulative 4.0 GPA and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He also maintained his status on the Dean's Honor list throughout his undergraduate years.

Starting Fall 2021, Nathan is continuing his education in CPP as a graduate student and expecting to receive his Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) in Summer 2022. He is currently working as an Instructional Student Assistant (ISA) for the Accounting Department at the College of Business. Nathan will begin his new position as an Audit Associate at Eide Bailly in July 2022. Additionally, he plans to obtain the CPA license after his graduation.

**A quote that I live by from a video game is:**

*"The world ends with you.  
If you want to enjoy life,  
expand your world."*

# Student Spotlight

Samantha Rajsavong graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting and a minor in Finance from CPP in Spring 2021. She has also earned the distinction of being recognized on the President's List and Dean's List with an overall GPA of 3.76. Upon graduation, she is looking forward to starting her career as a Staff Tax Accountant and preparing for the CPA exam.

She transferred to CPP from Rio Hondo College in Fall 2019. She immediately became involved on campus by being a member of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) and Cal Poly Society of Accountants (CPSA). By Spring 2020, she was voted as the Vice President of CPSA, navigating new territories as students began to transition into distance learning due to the pandemic. Along with her executive board, they planned and held virtual weekly general meetings and professional events, such as Meet the Firms and the College to Career Professional Panel. In her role as Vice President, she took great pride in being a helpful resource to her accounting peers.

Samantha was also invited to become a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and Beta Gamma Sigma. By being a member of these honor societies, she is considered to be among the top 10% of undergraduate students of the world's most prestigious, AACSB-accredited business schools. In addition, she was a recipient of the College of Business and CalCPA Inland Empire scholarships for the 2020-2021 year. During her last semester, she completed her Bronco Lead 3.0 certificate and volunteered as a tax preparer for the VITA Program.

Among her many accomplishments, Samantha is most proud of being a Parenting Bronco and role model to her young 6-year-old son. Despite the challenges of distance learning, she was still able to overcome and accomplish so many things while also assisting her kindergartener son with his studies. She is a great example of hard work, discipline, and determination.

# Samantha Rajsavong

**Current Tax Accountant at Frazer, LLP**



*"A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor."  
Franklin D. Roosevelt*





# Congratulations!

The Cal Poly Pomona's Accounting Department would like to congratulate 2020 - 2021 scholarship winners, and give our thanks to the scholarship donors who made it possible!



**CalPolyPomona**

College of  
Business Administration  
Accounting Department

**Ahmed Abo-Hebeish Scholarship**

Janelle Ruiz

**Donald F. Putnam Endowed Scholarship**

Aayaska Raut & Manyun Qin

**Eide Bailly**

Manroop Kahlon

**Gleim (voucher)**

Eric Xin

**RSM US LLP**

Edward Quibal, Hannah Rodriguez, Jonathan Sanchez, Juan Felix, & Nicholas Beltran

# CAL POLY POMONA'S ACCOUNTING CLUBS



## Cal Poly Society of Accountants

Cal Poly Society of Accountants (CPSA) welcomes accounting majors into the organization to build their network, resume, and skills before starting their careers. Working closely with Beta Alpha Psi (BAP), CPSA provides general and professional development meetings weekly where members can participate and learn tips, skills, and about firms. Both organizations plan a Meet the Firms event once every semester, so members can meet with professionals and get a quick introduction and understand the culture of the firms they are interested in better.

### Contact Information:

**Instagram:** @cppcpsa

**LinkedIn:** @Cal Poly Society of Accountants

## Beta Alpha Psi

Founded in 1919, Beta Alpha Psi is an honor organization for Accounting, CIS, and financial information students and professionals. There are over 300 chapters on college and university campuses with over 300,000 members initiated since Beta Alpha Psi's formation. All our chapters are AACSB and/or EQUIS accredited. Our Iota Chi chapter here at CPP is committed to developing young professionals and connecting them to National/Local Firms.



### Contact Information:

**Website** - <https://www.cppbap.org/>

**Discord:** <https://discord.gg/GBsfcDCNCs>



# Accounting Club Events



## Meetings:

### **BAP and CPSA hold the meetings jointly making it more convenient for members to join.**

General Meetings are held every Thursday during U-Hour (12PM - 1PM). Firms and company recruiters or associates are invited to these meetings to give presentation about their firms, benefits, and answer questions. Students are given this opportunity to network with the presenters and other students. Participating firms include: RSM US, DELOITTE, BAKER TILLY, and many more.

Professional Development Meetings are held every Tuesday also during U-Hour. These meetings consist of student/professor-led presentations and workshops to prepare individuals for the accounting recruiting season. Presenters are typically BAP or CPSA directors and occasionally guest professionals. Example topics include: LinkedIn Profiles, Handshake Profiles, email composition workshops, resume review workshops, and preparing for interviews.

### **Meet The Firms (MTF): (Fall & Spring options)**

MTF gives accounting students the opportunity to meet and network with accounting firms, corporations, government, and healthcare companies seeking accounting majors. The event is a great way for accounting students to find internships and permanent positions. Students will have the option of meeting directly, one-on-one for 15 minutes, with the representatives of the firms. Some firms include: EIDE BAILY, MOSS ADAMS, RSM, BAKER TILLY, and LUCAS HORSFALL. In recent times, the event has adapted to the virtual learning environment thus bringing MTF virtually. In Fall 2020, MTF had over 400 attendees which benefited lots of students with networking and obtaining interviews. This event gives students the opportunity to grow their connections, understand the lifestyle of the professionals, and learn the work culture of firms.

### **March 2021: CPA Exam Eligibility Process and Changes Presented by the California Board of Accountancy**

Hosted through Zoom, the event included 4 professionals from the California Board of Accountancy (CBA) who explained and answered questions about the CPA Exam, regarding the application process, eligibility, and any upcoming changes to the exam. It was a big event that had a lot of students and included 6 participating accounting students from UC Irvine. After the main event was over, the CBA held an after-event which included one-on-one 15-minute sessions with professionals from the CBA who reviewed students' resumes and transcripts to determine their progress and eligibility towards taking the CPA Exam. For the after-event, students had to preregister for a timeslot which filled up so quickly that most to all the slots were taken.



### **BAP President Ryan Shurie's Experience:**

"Joining BAP, attending general/professional meetings, and attending MTF 2020 was an amazing experience and helped me obtain an offer with a top 10 firm upon completion of my college degree. We all came to college to get a degree and find a job and that is the goal of Beta Alpha Psi - Help you become the best candidate possible, link you to recruiters and firm associates, this way you can land a job even before you've graduated in 90% of cases that I have seen. We also have a BAP BUDDIES program - peer mentorship in which we end up helping newer members with the recruiting process and making sure things are going well on their end."

On March 18th, 2021, Beta Alpha Psi and CPSA held an Internal Audit in the Spotlight event. This event had between 20 to 30 attendees. Guest speaker, Jason Nishiyama, a current adjunct faculty at Cal Poly Pomona Accounting department, shared his experiences as an internal auditor at PwC and the profession in general. He also invited his colleague from BDO to talk about her experiences. Both speakers are part of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and they mentioned what the organization is and the benefits it provides. They also mentioned how the IIA held a free virtual event on April 9th, 2021, called Internal Audit Student Exchange.

The Internal Audit Student Exchange was held for students who were interested in the internal audit profession. During the event, guest speakers spoke about potential careers in internal audit and the high demand in the field because of the current uncertain climate.



**Jason Nishiyama,**  
**CIA, CISA, CGAP**

**Adjunct Faculty, Accounting**



## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a nationwide initiative sponsored by the IRS. Cal Poly Pomona is a part of the CSU+5 VITA initiative providing free income tax services to help low and middle-income individuals file their federal and state tax returns. Prior to certification, members go through various training sessions and testing. The 2021 and 2022 tax season was conducted fully virtually via Zoom HIPAA.

### VITA 2021 Data Summary:

- Number of Taxpayers Served: 357
- Total Federal Refunds Generated: \$567,895
- Total State Refunds Generated: \$110,120
- Total Federal EIC: \$125,991
- Total State EIC: \$18,330





# MSA Program

## Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) Credential

Through joint efforts between the AICPA and the Accounting Department at Cal Poly Pomona, an agreement has been developed that enabled the Accounting Department to participate in a program that encourages its MSA students on the pathway to becoming CPA technology professionals and credential holders of the CITP credential. The Accounting Department at Cal Poly Pomona is the first to initiate such an agreement with the AICPA.

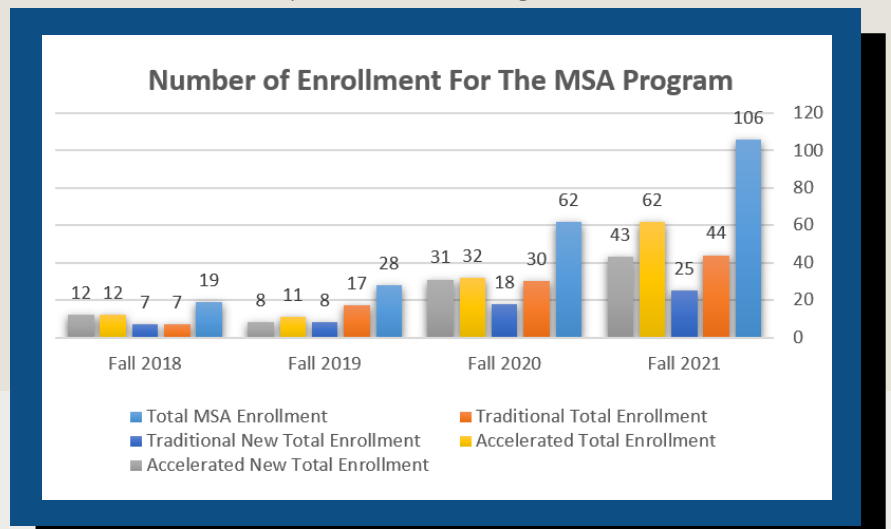
Based on this agreement, the AICPA will provide a channel for students to purchase the complete guide to the CITP exam review course. Complimentary membership in the AICPA will be offered to Cal Poly Pomona MSA students, which includes access to the latest technology information, tools, and resources. MSA students will be provided the opportunity to take the CITP exam at no cost within a year of graduation.

## Increasing Enrollment for the MSA Program

The MSA (Masters of Science in Accountancy) Program is one of the many Graduate Business Programs (GBA) that Cal Poly Pomona has to offer. The MSA Program has two options for their program: Accelerated Program and Traditional Program. Both have seen a notable increase in new enrollment since the start of the pandemic as seen on the chart right below.

The MSA Program is designed to meet the needs of the ever-changing accounting profession, whether in public accounting, corporate accounting, government and not-for-profit accounting, or some other areas of practice.

The program provides an integrated curriculum comprised of 30 credits featuring the sound theoretical, applied, analytical, and interdisciplinary courses that prepare students for a successful career in the profession.



**For more information, please visit:**

<https://www.cpp.edu/cba/graduate-business-programs/programs/msa.shtml>

# 2020 - 2021 Faculty of the Year

Associate Professor Mohamed Gomaa was awarded the College of Business Outstanding Professor of the Year Award in 2021 for his continuous support and mentorship of students and numerous contributions to the department. In his ACC 4510 – Accounting Information Systems course, he introduces students to systems concepts using hands on projects, as well as an understanding of some the real-world cybersecurity threats accountants face when using systems. Students also learn about emerging technologies through a hands-on teaching case Gomaa wrote to introduce accounting students to blockchain technology.

Gomaa also contributed his knowledge and expertise into the department by developing and launching several new courses including ACC 4530 – Data Analytics in Accounting, and ACC 6550 – Cybersecurity in Accounting. ACC 4530 teaches students to analyze real world data sets to prepare them for their careers in accounting. The course focuses on developing their analytics mindset through real world applications of data analysis and visualization in the various fields of accounting. ACC 6550 is a new addition to our MSA program as part of the AICPA's Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) credential preparing our students to become CPA technology professional and credential holders.

Gomaa was also awarded the Provost's Teacher-Scholar Award in 2021 for his scholarly contributions to the profession, and for fostering an inquiry-based learn-by-doing environment by bringing his scholarship into the classroom. Over the past five years, Gomaa had 11 peer reviewed papers published/accepted for publication in academic journals. He also had six papers published in conference proceedings, as well as five paper presentations at academic conferences. We thank Gomaa for his innovation to our department and congratulate him for earning the College of Business Outstanding Professor of the Year Award and the Provost's Teacher-Scholar Award.



**Mohamed  
Gomaa,  
Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor,  
Director of the MSA General  
Program**



# Featured Faculty



## **Nian Lim "Vic" Lee, Ph.D.** **Assistant Professor, Accounting**

Dr. Nian Lim "Vic" Lee joined Cal Poly Pomona as an assistant professor in 2019. He graduated from Georgia State University with a Ph.D. in Accounting. He teaches Financial Accounting, Internal Controls and Corporate Finance, and Information Systems. His research interests include Corporate Governance, Participative Budgeting, and Managerial Incentives.

## **Mengjiao Nancy Du, Ph.D.** **Assistant Professor, Accounting**

Mengjiao Nancy Du joined Cal Poly Pomona as an assistant professor in 2018. She graduated from Washington State University with a Ph.D. in Accounting. She also worked for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu China in both Auditing and Enterprise Risk Management. She teaches Managerial/Cost Accounting, Management Accounting Seminar, Information Systems, and International Accounting Issues. Her research has been primarily focused on using experimental approaches to explore topics in sustainability reporting, investors' judgment and decision making, and cross-cultural differences.



# FACULTY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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**Du, M.N.,** Wong-On-Wing, B., and D. Yang. (forthcoming). Cross-Cultural Differences in Perceived Control Effectiveness: The Role of Cognition. *Behavioral Research in Accounting.*

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**Farag, M.,** and **F. Kang.** (2019). Auditing standard deficiencies identified in PCAOB inspection reports. *New Accountant* 782: 4-22.

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**Gomaa, M.,** Kanagaretnam, K., Mestelman, S., and M. Shehata. (2021). Test-bedding the New Accounting Standards for Loan Loss Reserves. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization.* 187(July): 225-245.

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