



ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

Annual Newsletter
2022-2023



College of
Business Administration
Accounting Department



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

DEAR CAL POLY POMONA ACCOUNTING COMMUNITY:

I hope this message finds you well as we head into the final stretch of the academic year. As we approach the end of the semester, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past year and highlight some of our accomplishments as a department.

First and foremost, I want to thank every one of the Accounting Department's faculty for their dedication to our students and the accounting profession. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic in the last few years, our faculty have continued to provide high-quality education and support to our students, and I am proud of the resilience and adaptability that our department has demonstrated.

I am pleased to report that we have continued to make progress toward our departmental goals, including enhancing our curriculum, increasing our research output, and strengthening our relationships with the business community. We have made significant steps in developing our strategic priorities that involve academic and faculty excellence, excellence in partnerships, and brand enhancement. We also revised our mission and vision statements to match the new level of aspiration that the department is aiming toward achieving.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities that the future holds for our department. We will continue to innovate and evolve to meet the changing needs of our students and the accounting profession. I encourage our department's supporters to take an active role in shaping our department's future and to contribute to our collective efforts.

Finally, I want to thank our alumni, supporters, and friends. Your generous support is critical to our students and department's 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. After 2 years of holding the meeting remotely since the pandemic, it was held in person at Kellogg West on February 3, 2023. We highly appreciate the Advisory Board members for their insight and for making time to attend this meeting.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- Nancy Corrigan with the 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
- Matthew Tutor and Mel Hudson with RSM US LLP
- Garrett Shakstad and Jesse Nunez with Baker Tilly
- Jenny Chen with Hutchinson and Bloodgood LLP

EVENTS

Road to Success in Accounting

Road to Success in Accounting is a workshop primarily focused on providing accounting students with a more robust understanding of the accounting career from a professional's perspective. To accomplish this, Cal Poly Pomona's (CPP) student accounting organizations, Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) and Cal Poly Society of Accountants (CPSA), as well as the Accounting Department collaborated to invite CPP accounting faculty members and alumni as panelists to share their years of experience in working/teaching, deliver insightful advice on how to move around the accounting world as a student, and answer questions that attendees had at any point during the workshop.

The workshop was last held in the Fall of 2019 as the COVID-19 pandemic placed the annual event on a temporary hold until it was revived by the accounting department and student organizations this Fall. On Friday, September 9, 2022, the workshop was held in Building 162 Room 1001 from 1-3 PM and saw around 100 attendees, and a complimentary lunch was served at 12:30 PM prior to the event. The guest panel consisted of speakers including Professor Andy Anderson; Professor Peter Hii; Professor Jason Nishiyama; Bryan Carreto, Senior Manager at RSM US LLP; and Hassan Nouredine, Senior Auditor at Deloitte. The workshop was led by the accounting department chair, Dr. Magdy Farag, and our BAP and CPSA presidents, Billy Vuong and Allison Hu.



Meet the Firms

Meet the Firms is an accounting career fair hosted every semester to bring accounting students and professionals together to network and build connections. Students, dressed in their best business formal attire, spoke to professionals about their career aspirations and gained further insight into various career paths. Accounting professionals shared with students their firm's goals, services, and opportunities such as internships and full-time positions. On Thursday, September 29, 2022, Cal Poly Pomona's Accounting Department, Beta Alpha Psi, and Cal Poly Society of Accountants hosted Meet the Firms in Ursa Major in the Bronco Student Center. The following 32 public accounting firms, private corporations, and government entities met with over 200 accounting students at the first in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic:



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to the Scholarship awardees of 2021-2022! We are also deeply grateful for our scholarship donors, who made these scholarships possible.

Accounting Scholarship Fund (RSM US LLP) Awardees

Angela M. Chong

Brandon M. Doan

Casie Lundquist Emery

Alyssa Ortega

Abigail Rodriguez Colin

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

NATHAN SI

Current MSA Graduate Student;
Upcoming Audit Associate at Eide Bailly

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

I have been attending school for as long as I can remember, but the MSA program is likely the final step in my educational journey. Wrapping up the program leaves me with bittersweet feelings. Part of me is nervous to enter the workforce and leave behind the freedoms of being a student, and part of me is excited to finally progress in my life and never do another homework assignment! Although there are bound to be a plethora of challenges in my future, I am confident that Cal Poly Pomona's Accounting program has given me the foundation and skills necessary to push forward. After finishing the MSA program, I will start working at Eide Bailly as an audit associate. From there, I plan to continue building on my accounting experiences and eventually tackle the CPA exam. Despite all the hardships that college has brought along, I believe that it was all worth it in the end. I am nervous about what the future may bring, but I am looking forward to my next step in life.





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

IRINA GRIGORIAN

Graduate CPP student
Upcoming Audit Associate at Moss Adams

Irina Grigorian is a current international student at Cal Poly Pomona who double majors in hospitality management and accounting. She maintained an overall GPA of 3.99 throughout her four years at CPP and has maintained a position on the Dean's Honor List. While she found the addition of a second major a challenging decision for her, she believed it was essential for her to achieve future career and academic goals that she set for herself. Irina also plans on getting her CPA license and has already passed the first of four exams.

Since coming to the United States for her education, Irina has actively involved herself on campus, joining clubs like Beta Alpha Psi and Beta Gamma Sigma, in addition to tutoring students at the Learning Resource Center (LRC). She acquired an advanced tutor certificate through the International Tutor Training Program Certification during her time at the LRC. Furthermore, she obtained a student leadership position as a Director of Finance for the Hospitality Management Council (HMC). In her third year, she became the Council's President and expanded both her leadership and organizational skills.

Feeling the need to expand her experience, Irina found a part-time job in a private business club in downtown LA. She also worked at Oakmont Country Club, located in Glendale. Last summer, she acquired an internship at a top 20 public accounting firm – Moss Adams. Following the internship, she received and accepted a full-time offer from Moss Adams to join their team as an Audit Associate. She is eager to dive into the accounting sphere and learn how to apply concepts she learned in school to the real world.

“Education is the key to unlocking a lifetime of endless possibilities, so embrace your future endeavors. As the future is not something we enter. The future is something we create.”

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

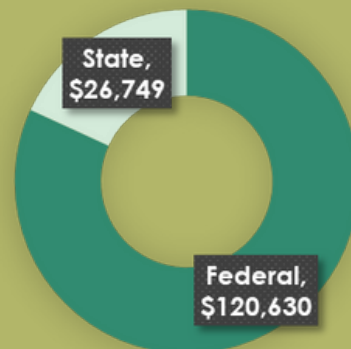
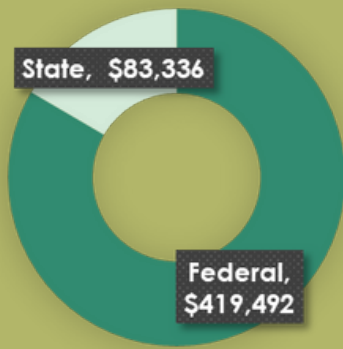
The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is an IRS initiative that provides free tax preparation services for low-income taxpayers. This includes the elderly, people with low English proficiency, and those with disabilities. Tax returns were prepared by the Pomona VITA Clinic for over 250 taxpayers who lived in the city and surrounding areas.

Cal Poly Pomona is part of the CSU5+ VITA collaboration, which includes the five CSU campuses in LA County and other community college sites. The VITA program provides students with professional experience and real-life applications that can carry over to their future careers. The 2022 tax year had in-person and virtual options, easing concerns for those who are at high risk for COVID-19.

VITA 2022 DATA SUMMARY

Total Tax Refunds: \$502,788

Total Earned Income Tax Credits: \$147,379



2022 AFC PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Victor Cardona, an adjunct faculty at Cal Poly Pomona, as well as the Senior Vice President and Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) officer of Golden State Bank, recently won the 2022 Anti-Financial Crime (AFC) Professional of the Year award.

Previously studying criminal justice, Cardona has always been interested in fighting against crime. He found a job working as a BSA analyst and has stayed in his profession for about 20 years. He is proud to be fighting against financial crime and finds his work very important. He is proud to share his knowledge with future generations at Cal Poly Pomona.



FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Associate Professor Dr. Joonho Lee was awarded the College of Business Outstanding Professor of the Year Award in 2022 for his continuous support of students and numerous contributions to the department. Dr. Lee joined Cal Poly Pomona in 2016 with years of teaching and research experience overseas. Therefore, one of his expertise areas is international accounting which he taught early when he joined the Broncos. More recently, he mainly teaches ACC 3110, 3120, and 6600.

In his ACC 3110 & 3120 – Intermediate Accounting I & II, he introduces students to fundamental accounting concepts using the accounting framework, applications of various accounting standards, and the logic behind those standards. Students also learn about how to prepare and interpret firms' financial statements through a variety of hands-on projects.

Dr. Lee also contributed his knowledge and expertise to the department by teaching ACC 6600 – Contemporary Accounting Issues at the MSA program. In ACC 6600, he helps students expand their accounting perspectives by analyzing many current issues in accounting professions such as accounting complexity, global accounting standards convergence, fair-value accounting, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) accounting, etc. Through various case studies and discussions, students not only identify current accounting issues but also learn how to criticize multifaceted competing arguments in each issue, which helps them prepare for professional careers in accounting.

His main research subjects are financial accounting, particularly securities analysis, earnings management, and management earnings forecast studies. Dr. Lee published papers in prestigious academic journals such as the Journal of Accounting and Public Policy and the Journal of Business, Finance and Accounting. In 2022, Dr. Lee served the College of Business Administration as a member of the Graduate Studies Committee. We thank Dr. Lee for his continuous contribution to our department and congratulate him for earning the College of Business Outstanding Professor of the Year Award.



JOONHO LEE, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

FEATURED FACULTY MEMBERS

Fei Kang, Ph.D., CPA **Associate Professor, Accounting**

Dr. Fei Kang was awarded the Provost's Teacher-Scholar Award in 2022 for her contributions to the frontiers of the accounting disciplines and pedagogical scholarships to the development of the accounting curriculum. Dr. Kang received her Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of California, Irvine, and she is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She teaches Auditing and Cost Accounting. Her research interests are in the areas of auditing and corporate governance. She has been published in Accounting Horizons, Accounting Research Journal, Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory, Business and Society Review, Managerial Auditing Journal, and other high-influence accounting and auditing journals.



Mohamed Gomaa, Ph.D. **Associate Professor, Accounting**

Dr. Mohamed Gomaa joined Cal Poly Pomona in 2017. Over the years, he has contributed his knowledge and expertise to the department through the development of new courses focusing on Data Analytics and Cybersecurity in Accounting. In 2022, Dr. Gomaa was awarded the Provost's Teacher-Scholar Award 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, he had 11 peer-reviewed papers published/accepted for publication in academic journals. He also had five papers published in conference proceedings, as well as five paper presentations at academic conferences during that period.

MSA PROGRAMS

The Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) program in the newly named Singelyn Graduate School of Business at Cal Poly Pomona has a solid reputation in Los Angeles County and statewide. The MSA program provides two paces to accommodate working professionals. Currently, there are 45 students in the two-year General MSA program and 53 students in the one-year Accelerated MSA program. The MSA students were hired by international, national, regional, and local firms, including the Big Four, Eide Bailly, CliftonLarsonAllen, Franchise Tax Board, and IRS.

Recently, the Accounting Department redesigned the MSA program to focus on the skills that students need to excel in the current professional environment. The major changes to the MSA program include the following:

Focus on Data Analytics & Technology: In 2020, the Accounting department was invited to participate in a program with the AICPA to encourage students on the path to becoming CPA technology professionals and credential holders of the AICPA's Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) Credential. There is growing demand for accounting professionals with specialized skills and knowledge of technology and systems to help organizations achieve their business goals and manage the risk technology introduces.

To help our MSA program meet the requirements to participate in the program, our students develop data analytics skills through hands-on work with various software tools used by accounting professionals such as Tableau and Power BI to analyze the huge volumes of data available today. Students are also taught about cybersecurity issues and challenges in accounting, network devices, servers, databases, and other devices used in an accounting system, as well as techniques to audit and secure these systems. Furthermore, students study forensic accounting which focuses on the procedures and techniques used in the prevention, investigation, and detection of occupational and financial statement fraud.

For more information, please visit:

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



MSA PROGRAMS

New Courses: To support our focus on data analytics and technology, our faculty members are actively designing and teaching new graduate courses to prepare students for the continuously evolving global business environment. New graduate courses include the following:

ACC 6500

Advanced Analytics in Accounting

This course focuses on data analytics for business professionals, with an emphasis on uses in the field of accounting. Technical aspects of data acquisition, cleansing, and loading into data warehouse structures are discussed. In-depth discussion and hands-on skill development are concentrated on analysis, visualization, and use of the data acquired.



ACC 6550

Cybersecurity in Accounting

In this course, students learn about cybersecurity issues and challenges in accounting. Students learn to identify, describe, and assess cybersecurity threats and apply the techniques available to audit data centers and disaster recovery, network security and related controls, and servers and databases.



ACC 6800

Fraud & Forensic in Accounting

The course focuses on the procedures and techniques used in the prevention, investigation, and detection of occupational and financial statement fraud. Students learn a variety of techniques that can be used for fraud detection.



WELCOME BACK, PROFESSOR FISK!

The Accounting Department is excited to have Associate Professor Sharyn Fisk return to teaching after taking a Leave of Absence to lead the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). Professor Fisk assumed leadership of OPR in early 2020.

As Director of OPR, Professor Fisk set the standards for ethical and professional conduct expected of tax professionals. The OPR plays a critical role in tax administration. As former IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig stated, "Taxpayers, the IRS, and the tax community rely on this office to help uphold strong professional standards among tax professionals" and that the Director of OPR is "a critical position for the nation's tax community."



The OPR is responsible for interpreting and applying the Regulations set for in Treasury Department Circular No. 230, which establishes the rules governing those who practice before the IRS including attorneys, Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), and Enrolled Agents (EAs). The OPR provides guidance on these rules, investigates allegations of misconduct, and when determined appropriate imposes sanctions for violations of Circular 230. The OPR's enforcement of the ethical and professional standards for tax professionals helps to maintain the public's trust in the tax system and promotes voluntary compliance among taxpayers.

The OPR also works to increase education, awareness, and understanding of Circular 230 through engagement with tax professionals across the United States. As OPR Director, Professor Fisk engaged directly with thousands of tax professionals each year.



With her experience as the nation's standard-bearer for integrity in tax practice as well as her more than 20 years of experience as a tax practitioner,

Professor Fisk brings her extensive experience in ethics and professional responsibility to the Accounting Department. Professor Fisk's insights can also provide students with practical guidance on how to navigate ethical dilemmas that may arise in their future careers. Also, Professor Fisk's experience and credentials reflect the high value the Accounting Department places on ethics and professional responsibility and its commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education that includes practical, real-world knowledge.

Throughout her career, Professor Fisk has demonstrated a strong commitment to professional responsibility and ethics in her work. She is extremely well respected both internally at the IRS and throughout the tax professional communities. Prior to her Leave of Absence, Professor Fisk served as director of Cal Poly Pomona's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. She is a certified tax law specialist with the California State Bar, has held leadership roles in several tax professional organizations, is a Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel, and has written and spoken extensively before national, state, and local tax professional organizations on all aspects of civil and criminal tax controversy issues and ethics in tax practice. Professor Fisk earned her B.A. in journalism from San Diego State University, a J.D. from Rutgers University, and an LLM in taxation from the New York University School of Law.



The Accounting Department is proud to have an experienced and dedicated faculty who are committed to providing students with a comprehensive education that prepares them for successful careers in the accounting and tax professions.

A WORD FROM OUR ADVISORS



ADRIANA MARES

My name is Adriana Mares, and I am one of the Accounting Advisors for the College of Business Administration at Cal Poly Pomona. Ten years ago, I was a Cal State student working towards a bachelor's degree in Sociology. As a first-generation, low-income, and English as a second language student, my educational path was not easy; yet I was determined to achieve a higher education. A few years ago, I graduated with my master's in College Counseling and Student Development. My mission as a professional in higher education is to continue guiding and supporting college students through their educational journey. Go Broncos!

MARC D. CORRA

With 7 years of advising Business students, it is my joy to help students achieve their goals. As a professional advisor, I strive to bring current philosophies and theories to my work, utilizing experiences gained in training, conferences, and workshops. Prior to advising, I've worked with students in university admissions, tutoring, financial aid, and many other facets of students' educational experiences, so that we may partner in their success! My bachelor's degree is from CSU San Bernardino, and my master's in education is from San Francisco State.



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Lee, J., S.G. Chung. (2019). Analysts' reactions to firms' real activities management. *Review of Accounting and Finance* 18(4): 589-612.

Pak, H. S., S. Fisk, and **J. Lee**.(2020). Banks' compliance practices with disclosure requirements for mortgage servicing rights. *Pan-Pacific Journal of Business Research*.

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