

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of the department newsletter. The academic year 2021-2022 has been a year of exciting developments in the Department of Accounting at the Chaifetz School of Business.

The Fall 2021 semester kicked off with the department's Meet the Firms Night in September. This event was held virtually in 2020. We were glad to bring it back in person in 2021. About 180 students attended the event to meet and network with representatives from firms and companies.

With the support of the Chaifetz Young Accounting Professionals Board, the department launched its Accounting Scholars Mentoring Program in Fall 2021. Each Accounting Scholar is paired with one member of the Board who serves as a personal and professional resource to advise on educational or career-related topics.

A focus of our curriculum revision this year has been to realign our curriculum with the new CPA Evolution model. An Accounting Data Analytics course was designed and offered to students for the first time in Spring 2022.

The department held its inaugural Armanino Case Competition in Spring 2022. Ten teams with students from different majors participated. Antin

# Department Events

The Department of Accounting hosted a series of events to provide accounting students opportunities to network with accounting professionals and to get more information about the CPA exam and future job opportunities.

## MACC INFORMATION SESSION

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On Monday, November 8, 2021, the Department of Accounting held its annual Information Session to provide accounting undergraduate students with information regarding the MACC/Integrated programs. The information session is an extremely important event, which allows the department to reach out to students in the early stages of their undergraduate studies to learn about the strengths of our MACC programs and the successes of our graduates. The Department of Accounting also uses the information session as an opportunity to provide students with information regarding our highly popular study abroad option for graduate students in Madrid.

This year's information session was also beneficial for students as we discussed the recent change in Missouri, which allows students to sit for the CPA exam upon completion of 120 credit hours, and the upcoming changes to the CPA exam in 2024. The information session included a presentation led by Prof. Neil Janrewere nreption r Su8 (a )0.5 1dn7ini0.8 (c)0-0.8

# Department Events

## ARMANINO CASE COMPETITION

On April 6, 2022, the Department of Accounting held its inaugural Armanino Case Competition. Armanino LLP graciously sponsored the competition by providing the case study and judges for the event and offering prize money for the top three teams. The case competition was open to all students in the Chaifetz School of Business. Teams were given two weeks to analyze the case and prepare a formal presentation to a panel of judges from Armanino and SLU Department of Accounting faculty. Each team was assigned an accounting faculty mentor to answer any questions and to guide them as they prepared their presentations. Each member of the team was required to take part in the formal presentation, and upon completion of the presentation, the team was asked questions by the panel of judges. Despite their extremely busy schedules, we were excited to have ten teams take on this extra challenge!

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After concluding an afternoon of excellent presentations by the teams, the judges ultimately decided on the following winning teams. The judges were impressed with the problem-solving skills, talent, passion, and energy of the students. Congratulations

# Curriculum and Programs

The Department of Accounting has been revising/updating its curriculum and programs to meet the needs of the accounting profession and to prepare students with necessary skills for their future careers. In Spring 2022, a new course titled “Accounting Data Analytics” is being offered. Please stay tuned for more changes to be implemented to the curriculum and programs in the coming semesters.

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## **Accounting Data Analytics Course**

The Accounting Data Analytics course is offered for the first time to upper-level undergraduate students and MACC students in Spring 2022. This course was designed and is currently taught by Dr. Lei Zhao, a recipient of the 2021 Chaifetz School of Business Curriculum Innovation Grants.

This course aims to help students develop an analytical mindset, increase their exposure to analytical tools used in the accounting profession, and provide adequate training to develop their analytical skills. These tools include, but are not restricted to, Excel, Alteryx, PowerBI, and Tableau. The course focuses on diagnosing problems and issues, analyzing relevant information, making responsible and ethical decisions, and reporting decision results and recommendations. It applies transactional level accounting data to a variety of topics in financial accounting and managerial accounting. The goal is to synthesize theory and application to prepare students for real-world accounting practice and embrace evolutions in future Certified Public Accountant exams.

Please contact Professor Lei Zhao ([lei.zhao@slu.edu](mailto:lei.zhao@slu.edu)) if you would like more information on this course.



In this newsletter, we would like to feature two recent faculty publications in peer-reviewed journals. The summary of each paper includes findings, contributions, and practical implications. **Bidisha Chakrabarty** is the Edward Jones Professor of Finance. **Yan Sun** is the Gustave K. Klausner Professor of Accounting. isj /TT1 6

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### What made you choose to study Accounting at Saint Louis University?

I chose to study accounting at Saint Louis University in the spring semester of my sophomore year. As an undecided business student, I took my first four semesters to gain valuable exposure to a variety of disciplines in order to compare and better understand my options. After taking my first accounting class and interacting with the accounting faculty and other accounting students, I realized the benefits of an accounting degree. The flexibility gained from having a background in “the language of business” is why I ultimately landed on accounting.

### What do you like most about SLU’s accounting program?

My favorite part/experience in SLU’s accounting program is two-fold. First, I enjoyed the intimacy of the relationship between faculty and student. This was made possible because accounting is a more rigorous business discipline, thus a smaller number of students choose this route. I heavily relied on several faculty members to help guide my steps. Additionally, I found the type of student that the accounting degree draws to be helpful as well. Having a motivated and focused cohort of classmates enhanced my learning experience.

### What made you decide to get a MACC degree, and in particular, from SLU?

The primary driver behind my pursuit of the MAAC degree was to be well-prepared to sit for and pass all four parts of the CPA on the first attempt. Ensuring I had all

### What made you choose to study Accounting at Saint Louis University?

I took two accounting courses in high school, and accounting was actually one of the only classes I genuinely enjoyed. I had a phenomenal teacher at the time who helped me realize this was a field I wanted to pursue in college. SLU's accounting program impressed me, to say the least, and I valued the Jesuit mission and fell in love with the campus the second I stepped on it. I immediately felt at home here!

### What do you like most about SLU's accounting program?

My favorite part about this program has been the professors. As a student, it is one of the best feelings to know that your teachers genuinely care about you and will do everything in their power to help you succeed. My favorite memory was running a Holiday 5K for Professor Neil Jansen's class last semester. This event provided a great way to spend time with classmates outside of a classroom setting, as well as the opportunity to support a great cause (and a great professor!)

### What made you decide to get a MACC degree, and in particular, from SLU?

## BETA ALPHA PSI

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) is the international honor organization for financial information students and professionals. The Zeta Nu Chapter of BAP at Saint Louis University holds regular business meetings where professionals from accounting firms, companies, and government entities make presentations on a rich and diverse set of topics. In addition to traditional accounting areas, this year we also covered topics in finance and IT, including career management, small business lending, internal control, and tax fraud investigation.

In addition, our Zeta Nu Chapter of BAP hosts two reaching out meetings every year, one in the spring and one in the fall semester, to provide information about this organization to interested students. During 2021-2022, more than 120 students attended these two information sessions.

At the end of each semester, the Zeta Nu Chapter holds an Initiation Banquet to recognize new members admitted to the chapter. We were honored to have



# Accounting Boards

## ACCOUNTING ADVISORY BOARD

The Department of Accounting Advisory Board provides valuable advice and generous support to the department. The Accounting Advisory Board meets two times per year and discusses the curriculum of the department, changes in the profession, and student outcomes. Over the last few years, the Board has paid significant attention to the role of information technology and data analytics in the curriculum.

### Members of Accounting Advisory Board

- Nick Chambers, Director - Private Equity Services at UHY LLP
- Robert Cullen, Internal Audit Principal at Edward Jones
- Eric Darr, Director at BKD LLP
- Mary Doehring, Tax Managing Director - Business Tax Services at Deloitte Tax LLP
- Timothy Fagan, Assurance Partner at EY
- Alan Fine, Tax Partner at Armanino LLP
- Tim Gruninger, Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Thomas Hilton, Forensic and Valuation Services Partner at Anders CPAs + Advisors
- William Kaiser, International Tax Services at KPMG
- Judy Murphy, Assurance Services Group Partner at RubinBrown
- Sean Normile, Assurance Office Managing Partner at BDO
- Liz Schaetzel, Executive Assistant/Academic and Careers Manager at Missouri Society of CPAs
- Cliff Stebe, Chief Financial Officer at LMI Aerospace, Inc.
- Mary Hilton, undergraduate student representative
- Jack Schneider, graduate student representative

## CHAIFETZ YOUNG ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS BOARD

The Chaifetz Young Accounting Professionals Board was established in December of 2018. The mission of this Board is as follows: "We are a group of young professionals bridging the gap between the study of accounting and its practice to foster an academic environment dedicated to critical thinking, professionalism, and ethics in the service to the Jesuit Mission." The Board's primary activities have been to hold meetings each semester with the Department of Accounting faculty, involvement in the Network4Lunch Series, mentoring Accounting Scholars, and presenting to intro-level

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# Alumni Engagements

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JOHN J. JABOURI III**

CHAIR OF THE CHAIFETZ YOUNG ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS BOARD

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