



Scheduled Conferences

- 7th Annual IRS-SJSU Small Business Tax Institute – May 30, 2019
 - 35th Annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute— November 4 & 5, 2019
- ⇒ Special Keynote Speaker:
IRS Commissioner Charles P. Rettig

For more information, visit
www.sjsu.edu/taxinstitute/

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Individuals eligible to enroll in the MST Program or who already have an MST may take courses via Open University.

To learn more, visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/sjsumstopenu>

FACULTY NEWS

New Faculty Member Steven Pocaroba



We welcome Steven Pocaroba to our MST Faculty as he will start teaching the new Data Analytics and Security class in Fall 2019.

Steven is a Director in PwC's Tax Reporting & Strategy group, specializing in emerging technologies and process improvement for large, multinational technology companies. He has over 10 years of experience in the Silicon Valley working in a variety of sectors including the semiconductor, software, and internet service industries.

Steven loves working with clients to make their lives easier – combining best practices of technology (ex. Visualization Tools, ETL Tools, Robotics Process Automation, Workflow/ Document Management, Provision Software) to streamline processes, while considering the complex rules and requirements of financial statement reporting and tax compliance. Steven enjoys addressing new challenges every day in this fast-paced environment, and he prides himself on becoming a trusted resource for his clients.

Steven is an active leader within PwC and helps drive the firm's programs and initiatives through several leadership roles. Some of these functions include PwC's National Advisory Council, the Accelerate Leadership Program, the Ascend Leadership Program, the PwC Pan-Asian Employee Resource Group, the PwC Running Club, and the Corporate Responsibility Team.

Steven holds a B.A. in Business Administration (with an emphasis in Accounting) and an M.S. in Taxation from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Steven has been a frequent speaker for the Tax Executives Institute and is certified in several technologies across Visualization, ETL, and RPA tools.



Caroline Tso Chen made a presentation with fellow SJSU Professor Ben Anderson at the American Accounting Association (AAA) Western meeting on April 13, 2019. Their presentation was entitled Leveraging Data Analytics into Internal Audit: A Teaching Case.

Julia Ushakova-Stein's article, "Proposed FDII Regulations Bring Some Clarity," was published in *Tax Notes*, April 24, 2019.



FACULTY NEWS, CONT.



Annette Nellen's article "New State and Local Tax Obligations in Cyberspace," was published in the ABA's *The Business Lawyer*, Winter 2018-2019. A co-authored article, "Failure to Innovate: Tax Compliance and the Gig Economy Workforce" was published in *State Tax Notes*, May 6, 2019. This article ties to a presentation made at the May 2019 ABA Tax Section meeting. At the January 2019 ABA Tax Section meeting, she co-presented "Unintended Gender Bias In Our Tax Laws." She also presented "Tax Systems and Policy Modernization via Internet-Related Capabilities" at Mitchell Hamline School of Law's March 29, 2019 symposium, Revisiting "Realizing the Information Future: The Internet and Beyond." In late May, Professor Nellen completed a 2 ½ year term as chair of the AICPA Tax Executive Committee.



Kim Peterson co-authored "[IRS replaces transfer pricing roadmap with TP examination process.](#)" in *TP Week*, in April 2018. She also co-authored the U.S. chapter in IBFD's *Transfer Pricing & Dispute Resolution* publication.

STUDENT NEWS



Alan Mar and cat Murray

Congratulations to Alan Mar who was selected as the Outstanding MST graduate for Spring 2019.

Statement from Alan: "When I started my career in tax, I had no plans to pursue an MST. However, I quickly realized that I did not have the broad and deep tax expertise necessary to be a successful professional. I felt lost knowing that I had gaps in my knowledge, but I also feared not knowing what I didn't know. I took the Tax Research and Decision Making class on a recommendation from an SJSU MST alumni and it was, by far, the best career decision I ever made. It gave me the tools to find answers on my own and the confidence to discuss those answers with others. I am truly grateful for Professor Nellen, Cathy Dougherty, and the entire faculty for making the MST program such a great place to learn and develop."

Congratulations to Juan Barragan who was awarded a scholarship in May from the Silicon Valley Tax Directors Group.



ALUMNI NEWS

Anita Stokes



"Don't let academic background or age deter you from pursuing a career in tax," says Anita Stokes, CPA, MST. Anita, who had an undergraduate degree in history and education from India, started in corporate tax at age 40, shortly after completing her MST from SJSU. She began her diverse tax career working for public accounting firms Coopers & Lybrand and Ernst & Young LLP, then moved to Corporate America to work for industry giants eBay and Netflix (among others), and finally closed her 27 year career providing tax services through her own company. Besides pursuing other interests since retirement, Anita also volunteers career counselling for currently enrolled MST students.

Anita's tax roles covered broad areas in both domestic and international tax, spanned companies of all sizes (SMBs, partnerships, and large tech and biotech companies in the Valley), and even included an expat assignment for eBay to oversee the company's international tax function in Europe. Additionally, she had multiple opportunities throughout her career to be at the forefront of new tax frontiers, that brought both challenges and uncertainties. Two were most notable. First was her stint as Sr. Director of International Tax at eBay. It was a time when eCommerce was just taking off and tax legislation was still lagging. Second was her stint as Head of Tax at Netflix. Streaming was in its infancy, resulting in a whole new set of tax challenges.

The MST program changed Anita's life. It opened the door to a very fulfilling career with many opportunities to choose from. Anita would encourage current MST students to get their CPA credential, to become comfortable navigating case law, the Tax Code and Regulations and last but not least, to hone their written communication skills. She believes these three key ingredients contributed heavily to her success.

Tell your colleagues about the SJSU MST Program!

Besides your testimonial, please refer them to this website:
<http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/programs/mst/index.html>

Information sessions are scheduled for:

- June 19, July 31, and October 2 at 6:00pm at our Bunker Hill location where classes are held
- August 7 at noon online via Zoom

For more information and to RSVP, go to:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/events/index.html>

MST students and alums: Have news to share with others? Please send details to
catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu.