Welcome new faculty members, Fred Foldvary and Matthew Haag

Fred Foldvary, PhD—Adjunct Faculty SJSU Economics Department
Fred E. Foldvary received his B.A. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University. He has taught economics at the Latvian University of Agriculture, Virginia Tech, John F. Kennedy University, California State University East Bay, the University of California at Berkeley Extension, Santa Clara University, and currently at San Jose State University.


Matthew Haag, PhD—Director, PwC
Matthew Haag is Director of Tax for Transfer Pricing with PwC in San Jose. He previously was a senior instructor at the University of Warwick in Coventry, UK. He earned a PhD in economics from Georgetown, as well as his MA in economics. He has two undergraduate degrees from UC Berkeley, in economics and applied mathematics. At PwC, Matthew is involved with ASC 740 reviews, due diligence, cost allocation projects, audits, private letter ruling requests and Advance Pricing Agreements. He is the firm’s national coordinator for the U.S. National Economics Team. Haag will be co-teaching BUS 225U: Fundamentals of Transfer Pricing.

Outstanding Student
Congratulations to Mengting Li, who was selected as the Outstanding MST graduate for Spring 2016. Mengting will be recognized at the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business convocation ceremony on Friday, May 27 at the SJSU Event Center. Mengting has accepted a position with Ernst & Young in the Tax Diversified Staff Group at the San Jose office.

“Through the MST program, I was granted the opportunity to learn from experts in both academia and industry. It provided me with broad exposure to many topics within taxation and offered different perspectives on policy theory versus real world practice. The most valuable experience for me was that from the ample interactions with faculty and peers both in and outside of the classrooms, we formed lasting relationships and their tremendous support guided me throughout the program to build up more confidence as well as improve my intellectual thought process.”
MST Program News

The MST Program has seen an increase in the number of full-time students in recent years primarily due to the 150-unit requirement to become a CPA in California. Enrollment has been at 120 students for the past several years. In spring 2016, the program added a course, Accounting Ethics, which counts as a required ethics course students must take to become a CPA after 2016. In addition to regular studies, students have opportunities to attend TEI and CalCPA Tax Section events, present financial literacy topics to the public, hone their writing skills at the SJSU Writing Center, join Beta Alpha Psi, write for the program’s online journal (The Contemporary Tax Journal), participate in MST-sponsored interview workshops and mock interviews, and attend conferences co-sponsored by the MST Program. In fall 2016, the MST Program expects to launch four new certificate programs that each require nine units. Three are advanced certificates, including one in international taxation, available to students who already have an MST degree. The other certificate is for a student with an undergraduate degree in accounting (or equivalent) who is eligible to be admitted to the MST Program but initially seeks study in tax research and two electives (these nine units count towards an MST degree that can be completed within seven years). Watch for news on our website - http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/programs/mst/current/index.html.

Faculty News

Joel Busch. MST faculty, serves on the CalCPA's Committee on Taxation. One of the numerous tax legislation and policy matters that the Committee undertakes throughout the year is tracking and communicating with legislators and the Franchise Tax Board surrounding California tax legislation. One of the legislative and enforcement fronts that the Committee has been working on is the California tax return due date impacts from the recently enacted changes at the Federal level for many types of tax returns starting in the 2016 tax year. There is pending California legislation (Assembly Bill 1775) which would generally conform the California due date changes for partnerships and C corporations, among other taxpayers, to that at the Federal level. Information obtained from the Committee is utilized in courses taught in the MST program.

MST Director Annette Nellen will be presenting on Post-DOMA Tax Considerations at the AICPA Conference on Tax Strategies for the High-Income Individual on May 25 in Las Vegas. She will also be presenting on New and Used Ideas for State Tax Systems at the 49th Annual Conference of the Multistate Tax Commission on July 27 in Kansas City. Beginning October 2016, Professor Nellen will become the Chair of the AICPA Tax Executive Committee and serve a two-year term.

Scholarships

Congratulations to the following MST students who received scholarships from various organizations:

- Shilpa Balnadu: Silicon Valley Chapter of AFWA
- Shayan Khales: TEI Silicon Valley Chapter and Ronald and Patricia VandenBerghe Family Scholarship
- Fei Chen: TEI Silicon Valley Chapter
- Phuong Ly: Silicon Valley Tax Directors Group, Silicon Valley Chapter of AFWA
- Mengting Li: Lam Research Scholarship

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