



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Pictured (l to r): Dan De Jong, Tax Counsel, TEI; Professor Annette Nellen, Director of the SJSU MST Program; Alex Ciak, MST student; Angela Li, MST Student; and Neil J. Young, TEI Chapter First Vice President.

On September 18, 2014, the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of Tax Executives Institute awarded scholarships to two SJSU MS Taxation students, Angela Li and Alex Ciak. These generous awards are for academic achievement. The Santa Clara Valley Chapter is a longstanding supporter of the MS Taxation program and has been awarding scholarships to MST students for many years. Alex Ciak was also recently awarded the Ronald and Patricia VandenBerghe Family Scholarship, which helps full-time graduate students. The award is based on full-time status and high GPA.

Scheduled Conferences

- 31st Annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute—Mon/Tues, November 9 and 10, 2015

For more information, visit www.tax-institute.com

Prospective Students



<http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasschool/prospective-mst/index.html>

Connect with us:



<http://goo.gl/AisH7f>



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The Fall 2014 issue of the *Contemporary Tax Journal* is online at:

<http://www.sjsumstjournal.com/>

STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS

Most Outstanding MST Graduate

Congratulations to Erika Codera (pictured below), who was selected as the Outstanding MST graduate for Fall 2014. She was recognized at the Lucas



College and Graduate School of Business convocation ceremony on Friday, December 19 at the SJSU Event Center.

Annette Nellen Invited to Vienna

In late October, Professor Annette Nellen was in Vienna, Austria at the invitation of the government to serve on a faculty team to review the PhD program in International Business Taxation at the University of Vienna.

Faculty Activities

- Annette Nellen and Eric Ryan spoke on taxation of virtual currency at the 30th Annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute on November 10, 2014.
- Annette Nellen spoke on worker classification at the AICPA National Tax Conference in DC on November 4.
- Will Skinner authored *Corporate Separations and Divisions Involving Foreign Corporations*, RIA Checkpoint Analyst Topic (June 2014).

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STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS, CONT.

MST Retreat

The third MST Retreat was held October 24 and 25 to offer students an opportunity to further enhance their communication, interpersonal and business etiquette skills. Led by Vince Fong, adjunct faculty member, it was a big success and the attendees said they would definitely recommend the event to other students.

Teaching Taxation Forum

The MST Program started a "Teaching Taxation Forum" that meets once per semester to allow faculty to share ideas on teaching both undergraduate and graduate tax. In addition to SJSU faculty, the group includes MST alums who are teaching tax full-time or part-time at community colleges and the UC Extension.

"Career Advancement/Lean In" Group

To help MST students focus even more on career advancement, a "Career Advancement/Lean In" group was formed which meets monthly in the evening. Discussions center around Sheryl Sandberg's book [*Lean In for Graduates*](#).

The 30th Annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute was held November 10-11, 2014 at the Crown Plaza Cabana in Palo Alto, CA. Five MST students had the opportunity to attend the conference (4 are pictured below).



Chenglei Liu, Professor Nellen, Jun Xie, Erika Flores, and Ryan Zhou

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://www.sjsu.edu/lucasschool/current-mst/open_university/index.html.

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

ALUMNI NEWS

**David Neighbors,
Partner, GALLINA LLP**



David is a partner in GALLINA's Silicon Valley tax practice and has more than 20 years of business experience in Silicon Valley specializing in corporate and individual tax compliance and planning. David has experience in the areas of compensation planning, start-up and emerging growth issues, mergers and acquisitions, accounting for income taxes, research credits and stock option planning.

Prior to joining GALLINA, David was with KPMG Peat Marwick and Ernst and Young in San Jose. He works with high net worth individuals, closely-held businesses, partnerships, limited liability companies, and fiduciaries.

Approach

To best serve his clients, David's goal is to become engaged in their success by taking a proactive approach to their needs.

Involvements

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), member
- California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA), past president of San Jose/Silicon Valley Chapter
- Rotary Club of San Jose East/Evergreen, member
- San Jose State University's Lucas Graduate School of Business, adjunct faculty
- Beta Alpha Psi at San Jose State University, scholarship committee
- Berryessa Union School District, elected member of the governing board
- Academy of Finance at Independence High School, advisory board
- National Hispanic University Foundation, board of trustees
- Community Leadership San Jose, alumni
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Clara County, past board member
- Alum Rock Counseling Center, past board member

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Accounting from San Jose State University
- Master of Science in Taxation from San Jose State University

Other Interests

- Regularly volunteering time helping local non-profit organizations with their annual tax filings
- Running to stay in shape
- Reading books about sports