

## Scheduled Conferences

- IRS-SJSU Small Business Tax Institute—June 22, 2016
- TEI-SJSU Tax Policy Conference—TBA (a Friday in May 2016)
- 32nd Annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute—November 7 and 8, 2016

For more information, visit [www.tax-institute.com](http://www.tax-institute.com)

## Prospective Students



<http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/programs/mst/prospective/index.html>

## Connect with us:



<http://goo.gl/AisH7f>



@sjsutax

**SJSU** | LUCAS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

<http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/>

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>

## STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS

This fall marked the 10th anniversary of Jeff Sokol, Partner at Deloitte, teaching BUS 225L, Accounting for Income Tax, in the MST Program. This class, offered every fall, is one of the most popular electives in the program. Jeff uses technology well in his class, capturing his presentations and posting them on YouTube for later use by students. With over 50,000 hits on his YouTube channel, far more individuals than our MST students find Jeff's videos useful. The photo was taken in Jeff's Fall 2015 class on the night he was recognized for his service to the program. He is pictured with a few of his 52 students. Jeff's videos can be found here - <https://www.youtube.com/user/BUS225L>.



This fall, [The Accounting Path](#) named MST Director Annette Nellen as one of the top 22 accounting and tax professors using social media platforms such as Twitter, to "help the accounting profession reach a broader audience and a younger listener." She was recognized for her almost daily tweets including linking to content from her 21st Century Taxation blog and website.

Congratulations to June Xie, who was selected as the Outstanding MST graduate for Fall 2015. June graduated in Summer 2015 and will be recognized at the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business convocation ceremony on Friday, December 18 at the SJSU Event Center.



June has already started working in the Federal Tax Practice Group at KPMG. She says that one of her most memorable MST experiences was serving as student editor for the MST journal. Per June, "I had opportunities to edit and publish articles and interview a well-known tax expert. It was a valuable experience." June also says she learned a lot from her fellow students due to their varied backgrounds and levels of tax experience. Per June, "I think the relationships built through the MST program will be long-lasting ones."

## INTERIM SJSU PRESIDENT IS A TAX ACCOUNTANT!



Dr. Susan W. Martin assumed the role of the interim president of San Jose State University on August 18, 2015. She previously served as the president of Eastern Michigan University for seven years. Dr. Martin's PhD in accounting and MBA were earned at Michigan State University; her undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University is in public speaking. Dr. Martin has several accounting certifications: CPA (inactive), CMA, CIA, Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), and CGMA. (Article continued on page 2)

## INTERIM SJSU PRESIDENT, CONT.

In 1988, Dr. Martin became a Professor of Accounting and Taxation at Grand Valley State University where she not only taught, but served in various roles including MST Program Coordinator, Director of International Business Programs, and Executive Associate Vice President Of Academic Affairs. Prior to joining Grand Valley State, Dr. Martin served the State of Michigan as Assistant Auditor General, Deputy State Treasurer, and Commissioner of Revenue.

Among many honors, Dr. Martin is a recipient of the Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Professor of the Year award (1999 and 2001), and the National Distinguished Leadership Award from the Association of Government Accountants (1987).

## NEW HOME FOR THE CONTEMPORARY TAX JOURNAL



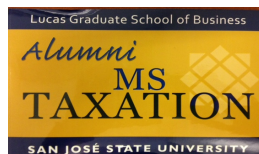
The *Contemporary Tax Journal* is produced and published twice annually by the San Jose State University Masters of Science in Taxation (MST) Program in the Lucas Graduate School of Business. This is a peer-reviewed, student-managed online journal featuring work of SJSU MST students, as well as original articles from tax practitioners, academics and graduate students. The journal launched in 2011 to offer SJSU MST students an avenue for enriching their graduate tax learning by engaging with tax compliance, planning and policy areas through writing, editing and researching.

The *Contemporary Tax Journal* also enables students and the MST Program to provide a community service through broader understanding of the tax law. Two sections of each journal provide this service - "Focus on Tax Policy" and "Tax Enlightenments." "Tax Enlightenments" explain current tax topics for readers of all levels of tax knowledge. Additional student-authored sections are "Feature" with summaries of one of the MST program's four annual tax conferences, and "Tax Maven" where a student interviews a well-known person in the tax world. We hope students, practitioners and policymakers will find these articles insightful and helpful.

We recently moved the journal to be housed on the SJSU ScholarWorks website. SJSU ScholarWorks is a digital repository of the research, scholarship, and creative works of San José State University faculty, students, and staff. The repository increases the global visibility of the campus community's intellectual output. The new link is: <http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/sisumstjournal/>.

On the home page you will find the current issue. You can view or download the entire journal or individual articles. From the home page under, "Select an issue:" you can find past issues of the journal. You can also search all journals by entering search terms. When you view an article, you can click on the author's name and view other articles written by them. On the bottom of the homepage you can see a world map and see where in the world people are viewing and downloading articles and which articles. If you are browsing the page, be sure to go to "Journal Home" rather than "Home" to get back to the *The Contemporary Tax Journal* home page.

## SJSU MST ALUMNI STICKER



Look what we spotted! It's great to see proud SJSU MST Alumni around town. If you are an SJSU MST Alumni and would like a sticker, please contact

[catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu](mailto:catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu) and provide your mailing address and we'll send you one!

**MST students and alums: Have news to share with others? Please send details to [catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu](mailto:catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu).**

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Leyla Hanson, CPA**

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



Leyla has over 20 years of experience working in industry in the accounting field. Since 2003, she has been the principal of her CPA firm, located in Sunnyvale, CA. Her firm specializes in tax compliance and planning, with a particular emphasis on individuals with stock option grants/exercises, start-up corporations, individuals with real estate holdings, and professional S corporations.

Prior to forming her own CPA firm, Leyla's experience ranged from internal audit (which enabled her to travel the globe for several years), Corporate Controller, VP Finance, and Tax Manager. It was not until the late 1990's, during her corporate controllership of a German based U.S. corporation, that Leyla became interested in taxation. The tax implications of the international corporate environment enabled her to work with a large San Francisco tax firm and her interest in taxation blossomed. This was the turning point at which she decided to shift her career from accounting to taxation.

Leyla's determination to excel in a career in tax led her to the MST program at San Jose State University. The first class she attended, Tax Research, taught by Annette Nellen, convinced her that she made the right choice to choose tax as a career. Leyla graduated from the MST program in May 2002. That same year, she passed the CPA exam and received her CPA license in 2003.

In addition to her MST from San Jose State, Leyla has an MBA from the American Graduate School of International Management ("Thunderbird"), and a BA in Economics/German from Vanderbilt University.

Leyla enjoys teaching and has been a tax professor at Foothill DeAnza College. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Sunnyvale Rotary as well as the Sunnyvale Historical Society.

Leyla says, "My MST degree from San Jose State University changed my life. The knowledge I gained as an MST student, while working in corporate tax positions in the Bay area, allowed me to utilize the skills learned at SJSU in my daily work. In addition, the camaraderie between the students and the professors, coupled with the project based assignments, created a memorable learning experience."