

Scheduled Conference

38th Annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute
November 7 & 8, 2022

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:

<https://bit.ly/sisumstopenu>

MST FACULTY HIGHLIGHT WEBINAR - BUILD BACK BETTER AND THE FOREIGN TAX CREDIT LIMITATION

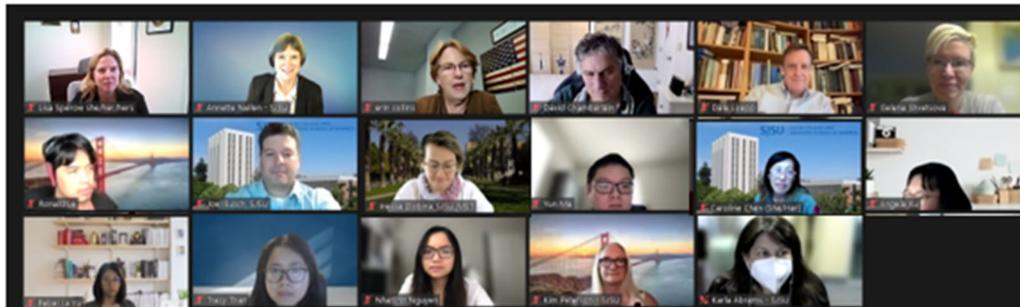
On February 4, 2022 (Friday), the MST Program is offering a webinar from noon to 1 pm featuring Professor Caroline Chen. This webinar covers the application of the country-by-country basis by newly proposed "taxable units" and the repeal of the carryback and modifications to the carryforward to GILTI-related foreign taxes, among other BBB modifications. This event is free and offered via Zoom. Continuing education credit will be offered to California CPAs and attorneys and Enrolled Agents (IRS CE credit). For more information and to register, go to <https://www.sjsu.edu/taxinstitute/webinars.php>.

PROGRAM NEWS

MST Director Annette Nellen spoke at a few conferences this fall including about issues with the IRS FAQ process at the Fall ABA Tax Section meeting, cryptocurrency income tax issues at the Kasner Estate Planning Symposium, and business tax developments and should everyone be an employee at the AICPA National Tax Conference. Her work on the AICPA-NASBA curriculum task force for CPA Evolution continued with presentations made to educators at both the Michigan and Florida CPA Societies. In October, Professor Nellen co-presented a paper at the California Lawyers Association Tax Section's Sacramento Delegation event on the need for guidance for California purposes on the application of §1031 to virtual currencies.

Special Guest Presenter

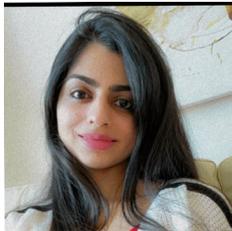
On October 22, 2021, **IRS National Taxpayer Advocate Erin Collins** held a special zoom visit with tax students and faculty from the SJSU MST Program and CalPoly. Ms. Collins explained her role and that of Taxpayer Services, her career path, current issues and took questions from students.



STUDENT NEWS

Thank you to MST Mentors

During the pandemic and online classes, we started a mentoring program so new students could also connect with a senior student (via zoom). We continued this program into the fall when we also had in person classes. The MST Program extends a big thank you to our Fall 2021 mentors: Jim Ackerman, Yulin Ke, Jane Lei, Dimple Mukhi, Karla Rees and Mina Yeh.



Two of our student mentors: Dimple Mukhi (L) and Karla Rees (R)

Capstone Course

BUS 223H, Tax Policy Capstone, is offered each summer. It brings a tax policy focus to the numerous tax rules and concepts students learn during the program. We do a deep dive into the principles of good tax policy and the policies underlying each type of tax. Each student selects a tax proposal they are interested in and researches its purpose, history, issues, possible reforms and how it stacks up against principles of good tax policy. We also have a few guest presenters visit to talk about policy topics. In summer 2021, our visitors: (1) SJSU Professor Leonard Lira on Budget as Policy Making; (2) Lorraine Cohen and Karen Beznicki of Deloitte explaining how they got involved in proposing and seeing enactment of a special composite income tax return reporting process for non-resident business travelers (AB 2660); and (3) Edward Karl, VP Taxation of the AICPA. In addition, on the all-day Saturday class, we hold hearings similar to what Congressional tax committees do. Students sign up as witnesses on various topics, are given a particular aspect of that topic to address, and research and present five minutes of testimony. Students are required to ask questions of the witnesses, and witnesses must be prepared to answer them. Prior to these hearings, students review a tax reform hearing and learn how witnesses prepare to testify.

ALUMNI NEWS

Cliffina Chan, CPA, MST



Cliffina Chan, CPA, MST, has over thirty years of experience in tax and accounting.

She started in the accounting field in Hawaii right after college in the 1990s doing tax planning and preparing federal and state tax returns in a variety of industries for an international as well as a local CPA firm. In the late 1990s, she joined a boutique Singapore CPA firm to assist many expatriates on their individual tax and investment plans as well as to review and prepare U.S. federal, state, and local tax returns. She moved to the Bay Area in 2000 to accept a position from an international CPA firm as an international tax specialist.

In 2004, Cliffina joined the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) San Francisco office as a Revenue Agent. In 2005 she moved to the San Jose office first as an International Examiner, next as a Senior Team Coordinator, then a CAP Coordinator and currently a Senior Revenue Agent with the Cross Border Activity (CBA) of the Large Business & International (LB&I) Division. Cliffina loves her career experience at the IRS. She particularly enjoys working with and learning from the many talented and passionate tax professionals at the IRS.

While working at the IRS, Cliffina sought to improve her tax skills and knowledge further by pursuing a Master of Science in Taxation (MST) degree at San Jose State University (SJSU) in the evenings. She graduated in the spring of 2011. Cliffina believes her time at SJSU provided her invaluable life skills, elevated her mindset to look at the big picture, and educated her to appreciate both the technical and policy aspects of tax laws. At the same time, she has enjoyed the camaraderie of the many fellow tax professionals she met and has continued a lifelong relationship with many tax practitioners in the Bay Area.

Outside of work, Cliffina enjoys reading, travelling, and hiking. She hopes one day to volunteer her tax services to the public.

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

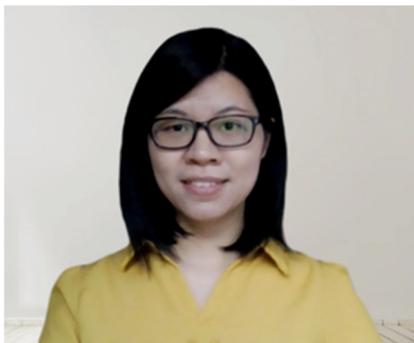
Congratulations to Pooja Karelia and Dongdong Zhang Outstanding MST Graduates for Summer/Fall 2021

Pooja Karelia, CPA, an All India Rank Holder Chartered Accountant in India graduated from the MST program in Summer 2021. Pooja has been passionate about taxation from a young age and had an internship at Deloitte, India where she had her first encounter with the American tax system. She has worked at Kotak Bank, one of India's largest private banks, in the Corporate Real Estate Management team. She was the team leader for cost optimization projects and was the youngest person to be promoted to the Senior Manager position for her outstanding performance.

Moving to the U.S., Pooja aspired to become a professional tax consultant. She says that the SJSU MST program opened doors of opportunity to take the leap forward in realizing her ambitions. She notes that it was an absolute honor to be a part of a program that helps to translate dreams into reality.

Pooja mentored many new students in 2020 and 2021 and is a firm believer of building a strong network of young professionals. She actively took a leadership role in group projects and maintained an informal chat group on social media where MST students can interact.

Taxation is such a dynamic field especially with upcoming multiple proposals and updates to the code. Pooja believes that the skillset acquired in the tax research and tax policy classes will help to distinguish her in her career. The MST program helps to garner the skills required to materialize real-world opportunities. Pooja is extremely grateful to be part of this program and would encourage anyone interested, to take a leap of faith. This program has the capacity to completely change your perspective on taxation and jumpstart your career.



Dongdong Zhang says that pursuing the MST degree was one of her most exciting and transformative experiences. "This program provided me with invaluable lessons that were far beyond my expectations. The knowledge I gained is relevant for my career. The strong network with peers built through this program will last my lifetime. I am so grateful to my competent, generous, and patient professors for providing me with their educational and constructive suggestions to improve my confidence in beginning my career in tax."

Dongdong's advice for new MST students: "I firmly believe that you will benefit from every minute you spend in the MST program. I strongly recommend you explore the MST journey with your curiosity and passion. I hope all of you enjoy it as much as I did."

Tell your colleagues about our upcoming information sessions. All sessions will be conducted via Zoom. For more information, and to register, refer them to:

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