

# *Tiger Tactics*

ACCOUNTING NEWS ► 2023



**Department of Accounting**

**LSU**

E. J. Ourso College of Business

# A Note from the Chair

Greetings, alumni and friends

It is with gratitude that I share the latest issue of Tiger Tactics, the Department of Accounting's annual magazine. As you read about our students, faculty, and alumni, know that your generous support played a role in their success.

This issue has an international flair as we explore a variety of study-abroad experiences and highlight an alumni couple who now call Switzerland home. We celebrate an accomplished graduate recently recognized as the college's 2023 Outstanding Young Alum. You can read about the Deloitte Audit Innovation Campus Challenge team and our student organizations, Beta Alpha Psi and the National Association of Black Accountants. The LSU Center for Internal Auditing has earned a new name after expanding its offerings – be sure to read more about that and their upcoming anniversary celebration.

As always, Tiger Tactics highlights faculty and doctoral student research and achievements. We'll introduce you to some new faces and bid farewell to a longtime instructor. We are honored to recap our spring banquet and share more about the impact of your giving.

We hope these stories will renew your connection to the department and your Alma Mater. If you would like to support our work, see page 13 to learn more about opportunities to invest in our future. Whatever you give, we are always sincerely thankful for you.

Please visit our website ([lsu.edu/business/accounting/](http://lsu.edu/business/accounting/)) for more information, and remember that you can reach us at [accounting@lsu.edu](mailto:accounting@lsu.edu) or 225-578-6202. You can also follow us on Instagram (@lsu\_accounting) and LinkedIn (search LSU Department of Accounting).

We send our warmest wishes for a prosperous 2024 and beyond.

Geaux Tigers!

Best Regards,



Thomas J. Phillips Jr.  
*Department Chair & Professor*  
*Thomas H. Daigre Endowed Chair*  
LSU E. J. Ourso College of Business  
Department of Accounting



On the cover: Department of Accounting Assistant Department Chair Laura Wiley joins business students on a learning journey to Paris and other European capitals.

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# Faculty and PhD Program News

## Faculty/Staff News

### Sanaz Aghazadeh

This past year, Aghazadeh's research was published in *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*. Aghazadeh is also chairing the American Accounting Association Audit Education Section Committee for 2023-24 and is on the editorial board of *Behavioral Research in Accounting*, a leading journal in the field. She also advised the Deloitte Audit Innovation Campus Challenge team, which was selected as a national finalist again this year, making five consecutive years of being a national finalist.



Sanaz Aghazadeh

### William (Bill) Buslepp

Congratulations to William Buslepp for his promotion to associate professor. Buslepp teaches the accounting information systems course, where he has integrated Microsoft Excel certification into the accounting curriculum. His research has been published in *The Accounting Review*, *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*. Recently, he was invited to present his research at the 2023 PCAOB Conference on Auditing and Capital Markets.



William Buslepp

### Elizabeth (Liz) Briggs

Accounting instructor Liz Briggs retired after 15 years. Her teaching interests were in financial and governmental accounting. In addition to teaching on campus, she helped create and teach online financial and managerial accounting classes. Briggs was awarded the Outstanding Teacher award in the Department of Accounting in April 2023.



Elizabeth Briggs

She is enjoying retirement and spending time with her five grandchildren. We are grateful for her many years of dedication to our students.

### Maggie Olivier

Maggie Olivier, department coordinator, received the 2022-2023 E. J. Ourso College of Business Staff Excellence Award. Olivier has worked as the Department of Accounting coordinator for almost six years. As the coordinator, Olivier manages the department's daily business operations and administrative services and maintains the departmental accounts and budgets.



Maggie Olivier

## New Faculty

### Mike Morgan

Mike Morgan joined the accounting faculty as an instructor after serving as a professor of practice for nine years at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to academia, Morgan served as chief financial officer for several technology companies. Morgan is a licensed CPA who received his Bachelor of Accountancy from the University of Mississippi and completed graduate work at Mississippi College and the University of West Florida. He is married to Tracy Morgan, who joined the LSU accounting faculty last year as an instructor. Morgan is an active member of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants, where he is frequently a presenter at CPE events. He is also a member of the Louisiana Government Finance Officers Association.



Mike Morgan

## New PhD Students

### Kailyn Southerland

Kailyn Southerland received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stephen F. Austin (SFA) State University. During her undergraduate studies, she worked in banking and tax preparation; this sparked an interest in business and accounting, which led to her obtaining a Master's in accounting. During the program, she worked for SFA as a teaching assistant. This experience led her to recognize her love for learning, research, and teaching.



Kailyn Southerland

### Chi Lam

Chi Lam completed his bachelor's degree in finance and international business, MBA, and Master's degrees in economics and accounting at New Mexico State University. He is a CPA and comes to LSU with over a decade of work experience in accounting and management in the US and Hong Kong.



Chi Lam

With these experiences, and as a believer in lifelong learning, Lam decided to pursue a PhD at LSU. He hopes that, as an accounting academic, he will enrich his students' experience by conveying knowledge, sharing practical work experience, and helping students succeed.

## Other PhD Program News

Two PhD students graduated in Spring 2023. **Hilary Hughes** was placed at Creighton University, and **Wanying Jiang** was placed at the University of Texas – Permian Basin.



Hilary Hughes



Wanying Jiang

The following are publications with former PhD students and current faculty:

**Hilary Hughes** (PhD '23) and **Stephanie Walton** have a publication in *Accounting Horizons* with Thomas J. Smith titled “Material Contract Redactions and Cybersecurity Breaches” in the September 2023 issue. Read the abstract: <https://tinyurl.com/LSUresearch1>

**Lacey Donley** (PhD '22), **Joey Legoria**, **Stephanie Walton**, and **Ken Reichelt** have an accepted article in *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* titled, “Chinese auditor inspection access challenges: The market’s response to integrated US regulatory and legislative action,” and is in press and published online. Read the abstract: <https://tinyurl.com/LSUresearch2>

**Joe Johnston** (PhD '09), **Pradeep Sapkota** (PhD '19), and **Ken Reichelt** have an accepted article in the *Journal of Information Systems* titled “Measuring Financial Statement Disaggregation Using XBRL.”



## Students



### Deloitte Audit Innovation Campus Challenge

The Deloitte Audit Innovation Campus Challenge (AICC) fosters problem-solving among future audit professionals by asking teams to address an emerging business concern. The 2022-2023 challenge focused on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) in audit and assurance, asking teams to consider the accounting profession’s role in driving rigor and discipline with ESG reporting and accelerating the dissemination of information to capital markets.

LSU students rose to the challenge by creating Peripheral, a tool for analyzing ESG compliance and providing a tailored roadmap with milestones for a company to reach. For the preliminary round, a written response and a visual sample of the Peripheral site were submitted for evaluation.

The LSU team was one of 12 selected to advance to the finals. After weeks of collaboration and practice, the team demonstrated its solution to the judges at the finals held on the Deloitte University campus in Westlake, Texas, in April. During finals weekend, students participated in a social media challenge, networked, and connected with mentors. Although the team did not place in the top three, the students developed professional skills that will be important in all aspects of life.



Deloitte AICC Team: Sanaz Aghazadeh (advisor), Grant Cretin (BS Accounting and Finance '24), Mary Caroline Wilcox (BS Accounting '25), Brooklyn Brown (BS Finance '23), William Liu (BS Accounting '24), Olivia Elam (BS Accounting '24), Dean Jared Llorens

“Participating in the Deloitte AICC competition was unforgettable! This competition taught me the importance of communication, teamwork, time management, and creativity,” said Olivia Elam.

## Accounting Major Receives PCAOB Scholarship

In June, **Luke Paille** (BS Accounting '23, MAcc '24) was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB).

“Being named a PCAOB Scholar is a tremendous honor. I cannot claim this award on my own, though, as I could not have reached this point in my education without the support and philanthropy of so many people in my life. I thank my family, friends, professors, and the LSU Department of Accounting for supporting me and aiding my success. I promise to make the most of this opportunity. God is good!”

In the fall of 2024, Paille will begin his employment at Ernst & Young in New Orleans.





**Reagan Osborne**  
BS Accounting '23

LSU Swimming – Freestyle

### What are your post-graduation plans?

I graduate this December and hope to enter the Master of Accountancy program. This upcoming summer, I have an internship in Houston with KPMG.

### What has accounting taught you about yourself?

I like working with numbers. Sometimes, the things that seem dull about accounting, I find satisfying. I like it when it all comes together at the end.

### How has being a student-athlete helped you in accounting?

Through swimming, I knew I liked being a part of a team, and accounting reinforced that. If I go into audit, there's a lot of teamwork. Swimming has prepared me well. It also helps with time management, as I must manage my classes while practicing 20 hours per week. Swimming helps me stay on top of my academics; I have to get work done early since you never know what might pop up.

### What advice do you have for an incoming accounting student?

When you first learn something, don't try just to memorize it for the test and allow it to vanish from your brain. Everything you learn builds off its predecessor—additionally, research career opportunities in accounting. I didn't realize how many options are out there.

### What characteristics do you think a student needs to have to be successful in accounting?

You have to be open-minded and dedicated to what you're doing because you have to work in groups very often. Be willing to learn from a different perspective.

### Do you have a favorite class?

I like audit analytics. I enjoy working with the software and figuring things out.

### What is your favorite LSU tradition?

I love "Callin' Baton Rouge." It's always fun at the swim meets. The parents really get into it, too!

### What are you looking forward to this year?

I'm looking forward to graduating, and even though it's bittersweet, swimming in my last meet at LSU.



**Ben Koch**  
BS Accounting '24

Men's Tennis

### What are your post-graduation plans?

After playing professionally, I will take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam and then become a CPA, or I'll look into financial advising.

### How has being a student-athlete helped you in accounting?

Accounting is basically organizing transactions, and I have to be organized in my life because, as a student-athlete, I don't have time to mess around. Learning to manage my time, being organized, and understanding the importance of numbers helped me the most. Numbers are really important in learning statistics in tennis.

### What advice do you have for an incoming accounting student?

Always read the textbook after the lectures because it reinforces what you learned. You get into a deep hole when you get behind in accounting. Accounting is like a sport. The more you practice, the better it will be. So, I would say, practice it.

### What characteristics do you think a student needs to have to be successful in accounting?

Someone who is organized and enjoys problem-solving would do well in accounting. If you get to the end and the debits don't equal the credits, you have to figure it out. If you like looking for a solution, accounting could be a fit for you.

### What is your favorite LSU tradition?

Having a live on-campus mascot, Mike the Tiger, sets us apart. It's pretty cool.

### What are you looking forward to this year?

Graduating, having a good senior year, and finishing strong academically and athletically.

Follow us on Instagram @lsu\_accounting

# Beta Alpha Psi

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) is an honors organization that welcomes accounting, finance, and ISDS majors. Members gather weekly to build their networking skills and learn about professional development topics from firms around the nation. BAP provides a unique approach to networking by creating a professional yet relaxed atmosphere. Each meeting includes dinner, a firm presentation, and time for members to meet the professionals to explore career opportunities. This year, the chapter was awarded superior status. Check out our highlights!

In the 2022-2023 school year, members completed over 250 service hours. Students participated in activities such as donating books to the local library, volunteering at the Baton Rouge food bank, assisting in animal care at the LSU animal shelter, doing outdoor cleanups around town, and much more. Beta Alpha Psi teaches members that no matter where they are in their careers, giving back to the community is always important.

In February, six students attended the national Beta Alpha Psi Mid-Year meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. Joseph Li, Thomas Bushart, Katherine Whatley, Sydney Melder, Anna Montanio, and Madison Moya participated in community service events and enjoyed presentations from other BAP chapters.

Each semester, the organization hosted a “Meet the Firms” social where sponsoring firms were invited to join and socialize with students outside the classroom. Members enjoyed axe throwing in the fall and a sand volleyball tournament in the spring. These events allow our members to take a break from the school/firm environment and enjoy friendly competition and casual networking.

Beta Alpha Psi is continuing to grow and welcoming more students every year. This organization is a great way to meet and connect with peers, strengthen networking skills, and get first-hand tips from professionals. The organization recruits at the beginning of every semester. Please visit [bapphi.org/join-bap](http://bapphi.org/join-bap) for further details.

**Follow BAP on Instagram @bapsu**

**Thank you to our 2022-23 sponsors:**

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ExxonMobil  
Faulk & Winkler  
Louisiana Legislative Auditor  
Moss Adams  
Personnel Consulting Group



From top: Beta Alpha Psi members sort food bank donations. At a BAP professional development meeting, king cake and networking were on the menu. A sand volleyball tournament was part of the spring “Meet the Firms” social. BAP members volunteer at the LSU animal shelter. (Left) The Louisiana Legislative Auditor spoke at a BAP meeting.





## The National Association of Black Accountants

Officially chartered in 2011, the LSU student chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) serves to develop Black business leaders in accounting, finance, and entrepreneurship. NABA offers student members personal and professional development opportunities through networking, internships, scholarships, and mentorship. During the 2022-2023 academic year, NABA organized social events, community service activities, professional development meetings, and conferences to help members build meaningful connections and develop their skills.

NABA is grateful for partnerships with Deloitte, EY, KPMG, PwC, and Entergy. These sponsors host professional development meetings and allow students to network with professionals. Additionally, they gave helpful career advice, and students had an opportunity to learn about internships and full-time career opportunities.



In June, LSU business students Clarence Magee II and George Johnson attended the 2023 NABA National Convention & Expo in New Orleans. In addition to learning about the latest accounting, business, entrepreneurship, and finance trends, attendees networked with representatives from more than 50 corporate partners at the career expo. The students also participated in exciting breakout sessions that inspired and activated the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing workforce environment.



“The NABA convention was a great experience that opened my mind to new business acumen and opened my eyes to new opportunities and things I had not been introduced to before,” said Johnson, a third-year accounting major from Houston.

Left from the top:

Clarence Magee II and George Johnson at the 2023 NABA National Convention and Expo.

Danielle Coleman (membership coordinator), Reya Machen (social media coordinator), and Simone Barnum (SCREP coordinator) at the LSU Involvement Fest promoting NABA to first-year students.

NABA officers Samir Neal (treasurer), Breanna Price (vice president), and Jared Cyprian (president), at the annual Accounting Awards Banquet.

As an end-of-the-year treat, the NABA officers put together a social event at Top Golf where members came together one last time to wind down before finals and talk about our summer and plans.



Follow NABA on Instagram @nabaatlsu

# Accounting Students Travel the World



## MAcc Students in Central America

In March 2023, 17 Master's of Accountancy (MAcc) students traveled to Costa Rica for a spring break study abroad experience. This trip was the first ever trip to Costa Rica for the MAcc program, and it did not disappoint. The group stayed in San Jose, the capital, but ventured to the surrounding areas of Alajuela, Cartago, Turriabla, and the Pacific Coast.

Trip highlights included visits to the following:

- ▶ La Paz Waterfall Gardens – Walking the trails through the park allowed students to see amazing waterfalls and local wildlife.
- ▶ Hacienda Alsacia – This coffee farm is the only one in the world owned by Starbucks. After learning about coffee production and research, the group enjoyed coffee products at the farm's open-air Starbucks.
- ▶ Le Chaudron Farm – The group enjoyed artisan specialty cheeses and learned about Costa Rica's cheese industry.
- ▶ Walmart Distribution Headquarters for Central America and Mexico – The group toured the massive distribution center and witnessed the efficient shipment of goods to individual stores.
- ▶ Nortico Cacao Farm – The students learned about cacao farming and chocolate production. They even had the opportunity to make chocolate bars – which is harder than you think!

“This trip was one of the best weeks of my life. The number of friendships that I created on this trip is incredible. I recommend everybody to take this trip abroad with LSU. My eyes were opened to many different businesses in Costa Rica. We learned about business goals and the processes used to achieve them.”

— Suleiman Kayed, BS Accounting '23, MAcc '24

The trip was such a success that the next class of MAcc students will be traveling to Costa Rica again in 2024.





## Accounting Students in Europe

For four decades, the E. J. Ourso College of Business has partnered with International Business Seminars to offer short-term, business-focused study abroad experiences for business majors. In 2023, accounting students had two opportunities to travel to Europe.

- ▶ Winter Europe Seminar – During the 2022-23 winter break, accounting students **Collin Booberg** (BS '24), **Mia Chiota** (BS '23), **Alise Wille** (BS '23), and **Grace Zehnder** (BS '22, MAcc '23) traveled to London, England; Paris, France; and The Hague, The Netherlands. They traveled with other LSU business students and students from universities around the United States. Some of their business visits include Lloyd's of London Insurance Market, the Hard Rock Café in Paris, and the Port of Rotterdam. A cultural highlight was visiting the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.
- ▶ Summer Europe Seminar – During summer 2023, accounting students **Bertha Campos** (BS '24), **Hayden Cowart** (BS '22, MAcc '24), **Elizabeth McFeaters** (BS '25), and **Madison Shaffer** (BS '22, MAcc '23) traveled to Europe, visiting six different countries over 23 days. Their itinerary included visits to the BMW assembly plant in Munich, Germany, Cantina Valpantena Winery in Verona, Italy, and Chelsea Football Club in London.



“This was my favorite trip I have ever gone on. Every day was amazing. I loved how we went to so many different places and experienced six countries. I would recommend this to anyone wanting to study abroad, as it was such a good trip. I loved gaining insight into the business world.”

— Elizabeth McFeaters (BS '25)

From top: Students learn about team operations while visiting the Chelsea Football Club in London. Cantina Valpantena Winery in Verona teaches lessons about the perfect vintage and managing an agricultural cooperative. Students tour the Port of Rotterdam, the largest port in Europe.

## Accounting Student Down Under

In summer 2023, **Sydney Duncan** (BS '23) participated in a 10-day International Business Seminars program in Sydney and Cairns, Australia. Among the organizations she visited are the American Chamber of Commerce in Sydney and the Jaques Coffee Plantation. Cultural visits included the Sydney Opera House and the Great Barrier Reef.

“I gained abundant knowledge about the Australian lifestyle, culture, and businesses. Before the trip, I aimed to meet new people, take in the Australian culture, and absorb as much information as possible. This program allowed me to accomplish all these goals.”

— Sydney Duncan, (BS '23)



## International Leadership Experience

**Katherine Whatley** (BS '24) attended KPMG's Global Advantage Program in Brussels, Belgium. One of 120 participating students, Whatley was the first LSU student selected for this program.

“Representing the Tigers abroad was such an honor, and I am so blessed to have been given this opportunity. It was so valuable to meet like-minded leaders who are unified by an urge to learn and their love for KPMG,” says Whatley.

The attendees underwent global leadership training and experienced the culture with accounting peers from around the world. Katherine is thrilled to bring the tools and lessons learned back to her classes, sorority, and the event coordinator position in Beta Alpha Psi at LSU. She will intern for KPMG Houston in the audit sector in the summer of 2024.



# LSU Center for Internal Auditing & Cybersecurity Risk Management

## LSUCIA&CRM

The LSU Center for Internal Auditing expanded to focus on cybersecurity risk management and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. Recognizing these modifications, the program has been renamed the LSU Center for Internal Auditing & Cybersecurity Risk Management (LSUCIA&CRM).

LSUCIA&CRM addresses the three most significant risks to organizations: cybersecurity, ESG, and talent management. Curriculum enhancements enabled students to identify cybersecurity concerns when considering an organization's overall risk profile. Students who complete additional cybersecurity courses will have a solid foundation in internal audit principles. The program was also included in a grant from the National Security Agency to support the LSU Cybersecurity Clinic.

In addition to cybersecurity, students have received instruction on critical ESG topics.



## Anniversary Celebration

In January, the LSUCIA&CRM will start its 40th year of operation. We look forward to welcoming alumni and friends back for a reception to be held on Feb. 1. Alumni who have not received an invitation should email [lsucia@lsu.edu](mailto:lsucia@lsu.edu).

Staff are developing a strategic plan for the 40th year. The plan's emphasis will parallel the emerging issues facing the internal audit profession and the business world. The goal is to have the best-prepared entry-level staff auditors with a vision for the future.

LSU was the first university to offer an internal auditing program and is now a model for university programs worldwide.

## Cybersecurity Training

Alumnus Wesley Ladd, MBA '17, provided 16 hours of cybersecurity training for LSUCIA&CRM students in spring 2023. His presentation covered the history of cyberspace, where it is headed, and the steps needed to harness cybersecurity. Ladd is scheduled to provide four sessions for students in 2024. Founder and lead instructor at GRC Train, Ladd passed the CISSP exam as a student – a first for our program. Ladd also presented two sessions at the 2023 IIA Baton Rouge and LSUCIA&CRM Annual Conference.



Wesley Ladd

## ESG Course: Environmental, Social, and Governance (ACCT 4236)

Following a successful two-semester trial, the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) course is now officially a part of our curriculum offerings. This course is a comprehensive exploration of emerging challenges within ESG. It delves into critical areas such as emerging non-financial disclosure concerns and the associated vulnerabilities to fraud and greenwashing. Additionally, the course emphasizes sustainability reporting and the 17 ESG goals set forth by the United Nations, encompassing their 10 principles and 169 targets. ESG is poised to emerge as one of contemporary business's most pivotal issues.

## 2023 Case Studies

Students began their summer with the program's comprehensive case studies course, which is sponsored by Ernst & Young. During the week, student teams presented on over 75 internal audit topics. We are honored to acknowledge Lysa Sanchez, a partner at Ernst & Young, who has supported the course over the last 16 years.

"Case studies gave me ample opportunity to polish my presentation skills while working alongside my classmates."

– Brisa Gawlikowski, BS Accounting '25

"Case studies was one of the most exciting and challenging courses I have taken at LSU. By immersing ourselves in unfamiliar material daily, my teammates and I built our confidence in presenting various topics from the auditing world. To make the experience even better, there was constant support and feedback from practitioners from Ernst & Young as well as Deloitte, which I feel has been so valuable in my professionalism and in setting my goals for the future."

— Marcus Heinse, BS ISDS '25



## 20th Student to win CIA Award

The Dr. Glenn E. Summers Award was presented to Joshua Castille, CIA, CPA in 2019. The international award recognizes the student with the highest score on the CIA exam.



Joshua Castille

Joshua is a risk advisory services manager at Weaver in Houston. A program graduate, he holds a BS in Accounting. Castille was also named to the IIA 2023 Emerging Leaders list.

## Internships

The LSUCIA&CRM program has now placed 2,866 students in internships over its 39-year history. The program is grateful for our sponsor companies' continued dedication and support.

Bailey Zehnder, BS Accounting '24, interned with Deloitte in Houston this past summer.



Bailey Zehnder

Jack Bravos, BS Accounting '24, and Cameron Strait, BS Accounting '24, interned with Quanta Services in Houston.



Jack Bravos and Cameron Strait

## IIA Baton Rouge Chapter and LSUCIA&CRM Annual Conference

In partnership with the IIA Baton Rouge Chapter, the Center for Internal Auditing & Cybersecurity Risk Management hosts a two-day training conference for internal auditors to learn from presenters and each other, earn continuing professional

education, and network. The program is designed for all experience levels. This year's conference, held Sept. 25 and 26, included the following LSUCIA&CRM alumni speakers: Laura Soileau, EisnerAmper; Wesley Ladd, Train GRC; Jared Soileau, LSU; Kyle Harvey, EY Americas Cyber Consulting; Mark Weinberg, PwC; Kerin Long, Charles Schwab; William Syll, Deloitte; and Jude Viator, EisnerAmper.

## IAEP Student Global Conference

The IAEP Student Global Conference is an annual event hosted by the IIA in Orlando. This international event invites students and educators associated with the internal audit profession to connect and gain insight into how to become a competent internal auditor. Professionals provided guidance on joining the field and discussed trending topics such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. This year, the event was held April 16–18. Pictured here (from left to right) are LSUCIA&CRM representatives who attended the conference: Anthony Benton, JC Russell, Brisa Gawlikowski, Lydia Lafleur, Jewel Lewis, William Anguiano, and Joshua Kamara.



## 2023 Certification Update

A primary focus of the LSUCIA&CRM program is high certification goals. Through the internal auditing courses, students receive valuable preparation for the IIA Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) exam, which full-time students can take

while in school. Professional certification significantly enhances marketability and provides a head start on career development. Hundreds of students who complete the LSUCIA&CRM program have earned credentials, including 20 students who earned the highest international student score on the exam.

During the spring 2023 semester, three LSUCIA&CRM students passed Part I of the CIA Exam. Pictured are Eric Francewar, Whitney Zaunbrecher, and Julianna Dardeau. Congratulations!



Eric Francewar



Whitney Zaunbrecher



Julianna Dardeau

## John Beard

In the spring, John Beard visited with LSUCIA&CRM students to share his plethora of experiences in the internal auditing profession. Beard has been a supporter of the program for over 35 years. He has given presentations to students, hired both interns and full-time employees, and provided support.



John Beard

Follow LSUCIA&CRM on Instagram @lsu\_cia

## Accounting Graduate Recognized as the 2023 Outstanding Young Alum

**Jacques Bourque**, BS Accounting '15, was recently honored with the E. J. Ourso College of Business Outstanding Young Alum Award. This honor recognizes an LSU business graduate under 40 years of age who has exhibited great promise in their career and whose early accomplishments distinguish them as an upcoming leader in their profession.

Bourque was named chief financial officer of Catalyst Bancorp, the parent company of Catalyst Bank, in February 2022, making him the youngest public bank CFO in the country. His previous roles include treasurer of Catalyst Bank, internal auditor at Home Bank, and staff accountant at Wright, DeHart, Dupuis & Hutchinson LLC, a local public accounting firm based in Lafayette, LA. Bourque has served as an officer for the Acadiana chapter of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants (LCPA) since 2019 and was recently appointed to serve as the state chair of the LCPA's Emerging CPA Council.

He also holds an MBA (2017) from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and earned his CPA in 2018. Bourque currently resides in Lafayette.



“As I thought back on my time at LSU and my professional career. I tried to answer the question, ‘What were the handful of things that led me to the level of outstanding?’ The more I thought about it, and the more I thought about myself, the harder it was to come up with a really good answer. I always thought that my contribution to my success was pretty easy: give it all you’ve got, don’t quit something when you start it, and try to keep things simple for everyone. But that’s not what has lifted me to the level of outstanding – it’s this place. It’s the incredible guidance and support that I received from the college of business. It’s the people right here in this room. It’s without a doubt the people who are seated at my table who have led me to this point.”

— Jacques Bourque



Scan QR code to hear Jacques Bourque's Outstanding Young Alum acceptance speech.



### Connections Count

New address? New job? Career accomplishments?

Share what's new with you.



## Accounting for a New Adventure

For many, the thought of leaving everything behind to embark on a journey to Europe may seem like a distant dream. But for **Kaleb Huckeba** (BS Accounting '17, MAcc '18) and **Reka Perry** (BS Accounting '15, Macc '16), this dream became a reality as the couple took a risk to pursue their passion for living abroad.

Huckeba began his professional journey at KPMG Houston as an external auditor. His dedication and hard work led him to pass all four parts of the CPA exam while working full-time. After his stint at KPMG, he transitioned to the role of a senior technical accountant for a mid-sized fitness software company, where he became the primary subject matter expert in software development and various complex accounting areas. However, Huckeba yearned for the client-service aspect he had missed, which prompted his move to a national accounting advisory firm as a supervising senior consultant in the technical accounting service line.

Perry obtained her CPA license and worked as an external auditor at Ernst & Young (EY) before venturing into an internal auditor role at a Fortune 500 oil and gas company, where she played a vital role in streamlining and enhancing various processes. However, her fondness for financial accounting and client service pulled her towards a position at a national accounting advisory firm. As a senior technical accounting advisor at CFGI, Perry engaged in diverse financial transactions, including acquisitions, SPACs, and unique data transformation and tax restructuring projects.

While both enjoyed success in their corporate accounting careers, Huckeba and Perry shared a lifelong dream of living in Europe. When an opportunity arose to move to Hungary, Perry's home country, they made the bold decision to seize it. They packed their bags and, along with their two dogs, embarked on a new adventure. In Budapest, they immersed themselves in the local culture and lifestyle while working part-time as independent accounting contractors. It was in Hungary that they found a lifestyle that resonated with their goals.

Their time in Budapest marked a unique "life pause" during which they enjoyed the fruits of living in Europe. However, Huckeba and Perry were ready to continue their journey and careers. Perry secured a remarkable role at EY Switzerland, which prompted the couple to move to Basel. This decision marked the next chapter in their incredible journey.

The couple's diverse experiences and career paths have been invaluable, shaping their professional and personal growth. Their advice to others is clear: sometimes, taking a calculated risk and embracing opportunities can lead to an extraordinary life.



# Department Honors Outstanding Students and Faculty

The Department of Accounting held its annual Accounting Awards Banquet on April 26 at the Business Education Complex. With some 160 guests in attendance, the annual event once again allowed the department to highlight student and faculty accomplishments.

"We thank all of the sponsors who make this event possible," said Laura Wiley, assistant chair of the Department of Accounting. "It is a night for students, parents, faculty, and department supporters to celebrate academic excellence."



"I was so honored to be the recipient of the Carol Calkins Scholarship. I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Calkins, as she was at the awards banquet and presented my scholarship. This made the evening even more special! Receiving this merit-based scholarship has motivated me to challenge myself to reach higher goals continuously. Being recognized for my academic achievements has given me greater confidence as I prepare to enter the workforce soon. It reaffirmed that I have tremendous potential as a future accountant. In addition, it provided financial support to help me complete my MAcc degree. I am so thankful for generous donors like Ms. Calkins and her continued support of LSU!"

**Caroline Ingraffia**, BS Accounting '22, MAcc '23

"The ROI on giving came home to roost while attending the Accounting Awards Banquet and observing the excitement of the recipient, Caroline Ingraffia, when she was awarded my scholarship. The joy on her face was the best dividend ever. Not only did I get to see her excitement, but all the other recipients that evening. The joy of giving comes back to one ten-fold in observing the joy of those receiving."

**Carol Calkins**, BS Accounting '70

## Faculty Awards

### Outstanding Teacher Award

**Elizabeth Briggs**

### Vincent C. Brenner Endowed Faculty Research Scholarship

**William Buslepp**

## Banquet Sponsors

**Baton Rouge Chapter of LCPA**

**Becker Professional Education**

**Deloitte**

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**Ernst & Young**

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**LaPorte CPAs**

**Wegmann Dazet, APC**

**Wiley Publishing**



Scholarships awarded by the Department of Accounting totaled **\$77,950**.

- ▶ Undergraduate awards — **\$32,450**
- ▶ Master of Accountancy awards — **\$43,500**
- ▶ Doctoral awards — **\$2,000**

An additional **\$16,750** was awarded by partner organizations.

# Donor Impact | The Department of Accounting

The Department of Accounting appreciates generous contributions from alumni, friends, firms, and corporations. These gifts allow us to serve students and the business community while expanding the body of accounting research.

- ▶ Donor support enhances the quality of graduates entering the accounting profession by strengthening academic programs and initiatives that promote student success.
- ▶ Contributions to the Accounting Development Fund are utilized to acquire research software, contributing to our broader comprehension of accounting and its influence on economic decision-making.
- ▶ Thanks to our donors, we can also offer programs and services to the business community.
- ▶ Gifts to the Department of Accounting Development Fund create working capital that can be used immediately wherever they are most needed and where they can have the most significant impact. These include—among many others—experiences that enrich the quality of students' education, resources to fuel innovation, professional development, and many other purposes.



To make a gift, use the enclosed envelope. If you prefer to give online, visit [giveLSU.org/tigertactics](https://giveLSU.org/tigertactics). Credit card gifts can be made online via our secure giving site. Your gift can be fulfilled via a one-time credit card contribution or can be set up for smaller, recurring contributions charged at the pace you choose.

**LSU** | E. J. Ourso College of Business

## DEAN'S CIRCLE

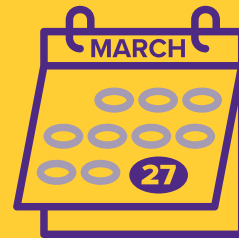


Annual gifts of \$1,500 or more to the Accounting Development Fund will qualify you for membership in the E. J. Ourso College of Business Dean's Circle. For more on the Dean's Circle visit [lsu.edu/business/deanscircle](https://lsu.edu/business/deanscircle). Are you a recent graduate? An associate membership (\$750 annually) is available to alumni and friends who graduated within the past 10 years.

### LSU Giving Day returns March 27, 2024!

Consider volunteering as a peer-to-peer or social media ambassador to show your LSU pride and raise money for the areas of campus that matter most to you. Ambassadors are essential to raising awareness of—and creating excitement for—LSU Giving Day.

To learn more or sign up today, contact [annualgiving@lsufoundation.org](mailto:annualgiving@lsufoundation.org).



### FY23 Giving By the Numbers

**272**

donors contributed to the Department of Accounting

**\$156,078.13**

to the Accounting Development Fund

**\$104,709.16**

to Accounting Scholarships



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Accounting

2800 Business Education Complex • Baton Rouge, LA 70803

## Need CPE or CLE hours?

The Department of Accounting hosts two affordable continuing professional education (CPE)/continuing legal education (CLE) events during the year — the Tax Seminar in January and the Fraud & Forensic Accounting Conference each July. Both events are two days, allowing professionals from all over the region to earn up to 16 hours of CPE, or 13.67 hours of CLE, for each event. Hear from leaders in the field of tax, fraud detection and prevention, and forensic auditing.

### 2024 Tax Seminar | January 10 – 11, 2024

Visit [lsu.edu/business/taxseminar](https://lsu.edu/business/taxseminar) for more information.

### 2024 Fraud & Forensic Accounting Conference | July 2024

Visit [lsu.edu/business/fraud](https://lsu.edu/business/fraud) for more information.  
Dates coming early spring.

