

# Former Business Services Student Employees: Where Are They Now?

Compiled July 2017



## **Katelyn Backhaus**

Bursar's Office, Jan 2014 – Dec 2016

Graduated: December 2016

Degree: B.S. in Biology and History

### Currently...

- Living in Madison, WI
- Employed as a lab technician at Exact Sciences
- Enrolled at UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. Studying surgery and planning to graduate in 2021.

### Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life by...

- Helping me strengthen my resume. It greatly assisted me in getting a job immediately after graduation.



## **Travis Balcerzak**

Accounting Services, Asset Management, Oct 2014 – Dec 2016

Graduated: May 2017

Degree: BBA in Accounting

### Currently...

- Has accepted a position at Deloitte in their audit practice in Chicago and will be starting in August or September 2018.
- Is completing the one-year masters of accountancy (IMAcc) program here at the UW and expect to finish it in May 2018.
- Fun Fact: I have just traveled to Boston and experienced all of the history that goes a long with that city. I also have plans to travel to the extremely rural countryside of Texas at the end of July and potentially Thailand, Cambodia and Laos in January 2018.

### Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life by...

- Building upon the ability to perform and work hard when no one is looking over shoulder to keep you on track. Since most people from here on out will never have

someone constantly keeping them on track, this is an extremely valuable trait to build upon.

**Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:**

- Really embrace the role you're in, by not only knowing what you're doing but truly understanding it to the point that you could train another student if asked to
- Really focus on enhancing your business communication by knowing how to tailor your message to the individuals you are communicating with.

## **Kimberly Correll**

Accounting Services, Travel & Cards, Nov 2014 – May 2017

Graduated: May 2017

Degree: BBA in Finance, Investment, & Banking

Currently...

- Living in Minneapolis, MN
- Working at an investment bank called TripleTree located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am an Investment Banking Analyst. My responsibilities include supporting the firm in the execution of its M&A and strategic advisory services. I also do a large amount of market and industry research, and financial analysis.

Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life by...

- Providing me with foundational skills that help me in my current job daily. My organizational, time management, and communication skills gained in Business Services are crucial to my role today.

Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Take on as many new projects as possible. Learn as much as you can and challenge yourself to try new projects that you might not know a lot about.



**Joey DeGuire**  
**(Now Brother Jordan)**

Accounting Services, Accounts Payable, June 2015 – August 2015

Graduated: May 2016

Degree: BA in Mathematics, Economics, and Religious Studies

Currently...

- Living in Denver, CO (but moving to St. Louis, MO soon)
- Is a novice for the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), a Catholic religious order. After my one-year novitiate in Denver, CO, I will begin six years of seminary studies in preparation for ordination to the priesthood. I will be a student at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St Louis, MO, working on an MA in Theology and a M. Div. for pastoral work.
- I was recently approved to make vows as a Dominican friar. Religious vows (like marriage vows) are what commit a Catholic brother or sister to their vocation, so this is sort of like my engagement! The profession ceremony will be August 12 in Denver, CO.

Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life.

- Even though I only worked with Business Services for one summer, I still look back happily on many of the friendships I formed there.

Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Never take your opportunity to work for granted, and always be learning something.



## **Vicky Fiorenza**

Accounting Services, Accounts Payable, Nov 2015 – Dec 2016

Anticipated Graduation: May 2019

Major: Accounting

### Currently...

- Living in Erin, WI for the summer
- Interning at Milwaukee Electric Tool in Brookfield, WI. I'm helping the company forecast foreign exchange rates and the best time to make their AP payments. I'm also conducting revenue transaction tests and doing foreign exchange revaluation audits.
- Taking classes at the Wisconsin School of Business to earn my accounting degree. I will be taking a tax class and an intermediate financial reporting class in the fall.
- Fun Fact: Traveled to Spain (Barcelona and Seville) over Spring Break with a fellow Business Services Student Employee, Taylor Wilson.

### Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life by...

- Helping me obtain an amazing finance internship. Without the experience of working there I do not think I would have gotten an offer. I also met some really great friends while working there who continue to be my friends to this day.

### Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Don't take the experience at Business Services for granted because not many students have the opportunity to have relevant work experience or work with amazing people like the ones at Business Services.



## **Jade Hall**

Marketing, Communication & Training, Feb 2014 – Dec 2015

Graduated: Dec 2015

Degree: BA in Political Science and Social Welfare

### Currently...

- Living in Greenfield, WI
- Interning for the summer at the American Civil Liberties Union. I work on various aspects of both state and federal cases. The cases involve constitutional and or civil rights violations by entities of the state of Wisconsin or the city of Milwaukee.
- I attend Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I will be a 2L in the Fall 2017 and am a J.D. Candidate with an expected graduation date of May 2019.

Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life.

- I learned a lot about how to communicate with regards to completing and prioritizing projects. I am more personable and interact better with coworkers while still keeping a professional balance because of Business Services. I also believe I created long lasting relationships that will forever be a part of my life journey.

Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Take advantage of your ability to work with people who have been where you are currently. Whether you want to be in the field you are in or not there are skills you are learning that will translate to the career you seek no matter what. Additionally, networking is key in the professional world so when you have the opportunity to

meet new people and make genuine, lasting connections you should be open to it. It is awkward at times but if you get used to doing it now you will be a pro when you graduate and you will thank yourself later for emerging yourself now.



## **Cole Kubisiak**

Purchasing Services, Jan 2016 – April 2017

Anticipated Graduation: May 2019

Major: Management & Human Resources & Marketing

### Currently...

- Living in Madison, WI
- Interning at The QTI Group Consulting Group - Madison, WI. Assists with analyzing survey results. Utilize database and spreadsheet software in data analysis and market pricing. Draft and revise presentations and reports. Conducts research on human resource issues. Coordinates compensation survey library. Provides general support to consulting team.
- Returning to UW-Madison in Fall.

Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life.

- The professional office skills that I learned at Business Services have been very handy while working at The QTI Group.

Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Always try to connect what you're learning in the classroom to what you are doing at work. It makes the work much more engaging and interesting and you're basically studying at the same time so you do better in class! It's a win-win.



## **Jack Peirson**

Accounting Services, Accounts Payable, May 2015 – Dec 2015

Graduated: May 2017

Degrees: BBA in Accounting, Masters in Accounting (IMAcc)

### Currently...

- Living in Minneapolis, MN
- Working at Deloitte in the Audit Department
- Also working on my last two CPA exams

### Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Get as much exposure to accounting as possible and always try to understand in the larger picture where your job fits into the Accounting Cycle. Additionally, challenge yourself with Excel whenever possible.



## Lu Shao

Accounting Services, Asset Management, Property Control, Dec 2016 – May 2017

Anticipated Graduation: May 2018

Major: Accounting

### Currently...

- Living in Chicago, IL
- Spending summer at Plante Moran, Downtown Chicago as an audit intern in Japanese Business Services Group. I assist with different projects assigned by manager, participate in other departments such as transfer pricing and forensic valuation to get a broad exposure, and network with different people in a real working environment.
- Will be a senior this fall at UW-Madison pursuing the Integrated Master of Accountancy Program. I will be at PwC New York for a tax internship in spring 2018. I plan to receive my bachelor's degree at May 2018, which is BBA and a certificate of Japanese professional communication.
- Fun Facts: I love go to the theater. I enjoy philharmonic, and ballet! I will take a theater stage production class next semester for fun :)

### Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life by...

- Helping me learn different software working in a warm and efficient team. It was great to have such an important experience because I was able to handle a lot of files and look up information in different systems at the same time. Working at Property Control team not only allows me to gradually deepen my understanding of

knowledge from textbooks but keep absorbing new skills through daily work. In addition, employment in Business Services let me connect with a lot of great people and I also learned a lot from them. I really appreciate the opportunity I had there and I will miss my time spending with those lovely people doing data entry at the office.

#### Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- I think the most important thing is to make timely communication when problem comes up. The problem includes time/schedule conflicts. Do not feel bad to ask question and ask for clarification. It is better to understand before starting instead of messing everything up. Also, try to gather questions together so time can be saved.



## **Todd Sherman**

Accounting Services, Asset Management, 2014 – present as an LTE

Graduated: May 2017

Degrees: BBA in Accounting and Finance and a Masters of Accountancy

### Currently...

- Living in Madison, WI
- Working in Accounting Services on a temporary basis through mid August.
- I will be starting full time with KPMG Chicago in their Audit practice.

Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life.

- The knowledge I learned in Accounting Services helped me understand accounting within an organization. This was useful during my internship with KPMG while understanding how a client does their accounting. Although I have not started my full-time job, I believe this knowledge will be helpful into the future.

Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Ask for challenging tasks to work on and be ambitious. Also, if your work is part of a process be sure to understand how the entire process works. This understanding can make the work more meaningful and even help you complete the work along the way.



## **Kristen Siladi**

Accounting Services, Accounts Payable, Sept 2013 – Dec 2015

Graduated: May 2016 (BBA), May 2017 (IMAcc)

Degrees: Bachelors and Masters in Accounting

### Currently...

- Living in Chicago, IL
- Employed at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Chicago (starting in September), working as an assurance associate serving financial service clients.

### Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Make an effort to understand why you're doing what you're doing and your role in the business cycle. I was pleasantly surprised when my work in the Accounts Payable department helped me to understand concepts for classes and CPA exams.



## **Varshaya Visvanathan**

Accounting Services, Travel & Cards, Feb 2014 – Oct 2016

Graduated: May 2017

Degree: BBA in Accounting

### Currently...

- Living in Minneapolis, MN
- Employed at General Mills Inc., Minneapolis, MN as a Financial Analyst Intern. I am currently working on the leasing standard update and focusing on how to roll out the new strategy for FY18 as well as analyzing the financial impact of this new standard. Additionally, I am working on improving one of our globalization processes.
- Will be returning to UW-Madison in Fall to complete the IMAcc program (graduating in May 2018)

### Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life.

- I have learned that even the small things add so much value. A huge part of my job at Business Services was to compile training materials for classes. I believe that Business Services does a great job with ensuring that users know who to talk to if they have an issue with the process and how to complete the process. This isn't the case in a lot of other business organizations. Business Services does a great job reevaluating its communication techniques and information systems.

### Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- If I could go back in time, I wish I had gotten to know other employees a little better. Most people at the office have tried numerous career paths. I wish I had taken the

time to get to know them better and understand why they chose to stay at Business Services.



## Taylor Zimprich

Accounting Services, FRAS (formerly Operations), Feb 2014 – May 2015

Graduated: May 2015 (BBA), May 2016 (IMacc)

Degrees: Bachelors and Masters in Accounting

### Currently...

- Living in Madison, WI
- Employed at Epic Systems, Verona, WI as an Accounting Analyst. Maintains 14 key customer portfolios through daily invoicing, troubleshooting, and relationship management; execute month-end journal entries, closing tasks, and reconciliations for two Epic subsidiaries; conduct critical revenue recognition project to comply with new FASB standards; act as primary accounting contact for the establishment of a new subsidiary -- assist with financial projections, SOC audit paperwork, pricing, and setup within accounting system.

Fun fact: Ran my first marathon in March 2017 - qualified for Boston Marathon 2018

Working in Business Services had a positive impact on my life.

- Business Services was my first exposure to accounting in the real world. This exposure was early on in my college career and helped me spark continued interest in accounting. I worked a lot on process improvement while employed at Business Services, and that gave me confidence to implement new practices at my first post-college job.

Advice to Current Business Services Student Employees:

- Do not be afraid to challenge the norm. A lot of people do things a certain way because that is how they have always done them. Take initiative in finding new ways

to accomplish tasks, and do not be afraid to speak up if you feel you can take on new responsibilities or initiatives. This sort of leadership will take you far.



