

2020



WHERE
ARE
THEY
NOW?

CATCHING UP WITH FORMER BUSINESS SERVICES STUDENT EMPLOYEES



Worked in
Accounting Services, Cash Management
January 2017 to May 2018

Graduated in May 2019 and May 2020
Accounting / IMAcc

Life is good! I'm currently living at home studying for my CPA exams (2 left)! In September, I will move to Chicago to start working full time for KPMG. Hoping to travel in the month of August before I make the move!

I've been able to enjoy many ski trips in recent years. I've been to Jackson Hole, Mount Bohemia, and Steamboat!

My philosophy for life is to enjoy the little things! Life doesn't have to be this grand adventure to be amazing. Just by simply living one day at a time, being with family and friends, and staying active has still made 2020 fun!

AUSTIN ANDERSON



Worked in
Bursar's Office
January 2014 to December 2016

Graduated in December 2016
Biology / History

I am in my fourth year of medical school at UW
Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. I will
be starting residency in gastroenterology and
hepatology next year!

I am getting married 6/12/21!

KATELYN BACKHAUS



Worked in
Marketing, Communication & Training
November 2015 to September 2016

Graduated in May 2017
Human Resources Management

I'm living in Reedsburg, WI. A lot has changed in the last year. My husband, Ryan, and I have a little boy, Bruen, who is 9 months old now and we are expecting another baby in November! I recently left my Corporate Recruiter role, at Foremost Farms, to be a stay-at-home mom! I love being home with Bruen everyday and watching him learn and grow! Life is too short not to enjoy the small moments!

During my time at UW-Madison, I was very thankful to have the opportunity to not only attend school there but also work there. The biggest challenge was learning to juggle work, school and personal life. Work understood that school came first and was very flexible but I was always learning time management and to go with the flow and adjust my schedule on the fly. This was a huge learning experience for me because I was always someone that wanted to control every second of my day. I think that has helped me during 2020 especially because we had many plans for family trips, that were cancelled and a daily routine, that was changed for many months. I have just taken a step back and take a day at a time now.

BROOKLYNN BOEBEL (EWING)



Worked in
Purchasing Services
January 2016 to May 2016

Graduated in May 2017
Economics and French

I've been working at Amazon in Miami for the past three months and I am in charge of overseeing the logistics in the southeast Florida area.

I am finally independent! I moved to a nice little studio in South Beach and I couldn't be any happier!

Live the moment and appreciate those around you. On Wisconsin!

JORGE ANDRE CANIDO



Worked in
Purchasing Services
May 2017 to October 2017

Graduated in May 2019
Marketing Entrepreneurship

Following graduation, I got a job as a Data Operations Associate at Flexport in New York City. At Flexport, I work with clients to build upon and modernize their supply chains through technology. I discover and strategize efficient ways for clients to run their supply chains by providing end-to-end solutions globally. I am directly helping build up this 6-year old company into one of the leading companies in the freight forwarding industry!

I decided to go on an adventure following graduation! Being born and raised in the Midwest, I wanted to expand my horizons and discover a new city. A young company in the heart of New York City seemed like just the place to do so! I haven't stopped learning about new things in business and in the world, and I am continuing to grow as an individual and as a young adult. I can only imagine that it will go uphill from here.

I was always encouraged to pursue new opportunities at UW-Madison. By continuing to keep an open mind and say "yes" to any new opportunity that came along, I was able to move to the city of my dreams at a company I believe in. Even in the midst of the recent events in 2020, I have found the drive and motivation to stick through these difficult times and work towards a brighter future.

RACHEL FEINSTEIN



Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
June 2015 to November 2015

Graduated in May 2016
Math, Economics, and Religious Studies

After graduating in 2016, I entered the Order of Preachers (also known as the Dominicans), an 800-year-old order of Catholic friars. Since then, I have been immersed in the seven-year process of formation to become a Catholic priest. Most recently, this has led me to live in Bloomington, IN, for a year and to minister at St. Paul Catholic Center, the campus ministry for IU (still, go Badgers!). Soon, I'll return to Saint Louis, MO, and begin my last three years of study before ordination.

A good philosophy I found at UW-Madison is to take things as they come, and always be open to something new. There's only so much in my life that I am able to control, and sometimes my attempts to control it can close me off to new opportunities and experiences. My time in college certainly developed and changed in ways I never expected. Now it feels as if I'm learning that lesson all over again during this pandemic!

BR. JORDAN (JOEY) DEGUIRE, O.P.



Worked in
Bursar's Office
August 2014 to May 2018

Graduated in May 2018
Biochemistry

I am currently located in Deforest, WI with my husband. We are in the process of looking to buy our first home together near the Madison area.

This past May, I finished my first year of medical school at UWSMPH. This summer I am researching with Dr. Molly Carnes and studying the relationship between diet culture and weight bias present within the healthcare field.

KAMI ELZINGA (BREY)



Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
November 2015 to December 2016

Graduated in May 2019 and May 2020
Accounting / IMAcc

I recently passed all of the CPA exams and will begin working for Deloitte in their International Tax practice in Milwaukee this August.

This past year I visited New York for a family wedding and traveled to Arizona with some friends for Spring Break. My boyfriend and I also welcomed a new kitten, Rambo, into our household; she is extremely rambunctious (hence the name) and wishes that our senior cat, Basil, would play with her more often.

My time as an AIS 100 TA at UW-Madison taught me how important it is to be flexible and willing to adjust your plans and work to accommodate whatever challenges are thrown at you. Even if you plan every last detail, you can never be 100% sure that things will go according to your plan. By keeping this mindset I was able to adjust to having classes online quickly and have been able to cope with the uncertainty that the rest of the year brings.



Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
January 2014 to December 2015

Graduated in May 2017
Political Science and International Relations

I just finished my first year at the University of Wisconsin Law School and am working at the Madison office of a large law firm, Perkins Coie, which is headquartered in Seattle. I moved back to Madison after spending two years supporting high school students—first as a high school Math teacher through City Year and then as a program coordinator at an education nonprofit in Boston.

Law school is an all-consuming and very competitive adventure, but I am happy to say I did very well my first year. I still enjoy being an active part of the campus community and therefore took the opportunity to serve as the student representative on the search committee to find our law school's new dean.

Having been raised in a small town, attending a large university like UW-Madison instilled in me the importance of taking care of one another. As we all transitioned to remote work, I have found checking in on others to be critical during this time—not just about work but also as people. Virtual life in a city feels more isolated than being in my small hometown of 1,500 people; at least in my hometown the cows are there for good company.

ROMAN (THOMAS) GIEROK



Worked in
Risk Management
January 2016 to May 2018

Graduated in June 2018
Political Science and Legal Studies

I'm living in Sheboygan, WI. I just reached my second anniversary of working as a Business Systems Analyst for Acuity Insurance. I have been working here since graduation and absolutely love it!

I recently obtained my AINS designation and I am hoping to begin a masters degree this year.

An important lesson learned at UW-Madison: There are few things in life that you can control, so focus on the ones that you can instead of stressing over the ones that you can't.

BRIANA GLASER



Worked in
Marketing, Communication & Training
February 2013 to December 2015

Graduated in December 2015 and May 2018
Political Science & Social Welfare / Juris Doctor

I currently work as a Public Defender in Milwaukee County. I have just begun to take cases that are higher stakes which is needed during the pandemic. The court system is becoming more convoluted since the shut down and has forced us to change the way we do things to keep up.

I am on the verge of finishing a knitted blanket I began when quarantine started! I am also planning a trip for next year to Kefalonia with a couple friends. It will be much needed and gives everyone something to look forward to.

I learned at UW-Madison that one day at a time is best and self-care is a number one priority. I remembered how hard I had to try and make sure that I didn't forget about my own body and mental state in college. The same is true now more than ever!



Worked in
Content Mgmt, Communication & Training
April 2019 to September 2019

On track to graduate in May 2021
Finance, Wealth Mgmt & Financial Planning

I am interning as a financial planning intern at
Resonant Capital Advisors here in Madison.

I'm learning to be flexible and able to adapt to the
environment. Stepping out of your comfort zone makes
you well rounded and will give you confidence in tough
situations.

LOGAN KNECHT



Worked in
Accounting Services, FRAS
February 2017 to May 2018

Graduated in May 2018
Math

The past year has been quite a ride! I am currently working as an Actuarial Student for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. I started there in September 2019. I love every aspect of my job, from the people with whom I get to work to the challenging and rewarding projects. I am also continuing to take actuarial exams to go towards my Associate of the Society of Actuaries certification (over halfway there!). I moved from downtown Minneapolis to my own apartment in Eagan, a suburb about 20 miles south of the Twin Cities, mainly to be closer to work.

I learned at UW-Madison to try to find joy and happiness in the little things. No matter how tough times are, there is always something for which to be grateful. Keep these happy memories close to you so that you always have them to look back when you really need them. Another thing I learned is to always keep an open mind and continue to better yourself through knowledge, exploration, and experiences. These are things I try to do every day, whether it's with work, family and friends, or doing some random thing on a Tuesday afternoon. Everything in the world right now is moving so fast. Take a moment to pause, think, decompress, and relax, otherwise you might miss the really important things.

MATT KROGEN



Worked in
Purchasing Services
January 2016 to April 2017

Graduated in May 2019
Marketing, Management, Digital Studies

I moved to Columbus, OH in June 2019 to be a part of the Leadership Development Program through Abercrombie & Fitch. For the past year I have been focused on inventory management and forecasting for the kids business, specifically Kids Girls Graphic Tees and Sweatshirts. I'm currently transitioning into a new Business Analyst/Planner role. Unfortunately, as of March, we have been working from home and will continue to do so for a while. Overall, it's been great getting to know the area and root for the Badgers whenever they play OSU!

Back in January, I was able to reunite with some college friends as we took a week long vacation in Cabo. It was the perfect time to catch up with friends and make some new memories.

UW-Madison taught me to be flexible with what life throws at me and how to remain calm while creating new plans of action to be the most successful. This has obviously been a huge help when learning what life with COVID is like. While at Madison it was ever-changing schedules and balancing time management that helped me learn flexibility, it has translated well into learning how to be productive while working from home.



Worked in
Accounting Services, Property Control
November 2016 to May 2019

Graduated in May 2018 and May 2019
Accounting / IMAcc

I am currently living in Minneapolis, MN and working as a tax associate for KPMG. I really enjoy my work and working from home has been much better than I expected! I joined my community in protesting this summer and have also helped volunteer in the community. I hope to spend the summer enjoying drinks from my favorite breweries at the many lakes and parks that Minnesota has to offer!

I passed all of my CPA exams on the first go - what a relief to have them over!

One thing I figured out while at UW-Madison that has helped me during these tough times is to take a step back, take a breath, and make a plan of action. Between coronavirus and seeing my community and the country in pain it is easy to feel overwhelmed when I want to help so much. This helps me cope and come up with real goals I can accomplish in the short and long term!

CAITLIN KUJAWA



Worked in
Accounting Services, Travel & Cards
April 2015 to May 2017

Graduated in May 2017
Operations and Technology Management

I am the Director of Operations at Envest Microfinance Cooperative. We are a small company based in Madison that works with social investors to provide loans to small microfinance institutions around the world. The goal is to bridge the gap between microfinance and capital markets. My job involves a lot of accounting, as well as database management, communications, writing, problem-solving, and management.

Not too many adventures since my last scrapbook entry due to COVID-19. I did take a road trip to DC in January with one of my best friends. It was a great trip and one that I truly appreciate now that traveling is not encouraged.

The critical thinking and learning I did at UW-Madison has been invaluable. My degree and so many classes made me think deeply about problems and issues. This thinking has helped me as I sift through information. Also, I met so many interesting people at UW and see a lot of them doing powerful work in public health, social justice, etc. I am so proud to be a Badger when I see fellow alumni doing good things.

SARAH LESAR



Worked in
Accounting Services, Cash Management
September 2013 to August 2016

Graduated in May 2015 and May 2016
Accounting / IMAcc

I got married in May 2019 and moved to Charlotte, NC shortly thereafter. I left Deloitte for a new job in Charlotte at a company called MSC Industrial Supply in SEC reporting.

My wife and I are enjoying exploring a new state and section of the country. We have traveled all around the state and neighboring states and spent a lot of time in the Blue Ridge Mountains. My favorite cities so far include Atlanta, GA and Greenville, SC, along with Charlotte, NC of course.

My advice to current students would be to expand your network while at UW and early on in your career because you never know when it will come in handy down the line (for example when a global pandemic hits and you might need a new job)!



Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
May 2015 to December 2015

Graduated in May 2016 and May 2017
Accounting / IMAcc

I started my job with Deloitte in the audit practice in Minneapolis right out of college. I then requested a transfer to the Deloitte Seattle office and made the move in March 2020. I got there the week everything shut down for COVID-19 so I have been working remotely from Seattle and the Midwest to visit family.

My biggest life event is moving to Seattle to push my comfort zone and try something new while I'm still "young" and don't have increased responsibilities of a family.

Embrace change. Deloitte did a phenomenal job of communicating early and often to make sure we were informed, but ultimately it comes down to the workforce being able to adapt to the new environment. I joined an audit team of 48 people and have still not had a chance to meet them. It's not ideal, but an ability to adapt to your surroundings and changing environment goes a long way and sets up for success.



Worked in
Accounting Services, FRAS
January 2018 to May 2018

Graduated in May 2019
Accounting / IMAcc

I am working for the State of Wisconsin, Department of Financial Institutions.

We bought a house in Verona a few weeks before the safer at home order began. Having the extra space with two small children at home all day has been absolutely essential.

I learned at UW-Madison that if you tackle projects early on and communicate often, it will lead to success!



Worked in
Accounting Services, Tax Compliance
May 2015 to May 2017

Graduated in May 2016 and May 2017
Accounting / IMAcc

I am currently a Tax Senior Associate at Baker Tilly in their Madison office and have been there for almost three years. I have not ventured too far away from campus, living in an apartment with my wife on E Washington.

Last fall I was promoted to Tax Senior Associate. On a more fun note, we got a pet hamster named Chico back in November! He likes to run on his wheel as soon as we turn off the lights and chew on cardboard tubes. When my work started to mandate work-from-home I grew out a "quarantine beard" for a couple months, which was my first experience trying to grow a beard.

I think something to keep in mind is that when so much is going on in your life and the world all at once, one of the most important things you can do is take a deep breath and step back from it for a while. I find that stripping away the stress around you and giving yourself room to think is the best way to work through stressful times.

SCOTT SCHROEDER



Worked in
Risk Management
April 2016 to December 2018

Graduated in December 2018
Finance / Risk Management

I am living in Milwaukee, WI and I've been working for Milwaukee Tool as a Financial Analyst since graduation. So far it's been a great experience!

In the past year (pre-Covid) I've been to six national parks! Only 55 to go before I get to them all.

I'm stealing Wisconsin's motto "Forward" as my own. I think 2020 has been an opportunity to learn and progress into a better society for everyone. We're definitely a work in progress, but it's been amazing to see communities come together to promote positive change.

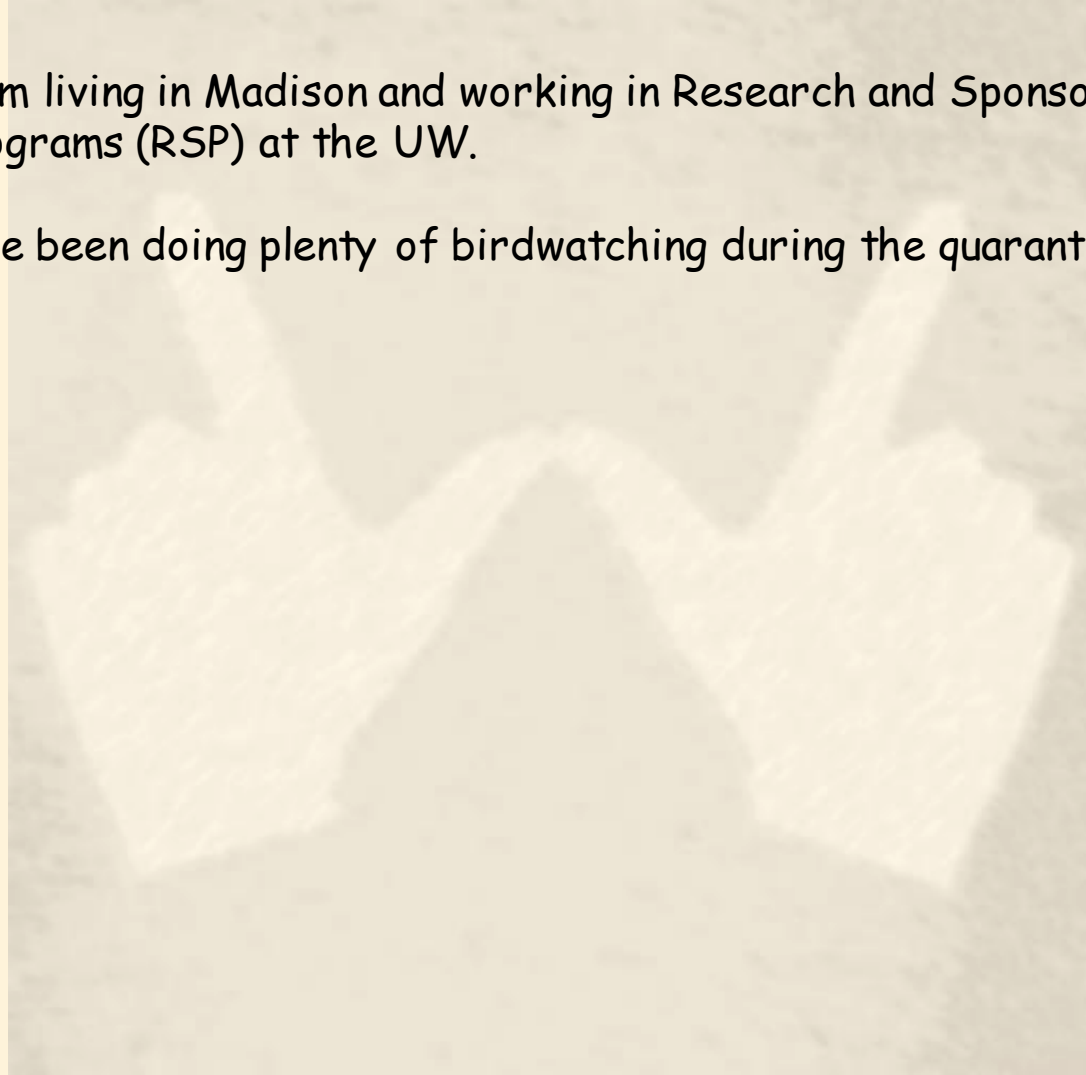


Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
January 2016 to December 2016

Graduated in May 2019
Accounting

I am living in Madison and working in Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP) at the UW.

I've been doing plenty of birdwatching during the quarantine!





Worked in
Accounting Services, Cash Management
December 2014 to May 2017

Graduated in May 2017
Finance / Risk Management and Insurance

I moved to Denver three years ago and have been working for the same company I interned for in 2016. I recently started a brand-new role doing data analytics. It has been interesting so far because I have the power to create / model what the role should be! Previously I was a financial analyst.

I recently put in an offer on a house - so I will hopefully be a homeowner soon!

I think having to be very self-motivated and organized with time while at UW-Madison is helping me now become motivated while working remotely. There is a lot less structure and I have the ability to come up with my own routine & schedule.



Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
August 2013 to May 2015

Graduated in May 2015
Finance / Risk Management and Insurance

I'm living in downtown Chicago and work for a healthcare private equity firm in their business development group. I'm still an avid Badger (and all Wisconsin sports) fan, and am anxious for college/professional sports to start up again! I'm currently the President of the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Chicago Chapter, and enjoy trying to make Chicago feel a little more like home for local alumni.

I recently got engaged to my girlfriend who I met my sophomore year of college at UW! We live together and are planning a Chicago wedding for Summer 2021.

During my time at UW-Madison, I learned the power of optimism and making the best of any situation, which is especially important now. I'm up in Wisconsin while my office is closed, so I'm enjoying the opportunity to work from home and spend extra time with family!

TOM ULRICSON



Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
November 2015 to May 2018

Graduated in May 2018
Accounting

As a victim of the COVID-19 layoffs, I am currently job hunting. I really liked my previous role in recruiting/HR so I'm hoping to find something similar.

Through all the craziness of the pandemic, I was at least able to fulfill my desire to move somewhere outside of the Midwest. I met my boyfriend, who lives in Raleigh, NC, last year through work, and I recently made the move to live with him. Though Madison will always hold a very special place in my heart, I'm excited to begin this next chapter as I figure out life in a new area.

"Together Forward" about sums up the most valuable lesson I learned at UW-Madison. 😊

GRACE VENTURINI



Worked in
Accounting Services, Accounts Payable
September 2014 to May 2017

Graduated in May 2017
Actuarial Science

I'm living in Chicago, IL - just starting my third year at Deloitte as a Consultant in the Actuarial & Insurance Solutions practice. I'm currently working helping a client prepare for a new accounting regulation, and I'm also working on various life insurance audits.

I was promoted in August of last year, and I got engaged in September!

JENNA WASIELESKI



Worked in

Accounting Services, Operations
March 2011 to May 2014

Graduated in May 2014
Marketing / Supply Chain Management

I am currently located in Chicago and working at Robert Bosch - Mobility Division. I am a Product Manager for our Engine Management line of over 1,000 parts, which I am responsible to price and manage the product life cycle (among many other things!). I am also a part of an application-based program seeking future leaders - Talent Incubator Program - where I am the Project Lead for our group of 10. It is a year-long program and we are over half-way through, getting ready to launch the pilot in July. Finally, I am the chair of Women@Bosch, a business resource group that focuses on recruitment, retention and professional development of women at Bosch.

I will hopefully be getting married in August of this year! We were supposed to be married in June, but Covid had us change plans. 😊 Fingers crossed!

One of the best life lessons learned while at UW-Madison: A positive attitude can take you far in life!

TRACY YOUNG