

# BUSINESS DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023



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# DEANS' WELCOME

Welcome Back! We are excited to start a new year with a stronger on-campus presence. After a strong year last year, we continue to grow. Our course offerings are around 50% online and 50% on campus. This fall the Business Division has 2% more FTES than last fall and our enrollments are within 0.4% of what they were pre-pandemic.

We start the academic year with some buildings on campus not being available due to air conditioning systems flooding. Even though our buildings were affected we really are quite lucky. Most of the flooding was contained in the communication rooms. We believe our buildings will be ready for the start of the semester, with Building 79 the most affected as they need all new communication switches. We are grateful to have Network Administrator Joe Vasquez supporting our division. Joe jumped into action and secured new switches the same day as the flooding. We have plans in place and have moved the classes and offices in Building 79. As 79 is not ready to be open at the start of the semester.

Additionally, building 13 has A/C issues, but the college is working on replacing that system with a new roof unit as this newsletter is being written. We anticipate that it will be available for the beginning of the semester. In case it is not available, our Computer Facilities Coordinator, Mark Conrad, has been working diligently with a back-up plan to move Interior Design classes into our Computer Lab, if needed. Our division Administrative Specialist III, Mary McGee, has been working with the Instruction Office to move all classes in those buildings should we need to.

We have great staff who have been working diligently behind the scenes on creating solutions! They are awesome! We are truly blessed!

The Business Division is happy to have four new full-time faculty members joining our team. We have hired a new full-time Real Estate professor, Valerie Pestana, two new full-time Accounting professors, Erika Bowers and Ronda Shutt, and a new Business Management professor, Laura Tracey. If these names sound familiar it is because they were all adjunct professors previously. To learn more about our new faculty, please read their bios, and be sure to say hello and extend a warm Mt.SAC welcome when you see them.

We also have changes in the Division Office as our part-time Administrative Specialist I, Adriana Jimenez who worked at the front desk moved to a full-time position in the Marketing Office after completing her bachelor's degree from Cal Poly Pomona. We're excited for Adriana and proud of her accomplishments.

With more construction going on, it may still be difficult to find the way around the campus. Therefore, we are once again going to take advantage of the Mounty Money Management tent in front of the complex to provide direction and guidance. Thank you to Lisa Amos for working with us on that.

Please make sure you stop by the Division Office and say hello or just let us see your smiling face. We are excited to be of assistance anyway we can. Thank you for your dedication to our students and our programs.

Sincerely,

Your Dean and Associate Dean  
**Jennifer Galbraith & Fawaz Al-Malood**

# NEW FACES IN THE BUSINESS DIVISION

**Erika Bowers** started her love for numbers at an early age. Erika originally started her career in Corporate America where she has over 18 years' experience. She has worked for several companies within different industries stemming from Chemical to Telecom. Her career has allowed her to work in most facets of business with an emphasis on Cost Accounting, Financial Accounting, Corporate Tax, Financial Analysis, Auditing, and Project Management. Erika adores Accounting and finds that it has opened many wonderful doors of opportunity.

During her career some of her greatest accomplishments were:

- Managed teams responsible for managing and auditing over \$1.5 billion dollars in annual spend for several clients that included two of Fortune's Top 10 companies.
- Identified a billing dispute by interpreting tariff language which was ultimately decided by the FCC in favor of the various clients which led to over \$30M in savings.
- Contract Renewal Negotiations with major clients that yielded the company \$95K in monthly revenue.
- Yielded \$150K in revenue for the company in Success Fees from fixing audit errors found.

Erika holds a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, and a Master of Business Administration from Webster University.

Before Erika started her corporate career, she was a permanent substitute teacher for one year. Little did she know that would ignite a spark in her.

## Erika Bowers

Professor of Accounting



*When Erika is not teaching, you will find her creating events for her family and friends.*

After her corporate career, she transitioned into teaching which has become her passion. She initially started with ITT Tech in 2011 and became an Adjunct Accounting Professor at Mt. SAC in 2015. She has also taught at Chaffey and Citrus Colleges.

Erika was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri, and moved to California in 2008 after marrying her hubby. Growing up she spent most holidays and summers in Louisiana where she picked up a little southern accent.

When she is not teaching, you will find her creating events for her family and friends. She loves to spend time with family, laughing until it hurts, eating until she can absolutely eat no more, and dancing until she's tired.

We are very excited to welcome Erika full-time to our division!



# NEW FACES IN THE BUSINESS DIVISION (CONT.)

## Ronda Shutt

Professor of Accounting



*Outside of work, Ronda is a wife, mother, grandmother, hobbyist, and servant.*

**Ronda Shutt** graduated from Chaffey Community College in 2000 as one of three Valedictorians where she earned associate degrees in both accounting and general education. Subsequently, she transferred to California State University San Bernardino and completed her Bachelor of Science in Business with an emphasis in Accounting. She received outstanding business student recognition at the graduation ceremony in 2002. Eventually, she tackled her Master's degree in Management at the University of Redlands and graduated in 2008.

Ronda sat for, and passed, the CPA exam while she was still at full-time student at CSUSB, and a full-time mom to 3 kids. Upon graduation from CSUSB, she joined a public accounting firm and obtained enough accounting, auditing, and tax experience to earn her CPA credentials.

With her children participating in ice skating, track & field, soccer, and cross country, she found a small accounting firm closer to home where she was able to have a flexible schedule.

While at this accounting firm, she was able to perform bookkeeping and accounting services and prepare personal and business tax returns for clients, as well as perform primary accounting tasks for the business.

She also taught accounting classes at Chaffey Community College off and on while working full-time at the payroll company. She loved teaching and it gave her a sense of fulfillment to compliment her full-time gig. She had the opportunity to experience many positions at Payroll Link - Accountant, Controller, Customer Service Manager, Transition Manager, Human Resource Manager, Tax Manager, and Vice President of Operations. She retired from the payroll business in early 2020 to pursue her lifelong dream of teaching.

Ronda returned to Chaffey as an adjunct instructor in 2019, then added Mt. SAC, BYU-Idaho, and Citrus semester-by-semester.

**Teaching is her passion.** Knowing that she can help even just one person, in any way, brings joy to her heart. Her enthusiasm for student success is real! Helping them learn how to apply the college experience of learning to everyday life is one of her focuses.

The experiences encountered while working in industry have allowed her to apply tried and true processes, oversee process improvement, manage a diverse population of employees, learn, implement, and teach software programs, and more.

Outside of work, Ronda is a wife, mother, grandmother, hobbyist, and servant. She has been married for 36 years and has three grown children; 2 of which attended Mt SAC (they were both pole vaulters on the track team), 5 grand babies, age 5 and younger! She gets to spend quite a bit of time with family and is so grateful for the love they have for her. She also volunteers as a youth leader at church and provides service to others as often as possible.

Welcome full-time Ronda!

# NEW FACES IN THE BUSINESS DIVISION (CONT.)

## Valerie Pestana

Professor of Real Estate



*In 2020, Valerie Pestana began teaching Real Estate at Mt. SAC as an Adjunct Professor and feels as though she has found her true passion. She loves teaching and looks forward to a long career at Mt. SAC.*

**Valerie Pestana** resides in Chino Hills, with her husband, son, and beloved Standard Poodle, where she has worked as a realtor for the last 12 years. She holds a bachelor's in business administration/accounting and worked for 15+ years in the Tax and Accounting field after graduating. In 2011, she decided she wanted a change. Growing up Valerie was very close to her grandfather who was a big influence on her and instilled in her the importance of integrity and honesty from a very young age. He worked for over 40 years as a realtor and when he finally retired in his 80's he encouraged her to pursue a Real Estate license. Valerie virtually grew up in the business, so it was a natural fit for her to follow in his footsteps and become a realtor. Over the years, she has mentored other Realtors who are new to the business.

In 2020 she began teaching Real Estate at Mt. SAC as an Adjunct Professor and feels as though she has found her true passion. She loves teaching and looks forward to a long career at Mt. SAC.

She enjoys traveling, especially on a cruise, she enjoys entertaining and playing tennis whenever she can. Valerie has a lifelong love of community service and fundraising. She is very active in her community and belongs to the Chino Valley Lions Club as well as the Chino Valley chapter of 100 Women Who Care, where she currently serves as President. She says she has been very blessed in life and enjoys paying it forward whenever possible.

We are very happy to welcome Valerie as a full-time professor to our division!

# NEW FACES IN THE BUSINESS DIVISION (CONT.)

**Laura Tracey** is an enthusiastic educator with a passion for teaching, mentoring, and helping students achieve their educational goals. With over 16 years of experience in education, 12 years in marketing and sales, and 10 years in management, Laura has worked with thousands of students, supporting them on their path to college, graduate, and professional school.

In 2005, Laura graduated cum laude from California State University Long Beach, with a B.S. in Business Administration and an emphasis in Marketing. After entering the workforce, Laura worked in the business sector, serving a variety of roles including Sales & Marketing Coordinator, Business Developer, Marketing Manager, and Regional Director. While managing a team of marketing managers and overseeing eight states throughout the West Coast, Laura created partnerships with local colleges and universities to support underrepresented students with diverse backgrounds. In developing and implementing programs, she increased access and equity for students' admission into college and graduate programs, including business, law, and medical school. While working full-time in the field, Laura received her M.B.A., graduating summa cum laude from Purdue University in 2017.

Throughout her career, Laura has proven to be a life-long learner who loves to teach! She has taught at various colleges throughout Southern California, including Loma Linda University since 2018. In addition, she has educated students internationally!

## Laura Tracey

Professor of Business Management



*In her leisure, Laura loves to spend time with family and friends. Her favorite hobbies include traveling, cooking, gardening, and hiking. A fun fact about Laura is that she has interviewed hundreds of celebrities, once serving as an Entertainment Reporter Intern at KABC-TV.*

Since joining Mt. SAC in 2019, Laura has enjoyed her role as Adjunct Professor of Business Management. Laura is excited to transition to full-time faculty in the Business Division and looks forward to further supporting students.

In her leisure, Laura loves to spend time with family and friends. Her favorite hobbies include traveling, cooking, gardening, and hiking. A fun fact about Laura is that she has interviewed hundreds of celebrities, once serving as an Entertainment Reporter Intern at KABC-TV.

Welcome to full-time in the Business Division Laura!

## NEW FACES IN THE BUSINESS DIVISION (CONT.)

### Christine Hollaway-Cruz

Account Specialist Strong Workforce



*Christine enjoys spending time with her 9-year-old daughter, going to museums, traveling, and trying new cuisines.*

**Christine Hollaway-Cruz** joined Mt. San Antonio College in April 2023. She worked for Cal Poly Pomona for seven years and is excited to work with a great team, whom she is enthusiastic about learning from.

Christine enjoys spending time with her 9-year-old daughter, going to museums, traveling, and trying new cuisines.

Christine received her Bachelor of Science from Cal Poly Pomona.

We are very excited that Christine joined our Division.



# CHILD DEVELOPMENT OBSERVATION LAB IS A KEY RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS

The Mt. SAC Child Observation Laboratory is a vital resource for future teachers/practitioners, a key facility in the Mt. SAC Business Division, and an essential element of a 3-partner collaborative. The interactive collaborative includes the Child Observation Lab, the Child Development and Education (CDE) department, and the Child Development Center (CDC). While the Lab primarily serves CDE students, we also serve students from other Mt. SAC programs, such as nursing and psychology, as well as child development students from nearby institutions of higher education.

The Child Observation Laboratory plays an integral role for future teachers/practitioners by providing clinical practice experiences through child observation and documentation, practicum, fieldwork, and apprenticeship. Embedded throughout many child development courses, child observations provide opportunities for CDE students to form meaningful connections between theory and practice and to develop valuable skills necessary for future work in the field. Featuring a sophisticated camera surveillance system, the Lab facilitates unobtrusive live and prerecorded child observations to enable students' child development coursework completion. Lab staff also provide niche tutoring services to optimize students' success, such as explaining child development theories and concepts, clarifying assignments, and elucidating objective academic writing required for observation reports.

The Child Observation Laboratory team dynamically coordinates with all elements of its 3-part collaborative to comprehensively support CDE students. For instance, maintaining ongoing open communication between CDE faculty and CDC staff enables Lab staff to ensure that student's academic needs and CDE course objectives are met within the Lab in accordance with childcare licensing parameters set forth by the State. Additionally, the Lab staff facilitates live and prerecorded observations that enable faculty and CDC staff to evaluate and train practicum and fieldwork students, apprentices, and current CDC employees. Doing so ensures a safe and developmentally appropriate environment for children to grow, learn, and thrive alongside emerging and evolving early childhood professionals.



Child Laboratory Students Smiling

The Child Observation Laboratory is staffed with a blend of current Mt. SAC students and alumni, all of whom are highly knowledgeable in the disciplines of child development and/or education. Personal familiarity with the Mt. SAC presents unique benefits in supporting diverse CDE students, faculty, and CDC staff. Led by Amber Purnell, the Lab team includes Cheri Miller, Tianshu Pan, and Akemi Velasquez, all of whom strive to administer services equitably and inclusively. For instance, tutoring services are responsively tailored to student's unique academic needs, abilities, and interests while observation students are respectfully greeted and processed on a first-come first-served basis, and then, are directed and monitored in accordance with their assignment requirements. Sensitive and respectful customer service along with differentiated support ensures that all students, faculty, and staff are welcome and encouraged to succeed in the Mt. SAC Child Observation Laboratory!



# A&M WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUES

The Accounting and Management Department will be hosting the Business Speakers Series again this fall 2023 semester! The Business Speaker Series are online webinars intended to support Mt. SAC students. We would like to invite students, staff, and faculty to attend these educational, motivating, and inspiring events. The theme this semester is Emerging Leadership. Our guest speakers will share their educational background, work experience, and leadership experience while attending various nearby universities. These role models will also share the importance and value of participating in leadership positions on campus such as club programs, or events. Please join us for these great online webinars!



## FALL 2023 BUSINESS SPEAKERS

### EMERGING LEADERS

Sep. 25 | 8:30AM - 9:30AM  
Malia Pope, CPP CSCMP President

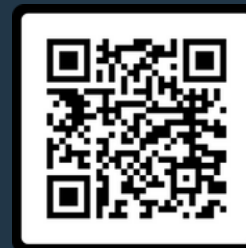
Sep. 26 | 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
Amahni Yarber, Teach Me Ms. Amahni

Sep. 27 | 4:30PM - 5:30PM  
Sean Takari, CPP OMS Vice President

Sep. 28 | 5:00PM - 6:00PM  
Nived Myuran, RSM ERP Consultant

*For specific details and the zoom links please visit the Accounting and Management website at:*

[www.mtsac.edu/am/emergingleaders](http://www.mtsac.edu/am/emergingleaders)



SCAN ME

# NEW CERTIFICATES IN ACCOUNTING & MANAGEMENT

## Social Media Marketing Certificate Program (Certificate M0877)

### Required Courses

Course Prefix	Course Name	Units
BUSS 33	Advertising and Promotion	3
BUSS 34	Social Media Marketing	3
BUSS 36	Principles of Marketing	3
BUSM 50	World Culture: A Business Perspective	3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>12</b>

The Accounting and Management department is pleased to announce a new accounting certificate called the Professionals Accounting Certificate. The goal of the certificate is to help students and emerging professionals get the classes and real-world experience they need to be eligible to sit for the Uniform CPA exam in California. In addition, it is also designed to give accounting professionals, students, and CPA candidates, who already have a degree or certificate, the additional skills and insight to expand their training and hiring potential regarding emerging and advanced accounting topics.

The first two classes are available this fall semester, which are BUSA 61 Corporate Income Taxation and BUSA 62 Accounting Ethics and Leadership. In spring 2024, Mt. SAC will offer BUSA 63 External Auditing and BUSA 64 Advanced Special Topics.

The Accounting & Management Department would also like to announce Mt. SAC's new Social Media Marketing Certificate Program (Certificate M0877). The certificate is intended to prepare students to enter the business world in the dynamic environment of social media marketing. This is a certificate of achievement which meets the requirements of the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

The certificate is also noted on a student's official transcript. There are four required courses: BUSS 33 Advertising & Promotion, BUSS 34 Social Media Marketing, BUSS 36 Principles of Marketing, and BUSM 50 World Culture: A Business Perspective.

This introductory certificate exposes students to the marketing world and the role of social media marketing. Students become familiar with careers in marketing, as well as the latest trends in this fast-changing field. This certificate may aid the student's search for an entry-level job in marketing. The Social Media Marketing certificate will introduce students to basic social media marketing concepts, strategies, and techniques in a global online marketplace. An introduction to the creation, execution, transmission, and evaluation of social media and social networks concerned with the advertising and promotion of products and services. Students will have gained basic academic and practical world knowledge, skills, and experience in an ever-changing and diverse marketing environment.