



GENERAL JOURNAL 2022

Celebrating 50 Years of Ledger & Quill Giving

School Hosts First Annual Tax Symposium and Technology in Accounting Expo

Christine Gimbar: Leading the Charge to Increase CPA Exam Pass Rates

Executives-in-Residence Help Students Navigate Career Paths

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Director 1
 School News 2
 Feature 6
 Faculty Profile 11
 Faculty News 12
 Student Engagement 14
 Alumnus Profile 15
 Ledger & Quill Philanthropy 16

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On the cover: Left to right: Mary Kosinski (BUS '82), Director Hui Lin, Dean Sulin Ba and Barry Epstein (BUS '67) at the Driehaus College of Business alumni reception in March 2022. Kosinski and Epstein are Ledger & Quill donors.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Celebrating a Golden Anniversary and Continuing Legacy

As DePaul University embarked on its 125th academic year this past fall, the School of Accountancy & MIS celebrated Ledger & Quill's 50th anniversary. Since 1972, L&Q, our school's premier donor society, has been a constant source of support and encouragement for students and faculty of the School of Accountancy & MIS, as you'll read in this issue's feature story. Over the years, our board members have been instrumental in providing input and expertise in the school's strategic development. As I begin my first year as school director, I am truly grateful for the remarkable generosity of our alumni donors and their ongoing financial support of our students and faculty.

The 2022-23 academic year also marked a new chapter for leadership at the university. DePaul welcomed Robert L. Manuel as its 13th president and Sulin Ba as the new dean of the Driehaus College of Business. Within the school, we welcomed two new faculty members: Gary Chen and Tom Festle, whom you will get to know in this issue. We also celebrated Clinical Professor Mark Alford's retirement and Professor Ray Whittington's return to faculty after years of leading the college and school.

Stepping into my term as director this past summer, I felt energized by our faculty and students, and proud of the school's accomplishments last year. To name a few, we held a series of in-person and virtual events for our students including our first Technology in Accounting Expo and Tax Symposium, which you'll read about in this issue. Both events were a big success, collectively drawing more than 300 students, faculty and accounting professionals.

Meanwhile, our popular executive-in-residence program conducted 320 appointments connecting students with employers. This program, which is highlighted in this issue, has been highly successful in preparing students for their careers. Last but certainly not least, we were able to award scholarships to 423 students, thanks to the generosity of L&Q—a feat that only further demonstrates how much of an impact L&Q makes on DePaul's accounting students and their ability to pursue their goals.

The future is not without its challenges, but I feel confident in the university's new leadership, the school's talented and dedicated faculty and staff, and our supportive L&Q and alumni networks, to help us reach new levels of accomplishment. Together, supported by our highly regarded curriculum, we will continue to be a competitive force in accounting education, preparing future accounting leaders for success in the diverse career paths of our field.

Hui Lin
 Director and Professor
 School of Accountancy & MIS

Hear more from Director Hui Lin in a short Q&A video at go.depaul.edu/HuiLin. In it she shares her goals as director and ways alumni can get involved with the school.



SCHOOL NEWS



School Celebrates a Return to Campus at the Fall 2021 Ledger & Quill Social

To celebrate DePaul's safe return to campus after a full year of working and learning remotely, the School of Accountancy & MIS hosted a social at the Loop Campus in September 2021. L&Q donors, school board members and leadership, and several faculty members attended the event.

An opportunity to reconnect in person, the event also provided a platform for school leadership to share news and general updates for the upcoming year.



DePaul Accountancy Alumna, Student Honored with Illinois CPA Society Awards

By Mitchel Lister



Left to right: Amanda Rzepka (BUS '07), Senior Instructor Margaret Tower and Miriam Ahmed pose at the event.

Every year the Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS) hosts an awards ceremony to recognize individuals in the CPA community who demonstrate impressive leadership and accomplishments in the accounting profession. The 2021 event took place in September at the Radisson Aqua Hotel in Chicago and included a networking breakfast, keynote and awards ceremony.

One of the awardees was School of Accountancy & MIS alumna Amanda Rzepka (BUS '07), who received the Woman to Watch Award as an Emerging Leader. Rzepka, who is an accounting manager at Berlin Packaging, has been a member of the Illinois CPA Society for 14 years and currently serves as a co-investigative coordinator and a member of the Ethics committee.

Another DePaul awardee was Miriam Ahmed, a student in the School of Accountancy & MIS. Ahmed, who aspires to become a public accountant, won a \$4,000 scholarship with the Advancing Women in Accounting Award—an opportunity she discovered through her accounting career exploration class at DePaul.

"I'm honored to be the recipient of this scholarship," says Ahmed. "This support is an inspiration for me to complete my degree and become a future leader in the CPA profession."

Senior Instructor Margaret Tower, who taught both Rzepka and Ahmed, was a guest at the event. She says she couldn't stop smiling when she witnessed her former students receiving these awards.

"It was so rewarding to hear Miriam and Amanda speak about how well their education at DePaul prepared them for their careers. While I was fortunate to hear their thanks, I wish all of their professors could be there," says Tower. "I know both of these women well. Amanda has been out of school for over ten years and has frequently volunteered to mentor DePaul students. Miriam will soon graduate and promises to remain active at DePaul. It made me so proud to see how well DePaul was represented at this event."

Students Dig into GAAP Accounting Standards at the 2021 Ledger & Quill Case Competition

By Mitchel Lister



Left to right: Mohammed Manzoor, Iqra Ansari, Emily Kaiser and Abdul Feroz were the team that took home first place.

Twenty-four DePaul business students took part in the annual Ledger & Quill case competition, hosted by the School of Accountancy & MIS, in October 2021. Assistant Professor Christine Gimbar administered the case, which involved a lease issue where a company that operates multiple gas stations decides to abandon a fuel pump. This required the students to research the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or GAAP for short, which are known as the rules and regulations for accounting.

"The students really had to dig into the accounting standards; there really is no absolute answer," says Gimbar. "When it comes down to it, there are a lot of standards that are unclear, so what they had to do was take what their interpretation of the situation was and apply the standards."

Seven teams presented at the Loop Campus in front of a panel of judges from the L&Q board, which included Dan Levenson, partner at RSM, and Jim Robbs, managing partner at Sasseti. The students from the top team were Abdul Feroz, Iqra Ansari, Mohammed Manzoor and Emily Kaiser.

"What I enjoyed most about this experience was working with friends to develop a solution to a challenging task," shares Feroz, a returning case competition participant. "Though we have all been in the same accounting class for almost four years, this was a unique challenge that really required us all to think together and offer individual input. It was a challenge unlike any other that was fun to take on with good friends."

"This competition was a great opportunity to apply topics I have learned in the classroom to real-world scenarios," says Kaiser. "Some key skills I have gained from this experience were teamwork, problem-solving, time management and critical thinking."

The top two teams received L&Q awards for their efforts, with the first-place team earning scholarships of \$600 per student and the second-place team receiving scholarships of \$500 per student.

KPMG Scholarship Gift and Data Analytics Collaboration Boosts Opportunities for DePaul's Graduate Accounting Students

DePaul University's School of Accountancy & MIS is collaborating with KPMG to advance data analytics educational opportunities for students in the Master of Science in Audit and Advisory Services (MSAA) Program.

The partnership gives DePaul access to extensive data analytics resources—data sets, cases, tools, auditing practices and techniques—through KPMG's Master's in Accounting in Data Analytics (MADA) program, which helps to educate accounting students with respect to data analytics innovations and methodologies. Only a few universities around the country have a MADA partnership with KPMG, and now DePaul joins this small network.

As part of this collaboration, KPMG also has gifted the school scholarship funds for underrepresented students in the MSAA program, a move that aims to support diversity and inclusion efforts within the accounting profession.

"Today's professionals need a blend of accounting and STEM skills. The future accountant needs to be data-centric, with skills in data mining, analysis and visualization. Auditors need to 'speak the language of data' and should be well-versed in artificial intelligence, data science, blockchain and other technologies as well as auditing standards and accounting practices," says Becky Sproul, KPMG's audit talent and culture leader. "KPMG is shaping Next Gen auditors by expanding our KPMG MADA Program to schools such as DePaul University. Together, we're preparing professionals for the data age by integrating data and analytics skills into accounting programs."

"Having KPMG as a partner as we continually work to advance our data analytics curriculum is a big win for our students. It means they'll be learning from real-world materials, insights and data, from one of our most highly respected industry partners," says David Wang, director of the MSAA program. "This also deepens our connections with the professional audit community, which has many important benefits for students and also the school."

The School of Accountancy & MIS has been emphasizing the integration of data analytics into its programs for a number of years. The KPMG MADA collaboration only furthers these efforts to equip students with the most cutting-edge information directly from the field.

School Hosts First Annual Tax Symposium to Address Needs and Trends in the Profession

During the 2022 spring quarter, the school's Master of Science in Taxation (MST) program hosted an inaugural virtual symposium on the use of data analytics, process automation and related technology in the tax profession. The symposium was held over five consecutive Friday mornings from April through May, bringing together experts in the field to present on topics such as automating the tax process, designing a data analytics framework for the tax function, and the importance of data analytics in tax.

"The experts shared different perspectives on how technology and data analysis impact the role of tax professionals," says Kent Klaus, associate director of the MST program. "In addition, this event influenced the design of our new data analytics in tax course, which will launch in spring 2023, as a required course for an MST degree. This is part of our effort to incorporate more data analytics and technology in the MST program and better equip students for successful careers in tax."

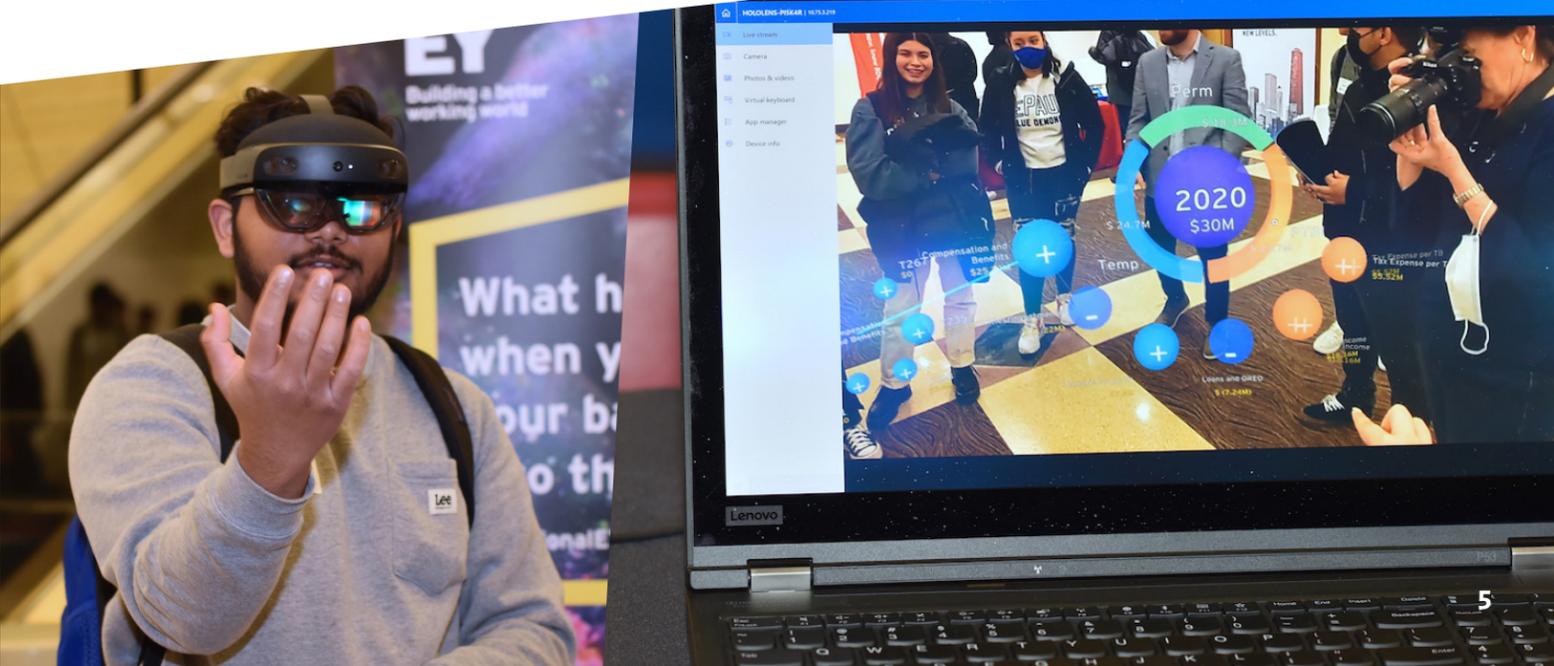
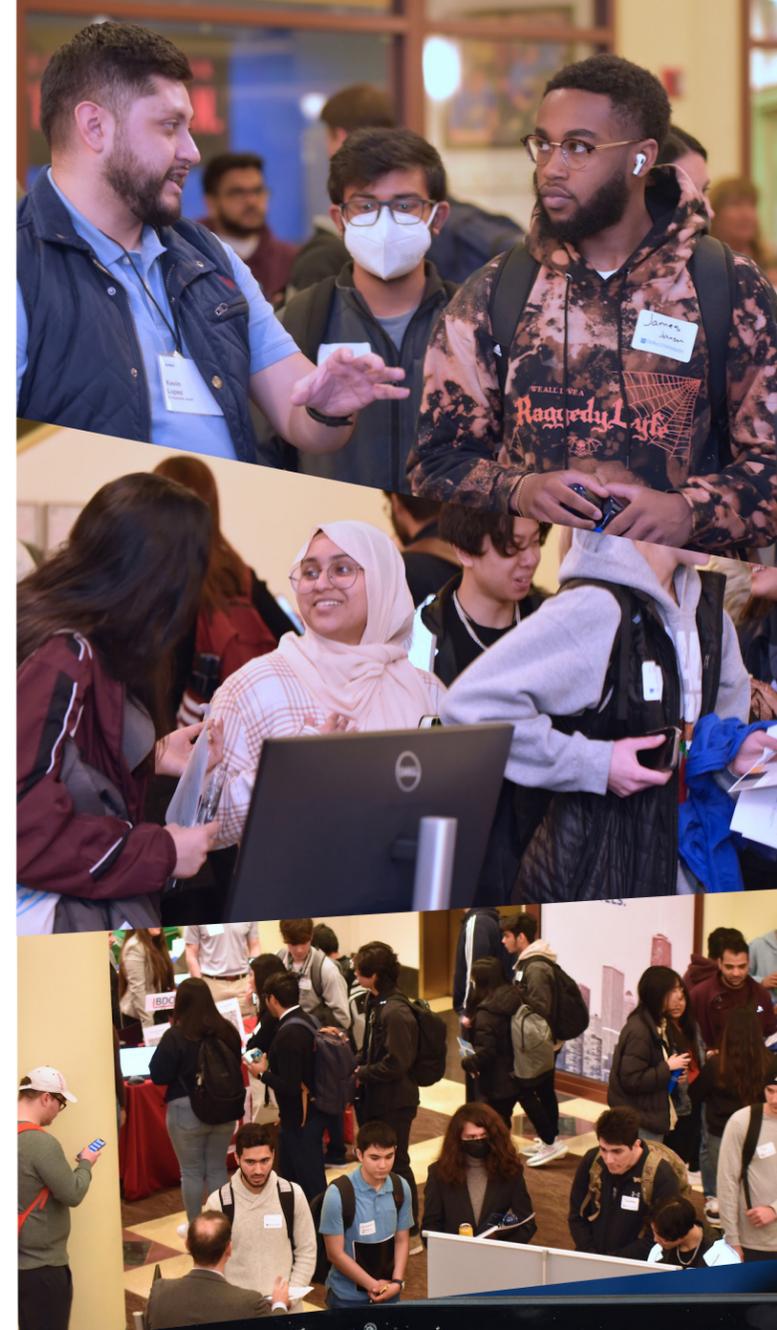
School Draws Strong Turnout for First Technology in Accounting Expo

It was an exciting and eventful afternoon on DePaul's Loop Campus on May 4, 2022, as students gathered to meet with representatives from nine of the largest accounting firms—BDO, Crowe, Deloitte, EY, Grant Thornton, KPMG, Plante Moran, PwC and RSM—for the first annual Technology in Accounting Expo. Sponsored by the school's Office of Student Success & Engagement, the event was an opportunity for students to network, meet practice personnel and learn about the latest technology and software being used in audit, tax, advisory and consulting.

The firms' demonstrations of how they use technology in each of their service lines was eye-opening for students and included the use of virtual reality, artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge tools. "For many of the firms, this was their first event showcasing accounting technology on a college campus, and they were pleased with the energy and excitement of the students," says Hui Lin, director of the School of Accountancy & MIS. "We hope they will return next spring."

"For many of the firms, this was their first event showcasing accounting technology on a college campus."

Hui Lin, director of the School of Accountancy & MIS





Past L&Q presidents with then president of DePaul University, Rev. John T. Richardson, C.M. (1990). Photo by Amy Rothblatt.

FEATURE



Dean Sulin Ba (center right) with Director Hui Lin (center left) and L&Q donors Mary Kosinski (BUS '82) and Barry Epstein (BUS '67). A new endowed professorship was recently named after Epstein after he made a generous gift to the school.

Celebrating 50 Years of Ledger & Quill Giving

By Nadia Alfadel Coloma

DePaul's School of Accountancy & MIS reached a big milestone in 2022 with the 50th anniversary of its donor society, Ledger & Quill. Over the last five decades, L&Q has been a vital source of engagement and funding for student success and faculty development. Every accounting student at DePaul, whether they know it or not, and countless faculty, have benefited from L&Q's support. Many accounting schools have donor societies, but few measure up to L&Q's level of involvement in fulfilling the school's mission.

"One of the things that makes the L&Q board unique is that they're actively involved in recruiting and engaging with students. They also provide guidance that keeps our programs grounded in practice and at the forefront of the latest developments," says Ray Whittington, professor and former director of the school. Over the course of his long tenure at DePaul, Whittington has played a key role in building L&Q and expanding its membership.

"L&Q members serve as judges in the school's case competitions, speak at panels at student events, attend receptions to network with students and alumni, and engage with students in many other ways that really make a difference to their education and development," he says.

GIVING TO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
DePaul alumnus Ernie Wish (BUS '57, LLD '91), a founding member of L&Q and longtime supporter of DePaul, substantially strengthened L&Q's funding in the 2000s through the society's most significant capital campaign, which Wish spearheaded with then school director Bel Needles and alumnus Bill Snow. The trio committed more than \$500,000 to the effort and campaigned for firms and DePaul to match donations. That historic campaign raised nearly \$4 million, creating an endowed scholarship fund that has been growing and helping DePaul accounting students ever since.

Each year, the school provides more than \$500,000 in scholarship awards to students with high academic achievement and financial need.

Ivonne Sanchez is one of these students.

Sanchez began at DePaul as a freshman and first-generation student in the Strobel Honors Program. Today she's a senior and the VP of mentorship for the accounting student honor society, Beta Alpha Psi. She also mentors DePaul freshmen through the university's peer-to-peer mentorship program.

"As a freshman I was very timid and didn't understand the idea behind corporate America or what I would be getting into with accounting," Sanchez says. "Strobel and the school allowed me access to premier events with recruiters right at the start of my freshman year. Being afforded those opportunities early on has really helped me, and I've been giving back ever since [as a student mentor]."

Sanchez expects to graduate in June 2023 and pursue a career that focuses on data science and analytics with KPMG. "I hope to do that for the next couple of years—and in the future I'd love to go back to school and get my PhD to become a professor in accounting and data analytics."

GIVING TO STUDENT ACTIVITIES
The goal behind L&Q's founding was to lessen the tuition burden for students, but it has also made a big difference to student success through its funding of student activities. L&Q's support has provided many opportunities for students to access career resources, expand their network and develop themselves.

Programming like the school's popular Meet the Firms event, case competitions and the executive-in-residence program, born out of the school's Office of Student Success & Engagement, are only a few of the events that have benefited from L&Q funding.

"When it comes to student events and activities, L&Q is the connector and the reason the school can do everything it does to help our students succeed as professionals," says senior program administrator Brian Maj, who runs the school's operations and career engagement activities.

"When it comes to student events and activities, L&Q is the connector."
Brian Maj, senior program administrator

GIVING TO FACULTY RESEARCH

L&Q has also made a significant impact on faculty, helping to advance research as well as teaching within the school.

Cindy Durtschi has been the L&Q Distinguished Professor since July 2020. A forensic accounting expert, she creates and publishes cases to help teach auditors and her students how to better detect fraud.

“This is not a typical path in accounting scholarship, to blend teaching and scholarship this closely,” she says. “That is what makes the L&Q professorship so gratifying; it feels like an acknowledgment of my efforts in both teaching and scholarship. With the support of L&Q I’ve been able to continue creating cases, recently ones that have a strong emphasis on data analytics. I’ve also created educational software called ‘Trouble at Tindy’ that is a gamified version of my cases.”

Assistant Professor Deni Cikurel, who specializes in financial accounting, is another faculty member who has been able to advance his research with the help of L&Q. In summer 2021, he was the recipient of a grant that the school awarded to a select number of faculty. “My co-authors and I worked on a research project investigating how earnings releases’ readability affects investors’ decision-making,” Cikurel says. “With the help of the

grant, we tested the validity of our manipulations and ran a pilot study. With those results, we were able to fine-tune our theory and design a new experiment to test it.”

“We really appreciate the support our alumni provide us,” Cikurel continues. “It is nice to have access to a network of professionals, such as L&Q members, who really care about DePaul and its mission.”

“With the support of L&Q, I’ve been able to continue creating cases, recently ones that have a strong emphasis on data analytics.”

Cindy Durtschi,
L&Q distinguished professor

A LEGACY OF GIVING THAT CONTINUES

“L&Q is a great way to give back and stay involved in the DePaul accounting community,” shares Dave Delgado (BUS ’87), partner at Crowe and chair of the L&Q board. “I have learned much from my time with L&Q, enjoy the camaraderie and have increased my professional network in a meaningful way.”

“My vision for L&Q is that we become a meaningful and active professional network for DePaul Accounting & MIS graduates that benefits members throughout their professional careers,” continues Delgado. “Also, that we greatly increase the amount we give back in the form of scholarships and financial assistance.”

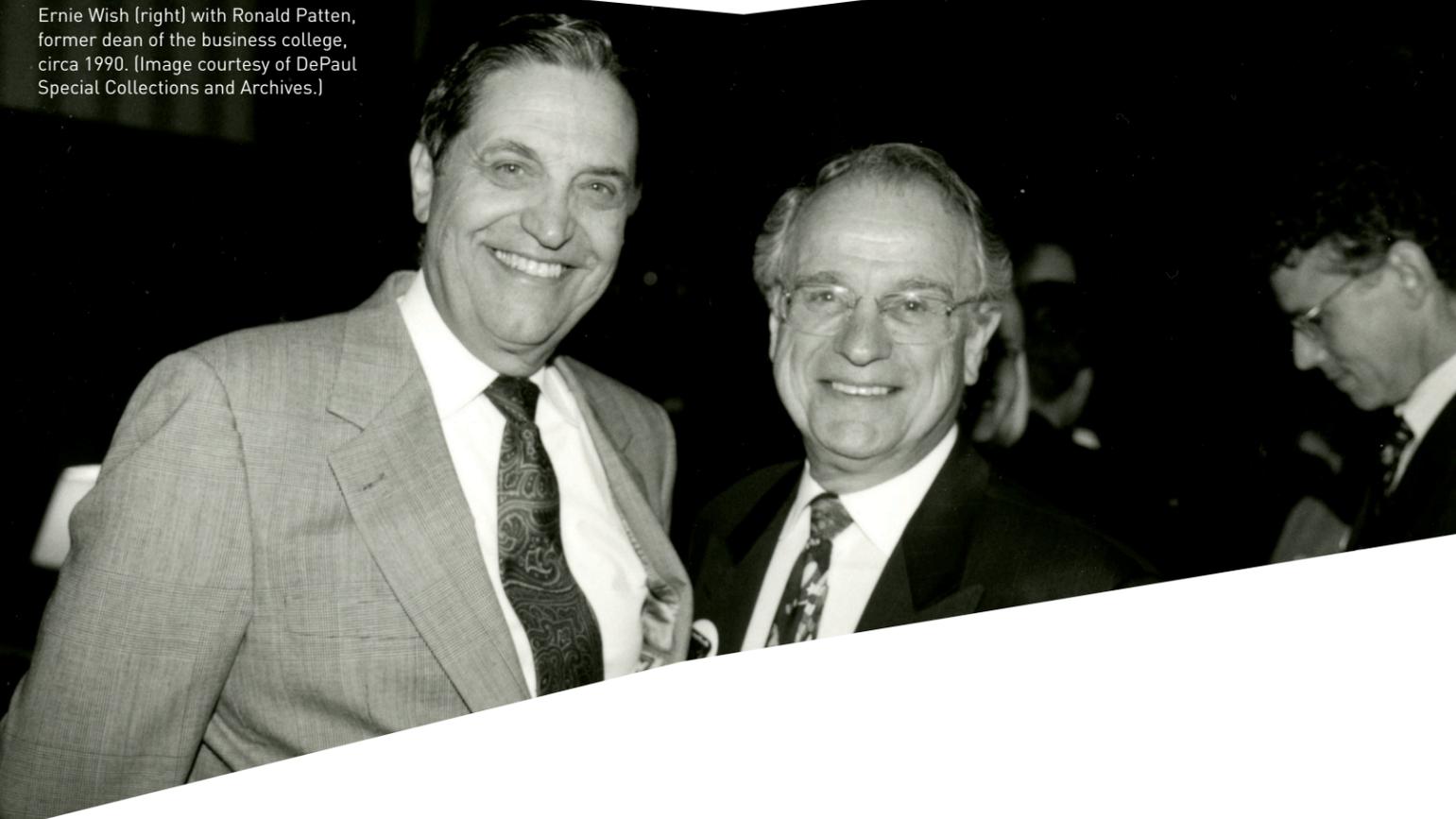
“When you join L&Q, you join a legacy of giving,” says Hui Lin, director of the school. “I feel deeply indebted to our members and look forward to continuing to strengthen alumni engagement in the school.”

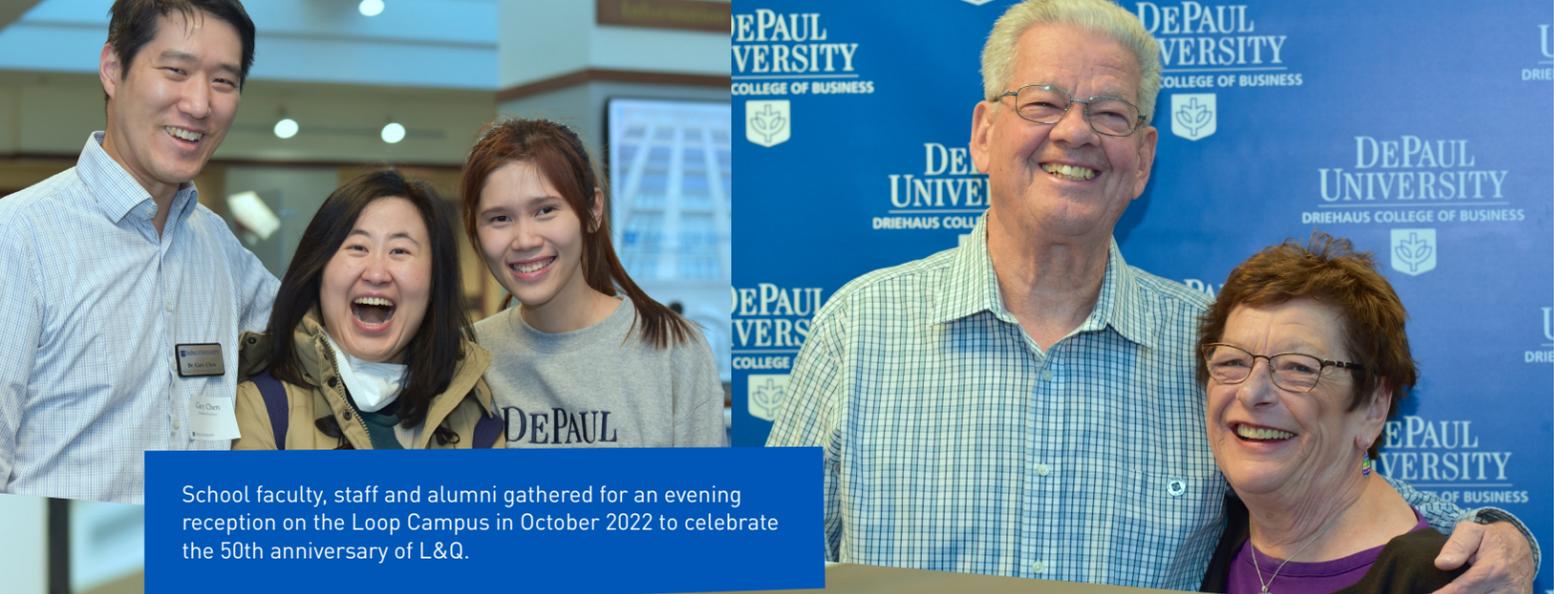
Visit alumni.depaul.edu/LQ to join today with any gift amount to one of the school’s funds.

“L&Q is a great way to give back and stay involved in the DePaul accounting community.”

Dave Delgado (BUS ’87), partner at Crowe and chair of the L&Q board

Ernie Wish (right) with Ronald Patten, former dean of the business college, circa 1990. (Image courtesy of DePaul Special Collections and Archives.)





School faculty, staff and alumni gathered for an evening reception on the Loop Campus in October 2022 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of L&Q.



FACULTY PROFILE

Christine Gimbar: Leading the Charge to Increase CPA Exam Pass Rates for DePaul Students

By Nadia Alfadel Coloma



Associate Professor Christine Gimbar is one of those faculty members who always steps up to volunteer for a project in the School of Accountancy & MIS when it involves students. You'll often find her at the helm of school case competitions, like the Ledger & Quill case competition she led in October 2021. "I love running these events and try to be involved in every

single one," she says. "Getting to interact with students outside of the classroom is so fun—I love it."

Gimbar has been busy for the last year and half working on a big initiative that will have a lasting impact on DePaul's accounting students. She's chair of the school's CPA exam task force, which formed in summer 2021 to examine and revamp how the school prepares students for the CPA exam—especially in light of the changes coming to the exam.

"The changes, no doubt, affect the way we teach our students, so we need to keep abreast of those changes and evolve our approach accordingly," Gimbar says.

DePaul's accounting students and alumni have an exam pass rate averaging around 70%, but Gimbar says, "Regardless of what our pass rate is, whether it's 70% or 95%, you can always improve your pass rates. That's what got me on board—we need to do something to help our students."

Led by Gimbar, the task force has accomplished many goals over the last year to make preparation for the CPA exam more seamless and integrated into the student experience at the school. One win was creating a partnership with an external service and publisher—Wiley—which offers CPA prep courses. The partnership provides a discounted rate for DePaul students to access Wiley's CPA prep resources and courses. At the same time, students can now use the credit they earn as part of these Wiley courses toward their required credit hours to sit for the CPA exam.

"This is huge because instead of having students gain the extra credit hours by taking some random electives, they can now use those hours in a way that helps them toward the CPA requirement," Gimbar says. "The Wiley course is online so students can do it in their own time, but what we're giving them to supplement is a meeting once a week with a professor so they can get support on things they may be struggling with in the course."

Another initiative to come out of the task force is a new CPA workshop program for students. The workshop is hosted quarterly and invites a representative from the Illinois Board of Accountancy to come answer questions and provide information to students.

The task force has also been working with department committees within the school to make sure faculty members are actively integrating more CPA exam questions into regular courses, including exam questions, quizzes and any other tests, and to let students know that these are old CPA exam questions so that they are well-prepared in knowing the CPA exam style.

Lastly, at the graduate level, the task force has been working on implementing a new systems and controls course—a topic that the new CPA exam promises to emphasize. "We pride ourselves on saying that we prepare students to take the CPA whether or not they want to or plan to," Gimbar says. "The fact is people change their minds all the time, so it's better to be prepared for whatever the future may hold. I personally feel fulfilled knowing that we are keeping our promise to do everything we can to see our students succeed."

Gimbar's Recent Research Sheds Light on Staff Auditor Behavior

Christine Gimbar is shaping industry insight as well and students' futures through her expertise in auditing. A behavioral accounting researcher, she often runs experiments to examine auditor behavior in various situations. Her most recent publication, "Auditor-Client Interactions—An Exploration of Power Dynamics During Audit Evidence Collection," is forthcoming in *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*. It concerns how auditors handle negative or uncomfortable client interactions. In the study, Gimbar and her co-authors, Melissa Carlisle and J. Gregory Jenkins, found that staff auditors will go so far as to avoid clients and revert to ghost ticking—the act of reporting an audit procedure they didn't actually do—if they perceive that the interaction with certain clients will be an unpleasant experience for any number of reasons.

"While past accounting literature shows that clients maintain the upper hand on audit engagements, we were able to identify specific types of power that auditees hold over their auditors," Gimbar says. "So, despite regulatory changes and attempts to enhance auditor independence, we show that clients continue to steer many aspects of audit engagements. To my co-authors and I, the most surprising outcome of this power was the reported use of ghost ticking. And, even more, that participants were actually willing to admit to it. That really surprised us."

Welcome Our New Faculty



Left to right: Gary Chen and Tom Festle

Assistant Professor Gary Chen

PhD, Accounting, Northwestern University

What brought you to DePaul?

I joined DePaul because of its excellent and diverse faculty who I am enthusiastic to interact with as colleagues. I am also impressed with the speed in which DePaul innovates its education to meet the changing demands of business. The university's embrace of technology and its location in the heart of the city make DePaul a great place to be.

What are you most excited about as you begin this new chapter?

I have experiences and training in both accounting and engineering. I am excited to collaborate with the faculty in developing research ideas and sharing innovations in teaching. I look forward to connecting with and guiding students of all backgrounds at DePaul in their education and career pursuits.

What do you teach and research?

I teach accounting information systems and financial accounting. I also do research in these areas, taking an interdisciplinary approach. My research provides new perspectives on how accounting disclosures are important through the lens of corporate social responsibility, information technology, finance, labor relations and supply chain management.

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy spending time with my family and close friends. Whether playing with the kids, watching a movie or traveling. Sometimes, I like to experiment with new cooking recipes, play video games or catch sports on TV (Bears, Bulls, Cubs or Blackhawks) when I get the time.

Professional Lecturer Tom Festle (BUS '82, MS '82)

MS, Accountancy, DePaul University

What brought you to DePaul?

DePaul was part of my life for as long as I can remember. My parents met, and both graduated, from DePaul in education. My grandfather, Frank McGrath, was the longtime assistant men's basketball coach, complementing the legendary Ray Meyer. My siblings and I grew up watching games at Alumni Hall when we were young. In those years, the basketball program had a few great players, but more importantly, helped develop some of the finest leaders in Chicago business, law and government.

Undecided about my major, I found that I really enjoyed my accounting classes and professors; even then, DePaul had a great accounting and tax program. I was part of the inaugural Master of Accountancy program, where I had the opportunity to be a teaching assistant and to take classes with some great teachers and even greater fellow students, many of whom are still friends to this day.

My degree was pivotal to my future happiness and success. With a strong accounting background, I was able to expand my business career so much over the last 35 years, working with multinational companies, as a Big Four partner, CFO of a private equity portfolio company and the U.S. CFO of RWE Renewables, one of the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy companies.

What are you most excited about as you begin this new chapter?

My youth was formed by many great adults, who were role models in giving back to the community by being informal teachers to young people eager to learn. I hope to bring this kind of enthusiasm to my students, so that they have the same opportunity that I did.

What do you teach?

I teach financial reporting, which was probably my favorite class when I was an undergrad. I am also teaching a new class for the college called Business 101, designed to expose students to effectively working in small teams while giving them an introduction to the various business majors and the many ways DePaul can support them.

What do you like to do for fun?

My wife, Jackie, and I have three children, and we love watching them all grow up through their various extracurricular activities. We coached their volleyball teams, learned to love field hockey and picked up enough about soccer that I refereed at the youth and high school level for many years. I still enjoy road biking, downhill skiing and traveling internationally whenever possible.



Kelly Richmond Pope Named Barry Jay Epstein Endowed Professor

By Nadia Alfadel Coloma

Professor Kelly Richmond Pope was appointed to a new endowed professorship in the School of Accountancy & MIS, effective July 1, 2022. The Dr. Barry Jay Epstein Professorship in Forensic Accounting comes after DePaul alumnus and longtime donor Epstein donated more than \$500,000 to convert the current fellowship in his name to a professorship.

"Dr. Epstein has been a major supporter of the school for decades, having made major contributions to scholarships and faculty development funds before this major gift for faculty support," says Ray Whittington, former director of the School of Accountancy & MIS.

"Kelly is uniquely qualified for this position," he continues. "She is a nationally recognized expert in the area of forensics and accounting fraud and is well deserving of this honor."

Pope is an active leader and researcher in the accounting profession who was named one of the "most powerful women in accounting" in 2020 by the American Institute of CPAs and CPA Practice Advisor. She is also a talented filmmaker known for her award-winning fraud documentaries, "Crossing the Line: Ordinary People Committing Extraordinary Crime" and "All the Queen's Horses," released in 2012 and 2017 respectively.

Pope is passionate about pushing the envelope on teaching innovations to engage students in digital learning experiences that go beyond the traditional textbook. This passion led her to create Red Flag Mania in 2020—an e-learning tool that provides an immersive game-based experience for students to learn about and detect fraud.

Pope's current projects include co-authoring a digital textbook with Pearson Learning called "Managerial Accounting, 1st Edition." She also has an upcoming book, "Fool Me Once: Stories and Lessons from Inside the Trillion-Dollar Fraud Industry" (Harvard Business Review Press), which is set for release on March 21, 2023.

"It is such an honor to receive this professorship for several reasons," Pope says. "First, Dr. Epstein is a leader in forensic accounting, so it's truly an honor to be able to continue innovative research and teaching in the field of forensic accounting affiliated with his legacy.

"Secondly, I can't stop to think about the conversation I would have had with the late Dr. Sandra Shelton regarding this professorship. I know that she would be so excited for me, and I wish she was here to share this news. Knowing that there are so few African American female PhDs in accounting and even fewer with endowed professorships makes this recognition even more special," she says.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Executives-in-Residence Help Students Navigate Career Paths

By Robin Florzak

"Large, multi-firm recruiting events and formal interviews can sometimes be overwhelming" for students beginning their accounting career journeys, says Brooklyn Campos, a DePaul junior majoring in accountancy.

To build her confidence, Campos participated in the School of Accountancy & MIS's executive-in-residence program last year. Launched in 2019 out of the school's Office of Student Success & Engagement, the program connects students with accounting executives for casual conversations about the workplace, career choices and tips for job search success.

"It's really informal, which calmed my nerves," she says. "It gave me an idea of what a day in the life of an accounting professional is like."

Campos met with executive Ken Singh, CPA, a DePaul alumnus and assurance principal at Plante Moran, who has participated in every round of sessions since the launch of the program. "The structure of the program, where it's not focused on recruiting but rather on engaging with students and offering mentoring advice, really allows me to explain what they can expect from different career options and paths, including opportunities available at Plante Moran and elsewhere," Singh (BUS '09) says. "It allows students to see what they may benefit from and what fits their personality the most."

Campos says her discussions with Singh "opened my eyes to the corporate world and that the people who work there aren't scary. They're normal people who have lives outside of work."

Singh's mentoring gave Campos the confidence to apply for and land an internship at Plante Moran, which begins in January. "I feel like I could be really happy there," Campos says, adding, "I see myself studying for the CPA and then going to work for them, if they decide to hire me."

During the previous academic year, the Office of Student Success & Engagement facilitated more than 300 meetings between students and accounting professionals through the executive-in-residence program.

"The 10 largest accounting firms in the world all recruit here at DePaul, and they each schedule a day where a manager, partner or director will meet with students," says program director Margaret Tower, a senior instructor. Students sign up for 15-minute conversations with the executives, meeting either remotely or in person. The accounting firm sessions are scheduled for fall and winter, aligning with their recruiting cycle. In the spring, the program hosts meetings between students and executives from corporate and governmental agencies that recruit at DePaul.



Left to right: Accounting student Brooklyn Campos with her executive-in-residence mentor Ken Singh, who is senior manager of assurance at Plante Moran and a DePaul business alumnus.

What makes the program different, Tower says, is the opportunity for students to access senior executives for professional conversations before they get involved in the formal recruiting process. "Students are better prepared and more successful in their interviews because they have practice communicating in real-time with someone that senior," Tower says.

It also prepares students for their future roles as accountants, she adds. "I think being able to use communication skills is beneficial, especially during the last two years when there have been fewer opportunities for students to do that. When they go to work, students need to be able to converse with clients. They can't just do it through text or email; they actually have to talk."

As an alumnus, Singh says it's rewarding to give back to DePaul and the next generation of accounting graduates.

"We recruit from all the major universities throughout Chicago, and I want to see more individuals come from DePaul because I know there's a great curriculum there," he says. "The talent coming out of DePaul would be great to have at Plante Moran."

Interested in learning more about the School of Accountancy & MIS executive-in-residence program? Contact Margaret Tower at mtower@depaul.edu.

ALUMNUS PROFILE

Manish Setia (BUS '00)

By Jaclyn Lansbery

Residence: Burr Ridge, Ill.

Education: BS in accounting, alumnus of the Strobel Honors Program

Occupation: Finance director in immunology forecasting at AbbVie, a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Chicago.

Why I chose DePaul: I absolutely loved my experience at DePaul. As a student, I was actively involved in the DePaul chapter of the honor society Beta Alpha Psi, which gave me the opportunity to network with professionals in the field. I chose DePaul because it's in the heart of the city. I remember visiting the Loop Campus as a high school student and seeing the names of the companies and organizations on the wall in the DePaul Center. DePaul's connections to corporate partners and the fact that they offered me a substantial scholarship is what led me to choose DePaul over other universities I was considering at the time.

Career path: In my role at AbbVie, I am responsible for leading the forecasting efforts for the company's immunology franchise, which has more than \$60 billion in sales. I've held various positions at AbbVie since I began working there, including director of internal audit and director of enterprise strategies in which I worked on the acquisition of a billion-dollar company called Allergan, a maker of Botox. Prior to working at AbbVie, I was recruited by Abbott Laboratories, where I worked for several years. At Abbott, I had the opportunity to travel to more than 30 countries to learn about the company's international affiliates as part of a two-year rotation in the audit practice.

What I like best about my job: Working with people all across the globe from different cultures and different backgrounds to ultimately deliver products that impact patients' lives. Prior to my current role, I worked in market research for AbbVie. I sat behind the glass watching doctors talk about their patients who have diseases such as Crohn's. A lot of the folks who have worked at AbbVie have worked here for 20 to 25 years, which is rare. I've been here for 18 years. The reason people stay is because you're making a difference in people's health, and it's just a good place to work.

How and why I stay connected to DePaul's business college: I joined the board of Ledger & Quill about three years ago, and served as a judge for the Goglin Data Analytics Case Competition in 2022 and 2021. Data analytics skills can be a big differentiator for students who pursue careers in accounting. More importantly, what I like to focus on in those competitions is not only the technical side of data analytics but then being able to take that information and tell a story.



Manish Setia

The reason I wanted to get more involved with DePaul was because I remember the impact that working professionals had on me as a student. I very distinctly remember how motivated I was when someone from Deloitte or Abbott at the time came in and had conversations with me about their career journey. The insights from those professionals really shaped the way I wanted to pursue my career. I'm a first-generation student, so everything I learned about the corporate world was through DePaul, through internships and the people I met.

My advice for new graduates: Always continue to learn, even after you leave school, and find ways to continue developing. Network as much as you can, meet people and get comfortable at taking risks.



LEDGER & QUILL PHILANTHROPY

THE IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022

Ledger & Quill is the donor society of alumni and friends of DePaul University's School of Accountancy & MIS. Established in 1972, L&Q provides ongoing financial support toward student scholarships, faculty development, and sponsorship of the school's programs and activities.

L&Q MEMBERS: 410

OVERALL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Total student scholarship dollars awarded: \$611,664
 Number of scholarship funds: 50
 Average scholarship awarded: \$1,446
 Number of scholarship recipients: 423

L&Q ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The L&Q Endowed Scholarship was established to support academically high achieving accounting students, especially Strobel Accounting Honors students. This year, the fund supported 19 students with \$41,104 in total scholarships, with an average of \$2,163 per student.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

L&Q funds faculty research and development in a number of ways that advance the school's prestige and ranking.

Highlights from faculty development in 2021-22 include:

- Publication submissions to top quality accounting research journals
- Specialized software for research and teaching, including Tableau, Caseware, Stata, BNA Bloomberg Tax, Tax Notes and databases such AICPA membership data to support research endeavors
- American Accounting Association (AAA) membership, with access to quality journals, meetings, and resources for teaching, research and practice
- AAA annual meeting registration (the 2021 theme, Be Courageous in the Midst of Challenge, featured dynamic and informative plenary and panel sessions that sharpened attendees' understanding of current issues); live, interactive virtual rooms were used for all panel, research and paper sessions
- AAA section meetings, which provided faculty with focus areas for research and teaching, including accounting behavior and organizations, accounting information systems, technologies and international accounting, accounting program leadership group, auditing, diversity, financial accounting and reporting, forensic accounting and more

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

L&Q co-sponsored the annual Goglin Data Analytics Case Competition, which invites student teams to analyze financial data using Excel. This year's case was the pandemic's impact on airline companies. Four teams of 11 students competed, resulting in \$4,200 in awards, with participation by L&Q board members serving as judges.



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GENERAL JOURNAL

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A photograph of two men sitting at a table in a meeting. The man on the left is seen in profile, wearing a light pink shirt. The man on the right is facing him, wearing a blue and white checkered shirt. They appear to be in a professional setting, possibly a classroom or office.

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