Jessica A. Nylen, CPA

Department of Accounting & Information Systems
University of Wisconsin-Madison
jnylen@wisc.edu
(414) 265-6121

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Expanded Auditor Reporting. Auditing & Accounting Standards. Audit Quality.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Auditing. Financial Accounting.

EDUCATION

The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI — GPA 4.0
Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting & Information Systems — *In Progress*

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA — GPA 4.0
Master of Accountancy — *May 2011*

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA — GPA 4.0
Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, Minor in Spanish — *December 2009*

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Publications

- Nylen, J., D. Wangerin, and K. Zehms. 2025. Do Key Audit Matter Disclosures About M&A Transactions Predict Future Performance? *Review of Accounting Studies, forthcoming.*
  - This study examines whether auditor KAM disclosures about M&A transactions predict future performance outcomes. Our findings suggest that M&A KAMs reflect uncertainty that predicts weak post-acquisition performance and forced CEO turnover, incremental to other indicators of failed acquisition strategies.

Working Papers

- "Differences in Key Audit Matter and Critical Audit Matter Disclosures for the Same Client" with Dan Wangerin and Karla Zehms – *Preparing for second round revise & resubmit to Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*
  - This study examines differences in KAMs and CAMs, employing a research design whereby we compare audit reports of cross-listed companies for which the same auditor provides both disclosures for the same company in the same period. Our findings reveal that the differential features of KAMs provide more value-relevant information compared to CAMs as reflected in investors' equity valuations and ability to predict future earnings.
- "Evaluating the Usefulness of Going Concern Critical Audit Matters: Insights into Auditor Uncertainty and Management Mitigation Plans" – *Dissertation/Job Market Paper*
  - Using archival research methods, I study how going concern CAMs provide useful information by allowing auditors to highlight "close call" situations around the threshold of substantial doubt. My findings suggest that when auditors have greater uncertainty in their going concern decisions, CAMs provide useful information regarding the future success of management's mitigation plans.

Works in Process

- "Do Auditor CAM Disclosures Inform Investors' Future Earnings Expectations? Evidence from Goodwill and Management Forecasts" with Dan Wangerin and Karla Zehms – *Data analysis phase*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison – Wisconsin School of Business — Madison, WI
Primary Instructor — *August 2020 – May 2022*

- Audit and Assurance Services
  - Average Evaluation: 4.53/5 (5=far above average, 4=above average)
- Introductory Financial Accounting
  - Average Evaluation: 4.87/5 (5=far above average, 4=above average)

University of Iowa – Henry B. Tippie College of Business — Iowa City, IA
Graduate Teaching Assistant — *August 2010 – May 2011*

- Introduction to Financial Accounting
- Financial Information & Capital Markets

PRESENTATIONS

AAA Annual Meeting *2025*
- "Evaluating the Usefulness of Going Concern Critical Audit Matters: Insights into Auditor Uncertainty and Management Mitigation Plans"
- Discussant

AAA Auditing Section Mid-Year Meeting *2025*
- Discussant

PCAOB Internal Seminar Series *2024*
- "Differences in Key Audit Matter and Critical Audit Matter Disclosures for the Same Client"

AAA/Deloitte Foundation/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium *2024*
- "Evaluating the Usefulness of Going Concern Critical Audit Matters: Insights into Auditor Uncertainty and Management Mitigation Plans"

Dairyland Conference *2023*
- "Differences in Key Audit Matter and Critical Audit Matter Disclosures for the Same Client"

University of Wisconsin-Madison Workshop *2023*
- "Differences in Key Audit Matter and Critical Audit Matter Disclosures for the Same Client"

International Symposium on Audit Research (ISAR) Conference *2022*
- "Do Key Audit Matter Disclosures About M&A Transactions Predict Future Performance?"

University of Wisconsin-Madison Workshop *2021*
- "Do Key Audit Matter Disclosures About M&A Transactions Predict Future Performance?"

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

AAA Annual Meeting *2025*
AAA/Deloitte Foundation/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium *2024*
AAA Auditing Section Mid-Year Meeting *2023, 2025*
International Symposium on Audit Research (ISAR) Conference *2022*
PCAOB Conference on Auditing and Capital Markets *2021, 2022, 2023*
Dairyland Accounting Research Symposium *2021, 2022, 2023*
Midwest Accounting Research Conference *2021*

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Hawaii Accounting Research Conference (HARC) Reviewer *2025*
AAA Annual Meeting Reviewer *2022, 2023, 2025*
AAA Auditing Section Mid-Year Meeting Reviewer *2022, 2023, 2024*
AICPA Scholarship Program Judge *2022, 2023, 2024, 2025*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PricewaterhouseCoopers Milwaukee, WI
Assurance Manager, Consumer Industrial Products Audit Team *August 2011 – June 2020*
- *Auditing* - Completed financial statement audits over mid-sized to large public and private manufacturing companies, including obtaining an understanding of the business, assessing risk, testing internal controls, performing analytical procedures, and executing substantive testing over financial statement detail
- *Research* - Performed research and interpreted technical accounting guidance through referencing the Accounting Standards Codification, which often involved collaboration with partners on complex accounting topics and consultations with PwC's National Office
- *Coaching & Reviewing* - Coached and reviewed the work of staff and seniors, including providing on-the-job training and real time feedback, as well as mentored staff through serving as a career coach, providing insight for career development decisions, and assisting in the annual performance review process
- *Collaboration with Specialists* - Worked with firm specialists in areas including taxation, risk assurance, valuation, and actuarial sciences, to perform audit work over complex accounting areas requiring specific expertise
- *New Accounting Standards* - Worked with clients through the implementation of new accounting standards, including ASC 606 on revenue recognition
- *Unique Transactions* - Developed expertise through work over unique client transactions, including acquisitions, divestitures, carve outs, debt offerings, and government grants
- *Project Management* - Led project management of audits including scheduling staff, managing conflicts, establishing and monitoring budgets, and driving efficiencies to achieve target realizations and engagement margins

- *Client Communication* - Served as the key client contact for all communications, including audit requests and issues management, as well as presented the results of our audit work to key management including the CEO, CFO, and Audit Committees of public and private companies
- *PCAOB Inspection* - Presented and defended audit work performed when selected for inspection by the PCAOB
- *Engagement Compliance Review Program* - Performed internal reviews over the audit work of other teams as well as presented and defended audit work performed when selected for internal review
- *Digital Accelerator* - Helped audit teams leverage technology to automate processes and create efficiencies to improve the value, quality, and experience of the audit, as well as instructed Digital Academy sessions, which included becoming trained in Alteryx and Tableau and subsequently teaching the software to the audit practice
- *Recruiting* - Actively participated in recruiting events at The University of Iowa, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, The University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, and Marquette University to attract and obtain the best talent, including interviewing candidates, networking with prospective students, speaking in classrooms, sitting on panels, and judging accounting competitions
- *Women's Leadership Network* - Drove diversity initiatives through the creation of the Milwaukee Women's Leadership Network, which included planning and executing networking events such as lunches with women partners, panelist events with local women leaders, parenthood events, confidence building workshops, negotiations training, and self-defense classes

PricewaterhouseCoopers — Milwaukee, WI
Assurance Intern, Financial Services Audit Team — *June 2010 – August 2010*
- Performed detailed audit work on client financials and employee benefit plans for insurance clients
- Selected to spend three weeks working at PwC in London, England through the International Internship Program

GE Healthcare — Wauwatosa, WI
Financial Management Program Intern, Global FP&A — *May 2009 – August 2009*
- Provided GE Healthcare with a global view of sales to contribution margin by product category by correcting the mapping of thousands of product parts
- Communicated with Global FP&A teams in Europe and Asia to resolve discrepancies

GE Healthcare — Waukesha, WI
Financial Management Program Intern, Global X-Ray — *May 2008 – August 2008*
- Created global pricing reports adjusted to eliminate the effects of fluctuating foreign exchange rates, providing GE Healthcare a new way to look at reports which enabled better informed business decisions
- Completed average configuration analysis on 25 x-ray products to ensure GE Healthcare had the correct inventory carrying value and that standards were properly set

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

The Inclusive Classroom Certificate, American Accounting Association	*2024*
Member, American Accounting Association, Auditing Section	*2020 - Present*
Digital Acumen Certificate, PricewaterhouseCoopers	*2019*
Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants	*2012 - Present*
Certified Public Accountant, State of Wisconsin	*2012 - Present*

HONORS & AWARDS

AAA FARS Conference Excellence in Reviewing Award	*2022*
AICPA William (Bill) Ezzell Scholar	*2022*
Wisconsin School of Business Accounting Department Douglas Clarke Memorial Teaching Award	*2021 – 2022*
Wisconsin School of Business Distinguished Teaching Award	*2020 – 2022*
Wisconsin School of Business Dean's Naming Scholar & Accounting Department Scholar	*2020 – Present*
AICPA Accounting Doctoral Scholar	*2019 – Present*
University of Iowa Accounting Faculty Scholar & Outstanding MAc Student Award	*2010 – 2011*
American Society of Women Accountants National Scholar	*2010*
AICPA/Accountemps Student Scholar	*2009*
University of Iowa President's and Dean's List	*2006 – 2011*
University of Iowa Old Gold Scholar, National Scholar, and Accounting and Business Scholar	*2006 – 2011*
University of Iowa Honors Program	*2006 – 2011*