

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

# THE GEORGE W. DAVERIO SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

ONE DEGREE WITH 360 DEGREES OF OPPORTUNITY

## MTAX ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

### PETE UNDERATION

*Sherwin Williams,  
Director of International Tax*  
Graduated May 2016



### PELLEGRINO PIERMARINI

*Plante Moran*  
Graduated May 2017



### SARAH SIVIC

*Deloitte*  
Graduated May 2018

The University of Akron's MTax Program provides students and professionals with the necessary tools to further their career in the field of taxation. The Program addresses all tax disciplines for well-rounded professionals entering the workforce, or preparing for the next opportunity. The curriculum and course outline is taught by highly-trained individuals who were in Industry, which adds elements of real-world applicability to the classroom. I highly recommend The University of Akron's MTax program for individuals who are looking to further their career in Tax.

I chose to pursue a Masters in Taxation after talking with firm experts during my internship on how to best start my career. I decided to return to The University of Akron because the professors I had as an undergraduate helped me build a great foundation. They are true experts in their field and are often still active tax consultants. This helps bring real life experience to the classroom. The research skills I gained from the program has opened many doors in my career. It introduced me to International Tax and gave me the necessary background to pursue a fellowship with my firm's International Tax Services Group.

I chose to enter the MTax program as I had interned and committed to a full-time position in federal tax with a Big 4 accounting firm and had been told it would be a very beneficial choice for my career in both the short-term and long-term standpoint. The MTax program not only taught me about the tax code, but gave me a deeper perspective of tax policies and issues that are present in the world around me. Every class was an undeniably entertaining experience and I truly learned more than I could have ever asked for. I not only gained knowledge of tax law but obtained life lessons and professional development advice that I will carry with me indefinitely. The professors and my peers made the MTax one of the most influential years of my life and I highly recommend completing the program if you have the opportunity to.

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## JD/MTAX ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

**DANIEL PRESBY**

**EY**

Graduated May 2017

My name is Danielle Presby and I graduated in 2017 with a JD/MTax degree from The University of Akron. I am currently employed as a Tax Senior at EY in the Global Compliance and Reporting Service Line working in Corporate and Partnership Compliance, as well ASC-740 Tax Accounting. I cannot say enough about my experience in the JD/MTax program. The Faculty and Curriculum that it afforded me was beyond reproach.

Not one JD/MTax Professor lacked real world experience. When you enter the work world after having obtained an advanced degree, your superiors will expect that you can seamlessly transition into applying the knowledge that you've obtained – not just be able to read and understand the Internal Revenue Code. Throughout my experience in the program, all of the Faculty members had prior or current work experience in Public Accounting, Tax Law, and/or Industry which allowed them to articulate how and when the content we were learning could be applicable.

In fact, one of my instructors is the Partner on my largest compliance account. The ability to learn from Faculty members who not only know the expectations for working in public accounting, but also understand how to prepare you to be able to jump into more complex tax issues allowed for me to be able to be prepared for whatever my superiors threw my way. This level of preparation helped to accelerate my promotion to Senior and to allow my superiors to trust in me to take on more responsibility sooner in my career.

The Curriculum in the JD/MTax program allows for you to be a well-rounded and effective tax professional. In my roll at EY I have the opportunity to work on corporate, partnership, state, and international compliance as well as tax accounting. Within the JD/MTax program I was afforded the opportunity to take a course covering all of the above subjects. This not only allowed me to differentiate myself by being able to tackle whatever an engagement may bring, but also feel comfortable in my day to day activities in being able to pivot from one topic to another. Not only were the courses offered diverse, but they were also in-depth enough to provide me the opportunity of being familiar with anything that has come my way or know enough on the topic that I know where to find out more.

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### THOMAS WINKHART

*PwC NYC International  
Tax Services*

Graduated May 2018

The MTax program at the University of Akron provided me with a solid foundation for my career with PwC's International Tax group in NYC. The comprehensive curriculum gave me the opportunity to become technically capable in a variety of subject matter. In tax there are always overlapping issues that affect multiple specialty groups - I believe that I have an advantage to understand different topics while others in my group are siloed to their day-to-day tax content. Professors in the MTax department bring a vast knowledge base to the classroom, derived from their academic research and professional work experience, to ensure that students are learning about relevant tax principles that can be applied at any level of your working career. These professors care about their students' success both inside and outside of the classroom, and have proven to be great mentors and resources post graduation. I attribute a great deal of who I am as a tax professional and person to the great students and faculty in the MTax program.

### NATHAN FULMAR

*Buckingham, Doolittle  
& Burroughs*

Graduated May 2019

The JD/MTax program allowed me to immediately specialize in a high-demand area of law and expanded my job opportunities as a result. The coursework provided me with a solid foundation for many of the tax concepts I have run into in my first year of practice. The workload is manageable for those even working full-time, but you have to diligently study to achieve A-level grades. The faculty is where the program really stands out above other joint degree programs. Not only are the professors leading tax practitioners who teach the practical applications of tax concepts, but they also go above and beyond in providing networking and job opportunities for students. I received interviews and offers from both large accounting firms and law firms in part due to my joint MTax degree. And with my professors' guidance and advice, I excelled in the interview process. I mean this sincerely—I would not be in as fortunate of a position right now if I did not pursue an MTax degree. The MTax has had undeniable benefits in my job search and is a signal to employers of a highly marketable skillset in tax. I'm confident I will continue to benefit from my MTax for years to come.