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Accountancy Master's Graduates Receive Prestigious CPA Exam Award

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Accountancy Master's Graduates Receive Prestigious CPA Exam Award

Ole Miss ranks No. 1 in the SEC, tied for No. 4 nationally for Sells Awards from 2020 to '22

OCTOBER 6, 2022 BY **JENNIFER LEA MCCLURE**



OXFORD, Miss. – Two graduates of the **Patterson School of Accountancy** at the **University of Mississippi** have received the 2021 **Elijah Watt Sells Award**, the most prestigious certified public accountant exam award in the world.

More than 72,000 individuals sat for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination in 2021, with only 57 meeting the criteria for the Sells Award. The award recognizes candidates who pass all four sections of the exam on the first attempt and obtain a cumulative average score above 95.50.

UM recipients of the award are Sydney Ferguson and Reynolds Spencer.

The UM accountancy school is ranked first in the SEC and tied for fourth in the nation for number of Sells Award winners from 2020 to 2022, with eight awards going to Ole Miss graduates.

"Winning the Sells Award is an exceptional accomplishment," said Mark Wilder, the school's dean. "We could not be more proud of Sydney and Reynolds, as well as our previous Sells awardees.

"We are very fortunate to have bright, hard-working students in the Patterson School who excel academically and become leaders in the professional world."

Ferguson completed her bachelor's degree in accountancy in 2020 and her Master of Accountancy and Data Analytics in 2021, both at Ole Miss. Originally from St. Louis, she is employed with KPMG in New York City.

Spencer completed his bachelor's degree in 2020 and continued at UM to complete his Master of Accountancy in 2021. He is originally from Nashville, Tennessee, where he works for Ernst & Young.

Ferguson said she is "incredibly grateful and honored" to receive the award.

"The master's program helped me to prepare for the CPA exam by solidifying my understanding of basic accounting concepts while also expanding my knowledge of auditing, taxation and technology," she said.

Spencer echoed those sentiments.

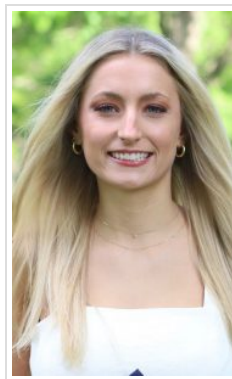
"I could not have come anywhere close to achieving this award without the rigorous instruction and support I received both as an undergraduate and Master of Accountancy student in the PSOA," he said. "The faculty and staff of the Patterson School truly care deeply about the success of their students and prove it by going the extra mile to provide a world-class education and prepare students for both sitting for the CPA exam and entering the professional world."

The Elijah Watt Sells Award program was established by the **American Institute of CPAs** in 1923 to recognize outstanding performance on the professional exam.

To learn more about the academic programs in accountancy at UM, contact Jennifer McClure, director of master's programs, at mcclure@olemiss.edu or Nicole Ethridge, recruiting coordinator, at nicole@olemiss.edu.



Reynolds Spencer, a 2020 and 2021 alumnus of the UM Patterson School of Accountancy, works for Ernst & Young in his hometown of Nashville.



Sydney Ferguson, who earned accountancy degrees from UM in 2020 and 2021, works with KPMG in New York City. Submitted photo

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Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to

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