



## Janine Bautista

Binghamton University  
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### **What degree did you earn?**

Bachelor of Science in Accounting with a minor in Spanish and Global Studies (2012), Master of Science in Accounting (2013)

### **Where are you working right now? How did you choose your career path after graduation?**

I work as the Assistant Director of SOM Career Services. My first job out of college was at PwC as a tax associate in the Tax Projects Delivery Group. I did not picture myself back in Binghamton or working in career services capacity, but I've always had a passion for helping people and psychology.

A year after graduating, I wanted to go back to school to pursue a degree in mental health counseling/psychology. I started by taking a general psychology course on a Saturday at a community college while researching degree programs. My sister was diagnosed with an eating disorder as a teenager and that played a big role in me wanting to change careers. She's doing much better and even published a children's book on self-acceptance and kindness titled "Holly the Hippo"!

During this time, the assistant director role came through my email and it was the perfect blend between what I wanted to do and my background. I guess my career choice happened by chance but if I hadn't pursued my passion it wouldn't have happened at all.

### **What do you consider to be your most important accomplishments post-graduation?**

Right now, I would say finding my passion and being able to create a lifestyle that's dynamic and positive. I'm blessed to be living out my passion every day working in higher education. I'm able to take build a skincare business while breaking into real estate investing. There are material accomplishments of course, like buying my first car and paying down my student loans. However, being able to make a difference in so many lives and being there for my sister is what's most important to me and I think that will stay true whether it's 2017 or 2050.

### **What about your job motivates you?**

So many things! As an alumna of the school, being able to go to work every day and knowing I'm giving back to a place that has given me so much is so fulfilling. From the staff to faculty to students, the amount of positive change and growth is uplifting. Working with students is my favorite part. Every student has a different story and some of the things these students have gone through are incredible. If I can have a positive affect on my students, it motivates me to reach more, do more and do better.

### **How have your experiences and/or involvement at Binghamton help you in your career?**

My first semester, I was not very involved but that quickly changed. I was part of PwC Scholars which immediately put me outside of my comfort zone as we had to speak in front the entire MGMT 150 class. The PwC Scholars program continued to be a source of challenges, growth and learning especially with the international trip. We visited Germany the year I went.



I was also involved in the Philippine-American League and Alpha Kappa Psi. I served on both e-boards as treasurer and president, respectively. Taking leadership positions in both organizations taught me about management, working with different personalities, and strategic planning.

Lastly, I worked at the call center which answers for different offices on campus. Looking back, that job gave me my problem solving skill set. Parents, students, and community members would call about everything and anything. My job was to get them the information they needed without passing on the "problem" to someone else. I had to deal with some frantic students especially when it came to their admissions application. It was challenging but I learned so much!

### **What are your hobbies/interests?**

I enjoy new experiences, spending time with family, and event planning. I've traveled quite a bit and plan to continue my travels. A goal of mine is to do at least one international trip a year. In the past year, I've taken up real estate investing and started a skincare business, Re:Beauty!

*“You get what you put in and I tried to do that as a student.”*

### **Would you please be able to provide some insight into the projects you are working on?**

The SOM career services office started in 2010. The school has a strong foothold in the accounting and finance industries but as our student body grows and diversifies, we have to grow with it. I started in this role July 2015 and my responsibilities cover three areas - student advising/professional development education, employer relations, and alumni outreach.

On the student side, one of the new programs I've developed is the Transfer Student Professional Development Orientation, geared towards accelerating transfer student's career exploration and job search. We're developing more programs and workshops that educate students on career management, career paths, and professional development. Our biggest challenge is engaging students but by creating valuable experiences and fostering a community we hope to tackle this hurdle.

Employers and alumni play an instrumental role. I'm always looking to build relationship with employers and alumni as these partnerships are crucial to student success. We're looking to grow our employer base and have more alumni engaged whether it be through executive in residences, attending the SOM Mentoring and Networking Event during homecoming, or other events.

### **Do you have any advice for current students and/or new professionals?**

No matter where you are in life, stay true to who you are. There will be challenges and circumstances that you can't change. You will have to sacrifice things - sleep, time with family, delaying your dream job search, etc. - but know you have the power to pursue your dreams.

I've encounter many students who've felt under-accomplished, under-qualified, or unsure about their careers. To all students and young professionals who feel that way know that "You are good enough! Never be afraid to ask for help. There is always someone out there cheering for you. If you can't think of anyone, I'm already in your corner."

### **Is there any other information that you would like to provide?**

If any students or alumni want to reach out to me, my email is [bautista@binghamton.edu](mailto:bautista@binghamton.edu)

[Janine's LinkedIn](#)

[SOM Career Services](#)

*This Alumni Spotlight was created by VPMR Louis Clements.*

