

2023 Continuing Professional Education in Accounting
UCA Accounting • Friday, December 8, 2023
Speaker Bios

Session 1

J.F. Matros, Assurance Manager. J.F is a Certified Public Accountant with over five years of public accounting experience. A significant portion of his career has been spent serving clients in the financial institution sector. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a B.S. in Accounting and Finance. He is a member of the AICPA and the Arkansas Society of CPAs.

Alex Talley is a graduate of the University of Arkansas where she obtained a B.S. in Accounting and a Masters of Accountancy. Alex is a Certified Public Accountant with over eight years of public accounting experience. A significant portion of her career has been spent serving client in the financial institution sector. Alex has served banks with assets ranging from \$100 million to over \$2 billion in audit, internal audit, trust audit, consulting, and financial reporting capacities. Alex is a member of the AICPA and the Arkansas Society of CPAs.

Session 2

Tim Montgomery is the Executive Director of the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy. He has been with the Board since July of 2013. He was promoted to Executive Director in May 2023. He and his wife live in the country with their youngest child. They also have 3 grown children, all married, and 2 beautiful grandsons.

Session 3

John Brock is a founding partner of Garland and Greenwood.

Session 4

Wade Luethy is a member of the FORVIS Commercial Services and Insurance teams. He has more than 13 years of public accounting experience providing audit, accounting and consulting services to clients in a range of industries, with a focus on commercial enterprises and insurance companies. Wade also works on employee benefit plan audits. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants. He also serves as an internal instructor for a variety of training courses in accounting, auditing and internal controls. Wade is a 2009 cum laude graduate of the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas, with a B.S. degree in accounting. Wade serves on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas, as well as the University of Central Arkansas chapter of Chi Alpha.

Session 5

Daniel Meador currently serves as an Audit Manager at Frost, PLLC. He has been at Frost since September 2014 after graduating with a Masters of Accountancy and a Bachelors of Business Administration from the University of Central Arkansas. Daniel has experience with clients in multiple fields including public companies, governmental entities, not for profit organizations as well as large family owned companies in the food and agriculture industry. Daniel has also previously served as a chairman of a finance committee for a not for profit organization in Central Arkansas.

Session 6

Stephanie F. Watson, Ph.D., CPA, has been on the faculty of the University of Central Arkansas Accounting Department since 2003. She currently serves as the department's chairperson. Stephanie has taught Accounting Information Systems, Cost Accounting, Principles of Accounting, and Accounting Case Studies. Stephanie is also involved in Curriculum and Assessment, has co-authored a textbook, and has been published in the Journal of Accounting Education, The CPA

Journal, and Oil, Gas, and Energy Quarterly, among others. Stephanie has been honored with the ASCPA Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education, Outstanding Beta Alpha Psi Advisor, and service and teaching awards from UCA's College of Business. She received a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D., all in accounting from Louisiana State University. Prior to graduate school, Stephanie worked in corporate accounting for seven years.

Patricia H. Mounce, PhD., CPA (retired), CFE (retired) retired from the University of Central Arkansas where she was professor of accounting. Her primary areas of interest included tax and fraud examination.

Session 7

Christy Steele is a DFA Tax Auditor with the Individual Income Tax Office. She graduated from the University of Central Arkansas and began her career with the State of Arkansas in 2008 as a Family Service Worker with the Division of Children and Family Services. After 4 years of social work, she decided to go back to UCA for a degree in Accounting. Christy joined DFA in 2017 and worked in the Department of Motor Vehicle before transferring to Individual Income Tax in 2019. She then transferred to Franchise Tax in 2020 at the request of management. When Franchise Tax ended at DFA and resumed at the Secretary of State's office, Christy transferred back to Individual Income Tax and has remained there ever since. In addition to her audit duties, she now participates in the construction of the annual tax booklets, assists with recruiting and training new hires, and travels Arkansas on behalf of the DFA to give income tax updates to organizations such as the ARCPA and the National Association of Tax Professionals.

Tommy Burns attended the University of Central Arkansas and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting. He spent eight years in technical support and supervisor roles in the Customer Service and Fintech Service industries before joining the State of Arkansas. He has been with the Department of Finance and Administration since 2009 when he started as a Fiscal Support Representative, then worked for over 10 years as a Tax Auditor in the Office of Income Tax Administration for the Corporate Income Tax section from 2010 to 2021. Tommy was promoted to Tax Auditor Supervisor for Central District Field Audit in 2021 and Fiscal Division Manager in Individual Income Tax in 2022. He is currently the Assistant Administrator for the Corporation Income Tax Section with DFA.

Session 8

Richard Bell, CPA, JD is a shareholder, President & CEO of Bell and Company. While working for other public accounting firms and serving as controller for a property management company and finishing law school at night, Richard developed a passion for helping others achieve their financial goals and decided to establish Bell & Company in 1981 with his wife, Lee. By doing so, Richard thought he could provide professional accounting and financial services that were delivered with competency, proficiency, timeliness, and reasonable fees. That became reality as Bell & Company has been thriving since its creation new with 50 plus team members. Richard's areas of concentration are tax and business and estate consulting. Richard has niche, extensive experience in serving the transportation industry as the Bell Firm represents sixty-plus private carriers. Richard has written articles for transportation trade publications and provided continuing education seminars. Richard has also served as a forensic or expert witness in state and federal courts, involving transportation financial "damage" matters. Richard's passion is being a "work out CPA" for troubled companies. Part of his life's work has been helping financially distressed transportation companies to restructure, regain viability, and once again, become profitable companies that provide jobs for employees and their families. He has been recognized by Arkansas Business for its 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award in Accounting. Richard serves on the Bowen Law School, Dean's Advisory Board and was recognized in the 2017 Bowen's Public Service Award for Bowen Law School. Richard was appointed by the former Governor, Asa Hutchison, to serve as a Board Member on the Arkansas Board of Public Accountancy. He was appointed by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders to serve a second term on the Arkansas Board of Public Accountancy.

Paul Gehring is the Assistant Commissioner of Revenue – Policy & Legal of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). He joined DFA in 2007 as an attorney and was hired as Chief Counsel in 2014 and as Assistant Commissioner of Revenue in 2016. He has been licensed to practice law in Arkansas since 2001. He received his J.D.

from the University of Arkansas School of Law – Fayetteville and received his B.S.B.A. from the University of Arkansas College of Business – Fayetteville where he majored in International Economics and Business.