SARA E. SMIAROWSKI

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EDUCATION:

- MS, Accounting, 2017. University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- BS, Accounting, 2003. Truman State University, Kirksville MO

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

University of Massachusetts - Amherst Amherst, MA 2020 - present
Lecturer, Finance

FIN 301 – Corporate Finance
FIN 304 – Financial Modeling
MGMT 640 – Corporate Finance (online MBA)
MGMT 641 – Fundamental of Corporate Finance (MBA and MSBA program)

Elms College Chicopee, MA 2017 – 2020
Assistant Professor of Accounting and Finance

ACC 201 and 202 – Principles of Accounting 1 and 2
ACC 306 – Cost and Managerial Accounting
ACC 350 – Accounting Information Systems
BUS 311 – Principles of Financial Management
BUS 620 – Accounting for Managers
ECN 211 – Microeconomics

ACADEMIC AWARDS:

- Isenberg Teaching Fellows, 2022-2024
- Isenberg Teaching with Digital Technology Award, 2020-2021
- Nominated for Teaching with Digital Technology Award, 2021-2022, 2023-2024
- Nominated for Distinguished Teacher Award, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025
- Nominated for College Outstanding Teaching Award, 2023-2024

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

- Co-director, Isenberg Insurance Academy
- Faculty Sponsor, Smart Women Securities
- Served on Academic Advising Committee – 2 years
- Served on Ethics Subcommittee of the Elms College Strategic Planning Committee
- Taught First Year Seminar – 2 years

SCHOLARLY WORK:

- "The Innovation Challenge: Teaching Social Innovation to First Year Students" presented at IACBE National Conference in April 2020 (presentation moved to online format due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- "Innovation Challenge: Developing Critical Thinking Skills in Upper Level Accounting Students" poster session at AAA Mid-Year Symposium in October 2019
- Invited to teach a workshop at Nepal's National Social Business Challenge, Kathmandu, Nepal, June 2019

- "Innovate through Empathy: Applying the Design Process to the Development of Courses" presented at IACBE National Conference in April 2019.
- "Applying Design Thinking in Development of Accounting Course Structure" presented at October 2018 IACBE Regional Meeting
- "Elms Innovation Challenge" developed a new program; an intensive and interactive three-day design thinking boot camp that introduced the design thinking process that led to participants using the design process for social innovation

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2025 Course Design Institute - University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- 2025 Isenberg Finance Conference - University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- 2019 American Accounting Association (AAA) Teaching and Learning Mid-Year Symposium
- 2018 American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual Convention (3-day conference). Attended various research and teaching presentations.
- Price-Babson Symposium on Entrepreneurial Education, January 2019. Attended and participated in workshops focused on advancing entrepreneurial education.
- Coached and mentored team of study competing in the Business Ethics Case Study Competition at IACBE Regional Meeting, October 2018

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE:

Contract CFO / Business Consultant 2019 – present

- Accounting and finance consulting work for start-up companies

Berkshire Brewing Company South Deerfield, MA 2015 – 2017

Chief Financial Officer

- Maintained executive responsibility for financial operations, including cash flow, capital expenditures, taxes, budget, and general accounting.
- Provided financial leadership and strategic vision for the Company; identified future challenges, manage the risk associated with such uncertainties
- Assisted in identifying new business opportunities, such as new markets and product lines while analyzing and advising the President on the financial viability of the opportunities.
- Managed Company cash flow, including securing financing for major capital projects
- Ensured compliance with local, state, and federal tax and liquor regulations and reporting requirements

Yankee Candle Company South Deerfield, MA 2014 – 2015

Director of Corporate Finance

- Oversaw monthly P&L, balance sheet and working capital variance analysis, prepared and reviewed reconciliations as required
- Worked with international subsidiary to ensure timely reporting and consolidation of monthly financial information; provided guidance to ensure issues are resolved appropriately
- Identified and researched accounting issues, advised business unit owners of the proper accounting of transactions and business processes

Kringle Candle Company Bernardston, MA July 2010 – Nov 2014
Chief Financial Officer

- As one of the first employees of the company, designed, implemented, and enforced all financial reporting, budgetary, human resource, IT, and other systems.
- Prepared budgets and forecasts for the business; guided and directed the business managers to adhere to the established budget
- Managed cash resources for daily operations and business and product development.
- Liaised between Board of Trustees, external legal counsel, and the owners to ensure financing and governance of the Company.
- Established, evaluated, integrated, and managed the company's financial, administrative, human resource and IT functions.

Enterasys Networks, Inc. Andover, MA 2007 – 2010
Director of Corporate Reporting/North American Controller

- Responsible for the monthly close process of the entire North American operation
- Consolidated the worldwide financial results of 25+ reporting entities on a monthly basis; decreased the quarterly close cycle from 14 days to 7 days
- Primary lead responsible for the financial reporting integration into the new international joint venture owner
- Led accounting efforts to convert from US GAAP reporting to IFRS
- Responded to multiple due-diligence requests, S-1 preparations, as the Company worked toward potential acquisition and ultimately ended with a contribution to an international joint venture

Feeley & Driscoll, PC Boston, MA 2003 – 2007
Supervisor Auditor

- Led audit fieldwork, developing the audit plan, supervising staff, and performing audit procedures
- Specialized in high-tech client base, which demanded a high level of technical accounting knowledge as the majority of client base was private-equity backed with complicated debt and equity structures
- Prepared corporate, partnership, and personal tax returns

CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- Certified Public Accountant – licensed in Massachusetts since 2004
- Member of the American Accounting Association

COMMUNITY AND BOARD EXPERIENCE:

- Member, Board of Directors, Wright Architectural Millwork, a for-profit ESOP company (2023 – Present)
- Treasurer, Academy of Music Theatre (2023 – Present)
- Member-At-Large, Rural Policy Advisory Commission (2018-2021)
    - Appointed by Governor Charlie Baker
- Chair, Town of Sunderland Finance Committee (2018 – 2024)
- Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Amherst Montessori School (2017 – 2020)
- Junior League of Boston, member