Over 90,000 candidates sat for the Uniform CPA Examination in 2011. While passing the exam is an accomplishment in itself, earning a score within the top 100 or even top 50 is unthinkable for many test takers. Gonzaga University Masters of Accountancy graduate Kiely Strohmaier (MAcc ’11) went one step beyond that by earning scores that placed her in the top 37 among 90,000 test takers.

In Spring of 2012, Kiely was notified that she was a recipient of the 2011 E.W. Sells award, which recognizes outstanding performance on the Uniform CPA Examination. The award was presented to 37 candidates who earned top scores on all four sections. Awarded by the American Institute of CPAS (AICPA), the 2011 awards were presented to candidates who obtained a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination, completed testing during the previous calendar year, and passed all four sections of the Examination on their first attempt.

Kiely notes that earning this award is a significant honor. “This came as a huge surprise. When you are taking the exams, you really have no idea where you stand or how you are doing,” said Kiely.

“We are very pleased to see Kiely be recognized for her impressive achievement in winning the Elijah Watt Sells Award. She was an outstanding student in our program and we look forward to her continued success as her career progresses,” noted Dr. Gary Weber, Director of Gonzaga University’s Masters of Accountancy program.

Kiely came to Gonzaga’s Masters of Accountancy program after finishing her undergraduate degree at the University of Washington. She noted the rolling admissions and flexible start time as key benefits of the MAcc program. “I graduated early from the University of Washington and I was able to start my MAcc right away at Gonzaga. It worked out perfectly to complete the program within a year and take the CPA in the summer,” Kiely explained.
While at Gonzaga, Kiely enjoyed the personal, close-knit community on campus. Specifically interested in tax issues and case studies around agriculture, Kiely appreciated the faculty’s willingness to provide her with extra information and resources.

“I’m really thankful for everybody at Gonzaga who supported us and helped us learn what we need to know to start careers and pass the CPA. Gonzaga did a great job. The MAcc program is strong and getting stronger all the time!”

Kiely Strohmaier is currently a senior accountant for CliftonLarsonAllen LLP in Moses Lake, WA.

For more information about the MAcc program, please contact:

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