

**Meeting Minutes:**

**Guest Speakers: Jane-Ann Pineda & Avani Bharucha, CPA  
Baratz & Associates, P.A.**

**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

General Body Meeting

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

BSB 116

**E-board members present:** Jessica Hagmaier, Kristen Hoey, and Leigh Ann Vicoli

Jessica Hagmaier called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm to welcome Jane-Ann and Avani from Baratz & Associates. The women began by introducing themselves and their positions at the accounting firm. They reminded students that accountants do so much more than file taxes. Their firm has seven partners with different specializations in areas such as: medical and health care, litigation, forensics, international tax, business evaluation, and more. Avani's favorite aspect of the job is seeing the whole life-picture of her clients, so that she can better assist them with recommendations and life planning.


Baratz is a growing company. Jane-Ann feels that it is nice to see a small company grow because you're growing with them. You are aware of any changes going on because you are all family. Small companies offer more flexibility, which is great for the younger generation (especially for women with kids, etc.). She reminds students that this is a good trait to look for in companies. She says to the students, "They care for me—am I going to gamble and go somewhere else?"

Another benefit for working for a small company is that somebody will always be there to help you. Avani points out that you learn from working in the field, and not necessarily from a textbook. She encourages people to ask questions when they are learning a position. "Everything you learn should be applied to your next engagement," she says. She encourages students to never wait until you are offered a promotion. Work for it now! If there are people you look up to, try to develop any set of skills you admire about them. Make a goal for your career and work hard for it.

Both women notice that companies are starting to see more talent in women and are changing their work culture to accommodate that. As a matter of fact, Avani is on the path to becoming a partner right now. She meets with her mentor once a month, which is important for anyone looking to advance their career. Baratz also offers opportunity for shadowing. When Jane-Ann was hired, she wasn't sure if she wanted to do audit or tax. The company let her try both and she discovered that she preferred tax. She strongly recommends that students follow advice and opportunities from the career center, "You paid for that. Take advantage of it." Both Jane-Ann and Avani agree that Rutgers students always stand out among the rest, in regards to their resumes, communication skills, and overall confidence. They also recommend that students

learn how to use QuickBooks, no matter what area of business they are studying. It is an incredibly important tool that many businesses use.


**Number of people in attendance at meeting:** 4, including 3 E-Board




**GENERAL BODY MEETING**

FEATURING:  
JANE ANN PINEDA FROM BARATZ & ASSOCIATES

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8**  
12:45 TO 1:45  
BSB 116



**ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME**  
We provide students with the tools they need to  
succeed in their careers



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