00;00;05;04 - 00;00;24;05
Intro/Outro
Career EQ provides students and young professionals advice for launching the early stages of their career. Each guest is hand-selected based on the week's topic. Our host is Jon Quinn, senior lecturer at the Fisher College of Business at the Ohio State University. Let's see what Jon has in store for us today.

00;00;24;08 - 00;00;45;23
Jon Quinn
Welcome to the final installment, at least for now, of our career EQ sub series, where we dive into various disciplines, offered in business schools, and to better understand different paths within that career and what a day in the life may look like in that career. The discipline on tap today is accounting. You may recall from our episode about career paths in finance that I ignorantly stereotype finance and accounting as those bean counters.

00;00;45;25 - 00;01;02;17
Jon Quinn
However, I was almost one of those bean counters in that I minored in accounting in college with the intentions of getting my CPA. Today we have a panel of four guests, a colleague of mine from the Fisher College of Business at the Ohio State University, and three recent and distinguished Fisher accounting grads.

00;01;02;20 - 00;01;11;24
Patrick Kielty
Hey everyone. My name is Patrick Kielty. I am a professor at Fisher. I've been here since 2018, and I've recently become a clinical assistant professor of accounting.

00;01;11;27 - 00;01;24;03
Jennifer Huang
Hi everybody. My name is Jennifer Huang. I graduated Fisher in May 2022, and I'm currently a risk advisory consultant at PWC. Very excited to be on this podcast.

00;01;24;05 - 00;01;45;22
Jess Paumier
Hi everyone. My name is Jess Paumier. I am a JD candidate at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and I graduated from Fisher in the spring of 2023. And thank you for having me on.

Hi everybody. My name is John Ostrowski. I was in the class of 2022 at Fisher, accounting student, and I'm currently a senior associate at.

00;01;45;23 - 00;01;50;21
John Ostrowski

Zeles on the M&A integration and transformation teams. Very excited to be here today. Thank you.

00;01;50;24 – 00;02;02;07
Jon Quinn
Welcome to Career EQ everybody. Glad to have you all here. Patrick. let's start it off with you. You hand-selected these recent Fisher grads for this episode. Why did you select these specific three?

00;02;02;09 – 00;02;20;08
Patrick Kielty
I did. So there's two main reasons. One, I really enjoyed speaking with them. There's some of my star students, but two, I think they do a really good job of demonstrating the various careers that you can do with accounting. I think with an accounting degree, it's the language of business. So you're best suited to make decisions within a firm.

00;02;20;10 – 00;02;26;04
Patrick Kielty
And I think they can talk today about why accounting is broad and it helps them.

00;02;26;08 – 00;02;50;01
Jon Quinn
Great. So one of my best friends recently retired from his SVP role in risk at PNC and now plays a lot of golf and consults when he wants to. And he's a couple years younger than me. Dang. Maybe I should have stuck with accounting and gone into risk. So, Jennifer, tell us about your role at work and how did your education and accounting at Fisher prepare you for it?

00;02;50;03 – 00;02;55;04
Jennifer Huang
Sounds like I should be this friend of yours, especially as golf is actually one of the things that I'm currently trying to learn.

00;02;55;05 – 00;02;57;05
Jon Quinn
Well, I can connect you guys on LinkedIn.

00;02;57;07 – 00;03;25;07
Jennifer Huang
Yes, to a love you. Love that. In the meantime, I would love to share more about my journey and risk. I'm coming up to two years at PBC, and I can't believe how fast the time has come. I primarily assist various multi-billion dollar companies in the telecommunication, manufacturing and energy and healthcare industries to help them evaluate the risk that they're facing their information technology and business processes to just help them prepare for their initial public offering.

00;03;25;10 - 00;04;07;03
Jennifer Huang
I would say I currently signal internal audit space, specifically focusing on testing Sarbanes Oxley controls related to the functionalities I just mentioned, and I conduct analysis to help remediate any gaps identified. That could potentially be risky for the companies in the future for not only themselves, but also their customers. I would say my time at Fisher greatly contributed to my success in my career, from supplying me not only the basis for my accounting background with coursework such as Professor Kelsey's audit class, but also providing me and network of alumni who guided me through the processes for both my interview and my internship, and that ultimately resulting in me committing to the firm full time ahead

00;04;07;03 - 00;04;08;21
Jennifer Huang
of starting my senior year.

00;04;08;24 - 00;04;22;25
Jon Quinn
Excellent. So you mentioned Sarbanes. Sarbanes Oxley and yes. And just and I know what that is just because of that buddy of mine. But tell us a little bit about the the stress testing you do and how it's related to Sarbanes Oxley.

00;04;22;27 - 00;04;54;14
Jennifer Huang
Yeah. So I work with a lot of internal control. So I look at the different risks that faced different processes in the company, such as like for HR or like their financial reporting. And then based off of that, like you were mentioning, I do stress testing on what are the different levels of risk that could be associated with that, how we can help the company remediated, how we can fill any gaps that potentially could arise there that could result in like security or accessibility issues and just preventing any like, fraud overall.

00;04;54;17 - 00;05;13;22
Jennifer Huang
So I would say definitely that is the key part of Sarbanes-Oxley that's regimented and regulated by the government to try and help alleviate any concerns there and ensure that customers feel not only trustworthy of the companies that they put their trust in, but also just in the overall like accounting space.

00;05;13;24 - 00;05;21;12
Jon Quinn
Very cool and very important and high profile stuff too. That's that's the type of stuff people don't think about, right? When you think about a career in accounting.

00;05;21;14 – 00;05;33;00
Patrick Kielty
Very much so. I feel like people forget that we're working for investors, we're protecting investors at the end of the day, and if we don't have good quality information, then financial markets and companies really do struggle.

00;05;33;08 – 00;05;43;23
Jon Quinn
Yeah. Excellent. So John, tell us a little bit about zealous. Like what do you do there. What is zealous. And your role and accounting coursework plays in your day to day. There.

00;05;43;26 – 00;06;20;09
John Ostrowski
Absolutely. It's a great question. I know a lot of people don't know a ton about zealous. I didn't know a ton to before I, started doing some work in the health care payment technology side. So to provide a brief overview, zealous is a healthcare technology company focused on, modernizing the health care finance experience for all with an inclusive focus on payers, providers, and health care consumers, we use advanced technology and analytics to bridge gaps in the health care finance system to align interest between these three parties, and we have a pretty large scale pricing about, over 100 billion in claims each year, paying over 200 billion in claims and empowering

00;06;20;09 – 00;06;47;13
John Ostrowski
over 100 million poker consumers with advanced communication and digital engagement solutions. So a little bit about my role. It's less, reports the head of our integration management office and support the firm for all stages of the M&A lifecycle, as well as strategizing and implementing key value creation initiatives across all of our business units. And in my day to day, my accounting background plays a relatively key role in both my M&A and value creation responsibilities.

00;06;47;16 – 00;07;09;06
John Ostrowski
Properly value a target company and develop an integration strategy, you need to understand their finances and how they are key accounting functions operate and when developing and executing internal value creation efforts. The same comfortability with accounting systems and functions has allowed my team and I to implement some relatively game changing projects that have strengthened our firm overall.

00;07;09;09 – 00;07;22;02
Jon Quinn
To John, you mentioned M&A to mergers and acquisitions. Tell us a little bit about like, your role in supporting and evaluating mergers

and acquisitions and what do you do to help that process?

00;07;22;04 - 00;07;41;17
John Ostrowski
Yeah, absolutely. So, in our firm and most firms, there's two key deals. And so you have a corporate development function for sure. A lot of ex investment bankers and people that have a lot of experience on the financial side, as well as M&A operations, folks who are skilled in the implementation and overall project management side.

00;07;41;20 - 00;07;59;13
John Ostrowski
So I sit on that latter team and we do a lot of the fund implementation work. So during, the diligent series, we do a lot of the operational diligence and build out some of the, synergy strategies that would you generally see any good, deals, talent slide and then as we go throughout the deal, we leave a lot of the key, integration functions.

00;07;59;13 - 00;08;09;10
John Ostrowski
And, had a lot of the execution responsibilities. So a lot of good, budget work and something that, it's a good marriage between a good corporate development team and a good integration management team.

00;08;09;13 - 00;08;17;06
Jon Quinn
Very interesting. So, Jess, before we ask, I just want to know, since you go to Case Western, do you hang out to Jolly Scotland at all?

00;08;17;08 - 00;08;20;13
Jess Paumier
Yeah. So I've been there, one time, so just.

00;08;20;13 - 00;08;29;28
Jon Quinn
Wanted to see if it was a case Western. That would be dangerous for those who don't know what I'm talking about. It's a microbrewery. Right on in the student union at Case Western. Pretty cool little place.

00;08;30;00 - 00;08;31;00
Jess Paumier
Yeah, it's a good spot.

00;08;31;00 - 00;08;32;25
Jon Quinn
You've only been there once. Why?

00;08;32;27 - 00;08;41;21

Jess Paumier
Well, they, they held what's called bar review. Oh. There. So that was, that was the bar for that week.

00;08;41;24 - 00;08;53;24
Jon Quinn
Oh, great. All right, so you decided to use your accounting degree as a springboard into law school. How do you see leveraging and integrating these two different disciplines upon your graduation in your JD?

00;08;53;27 - 00;09;25;07
Jess Paumier
Yeah. So, I think, the I think that accounting is, a really flexible degree. So for, for me personally, it was just, like a win win situation. I had, ambitions of going to law school, but I, I wasn't sure that I could make that work out. A couple of years ago. So, I ended up as a performance auditor at the United States Department of the interior.

00;09;25;09 - 00;09;49;11
Jess Paumier
A large, for a little while after graduation to kind of explore my interest in accounting. And that was, that was a great way to see what, with that career path, could it hold for me? And it was a great experience. I mean, auditing is. Well, performance auditing is kind of its own.

00;09;49;11 - 00;10;06;00
Jess Paumier
My flavor. It's not quite, you know, what financial auditing is, which, you know, Professor Kielty teaches, you know, you mentioned, the Yellow Book, I think once before, but that that wasn't the main topic of that class.

00;10;06;00 - 00;10;08;16
Jon Quinn
But what is the Yellow book?

00;10;08;18 - 00;10;21;11
Jess Paumier
So, yeah, it's like, gagas. Government account of, general generally accepted government accounting standards, so that that's kind of the process by which it's.

00;10;21;11 - 00;10;23;17
Jon Quinn
Kind of like, GAP for the government.

00;10;23;20 - 00;10;46;07

Jess Paumier
Yes. Okay. And performance auditing is, is, pretty, pretty broad in its scope. So I was on one project, throughout the, the, the whole time I was employed there. And, it was the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.

00;10;46;09 - 00;10;47;22
Jon Quinn
Sounds like pretty heady stuff.

00;10;47;24 - 00;11;13;25
Jess Paumier
It was. It was, so it was a congressionally mandated audit. And geospatial data is a really kind of big topic. And, there were only two audits done before, so there wasn't much to, to go off of in the prior year to, to look forward to. But you're really doing a lot of reading and writing.

00;11;13;27 - 00;11;38;23
Jess Paumier
And it was definitely a learning experience for me. But ultimately, like, I was still able to, get into law school, and that's where I'm at now, and I, I'm, I'm just really glad that accounting gave me all those options I could have, as Professor Kelsey knows, I applied to a really, like, wide variety of jobs.

00;11;38;26 - 00;11;42;06
Jess Paumier
So, yeah, it's a great path, right?

00;11;42;06 - 00;12;02;21
Patrick Kielty

I really enjoyed this conversations. I remember when you were a student, we were kind of saying like, where do you want to go? Like what? What do you want your career to look like? And the kind of government service aspect that you do, I think is really important to society. And then I really like that you've gone and gotten that work experience, and I think you're now going to take that into law school, and it's going to make you a better lawyer and maybe accountant to.

00;12;02;27 - 00;12;03;18
Jon Quinn
Yeah.

00;12;03;21 - 00;12;23;09
Jon Quinn
That's, a little bit of advice there for the students out there. Like when you see a professor of yours that has experience in maybe specific areas, you might be interested, get to know them, talk to

them. You know, they can kind of help you, give you some guidance. So it's important to connect with the professors that you've, that have some sort of alignment with your career.

00;12;23;09 – 00;12;39;11
Patrick Kielty
So absolutely. Like that's why I got into my profession of being a teacher is I remember how influential my professors were when I said, hey, I'm 18, 19 years old, and I don't know if I should do economics. I don't know if I should do finance accounting. What what do those even mean? So I think that's also why I'm enjoying this conversation today.

00;12;39;11 – 00;12;39;20
Jon Quinn
Yeah.

00;12;39;21 – 00;12;45;07
Jon Quinn
Excellent. Thank you. In your first year or two in your career, what have been some of the biggest challenges for you?

00;12;45;09 – 00;13;09;10
Jess Paumier
So for me, the biggest challenge was moving to a completely new city and not really knowing anyone from undergrad. So that that was tough. You know, kind of dealing with cost of living that substantially higher than the amount of money that you're earning.

00;13;09;12 – 00;13;20;08
Jon Quinn
My youngest son is going through that right now. He went to he just moved to Boston last week. So, official empty nester doesn't have anybody, like, from Ohio or school he went to with up there.

00;13;20;11 – 00;13;46;19
Jess Paumier
Yeah. The cost of living, is, is really is really tough, like in the government sector. Those first couple years are pretty tough. You've you got to stick it out before you see, a salary bump and, you know, obviously I didn't stick around long enough to see that, but, those were sort of the non technical challenges for me.

00;13;46;19 – 00;14;02;28
Jess Paumier
The actual job. Great. Like hybrid schedule. Really, it was, it was a really good fit. But those are some things to consider, especially like your, you know, what you're doing outside of work.

00;14;03;00 – 00;14;04;06

Jon Quinn
How about you, Jennifer?

00;14;04;08 - 00;14;21;26
Jennifer Huang
Yeah, actually, I was just about to jump in because relating to you just I can, like, definitely relate to that because I moved to a new city post-graduation. And honestly, I've been away from my hometown since I was like 18. So it's been kind of just every few years they trip to a new city. So I can relate to that.

00;14;21;26 - 00;14;47;08
Jennifer Huang
Like cost of living and like adjustments. Definitely moving around, not really knowing anybody and just jumping right in. That was definitely something I can see as well. I think for me personally, part of the difficulties post-graduation was just the constant like adaptability and the change within, just like my industry and within everything. I had to like relearn or learn again, kind of like touch base on, I think.

00;14;47;10 - 00;15;13;14
Jennifer Huang
I didn't realize like how much analytics really went into like my work. And I think that really made me had to like touch up on my like, SQL skills on not just my Excel and PowerPoint and Microsoft Office skills, but also just overall like presentation and speech and that I think like that. Definitely like within the first few months, I really had to learn that really, really quickly and just be comfortable to constantly be like out of my own comfort zone.

00;15;13;14 - 00;15;15;08
Jennifer Huang
I'm like, bubble?

00;15;15;10 - 00;15;16;22
Patrick Kielty
I was gonna say, that's a really good point.

00;15;16;22 - 00;15;18;19
Jennifer Huang
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00;15;18;22 - 00;15;39;16
Jon Quinn
Yeah, absolutely. And what I love about that point is, you have to be ready to continue your learning right out of the gate, right? Like you're, of course you want to get out there and you want to start doing things, but you're going to have to start acquiring new skills right off the bat, because you're not going to learn everything in

your academic coursework now or in your internships.

00;15;39;18 - 00;15;45;06
Jon Quinn
And you have to really kind of start that process of being a lifelong learner, right? Then. Right. Then your first job.

00;15;45;14 - 00;16;10;06
Patrick Kielty
Absolutely. And I think we give you the foundation to go out there and be successful, but then it's on you to take on new challenges, to be a sponge, to say, hey, I'm in over my head with this job, but I'm here, I'm going to work hard and I'm going to learn through that process. And I know the three of you we've had conversations with each of you guys about your careers off line, and that's what I've seen with all of you, is the willingness to learn and the willingness to push yourself, which I really appreciate about all three of you.

00;16;10;08 - 00;16;22;23
Jon Quinn
Yeah. So in addition to willingness to learn and becoming a lifelong learner and pushing yourself, what are some other personal characteristics and interests that make the best for, being successful accounting professional?

00;16;22;26 - 00;16;52;08
John Ostrowski
Sure. Happy to jump in here. I think the, so I coming out of college, I got to cut my teeth at, one of the big four firms and got to enjoy life as an associate. And when I was speaking to a lot of people that were recruiting and a lot of people that were interested in also joining before, I always told them that there were a few things that, I saw as one of my biggest challenges, to acclimate to early on and some things that if you can really nail it, you were going to be a good associate and you were going to be a good senior manager along the way.

00;16;52;11 - 00;17;17;08
John Ostrowski
I think the first thing is really kind of getting comfortable being uncomfortable. Accounting is not a straight forward. And, straight line as many people think it is. It is a very ambiguous field, and unlike college, there's no answer to every specific problem. You have to go out there and be able to find a question that may not even be out there, and you have to give it your best guess to the people that are really comfortable being in those uncomfortable situations or thrive in this accounting field.

00;17;17;11 - 00;17;32;18
John Ostrowski

I think the next thing to it's in a personal skills, which we were alluding to before. Throughout your different projects, whether you're in public or in industry, you're going to have a lot of different seniors, a lot different managers that you work for. And you're gonna have to really understand what best practices they expect for you coming out to it.

00;17;32;18 – 00;17;47;24
John Ostrowski
And ultimately what they're going to want an associate or a senior to be able to achieve in their role. A lot of my directors that I worked for, their big thing for me was saying, hey, as an associate, you're not going to get everything complete, right. You're not going to be able to deliver me a perfect product all the way.

00;17;47;27 – 00;18;11;05
John Ostrowski
But I want you to get to that 90%, because if you, as an associate, can complete a project 90% get a work plan and 90% make whatever return 90%. A good senior or good manager is going to best utilize their time. Getting from that 90% to 100%. So the person that can understand what their senior looks like, understand what 90% looks like to them, is going to really well.

00;18;11;07 – 00;18;30;13
Patrick Kielty
I like what you said a lot because it kind of gives me two misconceptions about accounting, which is accounting is black and white. Accounting is not black and white. The rules are black and white. But even then there's gray areas. The the best accountants and the best auditors that I see. And the best employees know that there's this judgment involved in accounting and they thrive in that area.

00;18;30;16 – 00;18;46;29
Patrick Kielty
And then the second thing that John spoke about was the people aspect of accounting. You're constantly working on teams. You're constantly working, working with other people. You're working with your client, and you have to get information from them. And that is the heart of accounting. So that's what I want people to know about accounting.

00;18;47;01 – 00;19;08;11
Jon Quinn
That's that's a really good point. And and I know I'm in the past, even though I majored in economics in accounting, I applied some of those stereotypes. And I'm learning stuff in here today, so I don't want to overgeneralize. But Gen Z prioritizes work life balance. How is your work life balance been like in your current roles, or maybe in a previous role?

00;19;08;13 – 00;19;14;10
Jon Quinn
And what are the expectations at your, current company or previous companies you worked at?

00;19;14;12 – 00;19;36;10
Jennifer Huang
I would say, like in my role specifically, work life balance definitely depends largely on like where my clients year end is. Like some of them, maybe it's like 30 others it's like 630 or like end of the year. So obviously around those time periods for those two months before and after, it's quite hectic, quite busy, and I'm working a ton of hours.

00;19;36;13 – 00;19;57;28
Jennifer Huang
But then for the rest of the year it evens out a lot more. It's around like 3540. But I was like during those high intensity, really busy season time. It's around like 50, 60 hours. I think that's pretty on par with most of the roles that my friends are in, within my company. So I think it's pretty well aligned throughout, just not my company.

00;19;57;28 – 00;19;59;12
Jennifer Huang
And also the other big four.

00;19;59;14 – 00;20;15;15
Jon Quinn
Yeah. Just to clarify that a little bit like we are talking about nine 3630 in those peaks and valleys, depending on what roles you have, an accounting, you're going to have those peaks and valleys getting towards. And what Jennifer was referring to is the end of fiscal years. So and end of fiscal years could be different for different clients.

00;20;15;15 – 00;20;29;22
Jon Quinn
They might end to June. They might end, in September, or they might be on the annual calendar. So, depending on what your client base is, you then, you know, those peaks are coming. You just buckle in and then once it's over, then you get some more flexibility.

00;20;29;26 – 00;20;45;11
Patrick Kielty
Absolutely. Yeah. So you'll hear people say things like, my firm is a 1231 firm. So that means that they close their books on 1231. And then it's the auditor's job to then step in and say, let's verify that entire year of the economic activity of the company.

00;20;45;13 – 00;20;48;28

Jon Quinn
How about you, John? What about, places you've worked?

00;20;49;00 - 00;21;18;12
John Ostrowski
Yeah, sure. So, in public accounting, I would say, very similar to Jennifer said, 50 and 60 hour weeks. And I would really say it wasn't a massive priority for me at all in terms of the work life balance. I didn't really have much an appreciation for it. So when I when I made the move to our industry over the past year and say I've seen it, it's much more appreciated and welcomed across the firm, where we had remote work, our hours are a little bit more flexible, and I would say a lot of our staff, a lot of our managers are lead by example.

00;21;18;14 - 00;21;43;29
John Ostrowski
And or at one point, our CEO took a week off. We've had other C-suite, members take some time off, and it's not something that you'll be punished for. Where maybe it's some other firms. If you're in a busy season or if you're in like investment banking or something like that, they will not be super welcome. I know with Amazon, so recently they, I think I read in the news that they were going to expire five day, an office mandate.

00;21;43;29 - 00;22;02;19
John Ostrowski
So some places were a little bit more welcoming to it to others. So I would say really just to figure out what your own circumstances are and what you're really looking forward to. I know a lot of not all millennials and Gen Zs are going to push for a strong work life balance, just like not all baby boomers and Gen Z against it.

00;22;02;19 - 00;22;09;00
John Ostrowski
So I think everybody really just needs to understand what their needs are and find the firm and leaders that will stand by. It also.

00;22;09;02 - 00;22;19;03
Jon Quinn
Just so you, before you went to law school, you had some experience in the government side. How is it on the government side any different there?

00;22;19;05 - 00;22;26;23
Jess Paumier
Yeah. So, my my current work life balance is pretty, pretty terrible. But I knew that I would be the case.

00;22;26;25 - 00;22;33;20
Jon Quinn

Well, we assume that if you're in law school, especially the first year, they kill first, they they really make when the first year is a gantlet.

00;22;33;22 - 00;23;03;04
Jess Paumier
Yeah. Yeah, for sure. But in the government, now, like, on the audit side, it's pretty close to ideal. I think even though work like like as John pointed out, it's kind of a subjective thing depending on like, who you are, you know, if you appreciate, the, you know, maybe some more downtime or whatever you want to call it, but, yeah, they really make it, a hospitable place to work, like it was 40 on the dot for most people.

00;23;03;06 - 00;23;33;17
Jess Paumier
And, like, no one was gonna, like, look down upon you for that, whereas then, you know, other industries, like there's there might be an unspoken rule, like, hey, like, you know, from January to April, we're all working 60 hours a week, like, and if you leave early, like, people are gonna look at you funny. But, yeah, in the government, it for me, it was, it was pretty nice.

00;23;33;20 - 00;23;55;06
Jess Paumier
But you know, again, that, like, that's not true across the board, the other side of the office. Open investigations. They were required to work a minimum of 50 hours a week. So, you know, it just kind of it can vary a bit. But, like I mentioned earlier, the, the hybrid schedule is, is pretty good.

00;23;55;08 - 00;24;08;08
Jess Paumier
You know, so you don't have to deal with the commute and whatnot, and, you can have more time for your personal life, but, again, it's kind of, it's kind of subjective, depending on, you know, if you're a workaholic or not.

00;24;08;10 - 00;24;32;19
Jon Quinn
Yeah. So when I first heard about and start digging into I a couple years ago and imagine what roles and business might be the most impacted, one of the first ones I leapt to was accounting, but I suspect I may have oversimplified it. How has I impacted your roles and is it more of a threat or a tool for you and like and what also what degree, to what degree are you utilizing it in your day to day?

00;24;32;21 - 00;24;51;21
Jennifer Huang
I guess I can kick this off because I do sit in the cyber space at my

company. So I do deal a lot with like AI, generative AI especially. That's like gen, GPT and everything. That's like really getting into the industry right now. And also because I do have a background in analytics, that's definitely something that hugely interests me.

00;24;51;26 - 00;25;16;23
Jennifer Huang
And I raise my hand immediately when they start bringing that to the firm. I think in my opinion, AI is definitely offering more benefits than harm, mostly because I see how right now my company is trying to implement our own version of ChatGPT, which is basically we're feeding the different use cases with different accounting information and past data from our clients.

00;25;16;23 - 00;25;38;28
Jennifer Huang
Obviously, with their permission and I think it's really teaching the system to be very segmented and like very centered around accounting, auditing and like taxing, but also just like helping us with our clients to answer any of their questions that they may have, especially in the industry. And I think it definitely is helpful because it is confidential and it's only use internally.

00;25;39;05 - 00;26;03;29
Jennifer Huang
And so because of that, like any questions that they have that other clients in the company me have worked with, it helps kind of alleviate any concerns. And we can use like one case kind of pass it on to the other one and use them equally. Just so any solution looking for one makes it more efficient, because then we don't have to come up a whole new like plan, new strategy, and we can kind of just roll with the same one.

00;26;04;06 - 00;26;30;27
Jennifer Huang
I think that is how it's been helpful there. And then personally, I also am currently developing a program with my team that is helping using AI to help make documentation a lot more efficient. And a huge part of my work is testing controls. There's definitely a lot of manual parts of that where you have to go into that data, and they dig into different information and pull different things from PDFs, Excel, word documents.

00;26;31;00 - 00;26;56;26
Jennifer Huang
And so the I is definitely helping with that. So we don't have to do the manual side as much. And we could just focus on doing follow ups with the different clients and talking to them, and kind of like the person people are facing lens. And then also the higher lens of like not having to complete the preliminary testing, but just reviewing

over it, checking the data obviously, and making sure that everything that we want capture is actually there.

00;26;56;26 – 00;27;08;22
Jennifer Huang
The financial statements are correct. So I think it definitely makes our lives a lot easier, which in the future I like to see it as like it will be reducing our like diseases and our somewhat. Maybe that's just me being hopeful.

00;27;08;24 – 00;27;30;02
Patrick Kielty
I like what you said a lot there, because when I think about what does an auditor do or what is an accountant do, they're ultimately looking for either errors or fraud within a company. And I think when we look at AI right now, I think it's going to ultimately make better quality auditors because it's a tool that we can use to kind of sniff out transactions that might be more likely to have fraud in them or more likely to have errors in them.

00;27;30;09 – 00;27;39;26
Patrick Kielty
And once again, it comes back to Jennifer's judgment. If it helps her sort through more transactions, she can use her judgment more efficiently to find errors within the financial statements.

00;27;40;02 – 00;27;57;10
Jon Quinn
Yeah. And something also like about what Jennifer said too, is that kind of ties back to being this lifelong learner thing. It's like when a new technology arises like this, instead of feel like you're threatened by it, learn how to use it at work, and that increases your own value. And your, your profile in your organization. Right?

00;27;57;15 – 00;28;10;12
Patrick Kielty
I 100% agree with that. I remember a few years ago I brought in a senior manager whose specialty was automation, and she was able to point to how much more efficient she had made the firm based on the processes that she was implementing.

00;28;10;14 – 00;28;12;23
Jon Quinn
Yeah, yeah. Very cool.

00;28;12;25 – 00;28;41;04
Jess Paumier
I, I agree, I think AI is just, going to be another tool in the belt. It's just going to cut down on, you know, some of the, the more like time, costly work. But, you know, right now, and it's been mentioned

in, in my, law school courses so far, I can't do things really on its own.

00;28;41;07 - 00;29;07;13
Jess Paumier
If it were to create a legal memo, it would get, like a C plus at best. In my legal writing course, according to my professors. So, when and when it comes to accounting, like, would you trust AI to, like, by itself to file your taxes for you? Like, I, I would think you would get a notice from the IRS, like, right away.

00;29;07;15 - 00;29;32;08
Jess Paumier
And as an auditor, it's it's really, I don't think there's any threat at all. I think it's only a threat if you aren't willing to adapt. And if, like other people use it and do it better and faster than you can, then yeah, then then it's a threat. But, I think most, most people in companies would be willing to kind of embrace the change.

00;29;32;11 - 00;29;46;17
Jon Quinn
So thank you so much for joining us today. Career acute. Patrick, Jennifer, John and Jess. And clearing up some of those stereotypes about accounting. Actually, I learned quite a bit today. And if you want to learn more about career paths in accounting, please make sure to check the episode notes on our web page. Thanks, guys.

00;29;46;22 - 00;29;51;13
Patrick Kielty
Thank you. It was a pleasure. Thank you so much. Thank you. Appreciate it.

00;29;51;15 - 00;30;10;28
Intro/Outro
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