

Member Profile:

Natalie Verbanac

It was junior year in high school when Natalie Verbanac, CPA, Partner at Marcum LLP, and secretary of the NYSSCPA, Nassau Chapter, discovered her love of accounting. According to fond memory, she had always loved math, but accounting opened up a whole new world. “I already knew in high school, when I took my first accounting class, that I wanted to pursue a career in the field. I was always a numbers person and realized that I am the type who finds satisfaction when things balance and reconcile.”

In addition to her own natural love of accounting, Natalie’s mother was a big proponent of the profession. A native of Croatia, she and her husband both came to the United States for a better life, and her goal was achieved: Natalie and her sister, as well as her cousins, are the first generation in their family to obtain college degrees.

“Growing up, my mother and uncle inspired us,” remembers Mrs. Verbanac. “They always taught my sister, my cousins and me that our education was a priority and that the only way to succeed was to work hard; there were no short cuts. We all had part-time and full-time jobs during our high school and college years—our family wanted us to experience “life in the real world” at an early age and the value of a dollar. They also taught us to treat others the way that we



wanted to be treated at all times, regardless of race, social class or gender.”

Growing up in Queens, Mrs. Verbanac also learned about diversity and the opportunities the city can provide. She graduated from Hofstra University® with a BBA in public accounting, and went on to achieve great success early on. Before joining Marcum, she worked for a national and international public accounting firm and attained comprehensive experience in auditing SEC reporting companies with various complex equity and derivative transactions. Her expertise lies in working with clients in the start-up or development stage, as well as with companies in the retail and manufacturing industries. She also has extensive experience in auditing employee benefit plans.

At Marcum, Mrs. Verbanac’s responsibilities include overseeing the entire engagement process, which includes client and staff management, building relationships and providing exceptional client service.

In addition to achieving her own success, Mrs. Verbanac is always looking to help others progress and succeed. She sits on the Women’s Advisory Board at Marcum and helps women to achieve advancement in the field. “I would like to empower women and encourage them that they can do it all; that they can be

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successful both in the workplace and at home if they want to. To do so you have to be disciplined and train yourself to maintain a work/life balance.”

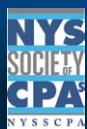
Mrs. Verbanac ascribes her success to the fact that she is, at heart, a people person, which, she notes, is the basis of the public accounting profession. As she describes it, she “loves the constant interaction with clients and other professionals. The industry is full of ever-evolving changes in regulations and standards that motivate and drive me. There’s never a dull moment.”

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Going forward, Mrs. Verbanac intends to continue to promote the public accounting profession to the new generation. “It’s a great career,” she feels. “Once you’re here, you can go anywhere. There are so many opportunities.” Mrs. Verbanac is an advisory board member at Hofstra’s Frank G. Zarb School of Business, where they focus on recruiting for the profession and improving the curriculum to attract more students. In addition, she participates in recruiting by presenting on panel discussions at NYSSCPA and at college career fairs.

Her future personal plans involve visiting her parents’ home country of Croatia with her husband and son, as she does each year. “I have traveled to many places but my favorite place, which is home to me, is Croatia. We visit there as a family every summer and spend time with our immediate and extended family of in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents.” In the country’s beautiful countryside and coastal beaches, she is able to get away from the hectic buzz of a successful career for a moment, and if only temporarily, lead a quiet, simple life.

Mrs. Verbanac’s dreams for her son are similar to the ones her parents held for her. “We are teaching him the importance of respect, loyalty, and family, and that you need to work hard to succeed. These are the traits we would like to instill in him.”



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