Cathy Yates
Senior Finance Analyst
UCI School of Social Sciences Business Office

Education Background:
I am a UCI alum - I graduated with a Film and Media Studies degree in the School of Humanities. I am also taking outside accounting classes at Orange Coast College.

Current Job Tasks:
I work closely with my professors. I manage accounts for my department and federal grants belonging to my faculty. I oversee the financial activities that happen in my department.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
The independence - I work with numbers so I work independently on reports. I also like blasting my pop music while working. Numbers are like puzzles to me - trying to solve and make sense of the numbers.

Piece of Advice:
Work hard and put pride into your work since you’re working with money...someone else’s money. You work hard and you can become whatever you want to be. Again, I was a Film and Media major. Here I am, managing funds and providing financial advice to my faculty.

Ryan Hoadwonic
Associate Director, Institutional Research
University of California, Irvine

Education Background:
I have a Master’s degree in Anthropology, with concentrations in socio-cultural and biological anthropology, and a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy, with a focus on logic and analytical philosophy. I also took a lot of research methods and statistics courses as a graduate student.

Current Job Tasks:
I am a generalist at work; I do anything from responding to survey and ad hoc data requests to assessing student success or employee diversity.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
The ability to make a difference that goes beyond “the numbers.” Seeing the results of your work used to make decisions that ultimately affect the health of the university is very rewarding; knowing that what you do actually makes a difference in people’s lives and impacts students’ education keeps me motivated.

Piece of Advice:
Try to understand the company or the institution for which you work holistically. Getting a handle of policies, principles, and political landscapes will help you to understand your data as well as aid senior leadership in making informed decisions. Data doesn’t exist in a vacuum, particularly data about people, and as such, those data are best understood within a particular context. Knowing this should help you answer the inevitable question: “But what does this mean?”
Peter Brown

**Director—Special Projects**
Liberty Mutual Insurance

**Education Background:**
B.A. from Trinity College (Connecticut); MBA from Duke University (North Carolina)

**Current Job Tasks:**
I lead projects focused on growth and profitability of Liberty Mutual’s Business Insurance operations in California, and manage a team of Underwriters who analyze commercial insurance risks.

**Favorite Thing About Their Job:**
I love being able to use data analytics to guide the direction of my team and our decisions. What's most exciting (and often most challenging), isn't just forming data-driven recommendations, it's translating them into actionable plans and seeing them through to achieving real business results.

**Piece of Advice:** Constantly ask "why?" Be curious about how your individual role fits into the broader context of business objectives. Volunteer for projects that will stretch your abilities.

Akshay Anand

**Manager, Commercial Insights**
Kelley Blue Book

**Education Background:**
B.A. in International Studies from UC Irvine

**Current Job Tasks:**
A bunch of random, esoteric stuff. Drive fun cars and travel to consult with carmakers about how to make their products and marketing better. Use all the data we have at KBB, Autotrader, and other companies to create actionable insights and compelling stories that get presented to clients, at conferences, etc.

**Favorite Thing About Their Job:**
I love cars and I love the people I work with.

**Piece of Advice:** Speak up. You may not start off in the role you want, but if you work hard, have people you trust, and actively seek out opportunities, the rewards will come.

Jane Hwangbo

**Founder**
Money School With Jane (GetYourMoneyBrainOn.com)

**Education Background:**

**Current Job Tasks:**
I'm a writer, a content designer, a translator between the finance and the rest of the world. :) Mostly, I'm a teacher.

**Favorite Thing About Their Job:**
Having some part in honing young people’s ideas of their financial future, and asking students, no matter the age, the hard questions that will lead them to more honest answers for themselves. Money is a liquid asset that can be increased or depleted. Time is only a one-way asset.

**Piece of Advice:** Do what you can to find out how you can connect with your audience, whether it be a client or a student. Running quant analysis and numbers are thing - making the data actionable and exciting to someone else is a rare skill.