

Priscilla Soto, CPA-San Antonio

We recently caught up with **Priscilla Soto**, CPA-San Antonio, controller at Stumberg Management Group LLC. Read on to learn more about her background and a look at her volunteer spirit in action.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Brownsville, Texas, but grew up in Meadow, Texas – a very small town (population 571 at the time) in the Texas Panhandle, where high school football was six-man football and students got to participate in every sport or extracurricular event they wanted to! My graduating class was 13 and everyone was more family than friend. I remember playing outside until the sun went down, hoeing cotton during the summers, and waking up and turning in to the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets.



Tell us about your family. You're engaged to be married?

I grew up in a close family (and two large extended families) and was the only girl of four children to my parents. Mom was a teacher's aide at Meadow ISD and dad was a cotton ginner and county road maintenance worker most of his life, and neither of them was a high school graduate. So, I knew early on how important it was to receive an education.



I have no children of my own, but I have two nieces and four nephews who I adore and love to spoil! I am engaged to be married, but have not yet set a date. My fiancé is a police officer with the San Antonio police department.

At what point in your life did you know you wanted to be a CPA?

This may sound a bit clichéd, but I knew I wanted to be either an FBI Special Agent or a CPA when I was in the 5th or 6th grade.

What advice would you give students who aspire to become CPAs?

I would advise them to focus and be studious in order to learn the technical aspects and master the skills necessary to pass the exam. It won't be easy, but it will be worth it. However, at the same time, I would advise them to volunteer and/or work in the field so that they also gain the real work experience and feel of accounting and of a day in the life of a CPA.



Additionally, I recommend that they seek out mentoring and other forms of encouragement to help them pursue and obtain their CPA license.

I would tell them that becoming a CPA opens so many doors. There are many challenges in our field of work, but along with challenges come opportunities. Having a CPA license will serve them well as a solid foundation regardless of which direction they want to take their career.

What work is on your desk today?

I have financial statements that will be reviewed and discussed at today's monthly management meeting; a weekly cash flow summary; investment subscription and capital call/funding documents; various investment letters to review; charitable gift substantiation documents; and an economic census report to complete.



You're on TSCPA's Executive Board and have served in a number of roles for the San Antonio Chapter and TSCPA. Why is involvement in your chapter and TSCPA so important to you?

I have been a volunteer ever since I can remember. From my elementary and high school days, I have enjoyed volunteering and thought it important to be involved and to be an active contributor to whatever communities I was involved in. This was a gift instilled in me by my mom.

Being involved in the San Antonio Chapter is very important to me for many reasons. I am very proud and protective of my CPA license and the profession as a whole. To me, being involved is just a small way that I can give back to the profession for all the blessings and opportunities it has provided me.

Also, I believe that it is important to keep updated on the happenings of our profession and that one person can make a difference and affect change. Being involved with the local chapter is just one of the ways to get that up-to-date information and to be a part of leadership.

In addition, by being involved with the chapter, one is more aware of the many opportunities to attend and participate in various events that promote our profession and individual passions.

I am passionate about, and a champion of, education and educating others as much as possible. My involvement with the chapter allows me to fulfill this passion through the Jr.





Duel in Ol' San Antonio program. The Jr. Duel program is a financial literacy program and competition for high school students. My participation on the state level with the Nonprofit Organizations Conference Committee is another way that I feel I contribute to the education of others. The state committee also helps me to be in touch with another passion of mine – not-for-profit organizations.

Furthermore, involvement in the chapter and TSCPA helps to fill what I view as a necessity in my life – meeting new people. I truly enjoy meeting new people and getting to know them and their story. I have met many people throughout my career and I know that would not have been the case had I not become a CPA and had I not become involved with the local chapter and with TSCPA. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have met some really talented, giving and exceptional colleagues.

I am honored and very privileged to be serving on the Executive Board in the next year. I am eager to continue learning and growing as I serve the TSCPA membership.

Your favorite vacation destination is:

I really enjoy traveling! I am able to travel with TSCPA and that has been such a joy. I also enjoy traveling with my fiancé. My girlfriends and I also travel together for at least two girls' trips a year.

My fiancé and I enjoy traveling to destinations where we are able to hike and explore. Recently, we enjoyed hiking Camelback in Phoenix, AZ, the Manitou Incline in Manitou Springs, CO and the Grouse Grind in Vancouver, BC.

My other favorite destination to travel to is New York City. I enjoy seeing all the sites and make it a point to visit something different every time I visit. I also appreciate learning about various historical sites and cultures, eating all the wonderful authentic food and just immersing myself in the city's vibe when I am there. I actually considered moving to NYC a couple of years ago.

Finally, and of course, I enjoy traveling back home to the Lubbock area to visit my family. ■



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