

# TXCPA'S NEW CFO: EDIE COGDELL, CPA, CGMA



Last December, Edie Cogdell, CPA, CGMA, joined TXCPA's staff as the new CFO. She is taking over the role from Steve Phillips, CPA, who retired from TXCPA on January 6. She came to TXCPA from the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) in San Antonio, where she worked as the associate vice president for business and finance and comptroller.

Cogdell obtained a BBA with a double major in Accounting and Finance from Baylor University and an MBA from UIW. She has been an active member of TXCPA and TXCPA San Antonio for a number of years, having served on TXCPA's Executive Board and as chapter president of TXCPA San Antonio. We're excited to introduce you to her in this issue of *Today's CPA*.

### **You recently made the move to the Dallas area from San Antonio. Where were you born and where did you grow up?**

I was born in Evanston, Illinois and grew up in Evanston and Northbrook, Illinois. We moved to Boerne, Texas right before I started high school because my dad started a new job with USAA in San Antonio. I lived there until I started college. That's actually where I met my husband – I worked for his parents during high school. We just bought a home in Greenville and moved in right after Christmas. We're excited about starting our new adventure here. I love Texas and I'm looking forward to serving our Texas CPA members.

### **Tell us about your previous jobs and your career.**

I worked in public accounting firms for 10 years, specializing in non-profit and governmental audits. After starting with Arthur Andersen in Houston, I worked for Doshier, Pickens & Francis in Amarillo, as well as Rylander, Clay & Opitz and Whitley Penn in Fort Worth. I finished my public accounting career as an audit manager at KPMG in San Antonio. My husband previously worked for the State of Texas, so we relocated several times before he retired.

Most recently, I worked for UIW for the past 21 years. I managed the accounting operations for six nonprofit entities with a combined operating budget of \$250 million

and served as the finance liaison for three affiliated international universities in Mexico and Germany. I'm passionate about education and glad to be working for another great nonprofit organization with a significant educational component.

### **What influenced you to pursue an accounting career?**

When I started at Baylor, I was majoring in finance and planned to go to law school. I really liked my first accounting class and decided to add that as a major. As I progressed in the accounting program, I knew that was the career path for me. My favorite accounting professor at Baylor, Dr. Parsons, was also a great mentor and gave me wonderful advice over the years. I love working with numbers and people, and have never looked back. I've had a rewarding career.

### **Who is or was your role model and why?**

The former CFO at UIW was one of my biggest role models. In the 20 years I worked for him before he retired, he taught me many life lessons in business. His work ethic, honesty and integrity drove his actions on a daily basis. He was loyal and supportive, and he was always willing to roll up his sleeves to get the job done. He always challenged me to do my best.

### **Why has volunteering or committee service in TXCPA been so important to you?**

It's important to give back to the profession that has given so much to me during my career. It takes the time and talents of a diverse group of staff and volunteers to operate a complex organization like TXCPA. My service as a volunteer also helped me build my leadership skills and network with my peers throughout the state. My involvement has helped me hit the ground running at TXCPA.

### **Tell us about your family.**

My wonderful husband Bill and I have been married for 31 years. I'm so happy he was willing to relocate for me to accept this exciting new opportunity as the incoming CFO at TXCPA. This move puts us much closer to his mom and their family farm in Mexia, so it will be nice for him to spend more time there.

We have two daughters, Chelsea (26) and Mary (23). Chelsea just accepted a new position at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio as a charge nurse in the COVID unit. She got her bachelor's degree in nursing from UIW and is currently in an online master's program at UT Arlington to become a nurse practitioner. Mary has a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in healthcare administration from UIW. She is a practice coordinator for Team Health at St. David's in the south Austin medical center and lives in Dripping Springs. My parents and younger sister Jessica and her family still live in Boerne.