

Teaching tax law and skin care

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snetter@tulane.edu



Tulane faculty member Anu Varadharajan creates organic, all-natural skin care products out of her New Orleans home. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

When she's not in the classroom or grading papers or out exploring New Orleans with her daughters, [Anu Varadharajan](#) is building her brand of homemade organic skin care products.

It's an admittedly busy life for the Tulane University lecturer and assistant director for the Master of Accounting program in the [A. B. Freeman School of Business](#). But busy, for Varadharajan, is good.

"It is a lot that goes on," she said. "I guess it's a question of how you spend the 24 hours."

By day, Varadharajan teaches tax law, a subject she loves but one she knows can be intimidating to her students. She says she tries to show them how tax law can be a creative outlet ? figuring out how to balance the clients' wishes within the confines of the law.

She's been at Tulane University since July 1, when she and her husband, [Gans Narayanamoorthy](#), an associate professor of accounting at Tulane, came together from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"I genuinely enjoy teaching," she said. "I learn every time I teach."

At home, she's a mother to two daughters as well as an entrepreneur. Just before moving to New Orleans from Illinois, she launched [Sona Organics](#), an all-natural skin care line. Her recipes for products like hand cream, deodorant, lip balm and baby butter come from food- and herb-based tips passed down through generations of her and her husband's families. She co-founded Sona Organics with her health-conscious cousin who lives in Philadelphia, who also has young children.

Raised in Singapore, Varadharajan grew up hearing the virtues of all-natural solutions ? yogurt and honey for face masks, and ginger and cumin to help digestion.

"It's how I was raised and how I'm raising my kids," she said, pulling lavender-scented cream out of a drawer and rubbing some onto her hands. "I just incorporated these into the skin care."

“It's a question of how you spend the 24 hours.”—Anu Varadharajan, assistant director for the Master of Accounting program