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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2000 has been a great year for the FSA. We will end the year by holding our annual meeting at the Marriott Riverwalk hotel in San Antonio, Texas, on December 3-5. The meeting program (see page 9) focuses on current issues impacting accounting educators. This year we have worked with the AACSB to offer sessions on accreditation topics. Additionally, program sessions are specifically oriented to graduate program coordinators and advisors. The annual meeting program has topics of value and interest for accounting faculty, program administrators, and all those interested in accounting education. The registration form and annual meeting information are also available on our Web site at www.thefsa.org. Send your registration forms in early.



Kevin D. Stocks

This year has also been exciting. One of the first challenges came in responding to a proposal to the AACSB from the group of Western Business Deans suggesting that separate accounting accreditation should be eliminated (see related story on page 6). In responding to this challenge, the members of the FSA Board focused on our association's role as "The Organization of Accredited Graduate Programs in Accounting." Drafting our response required us to reconsider the objectives and activities of our organization in light of this role. We were gratified that our input helped defeat the proposal and maintain separate accounting accreditation.

In the desire to reevaluate the objectives and activities of the FSA, a strategic planning meeting, headed by Karen Pincus, was held in May prior to the Claude Rodgers Faculty Consortium at the Andersen Worldwide Center for Professional Education in St. Charles, Illinois. From this meeting, a revised strategic plan was drafted (see related story below). This new strategic plan needs further input from FSA members, but it has already served to refocus FSA activities and processes on graduate program and accreditation issues.

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2000 FSA CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1

Final Reporting Date for FSA Committees

DECEMBER 3

Board of Directors Meeting San Antonio, TX

DECEMBER 3-5

FSA 24th Annual Meeting San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk San Antonio, TX

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Members of the FSA Board and the FSA Strategic Planning Committee met prior to the FSA Faculty Consortium in May for a one-day session to consider the future of the FSA. Prior FSA mission statements were considered and a revised strategic plan was prepared. This strategic plan identifies the key planning assumptions used, the FSA mission statement, the objectives of the FSA, and then some operational strategies and action plans for 2000-2005.

The purpose of the new strategic plan is to refocus the FSA on accreditation issues and on improving graduate accounting education. We invite your comments or suggestions. Send them to Karen Pincus (chair of the Strategic Planning Committee) at kpincus@walton.uark.edu or to Kevin Stocks at Kevin_Stocks@byu.edu. A session led by Karen at the FSA annual meeting in San Antonio this December will review the strategic planning process and will facilitate further discussion.

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MEMBER NEWS

Boyd Randall has been selected as the new Director of the School of Accountancy & Information Systems at Brigham Young University. Boyd is the Ernst & Young Professor at BYU and teaches taxation. Boyd replaces Lee Radebaugh who was called to serve for three years in Brazil as a Mission President for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Message From the President (cont'd from pg. 1)

One result is apparent by the number of accreditation sessions at our annual meeting. I encourage everyone to read and provide comments and suggestions on the new strategic plan.

Technology is allowing better communication. I appreciate the efforts of Richard Baker and Cecilia Lo Chin in launching our new Web site. Take a look at www.thefsa.org and see what the FSA is doing. As any Web site is a work-in-process, your suggestions are always welcome.

In addition to the Web site, we are establishing a database of faculty e-mail addresses. This e-mail database will allow the FSA to send announcements directly to faculty. A special database is being established for program directors and advisors. All of these efforts will help the FSA to better communicate with you.

We are in the process of transferring all of the archived FSA materials from Georgia State to the FSA administrative office in New York. Elliott Slocum has been very diligent in collecting and archiving FSA materials for a number of years. By the end of this year a list of available materials will be posted on our Web site. Identifying what is archived and making these available to FSA members opens up a wealth of resources.

Cecilia Lo Chin joined us this year as our FSA administrator. She has done very well and we are grateful to have her. Take the time to get to know Cecilia.

Richard Baker from Northern Illinois will serve as FSA president for 2001. Those who know Richard know that the FSA will continue to move forward under his direction. He is establishing committees and task forces, so please let him know how you would like to be involved.

Attendance and support of the Claude Rodgers Faculty Consortium continues to be strong. There is always great material presented and it is a wonderful opportunity for faculty to learn and interact with each other. The Consortium is held in May and invitation information will be sent to the program administrators in January–February, 2001.

There is a change in dates for the annual meeting for 2001. The traditional dates of the first Monday and Tuesday in December, with an opening reception on Sunday evening, have been in conflict with the ending of the semester and also with various holidays. For several years, a number of our members have urged the FSA to change its annual meeting dates so there would not be conflicts with final exams and the typical end-of-semester rush. The Board carefully examined this issue and included a vote by the membership. A strong consensus was to change to a late October, Friday–Saturday schedule for our annual meeting. Thus, in 2001, the annual meeting will be at the Crystal Gateway Marriott hotel in Washington, DC, on Friday–Saturday, October 26–27, with an opening reception on Thursday evening, October 25. We hope that these changes allow for increased participation. Watch for the program announcements and registration information.

No one who has served in a leadership position in an organization such as the FSA can accomplish anything without the assistance and involvement of many others. I express my deepest thanks to the members of the Board, to committee chairs and members, to our administrator Cecilia Lo Chin, to our associate members from private enterprise and nonprofit organizations, and to all of you who help the work of the FSA serve its membership and accounting education. The future of the FSA is bright and I look forward to being involved.



Kevin D. Stocks
2000 FSA President

(continued from page 1)

THE FSA: THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCREDITED GRADUATE ACCOUNTING PROGRAMS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2000–2005

KEY PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. Information technology and globalization are major forces that will continue to transform businesses and marketplaces.
2. Employers of accounting program graduates will continuously make significant changes in the range of products/services offered and in the way they develop, produce and sell products/services.
3. Employers of accounting program graduates will need broadly educated people who can move up the skills ladder quickly after being employed.
4. Professional credentialing for accounting program graduates will continue to broaden beyond the CPA.
5. The desire and demand for continuous improvement of teaching and curricula will increase.
6. Changes in accounting programs will be needed to accommodate the changes taking place in the environment. The challenge to treat the accounting discipline as an information development and distribution function for economic decision making will be critical.
7. The importance of the accounting bachelor's degree as a terminal degree will decline. Undergraduate accounting programs will become broader; specialization, if any, will occur primarily in graduate programs. Special programs (e.g., programs where the graduate receives a certificate) will develop to meet special educational needs.
8. The competition within colleges and universities for the best and brightest students will continue to increase.
9. There will be continued resource constraints at colleges and universities.
10. The number of new accounting faculty with professional certification will decrease; the mix of academically qualified and professionally qualified faculty will be an important factor in the quality of accounting programs.
11. The decreasing supply of new doctoral program graduates and the increasing number of retirements will be important factors in the quality of accounting programs.
12. The public image and perception of the accounting function underrates the vibrancy of the accounting profession.

MISSION

The FSA (the Federation of Schools of Accountancy) is dedicated to:

- Encouraging, promoting, assisting and supporting the development of high-quality accredited programs of education for the accounting profession that lead to a graduate degree; and
- Being a leading advocate of accredited graduate accounting programs.

OBJECTIVES

The FSA's objectives are to:

- Promote the concept of accounting accreditation among students and employers as an indicator of quality.
- Educate and involve faculty in accreditation issues.
- Assist schools in achieving and maintaining accredited graduate accounting programs.
- Be a leader in shaping accreditation standards and processes.
- Administer the FSA in a manner that helps the organization focus on its mission.

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SMART STOP ON THE WEB

www.nsaacct.org

The National Society of Accountants' (NSA) Web site offers a search engine to help users find qualified professional accountants, tax preparers and financial planners who are NSA members in their area. Tax research tools and financial calculators are available in five categories—home financing, investment, leasing, personal financing and retirement. The site also includes affiliated state organizations and profiles of members' companies.

XBRL WILL MAKE BUSINESS DATA EASIER TO ACCESS.

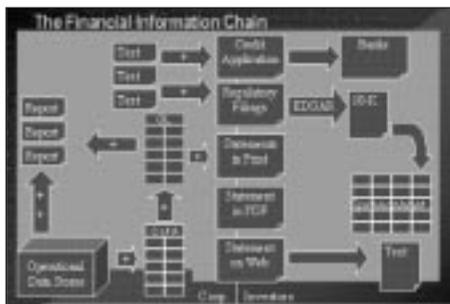
FINALLY, BUSINESS TALKS THE SAME LANGUAGE*

BY STANLEY ZAROWIN AND WAYNE E. HARDING

Just as English is the universal language of commercial pilots, so XBRL soon will be the *lingua franca* for all business reporting — from issuing financial statements to banks and shareholders to filing 10-Ks with the SEC or uploading business information onto a Web site. The development surely will revolutionize how business data are reported, used and calculated.

The good news is that, in most cases, you won't have to learn anything to be able to "read" or "write" XBRL — which stands for extensible business reporting language — because it will be built into most, if not all, accounting and financial reporting software. Once added to the software, it will automatically and transparently translate all the business information you choose — numbers and words — so each segment of data is identified when viewed by a Web browser or sent to a spreadsheet application for calculation or examination. Even better news is XBRL won't require extra attention from CPAs and other financial managers and will make their work easier to perform and more effective: improving access to and the usability of financial data no matter whether the information is from a business or an association or whether the entity is large or small, public, private or nonprofit. Additionally, XBRL will reduce the cost of processing, calculating and formatting financial information because, once the data are created and formatted the first time, they never have to be keyed in a second time or reformatted for any special presentations.

The bottom line is that XBRL will expand professional opportunities for CPAs and other financial executives and add value to financial information for all users: auditors, preparers, bankers, shareholders — in short, anyone who creates, uses or accesses an organization's business data.



This chart represents a typical business information flow within an organization. Financial and business information is stored in one or multiple databases and programs that create a chart of accounts, the general ledger and other reports. Reports usually are text documents formatted as financial statements and reports to shareholders, banks or creditors. Often the financial statements are republished in many different formats (such as PDF or HTML files). Some are gathered for analysis in spreadsheets. With XBRL, the data need be prepared only once; they then can be republished in a variety of formats and integrated into a variety of applications.

AND IT'S FREE

If all this sounds like incredible hype — and even a modern-day challenge to the biblical story of the Tower of Babel — consider this: Soon after the idea for the concept was floated in 1999, software giants such as Microsoft and IBM immediately grasped its potential and recognized that the only way a common standard could be developed was if the software and financial communities agreed to cooperate in establishing a standard rather than seeking to compete with their proprietary versions of the program. And agree they did — and quickly.

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2001 FSA COMMITTEES ARE NOW BEING FORMED

If you want to volunteer and haven't already done so, there is still time: send an e-mail to Richard Baker (rbaker@niu.edu). The 2001 committees that still have room for volunteers are:

Accreditation Committee (a major focus of the FSA)

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Bylaws and Articles Committee

Curriculum Content Committee (to focus on enhancing content for graduate programs)

Graduate Program Directors' Task Force (to continue to develop our *Graduate Program Directors' Handbook*)

Membership Solicitation & Standards Committee

Publications Committee

Information on the roles of these committees and past committee reports may be found on the FSA Web site, www.thefsa.org.

The best news is that XBRL is free. And that's despite the fact that many organizations are investing a great deal of money and time on the work. As a result, software companies will not have to pay to include the XBRL code in their software, and each new edition — and there will be many because the program is sure to be continually updated — and extension developed for specific industries will be available free for downloading off the Internet.

Why would these organizations invest in the development of XBRL, and why would they not expect to be reimbursed for their investments by charging for the product?

REAPING BENEFITS

The fact is the developers will be repaid many times over, but not by charging a fee for the program; instead, they will be reimbursed by reaping its many benefits when everyone uses the same business reporting language. The most immediate benefit: Distributing financial information will be fast and easy. Further, XBRL will eliminate the need for rewrites of financial reports to accommodate incompatible accounting systems.

(For more on the technical aspects of XBRL, go to www.xbrl.org, where visitors can test sample data and offer comments and suggestions for improving the program.)

Additional advantages of XBRL include the following:

- *Fast, accurate searches.* Because all the data in an XBRL-formatted file are tagged and related information is linked — say, fixed assets to balance sheet and depreciation — more than half the job of conducting a search for specific information is already done. For example, if you search the Internet for information about General Motors' fixed assets, you likely will end up with thousands of sites to explore, and that's even with the best search tools. But with XBRL-tagged data, the search is immediately narrowed to your specific target data — fixed assets as they relate specifically to balance sheets and depreciation.

In fact, if you're collecting fixed-asset data to compare one company's operation with others', you can tailor the search for multiple companies' data and export the collected information easily into a spreadsheet for further analysis; since each piece of information is identified with a tag, comparisons and calculations can be automated.

- *Drill-down feature.* If you prepare a search query properly, you can drill down to the data source and even to the related authoritative literature that supports the data, such as *Accounting Trends and Techniques*. This feature also will be available in XBRL-tagged financial statements.

- *Less need to reenter data.* In most cases, financial information will need to be keyed in only once, reducing the risk of data-entry error. Also, because the information already is XBRL-formatted, users won't need to reformat it when preparing it for any number of presentations—such as to print a financial statement, to create an HTML document for a company's Web site, to ready an EDGAR document for filing with the SEC or other specialized reporting formats such as credit reports and loan documents. Such a benefit not only reduces preparation costs and reduces rekeying errors, but it also improves investor or analyst access to information.

- *Users' choice for disclosures.* An organization using XBRL will not be required to report more information than it wishes. Users will still control what they report. Nor must they make a change to existing accounting standards. And because the templates are scripted to follow U.S. GAAP, users will find the XBRL templates helpful in complying with existing standards.

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FSA NEW WEB SITE

www.thefsa.org

BOOKMARK OUR NEW WEB SITE! The address is: www.thefsa.org. The Web site has information about the FSA, our organizational structure, a listing of our members with contact information for the program administrators at our member schools, meeting information, our newsletter, and much more.

The Web site has a great look and very easy navigation. The site will be updated often in order to provide you with the latest information about the FSA. And, the Web site will continue to increase in value to you as we add additional items of interest for you.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our new Web site, please contact Cecilia Lo Chin, our FSA administrator, at (212) 596-6165 or via e-mail at clochin@aicpa.org.

RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS DISCUSSED AT FSA ANNUAL MEETING

At the Federation of Schools of Accountancy's December 1999 annual meeting, the 1999 FSA Board and 2000 FSA Board discussed the recent resolution of the Western Association of Collegiate Schools of Business calling for discontinuation of separate AACSB accreditation of accounting programs. The consensus of both the 1999 and 2000 FSA Boards was that there are compelling reasons for continuing separate accreditation. Chief among these reasons are:

- The role of accounting is materially different than that of other discipline-based programs within AACSB-accredited schools of business. Accounting is the only business discipline that produces graduates who require a license to practice. Licensing of CPAs is mandated by law in all 54 U.S. states and jurisdictions. This distinctiveness is increasing, rather than decreasing — consider that educational requirements have increased from Bachelor's degree to 150 hours of education in most of the 54 states and jurisdictions. The substantial adoption of the 150-hour education requirements makes accounting a de facto graduate entry profession, as are medicine and law.
- AACSB accreditation standards for business are not sufficient to adequately address the needs of accounting education. Accounting is unique in that its professional groups provide ongoing counsel to educators through such means as the AICPA's *Core Competencies Framework*, the IMA's *Practice Analysis*, and other practitioner guidance for educators. Over two decades ago, the American Institute of CPAs, in cooperation with other organized professional accountancy bodies in the United States, sought to sponsor the formation of a separate accreditation entity. The AICPA, in the late 1970s was assured that an alliance with the AACSB, along with funding to support this collaboration, would be the least redundant and the most effective means of accomplishing the accreditation it sought. The AACSB's accounting accreditation process provides a mechanism to integrate the standards of educators and practitioners in planning and evaluating accounting programs.
- The scarcity of resources in colleges of business and department-administration tensions are important internal issues, but these problems are not caused by separate accounting accreditation nor can they be solved by the elimination of separate accreditation.
- The benefits derived from separate accounting accreditation are significant. Separate accounting accreditation facilitates continuous improvement of accounting programs. Accreditation is our professional, representative process of self-governance and self-regulation, in response to the public and social contracts which require delivering unique, specified services for the benefit of society. Beginning in 1982 through today, over 100 schools have sought and achieved accountancy accreditation, and the interest of affiliate and candidate schools continues. The FSA, as the organization of accredited graduate programs in accounting, supports the separate accreditation process as the most effective means of achieving continuous improvement of accountancy and the education needs of students, employers and the public.

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CREDIT HOURS: Recommended in accordance with the Statement on Standards for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) programs. Your state board is the final authority for the number of credit hours allowed for a particular program. In accordance with the standard of the Quality Assurance Service, CPE credits may be granted based on a 50-minute hour.

REGISTRATION FEE: FSA meeting fee includes all sessions, meeting materials, 2 continental breakfasts, 1 luncheon, refreshment breaks and a reception. Fee for AACSB workshop(s) includes a Welcome Reception on Sunday, 12/3/00, and on Monday, 12/4/00, the meeting materials, 1 continental breakfast, luncheon and refreshment breaks (Dinner Reception — not included). Hotel accommodations and other meals are not included. Please note there is no smoking during conference sessions. Suggested attire: Business casual.

WAYS TO REGISTER FAST! (American Express, Discover, MasterCard or VISA)

FAX*: 1-800-870-6611 or 1-201-938-3169 **E-MAIL TO*:** clochin@aicpa.org.

*Credit card registrations only

MAIL: Complete and mail the form to FSA Meeting/AICPA, PO Box 2210, Jersey City, NJ 07303-2210

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refunds will be issued if written cancellation requests are received prior to 11/20/00. Refunds, less a \$25 administrative fee, will be issued on written requests received before 11/27/00. Due to financial obligations incurred by the FSA, no refunds will be issued on cancellation requests received after 11/27/00.

For further information, call the AICPA Meetings and Travel Services Team at (201) 938-3232 or send e-mail to conference@aicpa.org or clochin@aicpa.org.

HOTEL INFORMATION: For reservations, contact the hotel directly. Rooms will be assigned on a space available basis only. All reservations require a one-night deposit by check or credit card. The hotel will process the credit card at the time of submittal. Mention that you will be attending the FSA Annual Meeting to receive our special group rate.

San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk, 889 E. Market, San Antonio, TX 78205,
1-210-224-4555 • Fax 1-210-554-6248

Hotel Cutoff Date: Nov. 2, 2000

Room Rates: \$169 single/double \$195 single/double Club Level

AIRLINE INFORMATION

American Airlines: 1-800-433-1790 Index #9375

Continental Airlines: 1-800-468-7022 Reference Code #K3oTBX

Delta Air Lines: 1-800-241-6760 File #134391A

Discounts only available when you or your travel agent book through the 800 number. It is advised that your conference registration and hotel reservation be confirmed prior to making your flight plans. The FSA/AICPA is not liable for any penalties incurred if you cancel/change your airline reservations.



1211 Avenue of the Americas
6th Floor
New York, NY 10036

Mail to: FSA Meeting/AICPA, PO Box 2210, Jersey City, NJ 07303-2210

Fax to: 1-800-870-6610 or 1-201-938-3169

Register online at: www.thefsa.org

E-mail to: clochin@aicpa.org

	FSA Member	AACSB Member	Nonmember
<input type="checkbox"/> M1 Regular Registration – after 11/6/00	\$200		\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> M2 Early Bird Registration – by 11/6/00	\$ 175		\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> M3 AACSB Accounting Accreditation – by 11/6/00 One-Day Workshop (Monday 12/4/00) <small>(*If not an FSA member and you are registering for the one-day workshop only.)</small>		\$150*	
<input type="checkbox"/> M4 AACSB Accounting Accreditation – after 11/6/00		\$175	
<input type="checkbox"/> G1 Guest for Dinner (please specify name) _____	\$ 45		\$ 45
TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ INITIAL _____

SCHOOL OR AFFILIATION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ SUITE _____ PO BOX _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BUSINESS TELEPHONE _____ NICKNAME FOR BADGE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ BUSINESS FAX NO. _____

Please complete all: FSA Member? YES NO AACSB Participant? YES NO
Full payment must accompany registration form. My check for \$ _____ payable to the FSA is enclosed.
Or please bill my credit card:

American Express Discover CARD NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

MasterCard VISA SIGNATURE _____ AMOUNT _____

Select one from each time period:

Monday, December 4, 2000

9:15AM – 10:30AM 1 – 1 1 – 2 1 – 3
10:45AM – 12:00PM 2 – 1 2 – 2 2 – 3
2:30PM – 4:00PM 3 – 1 3 – 2

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

9:30AM – 10:30AM 4 – 1 4 – 2 4 – 3
10:45AM – 11:45AM 5 – 1 5 – 2

For additional registrations, please photocopy this form and include name and address below.

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ INITIAL _____

SCHOOL OR AFFILIATION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ SUITE _____ PO BOX _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, do you have any special needs? Yes No (If yes, you will be contacted.)

AICPA use only _____
FSA00

2000 FSA ANNUAL MEETING PRELIMINARY AGENDA

(SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

MONDAY DECEMBER 4, 2000

- 8:00am – 9:15am *Louis Matherne*: XBRL and Accounting Education
- 9:15am – 10:30am CONCURRENT SESSION #1
- 1-1. XBRL and Accounting Education
 - 1-2. Accounting Accreditation #1 — AACSB
 - 1-3. Innovative Course Revisions — Wisconsin and Arkansas
- 10:30am – 10:45am Coffee Break
- 10:45am – 12:00pm CONCURRENT SESSION #2
- 2-1. Accounting Accreditation #2 — AACSB
 - 2-2. Graduate Coordinator Session — Curriculum Revision
 - 2-3. *Susan Wolcott* and *Paula Thomas*: AICPA Core Competency Framework: A Preview of Evaluation Tools
- 12:00pm – 1:15pm Lunch
- 1:15pm – 2:15pm *John Hunnicutt*: AICPA's Certifications:
A New Strategic Initiative for the Accounting Profession
- 2:15pm – 2:30pm Coffee Break
- 2:30pm – 4:00pm CONCURRENT SESSION #3
- 3-1. *Bill Pallett*: Institutional and Individual Assessment
 - 3-2. Illinois Curriculum Revision
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm *W. Steve Albrecht*: Implications for Accounting Education of the Albrecht/Sack Report
- 5:00pm – 5:30pm *Karen Pincus*: The FSA Strategic Plan: A Look Into the Future of the FSA

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2000

- 8:00am – 9:30am *James Leisenring*: International Accounting Standards: Impact on Accounting Education
- 9:30am – 10:30am CONCURRENT SESSION #4
- 4-1. International Accounting in the Classroom
 - 4-2. Denver Curriculum Revisions
 - 4-3. *Graduate Coordinator*: Dealing With Problems
- 10:30am – 10:45am Coffee Break
- 10:45am – 11:45am CONCURRENT SESSION #5
- 5-1. *Gregory Johnson*: Certification Exams: A Glimpse Into the Future
 - 5-2. Innovative Course Revisions — Wisconsin and Arkansas (repeat of session 1-3)

2000 FSA GOLF OUTING

CEDAR CREEK GOLF COURSE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Sunday, December 3, 2000

We will meet in the convention hotel lobby at 7:30am. Transportation to the course will be provided.

Fee: \$44 — includes greens fee and cart.

Twenty-four spots are reserved. Additional tee times may or may not be available.

Contact Ted Skekel at (210) 458-5240 or tskekel@utsa.edu to guarantee your spot early.

Reservations must be made by November 13.

Cedar Creek Golf Course is a dramatic and beautiful course in the heart of the Texas hill country. It is a challenging layout that has hosted numerous USGA and Nike Tour qualifying events. It has consistently been nationally ranked among public courses in Golf Digest magazine.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

FULL MEMBER

- University of Akron • University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham • The American University • Arizona State University
- University of Arkansas • Auburn University
- Bentley College • Brigham Young University
- Case Western Reserve University • University of Central Florida • The Chinese University of Hong Kong • CUNY – Baruch College • Clemson University
- Cleveland State University • University of Connecticut • University of Delaware • University of Denver • DePaul University • East Tennessee State University • University of Florida • Florida International University • Florida State University
- George Mason University • University of Georgia • Georgia State University • University of Houston – Clear Lake • University of Illinois • Illinois State University • University of Iowa
- James Madison University • Kansas State University • University of Kentucky • Louisiana Tech University • Loyola College In Maryland
- The University of Memphis • Miami University
- University of Miami • Michigan State University
- The University of Mississippi • Mississippi State University • University of Missouri – Columbia • University of Nebraska – Lincoln
- University of Nevada – Las Vegas • New Mexico State University • University of New Mexico
- University of New Orleans • New York University
- University of North Texas • Northern Illinois University • University of Notre Dame
- University of Oklahoma • Oklahoma State University • Old Dominion University • University of Rhode Island • San Diego State University
- University of South Carolina • University of South Florida • University of Southern California
- Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- Southwest Missouri State University • State University of West Georgia • State University of New York at Buffalo • Stetson University • The University of Tennessee • University of Texas – Arlington • University of Texas – Austin
- University of Texas – El Paso • University of Texas at San Antonio • Texas Tech University
- University of Utah • Utah State University
- University of Virginia • Virginia Commonwealth University • Virginia Polytechnic Institute • Wake Forest University • Western Michigan University
- West Virginia University • University of Wisconsin – Madison

ACCREDITED AFFILIATE SCHOOLS

- Arizona State University West • Baylor University
- Boise State University • Bradley University
- Central Michigan University • Clarion University
- University of Dayton • Georgia Southern University • Howard University • Boler School of Business • Rauch Business Center #37
- University of Nevada at Reno • University of North Carolina – Charlotte • Oakland University

REPORT ON THE 2000 CLAUDE RODGERS FACULTY CONSORTIUM

The 18th-annual FSA Claude Rodgers Faculty Consortium was held at the Andersen Worldwide Center for Professional Education in St. Charles, Illinois, on May 19–20, 2000. The theme for this year's consortium was, "Fraud Auditing: Enhancing Our Students' Detecting and Investigating KSAs." The consortium had 82 faculty participants and received an outstanding overall evaluation rating.

Toby J.F. Bishop, from Arthur Andersen's Business Fraud and Investigation Services, presented an overview of the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) of fraud auditors. He compared the skills sets required for a financial statement auditor with those of a criminal auditor, and showed how these overlap for the KSAs needed by fraud auditors. He stressed the importance of becoming aware of the environments that foster fraud and the need to understand people, their motives and their characters. Oliver "Buck" Revell, President of the Revell Group International, and a retired FBI agent, presented the international environment in which crimes and massive frauds take place. He stressed that the criminal elements in our society are always active and constantly probing for profitable soft spots. Marc E. Grove, from Arthur Andersen's Computer Risk Management group, focused on the new e-business environment and discussed how data can be one of the most valuable resources of an entity. Marc also discussed the various types of attacks that people are using against Web-based business.

David Sinason, from Northern Illinois University, presented a large variety of cases, online sites, and other sources that can be integrated into an auditing course, or into a fraud auditing course. David also showed how accounting faculty can use any business article on a contemporary fraud as a focal point for a lively accounting class discussion on fraud-based issues.

The Saturday sessions were started with an outstanding presentation from Joseph Buckley, the president of John E. Reid and Associates. Joe discussed the "Behavioral Profile of a Liar" and shared some of his insights and experiences from his many years of behavioral interviewing. The consortium participants really enjoyed his discussions of the behavior symptoms, both verbal and nonverbal, of people who are truthful, are evasive, or are lying. He presented several videotapes of actual interviews and during the middle of one video, asked the consortium participants, "Did the interviewee do the crime?" Although most of the faculty participants voted she was innocent, Joe then finished the interview videotape in which she confessed to the crime. Joe then went back and pointed out the numerous nonverbal behaviors that evidenced the interviewee's guilt. The participants' written comments on the consortium included many that stated that Joe's presentation was absolutely outstanding and the consortium participants would be including the topic of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in their accounting classes.

A panel of three faculty then presented their course syllabi and teaching experiences from teaching students about fraud in separate, stand-alone fraud auditing or forensic accounting courses. The three panelists were Karen Pincus from the University of Arkansas, Tom Buckoff from North Dakota State University, and Lester Heitger from Indiana University. The importance of accountants being aware of electronic frauds was stressed by each of the presenters. The three panelists each used cases in their courses, and noted a variety of online and case-based materials that faculty can use in their own classrooms. In addition, the role and rigors of expert testimony were presented along with some interesting actual experiences of testimony and the lessons learned from those experiences that can be shared with our students. The speakers also

encouraged the use of professional experts to come into our classrooms and share their contemporary experiences with our students.

The consortium focused on providing the faculty participants with teaching materials and insights that can be taken away from the consortium and directly used for their curriculum building. The discussions were interactive, lively and spirited.

The FSA Claude Rodgers Faculty Consortium continues to be a very valuable meeting for the participants who attend this terrific event. The consortium is named after Claude Rodgers, who was an Arthur Andersen partner widely recognized for his strong support of accounting education. The FSA is very grateful to Arthur Andersen, and especially Dennis Reigle, for the firm's continuing support of this important event.

Finally, Business Talks the Same Language (cont'd from pg. 5)

HOW IT WORKS

XBRL is a computer programming add-on that tags each segment of computerized business information with an identification code or marker. In most cases, accounting software will insert the tags automatically. If your accounting system lacks the XBRL feature, you can still add the tags using a free add-on program or customized software tagging tools.

The ID markers remain with the data when they are moved or changed. Thus, no matter how you (or, more precisely, your browser or your application software, such as a spreadsheet or a word processor) format or rearrange the information, the markers stay glued to it. Thus a number identified as representing, say, profit in U.S. dollars always will be recognized that way. Typical labels include financial IDs such as *assets*, *current assets* and *receivables*. If the XBRL program doesn't contain ID markers that meet the needs of your business, you can easily create your own markers and add them because the program is fully customizable — or extensible (with *ex* as the X in XBRL).

Users will not see these markers when the business data are called to the screen or printed, because they are embedded inside the information along with other invisible formatting tags that typically define what any computer character looks like — its shape, size and color.

The XBRL working group, made up of industry and professional representatives, just finished the schema that will be available for commercial and industrial organizations. If an enterprise has special needs, the schema can be adjusted — by adding new elements, eliminating some or editing existing ones.

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

Work on the basic idea of a common business language for computers started in the 1990s, when a relatively unknown software engineer recognized that HTML (hypertext markup language), the standard programming script that defines what Web content looks like, did not go far enough. Although HTML is effective for describing Web content's appearance — size, shape and color — it can't describe the content itself. For example, HTML defines the font style of text transmitted over the Internet, but it can't tell what a character represents — a price, a profit, the age of an asset, an ingredient for an apple pie recipe or a baseball player's batting average.

The engineer, Jon Bosak, envisioned a language that could turn the Internet into an "industrial-strength infrastructure." He pestered the World Wide Web Consortium (more commonly known as the W3C, the organization that oversees Web technology standards), to support its development, and the body eventually sanctioned the work.

ACCREDITED AFFILIATE SCHOOLS (CONT'D)

• University of Oregon • Pacific Lutheran University • University of Richmond • Wright State University • Ryerson Polytechnic University

AFFILIATES

• University of Alaska – Anchorage • Augusta State University • Belmont University • California Lutheran University • California State University-Fullerton • Chapman University • Colorado State University • Eastern Illinois State University • Eastern Michigan University • Florida Atlantic University • Florida Gulf Coast University • Fordham University • Gonzaga University • University of Hawaii at Manoa • University of Houston – Victoria • Idaho State University • University of Illinois at Chicago • Indiana University of Pennsylvania • International College • Iona College • Iowa State University • Universidad ISEC • Kennesaw State University • Kent State University • La Grange College • LaSalle University • Long Island University – C.W. Post • Louisiana State University • Louisiana State University – Shreveport • Manhattan College • Mankato State University • Mercy College • University of Missouri – Kansas City • Monmouth University • University of Nebraska at Kearney • Northeastern University • University of Northern Iowa • Northern Kentucky University • Pace University • University of Phoenix • Pittsburgh State University • Robert Morris College • Rochester Institute of Technology • St. Joseph's University • University of St. Thomas • Sam Houston State University • San Jose State University • Siena College • Southern Connecticut State University • University of Southern Maine • University of Southwestern Louisiana • Syracuse University • Tennessee State University • The University of Tennessee at Martin • University of Texas-Pan American • Touro College • The University of Tulsa • Wayne State University • Weber State University • University of West Florida • West Virginia Institute of Technology • Western Illinois University • Widener University • Wilfrid Laurier University • University of Wisconsin • Yeshiva University

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND NON PROFIT ASSOCIATES

Arthur Andersen LLP • BDO Seidman LLP • PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP • Deloitte & Touche LLP • Ernst & Young LLP • Grant Thornton LLP • KPMG LLP • Alabama Society of CPAs • American Institute of CPAs • National Center of Evaluation – Higher Education (Central Mexico) • Florida Institute of CPAs • Illinois CPA Society • Institute of Chartered Accountants • Institute of Management Accountants • Society of Louisiana CPAs • Missouri Society of CPAs • NASBA • New Jersey Society of CPAs • New York State Society of CPAs • Ohio Society of CPAs • South Carolina Association of CPAs • Tennessee Society of CPAs • Texas Society of CPAs • Virginia Society of CPAs • Connecticut Society of CPAs • North Carolina Association of CPAs

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2001 NOMINATIONS

The 2000 Nominating Committee announces the following nominations for 2001 officers and directors of the FSA Board of Directors at its August meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The names will be submitted at the FSA 24th Annual Meeting, December 3–5, 2000, in San Antonio, TX.

Vice-President/President Elect

Philip Reckers, Arizona State University

Treasurer

Clifford Brown, Bentley College

Board Members

Member Schools

Ron Clark, Auburn University

Supporting Associates

Dana Ellis, Arthur Andersen

NonProfit Associates

John Hunnicutt, AICPA

The Nominating Committee

Consisted of:

Chairperson

Karen V. Pincus, University of Arkansas

Members

Thomas Howard, University of Alabama

G. Streuling, Brigham Young University

Board Liaison

Karen V. Pincus, University of Arkansas
(Past President)

In just a few months, Bosak and two other software engineers who had joined him on the project unveiled a programming language they called XML—extensible markup language—a generalized script for tagging any Internet data with ID markers. (For more on XML, see “The XML Files,” *Journal of Accountancy*, May '99, pg. 71, or www.aicpa.org/pubs/jofa/may1999/hoffman.htm.)

Shortly thereafter, in 1998, Charles Hoffman, a CPA with the CPA firm Knight Vale & Gregory in Tacoma, Washington, recognized that XML, as good as it was, didn't quite address the specific needs of the business reporting community. He recognized that XML's repertoire had to be expanded to include a more definitive business reporting script that not only identified each piece of data but also told the computer how each should be handled, how each related to other tagged information, where each should be linked and what elements each comprised as it related to business information.

He set to work on XML-formatted financial statements and audit schedules. Although the work was promising, it clearly needed more effort. Hoffman sought help from Wayne Harding, chairman of the AICPA high-tech task force and one of the authors of this article; in short order the Institute, along with Hoffman's firm, agreed to fund the creation of a prototype set of financial statements in XML. When other organizations heard of their work, recognizing its universal value, they, too, contributed to the joint venture.

NEXT STEPS

While work on XBRL never really will be finished because many users will want to customize templates to suit their own needs, the XBRL working group soon will start on other business reporting industries (such as software, media and entertainment and financial services organizations). The group next will focus on other aspects of business reporting—regulatory filings, tags for audit schedules and processes and tax filings. At some point, the working group envisions using XBRL in balanced scorecards—a business technique in which the metrics of a company are assembled and compared in various ways to measure how well or poorly it is performing.

Meanwhile, parallel efforts are under way with the AICPA's counterparts in other countries. Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Taiwan and Wales, along with the International Accounting Standards Committee, are involved in the XBRL working group. Other countries also are showing shown strong interest.

XBRL is being embraced worldwide by the business community, which sees the development changing the way it communicates and conducts business.

Strategic Plan for 2000–2005 (cont'd from pg. 3)

STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS FOR 2000–2005	
OBJECTIVE	Promote the concept of accounting accreditation among students and employers.
STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the value of accreditation to a variety of stakeholders. • Announce and congratulate newly accredited programs. • Announce and congratulate outstanding graduates of accredited accounting programs.
ACTION PLANS FOR 2000–2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and disseminate a position statement on the value of accounting accreditation. • Get the FSA administrator more involved in Membership Committee support. • Design and implement a communications program related to the FSA student awards, including letters from the FSA to student winners and their employers and Web-site recognition of winners.
OBJECTIVE	Educate and involve faculty in accreditation issues.
STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide forums for faculty to learn about and discuss accreditation issues.
ACTION PLANS FOR 2000–2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and implement a faculty e-mail distribution list. • Create a communication plan for faculty about the FSA and accreditation issues. • Provide conference sessions about accreditation issues.
OBJECTIVE	Assist schools in achieving and maintaining accredited graduate accounting programs.
STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide educational support for directors of graduate programs. • Assist schools in curricular matters related to accreditation. • Assist schools in assessment activities for continuous quality improvement.
ACTION PLANS FOR 2000–2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a database of graduate program directors. • Develop and present conference sessions targeted to graduate program directors. • Update and expand the Web-based <i>Graduate Program Director's Handbook</i>. • Provide Web links to member schools' program information. • Develop and present conference sessions on curricular matters. • Provide Web links to member schools' assessment information. • Develop and present conference sessions on assessment.
OBJECTIVE	Be a leader in shaping accreditation standards and processes.
STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically evaluate existing accreditation standards and processes and propose desirable changes. • Respond to proposals made by others concerning accounting accreditation standards and processes.
ACTION PLANS FOR 2000–2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the FSA's committee-centered approach for dealing with accreditation issues to include additional mechanisms such as e-mail forums, task forces, Web discussion streams, and conference sessions. • Create and disseminate a report on strengths and weaknesses in current accounting accreditation processes. • Create and implement a quick-response system to gather Board and FSA member input on proposals by other entities.
OBJECTIVE	Administer the FSA in a manner that helps the organization focus on its mission.
STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a member service culture. • Keep the FSA financially viable. • Use the FSA's strategic plan to focus all activities.
ACTION PLANS FOR 2000–2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain an operating manual for the FSA administrator. • Produce and disseminate all publications by the target dates. • Update the FSA directory, e-mail distribution lists, and other databases (e.g., departmental chairs, graduate program directors) in a timely manner. • Update the Web site regularly and inform members of new material. • Review and consider revising the dues structure. • Achieve 100% membership of schools with AACSB accounting accreditation covering graduate programs. • Develop and maintain a handbook for Board members that helps them focus on the FSA's current strategic plan. • Review and revise the format and content of the membership package, the newsletter, and the FSA Web site to align them more clearly with the FSA's objectives. • Evaluate the focus and format of conferences to align them more clearly with the FSA's objectives.

Resolution of the Western Association (cont'd from pg. 6)

- Recent rapid changes in the practice of public accounting have been misconstrued by some to represent a change in the substance of accountancy. In fact, the AICPA, in its recently launched Vision Initiative, has confirmed the fundamental value structure and the trusted role that accountancy professionals must continue to play in an increasingly diverse set of capacities. This new and expanded definition of accountancy's role supports even more need for the focused, unique, knowledgeable and responsive accreditation to provide distinctive, high-quality accountancy programs. Indeed, accounting programs are considered to have served as the leading example of innovation within many business school settings, thereby benefiting the needs of general business programs and advanced general programs such as the MBA as well.
- The separate accreditation of accounting is not designed to serve one particular group of accounting employers, but to serve the accounting profession as a whole and society at large. The CPA's social obligation to protect the public interest makes accounting singularly different from all other disciplines found in schools of business.

KEY INITIATIVES UNDER WAY IN COMPUTERIZATION OF UNIFORM CPA EXAMINATION

With a targeted launch date of 2003 for a computerized Uniform CPA Examination, a number of initiatives are under way to create an examination that is in keeping with the real world of accountancy that students will encounter as entry-level CPAs. The mission of the CPA Examination is to admit individuals to the profession only after they have demonstrated the entry-level knowledge and skills necessary to protect the public interest in a rapidly changing business and financial environment.

In today's marketplace, entry-level CPAs are required to know — and do — more earlier in their professional careers. They are entering a dynamic, technologically driven workplace that includes businesses that were not even in existence five years ago. Technology has changed the fundamental way in which businesses operate, and CPAs must rely more on their ability to research and interpret data.

Traditionally, entry-level CPAs were often relied upon more for their knowledge of standards than their ability to research, communicate, integrate and interpret data. This is no longer true. The body of knowledge required to effectively function as a CPA in today's business world has expanded considerably. Although knowledge of standards remains critically important, the CPAs ability to research and communicate information has become a relatively larger percentage of his or her work requirements. As a result, it is important that the CPA Examination test the skills and competencies required in today's marketplace.

In order to pinpoint these required skills and competencies, the AICPA has utilized the Practice Analysis methodology, a complex multi-faceted research approach which has as its goal to define entry-level practice engagements, work activities and specific tasks, as well as the knowledge and skills required to carry them out. The research methods employed include interviews, broad-based surveys of professionals, direct observation of entry-level candidates and analysis of professional laws and literature.

The information gathering stage of the Practice Analysis, which surveyed over 5000 CPAs, has been completed and the results are currently being evaluated, summarized and interpreted by a panel of CPAs. The Practice Analysis findings will become the basis for content specifications for the examination with an exposure draft of the proposed specifications planned for early 2001.

In addition to the Practice Analysis, a variety of research collaboratives with academic institutions noted for their psychometric capabilities have been under way since late last year. Faculty and graduate assistants from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign (UIUC) are currently participating in research initiatives. Lead faculty members from each institution participate on a committee with AICPA psychometric staff to define areas to be studied, establish research priorities and report on progress. The UIUC has a reputation for innovative educational practices and research, and its accounting department will also be participating in this collaboration starting Fall 2000.

Involvement by the academic community has been critical since the onset of the project with Dr. William Holder of the University of Southern California, serving as Chair of the Computerization Implementation Committee, which is spearheading the computerization effort. As the process of computerizing the Uniform CPA Examination moves forward, the AICPA will be seeking greater involvement from a broad base of schools of accountancy and their students. Focus group research among faculty and students will take place as the project moves forward to ensure that critical feedback from these constituencies is gathered and incorporated.

If your school is interested in participating in the process of computerizing the Uniform CPA Examination, or if you have questions or comments, please contact Gregory Johnson, Director of the CPA Examination at (201) 938-3376 or via e-mail at gjohnson@aicpa.org.