



Virginia Adams



Sydney Bramlett



Kayla Christman



Lauren Hamilton



Lindsey Janous



Paul Roberts



Elizabeth Schmitz



Mason Smith



Stella McIver



Mallory McVay



Hong Nguyen



Jessica Whittington

ACCOUNTING EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Friday, Oct. 25, 2013

MSCPA Center

See Pages 10 & 11
For Conference Details

MSCPA Education Foundation Awards **2013** Scholarships

Scholarship checks have been mailed to accounting students at Mississippi colleges and universities. Members of the MSCPA Awards, Education & Scholarships Committee reviewed and approved applications in July from students at institutions which award accounting degrees. Scholarships are then reviewed by a Foundation Trustee and funded through the MSCPA Education Foundation.

To be eligible, students must be majoring in accounting, have completed their junior year in preparation for their senior year or graduate study, be a Mississippi resident, excel academically, be recommended by a professor, have a financial need and be involved in campus activities.

The scholarships include three named \$1,000 scholarships to graduate students: the Ross/Nickey Scholarship and two Gary E. Thornton Memorial Scholarships. A new \$1,000 scholarship was added last year honoring the late Bill Rush Mosby, Jr., presented to an undergraduate accounting major from Natchez.

One scholarship winner among the undergraduate winners

is selected to receive the Hamp King Award. This award was established to recognize and honor the memory of the late Hamp King, a CPA who served as Mississippi's State Auditor for many years. Dexter A. Nix of Moss Point was selected for this honor and will receive a

second scholarship check in December from the Mississippi Tax Institute Trustees. Dexter attends Jackson State University where he has a 4.0 in accounting and a 3.81 overall. He is a member of the Destination Graduation Policy Initiative, National Student Exchange Program, Accounting Society – Treasurer, Deloitte Case Study Competition – Leader, Alpha Lambda



Dexter A. Nix
Hamp King Award Winner

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Certified Public Accountants*

306 Southampton Row
The Commons
Highland Colony Parkway
Ridgeland, MS 39157
PHONE: (601) 856-4244
FAX: (601) 856-8255
E-MAIL ADDRESS:
mail@ms-cpa.org

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The CPA Newsletter is the official publication of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants. The Newsletter invites articles of interest to the profession and gives credit to the author; however, it reserves the right to edit articles for correct spelling, wording and punctuation.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official policy of the MSCPA. Advertising is accepted in good faith that the product/services are of value stated.

Welcome New Members

New members include: Kendall Owen Bowlin, Frederick Alexander DeBardleben, Leah Anderson Holland, TaWanda Dismuke Johnikin, and Mitchell Robert Wenger.

Now completing the membership process are:

William Robert Clark was born in Mississippi and received Bachelor of Accountancy and Master of Professional Accountancy degrees from Mississippi State University. He is a Supervisor with Horne LLP in Ridgeland.

Vicki Oliphant Henson was born in McComb and received a Bachelor of Accountancy degree from Mississippi State University. She is a Reviewer with Tann, Brown & Russ Co., PLLC in Jackson.

Charles Lance Hill was born in Indianola and received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Delta State University and Bachelor of Accountancy and Master of Accountancy degrees from the University of Mississippi. He is a Supervisor with Horne LLP in Ridgeland.

Jacob Brandon Jones was born in Flowood and received his Bachelor of Accountancy and MPA degrees from Mississippi State University. He is an Associate with Horne LLP in Ridgeland.

Lisa B. Lester received a Bachelor's degree in accounting from Mississippi College and is on the staff of GranthamPoole, CPAs in Ridgeland.

Tara Beth Stigall was born in Ottumwa, Iowa and received her BBA

from AIU Online and an MBA from Mississippi College. She is on the Audit Staff of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC in Ridgeland.

Jacqueline Moak Vinson was born in McComb and received her BSBA in Accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi and MPA from Mississippi State University. She is Assistant Controller with Cadence Bank in Starkville.

Thomas Michael Wirt was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas and received Bachelor of Accountancy and Master of Accountancy degrees from the University of Mississippi. He is a Field Auditor Specialist I with the Office of the State Auditor in Jackson.

Joseph Boland Zimmerman was born in Jackson and received a Bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. He is a Financial Advisor with Morgan Stanley in Ridgeland.

2014 MSCPA Convention

June 26-29, 2014

Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort



2015 MSCPA Convention

June 25-28, 2015

Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort

40th Annual Mississippi Tax Institute

Hilton Hotel

Jackson, Mississippi

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013

Registration Fee: \$175



BENEFITS BYLINE

from

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the OCTOBER 1, 2013 EXCHANGE NOTICE DEADLINE

As a service to MSCPA members with one or more employees, Brown & Brown of Louisiana, LLC dba Robert Ellis & Associates has provided the following information regarding the federal requirement that all Employers provide an Exchange notice to each employee by October 1, 2013.

This notification must be provided to employees regardless of plan enrollment, part-time or full-time status. The employer is not required to provide separate notices to dependents or other individuals who are or may become eligible for coverage under the employer's plan but who are not employees. However, **employers are required to provide the Exchange notice to both new hires and current employees as follows:**

- **NEW HIRES** – Employers must provide the notice to each new employee at the time of hiring beginning October 1, 2013. For 2014, the Department of Labor (DOL) will consider the new employee notification requirement satisfied if the notice is provided within 14 days of the employee's start date.
- **CURRENT EMPLOYEES** – Employers are required to provide notification no later than October 1, 2013 to current employees (hired before October 1, 2013).

We suggest you send these out just after Labor Day to coincide with the marketing blitz anticipated by the Exchange. Information, forms and instructions necessary to comply with the employer notification rule are linked below on the following website:

The following document outlines the rules in more detail:

http://www.bblouisiana.com/Files/Publications/DOL_Issues_Model_Exchange_Notice.pdf

The following is the Model Notice for Employers who offer Health Coverage:

http://www.bblouisiana.com/Files/Publications/Exchange_Notice_With_Health_Plans.pdf

The following is the Model Notice for Employers who DO NOT offer Health Coverage:

http://www.bblouisiana.com/Files/Publications/Exchange_Notice_Without_Health_Plans.pdf

The following file is a flyer that you can give to employees who may have questions about the exchange:

<http://www.bblouisiana.com/Files/Publications/HCRAreadyInsuredFAQ.pdf>

Included in the Exchange Application is an Employer Coverage Tool. The following document explains this form in more detail:

http://www.bblouisiana.com/Files/Publications/Exchanges_Employer_Coverage_Tool.pdf

If you wish to be proactive and fill out the Employer Coverage Tool form for future employees, you may access the form at the following link. Once completed, you may copy it and keep those copies on file for use as needed. .

http://www.bblouisiana.com/Files/Publications/Employer_Coverage_Tool.pdf

As your MSCPA-sponsored insurance consultant, we are dedicated to assisting you with all your personal and professional insurance needs. If you have any questions regarding Health Care Reform or the MSCPA-sponsored portfolio, please contact

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Profession Experts Share **Best Practices** for Planning In the Wake of **ATRA**

After the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA) was signed into law on January 2nd, financial planning became much more complex than ever before. The new law includes five tax layers that must be considered for virtually all financial decisions: regular tax, alternative minimum tax, the new 3.8% Medicare surtax on net investment income, the re-introduction of phase-out in itemized deductions and the 39.6% tax bracket for those over a certain income threshold, which also taxes long-term capital gains and qualified dividends at a 20% rate for taxpayers in this bracket.

Combine all this with changes in the estate-planning arena, including permanence of the inflation-indexed \$5 million (up to \$5.25M in 2013) exemption for gift, GST and estate tax purposes, and portability, and it becomes obvious how critical it will be to integrate tax planning with your client's investment, retirement and estate planning strategy in order to achieve long-term favorable outcomes.

To assist CPAs in preparing for the changes enacted under ATRA, the AICPA recently held a panel discussion webcast titled "Proactive Planning in 2013: What CPA Financial Planners Need to Know to Advise Individual Clients," in which experts in the profession were asked to share their best practices.

Don't Wait to Educate Your Clients on Tax Changes

Panel moderator Ted Sarenski, CPA/PFS, CFP®, AEP®, urged listeners to share the new tax rate information with their clients as soon as possible through email or newsletters, and follow up with face-to-face meetings to discuss the impact on their personal situation.

"It's easy to scare your high net worth

clients with the new combined tax rates, but what we need to impress on them, as well as clients at much lower income levels, is the breadth of changes that need to be considered—things like the 3.8% and 0.9% Medicare surtaxes, the phase-out of itemized deductions and so on."

continued on page 6

Our **Members** in the **News**

Jim Koerber, CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA, CFE was featured in an article on leadership in the July 5, 2013 edition of Mississippi Business Journal. Koerber is a shareholder in The Koerber Company, PA in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. A link to the Mississippi Business Journal article is <http://msbusiness.com/blog/2013/07/05/willoughby-john-koerber-sees-success-through-hard-work/>

Thank You for Prompt Payment of Dues

Dues notices for fiscal year 2013-2014 were mailed in late June to the 2679 members of the Society and many members have already responded. The dues rates include no increase over the year just ending.

Dues are payable upon receipt of the statement and members may choose to pay by credit card. A copy of the 2013-2014 dues statement has been posted to the Society's website (www.ms-cpa.org) so members may download a copy. Dues are considered past due 90 days into the new year and a \$25 late fee is added after Oct. 1.

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ATRA BEST PRACTICES

continued from page 4

Now Is the Time to Rethink Life Insurance

Beth Gamel, CPA/PFS, AEP®, said she believes that, while there are plenty of reasons to keep buying life insurance, you need to sit down with your high net worth clients and reevaluate the role of term, whole life and no lapse insurance in the post-ATRA world.

"You need to ask: If your clients bought life insurance for estate liquidity and they now meet the \$10.5 million (in 2013) exemption between spouses, does life insurance still make sense? Likewise, for clients who will never reach the \$10+ million mark, where does life insurance fit in their financial plan? For existing policies, advisers should be exploring 1035 exchanges as well as other strategies."

Be Smart About Tax Deferral Strategies

Michael Kitces, MSFS, MTAX, CFP®, CLU, ChFC, RHU, REBC, CASL, noted that as the tax rates become more progressive and other factors, like the new capital gains rate and the 3.8% Medicare surtax, are layered in, it creates a situation in which CPAs have to be very smart about tax deferral strategies for high net worth clients.

"For your lower and middle income clients," Kitces pointed out, "doing a really

good job of tax deferral actually creates tax catastrophes down the road because you end up with these giant piles of deferred income that you can't unwind without driving your clients into a higher tax rate."

He added that always deferring gains or harvesting losses may not be the optimal strategy anymore. Instead, you need to approach it on a year-by-year basis to determine if this is the year you want to harvest the losses or if this is the year you want to harvest the gains. No matter what you do, you must be strategic about it.

"Year-by-year planning is now the key, and CPA personal financial planners are by far the best professionals to be able to do this because they have access to all the tax information and have the expertise to be able to do the modeling to determine which scenario works best for each client."

Gamel seconded this, adding, "I think this is a moment when CPAs are really going to shine as financial planners. We have an opportunity to be the best advisers out there because we have the sophisticated tax knowledge that other planners do not."

Invest in Sophisticated Planning Software

Echoing what Sarenski said, Scott Sprinkle, CPA/PFS, CGMA, CFP®, emphasized the importance of communicating these tax changes to your clients in addition to using the proper planning software to estimate the immediate

income tax ramifications of these changes. It is important to illustrate the year-over-year impact on your client's wealth.

"Practitioners who, in the past, used 110% of the prior year to do their estimated income tax planning are missing the boat. You have to put a sophisticated income tax planning program in place, and the sooner the better."

He named Lacerte, BNA and ProSystem as solid choices, adding, "Make sure that the software has a good bridge that will import your client's tax data into the program."

ATRA Planning Advice Available from the AICPA

The AICPA PFP Section provides information, resources, advocacy, and guidance for CPAs who specialize in providing estate, tax, retirement, risk management and/or investment planning advice. The exclusive CPA/Personal Financial Specialist (PFS™) credential distinguishes CPAs as subject matter experts who have demonstrated their financial planning knowledge through experience, education and testing.

CPAs are invited to listen to the full webcast of this panel discussion and download the presentation materials to learn more about post-ATRA planning practices. Also, visit aicpa.org/plp/free for other free resources that may be useful.



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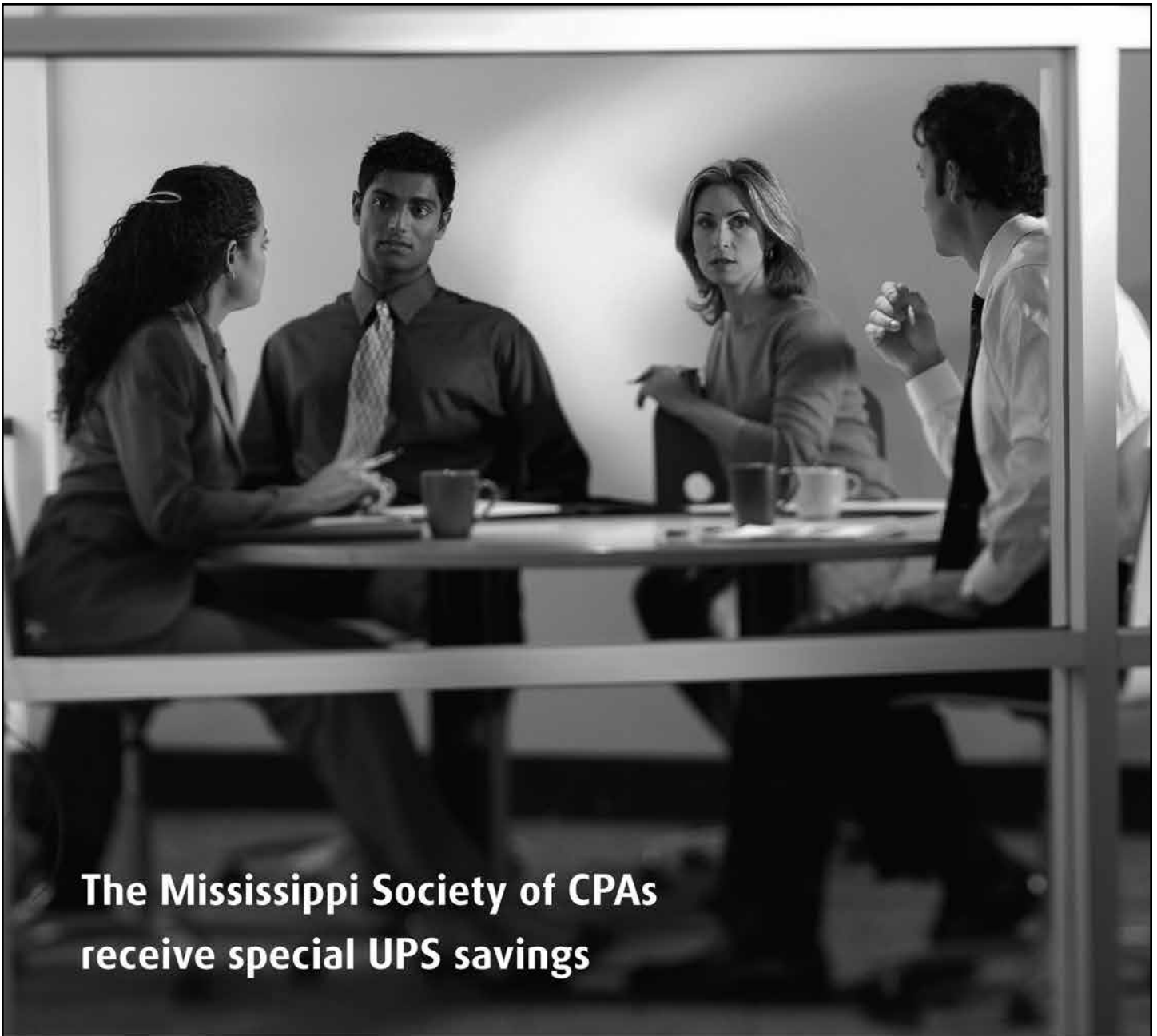
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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

continued from page 1

Delta Honor Society, Alternative Spring Break Program, W. E. B. Dubois Honors College, Student Government Association – Academic Council Senator, National Association of Black Accountants, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Paul Stanton Roberts of Biloxi was named the recipient of the Thomas A. Ross/Robert L. Nickey Scholarship, established in 1998 to honor their contributions to the accounting profession. Ross, who died in 2007, was an MSCPA Past President, long-time practitioner and former State Board member. Nickey, who died in 2003, served as Executive Director of the MSCPA for 23 years. Paul attends the University of Southern Mississippi where he has a 3.75 in accounting and a 3.755 overall. He is active in the School of Music Student Advisory Council – appointed two years as string representative, Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honors Society, USM Honors College, and the USM Orchestra – Educational Outreach. He served as assistant director of the Hattiesburg Youth Orchestra and was active in the Festival South Orchestra.

Two graduate students have been named winners of the Gary E. Thornton Memorial Scholarships, established in 1999 by Gary's widow, Cathy. Gary was an active MSCPA member and former chair of the Governmental A&A Committee. He died in March of 1999.

Kayla Nicole Christman of Braxton attends Mississippi State University where she has a 3.4 in accounting and a 3.75 overall. She is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Beta Gamma Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, Intramural Co-Ed Softball, and Gamma Beta Phi. She is a participant in the Dixon Hughes Goodman Leadership Conference, KPMG Discover Program, and served as a Trustmark National Bank and KPMG intern. Mason S. Smith of Lumberton attends the University of Mississippi where he has a 3.72 in accounting and a 3.85 overall. He is a member of Beta Alpha Psi – Director of Activities for Fall 2012, Beta Gamma Sigma – Vice President – Membership, Phi Kappa Phi, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 2013, and the University of Mississippi Big Event 2012. He is also active with the Project Homeless Connect in August of 2012, Housing Works Bookstore NYC, and The Pantry of Oxford.

The Bill Rush Mosby, Jr. Scholarship has been established to honor the late Bill Rush Mosby, Jr., of Natchez. He served as President of the MSCPA in 1977-78 and was honored by the MSCPA in 2000 as the Public Service Award Winner for outstanding service to his community. The new scholarship will be awarded each year to an undergraduate accounting major from the Natchez area. Elizabeth Hunter Schmitz of Natchez attends the University of Mississippi where she has a 3.0 in accounting and a 3.67 overall. She is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Gamma Beta

Phi National Collegiate Honors Society, Key Honors Society and Alpha Omicron Pi social sorority. She has interned at Silas Simmons, LLP in Natchez and Kinney and Associates, PLLC in Oxford.

The following undergraduate winners of \$2,000 scholarships are listed alphabetically:

Virginia Taylor Adams of Benton attends Delta State University where she has a 3.56 in accounting and a 3.54 overall. She is active in Student Accounting and Business Administrators (SABA), Kappa Delta Sorority serving as VP of membership and T-Shirt Chairman, Panhellenic Council, and the Delta State Accounting Honor Society.

Sydney Lauren Bramlett of Oxford attends the University of Mississippi where she has a 3.67 in accounting and a 3.63 overall. She serves as a mentor to an autistic teen, assisted as a volunteer to Ron Williams' Campaign and is employed at Private Gallery on the Oxford square.

Lauren Brooke Hamilton of Raymond attends Mississippi College where she has a 4.0 in accounting and a 3.7 overall. She is a member of Phi Mu Sorority, Phi Theta Kappa, Accounting Society, and is a Dean's List Scholar. She is music leader for her local church youth group, a volunteer blood donor, and a Missions volunteer to Haiti.

Lindsey Blanton Janous of Greenville attends Mississippi State University where she has a 4.0 in accounting and a 3.91 overall. She is active in Beta Alpha Psi, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Gamma Beta Phi, Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Kappa Delta – Magazine Chair and Guard, Student Association, and intramurals.

Stella Teresa McIver of Columbia attends William Carey University where she has a 4.0 in accounting and a 3.9 overall. She is active in Carey Scholars, Apartment Ministries Volunteer, Gillespie Art Museum Volunteer, Hattiesburg High ACT Tutoring (math & science), Alpha Chi Honor Society, Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society, and the Carey Crusaders for Life – secretary & Treasurer.

Mallory McBrayer McVay of West Point attends Mississippi University for Women and has a 4.0 in accounting and a 3.54 overall. She is a member of Phi Beta Lambda, Lockheart Social Club Member – Songfest Coordinator and Philanthropist for one year terms, Baptist Student Union and student worker in the Education Human Sciences Department.

Hong B. Nguyen of Flowood attends Belhaven University and has a 4.0 in accounting and a 3.70 overall. She is a member of the Associated Student Government and the International Business Club.

Jessica Randall Whittington of Pearlinton attends the University of Southern Mississippi – Gulf Park Campus where she has a 4.0 in accounting and a 3.889 overall. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Accounting Society, serves as an Accounting Tutor – Gulf Park Campus (selected by University staff), Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, and Phi Beta Lambda.

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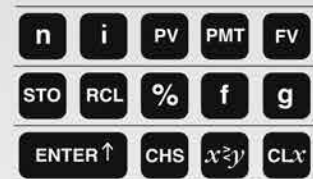
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Few organizations, regardless of size or industry, have escaped the shadow of uncertainty that has long hovered over the business community. This uncertainty has exhibited itself in ways ranging from intensified competition and market volatility to complex regulatory requirements and widespread digitalization. In spite of the inherent challenges of this environment, a reengineered formula for organizational success has emerged and finance teams are transforming and reenergizing themselves in its wake.

Bridging the Talent Divide

The finance team's evolving remit is largely due to its greater role as a trusted partner with senior leadership and the higher demand for a specific combination of skills needed to guide the organization. Key decision makers are looking for financial professionals who combine analytical and financial expertise with strategic, management and decision-making insights.

An American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) study, Rebooting Business: Valuing the Human Dimension, supports business savvy's more prominent footprint in corporate America, with nonfinancial senior executives stating that 68 percent of the value provided to the organization is nonfinancial. However, according to Deloitte's 2013 Global Finance Talent Survey, there is growing concern among many finance executives over recruiting, retaining and developing finance employees with such an in-demand combination of skills. Management accountants, specifically those awarded the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation, are setting themselves apart from other professionals in fulfilling this unmet need. With their proven talent in both financial and management areas, coupled with their business acumen, management accountants are advancing

into key advisory roles that are critical to operations and strategy. In the process, they are filling a talent void that, if not met, could undermine sustainable growth and progress.

"As senior leaders continue to look to finance departments for insightful management advice and direction, opportunities will grow exponentially for CGMAs to prove their value to organizations, both in the U.S. and abroad," said Michael R. Nall, CPA, CM&AA, CGMA, founder of Alliance of M&A Advisors. "Among the ways CGMAs can ensure that their expanded new role will endure in the years ahead is to reach out to fellow members of the CGMA community to share best practices, and participate in programs that can further develop their skills, expertise and leadership perspective."

Redefining Capabilities and Contributions

Similar to many of their peers

continued on page 17

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Friday, October 25, 2013

AGENDA

- 8:00-8:25 Registration and Breakfast
- 8:25-8:30 Welcome
Karen Moody, AES Committee Chair
- 8:30-10:00 Cooking the Books: Financial Statement Fraud Issues & Examples
Angela Morelock
- 10:00-10:15 Break for Refreshments - Please visit with Book Representatives
- 10:15-11:55 Fraud & Embezzlement: Lessons from the Trenches
Angela Morelock
- 11:55-12:00 Announcement of MSCPA Outstanding Educator
Karen Moody, AES Committee Chair
- 12:00-12:50 Lunch - Provided
- 12:50-2:45 Fraud Standards

But What About Corruption?

Dr. Donald Minyard
- 2:45-3:00 Break - Please Visit with Book Representatives
- 3:00-4:35 Fraud in the Tax Classroom
Dr. Donald Minyard
- 4:35-4:40 Closing Remarks & Grand Prize

Recommended for 8 Hours of CPE

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FEATURED SPEAKERS

Angela Morelock, CPA, CFE, ABV, Cr.FA
 BKD, LLP - Partner
 Springfield, MO

**Donald H. Minyard, PhD.,
 CPA, ABV, CFF, CFE**
 Culverhouse School of Accountancy
 University of Alabama
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CONTINUING EDUCATION

**OCTOBER/
NOVEMBER 2013**

October 17, 2013

Thursday
Ridgeland
MSCPA Center

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Discussion Leader: PANEL

Cost: Members: \$140 Non-Members: \$215 AICPA Member Discount: \$0

Course Hours: 8:30-4:30

LEVEL: Update **CPE Credit:** 8 General **VENDOR:** n/a **ACRONYM:** IND

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: As the date for this event approaches, please access the MSCPA web site for details and registration information on this conference. www.ms-cpa.org.

October 21, 2013

Monday
Gulfport
Marriott Courtyard

Multi-State Income Tax

Discussion Leader: Michael A. Frost, CPA

Cost: Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$30

Course Hours: 9:00-5:00

LEVEL: **CPE Credit:** 8 Tax **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** MIT

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Discover ways to master the theoretical disputes and compliance issues in order to better navigate through the maze of multistate corporate taxation. This seminar provides you with the necessary principles for understanding multistate corporate taxation and offers insight into how to incorporate multistate corporate taxation into a client's plan. As an experienced accountant or private industry manager, this course provides you with the knowledge you need to offer more consultative value to your clients in the multistate corporate taxation area.

October 21, 2013

Monday
Gulfport
Marriott Courtyard

Financial Statement Analysis: Improve the Financial Decision-Making Process

Discussion Leader: Steven J. Toups, CPA

Cost: Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$30

Course Hours: 9:00-5:00

LEVEL: Basic **CPE Credit:** 8 A&A General **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** FSABM

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Discover a variety of analytic tools for examining financial statements and making better management decisions. Look beyond the basic ratios to determine the causes of a company's performance. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: Valuation Techniques; Effect Ratios; DuPont System for Analyzing Profitability; Causal Analysis; How to Conduct a Financial Statement Analysis; Users of Financial Statements; Forecasting Sustainable Growth; and Bankruptcy Prediction Models.

October 21, 2013

Monday
Ridgeland **NEW**
MSCPA Center

Comprehensive Accounting Issues of Estates and Trusts: Fiduciary Accounting and Tax Issues

Discussion Leader: Dr. Ted Englebrecht, PhD

Cost: Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$0

Course Hours: 9:00-5:00

LEVEL: Basic **CPE Credit:** 8 A&A **VENDOR:** Surgent-McCoy **ACRONYM:** FACT

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Fiduciary income tax is a complex blend of state accounting rules and the tax law of Subchapter J. Only by understanding this interaction can the practitioner acquire the skills and knowledge to provide income tax planning for an estate or trust and its beneficiaries, sure to be an important skill in practice in the new income tax environment. You will learn how to: Distinguish fiduciary accounting income from taxable income and distributable net income; Account for distributions for accounting and tax purposes; Identify how the fiduciary income tax return differs from individual income tax; Understand state law on principal and income; and more.

October 22, 2013

Tuesday
Gulfport
Marriott Courtyard

The Best Federal Tax Update Course by Surgent-McCoy

Discussion Leader: Michael A. Frost, CPA

Cost: Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$0

Course Hours: 9:00-5:00

LEVEL: Update **CPE Credit:** 8 Tax **VENDOR:** Surgent-McCoy **ACRONYM:** BFTU

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: This seminar will cover: How the changes in tax rates affect tax planning for individuals and businesses; Techniques for accelerating income and deferring deductions; Retirement plans: the best planning strategy? Capital gains: what tax rates apply; Historic low interest rates: tax strategies clients should consider: how long will they remain low? How health care reform impacts income tax planning now and in later years; Estate planning: current strategies; Does the gift tax exclusion promote income shifting? Travel and entertainment: overlooked and overused? Substantiation: the Service's attack on record-keeping; and other late-breaking tax law changes. Practice aids, including the 2013 inflation-adjusted amounts, mileage rates, and more; Recent developments with business entities, including C corporations, S corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies; Review of the year's most important tax cases, revenue rulings, PLRs, etc.

October 22, 2013

Tuesday

Gulfport

Marriott Courtyard

Construction - Accounting, Auditing, and Tax**Discussion Leader:** Andrew C. (Andy) Copeland, CPA**Cost:** Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$30**Course Hours:** 9:00-5:00**LEVEL:** Basic **CPE Credit:** 8 A&A **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CAAT-1

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Master the fundamentals of the construction industry! Give your clients efficient, high-quality audit and review services and apply GAAP accounting methods applicable to construction contractors. Learn about the intricacies of accounting for long term contracts, auditing construction contractors, and tax accounting for small to large contractors. This course enhances your confidence in your construction accounting and auditing expertise as you apply construction industry GAAP, determine audit procedures, and identify key tax issues unique to construction contractors. Topics discussed include: Contract Accounting, Contractor Financial Statements, Working With A Surety, Audit Planning and Procedures, Long-Term Contracts, and Taxation for Small to Large Contractors.

October 22, 2013

Tuesday

Ridgeland

MSCPA Center

Fiduciary Income Tax Returns – Form 1041 Workshop**Discussion Leader:** Dr. Ted Englebrecht, PhD**Cost:** Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$0**Course Hours:** 9:00-5:00**LEVEL:** Intermediate **CPE Credit:** 8 Tax **VENDOR:** Surgent-McCoy **ACRONYM:** 1041

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: As income tax rates rise on estates, trusts, and their beneficiaries, consideration of the income tax effects becomes more critical. The purpose of this course is to explain the complicated income tax rules of estates and trusts, fiduciary accounting, and how to prepare Form 1041. Topics: Dividing income in the year of death; Overview of Subchapter J; Income tax issues of estates and trusts; Form preparation issues; Taxable income of estates and trusts and expense allocation issues; itemized deductions; Pension plan issues and income in respect of a decedent; Distributable net income (DNI) and the income distribution deduction; Calculation of DNI and computation of distribution deduction on Schedule B; Principal and Income Act of 1997; Relation of principal and income law to DNI; Understanding how to handle capital gains and losses; Tax-planning concerns and special issues; Allocating tax items to beneficiaries: another K-1.

October 23, 2013

Wednesday

Ridgeland

MSCPA Center

Construction - Accounting, Auditing, and Tax**Discussion Leader:** Andrew C. (Andy) Copeland, CPA**Cost:** Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$30**Course Hours:** 9:00-5:00**LEVEL:** Basic **CPE Credit:** 8 A&A **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CAAT-2

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Master the fundamentals of the construction industry! Give your clients efficient, high-quality audit and review services and apply GAAP accounting methods applicable to construction contractors. Learn about the intricacies of accounting for long term contracts, auditing construction contractors, and tax accounting for small to large contractors. This course enhances your confidence in your construction accounting and auditing expertise as you apply construction industry GAAP, determine audit procedures, and identify key tax issues unique to construction contractors. Topics Discussed include: Contract Accounting, Contractor Financial Statements, Working With a Surety, Audit Planning and Procedures, Long-Term Contracts, and Taxation for Small to Large Contractors.

October 25, 2013

Friday

Ridgeland

MSCPA Center

ACCOUNTING EDUCATORS SYMPOSIUM**Discussion Leader:** PANEL**Cost:** Members: \$75 Non-Members: \$75 AICPA Member Discount: \$0**Course Hours:** 8:30-4:30**LEVEL:** Update **CPE Credit:** 8 TBD **VENDOR:** n/a **ACRONYM:** AES

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: As the date for this event approaches, please access the MSCPA web site for details and registration information

November 1, 2013

Friday

Jackson

Christ United Methodist Church

NOT-FOR-PROFIT CONFERENCE**Discussion Leader:** PANEL**Cost:** Members: \$100 Non-Members: \$100 AICPA Member Discount: \$0**Course Hours:** 8:30-4:30**LEVEL:** Update **CPE Credit:** 8 TBD **VENDOR:** n/a **ACRONYM:** NPC

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: As the date for this event approaches, please access the MSCPA web site for details and registration information on this conference. www.ms-cpa.org

November 4-5, 2013

Monday-Tuesday

Ridgeland

MSCPA Center

2012 Corporate Income Tax Boot Camp**Discussion Leader:** Gordon Meicher, CPA**Cost:** Members: \$380 Non-Members: \$530 AICPA Member Discount: \$60**Course Hours:** 8:30-4:30**LEVEL:** Intermediate **CPE Credit:** 16 Tax **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CITW

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: This is a comprehensive course geared to guide practitioners through the numerous concepts and rules applicable to income tax accounting, tax return positions and disclosures for C Corporations and S Corporations. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: S Corporation Qualifications and Election; C Corporation IRC Section 1244 Stock; Cash and Accrual Accounting Methods; Revenue Recognition Methods; Expensing Versus Capitalization Rules; Depreciation; Inventories; Dividends, Interest and Other Income; Employee Benefit and Retirement Plans; Net Operating Losses; Passive Activities and At-Risk Limitations; Tax Credits; Tax Return Disclosures; Sale of Properties; Other Taxes: AMT, Accumulated Earnings Tax, Personal Holding Company Tax; Tax Payments and Penalties; and more.

November 6-7, 2013 **1040 Tax Return Update - Developed by Sid Kess: The Latest Individual Tax Developments**

Wednesday-Thursday
Ridgeland
MSCPA Center

Discussion Leader: Gordon Meicher, CPA

Cost: Members: \$380 Non-Members: \$530 AICPA Member Discount: \$60

Course Hours: 8:30-4:30

LEVEL: Intermediate **CPE Credit:** 16 Tax **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** IITW

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: This course summarizes the legislative, judicial and IRS changes for Federal Income Taxes for the current year (through the date of publication) and how these changes impact tax compliance and year-end tax planning for individuals and businesses. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: Return Preparation Applications; Strategies for Tax Savings; Business Entity Changes; Income Taxation of Estates and Trusts; IRS Administrative Issues, Compliance and New Forms; Court Cases Settled in the Previous Year that Provide Tax Return Position Authority; IRS Rulings, Procedures and Notices for the Last Year; New Tax Return Disclosures for 2012; and more.

November 12, 2013 **Current Issues in Accounting and Auditing: An Annual Update**

Tuesday

Tupelo

NEW

Discussion Leader: Doug Logan, CPA

Cost: Members: \$140 Non-Members: \$180 AICPA Member Discount: \$0

Course Hours: 8:30-12

LEVEL: Update **CPE Credit:** 4 A&A **VENDOR:** Surgent-McCoy **ACRONYM:** AAU4-3

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Designed for accounting and auditing practitioners at all levels in both public accounting and business and industry, this course provides an overview of the new and recent pronouncements issued by the FASB, ASB, and ARSC. This course will bring you up-to-date on the standard setters' activities and provide you with examples and illustrations to help you apply the guidance in practice. You'll learn about the latest standards, exposure drafts and guidance focusing on issues applicable to accountants and auditors in public accounting and private industry. This course also includes a compilation and review update and current audit risk alert summary.

November 12, 2013 **Efficient Small Business Audits: Getting the Best Results for Your Small Business Client**

Tuesday

Tupelo

Discussion Leader: Doug Logan, CPA

Cost: Members: \$140 Non-Members: \$180 AICPA Member Discount: \$0

Course Hours: 1:00-4:30

LEVEL: Intermediate **CPE Credit:** 4 A&A **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CL4SBAB-2

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Auditors of small business need to understand and assess the typically limited internal control structure of the small business in order to conduct efficient and effective audits of financial statements. This course prepares you to efficiently assess the audit ability of accounting records and management integrity, apply analytical procedures to planning and substantive tests, and design audit programs to effectively consider the timing and extent of testing.

November 12, 2013 **Tax Strategies for Businesses: Planning Techniques and Current Issues**

Tuesday

Tupelo

NEW

Discussion Leader: Harris H. (Trip) Barnes, III JD

Cost: Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$30

Course Hours: 9:00-5:00

LEVEL: Intermediate **CPE Credit:** 8 Tax **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CHTX-3

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Participants will receive a refresher on proven tax saving techniques that have been updated with recent tax legislation and/or court rulings and their effect on particular techniques. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: Entity Options; Compensation; Retirement Plans and Deferred Compensation; Passive Activities and At-Risk Issues; Shareholder/Partner Basis; Insolvency and Bankruptcy; Business Losses; Distressed Properties; Tax Credits; Succession Planning; Multi-State Taxation.

November 13, 2013 **Nonprofit, State & Local Governments - The Annual Update**

Wednesday

Tupelo

NEW

Discussion Leader: Doug Logan, CPA

Cost: Members: \$140 Non-Members: \$180 AICPA Member Discount: \$0

Course Hours: 8:30-12

LEVEL: Intermediate **CPE Credit:** 4 A&A YB **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CL4GNAU

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Are you current with the latest developments for governmental and non-profit entities? This course has the latest activities of the OMB, GAO, AICPA, GASB and FASB including significant future projects being worked on. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: The Latest Single Audit Developments, Effects of Recent Yellow Book Activities, The Latest Standards Issued by the AICPA Relating to Not-for-Profits and Governments, and New Pronouncements Issued or Pending by the FASB and GASB.

November 13, 2013 **Yellow Book Financial Audits - Using Changes of the 2011 Revised Government Auditing Standards**

Wednesday

Tupelo

Discussion Leader: Doug Logan, CPA

Cost: Members: \$140 Non-Members: \$180 AICPA Member Discount: \$0

Course Hours: 1:00-4:30

LEVEL: Basic **CPE Credit:** 4 A&A YB **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CL4EOYB

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Do you perform financial audits in accordance with Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book)? Discover what changed and what stayed the same in the latest revision to Yellow Book. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: Yellow Book financial audit standards - general, performance and reporting; CPE requirements; Independence rules; and Peer review requirements.

November 13, 2013 Annual Federal Tax Update

Wednesday

Tupelo

BancorpSouth Conf. Cntr.

Discussion Leader: Jan Lewis, CPA**Cost:** Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$30**Course Hours:** 9:00-5:00**LEVEL:** Update **CPE Credit:** 8 Tax **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** PTU-1

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: This course summarizes the legislative, judicial and IRS changes for Federal Income Taxes for the current year (through the date of publication) and how these changes impact tax compliance and year-end tax planning for individuals and businesses. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: Return Preparation Applications; Strategies for Tax Savings; Business Entity Changes; Income Taxation of Estates and Trusts; IRS Administrative Issues, Compliance and New Forms; Court Cases Settled in the Last Year that Provide Tax Return Position Authority; IRS Rulings, Procedures and Notices for the Last Year; New Tax Return Disclosures for 2012; and more.

November 14, 2013 Ethics, Rules & Regulations

Thursday

Tupelo

BancorpSouth Conf. Cntr.

Discussion Leader: Donna Ingram, CPA, CFE, CRFA**Cost:** Members: \$140 Non-Members: \$180 AICPA Member Discount: \$0**Course Hours:** 8:30-12**LEVEL:** Update **CPE Credit:** 4 Ethics **VENDOR:** Self-developed **ACRONYM:** ERR-8

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: This seminar satisfies the State Board's requirement for three hours of general ethics and one hour of Mississippi Rules and Regulations.

November 14, 2013 Fraud in Purchasing and Cash Disbursements Cycles

Thursday

Tupelo

BancorpSouth Conf. Cntr.

Discussion Leader: Donna Ingram, CPA, CFE, CRFA**Cost:** Members: \$140 Non-Members: \$180 AICPA Member Discount: \$0**Course Hours:** 1:00-4:30**LEVEL:** Basic **CPE Credit:** 4 A&A **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** CL4PCD

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Purchasing and cash disbursements are common targets for fraud in any entity's environment. While business owners and managers are aware that internal controls seem to be very important, they often don't know whether the entity's system is adequate. While accountants instinctively know that internal controls are important and necessary, it is sometimes difficult to effectively communicate this with business owners. It is important to focus on common frauds and internal controls over the purchasing and cash disbursements processes. This course teaches you to hone in on smaller businesses and nonprofit entities where cost/benefit analysis is extremely important and fraud is more likely to occur. Learn how to efficiently analyze controls to ensure you're getting the "biggest bang for your buck" when considering a control to implement and/or test.

November 14, 2013 Revenue Recognition: Getting the New Standard Right

Thursday

Tupelo

BancorpSouth Conf. Cntr.

Discussion Leader: James R. (Jim) Crockett, CPA, DBA**Cost:** Members: \$255 Non-Members: \$330 AICPA Member Discount: \$30**Course Hours:** 9:00-5:00**LEVEL:** Intermediate **CPE Credit:** 8 A&A **VENDOR:** AICPA **ACRONYM:** RRNS-2

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: Revenue recognition has been the cause of audit failures and the focus of corporate abuse and fraud for many years. The new standard on revenue recognition, currently expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2013, is intended to improve the financial reporting of revenues. This course will provide financial professionals with the necessary tools to understand how to work with the new concepts and principles of revenue recognition. In addition, through practical examples, this course will assist you in avoiding revenue recognition traps. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to discuss: Current Revenue Recognition Challenges; SEC Guidance; Revenue Recognition for Certain Industries; Multiple Deliverable Revenue Arrangements; Proposed Contract Method; Special Issues with Proposed Standard; and more.

November 15, 2013 BUSINESS VALUATION & LITIGATION SERVICES CONFERENCE

Friday

Ridgeland

MSCPA Center

Discussion Leader: PANEL**Cost:** Members: \$TBA Non-Members: \$TBA AICPA Member Discount: \$0**Course Hours:** 8:30-4:30**LEVEL:** Update **CPE Credit:** 8 TBA **VENDOR:** n/a **ACRONYM:** BVLS

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: As the date for this event approaches, please access the MSCPA web site for details and registration information on this conference. www.ms-cpa.org.

CPE Registration Form is on page 16.

CPE REGISTRATION

Due to space constraints, the previous course descriptions have been condensed. The full descriptions – as provided by the CPE vendors – are available through links on our web site: www.ms-cpa.org under EDUCATION. You may register through the members' portion of the web site or by mailing or faxing the registration portion below with your check or credit card number to: Mississippi Society of CPAs, 306 Southampton Row, Ridgeland, MS 39157. Fax: (601) 856-8255. Please check each course you wish to attend and circle each amount included to ensure we enter your payment correctly.

(✓) DATE	COURSE TITLE	CITY	LOCATION *	AICPA	NON		Hrs.	Area
					MEM\$	MEM\$		
() Oct 17 Th	BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY CONFERENCE	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center		140	215	8	General
() Oct 21 M	Comprehensive Accounting Issues of Estates & Trusts	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center		255	330	8	A&A
() Oct 21 M	Multi-State Income Tax	Gulfport	Marriott Courtyard	*	255	330	8	Tax
() Oct 21 M	Financial Statement Analysis:	Gulfport	Marriott Courtyard	*	255	330	8	A&A-6; Gen.2
() Oct 22 Tu	The Best Federal Tax Update Course by Surgent-McCoy	Gulfport	Marriott Courtyard		255	330	8	Tax
() Oct 22 Tu	Construction - Accounting, Auditing, and Tax	Gulfport	Marriott Courtyard	*	255	330	8	A&A
() Oct 22 Tu	Fiduciary Income Tax Returns – Form 1041 Workshop	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center		255	330	8	Tax
() Oct 23 W	Construction - Accounting, Auditing, and Tax	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center	*	255	330	8	A&A
() Oct 25 Fr	ACCOUNTING EDUCATORS SYMPOSIUM	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center		75	75	8	TBD
() Nov 1 Fr	NOT-FOR-PROFIT CONFERENCE	Jackson	Christ United Meth.Ch.		100	100	8	TBD
() Nov 4-5 M-Tu	2012 Corporate Income Tax Boot Camp	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center	*	380	530	16	Tax
() Nov 6-7 W-Th	1040 Individual Tax Return Update	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center	*	380	530	16	Tax
() Nov 12 Tu	Current Issues in Accounting and Auditing	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.		140	180	4	A&A
() Nov 12 Tu	Efficient Small Business Audits	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.		140	180	4	A&A
() Nov 12 Tu	Tax Strategies for Businesses	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.	*	255	330	8	Tax
() Nov 13 W	Nonprofit, State & Local Governments	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.		140	180	4	A&A;YB
() Nov 13 W	Yellow Book Financial Audits	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.		140	180	4	A&A;YB
() Nov 13 W	Annual Federal Tax Update	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.	*	255	330	8	Tax
() Nov 14 Th	Revenue Recognition	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.	*	255	330	8	A&A
() Nov 14 Th	Ethics, Rules & Regulations	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.		140	180	4	Ethics
() Nov 14 Th	Fraud in Purchasing and Cash Disbursements	Tupelo	BancorpSo. Conf. Cntr.		140	180	4	A&A
() Nov 15 Fr	BUSINESS VALUATION & LITIGATION	Ridgeland	MSCPA Center		TBA	TBA	8	TBD

* AICPA Seminar. AICPA members may deduct \$30 per day from fee. See www.ms-cpa.org for the CPE Catalog with further details if necessary. The **member rate** for CPE programs is available to all members of the MSCPA. **Non-certified staff may also claim the member rate.**

Name _____ Company/Firm _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Are you a CPA? Yes ___ No ___ MSCPA Member? Yes ___ No ___ AICPA Member? Yes ___ No ___ Member # _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

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Amount Due \$ _____ (Did you remember to encircle each amount and to take qualified discounts?)

HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED JOBS?

If so, logon to the member portion of the web site in the upper right corner of the home page, and update your information.
www.ms-cpa.org

REFUND POLICY: You will receive a full refund if cancellation is received seven days prior to the scheduled date of the course. If you cancel within seven days, a fifty percent refund will be given.

Personnel substitutions are permitted.

No refunds are given for same-day cancellations or no-shows.

PLEASE INDICATE METHOD OF PAYMENT CREDIT CARD IS ☐ Personal ☐ Company



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ACCOUNTING & AUDITING UPDATE

PRESENTED BY

KIMBERLY G. BURKE, PhD
OF MILLSAPS COLLEGE

Eight Hours of
Continuing Professional Education
Breakfast and lunch are included

Friday
November 1, 2013
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Leflore County Civic Center
200 Highway 7 South
Greenwood, Mississippi
\$100 by October 19, 2013
\$125 after October 19, 2013

-OR-

Friday
November 8, 2013
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Statetoom
112 Cherokee Street
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MGMT ACCOUNTANTS

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from other leadership disciplines, management accountants' contributions span the full range of activities, making a measurable impact on executive decisions, performance and competitive position. Whether managing risk across a portfolio of projects, formulating strategy or initiating and leading innovation and change, management accountants are helping finance departments more proactively respond to leadership's call for deeper, more hands-on collaboration and partnership.

Further building management accountants' value is a skill set that extends beyond domestic operations. "Management accountants and CGMAs are also making tremendous contributions to global and non-U.S. operations, especially in long-term strategic planning, short-term business planning, and monitoring and control," said Hiroshi Miyamasu, CPA, CGMA, finance director at Nike Japan. "Among the benefits of their strengthening, multifunctional role has been a measurable improvement to the top- and bottom-lines at a time when organizations of all types need to be at their competitive best."

As the new business mandate moves beyond core financial accounting skills, management accountants are using a wide range of financial processes to move business operations forward. The following examples underscore some of the diversity of their responsibilities:

- Providing nonfinancial information and analysis of Big Data
- Advising on internal and external drivers of cost, risk and value
- Performing rigorous analysis of the data leading to performance improvements
- Sharing insights into product, sector and customer profitability to determine the success of marketing efforts
- Driving cost-reduction strategies within finance and throughout the organization
- Setting objectives to ensure that the business is run in the long-term best interests of stakeholders
- Helping to ensure that remuneration policy supports long-term value creation
- Leading the identification and assessment of new business opportunities

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MGMT ACCOUNTANTS

continued from page 17

- Developing financial awareness and expertise within the organization
- Monitoring how organizational groups attain goals and contribute to performance
- Ensuring that goals are shared across the business and appropriate resources are allocated



2014 Multi-State CPE & Ski Conference

January 13, 14, & 15, 2014

24 Hours of CPE

Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center

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The 2014 Multi-state CPE & Ski Conference (supported by nineteen state CPA societies) is pleased to bring you the very best CPE & Ski Conference. The Conference features 6 four-hour sessions on a wide variety of today's most popular CPE topics. The instructors rank among the top in the United States. It is truly refreshing to obtain your required CPE and enjoy physical exercise, fresh air, and scenic views. As one CPA put it, "this conference is a great prelude to busy season. It refreshes you and makes it much easier to tackle the busy months ahead." To receive an information packet containing detailed course descriptions and instructor biographies, please call K2 Enterprises at (888) 542-9390.

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1/13/14 7:30am - 11:00am \$100.00
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1/13/14 4:10pm - 7:40pm \$100.00
Federal Tax Update
1/14/14 7:30am - 11:00am \$100.00
Accounting & Auditing Update
1/14/14 4:10pm - 7:40pm \$100.00
Tech Update
1/15/14 7:30am - 11:00am \$100.00
Office 2013 and Windows 8
1/15/14 4:10pm - 7:40pm \$100.00
PAYMENT DUE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

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Management accountants are increasingly preparing and being recognized for their expanded organizational role at a time when their contribution is strongly felt at all levels. According to a CGMA survey, New Skills, Existing Talent, 75 percent of global finance executives reported that when finance professionals support management, the organization better meets its objectives. In fact, there are few innovative organizations today that are genuinely successful without the influence of management accountants and other finance professionals.

The New Skills, Existing Talent Survey also provides insights into management accountants' potential influence on future leadership initiatives. When finance professionals and business managers were asked whether finance provided an appropriate training ground for future business leaders, the majority of each group responded that it was equal to or greater than other parts of the organization.

Building a Sustainable Momentum

Looking ahead, management accountants will further identify new opportunities to broaden their scope of responsibilities, grow their capabilities and deliver even greater value. The result will be an organization that not only maximizes and benefits from the full potential of the finance team but is also poised for long-term success.

Access additional valuable resources and information on this topic and more at CGMA.org. Not a designation holder? Find out more about the designation and eligibility requirements at cgma.org/BecomeACGMA.

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

(CPE confirmations & Society
News Updates all go to your
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CLASSIFIEDS

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TechBit 112: Ultrabook Tradeoffs

My travel notebook is a bit over 2 years old, ancient in computer years. It was one of the early dual core “thin and light” models that came out, a bit more horsepower than an Intel Atom powered netbook I had been using, but much more portable than a traditional notebook.

A year ago, I bought a high powered notebook, with similar specifications as my desktop: quad core I7 processor, 8 GB of ram, and a 750 GB hard drive, but at 7+ pounds it wasn't anything I'd want to really travel with. I use it when I'm on-site at a client's for a period of time and want the same performance I have at home.

I've been doing a lot more traveling this year and wanted something much more powerful yet just as portable. Of course one of the recent group of ultrabooks was an obvious candidate. The term ultrabook was created by Intel and has a minimum set of standards which translate into thin, light, relatively fast, and good battery life.

The Macbook Air was the original ultrabook, predating the term itself by a year or two. If you are an MacOS user, in my mind that is the obvious choice, despite the cost differential.

The first ultrabooks two years ago were ok, but they weren't impressive and were as expensive, or in some cases, more expensive than the Macbook Air. That's one of the reasons I had decided to wait when they were first introduced.

Oddly the expected drop in price on ultrabooks hasn't occurred. When first introduced, Intel predicted they would fall to close to traditional notebook prices. Instead, the manufacturers have largely kept them as a premium product, adding features instead of allowing the price to fall.

There are some reasonably priced (approximately \$600) ultrabooks that are generally the previous generation with traditional 1368x768 screens and hybrid SSD/hard drive storage. They are decent alternatives if you aren't willing to go with the premium option.

The past year has seen laptop screen resolutions increase dramatically. For years 1368x768 screens have been more/less the only option, now 1920x1080 is becoming an available option. I originally had thought I wanted to go with a 13" ultrabook with a 1920x1080 resolution screen, but I actually find that combination a little hard to read with my eyesight.

My original list of options included two Asus models, two Samsung models, a Toshiba, a Lenovo, and an Acer. The other ultrabooks I had seen didn't seem as thin or light. I ended up taking the Acer S7 off the list based on reviews I had read that indicated it didn't really have the battery life of the other machines. The Toshiba and the Lenovo got taken off the list because

I couldn't find any place locally to try one out. I have found that there are little ergonomic subtleties that make actually trying a notebook important.

My short list was narrowed to the Asus UX31 and UX32 and two models of the Samsung Series 9, one 13" the other a large 15". I had ruled out almost all the other ultrabooks larger than 13" based on thickness, but the Samsung is effectively the same thickness at 15" as the other three ultrabooks on my list.

Sadly I have to say I am frustrated with both Asus and Samsung on their product naming/numbering. Both have several models of each of these computers and there is no obvious correlation in the model number, which generation it is, nor the specifications. That makes it too easy for a dealer to sell models with the previous generation Intel processors, which are making significant improvements every year, as if they were the latest model.

I ended up ruling out the UX32 because almost every model I could find had the 1368x768 resolution screens and the more I read about the hybrid storage, the less excited I was with the actual implementation. That could change in the next year and I'd love to readdress that option. I had thought about upgrading the hard drive to a faster 7200 rpm drive until I realized the UX32 used a very thin drive that had few options, not all 2.5" hard drives will fit every computer, you have to worry about drive thickness in thin computers.

I also ended up ruling out the Samsung Series 9 13" model. It didn't have the specifications I wanted, at least from any local dealer. I still love its look and feel.

In the end, the final decision was made on price, largely because I stumbled into an open box computer at a Best Buy, and the amount of RAM. I ended up with a Samsung Series 9 15" model with 8 GB of ram. Oddly most of the ultrabooks max out at 4 GB of ram, my experience is that generally results in a slower computer if you have many applications running at once, which I frequently do. I liked the Series 9 with a 1600x900 resolution screen display. That extra vertical resolution means a bit less scrolling on most applications. While a full 1920x1080 would be fantastic on that sized screen, I have been happy so far. I also immediately added a custom Gelaskin to the laptop since I believe in taking every opportunity to advertise my website URL.

Oddly after 3 months carrying the computer, I actually feel it might be too big to be a great travel computer. I don't even try to do much on airplanes in a standard coach seat, even a 10" computer would barely fit. But despite being amazingly thin, it still feels big.

I did have an issue with the open box

unit I got. I had purchased a unit with the model number ending in A07, which should have included a 256GB SSD. I was about half way through reformatting the drive to install Windows 7, I'm not willing to run Windows 8 on a non-touch screen laptop, when I realized my SSD was only 128GB. The model number was barely readable it was so small and it turned out my unit was an A01 model. I ended up keeping the unit when a price adjustment made it an offer I couldn't refuse, especially having spent several hours preparing it.

The small SSD had me worried. Windows 7, Office 2010 and a few other applications took up half the drive. That didn't leave much space for my files. I reorganized my files into active files and my archive files (files older than 2 years old). I only put the active files on the SSD.

I also did what I had done on my desktop, teamed my SSD with a hard disk, in this case an external hard drive. I went with a USB 3.0 portable hard drive thinking it would be almost as fast as an internal drive, since USB 3.0 can approximate SATA speeds. Sadly it is about 3 times slower than the SSD. I figured the drives in commercial external drives are the less expensive 5400 rpm drives, so I actually built an external drive using a Maxtor 7200 rpm hybrid drive, which was about 20% faster, but still not the speed I was expecting.

I also thought I could use the built in SD card as some expansion storage. Sadly, while I have a very fast 64GB Kingston SD card, it would appear the internal SD connection is via the USB 2.0 interface so it is about 10 times slower than the SSD. I did get a 64GB Kingston 3.0 flash drive that tests out better than the faster external hard drive and just a little slower than the internal SSD. I'll probably get another one or two of those for intermediate storage.

I have also noticed a couple of interesting observations using the computer. With the fast internal SSD, I think 4 GB of ram would work ok since disk swapping is so fast. And, ironically, the computer actually boots up faster than it can resume from hibernation. There is a faster hibernation mode but that requires the space on the SSD be permanently partitioned off, which would remove almost 10% of the total storage space.

The upgrade to an ultrabook has interesting, yet totally worthwhile. I'd do it again in a heartbeat, but probably would pick the 13" HD screen version, even with less ram. External storage can be used to supplement the smallish SSD's built in.

Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP, CMC is a speaker, author and consultant. He can be reached by e-mail at gmarshall@vendor-tech.com, or visit his website at <http://www.vendor-tech.com>.



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