

American Taxation Association

Volume 8, Autumn 1981

Ed Foth, Editor
DePaul University

Letter From Phillips

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Report on the Annual Meetings

The recent ATA Meetings in Chicago were well attended. I have received favorable comments from several ATA members that the program content of the technical sessions was informative and of high quality. In addition to our Annual Business Meeting, the following topics were covered in the technical sessions:

1. The teaching of tax research in graduate taxation programs;
2. Taxes and inflation;
3. Selected topics in taxation; and
4. Ph.D. dissertations in taxation.

Approximately two hundred individuals attended our annual luncheon and heard the newly appointed Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Mr. Roscoe L. Egger, Jr., speak on the current state of taxpayer compliance. His speech received national press coverage and was "front page" news for a large Chicago newspaper.

Current Activities of the ATA

The committee appointments for 1981-1982 have been established and appear elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. It was encouraging to receive so many positive responses from the membership to our request for service. The Scope of Tax Practice Committee will complete its study during the Fall and its report will be available to the membership. In addition, the ATA Trustees have recently approved the continuation of the Committee on Certification of Tax Specialists to encompass a study of implementation issues. These two committees are addressing practice or professional service issues which may have far reaching implications for the ATA and the profession.

Two new committees have been established which deal with academic administration and curriculum issues. They include a Committee on State and Local Taxation Curriculum Issues and a Committee on Educational Standards. The Educational Standards Accreditation issue, in particular, may have significant influence upon supply and demand conditions for tax educators and programs.

Future Directions for ATA

The current By-Laws of the American Taxation Association state that . . . "The objectives shall be to promote the dissemination and publication of information on taxation: to promote tax education and research; to encourage cross fertilization and development of tax oriented education between various academic disciplines; and to promote tax research on tax policy, tax proposals and legislation." While these stated objectives may be broadly interpreted to encompass professional practice issues, our primary focus has been upon addressing the academic related needs of ATA members.

We need to address the issue of scope of ATA activities because its impact upon our organizational structure and objectives for the organization. For example, if we implement a certification of Tax Specialists program and/or undertake significant projects of similar nature and scope to those which are typically conducted by the Federal Taxation Division of the AICPA, it is apparent that we will need substantial funding and revenue generating activities to finance such activities. It is my opinion that the issues are not mutually exclusive (i.e., that both objectives may to some extent be encom-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Tax Specialization Report Approved

The Report of the ATA Committee on Certification of Tax Specialists was unanimously approved by the membership at the annual meeting of ATA in Chicago.

Bernard Goodman, Chairman of the Committee, summarized the highlights of the report as follows:

1. Tax specialization is, and long has been, a fact beyond dispute.
2. The certification of tax specialists would
 - a. Provide greater access to tax services, and
 - b. Improve the quality of these services.
3. The ATA has the best qualifications and a perfect opportunity to become the certifying body of Tax Specialists.
4. The ATA should proceed with the development of a program for the certification of tax specialists.

Mitch Rothkopf, Director of Examinations, AICPA voiced his personal opposition to an ATA program to certify tax specialists. He stated that it would be too costly to administer and would cause a potential liability for all certified tax specialists.

Don Skadden, Past President of ATA, added his strong opposition to the Committee's recommendations. He based his opposition on the Committee's failure to study the implementation of a certification program before coming to the conclusion that the program is feasible.

Bernard Goodman answered the opposition by pointing out that the Committee carried out, as charged, only the first stage of ATA's project on specialization — to study whether ATA can play a role in the certification of tax specialists. Stage two, if approved by the membership, would concern itself with implementation of a certification program.

Hearing no further discussion, Bill Raby called for a vote, and the report was approved unanimously.

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Profile Of A Program:

The University of Texas Graduate Tax Program

by Ray M. Sommerfeld

The Master in Professional Accounting (MPA) was developed in 1948 to meet the needs of students who plan to assume executive responsibilities in public accounting, private business, or government. Although the program is designed to accommodate top students with undergraduate degrees in any field, those who have an undergraduate degree in accounting can complete the program in substantially less time than those holding non-business degrees.

Admission to the program, which is highly selective, is based on grades earned in previous academic work; a GMAT or GRE score; and prior work experience. In a recent year the individuals admitted to the MPA program had an average grade point of 3.6 (on a 4.0 system); an average GMAT score of 590 or GRE of 1240; and some prior work experience. All MPA students are full time (day) students.

Once admitted, a student may elect to pursue a specialization in financial reporting/auditing; federal taxation; or management advisory services/information systems. The tax specialization was first offered in 1970. During the 1980-81 academic year, approximately 75 students elected this option. Those with an undergraduate degree in accounting can begin a specialization immediately after entry into the program; others are required to complete up to one year of business and accounting courses before undertaking a specialization.

The tax specialization requires completion of three graduate seminars: one each in accounting theory,

tax research methodology, and controversial tax topics. The last of the three may be waived if the student elects to complete a formal six-hour masters thesis or a three-hour professional report on a tax subject. An additional three graduate seminars (or 9 semester hours) must be selected from corporate-shareholder taxation; estate, trust, and gift taxation; the taxation of multinational business; or consolidated corporate returns and partnership taxation. In addition, every tax student must complete 6 semester hours of law or business law and 3 semester hours of economics. (Unless the student has good reason to deviate, the work in law/business law and economics must be selected from a predetermined list of tax-related courses.) Finally, a minimum of 9 semester hours, elected with the approval of the MPA Advisor, must be completed.

The students enrolled in the University of Texas MPA-tax program are diverse. Approximately one-half hold non-business undergraduate degrees; about 50% are female; about 50% come from out-of-state. Nearly 35% have masters degrees in non-business disciplines; about 15% hold law degrees. Two recent students held Ph.D. degrees in non-business fields. Many students are CPAs. Although some begin the program immediately after completing an undergraduate degree, each year an increasing number have prior work experience. Some take leaves of absence to complete the program; others change employers enroute to the degree.

The tax courses offered in the accounting department are taught by six full-time professors, each of whom holds the Ph.D. degree and four of whom are CPAs. Each professor is actively engaged in tax consulting with private business, public accounting firms, professional

societies, and/or government agencies on a continuing basis.

Students interested in additional details should write to The MPA Advisor, Graduate School of Business, The University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712-1172. Financial assistance may be available to exceptional students.

TAX MANUSCRIPT AWARD NOTICE

The ATA's Committee on Tax Manuscript Awards is seeking nominations for the Association's significant contribution to tax knowledge award by way of a published tax manuscript. Nominated manuscripts may be in the form of books, papers, treatises, etc. bearing a 1978, 1979 or 1980 calendar year publication date. Excluded from award consideration are tax manuscripts which only appear in the proceedings of a professional association or organization. To be eligible for award consideration, award nominations must be in the hands of the Committee's Chairperson no later than December 31, 1981. Please send all nominations to:

Professor Bill Stevenson
Graduate School of Business
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

1982 Annual Meeting Call for Papers

Members who wish to present a paper at the Association's Annual Meeting in San Diego, California on August 16-18, 1982, are requested to submit three copies of the paper by February 15, 1982. Manuscripts should follow the format required by *The Accounting Review*. Papers on the "state-of-the-art" in tax research, theory, and practical applications are especially welcome. Papers should be sent to D. Larry Crumbley, Department of Accounting, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

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passed within our scope of activities and objectives) and that persuasive arguments may be made for either continuing our primary emphasis upon academic issues or expanding our scope into the area of professional service. In any event, the direction which we take will influence our basic organizational structure (i.e., our continued association with the AAA as a Section and/or our continued incorporation under the ATA designation).

I intend to ask the Trustees to address these issues during the forthcoming year and would appreciate feedback from ATA members. The ATA is your organization!

Lawrence C. Phillips

1981-1982 AMERICAN TAXATION ASSOCIATION

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University
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Milam, University of Mississippi

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Kansas (1979-1980 President)
William L. Raby, Touche Ross &
Co. (1980-1981 President)

Counsel — Kelleher Riess, Tulane
University

The Journal of the ATA

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ATA Newsletter

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University
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Notre Dame
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State College

Tax Manuscript Awards Committee

Charge: To select a recipient of the
1982 ATA Outstanding
Manuscript Award.
Willis C. Stevenson, University of
Wisconsin-Madison
(Chairperson)
Grover A. Cleveland, University of
Minnesota
Dale L. Flesher, University of
Mississippi
Don C. Marshall, University of
Missouri-Columbia
Charles K. Moore, University of
Akron
Ed Outslay, Michigan State
University
Mark J. Sullivan, DePaul
University

Scope of Tax Practice

Charge: A Study of the Scope of Tax
Practice for Accountants. Issues
include the relationship of tax to
audit independence and the
unauthorized practice of law.
Michael L. Moore, University of
Southern California
(Chairperson)
Edgar T. Bitting, Elizabethtown
College
Robert L. Black, University of
Texas at Austin
Jesse V. Boyles, University of
Florida

Sam A. Hicks, Virginia
Polytechnic Institute
Jerome S. Horvitz, University of
Houston
William F. Marutzky, DePaul
University
J. Marion Posey, Touche Ross &
Co., N.Y.
Julian R. Sayre, University of
Arizona
Mark A. Vogel, University of
Denver

1982 Annual Meeting

Program Chairman: D. Larry
Crumbley, Texas A&M University
Committee Members:
James R. Hasselback, Florida
State University
William M. Keane, Price
Waterhouse & Co., N.Y.
Paul Streer, University of Georgia
Myron Lubell, Florida
International University

Certification of Tax Specialists

Charge: To develop a program for the
certification of tax specialists.
Bernard B. Goodman, University
of Hartford (Chairperson)
Chip Bayley, Sangamon State
University
Barry C. Broden, University of
Miami
Albert W. Dogan, Valparaiso
University
Frank B. Garner, Emory
University
Susan Nordhauser, University of
Texas at San Antonio
James W. Pratt, University of
Houston
Anthony J. Stagliano, University
of Maryland
Ronald L. Taylor, University of
South Carolina
John C. Tripp, University of
Denver
Singleton B. Wolfe, University of
Tennessee

Advisory Committee on Touche Ross Graduate Tax Education Symposium

Steven C. Dilley, Michigan State
University (Chairperson)
Kenneth H. Heller, University of
Georgia
Frederick R. Jacobs, University of
Minnesota
Frank Wolpe, Bentley College

ATA/Alexander Grant Doctoral Dissertation Grant

Jane O. Burns, Indiana
University-Bloomington
Sandra Kramer, University of
Florida

James L. Pyle, Touche Ross-Austin
William Raabe, University of
Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Allan H. Savage, New Mexico
State University
Edward J. Schnee, University of
South Carolina
Mark R. Solomon, Walsh College
**Educational Standards for Tax
Faculty**

Charge: To act as a liaison between
the AACSB and the ATA with
regard to matters of
implementation and
interpretation of standards for tax
faculty in accounting programs.
Ray M. Sommerfeld, University of
Texas-Austin (Chairperson)
John B. Barrack, University of
Georgia

Allen Ford, University of Kansas
Albert R. Mitchell, Arthur Young
& Co., Reston VA

Thomas M. Porcano, Miami
University-Ohio

**State and Local Taxation
Curriculum Issues**

Charge: To review the extent to
which state and local taxation
topics are currently being covered
in tax courses at both
undergraduate and graduate
levels and to make specific
recommendations for course
coverage and educational
materials.

Gene Seago, Virginia Polytechnic
Institute (Chairperson)

Mike Davis, University of
Kentucky

Karen Hreha, University of
Illinois

Ronald J. Huefner, State

University of N.Y. at Buffalo
Lawrence Van Horn, Rutgers
University
Gene Wittenberg, San Diego State
University
Craig Reese, University of
Texas-Austin

Tax Specialization . . .
(Continued From Page 1)

Bill Raby announced the reap-
pointment of the Committee and its
charge to carry out the second stage
of the project — to develop a plan to
implement the program for the rec-
ognition and certification of tax
specialists.

The Committee met and adopted a
plan to carry out its charge. Three
subcommittees were organized to col-
lect data on the following require-
ments which should be considered:

Subcommittee 1 — The adminis-
tering body and the population
that should be certified.

Members: Chip Bayley, Al Dogan
and Singleton Wolfe.

Subcommittee 2 — Education and
Continuing Professional Educa-
tion requirements.

Members: Barry Broden, Frank
Garner and Ron Taylor.

Subcommittee 3 — Experience re-
quirements and examination and
evaluation of prior experience for
waivers of examination.

Members: Susan Nordhauser, Jim
Pratt and John Tripp.

A. J. Stagliano will assist Bernard
Goodman in the administrative de-
tails and coordination procedures.

Members of ATA are encouraged to
contact the chairman of the Commit-
tee at the following address to submit

comments and recommendations:
Professor Bernard B. Goodman
University of Hartford
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

ATA Journal

The *Journal of the American
Taxation Association* will be taking
on a new look with the next issue.
Philip Harmelink of the University
of New Orleans has been appointed
Associate Editor of the Journal. His
duties will be twofold. He will be re-
sponsible for the preparation of the
new section of the Journal that will
present book reviews and capsule
commentaries on taxation texts, re-
search publications, and professional
books. In addition, he will author a
section of the Journal which will
present a compilation of recent pro-
fessional firm and research organiza-
tion publications dealing with tax
matters. Individuals who are in-
terested in preparing book reviews or
capsule commentaries of tax related
books should contact Phil Harmelink
at the University of New Orleans.

The *Journal of the American
Taxation Association* also invites the
submission of articles for publica-
tion. The Journal is now in its third
year of publication and is attempting
to increase the number of articles
that are included in each edition. The
viability of the Journal depends upon
the receipt of good manuscripts from
the members of the ATA. Editorial
policies for the Journal and require-
ments for submitting manuscripts
are included in each edition of the
Journal.

AMERICAN TAXATION ASSOCIATION

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