

American Taxation Association

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Caroline Strobel, Editor
University of South Carolina

1984-85 ATA-TOUCHE ROSS AWARD

Carol Olson, a doctoral student at the University of Florida, is the recipient of the 1984-85 ATA-Touche Ross doctoral dissertation grant. She received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Northern Illinois University, and worked for eight years as the controller of a construction company before enrolling in the Florida Ph.D. program. In 1983 Carol was the University of Florida's representative at the American Accounting Association's Doctoral Consortium.

(See Dissertation Abstract on Page 7)



CAROL OLSON

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The Toronto Convention officially marked our tenth anniversary as the ATA. Since our beginning at the 1974 New Orleans Convention, our organization has grown to approximately 1,200 members. Both the ATA and tax education have progressed a long way during those ten years.

Doyle Williams, President of the American Accounting Association Council has stated that his theme for next year will be "*Meeting the Challenge of the Future*." This theme is also very appropriate for what I would like us to accomplish within the next year. In particular, I want to emphasize the innovations being made in both academic and professional education.

Some of the innovations are directly traceable to the widespread availability of computers. This machine has clearly changed the face of tax education and practice. Accrediting associations are now demanding that the computer be integrated into our curriculum. Much software exists for academics to choose from and the decision as to which software to use can be a difficult and demanding job. To help academics sort through the different software products available, I am forming a committee whose charge will be to examine the capabilities of different software packages for specific application in undergraduate tax classes.

Practitioners have expressed concern that accounting education is not always meeting the needs of the Profession. Academics have been able to successfully counter these charges in most cases. However, many academics as well as practitioners are concerned that there is not enough interaction between the academics and professionals regarding the education necessary to insure the future success of young accountants. Much research has been done by the profession in identifying educational goals and objectives for various levels of tax accounting work — research that many of us in academics are unaware of. Therefore, I am establishing a committee with the goal of examining some of the research that has been done in this area. The end product of this committee will be a report which will enable academics to structure their courses in a manner that will be more meaningful for the student.

The future of the ATA is very dependent upon its continued financial stability. With the large increase in AAA dues along with the nominal increase in ATA dues, it becomes more imperative that the ATA work to enlarge its membership base. One way is to encourage students, particularly graduate students, to join as associate members. Another way is for the organization to increase its membership from outside the academic profession. Therefore, I am establishing a membership committee whose charge will be to examine various alternatives for increasing the membership base of the organization.

Other committees we will have during the next year include the Annual Program Committee, which will organize the tax programs, including the ATA program at the Reno convention; the Doctoral Dissertation Awards Committee, which will select the winner of the 1985 award; The Computer Instruction Committee which will present two seminars at the Reno convention; and a Tax Manuscripts Awards Committee which will select an outstanding manuscript for the 1985 ATA Manuscript Award.

I want to thank you for the confidence you showed in me by electing me to this position. Let's work together to make this another excellent year for the ATA.

ATA DISSERTATION AWARD

The American Taxation Association announces its annual dissertation award competition. The format of the competition has been altered. This year the ATA would like to give an award to a dissertation that was completed between January 1 and December 31, 1984. The winner of the competition will be announced at the annual ATA luncheon and will receive at least \$1,000. Eligible recipients of the award must have completed a dissertation in the taxation area, be committed to teaching and research activities in the area of taxation, and be a member of the American Taxation Association.

Interested candidates should submit a 20-25 page summary of their dissertation along with a letter of recommendation from the chairman of their dissertation committee. All submissions should be mailed no later than April 1, 1985 to:

Professor Julie H. Collins
School of Accounting
307 West Brooks, #200
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73019

TAX MANUSCRIPT AWARD

The ATA's Tax Manuscript Award Committee is seeking nominations of outstanding tax manuscripts for the 1985 Tax Manuscript Award. To be eligible the manuscript must have a 1982, 1983, or 1984 calendar year publication date. Books, chapters, or articles are eligible but manuscripts which only appear in the proceedings of a professional association or organization are excluded. For consideration, nominations must be in the hands of the Committee's Chairperson no later than February 15, 1985. Please send all nominations to:

Professor Sandra S. Kramer
260 Business Building
School of Accounting
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32605

TAX RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED BY ARTHUR YOUNG FOUNDATION

NEW YORK, Sept. 26 -- Five tax research grants totaling \$102,500 have been awarded by the Arthur Young Foundation to analyze the impact federal tax policies have on stimulating American business activity.

The five projects were selected from 44 proposals submitted to the Arthur Young Foundation, which was established by the international public accounting, tax and management consulting firm of Arthur Young and are part of an overall \$1 million tax research grant program sponsored by the firm.

"We are highly optimistic that research in the area of taxes will result in making the tax system more responsive to U.S. economic needs by identifying and analyzing tax provisions which can stimulate economic activity as against those which clearly act as depressants," according to Al Mitchell, Director of the Arthur Young Tax Research Grant Program.

Arthur Young, the international accounting, tax and management consulting firm, has offices in 87 U.S. cities and 269 other cities worldwide.

ARTHUR YOUNG TAX RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

A Program of Support of Academic Research Grant Recipients September, 1984

The Arthur Young Foundation is pleased to announce that a total of \$102,500 has been awarded in research grants to the following academic researchers who submitted proposals during the second submission period of the Arthur Young Tax Research Grant Program just concluded.

Researcher/Institution	Project Title	Funding	Objective of Research
John C. Fellingham & Stephen T. Limberg & Patrick J. Wilkie University of Texas at Austin	The Role of Special Allocations in Optimal Partnership Agreements	\$30,000	To introduce an effective methodology for determining optimal allocations among partners where both tax reduction demand and incentive demand are considered and substantial economic effect is achieved.
Frances Ayres University of Oklahoma & Betty Jackson University of Colorado at Boulder	Economic Motivations and Tax Preparer/Client Relationships: An Empirical Test	\$21,000	To evaluate the tax preparer/client relationship in an agency context and to empirically test specific hypotheses derived from a model using tax preparers as subjects.
Cherie J. O'Neil Virginia Polytechnic & State University	Tax Deferred Retirement Plans -- What is Their Impact on Net New Savings and the Demand for Increases in Social Security Benefits?	\$18,000	To examine the long-run policy implications of tax deferred retirement plans and tax sheltered annuities regarding the objectives sought by the legislation and the participation of intended individuals.
Marian Powers Northwestern University & Donald S. Shannon DePaul University	Valuing the Closely Held Firm -- An Empirical Analysis of Comparable Selection	\$17,500	To study specific aspects of the comparative appraisal method of valuing closely firms.
Janis R. Reeder & John H. Wragge University of Delaware	Microcomputers in Tax Education -- Optimal Strategies	\$16,000	To identify the factors to consider regarding the use of microcomputers in tax classes to compile a directory of current usage of microcomputers in tax classes and to prepare a listing of software available to tax faculty members.
		\$102,500	

During the second submission period, the Arthur Young Foundation received 44 proposals which requested grants in excess of \$970,000. The Foundation has now funded a total of 14 tax research projects involving 29 researchers at 17 universities and totaling more than \$250,000.

1985 ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS

The 1985 ATA-AAA Program Committee invites members who wish to present tax related papers at the 1985 AAA Annual meeting to submit three copies of the manuscript by February 1, 1985. The 1985 annual meeting will be held in Reno, Nevada, August 19-21, 1985. Practitioner, as well as academic, members are encouraged to submit papers.

Manuscripts must be complete and follow the format required by *The Accounting Review*. Abstracts will be

published and 30 copies of the paper must be made available by the author(s) at the presentation. Papers submitted elsewhere, but not published before the meeting, are eligible. Manuscripts will be reviewed and authors will be notified of the committee's decision concerning acceptance by May 1, 1985. As a general rule, not more than one paper per author will be accepted.

Papers should be sent to:

Professor Jan R. Williams
623 Stokely Management Center
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37966-0560

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 1985 Ohio Regional AAA Meeting will be held May 3-4 at the Novice G. Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, The Ohio State University. Three copies of abstracts or completed papers should be submitted by January 15 to Bruce R. Gaumnitz, Program Chairman, 1775 College Road, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 43210. Papers should conform to the style guidelines of *The Accounting Review*. Submitted papers should not have been presented or published elsewhere prior to the Ohio Regional Meeting. Authors will be notified of acceptance by March 1.

NCAIR RESEARCH PROGRAM

NCAIR is interested in the NAARS/LEXIS type of computer assisted research in accounting and law. They are planning to provide approximately \$50,000 per year for research and program development by accounting faculty members. Each grant will likely be in the \$5,000 to \$15,000 range. They are interested in the following types of projects:

1. research into how NAARS/LEXIS is used in accounting firms and business schools
2. development of NAARS/LEXIS projects to be used in accounting courses.
3. other projects related to the use of computer assisted research in accounting education

The first such grant was awarded to Professor Paul R. Watkins at the University of South California for a study of "Microcomputer Based Database Search and Retrieval of Financial and Legal Information Impacting Accounting Education." The next grants will be announced in March, 1985. Proposals should be submitted by February 1, 1985 to NCAIR's manager:

Ms. Ann Brownell Sloane,
Manager
National Center for Automated
Information Retrieval
145 E. 74th St., Suite 1C
New York, New York 10021

Questions relating to this program can be addressed to Don Skadden at the University of Michigan.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Congress enacted Code §125 under the Revenue Act of 1978 to allow employers and employees to structure compensation packages, without undue friction between employees, by means of a cafeteria plan arrangement. Initially, a cafeteria plan could include cash, property, taxable or nontaxable benefits. Under the Tax Reform Act of 1984, Code §125 was dramatically altered. Cafeteria plans may now only include the choice between cash and certain nontaxable fringe benefits.

Previous research in the fringe benefit area has primarily focused on which benefits are chosen by employee groups. However, it is not clear what motivates employee preferences. This research will attempt to ascertain what variables are important to employees in this decision process. Priority theory, specifically the Analytical Hierarchy Process, will be used as the basis of a questionnaire to gather the opinions of employees. Parametric tests will be performed on their responses. Employees will be grouped by job classification, age, and family size.

Cafeteria plans represent a flexible format for individual compensation. This new format can be an important tradeoff between the security of management choice over the flexibility of choice implying that the cafeteria concept may not be accepted by employees. On the other hand, it is not clear whether or not the cafeteria concept would be in the best interest of all employees suggesting that the problem of adverse selection may be exacerbated. To examine some of these relationships, the experiment will include an analysis of employee choice between three cafeteria style plans and his/her current benefit plan. The employees will be grouped by job classification, years of seniority, and whether or not the family includes two wage earners.

ANNUAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Plan a program with an emphasis on topics relating to innovations being made in both academic and professional tax education.
2. Select quality papers for presentation at the meeting.
3. Utilize committee members as chairpersons over program sessions.
4. Make recommendations for a potential luncheon speaker to the 1984-85 ATA President by December 1, 1984.
5. Coordinate all logistics for time slots, room assignments, video and audio equipment with the AAA planning committee.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AWARDS COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Solicit applications for the 1985 ATA Doctoral Dissertation Award.
2. Establish guidelines for eligibility and requirements for the award as well as the type of award. In particular, consider whether the award should be given for a dissertation proposal or for a completed dissertation.
3. Select a 1985 winner for the award.
4. Continue to investigate and find a permanent funding source for an annual cash award and/or appropriate trophy to the winner. Report your recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Coordinate your activities relating to this paragraph with the Vice-President of the ATA.

AMERICAN TAXATION ASSOCIATION

Proposed Budget for the Period

September 1, 1984 through August 31, 1985

Receipts:

Dues (1,100 @ \$15.00)	\$16,500
Publications	1,750
Luncheon	600
Advertising	3,000
Interest	600
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	\$22,450

Disbursements:

Postage	\$ 400
Newsletter	1,400
ATA Journal	14,000
Meetings/travel, reports	4,000
Doctoral Award	1,000
Miscellaneous (AAA)	500
Other awards and plaques	200
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	\$21,500

Budgeted Surplus

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	\$ 950

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Solicit nominations for a slate of officers for 1985 by utilizing the Fall, 1984 ATA Newsletter. For 1985, the following officers need to be elected:
 - a. President-Elect
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary-Treasurer
 - d. Board of Trustees (3)
2. Select a slate of officers for 1985 in accordance with Section XII.4 of the ATA by-laws.
3. Report your recommendations to the Board of Trustees and formally present the slate to the ATA membership at the 1985 business meeting in Reno, Nevada.

COMPUTER USAGE COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Develop a descriptive list of software available to tax professors for classroom use and indicate in which courses each of the software can be used.
2. Survey members of the ATA to determine what specific computer applications they are using in the classroom.
3. Report results to the members at the 1984-85 ATA meeting in Reno, Nevada.

COMPUTER SEMINARS COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Offer two computer courses at the ATA convention in Reno. One course should be for individuals with little or no prior knowledge of computer applications in taxation. The other course should be designed for individuals who have more advanced knowledge of computer applications.

AMERICAN TAXATION ASSOCIATION

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2. Publicize the course through appropriate sources including the Spring, 1985 ATA Newsletter.
3. The courses should be self-supporting and should only be offered if registration has reached the break-even point. Profits realized should be transferred to the general treasury of the ATA. Expense reimbursements tendered to the instructors should be approved by the President of the ATA.

TAX MANUSCRIPTS AWARDS COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Identify, screen, and evaluate published manuscripts which are of a quality to be eligible for the annual ATA Manuscript Award. All types of quality tax research should be considered as eligible.
2. Select a winner for the 1985 award. At least one author on the manuscript must be an ATA member.
3. Acquire an appropriate plaque to be given to the winner or winners at the ATA luncheon in Reno.

COMPUTER ASSISTED TAX RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Survey schools with graduate tax education programs on the availability and use of computer based data sources in their departments.
2. Determine the level of user satisfaction achieved from these various computer based data sources.
3. Determine if these data sources can be obtained for faculty and student use at a more competitive price.

PREPROFESSIONAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Determine the perceived curriculum needs of practitioners by examining the curriculum developed by various CPA firms and by the AICPA.
2. Formulate, if possible, a curriculum outline that academics might use in helping to better educate our undergraduate students.
3. Report the results of the study to the ATA membership.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Formulate a plan to retain the current members of the ATA.
2. Examine Associate Membership status for students. Consider how much associate membership status should cost and whether they should receive the JATA.
3. Formulate a plan to increase the membership of the ATA. Particular emphasis should be placed on how to demonstrate that ATA membership is valuable for students and practitioners.

USE OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONALS IN GRADUATE TAX EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHARGE

1. Determine attitudes in the academic and professional communities concerning the use of distinguished professionals in graduate tax education programs.
2. If support for such use appears widespread, proceed to develop a model program for utilizing, recruiting and compensating these distinguished professionals.

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