



Newsletter Editor: Melvin A. Lamboy-Ruiz

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Above: Maria T. Caban-Garcia, Past-President, receiving a Service Award from the President, Nicole R. McCoy. Below: Stephanie Mason receiving the 2016-2017 Service Award from the Past-President.



# DIVERSITY SECTION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018

## Breakfast at Annual Meeting in San Diego

We held our annual Section Breakfast & Business Meeting on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM during the last day of the 2017 AAA Annual Meeting in San Diego. The meeting started with a welcome message from the Section president Maria T. Caban-Garcia who followed us with the 2016-2017 highlights of the Section.

Following the President's address, the Section committee chairs presented their respective reports. Mark Dawkins and Dahlia M. Robinson updated us regarding AAA affairs. The Section's annual financial report was presented to the membership. Stephanie Mason, Midyear Coordinator, provided the highlights from last year's mid-year meeting. After the reports, the President recognized members for their devoted service to the Section by presenting awards of appreciation.

We welcomed the new slate of officers for the 2017-2018 year during the last part of the meeting. The new Section President Nicole R. McCoy addressed the membership and gave us an overview of the new projects she aims to start over the coming year.

The new President finished the meeting with an invitation to actively participate in every meeting the Section will hold, specifically the Midyear Meeting in New Orleans.

## Many familiar and new faces at the Breakfast!



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Diversity Section of the American Accounting Association (AAA)



*Nicole R. McCoy, Section President*

## Letter from the Section President

Greetings!

I am very honored to serve as the 2017-2018 President of the Diversity Section of the American Accounting Association. As the president of the Section, my agenda is to continue our previous efforts, including: promotion of more sustainable fundraising activities to support conference travel scholarships for doctoral students; increasing membership communications by publishing regular newsletters; working with the membership committee to develop enrollment and engagement strategies of new and current members; and improving and documenting some of the internal processes that enhance the efficiency our operations. I also oversee our section's two major annual events. The first event is our midyear meeting in New Orleans. The second event is our section's breakfast and a series of dedicated sessions during the AAA annual meeting.

So far, we have formalized our fundraising activities for doctoral travel scholarships by scheduling a *Pay It Forward* Fundraising Campaign that will run from January to April each year. The campaign will ensure

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### Council Meeting Update

Our representative to the AAA Council, Dahlia Robinson, attended the August 7<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meetings in San Diego, CA and National Harbor, MD this fall. Here are some highlights from the minutes:

- The 2016 Annual Meeting yielded record attendance (5% increase).
- All of the sections' bylaws are being reviewed by AAA and approved section members.
- The 2018 Annual Meeting Submission website opened.



*Dahlia M. Robinson, Council Representative.*

that the section can provide as many travel scholarships as possible. We have worked with AAA staff to simplify the donation process by providing a link where you can automatically make your contributions and obtain a receipt. In addition, I hope to gather additional generous institutional support to complement our membership dues and conference registration fees for sustainability of our section.

Our membership committee is continuing our efforts to increase memberships through the recruitment and retention of doctoral students, as well as increasing our communication to the previous Diversity section members. The PhD Project Doctoral Students Association (ADSA) recently agreed to have one of our members give a short presentation to doctoral students during their annual meeting. We will be including current members and previous members on most section communications, including newsletters and meeting announcements, to encourage our previous members to rejoin.

In terms of internal processes, we continue our work on gathering and archiving previous documents with the AAA. The AAA is in the process of hosting an officer section to assist with the transfer of knowledge from one board to the next board. During Spring 2018, we will be approving new section bylaws. Once the new bylaws are approved, we will continue our efforts to generate a section operating manual.

We would like to thank Aisha Meeks (Dalton State University) and Norma Montague (Wake Forest University) for their work planning and leading the Awards Committee in evaluating research papers for the best award, KPMG and KPMG Foundation for their sponsorship, and our speakers and members for their participation. We revisited our discussion of coordinating with one of the AAA's journals to publish a special issue on diversity topics. Please stay tuned on the progress of this initiative as it will require your full involvement and cooperation.

I wish you a very productive spring semester, and I hope to see you all at the diversity section breakfast in Washington, DC!

*Nicole R. McCoy*  
University of North Carolina



## Panel *Making Diversity Real* at AAA Meeting

It was great to see everyone who attended our panel at the AAA meeting in San Diego. We featured leaders of color in professional associations, including Manuel J. Ramirez, the former President of the California Board of Accountancy, Alex C. Eng, Chair of the IMA's Global Board of Directors and our own Mark Dawkins (University of North Florida), who just completed his term as Chair of the AAA Council. Each discussed the challenges and benefits of taking on these leadership positions in addition to their demanding jobs.

Manuel stressed the fact that he not only benefited from increased networking, but also expanded his knowledge of legislation, which made him a more effective partner in his firm, RJI International. Alex discussed the importance of the global economy, and of immersing ourselves in local culture rather than attempting to impose one set of values and priorities on all communities around the world. Furthermore, Mark shared his role in increasing the visibility of African-American leaders in order to continue to inspire our students. Mentorship was clearly a high priority not only of the panelists but also of the faculty and professionals in attendance.

We thank Theresa Hammond (San Francisco State University) for moderating the panel and providing the above remarks.

## Pay It Forward Campaign

Our *Pay It Forward* Fundraising Campaign will run from February to April 2018. We would like to provide at least five travel scholarships to our doctoral students for the upcoming midyear meeting in Atlanta. We hope each member will donate at least \$25 to our general fund or the Michael Clement/Mark Dawkins scholarship fund. We plan to present two general fund scholarships this year, including the Dr. Kathryn Epps Memorial Fund. AAA has established a donation link which will simplify the process. We are excited about this year's campaign! Please look for the upcoming email with more details.



Above: Attendees at the Breakfast Meeting.

## Membership Drive Initiative

This year, the Membership committee has launched the *Each One, Ask One* campaign. Each current Diversity member will reach out to a colleague and ask them to join the Diversity Section of the American Accounting Association. It could be as simple as asking a previous member to rejoin.

This year, we may be increasing membership dues by \$5. This increase will be a part of our electronic ballots for the bylaws.

We are very appreciative of the all new and recurring Diversity members that attend the midyear conference. It is a great opportunity to give back to doctoral students and re-commit to research stream.

Please plan to join us at the upcoming meeting in Atlanta.



Dr. Kathryn Epps

- [One of only 115, female African-American Accounting business school professors in the U.S. promoted to Full Professor @11/09/2015](#)

## Dr. Kathryn Epps Memorial Fund

The Diversity Section mourns the loss of one of its members, Dr. Kathryn Epps. Kathryn passed away on September 12, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia. Adrian L. Epps, Kathryn's husband, updated us on a couple of items recently. The Epps family was able to run the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation 5K in NYC on October 21<sup>st</sup> on behalf of Kathryn and raised over \$2,800 for research. Adrian also encouraged us to share the following notes with our membership:

*"...Thanks to the efforts of our family, School of Accountancy (SOA), University Development, KSU Foundation and President Olens, were excited to announce the [Dr. Kathryn Epps Memorial Fund](#). We encourage you to make a donation towards the memorial fund that will continue Kathryn's legacy. **Your donations will provide numerous opportunities to deserving students to become a part of the accounting profession.** Kathryn often spoke of accounting being the language of business and continually recruited students of all backgrounds into the discipline. Unfortunately, she and I often recognized that many students were only a few hundred dollars short of completing registration or being able to buy textbooks. One of her strategic initiatives were to increase the amount of scholarships that the SOA provided to high achieving, deserving students. Each year of her tenure as Director of the SOA, the amount of scholarships increased. This past spring the SOA team provided over \$160,000 in scholarships to high caliber accounting students, many of whose life trajectory improved for the better.*

*Lastly, we ask that you share the link with others that may want to contribute to her Memorial Fund. We are so humble and appreciate your continued support for something that is bigger than her.*

**Link:** <http://c-fund.us/dqh>

*With Sincerity,*

*Adrian L. Epps, Ed.D., Associate Dean, College of Science & Mathematics  
Kennesaw State University"*

## Timeline for the updates to our Bylaws

As discussed during the Section Meeting in New Orleans, each section of the American Accounting Association will be updating their bylaws. The following timeline has been adopted for this initiative:

- December 1, 2017 → Revised bylaws are sent to AAA
- January 15, 2018 → AAA Bylaws Review Task Force sends comments to the Section Leaders
- February 1, 2018 → Section leaders discuss and approve changes
- February 15, 2018 → Revised bylaws are posted on section websites
- May 1, 2018 → AAA sends emails containing electronic voting procedures to section members
- May 15, 2018 → Electronic voting closes

Thank you EY for sponsoring this year's Breakfast Meeting at the AAA Annual Meeting



*Left: Sylvia Ulrich, EY  
University Relations  
Manager*



Left: Frank K. Ross, Director of the Center for Accounting Education at Howard University School of Business, during his presentation "Issues Facing Minorities in Accounting"



Above: William Stout, Aisha Meeks, Frank K. Ross and Peter Johnson.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Section Meeting in New Orleans

This year's Section Midyear Meeting was held November 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans, LA. We welcomed more than 55 attendees, including several first-time attendees. The program included three concurrent sessions and four doctoral students' "Road Paper Pitches" (for a total of 23 research presentations), four plenary sessions led by distinguished speakers from different professional organizations, two receptions and the traditional section business meeting.

The following plenary speakers educated the audience of current issues regarding minority students and the accounting profession:

- Saturday – *Lynn Hannan*, Jayne Ritchey Cohen Chair in Business Administration at Tulane University, *Frank K. Ross*, Director of the Center for Accounting Education at Howard University School of Business, and *Melissa M. Stanton*, Director with KPMG's National Audit Solutions Team
- Sunday - *Anne L. Christensen*, AAA Board President, from Montana State University-Bozeman

For more details, see the meeting's [online program](#) (click to access). We thank all attendees for making the 2017 meeting another successful conference. Also, we thank the conference co-chairs Aisha Meeks and Norma Montague for doing such an excellent job!

## Doctoral Road Paper Pitches Session

Encouraging emerging research in our membership, we had presentations by four doctoral candidates: Sydnee Manley (The University of Mississippi), Andria Hill (University of Central Florida), Ranier Michael Robinson (The University of Alabama), and Sunita S. Rao / Barbara W. Scofield (Washburn University).

## Best Paper and Travel Awards

The Best Paper Award was given to Joseph Rakestraw, Florida Atlantic University, and Kathleen Harris, Washington State University, for their paper titled "Gender Representation Among the Partnership at large CPA Firms: An Examination of Public Filers and Governmental Entities", coauthored with Elizabeth D. Almer (Portland State University) and Julia Higgs (Florida Atlantic University).

This year the Section awarded two Doctoral Travel Scholarships to: Sydney Manley (University of Mississippi) and Andria Hill (University of Central Florida).

We are very appreciative of the sponsorship provided by the Diversity Section members' *Pay It Forward* Fund and contributions to the Michael Clement/Mark Dawkins which made these awards possible.



We gratefully acknowledge KPMG and the KPMG Foundation for their generous support of the 2017 Diversity Section Meeting.

Section Newsletter

For this and past editions of the section newsletters, visit our newsletter page at <http://aaahq.org/DIV/Newsletters>



Attendees at the 2017 AAA Annual Meeting Section Breakfast in San Diego, CA.

Disclaimer: Section members' promotions and accomplishments will be compiled and published in the spring edition. Stay tuned for our survey email!

Next AAA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

We would like to thank you for diversity-related manuscripts and panel ideas for submission to the 2018 AAA Annual Meeting. We will be needing reviewers and moderators, so be sure to volunteer for our section sessions at the annual meeting.



Save the date for the 14<sup>th</sup> Section Meeting!

The [2018 Diversity Section Meeting](#) will be held October 27-28, 2018, at Atlanta Marriott Suites Midtown in Atlanta, GA (follow that link for registration and more hotel information!). The registration deadline for the conference is Friday, October 26, 2018, but the Early Bird Discount Deadline is Monday, September 24, 2018. Stay tuned for the *Call-For-Papers* to be released in Summer 2018. Negotiated room rates with the Atlanta Marriott Suites Midtown for conference attendees is \$179.00.

2017 – 2018 Diversity Section Officers



Diversity Section Officers

**Officers**

- President
- Past President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Council Representative

**Volunteer Name**

- Nicole R. McCoy
- Maria T. Caban-Garcia
- Peter Johnson
- Robert Marley
- Carlos E. Jimenez Angueira
- Dahlia M. Robinson

**Volunteer Affiliation**

- University of North Carolina
- University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- University of Alabama
- University of Tampa
- University of South Florida-Sarasota Manatee
- University of South Florida Tampa

**Editors**

- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster Liaison

- Melvin A. Lamboy-Ruiz
- Carlos E. Jimenez Angueira

- Iowa State University
- University of South Florida-Sarasota Manatee

**Committee Chairpersons**

- 2017 Annual Meeting Liaison
- 2018 Midyear Meeting Co-Chair
- 2018 Midyear Meeting Co-Chair
- Membership Committee
- Awards Committee

- Royce D. Burnett
- Aisha G. Meeks
- Norma R. Montague
- Rosemond Desir
- Raymond J. Elson

- Southern Illinois University
- Dalton State University
- Wake Forest University
- University of St. Thomas
- Valdosta State University

**Regional Coordinators**

- Mid-Atlantic
- Midwest
- Northeast
- Ohio
- Southeast
- Southwest
- Western
- International

- Dina El-Mahdy
- Dereck D. Barr-Pulliam
- Brigitte W. Muehlmann
- Willie Gist
- Elicia Cowins
- Margaret M. Tanner
- Craig A. Sisneros
- Roger Cardono

- Morgan State University
- University of Wisconsin
- Suffolk University
- Ohio University
- Washington & Lee University
- University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
- University of Colorado
- University of Puerto Rico

Visit our Website!

Find us on the Web at the following link: <http://aaahq.org/div>

