



A Letter from the Chair

Dear Public Interest Section Members,

My name is **Mitch Stein** and I am the Chair of the Public Interest Section for the next two years (2018-2020). I am very excited for the opportunity to serve the section as Chair and look forward to working with a great group of section members who are serving the section in key positions:

Charles Stanley (Baylor University) – Chair Elect | **Pat Kelly** (Providence College) – Secretary/Treasurer
Anne Schnader (Suffolk University) – Vice Chair of Research | **Michael Kraten** (AQPQ Management Consulting) – Vice Chair of Education | **Lisa Baudot** (University of Central Florida) – Vice Chair of International Membership
Charlie Cullinan (Bryant University) – Council Representative | **Amy Hageman** (Kansas State University) – Senior Editor, *Accounting and the Public Interest* | **Lawrence Chui** (University of St. Thomas) and **Byron Pike** (Minnesota State University – Mankato) – Newsletter editors/Webmasters

I would also like to thank our Past Chair **Amy Hageman** for all of her hard work for the section over the past two years. As Chair **Amy** moved the section forward by promoting an openness of research, supporting engaging dialogue at meetings and seeking ways to broaden the section. **Amy** will continue to play a major role in the section as the incoming Senior Editor (effective January 1, 2019) of our section journal *Accounting and the Public Interest*. Special thanks are in order for the outgoing Senior Editor **Pamela Roush** (University of Central Florida) for all of her hard work with the journal. The journal is in a much better place as a result of her efforts.

Over the next two years we aim to work towards continuing to expand the section through greater member engagement and reaching out to other sections and like-minded international groups. We are working on expanding the reach of our blog and planning on holding joint meetings with other groups. We also have a number of initiatives that members will hear about over the coming months as we seek to grow the section and develop broader member input. I am hoping that each member will take the opportunity to become involved in shaping the section over the next couple of years.

Of course one of our first events will be the Public Interest Section Midyear Meeting and Doctoral/ Early Scholar Consortium to be held in Orlando on March 29th and 30th. The Doctoral/ Early Scholar Consortium will be held on March 29. Currently **Lisa Baudot** (University of Central Florida) and **Charles Cho** (York University) are working tirelessly at planning a unique and top quality event which promises to be engaging and thought provoking. Thank you **Lisa** and **Charles** for your efforts. I would also like to thank the AAA for their ongoing support of the section and activities such as the Midyear meeting.

We also have the Annual Meeting and Ethics Symposium to look forward to attending. This past year saw a very successful Annual Ethics Symposium coordinated by **Tara Shawver** (King's College) and **Bill Miller** (University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire). During the Accounting Exemplar Luncheon the Accounting Exemplar Award was awarded to a very well-deserving **Robin Roberts**. You can read **Robin's** thoughts on the award and his contributions to the public interest on the Public Interest Section blog. The 2019 Annual Ethics Symposium to be held on the Sunday of the Annual



Mitch Stein

Chair of the Public Interest Section, American Accounting Association

**Ivey Business School
Western University**

Meeting promises to be as equally engaging and we hope that you can join us.

I would like to thank **Charles Stanley** (Baylor University) and **Maureen Mascha** (Purdue University Northwest) for serving as Section Liaisons for the 2018 Annual Meeting and **Charles** continuing to serve in this role for the 2019 Annual Meeting. I look forward to meeting everyone at next year's Annual Meeting to hear exciting and innovative public interest research, and to get people's input about what they would like to see in the public interest section. We are very interested in having greater involvement and member ideas for the section.

Finally, I must thank our Newsletter Editors and Webmasters, **Lawrence Chui** (University of St. Thomas) and **Byron Pike** (Minnesota State University – Mankato) for their continuing efforts in ensuring section members are kept updated with the latest news and **Michael Kraten** (AQPQ Management Consulting) for his amazing work at growing our blog.

We hope over the next few months to begin the process of engaging members to develop more avenues for members to contribute input and ideas to the section through the opportunity to serve on committees. As we move forward with these initiatives and meetings, I look forward to any feedback members may have and talking to many of you over the coming year. In conclusion I would like to thank everyone for the effort, dedication and passion for the section and advancing public interest issues in accounting.

Respectfully,
Mitch Stein

2018 Ethics Research Symposium and The Accounting Exemplar Award at the AAA



The 2018 Annual Meeting Section Awards

Accounting Exemplar Award

Robin W. Roberts

23rd Annual Ethics Research Symposium

Best Research Award

Hong Kim Duong, Marco Fasan, Giorgio Gotti: "Living Up to Your Codes? Corporate Codes of Ethics and the Implied Cost of Capital"

Best Contribution to Teaching Award

John E. Simms: "Teaching Accounting Ethics Using Ex Corde Ecclesiae"

Distinguished Service Award

Amy Hageman
Michael Kraten



Congratulations!

Editorial Columns

An Interview with the 2018 Accounting Exemplar Award Recipient



Robin W. Roberts

University of Central Florida

On Sunday, August 5th, Professor **Robin W. Roberts** of the University of Central Florida received the 2018 Accounting Exemplar Award during the Accounting Exemplar Luncheon held during the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The Public Interest Section's Accounting Exemplar Award is given to an educator or a practitioner who has made notable contributions to the professional and ethical health of accounting. The Exemplar represents a role model who has contributed to our profession in a manner that serves the public interest. Previous winners of this prestigious award have included Abe Briloff, Stuart Chase, Cynthia Cooper, Ralph Estes, Harold Langenderfer, Arthur Levitt, Eli Mason, Tony Menendez, Albert Meyer, Carl Devine, Tony Puxty, Bob Sack, Prem Sikka, and Art Wyatt.

Dr. Robin W. Roberts serves as the Al and Nancy Burnett Eminent Scholar Chair in Accounting and Pegasus Professor at the University of Central Florida (UCF). His research interests focus on accounting and business ethics, regulation, and social responsibility. Dr. Roberts serves on the Executive Council of the Center for Social and Environmental Accounting Research, which is housed at the Uni-

versity of St. Andrews, and is past editor of *Accounting and the Public Interest*. He has been instrumental in the development of the AAA Public Interest Section Emerging Scholars Colloquium and in promoting public interest scholarship in accounting.

We are delighted to publish this interview with Robin. As always, when you read his comments, we ask that you keep in mind that the opinions expressed therein are those of the author. They do not represent the position of the AAA or of any other party.

When you learned you were receiving the Accounting Exemplar Award, how did you react?

Pat Kelly emailed me and asked if we could talk by phone. I said of course, thinking, however, that I was about to commit to doing Pat a favor. I was so pleasantly surprised when Pat told me I was receiving the award. After finishing my talk with Pat, I called my spouse Sherron. During my call with her I got surprisingly emotional (and continue to be). The Public Interest Section has provided such a supportive and nurturing environment throughout my career...

To view the entire article, please visit: <https://aaapublicinterest.org/2018/11/28/robin-w-roberts-accounting-exemplar/>



Audit Quality and the Challenge of Audit Failures



Michael Kraten

Independence. Integrity. Objectivity. Professional skepticism. These concepts are bedrock principles of audit quality.

But as audit failures continue to plague the accounting profession, the Contributing Columnists of the AAA Public Interest Section offer different perspectives about preserving these principles.

During the next few weeks, a number of our Columnists will join an online conversation about this critical issue. **Steve Mintz**, for instance, will address GE's recent travails while raising the suggestion of auditor rotation.

AQPQ Management Consulting

Sri Ramamoorti will approach the challenge from a different direction. He will address structural and behavioral factors such as the Information Gap, Moral Hazard, and Inductive Reasoning.

And **Michael Kraten** will address the growing preponderance of unaudited public corporate information. He will discuss the shrinking relevance of the annual financial statements, and the need to adopt a more integrated approach to assurance procedures.

Other Contributing Columnists are likely to join this conversation too! And all of our readers are welcome to offer their thoughts and perspectives.

As you can see, we are building on our success in launching this blog by hosting online conversations about the issues that most concern us. You are welcome to engage with us by subscribing to our blog at AAAPublicInterest.org.



Join us in Orlando for the 2019 Mid-Year Meeting!

The **2019 Conference of the Public Interest Section and Doctoral/Early Scholar Consortium** will be held in Orlando, FL, at the Embassy Suites Orlando from **March 29-30, 2019**.

The theme for the AAA Public Interest Section is how accounting research and education advance the public interest. For more details, please visit: <http://aaahq.org/Meetings/2019/Public-Interest>



*See you in
Orlando!*