2007 KPMG/ATA Doctoral Consortium Committee
Final Report

July 19, 2007

The 3rd KPMG/ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium was attended by 10 faculty and 32 PhD students (14 returning participants) at various stages in their degree programs. The responses to the program were very positive, and a summary of the comments and suggestions from the students and the committee is attached. In addition, there were two KPMG representatives in attendance (Malana Konkle and Gillian Spooner).

Also attached is a copy of the latest budget – the final budget will be affected by the number of complementary rooms as well as the final bill for food. The gracious and generous funding was provided by KPMG, and they were represented at the consortium by Gillian Spooner and Malana Konkle.

The announcement and applications to the consortium were processed by Raquel Meyer Alexander as assisted by Richard Sansing. The logistics of the program were organized by Amy Dunbar. These individuals have exerted special efforts to ensure the success of the consortium.

John Robinson, Chair
Amy Dunbar
Raquel Meyer Alexander
Richard Sansing
Ken Klassen
Sue Porter
Anne Magro
Ed Maydew

PROGRAM
2007 KPMG/ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium
SanAntonio, TX

Thursday, February 22 – El Mirador W.

7:30 – 8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 8:35	Introduction: John Robinson, University of Texas at Austin.
8:35 – 9:45	*International Tax Research* – Ken Klassen, University of Georgia
9:45 – 10:05	Break
10:05 – 11:15	*Managing Your Research Career* – Sue Porter, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
11:15 – 11:35	Break
11:35 – 12:30	Panel Discussion – *Integrating research with your teaching* Richard Sansing, Dartmouth, will join the other faculty presenters.
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch – El Mirador E.
1:30 – 2:40	*Behavioral Tax Research* – Anne Magro, University of Oklahoma
2:40 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 4:10	*Tax and Financial Reporting* – Ed Maydew, UNC
4:10 – 4:30	Break
4:30 – 5:30	*Editors' panel* - Terry Shevlin and Bryan Cloyd
6:00	Dinner *Rio RioCantina*

Consortium Organizers:
John Robinson, Chair, University of Texas at Austin; Raquel Meyer Alexander. University of Kansas; Amy Dunbar, University of Connecticut.

2007 KPMG/ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium Budget

	Budget	Actual
Number of participants	42	44
Food for students and faculty		
Breakfast	662	
Lunch	922	
Dinner (includes 28% tip)	1,280	
Morning Break	378	
Afternoon Break	347	
Food service charges (21%)	485	
Total Food	$ 4,074	$ 3,504
Hotel (two nights with two students per room)		
$167 + 16.75% tax = $195 for 25 participants	6,208	4,874
Miscellaneous	250	
Audiovisual	190	
Total Estimate	10,721	$ 8,378
Less: Funding by KPMG	-11,000	
Funded by ATA	- 279	

2007 KPMG/ATA Tax PhD Consortium Evaluation Form

Please rate the sessions as follow: (Circle your answer)
5 = Superior; 4 = Excellent; 3=Average; 2 = Fair; 1 = Unsatisfactory; NA = Did not attend

	5	4	3	2	1	NA

.

8:35 - 9:45 a.m **International Tax Research** Average = 4.64

10:05 - 11:15 a.m. **Managing Your Research Career** Average = 4.27

11:35-12:30 **Panel Discussion** Average = 4.10

1:30-2:40 p.m **Behavioral Tax Research** Average = 4.18

3:00-4:10 p.m **Tax and Financial Reporting** Average = 4.82

4:30-5:30 p.m. **Editor's Panel** Average = 4.55

Dinner Average = 4.55

Accommodations Average = 4.45

Hotel location and overall setting Average = 4.82

Hotel meeting rooms Average = 4.36

Hotel sleeping rooms Average = 4.64

Hotel food Average = 4.20

What additional information would be helpful on the ATA website related to the consortium?

The tax professors who have organized and volunteered at the past 3 consortia have done a fantastic job! I do not see much room for improvement. Thank you!

Maybe indicated what year the students are in. I also think it would be good for the PhD students in first year to know who the other first-year students are, same with second year, It might also be useful to know what tax research interests the other PhD students have (if known). I am interested in behavioral tax, and thus I could make a concrete effort to meet all of the other students have similar interests. I met most of the students there, but didn't ask about their research interests.

Could we please change to name tags that clips onto our shirt collars? I did not like the lunch. I would have rather had a buffet kind of thing than be given a plate of food. I didn't like a lot of the things on there and felt like too much went to waste

I had trouble downloading papers and various problems with registration. Took several attempts.
Earlier postings of the papers presenters would like students to read.
I've checked a couple times to see if the presenters have submitted/posted their slides to the ATA site, but haven't seen them yet. I enjoyed all their presentations so much and would love to print them out and have a hard-copy reference of the information they shared with us.

What topics would you suggest for next year?

A discussion of how tax research can overlap with financial accounting research, economics research, and finance research, and what economics and finance journals "count" in tenure decisions

Something on tax compliance and a session on tax policy research. Maybe something on data collection-how to obtain
I would love to have a session in which a faculty member walked through some current research that s/he is working on and discuss the process from start to finish. E.g. The questions(s), the alternative approaches considered, the collection of data.

Great emphasis on cross-disciplinary research. So much of what we do in tax is covered in both economics and finance, but we don't ever really talk about how to harness that knowledge. Instead we emphasize that we need to be careful not to duplicate it. Doug Shackelford (among others) has been really good at working with economists. I'd like to hear more from folks like that- how'd they get on that path, whether its advisable, plusses and minuses of working with non-accountants. Ken Klassen mentioned that he likes to work with non-tax people but what about tax people in different disciplines? Just a thought! Thanks so much to all the people who work so hard putting this together!
I think keeping the same topics but changing the presenters to give a fresh perspective is a good idea

Topics dealing with Fin 48 and FAS123R - tax and financial accounting. Ask for ideas of research projects from participants and then have those that are there with expertise help us mark them up to improve them or help us determine when to scrap an idea (do this as a panel discusssion0. This would be really helpful to the younger PhD students who are just starting the idea generation process.

Logistics notes

Based on our experience, the logistics chair must work closely with both the doctoral consortium chair and the VP in charge of the meeting. All food and beverage orders, audio-visual needs, room assignments, etc. must be made through the VP.

The following is a summary of the logistics tasks and past consortium experiences.

1. Prepare budget in the summer. Based upon the typical consortium format (start Thursday noon and end Friday morning), the following items need to be budgeted:

    a. Hotel – Budget one night per person single (or two nights per person double) at the negotiated room rate plus tax. Comp rooms are unknown until the week before the meeting and the number depends on two factors. First, the total number of comp rooms depends on how many ATA nights are booked at the hotel. Second, some comp rooms may be used for guest speakers.

    b. Food and Beverage – For Thursday, budget lunch, afternoon break, and reception/dinner for 30 students and nine faculty. Obtain menus from the hotel and starting the planning process based on previous prices plus an inflation factor. Two reminders: first, don't forget to budget any applicable service charges and sales tax, and second, confirm that the faculty and students will have access to the regular ATA Friday breakfast.

        Possible savings – If there are no sessions planned for after dinner, it may be less expensive (even after transportation costs) to go to a local restaurant and give the students and faculty choices. Transportation to/from would have to be factored in, so this may be a moot point for the 2006 consortium. The reception, however, fostered a tremendous amount of conversation and mingling that would not happen at a sit down dinner.

    c. Audio-Visual - The AV cost is typically on a per day basis, but the chair brought an LCD projector. The cost of using the hotel's AV should be discussed in advance.

2. In early summer, discuss the need for Wednesday night rooms with the VP – this need depends on what time the consortium starts on Thursday; i.e., will attendees be able to fly into the consortium site early enough to avoid staying at the hotel on Wednesday night.

    Note: Consider pushing the start time to 1:00 p.m. or later to allow more attendees to fly in on Thursday. However, if the JATA Conference starts at 9:30 a.m. on Friday morning, we don't much choice but to start lunch at noon and the program at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday.

3. Work with other consortium committee members and chair to determine program. The program plan will dictate the need for rooms, etc. Work with VP on timing of JATA conference/mid-year meeting, to determine optimal timing for consortium sessions.

4. Before the AAA meeting, make sure budget assumptions are valid (30 students and nine faculty). Adjust accordingly. Help the consortium chair prepare for the trustees meeting.

5. In early January –

a. Obtain updated hotel menus, presenters' AV needs (or just instruct presenters to use overheads if we can't have low cost LCD equipment), and update budget accordingly.
b. Discuss room needs with VP. For example, eight tables with a faculty member assigned to each table. Conference, classroom, and U-shaped configurations would have all been a disaster. Having lunch and the afternoon break in the meeting room worked out great; we had leftover cookies and brownies all afternoon.

6. Once registration closes -
    a. Update budget with exact number of students.
    b. Obtain faculty and student list from the chair and make tent cards for students and faculty. Tent cards with large print first name and small print last name worked great and facilitated students addressing faculty on a first-name basis.

7. Last minute details:

    a. Place AV and food and beverage orders through VP.
    b. Review AV and food and beverage orders with VP.
    c. Confirm room assignments with VP.
    d. Have VP set aside name tags for consortium attendees and KPMG representatives (Bernie Milano?).

8. Day of the consortium -
    a. Get nametags.
    b. Help committee chair stuff folders and set up room. Arranging for help in advance would be a good idea.
    c. Count waters and soft drinks before and after meals and breaks. We're only charged for what we consume. Have the hotel refresh coffee, water, etc. on demand and that the logistics person is the contact.
    d. Take digital photos.
    e. Check with VP regarding early bird registration. Think about how to insulate the Thursday night reception from outsiders.

9. After the consortium -

    a. Review bill.
    b. Revise this memo.
    c. Compute actual consortium costs and compare to budgeted amounts.