



## **American Taxation Association**

DATE: July 31, 2008  
TO: ATA Officers and Trustees  
FROM: Jennifer Kahle Schafer, Chairperson  
RE: New Faculty Concerns Committee – 2008 Year End Report

### NFCC Breakfast

The New Faculty Concerns Committee (NFCC) hosted the NFCC Breakfast on Saturday, February 23rd, at the Mid-Year meeting in Memphis. Shelley Rhoades-Catanach, ATA President-Elect, gave an informal presentation concerning advice to new faculty. Carol Fischer, prior associate editor of JATA for book reviews, dissertation abstracts and software reviews, encouraged new faculty to submit their dissertation abstracts. The Committee also provided helpful advice and answered questions of the new faculty.

Attendance by new faculty at the breakfast continues to improve over prior years. We believe this is due to the committee contacting the new faculty prior to the meeting and encouraging them to attend. The breakfast continues to be restricted to new faculty (vs. PhD students). The NFCC feels that this is appropriate given that the concerns of new faculty are different than those of PhD students. However, depending upon the number of new faculty and the future goals of the NFCC breakfast, this issue should be addressed again in the future.

The Committee created the invitation list to new faculty from the registrants who identified themselves as “new faculty” on the registration forms for the ATA Mid Year Meeting, and by identifying potential ATA members from the New Faculty Consortium list. An RSVP policy was successfully used this year for the first time to obtain a more accurate count of attendees.

### New Faculty Introductions

Each new faculty member attending the ATA Mid-Year meeting was introduced at the lunch session on Friday afternoon.

### E&Y Travel Grant

Ernst & Young again provided \$5,000 to be allocated among PhD students that want to attend the JATA/ATA Midyear Conference. This was the final year that Ernst and Young committed to fund the travel grants, so the committee recommends the new ATA President discuss future funding opportunities with Ernst and Young.

In the current year grants ranging from \$100 to \$200 were awarded to 30 students (compared to 28 students in 2007). Students applied using a web form and the allocation rules were standardized and made available to the students in advance. It was noted that many of the grant recipients were also attendees at the ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium.

### Teaching Mentorship

As in the prior year, there has been no demand from new faculty for mentors. However, the Committee suggests that the NFCC consider coordinating an informal gathering of new faculty at the AAA meeting each year so that new ATA members can keep in contact with each other.

### Directory of PhD Programs

In 2006 the committee updated this directory to reflect changes in PhD programs, coordinators and contact information. This database will allow PhD program representatives to update their own information in response to email requests. Garth Novack has done an excellent job in updating and maintaining this directory.