

2008 KPMG/ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium Committee Final Report

June 24, 2008

The 4th Annual KPMG/ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium hit record numbers in 2008. Attendees included 46 students representing 29 schools and 13 faculty members. In addition, Malana Konkle represented KPMG and welcomed the students to the consortium.

The program (see attached) included research presentations by Dave Guenther (Finding Research Ideas in Economics and Finance), Andy Cuccia (Behavioral Tax Research: Current Status and Future Directions), Richard Sansing (Equilibrium), and Sonja Rego (Intersection Between Tax and Financial Accounting). In addition, the consortium included panel sessions entitled “Managing Teaching, Research & Service Across a Variety of Schools,” “Research Ideas and Completing the Dissertation,” and “Interviewing and Beyond.” Dave Weber and Stacey Laplante joined the presenters and other committee members in leading the panel sessions.

The Phd Consortium participants ranked the sessions quite high. Average scores ranged from 4.1 to 4.3 on a five point scale. 70 percent of the respondents stated they would apply for the 2009 consortium. Students commented most frequently on the faculty presentations and interactions. For example, one student said “I appreciated the fact that all the faculty who were at the consortium seemed to care/ wanted to be there... All 4 presenters were top-notch in terms of their delivery and style...”

New to the consortium were post-presentation break-out sessions which were led by the faculty attendees who also rotated among the tables for each presentation. This innovation was well received by the students. Comments included “I really liked the breakout sessions where everyone at the table was able to talk about the topic of the hour with faculty.” “I liked the group discussions. It broke down barriers and made the atmosphere more congenial.”

The consortium concluded with a dinner at Rendezvous Ribs where the consortium participants were joined by several ATA officers and KPMG representatives.

Also attached is a copy of the final budget. The funding was generously provided by KPMG. The ATA Trustees approved additional funding so that we could accommodate an unusually high number of PhD students (46 versus 32 in the prior year). The continued success of the consortium would not be possible without the support of the ATA membership and KPMG.

Raquel Meyer Alexander was responsible for drafting the announcements for and applications to the consortium, making hotel arrangements, working with the ATA webmaster, Zite Hutton, to get announcements and readings on the ATA website, and taking care of many other details. Raquel’s efforts contributed significantly to the

success of the consortium. In a departure from past consortiums, I did not have a separate logistics chair. Instead, I worked directly with Tim Rupert.

I appreciate the efforts that Raquel, Zite, Tim, the presenters and other faculty attendees put into making the consortium a success.

Please note that the 2009 KPMG/ATA Tax PhD consortium is chaired by Sue Porter and will be held on February 19, 2009 in Orlando, Florida

John Phillips, Chair

Committee Members

Raquel Meyer Alexander

John Barrick

Dave Guenther

Ken Klassen

Sue Porter

Sonja Rego

PROGRAM
2008 KPMG/ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium
Memphis, TN

Thursday, February 21 – Venetian Ballroom

8:00 – 8:45	Continental Breakfast
8:45 – 9:00	<i>Introductions:</i> John Phillips, University of Connecticut
9:00 – 9:55	<i>Finding Research Ideas in Economics and Finance,</i> Dave Guenther, University of Oregon
9:55 – 10:15	Group Discussions
10:15 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:40	<i>Behavioral Tax Research: Current Status and Future Directions,</i> Andy Cuccia, University of Oklahoma
11:40 – 12:00	Group Discussions
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch – Forest Room
1:00 – 1:50	Concurrent Panel Sessions (choose one) <i>Research Ideas and Completing the Dissertation,</i> Dave Guenther, University of Oregon ; Ken Klassen, University of Georgia ; Sue Porter, University of Massachusetts <i>Interviewing and Beyond,</i> Stacie Laplante, University of Georgia ; John Phillips, University of Connecticut ; Dave Weber, University of Connecticut
1:50– 2:45	<i>Equilibrium,</i> Richard Sansing, Dartmouth College
2:45 – 3:05	Group Discussions
3:05– 3:15	Break
3:15 – 4:10	<i>The Intersection Between Tax and Financial Accounting,</i> Sonja Rego, University of Iowa
4:10 – 4:30	Group Discussions
4:30 – 4:40	Break
4:40 – 5:30	Panel Session: <i>Managing Teaching, Research & Service Across a Variety of Schools,</i> Raquel Alexander, University of Kansas ; Sonja Rego, University of Iowa ; Richard Sansing, Dartmouth College
6:00	Dinner <i>Rendezvous Ribs</i>

**2008 KPMG/ATA Tax Doctoral Consortium
Budget versus Actual**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Number of participants	54	59
Food for students and faculty		
Breakfast	\$ 999	
Lunch	1,283	
Morning Break	602	
Afternoon Break	591	
Food service charges (21%)	730	
Sales tax	389	
Dinner	<u>1,512</u>	
Total Food & Beverage	\$ 6,106	\$ 6,142
Hotel (two nights with two students per room)		
\$169 + 15.95% tax = \$196 for 35 participants*	6,858	6,466
Miscellaneous	0	
Audiovisual	<u>350</u>	<u>590</u>
Total	\$13,314	\$13,198
Less: Funding by KPMG	<u>-11,000</u>	<u>-11,000</u>
Funded by ATA	<u>\$ 2,314</u>	<u>\$ 2,198</u>

* Six attendees did not require hotel rooms and five comp rooms were used by students.

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 (all day Thursday), 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 breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon breaks, 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. Don't forget to budget any applicable service charges and sales tax.
 - c. Audio-Visual - The AV cost is typically on a per day basis. The cost of using the hotel's AV should be discussed in advance.
2. In early summer, discuss the need for Wednesday and Thursday night rooms with the VP.
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 be 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, Gillian Spooner, Malana Konkle, et al.).
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.
9. After the consortium -
- a. Review bill.
 - b. Revise this memo.
 - c. Compute actual consortium costs and compare to budgeted amounts.