

Greetings!

I hope the new academic year is going well for all of you.

Over the summer, one of the first tasks as President is to assemble committees. Without hesitation, everyone accepted the invitation to participate and serve on one or more committees. I extend a heartfelt "Thank you!" to all of you. The ATA is truly an amazing group of individuals, who continually support each other to disseminate tax knowledge.

Many of us enjoyed reuniting at the AAA annual meeting in San Francisco. Special thanks to Kirsten Cook and his committee for organizing an excellent group of ATA sessions, as well as identifying an engaging luncheon speaker, Darryl Yee, Senior VP and Global Head of Tax at Salesforce. I also wish to express appreciation to all of the ATA members who volunteered to serve as reviewers, discussants, and moderators.

A highlight of the annual meeting luncheon are the [awards](#), which allow us to recognize our members' contributions in teaching, research, and service. Congratulations to the following ATA members. Your innovative and outstanding work is inspiring to all of us! Thanks to Deloitte, EY, KPMG, and PwC for your continued support of the ATA and its awards.

Ray M. Sommerfeld Outstanding Tax Educator Award  (funded by the EY Foundation)	Amy Dunbar, University of Connecticut
ATA / Deloitte Teaching Innovation Award	Christine Cheng, University of Mississippi Pradeep Sapkota, University of North Texas Amy Yurko, Duquesne University  "A Case Study of Effective Tax Rates Using Data Analytics"
ATA / PwC Outstanding Dissertation Award	Russ Hamilton, Southern Methodist University  "New Evidence on Investors' Valuation of Deferred Tax Liabilities"
ATA Outstanding Service Award	Lil Mills, University of Texas
ATA Tax Manuscript Award	Steve Matsunaga, University of Oregon David Guenther, University of Oregon Brian Williams, Indiana University  "Is Tax Avoidance Related to Firm Risk?"

JATA Outstanding Paper Award	Jaron Wilde, University of Iowa Ryan Wilson, University of Oregon  "Perspectives on Corporate Tax Planning: Observations from the Past Decade"
JATA Conference Best Discussant Award	Michael Donohoe, University of Illinois
JLTR Outstanding Paper Award	Brett Bueltel, University of Southern Indiana Kelly Walker, Mississippi State University  "A Legal Analysis of State Tax Policy for Online Sales: The Recipe from Direct Marketing"
Marty Escoffier Hospitality Award	Pete Lisowsky, Boston University

Looking ahead to spring 2020, Jenny Brown (Vice President) and the Midyear Meeting Committee are diligently planning an exciting meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. As usual, the pre-meeting activities on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> will include the [ATA/KPMG Doctoral Consortium](#) (committee chair, Dan Lynch) and the [Teaching and Curriculum Conference](#) (committee chair, Kerry Inger). Note that the [ATA Midyear Meeting](#) will begin early morning Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> with the *JATA* and *JLTR* Conferences and end at noon on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. Please consider submitting your research and teaching work, as well as volunteering to review, discuss, and moderate sessions. Look for the forthcoming [ATA calls for submissions](#) and volunteers, which will also be available on the ATA website.

As the fall semester progresses, please remember to nominate your fellow ATA members for officer positions and awards. Announcements with criteria and deadlines are forthcoming and available on our website.

It is a privilege to serve as President of such a wonderful section. Please let me know if I can be of service to you during the year.

I hope to see all of you in Fort Worth, Texas.

Sincerest regards,

*Diana Falsetta*

ATA President, 2019-2020  
University of Miami