Section Breakfast at Annual Meeting in NYC

Our annual Section Breakfast & Business Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 10 at 6:45am during the last day of the 2016 AAA Annual Meeting in New York City. The Section president Evelyn McDowell welcomed everyone and shared 2015-2016 highlights of the Section.

Diversity Section committee chairs provided their respective reports. Mark Dawkins updated us about the AAA’s discussion of expanding section journals, and the AAA’s relatively new policy of featuring contested elections (as opposed to uncontested elections) was a subject of debate. Craig Sisneros reported about the new AAA section for accounting historians. The Treasurer, Robert Marley, presented the Section’s annual financial report. Helen Brown-Liburd, Research Coordinator, discussed issues pertaining to Section research submissions. Mid-Year Coordinators, Stephanie Mason and Derek Barr, provided the highlights from last year’s mid-year meeting. Last year, a record number of research submissions were received.

The President recognized donors and member service by presenting awards of appreciation. (See photos of award recipients on the right.) The Section welcomed the slate of officers for the coming year. The newly elected Section President Maria Caban-Garcia gave her acceptance speech and provided an overview of the policies and projects she aims to address over the coming year.

We had a well-attended Breakfast Meeting!
Letter from the Section President

Greetings!

I am very honored to serve as the 2016-2017 President of the Diversity Section of the American Accounting Association. As the incoming president of the Section, my agenda includes: promoting more sustainable fund-raising activities to support conference travel scholarships for doctoral students; increasing membership communications by publishing regular newsletters; working with the membership committee to develop enrollment and engagement strategies of new and current members; and improving and documenting some of the internal processes that enhance the efficiency our operations. I also oversee our section’s two major annual events. The first event is “Diversity Section Midyear Meeting.” The second major event is our section’s breakfast and a series of dedicated sessions during the AAA annual meeting.

So far, we have formalized our fundraising activities for doctoral travel scholarships by scheduling a Pay It Forward Fundraising Campaign that will run from February to April each year. The campaign will ensure that the section can provide as many travel scholarships as possible. We are also working with the AAA staff to simplify the donation process by providing a link where you can automatically make your contributions and obtain a receipt. Hopefully, we will also continue enjoying the generous institutional support from the AICPA, BDO, and the University of Louisville to complement our travel scholarship funds.

Our membership committee is working diligently to define its role and determine the best way to recruit doctoral students, as well as engage current members. The PhD Project Doctoral Students Association (ADSA) recently agreed to have one of our members give a short presentation to doctoral students during their annual meeting. During the first half of the academic year I worked closely with our officers and the AAA staff to revamp our website. We ensured that outdated content was properly archived. The new website will give us more flexibility to manage the content and information available to our members.

In terms of internal processes, we are working on completing a preliminary operations manual by the end of next summer that will more clearly define the role of our officers and committees. As you will read in detail in this newsletter, last October we had a very successful Midyear Meeting. We would like to thank Stephani and Dereck for their work, the Awards Committee for evaluating our scholarship applications and the best paper award, KPMG and KPMG Foundation for their sponsorship, and our speakers and members for their participation. Looking forward, the Section is discussing a proposal to coordinate with one of the AAA’s journals to publish a special issue on diversity topics. Please stay tuned on the progress of this initiative as it will require your full involvement and cooperation.

As the fall semester comes to an end I hope that you are preparing your diversity related manuscripts and panels for submission to the 2017 Annual Meeting in San Diego. Please include the Diversity Section breakfast in your plans for the AAA annual meeting.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a very productive spring semester!

María T. Cabán-García
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

“We have also approved a reduction to the Midyear Meeting students’ registration fee to $50 per student. Our Board also approved an increase in travel scholarships to $750 per student.”
12th Section Midyear Meeting in Florida

The Diversity section midyear meeting last October 28-30 in Coral Gables, FL was a big success! We are very grateful for the support KPMG LLP and the KPMG Foundation always provide to our midyear meeting. Attendance was quite high with more than 50 attendees. We enjoyed 26 paper presentations, four doctoral students “Road Paper Pitches” and the presence of seven distinguished speakers from different professional organizations. Presentation topics included diversity issues, as well as many other accounting research topics.

Our speaker roster included:

- Friday - Jeannette Faber from NASBA, and Teresa S. Polley, President and CEO of Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF)
- Saturday - Bette Kozlowski, KPMG National Director Faculty Relations and University Recruiting, and Victor M. Lorenzo, Lunch sponsored by KPMG
- Sunday - Kimberly Ellison-Taylor, chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), and Petra A. Robinson from Louisiana State University.

The Section wants to thank all participants for making the 2016 meeting such an excellent conference. Special thanks to conference co-chairs Stephani and Dereck for doing such an excellent job! Visit the meeting online program for more details at [http://aaahq.org/Meetings/2016/Diversity-Section-Meeting/Program](http://aaahq.org/Meetings/2016/Diversity-Section-Meeting/Program).

Doctoral Road Paper Pitches Session

The conference brought back this section due to the value our section places on the professional development of doctoral students. We had four doctoral candidates’ presentations by Brent A. Garza (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign), Chevonne Alston (The University of Mississippi), Wilson Rose (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey), and Michelle Harding (The University of Tennessee).

Best Paper and Travel Awards

The Best Paper Award was given to Paul E. Madsen, University of Florida for his paper titled “University-Level Recruiting and Black Underrepresentation in the Auditing Profession”, co-authored with Andrew Bird (Carnegie Mellon University), Chan Li (University of Pittsburgh), and Thomas Ruchti (Carnegie Mellon University).

This year the Section awarded five Doctoral Travel Scholarships to: Chevonne Herring (University of Mississippi), Michelle K. Harding (University of Tennessee), Ranier R. Robinson (University of Alabama), Stephanie Ross (University of Texas El Paso), and Wilson Rose (Rutgers, State University of New Jersey).

We are very appreciative of the sponsorship provided by the AICPA, BDO, the University of Louisville School of Accountancy, and the Diversity Section members’ Pay It Forward Fund which made these awards possible.
Next AAA Annual Meeting in San Diego

We hope you are preparing your diversity related manuscripts and panel ideas for submission to the 2017 AAA Annual Meeting. The deadline to submit is 11:59 pm EST on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Also, we will be needing reviewers and moderators, so be sure to volunteer for the annual meeting.

Save the date for the 13th Section Meeting!

The 2017 Diversity Section Meeting will be held on November 3-5, 2017, at Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA. Enter the date on your calendar and stay tuned for the Section Meeting Call-For-Papers to be released in Summer 2017. Look for the following icons on the Section website to stay informed about important dates:

Midyear Meeting

Call for Papers

2016 – 2017 Diversity Section Officers

Officers
President
Past President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Council Representative

Volunteer Name
Maria T. Caban-Garcia
Evelyn A. McDowell
Robert Marley
Mary C. Cleaveland
Dahlia M. Robinson

Volunteer Affiliation
University of South Florida St. Petersburg
Rider University
North Carolina Central University
University of Tampa
Kennesaw State University
University of South Florida Tampa

Editors
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster Liaison

Melvin A. Lamboy-Ruiz
Carlos E. Jimenez Angueira

Committee Chairpersons
2017 Annual Meeting Liaison
2017 Midyear Meeting Co-Chair
2017 Midyear Meeting Co-Chair
2018 Midyear Meeting Co-Chair
2018 Midyear Meeting Co-Chair
Membership Committee
Awards Committee

Royce D. Burnett
Aisha G. Meeks
Norma R. Montague
Norma R. Montague
Rosemond Desir
Raymond J. Elson

Regional Coordinators
Mid-Atlantic
Midwest
Northeast
Ohio
Southeast
Southwest
Western

Helen L. Brown-Luburd
Derek D. Barr-Pulliam
Brigitte W. Muehlmann
Dara M. Marshall
Elicia Cowins
Margaret M. Tanner
Craig A. Sisneros

Volunteer Name
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Volunteer Affiliation
Rider University
North Carolina Central University
University of Tampa
Kennesaw State University
University of South Florida Tampa

Disclaimer: Section members’ promotions and accomplishments will be compiled and published in the next edition. Stay tuned for our survey email.

Redesigned Website!
The AAA redesigned all section websites in 2016.

Find us on the Web:
http://aaahq.org/div