

Summer 2019



“Placing the public interest above self-interest is the hallmark of a profession”... Eddie Stamp, 1983...

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Public Interest Section Members,

My name is **Mitch Stein** and I am the Chair of the Public Interest Section. I am very excited for the opportunity to serve the section as Chair over the coming year and to work with a great group of members who are serving the section in key positions:

Charles Stanley (Baylor University) – Chair Elect

Pat Kelly (Providence College) – Secretary/Treasurer

Anne Schnader (Suffolk University) – Vice Chair of Research

Michael Kraten (Houston Baptist University) – Vice Chair of Education

Lisa Baudot (University of Central Florida) - Vice Chair of International Membership

Vaughan Radcliffe (Western University) – Council Representative

Amy Hageman (Kansas State University) – Senior Editor, Accounting and the Public Interest

Lawrence Chui (University of St. Thomas) and **Byron Pike** (Minnesota State University – Mankato) – Webmasters

Thank you to **Charles Stanley** (Baylor University) who has served as the Section Liaison for the 2019 Annual Meeting. This year’s **24th Annual Meeting and Ethics Symposium** will be held on the Sunday of the Annual Meeting. We hope that you can join us. We will be discussing the future of the Public Interest Section at the Section Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting on Monday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m. The AAA Annual Meeting will be held this year at the Hilton Union Square in San Francisco, and we look forward to seeing as many of who are able to join us there.

We aim to work towards continuing to expand the section through greater member engagement and reaching out to other sections and like-minded international groups. We are working on expanding the reach of our blog and planning on holding joint meetings with other groups. Thank you to **Michael Kraten** (Houston Baptist University) for his amazing work at growing our blog. We have also begun to implement a number of initiatives we seek to grow the section and develop broader member input. We are currently in the process of developing a committee structure that will allow members greater involvement with the section and expand our reach and contributions in various areas. If you are interested in serving in a particular area and did not complete our member survey please reach out to one of the members of our executive team.

Looking ahead, we have a top quality **Public Interest Section Midyear Meeting and Doctoral/Early Scholar Consortium** planned for 2020. The Midyear Meeting will be held in Washington, DC on March 27-28, 2020 and will be a joint meeting with the Gender Issues Worklife Balance section. We will also be hosting a Doctoral/Early Scholar Consortium on March 27th. Both events promise to be an engaging experience for public interest scholars. We are also examining the possibility of having a joint international midyear meeting with the Alternative Accounts Conference in 2021, so stay tuned for more details.

I look forward to meeting everyone at this year’s Annual Meeting to hear exciting and innovative public interest research, and to get people’s input about what they would like to see in the public interest section. We are very interested in having greater involvement and member ideas for the section.

Respectfully,
Mitch Stein



Mitch Stein

Chair of the Public Interest Section, American Accounting Association

**Ivey Business School
Western University**

Join us at the Annual Meeting!



PI Business Meeting: Monday, August 12: 4:00PM to 5:30PM / Hilton Union Square, Lobby Level, Golden Gate 1

Ethical Decision-making models



Steven Mintz

Professor Emeritus from
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Steven Mintz contends in a blog post to be published in September that ethical decision-making models typically used by accounting educators to teach ethics have shortcomings and a new approach is needed. Steve suggests that existing models fail to adequately consider organizational variables directly in the decision-making process. According to Steve, traditional models that rely on teleological, deontological and virtue ethics are a necessary but insufficient condition to ensure ethical decisions are made. The reason is the ethical culture of an organization determines in large part whether ethical choices turn into ethical action. If the internal control systems of an organization (i.e., ethics code, reporting options, and possible retaliation) do not support making the ethical choice than decision-makers may succumb to rationalizations such as “this is the way things get done here” or “just be a team player.” Moreover, incorporating an organizational dimension early on may help to identify supporters who can increase the likelihood that ethical choices will be carried out. Look for the details of Steve’s proposed model in September.

Sustainability Reports



Michael Kraten

Houston Baptist
University

How many standards can a sustainability accountant possibly follow? Three dozen comprehensive standards are published by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Seventy-seven industry-specific standards are issued by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB). In addition, 17 sets of metrics are promulgated within the Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, 15 components of integrated reporting are defined by the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), and the AICPA, not to be outdone, chimed in earlier this year with its new guide, *Attestation Engagements on Sustainability Information*...

To view the entire article, please see Michael Kraten’s *Sustainability Reports and the Limitations of “Limited” Assurance* at **The CPA Journal** (July 2019)



Visit us at the Public Interest Blog!
<https://aaapublicinterest.org/>

Reimagining a More Ethical and Sustainable Management Accounting Curriculum



Editorial Note: We are delighted to present the following editorial column by Richard Kravitz, the Editor In Chief of the CPA Journal. As always, when you read the comments of our columnists, please keep in mind that they only speak for themselves. They are not expressing the positions of the AAA or of any other party.

Furthermore, the opinions expressed below do not reflect the position of the CPA Journal, The New York State Society of CPAs, or the Board of Directors or Executives of the New York State Society of CPAs.

Richard Kravitz

Editor In Chief of *The CPA Journal*

The accounting curriculum, while relevant 40 years ago, has lost much of its relevance today in our post-modern global economy. Accounting education fails to account for the real drivers of enterprise growth in the digital economy. This article focuses on the components of value creation within publicly traded multinational corporations. It also addresses how these valued components are all but ignored in the accounting classroom, in AACSB's model curriculum for accounting education, and by the majority of our accounting professoriate.

Accounting is a practical discipline. It focuses on the application of skills and knowledge that enable practitioners to identify, measure, monitor, control and report on business activities. However, the real drivers of long term value creation within the modern global corporation are no longer measured by these traditional accounting tools. Financial accounting, cost accounting, and managerial accounting methodologies provide little guidance on how to accurately report on the condition and value of global business. Accounting information teaches us very little about great companies whose great products and services drive our postmodern global economy.



To view the entire article, please visit: <https://aaapublicinterest.org/2019/03/14/reimagining-a-more-ethical-and-sustainable-management-accounting-curriculum/>

AAA Council Meeting Notes



The meeting agendas and minutes from the AAA Board and Council Meetings are posted online and can be found at: <http://aaahq.org/About/Governance/Board-Council-Activities>

Save the Date!



The 2020 Conference of the Public Interest Section and Doctoral/New Scholar Consortium Will be held on **March 29-30, 2020 at the Capital Hilton In Washington, DC!**



For more information, please visit: <http://aaahq.org/Meetings/Meeting->

Together for the Public Interest