

Newsletter

Updated May 2008

Reports from the Public Interest Section Officers are now available.
See [Reports](#) for details.

(Revised on May 14, 2008. The webmaster inadvertently left off some
of the original text.)

Alan's Welcoming to the Mid-Year Meeting

I am thrilled to welcome you to the **FIRST** annual mid-year meeting of
the Public Interest Section and to the Academy of Accounting
Historians Research Conference. None of us was sure the meeting
would come off or not, but due to the hard work of two special
individuals, our meeting will be a success. Thank you so much
Parveen Gupta and Dan Jensen, without them we would not be here!

Now, if I am not actually able to attend the meeting, it is not due to my
lack of interest, but the cancer, I am going to beat, can be a nemesis at
times. Nevertheless, the illness has allowed me time to think and
reflect over the past several months. I will share some of those
reflections with you today.

What does the public interest mean to me? In the past, the meaning
took on specific issues. The public interest is ethics and the profession;
ethics and education; symbolism versus real change; change the
American Accounting Association; and etc,. All these issues may
influence the public interest but none of them has meaning as to what
public interest is.

My own conclusion is that public interest is synonymous with "quality
of life". When we serve the public interest, we should be improving
the quality of life. To me this would imply there are many avenues
(and paradigms) to examining the public interest. There can easily be
more than one solution.

This calls for tolerance, openness, and a willingness to learn. This is
what I hope our Mid-year meeting is all about. I wish you a wonderful
meeting and I hope you leave the meeting thinking about how the
meeting has affected the quality of life.

Thank you and welcome.

PUBLIC INTEREST SECTION

Send
newsletter
contributions
to:

Brett
Wilkinson
Baylor
University
[Email](#)

Alan

CHAIR'S REPORT—SUMMER 2007

Well, here I go again. It is that time to write a report and sharing my thoughts (oh oh, I can't go down that road now, can I?). I want to let all of you know the activities our section has been involved with and encourage you to become involved (in any little way you wish).

First, I want to thank Ann Watkins for her wonderful job as Vice-chair (Ann chose not to be re-nominated due to family priorities). Ann's hard work enabled the syllabus project to become a reality (please look at these in the syllabi section of this website). Additionally Ann began the process of using our website as an outlet for academic recruiting. Thank you Ann for your dedication to the section and we look forward to working with you again in the near future.

In our affirmation of the nominating committee's nominees, John Thornton was affirmed as our new Vice-Chair and Michele Chwastiak was re-affirmed as our secretary-treasurer. Congratulations, but condolences with being stuck working with yours truly!

YES, we are going to have a mid-year meeting in 2008! It will be a joint meeting with the Academy of Accounting Historians

and Parveen Gupta is our coordinator for the meeting. More information will be forthcoming about the meeting in Chicago at the AAA Annual meeting.

The Accounting Exemplar Award Committee selected Lynn Turner, former SEC Chief Accountant for the 2007 Exemplar Award. Congratulations Lynn! We will be presenting the award to Lynn at the Exemplar Luncheon in Chicago, following the Professional and Ethics Symposium (Sunday August 5). I hope you will be able to join us at the luncheon.

Now, to the future. I anticipate we will continue our prior projects in the upcoming year. Hence, if you have new syllabi, which relate to the public interest, please share them with us. Send them to John Thornton at jthornt@tricity.wsu.edu . John will organize the syllabi and forward them to Brett for posting to our website. I hope you will respond to the call for papers for our midyear meeting (the call will be out shortly).

There are two new areas I want to discuss. First, each of you has been involved in activities that relate to the Public Interest. Please share your stories and ideas with us. Story telling is a wonderful thing. We need to have a forum of ideas to give examples to each other on how each of us can be involved. Send you stories and ideas to Brett_Wilkinson@baylor.edu , our webmaster who will post them to our website. Please, please share.

Next, the AAA is developing a strategic plan for the future. Where will the organization be when it becomes 100 years old in 2015 (I no doubt will be tottering by then, but hopefully some teetering as well)? The AAA is considering the following mission statement:

We bring together and facilitate the academic community to advance the discipline and profession of accounting through:

- *Advancing faculty careers*
- *Promoting effective learning*
- *Expanding knowledge and idea development*
- *Informing and influencing policy and practice*

The executive committee, and soon the council, will be reviewing the mission and proposed vision statements (which I have not included) on each of the above areas; they also will propose specific states and goals for the organization. Our section needs to think about this. What is the role of the AAA and the academic community? I believe we need to give the mission and a strategic plan a strong public interest perspective. We need to allow for independent voices and means to give transparency to issues that concern our profession. Serving society is not only the role of our section, but must be an integral mission of the Association. All voices need to be heard in civil discourse. When available, I will circulate the drafts of the strategic plan and anticipate you will provide feedback in our attempt to influence the final project.

Finally, I look forward to meeting you in Chicago. Our annual business meeting will be held at 4:30 on the Monday of the conference. Please refer to the program for the location. All our reports will be posted to the website; therefore, we will not be bringing hard copies to Chicago. Do let me hear from you! My e-mail address is Mayper@unt.edu . See you soon.

All the best,

Alan

Public Interest Section Chair's message - December 2006

It is an honor to be the chairperson of the Public Interest Section. Thank you for this opportunity. I will use this column to update you about our projects and other section related activities. First, our new website is fantastic! Brett Wilkinson, our webmaster, has re-invented, expanded and will continuously update the site. In the near future we will be posting announcements and make it our depository for the syllabus project. Go look at the other parts of the website (NOW!—the rest of this letter is boring) and if you have any comments or suggestions, please e-mail Brett.

Ann Watkins, our Vice-Chair has begun soliciting syllabi to be organized and uploaded on our website. She is receiving syllabi related to the public interest, ethics, corporate governance, social and environmental and any other topic we can construe being related to the public interest. Many of you have responded by sending her (alwatkins@uncg.edu) copies of yours or colleague's syllabi. In the near future we will have all these syllabi available to you (and all our colleagues) to adapt or get ideas from in your teaching.

The mid-year meeting planning and organizing committee is on-going. Several of our members attended the Accounting, Behavioral and Organization Section mid-year meeting in Portland in early October. We proposed to their executive committee to have a "joint" mid-year meeting in 2007. They gracefully declined our offer since they are planning a special celebration for the 20th anniversary of BRIA. Although this was disappointing to me, the committee is forging ahead looking at other alternatives. We have been approached by the Academy of Accounting Historians which is interested in holding a joint research conference and we are also considering a joint meeting with a region. If you have any thoughts or ideas on this, please let me know.

Prem Sikka is on the AAA's Notable Contribution Committee. We will shortly be soliciting you for feedback on contributions that you believe are worthy for this honor. We hope to include nominations which included a strong commitment to the public interest in their work.

Our journal, *Accounting and the Public Interest Journal*, has a new editor. All manuscripts should now be sent to Paul Williams at North Carolina State University. We hope you consider our journal as your first choice for your quality public interest research. It has the AAA imprimatur, I believe that is important. At my school, we now classify all the AAA academic journals as A+ or A rated journals. More important, the journal is no longer an additional cost of membership. You should have access to it year round through the internet. Please support it with your work.

I believe all your officers are working hard for the section (well, I don't really know about me, maybe most of the time?, ok—a teensy weenie bit, maybe one or two hours a year???—heh it goes on my vita, I'm working, believe me!---nothing like objective

performance measurement). More importantly, I know you have an interest and are willing to help us. If you want to be explicitly involved, please let me know. We will think of something. Do not hesitate to e-mail me at Mayper@unt.edu .

Have a wonderful holiday season and a joyous and prosperous New Year!

All the best and in the Public Interest
.....Alan

Archived newsletters:

[Summer 2006](#)

[Summer 2005](#)