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Running (and Biking and Swimming) Down a Dream

CPA Randee Roucoulet's journey to the Mont-Tremblant Ironman began in true CPA fashion: with a dream and a spreadsheet.
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A publication of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants



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AICPA Releases Proposed Changes to Next Version of CPA Exam

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) has released *Exposure Draft: Maintaining the Relevance of the Uniform CPA Exam* for public comment. The exposure draft summarizes proposed changes between the current and next version of the exam and provides detailed information on the content knowledge and skills that will be tested.

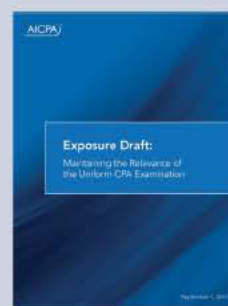
"Increasing complexity in the business world and constant advances in technology have changed the knowledge and skills required of newly licensed CPAs," said **Michael Decker**, AICPA Vice President of Examinations. "These professionals are being asked to perform more advanced tasks and work on complex projects early in their accounting careers."

The goal is to move toward a more competency-based exam that tests high levels of learning skills instead of memorized information.

Major Proposed Changes Include:

1. Shift from memorization to critical thinking.
2. Reduce blackout months by at least 10 days (all scoring will be done in 20 days, as it is currently).
3. All sections will now be four hours.
 - a. Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) and Regulation (REG) will increase from three to four hours.
 - b. BEC will also include task-based simulations for the first time.
 - c. REG will require an additional hour given the increase in task-based simulations at the analytical skill level.
 - d. The price for these two sections will also increase.

Submit Your Feedback



Feedback to the AICPA's exposure draft will help finalize the development of the next Exam's content, structure, and design.

The AICPA will consider all responses on or before **November 30, 2015**.

The expected launch date for the new exam is April 1 or July 1, 2017.

Read the exposure draft at www.AICPA.org/NextCPAExam.

Send responses to ExposureDraft@aicpa.org.

A publication of the Connecticut
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From the Executive Director

This is the last edition of the *Connecticut CPA* in calendar 2015. As such, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the year drawing to an end and to look forward into 2016.

Most CTCPA members are aware of the society's concerns about the state of Connecticut's fiscal situation. Since 2010, we have been on the record about Connecticut's long-term debt and its unfunded pension and OPEB benefits. In 2015, the state reached a new level of financial need as it decided to go ahead with ever-increasing levels of spending. When our elected leaders looked to pay for this spending, they chose to raise or increase taxes in numerous respects. The CTCPA was successful in getting them to back off from their proposal to extend sales taxes to our services. While this was a significant victory for our profession, other tax increases adopted continue to hurt the business community here in Connecticut.

Now, as November dawns, the governor and legislature are already getting together to repair a budget that continues to come up short.

As financial professionals, we know our state has huge financial problems. This most recent budget was a disaster for Connecticut before it was adopted. It continues to be problematic with each passing day. We need to remember this as we go through these next twelve months. The people who were elected to represent all the citizens of Connecticut have not done well by the business community or for Connecticut taxpayers.

Next year will also herald in change at the CTCPA. As reported on the page at right, I will retire as executive director at the conclusion of 2016. Accordingly, my main focus in the upcoming months will be to assist the organization in making an efficient and effective transition in management. The search process will be starting up very shortly. I look forward to helping in any way I can in ensuring the society has outstanding staff leadership in the future. Members deserve the best!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Art'.

Art Renner, Executive Director

CTCPA Executive Director Art Renner Announces Retirement Executive Search Committee Members Named



Art Renner
Executive Director

CTCPA Executive Director **Art Renner** has announced he will retire in December of 2016 – a date that will mark 20 years of service to Connecticut’s organized CPA profession.

Renner joined the CTCPA in 1996 after serving as vice president of the Division for CPA Firms at the American Institute of CPAs. He succeeded longtime Executive Director Jack Brooks, who served in that position for more than 30 years.

Under Renner’s leadership, the CTCPA has taken on major initiatives including two physical moves (each to increasingly efficient office and professional meeting space), a

revision of the bylaws to allow students and then non-CPAs to join the membership ranks, a reworking of the leadership structure to the more nimble Board of Directors and Advisory Council model, increasing resources devoted to recruiting and engaging the next generation of CPAs, developing a robust financial literacy outreach program, successfully preventing sales tax on accounting services during multiple legislative sessions, modernizing Connecticut reciprocity and CPA licensing requirements, and more.

The CTCPA Board of Directors has appointed an Executive Search Committee to consider candidates and recommend the next executive director/CEO for the society. The group has already scheduled its first meeting to begin the process and prepare for its endeavors in 2016.

The 2016 Executive Search Committee



Rich Caporaso
Office Managing Partner,
KPMG (Hartford)



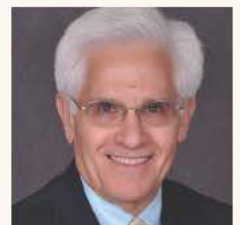
Alan Clavette
Managing Member,
Clavette & Company
(Newtown)



Mitch Insero
Senior Auditor,
CohnReznick
(Hartford)



Brian Kelleher
Partner, Fiondella,
Milone & LaSarcina
(Glastonbury)



Brad Kronstat
Finance Director,
Bergantino Agways
(North Branford)



Greg Lainas
Division Director,
Robert Half
Management
Resources (Hartford)



Corliss Montesi
Vice President/
Corporate Controller,
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Vanessa Rossitto
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Running (and Biking and Swimming) Down a Dream

CPA's Road to the Ironman Paved with Spreadsheets

By Caitlin Q. Bailey O'Neill, Assistant Editor

Randee Roucoulet, a partner at Simone Macca & Larrow's Hamden office and a member of the CTCPA Technology Interest Group, has never backed down from a challenge. So when the longtime biking enthusiast decided she wanted to do an Ironman triathlon in August, she began training with a coach in January.

(Did we mention she does taxes?)

Each day from January through April, Roucoulet woke up at 5 a.m. and headed to the local YMCA for a swim or to the snowy local streets for a run. She'd shower, make the one-hour commute to her office for 9 a.m., do taxes all day, and make the drive home by 10:30 p.m. to do it all again.

Why would anyone want to go through that training, those long days, to swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, and finish off the day with a 26.2-mile marathon?

"Why not?" Roucoulet shrugged.

Analyzing Her Options

Once she decided to tackle the ultimate physical challenge, Roucoulet put her CPA skills to work on everything from her training regimen to selecting her actual Ironman course.

"I like spreadsheets," Roucoulet laughed. "There are 100 of these Ironman events, so I said, I'll make a list. Is it drivable from here? Is it an ocean swim or a lake swim? You have to look at the elevations [for the bike and run]. You'd think flat would be better, but flat means crosswinds. We're used to hilly in New England. These things all make a difference."

According to her Excel calculations, one Ironman rose to the top: the ski village of Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, Canada. "Mont-Tremblant wants to be a destination for Ironman," Roucoulet recalled, remembering how welcoming the volunteers were. "The signs for this event are up all year long."

A manageable six-hour drive from her Simsbury home? Check.

Lake swim? Check.

Comfortable temperatures in the low 60s, with water temperatures that, at under 80 degrees, would allow for a wetsuit and the added buoyancy that a wetsuit affords? Check.

A scenic route with "perfect" elevations weaving through cobblestoned towns and highways, utilizing out-and-back loops to permit maximum cheerleaders and photo opportunities? Check, check, and check.

It was settled – Roucoulet and her cousin Rachel would both aim to become Mont-Tremblant Ironmen on August 16, 2015 (with the support of their "sherpa" husbands).



Have you done great things? Share your story!

If you're a CTCPA member who's an Ironman like Randee or you have another cool hobby or story to share, let us know!

Reach out to Assistant Editor Caitlin Bailey O'Neill at caitlinb@ctcpas.org.

The Big Day

The "P" in Roucoulet's credentials may as well stand for "prepared."

Each Ironman competitor arrives at the course with five bags, carefully labeled, arranged, and transported by the many volunteers. Three of the bags included the necessities for each leg of the journey, but two bags are "special needs" bags available in the middle of the biking and running legs. Competitors can stock those bags with anything and everything they feel they may need, from nutritional bars to Band-Aids.

"I spent a year making lists," Roucoulet said, researching what other participants had done and sketching out her day to pinpoint her necessities. She opted for an all-liquid diet during the

race, special-ordering water she could customize with the amount of electrolytes, flavor, sodium, etc.

When the sun rose in Quebec on race day, August 16, it welcomed an 88-degree day – considerably hotter than the 60s Roucoulet had planned for.

"I spent the first 13 miles of the run dumping water on myself, so when I got to the special needs bag, my shoes were squishing," she remembered. "But I had packed dry socks in the bag!"

If there was a dark spot in the day (both literal and metaphorical), it hit Roucoulet during the run. "I don't like to run," she admitted. "I'd never done a full marathon."



At the end of the first 13-mile loop, she hit a crossroads, with the enormous finish line arch looming at one side – and the second 13-mile loop beckoning from the other side. Fatigued, running on fumes, and now plodding along in the dark, she thought about quitting.

But with the soundtrack of cheers from the finish line punctuating her steps, Roucoulet kept running. Illuminated by the headlamp she had thought to pack into her special needs bag, she reminded herself that every step would bring her closer to finishing the run.

"It's a mental game," Roucoulet said. "Your body wants to quit, but you can keep going if you put in the work and put your mind to it."

"My goal was to finish and not end up in the medical tent," continued Roucoulet – and she did just that. Starting around mile 18, she began planning how she'd end. One final sprint, a fist pump, and the "voice of Ironman" Mike Reilly booming through the speakers: "Randee Roucoulet, you are an Ironman."

Roucoulet has already signed up for the 2016 Mont-Tremblant Ironman, which her husband (and former sherpa!) Phil will do with her. "I'm over the mental part now. I know I can do it. Now I want to do *better*."



Caitlin Bailey O'Neill is the assistant editor of Connecticut CPA magazine. She can be reached at caitlinb@ctcpas.org.



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AICPA Council News

AICPA Looking for Support of Joint Venture with Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and Potential Partnership with State CPA Societies

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) are proposing to join forces to integrate the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation into the future of the AICPA and the accounting profession. The goal is to give accounting professionals an internationally recognized competency designation that doesn't require being a CPA.

What is a CGMA designation?

Headquartered in London, CGMA is the leading globally recognized management accounting designation. Currently, the CGMA is the world's largest professional body of management accountants. Its mission is to help people and businesses to succeed in the public and private sectors.

Worldwide, 150,000 management accountants hold the CGMA designation.

In order to attain the CGMA designation, non-CPAs must complete a minimum of 36 months of relevant

management accounting experience and complete no fewer than four exams, which include three objective assessments and the final CGMA Strategic Case Study. Because of the rigor required to attain CPA status, CPAs pursuing the designation need only complete the CGMA Strategic Case Study.

The goal is to give accounting professionals an internationally recognized competency designation that doesn't require being a CPA.

Why is the AICPA proposing this joint membership now?

In a constantly evolving and changing regulatory environment, professional standards are critical. As business expands globally, the joint venture will help accounting professionals differentiate themselves by achieving a high level of competency. With the proposal, the joint venture would allow the

AICPA to have members in 91 percent of the world's countries and 33 offices in the U.S. and abroad.

This proposal will also give the AICPA a bigger platform to talk with students and graduates about the benefits of the CPA and CGMA designations and the options across public and management accounting.

What are the next steps?

The joint venture was proposed at the October 2015 AICPA Council meeting and the Council voted to go forward with the joint venture. The AICPA is asking state CPA societies to participate by educating students, faculty, and members of the accounting profession of the benefits of the CGMA designation for accountants who are not CPAs.

The CTCPA Board of Directors will meet to formally discuss whether it will support the joint proposal at its January 2016 meeting. We will share additional developments as they become available.



IRS Releases ‘Safeguarding Taxpayer Data’ Guide

Publication 4557 Provides Step-by-Step Checklists for Tax Preparers to Help Prevent Cyber Attacks

Data security is a top concern for tax preparers, who are increasingly a target for data theft because of the amount of sensitive taxpayer information they store. “A cyber theft can severely damage a tax practice or, even worse, put it out of business,” said IRS Senior Stakeholder Liaison **Joe McCarthy**.

According to the IRS, “As the criminals’ efforts increase in sophistication, so do the number and scope of data breaches, which serves to further expand the network and warehousing of stolen and compromised identity information, and in turn increases the potential for that stolen identity information to ultimately reverberate through the tax system.”

In response, the IRS has released Publication 4557, *Safeguarding Taxpayer Data*, which helps tax preparers determine their data privacy and security needs and implement safeguards to meet them in order to protect taxpayer information and help prevent fraud and identity theft.

“The most useful part of IRS Publication 4557 is a series of step-by-step checklists, outlining specific actions you can take to make your tax practice and client tax data more secure,” said McCarthy.

Checklists 4, 5, and 6 of Publication 4557 focus on protecting computer systems and electronic media.

“Please take the time to review the checklists for safeguarding taxpayer data,” said McCarthy. “It will be time well spent.”

The IRS urges individual tax preparers to notify their local IRS stakeholder liaison of any data theft to lessen the impact on clients and the tax system. Contact McCarthy with questions or to report a breach using the contact information at right.

Get Help from Our Local IRS Stakeholder Liaison

For specific questions or to report a data breach, contact our local IRS stakeholder liaison:

Joe McCarthy
IRS Senior Stakeholder Liaison
203-415-1015
joseph.s.mccarthy@irs.gov



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Meet the CTCPA Employee Benefit Plans Interest Group

The Employee Benefit Plans Interest Group monitors developments in the employee benefit plans arena. Friendly, interactive meetings include roundtable discussion of changes affecting plans, auditors, and employers. The group features diversified professionals e.g., auditors, actuaries, third party administrators, and attorneys, engaged in the EBP area.

Outreach to the broader membership includes an annual networking social and sponsoring of an annual Employee Benefit Plans Conference.



Why not try out one of our upcoming meetings?

You don't need to be a group member to attend!

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 • 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Followed by our annual social at 4:00 p.m.!

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 • 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 • 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

*<< Join us at our
annual social on
December 9!*

Join
this group!



Join at www.ctcpas.org/InterestGroups.

Looking to learn a little more? Employee Benefit Plans Interest Group Staff Liaison Lisa Bugryn would be happy to chat. Contact her at 860-258-0232 or lisab@ctcpas.org.

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 - Nashville, Tenn.

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Michael Nobile, CEO



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2015 CPE Calendar

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Date	Title	Express Code	Location	CPE	Member Standard/Early	Early Bird Good Through
November						
11/9	Compilations and Reviews: Engagement Performance and Annual Update	CRAU-B	Norwalk	8	\$320/\$285	10/26/2015
11/10	Analytics and Big Data for Accountants	DAAN	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	10/27/2015
11/11	Annual Update for Controllers	SKSB	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	10/28/2015
11/11	Essentials of Nonprofit Auditing	ENA	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	10/28/2015
11/12	Compliance Auditing from Start to Finish	CAS	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	10/29/2015
11/12	Federal Income Tax Accounting: Maximizing Tax Benefits and Minimizing Tax Costs	INCT	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	10/29/2015
11/12	The New Reporting Option: A Financial Reporting Framework for Small- and Medium-Sized Entities	SMES	Cromwell	8	\$295/\$260	10/29/2015
11/13	AICPA's Annual Federal Tax Update	PTU	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	10/30/2015
11/17	GAAP for the Practitioner	GAAPP	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/3/2015
11/18	Special Purpose Frameworks	SPF	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/4/2015
11/18	The Complete Guide to Liquidation of Business Entities	CGLB	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/4/2015
11/19	Complete Strategies for Maximizing Contributions, Rollovers, Distributions, and Estate Planning of IRAs, SIMPLEs, SEPs, and Roths	CIRA	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/5/2015
11/19	Social Security Benefits: Advising Clients	SSB	Norwalk	8	\$310/\$275	11/5/2015
11/20	How to Settle an Estate for a Client from A to Z	SEAZ	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/6/2015
11/23	The Best Federal Tax Update Course by Surgent	BFTU-A	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/9/2015
11/24	Surgent's Guide to Understanding the Net Investment Income Tax in 2015 (Morning Session)	NIT4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	11/10/2015
11/24	Surgent's Guide to Understanding the Passive Activity Rules in 2015 (Afternoon Session)	PAR4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	11/10/2015
11/30	Accounting and Auditing Update for Small Businesses	SMBZ	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	11/16/2015
11/30	The Best Federal Tax Update Course by Surgent	BFTU-B	Groton	8	\$295/\$260	11/16/2015
December						
12/1	Alternatives to GAAP: Using Special Purpose Frameworks	CTB	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	11/17/2015
12/2	State Tax360°	ST360	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	11/18/2015
12/3	Disclosure: The Key to Financial Statements	DKFS-B	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/19/2015
12/3	Real-World Business Ethics for Tax Practitioners (Morning Session)	CL4TXRWB	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	11/19/2015
12/3	Reviewing Individual Tax Returns: What Are You Missing? (Afternoon Session)	CL4ITRM	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	11/19/2015
12/4	Tips and Tricks for Handling IRS Disputes	DIRS	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	11/20/2015
12/7	Surgent's Federal Tax Camp	SATC	Plantsville	8	\$295/\$260	11/23/2015
12/9	Nonprofit Industry Update and GAAP Refresher	NIU-B	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/25/2015
12/10	Advanced Form 1041 Practice Workshop	AP41	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/26/2015

Do you need Pennsylvania CPE credit? Please let us know!

If you are a Pennsylvania CPA and complete continuing professional education programs through the CTCPA, please take a moment to contact CPE Director **Lisa Bugryn** at lisab@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0232 and let her know. Our Pennsylvania CPE sponsorship is set to expire on January 1, 2016.

► Ready to register?

Go to www.ctcpas.org/register, enter the express code to find your course, and register!



Stay sharp.



Valuation, Forensic, and Litigation Support Group Dinners

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill
Wine and Mingling: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Dinner and Program: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.



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Role of Expert Witnesses in Financial Issues: Feedback From the Bench

Tuesday, November 10

Presented by: **Arnold Aronson**, Connecticut Superior Court Judge Trial Referee

How can financial expert witnesses help the tier of fact in resolving financial issues? How does a judge assess witness credibility? Get feedback directly from the bench.

Valuation of Companies with Negative Earnings: A Practical Approach

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Presented by: **Gregory Guay**, Principal,
Stellar Ventures Merchant Banking

Cyber Liability Essentials

Thursday, December 17

Presented by: **John F. Raspante**, CPA, MST, CDFA,
SVP/Director of Risk Management,
North American Professional Liability Insurance Agency



The Friday Focus for Members in Industry

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • CPE Credits: 2

IT Threats and Trends for 2016

Friday, November 20

Presented by: **Tim Weber**, Manager, Infrastructure Services and
Eric Monda, Senior Systems Engineer, ADNET Technologies

>> Interest Groups Meetings

www.ctcpas.org/interestgroups

State Income Taxation Interest Group

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill
Wednesday, November 18 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Teaming with Your State CPA Society

Presented by: **Amy Pittner**, President/CEO,
Massachusetts Society of CPAs and
Joseph Mooney, CPA, Deputy Commissioner,
Connecticut Department of Revenue Services

Federal Income Taxation Interest Group

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill
Thursday, November 19 • 8:30 a.m.

Social Security and Today's Family

Presented by: **Kristen McGarry**, CRC,
Senior Regional Vice President, Retirement
Solutions Division and **James Schomburg**, JD,
Retirement Resource Group, Pacific Life
Insurance Company

Federal Income Taxation Interest Group

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill
Thursday, January 14, 2016
Registration, Cocktails, Hors d'Oeuvres: 5:30 p.m.
Program: 6:00 - 7:40 p.m. Networking: 7:40 - 8:00 p.m.

Dealing with Foreign Assets for Small Businesses and Professional Practices

Presented by: **Daniel L. Gottfried**, Esq., Partner,
Hinckley, Allen & Synder; **Eric L. Green**, Esq.,
Partner, Green & Sklarz; and **Stephen J. Kaplan**, CPA,
Esq., Kaplan Global Tax Advisor



Torrington CONNec-tion

Northwest Connecticut Chamber of
Commerce, Torrington
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • CPE Credits: 2

Tax Representation: The Impact of Recent Court Decisions

Wednesday, November 18

Presented by: **Thomas S. Groth**, Esq., Glouzgal Ramos Groth



Technology Breakfast Roundtables

Get expert advice from members of the Technology Interest Group in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. No registration necessary. Members purchase their own breakfasts.

CPE credit not available.

Thursday, November 19

Cristy's Luncheonette, Westbrook • 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 16

Riverdale Diner, Shelton • 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 21

New York Pickle Deli, Rocky Hill • 8:00 a.m.



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Save the date for next year!
September 19, 2016
 The Farms Country Club, Wallingford

2015 Educational Trust Fund Golf Tournament

It was a crisp, sunny day on Monday, September 28 for the 21st Annual Educational Trust Fund Golf Tournament at The Farms Country Club in Wallingford. The event was sponsored by Robert Half International. Participants celebrated autumn on the links with a day that included a delicious buffet luncheon, on-course refreshments, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, dinner stations, raffle prizes, awards, and dessert. Each player received a mobile charger as a thanks for their participation.

All proceeds from the tournament are used to fund Educational Trust Fund scholarships and grants, helping tomorrow's CPAs today.

The tournament was coordinated by the 2015 Golf Tournament Interest Group: **Christopher Aroh, Curtis Audibert, Marie Benedetto, Beth Berry, Dawn Brolin, Bernhard Bruder, Kevin Donovan, Charles Frago, Matt Gaieski, Joseph Germain Jr., Richard Gesseck, Thomas Goldfuss III (Chair), Gregory Lainas, Steven LeFebvre, John MacLean, Thomas Marien, Stephen Newman, Michael Notarangelo, and Ralph Takala.**

 View more photos at www.ctcpas.org/photos.



Tournament Results

First Place Gross (136)
 Dave Christie, Bob Demers, Silas Warner, John Thomas

First Place Net (118 Matching Cards)
 Tom Moynihan, Rich Pasinski, Ken Kron, Jim Mahoney

Second Place Net (118 Matching Cards)
 Shawn Anderson, Dave Baskin, Andy Fulmer, Bill Harju

Third Place Net (119 Matching Cards)
 Eric Gerhard, Ronald Pac, Matt Teel

Fourth Place Net (119 Matching Cards)
 Art Baker, Alex Bulger, Steve Richard, Mike Vagnini

Closest to the Line
 Men – Steve Blume
 Women – Katherine McNair

Closest to the Pin
 Men – Andy Fulmer (3' 5")
 Women – Lisa Lavoie (17' 1")





Golf Tournament Interest Group Chair Thomas Goldfuss presented an award of appreciation to longtime interest group Staff Liaison Bonnie Olivieri at the evening reception. Olivieri is turning over the reins to CTCPA staffer Phyllis Roche, who will coordinate tournament planning with the group going forward.

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Special Thanks

BlumShapiro
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 Sean McLaughlin
 Stanley Black & Decker

Special thanks to CTCPA Past President Phil DeCaprio and Bob Olivieri for their efforts in remembrance of CTCPA Past President Frank Frago at the 50/50 raffle hole, and 50/50 raffle winner Todd Pozefsky, who "paid it forward" by donating his share to the Educational Trust Fund.

With sincere appreciation to Jerry Kristafer of WJMJ for his wit and humor as the evening's emcee.

New and Young Professionals Upcoming Events

Learn more and register at www.ctcpas.org/nyp/



CPA Exam Cram
Thursday, November 12
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
CTCPA Education Center

Join us for an informational session (free for members!) geared especially for new professionals and students interested in pursuing the CPA designation.



**Annual Charity Drive:
Pajamas for Local
Kids in Need**
November 16 - December 18

This year's charity drive will benefit Pajama Program, a not-for-profit providing new pajamas to local children in need, many of whom are waiting and hoping to be adopted.

Download and print participation posters for your office at www.ctcpas.org/nyp/.



**Mingling & Merriment
NYP Holiday Party**
Thursday, December 10
6:30 - 10:00 p.m.
The Society Room of Hartford

Mingle with other new and young professionals over drinks and hors d'oeuvres while celebrating the holidays in the stunning Society Room of Hartford.



**9Round Workout Day
for Charity**
Saturday, January 9
12:30 - 5:00 p.m.
9Round Middletown

This charity event benefitting Action for Healthy Kids is co-sponsored by the CTCPA NYP Group and Pr!me, a new group creating programming and events for experienced professionals 35 and older (see page 30 for more). Try out the unique 9Round workout while the facility is open exclusively to CTCPA members and their guests.



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Help us deliver warm sleepwear to children in need!

We're sponsoring drives around Connecticut to benefit Pajama Program, a not-for-profit providing new pajamas to local children in need, many of whom are waiting and hoping to be adopted.



Start collecting now!

Collect new pajamas (size infant through teen – adult size XXXL) in a central location at your office. Encourage staff and clients to join in! You can also make a financial donation payable to Pajama Program.

Download and print a participation poster at www.ctcpas.org/nyp.

Schedule your pick-up.

CTCPA will pick up the items from November 16 to December 18.

To schedule your pick-up, contact Tyler Losure at 860-258-0215 or tylerl@ctcpas.org.

In the neighborhood?

Drop off donations at the CTCPA Education Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, through December 18.

>> Happy Hour and a Headshot

Back by popular demand, the Happy Hour and a Headshot program brought together the CTCPA New and Young Professionals Group and the Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section for a happy hour at the Tavern Downtown in Hartford. Participants enjoyed networking, hors d'oeuvres, and half price drinks for the first hour.

As a special bonus, CTCPA staffers provided a mobile portrait studio so participants could pose for a professional headshot for use with LinkedIn, company websites, etc.





➤ View more photos at www.ctcpas.org/photos.

CTCPA INTERVIEW DAY 2015

The third time was a charm for CTCPA Interview Day; the third annual event resulted in more networking, more connections, and happier firms, students, and professors than ever before! This year's event included 16 CPA firms and companies who interviewed almost 60 students from 13 colleges around the state.

Interview Day provides companies with an opportunity to reach out to students at schools they might not ordinarily be able to visit, exposes students to a wide variety of companies in just one day, and gives professors some help in providing career placement assistance for their students.



"I can't tell you just how much I appreciate this opportunity – from a student's perspective, this event is golden!"

Daniel Wunderlin (pictured on the right in the photo at left)
Senior Accounting Major, Eastern Connecticut State University

Interview Day Success Stories

As this issue went to press, several firms and students had told us of their Interview Day successes, including many second interviews and even one same-day offer! We will continue to collect the data on the connections made at the event and report back in a future issue.



From Student Participants to Firm Representatives

Past Interview Day student participants **Justin Morneault** of BlumShapiro (top photo, right) and **Michael Weymouth** of Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger (bottom photo, left) returned to the event as greeters, representing their firms to the next class of future CPAs.



“It was a real privilege to experience everything full circle. To be able to show the candidates that the process works was worth it in itself. We have already contacted our candidates for second interviews.”

Past Interview Day Student Participant Michael Weymouth
 (pictured in the photo at right)
Staff Accountant, Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger

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Welcome, New Members!

We're pleased to welcome the following individuals to membership:

New Students

Bryant University
Melissa M. Brazee

Central Connecticut State University

Janice L. Williams
Elaine Kong
Genesis Paternina
Connor Rollins
Colin London
Dan Zheng
Erika R. Grant
Piotr Panek
Huifang Li
Jeremy Anderson
Michael Proscino
Edna Malenado
Ashly Herriott
Edin Ahmetovic
Haider Nawaz
Winder R. Luna
Ejike J. Okoro
Lulu Hu
Mihir Dave
Louis Ciarleglio
Jeffrey Cullen
Kenneth Baines
Cynthia Anaeto
Yomalis Rivera
Brook Legassey
Rita Adhikari
Courtney McSwyny
Kevin A. San Angelo
Jacqueline M. Martino
Ulyana Bilyk
Ilirjon Hoxha
Fatana Olomi
Joseph Rapisarda
Cheryl Singletary

Elizabeth Rego
Aiman Bibi
Sovita Thapa Magar
Avery Whittaker
Jessica Rodrigues
Matthew Bellantoni
Isaiah H. Ramos
Morgan Wallace
Kesi Brathwaite
William D. Watson
Anna Tyra

Eastern Connecticut State University

Jesusa Q. Nicholson
Alyssa L. Townsend
John N. Michael
Kelsey F. Mosher
Michelle C. Young
Richard Pearson
Kelly M. Labanara
Destiny J. Hartmann
Josibelk A. Aponte

Fairfield University

Hongxia Chai
Marilyn LaCroce
Austin Murray

Iona College

Sabrina Walters

Iowa State University

Ross Whelan

Post University

John P. Gibbons
Marcia M. Garzon

Sacred Heart University
Aimee Paniccia

Southern Connecticut State University
Sara Goldstein

Three Rivers Community College
Luis A. Delgado Jr.

Trinity College
Diana M. Lestz

University of Hartford
Michael Haines
Matthew Gajowiak
Kieran O'Donnell
Mareidith Wilson
Michael Adekoya
Stephen Machnicz
Joseph Barbiuto
Reginald Dormelas
Reed F. Martin
Daniel Neal
Zachary W. Huxley
Ashley S. Moore
Diana Lestz
Jonathan Monty-Carbonari

University of Alabama
Sarah Wenzel

University of Bridgeport
Ruifeng Li
MM Zhang
Steiner T. Joseph

University of Connecticut
Christopher W. Tweeddale
Rui Xin Zheng
Christina DeBruin
Jamie Wilson
Kathleen Potoniec
Christiana Ciavdelli
Betty Luo
Daniela Hernandez
Meredith Kriz
Zachery Maddocks
Brian Haverkamp
Jamie Wilson
Shannen Ogle
Jonathan Kolakowski
Tianhong Zheng
Yue Wang
Pu Wang
Samson Zhuang
Jesse Eles
Michael R. Mezzo

University of Limerick
Sean Patrick Donovan

University of Scranton
Nora McGoldrick

Western Connecticut State University
Nikki Malhi
Lilian Melo

Student Membership is now FREE!

The future of the accounting profession lies within the students of today. To help enhance our efforts to reach out to students and get them exposed to and involved in the profession, we will no longer charge a \$25 annual fee for student membership.



>> Do you know a college student who would benefit from student membership?

Send him or her to www.ctcpas.org/students or pass along the contact information for Career and

New Associate Members

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BlumShapiro Announces Kask to Serve as Managing Partner



Joseph Kask



Carl Johnson

The BlumShapiro partnership has elected **Joseph A. Kask** as the firm's managing partner effective January 1, 2016. Kask will succeed **Carl Johnson**, who has served as BlumShapiro's managing partner for the past 14 years. Under Johnson's leadership, BlumShapiro has become New England's largest accounting, tax, and business advisory firm.

Going forward, Johnson will serve as the firm's chief operating officer concentrating on internal operations, mergers and acquisitions, and talent acquisition.

"I am honored and humbled to have been elected as BlumShapiro's new managing partner, and I look forward to carrying on our legacy of being New England's top accounting and business advisory firm," Kask said. "I am committed to the values and client service that has made our firm great. We will continue to focus on controlled profitable growth in the northeast, both organically and through strategic acquisitions, while staying active in the communities in which we serve."

Kask joined BlumShapiro as a partner in its Government Services Group in 2007 through a merger with Scully & Wolf, a public sector accounting firm in Glastonbury. He then quickly became the head of BlumShapiro's Government Services Division and served on several of the firm's strategic committees, as well as its Executive Committee. Most recently, Kask served as office managing partner for the firm's West Hartford location.



Firm Moves and Promotions

Send your news of firm moves and promotions to Assistant Editor **Caitlin Bailey O'Neill** at caitlinb@ctcpas.org. Headshot photographs will also be published as space allows.



Thomas Wood

Whittlesey & Hadley promoted **Thomas Wood** to manager in the firm's audit department. He has expertise in serving a wide range of nonprofits based primarily in Hartford and New Haven County.

Whittlesey & Hadley also announced the following promotions to senior audit associate: **Timothy Bessette**, **Nicholas Deets**, **Patrick Kelly**, **Caitlin Main**, **Alex McCabe**, **James Mercadante**, **Andrew Pires**, **Michael Ray**, and **Kyle Rounseville**. **Rachel Hahn** was promoted to senior tax associate, and the firm also hired **Lindsay Tessler** as an audit supervisor.

Barry Broden, a longtime college accounting professor, retired on September 1, 2015. Broden taught undergraduate and graduate-level federal income tax courses at the University of Hartford for 32 years, the University of Connecticut for three years, Mitchell College for two years, the University of Maryland for five years, and the University of Miami for six years, for a grand total of 48 years in the classroom. He was honored with a reception at the University of Hartford on October 13.

Donna Cashman was promoted to audit director at Deloitte in Las Vegas. Cashman spent 18 years at Deloitte in Connecticut before being transferred to the Las Vegas office last year.



By Kirsten Piechota, Managing Editor

For many years, Whittlesey & Hadley was relatively quiet while a throng of other local firms merged into large national firms or acquired smaller ones. Then, in just about a year, the firm relocated from the outskirts of downtown Hartford to the 24th floor of a highrise in the center of the city and merged in two firms.

We recently caught up with firm Managing Partner Drew Andrews to talk about the firm's recent strategic moves and what it takes to be a large, local firm in a market dominated by national mergers.

CTCPA: In just about the past year, Whittlesey & Hadley relocated to the 24th floor of Hartford's 280 Trumbull Street highrise and merged in Lester Halpern & Company of Holyoke and Weinstein & Anastasio, a long-time New Haven-area firm. Why these changes, and why now?

Andrews: A few years ago, some larger firms approached us to potentially merge with them. It was never our goal to do that, but we listened and then we decided that it wasn't – and still isn't – our goal, so we formulated our strategic plan: what we wanted to do to keep this firm going and pass it on to a new generation of partners.

What we decided was that we wanted to upgrade our office space. It was opportune in a couple of ways, because in our old office we had reached capacity through organic growth, so we couldn't hire any more people because we had nowhere to put them.

The partners tasked me to find the place where we would create our new vision. I decided I wanted to be right in downtown Hartford and in this space, which we love. It set the tone.

Then we realized that, although Southern Connecticut and New Haven are maybe 30 minutes away and Spring-

field and Western Mass. is maybe another 30 minutes away and very easy commutes and we had some clients in both those areas, we weren't really developing a lot of business in those areas because we weren't living and working in those areas. So in our strategic plan, we said we should try to find like-minded firms in those areas. We wanted to build across the I-91 corridor a cohesive firm that had depth and strength to be able to provide a multitude of services to our existing clients and to the existing clients of the firms we acquired.

Another part of it was attracting talent. We've found that as we've moved and as we've grown, we're really competing at a higher level for talent. You can see as you walk around that we have a lot of young folks who I'm really enthusiastic about – really talented people. We've been able to compete effectively with bigger firms to get people to come work here.

The physical move elevated our look – our brand – as did being able to say that we have offices in multiple locations, and saying that we're a firm that wants to be local. We want to be in Connecticut and Western Mass. and run it here. The goal is not to say "Let's go find some firm in New York or Chicago to buy us out because we've built

something here." The goal is to say "We're here."

What made these two mergers the right fit?

We've talked to a lot of firms and we've passed on a number of them, mainly because we want to work together with the existing team. We aren't looking for people who want to hand over the firm and retire. We want to find people who think like us and want to work together.

They've taken a long time – both mergers that we've done – it was like courting and dating. All of a sudden you say, "We're so much alike, why not work together instead of separately? We could do so much more together."

The Weinstein folks we've known for years because we were both in the same association – PKF. I used to joke that we should get together. All of a sudden, we said, "Let's figure out a way to do it."

When we met the folks in Holyoke we realized we think alike, so we said, "Let's do something together and provide more for our clients." We might have a skillset that they don't have in Holyoke or vice versa. It just seemed to make a lot of sense.

“We formulated our strategic plan: what we wanted to do to keep this firm going and pass it on to a new generation of partners.”

I don't have [another merger] in my back pocket, but I could see us doing this again with another firm in the next year or two.

Following your mergers to the north and south, are you now looking east and west? What is your growth strategy going forward?

There's a parallel strategy. We're looking for firms that can strengthen what we have already. It could be a Hartford firm that could strengthen our Hartford practice – or Hamden or Holyoke, same way. It's looking for specific niches or services that they have that we might not have.

If something happens in Southern Connecticut, I definitely would want to look that way. I'm looking eastward in Massachusetts – Worcester, Boston – and that's kind of the next path, I think.

Tell me more about your desire to stay local as opposed to joining in the trend to merge into a large national or international firm.

We like running our own show. We like having that flexibility. Even though we've become a larger firm and we've developed the structure that you have to have, there is still flexibility.

One of my partners might come to me and say, “Hey, I met these guys last night who have a startup, and we might not get any fees in the next few years, but they might hit it big.” And we evaluate that and we might take them as a client.

We like servicing our clients with our service model. Does that change when you go to a larger firm? I think it does.

What steps do you take to help work out differences in firm culture following a merger? What's the hardest part?

I think the hardest part is change – trying to ease that change in. I'm a big advocate that the only constant in the

world is change. I think we empower people to come up with a better way of doing things – whether it's the administrative assistant helping prepare financial statements or collating tax returns. Is there a better process?

We're 17 days into our merger in Hamden. We're learning how they do things and they're learning how we do things and we're trying to see if there's something we can learn from them. It's a wide-open, clear piece of paper. It's not an attitude of “This is the way we do it, and this is the way you'll do it.” It's getting people to think alike.

When I went and met the Hamden folks for the first time and they found out they were merging with Whittlesey and Hadley, I said, “This is going to take a little time, but the key is to communicate. If you have a problem, talk to your supervisor, talk to your partners, or call me.”

When I'm there, I'll walk around and see if there are any concerns. Sometimes I think there are things that are just misunderstood and once you get them out there it's not a big deal, and we can solve it very easily.

You said you've had good success with finding and retaining new talent. How will you keep them happy so they stick around?

I tell the young people we hire how when I started here in June of '84 the firm was 20 people. In 1996 I became a partner. In 2008 I became managing partner.

I believe that with a person we hire today right out of college, that can happen again. That opportunity is here for the right person who wants to build a career here. We are the firm in Connecticut to do that.

We get them involved in things like the Connecticut Society. We want them to work together. We see that they socialize together. We've created a culture where they become friends outside of work.



Whittlesey & Hadley Senior Audit Associate Kate Donovan, secretary of the CTCPA New and Young Professionals Cabinet, shows off her wall of CTCPA event notices in the firm's 280 Trumbull Street, Hartford office.

We have a structured program to tell them where they stand and what they have to do to move up, and that there is opportunity here.

I think there's more opportunity at this firm now than there was when I was coming up. We have a group of partners who are probably going to retire in a few years. That's communicated, and it's communicated clearly what you need to do to get there.

And also, there are other alternatives. It used to be more, “You stick around and you become partner or you get out.”

We have a number of people who work less than a full-time schedule, for instance. We don't have a partner at that level right now, but I see a future of us having a partner that's less than full time – probably in the near future.

At a young age we teach people that they have a voice. I'm an audit partner. When we have an audit planning meeting, we bring the whole team in. As part of the planning, I'll engage the new staff and say, “What do you think? Do you have an idea?”

We tell that to the firms we merge in – if you have an idea, tell us. We're open to participation at all levels.



Kirsten Piechota is the managing editor of Connecticut CPA magazine. She can be reached at kirstenp@ctcpas.org.

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Seasonal Tax Preparer – Marcum LLP.

Marcum LLP is seeking seasonal tax preparers to join our growing and well-established national firm in our New Haven, Hartford, and Greenwich, CT offices. The position requires high-energy, experienced tax professionals with strong interpersonal and organizational skills, and minimally 3+ years of income tax review and preparation experience in the fiduciary, individual, corporate, and partnership tax return areas. Minimally must have BS in Accounting degree, and proficient experience with CCH ProSystem fx and Microsoft Office. Our growing tax practice provides tremendous career opportunities in an environment of the highest ethical standards and professionalism. We are committed to practicing work/life balance and offer extremely competitive salary and benefit packages. For further information please visit our career website at www.marcumllp.com, fax: 203-781-960, phone: 203-781-9775, mail: 555 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven, CT 06511.

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We are a mid-sized public accounting firm in Shelton and have been offering quality service to our diverse client base for over 70 years. We are seeking to fill key positions on our team. 3+ years of public accounting experience; CPA a plus. Experience with ProSystem Engagement and Tax and not-for-profit audit experience are a strong plus. Benefits include education reimbursement. Reply to recruiting@venmanllc.com, fax: 203-929-9095, mail: Venman & Co. LLC, 375 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484, Attn: Janet Barillari.

Senior Accountant/Tax – Stuart K. Clark, CPA, LLC. Growing Southington CPA firm

seeks senior level accountant with 3+ years of public accounting experience. Our office is very business casual with unlimited growth and partner potential. Candidate should have strong personal skills and be able to handle direct client contact. Candidate must be able to prepare financial statements, and business (1120, 1120S and 1065) as well as individual income tax returns. Knowledge of QuickBooks, Excel, and Word a must. Knowledge of Ultra Tax software a plus. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume to sclark@stuclarkcpa.com.

Senior Tax Accountant – Friedberg, Smith & Co., PC.

Friedberg, Smith & Co., P.C. is a medium-sized CPA firm located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. We currently have an opening for an experienced senior tax accountant with 2-5+ years of experience to prepare tax returns of varying sizes in various industries including not-for-profit, manufacturing, retail and service as well as individual and estate/gift tax engagements. We are looking for someone who can progress quickly in our firm and possesses skills necessary to move forward on a partner track. The necessary skills include excellent communication skills with clients, staff, and partners; superior tax knowledge; the ability to research tax issues; and proficient computer skills. Qualifications include the following: BA or BS degree in Accounting, CPA or CPA candidate, proficient in Microsoft Office, experience with ProFX Engagement and Tax is a plus. We offer competitive salaries commensurate with experience; excellent benefits including health insurance, life insurance, and a 401(k) plan; a friendly work environment with opportunities for advancement. Website: www.fsco-cpa.com, email: scallanan@fsco-cpa.com, fax: 203-366-1924, phone: 203-

366-5876, mail: 855 Main St – 6th Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

Staff Associate – Filomeno & Company, P.C.

STAFF ACCOUNTANT (Entry Level) – West Hartford. RESPONSIBILITIES include, but not limited to the following: • Tax research, planning, and preparation of 1040, 1065, 1120, 1120S returns • Prepare work papers, financial statements QUALIFICATIONS • Bachelor's degree in accounting or equivalent • Excellent written and verbal communication skills • Attention to detail and accuracy • Organizational and prioritization skills • Experience with QuickBooks, Microsoft Office. Respond via the form at www.ctcpas.org/filomeno, website: www.filomeno.com, fax: 860-561-4347, phone: 860-561-0020, mail: 80 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107.

Tax Manager – Marcum LLP.

Marcum LLP is seeking an experienced Tax Manager to join our growing and well-established national firm in our New Haven, CT office. The position requires a high-energy, experienced tax professional with strong interpersonal and supervisory skills. Candidates to be considered must have their CPA license, along with a minimum of 5+ years experience in public accounting. Individuals must have strong technical skills pertaining to tax preparation and review, tax compliance, agency correspondence, and tax research capabilities. Experience in individual, corporate, and flow through entity is required. MST degree or LLM in Taxation and/or experience in construction accounting is a plus. Our growing tax practice provides tremendous career opportunities in an environment of the highest ethical standards and professionalism. We are committed to practicing work/life balance and offer extremely competitive salary and benefit packages. Website: www.marcumllp.com, fax: 203-781-960, phone: 203-781-9775, mail: 555 Long Wharf Dr., New Haven, CT 06511.

Tax Preparers – Seasonal – Stockwell & Bates LLC.

Northern Fairfield County. Must have 2+ years experience in preparing high-net-worth individual tax returns. Fax: 203-270-1061, phone: 203-270-9312, respond online at www.ctcpas.org/StockwellBates.

Tax Professional – Well-established Stratford tax office

seeking a full- or part-time professional for personal and business tax preparation and bookkeeping. Knowledge of ProSystem fx software and QuickBooks a must. Candidate should also possess the motivation and skills to work independently, have strong personal skills, and be able to handle direct client contact. Business casual environment. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Forward resume to office@talktax.com.

Mergers/Acquisitions

CPA firm would like to buy all or part of your accounting, tax, or investment practice. Call Mark J. Mazzone of D'Agostino & Mazzone at 860-257-4005.

Growing firm interested in acquisitions – Bakewell & Mulhare, LLC. Well-established firm in Litchfield County is looking to acquire other small firms or sole practitioners in need of succession planning. We strive to provide our clients with the highest level of service and technical advice. We have a dedicated staff and a broad spectrum of available services. Please reply with complete confidence to Scott Mulhare at scott@bakewellmulhare.com.

Merge into a larger firm – One of the major firms in Connecticut is interested in merging in another practice. We seek a firm that is interested in becoming an integral part of our long-term growth strategy. If you are concerned about obtaining quality staff or about having the resources to achieve maximum success, we could be the place for you. To discuss this, in complete

confidence, please contact Drew Andrews, Managing Partner, Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C., 280 Trumbull St., 24th Fl., Hartford, CT 06103, phone: 860-524-4430, or email: aandrews@whcpa.com.

Practices for Sale – Accounting Practice Sales. Shoreline New Haven County CPA grossing \$195K, Suburban Hartford CPA grossing \$200K, Hartford CPA grossing \$320,000, New London County accounting/tax practice grossing \$220K, Southern Hartford County CPA grossing \$40K, Litchfield County CPA grossing \$70K, and Hartford EA grossing \$70K. For more info, contact Lori Newcomer at 888-277-6040 or LNewcomer@APSLLeader.com. Seller pays brokerage fee.

Reynolds & Rowella LLP, a leading Fairfield County CPA firm, is interested in potential acquisitions of area practices. Our areas of expertise include closely held businesses, high-net-worth individuals, litigation support, audits, and estates and trusts. We pride ourselves on providing quality, proactive solutions and services to our clients, and we are interested in

discussing how we may provide solutions for your practice, too. Learn more about us at www.reynoldsrowella.com. Direct, confidential inquiries may be initiated via email to frankr@reynoldsrowella.com.

We are a growing two-partner firm in Fairfield County interested in building the major practice in our area. Accordingly, we are exploring merger or affiliation with another strong firm (or individual). For a confidential discussion, please contact Tony Cirone at Equale & Cirone, LLP by phone at 203-798-2721 or email tcirone@ecllp.com.

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10th of the month prior to publication, e.g., December 10 for the January/February issue.



Member Snapshots

We're looking for your snapshots of interest to the general Society membership. Items submitted should relate to Connecticut's professional accounting community and will be included as space allows and at the discretion of the editor. Please send your submissions to Managing Editor **Kirsten Piechota** at kirstenp@ctcpas.org.

RSM Volunteer Day Benefits Multiple Local Nonprofits

RSM (formerly McGladrey – see page 29 for more) held its sixth annual Volunteer Day to benefit local and national nonprofits across the country. More than 2,600 employees and clients joined forces across the nation to give back to their local communities.

Throughout New Haven and Fairfield counties, more than 45 RSM employees volunteered time to help garden, paint, organize donations, and cook for several nonprofit organizations including Person-to-Person, Make-A-Wish Connecticut, Inspirica, Stamford Museum and Nature Center, and the Connecticut Food Bank.



RSM volunteers work at Inspirica (above) and the Stamford Museum and Nature Center (at right) and as part of the firm's nationwide Volunteer Day.



Member Snapshots continued on next page >>

Reynolds & Rowella Day of Caring Benefits Residential Treatment Center



Reynolds & Rowella donated a Day of Caring by 43 staff and partners to make campus improvements at Green Chimneys in Brewster, NY. Green Chimneys is a residential treatment center for young people who benefit from a structured, supportive setting and contact with nature-based therapeutic programs where they can interact with more than 300 animals. Reynolds & Rowella's efforts on behalf of Green Chimneys represented 258 donated hours.

fresh mulch to paths through a wildlife area – home to injured birds unable to survive on their own.

Reynolds & Rowella volunteers also offered vocational guidance to high-school-aged residents, addressing such topics as career options, job interview techniques, and other life skills required by these young people once they leave the Green Chimneys environment.

"We are so grateful to the staff of Reynolds & Rowella for their day of service," says **Kristin Dionne**, director of fund development for Green Chimneys. "Their energy and enthusiasm was apparent. Not only did they make a visible difference to our campus but their contribution in coaching our students in job interviewing skills during several vocational education classes was invaluable."

Volunteers from Reynolds & Rowella worked outdoors on the Green Chimneys campus to paint fencing around a climbing tower and apply



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Member News

Send your news to Assistant Editor **Caitlin Bailey O'Neill** at caitlinb@ctcpas.org.

Headshot photographs will also be published as space allows.

Honors and Awards

The following members were named *Hartford Business Journal* 2015 "CFO of the Year" finalists:

Walter Megenis, CFO
BHHS New England Properties

Richard Yuris, CFO
Ferazzoli-Imports of New England

John Ciochine, CFO
Davidson Specialty Foods

Tom Wood, CFO of the American School for the Deaf, served as a judge.

BlumShapiro was named one of the fastest growing U.S. private companies by *Inc.* magazine in the publication's 2015 "Inc. 5000." The *Inc.* 5000 ranks companies by overall revenue growth over a three-year period. To qualify for the recognition, companies must be privately held, for-profit, based in the U.S., and independent (not a subsidiary or division of another company). BlumShapiro, with its 45-percent growth rate and \$68.4 million in revenues, made the list as one of the fastest growing financial services firms in the nation and one of just two such privately held firms headquartered in the Hartford metro area.

Garry T. Center and his staff celebrated their 31st anniversary of providing tax and accounting services for high-income/high-net-worth individuals and closely held business. His firm also recently received a peer review rating of pass.

Samuel L. Braunstein, a tax and business law attorney and principal with Braunstein and Todisco, P.C. in Fairfield, was selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2014 in the field of business organizations (including LLCs and partnerships).

Members in the Media

Joseph Natarelli, Marcum's national construction industry group leader, and **Anirban Basu**, Marcum's chief construction economist, wrote "The Good, the Bad, and the Inflationary" for the July/August issue of *Construction Accounting and Taxation*.

Marien Named to Auditing Standards Board



Marcia Marien, a partner at O'Connor Davies in Wethersfield and a CTCPA past president, was named to the 2015-2016 Auditing Standards Board (ASB). Marien's term began in October.

The ASB, the AICPA's senior committee for auditing, attestation, and quality control applicable to the performance and issuance of audit and attestation reports for non-issuers, aims to serve the public interest by developing, updating, and communicating comprehensive standards and practice guidance that enable practitioners to provide high-quality, objective audit and attestation services to non-issuers in an effective and efficient manner.

"I am both honored and excited to serve on the Auditing Standards Board," said Marien. "I am grateful to be able to give back to the CPA profession, which has been such a wonderful and defining part of my life."

The ASB recently substantially completed its Clarity Project to make U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) easier to read, understand, and apply. The board redrafted all of the auditing sections in the Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, applied to clarity drafting conventions, and converged the material with the International Standards in Accounting (ISAs).

In addition to her activities with the ASB, Marien recently served as a panelist at the Norwich Community Development Corporation's "Women in Leadership: Harnessing Your Leadership Prowess" program at the Wauregan Ballroom in Norwich.

McGladrey Adopts RSM Brand Name, New Logo



McGladrey announced it will adopt **RSM** as a common brand name, uniting with fellow firms of its global network, RSM International. "The adoption of a common name and unified global brand will better enable current and potential clients of

RSM International firms around the world to more clearly see the strength and broad reach of the global services offered and reinforce our commitment to delivering the power of being understood to middle market leaders worldwide," said **Andy Bosman**, chief marketing officer for McGladrey and chairman of RSM International's global marketing and communications committee.

The brand officially launched on October 26, 2015, when RSM International firms adopted the unified global brand name, "the power of being understood" brand positioning, and a new logo (pictured above).



Pr!me is a brand-new CTCPA interest group charged with creating programming and events for professionals 35 and older, with an emphasis on charity and community-based events.

Join
this group!



Join the Pr!me Planning Group at www.ctcpas.org/pr!me

We're looking for volunteers to help us develop fun programs that support worthwhile causes for members 35+. Our goal is to organize three events in the coming year. Help us do great things while having a really good time!

Want to learn more? Membership Coordinator Liz Frazza would be happy to chat. Contact her at 860-258-0220 or lizf@ctcpas.org.

See what we're all about at our upcoming events!



Pr!me Bowling Night

Thursday, November 5 • 6:30 p.m.

Revolutions Bowling and Lounge, South Windsor

We'll enjoy a night of fun, food, and friendly competition at Revolutions Bowling and Lounge, a high-tech, upscale alley.

Member fee: \$20 **Nonmember fee:** \$25

Includes shoes, up to three hours of bowling, pizza, wings, salad, and soft drinks.



9Round Workout Day for Charity

Saturday, January 9 • 12:30 - 5:00 p.m.

9Round Middletown

Drop in anytime for your 30-minute workout.

This charity event to benefit Action for Healthy Kids is co-sponsored by the CTCPA New and Young Professionals Group and Pr!me. Try out the unique 9Round kickboxing workout while the facility is open exclusively to CTCPA.

Cost: \$10 per person. (\$5 goes to Action for Healthy Kids.)

>> Learn more and register at www.ctcpas.org/pr!me.



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