



UNIVERSITY
OF TASMANIA



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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INTRODUCTION

The 2005 Report of the School of Accounting & Finance is the sixteenth Annual Report published by the School. The aim of the Report is to provide a brief summary of the staff, teaching, research and professional activities of the School.

MISSION STATEMENT

The School of Accounting & Finance is committed to excellence in teaching and research.

AIMS

In common with other academic schools in a university, the School of Accounting & Finance pursues the major aims of teaching, research and professional development.

In teaching, the School's primary aim is to provide education of the highest quality for students who wish to study accounting and finance.

Research is seen as an essential role of the School and contributes significantly to the development of the professions and to teaching that is conducted by the School. In research, the major aim of the School is to undertake high quality research in significant areas of interest to staff in the School, with the results to be published in academic and professional journals or, where appropriate, in specialised research reports.

In professional development, the aims of the School are:

- To have a consistent presence and influence with the major accounting bodies (CPA Australia, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, and the National Institute of Accountants) and with finance organisations such as the Finance and Treasury Association;
- To maintain strong links with accounting firms, industry and government.

Each year, the School aims to offer a number of professional development courses to the business and government community.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REVIEW

The School of Accounting and Finance has continued to provide excellent teaching and learning experiences for its students during 2005 and at the same time staff maintained pursuit of research objectives. The achievements of the School during 2005 were admirable. The postgraduate programs; a Master of Professional Accounting and a Master of Professional Accounting (Specialisation), which commenced in July 2004, grew quickly. Indications are that these courses will continue to experience rapid growth and will be especially popular with international students.

The number of students enrolled in the 'fully flexible' major in Corporate Governance, offered in the Bachelor of Commerce, has steadily increased since its inception at the beginning of 2003. The School is extremely proud of this initiative, which has seen the professional development of interactive CDs, and web based learning supplemented with printed materials. The 'fully flexible' teaching and learning concept allows students to study in their own space at their own place at their own pace. The School continues to conduct focus group meetings with students enrolled in the major and the feedback indicates that the concept is extremely popular. Based on the focus group feedback, the School continues to improve the major.

Staff from the School continue to be research active and this is reflected in the research presentations and publications attained during the year and referred to in the body of this report. This output is admirable considering the number of early career research staff in the School. A number of these staff are also enrolled in Higher Degree by Research courses, which should see the research productivity of the School increase markedly in years to come. Sue Hrasky commenced her PhD studies on a full time basis in 2005 and will work on a .2 appointment for the School until she completes her PhD. The School wishes her every success in her studies and looks forward to her return to the School upon the successful completion of her PhD. The number of PhD students in the School increased during the year to seven and the School also has one Masters by Research student enrolled.

The School is particularly proud of its ongoing relationship with Tasmanian business and, in particular, the accounting profession and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. The long established relationship with CPA Australia and the National Institute of Accountants (NIA) is increasingly providing support and sponsorship to the School and its students. A highly successful International Conference on Innovation in Accounting Education was run in Hobart in February 2005. This conference was sponsored by CPA Australia, the NIA and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. The School plans to run this conference on a biennial basis with the second conference also being offered in Hobart, in 2007.

The School continues to provide teaching and learning across a number of major locations in Tasmania, and in its offshore operations in Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, Indonesia and China. This has occurred despite the difficulties in staffing it faces and the tightening of funding to Universities during the last few years. The reputation of the School continues to grow and with the hoped for appointment of more senior academic staff at professorial level, the School should continue to excel in 2006.

Trevor Wilmshurst
Head of School

STAFF

PROFESSOR

Gary O'Donovan

PhD (VicMelb), GradDip Commercial Data Processing (FIT), GradDip Ed (WAIT), BBus – Acc (FIT), CPA



Professor Gary O'Donovan joined the School in January 2003 and was the Head of the School of Accounting & Finance until September 2005 when he took over the role of Acting Dean of the Faculty of Business. He was Head of School, Accounting and Finance, at Victoria University (VU) from 2000-2002 and prior to that was a Senior Lecturer in Accounting at VU from 1987-2000. He also held the position of Deputy Director of the Centre for International Corporate Governance Research at VU during 2002. Gary worked in a Chartered Accounting firm in Melbourne for 6 years prior to joining academia. He holds the status of CPA with CPA Australia and during 2005 was Deputy President of the Divisional Council of the Tasmanian Division of CPA Australia. He is also a registered company auditor and primarily uses this registration for community groups and charitable purposes.

He has presented a number of research papers in the areas of social and environmental and Triple Bottom Line (TBL) reporting at both international and national conferences and seminars and has been published in refereed scholarly journals and professional journals. Gary has long established professional accounting connections in this area in his role as Chairman and Convenor of the Social and Environmental Accounting Discussion Group for CPA Australia, Victorian Division, a position he occupied from 1993-2002. He has also prepared and presented seminars in accrual accounting for the Federal Centrelink agency and for many years has prepared and presented seminars and training sessions on understanding and analysing financial statements on behalf of the Securities Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

During 2005 he was on the editorial board of the News Journal for the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Accountability and is also a member of the Editorial Advisory Panel of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Review, which is a refereed journal emanating from the Interdisciplinary Environmental Association located in Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. He has recently joined the editorial board of the Journal of Accounting and Organisational Change.

SENIOR LECTURERS

Kathy M Gibson

BBus (VUT), GradDip App Sci (Deakin), GradDip App Fin & Inv (SIA), MCom (Deakin), FCPA

Kathy Gibson was appointed to a lectureship in accounting in the School at the end of 1993, after six years as a lecturer/senior lecturer at Victoria University, Melbourne. Prior to that she was an investment analyst in stockbroking and merchant banking both in London and Australia, and spent 11 years in the hospitality industry as a finance director and company secretary. Her main research interests are in accounting theory, social and environmental accounting, and



accounting philosophy. Kathy's work in this area has been published in international refereed journals and she has presented papers at conferences both in Australia and overseas. She is also an International Associate of the Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Formerly Editor of the News Journal of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Accountability, Kathy remains on the editorial board, and also acts as referee for many international accounting journals. Kathy was Chair of the Commerce Degree Board of the Faculty of Commerce from 1998-2000, and was Acting Head of the School of Accounting & Finance in 2001-2002. She is also a past president of CPA Australia (Tasmanian Division), chaired the CPA's national Centre of Excellence for Ethics and Corporate Governance, and in 2001, was awarded the CPA's prestigious President's Award for her contribution to the accounting profession. In October 2003 Kathy was appointed Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning) of the Faculty of Commerce and Offshore Academic Co-ordinator for the Faculty. In November 2003 she was seconded by the Faculty until 2006 and accordingly, she did not take part in the activities of the School in 2005. Her contribution to the School's teaching and research in previous years has been substantial and her contribution in 2005 was sadly missed. The School looks forward to her return to normal duties.

Trevor Wilmshurst

BCom (Melb), DipEd (Melb), BEd (Mon), GradDip Curr (Melb), MEc (UNE), PhD (RMIT), CPA



Dr Trevor Wilmshurst was appointed to a senior lectureship in accounting in the School of Accounting & Finance at the beginning of 2003. In September 2005 he assumed the position of Acting Head of School when Professor O'Donovan stepped down as Head. Dr Wilmshurst holds a variety of academic qualifications including a Bachelor of Commerce, a Diploma in Education and a Graduate Certificate in Curriculum Development earned at the University of Melbourne, a Bachelor of Education at Monash University, a Master of Economics, supervised by Professor Craig Deegan, at the University of New England and a Doctor of Philosophy from RMIT University, supervised by Professor Craig Deegan. He has extensive experience in the area of education both in teaching and curriculum development. Over the past 25 years Trevor has worked in secondary schools, TAFE colleges and in the University system. In teaching he has taught extensively in the areas of financial accounting, management accounting, accounting information systems, social and environmental accounting and risk management. Dr Wilmshurst has extensive experience teaching into international programs in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. In the curriculum area Trevor has been extensively involved in the development of programs and has served in a number of curriculum development roles. He has also been involved in the development of and implementation of program budgeting frameworks within a number of schools in the Victorian secondary system. Trevor has been involved in research primarily in the area of social and environmental accounting, with interests extending to education, small business and the profession. Dr Wilmshurst's PhD examined the development of stakeholder theory, applying a metaphoric theoretical structure to environmental reporting by corporations. Trevor has presented widely at national and international academic conferences and has presented to professional groups in the areas of social and environmental accounting including triple bottom line, small business and financial analysis. He has been published widely in both national and international academic journals, and in professional journals. Currently, Trevor is supervising five PhD students together with Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan and one MCom student in the areas of social and environmental accounting, accounting information

systems and financial accounting. Dr Wilmshurst has also undertaken a number of reviews of papers for journal editors, conference organisers and publishers, and was joint editor of the APCEA Journal in 2005. Additionally he has presented to, and on behalf of, a number of professional groups including the Australian Chamber of Manufacturers, the Securities Institute of Australia, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the National Institute of Accountants, Utas Innovation and CPA Australia. Currently Dr Wilmshurst is undertaking research in the areas of stakeholder theory development, motivation to report financial information, aspects of the flexible delivery of education with a particular interest in hybrid interpretations, and in the transport infrastructure within Tasmania.

LECTURERS

Tom Baxter

**BEd, LLB (Hons) (Tas), GradCertLegPrac (Tas), LLM (ANU)
Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Tasmania and the High Court of Australia**

Tom Baxter joined the School in June 2003 as a lecturer in commercial law. Tom graduated from the University of Tasmania then worked as a lawyer in Hobart for Dobson, Mitchell and Allport from September 1997 to December 1999. From January 2000 to May 2003 he was Legal Officer for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, a Commonwealth statutory authority based in Queensland that is responsible for the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Tom's research and teaching interests include environmental law, corporate regulation and accountability, and corporate governance.



Peter H Collett

BEd (Tas), BA (Hons)(Tas), BCom (Hons)(Tas), MA (Syd), DipEd (Tas), CPA

Peter Collett joined the School as a lecturer in accounting in early 1990 after gaining extensive teaching experience in Tasmanian high schools and colleges in the areas of accounting and legal studies. He is the Coordinator of the Master of Professional Accounting Program now offered by the School. His research interests are in the areas of regulation of accounting education and professional ethics. He served as a technical consultant to, and subsequently member of, CPA Australia's Ethics and Corporate Governance Centre of Excellence from when it was established in Hobart in 1992 until 2002. Peter has published in refereed academic and professional journals in Australia and he has presented various seminars.



Barry J Hicks

BA (Syd), LLB (Syd)



Barry Hicks joined the School in 1990 as a lecturer in commercial law. He was admitted as a solicitor in Sydney in 1976 and practised there until the end of 1988. During 1989 he was a tutor in commercial law at the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, Sydney. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of corporate regulation and accountability, corporate governance, financial planning and regulatory compliance. Barry has co-authored two texts on

Australian Financial Institutions Law and a book on Personal Financial Management. He has also published in refereed journals. He is the coordinator of the Company Directors' Course offered by the Australian Institute of Company Directors at the University in Hobart in conjunction with the School. He presents Modules in the Course and has presented a number of short courses and seminars for private and public sector organisations.

Sue Hrasky

BCom (Hons)(Tas), MSoc Sci (Tas), GradDip A (AppLing) (Monash), CPA

Sue Hrasky joined the School in 1987 as a lecturer in accounting. Her previous positions include tutor in accounting with the School, and Financial Analyst with Telecom Australia. Her current teaching and research interests are in the areas of corporate reporting and accounting education. Sue has published in refereed journals and co-authored a book, Personal Financial Management. She has conducted various seminars for private and public sector organisations. Sue is currently enrolled in a PhD program in the School in the area of multimodal semiosis in annual reports.



David Moore

BEd (Melb), GradDip Comp Ed (Melb), GradDip Acc (Monash), MBus (RMIT)

David joined the School as a Lecturer in 2004. Prior to that he was an Associate Lecturer at RMIT University where he completed his Master of Business. David's current teaching is in the area of management, financial and social and environmental accounting. He is currently enrolled in a PhD program in the School examining the impact of National Competition Policy reforms on accountability structures of public sector utilities, using Anthony Giddens' structuration theory as a theoretical framework.

Sonia Shimeld

AssDip (Acctg), BCom (Hons)(Newcastle), MCom(Newcastle), Grad Cert ULT (Tas), ASA CPA



Sonia joined the School as an associate lecturer in January 2003 and was appointed to a lectureship in 2004. Prior to joining the School she was an associate lecturer at the University of Newcastle (NSW) for 7 years. She completed a Graduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching at the University of Tasmania in 2005. Sonia's current teaching is in the areas of Taxation, Globalisation and Accountability, Accounting Theory and Financial Management. She is currently enrolled in a PhD in the School in the area of corporate governance in sporting organisations.

ASSOCIATE LECTURERS

Simone Bingham

BEC-LLB (Tas), BCom (Hons) (Tas), GradCertLegPrac (Tas), Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Tasmania and the High Court of Australia

Simone Bingham joined the School in 2001 as a casual tutor in commercial law and became an associate lecturer in commercial law in February 2003. She was admitted as a solicitor in Hobart in 1990 and practised in the areas of commercial and family law until January 2003. Simone completed her Honours degree in Commerce at the end of 2004. Her dissertation investigated education and training in the Tasmanian real estate industry to see if it has a compliance focus. Simone's teaching and research interests are in the areas of commercial transactions, corporate regulation and accountability, corporate governance and taxation.



Sally Chaplin

BCom, BIS (Hons) (Tas) PNA



Sally Chaplin joined the School as an associate lecturer in July 2002. Prior to joining the School Sally worked as an analyst accountant with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in Hobart. Her interest in accounting began at Coopers & Lybrand (now PriceWaterhouse Coopers) in Sydney and her broad career experiences incorporate small and medium business management and the banking and finance sector. Sally's current teaching and research interests are in the areas of accounting information systems, performance auditing and small and medium sized enterprises. She is currently enrolled in a PhD in the School in the area of outsourcing of accounting professional services and taking action to ensure retention in Australia.

Helena Maria Mitev

MBA (Prof Acc.) (VU), MSc (Econ) (Varna), ASA CPA, EAA

Helen joined the School as an associate lecturer in January 2003. Her teaching and research are informed by her international business experience. She has travelled across three continents working as a company executive officer and an accredited ISO auditor. Her academic qualifications include two masters degrees in economics and business (Professional Accounting). Helena is pursuing a PhD in the area of international accounting education, which is part of her wider research interest in corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. Among her many community activities, she is most proud of her work for the United Nations Association of Australia. Since 2003 she has taught units in auditing and risk management. In recognition of her excellence in teaching she was awarded a Teaching Merit Certificate in 2005.



Bernadette Smith

BCom (Hons) (Tas) Grad Cert ULT (Tas)



Bernadette joined the School in January 2002 through the cadetship program working on a fractional appointment as an associate lecturer. During 2003 she continued as a fractional appointment and completed her Honours degree, achieving a First Class award. In January 2004 Bernadette accepted a full-time position with the School. Previously her experience included accounting in the areas of small business, not-for-profit organisations and the banking and finance sector. Her current teaching and research interests are in the areas of financial accounting, reporting and disclosure, taxation and accounting education. In 2005 Bernadette successfully completed the Graduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching at the University of Tasmania.

Cheong Sing Tng

BSc (Hons) MFM (CQU)

Cheong Sing joined the School as an associate lecturer in August 2004. After obtaining a Master of Financial Management from Central Queensland University in 2001, he proceeded to study for the Chartered Financial Analyst examination and enrolled in Southern Cross University's Doctor of Business Administration program to conduct an empirical study of the factors influencing unit trust performance. Before coming to Tasmania he held various academic and administrative positions in Singapore.

Belinda Williams

BCom (Tas), CPA

Belinda Williams joined the School as an associate lecturer in January 2002. Her previous work experience includes nine years working in the Division of Finance and Administration at the University of Tasmania and one year at KPMG. Her current teaching and research interests are in the areas of taxation and financial accounting. Belinda is currently enrolled in a Master of Commerce program in the School in the area of Accounting Standards and Self-Generating and Regenerating Assets.



VISITING LECTURERS, TUTORS AND MARKERS

From time to time the School is required to appoint casual lecturers, tutors and markers to enable it to meet its teaching commitments in various units and programs. The School is very fortunate to have been able to call upon the following casual staff in 2005 and thanks each of them for their important contribution to the teaching program offered by the School to its students.

Steve Allen, Lecturer
Lynette Beckett, Tutor
Monique Blackman, Tutor
Jennifer Byrne, Marker
Robert Czernkowski, Lecturer
Dr Keryn Chalmers, Lecturer

Daniel Clarke, Marker
Luke Curtain, Marker
Michael Fabisiak, Marker
Derris Gilham, Program Developer
Susan Goodman, Tutor
Kieran Helm, Marker
Professor Keith Houghton
Peter Nesbitt, Lecturer
Mohd Shaari Abd Rahman, Tutor
Shar Molloy, Tutor
Brad Potter, Lecturer
John Pugh, Lecturer
Georgina Rhodes, Marker
Ryan Sharp, Tutor
Matthew Springer, Lecturer
Kate Stephenson, Lecturer
John Streeter, Lecturer
Jeffrey Tongs, Tutor
Marko Vukosav, Marker
Anastacia Yuan, Tutor
Anna Wells, Tutor
Guneratne Wickremasinghe, Marker
Ming Chao Wong, Lecturer
Michael Woodruff, Marker

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The academic staff in the School would be unable to perform their teaching and research duties without the high quality administrative services provided by the following staff. The School thanks each of them for their contribution.

Suellen Lampkin	Executive Assistant, Hobart
Tam Lynch	School Instructional Designer, Faculty of Commerce, Hobart
Dee Robinson	Administrative Officer, Launceston
Adriana Siely	Administrative Officer, Hobart

SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE

In the past the School established a School Liaison Committee to maintain and develop interaction on both teaching and research between the School and representatives of accounting firms, financial institutions, professional bodies, industry and government. The Committee did not meet in 2005 as the Faculty of Commerce continues to investigate the possibility of forming a larger Faculty Liaison Committee to replace School Liaison Committees.

The School continues to be appreciative of the past contributions made by the outside members of the Committee and looks forward to future consultation and meetings with them.

TEACHING

COURSES & UNITS OFFERED IN 2005

Bachelor of Commerce

(Accounting Major and Corporate Governance Major)

First Year

BFA103 Accounting & Financial Decision Making
BFA104 Accounting Context & Method
BFA141 Commercial Transactions
BFA181 Financial Management

Second Year

BFA201 Financial Accounting
BFA206 Globalisation & Accountability
BFA207 Social & Environmental Accounting
BFA209 Corporate Reporting and Disclosure
BFA211 Corporate Governance
BFA221 Accounting Information Systems
BFA241 Corporate Regulation & Accountability
BFA261 Management Accounting
BFA281 Financial Management

Third Year

BFA301 Advanced Financial Accounting
BFA302 Accounting Theory
BFA303 Auditing
BFA305 Financial Planning (Hobart only)
BFA306 Public Sector Resource Management
BFA307 Social & Environmental Accounting
BFA311 Corporate Governance
BFA320 Corporate Internship
BFA341 Corporate Regulation and Accountability
BFA347 Regulatory Compliance
BFA366 Organisational Risk Management
BFA391 Taxation

Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)

BFA410 Research Methods
BFA417 Aspects of Voluntary Corporate Disclosure
BFA418 Issues in Corporate Governance
BFA420 Advanced Accounting Theory
BFA429 Corporate Governance and Accountability

Master of Business Administration

BFA582 Financial Reporting and Analysis
BFA682 Law for Managers

Master of Professional Accounting

Master of Professional Accounting (Specialisation)

BFA703 Introduction to Financial Management
BFA704 Organisational Risk, Technology and AIS
BFA705 Financial and Corporate Accounting
BFA706 Business Law
BFA707 The Accounting Framework
BFA712 Management & Cost Accounting
BFA713 Audit and Assurance
BFA714 Australian Tax Law
BFA715 Accounting Theory
BFA726 Corporate Law and Regulation

STUDENT LIAISON MEETINGS

As part of its commitment to excellence in teaching, the School conducts Student Liaison Meetings in Hobart, Launceston and the North West Centre in Semester 1 and Semester 2 each year. The purpose of the meetings is for the Head of School, or his delegate, to receive feedback from students on their experiences of teaching and learning in units offered by the School. The meetings are open to all students undertaking units offered by the School and have been held since 1996. The meetings in 2005 attracted students on all campuses. A variety of important matters were discussed and a number of initiatives are planned in 2006 that will address the issues raised.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL

In 2005, there were approximately 185 international students enrolled in undergraduate units in the Accounting and Corporate Governance Majors of the Bachelor of Commerce Degree offered by the School on the Hobart and Launceston campuses. The largest numbers of international students in Tasmania are from Malaysia and Singapore, but there are also students from China, South Korea, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and other countries.

The School has international students enrolled in the Accounting Major at private colleges in Malaysia and Singapore, and is also offering first year accounting and commercial law units to students at a private college in Indonesia as part of the Offshore Commerce Degree Program. There are also students (approximately 400) enrolled in the foundation first year accounting unit which forms part of the Bachelor of Information Systems that is offered at the Shanghai Fisheries University (SFU) in China. In 2005 the Faculty of Commerce began to offer the Bachelor of Commerce degree program to students enrolled at SFU and the foundation first year accounting unit is part of the program. The new offering will increase enrollments in the School's first year unit. The first year law unit will also be offered.

In recent years, as a result of the decision by the Faculty of Commerce to award advanced standing in certain cases, increasing numbers of students have gained entry to the second year of the BCom in Tasmania. Such students have typically completed studies at polytechnics or colleges in their home country and the awards of these institutions have been recognised by the Faculty when students come to

Tasmania to study. In the case of MPA students, the Faculty has also awarded advanced standing in certain cases for individual units in the MPA program. Such applications are based upon successful completion of units in relevant overseas programs.

In 2005 International Students were also enrolled in the Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) and Master of Professional Accounting (Specialisation) (MPAS) programs that commenced in 2004 for the first time in the School. Approximately 11 students were enrolled in 2004 but in 2005 this number increased substantially to approximately 90 students which was very satisfying for the School and the Faculty in view of the special efforts that had been made to develop and offer the program. The majority of the students came from China but there were also students from other countries and some local students. With the significant success of the MPA program in 2005 compared to 2004, it is envisaged that numbers of students enrolling in the program from overseas countries will increase again in 2006 and bring more international students into the School. There are indications from the University International Office that a further increase can be expected as it makes overseas visits to institutions to raise the profile of the program and to develop interest.

HONOURS AND POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

General

In 2005 the School of Accounting & Finance taught in the following degree courses and programs offered by the Faculty of Commerce.

Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)
Master of Commerce (MCom)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Enrolments in 2005

Enrolments in the School's honours and postgraduate programs have grown considerably in recent years. During 2005 there were candidates enrolled as follows:

Doctor of Philosophy

Candidate: **Sally Chaplin**
Supervisors: Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan & Dr Trevor Wilmshurst
Enrolled: 2003
Topic: *"Outsourcing of Accounting Professional Services and taking action to ensure retention in Australia".*

Candidate: **Sue Hrasky**
Supervisor: Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan
Enrolled: 2003
Topic: *"A multi-modal analysis of the content in the annual reports of listed Australian Companies."*

Candidate: **Mohammed Shaari Abdul Rahman**
Supervisor: Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan & Dr Trevor Wilmshurst
Enrolled: 2003
Topic: *"The Utilisation of Data Mining Techniques within the Accounting Information Systems in the Government Sector in Malaysia - Modelling Practice".*

Candidate: **David Moore**
Supervisor: Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan & Dr Trevor Wilmshurst
Enrolled: 2005
Topic: *"Structuration Theory: A theoretical framework for investigating public sector accountability structures".*

Candidate: **Thuyanee Pothisarn**
Supervisor: Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan & Dr Trevor Wilmshurst
Enrolled: 2005
Topic: To be determined.

Candidate: **Bungon Sawatsuk**
Supervisors: Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan & Dr Trevor Wilmshurst
Enrolled: 2004
Topic: *"Toward the enhancement of risk management and internal control in the accounting information systems in Thai firms".*

Candidate: **Sonia Shimeld**
Supervisor: Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan
Enrolled: 2003
Topic: *"Corporate Governance in sporting organisations: Impacts and effects on stakeholders and the organisation".*

Master of Commerce

Candidate: **Shang-Mou (Andrew) Deng**
Supervisor: Professor Gary O'Donovan
Enrolled: 2002 (Part-time)
Topic: *"An Investigation into the adoption of Environmental Reporting and GRI Guidelines"*

Candidate: **Belinda Williams**
Supervisor: Dr Trevor Wilmshurst
Enrolled: 2002 (Part-time)
Topic: *"Assessment of the Implementation of AASB 1037: Has Comparability been Achieved?"*

Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)

Candidate: **Daniel Clarke**
Supervisor: Dr Trevor Wilmshurst
Enrolled: 2005 (Full-time)
Topic: Corporate Annual Report Obfuscation: Readability and readability variability in Australian Annual Reports
Completed honours and graduated in December 2005

Candidate: **Clare Mason**
 Supervisor: Tom Baxter
 Enrolled: 2005 (Full-time)
 Topic: 'The use of metadiscourse in environmental disclosures'.
 Did not complete honours in 2005. Completion delayed until 2006.

Candidate: **Caroline Tan**
 Supervisor: To be determined
 Enrolled: 2005 (Enrolled Part-time as part of the Honours Cadetship Program)
 Topic : To be determined

Candidate: **Debbie Wills**
 Supervisor: To be determined
 Enrolled: 2005 (Enrolled Part-time as part of the Honours Cadetship Program)
 Topic : To be determined

NOTE: The Honours Cadetship Program was introduced some years ago as an initiative designed to assist the School in securing and increasing honours enrolments. Cadetships are offered to honours students on an 18 month or two year contract basis. Cadets are required to assist with the work of the School for 6 hours per week and undertake duties such as tutoring, marking and research assistance under the direction of School staff. Cadets are offered a remuneration package for the duration of the cadetship.

Career Paths Pursued by Recent Postgraduate and Honours Students

Keryn Chalmers,	PhD	2001	Academia, Associate Professor in Accounting, Monash University
Ping Sheng Koh	PhD	2001	Academia, Lecturer in Accounting, School of Commerce, University of Queensland
Isaac Otchere	PhD	2000	Academia, Associate Professor, Finance, Faculty of Business Administration, University of New Brunswick
Stephen Vickers	PhD	2001	Academia, Office of Lifelong Learning, The University of Edinburgh
Jessica Ang	Hons	1999	Profession, Ernst & Young, Singapore and Sydney
Bai Liu	Hons	1999	Business, Commonwealth Bank, Sydney
Courtney Chugg	Hons	2003	Profession, KPMG Melbourne
Carlin Dowling	Hons	1999	Business, Lecturer in Accounting, University of Melbourne
Nikole Gyles	Hons	1999	Profession, Senior Analyst, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Daron Heald	Hons	2000	Business, TOTE, Tasmania
Anna King	Hons	2000	Business, National Foods, Tasmania
Li Peng Lim	Hons	1999	Profession, Australian Accounting Research Foundation Internship, Ernst & Young, Sydney
Bernadette Smith	Hons	2003	Academia, Associate Lecturer in Accounting, University of Tasmania
Joanna Spencer	Hons	2003	Profession, Research Officer, AARF

RESEARCH

The School conducts research in five main areas: financial accounting and auditing; management accounting; finance; accounting information systems; and commercial law and corporate governance. These areas reflect the major specialisations within the School.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Tom Baxter continued research in the area of environmental law and policy and presented three conference papers in 2005.

Simone Bingham submitted and presented a conference paper on regulatory compliance in the real estate industry.

Sally Chaplin conducted research in connection with her PhD in the area of outsourcing of accounting services and taking action to ensure retention in Australia.

Peter Collett together with Sue Hrasky and Nikole Gyles, submitted an article analysing factors associated with undergraduate student success rates to the journal *Global Perspectives on Accounting Education*.

Kathy Gibson continued to explore issues of accountability and the contribution that the accounting discipline can make towards social equity, ecological sustainability and environmental conservation.

Barry Hicks continued research in relation to corporate governance and regulatory compliance.

Sue Hrasky in addition to her ongoing doctoral research investigating multimodal semiosis in annual reports, commenced two projects with colleagues, one investigating the use of metadiscourse in annual report narratives and the other investigating differences between local government and private sector report narratives. A working paper from the latter project was accepted for presentation at the 10th *One Day Symposium on Issues of Accountability and Performance* which will be hosted by Griffith University in February 2006. She continued work with Bernadette Smith into aspects of communicative clarity in concise annual reports, presenting a working paper to the School during 2005. A joint paper with Peter Collett investigating aspects of flexible education and student success rates was submitted to *Global Perspectives on Accounting Education* towards the end of 2005.

Helena Mitev conducted research in connection with her PhD in the area of international accounting education. She also presented a conference paper on non-executive directors at an International Conference on corporate social responsibility as well as a paper on risk management at an International Conference on Critical Discourse Analysis. She chaired sessions at both conferences.

David Moore enrolled in a PhD program in the School and began undertaking research in connection therewith that examines the implications of National Competition Policy with respect to the regulation of accounting systems and systems of accountability within water utilities, using a structuration theory approach. He

submitted and presented a conference paper at an international conference on international accounting issues. He also submitted two further conference papers that were accepted for presentation at conferences in 2006, the Fifth One Day Symposium on Accountability, Governance and Performance at Griffith University and the 18th Asia Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues to be held in Hawaii.

Gary O'Donovan undertook and/or continued research in relation to the following papers for conference submission and/or publication:

Environmental Reporting in Australia (with Kathy Gibson)

Development of Indicators for Triple Bottom Line Reporting (with Dwyer, L. UNSW, Faux, J. Victoria University) part of a study with the CRC for Sustainable Tourism.

Improving Generic Skills of Students: A CEQ Perspective (with Gibson, K, Mitchell, G & Tatham, P).

Sonia Shimeld continued her doctoral research on corporate governance in the sporting industry as well as research into teaching. She presented a conference paper written jointly with Bernadette Smith that won the Most Original Conference Paper award at the 17th Annual Tax Teachers Association Conference in Wellington, New Zealand in January, 'Drawing Accounting Students into Tax'. Sonia also presented two papers with Bernadette at the University's Teaching Matters Conference on the 24th of November: 'We hate work: Messing with their minds' and 'Flexible teaching space opens a world of possibilities'.

Bernadette Smith conducted research in relation to concise financial reporting, as well as research into teaching. She presented a conference paper written jointly with Sonia Shimeld that won the Most Original Conference Paper award at the 17th Annual Tax Teachers Association Conference in Wellington, New Zealand in January, 'Drawing Accounting Students into Tax'. Bernadette also presented two papers with Sonia at the University's Teaching Matters Conference on the 24th of November: 'We hate work: Messing with their minds' and 'Flexible teaching space opens a world of possibilities'.

Cheong Sing Tng undertook doctoral research on factors influencing the performance of unit trusts.

Belinda Williams conducted research in connection with her MCom that investigated the implementation of AASB 1037 - Self-Generating and Regenerating Assets.

Trevor Wilmshurst undertook research in relation to the following papers for conference submission and/or publication:

An Introduction to Environmental Accounting and the Triple Bottom Line

Going Flexible! The Corporate Governance Initiative - The Case of Organisational Risk Management

Managing the Risk - Planning for Positives, Vaporising Negatives

Tackling the Challenges - Contemporary Issues in Accounting, Business and Taxation

The Contribution of Stakeholder Theory to Understanding Good Corporate Governance.

GRANTS

Gary O'Donovan (with **Gibson, K**, Mitchell, G & Tatham, P) secured a Teaching Grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), University of Tasmania for a project designed to investigate the generic skills of its students with a view to improving CEQ outcomes.

Gary O'Donovan (as part of a team with the CRC for Sustainable Tourism from UNSW and Victoria University) received a \$20,000 grant to work on developing performance indicators for Triple Bottom Line reporting for local councils.

CPA AUSTRALIA ANNUAL RESEARCH LECTURE

The CPA Australia (Tasmanian Division) Annual Research Lecture, held each year in conjunction with the School of Accounting & Finance, is intended for academics, teachers, students, accountants and the business and government community.

The 2005 lecture was delivered by Associate Professor Keryn Chalmers and took place in Hobart on 27 September 2005 in Hobart and in Launceston on 26 September 2005. The title of Associate Professor Chalmers' lecture was: *'Globalisation of Accounting Standards – Why, How and Impact'*.

SCHOOL RESEARCH SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

The Research Seminar Program in the School of Accounting & Finance is part of the School's commitment to scholarship in accounting, finance, corporate governance and related fields. The primary importance of research in the School led to the establishment of the program as a forum for staff and visitors to present papers and discuss ideas.

Participants in the 2005 program included visitors from interstate and overseas, as well as members of staff. All presented papers on interesting and controversial topics. A list of the topics and presenters is provided below.

The School of Accounting & Finance gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Auditors' & Liquidators' Trust Fund in presenting its annual Research Seminar Program.

March

Dr Joanne Locke, University of Waikato (co-author Alan Lowe), *'XBRL ... A Model Open Source Development? The crucible and the crux for financial reporting.'*

Dr Wendy Green, University of New South Wales, *'Industry Specialists: Are they more efficient and effective in performing analytical procedures than experienced non-specialists?'*

April

Ms Evangeline Elijido-Ten, Swinburne University of Technology, *'Applying Stakeholder Theory to analyse corporate environmental performance: evidence from Australia's top 100 listed companies.'*

Dr Bruce Clayton, Deakin University (co-author Therese Hammond), *'Overcoming Barriers: Black African Chartered Accountants in South Africa: Experiences in 2002'*.

Mrs Sue Hrasky & Mrs Bernadette Smith, University of Tasmania, *'The differential use of narratives and graphs in concise versus full annual reports'*.

May

Professor Jack Flanagan, Australian Catholic University (co-author John Little, Mike Stebbins and Ted Watts), *'Beyond law and regulation – a corporate governance model of ethical decision making'*.

Mr David Moore, University of Tasmania, *'Cost Allocation and the environmental management system'*.

July

Dr Gail Ridley, University of Tasmania (co-author Q Liu), *'IT control in the Australian public sector: An international comparison'*.

August

Mr Cheong Sing Tng, University of Tasmania, *'Performance of approved equity funds: evidence from Singapore's retail funds.'*

Mrs Simone Bingham, University of Tasmania (co author Barry Hicks), *'Education and Training in the Tasmanian Real Estate Industry: Does it have a compliance focus?'*

Mr Robert Czernkowski, University of New South Wales, *'Generation of Private Signals by Analysts'*.

September

Mr Tom Baxter, University of Tasmania, *'Biodiversity Conservation and the Law on the Great Barrier Reef'*.

Dr Brad Potter, University of Melbourne (co-author Matt Pinnuck), *'The economic and quality properties of local government earnings'*.

October

Dr Trevor Wilmshurst, University of Tasmania, *'Going flexible! The corporate governance initiative – the case of organizational risk management'*.

Professor Keith Houghton, Australian National University, *'The constraining effect of audit committees on earnings management'*.

PUBLICATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNALS

Smith, B N., "Characteristics of Firms that Issued Concise Financial Reports", *Financial Reporting Regulation and Governance, Volume 4, No. 1, 2005*.

Collett, P & Hrasky, S, "Voluntary Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices by Listed Australian Companies", *Corporate Governance: An International Review*, Vol 13 No 2, March 2005.

Hrasky, S & Collett, P, "Voluntary Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices by Listed Australian Companies", *Corporate Governance: An International Review*, Vol 13 No 2, March 2005.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Baxter, T; 'Recent Developments: Tasmania', *National Environmental Law Review*, No. 1, Autumn 2005.

Baxter, T; 'Recent Developments: Tasmania', *National Environmental Law Review*, No. 2, Winter 2005.

Baxter, T; 'Recent Developments: Tasmania', *National Environmental Law Review*, No. 3, Spring 2005.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Baxter, T; 'Biodiversity conservation and law on the Great Barrier Reef', *International Union for the Conservation of Nature Academy of Environmental Law, 2005 Colloquium*, Sydney July 2005.

Gibson, K., (with **O'Donovan, G**) 'Worldwide Effects and Local Issues: Teaching Social and Environmental Accounting', *Hawaii International Conference on Education*, January, 2005.

O'Donovan, G., (with **Gibson, K**) 'Good Governance and Environmental Reporting in Australian Annual Reports', *The Inaugural Asia Pacific Corporate Governance Conference*, Hong Kong, August 2005.

O'Donovan, G., (with **Gibson, K**) 'Worldwide Effects and Local Issues: Teaching Social and Environmental Accounting', *Hawaii International Conference on Education*, January, 2005.

Gibson, K., (with **O'Donovan, G**) 'Good Governance and Environmental Reporting in Australian Annual Reports', *The Inaugural Asia Pacific Corporate Governance Conference*, Hong Kong, August 2005.

Mitev, H (with Wright, M), 'Are Non-Executive Directors facing insurmountable risks?', *Third International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility*, Udaipur India, February 2005.

Mitev, H, 'How flexible do you want to be managing risk?', *International Conference on Critical Discourse Analysis: Theory into Research*, University of Tasmania, Launceston, November, 2005.

Moore, D, 'A Water Industry Case Study: Environmental Cost Allocation as part of the EMS. No! Why Not?', *Seventeenth Asian Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues*, Wellington, New Zealand, November 2005.

Schimeld, SF & Smith, BN, 'Drawing Accounting Students into Tax', *17th Annual Australasian Tax Teachers Association Conference*, Wellington, New Zealand, January 2005.

Smith, BN & Schimeld, SF 'Drawing Accounting Students into Tax', *17th Annual Australasian Tax Teachers Association Conference*, Wellington, New Zealand, January 2005.

Wilmshurst, TD, 'Going Flexible! The Corporate Governance Initiative - The Case of Organisational Risk Management', *Program and Proceedings of 17th Asian Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues*, Wellington, New Zealand, 2005.

Wilmshurst, TD, 'The Contribution of Stakeholder Theory to Understanding Good Corporate Governance', *17th Asian Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues*, Wellington, New Zealand, 2005.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Gibson, K (with **O'Donovan, G**) 'Social And Environmental Accounting In Tasmania: A Flexible Approach', *1st International Conference On Innovation In Accounting Teaching And Learning*, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, February, 2005.

Gibson, K (with **O'Donovan, G**) 'Innovation In Accounting Education – Spreading The Word' (With Gibson, K), *Teaching Matters Conference*, University Of Tasmania, November, 2005.

O'Donovan, G, (with **Gibson, K**) 'Social And Environmental Accounting In Tasmania: A Flexible Approach', *1st International Conference On Innovation In Accounting Teaching And Learning*, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, February, 2005.

O'Donovan, G, (with **Gibson, K**) 'Innovation In Accounting Education – Spreading The Word' (With Gibson, K), *Teaching Matters Conference*, University Of Tasmania, November, 2005.

O'Donovan, G, (with Mitchell, G & Tatham, P) 'Improving Student Course Experience – The Course Experience Questionnaire And Student Experience', *Teaching Matters Conference*, University Of Tasmania, November, 2005.

Schimeld, SF & Smith, BN, "We hate group work: Messing with their minds', *Teaching Matters Conference*, University of Tasmania, November 2005.

Smith, BN & Schimeld, SF, "We hate group work: Messing with their minds', *Teaching Matters Conference*, University of Tasmania, November 2005.

Schimeld, SF, Smith, BN & Jones C, 'Flexible Teaching Space opens a world of possibilities', *Teaching Matters Conference*, University of Tasmania, November 2005.

Smith, BN Schimeld & Jones C, 'Flexible Teaching Space opens a world of possibilities', *Teaching Matters Conference*, University of Tasmania, November 2005.

Wilmshurst, TD, 'An Introduction to Environmental Accounting and the Triple Bottom Line', *Greening Australia Retreat*, Bridport, 2005.

Wilmshurst, TD, 'Managing the Risk - Planning for Positives, Vaporising Negatives', 2005 *NIA Tasmanian CPE Intensive*, Grindlewald, 2005.

Wilmshurst, TD, 'Tackling the Challenges - Contemporary Issues in Accounting, Business and Taxation', 2005 *NIA Tasmanian CPE Intensive*, Grindlewald, Tasmania, 2005.

COURSES OFFERED BY THE SCHOOL AND THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF COMPANY DIRECTORS

The Company Directors' Course is conducted in Hobart by the School of Accounting & Finance for the Australian Institute of Company Directors. The School provided the organisation and arranged the tutors for three one-week intensive courses in 2005. The number of participants in each course ranged from 18 to 26. Barry Hicks was the course coordinator. The course covers a range of topics of importance to company directors and the modules in the course comprise: 'Practice of Directorship', 'Company Law', 'Introduction to Financial Statements', 'Assessing Company Performance', 'Contract and Intellectual Property Issues for Directors', 'Trade Practices Issues for Directors', 'Strategic HR', 'Risk Assessment and Environment Issues for Directors', 'Strategic Direction' and 'Improving Board Effectiveness'.

Barry Hicks presented the modules: 'The Practice of Directorship', 'Company Law', 'Intellectual Property Issues for Directors' and 'Environment Issues for Directors'.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

A number of staff members served in a variety of professional capacities throughout 2005.

Tom Baxter served on the National Environmental Law Association (NELA) National Executive Committee. He also served as Tasmanian editor of NELA's quarterly journal, the National Environmental Law Review.

Simone Bingham served as a Board Member for the State Library and Archives Trust (Tasmania).

Barry Hicks continued to serve as a member of the University Complaints Panel from which members of the Students Complaints Tribunal are drawn for the purposes of hearing student complaints.

Gary O'Donovan served as Deputy President of the Divisional Council, CPA Australia, Tasmanian Division and was also a Board Member of the Tasmanian Environment Centre. Gary was an ad hoc reviewer for journal and conference papers for the *Australian Accounting Review*, the *International Conference on Innovation in Accounting Education* and the *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*. Gary was on the editorial board of the *Journal for the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Accountability*, the *Journal of Accounting and Organisational Change* and was also a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Interdisciplinary Environmental Review*, a refereed journal emanating from Assumption College, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA.

Belinda Williams continued to serve on the CPA Australia Northern Branch Committee.

Trevor Wilmshurst continued to serve as a member of the Advance Burnie Committee and the Northern Branch of CPA Australia. He was also a nationally accredited trainer for CPA Australia products.

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2005

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INNOVATION IN ACCOUNTING TEACHING & LEARNING

At the end of 2002 staff in the School of Accounting & Finance were awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award, the first time an award of this type had been awarded to an entire School in the history of the University. During 2003 the School decided to use the \$5000 awarded as part of the prize as seed money to organise an international accounting conference in Hobart. In 2004 sponsors were sought and obtained.

The School, with sponsorship from CPA Australia, the National Institute of Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, ran an immensely successful conference on Innovation in Accounting Teaching and Learning at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart from 6 to 8 February. The conference was officially opened by the Chancellor of the University, Dr Michael Vertigan. It attracted over 80 participants from Higher Education, TAFE and Secondary Schools from around the globe, including Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Three internationally renowned keynote speakers, Professor Russell Craig (Australian National University), Associate Professor Alex Malley from Macquarie University and Dr Stephen Vickers from the University of Edinburgh delivered addresses which included issues and challenges for accounting education, the use and misuse of PowerPoint as an educational tool and opportunities to using technology to enhance flexible delivery of courses.

Over 45 papers were presented in concurrent sessions and the topics ranged from practical demonstrations of innovative accounting techniques to results of research on student perceptions of academic integrity.

Participants' feedback on the conference was excellent with conference organisation and the content of the sessions registering scores of 4.9 and 4.4 out of a possible 5!

Two of the comments on the feedback forms accurately summed up the feeling of the participants; "The best conference attended in 10 years! Well done"; "Congratulations UTAS on taking the initiative and holding this type of conference. Please let's ensure that the momentum is not lost".

A CD was produced by the School containing the details of the conference, abstracts and refereed full papers.

All of the staff in the School participated in various ways in the staging of the conference and a debt of gratitude is owed to them all and especially to the organising committee for the conference which consisted of Professor Gary O'Donovan, Kathy Gibson, Bernadette Smith and Helen Mitewa. A resounding vote of thanks to all staff from the School involved in the conference!

In view of the success of the conference it is intended to hold another conference in two years time and knowing the success of this conference and the reputation that it

has established for the School both nationally and internationally the next conference should prove to be even more successful than the first.

AWARDS NIGHT

Various organisations and firms award prizes to students studying in the School, and have done so for many years. Prizes are awarded to students who satisfy various criteria established by the donors such as: best student in a unit; the student who achieves the highest aggregate mark; or the most improved student in a unit. The University Council approves the establishment of such prizes. In recognition of the encouragement offered to students by the donors through the establishment of prizes and to celebrate the success of the prize winners, the School decided in 2002 to hold an Inaugural Awards Night at which donors could personally present their prizes. The 2005 function was held at the University Club and again proved to be a resounding success. A large majority of the donors and prize winners were able to attend as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Professor Peter Carroll. The Awards Night has become an annual event in the School calendar. Particulars of the prize donors and winners are provided at the end of the report.

STAFF CHANGES

Associate Professor Gary O'Donovan left the School in September to take up the role of Acting Dean of the Faculty of Commerce. He stepped down from the position of Head of School and Dr Trevor Wilmshurst became the acting Head of School.

Cheong Sing Tng left the School at the end of the year and the School wishes him all of the best for the future.

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING AND MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING (SPECIALISATION) PROGRAMS

In 2003 the School developed two new postgraduate courses in the area of professional accounting that commenced at the Hobart campus in July 2004. These Masters courses are open to applicants from non-accounting disciplines, who wish to upgrade their qualifications and become eligible to join Australian professional accounting bodies. The courses are accredited by CPA Australia, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, and the National Institute of Accountants. Enrolments increased from 11 in 2004 to approximately 90 students in 2005. An even larger enrolment is expected in 2006. Feedback from Staff involved in teaching in the program was very positive. The new students performed well. The program has proved to be a major success for the School and the Faculty.

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MAJOR

The School's Corporate Accountability Major was completely revised in 2002 into a 'Major in Corporate Governance'. A series of new Units were planned and were offered for the first time to students enrolled in the Major in 2003. Enrolments in the Major in 2005 were up on 2004 which was very pleasing and the School is confident

that enrolments will continue to grow in the coming years as interest in corporate governance grows. The Corporate Governance Major is an attractive choice for students undertaking double majors in their Commerce Degree Program. It combines well with Majors such as Accounting, Business Management and Business Economics. Student feedback on the Corporate Governance Major in 2005 continued to be very positive.

ANNUAL SCHOOL RETREAT

Each year since 1996 the School has held a Retreat and a retreat was held in 2005. Staff from the School use the opportunity to meet, away from the normal teaching environment, to discuss matters relating to teaching and research in the School. Many important initiatives have been formulated and developed at the various retreats which benefit individual staff members and the School as a whole, as well as the Faculty of Commerce.

RECOGNITION OF HIGH ACHIEVEMENT BY SCHOOL STAFF

Helen Mitev was awarded a Teaching Merit Certificate by the Faculty in 2005.

Sonia Shimeld and Berndette Smith together with Colin Jones from the School of Management were awarded a University Teaching Merit Certificate for the Unit BFA391 Taxation. Sonia and Bernadette were also nominated for a Faculty Teaching Award for Innovation in BFA302. The main focus of the innovation was on harnessing the benefits of workshops and group work rather than traditional lectures and tutorials and for the innovation approach to team teaching. Sonia and Bernadette also received an award for the Most Original Conference Paper at the 17th Annual Australasian Tax Teachers Association Conference in Wellington, New Zealand.

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & FINANCE PRIZES

Various prizes are kindly donated by Government and Industry bodies and organisations to students in the School who perform well in their studies. Provided below is a list of the prize givers, prizes and the students who were awarded the prizes.

Title	Value	Criteria	Winner/s in 2005
CPA Australia Prize	\$500.00	The best student in first year BFA accounting	Lise Hokkerup
CPA Australia Prize	\$500.00	The best student in second year BFA accounting	Jonathan Bellette
CPA Australia Prize	\$500.00	The best student in third year BFA Accounting	Stephen While
CPA Australia Prize for Honours Study in Accounting	\$500.00	Part-time or full-time student enrolled in the BCom (Hons) program offered by the School of Accounting & Finance, who achieves the highest mark overall	Daniel Clarke
Financial Planning Association Prize for Financial Planning	\$1,000.00	Highest aggregate mark in the unit BFA205/305 Introduction to Financial Planning	Matthew Berry (shared) Rhys Johnson (shared) Megan Nunn (shared)
National Institute of Accountants Prize for High Achievement (Hobart)	\$250.00	Best student in the third year Accounting or Corporate Governance Major in Hobart	Stephen While
National Institute of Accountants Prize for High Achievement (Launceston)	\$250.00	Best student in the third year Accounting or Corporate Governance Major in Launceston	David Gregory
National Institute of Accountants Prize for High Achievement (North West)	\$250.00	Best student in the third year Accounting or Corporate Governance Major at the North West Centre	Kate Burke
National Institute of Accountants Prize for Best Performance (All Years)	\$250.00	Best aggregate performance in any year of an Accounting or Corporate Governance Major	Edward Beswick
RJ Ruddick & Co Prize for Accounting	\$300.00	The prize will be awarded to the student with the highest achievement in second year accounting. Eligible candidates will include students studying full-time on the Launceston campus with an accounting major who have successfully completed the second year of the Bachelor of Commerce degree	Lucy Petterwood
TASCORP Prize in Finance	\$250.00	The highest aggregate mark in BFA281 Financial Management and BFA285 Investment Analysis	James Jenkins
Tasmanian Audit Office Prize	\$250.00	Best performance in BFA303 Auditing	Emily Lyne
Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Prize	\$70.00	The best performance in BFA141 Commercial Transactions	Sally Whyte

Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Prize	\$70.00	The best performance in BFA241 Corporate Regulation & Accountability	Emily Armstrong
Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Prize	\$70.00	Taxation Accounting (BFA391 Taxation)	Kirsten Robertson
Taxation Institute of Australia Prize	\$250.00	The student with the best result in BFA391 Taxation	Kirsten Robertson