

*the CASB Quarterly***Letter from the CEO**

To successful 2007 UFE writers – congratulations, your hard work has paid off! We're proud of you and look forward to seeing you at convocation. I give a special nod of respect to our national gold medallist, Paul McIntyre, of Grant Thornton's Vancouver office, and his 25 CASB colleagues on the 52 person national honour role.

And, to new and continuing CASB students – I've been thinking, or rather, I've been scribbling numbers on the back of an envelope. Roughly 1,000 of you commenced your six-module CASB program over the past year. If recent history is a good predictor, 850 of you can expect to have the opportunity to challenge the UFE, and 750 of you will only have to do it once. By the conclusion of your 30-month term of required practical experience, 680 of you will have become CAs. And, another 120 of you will get there just a bit later.

I hope these rough numbers encourage you. We put you through a rigorous program, but if you chose to make the investment of hard work, the odds are very good that it will pay off in the near future.

This time of year, I often find myself reflecting on why I chose to become a CA. And, really, it comes down to three main reasons.

Firstly, I realized early in my career that becoming a CA and doing CA work would be a challenge. And, I enjoy a challenge! Secondly, I respect and admire the values and integrity required to be a CA. They are values that I hold personally, and I am proud to be part of a group that collectively believes and acts the same way. Thirdly, I recognized that my CA designation would provide me with much more than just the ability to handle numbers. And, it's true. Becoming a CA gave me an analytical ability that has served me well through the years. I can look at organizational issues critically and develop helpful strategies that really benefit the organization.

So, to all of you who just passed the UFE, I offer you congratulations on your prestigious accomplishment. To those of you in the CASB program, I encourage you to stick with it, for the reward is great, and for those of you considering the CA profession, I urge you to come on board. You won't regret it.

John Gunn, MEd, FCA

**RESULTS ARE IN.....**

And, again, the UFE was a resounding success for CASB students. First time writers had a pass rate of **88.5%**, and CASB students made up **26** of the 52 spots on the National UFE Honour Role.

Congratulations to all CASB students who worked so hard and successfully completed this prestigious achievement. Check page five for a profile on this year's Gold Medalist, Paul McIntyre.



## Calling All CAs

Are you a CA interested in developing the future of the profession? Do you want a challenging and important role in student education? Do you want the knowledge to help students in your office?

CASB is always looking for contractors to work as facilitators, case writers and reviewers. You can give back to your profession and play a role in educating tomorrow's CAs by becoming a CASB contractor.

Choose to become involved by becoming an On-line Facilitator, Face-to-Face Interactive Session Facilitator or Case Simulation Evaluator.

All CAs possess the basic skills and background experience to become involved in the CASB program.

You can view more information on our website at:

<http://www.casb.com/index.php?catid=81>

or email us at

[contractpositions@casb.com](mailto:contractpositions@casb.com)

## Introducing CASB Facilitator, Colin Haime, CA



*Colin Haime, CA*

Colin Haime, CA has been a CASB facilitator since 2001. He is a Partner in Barber & Haime, Chartered Accountants, a Professor in the Faculty of Management at Malaspina University College in Nanaimo and Mayor of the District of Lantzville, BC.

In 1986, Colin started his career with Thorne Ernst and Whinney in Victoria, KPMG's predecessor firm. He passed the UFE in 1988 and later moved to Vancouver, working for both Collins Barrow and Thorne Little. In 1991, Colin moved to Vancouver Island with his wife, Denise Barber, CA, the other partner in their firm.

### What it Means to Be a CA

We asked Colin what being a CA means to him, and he responded, "Being a CA gives you instant recognition and respect as an ethical, knowledgeable and skilled individual. In terms of a profession, it opens more potential career doors than anyone could ever hope to walk through in one lifetime. The most challenging aspect of my career has been deciding which of the doors to walk through."

Colin is already a Partner, a Professor and a Mayor. So, we wanted to know why he chose to become a Facilitator. He told us: "I started teaching sessional courses at Malaspina in 2000 and thoroughly enjoyed sharing my knowledge and experience with the students in the classroom. So, I thought it would be equally satisfying to do the same through CASB. I have not been disappointed." We were curious about what keeps this busy man coming back. Colin told us a little bit about his favourite part of facilitating. "The FFIS sessions are fantastic. I view these as the reward for the online work. While the online chats and weekly interaction through email and task submission are engaging and quite interesting, the FFIS caps it off as you see participant's personalities come through and share knowledge and experiences."

### Tips for Student Success

As a facilitator we asked Colin to give us a few tips for student success. He gave us two excellent suggestions:

1. Treat it like you would an audit. Plan your approach, set out your timeline and concentrate your efforts in those areas where you perceive yourself to have less strength in. It is common for students to spend time on items that they know because there is comfort in the correct response. However to be successful you have to ensure that you cover those areas that you do not currently know.
2. Work with a "study buddy". If you have someone that you can discuss questions and responses with, it adds to your understanding of the material because you will get a different viewpoint. This should extend to writing practice cases together, evaluating each other's and providing suggestions for improvements. Your buddy has to be someone that you can trust to be honest with you and honestly critical of your work.

## Introducing Robin Yong, Current CASB Student

Robin Yong has been a CASB student for two years and plans to begin Module Three in the summer of 2008. We caught up with Robin to find out about her experience at CASB, her plans for the future and why she chose to become a CA.



*Robin Yong*

### Education and Work Experience

Robin is currently finishing an honours degree in business with a specialization in HR and accounting at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver and is on an exchange semester the Quinn School of Business at the University College of Dublin in Dublin, Ireland.

Along with working two busy season co-op terms with KPMG, Robin is heavily involved with volunteer work at four organizations. She is a National Millennium Laureate, the founder of Revolution 180 (a youth led humanitarian organization), and a member of B.A.S.E (Building A Safer Environment, an anti-bullying organization) and the Youth Skills Initiative (an after school program for inner city youth).

We were very interested in Robin's plans for the future, and this is what she told us, "business is about doing well, but it's also, I think about doing good. Ever since I was little, I've always wanted to work with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), helping get aid and doctors to patients in need. In the long run, I think that's where my heart is. I'd like to make an impact on the business world, and I'd like to make an impact on Canada."

### What it Means to be a CA

Robin told us that she chose to achieve her CA designation because, "I've always wanted to internationalize my degree, to work and live in different countries; I've grown up around the world, so I can't imagine not having a career that isn't internationally focused. The CA designation opens doors, provides a backbone of essential skills and knowledge and gives you a foundation to build a career on." And, when asked what being a CA will mean, Robin responded, "CA equals Competency Achieved. Finally!"

### Tips for Student Success

When we asked Robin for her tips on how to succeed in the program, this is what she said, "Head down, ipod on, buckle in, knuckles down and just do it. Keep looking at the bigger picture, don't sweat the small stuff and remember that even when you're knee-deep in second revisions that there are always great people around you that are ready, willing and able to help. All you need to do is ask."

*Thanks Robin, and we wish you much success!*

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deadlines  
deadlines  
deadlines

### Registration Deadline

**February 29, 2008**  
*Module 1C, 1, 2, 3 and 5*

### Registration Checklist

Before submitting your registration, please ensure you have completed all the requirements. You can download the *CASB Registration Checklist*, located under "Forms" at [casb.com](http://casb.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Student & Support Services.

## Are You Missing Anything Important?

We have had a lot of electronic and physical mail returned to us.

Please check your personal information to ensure we have your most up to date contact information.

With future changes, you can keep your files up to date by filling out the *Change in Personal Information/Governance* form, located under "Forms" on casb.com. Or, email personal information updates to Kelsey Smith, Senior Registration Officer, at: [kelsey.smith@casb.com](mailto:kelsey.smith@casb.com)

## Paul McIntyre, 2007 UFE Gold Medallist



*Paul McIntyre*

Congratulations to Paul McIntyre, Governor General's Gold Medallist from Grant Thornton, LLP, Vancouver. Paul received the highest standing in Canada on this year's UFE. He will be formally recognized at CA graduation ceremonies to take place in Vancouver in May of 2008.

Paul was born and raised in North Vancouver. He attended the University of BC and graduated with a bachelor of commerce degree in 2001, majoring in accounting. Currently working in Grant Thornton's audit group, Paul focuses primarily on public company audits and quarterly reviews. In the future, he hopes to finish the chartered financial analyst exams, obtain his CFA designation, and work in the corporate finance arena. In his spare time, Paul enjoys golfing, skiing, and playing Internet poker.

Paul thanks his parents, brother, and girlfriend for being so understanding of his often hectic work and study schedule. He also gives credit to various colleagues and mentors including Dave Merrell, FCA (partner), Kristine Lux, CA (senior manager), and Mark Zastre, CA (partner) for giving him the opportunity at the firm; and to Grant Hodgkins, CA (Ernst & Young LLP), Raymond Choy, CA (Wes Group Income Properties LP), and Rick Prinja, CA (BC Hydro) for their valuable advice through the UFE process.

*(Continued from page 2)*

We wanted to know if Colin followed his own advice, so we asked him how he prepared for the UFE. This was his response, "Disciplined study. Studying for the UFE is very similar to working at your job. Set up a plan and stick to it. Each day I would identify an area of knowledge to concentrate on in the morning and then write sample questions in the afternoon. Evenings were for relaxation. I believe this structured approach along with a balance of work and free time contributed to my success."

### **Why Become a Facilitator**

CASB is always looking for new facilitators, so we asked Colin if he would recommend that new CA's become facilitators. In one word, his response was, "definitely." He went on to say, "CASB facilitation adds to the understanding of topics and different viewpoints both for the students but also for the facilitator. CASB facilitation is not about teaching but facilitating the sharing of ideas and opinions. This in particular allows the students to not only expand their knowledge and thinking skills, but also those of the facilitators."

*Thanks for your time and effort in support of CASB Colin!*

## We Want to Hear From You

Your needs are important to us. Tell us what kinds of information you would like to see in this publication. Email your comments to [communications@casb.com](mailto:communications@casb.com).

## CAs Write On

Which sentence reads better?

An outstanding pass rate was achieved by CASB students on the UFE or... CASB students achieved an outstanding pass rate on the UFE.

Do you think the second sentence reads better? If so, it is because it is written in the active voice.

Your writing sounds stronger when you use an active voice instead of a passive voice. The active voice provides clarity and vigour, and it is a simple and economic way to write because you use fewer words, often a good thing in business.

To ensure you are writing actively, write so that the noun (person, place or thing) is performing the activity (CASB students achieved) instead of receiving the action (was achieved by CASB students). You will know if you are writing passively because some form of the verb 'to be' (e.g. is, are, was, were) will be in your sentence.

There is a place for passive voice if you:

- do not know who is performing the action,
- do not want to emphasize one thing over another, or
- are writing scientific paper where you want to avoid saying where the ideas came from.

In business writing, sentences make the most sense when the subject comes first, followed by what the subject is doing. So make sure passive writing is not reducing the efficiency of your words.

*Credit for many of the ideas in this article goes to the authors of [www.dailywritingtips.com](http://www.dailywritingtips.com)*

*Going forward, 'CAs Write On' will be a regular feature in the CASB quarterly. If you have a writing question, please email [communications@casb.com](mailto:communications@casb.com), and we will try to answer it in subsequent issues.*



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