

In this issue

Opening Notes

John Gunn, MEd, FCA, shares his thoughts about what CASB's mission, vision, and values mean to you. [Read more.](#)

Module 6 News

Scott Sinclair, FCA, has decided that after this year, he is stepping down from coordinating Module 6. [Read more.](#)

Outstanding Facilitator

Keith Lownie, MBA, CA, received the Outstanding Facilitator Award. [Read more.](#)

Student Profile

Meet Christopher Goetz, Module 3 student in Regina, Saskatchewan. [Read more.](#)

Exemplary Young Professional

Jessica Jang, CA, was recognized as an Exemplary Young Professional. [Read more.](#)

Candidate Portal

CASB students and CATOs now access post-module feedback online. [Read more.](#)

Write On

Comma use and abuse: Part 1. [Read more.](#)

KEY DATES

Module Evaluation Day:

2 July
Modules 1, 2, 3, 5 (Spring 2010)

Module Results Release:

9 July
Module 5 (Spring 2010)

16 July
Modules 1, 2, 3 (Spring 2010)

Modules Start Dates:

19 July
Module 6 (Summer 2010)

2 August
Modules 2, 3, 4 (Summer 2010)

Registration Deadlines:

16 August
Modules 1, 3, 4, 5 (Fall 2010)

Opening Notes from John Gunn, MEd, FCA

As an outcome of a recent strategic review process, CASB now has a new set of words to describe its mission, vision and values. There is likely not much that would surprise you in the words we have chosen, but having them in play helps us here at CASB to focus our energies on what is important.

Our new mission statement is as follows: "CASB serves the public interest by preparing the next generation of Chartered Accountants to excel." Those words parallel those found in mission statements of the CICA and provincial CA institutes. Their focus is primarily on helping their members excel; ours is on helping our students to enter CA membership prepared to excel.

Our vision expands on this theme by saying that we will "...create business-ready professionals who have developed the foundational competencies for a successful CA career." These words speak to our wish to provide you with an impactful learning experience. We want our graduates to be thinking and performing in practice like the CAs they have become, at a level much higher than when they entered the program

And we have identified four overarching values that we aim to live by as we work towards our vision:

- Integrity above all
- Excellence in our service
- Fairness in our decisions
- Trustworthiness in our relationships

Fine words to be sure, but only as good as the actions they generate. If these words are to have the meaning that we intend, you will see them reflected in how we interact with you throughout your time as a CASB student. I promise that we at CASB will do our very best to deliver on the fine words found in our new statements of mission, vision and values.

Module 6 News: Scott Sinclair, FCA, Stepping Down

Scott Sinclair, FCA, recently announced that, after the 2010 Module 6 offering, he is stepping down from his role of coordinating development and delivery of the module. To date, Scott's contributions to CASB have been substantial, as over 4,500 Western Canadians who qualified as CAs in the years since CASB launched have benefited from his work.

Scott was the principal author of the original CASB modules, and he played a significant role in the curriculum redesign in 2009. All CASB graduates, including those who enrolled in the Master of Professional Accounting program at the University of Saskatchewan, will have experienced Module 6, which Scott has coordinated since its first offering in 2002.

Scott's career in accounting education began in 1984, when he first taught in BC's School of Accountancy. From 1991 to 1996, he was the director of student education for the BC institute, and during that time he began teaching at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and became a sessional instructor at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Now, he is on the faculty at both schools, where he continues to inspire accounting students.

Scott's commitment to accounting education has not gone unrecognized. BCIT's School of Business presented him with the Excellence in Teaching Award, he received the George C. Baxter Award for Excellence in Learning Materials Development in 2006, and he received UBC's Commerce Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award in 2008.

According to John Gunn, MEd, FCA, CEO of CASB, "Scott always approaches his work at CASB with the motto: 'We do good work, period.' And he inspires those around him to reach toward that same level of excellence. His impact over the years has been huge and very much appreciated."

Keith Lownie, MBA, CA, KBH Outstanding Facilitator

Sometimes things just fall into place.

Keith Lownie, CA, admits that everything worked out smoothly for him in 2003 after he walked away from a position with Scotia Capital with only the idea that he'd like to get involved with education. He wasn't entirely sure how or what his involvement would look like, but he was confident that his CA designation would ensure that his young family wouldn't be hungry. And, he was right. Within a month, he had been invited to facilitate his first CASB module. The experience was rewarding, and helped him earn a position instructing first at a local college, then at BCIT, where he stayed from 2004 until 2006 while completing his MBA at SFU. Since then he has been a full-time faculty member at the University of the Fraser Valley.

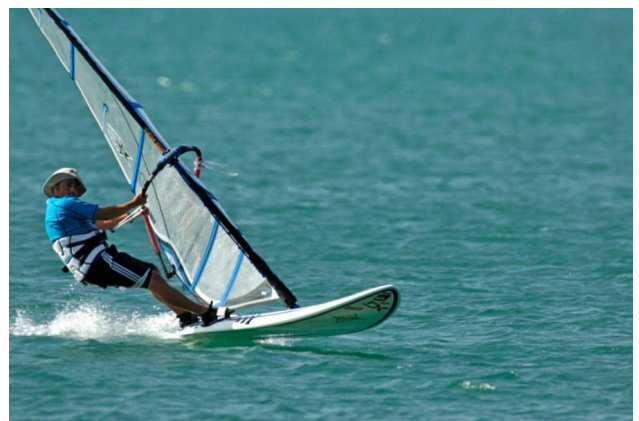
Lownie brings varied experiences to the classroom. He's worked in public practice, as a controller, as a stockbroker, and as a financial planner. The variety gives him ample content for stories to share with his students, which he thinks helps them understand the practical applications of the concepts that they're studying.

While this is less important for CASB students, who are gaining their own experiences while they complete their modules, they value his stories, and his approach to facilitation. They nominated him for the Kouri Berezan Heinrichs award for outstanding facilitation, an award that recognizes facilitators who approach their role with excellence.

Lownie is humble when he speaks about the award, saying that he focuses on enjoying the work, and that helps him excel at it. His CASB colleagues echo this, stating, "He is obviously enjoying himself, interested in the students, and the students catch his enthusiasm. He is positive, funny and fun to be around. And he tells great stories."

Students in the Vancouver area have had several chances to learn from Lownie. He started facilitating Module 5 online, and did that for several sessions. Now, he focuses on delivering the face-to-face sessions for modules 1 through 5 and he will be facilitating Module 6 this summer.

When he's not facilitating for CASB or instructing at UFV, you are likely to find Keith on the soccer field, coaching either of his sons' rep soccer teams or riding a wave, either on a surf- or windsurfing board. "Teaching [and facilitating] gives me the time to spend with people that I love, doing things that I love."



Keith Lownie, CA, enjoying a break from instructing

Congratulations Keith!

Student Profile: Christopher Goetz

Christopher Goetz is currently articling with Deloitte in Regina and started Module 3 in May 2010. CASB wasn't his first experience with balancing work and school: Goetz completed his undergraduate degree from the University of Regina while working full time for a local hotel chain.

It was there, in the role of assistant manager, that he had his first exposure to accounting. A new general manager started at the hotel and decided to put him in charge of accounts payable and receivable and reporting because she thought that he looked like "a numbers guy". She was right, and Goetz switched his major from economics to accounting as he took on greater accounting responsibilities—ultimately becoming controller at a larger property.



The Goetz family

During his third year of studies, he started to consider accounting as a career option, and spoke with people from each of the three designations. The emphasis on life-long learning and the career opportunities are what ultimately helped Goetz decide on the CA designation.

Goetz graduated from U of R in 2009 and started with the firm and Module 1 in May of that year. Currently, his clients are in the financial sector, with much of his experience to date focusing on financial institution auditing and US tax returns for people filing in Canada and the US.

Balancing work and studies first in university and now with CASB has taught Goetz that, "If you leave things to the last minute, you won't retain what you have learnt and your submissions will be lacking." This is why he starts his weekly CASB tasks early. Starting early also allows him to handle any unexpected work requirements, and reduces his end-of-the-week stress.

He also recommends taking advantage of any work-sponsored education and training: "A couple of times, my employer has had lunch and learn sessions, and it happened to be on a topic in my module."

Away from the office and CASB, Goetz spends time with his wife Sandra, one-year-old Eli and three-year-old Ella.

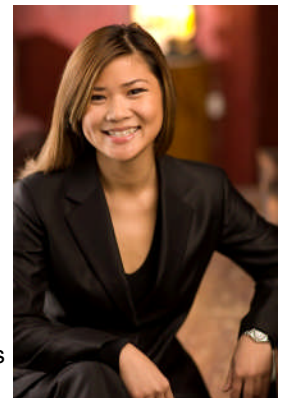
Jessica Jang, CA, recipient of the KBH Exemplary Young Professional Award

Jessica Jang, CA, was awarded the Kouri Berezan Heinrichs Exemplary Young Professional Award at the BC convocation ceremony in May 2010. The award is presented for professionalism, integrity, sound judgment, and commitment to the profession/community.

Jang was nominated for the award by her colleagues in at BDO Dunwoody LLP in Vancouver. There, Jang is involved with several of the firm's charitable committees, including ones to support the United Way and the 24-Hour Relay. As a committee member, Jang provides ideas for fundraising opportunities, including 50/50 draws and pub nights.

Getting involved with these committees was her first foray into volunteerism, but it is not her last. She is also involved with the firm's volunteer CASB mentor program, where she provides support to CASB students. In this program, she works closely with one student, tracking her CASB success and progression through the modules.

At work, in the firm's Audit and Assurance Group, Jang has been able to develop her interest in charitable organisations from a different perspective: Many of her clients are not-for-profits. She explains that she "loves using the knowledge that she's gained in the CA program to provide feedback and advice to her clients." Ultimately, she'd like to translate this client work into playing a more active role with a not-for-profit organisation, possibly on a board.



Jessica Jang, CA

Jang wrote the UFE in 2008, and was a member of that year's national honour roll. Since qualifying as a CA in 2009, Jang has spent time catching up with friends and family who didn't get much attention while she was a student. And to current students, she recommends: "Get as much knowledge as you can through the program. It's a good source for getting you ready [for the UFE] and making you technically strong. It is all worth it in the end." Congratulations Jessica!

Nominate an Exemplary Young Professional

If you know a recent CASB graduate who deserves recognition, please send your nomination—in the form of a letter—to gunn@casb.com.

Candidate and CATO Portals Improve CASB Results Release

In May 2010, CASB announced a new method for delivering results to students and their training offices. Beginning with the results released in July 2010, detailed student results are available online through Candidate Portal for students and CATO Portal for CA Training Offices (CATOs).

Until now, students and their firms had to wait weeks for case feedback forms, transcripts, and academic histories to arrive in the mail. Through the Portal, students can view their case feedback at the same time as they learn of their status in the module, and they can download their transcript and academic history one week later.

This change marks a significant service delivery improvement from CASB as students can use the case feedback forms to debrief the module evaluation earlier than before. It also considerably reduces CASB's carbon footprint, as two copies (one for the student, one for their firm) of the five-to-seven-page result packages for 4,000 students are no longer printed and posted from the Learning Centre in Vancouver.

Write On: Commas

The next few issues of CASB Quarterly will outline tips to help you avoid comma misuse.

1) Use commas to set off geographical names, titles in names, and items in dates and addresses.

- ✓ I want to visit at the sports bar at 359 Rose Drive, Calgary, Alberta.
- ✓ It opened on June 18, 2009
- ✓ I invited Billy Jones, CA, to join me there for lunch.

You don't need a comma if you use only the month and year.

- ✓ It opened in June 2009.

2) Use a comma when quoting someone.

- ✓ "I'll pay," I said to Billy.

3) Use a comma to provide clarity.

- ✓ I'll pay, Billy.
- ✗ I'll pay Billy. (*Omit the comma and you're paying Billy, not for him*)

4) Use commas to set off free modifiers (phrases that can be placed anywhere in the sentence without causing confusion).

- ✓ Billy watched the game on the television, cheering loudly.
- ✓ Cheering loudly, Billy watched the game on the television.
- ✓ I smiled at Billy, who was cheering loudly.
- ✗ I smiled at Billy, cheering loudly. (*Who is cheering, you or Billy?*)

ICAA Language Education Courses

The ICAA is offering language education courses for students and members whose first language is not English. They are offered in Edmonton and Calgary at the University of Lethbridge campuses in both cities, in conjunction with the university's CA Bridging Program. Students don't need to be enrolled in the program to take these courses.

Developed through a partnership between the ICAA and LEAP (Language Education for Accounting Professionals) (<http://www.leapesl.ca/>), the courses are designed specifically for accounting professionals and accounting students, with the content focusing on the basics of Canadian business culture.

Writing English for Success in the Workplace

http://www.albertacas.ca/Information/CourseDetails.aspx?offering_id=8615

Speaking English for Success in the Workplace

http://www.albertacas.ca/Information/CourseDetails.aspx?offering_id=8614

Contact the ICAA for more information or to register.

The CASB Quarterly is published by the CA School of Business

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