

Connecticut CPA

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Learning ▶
On-Demand

page 12



Instructor Patrick Coughlin records a two-hour CPE session on retirement planning for CTCPA's new on-demand videos.



AICPA Proposes New Real-Time Peer Review System

Members Asked to Submit Comments by June 15

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Meet accounting majors at Connecticut colleges and universities in our Campus Rep Reports. *page 20*

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CTCPA. Your people. Your place.



CTCPA membership renewals were sent at the end of April. Help us stay strong – renew today.

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Are there multiple members at your business? Request a company invoice.

We'll list all the members at a single location and give you the opportunity to indicate any members who have joined or left your company. Contact Membership Coordinator **Liz Frazza** at lizf@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0220.

And don't worry – everyone at your company whose dues have been paid with a company invoice will still be entered to win an Apple Watch Sport!

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Connecticut CPA

A publication of the Connecticut
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Editor's Note

It's here – the definitive roadmap to becoming a Connecticut CPA!

It's never too early to get on the road to CPA. *Connecticut CPA* Assistant Editor **Caitlin Bailey O'Neill** recently snapped this shot of her adorable little guy Reilly as he got his hands on a copy of a new CTCPA publication we're thrilled to be able to provide to aspiring Connecticut CPAs.



The *Become a CPA in Connecticut* guide, developed by Membership and Academics Manager **Alicia Strong** and Marketing Manager **Melissa Thompson**, breaks down the sometimes overwhelming set of regulations all candidates need to follow to become a Connecticut CPA into five steps – Education, Examination, Experience, Ethics, and Apply.

"I've learned so much from answering all of your questions over the years that it just made sense to write it all down," Alicia explains in the booklet's introduction. "All the little things – the minute details that you might miss if you don't read very, very closely – are, in fact, extremely important."

The booklet, co-sponsored by Becker Professional Education, is packed with quick tips and checklists to make it through each step of the certification process as efficiently as possible. I'm sure students will be clamoring for copies when we start handing them out at career fairs and presentations this spring, and we'll also distribute them through college and university accounting departments and career centers.

Do you know someone who could benefit from the booklet? Go to www.ctcpas.org/mycpa to download a PDF and view important forms and links, or send your mailing address to Alicia at alicias@ctcpas.org and she'll be happy to drop a printed copy in the mail.



See you next issue,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten".

Kirsten Piechota, Managing Editor

the Essential Event 2015

May 12, 2015 • Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville • 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. • CPE Credit: 6 • 4 – 6 p.m. Cocktails, Teacup Raffle



Living Life at Performance Level

Curtis Zimmerman
Author and Inspirational Speaker

Empowered individuals build cohesive, productive companies with forward momentum. Inspirational speaker Curtis Zimmerman and “Living Life at Performance Level” will transform your perspective, creating lasting outcomes. Laugh, frolic, and play “Simon Says” – but don’t be fooled by all the fun! Be prepared to be empowered, challenged, and changed.



Ego vs. EQ: How Top Leaders Beat Eight Ego Traps with Emotional Intelligence

Jen Shirvani
Emotional Intelligence Coach and Speaker

How can otherwise brilliant leaders keep from succumbing to self-sabotaging, ego-driven behaviors? Jen Shirvani defines and provides strategies for increasing Emotional Intelligence (EQ), particularly for leaders and company founders with high technical competence. Raise your own EQ – possibly the most important exercise you can do to prolong your career and to catapult your business to the next level.

My state. My profession. My career.

- **Improving Connecticut’s Business Climate: CPAs Can Help**
Joseph F. Brennan
CEO and President
Connecticut Business and Industry Association
- **The View from the Corner Office: A Panel Discussion**
Andrew Andrews, CPA
Whittlesey & Hadley
Bruce Blasnik, CPA
O’Connor Davies
Carl Johnson, CPA
BlumShapiro
Joseph Natarelli, CPA
Marcum
- **Connecticut State Board of Accountancy: A New Administration**
John Schuyler, CPA
Connecticut State Board of Accountancy Chair
Sonia Worrell Asare, Esq.
Connecticut State Board of Accountancy Legal Council

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Purchase eight or more seats and become an event sponsor – you’ll get: a discounted group rate*, your firm listed on the CTCPA website and in follow-up coverage in *Connecticut CPA* magazine, and recognition in the event’s opening slideshow loop and printed program. See www.ctcpas.org/EssentialEvent or contact Liz Frazza at lizf@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0220 for details. *Group discount available to CTCPA members and firms only.



www.ctcpas.org/EssentialEvent



AICPA Proposes New Real-Time Peer Review System

Members Asked to Submit Comments by June 15

In recent years, the peer review process has been criticized by both the United States Department of Labor Employee Benefit Security Administration (EBSA) and by those who believe PCAOB-reviewed firms are held to a higher standard. In response, the AICPA is developing a technology-driven, continuous practice monitoring “concept.”

The first look at the AICPA’s vision is revealed in *Evolving the CPA Profession’s Peer Review Program for the Future: A provocative vision of what practice monitoring could become*, a concept paper available at www.aicpa.org/futurepracticemonitoring. Responses to the concept paper are due by June 15, 2015.

“I think it is imperative for any firm enrolled in the peer review program to understand the potential impact of the changes being proposed in the concept paper,” said 2014-2015 CTCPA President **Brian Kelleher**, an assurance and advisory services partner at Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina in Glastonbury. “This concept paper is the first step in the transformation of

the current peer review program into the practice monitoring program of the future, and it is important that the key stakeholders provide the AICPA with feedback on the proposed changes while the process is evolving and feedback is being actively solicited.”

Elements of the Concept

As envisioned by the AICPA, the foundation for the new system would be a dynamic (continuously changing) technology platform to support five activities:

- **Continuous** (real-time) **analytical evaluation** of engagement performance
- **Human review** when system-identified concerns are raised
- **Involvement of external monitors**, when necessary
- **Periodic inspection** of system integrity
- **Oversight** of the system’s operating effectiveness

Continuous analytical evaluation would track the engagement from acceptance through to completion, comparing against engagement quality indicators (EQIs). When the firm’s work falls outside of expected metrics, the system would produce flags. The firm could then react to the issues raised before the engagement is completed.

The **human review** and **external monitor** components have three levels:

- Human review starts within the firm, clearing flags and “potential quality risks or engagement issues as identified by the AICPA through its best practices research.”
- “AICPA-engaged practice monitors would be automatically notified if the firm fails to appropriately address the risks or issues flagged by the system in a timely manner.”
- If a firm “fails to appropriately address the risks or issues” brought to the firm’s attention by the AICPA-engaged practice monitors, an external monitoring team would be

called in. The external monitoring team would be similar to today's peer review team, except that they would be addressing issues in real time.

As conceived, **periodic inspections** would be conducted by the external monitoring team. Frequency of inspections would depend on whether the firm performs high-risk engagements and its record of resolving quality-related issues through the **continuous analytical evaluation** and **practice monitoring** segments.

The **oversight** program details will be developed in future phases.

"We are now operating in an environment where the level of oversight has increased significantly when compared to the peer review program 10 years ago," said 2015-2016 CTCPA President-elect **Bob Boudreau**, a partner with Buckley, Frame, Boudreau & Co. in Killingworth and a Peer Review Committee member. "Regulatory involvement and input has contributed to this change. Firms need to perform their own risk assessment related to their audit practice to determine if continued participation under the proposed framework is appropriate."

Reporting Out – Dashboards, Internal Seals, and External Seals

Dashboards would be integral to the process, allowing authorized firm practitioners, AICPA-engaged practice monitors, and external monitors a view of "the firm's compliance with performance metrics over the various areas subject to monitoring."

Internal seals are expected to illustrate the firm's standing in the program to the firm's quality control and management and would provide access to the dashboard.

External seals would be used to communicate "quality-related information

paid advertisement

"I think it is imperative for any firm enrolled in the peer review program to understand the potential impact of the changes being proposed in the concept paper."

CTCPA President Brian Kelleher
Partner, Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina

to the public through the AICPA and, if desired, the firm's website."

"I support a process that will help identify, monitor, and resolve quality issues on a real-time basis," said Kelleher. "At the same time, I'm interested in under-

standing how the proposed changes will impact the level of resources that will be needed internally to comply with the new practice monitoring process; the new process must be scalable and cannot be cost prohibitive."

If your firm is enrolled in the peer review program, the CTCPA urges you to participate in the dialogue. "There is power in numbers," said Boudreau. "Firms need to respond to help send the message that the peer review program has been and should always be designed to assist firms while helping to ensure compliance with professional standards. There are a significant number of competent small firms performing audit engagements. Their voices can be equally important." ▶

View and comment on the concept paper at www.aicpa.org/futurepracticemonitoring.

>> Is your firm enrolled in the peer review program? If so, we urge you to comment on the new concept.

Much of the concept is still to be developed; firms enrolled in the peer review program are urged to participate in the dialogue. The concept paper is available at www.aicpa.org/futurepracticemonitoring.

Questions the AICPA has posed include:

- What engagement quality indicators would you find useful from an internal firm perspective?
- What would you like to know about your firm's practice in order to self-monitor and manage quality?
- What risks do you see in developing a more real-time system?
- Who should "monitor" or perform the review?
 - A reviewer engaged by the firm (similar to the current program)
 - A peer selected and assigned or recommended by the concept's system (best match based on certain criteria)
 - An inspector selected or assigned by an independent body
 - A combination of peer(s) and inspectors, based on firm profile or risk factor
 - Some other means (please elaborate)
- How should the firm rating display via an external/public seal?
 - The same as the current program's reporting model (Pass, Pass with Deficiency(ies), or Fail)
 - A numerical scale (100, 92, 88, 75, etc.)
 - A lettering system (A, B, C, D, F)
 - Some other means (please elaborate)
- Considering the technological and manual processes you have in place today, how would you envision your firm's data being extracted and how would the system assist you in enhancing the quality and effectiveness of your audits?
- What existing or known technologies would be helpful in considering or developing the concept?

The AICPA's Real-Time Peer Review Vision



The AICPA paints a picture of the concept as follows:

If you can envision this ... it's 2025. You're being introduced to Leslie, the quality control partner for her firm. She is in the midst of analyzing client work papers through the firm's practice monitoring system. Relieved to see that a flag she raised in the system has been resolved by the audit manager, Leslie now understands that the concern had been a simple documentation issue and not a failure to perform a key audit procedure.

With this overview of her firm's engagements and the assurance that her team has addressed her concerns, Leslie can now approve the work papers with a simple voice command. Automatically, the system creates and routes her firm's standard audit opinion letter, tailored for the client.

Submit your comments at www.aicpa.org/futurepracticemonitoring or email them to prsupport@aicpa.org.

The comment period ends on June 15, 2015.



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Support the Educational Trust Fund Help Attract New Talent to the Profession

The CTCPA Educational Trust Fund (ETF) supports tomorrow's CPAs today by providing financial support directly to students, accounting departments, and accounting clubs at Connecticut colleges, universities, and community colleges.

Please remember to support the ETF with the donation check-off on your dues statement, and consider one of these creative ways to show your support.

>> Wear Jeans in Support of the ETF

Choose a single day, a repeating day of the week, monthly, etc. We here at the CTCPA decided to go with \$5 per person to wear jeans on Fridays, which adds up quickly even in our small office. Just this year, we have raised more than \$500 – enough to sponsor a scholarship for the coming year. Snap a photo of your staff on jeans day and email it to Kirsten Piechota at kirstenp@ctcpas.org and we'll share it with the membership!

>> Honor the Memory of a Friend or Colleague

The ETF often receives donations in memory of a member who has passed away. One of the many donations sent in to honor the life of member Ed Taddei this winter was from Post University accounting majors, who took up a collection to show their support. "We hope this donation helps bring joy to the students working hard to receive these scholarships," they shared in the accompanying letter. "We know that it is what [Mr. Taddei] would have wanted."

Mail checks payable to the ETF to 716 Brook Street, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 • www.ctcpas.org/ETF

>> CTCPA Recognized for Achieving Exemplary Email Marketing Results



CTCPA recently received the All Star Award from Constant Contact for the third consecutive year. Constant Contact bestows the award to a select group of organizations successfully leveraging online marketing tools to drive success. CTCPA's results ranked among the top 10 percent of Constant Contact's international customer base.

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New Online Courses Bring CPE On-Demand

Patrick K. Coughlin, AIF, a principal at Buck Consultants in Boston, recently taught his popular two-hour seminar on retirement planning at the CTCPA Education Center ... to an almost entirely empty room. Coughlin's only audience member was video recording specialist **Abraham Texidor** of Texidor Event Videography, who captured the presentation and accompanying PowerPoint slides to upload to the CTCPA website.

Coughlin's presentation joins a collection of one- and two-hour sessions recorded at CTCPA conferences and events or recorded exclusively for on-demand dissemination. The courses are available at any time of day or night – users simply purchase the product on the CTCPA website, watch the video, and pass a 5-10 question test in order to receive an immediate CPE certificate.

Each course includes a side-by-side view with the speaker on one side of the screen and the PowerPoint slides on the other throughout the presentation.

“Our new on-demand self-study is designed for busy professionals who need instant access to high-quality, relevant education in a flexible way,” said CTCPA CPE Director **Lisa Bugryn**. “Subjects range from highly technical topics like GASB updates and developments in healthcare taxation to interpersonal skills such as public speaking and the psychology of fraud.”

To access the CTCPA on-demand video store, go to www.ctcpas.org/OnDemand. Questions? Contact Bugryn at lisab@ctcpas.org or call 860-258-4800 and press 1 to reach the CPE department.



You may have seen videographer Abraham Texidor of Texidor Event Videography as he records CTCPA conferences and events to capture two- and four-hour sessions for CTCPA's new on-demand online CPE courses.

State Tax Review

Now in the Paychex Accountant Knowledge Center

The Paychex Accountant Knowledge Center (AKC) now provides FREE access to the CCH State Tax Review (STR) Newsletter. Keep up-to-date on tax developments in your state. The STR complements the existing tools outlined below on the AKC, all available for FREE at registration.

- **Daily News** – Topics include federal and state tax, payroll, and HR.
- **Mobile News**
- **CCH Tax Briefings** – Find overviews on major tax legislation.
- **HR Compliance Library** – Research a wide range of HR topics.
- **Interactive Financial Calculators** – Over 150 different calculators.
- **U.S. Master Tax Guide**

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- Business Communications Do's and Don'ts
- The Secrets of Effective Public Speaking
- Retirement Plan Cost: What You and Your Clients Need to Know
- Connecticut Estate Tax: Understanding the Law
- The Psychology of Fraud
- The Line-by-Line Preparation of the Connecticut Estate Tax Return
- ... and more!

Coming Soon

- GASB Update
- DOL Update with Marcus Aron
- Compilation and Review Update
- Ethics Critical Thinking: Surviving Ethical Dilemmas
- ... and more!

▶ See and hear the instructors alongside their PowerPoint presentations.

On-Demand Sneak Peek

Overview

- EBSA Audit Quality Initiatives
- Emerging Issues
- Reporting Compliance Initiatives
- Regulatory Update
- DOL Resources



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2015 CPE Calendar

Date	Title	Express Code	Location	CPE Hours	Member Standard/Early	Early Bird Good Through
May Seminars						
5/18	Cancellation of Debt for Individuals and Businesses <i>(Morning Session)</i>	CL4CDIB	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/4/2015
5/18	Tax Planning Strategies for Small Businesses: Corporations, Partnerships, and LLCs <i>(Afternoon Session)</i>	CL4STSB	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/4/2015
5/19	Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference	GAA	Meriden	8	\$285/\$250	5/5/2015
5/19	Professional Ethics for Connecticut CPAs <i>(Morning Session)</i>	ETH519	Rocky Hill	4	\$180/\$160	5/5/2015
5/19	The Complete Trust Workshop!	TCTW	Norwalk	8	\$320/\$285	5/5/2015
5/20	Core Issues Related to Properly Assessing and Responding to Financial Statement Audit Risk	CIAR	Cromwell	8	\$295/\$260	5/6/2015
5/20	Fiduciary Income Tax Returns: Form 1041 Workshop with Filled-In Forms	1041-A	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/6/2015
5/20	GAAP for Industry	GAAPI	Cromwell	8	\$295/\$260	5/6/2015
5/20-21	Technology Conference	TEC	Rocky Hill	16	\$470/\$435	5/6/2015
5/20	Technology Conference (Day 1)	TEC1	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/6/2015
5/21	Fair Value Accounting: Making the Complex Issues Understandable	FAIR	Cromwell	8	\$295/\$260	5/7/2015
5/21	Technology Conference (Day 2)	TEC2	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/7/2015
5/22	Nexus Update: Latest Developments in State Income, Franchise, and Sales Taxes	NXUP	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/8/2015
5/26	Compilation and Review Guide and Update <i>(Morning Session)</i>	CRU4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/12/2015
5/26	Financial Statement Disclosures: Guide to Current Requirements and Developing Issues <i>(Afternoon Session)</i>	FSD4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/12/2015
5/26	New "Repair Regs" – Sec. 263 (a)	NRR-A	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/12/2015
5/26	Recognizing and Responding to Fraud Risk in Governmental and Not-for-Profit Organizations	FRGNP	Cromwell	8	\$285/\$250	5/12/2015
5/27	Audits of State and Local Governments: What You Need to Know	AUSL	Cromwell	8	\$285/\$250	5/13/2015
5/27	Employee Benefit Plans Conference	EBP	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/13/2015
5/27	New "Repair Regs" – Sec. 263 (a)	NRR-B	Shelton	8	\$310/\$275	5/13/2015
5/27	Surgent's 2015 Annual Tax Planning Guide for S Corporations, Partnerships, and LLCs	TPGS	Cromwell	8	\$295/\$260	5/13/2015
5/28	AICPA Peer Review Program Advanced Course	ADPRT	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/14/2015
5/28	Financial Reporting Framework for SMEs	FRFS	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/14/2015
5/28	Nonprofit Industry Update and GAAP Refresher	NIU-A	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/14/2015
5/28	The Best Income Tax, Estate Tax, and Financial Planning Ideas of 2015	IEFP	Norwalk	8	\$320/\$285	5/14/2015
5/29	Revenue Recognition: Mastering the New FASB Requirements	INRR	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/15/2015
5/29	Shortcuts to Tax Cuts: Business Tax Planning Strategies for S Corporations and LLCs	TCBU	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/15/2015
5/29	Upcoming Peer Review: Is Your Firm Ready?	SNPR	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/15/2015
June Seminars						
6/1	A Practical Guide to Trusts	PGTT	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/18/2015
6/1	Construction Contractors: Accounting, Auditing, and Tax	CAAT	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/18/2015
6/2	Advanced FASB Review: Complex GAAP Issues	AFASB	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/19/2015
6/2	Estate and Financial Planning for the Older Client	OLDX	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/19/2015
6/3	Advanced QuickBooks Tips and Techniques <i>(Afternoon Session)</i>	AQBX4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/20/2015
6/3	QuickBooks Online: Changing the Paradigm of Small Business Accounting <i>(Morning Session)</i>	QBOX4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/20/2015
6/3	Special Purpose Frameworks: Preparing and Reporting on Cash, Modified Cash, and Tax Basis Financial Statements	CMCT	Norwalk	8	\$320/\$285	5/20/2015

Date	Title	Express Code	Location	CPE Hours	Member Standard/Early	Early Bird Good Through
6/3	Taxation for Individuals Living Abroad	TILA	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/20/2015
6/4	Accounting and Auditing Conference	AAC	Plantsville	8	\$285/\$250	5/21/2015
6/4	Advanced Mergers, Acquisitions, and Sales of Closely Held Businesses	PSAS-A	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/21/2015
6/4	Securing Your Data: Practical Tools for Protecting Information (Afternoon Session)	SECX4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/21/2015
6/4	Technology Update (Morning Session)	TUPX4	Rocky Hill	4	\$160/\$140	5/21/2015
6/5	Advanced Excel	ADE	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/22/2015
6/5	Basis/Distributions for Pass-Through Entities: Simplifying the Complexities	BADI	Shelton	8	\$310/\$275	5/22/2015
6/5	The Complete Guide to Connecticut Death Taxation	CTDT-A	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/22/2015
6/8	Identity Theft: Preventing, Detecting, and Investigating Identity Theft	IDENT	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/25/2015
6/8	Not-for-Profit Financial Reporting for Today and Tomorrow	NPFR	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/25/2015
6/8	The Complete Guide to Connecticut Death Taxation	CTDT-B	Norwalk	8	\$310/\$275	5/25/2015
6/9	A Complete Guide to the Yellow Book	YBYB	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/26/2015
6/9	Federal Estate and Gift Tax Returns: Forms 706 and 709 Workshop with Filled-In Forms	GIFT	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/26/2015
6/9	Forensic Accounting: Fraudulent Reporting and Concealed Assets	FAFR	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/26/2015
6/10	Annual Update for Accountants and Auditors	AUAA	Rocky Hill	8	\$285/\$250	5/27/2015
6/10	Disclosure: The Key to Financial Statements	DKFS-A	Norwalk	8	\$320/\$285	5/27/2015
6/10	Healthcare 2015 Update: 20 Hot Accounting and Auditing Topics	HCU	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/27/2015
6/10	Mastering the Fundamentals of Estate and Gift Tax Planning	MFEP	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	5/27/2015
6/11	Annual Update for Preparation, Compilation, and Review Engagements	CORU	Cromwell	8	\$285/\$250	5/28/2015
6/11	Compilation and Review Practice Guide	CRP-A	Shelton	8	\$320/\$285	5/28/2015
6/11	Determining How Much Money You Need to Retire: Tax Ideas and Money Management in Retirement	DRMM	Cromwell	8	\$295/\$260	5/28/2015
6/11	Ethics and Connecticut Professional Standards: 10 Ways to Lose Your CPA License (Morning Session)	ELOSE	Rocky Hill	4	\$180/\$160	5/28/2015

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 Sargent's Calculating a Partner's or LLC Member's
 Fraud and Abuse in Nonprofits
 How Will You Handle the New Revenue Rulings?
 Ethics: When CPAs Make the Headlines
 Fair Value and Other Financial Reporting Requirements
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 Fair Value Determination for Complex Derivatives
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New and Young Professionals Upcoming Events

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



First-Time Homebuyers Seminar

Thursday, May 21 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill

Get the lowdown on homebuying from a panel of experts!



JA in a Day

October (date to be determined)
Charles Wright Elementary School, Wethersfield

Present a one-day financial workshop to elementary school students.



Dodgeball Tournament

Thursday, June 11 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Nomads Adventure Quest, South Windsor

Come on your own or put together a team for a fast-paced night of dodgeball.



College Month October

Sit on panels and answer accounting students' questions at colleges and universities around Connecticut.



Annual Kickball Tournament

Saturday, August 15
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Norton Park, Plainville

Round up your team and support a local charity.



NYP Leadership Conference

Tuesday, November 3
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
CTCPA Education Center

This exciting new conference focuses on networking, communication, leadership, ethics, team-building, and more.



Joint Event with the Bar Young Lawyers Section

September (date to be determined)

Enjoy drinks and apps while networking with members of the Connecticut Bar Young Lawyers Section.



Mingling & Merriment NYP Holiday Party

Thursday, December 10
6:30 - 10:00 p.m.

The Society Room of Hartford

Mingle over drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the stunning grandeur of The Society Room of Hartford.

NYP Events Are Coming to Fairfield County!

We're kicking off a new initiative to bring NYP events to Fairfield County! Are you interested in helping plan the series? Contact **Tyler Losure** at tylerl@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0215.



South Norwalk Happy Hour

Thursday, May 21 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
The Ginger Man, South Norwalk

Meet up with other local CPAs for a fun night of drinks and appetizers at the popular Ginger Man!



Stand-Up Paddle Board and Kayak Adventure

Friday, August 21 • 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Downunder, Westport

Our sunset water adventure will give you a chance to try out stand-up paddle boarding. Kayaks will also be available. Includes all necessary equipment and a light dinner.



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>> Members-Only Meetings

Reserve your place at www.ctcpas.org/membermeetings.

Questions?

Contact Membership Activities Coordinator Phyllis Roche at phyllisr@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0216.



Easton CONNECTION

Easton Public Library, Easton
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • CPE Credits: 2

Business Exit Strategies for Baby Boomers: Sell, Merge, or Transfer Thursday, May 28

Speakers: **Julie Jason**, Jackson, Grant Investment Advisers
and **Timothy Hurley**, Bentley Associates

Avoiding IRA Pitfalls Thursday, June 18

Speaker: **Frank Metrusky**, Metrusky Retirement Services

Coming up:

September 24 December 17
October 22



The Friday Focus for Members in Industry

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

Business Continuity and Physical Disaster Recovery Friday, July 17

Speaker: **Kevin Binder**, Agility Recovery

Kevin Binder, area director with new CTCPA affinity partner Agility Recovery, will share simple steps to prepare your company for disasters when they strike. Learn more about our new partnership with Agility Recovery on page 30.

Coming up:

September 18 November 20
October 23 December 18



Technology Breakfast Roundtables

Members purchase their own breakfasts.
CPE credit not available.

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

CPE credit not available.

Thursday, May 21

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

Wednesday, June 17

Riverdale Diner, Shelton • 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 16

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



Torrington CONNECTION

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

Retirement Plan Issues Wednesday, May 27

Speaker: **Stuart H. Herskowitz**, CRC, AIF, Hooker & Holcombe Companies

Coming up:

July 22 November 18
September 16





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.

Fraud Update: A Bank's Perspective

Tuesday, May 5

Speaker: **Kim Syrop**, Webster Bank Fraud Mitigation and Loss Management Unit

This program will feature a timely and topical fraud update from a bank's perspective, including recent trends.

>> Special Program

The New Connecticut Public Corruption Task Force: Combating Public Corruption, Fraud, and Embezzlement Tuesday, September 8

Speaker: **Christopher M. Mattei**, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Financial Fraud and Public Corruption Unit

Attorney Mattei will discuss the new Connecticut Public Corruption Task Force's charge to investigate corrupt public officials, the misuse of public funds, and related criminal activity.

The task force includes representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service, Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division, and the Inspector General's Offices of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The task force is focused on rooting out not only corrupt elected officials, but also federal, state, and municipal employees who use their position for personal gain at the expense of the public good. It has already made progress in several investigations, including the recent arrest of the former finance director of Plymouth, who allegedly embezzled more than \$800,000 from the town.

Coming up:

February 9, 2016

Attend a
committee
meeting.

Join the
conversation.

CTCPA technical committees offer fantastic opportunities to discuss timely topics with peers who share your areas of interest and expertise, all while building your network and often earning free CPE.

View upcoming meetings and reserve your space at www.ctcpas.org/membermeetings.

Federal Income Taxation Committee

Tuesday, May 5 • 8:30 a.m.

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill

Tangible Property Regulation

Speaker: **Crystal Germanese**, CPA, BlumShapiro

Trust, Estate, and Gift Taxation Committee

Wednesday, May 6 • 8:30 a.m.

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill

Estate Planning with Retirement Benefits

Speaker: **Barbara Taylor**, J.D., Reid & Riege

Not-for-Profit Organizations Committee

Thursday, May 7 • 8:30 a.m.

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill

Connecticut Department of Children and Families' Budget Issues

Speaker: **Jack Horak**, J.D., Reid & Riege

State Taxation Committee

Friday, May 8 • 8:30 a.m.

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill

Tax360° Conference Planning

Campus Rep Reports

Student News and Views

Each fall, CTCPA engages Campus Representatives (“Campus Reps”) at Connecticut colleges and universities to act as CTCPA liaisons at their respective campuses. These students get the word out about CTCPA Student membership and opportunities available in the CPA profession, arrange for speaking engagements for CTCPA members and staff, and hold CTCPA-sponsored charity drives at their schools.

What have accounting students around the state been up to? Check out these reports to hear from our eyes and ears on the ground!

University of
Connecticut



Shauna
Sullivan

*Anticipated Graduation: 2015
Beta Alpha Psi VITA Coordinator*

Why did you choose accounting?

My dad was an accounting major and worked in the accounting/banking profession his entire life, so accounting was something I was always interested in. I came into school as an actuarial science major, but switched after taking financial accounting.

What was your proudest moment with Beta Alpha Psi this year?

Being able to find another professor to help with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program after the sudden passing of [CTCPA Past President] Professor **Michael Redemske** this summer. He was in charge of the program for many years and we owe the success of VITA largely to him.

Who were your favorite speakers this year?

One of my favorites was PwC. I interned with them this past summer; it's nice to have your firm come in and to see all the familiar faces. I also really enjoyed our meeting with Deloitte, where we made Christmas cards to send to veterans.

Did Beta Alpha Psi do any community service this year?

We participated in Junior Achievement, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk, a canned food drive, and a supply drive for veterans.

How has the CTCPA helped you?

It has made me much more involved in the accounting profession, which I am so grateful for at such a young age.

What are your plans for next year?

I will graduate in May, start to take the CPA Exam over the summer, and start full-time with PwC in Boston in October.

Post
University



Louis Santa
Barbara Jr.

*Anticipated Graduation: 2017
Accounting Society Vice President*

Why did you choose accounting?

Initially, I chose accounting due to the chances of earning a good living and being a member of a well-respected profession. Now, however, my interest stretches much further toward the opportunity to develop as a student and to ultimately enjoy my career choice.

What was your proudest moment with your accounting society this year?

We successfully hosted our annual “Major’s Gathering” event. This event gave us a sense of great pride and accomplishment.

Who were your favorite speakers this year?

My favorite speaker was **Anthony Sperduti**, who spoke on a CTCPA panel. He is an alum of my college and we were extremely fortunate to have him come back and share his diverse experiences in the field.

Did your accounting society do any community service this year?

Yes, many. The most notable were the clothing drive and the creation and donation of homemade baby blankets.

How has the CTCPA helped you?

The CTCPA provides students with an abundance of opportunities that would not be possible without its dedicated members.

What are your plans for next year?

I plan to continue working toward graduating with the required 150 credits to sit for the CPA Exam. I am also looking forward to continuing as an officer of the accounting society and staying an active student member of the CTCPA.



**George
Pertesis**

*Anticipated Graduation: 2016
Accounting Club Member*

Why did you choose accounting?

I love numbers and what the Big Four stand for.

What was your proudest moment with your accounting club this year?

Writing letters to soldiers for the holidays to lift their spirits.

Who were your favorite speakers this year?

All the speakers that came from the Big Four provided great insight to their respective roles within their company.

Did your accounting club do any community service this year?

Yes, we collected more than 200 cans/boxes for our annual food drive.

How has the CTCPA helped you?

CTCPA provides many useful materials that can benefit all who are a part of it.

What are your plans for next year?

I am interning at Ernst & Young this coming summer and hope to use this experience as well as the accounting classes I am taking next year to further my accounting skills.

What's one thing CTCPA members would be surprised to know about life as a college student?

Every day is different. One day you might have absolutely no work and bum it all day, and the next day you will be spending 10 hours in the library writing papers or studying.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with CTCPA members?

CTCPA is great and everyone should join!



**Bethany
Naccarato**

*Anticipated Graduation: 2015
Accounting Society President*

Why did you choose accounting?

I've always been drawn to logic games and puzzles, so accounting has been a natural extension for me.

I've always been business-minded, but I was drawn to accounting because of the wide range of workforce options for accountants. Of course, it helps that accounting students graduate ready to work full-time after college and have highly marketable skills!

What was your proudest moment with your accounting society this year?

My proudest moment was the huge outpouring of student and faculty support for the CTCPA Coat Drive. We collected four overflowing bags of coats, with more appearing every day! Accounting society members were a large part of the donations and also were instrumental in spreading the word.

Who were your favorite speakers this year?

My favorite speaker was **Ronald Peruzzi** from the IRS, who spoke about the VITA program and how students can get involved.

How has the CTCPA helped you?

Membership and Academics Manager **Alicia Strong** assembled a panel of students who had already passed the CPA Exam to come in and talk about their experiences.

What are your plans for next year?

After graduation I plan to immediately start sitting for the CPA Exam. With a little luck and lots of studying, I will pass within the year. I am then hoping to continue my education by getting my MBA and law degree together, with my law focus in taxation.



**Katelin
Meyers**

*Anticipated Graduation: 2015
Beta Alpha Psi President*

Why did you choose accounting?

I took an accounting course in high school and really enjoyed it.

What was your proudest moment with Beta Alpha Psi this year?

In comparison to last year, we had a lot more meetings and we were able to visit the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

Who were your favorite speakers this year?

We have always enjoyed the CTCPA presentations, as we can all relate to studying for the CPA Exam and are interested in learning more about the CTCPA. This semester we also had UTC come in to speak, and they shared some interesting tips about resumes.

Did Beta Alpha Psi do any community service this year?

We collected coats for the CTCPA Coat Drive and participated in walks for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Diabetes.

What are your plans for next year?

We plan to bring in a panel of CPA Exam review organizations, plan at least one corporate visit, and hold a literacy day with help from KPMG.

What's one thing CTCPA members would be surprised to know about life as a college student?

Professors and people working in the school want to see the students succeed, and at the Barney School of Business, professors and others working in the school invest in students by providing numerous opportunities to network, gain knowledge, and become more career-ready. ►

Eastern Connecticut State University



**Michael
Cipollone**

Anticipated Graduation: Spring 2015
Accounting Society Public Relations Officer

Why did you choose accounting?

Having taken an accounting class in high school, I decided to declare an accounting major my freshman year. I chose to continue my education in accounting because it provided coursework that was both challenging and rewarding.

What was your proudest moment with your accounting society this year?

My proudest moment was representing Eastern Connecticut State University at the annual CTCPA Educational Trust Fund dinner. I, along with faculty members and other accounting students, accepted grants on behalf of the accounting program at Eastern.

Who were your favorite speakers this year?

My favorite speaker was [CTCPA Public Affairs Director] **Mark Zampino**. He communicated clearly and effectively while engaging his audience with different activities. His presentation provided useful information on networking and how to maintain a professional appearance on social media.

How has the CTCPA helped you?

Being the CTCPA campus representative has given me the opportunity to network with professionals in the accounting industry. Also, the CTCPA panel discussion gave perspective on the CPA Exam and professional life.

What are your plans for next year?

Following graduation this spring, I will start full time as an audit staff for BlumShapiro. I also plan to start taking the CPA Exam and begin working toward my master's degree.

Central Connecticut State University



**Daniel
Rodrigues**

Graduation: December 2014
Accounting Society Treasurer

Why did you choose accounting?

I chose accounting because I like to understand how the operations of a business are represented on the financial statements.

What was your proudest moment with your accounting society this year?

My proudest moment was getting all of the funds necessary for next semester.

Did your accounting society do any community service this year?

We worked closely with Army soldiers and provided them with useful supplies.

How has the CTCPA helped you?

The CTCPA provided me with valuable information regarding the CPA Exam. Now I feel more confident about passing.

What are your plans for next year?

My plans are to take classes until I have 150 credits so that I can take the CPA Exam with as much accounting knowledge as possible.

>> Pay it Forward! Volunteer to Speak at a College or University

Are you interested in sharing your career knowledge with college students? Sign up to be a CTCPA college speaker or panelist to give students a glimpse into life as an accountant.

Visit www.ctcpas.org/collegemonth to sign up or contact **Alicia Strong** at alicias@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0217 to learn more.



Eastern Connecticut State University Accounting Society



Post University Accounting Society makes baby blankets to donate.



University of Connecticut Beta Alpha Psi with Junior Achievement students



University of Connecticut Beta Alpha Psi

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Melissa Kessell, CPA

Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
1240 Chapel St., New Haven

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Ryan S. Mullin, CPA

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Dilyara A. Sakayev

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New Students

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Miriam Beran of Waterbury

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Tunxis Community College

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AUTHORIZED PARTNER

In Memoriam

David J. Kasowitz,
a member since June 7, 1973,
passed away July 13, 2014.

Stuart E. Magdefrau,
a member since May 15, 1980,
passed away April 12, 2015.

CTCPA Mourns Loss of Longtime Member Stuart Magdefrau

Longtime CTCPA member Stuart E. Magdefrau, a former member of the Board of Governors and past chair of numerous committees including Professional Ethics, Management of an Account Practice, Public Relations, and Audit, passed away on April 12, 2015. He was 60.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut in 1976. In 1986, he founded Magdefrau & Rathbun, the predecessor firm to Magdefrau, Renner & Ciaffaglione LLC. Prior to 1986, he was a partner in the Hartford accounting firm of Massa and Hinsley.

He was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and served on its Technical Review Task

Force; a member of the Estate and Business Planning Council of Hartford, Inc.; a director of Rockville Bank; a incorporator of Eastern Connecticut Health Network; and treasurer of Strong Family Farm, Inc. He served as a youth soccer coach and a little league coach for the Ellington Recreation Department and as treasurer of the Vernon Historical Society and the Vernon Dove Corporation.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ellington Community Scholarship Association (ECSA), memo: The Magdefrau Family Scholarship, P.O. Box 54, Ellington, CT 06029, or online to The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation at www.cholangiocarcinoma.org.

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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 Flr., Hartford, CT 06103, phone: 860-524-4430, or email: aandrews@whcpa.com.

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.

Find Quality New Hires With
These Two Unique Opportunities!



1 Day >>

150 Job and Internship Interviews

CTCPA INTERVIEW DAY 2015

How Does it Work?

1. Reserve your space at www.ctcpas.org/InterviewDay. Don't delay – last year sold out!
2. You'll receive student information packets (including resumes, essays, and areas of interest) in mid-September to review and give us your top picks.
3. Students will confirm their interest in your opportunity.
4. We'll schedule interviews in 35-minute increments on Friday, September 25 at the CTCPA Education Center.

Friday, September 25, 2015

CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill • 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CTCPA's overwhelmingly successful event returns for the third year to help match accounting majors at Connecticut colleges and universities with employers in public accounting and private industry seeking interns or full-time hires.

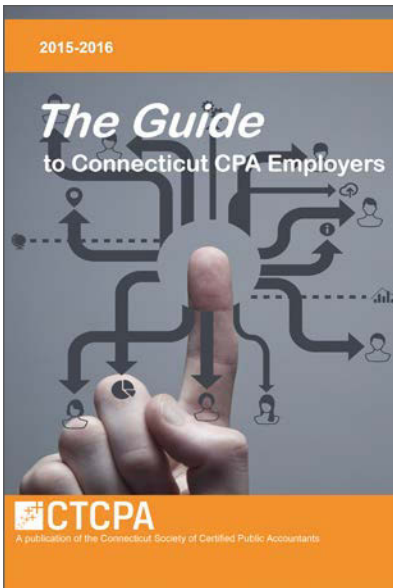
Students must meet eligibility requirements and will be hand-selected by accounting faculty at colleges and universities across the state.

Cost: \$450 per company.

Includes interview cubicle (accommodates up to two company representatives) for up to 10 interview slots, breakfast, lunch, and access to resumes and contact information for all student participants. You may add one additional representative to serve as a greeter in the student lounge for \$50.



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



Reserve Your Space in *The Guide to Connecticut CPA Employers*

This collection of employer resume pages, a higher education opportunities section, and practical “how-to” information is designed to spotlight accounting career opportunities in Connecticut.

The Guide is provided to two- and four-year college and university accounting departments and career service offices around the state, appears on the CTPA website, and is mailed to each CTPA Student Member.

- ☐ **Company/firm resume page: \$265.88** (\$250 + Connecticut sales tax)
- ☐ **Enhanced listing: \$390.88** (\$375 + Connecticut sales tax)
Enhanced listing includes company/firm resume page plus black-and-white full-page advertisement alongside your resume.

Ready to Reserve Your Space?

Download and complete the form available at www.ctcpas.org/recruiting by July 10 or contact **Jill Brightman** at jillb@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0239 and let her know what opportunities interest you.



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.

Reynolds & Rowella LLP announced the promotions of **Stacey Harriott** to audit manager, **Kevin Grimm** and **Debbie Circelli** to supervisor, and **Sarah Reynolds** and **Jessica Cipriano** to senior associate.



Stacey Harriott



Kevin Grimm



Debbie Circelli



Sarah Reynolds



Jessica Cipriano



Michael Kovaleski



Angela Paydos

Kovaleski works with a variety of small business and individual tax clients and also specializes in audits of nonprofit organizations. Paydos works on various audit engagements.

Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski, LLC in Middletown promoted **Michael Kovaleski** to director and **Angela Paydos** to manager.

Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger, P.C. in Fairfield and New Haven promoted **F. Jay Broderick** to partner. He has more than 18 years’ experience providing audit and assurance services to clients in a number of industries as well as not-for-profit and employee benefit plans. He is also a Certified Fraud Examiner.



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.



Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte and Sterczala Selects Make-A-Wish Connecticut as Latest Jeans for Charity Recipient

Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte and Sterczala (DHL&S) in Shelton recently selected Make-A-Wish Connecticut, an organization dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life threatening medical conditions, as its 2014 Jeans for Charity recipient.

The DHL&S Jeans for Charity program, which has raised more than \$37,900 for local charities since it was established in 2004, encourages employees to donate weekly to a fund that is matched by the firm, in exchange for allowing participants to wear jeans on Fridays.

Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte and Sterczala representatives present a check to Make-A-Wish Connecticut. Pictured are (back row, from left) Tony Wimperis, Suzanne Brown, Jackie Bahi, Peter Tomaino, Robert Vieira, Heather Smith-Jaser, Carin Gerig, Samantha Kijonka, DHL&S Managing Principal Eric Hendlin, Michael Ganino, Make-A-Wish Connecticut President and Chief Executive Officer Pam Keough, Analise Bott, Joseph Markarian, (front row, from left) Alberto Martins, Sara Burke, Jim Rollinson, Daisy Acervida, Ervis Tanellari, and Make-A-Wish Connecticut Board Chairman Keith Herzig.

BlumShapiro Sponsors 'Lessons in Leadership' at University of Saint Joseph

For the fourth consecutive year, BlumShapiro has sponsored Leadership Greater Hartford's popular "Lessons in Leadership," a six-part discussion series presented for area business, educational, and nonprofit leaders interested in improving their leadership understanding and skills. Hosted by the University of Saint Joseph, "Lessons in Leadership" is organized around the book *Step Up: Lead in Six Moments That Matter* by Henry Adams and Colm Foster.

Doe Hentschel (standing), vice president of Leadership Greater Hartford, leads a discussion with dozens of participants in Lessons in Leadership at the University of Saint Joseph.



Congressman Courtney Visits CAAS VITA Site



Pictured at the CAAS VITA site in Vernon are (left to right) Ann Phung, Sherri Beaupre, Christopher Gardella, Christine Gaumond, Congressman Joe Courtney, The Village for Families and Children Chief Communications Officer Donna Jolly, and Linda Young. Not pictured are Anitha Hariharathan and Matt Wood, who were busy assisting clients.

Congressman **Joe Courtney** visited the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Vernon site in late February where five volunteers working with Community Accounting Aid and Services (CAAS) assisted 16 taxpayers in preparing their tax returns. CAAS oversees and supports tax sites in Willimantic, Stafford, Putnam, Rockville, Windsor Locks, and West Hartford. Volunteers provide free quality tax preparation to income-eligible families, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English-speaking taxpayers.



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.

Members in the Media

Stephen LaRosa, senior director, state and local tax for Alexion Pharmaceuticals in Cheshire, served as a panelist for the April 23 installment of *The Connecticut Mirror Policy Pairings Series* at Shebeen Brewery in Wolcott to discuss "The Future of Connecticut's Tax Policy."

John Mezzanotte, partner-in-charge of Marcum's Greenwich office, was quoted in the Associated Press article, "Connecticut Keeps Close Eye On Its Super-Rich Residents."

Stamford CPAs **Owen Bregman**, managing partner of Bregman & Co., **Clemente Pascarella**, a principal with The Professional Associates, and **Kathleen DeCruze**, a partner with Martin, DeCruze & Co., were quoted in the February 13 *Stamford Advocate* article "CPAs see no rush to file after ID theft warning."

Brett McGrath, a partner in Marcum's Hartford office and the partner-in-charge of the firm's Connecticut Tax Department, was quoted in the *Hartford Business Journal* article "Time for an Estate Planning Checkup."

Several firms with Connecticut offices have been named to the *Accounting Today* 2015 Top 100 Firms:

1. Deloitte
2. PwC
3. Ernst & Young
4. KPMG
5. McGladrey
6. Grant Thornton
11. CohnReznick
16. Marcum
19. UHY Advisors
22. Citrin Cooperman
30. O'Connor Davies
52. BlumShapiro

In addition, **BlumShapiro** and **Whittlesey & Hadley** were named to the list of Top Firms: New England.

Member News



Brian Newman (above), a partner with CohnReznick in Hartford, appeared on WTIC-AM NewsTalk 1080's "Face the State" program on April 8 to discuss tax season issues such as identity theft, unclaimed refunds, and last-minute filing tips. Newman was also quoted in the article "Married Filing Jointly ... or Separately? CPAs Answer Couples' Top Tax Quandaries" on LearnVest.com.



Carl Johnson, managing partner of BlumShapiro, has been appointed chairman of the North American Regional Advisory

Council of Baker Tilly International, one of the world's leading networks of independently owned and managed accountancy and business advisory firms.

Marie Kulesza, an associate professor at the University of Saint Joseph, CTCPA Past President **Noelle Taddei**, an associate professor at Post University, **Alicia Strong**, CTCPA membership and academics manager, and **Mark Zampino**, CTCPA public affairs director, recently served as judges for the Connecticut Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) annual State Leadership Conference.

Olivieri Celebrates 20 Years with CTCPA



Practice Programs Manager **Bonnie Olivieri** recently celebrated 20 years with the CTCPA. She joined the Society as administrative assistant to then-Executive Director **Jack Brooks**, continued that role for current Executive Director **Art Renner**, and 10 years ago moved into her current position administering the AICPA/CTCPA peer review program and managing ethics complaints and the Joint Ethics Enforcement Program.

She has also been the driving force behind the annual Educational Trust Fund Golf Tournament for 16 out of the tournament's 20 years as staff liaison to the tournament's planning committee.

Congratulations, Bonnie!

>> Integrity Merchant Solutions Offers Savings on Credit Card Processing Fees

Through a new affinity partnership with Integrity Merchant Solutions (IMS), members and their clients can realize significant savings on credit card processing fees. IMS offers payment processing solutions to suit every business and works with all major card types.

“CTCPA signed on with IMS in August of 2013 and year-over-year we are saving more than \$17,000 over our former processor,” explained CTCPA Director of Finance and Operations **Julie McNeal**.

“Saving on merchant processing is one of the easiest ways for CPAs as well as their clients to save money to the bottom line with very little effort,” said IMS Vice President **Lisa Schwartz**.

For more information or to request a complimentary analysis for your company or a client, contact Lisa Schwartz at 860-478-8846 or lschwartz@integritymerchantsolutions.com and let her know you’re a CTCPA member, or learn more at www.integritymerchantsolutions.com.



Integrity Merchant Solutions Offers Members and Their Clients:

- Potential savings of 10-40 percent over current rates
- Free no-obligation cost analysis
- The benefits of Interchange Plus (Cost-Plus) pricing
- Next-day deposits
- Economical and appropriate pricing
- No hidden fees
- Clear and concise statements to simplify reconciliations
- No long-term contract
- Use of existing equipment in most cases

>> Agility Recovery Offers Savings on Physical Disaster Recovery Solutions

Agility Recovery, a former division of General Electric, is North America’s premier provider of physical disaster recovery solutions to firms and their clients of all types. Agility provides easy-to-implement recovery solutions for an affordable monthly membership fee. Since 1989, Agility has rescued thousands of organizations with a 100 percent success rate.

When a disaster hits, Agility immediately begins mobilizing personnel and assets, utilizing all of their resources, knowledge and expertise. They handle everything associated with the recovery elements they provide, freeing you to focus on what matters most: your people, clients, and community. Unlike other programs, Agility has no disaster declaration or alert fees. Coverage begins the day you become a member, with no long discovery process or plan development fee. And Agility has not and never will profit from a member’s disaster.

Agility offers CTCPA members and their clients a 10 percent discount on any of its ReadySuite solutions. Contact Trevor Mickelson at 720-490-4531 or Trevor.Mickelson@agilityrecovery.com to learn more.

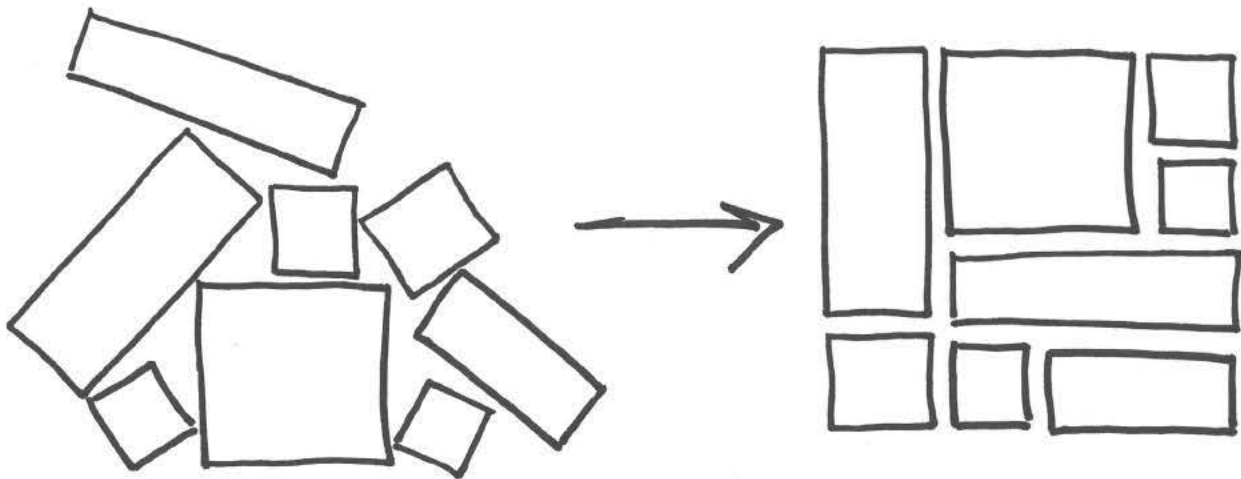


>> *Kevin Binder, area director with Agility Recovery, will be the featured speaker at the July 17 Friday Focus for Members in Industry. Learn more on page 18.*



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- Communications – Satellite or wireless connectivity to restore phone and Internet service



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150 Job and Internship Interviews

CTCPA INTERVIEW DAY 2015

Friday, September 25, 2015 • CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill • 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Learn more and register at

www.ctcpas.org/InterviewDay.