

VITAL



issue 30 - autumn 2006

the magazine for ICAEW students

Careers focus

Some apprentices
make great leaders

Reader competition

The winners get
Dressed for Success

Student offers

New great deals

Featured: Neil Temple- Gough

Senior Financial
Accountant



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VITAL is sponsored by

Michael Page
FINANCE

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Note from the editor

Welcome to the autumn issue of VITAL.

It may be the end of the long summer evenings but as autumn draws closer it's an exciting time of year that's full of change and colour. Some of you may have only just started your ACA training so welcome to you, while others may be preparing for the final sets of exams with the Advanced Stage papers in November. Whatever stage you're at, this edition of VITAL is packed with articles, information and opportunities to help you get the most of your training and development.

Are you taking full advantage of the benefits ICAEW student membership offers you? Make sure you're not missing out on our latest student offers on page 5.

The secret to a successful career is the ability to demonstrate key leadership skills in terms of your own performance and others. Page 6 is packed with useful information and advice on how you can make it to the top.

Remember the Student Survey we asked you to participate in early this year? The results make interesting reading on page 10.

And finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new editor of VITAL. My predecessor Pippa Biscoe has left for pastures new but during her time with the ICAEW, contributed greatly to the magazine's new look. We all wish her well in her new role.

But rest assured, VITAL will continue to provide a wealth of information to help support you during your training however I would urge you all to feedback any comments on how you think we could improve and add more benefit to your magazine. So drop us a line at VITAL@icaew.co.uk

Erica Nash

ICAEW news

A CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO BRING RICHER REWARDS

This autumn, watch out for ACA adverts in the national and accounting press, online, posters, London Underground and a fleet of ACA branded taxis. They're designed to attract new training organisations and trainees to the ACA, the 'gold standard' qualification for business leaders.

It's all part of the Institute's commitment to supporting members and to doubling student numbers by 2010. The first adverts appear in the FT in early October and Accountancy magazine (October – page 21).

 the qualification for business leaders

FREE issue of Accountancy Magazine

As of October, ICAEW students and members will now receive Accountancy magazine, the UK's leading magazine for chartered accountants. It's regarded as the chartered accountant's bible because of its good quality and wide-ranging editorial coverage and its provision of up-to-date technical accounting, auditing, regulatory and tax guidance. Accountancy stories and surveys are regularly followed up by the national media. This new monthly arrangement is part of the Institute's drive for continued provision of up-to-date information and value to our members.

New Code of Ethics now in effect

Just a reminder – the Institute's new Code of Ethics is now in effect. As of the 1 September all members (including provisional student members), affiliates, employees of member firms and, where necessary member firms must comply with the new Code, which replaces the previous Guide to Professional Ethics. It retains the principles-based approach pioneered by the Institute but has a new layout and structure which is intended to be more user-friendly. You should have received your copy of the new Code of Ethics Overview within this issue of VITAL. If not, please call our student helpline or visit www.icaew.co.uk/ethics for more information.

Calling all new students

On behalf of the ICAEW, we would like to welcome onboard all you new students who have just started your training and congratulate you in choosing to study for the ACA, the premier professional accounting and business qualification. As a student you gain provisional membership to the Institute, giving you access to a wealth of support services and benefits including:

- VITAL Magazine – your quarterly student magazine that keeps you up-to-date with the latest Institute news and information to help with your personal development
- Student Helpline – a team of professionals waiting to help with any advice and guidance on a range of issues including registration, training contracts, exams enquiries, change of contact details. Call us on +44 (0)1908 24 8040
- Student website www.icaew.co.uk/students – your online resource to everything you need as your progress from provisional to full membership.

Don't miss our article on page 5 that highlights other benefits provisional membership to the ICAEW offers you.

Industry hot topics

Students rank accountancy top for jobs

PWC, Deloitte and KPMG have taken the top three positions in a survey of popular graduate employers. Graduates listed the accountancy firms as the employers offering the best prospects, ousting traditional high performers such as the civil service and the BBC. The scale and scope of the accountancy industry has expanded hugely over the past few years in response to the growth in regulation, whilst the high salaries commanded by accountants are also an attractive proposition.

Financial Times, 15 September 2006

Extremely favourable market for newly qualifieds

Latest figures from financial recruitment specialist ECHM have revealed that newly qualified accountants can expect to earn 14% bigger salaries than 2005 graduates.

According to ECHM, newly qualified ACCAs can now earn a basic salary up to £43,000, while newly qualified ACAs within commerce and public practice can now earn up to £48,000 compared to £45,000 last year.

Salaries for newly qualified CIMA accountants increased 7% to £45,000 in 2006 with companies offering basic salaries of up to £45,000 from £42,000 in 2005.

Accountancy Age, 15 September 2006

FD to become chief executive of Nationwide

Nationwide and Portman Building Societies announced that they have agreed to merge in the biggest ever building society merger; the enlarged Society being the UK's leading mutual organisation with total assets of over £150 billion, will be named Nationwide Building Society.

Graham Beale, currently group finance director at Nationwide and a qualified ACA, will become chief executive of Nationwide on 1 April 2007 and subsequently of the enlarged Nationwide Building Society in September 2007, if the deal is completed.

Nationwide website, 12 September 2006

Deloitte boss is best paid accountant at £4 million

Deloitte's senior partner John Connolly has maintained his well-deserved reputation as one of UK's best paid executives. He most certainly remains THE best paid accountant. Deloitte reported pre-tax profits of £460m for the fiscal year ending in May.

Evening Standard, August 9 2006

VITAL facts

Exam dates

Professional Stage

Closing date

9 November 2006

Admission letter

24 November 2006

Exam dates

11, 12, 13 December 2006

Results

26 January 2007

Advanced Stage

Closing date

5 October 2006

Admission letter

19 October 2006

Exam dates

6, 7, 8 November 2006

Results

15 December 2006

Exam results service

To ensure you receive your admission letter and exam results remember to tell us of any changes to your postal or email address by calling us on +44 (0)1908 24 8040 or by emailing studentsupport@icaew.co.uk

Don't forget!

To register for your *Work Based Learning* questions – simply go to the website www.icaew.co.uk/students and click on 'Work based learning questions'. We expect you to answer two questions each month, from the start of your training contract.

If you have any problems or concerns call us on +44 (0)1908 24 8040

Winners of the “Dressed for Success!” reader competition

Following on from our Dressed for Success competition earlier this year in which we asked readers to tell us about their favourite hobby, Martine and Robert, our two competition winners, were treated to a shopping spree of a lifetime. Their witty and charismatic entries, which told us about Martine’s biking hobby and Robert’s joint ballroom dancing and American football interests, won them the opportunity to spend a day being suited and booted at T.M.Lewin.

We joined Martine and Robert at their local branch where they were treated to the expertise of their very own personal shopper who helped them choose an entire business make over. Having trawled the shelves looking at the vast range of shirts, fabrics, suits and accessories they weaved in and out of the changing rooms until they found their perfect combination. However this was only the beginning. Their chosen outfits were then tailored and sculpted to fit them perfectly.

And the proof...



Martine selected a classically tailored trouser suit with an elegantly yet stylish fitted shirt. A smart pair of cufflinks set the outfit off perfectly. Martine commented: *“Although the first suit combination I chose left me looking more clown-like than business-like (owing to generous sizings), the suit I came away with fits superbly and allayed my fears that I simply wasn’t suited (excuse the pun) to looking smart!”*



Robert selected a superbly smart navy pinstripe suit with a pink Oxford shirt and a snazzy pink tie. *“I was impressed by the vast range offered in the shop – I’ve never seen so many ties! The advice offered by the staff was great; I learnt loads about pleats, tucks, pulls, and alterations. The suit and the outfit as a whole are brilliant.”* said Robert

You can still view Martine’s and Robert’s entries on the website www.icaew.co.uk/students. We would like to thank Martine, Robert and the all the staff at T.M.Lewin who helped make our Dress for Success competition a success.



Martine on her trusty bicycle!



Martine choosing her brand new suit



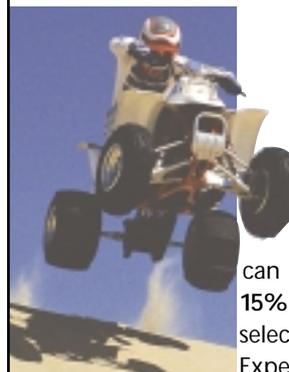
Robert looking very suave and sophisticated in his pinstripe suit



Robert and Christine waltzing their way through a dance competition



Inspirational Gifts



All ACA students can now get up to 15% discount on selected Virgin Experience Days.

Whether you’re into hair-raising thrills, calming chills or something requiring a bit of skill, they’ve got it covered. There’s everything from Rally Driving, Quad Biking, a Helicopter Lesson, a Relaxation Day, some exciting animal encounters and much, much more!



Get into the festive spirit and give a truly inspirational gift that won’t be forgotten! Virgin Experience Days have a huge variety of experiences with many different themes offering fantastic choice and great value.

Whether you’re buying for a loved one, friend, colleague, customer or even spoiling yourself a Virgin Experience Day makes the perfect gift.

For more information or to book your experience please visit www.virginexperiencedays.co.uk/icaew

Your chance to win great prizes

The Institute is pleased to announce some new fantastic offers which have been negotiated specifically to meet the needs of our students. As well as introducing Virgin Experience Days, we now have special arrangements with John Lewis and Magscriber. We have also enhanced many of our existing offers to give you even better value for money, including CD-WOW.

Enter our competition

To celebrate this new portfolio of offers and also our newly dedicated student offers section of our website, we are giving you the opportunity to win an exhilarating Virgin Experience Day and five top chart CD's from CD WOW. Simply login to www.icaew.co.uk/studentoffers and answer a few simple questions to enter our competition to win these exciting gifts.

Terms and conditions apply: Full terms and conditions for the competition can be viewed on the VITAL section of our website: www.icaew.co.uk/studentoffers

NUS card for ACA students

The ICAEW is pleased to be working in partnership with NUS again in 2006 to bring you the NUS Associate Card. With the NUS Associate Card you can get access to a range of offers and discounts from national companies.

This year's offers include:

- AA Driving School (buy one get one free on driving lessons)
- 20% discount on Rough Guides
- 10% off and free delivery from HMV

A further 50 offers can be found on the NUS website

www.nusonline.co.uk/associate

An application form can be downloaded from

www.icaew.co.uk/students

Provisional Membership What's in it for you?

As you already know, training as an ACA opens the door to a huge range of exciting opportunities in every sector of business and finance, in the UK and internationally but what else can your status as a Provisional Member give you?

Student offers

Maintaining a healthy balance between your professional and personal life is very important. So, as part of a drive to broaden our support, the Institute has partnered with a number of leading brands to bring you a portfolio of discounts for entertainment and travel, finance, clothing and gifts.

Current offers include **ASOS.com**, **0800Flowers.com**, **T.M.Lewin** as well as the **NUS** associate card and **CD-WOW**. The list is growing all the time and new offers will be rolling out every quarter. Make sure you visit and bookmark our new student offers section of the website www.icaew.co.uk/studentoffers to keep yourself up-to-date.

Library and Information Service

The ICAEW has its own Library and Information Service (LIS) which you can use by visiting the library at Chartered Accountants' Hall or by telephoning, faxing or emailing your enquiry so that information can be forwarded on to you.

The members of staff at the library will even read information to you over the telephone for quick answers. Decide which option suits your needs best – the choice is yours.

The Library's world class catalogue, contains details of over 40,000 books and 30,000 journal article summaries including:

- ICAEW training materials;
- learning & professional development publications – current and older versions, including exams, reports, handbooks and consultations;
- CCH publications and ABG Professional Information publications, current and previous editions and the publications of ABG's predecessors such as Accountancy Books and Chartac Books.

Special interest groups

The ICAEW have eight special interest groups which provide members with practical support, information and representation within a range of industry sectors:

- Charity and Voluntary Sector
- Entertainment and Media Industry
- Farming and Rural Businesses
- Forensic
- Healthcare
- Interim Management
- Solicitors
- Tourism and Hospitality

As a provisional member to the Institute, you can subscribe free of charge to one of eight groups. Membership helps you to gain professional advantage by sharing best practice, network with other chartered accountants in your field and hear from leading speakers discussing the latest topics and development affecting your industry. Visit www.icaew.co.uk/sigs for more information.



Some apprentices

make great leaders

Leaders come in all shapes and sizes; there really is no telling from where a leader will emerge. Look at BBC's 'The Apprentice'. Few thought that former shelf-stacker Michelle Dewberry would win and end up heading one of Sir Alan's Divisions.

Although not as forceful as some of her competitors, her early experiences had given her a head start. She'd worked in a variety of jobs from an early age and learnt how to organise and stand on her own feet.

This resourcefulness stood her in good stead for 'The Apprentice' and ultimately lead to a leadership role.

It's clear that everything you do has the potential to either accelerate or hamper your success. Many senior directors see their careers stall because they stumble in just one important area of leadership.

In today's flatter organisations, learning how to move up the career ladder quickly, can mean the difference between advancing to a top job and being forced into premature retirement.

New routes to the top

In the past you could reasonably assume that you could learn the critical principles of leadership from a mentor or senior figure who had gone before you, however, the realities of today's career environment are fundamentally different from just a generation ago.

In today's leaner businesses, with fewer levels of management, your potential mentors today may well be your competitors for promotion tomorrow.

Today's senior directors:

- are younger
- get to the top faster
- hold fewer total positions
- are less likely to spend their careers with one company
- are much more diverse and less likely to come from a public school background
- they're also less likely to follow one functional career path.

What does this mean to you?

That today, more than ever, you need to take control of your career. You need to recognize the need for varied experiences and, most importantly, experiences that will contribute to the rapid development of your leadership skills.

Own your career development

The reasons for the shift in the career landscape are clear. As organisations flatten, fewer steps exist between your first job and the boardroom. Whilst you are likely to remain in each position for as long as you might have a generation ago, today's career ladder has fewer rungs. So, with each advancement it's all about ensuring a greater leap in responsibility and performance.

It's not about natural-born talent

Top level leaders demonstrate an ability to get things done. They learn, practice and master the psychological principles that enable them to influence people, make better decisions and get where they need to go. Although different companies handle leadership development differently (depending on their size, their growth rate and the structure of their hierarchies) with rare exception, one thing is certain – you bear the ultimate responsibility for getting promoted.

Tips that will help you succeed

- ▶ Take responsibility for managing your relationship with your boss
- ▶ Learn your boss's strengths and weaknesses and work to compliment them
- ▶ Understand what's important to your boss and move these up your priority list
- ▶ Initiate conversations with your boss about expectations, goals, performance etc
- ▶ Request feedback regularly – then take appropriate action

Identify top priority goals at each level

Identify goals that are significant to your superiors and goals that contribute to the bottom line. In virtually every circumstance, your boss determines if and when you will advance. Of course, this doesn't mean that you should take actions that you feel are misguided. Offering your perspective is an important way of contributing to your boss's performance.

Demonstrating competency for the next level

Clearly you need to perform well in your current position before you can advance further. The higher you climb, however, the more you will realise that your competition for promotion is just as capable as you are. While ability and diligence are certainly important, they are no longer enough to get you to the top. The way to distinguish yourself is to go beyond the expectations of your current position. Identify the competencies you'll need for the next level, begin to develop and exhibit them now.

Learning the strategies of effective leaders

In your early years, career performance is all about you. It's about your personal productivity what you demonstrate and achieve on your own. At this early stage, promotions often go to those who stand out based on their technical competencies and personal contributions.

Within almost all companies, at every level, subtle differences determine who will be picked to move up. Where talented people most frequently fall down is in failing to recognize that they need to change their approach with every career transition. As you advance your success comes not from what you personally accomplish but from the accomplishments of your team. Making this leap requires that you master the skills necessary to effectively handle people.

Today's organisations need leaders who can accelerate performance and growth through their personnel. Leaders who can influence others with reason and clarity, without resorting to short-sighted tactics such as a harsh style of giving orders or even instilling fear. They seek people with integrity who can earn the trust of multiple stakeholders.

*If you would like further information,
please email vital@michaelpage.com*



Leadership Quotes

"The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born – that there is a genetic factor to leadership. This myth asserts that people simply either have certain charismatic qualities or not. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born."
Warren G. Bennis

"All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership."
John Kenneth Galbraith

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
John Quincy Adams

"I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers."
Ralph Nader

"Leadership is a matter of having people look at you and gain confidence, seeing how you react. If you're in control, they're in control."
Tom Landry

"The art of leadership is saying no, not yes. It is very easy to say yes."
Tony Blair

"Outstanding leaders go out of the way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish."
Sam Walton

"Leadership is not magnetic personality – that can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not 'making friends and influencing people' – that is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations."
Peter F. Drucker

"Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile."
Vince Lombardi

"Leadership rests not only upon ability, not only upon capacity; having the capacity to lead is not enough. The leader must be willing to use it. His leadership is then based on truth and character. There must be truth in the purpose and will power in the character."
Vince Lombardi

"The only real training for leadership is leadership."
Anthony Jay

Content supplied by

Michael Page
FINANCE



A world of opportunity

NEIL TEMPLE-GOUGH
Senior Financial Accountant,
Age: 33



After my degree I did some contract work in an investment bank, and whilst it gave me a great insight into the workings of a successful business, there was no formal qualification I could take and no real career progression. I looked at several alternatives and spoke to friends and family about possible options. Chartered accountancy and specifically studying for the ACA appeared to be the best option because it is a world-class business qualification with a huge array of career options available once qualified.

I specifically chose a medium-sized accountancy practice, Baker Tilly, in which to train for the ACA as I wanted to have the opportunity of being involved with both smaller and larger clients in a range of business sectors. I was also keen to

interact with a range of individuals from the bookkeepers right through to Managing Director level which working at a mid-sized firm allowed me to achieve.

" ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS ABOUT WORKING HERE IS THAT BARCLAYS IS A SPONSOR OF THE NATIONAL MENTORING CONSORTIUM, AND I HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO BE PART OF THE PROGRAMME. I REALLY ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE AND HAVE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL TRAINING TO HELP ME IN THIS IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTOR A STUDENT. "

I took some time out to travel abroad once I qualified, and having the ACA behind me gave me the security and confidence that I would be able to come back to England and get a good job. I joined Barclays in 2004 and have had the opportunity to be involved in a number of roles within finance since. Most recently I moved into the Finance Control team in November last year, working within the head office finance function.

Within Barclays Financial Control I am one of the Business Relationship Partners working with Barclays Capital, the investment banking arm of the Bank. This has involved working closely with Barclays Capital to ensure that the reporting of their business within the Group numbers is accurate. Although it sounds simple there is plenty of work involved including; fact finding, validating statistics and figures, contextualising the statistics of the business and ensuring smooth communication between the finance teams in the business and the group centre.

“ MY ADVICE TO THOSE THINKING OF BECOMING AN ACA WOULD BE TO CONSIDER ALL YOUR OPTIONS CAREFULLY - YOU DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO TRAIN FOR THE ACA IN AN ACCOUNTANCY PRACTICE, IN FACT THERE ARE SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE OUTSIDE OF PRACTICE AND I AM SUPPORTING A COLLEAGUE STUDYING HERE AT BARCLAYS. HAVING THE ACA UNDER MY BELT OPENED UP THE DOORS AT THE START OF MY CAREER AND IT CONTINUES TO DO SO. ”

As part of my role, I have also been making use of some exciting new technology. Microsoft Sharepoint has helped our team to communicate more effectively with other internal business units, reducing the administration time and paperwork involved in our work and enabling us to provide communications with greater added value. Ultimately it is helping the team deliver a better service to our stakeholders.

One of the big projects I have been involved with was the transition to IFRS culminating in the 2005 Barclays Annual Report, which I have recently finished working on.

It has been one of the most interesting areas I have worked on as well as one of the most challenging. We had to follow new processes and procedures, understand and communicate the practical application of the many new disclosure requirements, while working to some tight deadlines. I received great support from the Barclays Finance Academy, including comprehensive IFRS training which helped me develop the skills and technical knowledge required. It has taken a few months of dedicated work and new learning, but the end result looks great and I'm really proud of what myself and the team have achieved. I love the challenge and the fact that Barclays enables me to work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment full of great people.

One of the great things about working here is that Barclays is a sponsor of the National Mentoring Consortium, and I have

volunteered to be part of the programme. I really enjoy the experience and have received additional training to help me in this important role which gives me the opportunity to mentor a student. I chose to mentor a student currently studying at my old University, Brunel. This allows me to give something back to my University, help others and in turn allows me to develop some new skills as part of my continuing personal and professional development.

My advice to those thinking of becoming an ACA would be to consider all your options carefully - you don't necessarily have to train for the ACA in an accountancy practice, in fact there are some great opportunities available outside of practice and I am supporting a colleague studying here at Barclays. Having the ACA under my belt opened up the doors at the start of my career and it continues to do so.

“ I TOOK SOME TIME OUT TO TRAVEL ABROAD ONCE I QUALIFIED, AND HAVING THE ACA BEHIND ME GAVE ME THE SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO COME BACK TO ENGLAND AND GET A GOOD JOB. I JOINED BARCLAYS IN 2004 AND HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF ROLES WITHIN FINANCE SINCE. ”



Win £50 worth of vouchers!

So, let us know a bit about how you got into the ACA and chartered accountancy...

...do you work in a particularly interesting business sector? Are you training with an unusual company or business division? Maybe your route into the ACA qualification was extraordinary –

did you decide to train after having a career break, did you choose to train after completing a PhD or after specialising in a completely different subject?

Just email your profile to us at VITAL@icaew.co.uk and, if published, you will receive your free HMV vouchers.



It's simple – if you're happy to be featured as a profile in future issues of VITAL, contact us with your details and you could win £50 of HMV vouchers!

Statistically speaking... results of our student survey

We're doing an excellent job of supporting you – that's the feedback we've received from our annual ICAEW Student Survey which took place earlier this year. Back in February we ran a series of focus groups and embarked on a large scale online questionnaire inviting you to comment and share your views on the level of service and support provided by the Institute. With more than 2,300 of you participating within the survey, this has been an enormous success and has helped us identify how we can help and support you more, in addition, to identifying what you believe we are already achieving.

Student Support

A respectable 81% of you were satisfied with the level of Student Support provided by us. You were clearly happy with the volume and content of information you received from us. Over the past year we have focused our attention on ensuring you have access to a wide range of information, tools and support through our dedicated student helpline and website.

81% satisfied with level of support



However we are not resting on our laurels. We have recently enhanced our new student induction process by organising more welcome meetings and launching a new student welcome pack and are also planning to personalise the website further to help you manage your own training and development programme.

It's good to talk

It was interesting to see that email was the most preferred method of communication with you however more than 47% stated that traditional post was still relevant.



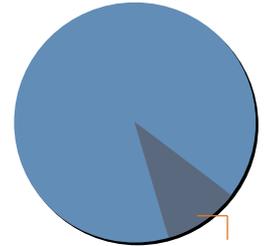
As ever we are looking to streamline our communication process further to ensure you receive information promptly but will also continue to provide hard copy too.

In the know

For us, the most significant finding was the low level of awareness regarding the services that as an ACA student, you are had access to, for example:

> Faculties

Less than 10% of you knew about our faculties or that you were entitled to free annual membership of one ICAEW faculty every year! This is an ideal opportunity for you to join a different faculty each year of your studentship and find out what they have to offer completely free of charge.



Less than 10% knew about the faculties

> National Student Council and Student Societies

Many of you were not aware of these and the benefits they offer you. Student council represent the body of the students at the Institute whilst the Societies provide the opportunity to socialise and network with other accountancy students.

> Library and Information Service

Only 19% of you were aware of our comprehensive library and information service. You can view our library catalogue by logging on to www.icaew.co.uk/library. Over the forthcoming year we will be proactive in ensuring you are aware of the benefits, opportunities and support available from the ICAEW without information overload.

Your opinion counts!

A big thank you to all of you who participated in this year's survey. We're pleased to announce the winners of the Student Survey Prize draw are:

First Prize of £150 HMV Vouchers

- Philippa Slack

6 runners up receiving £50 HMV voucher

- Thomas Whelan
- Sarah Yates
- Hannah Beaumont
- Louise Sumner
- Thomas Houghton
- Ms Su Zhang

Your opinions are so important to us if we are to maintain the high level of service you tell us we provide and also if we are to improve. Although the student survey is a great way to find out your views, we encourage you to give us your feedback and thoughts on how we can improve our support and services. Please drop us a line by emailing VITAL@icaew.co.uk or call our student helpline +44(0)1908 24 8040

Corporate Finance



The Corporate Finance Faculty is the largest network of professionals involved in corporate finance, with more than 5,600 members – ranging across major accounting and professional services firms, companies, banks, private equity houses, brokers, law firms and many other professional areas.

The Faculty aims to keep its members informed of emerging issues in corporate finance, support members' business and career development with networking events and learning opportunities.

There are over 60 member firms spread throughout the corporate finance arena, from accountancy, private equity, banking and law through to broking and independent advisory boutiques.

It provides a wide range of services, events and publications to support professionals involved in corporate finance, including its award-winning magazine Corporate Financier, best practice guidelines, seminars and conferences.

The Faculty initiated the development of the advanced Corporate Finance qualification for practitioners, which was launched in April 2005. The qualification's partner organisations include the ICAEW, the SII and CICA.

If you are looking for a career in corporate finance and want to see and be seen in this vital network then call +44 (0)20 7920 8557, visit www.icaew.co.uk/corpfinfac or email corpfin@icaew.co.uk

Vital thoughts

We hope that you like this issue of VITAL. To ensure we continue to deliver the content that is most relevant to you, we would like to hear from you. Your thoughts and views are important so please drop us a line VITAL@icaew.co.uk

Student Society Events Listing



Birmingham Chartered Accountant Student Society (BCASS)

Friday 10 November 2006 – 7:15pm
BCASS Annual Dinner – James Bond theme
Aston Villa Football Club (Holte Suite)
Please contact Anne Hipkiss at annahipkiss@bcass.co.uk or on 0121 258 0245.

Bristol Student Society

Thursday 16 November
BADCASS Wine Tasting
Venue TBC.

BADCASS Pool Tournament

Monday 18 December
Venue TBC
Please contact badcass@kaliba.net

Cambridge Chartered Accountant Student Society (CCASS)

Thursday 16 November – 7:30pm
Pub Quiz
Venue TBC
Please contact info@camcass.org.uk

Chartered Accountants' Society of London (CASL)

Sunday 29 October
5-a-side Football Tournament
Mill Hill Power league.

Wednesday 15 November

Careers Seminar, IOD Hub
New Broad Street, London
You chance to hear from the best who will talk you through their experiences in various sectors from, banking to public to commerce and industry.

Thursday 23 November

Film, TV & Music Quiz
The Red Herring, Gresham Street.

For any of the above CASL events please contact Deborah at deborah.hartog@icaew.co.uk or on 020 7920 8609.

Cyprus Student Council

First week of December (TBC)
Christmas Party
ZOO Club
Contact Viken Tellalian at Vicken.Tellalian@kpmg.com.cy for more information.

Leeds Chartered Accountant Student Society (LCASS)

Saturday 11 November
James Bond themed Fall Ball
Venue TBC
Please contact oliver.holgreaives@bentley-jennison.co.uk

Manchester Chartered Accountants Student Society (MCASS)

Wednesday 8 November
Fireworks Evening
Dukes92, Castlefield
Please contact post@mcass.org.uk

Sheffield & District Chartered Accountant Student Society (SDCASS)

Late-October (Date TBC)
Pool competition
City Centre, Sheffield
Join us if you reckon you're pretty good with a cue or if you just fancy a good time trying!
Please contact sheffieldsca@icaew.co.uk or 0114 2922415.

Thames Valley Chartered Accountant Student Society (TVCASS)

Saturday 25 November – 7:30pm-1:00am
Student Society Ball
Phyllis Court Henley-on-Thames,
Drinks reception, three course meal, dancing and more; a great fun night out to be had by all.
Please contact sue.pye@icaew.co.uk or events@tvass.org.uk



Existing Company and Commercial Law devolved assessments will be withdrawn on 31 December 2006 as the Company Law Reform Bill will render them obsolete.

If it is not possible to complete these before the end of the year then you will be required to complete the new law knowledge module being introduced from September 2007.

**Please visit
www.icaew.co.uk/aca2007
for more details.**

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