

# Vital

*your pool of information*



## Top Marks! - Student Conference 2002

On 28 September the Institute hosted its first annual Student Conference at Chartered Accountants' Hall in Moorgate, London.

The event was the culmination of a lot of planning and hard work by the Institute's Student Support Team, the Regional Services Team and Student Council.

The proceedings started at 11am with a welcome by **Sue Mason**, Student Support Manager, and **Helen Macauley**, Student Council Chair.

After the welcoming speeches **Brian Chiplin**, Executive Director of Education and Training (pictured below), gave a talk on how the Enron affair will affect the future of the accountancy profession and more importantly how the issues that

have been brought to the fore will be incorporated into the training of students.

The Conference then split into the first of two syndicate sessions. Students were able to choose from sessions covering passing the Professional Stage and the Advanced



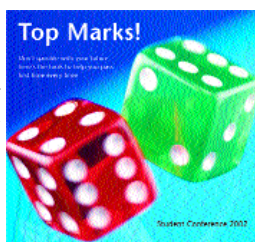
Stage exams, the A-Z of the ACA, career planning and a session on information gathering.

The exam syndicates were hosted by the Institute's senior examiners. Their input enabled students to hear, first hand, what examiners find when marking the papers after an exam session, and the areas that will enable students to gain more marks.

The A-Z of the ACA session, hosted by the Student Support Team, attracted a high number of students who had recently started their training. This session covered the new work based learning process and the associated documentation, plus guidance on the support available whilst training.

**Career Ahead**, the career planning session, was hosted by the Institute's Provisional and New Members Careers Advisor. This session covered how to make good use of the ACA qualification and was aimed at students nearing the end of their training.

The information gathering session **Information is the Key** was run by the Institute's library. The students who attended this session went away with a greater understanding of the resources available from the Institute and the Library in particular.



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## Useful phone numbers:

Student Support: **01908 248040**

## Useful email addresses:

Student Support: [studentsupport@icaew.co.uk](mailto:studentsupport@icaew.co.uk)  
Careers: [careers@icaew.co.uk](mailto:careers@icaew.co.uk)  
Learning Materials: [jane.wells@icaew.co.uk](mailto:jane.wells@icaew.co.uk)

Following the second syndicate session in the afternoon the day concluded with a summary of the support available from the Student Support Team, plus a round up of new developments taking place in Education & Training. These developments include the ability for students to choose how to receive their exam results, the roll-out of the work based learning process and the website "links to the real world".

Student Council hosted a drinks reception after the event with the majority of students remaining to take advantage of an important networking opportunity. Whilst the drinks reception took place the Student Support Team and other advisors hosted individual Student Surgeries, offering an opportunity for students to seek advice on a one to one basis.

The Student Support Team are now putting their thinking caps on with regards to running a further conference in 2003. If you have any thoughts on what we could include next time, please contact **Sue Mason** on: **01908 248040** or e-mail: [sue.mason@icaew.co.uk](mailto:sue.mason@icaew.co.uk), with your ideas.



Here's what those who attended said about the day:

*"The Q & A session with the examiners was extremely useful as was their discussion of what they were looking for from students taking exams."*



*"How to Pass the Advanced stage was excellent because it was very useful to meet the examiners and see that they're human! Also cleared up a few myths about quotas for exam passes."*

### The Enron Effect presentation:

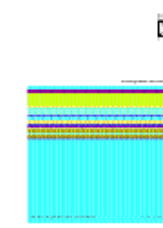
*"I thought it was excellent. Encouraging Chartered Accountancy students to think about business issues, rather than just process numbers without understanding the underlying issues, is definitely a good thing to do."*

*"While the interactions of the Enron Affair (and the Asian Crisis) were somewhat narrow, as did not consider the wider issue of Anglo-American business practice, it was excellent to finally hear someone in English Chartered Accountancy circles address these issues in a student context."*



## The colourful world of Chartered Accountancy

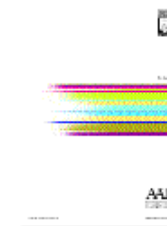
September saw the launch of the exciting new Student Recruitment campaign for universities and schools throughout the UK. The new campaign, "The full spectrum without the grey", aims to introduce young people to the colourful world of Chartered Accountancy.



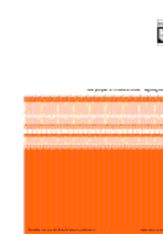
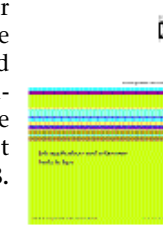
As you are aware, now that you are training to be an ACA, Chartered Accountancy as a profession is anything *but* grey and the newly designed brochures certainly reveal a colourful picture of vibrant opportunity.



The ACA is the perfect start to all kinds of career paths, each and every one leading to an extremely rosy future, which we are convinced this new campaign portrays.



If you would like to know more about how you can help us to promote the qualification to potential students, or if you would like to volunteer to have a profile written about you and your training experiences, please contact the Student Recruitment team on: **01908 248103**.



## New look Student Support Team

Following a successful recruitment campaign the team welcomed **Claudia Riley** to their ranks on 19 August. Claudia has a range of customer service experience and, whilst at University in Cardiff she undertook a range of activities aimed at supporting student life, both as an Academic Representative and Student Council representative. Claudia has settled into her new role very quickly and we are pleased to have her on board.



## Learning Materials

Edition 3 Professional Stage study packs are now available for students planning to sit exams in 2003. The new edition of Advanced Stage materials, also for 2003 exams, will be published in mid-November.



To order the materials call **Jane Wells** on: **01908 248273** or download an order form from: [www.icaew.co.uk/students](http://www.icaew.co.uk/students).



Useful web addresses:

Work experience: [www.icaew.co.uk/students](http://www.icaew.co.uk/students)  
"Links to the Real World"

Useful email addresses:

Student Support: [studentsupport@icaew.co.uk](mailto:studentsupport@icaew.co.uk)  
Ethics Training: [ethics@icaew.co.uk](mailto:ethics@icaew.co.uk)



### Chance for Chartered Accountants to win £2000 for charity

The Institute is now encouraging members to apply for its **Everybody Counts Awards Scheme 2003**. This initiative was established by the Institute to support its members involved in voluntary work. The scheme was introduced in recognition of the huge difference Chartered Accountants make to their communities by lending their skills to local charities and projects.

Award winners are judged on the basis of time, level of involvement and the commitment they have devoted to a project or charity. The awards are split into four categories: Younger Member, Member in Practice, Member in Business and Retired Member.

Although the Scheme is not open to students, by increasing the awareness of the scheme to potential members it will ensure its success in the future.

Chartered Accountant **John Sims** is involved with the charity **Mercy Ships**. He is also a Director and Trustee of the charity. To read more about his experiences visit [www.icaew.co.uk/students](http://www.icaew.co.uk/students) and click on **vital** in the menu.



### Institute website provides a link to the 'Real World'

The Institute has an arrangement with *The Financial Times* to use a selection of pertinent and relevant articles on the student website, to help you with your exam studies, and encourage you to make the connection between work and exams.

Reading and thinking around issues we draw from the articles will bring to life the technical content behind these real world events. We try to select a wide range of issues, which will encourage you to think about the 'real life' implications of the event or subject matter in the article and how it could affect your work. The articles will change frequently and are available from the student website.

Click on the **Links to the Real World** button on the students home-page. To access the articles you will need your student number and password.



### Professional Ethics Training

Have you seen our ethics training programme? Professional Ethics Training includes interactive animated case studies and the Top Ten Nightmares you might encounter. Speak to your counsellor or order the CD (£15 + vat for a multiuser licence) from the Student Support Team on: **01908 248040**, or email: [studentsupport@icaew.co.uk](mailto:studentsupport@icaew.co.uk).

"Integrity, without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."



What is integrity? It is one of the Fundamental Principles and it applies to you, wherever you work, whatever your future career. It implies honesty, fair dealing and truthfulness.

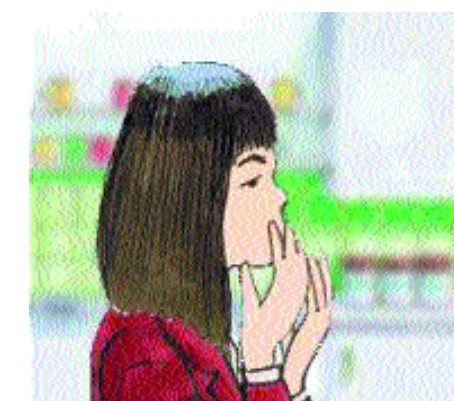
Is there any difference between honest and truthful? We think so. To illustrate what we mean, let us give you a fictional scenario.

Jane takes two hours out of the office to attend an interview. As she is changing back in the ladies', Jane hears the phone ringing. It stops ringing before she can answer. The caller was Jane's boss. When he arrives back, furious, and challenges her, Jane replies, "Sorry, I could hear the phone ringing but I was in the ladies'. I couldn't get to it in time." His mental picture is one of poor Jane stuck in the office on her own, not even being able to use the toilet without having to rush!

Jane was honest but was she truthful?

Of course we are not suggesting that stretching the truth on this scale is a heinous crime which should prevent you becoming a Chartered Accountant. But there are times when not giving the complete picture or remaining silent instead of speaking up can demonstrate a lack of integrity that is not befitting of a Chartered Accountant.

You must not of course, and cannot ever be legitimately required to, break the law, breach the rules of your profession, lie or mislead, put your name to, or be associated with, a statement which materially misrepresents the facts. But what do you do if you are asked to act in this way? Be aware, and be prepared to challenge and/or seek advice.



If you ever face an ethical dilemma and are unsure of what to do, call the Ethics Advisory Services on: **01908 248258** or email: [ethics@icaew.co.uk](mailto:ethics@icaew.co.uk) for free, confidential advice. We will be there for you while you are a student and throughout your career as a member.





## Exam Update



### Special consideration

Exam week can be a tough time for students. Illness, bereavement and other unexpected circumstances can make coping with the exams all the more difficult.

Students are able to apply for their results to be considered in light of such circumstances that may affect their exam performance. The deadline for applications is three weeks from the end of the exam week.

It is important to ensure that sufficient evidence is provided, in order that a fair decision can be made. You can read our new guidelines for such applications on our website: [www.icaew.co.uk/students](http://www.icaew.co.uk/students) click on **Assessment** and then **Guidance for exams**.

### Pilot examination sitting

There will be an additional sitting of the Professional Stage exams in two locations, London and Manchester, during March 2003. All papers, except the Fast Track AAT top-up paper, will be available. The exams will be held on **25, 26 and 27 March**. The closing date for entries is **Thursday 20 February** and the results will be despatched on **Friday 25 April**. Exam applications will be available from the beginning of 2003.

### Remember...

...you can apply for your exams online or download the application from the student website.

### Exam dates & deadlines

Exam	Date of Exam	Closing Date	Admission Letter	Results
Advanced Stage, TC2 & FAE	5,6,7 Nov 2002	3 Oct 2002	18 Oct 2002	13 Dec 2002
Professional Stage	10,11,12 Dec 2002	7 Nov 2002	22 Nov 2002	24 Jan 2003

## Phasing out of the TC2 and the Final Admitting Exam

Dear Lucy

*"My current position is that I have passed the Final Admitting Exam (FAE) unfortunately however, I failed the Technical Core 2 papers (TC2). I would like to know how long I have left before the TC2 is completely taken over by the Advanced Stage."*



### Lucy replies

Sorry to hear that you were unsuccessful with the TC2.

I am pleased to advise you however, that if you wish to carry on taking the TC2, you are able to do so until July 2003. July is only for referral papers though. After this point, if you have not passed the exams then it will be mandatory for you to switch over to do the Advanced Stage.

Alternatively, you are eligible to switch to the Advanced Stage. If you would like to see the differences between the structure of the exam papers then you can view past papers on our website: [www.icaew.co.uk/students](http://www.icaew.co.uk/students) under the **Learning Resources** section. There is also a section in there called 'Advanced Stage How To Pass' which may also be of interest to you.

You need to be aware that there will be knowledge gaps and all the materials covering these are downloadable from our website as mentioned above.

*Good luck in passing your exams.*  
Lucy

## Inflatable fun in Nottingham

Saturday 10 August, 2002 dawned grey and miserable. The clouds soon disappeared as the crowds queued expectantly for the NCASS Summer Event at the Nottingham Moderns Rugby Football Club.

Scores were settled and feuds hammered out as the masses vented their aggression in activities such as Bouncy Boxing, Pedestal Jousting, Bungee Run and Human Table Football.



Those who tired of the physical conflict revived themselves with a fine selection of BBQ food and full bar facilities, before stretching their minds with giant versions of Jenga, Connect 4 and Chess.



Everyone had a great time and are all looking forward to Summer 2003's entertainment!

### Careers evening

BADCASS recently held their first careers evening in several years and attracted a full house.

The main speaker, **John Seear** - Provisional Members & Careers Advisor at the ICAEW highlighted the options available to students upon finishing their training contracts. The rest of the

evening focused on the help available from the Institute once qualified. A few glasses of wine and nibbles helped to create a more relaxed atmosphere.

For Careers advice contact **Judith Creasey** on: 01908 248052

### Beer & curry night

Over 35 students attended the Cambridge Student Society's beer and curry night on 17 September, 2002.

Aimed at welcoming new students, it was a great opportunity for everyone to get to

know each other.



### CASSEV set sail

On a breezy and sunny August afternoon, 24 members of CASSEV took to the waters off Douglas, Isle of Man, for a taste of the yachting life.

They blasted round the bay for a good couple of hours, learning the finer points of sailing, before hitting the yacht club for a few welcome pints, a huge buffet and a highly entertaining quiz.



## View from the Chair



As this is my first time writing to you as Student Council Chair I feel it appropriate to introduce myself.

I was Chair of Bristol and District Chartered Accountants Student Society (BADCASS) for two years, handing over in March to undertake the challenging role of Chair of Student Council.

Student Council has been very busy to date with the finalisation of Student Societies' funding in May for August and the Student Conference in September.

Student Council is a national forum where the Institute can hear your views and concerns regarding education and training. So don't delay, Student Council wants your views on areas such as the new syllabus, training record requirements and any other E&T issues.

Another function of Student Council is to share best practice between the 28 Students Societies across England & Wales. Student Societies organise numerous events each year providing each student with a perfect opportunity to unwind from the pressures of balancing work and study. Check out what events are coming up in your local Society in their events diary at: [www.icaew.co.uk/students](http://www.icaew.co.uk/students).

Finally, I would like to welcome all the new students. Three years of training may seem daunting, but believe me – they fly by!

**Helen Macauley,**  
Chair, Student Council

## Support For Students

At the Institute we are keen to strengthen our relationship with those who are beginning their professional lives with us.

Students studying for the Institute's exams are provided with numerous value-added services. These include:

### Student Support Helpline:



open during office hours, Monday ~ Friday on: **01908 248040**.

**Exam results service:** this service enables all students to choose to receive their results by SMS text message or e-mail, as well as the written notification and posting of results in 'The Times'.

**[www.icaew.co.uk/students](http://www.icaew.co.uk/students):** contains nearly everything an ICAEW student could possibly want, from exam information to contact details for all 28 Student Societies.

**Newsletter:** published quarterly, *Vital* contains key information on the examination and training processes. *The networker* covers news and events on the Student Societies. *Vital* online has just been launched and is accessible from the Students homepage on the website.

### Student Conference:



see *Vital* pages 1 & 2.

**Career Support:** guidance is provided to those Provisional Members facing redundancy or who have failed exams. In addition, a Careers Roadshow is planned for the near future.

In addition to the services available to all students, those serving under a training contract are classified as Provisional Members and are also entitled to receive:

**Provisional Faculty Membership:** register via the student website for a free electronic monthly newsletter from the Faculty of your choice.

For further information on any of these services contact: the Student Support Team, Tel: **01908 248040**, or e-mail: [studentsupport@icaew.co.uk](mailto:studentsupport@icaew.co.uk)

## Booze Cruise



BADCASS members recently enjoyed an evening cruising around Bristol Docks on board Matilda. They enjoyed large amounts of beer and wine provided by the sponsors, **Michael Page Finance** and called into several pubs throughout the course of the evening.

## Oops!

In the Summer 2002 edition of *the networker*, the Bradford and District Chartered Accountants' Student Society was referred to as 'BADCASS'. This unfortunate mistake may have led to some confusion as the acronym BADCASS applies to the Bristol & District CASS, not Bradford & District CASS.

