The Top 100 People: Annuals and perennials

‘LET A HUNDRED FLOWERS BLOOM.’
We don’t often quote Chairman Mao in Accounting Today, but on this one occasion, we thought it might be appropriate, in releasing our annual list of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting, to note the vast variety and chaotic profusion of the profession.

If the T100 were a garden, it would be no monotonous monoculture of rigidly organized beds filled with identical lackluster flowers. Instead, it would be a lush bank of wildflowers, a tropical rainforest’s worth of different blossoms, different focuses and different schools of thought. Members of our list routinely overspill their beds, breaking into new fields and colonizing new territories.

We won’t push the horticultural metaphor much further, except to note one other way that our Top 100 People is like a garden: Each year, we are forced to make choices between the annuals that should be added anew each year, and the perennials that can return every 12 months.

The profession has many hardy perennials — think of the Nisbergs, the Koltsins, the Melancons — but it also generates whole crops of new annuals each year, and our list must make room for them, much as the profession does. The crucial difference, of course, is that outside of this report, perennials and annuals work side by side to grow the profession; it’s only in these pages that they compete for one of 100 plots. Not being on the list is no blight on the bloom; it’s merely an indicator of the arbitrarily small size of this particularly show garden.

Beyond these confines, the accounting profession is, as we noted, burgeoning — busting out all over, you might say, breeding a vast variety of new blossoms, sending up green shoots in fields previously unexplored.

This profusion is one of the great strengths of the profession — that it can move in so many directions at once, explore so many different avenues, and even hold so many sharply differing opinions (and then resolve them without succumbing to any sort of Maoist purge).

It is the strength that produced this year’s Top 100 People, the varied mix of annuals and perennials who are shaping the profession now and in the future — preparing the ground for a new set of annuals to come along.

— The Editors

Joe Adams
Managing partner and CEO, McGladrey

With McGladrey’s partners and staff revitalized by their unification after a decade apart, Adams is leading his Top Five Firm forward with a focus on innovation and a commitment to the middle market.


Other Affiliations: American Institute of CPAs ... Illinois CPA Society ... Center for Audit Quality; Major Firms Group.

Education: DePaul University, MBA Operations Management; BA Accounting.

Personal: Born 1955, Chicago ... Married to Cheryl ... Five children, four grandchildren.

August Aquila
President and CEO, Aquila Global Advisors

With a growing roster of clients abroad, Aquila brings an international perspective to what it takes to properly manage a modern accounting practice.


Other Affiliations: Founding board member and Hall of Fame member, Association for Accounting Marketing ... Founder and editor, Partner to Partner, 1995–2000 ... Founder and editor, Partner Advantage, 2003–2006 ... Author, CPA Firm Merger Strategies That Work; CPA: That Sell; Breaking the Paradigm: New Approaches to Pricing Accounting Services, Client at the Core: Marketing and Managing Today’s Professional Services Firm; Compensation as a Strategic Asset; Performance Is Everything, Leadership at Its Strongest: What Successful Managing Partners Do; How to Engage Partners in the Firm’s Future ... Contributing author, The Marketing Advantage, How to Hire a Marketing Director and Make It Work, Bull’s Eye: The Ultimate Hou-To Marketing & Sales Guide for CPAs; The Power of Optimism ... Board member, Anchor Bank, Anchor Bank Holding; chair, Compensation Committee, Anchor Bank ... AICPA ... Past board member, Minnesota Chapter, AAM ... Past board member, Minnesota Opera; Chantrey Wood Homeowners Association.

Education: Indiana University, Ph.D ... DePaul University, MBA, BA.

Personal: Born 1946, Chicago ... Married to Emily Halilzie ... One daughter.


Erik Asgeirsson
CEO, CPA2Biz

It’s certainly natural for the head of the AICPA’s Web portal to be interested in promoting technology, but he’s been taking it to new levels recently with an intensified crusade to turn accountants into “Digital CPAs.”


Other Affiliations: Board member, CPA2Biz ... DigitalNow Advisory Group ... National Peace Corps Association ... Former Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania.

Education: Stern School of Business, New York University, MBA ... George Washington University, BS Electrical Engineering.

Personal: Born 1968, Falmouth, Mass. ... Married to Claudia ... Two daughters.

Twitter: @erikasgeirsson

Ron Baker
Founder, VeraSage Institute

Baker may be gratified that accountants are beginning to take up his message about the need to do away from the billable hour, but he’s not finished: He thinks the profession has a lot more work to do to make sure it maintains its relevance.


Other Affiliations: California Society of CPAs ... American Institute of CPAs’ Group of 100 ... Professional Pricing Society ... Author, Implementing Value Pricing: A Radial Business Model for Professional
CPAmerica International association members are independent CPA firms that benefit from practice management support, continuing education and the sharing of best practices to grow.

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION CALLS FOR MEMBERS TO:

CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE

ESTABLISH PEER RELATIONSHIPS

MAKE MORE MONEY

GAIN DOMESTIC & GLOBAL PRESTIGE
Wayne Berson
CEO, BDO USA
Berson has been pursuing a strategy of growth through strategic mergers and acquisitions from the moment he took over at BDO last year, and he has no intention of stopping. The question is, where will his Top 10 Firm expand next?


Other Affiliations: Co-founder, BDO Institute for Nonprofit Excellence ... Past member, PCPS Executive Committee, AICPA ... Past president, Greater Washington Society of CPAs ... Board, Greater Washington Board of Trade ... Audit Committee chair; Global Alliance for Vaccinations and Immunizations ... Trustee, Federal City Council.

Education: University of South Africa, 1986, Accounting Science ... University of Cape Town, 1983.

Personal: Born 1961, Cape Town, South Africa ... Married to Sandra-Lynn ... Three children.

Paul Beswick
Chief accountant, SEC
Beswick has made the switch from “acting” to full-time chief accountant, but what we’re really waiting on are his thoughts on whether we’ll make the switch from GAAP to IFRS. ... Career Highlights: Chief accountant, Securities and Exchange Commission, 2012-present; deputy chief accountant, Accounting Group, 2009-2012; deputy chief accountant for professional practice, 2008-2009; senior advisor, Office of the Chief Accountant, 2007 ... Partner, Professional Practice and Risk Management Group, Ernst & Young.


Chandra Bhansali
President, AccountantsWorld
A proponent of the cloud from before it was even called the cloud, Bhansali is a major force in raising the profession’s success with this liberating and empowering, but not-so-new, technology. ... Career Highlights: President and co-founder, AccountantsWorld, 1999-present ... President and co-founder, Micro Vision Software Inc., 1986-2002 ... Manager, Perkin Elmer, 1980-1985.

Other Affiliations: CEO Club ... Will & Vision Foundation, IEEE ... ACM ... Board of Advisors, Infosys International.

Education: State University of New York, 1979, Ph.D. ... Indian Institute of Science, 1976, MS ... MBM Engineering College, 1968, BE.

Personal: Born 1947, Jodhpur, India ... Married to Sharada (co-founder of AccountantsWorld) ... Two children.

Blog/Twitter: http://community.accountantsworld.com/@powerpractice

Ken Bishop
President and CEO, NASBA
Now in his sophomore year at the helm, Bishop keeps on rolling out new services and bringing on new staffers aimed at serving his state board constituents, all while he works to spread the CPA Exam around the world.

Career Highlights: President and CEO, National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, 2012-present; executive vice president and chief operating officer, 2010-2011; senior vice president and director, 2007-2010 ... President and CEO, Professional Credential Services, 2007-2010 (former wholly owned NASBA subsidiary) ... Executive director, Missouri State Board of Accountancy, 1998-2006 ... Law enforcement career, commander, chief of police, under-sheriff.

Other Affiliations: CEO, NASBA Center for the Public Trust ... H.R. 646 Advisory Board, Vanderbilt University ... Past member, Board of Examiners, American Institute of CPAs ... Board of Directors, Nashville Downtown Partnership ... Jason Foundation ... Carnus Plantation Randall McGeever Society.

Education: Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Executive Program ... University of Missouri, Master’s in Criminal Justice; Bachelor’s in Education ... Federal Criminal Justice Academy ... Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy.

Personal: Born 1951, Mexico, Mo. ... Married to Sheil ... Three children.


Parnell Black
CEO, NACVA
After last year’s merger of NACVA with the Institute of Business Appraisers, Black continued to streamline the valuation field this year by merging his association’s two main credentials.


Other Affiliations: Institute for Credentialing Excellence (formerly the National Organization for Competency Assurance) ... Board advisor, International Association of Consultants, Valuators and Analysts ... FEI ... Family Firm Institute.


Personal: Born 1954, Salt Lake City ... Married to Linda Melcher ... Two children.

Blog/Twitter: http://quickreadbuzz.com/ @nacva

Firms, Mind Over Matter; Pricing on Purpose; Measure What Matters to Customers; Professional’s Guide to Value Pricing; 6th Edition; The Firm of the Future; Burying the Billable Hour; Trashing the Timesheet; You Are Your Customer List; Advisory board, Smart Pros, Principals ... Faculty, Professional Pricing Society ... Cato Institute ... Heritage Foundation ... American Enterprise Institute ... Hoover Institution ... Foundation for Economic Education ... Discovery Institute ... Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Education: Professional Pricing Society, Atlanta, 2002, postgraduate ... University of Chicago GSB, 2001, postgraduate ... Cato University, 2000, postgraduate ... Disney University, 1997, postgraduate ... San Francisco State University, 1984, BS Acctg. ... Santa Rosa Junior College, 1982, AA.

Personal: Born 1962, Santa Rosa, Calif. ... Single.

Blog/Twitter: www.verasage.com /@ronaldbaker

William Balhoff
Incoming chair, AICPA
You’d expect the chair of the American Institute of CPAs to be fairly heavily involved in the profession, but few can match Balhoff’s resume of service in a wide variety of volunteer and leadership roles, on top of his years of experience in public practice and at the helm of a firm.


Other Affiliations: Society of Louisiana CPAs ... Dean’s Advisory Council, LSU E.J. Ourso College of Business; Advisory Board, LSU E.J. Ourso College of Business Accounting Department ... Board of trustees, Our Lady of the Lake College; member, Finance Committee ... Chair, Finance Committee, Baton Rouge Area Foundation ... Vision 21 Foundation.

Education: National Banking School, McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia ... Louisiana State University, 1976, BAcc.

Personal: Born 1954, Baton Rouge, La. ... Married to Sandra ... Three daughters.

Jonathan Baron
Managing director, Professional Segment, Thomson Reuters Tax & Accounting
Baron continues in his pivotal role in steering Thomson Reuters Tax & Accounting in its position as one of the leading providers of tools and resources to tax preparation and accounting professionals.


Education: Boston University, 1982, MBA ... Sierra College, 1974, BBA Acctg.

Personal: Born 1952, Colchester, Vt. ... Married to Betsy ... Four children.

Joanne Barry
Executive director and CEO, NYSSCPA
Besides streamlining the society’s operations, boosting its membership and moving it to a new headquarters, Barry has also focused it squarely on the future, with initiatives and new staff positions aimed at the next generation of accountants.


Other Affiliations: Certified Association Executive ... Board, CPA Society Executive Associations ... Vice chair, Board of Trustees, AICPA Foundation ... Advisory Board, Montclair State University Accounting Department ... Board, New York Society of Association Executives ... Board, New York Chapter, International Association of Business Communicators ... Past national chair, AICPA Public Relations Conference ... Public Relations Society of America ... National Press Club.

Education: New School for Social Research, MS ... Montclair State University, BA.

Personal: Born Jersey City, N.J. ... Married to Edward ... Three sons.

Sen. Max Baucus
D-Mont.
Baucus is retiring after his current term, but he’s pushing hard to leave his mark with some kind of major tax reform, even going so far as to go on a listening tour with House Republican Dave Camp to gather ideas.


Education: Stanford University, 1967, law degree; 1964, BA.

Personal: Born 1941, Helena, Mont. ... Divorced ... One son.
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**Q&A**

**Accounting’s biggest issues**

We asked the T100 what the most important issues facing the profession are: succession planning and the looming talent shortage were by far the most common responses, with keeping up with technology and maintaining the profession’s relevance also ranking high — but there were also a number of less-frequently cited issues that are worth noting.

I believe complexity continues to be both the greatest opportunity and the biggest potential challenge for CPAs.

— Barry Melancon

Complacency. Many Baby Boomer partners are happy with their career accomplishments, client bases and compensation. This makes it difficult to change firm strategy and culture, which is often necessary in today’s competitive marketplace.

— Jean Caragher

Globalization continues to present tax and accounting practitioners with unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenges.

— Brian Peccerelli

Creating a clear roadmap for the future of firms as “historical services such as tax, write-up, audit, etc., continue to face increasing price pressure and commoditization.”

— Jennifer Kateyra Schuh

Creating opportunities for and adapting to the next generation of CPAs and accounting professionals while maintaining the relevancy of the CPA certificate.

— Loretta Doon

There is a severe lack of vision and committed leadership willing to stand up for what it means to be a true professional serving the public interest. The result is regulatory capture by influential groups promoting their private interests. We need to put the [Public] back in the CPA license to practice!

— Gaylen Hansen

The impurity of Big Four audit firms or the slowly disappearing amperstand.

— Caleb Newsquist

Relevance and direction. Backward-looking services are the least valuable services remaining.

— Michelle Golden
If the PCAOB continues to drive toward a strict compliance model vs. a performance model of audit quality, they will increase the likelihood that the better people (intellectual, independent thinkers, capable of understanding business, etc.) will choose other things to do than perform independent audits. — Billy Atkinson

The most important issue is the increasing level of regulatory compliance oversight and legislative complexity. The velocity at which compliance is changing has increased. — Jason Marx

Auditors need to recognize the need to expand their role and reporting responsibilities to meet the needs of statement users (particularly investors) and maintain the relevance of their role. — Wayne Berson

It’s shaping the services the accounting profession provides to better serve capital markets and investors. In this complex and dynamic global economy, ensuring that our services remain relevant, timely and meaningfully imperative. — Joe Echevarria

Relevance. If we don’t do a better job of defining, delivering and communicating our value to small businesses, we will be cannibalized by the DIYers. And for the lack of value that some CPAs offer clients, you can’t blame clients for that. — Jody Fadar

Brand re-alignment. The CPA brand is so strongly tied to audit, tax and finance that it is like trying to move a mountain to rebrand to enable CPAs to be the ultimate trusted business advisor (to business as a whole, not just finance). — Donny Shimamoto

Leadership development. Accounting firms are struggling to retain the top talent they need to run their firms, and more importantly to succeed the current owners. — Sarah Johnson

Attracting and retaining the best talent continues to be vital for our firm, and a top priority. ... Diversity is an especially critical component. — John Veihmeyer

The most important issue facing the profession is the same today as it has always been: talent. More than most organizations, the value of a professional service and accounting firm is primarily delivered by its people. — Deborah DeHaas

Paul Caron Publisher and editor-in-chief, TaxProf Blog

Paul Caron once stood out as one of the few serious tax bloggers out there; now that there are a lot more tax blogs online, he stands out even more — because they all refer to him and his near-comprehensive content.

Career Highlights: Professor of law, Pepperdine University School of Law, 2001-present ... Summer visiting professor, University of San Diego School of Law, 2001-present ... Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Law, 1995-2013 ... Associate, Tax Department, Sullivan & Worcester, 1982-1990 ... Law clerk, Chief Judge William Hollywood, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, 1983-1985.

Other Affiliations: Owner and publisher, Law Professor Blogs Network ... Editor, Graduate Tax Series; Law Stories ... Author, Tax Stories; Federal Wealth Transfer Taxation; Federal Income Tax Anthology.

Education: Boston University, 1988, LL.M (Tax) ... Cornell Law School, 1983, J.D. ... Georgetown University, 1979, AB.


Jean Marie Caragher President, Capstone Marketing

One of the original wave of accounting marketers, Caragher now initiates other marketers and entire firms into what is still a mystery for far too many.


Other Affiliations: Past president and board member, Association for Accounting Marketing ... Conference chair, MarkTrax Trends ... National Speakers Association ... American Marketing Association ... Contributing author, Bud’s Eye! The Ultimate How-to Marketing and Sales Guide for CPAs.

Education: Hofstra University, 1989, MBA ... SUNY Oswego, 1981, BA.

Personal: Born 1959, Rockville Centre, N.Y. ... Married to Michael Gaspar.

Blog/Twitter: http://capstonemarketing.com/category/blog/@JeanCaragher


Education: Plymouth College and Plymouth Polytechnic.


Blog: “Stephan’s Site” (internal)

Fayezul Choudhury
CEO, International Federation of Accountants

In an era when the accounting profession’s interests — and challenges — are global, Choudhury’s long experience as a veteran of a multilateral institution like the World Bank should stand him in good stead as he takes IFAC forward.


Other Affiliations: Trustee, World Learning, 2005-present, chair, Audit Committee, 2008-2012 … Board member and treasurer, Partnership for Transparancy Fund.

Education: Jesus College, Oxford, 1974, MA.

Personal: Born 1954, Dhaka, Bangladesh … Married to Yasmin … Two children.

David Cieslak
Principal, Arxis Technology

Cieslak wears many monikers — guru, thought leader, VAR, CTPP, analyst, Inspector Gadget — and all of them are relevant in the profession today, as he is a regular draw at the most noteworthy industry events, particularly those related to technology.


Other Affiliations: Chair, Sage Business Partner Advisory Council … Past chair, AICPA IT Executive Committee … Past board member, Information Technology Alliance … Council, CalCPA … Past president, California CPA Education Foundation, 2000-2001 … Member and past chair, CalCPA State Technology Committee … Associate instructor, K2 Enterprises.

Education: University of California, Los Angeles, 1982, BA Economics.

Personal: Born 1959, Binghamton, NY … Married to Michelle … Two children.

Twitter: @dcteckel

Sarah Cirrelli
Marketing manager, interactive marketing, WithumSmith+brown

Who knew Cirrelli’s training as a dance fitness instructor would figure so prominently in her marketing role? While her choreography has kept her colleagues’ feet dancing through a series of famously viral firm videos, Cirrelli has been busy attending enough industry social media events to boost WS+b’s impressive SEO ascension.

Career Highlights: Marketing manager, interactive marketing, WithumSmith+brown, 2009-present … Director of Public Relations and Advertising Association, with whom she has been instrumental in boosting WS+b’s impressive SEO ascension.

Other Affiliations: Digital Media Board, Association for Marketing Publishing, 2006-present … Chair, Executive Director, California Teachers’ Association … Trustee, Museum of Science and Industry … Trinity College Board of Visitors, Duke University … Trustee, Northwestern University, global advisory board, Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School of Management … Vice chair and past chair, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago … Co-founder, LEARN Excel Charter School in Chicago … AICPA … Illinois CPA Society.


Personal: Born 1985, Hong Kong.

Blog/Twitter: www.double-tuition.com / @BeSarahAbMarie

Gale Crosley
President, Crosley+Co.

When Crosley isn’t working one-on-one with firms to show them how to boost growth, she’s busy educating them en masse, through her many articles and speaking engagements.

One key message: Think international.


Education: University of Akron, 1972, BS Acccy.

Personal: Born 1951, Cleveland … Married to Steven … Two children.

Twitter: @gcrosley

Deborah DeHaas
Vice chairman and chief inclusion officer, Deloitte

With her high-profile position and the launch of Deloitte’s Leadership Center for Inclusion, DeHaas has become one of the faces of a progressive vision of change for the accounting profession — one that moves beyond mere diversity to embrace inclusiveness.


Other Affiliations: Past chair, Chicago Commercial Chamber of Commerce … Chair, Executives’ Club of Chicago … Henry Crown Fellow, Aspen Institute … Steering Committee, Kellogg Center for Executive Women … Trustee, Museum of Science and Industry … Trinity College Board of Visitors, Duke University … Trustee, Northwestern University, global advisory board, Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School of Management … Vice chair and past chair, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago … Co-founder, LEARN Excel Charter School in Chicago … AICPA … Illinois CPA Society.

Education: University of Chicago, 1983, BS Business Administration; University of Chicago, 1985, MBA Business Administration.

Personal: Born in Houston.

Sarah Echevarria
CEO, Deloitte

“Expansion” is the key for Echevarria, who’s adding to his Big Four firm through strategic acquisitions, as well as broadening his staff through industry-leading diversity and leadership initiatives.


Other Affiliations: Board, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu … Orange Bowl Committee … Corporate Advisory Board, Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting … Presidential Commission on Election Administration … Board of Overseers, and executive in residence, University of Miami in Coral Gables School of Business Administration.

Education: University of Miami in Coral Gables, BBA.

Personal: Married to Ana … Three children. Blog: “Channel 7” (internal)

Loretta Donn
CEO, California Society of CPAs

Donn and her society are all about reaching out — to record numbers of members, to the students, young professionals, women and minorities who will be the future of the profession, and to the public with education on financial literacy and more.


Other Affiliations: President-elect, CPA State Executives Association … Member, AICPA Private Companies Practice Section Executive Committee … Center for Financial Reporting and Management Advisory Board, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley … Advisory Board, Charles W. Lamm School of Accountancy at San Diego State University, Mendlo College … AICPA … American Woman’s Society of CPAs … Financial Women’s Association of San Francisco … Member and mentor, Ascend … Board, ACAP Northem California … Past member, AICPA Council.

Education: San Francisco State University, Master’s in Education … University of Hawaii, Bachelor’s.

James Doty
Chairman, PCAOB

Even as he remains outspoken in his attempts to rebuild the market’s faith in public company audits here in the U.S., Doty and the PCAOB have made significant progress abroad, particularly when it comes to engaging China in its processes.


Other Affiliations: American Law Institute … American Bar Association … State Bar of Texas … Houston Bar Association … Yale Law School, 1969, LLB … Harvard University, MA in History … Oxford University, 1964, AB (Rhodes Scholar) … Rice University, 1962, BA in History.

Personal: Born in Houston.

Deborah DeHaas, CFO, Grant Thornton.

Sarah Echevarria, CEO, Deloitte.

Fayezul Choudhury, CEO, International Federation of Accountants.
Cindy Fornelli
Executive director, Center for Audit Quality
When it comes to raising the public’s confidence in the audit function, there’s always plenty for Fornelli to do, but she goes beyond that to actually give them reasons to be confident, with tools, education, outreach and thought leadership that improve the work of both auditors and management.

Career Highlights:
- Executive director, Center for Audit Quality, 2006-present
- Regulatory and conflicts management executive, Bank of America, 2004-2006
- Deputy director, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, 1999-2004
- Senior associate, Derach, 1996-1999
- Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson, 1991-1996
- Washington D.C., Bar
- American Bar Association
- Board, Washington Literacy Center
- Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council
- National Association of Corporate Directors, Blue Ribbon Commission on the Audit Committee, 2010
- ABC on Risk Governance, 2009
- Trustee, Class of 2014, SEC Historical Society.

Education:
- National Law Center, George Washington University, JD, 1991
- Pepperdine University, BA, 1985

Personal:
- Born 1960, Los Angeles.
- Twitter: @chefCAQ

Jeanette Franzel
Board member, PwC
After only a year and a half on the job, the former GAO exec (and “Yellow Book” overseer) has emerged as one of the more public faces of the PwC, helping to communicate its message and nudge auditors toward better practices in frequent public speeches and appearances.

Career Highlights:
- Member, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, 2012-present
- Elementary and high school teacher, South America

Other Affiliations:
- Past chair, Government Performance and Accountability Committee, AICPA
- Institute of Internal Auditors
- Association of Government Accountants
- Institute of Management Accountants

Education:
- Senior Executive Fellows program, Harvard University
- George Mason University, MBA
- College of St. Teresa, BA Accounting and Spanish

Russell Golden
Chairman, FASB
Golden takes the helm at the main U.S. standard-setter at an interesting time, as it moves from the side-by-side convergence model of the last decade to a more multilateral environment.

Career Highlights:
- Chairman, FASB, 2013-present
- Board member, 2010-2013
- Staff member, 2004-2013
- Partner, Deloitte & Touche

Education:
- Washington State University, BA

Personal:
- Born 1950, Alabama
- Married to Tracey One son.
- Twitter: @FGoldenMax

J. Russell George
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
George may well be the hardest-working man in the federal government, producing a seemingly endless stream of reports on the relative (in)efficiency of the IRS — and this year he’s had lots to report on.

Career Highlights:
- Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, 2004-present
- Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, 2001-2004
- Director and chief counsel, House Government Management, Information and Technology Subcommittee, 1995-2002
- Law practice, Klamet, Lewis, Nathal, Nessen, Kamín & Frankel

Education:
- University of Washington, BS Business

Personal:
- Born in New York City.

Angie Grissom
President, The Rainmaker Companies
With her new role at Rainmaker and her ever-growing roster of very happy clients, Grissom is emerging as a leader among those teaching accounting firms how to be more successful.

Career Highlights:
- President, The Rainmaker Companies, 2013
- Executive vice president, chief operating officer and owner, The Rainmaker Consulting Group, 2008-2012
- Vice president and director of consulting, Rainmaker Consulting, 2004-2010

Education:
- Middle Tennessee State University, 2014

Personal:
- Born 1957, Nashville, Tenn.
- Married to Chad
- Two children.

- Blog: Twitter: www.therainmakercompanies.com/blog
- Twitter: @agrisson

Gaylen Hansen
Chairman, NASBA
With a passion for the professional mission of accounting, Hansen is proving to be an outspoken chair on a range of issues, including private company standards and the role of both NASBA and its state board members.

Career Highlights:
- Chairman, Board of Directors, NASBA, 2012-present
- Partner, director of quality assurance, EKS&H, 1996-2006

Other Affiliations:
- Immediate past president, APWA Music City Chapter
- National Speakers’ Association
- CPA Consultants’ Alliance

Education:
- Middle Tennessee State University, 2014

Personal:
- Born 1955, Salem, Mo.
- Two adult children

- Twitter: @nhansen89

Roger Harris
President and COO, Padgett Business Services
This seasoned tax policy advisor to the IRS and Congress is frequently called on by both organizations for his practical wisdom on tax matters.

Career Highlights:
- Partner, Padgett Business Services, 1995-present
- Member, Practitioner Liaison Panel, IRS, 2007-present
- Special assistant to the Commissioner, IRS, 2006

Other Affiliations:
- Member, National Taxpayers Union

Education:
- California State Polytechnic University, 1975, BS
- California State University, 1978, MBA

Personal:
- Born 1950, Mogantiel, Ky.
- Married to Colleen
- Eight children, 12 grandchildren

- Blog: twitter.com/RogerHarrisCPA

Sen. Chuck Grassley
R-Iowa
Grassley is one of a handful of federal legislators who take a serious interest in actually crafting tax laws and paying attention to tax administration; always influential, he’ll only become more so, given this year’s focus on all things tax-related.

Career Highlights:
- Joint Committee on Taxation, past chair, Finance Committee, U.S. Senate
- Member, Budget Committee, Agriculture Committee, elected, 1989
- U.S. House of Representatives, 1974-1980
- Assembly line worker, 1961-1971
- Sheet metal shearer, 1959-1961
- Iowa Legislature, 1958-1975

Other Affiliations:
- Farm Bureau
- International Association of Machinists, 1962-1971
- International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights
- Butler County and State of Iowa Historical Societies
- Masons
- Eagles
- Baptist Church
- 4-H Caucus

Education:
- University of Iowa, Ph.D. work
- University of Northern Iowa, 1956, MA Political Science
- 1955, BA Political Science

Personal:
- Born 1933, New Hartford, Iowa
- Married to Barbara
- Five children, nine grandchildren

- Blog/Twitter: www.sengrassley.senate.gov

Other Affiliations: Past chair, Federal Tax Committee, National Society of Accountants ... Past chair, Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council ... Chair, Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, National Association of Enrolled Agents ... President, Padgett Foundation ... Treasurer, Padgett Business Services PAC ... Past president, University of Georgia Tip-Off Club.

Education: University of Georgia Terry College of Business, 1973, BBA Accy.

Personal: Born 1950, Athens, Ga. ... Two children, two grandchildren.

Sen. Orrin Hatch R-Utah

Should we see any kind of tax reform this year (and we’re not saying that we will), expect Hatch to play a major role. In fact, he already has, with the “blank slate” approach he launched with his public accounting forward.

Career Highlights: CEO and executive director, MAPCA

From his Innovation Summit to his many speaking engagements, from his prolific tweets to his range of alliances with vendors, other professional organizations, and thought leaders and influencers at all levels, Hood is doing as much as anyone — and more than most — to lead public accounting forward.

Career Highlights: CEO and executive director, MAPCA

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Career Highlights: CEO and executive director, MAPCA

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We also continue to watch Michael Hsu of DeepSky, whose experiments with modern firm structure and management are a lesson for the whole profession.

Next up are the government and regulatory figures, where we’ll start with the interestingly titled Principal Deputy Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. Danny Werfel. The former Office of Management and Budget official has basically been serving as acting commissioner, working heroically to keep the service from imploding under the weight of its own mismanagement, and to hold the ring until President Barack Obama’s nominee for commissioner, former Freddie Mac chair John Koskinen, can be confirmed.

We’re also keeping an eye on Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who has been keeping an eye on the IRS and everything to do with the agency’s targeting of conservative groups.

And over at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, member Lewis Ferguson will be particularly worth watching now that he has been elected chair of the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators.

Moving on, there are a number of consultants and others working to educate the profession who we think are having an impact. Start with Joe Tarasco, president of Accountants Advisory Group, and Sandi Smith Levy, president of Sandra L. Levy Inc., both CPAs who devote their time to showing other CPAs how to be more successful. Meanwhile, Gary Adamson, CEO of Adamson Advisory, is another CPA-turned-consultant — in this case, using his experience as a managing partner to help other firms manage themselves better.

Finally, we’re happy to make mention of a long-time veteran of our Top 100 list, former Financial Accounting Standards Board Chairman Robert Herz, who released an excellent accounting memoir this year that cast a fascinating light on the last decade in standard-setting, and who has also been very active in setting sustainability standards.

On a side note, Herz is also a perfect example of an important facet of the Top 100: People often move on and off the list, and not being on it in any particular year doesn’t necessarily mean that an individual is any less influential — or that they won’t return in future years!
Other Affiliations: North Carolina Association of CPAs … Past president, Buffalo Chapter, New York State Society of CPAs; founding member, Young CPAs Committee, Buffalo Chapter.
Education: Canisius College, 1991, BS Accyg.
Personal: Born 1968, Buffalo, NY. … Married to Maryann. … One son.
Twitter: @matthiendietel

Greg Kyte
Comedian and accountant
While Kyte may have recently indulged his other passion by competing in a New York City comedy festival, he’s already won over the accounting crowd by channeling his humor into popular blog posts and semi-ironic videos. He also spreads the wit, instructing fellow CPAs on the art of the short-form video parody which, behind bad wigs and antics, conveys critical, change-oriented information.

Other Affiliations: Comedian, writer, speaker and short-form mockumentary filmmaker, Greg Kyte Comedy Business … Senior supplemental disclosure correspondent, Going Concern … Robert G. Newhart Non-Value-Added Fellow, VeraSage Institute … Co-host, ThriveCast … Blogger, Thriveal CPA Network.
Personal: Born 1972, Akron, Ohio. … Married to Laura. … Two children.

Rene Lacerce
Founder and CEO, Bill.com
Serial entrepreneur Lacerce continues to make a splash by making work easier for accountants, these days by extending the already-impressive capabilities of his Bill.com platform and integrating them with many of the other tools that businesses use.

Other Affiliations: Board member, Kent School … Columnist, CPA Technology Advisor.
Personal: Born 1967, Virginia. … Married to Joyce … Two children.
Blog/Twitter: blog.bill.com / @rlacerce

Taylor MacDonald
President of channels, Intacct
An experienced hand at reselling accounting technology himself, Macdonald has revived many a firm’s waning interest in the area, and given Intacct a major boost in the process. He’s also a regular presence at many influential accounting and technology-related events.

Other Affiliations: Board, Information Technology Alliance … Past board member, Southeastern Software Association.
Education: Yale University, 1977, BS.
Personal: Born 1955, Dallas. … Married to Cindy … Four children.
Twitter: @taylormac

Teresa Mackintosh
President, U.S. Software, CCH
Given the influence she wielded in previous positions at a rival, we fully expected Mackintosh to be an important figure after she made the jump to CCH — even before she got her brand-new title of president of U.S. software.

Other Affiliations: AICPA … American Marketing Association.
Education: University of Michigan, 2001, MBA, 1994, BBA.
Personal: Born 1972, Owasso, Mich. … Married to Craig. … One daughter and one son.
Twitter: @tmackintosh

Jason Marx
President, CCH Small Firm Services
The new head of CCH SFS will be working particularly hard to please the company’s small-practitioner customers in the coming year, but he brings a reputation for innovation — and a brand-new portal offering — to the task.

Education: DePaul University, 1992, MBA … University of Michigan, 1988, BA.

Chuck McCabe
Founder, president and CEO, The Income Tax School Inc.
As a veteran in the tax preparation industry, McCabe had the vision to offer support to other tax business owners who opt to remain independent by providing them with tax education and business skills so they can be successful on their own.

Other Affiliations: Past conference presenter, NATP, NSA … IRS Electronic Tax Advisory Committee … Founding chair, Virginia Council of CEOs … Board chair, Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia … Director, Greater Richmond Chamber … Dean’s Advisory Board, University of Richmond … Member, Executive Committee, Advisory Board, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia College … Leadership Metro Richmond.
Education: Pace University, 1983, MBA (ABD), 1981, Executive MBA … Adelphi University, 1979, BS.
Personal: Born 1944, New York City. … Married to Marilyn. … Two children.
Blog/Twitter: www.thericometaxschool.com/blog / @PepsITax / @TaxSchool

Barry Melanson
President and CEO, AICPA
As he approaches two decades of leading the institute, Melanson shows no signs of slowing down, as proved by the ongoing growth of the CGMA, the release of FRF for SMES, and a relentless schedule of speeches and presentations aimed at moving the profession into the future.

Education: Nichols State University, 1983, MBA; 1978, BS.
Personal: Born 1950, Houma, La. … Married to Patty. … One son.
Blog/Twitter: “AICPA Insights” http://blog.aicpa.org / @BarryMelanson

James Metzler
President of small firm interests, AICPA
Metzler may be due to retire in January, but his influence will live on, in a higher profile for the small-firm issues that he championed, and in the minds and hearts of the many people who benefited from his teaching, mentoring and all-around professional wisdom.

Other Affiliations: Past president, Buffalo Chapter, New York State Society of CPAs … Council of Accountancy, Canisius College … Advisory Council, Association for Accounting Marketing … Outside board, Perry’s Ice Cream Co.
Education: Canisius College, 1972, BS Accyg.
Personal: Born 1948, Buffalo, NY. … Married to Joan … Three children, six grandchildren.

Other Affiliations: Governing Board, Center for Audit Quality; AICPA; New York State Society of CPAs; New Jersey Society of CPAs; Paramount Partnership for New York City; Atlantic Council.


Zach Nelson
President and CEO, NetSuite

Cloud accounting pioneer Zach Nelson is carving out a place for NetSuite that includes both a network of strong partners and powerful international capabilities in the product itself.


Other Affiliations: Board member, NetSuite. Parent holder.

Education: Stanford University, MA, BS.

Personal: Born 1964, Omaha, Nebr. Married to Elizabeth. One daughter.

Barack Obama
President of the United States

From the ongoing rollout of his signature health care reform to his proposals for changing the Tax Code, the president is setting much of the agenda that’s keeping the profession busy.


Other Affiliations: Founding board member, Public Allies. ... Past board member, Woods Fund of Chicago. ... Joyce Foundation. ... Chicago Annenberg Challenge. ... Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. ... Center for Neighborhood Technology.

Education: Harvard Law School, 1991. ... Columbia University, 1983. BA.


@BarackObama

Jody Padar
CEO and principal, New Vision CPA Group

From trampoline dodgeball to extreme-g King Kong, Padar will do whatever it takes to show the profession what the “new firm” looks like — as well as why it works and why firms need to get changing.


Other Affiliations: AICPA Practitioners and Tech-Steering Committee. ... AICPA. ... Maryland Association of CPAs. ... Adjunct professor, Oskan Community College. ... Founder and past president, Chicago QuickBooks Pro Advisor User Group.

Education: Northern Illinois University, 2005. ... MST. ... Saint Mary’s College, 1994. BBA.


Blog/Twitter: Contributor to www.accountingtoday.com / @jodypadarcpa

Karen Pincus
Immediate past president, AAA

On the many challenges facing accounting academia, from financial issues and the impact of technology, to the most disturbing issue of all — the dwindling pipeline of new entrants to the profession.

Career Highlights: Doyle Z. and Maynette Derr Williams Professor of Professional Accounting. Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas, 1995-present. ... University of Southern California, 1983-1985. ... Coopers & Lybrand.

Other Affiliations: Immediate past president, American Accounting Association; past president, Audit- ing Section. ... Past member, Editorial Boards. ... Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory. Behavioral Research in Accounting. Issues in Accounting Education. ... Board of Directors, AICPA, 2008-2011. ... Past president, Beta Alpha Psi. ... U.S. member, International Accounting Education Standards Board, 2006-2011. ... Deputy chair, 2010-2011.

Education: University of Maryland, 1984. ... Ph.D. MBA, BS.

Personal: Born 1948, Washington, D.C. Married to David. ... Four children, two grandchildren.

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Immediate past president, AAA

Long respected as an innovator in the teaching of accounting, Pincus has lately been focusing on the many challenges facing accounting academia, from financial issues and the impact of technology, to the most disturbing issue of all — the dwindling pipeline of new entrants to the profession.

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Education: University of Maryland, 1984. ... Ph.D. MBA, BS.

Personal: Born 1948, Washington, D.C. Married to David. ... Four children, two grandchildren.
information Ratley and the ACFE provide the public and the professionals who root out fraud will be in more demand than ever.

**Career Highlights:** President and CEO, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, 2006-present; program director, 1988 ... Manager of fraud investigations, Wells & Associates, 1986-1988 ... Corporate/investiga-
tor, Dallas Police Department, 1971-1986.

**Other Affiliations:** Board of Advisors, Bank Direc-
tors Education ... Past visiting scholar, University of Nebraska.

**Education:** University of Texas at Dallas, 1985, BS BA.

**Personal:** Born 1949, Albuquerque, N.M. ... Married to Gloria ... Three daughters, one son.

**Blog:** Twitter: www.acfeinsights.com / @jimRatley

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**Marc Rosenberg**

**President, The Rosenberg Associates**

Through his articles and his growing list of books, his research, and his consulting gigs, Rosenberg is a tireless advocate of better firm man-
agement who actually knows how to help firms get there.

**Career Highlights:** President, The Rosenberg Asso-
ciates, 1994-present ... National director of manage-
ment consulting, PDI, 1988-1994 ... Chief operating officer, Friedman, Eisenstein, Barmer & Schwartz, 1982-1988 ... Vice president of finance, International Division, MarK Corp.

**Education:** Founder and publisher, The Rosenberg MAP Survey ... Author, The Rosenberg Prac-
tice Management Monograph Series (10 volumes), The Rosenberg Blog ... AICPA ... ICAP ... Founding member, The New Horizons Group ... Leader of three managing partner roundtable groups ... Fundraiser, Ron Santo Walk for the Cure for Diabetes ... Chicago Board member, Jewish Student Connection.

**Education:** University of Illinois, 1970, BS Acct.

**Personal:** Born 1948, Chicago ... Married to Ellen ... Two children ... Chicago Cubs fan fanatic (atll).

**Blog:** Twitter: http://twitter.com/rosenbergassoc / @mrosenbergpa

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**Donny Shimamoto**

**Managing director, Intraprise**

TechKnowlogies

There must be more than 24 hours in Shimamoto’s day; how else would he find time for all the entrepreneurship, volunteering, thought leadership and professional advocacy that have made him one of the most recognized

**Career Highlights:** Managing director, Intraprise TechKnowlogies, 2001-present ... Principal consultant, Data House, 2001 ... Senior consultant, PwC LLP, 1997-2001.

**Other Affiliations:** AICPA ... Hawaii Society of CPAs ... ISACA Hawaii Chapter ... Aloha Society of Asso-
ciation Executives.

**Education:** University of Hawaii, 1997, BBA in Ac-
counting & Management Information Systems.

**Personal:** Born 1975, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Blog:** Twitter: www.donnyn.com / @ddonnynk

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**Joel Sinkin**

**President, Transition Advisors**

Besides working with his partner at Transition Advisors, Terry Putney, to broker countless ac-
counting firms mergers, Sinkin is one of the foremost experts out there at teaching firms how to value themselves, how to manage the merger process both before and after the deal is inked, and how to make mergers work — critical skills in this M&A-mad era.


**Other Affiliations:** Succession advisor, AICPA ... Editorial advisor, Small Firm Solutions ... Editorial Review Board, The CPA Journal ... Co-author, Buying, Merging CPA Firms.

**Education:** SUNY Brockport, 1981.

**Personal:** Born 1958, Brooklyn, NY ... Married to Kathy ... One son and one daughter.

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**Doug Sleeter**

**Founder and president, The Sleeter Group**

As accounting technol-
ogy continually evolves, so does Sleeter, from a QuickBooks expert and educator to a thought leader, technology expert, cloud advocate and all-around advi-
sor on running a tech-savvy practice.

**Career Highlights:** Founder and president, The Sleeter Group Inc., 1994-present ... Director of prod-
uct marketing, Quorum Software Systems, 1991-1994 ... Software evangelist and VAR sales, Apple Compu-
ter, 1986-1991 ... Software evangelist, Adobe Systems, 1985-1986 ... Staff accountant and tax preparer, Stan-

**Other Affiliations:** Host, The Sleeter Group’s Ac-
counting Solutions Conference ... Author, official QuickBooks manual ... Board of Advisors, Bill.com ... Product development consultant, Intuit, 1994-present ... Product development and marketing consultant, Fashio

**Education:** Santa Clara University, MBA courses ... University of California at Santa Cruz, 1982, BA Com-
puter and Information Sciences.

**Personal:** Born 1959, Fresno, Calif. ... Married to Sherrell ... One son.

**Blog:** Twitter: www.sleeter.com/blog / @dougsleeter / sleetergroup

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**Rick Telberg**

**President and CEO, CPA Trendlines Research**

With his finger on the pulses of the hundreds of thousands of accountants at small firms and solo practices, Tel-
berg shares the insights he gains from them through research, an influential blog, social media, frequent public appearances, and an expanding series of publications.

**Career Highlights:** President and CEO, CPA Trend-
lines Research, 2004-present ... Founder, president and CEO, Bay Street Group LLC, 2004-present ... Editorial director, director of online content, edi-
tor-at-large, CPABlu, 2001-2011 ... Vice president and senior editorial director, SmartPros, 2000-2001 ... Vice president, group publisher, editorial direc-
tor; and editor-in-chief, Accountants Media Group ... Public accounting’s move to

**Other Affiliations:** Past member, IBM Small Busi-
ess Advisory Board; Hewlett-Packard Accounting Industry Panel of Influencers.

**Education:** University of New York – Baruch, Corporate Finance, 1983 ... New York University, 1978, Bachelor’s.

**Personal:** Born 1956, New York City.

**Blog:** Twitter: rtpetelberg.com / @cpta_trendlines

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**Arlene Thomas**

**Senior vice president of management accounting and global markets, AICPA**

As head of the team that runs the burgeoning CGMA credential, Thomas is out in front of the institute’s efforts to both boost its ser-

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**Jamie Sutherland**

**President of U.S. operations, Xero**

Sutherland is one of the new wave of champions of accounting’s move to

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**Bonnie Buol Ruczyczky**

**President, BBR Marketing**

Ruczyczky’s clients are as likely to follow her savvy online marketing advice as they are her LinkedIn updates, which are only outnumbered by her legion of followers on the career network. Known for the customized online development of her clients’ audiences, she has recently been speaking to more audiences of her own, bringing her expertise to high-profile events and training sessions.

**Career Highlights:** President, BBR Marketing, 2009-
present ... Marketing director, Windham Brannon, 2007-2009 ... Product marketing manager, QAD, 2005-2007 ... Client service director, Function Be-

**Education:** SUNY Brockport, 1981.

**Personal:** Born 1956, New York City ... Married to Paul ... Three daughters, one son.

**Blog:** Twitter: www.xero.com / @sutherlandjamie

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**Arlen S. Thomas**

**Senior vice president of management accounting and global markets, AICPA**

As head of the team that runs the burgeoning CGMA credential, Thomas is out in front of the institute’s efforts to both boost its ser-

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John Veihmeyer  
Chairman and CEO, KPMG
Now one of the longer-serving Big Four chiefs, Veihmeyer continues to build up his firm, with a particular focus on attracting, training and retaining a strong, diverse and highly motivated staff.

Career Highlights:
- Chairman, KPMG LLP, 2010-present
- Other Affiliations: Co-chair, CEOs Against Cancer … Member, Governing Board, CAQ … Board, Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy; Catalyst; U.S.-India Business Council … Advisory Council, Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business … Board, Business-Higher Education Forum; Kennedy Center Corporate Counsel Fund … Business Roundtable … Partnership for New York City … British American Business International Advisory Board … Past member, SEC Advisory Committee on Smaller Public Companies.

Education: University of Notre Dame, 1977, BBA.

Jeffrey Thomson  
President and CEO, IMA
It’s been a busy year for the IMA, Thomson, between his constant efforts to build the skills of his members, to create partnerships that strengthen his organization around the world, and to fend off the new competition for his credential.

Career Highlights:
- Other Affiliations: Board member, Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission … County Social Services for the Mentally Challenged.
- Personal: Born 1960, Denver … Married to Steven … Two children.
- Twitter: @ArleenCPA

David Vaught
Chairman, GASB
Vaught’s decade as Iowa’s elected state auditor has given him an in-depth knowledge of government finance and sound political skills. Both will come in handy as he takes over the standard-setter of the public sector at a time when public finances seem to be in disarray at all levels.

Career Highlights:
- Other Affiliations: GASB … AGA … GFOA … Iowa Society of CPAs … Past chair, National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.
- Education: Upper Iowa University, 1976, BA Accy.
- Personal: Born 1954, Iowa … Married … Two children.
- Twitter: @DFVaunderwalk

Jennifer Warawa  
Senior VP and general manager, Accounting Professionals Division, Intuit Inc.

Warawa takes a very broad view of her mandate to work with accountants, going beyond serving the Sage channel to help prepare the profession as a whole for the future, as with Sage’s recent partnership with Tom Hood’s Business Learning Institute to offer critical soft-skills training.

Career Highlights:
- Vice president of partner programs & channel sales, Sage North America … Warawa takes a very broad view of her mandate to work with accountants, going beyond serving the Sage channel to help prepare the profession as a whole for the future, as with Sage’s recent partnership with Tom Hood’s Business Learning Institute to offer critical soft-skills training.

Other Affiliations: Volunteer, Information Technology Alliance … Youth mentor, Southwest Atlanta Neighborhood … Past board member, Courage for Youth Association … Founder and past board member, Uptown Rutland Business Association.
- Personal: Born Kelowna, B.C. … Married to Shane.
- Blog: Twitter: www.jenniferwarawa.com / @jenniferwarawa
Intuit may have reorganized its Accounting Professionals Division this summer, but Ward remains committed to strengthening the company’s relationships with the accounting profession.

Career Highlights: Vice president and general manager, Accounting Professionals Division, Intuit Inc.; vice president, Accountant Central; vice president and general manager, QuickBase; joined, 2001. ... Past chair, Tech Committee, AICPA; Workload Compression Task Force ... American Marketing Association ... Society for Human Resource Management ... AICPA ... Founding member and board member, Information Technology Alliance ... Board and youth leader, Episcopal Church.

Education: University of Nebraska, 2002, BS Marketing ... Landmark Education, Curriculum for Living (Leadership/Communications), 1995-1996.

Personal: Born 1964, Hahn Air Force Base, Germany ... Married to Brian ... Three daughters.

Blog: Twitter: www.blog.convergencecoaching.com /@JenLeeWilson

The T100 have spoken ...

And what they said, when we asked them to name their own choices for this list, is pretty much the same thing they’ve said for several years now: The president and chief executive officer of the American Institute of CPAs, Barry Melancon, is by far the most influential person in accounting. And when we say “by far” — well, the graph says it better than we could.

It’s been a busy year for Melancon and the institute, with the ongoing growth of their Chartered Global Management Accountant credential and the rollout of the Financial Reporting Framework for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, but it’s not just initiatives like that that make the Influential think Melancon is influential: Most of those who named him cited his deep knowledge of the where the profession stands now, and his insights into where it’s going.

Mary Jo White
Chair, SEC
While no one can say how White feels about a possible switch to IFRS, it’s pretty clear that the former federal prosecutor doesn’t like accounting fraud, and she’s beefing up the commission’s efforts to police and prevent it.


Other Affiliations: Founding member, CPA Consultants’ Alliance ... Advisory Board, Bill.com ... New Horizon Group ... Chair, Education Committee, AAM ... Association for Accounting Administration ... CPA Leadership Panel ... Past chair, Tech Committee, AICPA; Workload Compression Task Force ... American Marketing Association ... Society for Human Resource Management ... AICPA ... Founding member and board member, Information Technology Alliance ... Board and youth leader, Episcopal Church.

Education: University of Nebraska, 2002, BS Marketing ... Landmark Education, Curriculum for Living (Leadership/Communications), 1995-1996.

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Blog: Twitter: www.blog.convergencecoaching.com /@JenLeeWilson