

Letter from the CEO

“Life is too complicated not to be orderly.”

That is a quote attributed to Martha Stewart from an article in *Harper's Bazaar* magazine. Ms. Stewart is of course an individual who earns a very good living by making complicated things look orderly ... things like recipes, holiday decorations, flower arrangements and party plans.

Seems to me that Chartered Accountants also earn a pretty good living that way – making complicated things look orderly ... things like annual and quarterly reports, tax return filings, accounting systems and financing proposals. At the core, isn't that what we do – channel our analytical skills and perfectionist tendencies to help our clients or businesses be orderly in an increasingly complicated business environment?

And I wonder whether Martha's quote speaks as well to the CASB student experience. For many of you, I suspect that life is more complicated now than you have ever before experienced ... certainly full of a large number and variety of demands and related time pressures. How to cope?

Well, I don't have a silver bullet to offer you. As we often say at CASB – there is no one right answer. But I encourage you to consider, for example, what kinds of time management techniques work best for you, and to put them into play.

If you can find ways to keep your complicated life as a CASB student somewhat orderly, you will be better positioned to succeed in CASB. And you will have gained some habits and skills that will make you a better CA in the longer term.

John Gunn, MEd, FCA



The 3rd annual CA Case Competition will be held March 12 and 13 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Two third-year commerce students from each of the universities of British Columbia, Simon Fraser, Calgary, Alberta, Lethbridge, Saskatchewan, Regina and Manitoba will compete.

The CA Case Competition is designed to promote the Chartered Accountancy profession as an attractive career path and give students a taste of the type of work done by a CA.

Our New Look

You may have noticed that CASB.com has a new look.

We chose to more closely align ourselves with the Western CA Institutes' websites.

This was mostly a cosmetic update, and you will still be able to find your favourite pages in the same place.

If you have suggestions for our website, we are happy to hear them. Please email our Communications Department at communications@casb.com

Diana Hanevelt: Alberta KBH Outstanding Facilitator Award Winner

CASB Facilitator Diana Hanevelt is the 2009 KBH Outstanding Facilitator Award winner in Alberta. We caught up with Diana to find out why she chooses to facilitate for CASB, how she became a CA, and what work she does in public practice.

In December 2000, Diana joined the public practice firm of Czechowsky & Graham. She wrote the UFE in 2006 and became a member of the ICAA in January 2007. Just recently, Diana was promoted to partner and the firm is now called Czechowsky, Graham & Hanevelt!

Diana told us, "for many who obtain their CA, it is the culmination of a lot of hard work – and this was also true for me. But it was also more personal – it represented what I could achieve when I really set my mind to something, no matter my age."

On Facilitation

Diana began facilitating for CASB almost immediately after becoming a CA. When asked why, Diana told us something we hear a lot, "while working through the program, I thought that I just wanted to be finished, and be done with the whole thing! But once I completed the program, I realized how beneficial it was to my learning and my daily work – I cannot imagine facing the UFE without the help I received throughout the CASB program. I was encouraged to work with CASB by fellow facilitators who spoke so highly of the experience."



Diana Hanevelt, CA with Sally!

We always ask facilitators about their favourite part of facilitation, and Diana told us her favourite part is the interaction with students. She said, "I am truly impressed by how hard many of these students work, and how well they deal with the stress associated with these modules. It is really wonderful to see how they develop by the end of the module."

Diana also recommends that new CAs become facilitators. She tells us, "new CAs, especially those who have recently 'survived' the CASB modules, have a lot to offer as new facilitators. They understand how difficult it is going through the program, the stress and difficulties that CASB students face – but also the feeling of pride after making it through."

On Student Success

Diana, as a CASB facilitator and recent CASB student, is in a great position to offer tips to CASB students. Her suggestion is maintaining a schedule, in other words, time management. She tells us, "CASB requires a fair bit of work and focus, but you still need to be able to find the time for yourself, so you don't burn out before you reach the finish line. Time management is also a tool that you will find extremely useful in real life."

More Diana

Diana tells us that since she works full time and facilitates for CASB, she uses her free time to relax. She also enjoys baking. And, she plans to get back into running just as soon as she gets off the couch!

Diana, congratulations on winning the Outstanding Facilitator Award, and thank you for all your hard work facilitating for CASB.



**Important
DATE!**

Registration Deadlines

March 15

Module 6
(Summer 2010)

May 31

Modules 2,3,4
(Summer 2010)

Evaluation Date

April 16

Module 4
(Winter 2010)

Results Release Date

April 23

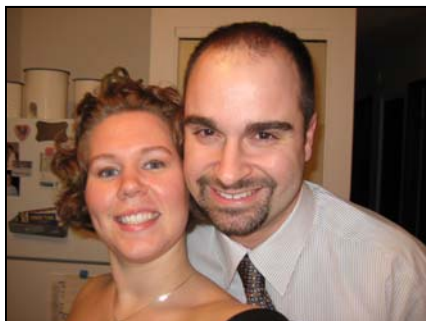
Module 4
(Winter 2010)

Registration Checklist

Before submitting your registration, please ensure you have completed all the requirements. You can download the *CASB Registration Checklist*, located under "Forms" at casb.com.

Dan Wittebolle: Winnipeg KBH Outstanding Facilitator Award Winner

CASB Facilitator Daniel Wittebolle is the 2009 KBH Outstanding Facilitator Award winner in Manitoba. We were interested in why Dan became a CA and what compels him to facilitate for CASB. This is his story.



Dan Wittebolle, CA with his wife Sue

Dan is a Senior Manager with Craig Ross Chartered Accountants and has worked there since 2002. He describes his career path as "unconventional". In 2001, Dan realized he was attracted to business, but found out that without a university degree he could not apply to CASB, despite his interest. So, he applied to the CGA program. While articling at his current firm, he realized the CA designation was what he really wanted. He obtained his degree and CGA designation in 2004, became a CA in 2006 and a year later, began facilitating for CASB.

Dan is glad he made the effort to become a CA because, "being a CA means that I have unlimited possibilities in where my career path takes me, and that I am a respected member and leader of the business community."

On Facilitation

Dan told us, "the biggest reason that I became a facilitator is that I wanted to be able to give our future CAs the kind of guidance and help that my facilitators gave me. I still remember what it was like to be a student. I know I wouldn't have been as successful on the academic side if it wasn't for all of the help my CASB facilitators gave me.

Dan's favourite part of facilitation is seeing his students succeed. He told us, "I enjoy being able to assist them with learning new concepts and in improving their case writing abilities and critical thinking skills, which are so vital in being successful not only on the UFE, but as a CA."

When we asked Dan if he would recommend that new CAs become facilitators, he responded, "absolutely." He went on to say, "you never stop learning as a CA and facilitation offers CAs a wonderful opportunity to keep up with the constantly evolving standards of our profession."

On Student Success

As a previous CASB student and current facilitator Dan is well positioned to give advice to CASB students.

Dan has two tips:

1. Don't be afraid to ask your facilitators lots of questions!! He tells us, "if every student had no issues in translating and consolidating foreign subsidiaries then I'd be out of work. There's nothing more frustrating than spinning your wheels, so reach out to your facilitators often because they are a vital component to your success.

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Practical Experience Requirements

This is one final reminder that across Canada, practical experience requirements for CA students changed on September 1, 2009.

CA education and evaluation are based on a set of nationally recognized competencies. Now, practical experience is also competency based, instead of only hours based.

This change affects students who registered with CASB on or after September 1, 2009 and who do not have any previous practical experience.

For further information you can visit: www.catoadvantage.ca, and click on the link for students.

Mo Sadek: a CASB Student Ready for Module 2

Mo Sadek recently became a CASB student and will start Module 2 in May. We decided to interview Mo to find out why he chose to become a CA and get his early impressions of the CASB program!

Getting to CASB

Mo recently earned his Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Calgary with a concentration in Accounting and then accepted an offer from the Office of the Auditor General of Alberta for an articling position in August 2009. As a staff auditor, Mo performs standard audit functions such as testing, vouching, and documentation. His first foray into accounting came in 2006 when he did a co-op with Plains Midstream Canada working in the Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable functions. He was hooked!

Becoming a CA

When we asked why Mo chose to become a CA, he told us, “a CA designation offers the most opportunities and the best training and development of any designation. It is difficult to obtain, but the challenges it presents only serve to strengthen your skills and increase your exposure. It also allows you some flexibility in what you decide to do later in your career.” We couldn’t have said it better!

In addition, Mo knows, “being a CA will mean that I will have the skills and knowledge to handle almost any business related challenge. It will also allow me to be a leader in the business community. Finally, it will bring increased responsibilities and obligations that must be upheld to keep the reputation of the designation intact.”

Being a CASB Student

Mo tells us, “although I’m in the early stages of the program, I’m finding it has already benefited my career and personal life. The material is very relatable and practical, making it truly valuable.”

Even though Mo only has one module under his belt, his success tip is one that many other successful students have identified: learn to manage your time effectively. Mo says it is “vital”.

Final Thoughts

Just like so many other CAs and CA students that we meet, we found Mo to be well rounded and open-minded. He told us that he is interested in different cultures and learning what the world has to offer. He spends his free time on sports and music, and he recently began learning the guitar.

Thanks for taking the time to speak with us Mo, and we wish you the best in your studies.



Mo Sadek

CASB Surveys:

Please be judicious in using the opt-out link in survey emails. If you use this link, you will no longer receive any surveys, unless you reinstate yourself. In doing so, you may miss mini surveys that directly impact you.

Instead, you can close and delete the emails containing surveys you do not wish to participate in.

If you have previously opted out, and want to be reinstated, please click on this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/OptOut.aspx> and fill out the required information.

CAs Write On**Economic or Economical?**

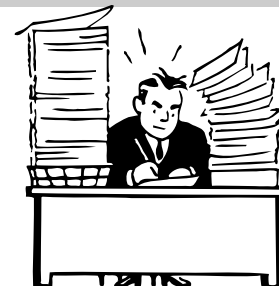
They are both adjectives that have a place in our everyday speech, and they are related, but, they have distinctly different meanings.

According to Merriam-Webster Online, the definition of economic is:
of or relating to economics or to an economy

And, the definition of economical is:
marked by careful, efficient, and prudent use of resources

Therefore, we would say that governmental policies related to finance are *economic*. And, we would say that fuel-efficient vehicles are more *economical* because they use less gas.

Credit for the content of this article goes to www.dailywritingtips.com



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- Practice makes perfect. Dan goes on to say, “as you prepare for your evaluations and the UFE, write lots of practice cases in exam-like settings. With each case your writing and your confidence will grow and you will soon be ready to tackle the ‘grand-daddy’ of them all, the UFE!”

More Dan

Dan has been the Treasurer of Providence Reformed Church of Winnipeg since 2005, where he and his wife Susanne are active members. He also served as Secretary on the Fund Raising Committee for 2 years. Outside of this, Dan’s biggest hobbies are being an “avid video gamer and movie buff.” And, actually outside, Dan enjoys hiking, biking and baseball.

Dan, congratulations on winning the Outstanding Facilitator Award, and thank you for all your hard work facilitating for CASB.

Please note: We will profile the BC KBH Outstanding Facilitator Award winner in the next issue of the CASB Quarterly.

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