

# Accounting Historians Notebook

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## Academy Member Spotlight: Robert H. Colson

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## Academy Member Spotlight: Robert H. Colson

Robert H. Colson is distinguished lecturer in the Stan Ross Department of Accountancy at Baruch College CUNY, New York, New York. His responsibilities include directing the MS Accountancy program and the Accountancy BBA/MS Integrated Program, an innovative initiative within the accountancy department to prepare students for careers in public accountancy in conformity with New York State's 150 hour licensure regulations. He serves on the Zicklin School of Business Graduate Curriculum Committee.

Bob was a direct entry partner to Grant Thornton LLP in August 2005 in its Public Policy and External Affairs Group, a part of the firm's na-

tional office. He worked principally with policy setters and policy influencers on developments in accounting, auditing, financial regulation, and corporate governance.



He was involved with the firm's activities in capital markets and government relations. He brought to Grant Thornton the Wiley publication, *The Audit Committee Handbook*. His mandatory partnership retirement

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AAA President; and Mary Stone, our Corporate Agent. The Transition Task Force will continuously help to "Build the Bridges to our Future", working in tandem with a AAA group including: David Boynton, AAA professional staff liaison for Sections and Regions; Hughlene Burton, Past Chair, AAA Council; Anne Christensen, Past AAA Board Member focusing on Segments; Audrey Gramling, Chair, AAA Council; and

Pat Poli, AAA Board Member focusing on Segments. This group will be led by Bruce Behn, AAA President and Tracey Sutherland, AAA Executive Director.

Anticipating a bright future, I'm now pleased to pass the reins to Prof. Robert Colson, as President of the Academy of Accounting Historians.

I warmly hope to see all of you next year in Pescara.

Ciao Amici miei!  
Massimo

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from Grant Thornton was July 31, 2010.

For the five years prior to joining Grant Thornton, Bob was editor-in-chief of *The CPA Journal* and Managing Director for Quality Enhancement at the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, in which capacity he was the executive responsible for the Society's technical committees, peer review program, and ethics program. He had executive responsibility for the Society's comment letter process, which included inputs from committees comprised of users, preparers, and auditors, and for the Society's relationships with accounting and auditing standards setters and regulators. He was registered as a lobbyist with New York State and the United States federal government.

Bob devoted 24 years to teaching, research, service, and administration at The Ohio State University, the University of Michigan, Case Western Reserve University, and Daemen College between 1976 and 2000. He worked with numerous PhD students in accounting, finance, and economics at Michigan and Case Western Reserve; published extensively on auditing, internal auditing, and accounting topics; developed numerous courses in two accounting masters programs; wrote cases about accounting system design; and was a litigation consulting expert on fraud, internal control, accounting, and au-

ditng. He developed and taught graduate courses in financial statement analysis and international accounting standards for the master's programs at the University of Michigan and Case Western Reserve University and an international finance course in the master's program at Daemen College. He has contributed over 100 publications in academic and professional journals and hundreds of presentations and panels in professional and academic venues. Before entering academics, Colson was the chief executive of a not-for-profit publishing and conference administration organization, a CPA in a firm that merged with McGladrey in 1979, and the CFO of a large, diversified transportation company. He participated in a faculty residency program at KPMG during 1987.

He was also the proprietor for 15 summers of the Bob Colson Fly Fishing School. He was awarded the 2013 Distinguished Service Award by the American Accounting Association Auditing Section.

### **Education**

Colson graduated with an A.B. in modern languages (highest honors) from the University of Notre Dame in 1970. He was awarded an MA in accountancy in 1978 and a PhD in Accountancy in 1980 from The Ohio State University with PhD minors in Economics and Industrial Engineering. His academic honors include election to Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Alpha Psi, Delta Gamma Sigma, and Phi Kappa Phi.