

Accounting Historians Notebook

Volume 39
Number 2 October 2016

Article 15

October 2016

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(2016) "Academy Member Spotlight: Stephan Fafatas Washington and Lee University," *Accounting Historians Notebook*: Vol. 39 : No. 2 , Article 15.

Available at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aah_notebook/vol39/iss2/15

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Academy Member Spotlight: Stephan Fafatas

Washington and Lee University

Stephan Fafatas is the Lawrence Term Associate Professor of Accounting at Washington and Lee University's Williams School of Commerce. He joined the Washington and Lee faculty in 2006 after completing his Ph.D. in Accounting at the University of Colorado. Professor Fafatas obtained his CPA license in Texas and prior to his career in academics he worked for Arthur Andersen. He currently lives in Lexington, Virginia with his wife, Angie, and their three children, Sophia, Dean, and Zoe Evelyn.

Professor Fafatas teaches classes in financial accounting and financial statement analysis during the winter and fall terms. He recently developed an undergraduate course on accounting history topics that is offered during Washington and Lee's four-week spring term. A good portion of that class is focused on exploring the university's Special Collections materials to gain insight on the financial history and activities of local businesses. Plans going forward include incorporating a student project into the class that will improve the digital finding aids for the university's collection of business and accounting records. Pro-

fessor Fafatas received the 2014 Innovation in Accounting History Education award from the Academy of Accounting Historians in recognition of his work in developing this class.



Professor Fafatas' prior research includes capital markets studies that explore issues related to financial analysis, earnings quality, and voluntary disclosure. His more recent work is directed towards both the history of financial reporting and the pedagogical use of historical accounting records. Indeed, one area that Professor Fafatas is passionate about is using historical accounting information to enhance the presentation and coverage of financial accounting topics in the classroom. He believes the overall learning experience is improved when students see not only the current accounting rules, but also consider changes in accounting practice over

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time. Professor Fafatas' other current research focus relates to the history of financial reporting in the U.S. He is particularly interested in the evolution of financial statement presentation and disclosure choice among 19th century transportation companies.

Stephan is a recently elected Vice President of the Academy of Accounting Historians. He is a member of several organizations related to both his personal and academic interests in history including the Virginia Historical Society, the Rockbridge (VA) Historical Society, and the Society for American Baseball Research.

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Who in American Colleges and Universities. She received her doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in 1968. In 1997, she was honored as the accounting department's outstanding alumna.

Information from an article by the University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business, January 8, 2016.

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Bob leaves another legacy in Australia: a daughter (Theresa) and granddaughter (Carina), who flew back to Exeter in time to be with him, his ailing wife (Agnelle) and his son (Michael) for his last few weeks.

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