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2016 Vangermeersch Manuscript Award Received by William H. Black

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2016 Vangermeersch Manuscript Award Received by William H. Black

“The Unintended Consequences of Tax Policy: How Mississippi’s *ad valorem* tax structure led to environmental devastation “



Bill Black's doctoral classmates at Ole Miss accused him of having an unfair advantage in their Accounting History seminar because he lived through so much of it. During Bill's career as an accountant: the FASB was formed (and Bill served on the FASB research staff during the production of *Qualitative Characteristics and Elements of Financial Statements*); the Big 8 became the Final Four (and Bill audited or consulted for half of the big firms); Penn Central went bankrupt and re-emerged (Bill worked for a company acquired by Penn Central to use up some tax loss carry-forwards before expiration); specialty designations proliferated (Bill holds credentials as ABAR, ABV, CFE, CFF, CMA, CPA, and CVA); Y2K didn't crash the economy (Bill advised Fortune 500 companies and national governments on Y2K business risks); Enron and WorldCom scandals sparked renewed interest in accounting ethics (the motivation for Bill to return to school in 2007 to seek his doctorate); and the Pathways Commission was formed (Bill served as Official Historian and wrote a briefing paper for the Commission on the historical context for changes in accounting education). Other developments in accounting also occurred without Bill's direct involvement.

Bill had the opportunity to learn from and work with many outstanding accounting educators, including Homer A. Black (Bill's father), Ike Reynolds and Harold Langenderfer (UNC faculty), Joe Cramer and Bill Schrader (Penn State faculty), Bob Sprouse, Reed Storey, Maurice Moonitz and David Solomons (at the FASB), Dale and Tonya Flesher (Ole Miss faculty), and Gary Previts, Tim Fogarty, Larry Parker, Mark Taylor, Yi-Jing Wu, and Greg Jonas (colleagues at Case Western), plus too many others to include in a single list. After teaching assignments at Case Western, Illinois, and Emory, Bill has settled in as part of the accounting faculty of the Mike Cottrell College of Business at the University of North Georgia.