

ASCA'S NEW PROGRAM SHOWS ITS COLOURS

2003 was an especially "interesting" year for Dan Trainor FCA, Executive Director of the Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy ("ASCA"). While every year's results release date holds a high level of anticipation, this year was the first year for students completing the new ASCA modular program of studies, which could be completed over a one-year period. As well, the change in the evaluation process for the UFE, from a marked exam to a competency-based assessment, brought its own measure of uncertainty to the ASCA Board, Dan, and the rest of the dedicated staff and instructors.

Any misgivings were quickly put to rest when the results were announced and the ASCA program showed a high success rate; in fact, the Atlantic Region led the other regions of the country, as indicated in the following table:

Institute	2003				2002			
	<i>No. of first-time writers</i>	<i>% Pass</i>	<i>No. of cand.</i>	<i>% Pass</i>	<i>No. of first-time writers</i>	<i>% Pass</i>	<i>No. of cand.</i>	<i>% Pass</i>
CASB*	590	70.0	746	66.4	364	77.5	630	67.5
Ontario	726	65.0	1,084	61.1	831	67.6	1,169	63.0
Quebec	442	74.0	570	70.4	397	75.8	518	68.3
ASCA**	161	76.4	207	72.0	123	69.1	167	66.4
	<u>1,919</u>	<u>69.6</u>	<u>2,607</u>	<u>65.5</u>	<u>1,715</u>	<u>71.7</u>	<u>2,484</u>	<u>65.5</u>
ICANS	75	73.3	91	71.4	48	77.0	72	69.4

While overall success rates are perhaps the most critical benchmark for the education program, the entire Atlantic Region should be extra proud that, despite the fact that the region only presented about 8% of the candidates to the UFE, no less than 7 ASCA students are on the 50 person national Honor Roll, and the national Governor General's Medal for the highest standing in Canada was awarded to an ASCA student, Christine Anne Thomson of St. John's, NL.

At its meeting, the ICANS Council unanimously passed a motion congratulating Dan and the entire ASCA program on preparing Nova Scotia candidates so well for not only the UFE but for their future professional CA careers!

GREAT RESULTS FOR UFE CANDIDATES IN SMALLER FIRMS

Each year, more and more of Nova Scotia's students are being trained in local firms (sole practitioners and small firms located only in NS). This year, 38 individuals, or 42% of the total candidates, worked for smaller firms in offices located throughout Nova Scotian communities. While the fact that many of the firms typically have only 1 candidate in a given year, with obvious implications for potential success rates, collectively this group resulted in a success rate of 73.6%, which is higher than the overall provincial success rate of 71.4%. The lesson? Nova Scotia students are able to benefit from high quality experience in all offices which are approved to train students.

EVEN FURTHER CELEBRATIONS – NOVA SCOTIA'S NEWEST FCAs

November 28 is obviously a milestone date for Nova Scotia's 65 successful UFE candidates, but is also a significant day for the following four members who were awarded their FCA designation this year: **George Bishop FCA**, **Allan Conrod FCA**, **Jerry Inman FCA**, and **Bruce Towler FCA**. In recommending these individuals to Council, the Honors Committee Chair Paul Goodman FCA, FCIRP noted the contributions and meritorious service they had provided to their profession, their careers, and their communities. The new FCAs will be more formally acknowledged at the Convocation Dinner and Dance that will take place on 14 February 2004.

AND EVEN MORE!! – JUDY STEELE RECEIVES THE ROSS L. TOWLER CA OF THE YEAR AWARD

Earlier this month, the Honors Committee selected **Judy Steele CA** as the recipient of the 2003 Ross L. Towler CA Of The Year Award. Judy is currently the national Chair of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, has recently been elected President of The Halifax Club, and is the ultimate example of how so many CAs volunteer their time and talents to their communities. This award certainly caps off quite a celebration for the Towler family, as Judy's husband is Bruce Towler (recipient of an FCA this year) and her father-in-law is Ross Towler FCA, the former ICANS Executive Director whose dedication to the profession was recognized by the re-naming of the CA Of The Year Award upon his retirement.

Judy will be formally recognized at the Annual Halifax Members' Luncheon that is being held later this month on 12 December 2003.

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!! – REMINDER OF MEMBERS' LUNCHEONS

Each year, the Institute holds Annual Members Luncheons in Sydney and Halifax to congratulate the new graduates on their achievement. This year, the Sydney luncheon will take place on December 5 at the Delta with President Bob Bean as the guest speaker. The Halifax luncheon is held the following week on December 12 at the Casino Nova Scotia Hotel with CICA Chair Pierre Brunet addressing the new graduates.

Copies of the registration forms are available on the ICANS website at www.icans.ns.ca or can be obtained by contacting the Institute office at icans@icans.ns.ca or by telephone at 902-425-3291.

New Rule 204 Passed By Membership

At a Special Meeting on 27 November, the membership approved the adoption of a new Rule 204, which provides a principle-based framework for members to apply in addressing independence for assurance engagements – further details to follow in the next E-Scan!