

Special Issue Introduction

Guest Editor

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I would like to thank the Federation of Business Disciplines for presenting this special edition from the American Accounting Association-Southwest Region.

Three papers are included in this special issue. Each was presented at the Federation of Business Discipline Annual Southwest American Accounting Association Meeting. First, Zhimin Yu's paper, "Three Theory Perspectives on Airline Industry Evolution", examines the airline industry in terms of the strategic choice of merger vs. alliance with other airlines. The second paper is "Municipality Stress: An Investigation of Bankruptcy, Financial Issues, and Consequences" by Mary Fischer and Cheryl Prachyl. This paper evaluates bankruptcy filings and financial stress among municipal governments. The third paper, "An Investigation of Student, Course, and Exam Characteristics and Their Impact on Accounting Exam Performance", is a pedagogical paper by Misty Schartz, Jessica Heronemus, and Shane Schartz. This paper evaluates students' average exam performance for different characteristics of students and course modality.

Yu's paper compares mergers and alliances in the airline industry over the last several decades. He considers the opportunities and threats afforded by both methods of combining resources of airlines. He also discusses legal issues, especially anti-trust and international laws that prevent international airline mergers.

The Municipality Stress paper considers the ability of financially stressed municipal governments to file bankruptcy. Some states prohibit municipal government bankruptcy so not all financially insolvent governments have bankruptcy as an option to restructure their debt. The paper also evaluates the impact of municipal bankruptcy on interest rates for municipal bonds. These bonds have been considered very low risk and bankruptcy filings may affect the risk assessment as lenders consider the purchase of these bonds.

The Accounting Exam Performance paper evaluates student performance based on exam format by whether problem/essay questions are presented before or after multiple choice questions. The authors also included analysis of the relationship between major (business/non-business) and course modality (face-to-face/online). They also present additional factors that might be important to consider for future research in this area.

About the Editor

Dr. Cheryl Prachyl is a Clinical Associate Professor at University of Texas – Arlington. Dr. Prachyl holds a PhD in Accounting from University of Texas at Arlington. She teaches financial

accounting and accounting information systems. Her research interests include accounting education and municipal government accounting.