



ACTION Letter

An independent accrediting organization affiliated with the National Society of Accountants

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ACAT to Switch to Computer-Based Testing

By Peggy I. Johnson, CPA, ABA, ATA

In keeping ACAT a leading-edge accreditation program, the Board of Directors has voted to institute computer-based testing beginning with the December 2007 exams. Moving from a pencil-and-paper exam to a computer-based one is a natural progression for a forward-thinking organization to provide. [Click here for the rest of the article.](#)

ACAT and National Society of Accountants to Offer ABA Cram Course and Examination

Accountants looking to earn the prestigious Accredited Business Accountant (ABA) credential now have a way to jump start their study preparation and take the exam when they are most prepared to tackle it. The National Society of Accountants (NSA) is offering the "ABA Cram Course and Exam" August 13-15, 2007, at the Portland Marriott Waterfront in Portland, Oregon, immediately preceding the NSA Annual Meeting. And there is still time to register! [Click here to learn more.](#)

Educators and Practitioners Sought for ACAT Board of Directors

The opportunity to help lead ACAT, an organization dedicated to furthering the accounting profession, is a notable professional and personal achievement. By serving on the ACAT Board you can expect to work hard, get results and have an enriching experience. Board members devote their time, energy, and ideas to lead the organization forward and in turn, lead the accounting and taxation profession to greater success. [Here's how to become a Leader.](#)

Tax Preparer Legislation Under Consideration

Last year, the Government Accountability Office issued a report detailing certain instances of possible tax fraud being conducted in a number of chain tax preparer firms. This year, a scandal erupted over the second largest tax chain in the country involving erroneous tax preparation. As a result, Congress is primed and ready to enact tax preparer regulation legislation similar to last year's S. 832. [The rest of the story.](#)

ACAT Needs Your Help

As ACAT grows, we have more programs than the Board can

July 2007

Question of the Month

This new feature in the *Action News* seeks to find out about you, your thoughts and ideas. Each issue will contain a different question and we'll publish the responses in the next issue. No rules, except no off-color language.

This month's question is: "What tales can you tell about your ACAT credentials? Do they aid in your business or employment?"

Email your response to info@acatcredentials.org

ACAT Credentials

Directory of Accredited Professionals

All About CPEs

ABA Exam Cram Course

Code of Ethics

manage alone. That's why this year, ACAT has formed committees to help the Board with its work. And, now, we need you to volunteer to serve on a committee. [Learn how to volunteer.](#)

**College Capstone
Program**

**National Society of
Accountants**

Paying Attention to Those Who Mean the Most

The Pareto principle (also known as the 80-20 rule, the law of the vital few and the principle of factor sparsity) states that, for many phenomena, 80% of the consequences stem from 20% of the causes.

Business management thinker, Joseph M. Juran, suggested the principle and named it after Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto, who observed in the late 1800's that 80% of income in Italy went to 20% of the population. It is a common rule of thumb in business; e.g., "80% of your sales come from 20% of your clients."

We'll bet it's true for your clients, too. [Here's how to put it to use.](#)

Welcome New Credential Holders

These 68 people received their new credential between February 22, 2007, and July 1, 2007. [Welcome these new credential holders.](#)

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