

# NEW ACCOUNTANT<sup>®</sup>

## AWSCPA of Georgia Awards Scholarships to Rising Stars in Accounting

*Georgia affiliate of national accounting organization selects outstanding female accounting students as recipients of annual scholarship award as part of its ongoing efforts to support, recognize and enhance the careers of women in the accounting profession.*

ATLANTA – January 2014 - The Georgia Affiliate of the American Women’s Society of CPAs is proud to announce the winners of its 2014 Scholarships. These prestigious awards will go to Maria-Louisa Boero-Bisetti and Deborah Alexandria Pina Diaz, both of Georgia State University’s J. Mack Robinson School of Business, and Lori Sherrill, a student at Mike Cottrell College of Business at the University of North Georgia.

Award-winner Maria-Louisa Boero-Bisetti, who returned to school after 10 years pursuing a technical career, says, *“Besides my personal desire to reach my goal of obtaining a higher education and a degree in accounting, I want to demonstrate through my accomplishments that we - women - are capable of achieving our dreams at any age.”*

Recipient Deborah Alexandria Pina Diaz works hard to differentiate herself from the many other dedicated students with whom she attends classes. She finds numerous ways to succeed, including service as president of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting at GSU and in her work as a Teaching Assistant for a Principles of Accounting Class.

Martha Merritt, CPA and Assistant Professor of Accounting at UNG, says of scholarship winner Lori Sherrill, *“While engaging in her academic major at a level almost equivalent to the course load of a full-time student, Lori also works for a local CPA firm. In addition, she has family responsibilities, as is the case with many non-traditional students. Thank you to your organization for offering scholarships to students like Lori who go ‘above and beyond’ and rise to the top.”*

On January 9, 2014, AWSCPA of Georgia hosted a ***Tribute to the Past and a Toast to the Future*** at Villa Christina Perimeter Summit to recognize these deserving accounting students and celebrate over 30 years serving women CPAs.

Debbie Sessions, CPA and Partner/Chief Operating Officer at Porter Keadle Moore and 1993-1994 AWSCPA of Georgia President, kicked off the evening by highlighting the ways women impact public accounting and how the industry has changed towards women since the founding of the organization's Georgia Affiliate in 1982. At the same time, she reminded attendees that while over 50% of new hires in accounting are women, women fill only a small percentage of leadership positions within the profession. Her message was simple and powerful: "Equal. We just want equal. The work here is not done!"

Longtime member Nancy Frenkel, CPA was honored during the event for her 32+ years of service to the profession. Ms. Frenkel was one of the Georgia Affiliate's founding members and served as President in 1983-1984. The group presented a gift in her honor to Leadership North Fulton. Nancy's career counseling experience was shared as part of the event's theme of reflecting on the progress of women in the profession: When she was selecting a career, because she was a woman she was told that she was best suited to be a bookkeeper; she asked what she would be best suited for if she were a man and was informed that, "If you were a man, you would be an accountant." Luckily for aspiring students and the profession as a whole, that's not the advice that today's talented young women are likely to hear.

The organization also had the honor of welcoming Cynthia Hines, 2011 AWSCPA of Georgia Scholarship Recipient, into the profession as a newly licensed CPA along with fellow member Sandu Seyum. Jean Marie Foster and Neera Miller were recognized for passing the CPA Exam.

AWSCPA of Georgia sent out a grateful "Thank you" to event sponsors Robert Shim of JPMorgan Chase, Johns Creek Branch and Daniel Mastrodonato of Payroll 1, Inc.



Scholarship Recipients Left to Right: Deborah Alexandria Pina Diaz, Maria-Louisa Boero-Bisetti, and Lori Sherrill



Debbie Sessions, CPA



Nancy Frenkel, CPA





New CPAs Left to Right: Sandu Seyum and Cynthia Hines



Neera Miller and Jean Marie Foster Recognized for Passing the CPA Exam

#### About AWSCPA of Georgia

*The Georgia Affiliate is committed to supporting women and enhancing success through leadership and legacy opportunities for women CPAs and those aspiring to become one at every stage and season of career and life. The American Women's Society of CPAs is a national organization dedicated to serving all women CPAs. The AWSCPA provides a supportive environment and valuable resources for members to achieve their personal and professional goals through various opportunities including leadership, networking and education. [www.awscpa-ga.org](http://www.awscpa-ga.org)*