**REPORT ON THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION (EASTERN CAPE), HELD AT RHODES UNIVERSITY, GRAHAMSTOWN ON 31 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2014**

The 2014 Regional Conference of the South African Accounting Association (Eastern Cape) was held at Rhodes University from 31 October – 1 November 2014.

A total of 55 delegates from Rhodes University, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of Fort Hare, and Walter Sisulu University attended the conference. Fifteen papers were presented, 2 in the refereed category. Both refereed papers were co-authored by Kevin Barnard of the Accounting Department at Rhodes University. The best refereed paper was adjudged to be the paper co-authored by Kevin Barnard and Mark Bunting (also of the Accounting Department at Rhodes University), entitled “Value and Size Investment Strategies During the Global Financial Crisis: Evidence From the South African Equity Market”.

The best non-refereed paper was presented by Gerrit Penning from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, entitled “The Association Between Earnings Quality and Auditor Switch Rates: A Profile of JSE-Listed Firms”.

Notwithstanding the accolades accorded to the authors of these two papers, all of the papers presented were of a high academic standard and demonstrated the high quality of research being undertaken by academics in the Eastern Cape. All presenters are to be congratulated on the quality of their work, having made for a very enriching and rewarding academic experience.

The organising committee would like to formally thank all the participants and attendees at the conference for their varied and valuable input and active participation. In addition, we extend our thanks to Rhodes University for providing the host facilities, meals and refreshments at the Gavin Relly Post-Graduate Village, and to the following sponsors, without whose support the conference would not have been possible, and with whose valuable assistance the organising committee was able to afford attendees the opportunity to attend the conference free of charge:

* SAAA – National;
* KPMG – Eastern Cape;
* Deloitte – Eastern Cape;
* Juta;
* LexisNexis Butterworths

Thanks to the generosity of these sponsors we were able to award a cash prize for the best refereed paper, and a Samsung Tablet for the best non-refereed paper.

The conference dinner, held the Wyvern Club at Kingswood College, was a fantastic success, both from collegial and social point of view. The Wyvern Club is to be thanked most sincerely for the excellent standard of their facilities and food, beverages and entertainment.

Although regional conferences are often used as academic “sounding-boards” for future and on-going research, the value of the experiences gained by both presenters and attendees cannot be undervalued.

We look forward to the next National Conference of the South African Accounting Association, to be hosted in East London in June 2015.



**SAAA – Eastern Cape President 2013/2014**