

Research at the School of Accountancy University of Southern Mississippi Part 1

In a recorded meeting with Director “Skip” Hughes (he insisted on the recording), he revealed the following of his philosophy about research and journal publications (previously reported in the series “[Things are going to change around here.](#)”):

According to Director Hughes topics of research should be in line with subjects like “how I love depreciation.” And such research should be published in *Accounting Horizons* and *Issues in Accounting Education*. Journals at that caliber—A level journals. He doesn’t expect the faculty in the School of Accountancy at USM to publish in *Journal of Accounting Research*, especially during the current cutback in funding, but *Horizons* and *Issues* are what he expects from the faculty.

Now, if faculty go against Dr. Hughes’ “feelings” to do something in practitioner journals such as the *Journal of Accountancy*, *CPA Journal*, or *Strategic Finance* [“I (Hughes) rue the day *Management Accounting* changed to *Strategic Finance*—it doesn’t have a lot of value for me (Hughes)], you are not going to get credit for it if it doesn’t “connect the dots” with his “feelings” about how it compares with the standard, “how I love depreciation.”

Also, understand that the methodology, if you have one, had better be a methodology Director Hughes can understand, like “matrix algebra, stuff like that”—real accounting topics and methodologies he can read. To sum up Director Hughes’ “feelings”, “if you aim as high as you can and accounting is in the title of the journal, I think that you would be safe.” If it’s a topic other than something like “how I love depreciation”, “I [Hughes] couldn’t support it,” even if it is an A-level journal.

Now that a couple of years have past, let’s see what Director Hughes has accomplished with his “things-are-going-to-change-around-here” research mission. The following is quoted from [School of Accountancy webpage](#).

Journal Articles

The SoA Mission Statement includes the following: “School of Accountancy faculty are actively engaged in scholarly, professional and pedagogical research to extend the knowledge boundaries of the accounting discipline while maintaining currency of their academic/professional qualifications as well as the School’s curriculum.” Although scholarly research can take several forms, accounting research is often measured by (1) the number and quality of published articles, and, (2) presentations of ongoing research before an audience of one’s peers. The publications listed below are for the 2008-2010

period; if articles are co-authored by colleagues within the SoA, a separate entry is made for each co-author.

Research – Publications (2008-2010)

Associate Professor Mary Anderson

Jordan, C., Clark, S., & Anderson, M. (2008). Unusual Digital Patterns in EPS: Evidence on the Association Between Earnings Management and Company Characteristics. *Journal of Business & Economics Research*, 6 (1), 31-40.

Professor Stan Clark

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J., & Hames, C. C. (2010). The Impact of Audit Quality on Earnings Management To Achieve User Reference Points In EPS. *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 26 (1), 19-30.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J., & Posey, R. B. (2010). Cosmetic Earnings Management in the Oil, Gas and Energy Industry Before and After Sarbanes-Oxley. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J., & Donald, M. (2009). Using Financial Statement Analysis to Explain the Variation in Firms's Earnings-Price Ratios. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 13 (1), 91-102.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J., & Hames, C. (2009). Manipulating Sales Revenue To Achieve Cognitive Reference Points: An Examination of Large U.S. Public Companies. *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 25 (2), 95-103.

Jordan, C. E. & Clark, S. J. (2008). Identifying Factors Related to the Earnings-Price Ratios of Financial Service Firms. *Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives*, 34 (23), 35-45.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J., & Pate, G. R. (2008). Earnings Manipulation To Achieve Cognitive Reference Points In Income. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 12 (3), 97-112.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J., & Vann, C. E. (2008). Do Gender Differences Exist In the Publication Productivity Of Accounting Faculty? *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 24 (3), 77-86.

Clark, S. J. & Jordan, C. E. (2008). The FASB's New Rule for Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes: Its Application and Effects on the Oil and Gas Industry. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 56 (4), 823-828.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J., & Anderson, M. (2008). Unusual Digital Patterns in EPS: Evidence On The Association Between Earnings Management And Company Characteristics. *Journal of Business and Economics Research*, 6 (1), 31-40.

Professor Michael Dugan

Fritsche, S. R. & Dugan, M. T. (2009). Unobservable Parameters and Conditional Estimates of Internal Rate of Return. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 1 (1), 1-19.

Fritsche, S. R. & Dugan, M. T. (2009). Evaluating Models of the Relationship Between Accounting Profitability Measures and Internal Rate of Return. *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 17-29.

Moehrle, S. R., Anderson, K. L., Ayres, F. L., Bolt-Lee, C. E., Debreceeny, R. S.,

Dugan, M.T., Hogan, C.E., Maher, M.W., Plummer, E., (2009). The Impact of Academic Accounting Research on Professional Practice: An Analysis by the AAA Research Impact Task Force. *Accounting Horizons*, 23 (4), 411-456.

Professor K.E. "Skip" Hughes II

Henderson, C. & Hughes II, K. E. (2010). Valuation Implications of Regulatory Climate For Utilities Facing Future Environmental Costs. *Advances in Accounting*, 26 (1), 13-24.

Hughes II, K. E. & Matheny, R. E. (2010). The Combined Efficiency and Renewable Electricity Standard Provisions of HR-2454: The American Clean Energy And Security Act of 2009. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 58 (4), 599-607.

Hughes II, K. E. & Matheny, R. E. (2010). Can Regional Markets for Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Emissions Reductions Work? A Look at the RGGI. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 58 (3), 425-438.

Hughes, K. E.I. & Matheny, R. E. (2010). Construction Work in Process (CWIP) Financing for Electric Utilities: Sound Public Policy or Ratepayer 'Bailout'. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*.

Hughes, K. E. 'Skip' & Matheny, R. E. (2009). Rate Shock: Can It Be Mitigated in Today's Economic Environment? *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 57 (4), 777-789.

Hughes II, K. E. & Matheny, R. E. (2009). The SEC's Mandated Increased Disclosure of Executive Perquisites: A Look at Two Investor-Owned Electric Utilities. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 58 (1), 21-33.

Hughes II, K. E. & Matheny, R. E. (2009). The Carbon Capture and Sequestration Provisions of HR-2454, The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 58 (2), 237-246.

Hughes II, K. E. & Matheny, R. E. (2009). Tax Provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 - The Credit for Production from Advanced Nuclear Power Facilities. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 57 (3), 609-618.

Hughes II, K. E., Louwers, T. J. , & Reynolds, K. R. (2008). Toward an Expanded Control Environment Framework. *Journal of Forensic Accounting*, IX (1), 115-127.

Hughes II, K. E. & Matheny, R. E. (2008). Income Tax Allowances for FERC Regulated Pass-Through Entities. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 56 (4), 829-838.

Hughes II, K. E. & Matheny, R. E. (2008). The 'Smart Grid': Can Technology Overcome Regulatory and Cultural Inertia? *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 57 (1), 139-154

Associate Professor Steve Jackson

Jackson, S. & Posey, R. (2008). Use Of Sunk Costs In Decision-Models And The Impact On Teaching. *Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives*, XXXIV (1).

Chene, D., Violette, G., & Jackson, S. (2008). Readability of Auditing Textbooks: An Analysis Using the Cloze Procedure. *Advances in Accounting, Finance and Economics*, 1 (1), 16.

Professor Charles Jordan

Waldron, M. A. & Jordan, C. E. (2010). The Comparative Predictive Abilities of Accrual Earnings and Cash Flows in Periods of Economic Turbulence: The Case of the IT Bubble. *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 26 (1), 85-98.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Hames, C. C. (2010). The Impact of Audit Quality on

Earnings Management to Achieve User Reference Points in EPS. *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 26 (1), 19-30.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Posey, R. B. (2010). Cosmetic Earnings Management in the Oil, Gas and Energy Industry Before and After Sarbanes-Oxley. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 58 (4), 615-623.

Jordan, C. E. & Clark, S. J. (2009). Oil Company Profits: Setting the Record Straight. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 57 (3), 543-548.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Hames, C. (2009). Manipulating Sales Revenue to Achieve Cognitive Reference Points: An Examination of Large U.S. Public Companies. *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 25 (2), 95-104.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Donald, M. (2009). Using Financial Statement Analysis to Explain the Variation in Firms' Earnings-Price Ratios. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 13 (1), 91-101.

Jordan, C. E. & Clark, S. J. (2008). Identifying Factors Related to the Earnings-Price Ratios of Financial Service Firms. *Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives*, 34 (2), 35-45.

Clark, S. J. & Jordan, C. E. (2008). The FASB's New Rule for Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes: Its Application and Effects in the Oil and Gas Industry. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 56 (4), 823-828.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Vann, C. (2008). Do Gender Differences Exist in the Publication Productivity of Accounting Faculty? *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 24 (3), 77-85.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Pate, G. R. (2008). Earnings Manipulation to Achieve Cognitive Reference Points in Income. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 12 (3), 97-112.

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Anderson, M. H. (2008). Unusual Digital Patterns in EPS: Evidence on the Association Between Earnings Management and Company Characteristics. *Journal of Business & Economics Research*, 6 (1), 31-40.

Assistant Professor Diane Parker

Parker, P. D. (2010). Analysts' Earnings Forecasts: Implications for Managed Earnings Via Pension Expense. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, forthcoming.

Parker, P. D. (2010). Managed Earnings: A Closer Look at Pension Expense. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, forthcoming.

Parker, P. D. (2009). Managing Pension Expense to Meet Analysts' Earnings Forecasts: Implications for New FASB Standard. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 13 (Special Issue), 103-116.

Parker, P. D., Bishop, Jr., J. S., & Sylvestre, J. (2008). RFID Technology Drives Shift in Inventory Valuation to Specific Identification. *Commercial Lending Review*, 23 (4), 31-38.

Associate Professor Gwen Pate

Jordan, C. E., Clark, S. J. , & Pate, G. R. (2008). Earnings Manipulation to Achieve Cognitive Reference Points in Income. *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, 12 (3), 97-112.

Professor Rod Posey

Jordan, C., Clark, S., & Posey, R. (2010). Cosmetic earnings management in the oil, gas and energy industry before and after Sarbanes-Oxley. *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*, 58 (4), 615-623.

Posey, R. B. (2009). Ratio Benchmarks for Mississippi Counties. *Mississippi CPA*, XLVIII (8), 18-19.

Jackson, S. & Posey, R. B. (2008). Use of Sunk Costs in Decision-Models and the Impact on Teaching. *Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives*, XXXIV (1), 74-79.

Did you notice anything interesting about the list of publications? None of the articles are A-level journals—professional or academic. None are research articles published in *Accounting Horizons* or *Issues In Accounting Education* or journals of equivalent quality (Professor Dugan’s listing of *Accounting Horizons* was an invited American Accounting Association committee report.)

None are about “how I love depreciation.” Only four of them have accounting in the title. The most serious failure of “things-are-going-to-change-around-here” touted by Hughes is the poor quality journals in which the faculty’s research is published. Most of the current journals reported on the SoA’s website are vanity journals—“pay your money and your article is published.” That’s what the accounting faculty at USM has always produced with few exceptions.

Remember, Dr. Hughes was adamant that research quality would improve. At best he was naïve. At worst, he lied in an effort to accomplish a dishonorable political goal.

I can’t help but ask, did any of these faculty – including Dr. Hughes -- receive unacceptable research scores in their annual evaluations for such low quality “research”?

The current list of publications is the kind of poor quality research that got the School of Accountancy in trouble with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business during its last accreditation effort. SoA was put on probation then.

Be sure to tune in for Part 2 of “Research at the School of Accountancy” for a view of research at the School of Accountancy without the puffery that’s hidden in plain sight above.