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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ACCOUNTING EDUCATION & RESEARCH

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Professor Lana Hanner Weldon opened the conference by welcoming the 300 delegates. The main theme of the conference is "our role as accountancy educators: Closing the GAP."

The main sponsors, Lexis Nexis, SAICA and CIMA, as well as the exhibitors were welcomed and thanked for their support. She outlined the activities for the conference and emphasised the Eastern Cape flavour in the entertainment and gifts. Local fabrics and communities were used for some of the items and this shows SAAA's dedication to social responsibility.

Delegates were asked to update their membership details in order to ensure all conference correspondence is received. All refereed papers can be found on the SAAA website.

An extract from the welcome by Mandi Olivier (SAICA):
"I would like to emphasize the importance of research and scholarly activity. There is a misconception out there that SAICA doesn't want any research done at all and I would like to just reiterate the fact that that is just not the case. We strongly believe that in order for there to be a strong accounting programme that the people who are involved need to be on the ground with regards to research and I supposed more importantly we would define it as scholarly activity."

I think the challenge we have today is moving away from only publishing in subsidisable journals because that is what the DHET modeled really drives from a monetary point of view to a more broader definition of scholarly activity in terms of what we are doing to make sure that we develop accountancy graduates who can serve the future.

The accountancy profession has always been one to drive the change and I think that it is important that as academics you play a more active role in this through ongoing research into what is changing and, what we do need to continue to change, to remain relevant in this every changing world.

I think we must be aware of importance of developing graduates and accounting professionals that can take the accounting profession forward. Accounting is cited as one of the jobs being at most risk of being taken over by computers.

Technology is going to play a significantly more important role in our futures as we go forward. I think it is critical therefore, that higher education providers make sure that they remain relevant by producing graduates that are employable and who can meet that changing demands of the workspace."



Three very impressive presentations were made by Grant Sankin (University Awaikto), Wendy Terblanche (University of Fort Hare) and Lee Krug (University of Western Australia). Grant conferred the intellectual capital disclosures by Universities (UK, Australia and New Zealand) and formed some interesting opinions. Wendy provided insight into the work she did for her masters and Lee considered the factors that drove disclosure. Very valuable contributions in an area more often than not ignored due to measurement difficulties.



Rob Scott and Grant Sankin



Delegates enjoying a break



Shane Balzan from Cima



Lexis Nexis exhibitor stand



DID YOU KNOW?

According to Shenaaz Gani and JMP Venter's Paper "Towards Developing Sustainable National Health Insurance in South Africa" most countries spend \$60 per capita per annum on health whereas South Africa spends a whopping \$645 per capita per annum.



Delegates concentrating during a presentation



The marimba band kept guests entertained



Delegates enjoying the cocktail evening