

CITATION

American Accounting Association 2013 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award

Presented To

Shyam Sunder

To say that Professor Shyam Sunder is "well-traveled" in his 40 professional years in the accounting academy would certainly be an understatement. During his years of full-time service at the University of Chicago, University of Minnesota, Carnegie Mellon University, and Yale University, Professor Sunder's travels across the world to visit and lecture at many universities and organizations have been remarkable. He is simply indefatigable. More significantly, Professor Sunder's intellectual curiosity and rigor have created a travelogue of research across a vast array of disciplines. Most significantly, Shyam has brought all of us along for the ride.

Professor Sunder's publication record is stunning. He has authored or co-authored at least six books and published significantly more than 200 papers in leading journals of accounting, finance, and economics, and professional articles in business presses. Overall, his research can be classified into the following domains: economic theory of accounting, statistical theory of valuation, experimental tests of learning and expectations in monetary economies, structural properties of economic systems, and corporate governance.

Shyam's research is at the highest level of quality. He has received the AAA's Competitive Manuscript Award in 1975; twice, in 1982 and 1998 respectively, he won the AAA and AICPA's Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award. He was the AAA's Inaugural Presidential Research Lecturer (1999) and the AAA's Distinguished International Visiting Lecturer in Accounting (2000).

Consistent with his commitment to strengthen other's research, Shyam has assumed numerous editorial responsibilities, including serving as a founding member of four academic journals, as well as serving as associate editor or on the editorial board for approximately 20 journals, including all the major journals of the AAA.

Shyam Sunder is also committed to educational innovation and teaching excellence as demonstrated by the novelty of courses he has pioneered, designed, and taught in his four-decade career. While the number and breadth of his coursework is too much to list, one recent example of his innovative teach is a recent course he offers at Yale University in Management, Leadership and Literature, integrating Shyam's deep thinking about many subjects in the humanities and social sciences into a highly popular and rewarding course. Its first class session meets at the Yale Art Gallery. One colleague reports that anyone who has attended Shyam's classes or lectures is impressed by his ability to adapt his diction and tone to the topic and audience. He is equally capable of explaining a complicated idea clearly to his colleagues, business press reporters, college students, or your neighbor's kids.

Shyam has served the American Accounting Association in a number of capacities, most notably as the AAA President in 2006. During his presidency, Shyam eloquently expressed his passion and vision for accounting and called for more innovative thinking in accounting scholarship to strengthen its position in society in general and in universities in particular. He gave inspiring speeches and wrote insightful articles on the important role accounting scholarship plays in our society. In his presidential address entitled "Imagined Worlds of Accounting," Shyam called on the profession to "examine the way things were and are, and how they might be" and "to celebrate and explore the power of accounting in both these domains." Shyam is committed to help accounting educators and scholars see the potential in new approaches to old problems and to appreciate the merit in examining old issues from promising new angles. In this process, Shyam fosters innovation by encouraging accounting scholars to be open and broad in their thinking, challenging the status quo and conventional wisdom on many fronts.

Sheer intellectual delight is what we experience when we travel with Professor Sunder. That experience is something special that combines a compelling curiosity to understand with research rigor, exactness in design, diligence in discovery, and sheer joy in sharing it with others, with contribution the reward. For us all, Shyam is the quintessential "curious traveler," and why he is richly deserving of the 2013 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award.

Awarded on August 5, 2013 in Anaheim, CA

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