

The William T Baxter Travel scholarship*Renuka Fernando, 2011 Recipient*

It was an honour to be the first recipient of the William T Baxter Travel Scholarship. Learning about the phenomenal story of William T Baxter, through discussions with his family and award supporters, was in itself professionally and personally inspiring.

With this scholarship, I was able to attend the 2010 Critical Perspectives in Accounting (CPA) conference and participate in their Emerging Scholars Colloquium. This conference introduced me to a particular strand and community of accounting research, as I was able to converse with established professors and other young scholars who were predominately from North America. Conference sessions and their respective papers were diverse, ranging from topics on love and accounting to mapping information flows between managers and their factory workers. Through attending this conference, I gained a further understanding of the types of accounting inquiry and how my interest in Logframes and, generally the Third Sector, meshes with current research projects in the field.

In terms of my own academic progress, I was selected to submit a paper for the Emerging Scholars Colloquium. This marked the debut of my research outside of the London School of Economics. The process of preparing, presenting and responding to comments in this academic setting was invaluable, especially as a first year PhD student. Brian Shapiro, a well published academic, facilitated a discussion of my paper within a small group of other young scholars. The feedback I received was both critical and constructive, providing essential input for my subsequent drafts. In addition to this, I read and commented on draft papers of other young scholars, all at different stages in their PhD. Overall, participating in the colloquium was rewarding, as I not only solicited insights for my draft, but also contributed to the development of other young scholars within our academic community.

Through the CPA, I was introduced to a wider accounting community. Besides broadening my academic outlook, participating in the Colloquium facilitated a deeper understanding of what it means to do a PhD and what we, as students, aspire to communicate in our writings.

I would like to thank the Baxter family for setting up this scholarship. I believe this is a wonderful way of remembering William T Baxter and his contributions as the founder of our department, gifted academic and humble human being. Also, many thanks to those who continue to support this scholarship. Seeing North America, in this case through the lens of the CPA, is an opportunity I personally would not have been able to afford without your endorsement.

Best wishes,

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