

The ACCA logo consists of the letters "ACCA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red square.

ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)



(L to R standing) Alva Burroughs, Teri Ann Thomas, Maria Batson, Patricia Joseph, Aisha McKenna, Lesley John, Anouska Sammy. (Seated) Paula Marcelle-Irish, Janet Rezende, Helen Brand, Brenda Lee Tang, Shane Kissoon

Meet the Staff

The ACCA Caribbean office, which serves 20 countries, was inaugurated in August 24, 1999. Located in Port of Spain, Trinidad, the regional office is staffed by a team of dedicated and talented professionals. Here are thumbnail profiles of our members of staff:

Brenda Lee Tang
Head of Corporate Development

Responsibilities: My role is to lead ACCA's business and key relationships in the Caribbean as well as advance ACCA's strategy in the region.

Paula Marcelle-Irish
Manager – ACCA Northern Caribbean

Responsibilities: Developing and maintaining relationships with ACCA's stakeholders in Jamaica, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos.

Shane Kissoon
Manager, ACCA Southern Caribbean

Responsibilities: Developing and maintaining relationships with ACCA's stakeholders in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname.

Maria Batson
Manager, ACCA Eastern Caribbean

Responsibilities: Developing and maintaining relationships with ACCA's key stakeholders in 11 eastern Caribbean territories including Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Antigua.

Lesley John
Marketing and Media Relations Manager

Responsibilities: Designing, implementing and managing communication and marketing programmes throughout the region, with the aim of supporting ACCA business and building brand and product awareness.

Anouska Sammy
Customer Services Supervisor

Responsibilities: Overseeing and coaching a team of individuals that provide internal and external customer support to all stakeholders in the Caribbean.

Janet Rezende
Corporate Support Officer

Responsibilities: Making all travel and hotel arrangements for regional and visiting UK staff, as well as coordinating all events in the region, supporting the various Managers with their meetings on visits to other Caribbean countries. Payments and Personal Assistant to the Head of Corporate Development.

Patricia Joseph
Office Facilitator

Responsibilities: Main support for facilitating the smooth functioning of the office and provides support to the Marketing and Media Relations Manager and the Supervisor - Customer Services as well as assist with student and member queries.

Alva Burroughs
Member Services Officer

Responsibilities: Handling member and affiliate queries and ensuring a prompt and fully satisfactory response. I also provide administrative support and advice to all ACCA stakeholders

Teri Ann Thomas
Student Services Officer

Responsibilities: Handling student queries and ensuring a prompt and fully satisfactory response. I also provide administrative support and advice to all ACCA stakeholders.

Aisha McKenna
Student Services Officer

Responsibilities: Handling student queries and ensuring a prompt and fully satisfactory response. I also provide administrative support and advice to all ACCA stakeholders

Landmark year for ACCA Caribbean

Celebrated 10 years in the Caribbean

Re-shaped and re-focused to fit the future

2010 promises to be another memorable year as ACCA Caribbean continues its work to raise the profile of the global organisation in the region and deliver on our commitment to provide exceptional customer service to all our partners.

Message from the Head

It has been a little over one year since ACCA Caribbean has been restructured, re-shaped and re-focused to be fit for the future. Additional staff has been recruited and our thrust strengthened to more effectively support key stakeholders in the region.

2009 has been an exciting, activity-filled year for us and one within which we marked ten years since the establishment of an ACCA office in the region. We celebrated in grand style with our members, students, employers and other stakeholders and welcomed Chief Executive Helen Brand, who was pivotal to the establishment of a regional office. It has been a time of reflection, celebration and strategising for the next ten years.

In these past twelve months we have facilitated Certificate Handing Over Ceremonies for CAT and ACCA Professional Qualifications in collaboration with national Institutes in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados, to recognise the exam successes of our students in the region, despite challenging global economic conditions. We have hosted several workshops and seminars for employers, members and affiliates on areas such as Corporate Social Responsibility, Climate Change, SMEs and Emotional Intelligence. We have met with government officials and policy makers and participated in regional forums to advance the concerns of the accounting sector as well as influence the direction of policy which may affect the profession. We have also sought to collaborate with regional bodies on activities geared towards specific interest groups, all with the intention of developing the profession regionally and strengthening the framework for economic prosperity.

2010 will be another major year as we continue our work to raise the profile of ACCA in the region and deliver on our commitment to provide exceptional customer service to our members, students, employers, tuition providers and the many other stakeholders with whom we work.

All the best.

Brenda Lee Tang.

Note from the Editor

Welcome to the ACCA Caribbean year in review, in which we will share with you some of the highlights that made 2009 such a memorable year for us.

This is the first of our quarterly newsletters for members, the second official issue of which will take the form of an e-zine and will arrive in your mailboxes in March 2010. It will be packed with updates, news on what is happening in the region and technical / accounting issues relevant to our members in the

Caribbean. Be sure to look out for it.

Within these pages, you will meet the staff of ACCA Caribbean, learn about what you can do to help members in need and read about some of the work we have been doing in the region in 2009. We have also recognised those employers in the region who have joined the ACCA Approved Employer programme this year as well as affiliates who have become members and members who have attained the ranks of fellow.

We were also very fortunate in 2009 to have had both ACCA President Brendan Murtagh and ACCA Chief Executive Helen Brand visit the region, much to the delight of members and students in Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Highlights of their visits have been included in both the Regional news round up and the year in pictures.

Happy Reading!

ACCA remembers Herman Marcano



Brenda Lee Tang presents recognition award to local accounting pioneer Herman Marcano

*The local accounting fraternity recently lost accounting pioneer Herman Marcano. As a tribute to his memory, we are publishing excerpts of an article, **Herman Marcano tells his story**, which was first published in 2006.*

After returning home from completing his ACCA studies in England in the early 1960's, Herman Marcano used spare time from his Government job to lecture in statistics for the Extra Mural Department of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

After two terms, Marcano stopped the lectures because his students were not passing their other subjects, a requirement for the course. Some time afterwards – in 1966 - nine of them coaxed him into resuming his lectures, this time in a make-shift classroom converted from an unused bedroom in his home at Mount Lambert. Within a short period, he was teaching three ACCA subjects, becoming the first formal tuition provider for ACCA studies in Trinidad and Tobago. "At that time, if you wanted to study accountancy, you had to go to England or you had to study through correspondence courses. I was one of the few who had obtained such a scholarship," recalled Marcano.

As more students began signing up for accountancy studies, he decided to transform his make-shift class into a more organised school at San Juan. With Keston Barker as his colleague, Marcano tutored the advanced students, while Barker worked with the new ones. Marcano later took the bold step and teamed

up with Emile Wolfe, an ACCA examiner from England, to set up a dedicated accountancy college – Emile Wolfe and Marcano – in Port of Spain.

In the 1970's, Marcano parted company with Wolfe and purchased a building at 12 Flament Street in Port of Spain, to continue his accountancy tuition. He also conducted classes in San Fernando at St Joseph's Convent. The 1980's and 1990's witnessed the emergence of other tuition providers who saw the need to meet the academic appetite of a mushrooming number of students pursuing accountancy as a first-career option.

"We had regular meetings with the ACCA examiners to discuss changes in the syllabus. The student society also became involved in the issues of the day. I attended Council meetings in England to discuss student affairs," explained Marcano, who held the position of Deputy President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago.

"Accounting drives the economy. You need financial and accounting advice in whatever endeavor you undertake, whether as an individual, an organization or at Government level. The profession keeps changing to meet the demands of an evolving society."

With the formation of the ACCA Caribbean office 10 years ago with Emile Valere as the first head of operations, a more structured and organised approach has been pursued with respect to meeting the need of ACCA members and its student population.

"The profession has come to life. In the past, accountancy seemed to be a cloistered profession. The society has become more aware of the importance of the role of accountants in our everyday life and in our national life. ACCAs are everywhere, at every level of business all the way to the top. Accounting drives the economy. You need financial and accounting advice in whatever endeavor you undertake, whether as an individual, an organisation or at Government level. The profession keeps changing to meet the demands of an evolving society," Marcano pointed out.

In 2006, Herman Marcano was the recipient of an ACCA President's Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the development of the accountancy and finance profession and was again recognised in November 2009 at ACCA Caribbean's 10th Anniversary celebrations at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Snapshots of Year in Review



ACCA officials with ACCA members inducted earlier this year



ACCA officials with members inducted in December 2009



Professor Indra Haraksingh; ACCA Caribbean HOCD, Brenda Lee Tang; Dr the Hon. Emily Dick-Forde, Minister Planning, Housing and Environment; and Helen Brand, ACCA Chief Executive



Brenda Lee Tang (far right) and Maria Batson (far left) with new members in Grenada

Regional News Round Up 2009

MARCH

The benefits of CPD

One hundred ACCA members attended a CPD Forum entitled High Performance through Professional Development at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston on 14 March 2009. It was one of the first events of its kind globally.

Twenty-three new members were honoured at the event through a welcome address by Brenda Lee Tang, head of ACCA Caribbean. Eighty longer standing ACCA members and business leaders, from across the full range of sectors, were also present.

Brenda and Paula Marcelle-Irish, manager, ACCA Northern Caribbean, hosted the event in collaboration with professional development managers, Sara Llewellyn and Linda Calder from ACCA UK.

The forum consisted of presentations focusing on the benefits of CPD in the current economic climate and the Web 2.0 phenomenon. There were also interactive workshops on ethics, coaching and mentoring and leadership.

A similar event was hosted in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on 12 March and facilitated by Brenda Lee Tang and Shane Kisson, ACCA Southern Caribbean manager in conjunction with Sara Llewellyn and Linda Calder, professional development managers from ACCA's London head office.

Delegates attending both forums particularly welcomed the topical discussions that were being debated.

Focusing on PER

ACCA Caribbean hosted several events during March focusing on its Practical Experience Requirement (PER).

The events, which took place in Kingston and Port of Spain and attracted more than 350 trainees, featured a PER question and answer session hosted by Linda Calder and Sara Llewellyn, professional development managers from ACCA's head office in London.

Facilitated by Shane Kisson, ACCA Southern Caribbean manager, and Paula Marcelle-Irish, ACCA Northern Caribbean manager, the events were positively received by the delegates, who proved to be very



ACCA President Brendan Murtagh (left) receives Recognition Certificate from Dr Alvin Ashton Deputy Chairman of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago



ACCA and JBDC sign MOU

engaged with ACCA Caribbean and welcomed the support and information being provided to them.

Brenda Lee Tang, ACCA Caribbean head, said: 'We are dedicated to providing ACCA trainees throughout the Caribbean with the tools and opportunities that they need on their road to ACCA membership. To this end, we are also working closely with employers and tuition providers to enhance the prospects available to trainees and build meaningful partnerships which will benefit the profession in the region.'

JUNE

ACCA President Brendan Murtagh visits the region and pays courtesy call on Minister Mariano Browne

ACCA president Brendan Murtagh paid a courtesy call on Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Senator the Honourable Mariano Browne during a whirlwind visit to Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados in June this year. Minister Browne who is himself an FCCA expressed great interest in how ACCA, the global body for professional accountants has worked with the public sector in other regions. He was also very interested to learn about ACCA's position on financial regulation, commitment to the support of SMEs and SMPs and commentary on the G20 meeting held earlier this year. Muir Brown, ACCA head of strategic business unit – Americas and Caribbean, Brenda Lee Tang, head of corporate development ACCA Caribbean and Richard Young, member of ACCA market oversight committee were also present at the meeting.

While in Guyana, Mr. Murtagh delivered a presentation on the role of SMEs / SMPs to more than 300 financial professionals from the region at the 27th Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants, held in June this year at the Guyana International Conference Centre in Georgetown. He also participated in the signing of contracts for the implementation of a regional practice monitoring programme which will significantly improve auditing procedures and quality assurance review systems in The Bahamas and the Eastern Caribbean.

The Bahamas and the Eastern Caribbean have now joined Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in implementing a monitoring review process for practitioners and audit firms within their respective territories.

ACCA President receives Recognition Certificate as a Foreign Awarding Body

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) granted Recognition status to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and presented the institutions Certificate of Recognition as a foreign awarding body to ACCA president, Brendan Murtagh in June of this year. Mr. Murtagh remarked, "Recognition of ACCA as an awarding body

is a significant landmark in our history in this region... it places even more confidence in the minds of students that they are pursuing a prestigious qualification of global relevance, and is an indication of the very high standards to which ACCA subscribes".

JULY

ACCA and ICAB sign JES for CAT

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados (ICAB) signed a Joint Examination Scheme (JES) with ACCA for the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) qualification. ICAB already has in existence a JES for the ACCA professional qualification. The JES provides access to ACCA's internationally accepted scheme of exams whereby local students of accountancy register with both bodies thus enabling them to satisfy the exam criteria for membership of both bodies simultaneously.

Partnerships such as this one with several accountancy bodies in the Caribbean have shown ACCA's commitment to supporting accountancy students in the region. ACCA currently has seventeen (17) JES partners around the world with five of them in the Caribbean region.

OCTOBER

ACCA signs MOU with SME bodies in Barbados and Jamaica

It was another first for Barbados when the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Barbados Small Business Association (BSBA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The signing which is the first of its kind in the Caribbean took place on Thursday 08th October, 2009 and will see the two associations working together to better support the SME sector.

A similar agreement was signed between ACCA and JBDC (Jamaica Business Development Corporation) later that month with a commitment to collaborate on issues related to the development of the SME sector through the enhancement of support to the sector.

Ms. Brenda Lee Tang, head of corporate development, ACCA Caribbean remarked that these agreements signify ACCA's pledge to its membership, of its commitment to the development of the sector. She added that in the current economic climate, it is small businesses that are supporting economies and therefore it is imperative that the SME framework be strengthened. It is her hope, that the signing of these MOUs will contribute to an effective and less burdensome framework specifically catered to small business in Jamaica and Barbados.

Continued on following page



(L to R) ACCA valedictorian Solange Belgrave, ACCA President Brendan Murtagh, CAT valedictorian Colleen Fenty - Certificate Handing Over Ceremony, Barbados



Helen Brand presents Approved Employer Certificate to Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Ewart Williams

Regional News Round Up 2009

Continued from page 3

NOVEMBER

ACCA Chief Executive Visits Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica

ACCA Chief Executive Helen Brand visited Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica in November this year. During her visit Ms. Brand engaged with ACCA employers, members and students at several events hosted by ACCA including the 10th Anniversary celebrations of ACCA Caribbean, an Employers' Breakfast Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility at which Dr. the Honourable Emily Dick-Forde delivered the feature presentation and a Certificate Handing Over Ceremony jointly hosted by ACCA and ICATT (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago). Ms. Brand also paid courtesy calls on Central Bank Governor, Ewart Williams and chief executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange C. Wainwright Iton. In Jamaica, Ms. Brand also had the opportunity to interact with Jamaican members and students at a seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility and Key Changes to IFRS as well as a Certificate Handing Over Ceremony jointly hosted by ACCA and ICAJ (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica).

ACCA Caribbean celebrates 10 years

ACCA Caribbean marked its 10th anniversary at a gala event in Trinidad attended by more than 350 stakeholders. The event which took place on 2 November at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain, provided an opportunity to celebrate the many milestones achieved by ACCA in the region since the opening of the Trinidad office in 1999. Among these are:

- The signing of Practice Monitoring contracts at the last two regional ICAC conferences for the territories of Barbados, Trinidad, Bahamas, Guyana and the OECS
- The renewal of Joint Examination Scheme partnership agreements with five regional institutes
- An increased number of regional employers attaining Approved Employer status
- A number of tuition providers attaining Gold Approved Learning Partner status

ACCA Chief Executive Helen Brand who played a key role in the initial establishment of the office attended the event. In her keynote address she assured that whatever the future may hold, ACCA will be working to ensure that the ACCA qualification continues to open doors and lead to the best opportunities business can offer, across the region and the world. And through this, ensure that the next 10 years of ACCA in the Caribbean are just as successful and productive as the last.

ACCA Approved Employer programme

The ACCA Approved Employer programme supports employers in reaching global best practice in the provision of learning and development opportunities for ACCA trainees and members among their staff.

The programme is split into three main streams:

- Trainee development which recognises the learning opportunities an organisation provides for its employees working towards either the ACCA Qualification, Certified Accounting Technician or Diploma in Financial Management.
- Professional development which recognises employers who provide learning opportunities for ACCA members to support their Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Practising certificate development.

There are currently over 8000 Approved employers worldwide.

Employers joining the ACCA Approved Employer Programme in 2009

Country	Company	Stream
Bahamas	Ernst & Young	Professional Development KPMG Professional Development
Bermuda	Deloitte KPMG PricewaterhouseCoopers	Professional Development Professional Development Professional Development
British Virgin Islands	Deloitte	Professional Development
Cayman Islands	Aon Insurance Managers PricewaterhouseCoopers	Professional Development Professional Development
Guyana	Auditor General Deloitte	Professional Development Trainee Development Gold
Jamaica	Capital and Credit Fin. Gr.* Deloitte Ernst & Young Guardian Life Mair Russell Grant Thornton PricewaterhouseCoopers West Indies Alliance	Professional Development Trainee Development Professional Development Professional Development Trainee Development Professional Development & Trainee Development Professional Development & Trainee Development
<i>*Capital and Credit Financial Group</i>		
St Lucia	Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance	Trainee Development
Trinidad	Atlantic LNG Central Bank Deloitte FCB Guardian Holdings Limited Methanex Neal and Massy Holdings Orbit Solutions TSTT	Trainee Development Platinum Professional Development Trainee Development & Professional Development Professional Development Trainee Development Gold Professional Development Professional Development Trainee Development & Professional Development Professional Development

Chartered Certified Accountants' Benevolent Fund

Help us to give more support to people in need

The Chartered Certified Accountants' Benevolent Fund provides support to ACCA members and their dependants who are experiencing severe financial difficulties. Its core mission is to support members and their families in times of hardship or distress and relies on member donations to continue providing assistance where it is needed the most.

The type of support that the Fund offers includes advice on where to get information, assistance through a particular problem, one-off grants for specific purposes and secured interest-bearing loans.

The trustees believe that many more individuals could benefit from the Fund if they were made aware of its existence and knew how to apply to it for help. Many potential beneficiaries will have no contact with ACCA – perhaps due to retirement or because the member is now deceased and the family is unaware of the Fund's existence. This is where current ACCA members can help – by drawing to the attention of such individuals the possibility of applying for assistance.

The Fund assists members and their families in all parts of the world and is grateful for the help given by our regional offices in helping administer grants and in gathering information.

Some examples of the assistance given might be helpful:

- A retired member with mobility problems was provided with a stair lift so that he could remain in his own home.
- A member suffering from kidney failure is helped with the cost of his treatment and drugs.
- Several families have been helped with rent deposits and furnishings to enable them to move to more suitable accommodation.
- Elderly applicants on very low incomes can be helped with their utilities and other costs.
- Help was given to the widow of a member in Africa to establish a small shop, making her self-sufficient.
- Another African widow is setting up a small piggery with our support.

- In developing countries, where there is rarely any pension provision or social security, widows are helped with regular grants to help them care for their children until they reach adulthood.

The trustees are deeply grateful for the financial support that ACCA and individual members provide to the Fund. However, we would like to do more for more people, especially in these times of rapidly rising living costs, and we seek your assistance in drawing the Fund to the attention of anyone you think might deserve support. Further details on the Benevolent Fund can be found on the ACCA website at <http://www.accaglobal.com/members/support/fund/>.

If you require any further information please contact Hugh McCash, Secretary on 00 1 44 141 534 4045 or at ACCA's offices in Glasgow at 2 Central Quay, 89 Hydepark Street, Glasgow, G3 8BW, United Kingdom.