



Charter news

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Outgoing President's Message

Jeffrey Porter, CFA

It has been a challenging and productive year for CFA Vancouver. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our board of directors and committee volunteers throughout the year we successfully delivered numerous member and candidate activities, which include but are certainly not limited to: member continuing education events, social events, cross-professional events, candidate programs, the charter awards ceremony, coordination of the investment research challenge, the annual forecast dinner, and CFA Exam day candidate support.

Industry demand for the CFA Charter and the ensuing growth of our membership and candidates over the years has created an increasing demand on our society to deliver a broader range of services. In response, our board of directors has worked diligently to improve our organization's ability to anticipate and meet the demands that have accompanied our growth. In order to continue do so, it is becoming increasingly necessary for the work of the board of directors to become more strategic and distinct from the operational activities of the various committees who deliver the ongoing services required by members and candidates.

With that in mind, after last year's annual general meeting our board of directors embraced the task of renewing our society's strategic plan. As a result of that process, we have become more focused in our efforts to ensure that the ongoing activities of the society align with our members' and candidates' current and future needs.

Financially, due to the solid stewardship of the many boards of directors on whose shoulders we stand today, CFA Vancouver is in an enviable position. We are also fortunate to have the benefit of a growing membership that readily answers our calls for volunteer support. However, it has become apparent that we have reached organizational limits to delivering the broader range of resources needed as a consequence of our growth.

To alleviate those limitations and deliver greater value to members and candidates in the future, this past year our board of directors determined there was a need to recruit and hire an experienced and dedicated executive administrator for our society. The role of CFA Vancouver's Executive Administrator is to provide an important organizational link between an increasingly strategic board of directors, our busy operational committees, and our membership and candidates. I am pleased to say we have successfully fulfilled the requirement in hiring Virginia Coles as our first Executive Administrator.

Finally, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as President of CFA Vancouver over the past year. I have had the benefit of working with a truly dedicated board of directors and committee volunteers, and I thank each of you for your support and countless hours of service to our society.

Programs 2009-2010

Jan Campfens, CFA

Over the past two years, CFA Vancouver has expanded its Programs to include new initiatives, such as Financial Modelling courses and Networking Pub Nights. Both of these have been very well attended and have expanded the types of programs provided to members.

We have also started to build a new structure for delivering Programs with more involvement of volunteer committees doing the operational work, as well as an Advisory Board of top industry people that provides guidance and input on program types and content.

One of the next steps for Programs is to further build out the volunteer committees to concentrate on specific topic areas. This will allow us to identify and attract top quality speakers in each area, therefore enabling CFA Vancouver to invite high profile speakers each season. These events will help to provide more opportunities for client attendance as well.

Over the past season, our core program offerings included 17 luncheon presentations from some of the leading Canadian and American bank economists. Among these were Patricia Croft, RBC Global Asset Management; Don Drummond, TD Bank Financial Group; Nick Bennenbroek, Wells Fargo; and John Nofsinger; a leading behavioural finance presenter. We were also fortunate to have had a presentation on emerging markets by Jonathan Passmore, GE Asset Management and an update on real estate and securitization markets with Dr. Andrey Pavlov.

Upcoming Events:

"Outlook for Global Sovereign Credit Quality"

Two senior members of the global sovereign ratings practice of Standard & Poor's will provide an overview of factors and forces shaping sovereign credit quality worldwide.

John Chambers, CFA
Managing Director, Standard & Poor's Sovereign Ratings Group, based in New York

Frank Gill
Director, Sovereign Ratings Group of Standard & Poor's, based in London (UK)

July 8, 2010

The Metropolitan Hotel
645 Howe Street

Luncheon Presentation: 12:00 pm–1:30 pm

We welcome your comments and ideas, and hope to see you at one of the upcoming events!

Volunteer Profile

Dmitri Kotliarov



Dmitri Kotliarov, the Finance Manager of Sea Breeze Power, has been a vital part of CFA Vancouver for the last two years by volunteering his time to the organization and facilitation of several programs and events.

He joined the volunteer team to be more involved with the community of investment professionals in Vancouver and to contribute to the organization.

When asked what his most memorable experience has been, he answered, "I have been fortunate to meet some extraordinary speakers during my time with CFA Vancouver. It is quite fascinating to have an actual conversation with someone you would normally read about or watch on Bloomberg."

Dmitri encourages others to volunteer with CFA Vancouver, as the satisfaction of working for such a dynamic community goes a long way. He also recognizes there are a variety of volunteers helping with different aspects of the organization, and that both new entrants to the industry as well as experienced professionals find valuable insights and connections through being involved with CFA Vancouver.

As a non-profit society, CFA Vancouver relies on its volunteers to assist in the growth of its organization and is grateful for the dedication of its volunteers.

To find out more about volunteering with CFA Vancouver, please contact Troy Peart at troypeart@shaw.ca.

Email Address Changes

Please remember to update your profile with CFA Institute if you have a new email address or phone number.

We use their database to generate a monthly list of all of our members and candidates. If you do not update your contact information with the Institute, we will not be able to keep you up to date with CFA Vancouver programs, events and news.

Investment Research Challenge

Derek Yee, CFA

CFA Vancouver will be hosting the 3rd annual Western Canada Investment Research Challenge that is sponsored by the various CFA societies in Western Canada.

Approximately 10 universities from Western Canada will be assembling a team of 3-5 business and finance students, who will research and prepare a report making a recommendation to buy/sell a publicly traded Canadian Company. Teams will submit their written reports in January 2011. Approximately a month later, they will make a presentation to a panel of investment professional.

The local champion will advance to regional competition in North America and then possibly to a global finale. The University of Alberta and the University of Calgary have won the past two Challenges.

There are opportunities for our membership to assist with the competition. We will need mentors (max 6 hours) to work with each team and we will need individuals to critique the reports, as well as judge the presentations.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact us at 604-435-9889 or info@cfavancouver.com.

Level I Scholarship

Daniel Wong, CFA

CFA Vancouver will be offering scholarships for the December Level I exam to eligible candidates. The deadline date for applications is August 15th. Further details can be found at the following link:

www.cfainstitute.org/cfaprogram/university/scholarship

Candidate Preparation Toolkit

Study schedule
Sample exams
Preparation tips
Testing policies
Study support
Exam details

www.cfainstitute.org/toolkit

CFA Exam Tips

Daniel Wong, CFA

1. Time management is crucial. The goal is to pass, not answer each question perfectly. Focus on your strategy. If there is a question that you just don't know, move on.
2. Use the break to re-fresh and re-fuel. It's a grueling exam, so use all the advantages you have, including rest during the lunch break. Do not talk or review the exam with fellow exam-takers before or during the lunch break. It will simply psyche you out.
3. Have confidence. There is a mental stamina component to the CFA Exam as much as there is a physical stamina component. Know that you have prepared for this exam to the best of your abilities and let that hard work show on the exam. Keep things in perspective. It is not an easy task to pass the CFA Program, but at the same time, it's not a life or death endeavor.
4. When reading the question, try to take a step back and understand what the question is trying to test in relation to the Learning Outcome Statements (LOS). It's easy to become too myopic when it comes to each individual question.
5. Use all the time allotted to you. You've invested 250 hours of preparation, what is another 30 minutes at the end of the exam to review your answers and make sure you didn't skip any questions.
6. Be well rested on Friday night. Go to bed early or do something relaxing. Last minute cramming will simply increase your anxiety, disrupt your sleep, and hinder your Exam Day performance.
7. Arrive at the Test Centre early on Saturday morning. Give yourself ample time to find parking and make your way through security.
8. Use ear plugs during the exam to eliminate ambient noise. The announcements will still be clear, but you won't hear the squeaky chairs, pencil tapping or coughing.
9. Know that the CFA Institute is not "out to get you". The reputation of the CFA Program has been built by the thousands of charterholders involved in developing the curriculum. The reputation of the CFA charter has also been built by the ethical and professional conduct of our members. The Exam is not meant to fail as many candidates as possible. It is to test a certain level of knowledge that all CFA charterholders should possess.

Sponsors Needed

Dave Barr, CFA

CFA Vancouver is looking for charterholders who would be interested in acting as sponsors for several candidates. In order to apply to a society, applicants require two sponsors; a supervisor and a regular member of CFA Institute.

The commitment involves a review of the applicant's work experience and education to verify they match the CFA Institute's membership requirements.

If you're interested in being a sponsor or would like to learn more, please contact us at 604-435-9889 or info@cfavancouver.com.

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah Morgan for her service as CFA Vancouver's Administrator over the past couple of years.

As CFA Vancouver's Administrator, Sarah was an important point of first contact for our society's members, candidates, volunteers, suppliers, and our local educational and related professional communities. Further, her insights and experience as our Administrator provided important input to the CFA Vancouver task force formed early this year to recruit and hire our Executive Administrator.

As her primary line of business, Sarah provides event planning services to a number of clients through Sarah Morgan Events. While Sarah may no longer be our first point of contact with CFA Vancouver, I am pleased to say she has offered to continue to assist us with planning and delivering some of our numerous future events.

Please join us in thanking Sarah for her service to CFA Vancouver.

Employment Opportunities

Are you looking for employment? Visit CFA Vancouver's job board to see a listing of the most recent job postings from a variety of business around the lower mainland and beyond. Our job board is updated on a regular basis and is available to members and candidates of CFA Vancouver.

<http://www.cfavancouver.com/employment/default.aspx>

My CFA

In May, the CFA Institute launched its new website featuring My CFA; "*an exclusive online member experience that gives you complete access to the information and resources critical for your career*".

All you need to do is set your preferences for topic, material, region and materials and you will receive everything directly to your My CFA dashboard.

A few benefits include up-to-date society information, a snapshot of your current CE credits, and industry news for the top 5 daily headlines. In addition to these benefits, you also have access to a variety of learning resources.

Visit [My CFA](#) to take a tour of the site and see how the updates can help you.

Up the Down Market Dinner

CFA Vancouver is proud to be a sponsor of the Down Syndrome Research Foundation's "*Up the Down Market Dinner*" to be held on September 28, 2010.

The Up the Down Market Dinners are the Foundation's single most important fundraising event each year and take place across the country in Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, and Toronto. Innovative in nature, wide in scope, and entertaining in practice, the events have to date raised over \$3 million.

The Up The Down Market Game simulates the stock market and is an exciting and entertaining evening. Participants begin with \$1,000,000 in their accounts and buy and sell shares in fictitious companies. Tables compete to see who can make the most by the end of the evening without going broke in the process. The winning table gets bragging rights and the prestigious Up The Down Market Dinner trophy until the next year.

We would love for you to join us and help support this worthy cause. This year there will be official CFA Vancouver tables for members wishing to purchase individual seats. Tickets cost \$300 per seat and provide fun, excitement, a delicious meal, and an opportunity to test your market knowledge and skills in the Up the Down Market Game. (A charitable tax receipt in the amount of \$175 will be issued for each seat sold).

To reserve your seat or for more information, visit the Down Syndrome Research Foundation's website at www.dsrf.org, email nimet@dsrf.org or call us at 604-444-3733. See you there!