

February 3, 2003

Jane F. Mutchler, Ernst & Young  
Professor of Accountancy  
Robinson College of Business  
University Plaza  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3083

Dear Professor Mutchler:

Re: AAA Award for Innovation in Accounting Education

This letter serves to support Professors Callaghan, Savage and Peacock for the AAA Award for Innovation in Accounting Education. Their efforts to develop an Financial Information Systems (FIS) program that provides students with a universal business modeling skill set is both innovative and long over due. The accounting profession cannot meet the increasing technical requirements of global finance organizations or public accounting firms by relying on the commodity skill set produced by tradition accounting/technical degree programs.

The Oakland University FIS curriculum will supply students with an analytical foundation necessary to stand out as future leaders in the accounting profession. The Model-Oriented, Tool-Enhanced (MOTE) framework developed by the nominees introduces students to accepted systems analysis techniques and tools while focusing on accounting related systems issues.

After a student completes the integrated data and process-modeling curriculum, he/she possesses the analytical foundation necessary to analyze, use, audit, and develop a modern accounting information system. In addition, these skills provide students with the ability to reduce complex business problems into manageable components, which results in the development of better process controls through improved problem definition.

The recent Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 will have significant impact on public companies, in particular the financial systems and their controls. The problems that will arise as a result of this additional scrutiny are now high priority requiring financial and technical skills for their solution. The Oakland University FIS curriculum is uniquely prepared to generate accounting and finance professionals that have the financial and technical skills needed to solve those problems.

As an accounting professional and information technology specialist and owner of a company specializing in financial systems architecture at more than fifty Fortune 500 companies it is very refreshing to see that Oakland University is responding to the needs of the job market. Demand for accounting and finance professionals that understand how to approach complicated system design and implementation issues will only increase as financial systems technologies change.

I feel this innovative Curriculum for Financial Information Systems, is very deserving of this award.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Shea, President  
UpStream Software Corporation