

SIA plays its part

The past few months have seen the world enter a new and uncertain era. The Institute is playing its part not only in helping the victims of the New York terrorist attack, but also ensuring that the financial services industry continues to have access to courses, seminars and events that are of the highest standard.

September was a month in which the world as we know it seemed to change in front of our eyes. On 12 September all our students and members with US addresses were emailed, expressing our sympathy and concern, and the Institute placed a full page ad in the Financial Review expressing our sympathy for our members and friends here in Australia who have been affected.

We are also participating in a finance industry appeal for funds to help the victims through the Red Cross – donations are being made through the web at www.ourcommunity.com.au/redcrossfinsector.

On 13 September the Institute showcased its online educational capability in a press launch at the Australian Stock Exchange attended by Dick Humphry, managing director of the ASX and Joe Hockey, Minister for Financial Services. The Institute has been successful in its bid for more funding from SIDA (Securities Industry Development Account) to continue its work through a knowledge management system.

POLICY

The Securities Institute has taken the initiative in preparing Best Practice Guidelines for Research Integrity to assist analysts and their firms in managing conflicts of interest which may influence



SIA President Michael Willis

research and investor recommendations. The Guidelines, which have been endorsed by the Minister for Financial Services and Regulation, the Hon. Joe Hockey, were developed jointly with the Securities & Derivatives Industry Association after widespread consultation with industry

bodies, investor groups, regulators and other key stakeholders.

The Institute has made a submission to the Takeovers Panel on break fees in the context of takeovers and a submission to the Australian Accounting Standards Board on accounting for financial instruments such as derivatives and warrants.

The Institute recently held a briefing for respondents and key stakeholders on the results of the Institute's Corporate Finance Survey conducted earlier this year. The briefing, which was delivered by Mr Michael Chaney, managing director of Wesfarmers, was well attended and very successful.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In February 2002, the Institute will present a new national roadshow of seminars in conjunction with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission titled "ASIC Speaks...on Financial Services Reform Implementation". The seminars will be held in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane.

FINANCIAL ADVISING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES

The Institute is planning to offer a series of seminars that will meet the continuing

Flexibility and the Institute

Flexibility is becoming a significant driver in education today. Not only is there a need for a wide range of courses, but time poor professionals with a career and family need even more flexibility when they study.

More intensive, practical, industry focused courses are in high demand.

A recent graduate of our Master of Applied Finance and Investment degree, Paul Rogers made the following observations:

“With a full-time job, a wife, and three children, deciding to commit to further study is not an easy choice. To justify that level of sacrifice, I had to choose the right course. I needed an academic qualification, but one that was really going to add value to my career. It took me three years to find the right course and decide to go ahead with it. In the end, the Securities Institute Masters offered the prestige of an academic qualification, together with an industry perspective that made it relevant to my job,” said Paul, who completed the Masters in eighteen months.

The Securities Institute is now offering even more flexibility in its postgraduate and

open entry offerings with the introduction of “you choose your start date” distance education and summer school. These can help you finish your qualification even earlier!

Flexible distance education means that you choose the start date that best suits you and our summer school means that you can fit an additional study period over the summer time. These new offerings mean that you can choose when you study and are no longer constrained by traditional semesters.

Some of our subjects are also available online providing interactive learning combined with practitioner discussion, video streamed workshops and webcasts. Great for people who don’t have time for lectures but who want interaction.

The Institute offers the most flexible, practical and contemporary education available today in the financial services industry.

Check for subject and course availability on the Institute’s website (www.securities.edu.au).

has enjoyed a great working relationship with the Co Chairs and all the members of the Advisory Committee, and together they have produced an excellent subject. All the committee members remain enthusiastic and keen to be involved again next year.

Out of the Masters program an advanced Internet searching skills workshop, Delving into the Deep Web, has evolved. Developed and presented by Lesley Watson, the Masters information resources manager, the workshop examines strategies for locating content “hidden” from traditional search tools.

The Deep Web course builds on the Searching the Internet Effectively course already offered to members around the country over 2000 and 2001. In addition, a new program of information resource seminars and lunchtime addresses for members will be offered in 2002.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The Institute is offering selected education courses over November and December for the first time on a national basis. A very successful enrolment campaign has resulted in over 1,700 individual subject enrolments by the middle of November.

FINANCIAL TRAINING

Members are reminded that the Institute’s Financial Training section is ready to be involved in providing organisational learning, whether related to PS 146 or on a broader scale. This part of the Institute’s educational offerings continues to grow.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As of 31 October, some members were still not financial. Members should be aware that mid-December is the cut off for unfinancial members, when member services such as JASSA and access to the members’ section of the website will be withdrawn. **J**

education compliance requirements as outlined in PS 146. The focus will be on maintaining and updating knowledge in the key areas of quality of advice, compliance, regulation, disclosure and taxation.

INSTITUTE’S NEW WEBSITE

The Institute’s new website was launched on 5 November. The whole approach to presenting information about the Institute and its products and services has changed, and members are invited to explore the Members area, using the usernames and passwords provided to them.

Members are being asked to identify their choice of SIGs in preparation for the commencement of this new member service via the Institute’s new website.

Online discussion forums will enable the delivery of a regular topical viewpoint, with members able to post their comments about the topic.

SIGs will be successively rolled out over the next few months.

MASTERS PROGRAM

The Masters program continues to impress participants, in particular the new M42 course, Corporate Financial Management, which has been a resounding success. The Technical Editor for the subject, Jenny Quan,

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