

From the Editor

Volume 15 marks the beginning of my fifth year as editor of *Financial Services Review*. I am grateful for the continued support of the Academy of Financial Services Board of Directors. My goal during my remaining tenure as editor is to continue to publish the best academic articles in personal financial planning and individual financial management.

The lead article in Issue 1 of Volume 15 is by Professors Karen Lahey, Doesong Kim, and Melinda Newman. The authors are all from the University of Akron. They examine the decision to return to work after retirement. The authors find that the decision to return to work strongly relates to insurance issues, to whether the initial decision to retire was freely chosen, and to satisfaction with retirement. Interestingly, financial preparation is not a strong factor in explaining the decision to return to work. This paper is valuable as it shows the impact of “non-financial” factors in financial decision making. The paper is also part of a rapidly growingly literature in *Financial Services Review* that examines decisions made in retirement.

The second paper is by Cazilia Loibl of Ohio State University and Tahira Hira of Iowa State University. These authors study financial learning in the workplace. The main finding is that an employee’s social network influences the use of employer-provided financial learning media. Employees making greater use of employer-provided media tend to increase their financial knowledge. This paper highlights the importance of both human and non-human educational resources and has important implications in the era of defined-contribution retirement.

The third and fourth articles analyze the Australian financial planning environment. The first of these is by Janet Cowen, William Blair, and Sharon Taylor. Professors Cowen and Taylor are from the University of Western Sydney. Professor Blair is from Macquarie University. The authors study how the development of personal financial planning education in Australia has interacted with the development of the financial planning industry. They conclude that financial planning education has played a fundamental role in evolution of the financial planning industry.

The second article on Australia is by Professor Andrew Worthington of the University of Wollongong. Professor Worthington examines financial literacy in Australia. He finds links between financial literacy and age, business ownership, gender, education level, and lan-

guage background. I think that both of these articles from Australia are great examples of how global the financial planning literature is becoming. I am pleased that *Financial Services Review* is taking the leading role as the academic journal in financial planning with a global view. I encourage the submission of articles from authors worldwide on the subjects of individual financial management.

The fifth paper is by Ronald Volpe of Youngstown State University and Haiyang Chen of William Paterson University. Relying on survey data, they study employee's deficiencies in financial knowledge. They find that while employees are relatively knowledgeable about their benefits, they tend to have deficiencies in other areas such as retirement planning, investments, and estate planning. The authors suggest that educational programs should be targeted to these knowledge shortfall areas.

Please consider submission to *Financial Services Review* and rely on the style information given on our web site (www.pfp.gsu.edu) to ease readability and streamline the copyediting process. I continue to welcome articles over the range of areas that comprise personal financial planning. While our articles are certainly eclectic in terms of topic, data, and method, they are focused in terms of motivation. We exist to produce research that addresses issues that matter to individuals. Regardless of the particular topic area, I encourage authors to reach out when discussing implications of their findings to address financial planning in a more comprehensive way. As such, all articles in the Journal will have the appearance of financial planning articles.

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