Acceptance Remarks:
American Accounting Association’s Outstanding Accounting Educator Award, 2013

Professor Swain, I would like to thank you, your Committee, and the American Accounting Association for this honor.

Eight thousand members of our Association in all parts of the world teach, inspire, and help the next generation build a better world. Various aspects of accounting and control, from bookkeeping, management, compensation, evaluation, financial reporting, tax, audit, internal and fraud control, government and not-for-profit, public interest, and others, constitute the core of management of organizations, markets, and the economy. How essential a discipline is to society is revealed in how well it works. When failures become exceptions, like in power supply, it is easy to take a system for granted, and not give the respect and attention it merits. I am proud to be a member of this community of teachers and scholars of the oldest and most essential of the management disciplines.

Over these fifty years of my education and professional life, I have had the privilege to learn from, work with, and benefit from the remarkable visions and lives of my teachers, friends, colleagues in scores of universities in India, the United States, and dozens of other countries.


My students, especially the doctoral students at Chicago, Minnesota, Carnegie Mellon, Arizona, Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad, and Yale, have been my companions on the exciting journey we have undertaken together. They have enriched me with their own fresh perspectives, challenged me, push me to read more, and to rethink. I thank them for their inspiration, collaboration, and friendship.

I have had the good fortune and pleasure to have worked with, and learned from, many great minds as my co-authors and colleagues. There isn’t time to name them, but my debt to them remains immense.

Most formative influences of my life were my siblings—especially my brother Satish Chandra whose intellectual curiosity set an example for me. My father, whose patient instruction in keeping the household accounts started my accounting education in my junior high school years, would be pleasantly surprised at this turn of events.

I am grateful to my daughter Richa and son who I have missed playing with on many evenings and the weekends.

Most of all, I dedicate this in recognition of Manjula. Without her advice, encouragement, editing, understanding, and love, none of this would be possible.

Thank you.

Shyam Sunder

1 Annual Meeting of the American Accounting Association, Anaheim Hilton Hotel, Anaheim, CA, August 5, 2013.