



## **Celebrating 35 Years of Supporting Women and Enhancing their Success!**

### *The Legacy of One Female CPA!*

Varley M. Simons received her CPA Certificate in 1968 – the only woman in a room full of men! Fourteen years later, on April 26, 1982, she organized the Georgia Affiliate of the American Women’s Society of CPAs (AWSCPA of Georgia) and was its first President. Varley later went on to become President of AWSCPA-National in 1988.

On January 12, 2017, in her honor, AWSCPA of Georgia celebrated 35 years of supporting women and enhancing their success! Held at the historic Magnolia Hall in Atlanta’s Piedmont Park, the Celebration included a cocktail reception and a Jeffersonian Dinner - an evening of food and shared conversation with a purpose. The evening provided a wonderful environment to share stories and to voice our thoughts and desires of what we can do to continue to strengthen the voice of our colleagues in the accounting industry.

Receiving an award inscribed with the words of the late great Maya Angelou, *“Let nothing dim the light that shines from within.”* Ms. Simon’s humbly said *“I didn’t think anyone would remember me 35 years later.”* Looking back on the various historic moments of 1982, we were reminded of how far the organization, accounting industry and our members have come, and were inspired and motivated to go even further.

In addition to celebrating all that Ms. Simons has done to make the accounting world a more welcoming place for women, AWSCPA of Georgia celebrated its rich history, *Ms. Simon’s legacy*. Including the collaborative spirit of its members where sharing and guiding is held in high esteem; its world class CPE for a cause; and, its expansive networking opportunities! *“The camaraderie of women in this group challenges the norm and status quo.”* Says Rebecca Wells, Celebration Co-Chair. To learn more about the AWSCPA of Georgia please contact the website at <http://www.awscpa-ga.org>.

The festivities concluded with the awarding of scholarships, valued over \$25,000, to some of the accounting profession’s rising stars, and recognitions of the accomplishments of our members and friends in the accounting profession.

More of us can dream bigger today than we could 35 years ago. So, let your light shine on and always reach for the stars.

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ABOUT AWSCPA: The American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants (AWSCPA) is a national network connecting and supporting today’s women CPAs [and those actively pursuing the designation] through career and personal transitions by innovative training, customized mentorship, and focused relationships.



Varley M. Simon



Legacy Scholarship Recipient in honor of Varley M. Simons: Tina Pak, Georgia State University

Amy Delplaine Scholarship Recipient: Eunjung Lee, Georgia State University

Wiley CPAexcel Program Recipients: Shyanne Murfield, Oglethorpe University and Brice McKnight (not pictured), Georgia Southern University

Wiley CMAexcel Program Recipients: Shantel Dawson, Kennesaw State University and Theophilus Ankamah, Georgia Southern University