Those paltry, insignificant, not-worth-winning awards – the Oscars, the Nobel Prizes, the Pulitzer, Miss World, etc., are over – and they missed me again.

But now it’s time for the big one, an award that really makes a difference: the SSA. Never heard of it? You’re forgiven, since I just made it up. SSA stands for Stereotype-Smashing Accountant. It gives much-needed recognition to people who do great work to destroy the grossly unfair image of CPAs as boring people.

Take Kenneth Gorelick for example. He got top marks in his accounting degree, but found that people were more impressed by his hobby: he could hold a single note on a saxophone for 45 minutes (not a joke). So he grew his hair long and became music star Kenny G, but used his accounting skills to stay solvent, making himself rare among pop stars.

But that’s ancient history. In recent weeks, several likely individuals have popped up, making this a perfect time to launch the SSA to fill up this page, I mean, to place a worthy winner on to The World Stage.

Runner-up for the first ever SSA is an accountant called Nii Okai Acheampong. According to ghanaweb.com, Nii has just been installed as “chief fisherman” of Ngleshie Amanfro, an area of Accra, the capital of Ghana in West Africa.

The installation was chaired by Nii Kwashie Gbolor IV, the chief of Ngleshie Amanfro, who sounds like a character from the sci-fi series Dune, and who I have included purely to torment the unfortunate soul who does the spellchecking on this page, mwa ha ha ha ha.

Nii was taken away from his audit working papers and paraded through the towns of the coastal district as the new chief fisherman escorted by vast numbers of drummers and dancers. Not a lot of accountants get installed into their jobs with that sort of hysterical public acclaim, except for partners in the Big Four firms in Hong Kong, of course.

And the winner of the first SSA? Top spot goes to Italian accountant Paolo Oliverio. He wowed the entire one-man judging panel by using his accountancy skills to become the real-life equivalent of a character in a Dan Brown novel.

This Italian accountant first came to the press’ attention when he was embroiled in a bribery case involving former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, the celebrity party king also known as “Charlie Sheen” and “Lindsay Lohan.” Later, when various scandals erupted involving a secret society, the press ditched the word “accountant” and described Oliverio as a “financial fixer.”

But his latest arrest, in November, is his most spectacular yet: prosecutors said the mild-mannered accountant masterminded the kidnapping of priests in an attempt to rig a clerical election.

The full story: A priest named Father Renato Salvatore wanted to be re-elected Superior General of the Order of Clerics Regular, an ancient body founded in 1582. Few people have heard of it, but it has 1,000 clergy members and 15,000 other staff. Reformist priests planned to vote for a new leader, a monk appropriately called Father Monks. Prosecutors told a court in Italy that accountant Oliverio employed two policemen to detain the priests for questioning under false pretences, holding them for hours, until they had missed the voting, according to Economia, an accounting periodical.

I agree that Oliverio is not exactly a role model. But no one could call him boring.

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