Accounting Alumni Success Story

By: Swati Karkun
FDU Alumni

In the short span of a year and a half, FDU has come to mean more to me than just a school: it has taken on the meaning of family, a place of solace, and a place where I feel at home. I came to FDU with high expectations after hearing a lot about its stellar accounting program and I was not disappointed. When I started my Masters of Science in accounting in fall 2006, I was amazed by the personalized assistance I received from the accounting and advising departments in customizing my courses based on my educational background.

Over the duration of my program at FDU, the courses that I found particularly helpful were Contemporary Accounting Thought, Federal Tax I & II, Financial Markets & Instruments, Auditing Concepts & Methods, and Seminar in Auditing & Accounting. These classes gave me a solid foundation of accounting, tax and auditing concepts that proved essential when I started preparing for my CPA exam. I found that the faculty here at FDU really care about and are extremely committed to their students.

My first semester at FDU, I applied and was selected for a Graduate Assistantship position in the Dean’s office. I primarily did market research for the Dean’s office and this experience not only helped me broaden my horizons, but also exposed me to the American work culture.

Through on-campus recruiting, I was selected for a summer internship with Deloitte Tax LLP in Parsippany. I enjoyed a fun-filled summer at Deloitte and went back in fall 2007 as a part-time intern. I graduated in December 2007, and currently work as a Tax Consultant in the Global Employer Services Group at Deloitte Tax. I prepare tax returns and review compensation data of international assignees, which I find very interesting. Right now, I am in my first tax season and am enjoying the rewards and challenges of working for the world’s largest tax practice!

Early on in my second semester, I decided to finish my CPA exam before the end of 2007. I enrolled with Becker CPA Review classes and studied hard to achieve my goals. By October 2007, I cleared all four parts of the exam in my first attempt. How did I do it? I would like to share a few tips that helped me when I started studying:

- Have a game plan and prioritize. Plan ahead about when you want to sit for the exams, when to apply, and how to fit the exams and studying around your school/work schedule.
- It’s important to make sure that you schedule exams in a manner that allows you sufficient time to study. I found the self study CD’s offered by Becker to be very helpful.
- Find a way of studying that works best for you. Personally, taking notes of important points or making my own flash cards I found very helpful. This was useful not only in retaining concepts, but also served as a concise resource for final review the day before the exam.
- If you have time, solving practice problems a couple of times and reviewing flash cards will pay off when you take the exam.
- Stay Positive! With a positive mental attitude everything is possible! You have to believe you can pass the exam before you actually pass it! So believe in yourself and give the next CPA exam your best shot!

Chair Spotlight: Professor Robert DeFilippis

Education: BA in Economics and Accounting, and an MBA in Finance from Rutgers University. Certified Public Accountant.

Work Experience: Five years on the audit staff at Deloitte & Touche. Faculty member since 1974; Department Chair for 25 years for both the Metro and Florham campuses and responsible for two offsite locations.

Accounting is currently a hot major nationally, primarily because of the demand for accountants caused by the Sarbanes Oxley Act. Demand exceeds supply and will remain that way for the foreseeable future. Our MS Accounting Track B program has been growing steadily in recent years as students have discovered that we can qualify candidates without an accounting undergraduate major for entry to the profession and the CPA exam in just ten courses. This is truly a unique program. We are receiving inquiries from around the globe. Recent students have graduated from Northwestern, Boston College, William & Mary, and other high profile colleges.

Graduates are quickly hired with such firms as Deloitte, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, etc. They also are passing the CPA exam with high scores. We even had one student who received the highest score among New Jersey candidates and was one of the top 100 in the country among over 100,000 candidates.

We will soon be reviewing the curriculum to keep it on target with the changing needs of the accounting profession. Our most recent addition is Forensic Accounting and Litigation Support.
A Special Offer for Members of the FDU Student Community: Family Business Forum

By: Kim Dennison
Family Business Programs Administrator

The Family Business Forum was established by the Rothman Institute of Entrepreneurial Studies in 1992 to support family businesses because they face unique challenges. In addition to all of the fundamental issues involved in operating a business, families in business must address a number of other important concerns, including:

• Developing visions for the family and business that are mutually compatible
• Selecting and preparing successors
• Planning for estate taxes and ownership transfer
• Fostering open and productive communication
• Managing conflict within the family and business

The Forum is designed to provide family businesses with a unique opportunity to learn from leading experts about proven strategies for successfully operating a family business through outcome oriented educational programs and seminars.

The Forum also provides members with the opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences. The members-only environment fosters long-term relationships based on mutual trust and understanding and an ongoing dialogue about family and business issues.

The Institute is currently making available a special one-year scholarship to FDU students and alumni for membership in the Family Business Forum (A savings of $2000.00) This year’s schedule includes:

Four Half-day Programs

These sessions are designed to provide members with ample time to fully explore issues with the aid of national experts, while offering enough time to return to the office for the better part of the afternoon. Breakfast and lunch are served.

Two Breakfast Programs

These two-hour sessions focus on subjects of timely interest to members, and often feature regional experts or panels of Forum sponsors and members. The seminars begin at 8:30 a.m. and finish by 10:30 a.m. Breakfast is included.

Updates on Legal, Financial and Other Important Issues

Each Forum seminar features brief updates by one or more professionals on current or developing business issues relevant to family businesses.

Peer Group Meetings

These meetings allow members to join together in small groups to meet with each other and a facilitator to discuss issues which they identify as important to them. Participation in a Peer Group complements the Forum sessions by allowing members to further explore issues, many of which are generation-specific, in a smaller, more intimate setting. A new peer group is being set up for FDU students who come from family firms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL KIM DENNISON AT 973.443.8880.
Reforming Forensics Throughout the World
Economics and Finance Professor Roger Koppl Shares His Latest Project

By: Rebecca Duncan

Since 1988, Roger Koppl, PhD, has been a part of Fairleigh Dickinson’s faculty, moving up the academic ladder from Assistant Professor to Director and Founder of the Institute for Forensic Science Administration. Aside from teaching at Fairleigh, Professor Koppl is responsible for many published works including books and journal articles, along with editing journals and serving on various organizations and committees.

In today’s world of hit TV shows like CSI and the Law & Order variety, many students have probably heard all about forensics, but what about Forensic Science Administration falls within a school of business?

“Forensic science administration studies how to reduce error rates in forensic science by reorganizing forensic work,” Koppl states on his website.

Why is Koppl studying forensics? “My goal is to reform forensics throughout the world,” Koppl states. “That goal increases the chance that I am going to have some positive impact on how forensics is organized in the world today, starting with the United States.”

Why would an economics and finance professor be interested in forensics? “Forensic science administration studies forensic science as a social institution using the tools of economics and other social sciences. Economics is about human action and how different institutions generate different consequences of human action. Any sphere of human action has an economic point of view” and this applies to forensics as well. For example, forensic accounting and economics could help determine the amount of money value lost in the case of a wrongful death suit. Another example would be determining the value of a business that was destroyed after an employee embezzled funds.

His research began when he realized forensics was improperly organized. “We want forensic science to tell us the truth. We want forensic science to be properly conducted.” Koppl feels, however, that there has been little or no thought when it comes to the organization of forensics, which may lead to unreliability.

Koppl believes his key insight is “redundant testing. For now, the almost universal situation in America, when a crime lab gets evidence, it is the only lab to look at that evidence. In essence, the crime lab has a monopoly on any evidence it receives. Well, I learned in my economics classes that monopolies are generally a bad idea. We never get a reality check. We never find out if a given lab upon whom we rely is in fact reliable.” Koppl instead wants to send evidence to three labs to analyze separately and find results. If there was a situation in which one lab indicated different results from another, it would be up to a jury to decide if “majority rules.” This way each lab has a check on another lab to ensure reliability.

The case that initiated Koppl’s study was a case in which four men were convicted, and three sent to prison for the brutal rape and murder of a Chicago medical student, Lori Roscetti. The problem with this case, however, was that the forensic scientist, Pamela Fish, was wrong. Koppl believes that Ms. Fish made mistakes because she felt the police found the right men, and found results to favor the suspects the police had caught.

This is not the only case in which forensics have led to an innocent suspect being put behind bars. “There are enough mistakes that it is well worth the effort to reduce the error rate, and improve forensics.” Without redundancy, there is no way to know if forensics is wrong.

To find out more about Professor Koppl’s insights and research, you can visit his website at www.fdu.edu/ifsa.

Silberman College’s Future

By: Rebecca Duncan

Silberman College of Business is currently in the process of preparing for the next AACSB accreditation review. This process involves a number of initiatives, including the work of newly established committees such as Strategic Planning and Assurance of Learning.

Dean Moore states “having an updated strategic plan is a key requirement for accredited business schools. That’s our road map. It also provides us with a SWOT analysis (or a gap analysis), whereby we try to determine where we are now, where do we want to go, and how are we going to get there?” Moore further stated, “it will provide the College providing a much more value-added education for our students, and maintaining a place for our faculty, students and staff to feel that this is a good environment to learn, work, and grow.”

He sees changes for SCB in terms of faculty projects, a more cutting-edge and flexible curriculum, and improvements in many other areas that affect students’ lives. Dean Moore also mentioned that continuous improvement involves the process of evaluating our curriculum through “peer group” benchmarking. This process involves breaking down the “peer group” analysis into three categories: competitors, comparable, and aspirant. The “aspirant” group, for example, determines where we want to go in our future. Benchmarking is a tool Silberman uses to address a number of other issues, including “Where do we want to position ourselves?”

Dean Moore is particularly excited about the Assurance of Learning effort, he states that “I see benefits for all our students and faculty through objective assessment and assuring our stakeholders that we maintain a quality business education program...these are important to all of us.”

In order to better determine needed enhancements, future strategic initiatives, and to maintain better communications, Dean Moore would like to invite every graduate student to contact him. He is eager to learn about a student’s experience, and where the school can improve. He is currently holding informal focus groups with graduate students in order to help facilitate this process.

If you are interested in participating in Dean Moore’s focus group, please contact either Michele Vaccaro (201-692-2424) or Diane Prudden (973-443-8800).
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Congratulations to our Graduates!

Ceremony: Tuesday, May 20th, 2008 from 10am-12:30pm at Continental Arena.

Graduates: Remember to be there by 8:30am

Free Business Cards!
The Silberman College of Business is once again offering business cards for all graduate business students. Each student will receive 60 business cards indicating they are a candidate in their specific discipline.

The card will include:
- Silberman College of Business Logo
- Campus Location
- Student’s Name
- Major

Cards can be ordered only once during a degree program. To order cards send an email, including the above information to:

**Florham** Students – diane Pruitt@fdu.edu (Diane Pruitt 973-443-8800)

**Metro** Students - vaccaro@fdu.edu (Michele Vaccaro 201-692-2424)

Please submit your request by: April 30, 2008

2 Chances to Study Abroad in Wroxton, England this Summer!

- **May 25th—June 6th**
  - CCOM 7070 International Corporate Communication and Culture
  - OR
  - June 9th—June 19th
  - CCOM 6108 The Changing World of International Business

To determine if an international experience fits into your curriculum, College at Florham students should contact Diane Prudden, and Metropolitan students should contact Michele Vaccaro.

For more information, contact Professor Gary Radford at gradford@fdu.edu or check out the website at: www.fdu.edu/corpcomm

Don’t Forget to File a Declaration of Candidacy!
If you are nearing the completion of your degree requirements, you must file a “Declaration of Candidacy” form. This form MUST be submitted prior to your intended graduation date. The graduation dates available to students are as follows:

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<th>Graduation Date</th>
<th>Declaration of Candidacy due by</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 1, 2008</td>
<td>March 1, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2009</td>
<td>June 1, 2008</td>
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<td>May 2009</td>
<td>November 1, 2008</td>
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After filing the “Declaration of Candidacy” form, the Records Office does a final check on the graduation requirements of your degree program. Feel free to call your academic advisor to go over your program statement if you have questions on your graduation date.

The “Declaration of Candidacy” form can be found online on the FDU website at: http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=4476 or in the Enrollment Services Records Office, or the Advisement Center.