

FIU Ledger

2011/2012

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING



FIU

Business

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

School of Accounting faculty

Fall 2012

Abhijit Barua, PhD, Louisiana State University; Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC Professorship in Accounting

Yunhao Chen PhD, University of Minnesota

Wendy Gelman, JD, University of Miami

C. Delano Gray, MS, New York University

Elizabeth Gutierrez, PhD, University of California-Los Angeles

Kenneth Henry, PhD, Florida International University

Jung Hoon Kim, PhD, University of California-Berkeley

**Stephen Lin, PhD, University of Manchester;
Knight Ridder Eminent Scholar Chair in Accounting**

Adam Maiga, PhD, University of Memphis

Ruth Ann McEwen, PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology

Jonathan Milian, PhD, University of Chicago

Frederick V. Perry, PhD, University of Miami

**Kannan Raghunandan, PhD, University of Iowa;
Ryder Eminent Scholar Chair in Business Leadership**

Andrew M. Sbaraglia, PhD, Pennsylvania State University

Antoinette Smith, PhD, University of South Florida

Krishnamurthy Surysekar, PhD, University of Maryland

Thomas Tarangelo, JD, University of Florida

Maria Vulcheva, PhD, Emory University

Changjiang Wang, PhD, University of Missouri

Kim Westermann, PhD, Bentley University

Clark Wheatley, PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

John Wrieden, JD, George Mason University



The *School of Accounting Ledger* is a publication of the College of Business at Florida International University. Its purpose is to inform our accounting alumni, supporters, students and friends in the business and academic communities about our AACSB International-accredited School of Accounting, about our accomplishments and about people and organizations who are committed to our efforts.

The School of Accounting has been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) since 1983. Only 15 percent of AACSB International member schools throughout the world have accreditation in both business and accounting.

From the chair of the School of Accounting Advisory Board

I am writing this letter on a flight to a family vacation. This vacation, a cruise in the Mediterranean, is proof positive of the global nature of our economy. Despite the challenges of the European economy, international tourism is a much-needed source of business for members of the European Union, in particular the countries in Southern Europe. Tourists from Miami are providing economic activity in Europe on cruise ships owned by foreign companies headquartered in the United States. Although the relationships are complex, the benefits of a global economy are still quite straightforward.

While waiting for my flight, I noticed an alumna of Florida International University (FIU) was on the same flight as my family and me. I spoke to her about her career and the opportunities she had enjoyed in the accounting profession since leaving FIU. She had started her career at a large firm and was now in a successful position at a subsidiary of a French company based in Miami and doing business in Latin America. Her diverse background, successful academic career and hard work had provided her with many opportunities that she had taken advantage of.

The students of FIU's School of Accounting continue to enjoy many opportunities. My greatest wish is that they seek out opportunity not only in South Florida, but also around the United States and globally. Our graduates have been armed with great talent, and their backgrounds make them ideally suited to contribute to the global economy.

Enjoy this issue of *Ledger*, which showcases the great things FIU does to prepare students such as this alumna.



Mario de Armas
(MACC '91, BACC '85)
Market Managing
Partner, Florida
Pricewaterhouse-
Coopers, LLP

From the School of Accounting director



Ruth Ann McEwen,
Director
School of Accounting
Florida International
University

With the help of our friends and alumni, we were able to enroll the largest class in the history of the school. However, we are at capacity in our undergraduate program and anticipate reduced additional growth. Graduate demand remains strong, and expansion will be possible with the addition of new faculty.

Current faculty members continue to achieve excellence in teaching and research, with many presenting research in top journals and at international research conferences. Faculty who joined us in the fall of 2011 have settled in and we have recently welcomed our newest member, Elizabeth Gutierrez, who joined us this fall after completing her PhD at UCLA.

This year also marked our "self-study" year for the maintenance of our accounting accreditation. FIU is one of an elite number of universities separately accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Self-study allows us to reflect on how we have done things, and think about how we can continue to improve them to provide an even better educational experience. I'll let you know next year how our peers have judged our initiatives, processes and procedures.

Exemplifying the excellence and achievement that can result from an FIU accounting degree, Carlos Sabater (BACC '81) was named the first Executive-in-Residence for the School of Accounting. He presented our students with a unique perspective, offering a motivational message reminding them that not very long ago, he sat where they currently sit: a student learning the profession. His words of support were inspirational, encouraging our students to be successful at FIU, on the CPA Examination and throughout their careers. He reminded us why there will be continued demand for our students' professional expertise long after they graduate.

I hope you all enjoy this year's *Ledger*!

alumni

Carlos Sabater plays new roles.



Carlos Sabater (BACC '81), global audit leader of Deloitte & Touche LLP and member, U.S. Board of Directors of Deloitte LLP, spoke in two venues at FIU.

Carlos Sabater (BACC '81) has been a long-time supporter of the College of Business and the School of Accounting, especially as a member of advisory boards. In 2011, he showed his engagement in two new ways: as a Wertheim lecturer and as the School of Accounting's first Executive-in-Residence.

"In the wake of the worst economic recession and a rapidly changing regulatory environment, our work is subject to more scrutiny than at any time in the past," Sabater told the audience of 120 assembled for Wertheim Lecture, which Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam introduced. "This means that certain skills are in high demand."

He added, "First and foremost, successful audit professionals must have the ability to exercise professional judgment and skepticism, and to be able to think logically as they are researching authoritative literature and objectively weighing information."

Sabater reminded the group that while solid communications and business analytical skills are important, an audit is never a solo effort.

"In campus hiring, firms look for those with the ability to work as a team member and support colleagues," he said.

"I wondered if it would ever be possible for me to be as successful as this FIU alumnus," said Joey Insua (MACC '11), audit assistant at Deloitte, an accounting graduate student at the time of Sabater's residency and speech. "He told us that with today's opportunities, we can be even more successful than him. That was a powerful message."

As Executive-in-Residence, Sabater visited an undergraduate class and said the motivation went both ways.

"I love being on campus, and I always find myself energized by the passion and enthusiasm of FIU accounting students," he said. "Having the opportunity to interact one on one with bright, outgoing students makes me optimistic about the future of the profession."

The Herbert A. Wertheim Lecture Series has brought distinguished speakers and experts in business leadership and entrepreneurship to FIU since 1993. ■



PwC's *Introduction to the Profession*: the alumni perspective

"I worked hard to earn my degree, paying my own way through college," said alumnus Oscar Ortiz (BBA '95), business development, Crowe Horwath LLP. "Being the son of immigrants and the oldest of four children, I realized how important it was to validate my parents' sacrifices as well as to set the example for my younger siblings. I'd like to help others working through similar challenges."

Ortiz got a chance to do so when he participated in "Meet the Employers," part of the *Introduction to the Profession* non-credit course sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for top performing students beginning their advanced accounting coursework in the School of Accounting.

"This informal get together involved no résumés or high-level interview questions," Ortiz said. "Rather, we talked with the students, interacting on a personal level."

"Instead of telling them how good my firm is, I talked to them about their plans

and helped them understand more about the field," said Lazaro Alfaro (MACC '12, BACC '11), assurance associate at BDO. "I also shared some of my dos and don'ts of college, including how to focus your efforts."

Although PwC sponsored the event and course, other top firms in the area were invited to participate.

"We viewed this networking opportunity as a chance for the students to meet professionals in the accounting community," said Robert Conrad, Florida market sourcing leader at PwC. "Considering this group is just entering the School of Accounting, we felt speaking with a multitude of professionals would benefit them."

"We are grateful to PwC and other firms who attended our event, including our alumni who made it a point to be here," said Ruth Ann McEwen, director of the school. "Our students are richer by starting their study of accounting in such a beneficial way." ■



Tony Argiz (BBA '74), chairman and CEO, Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC, was chosen to throw out the first pitch at the FIU/Marlins baseball game, one of the first games played at the new Marlins Stadium. Argiz originally came to FIU on a baseball scholarship.

***Introduction to the Profession* sponsored by PwC**

By invitation only, this four-session non-credit course for high performing students beginning their advanced accounting coursework in the School of Accounting:

- offers overviews on areas of accounting;
- discusses the CPA Examination;
- introduces Career Management Services; and
- provides networking opportunities with top firms.

PwC's *Introduction to the Profession*: the student perspective



A “Meet the Employers” networking event launched *Introduction to the Profession*, a non-credit course sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for exceptional accounting students.

“Most of the problems I’ve had, he’s had, too. It was great to talk to somebody who had the same challenges as me—and made it.”

Those words from incoming accounting student Muhammad Ramjohn describe his conversation with FIU alumnus Lazaro Alfaro (MACC ’12, BACC ’11) during a “Meet the Employers” networking event this past summer, part of an *Introduction to the Profession* non-credit course sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

“I was the first person in my family to earn a college degree, just like Muhammad will be, and I enjoyed talking to him about college life and the profession of accounting,” Alfaro said.

“I asked questions about an accountant’s day-to-day life,” Ramjohn said. “Meeting people from the top firms was an amazing opportunity, especially just as I’m beginning my accounting studies.”

A new accounting student from Russia, Elena Koroleva, found informal networking very interesting and enjoyed meeting alumni and other members of top firms.

“I was impressed with how highly these top firms value FIU and that some say they prefer recruiting an FIU student,” she said. “Now they know me and know my face.”

Koroleva and Ramjohn said *Introduction to the Profession* was extremely valuable.

“How kind of these people to take the time to answer questions from students,” Koroleva said.

The course is part of \$520,000 in new funding by PwC to help domestic colleges and universities incorporate issues facing the accounting profession into their curricula.

“We identified FIU as a school to participate,” said Robert Conrad, Florida market sourcing leader at PwC. “PwC has had a long-standing relationship with FIU and the School of Accounting. Mario de Armas (BACC ’85), our Florida market managing partner, is an FIU graduate who seeks to support FIU whenever possible.”

Conrad added, “FIU has consistently been a source of talent valued by our firm. We view this as a long-term relationship where we will continue to invest our time and resources.” ■

students



FIU hosts ALPFA 2012 Miami Regional Student Symposium.

More than the 100 students from FIU, Georgia State, Miami Dade College, the University of Miami and the University of South Florida plus representatives from 12 area employers attended the ALPFA 2012 Miami Regional Student Symposium held at FIU.

The theme was part of the draw: Leveraging preparation as a pathway to success to develop the professional business leader in you.

Opening remarks led into a panel discussion on how young professionals can best demonstrate leadership. Panelists came from the CIA, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP, LINQ Financial Group, McGladrey & Pullen LLP and Prudential.

In the afternoon, attendees chose from among four workshop sessions. Topics focused on building your brand, paving the way to clear communications, pursuing a teaching career and how adaptability and learning skills trump technical skills. The event wrapped up with a career fair.

“I received excellent feedback from the recruiters, many of whom stayed beyond the allotted time,” said Carmen Cardenas, national director of student affairs, ALPFA National Office. “It was great to see the students so heavily engaged in the interview process.”

Kevin Zamora, president, ALPFA FIU at the time, received great feedback from students about every aspect of the symposium. A key takeaway for him:

“For many professionals in attendance, what they do now was not always their first career choice. But in the end, it worked out for the better because they were not afraid to take a chance.”

Members of the executive board of FIU’s student chapter took a leadership role in every aspect of the symposium—from pre-event planning to event-day logistics. Tessie L. Brunken (MST ’86, BBA ’81), the school’s administrative director, helped at each step.

“I was more than impressed with their efforts,” Cardenas said. “I often cite FIU as an exemplary chapter—one that serves as a model to other campus chapters across the nation.” ■

Yovany Jerez,
ALPFA Atlanta vice
president of student
affairs, with FIU
ALPFA chapter
members:
Miguelina Theano,
Monique Lessesne,
Katsiaryna Radzko,
Susana Santana and
Kevin Zamora



FIU accounting students help Haitian nurse, others, prepare returns.

When Quy Van prepared a tax return for a Haitian nurse, Van needed a translator because of the man's limited English. But the nurse's appreciation needed no translation. He gave Van a big hug for a job well done.

Handshakes, hugs and profound gratitude were the order of the day as accounting students helped low-income earners complete their tax forms. The students participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a free service established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

"A person at Deloitte where I have an internship said every person in accounting should have experience in tax preparation," Van said. "What I received from helping people was even more important."

Maria I. Perez said that when the IRS person explained the program in her tax class and asked for volunteers, she immediately decided to get involved.

"I didn't think about it twice," Perez said. "I like taxes and I like to help people, so this was a good opportunity. What I didn't know was also how much I would learn in the training."

The preparation that the 26 students completed was extensive, including online modules and certificate testing followed by more training on three Saturdays earlier this year.

The FIU students then completed nearly 300 tax returns at VITA locations in Miramar, Sweetwater, Tamarac (Broward), Miami, North Miami, West Miami and Corpus Christi.

At a recognition event at Ronselli Park in Sweetwater, IRS senior tax consultant Ana Raposo thanked the volunteers, as did city commissioner Prisca Barreto and park director Luis Quintero.

FIU alumna Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (MS '85, BS '75), representing Florida's 18th Congressional District, hosted a recognition for VITA volunteers at her office in West Miami.

"Her enthusiasm and appreciation for our volunteer efforts were a special recognition," Perez said. "She was very warm, very welcoming." ■



**Ileana Ros-Lehtinen;
Maria I. Perez; Ana
Raposo; and Ron
Albert, Plantation
territory manager,
IRS**

students

Accounting students take on the Deloitte FanTAXtic competition.

Deloitte invited FIU accounting students to participate in its FanTAXtic competition for the first time ever.

The annual event gives students from some of the nation's top accounting and tax programs the opportunity to gain real-world experience through participation in a unique interscholastic case study competition.

A team of one graduate and four undergraduate students traveled to Tampa to compete with students from other universities in Florida, Oklahoma and Texas.

As part of the challenge, the students received information on a hypothetical high-growth company, then were asked to make recommendations on the best ways to expand from a funding and tax perspective.

"The group presented via web conference to a panel of judges in Dallas, Texas," said Tessie L. Brunken (MST '86, BBA '81), the school's administrative director and the team's faculty advisor. "They received very positive feedback for giving a very polished presentation."

Yailin Au (EMST '12, BBA '10, BACC '10) describes the FanTAXtic competition as a great learning experience.

"I learned how to meet tight deadlines and work under pressure," she said. "We were given only two weeks to solve a very lengthy case. It was a great experience to work in teams and learn from each other."

Brunken offers additional kudos to Au who, as the only graduate student on the FIU team, willingly mentored team members.

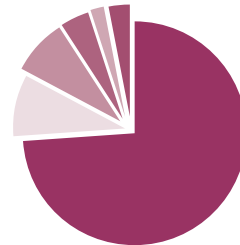
Deloitte has already invited an FIU team to participate in next year's FanTAXtic competition.

"I would definitely recommend this as a great hands-on learning experience," Au said. "In school you learn a lot of conceptual topics, but this competition gives you the kind of complex, real-life client scenario that accounting students usually don't see until they begin working in public accounting." ■

School of Accounting Student Profile 2011/2012

Undergraduate

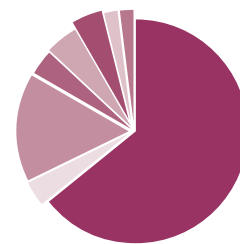
Total Enrollment: 1,418
Full-Time: 49%
Part-Time: 51%
Female: 57%
Male: 43%



Hispanic-American: 74%
African-American: 9%
Caucasian-American: 8%
Asian-American: 4%
Unknown: 2%
International: 3%

Graduate

Total Enrollment: 210
Female: 53%
Male: 47%



Hispanic-American: 70%
African-American: 4%
Caucasian-American: 17%
Asian-American: 4%
American Indian/
Alaskan Native: 0.5%
Multi-ethnic: 0.5%
Unknown: 2%
International: 2%¹

¹ Percent of total enrollment



In Memoriam

Daniel Zamora (BACC '10) passed away on August 4, 2012. His Master of Accounting degree was awarded posthumously during the Summer 2012 Commencement ceremonies. In 2009, he was named ALPFA National Student of the Year; at the 2012 Annual Convention, the award was permanently renamed the Daniel Zamora Student of the Year Award. Survivors include his parents and three brothers, one of whom, Kevin, is an FIU student. The family has established the Daniel Zamora Foundation to aid causes that were important to him and for a scholarship at his high school, Christopher Columbus.

Beta Alpha Psi named Superior Chapter for fifth consecutive year.



Beta Alpha Psi students at the American Heart Association Heart Walk, one of many community service events in which the chapter participated

Beta Alpha Psi, the international accounting honor society chapter at FIU, was named a Superior Chapter, a designation they have achieved an incredible 17 times, including the last five years in a row.

“Our 113 members, FIU’s top accounting, finance and management information systems (MIS) students, are passionate about the organization and what it has to offer,” said Matthew Fong Choy, president. “We constantly are pushing to create initiatives that make our group stronger as well as unique on a national level.”

Beta Alpha Psi is on 279 college campuses; fewer than half of the chapters earn Superior status. Being named Superior is no easy matter.

To be considered Superior, a chapter has to conduct many professional and community service activities.

FIU’s Beta Alpha Psi invites accounting firms to their Friday night meetings. Members have benefited from hearing from PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG and others.

“Our members have the opportunity to visit accounting firms, such as last year’s trip to Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC in Miami,” said President-elect Abraham Grimaldo. “We also have excellent professional development events.”

This past academic year, Beta Alpha Psi hosted Networking 101, a presentation by Patrick Curtin of Grant Thornton; an Excel workshop with Kahlil Osborne of Deloitte; mock interviews with professionals; and a CPA Examination workshop by Becker Education.

“We also co-host ‘Ahead of the Game,’ the biggest recruiting event for accounting, finance and MIS students at FIU,” Grimaldo said.

Members are heavily involved in community service such as Adopt-A-Road, the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk and other projects and events.

“I am very proud of my Beta Alpha Psi students,” said chapter advisor Jimmy Carmenate (MACC ’09). “It’s an honor and a privilege to be around young professionals who aspire to excellence and bring honor to FIU.” ■

Jimmy Carmenate; Grace Martin, vice president of membership; and Anthony Fiore, tax associate, Grant Thornton



faculty

Antoinette Smith receives national award.

Antoinette Smith, associate professor, was named the first PhD Pipeline Faculty Associate of the Year.

The brainchild of Duke University business school professor Lucy J. Reuben, who obtained a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the PhD Pipeline Program seeks to increase the number of under-represented minorities among business school faculty. Working through partner universities, the effort encourages minority undergraduates to consider pursuing a doctorate in business.

“I applaud Antoinette Smith’s dedicated work to inform and motivate students,” said Reuben in announcing the award, which was given primarily for the “significant participation” of FIU students she recruited for the program.

“We had a large number of our students apply for the PhD Pipeline 2011 Summer Workshop held at Duke University and, happily, three were selected,” Smith said. “This workshop was a terrific opportunity for students to become aware of PhD advantages.”

Smith, profiled in the organization’s inaugural newsletter, is passionate about needing more minorities in her profession, conducting seminars at FIU and initiating other outreach efforts.

“Often a student perceives obstacles to earning a doctorate,” she said. “It took someone in my life to encourage me and now I want to help others.”

“Dr. Smith was my first choice to lead PhD Pipeline at FIU because I knew that she wholeheartedly supported the goals,” Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam said.

FIU students Lorena Lizarralde, Natalie Palacios and Sasha Thomas joined 19 business students from Duke University, Fisk University and other institutions for the workshop, a program packed with information and motivation.

“A PhD was a ‘maybe someday’ goal for me,” said Palacios, a human resources and business management major. “Now I know this is the path I want to take. I am very grateful to Dr. Smith for bringing this opportunity to us.” ■

Lucy Reuben; Ralph Hines, director, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education;
Antoinette Smith; Sim Sitkin, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University





Elizabeth Gutierrez



Jung Hoon Kim



Jonathan Milian

New faculty

Elizabeth Gutierrez has been appointed an assistant professor.

Her areas of expertise are debt contracting, accounting conservatism, empirical capital markets research and insider trading.

Dr. Gutierrez became a certified accountant in Chile in 2006 and is a member of the American Accounting Association.

Her dissertation is titled “Evidence on the role of accounting conservatism in debt contracting.” Among her recent publications is “Episodic nonlinearities and market efficiency in the Mexican stock market,” and she has two working papers: “Revisions in analysts’ recommendations following earnings announcements: the Regulation FD consequences” and “Determinants of the association between insider profits and market-wide returns.”

Dr. Gutierrez holds a PhD in management from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, Los Angeles, California; and two Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Chile’s School of Economics and Business, Santiago, Chile: one in management control engineering and the other in accounting.

Jung Hoon Kim has been appointed an assistant professor.

His area of expertise is financial accounting.

Dr. Kim’s research focuses on how firms’ information and business environments inform future profitability and firm valuation. Other research interests include earnings management, the pricing of accounting information and the analyst’s role as a financial intermediary.

He has worked as an Asia Pacific regional finance manager at a multinational chemical firm in Singapore and as an associate responsible for equity investment and long-term debt issuance for technology-intensive firms at the Korea Development Bank in Seoul, Korea.

Dr. Kim has a PhD and a Master of Science from the University of California, Berkeley; an MBA from INSEAD in France and Singapore; and a Bachelor of Science in radio communication engineering from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea.

Jonathan Milian is now an assistant professor.

His areas of expertise include empirical capital markets research, voluntary disclosure and financial statement analysis.

His dissertation is titled “An empirical examination of disclosure horizon: evidence from the term structure of implied equity volatilities.”

Dr. Milian became a CPA in the State of Florida in 2008 and is a member of the American Accounting Association.

He holds a PhD in accounting and an MBA from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Accounting and Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of Florida.



Frederick V. Perry

Frederick V. Perry has joined the school as a clinical professor.

His areas of expertise are international business law, ethics, corporate governance and public international law.

He is the author of *Mexico in Transition: Transportation, the Post NAFTA Era Through a Constructivist Prism*, and is author or co-author of numerous articles published or forthcoming in *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, *European Journal of Management*, *Journal of Corporate Ownership & Control* and *International Law Quarterly*, among many others. He is also a reviewer for *American Business Law Journal* and *Journal of Legal Studies in Business*.

Licensed to practice law in Florida and Ohio, prior to his academic career, Dr. Perry was an international corporate lawyer and executive. He has presented papers, taught, conducted business and negotiated transactions throughout the world.

He holds a PhD in international studies from the University of Miami; a JD from the University of Akron School of Law; an MBA from Thunderbird's School of Global Management; a Master of Arts from Kent State University; and diplomas from Escuela Libre de Derecho, Mexico City, and the Goethe Institute, Luneburg, Germany.



Maria Vulcheva

Maria Vulcheva has been appointed an assistant professor.

Her areas of expertise include interaction of information, incentives and institutions in the global capital markets; international accounting; and the economic consequences of accounting regulation.

A member of the American Accounting Association and the European Accounting Association, Dr. Vulcheva has participated in many conferences and has five papers in process including one based on her doctoral dissertation: "International accounting standardization across countries with unequal enforcement—questionable benefits at a high price?"

She holds a PhD and MBA, both in accounting, from Emory University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international economic relations from the University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria.



Kim Westermann

Kim Westermann has joined the school as an assistant professor.

Her area of interest is auditing.

Her dissertation was titled "Learning the 'Craft of Auditing': applications of the cognitive apprenticeship framework" with ongoing research centering on auditor judgment and decision making, auditor learning and implications of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Her co-authored article "Remediation of Internal Control Material Weaknesses" is slated for publication in *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*.

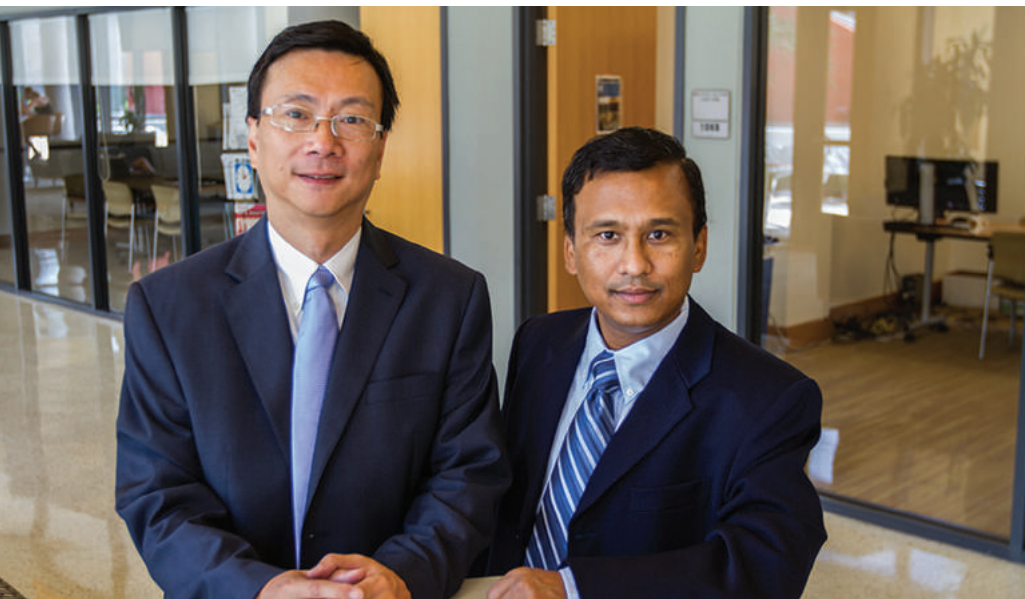
In the Bentley University PhD program, she was selected as the Henry E. Rauch Doctoral Fellow recipient and was twice awarded the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) INQUIRES Grant.

Dr. Westermann was a visiting scholar and lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Prior to her doctoral studies, she was a senior auditor at Ernst & Young in San Jose, California, and subsequently worked at PwC, ending her career in public accounting as a manager in the firm's Learning and Education division.

She holds a PhD in accounting from Bentley University, Waltham, Massachusetts, and a Bachelor of Science in accounting from California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo, California.

faculty

Workshop series showcases research.



Stephen Lin, who has organized the faculty workshop series since 2008, and Abhijit Barua, who has assumed the responsibilities

As part of a public research university, FIU's School of Accounting takes its obligation to foster a research culture seriously. Since 2008, the school has partially fulfilled that commitment by hosting a series of workshops offered through its Center for Accounting, Auditing and Tax Studies.

The events showcase world-renowned scholars from outside FIU as well as School of Accounting faculty members, including highly regarded and widely published authors and assistant professors just beginning their research careers.

"What we are doing with this series is similar to what the top-tier research universities are doing," said Stephen Lin, professor and Knight Ridder Eminent Chair in Ac-

counting, who has organized the programs from the start.

"The events are helpful to the presenters and the audience," Lin said. "Our faculty members and PhD students learn about important research directions and contribute ideas—through questions and discussion—for possible lines of inquiry the presenter can pursue in further developing the work."

Lin was mindful of the background and interests of his colleagues when inviting speakers.

"We are strong in auditing and financial accounting, but we also balance the workshops by covering other areas such as management and tax," he said. "For example, to give PhD students a broader view, we had at least one tax researcher each year even though no one in the school was working on that specialty."

Abhijit Barua, associate professor and Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC Professor of Accounting, is taking over the planning of the series beginning with the fall 2012 semester, building on what Lin has achieved.

"Our faculty, students and colleagues from across the university and other local universities will not only be exposed to the content of the research, but also will see the speakers present," Barua said. "The sessions will help our students network, and the speakers will see the caliber of our students and faculty. Also, FIU will be acknowledged in the journals in which the articles eventually appear." ■

Publications and Conferences

Premier publications

P.M. Dechow, A.P. Hutton, Jung Hoon Kim, and R. G. Sloan (2012). "Detecting earnings management: a new approach." *Journal of Accounting Research*, 50(2), 275-334.

Stephen W. Lin, E. A. Gordon, A. Greiner, M. Kohlbeck, and H. Skaife (forthcoming). "Challenges and opportunities of cross-country accounting research." *Accounting Horizons*.

Stephen W. Lin, B. Riccardi, and Changjiang Wang (forthcoming). "Does accounting quality change following a switch from US GAAP to IFRS? Evidence from Germany." *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*.

C. Mazza, J. Hunton, and Ruth Ann McEwen (2011). "Fair value (U.S. GAAP) and entity-specific (IFRS) measurements for asset retirement obligations: effects of incentives and benchmarks on earnings management potential." *Journal of Behavioral Finance*, 12(2), 68-77.

M. Dao, Kannan Raghunandan, and Dasaratha Rama (2012). "Shareholder voting on auditor selection, audit fees, and audit quality." *The Accounting Review*, 87(1), 149-172.

Antoinette Smith, R. V. Bradley, B.C. Bichescu, and Monica Tremblay (forthcoming). "IT governance characteristics, electronic medical records sophistication, and financial performance in U.S. hospitals: an empirical investigation." *Decision Sciences*.

J. C. Bedard, R. Hoitash, U. Hoitash, and Kimberly Westermann (2012). "Material weakness remediation and earnings quality: a detailed examination by type of control deficiency." *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*, 31(1), 57-78.

Articles in conference proceedings

Yunhao Chen and Xiaoquan Jiang (2011, May). Book-to-market decomposition and the accrual anomaly. Canada AAA, Toronto, Canada.

Kenneth R. Henry, Deanne Butchey, and Dasaratha Rama (2011, August-November). The AT-EASE GPS: engaging diversity through sense-making. AAA - 2011 Diversity Section Meeting, Miami/Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Stephen W. Lin, B. Riccardi, and Changjiang Wang (2011, Annual). Does accounting quality change following a switch from US GAAP to IFRS? Evidence from Germany. Mid-year AAA International Accounting Research Conference, Phoenix, Arizona.

Stephen W. Lin (2011, Annual). Restatement of fair value accounting. AAA Annual conference, Denver, Colorado.

Maria Vulcheva, G. Pownall, and X. Wang, (2011, January). Resolving home bias with cross-border integration of trading platforms: evidence from Euronext. AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section (FARS) Mid-year Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Conference presentations

P. M. Dechow, A. P. Hutton, Jung Hoon Kim, and R. G. Sloan (2011, August). Detecting earnings management: a new approach. AAA Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado.

Stephen W. Lin and Abhijit Barua (2011, May). Income statement format and earnings management. OHIO AAA Regional Conference, Columbus, Ohio.

R. Ball and Jonathan Milian (2012, April). The timing of insiders' abnormal returns. Southeast Region Meeting of the AAA, Savannah, Georgia.

Frederick V. Perry (2011, August). Saving our companies: a need for a comprehensive international law of terrorism. Annual Conference of Academy of Legal Studies in Business, New Orleans, Louisiana.

J. McEldowney, E. Turner, and Clark M. Wheatley (2012, February-March). Capitalization, amortization and the value-relevance of R&D: a comparison of GAAP and IFRS. AAA International Accounting Section Midyear Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona.

Erratum: A premier publication by Andrew M. Sbaraglia was omitted in the publications list in the last issue of *Ledger*. The citation should have read: Abhijit Barua, Stephen W. Lin and Andrew M. Sbaraglia (2010). "Earnings management using discontinued operations." *The Accounting Review*, 85(5), 1485-1509.

New campaign affords opportunities to support School of Accounting.



Alfredo Cepero, pictured with his wife, Marlene, is a dedicated supporter of the school, the college and FIU. He is co-chairing the Alumni Leadership Campaign.

Giving back to one's alma mater can take myriad forms, as the experiences of Alfredo Cepero (MACC '90, BACC '88) make clear. Cepero, assurance partner, BDO USA, LLP, has been a member of the School of Accounting Advisory Board, has chaired the Dean's Alumni Circle for two years and now, along with Francis Hondal (MBA '94, BBA '87), Alumni Circle chair-elect, is leading an ambitious, five-year—and already successful—fundraising effort: the Alumni Leadership Campaign (ALC).

"I consider myself a very fortunate individual and studying at FIU laid the founda-

tion for my success," said Cepero, who was named the school's first "Alumnus of the Year" in 2010, and who founded the Miami chapter of ALPFA, served as its president and was also president of the national organization.

Recognizing that many graduates remain in the community, Cepero wants to help make Miami "a better place for us to grow and prosper," and sees the new campaign as one way to assist.

"The dollars that we raise are important for student and faculty development," he said. "We felt that it was vital to have an alumni component in the university's \$750 million campaign. After all, graduates have benefited from the opportunities the college offers, such as networking, and from the friendships they've formed as students. Even if they aren't in a position to donate, they can help us spread awareness and excitement."

Cepero appreciates that his firm—as well as individual employees—supports the college through funding for scholarships and enabling Stanislav Jansta, assurance manager, to teach as an adjunct.

After the formal kickoff for the \$2 million Alumni Leadership Campaign took place on September 13, 2012, at the Coral Gables Country Club, donations reached \$400,000.

Support the School of Accounting by visiting <http://business.fiu.edu/AlumniLead/> or returning the enclosed envelope. ■

supporter



Generosity translates into opportunities for deserving students.

“Awarding scholarships to high achievers working hard toward their accounting degree is the highlight of our year,” said Hector E. Aguillilla (MACC ’03, BACC ’01), CPA, Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant, and president of the Cuban-American Certified Public Accountants Association (CACPA).

He spoke at the organization’s 2012 Scholarship Night awards dinner, sponsored by Mallah Furman, at which \$15,000 in scholarship money was presented.

“With its very strict entrance requirements, the School of Accounting has a tradition of producing excellent accountants, many of them from minority populations,” Aguillilla said. “FIU students are always among our award winners.”

“Receiving this scholarship provides me with the financial means I need to complete my degree,” said recipient Carlos Eduardo Garcell.

“Without it, I would have difficulty.”

Keynote speaker Ruth Ann McEwen, the school’s director, said, “Over the years, CACPA has been instrumental in helping many FIU accounting students continue their education. The faculty, staff and students of the School of Accounting join me in saluting the excellent way this organization helps ensure that worthy students have the resources they need.”

Crowe Horwath also made a generous contribution for the Crowe Horwath LLP Outstanding Accounting Student Scholarship and to support the school’s general operating expenses.

“We’ve had several key hires of

FIU grads over the past three years and, quite frankly, we want to make sure that an important source of talent keeps generating outstanding graduates,” said the firm’s Oscar Ortiz (BBA ’95), business development.

But just as important, he pointed out, is that many motivated students need help in financing their education.

“Crowe Horwath is pleased to be able to provide assistance to a high-achieving student and to help the school achieve its goals,” he said.

“The same leadership that this company shows in developing solutions to meet the needs of their clients is demonstrated by ensuring that educational opportunities exist for talented students,” McEwen said. ■

School of Accounting students Carlos Eduardo Garcell and Eduardo Pernia were among the scholarship recipients honored at the Cuban-American Certified Public Accountant Association’s 2012 Scholarship Night.

School of Accounting students benefit from the generosity of professional organizations and firms that support accounting education through scholarship programs. We are pleased to present recipients of awards for the 2011-2012 year.

BDO USA, LLP Scholarship

Chetna Gupta
\$1,000

Crowe Horwath LLP Outstanding Accounting Student Scholarship

Samuel Roman
\$1,000

Deloitte LLP Scholarship

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\$1,000

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Jacquelyn A. Gomez (BACC '10)