We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”

We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”

We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”

We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”

We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”

We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”

We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”

We want to know your news!

We were delighted to hear from José Leiman that he received the FICPA award for the highest grade in Florida on the November, 1982, CPA exam, passing “With High Distinction,” and also received the AICPA “Elijah Watt Sells” award. He saw the list of award winners in an earlier issue of Ledger and wrote to let us know he also was an award recipient. Congratulations!

We’re always eager to recognize our outstanding accounting alumni for their accomplishments. If you’d like to send us your news or have ideas about stories you’d like us to feature, be sure to let us know. E-mail gallions@fiu.edu. Thanks!

Errata
In the last issue of the School of Accounting Ledger, Mario de Armas should have been identified as managing partner in the list of Advisory Board members on the inside front cover. He has since become market managing partner, Florida. The correct firm name is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. In a photograph on page 3, Juan Carlos Morales should have been identified as being with Rachlin LLP. On page 9, the first sentence in “Local community regularly calls upon faculty expertise” should have read “FICPA” not “AICPA.” On page 13, the photo caption should have read, “From left, Jeff and Robert Taraboulos and Jorge De La Torre.”
A national search for a School of Accounting director resulted in the appointment of Sharon Lassar—a Florida CPA with a doctorate in accounting, an award-winning researcher and educator, and a prominent member of professional organizations—in August, 2007. She already has established the foundation for enhancing the school’s reputation.

“Our relationships—with supportive alumni, employers, and the business community—are our greatest strength,” she said. “This professional network is indispensable to our continued excellence.”

In addition, ongoing adjustments to the curriculum, based on input from an active advisory board, coupled with a course coordinator who ensures consistency in the students’ coursework, prepare job-ready graduates in a dynamic field.

Finally, the quality of the school’s students and faculty form another basis for distinction.

“Employers recognize our students’ strong work ethic and drive,” Lassar said.

New School of Accounting director plans to build on school’s strengths.

New faculty members bring added expertise to School of Accounting.

The School of Accounting continues to seek—and attract—faculty members from around the world. Eight established scholars, seasoned teachers, and practitioners joined the school in the fall of 2007. Another joined in the spring of 2008. They share their expertise as they prepare the next generation of accounting professionals and contribute to research across the field.

Yunhao Chen
Assistant Professor
PhD, Business Administration, University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management
MBA, University of Minnesota
BS, Economics and Business, University of International Business and Economics, China

Yunhao Chen’s research interests include financial reporting and disclosure, financial analyst forecasting, earnings expectation management, and accounting information systems. She has presented at many conferences such as the American Accounting Association’s annual meeting and the American Accounting Association’s Midwest regional meeting. Her Introduction to Financial Reporting in the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota earned her the “2004-2005 Outstanding Doctoral Teaching Award.”

Renu Desai
Assistant Professor
PhD, Business Administration, University of Central Florida
MBA, University of Arkansas
BS, Commerce, University of Bombay

Renu Desai focuses her research on evaluating the economic and ethical considerations underlying the outsourcing of professional accounting services, financial accounting, and managerial accounting. While at the University of Central Florida, she received a university-wide research presentation award in business administration. She also has extensive professional experience in the public sector, including work with NITT, Bombay; Pepsi Bottling Group, and Deloitte & Touche, New York.

Charles J. Goldman
Visiting Instructor
JD, LLM, and BBA, Cumberland School of Law
BBA, University of Miami

Charles J. Goldman lectures frequently at the Certified Florida Examiners program, at continuing professional education (CPE) seminars, and at the Florida Institute of CPAs’ (FICPA) seminars; he also has taught law and business courses at Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University, Barry University, and Nova Law School. His professional experience has included the private practice of law, most recently at the Law Offices of Charles J. Goldman, P.A.

Continued on page 2
Adam S. Maiga’s areas of interest span activity-based costing/management, budgeting, healthcare management, benchmarking, value-chain analysis, strategic managerial accounting, theory of constraints and optimization, management earnings forecast and earnings management, and ethics/issues in accounting education. He has published more than two dozen articles in about ten academic journals and frequently presents his research at international and national academic conferences.

Robert W. McGee holds two additional PhDs, advanced degrees in law and economics, and many professional certifications. He is a member of the New York Bar. He has won a number of awards for his research and service. McGee has published more than fifty books and more than 450 scholarly papers in the fields of accounting, taxation, economics, law, and philosophy.


Vineeta D. Sharma’s research interests include corporate governance, financial accounting, advanced financial accounting, auditing, and fraud. She has published in the premier journal *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*, and has several papers under review and in progress. She received the Coopers & Lybrand prize for auditing in 1996.

Blaise M. Sonnier, board certified tax attorney and CPA, practiced law for 21 years prior to joining our faculty. He has expertise in estate planning, corporate taxation, and commercial transactions. He previously taught taxation as an adjunct professor at University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has published in the *Journal of Applied Management & Entrepreneurship* and *Journal of Accounting & Organizational Change*.


Antonio (Tony) L. Argiz (BBA ’74), CEO and managing partner of Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP (MBAF), announced last fall that his firm had donated $250,000 to establish the School of Accounting’s first-ever endowed professorship in accounting.

Argiz has never forgotten the importance of his alma mater, which he attended on a baseball scholarship, where he met his wife, and whose professors helped him establish his career. Personally, Argiz has been blessed by the support of his alma mater, which he attended of 260 employees.

“I think of the professors who helped me with my education and nurtured me in my career,” he said. “This is a great way to give back because the gift will raise the quality of the program even more.”

Argiz is “extremely excited” about the firm’s latest gift.

“I feel a deep dedication to the university,” he said. “Thirty years ago, I never would have dreamed I could give back in this way to a school to which I owe so much: my education, my wife, my career, and approximately half of our firm’s staff.”

From her perspective, Sharon Lassar, the School of Accounting’s director, the gift “adds to the prestige of the school as an outward display of the value our alumni place on their education. It also will help us continue to improve by putting us in a strong position to attract top research talent and further grow our reputation.”

Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam expressed her appreciation for the gift and last fall announced her first appointee to the professorship: Krishnamurthy Surysekar, associate professor, named to the Morrison, Brown, Argiz, & Farra, LLP Professorship in Accounting for a period of three years, beginning with academic year 2007-2008. His appointment to this professorship is in recognition of his outstanding performance and potential for both research and teaching in the field of accounting. Surysekar has nearly twenty years of experience in the accounting field, in India and in the United States.

Prior to joining the School of Accounting, Surysekar was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Iowa’s Tippie College of Business, and, earlier, assistant professor at Georgia Tech’s DuPree College of Management.

He previously worked for a premier management consulting firm in India.

Since coming to the U.S. in 1989, he has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in principles of financial accounting, intermediate financial accounting, and cost/managerial accounting. While at Georgia Tech, Surysekar was credited with developing accounting courses for graduate students in engineering and computer science. He also worked with graduate students in the certificate in entrepreneurship program.

He has had several papers published or accepted for publication in the Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance, and Management Accounting Research. He also serves as an ad-hoc reviewer for several academic journals in accounting and management, such as The Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, and the Journal of Business Finance and Accounting, and Decision Sciences.

In January 2003, Surysekar was appointed by Florida International University’s Provost to the University’s Graduate Faculty. While a graduate student, Surysekar’s academic work earned him the “Paine Award” for academic excellence in doctoral work at the University of Maryland and the “Dr. K. Nath Public Trust Prize” for academic achievement from the Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta.

Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP, is ranked as the 50th largest independent public accounting firm in the nation, the largest in Florida, and tenth in the Atlantic/Southeast region. It has been listed as Best of the Best, the list of the top 25 performing firms in the country, for the past eleven years. MBAF provides tax and accounting, audit, technology consulting, and litigation support and business valuation services to wealthy individuals, entrepreneurs, private and public corporations and legal practitioners across a broad range of industries. For more information, visit mbafcpa.com.
Building Quality

School of Accounting

School of Accounting students benefit from the generosity of professional organizations and companies that support accounting education through scholarship programs. We are pleased to present recipients of awards for the 2007-2008 academic year. We have made every attempt to recognize all winners; however, errors and omissions are possible. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Ocean Bank Scholarship
$2,500.00 Darrell Campbell
$2,500.00 Jaleesa Lynch
$2,500.00 Yazmin Martin
$2,500.00 Kimberly Smith
$2,500.00 Latoya Williams
$12,500.00
FICPA - Educational Foundation
$2,000.00 Erik J. Amaro
$2,000.00 Danilo A. Castillo
$2,000.00 Vanessa Coronado
$2,000.00 Alan R. Harkatz
$2,000.00 Stefanie Yepes Hernandez
$1,000.00 Adriana L. Herrera
$11,000.00
Cuban American CPA Association Foundation, Inc.
$3,000.00 Yanisleyed Delgado
$2,000.00 Andres Dominguez
$2,000.00 Eneliz Mendez
$2,000.00 Adrianne Rodriguez
$9,000.00
FICPA - Broward County Chapter
$1,200.00 Luisa Collantes
$1,200.00 Vanessa Coronado
$1,200.00 Nikeisha Genti
$1,200.00 Luciana Marandescu-Predica
$1,200.00 Oliver Urena
$6,000.00

School of Accounting benefits from charity CFO’s desire to spread goodwill.

As the CFO of Goodwill Industries of South Florida, which provides job training and services to people with disabilities, Beatriz Anazco (EMST ’92, BBA ’91) knows what it means to rely on donations. She also champions giving locally. Consequently, when she received an appeal from the School of Accounting, she promptly wrote a check for $500. A second donation quickly followed from alumna Astrid Maria Batista (BBA ’80), senior auditor, Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP.

“The school provides tremendous benefits to the community,” Anazco said. “As an alumna, I am proud to lend my support.”

She values having a great business school “in my backyard,” where local students can remain close to home and get an exceptional education. Florida International University’s affordability, says the Cuban native, also makes it accessible to immigrants who cannot afford private-school tuitions.

Impressed with the growth rate, she jokes that the campus is changing so rapidly she cannot rely on her old landmarks to get around.

“I can only imagine what it will be like when my children Sidney and Zachary attend,” she said.

New scholarships give accounting students new hope.

The School of Accounting gratefully acknowledges four new scholarships.

Goldstein Schechter Koch Company, P.A.—$10,000 over four years ($2,500 per year)

“The scholarship indicates our firm’s commitment to the School of Accounting and its students.”
—Patricia M. Siles (MACC ’96, BACC ’94), CPA – Manager

Rachlin LLP—$10,000 over four years ($2,500 per year)

“We believe the greatest investment we can make is one that promotes continued learning. As such, we have earmarked the Rachlin LLP Scholarship to support the Master of Accounting program.”
—Lawrence H. Blum, Managing Partner

Coconut Grove Bank—$15,000

“We wanted to provide scholarship support to encourage local students interested in banking to look at us as a career opportunity.”
—David Davidoff, Vice President, Human Resources

Penny Sult Memorial Scholarship—$1,000

“Our chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) lost a popular longtime member, Penny Sult, to an untimely death. We felt helping local students aspiring to the accounting niche in our industry would honor her memory and give something back to the community.”
—Alex T. Goldberg, CFMA Local Chapter Treasurer
Kaufman Rossin sponsors Beta Alpha Psi’s participation in conference where chapter receives national honor.

When word went out that the College of Business Administration’s Beta Alpha Psi Eta Iota Chapter was seeking financial support to attend Beta’s national meeting, Kaufman Rossin & Co. responded immediately. The firm’s generosity sent five executive board members to Chicago, Illinois with all expenses covered.

“This was the first year we received a full sponsorship, and it was incredibly helpful.”
— Adriana Herrera, president, Beta Alpha Psi Eta Iota Chapter

“Money can be a huge barrier to attendance at national conferences,” Adriana Herrera, chapter president, said. “This was the first year we received a full sponsorship, and it was incredibly helpful.”

Kaufman Rossin’s support was especially timely, explains Herrera, because Eta Iota was recognized at the meeting as a “superior chapter,” the highest honor bestowed by Beta. The organization confers the designation on chapters with the highest number of professional development activities and community service hours.

Students distinguish themselves in leadership events and case competitions.

As the competition for qualified accounting employees increases, accounting firms and professional organizations have reached out to students, often near the start of their academic careers. The benefits are mutual: the firms identify and groom talent early; the students refine their ability to handle professional challenges by maximizing the opportunities to network, create presentations, and prepare case studies.

During the past year, approximately thirty outstanding undergraduate students in the School of Accounting gained a competitive edge in just this way.

Continued on page 6
School of Accounting Refereed Journal Publications


Case study competitions help students hone research and presentation skills.

At the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting’s (ALPFA) annual convention in Orlando, Florida—during which Krystel Ramos (BACC ‘07) was named “South Region Student of the Year” and “ALPFA National Student of the Year”—Florida International University Accounting Association (FIU-AA) members participated in the KPMG/ALPFA case competition.

Maxine Anderson, Jovanny Cossio, Alejandro Euse, Syed Ibrahim, Gabriela Manrique, and Shakeel Ramzan met about twelve hours weekly for several months, researching accounting literature and practicing their presentation. They won at the regional level at which 27 teams vied for honors, advancing to the nationals where they competed against eight other teams.

And, three groups of five students competed in a PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) case competition called xTAX, held on campuses around the country. After a pressure-filled two weeks of preparation, they presented to a panel of PwC judges locally, with one group, consisting of Derek Crawford, Varun Jain, Rafael Lamo-Arbelaez, Jalesa Lynch, and Ava-Marie Schmergel participating in the national event, as did all contestants, via a videotape of their presentation.

Students develop leadership skills at conference.

Gabriela Manrique and Yanisledy Delgado participated in the inaugural local offering of Grant Thornton LLP’s (GT) national Footsteps program, designed to help the firm spot promising future internship candidates. GT led a tour of its offices and presented on its service lines and career options. Company principals gave lectures and team-building activities took place. By the end, Manrique and Delgado knew what GT offers, and its employees had gotten to know them.
Carlos Canasi, Nuria Huillca, Gabriela Manrique, Martha Murillo, Krystel Ramos, Daniel Toribio, and Catalina Zorrilla were among the 88 undergraduates and graduates from across the country, Canada, and Puerto Rico—and from various backgrounds and cultures—to attend the all-expenses-paid Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop program sponsored by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA). During an intensive two-day period, they formed ad hoc teams to develop presentations on financial literacy, learned networking techniques, and got valuable insights from academics and practitioners.

Also, KPMG tapped Jaleesa Lynch for their Future Diversity Leaders (FDL) program. She was one of fifty students nationwide to attend a leadership program in California, where she met with the Florida International University campus recruiter. Now she has a mentor, Antoinette Lynch, assistant professor, School of Accounting, and FDL faculty sponsor.

School of Accounting Refereed Journal Publications

Continued from page 6


Book Chapters


New community service initiative helps students cultivate practical skills and build legal knowledge.

Thanks to a collaborative effort between the College of Law and the School of Accounting, qualified small businesses and non-profit organizations can receive free accounting services in the College of Law’s Community Development Clinic. Rachlin LLP, one of South Florida’s largest public accounting firms, has donated $20,000 to support the initiative.

Under the program, Master of Accounting (MACC) students work with law students to offer clients guidance on a range of contract and employment issues. Their work in the clinic adds a real-world dimension to their weekly lectures on topics such as budgeting and contracting.

“Students gain exposure to legal processes they will likely encounter at some point in their work.”
—Tessie Brunken (EMST ’86, BBA ’81), assistant director of student services, School of Accounting

“This is a great hands-on learning experience,” said Tessie Brunken (EMST ’86, BBA ’81), the school’s assistant director of student services. “Students gain exposure to legal processes they will likely encounter sometime in their work.”

December graduate Coraly Rodriguez (MACC ’07), an account supervisor at Miami-based Pinnacle Housing Group, describes the workload as intense but the opportunity as one “that can’t be passed up.”

“This is a chance to do something positive for your career and for someone who needs it,” she said.

Tutoring program promotes volunteering, leadership development.

Students in Financial Accounting 1 are getting a leg up on their studies this year. Once a week, they meet with peers who have successfully completed the course to review classroom material and ask questions. The activity is designed to help them master the fundamentals of the field and excel both academically and professionally.

“We want to make sure our students have a good grasp of the subject matter and understand the requirements of the profession.”
—Tessie Brunken (EMST ’86, BBA ’81), assistant director of student services, School of Accounting.

Brunken explains that the effort also aims to encourage “student volunteerism as a core aspect of the learning experience” and to engage students in case competitions and other leadership development opportunities.

Future plans call for gradual expansion of the program to other classes and potential partnering with Beta Alpha Psi, which offers its own tutoring sessions in preparation for final exams.

“The College of Business Administration’s new building complex offers many possibilities for developing the program,” Brunken said.
Students reach out and reach higher levels of professionalism.

Through their active participation in student organizations, our students serve their on-campus community and the community beyond. Despite the many demands on their schedules, the leaders who organize the events and master skills get to know practitioners, enhance their résumés, and help open doors for others.

**Finance Conference gets even better in second year.**

After its resounding success in its inaugural year, the second Finance Conference, organized by members of Florida International University’s Accounting Association (FIU-AA) and Alpha Kappa Psi, once again acquainted students with the banking, investment, and corporate finance sectors. A combination of informational sessions, networking, and recruiting, the conference drew well over 120 students, up from last year’s already-impressive attendance of about eighty.

**Business Industry Night continues successful run.**

Twice a year, Business Industry Night provides networking opportunities for students and representatives of area Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. Always organized by FIU-AA, working closely with the Miami chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA), the fall, 2007, offering attracted approximately 250 undergraduate and graduate students.

The evening began with a panel discussion led by professionals from nine firms who helped sponsor the event, after which students toured the mini-career fair, talking one-on-one with representatives from the various organizations and hearing firsthand about job and internship possibilities.

**Hands on Miami Day brightens area schools.**

“Hands on Miami Day,” an annual community service effort coordinated by Hands on Miami, brought together a number of groups within the College of Business Administration—led by the Alumni Circle, with corporate sponsorship from Continental Group—to contribute time and energy to two beautification projects.

About thirty members of Beta Alpha Psi Eta Iota Chapter did landscaping and painted murals to spruce up the Campbell Middle School in Homestead, Florida. During the same hours, and with the sponsorship of Ernst & Young, 22 members of FIU-AA undertook the same kinds of eye-pleasing tasks at Dade-Marine Institute-South, a campus for troubled teens in Miami, Florida.
Recognizing that one of its most valuable constituencies—and resources—resides in its loyal, active, and talented alumni, the School of Accounting recently formed a new entity: the School of Accounting Alumni Affinity Council (SOAAAC), a sub-group of the Business Alumni Chapter at the university.

The group’s stated mission is to “provide an environment that fosters relationships, creates mentoring opportunities, engages alumni, and builds university pride and excitement.”

A steering committee will devise ideas and plans for specific activities. Benjamin Diaz, managing director, Alvarez & Marsal, and Ed Duarte, manager, BDO Seidman, are serving as co-chairs. Steering committee members—including representatives from BabySpot.com; Alvarez & Marsal; BDO Seidman; Deloitte & Touche LLP; Ernst & Young; Goldstein Sechchter Koch Company, P.A.; Grant Thornton LLP; Kaufman Rossin & Co.; McGladrey & Pullen, LLP; Mendelson Consulting; Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP; PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; and Rachlin LLP—have already begun meeting to discuss an array of possibilities for events that will further enrich the connections among alumni and between the school and its graduates.

Alumna committed to advancing Latino achievement.

“Education is independence,” said Maria Yip (BACC ’91), the Miami-based executive director of Daylight Forensic & Advisory LLC. She voices gratitude for her Cuban-born parents, who made sacrifices so she could get an education and pursue her life and career goals.

“My accomplishments reflect the work ethic and values of my parents,” she said.

Those principles drive Yip’s efforts as Miami chapter president of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA). Concerned about low college completion rates among Latinos, Yip is using her leadership platform to work with the community to turn things around.

“We can empower Latino students by encouraging and supporting them in pursuing college degrees.”—Maria Yip (BACC ’91), executive director, Daylight Forensic & Advisory LLC

Yip expresses a strong affinity for working with, and for, students and young Latino professionals. She speaks enthusiastically about mentoring, serves on the School of Accounting’s Advisory Board, and welcomes the chance to meet with individuals to discuss career possibilities.

“I enjoy helping people identify what’s important to them and how to recognize opportunities that capitalize on their strengths,” Yip said.
Despite his numerous responsibilities as a senior manager of audit and enterprise risk services at Deloitte & Touche LLP, Antonio “Tony” Giró (MACC ’95, BACC ’93, MIS ’93) always makes time for his alma mater. As co-chair of the School of Accounting’s Advisory Board, he plays a pivotal role in ensuring the group stays active and focused. He also remains involved with the Florida International University Accounting Association (FIU-AA) and Beta Alpha Psi (to which he belonged as a student), offering guidance and recruitment opportunities.

“I remember how important it was to be able to meet with professionals from different firms and explore my career options,” Giró said. “I want to provide today’s students with those same opportunities.”

In a sense, Hiram Ocariz (BBA ’84) depends on the College of Business Administration for his livelihood—85 percent of his employees at Ocariz, Gitlin & Zomerfeld, LLC are graduates of the school.

Undoubtedly, the benefits go both ways. As a School of Accounting Advisory Board member, Ocariz donates his expertise to strengthening what he describes as “hands down one of the best accounting programs around” and one that has helped nurture his firm’s success.

He also has established a $10,000 scholarship program for Miami-Dade County residents who enroll in the Master of Accounting (MACC) program.

Alumnus’ involvement reflects dedication to college and students.

The accounting executive describes how “rewarding” it has been to “work with university leaders to meet the school’s strategic planning goals.”

A recruiter for his firm, he also recognizes the benefits of helping the school maintain the quality and standing of its program.

“The cost of doing a fifth year in order to sit for the CPA exam can be prohibitive,” Ocariz said. “I hope this scholarship will help students take that step.”

Separately, his firm pays fifty percent of tuition costs for employees who pursue a MACC degree, one of many benefits designed to attract highly qualified candidates—which, Ocariz asserts, is not hard to do considering the major source of his firm’s professional talent.

“The caliber of graduates is outstanding,” Ocariz said. “We just need more of them.”

The cost of doing a fifth year in order to sit for the CPA exam can be prohibitive. I hope this scholarship will help students take that step.”

—Hiram Ocariz, partner, Ocariz, Gitlin & Zomerfeld, LLC

“The cost of doing a fifth year in order to sit for the CPA exam can be prohibitive,” Ocariz said. “I hope this scholarship will help students take that step.”

—Hiram Ocariz, partner, Ocariz, Gitlin & Zomerfeld, LLC

I remember how important it was to be able to meet with professionals from different firms and explore my career options. I want to provide today’s students with those same opportunities.”

—Antonio “Tony” Giró (MACC ’95, BACC ’93, MIS ’93), senior manager, audit and enterprise risk services, Deloitte & Touche LLP

The accounting executive describes how “rewarding” it has been to “work with university leaders to meet the school’s strategic planning goals.”

A recruiter for his firm, he also recognizes the benefits of helping the school maintain the quality and standing of its program.

“As the accounting profession continues to grow,” Giró said, “we will increasingly look to the university to provide us with excellent, qualified candidates.”

—I remember how important it was to be able to meet with professionals from different firms and explore my career options. I want to provide today’s students with those same opportunities.”

—Antonio “Tony” Giró (MACC ’95, BACC ’93, MIS ’93)
Alumni notes

Lincoln Lopez (BACC ’79) was promoted to chief financial officer and vice president of finance in The Adler Group.

Carlos Castellon (BACC ’82) has joined Florida International University’s Community Advisory Board for the Honors College.

Ileana Nieto (BACC ’86) was named vice president of compliance at BankUnited Financial Corp., the parent company of BankUnited FSB.

J.C. Padial (BACC ’86) was appointed president and interim CEO at Sol Sotheby’s International Realty. Padial was a real estate investor and investment manager.

Eric Rodriguez (BACC ’87) was named chairman of ArtCenter/South Florida’s Board of Directors.

Gregory Snyder (MBA ’90, BACC ’82) was promoted to the position of vice president, finance of Harte-Hanks Shoppers.

Juan J. Martinez (BACC ’90) was promoted to vice president of finance in addition to his role as treasurer for the Knight Foundation.

Frank Gonzalez (BACC ’90) is a partner at Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP.

Rosa Bravo (MACC ’91) was added as a partner in the tax consulting unit at Morrison Brown Argiz & Farra, LLP.

Nick Tootle (BACC ’91) was named a principal in Kaufman, Rossin & Co.’s audit practice. He joined the firm in 1993 and has extensive experience in public and private enterprises with a concentration in financial services.

Saul M. Kredi (MACC ’92) has been hired by American Media as chief accounting officer.

Sonia Díaz (BACC ’92) is training and development manager at Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

James M. Bond (MACC ’94, BACC ’89) has been named controller for Florida International University’s division of finance.

Ed Arista (BACC ’95), a founding board member of the Business Alumni Chapter, was a guest speaker at a seminar hosted by the National Business Institute, where he lectured on advanced issues in LLC formation and operation in Florida.

Albert Montes (BACC ’95) has been named director of finance for the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc.

Howard Mark Shore (MBA ’96, BACC ’91), a founding principal of Elite Advisory Group, has been named to the regional advisory board of Teach For America, the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates.

José A. Marina (MACC ’96, BACC ’95) was appointed senior vice president, controller, and director of banking operations at TotalBank.

Alex Crespo (BACC ’96) was promoted to director at Morrison Brown Argiz & Farra, LLP. Crespo was a senior manager in the audit department.

Benjamin Díaz (EMST ’96, BACC ’95) is managing director with Alvarez & Marsal.

David Barbeito (MACC ’97) was added as a partner in auditing and business advisory services at Morrison Brown Argiz & Farra, LLP.

David Hollander (EMST ’97) was added as a partner in auditing and tax consulting practice at Morrison Brown Argiz & Farra, LLP.

Jorge Flores (MACC ’98), a former vice president and director of internal audit at Banco Internacional de Costa Rica-Miami Agency in Coral Gables, recently was hired at Pacific National Bank as vice president and internal auditor.
Roll of Honor

We are pleased to recognize and thank the following donors for their contributions to the School of Accounting during the period July 1, 2006 through November 30, 2007. With their commitment and generosity, we continue to build our future. Although we have made every attempt to ensure that all donors are noted, errors are always possible. We apologize for any omissions or inaccuracies. Some gifts below include matching contributions from the KPMG Foundation, the Grant Thornton Foundation, Ernst & Young, and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Contributions July 1, 2006 - November 30, 2007

Champions $50,001 +  
Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP

Partners $10,001 - $50,000  
Coconut Grove Bank  
Cuban American CPA Association Foundation, Inc.  
Goldstein Schechter Koch Company, P.A.  
Rachlin Cohen & Holtz LLP  
University Credit Union

Benefactors $5,001 - $10,000  
Jose M. Aldrich  
Florida Institute of CPAs – Broward Chapter  
Kaufman, Rossin and Co.  
Ocariz, Gitlin & Zomerfeld, LLP

Patrons $1,001 - $5,000  
BDO Seidman, LLP  
Alfredo N. Cepero  
Sergio de la Fe, Jr., C.P.A.  
Mitchell R. Less  
Albert and Cary Lopez  
John M. Messer  
Gerardo Pombo  
Rebecca P. Sproul

Investors $500 - $1,000  
Beatriz C. Anazco  
Florida Institute of CPAs - Gold Coast Chapter  
Richard Gawrych  
Charles W. Newman  
Magaly Quintero-Alvarez  
Alexander Rhodes  
Ricardo and Ricardo PA  
Gregory Rusk  
William J. Schinas  
South Florida Chapter Of Construction Financial Management Assoc.  
Hector & Lourdes M. Tundidor

Supporters < $500  
David E. & Astrid Marie Batista  
Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant  
Abram Blacher  
Eldo D. Bori  
Aida E. Briele  
Elsa B. Brouwer  
Maria F. Byrd  
David P. Cohen  
Maria Gutierrez  
Ana G. Perez-Abreu  
Michelle M. Quintero-Morales  
RSM McGladrey