

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

# LEDGER

2010-2011

**FIU**

**Business**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



The School of Accounting has been accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business—(AACSB) International—since 1983.

The undergraduate accounting program is among the country's top 25 for mid-sized accounting schools, based on the size of the faculty, according to more than 1,700 accounting professors surveyed in the *Public Accounting Report* in 2009 and 2010.

A 2010 ranking by Brigham Young University placed the School of Accounting #1, leading the world in publishing archival audit research in premier journals—the top tier of academic publications—for the last 20 years.

The college is listed among the country's top research business schools in the prestigious "The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) Top 100 North American Rankings of Business Schools Based on Research Contribution 2006-2010." Articles by six members of the School of Accounting were included on the list.

In 2011, *Accounting Horizons* ranked the School of Accounting's doctoral program #2 in auditing research, #26 in archival research and #30 overall based on research productivity of graduates in the three years immediately following graduation.

## From the chair of the School of Accounting Advisory Board

Although often cited as a Chinese proverb or curse, the phrase "May you live in interesting times" has no known origins in the Chinese language. However, it certainly applies to the current economic environment. Unemployment rates remain stubbornly high and many wonder whether government deficits, or attempts to reduce them, will stifle any economic recovery underway.

Despite this, our recruiting data show that the demand for high-performing accounting graduates has never been stronger. Public accounting firms and the private sector are hiring at levels not seen since before the 2008 economic downturn. Both campus and experienced hires are on the rise.

This summer marks the one-year anniversary of the arrival of our school's director, Ruth Ann McEwen. Her steady hand and reassuring demeanor have made for a smooth transition. She assumed the reins of our program and has already accomplished a great deal including excellent hires to expand our faculty, the continued growth of course offerings and support for academic research.

The role of the school and advisory board is to prepare our graduates to enter the job market in South Florida, nationally or abroad. It appears opportunities for them have re-emerged in these interesting times.

Mario de Armas (BACC '85)  
Market Managing Partner, Florida  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

## From the School of Accounting director

Academic year 2010-2011 was one of transition for the School of Accounting at Florida International University, and we anticipate 2011-2012 will be the same.

We said goodbye to our former director, Lewis Davidson, who completed an incredible career as an academic and public servant. We will miss Ana Estevill, our administrative secretary, who retired in May.

We look forward to welcoming five new faculty members from some of the highest-ranked universities in the world. We also are excited to greet our almost 1,600 returning students and to continue helping them prepare for the amazing challenges and opportunities awaiting them.

Throughout the coming months: students will study, network and learn with a global perspective; faculty will discover new approaches for applying research to practice; staff will focus on customer service, and ways to improve the FIU experience for everyone who encounters us; and we will redouble our efforts to reach out to all our constituents, continuing to connect with long-time friends and welcoming newer supporters who will help us succeed.

I am pleased to present this year's *Ledger* in which we highlight recent accomplishments, recognize successes and celebrate the diversity that sustains our vision.

Ruth Ann McEwen, Director  
School of Accounting  
Florida International University



## Armed with talent and FIU degrees, accountants reach the top at Deloitte LLP.

Success.

Looking at even a portion of their titles, it's obvious that Carlos Sabater (BACC '81), national leader of the U.S. audit practice of Deloitte LLP and a member of the firm's board of directors; John Zamora (MACC '96, BACC '94), partner and chief diversity officer; and Tony Giro (MACC '95, BACC and MIS '93), audit partner, have achieved it.

And while their roles within the firm speak to their success, each of them points to FIU as a significant part of how they arrived at the enviable spot in which they find themselves.

"My career is fabulous, and none of it would be possible without FIU," Sabater said. "It's as simple as that. It afforded me the opportunity to do what I do today and I have no reference point that is more relevant than my education at FIU."

The first member of his family to go to college, Zamora, described by Sabater as one of the top partners in the firm, appreciates FIU's impact on shaping the lives of minority students.

"As the chief diversity officer of Deloitte LLP, I've come to recognize the value and contribution FIU has on its students and the positive impact it has on its minority student population," he said. "For me, the

intellectually challenging academic environment taught me great discipline and a work ethic that has strongly influenced my career."

In his role as Deloitte's lead recruiter at FIU, Giro has found the chance to "expand the number of FIU students we hire. We know that the environment at FIU gives students, as it did me, the academic foundation on which to build a professional career."

Remembering the value of Beta Alpha Psi and ALPFA at FIU—"exposure to large accounting firms via weekly meetings, helping me frame where I wanted to focus and providing a venue to seek out opportunities"—Giro continues to be actively involved in Deloitte's presentations at Beta and ALPFA meetings.

Though Sabater, who recruited Zamora and Giro, has much to be proud of in his career, the success of his colleagues gratifies him the most.

"My achievements are nothing compared to the satisfaction I have watching FIU graduates I have mentored, particularly minorities, take their game to a different level within the profession," he said. "They have become leaders in a \$26.6 billion organization with 170,000 employees worldwide."

Carlos Sabater



John Zamora



Tony Giro







## Tony Argiz named School of Accounting's "Alumnus of the Year."

At the Second Annual School of Accounting Awards Banquet, Tony Argiz (BBA '74), chairman and CEO, Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP, was honored as the 2011 "Alumnus of the Year."

"To be recognized by one's alma mater is particularly pleasing and strengthens the bonds with my fellow alumni in a special way," he said.

Argiz credits his education with giving him "the tools to analyze business situations and to develop the depth and breadth of expertise to service my clients," and finds it "rejuvenating to know that one's support has such far-reaching results . . . results that are multiplied by the number of students who graduate."

Brett Friedman, director, McGladrey, received the 2011 "Honorary Alumnus" award.

"It was a surprise and a tremendous honor," said Friedman, who has been a member of the school's advisory board, the Career Management Services Advisory Board, has been closely involved with ALPFA at FIU and has helped with many ALPFA/KPMG case study competitions.

Noting that the school has always been "a great place for my employer to recruit and hire highly talented and motivated students who have turned into very successful professionals," he said he believes that "a professional can help to develop the future leaders of this world by developing students."



## New name, new officers for the School of Accounting alumni group.

The School of Accounting Alumni Affinity Council has changed its name to the Accounting Alumni Council (AAC).

The officers for 2011-2012 are:

President: Gary Opper  
Vice President: Diego Suarez

Director of Special Events: Angela Polania  
Treasurer: Eric Santa Maria  
Director of Subject Matter: Daniel Medina  
Secretary: Vivian Rodriguez  
Director of Membership: Desiree Elias

*The new board of the newly renamed Accounting Alumni Council held its first meeting on May 3, 2011.*

## Accounting major wins “National Student of the Year” award from ALPFA.

For the fourth time, and for the second consecutive year, ALPFA named an FIU student “National Student of the Year.” Christopher Houseman (BACC '10) joins Daniel Zamora (BACC '10), Krystel Ramos (MACC '08, BACC '07) and Zameer Upadhya (BACC '02) as the winner of the highest student award given by the organization. In addition, a team of five students competed in the KPMG case competition, advancing to the final six from a field of 25.

More than 40 students from ALPFA at FIU—the largest student chapter in the country—attended the ALPFA National Convention, held July 31-August 4, 2010 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

### Winner focused on helping ALPFA at FIU members prepare for their careers.

Houseman began the Master of Accounting (MACC) program in the School of Accounting immediately after graduating, completed an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and is working as a graduate advisor for the MACC and Executive Master of Science

in Taxation programs while he completes his masters. He has accepted a full-time job at PwC in their assurance practice.

Among his many achievements as president of ALPFA at FIU, he organized programs to “show the members the range of opportunities in the field” and networking events with the Miami chapter of ALPFA.

### KPMG case competition tests students’ research and presentation skills.

The five-member case competition team researched the case for four months.

“Members of ALPFA at FIU once again made us very proud,” said Ruth Ann McEwen, the school’s director. “They continue to demonstrate their knowledge and initiative, both in their ongoing work for the organization on campus and at each year’s national convention.”



## Student Achievements

### ALPFA at FIU

- Sponsored a Finance Summit, a QuickBooks workshop and a presentation by Dan Black, Ernst & Young America's Director of Campus Recruiting
- Participated in case competitions: comprising nine teams out of the 11 competing in PricewaterhouseCoopers xTax, Fall 2010; securing first place in the FIU stage of the Johnson & Johnson case competition and advancing to the national competition; and winning a first place in the KPMG regionals
- Undertook an array of community service efforts from beautification projects to numerous walks including Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; and obtained donations and organized collection drives to gather school supplies for high schools, medical supplies for Jamaica and food supplies for Haiti

### Beta Alpha Psi Eta Iota Chapter

- Hosted an Excel workshop, a Becker workshop to help students prepare for the CPA Exam and mock interviews
- Presented at the Beta Alpha Psi Regional Conference and the National Conference, where they were awarded Superior Chapter status

### The ALPHA at FIU contingent at the national convention







### **Ahead of the Game Accounting and Business Expo Sponsors**

**Gold Sponsor: Bank of America**

**Silver Sponsors: Becker Professional Education, BDO, State Farm**

**Sponsors: Alvarez & Marsal, Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant, CBIZ Goldstein Lewin, Cherry Bekaert & Holland, Crowe Horwath, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, From Wall St. to Main St., Georgia Pacific, Goldstein Schechter Koch, Grant Thornton, HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities), IRS, Johnson & Johnson, JP Morgan Chase, Kane & Co., KPMG, Mallah Furman, MarcumRachlin, MBAF, McGladrey & Pullen, Ocariz, Gitlin, & Zomerfeld, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Prudential, SEC, TD Bank, US Census Bureau, US Department of Agriculture, Walt Disney**

## **Expo puts students "Ahead of the Game."**

The Ahead of the Game Accounting and Business Expo—hosted by ALPFA at FIU and Beta Alpha Psi brought together 275 students and representatives from 35 companies.

Introductions were made, résumés were distributed and conversations ensued as students learned more about the accounting firms and vice versa. Part way through the four-hour event, employers had the opportunity to request that selected students make a second visit to their company table.

"It was an excellent opportunity for accounting, finance and MIS students in the business school," said Catherine M. Pena, president-elect of ALPFA at FIU at the time. "The feedback was very positive."

"This was a superbly run event, very well thought through," said Dawn Lazar (MS '06), assistant director of accounting services in Career Management Services. "The students benefited from learning to plan such a large-scale program and from the networking opportunities they had."

Gabe Mendoza, then president-elect of Beta Alpha Psi, coined the name for the expo.

"Attending this event is a smart, proactive move, of course," he said. "But the expo's name also reflects that by being members of our organizations, students are ahead of the career game."

*ALPFA at FIU and Beta Alpha Psi collaborated to put on "Ahead of the Game," an expo for accounting, finance and MIS students in the business school.*

## **Mentoring program marks second year.**

Learning how to interact with real professionals in the workplace is just one advantage that senior accounting major Rolando Chavez has discovered from having a mentor—in his case, Gary Opper (MST '83), CPA, managing member of Levie-Opper LLC and president of the Accounting Alumni Council, formerly known as the School of Accounting Alumni Affinity Council.

"Courses teach the process of accounting and having a mentor helps you understand the work environment," said Chavez, who hopes to pursue law school and then obtain a position with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. "It's nice to have someone guide you on the right professional path."

Also, we have developed a relationship that goes further than just accounting. He has mentored me on how to be a better person."

"As a mentor you can change a life for the better or have your life changed," said Opper, who has written articles on mentoring. "We continue an ancient tradition of elders passing their knowledge on to a new generation."

Thirty mentor-mentee relationships were celebrated at a breakfast on April 20, 2011, kicking off the start of the School of Accounting Mentorship Program's second year.

## Accounting students help low-income earners with tax returns.

This past tax season, accounting students, including those in the Executive Master of Science in Taxation program, once again helped low-income earners complete their tax forms as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a free service established by the Internal Revenue Service in 1980.

Thirty-five FIU students completed a total of 231 returns at VITA locations in Sweetwater, Miami, West Miami and Corpus Christi. The students amassed over 700 volunteer hours.

“Such work is beneficial on a résumé but what’s more important is helping members of the community who need it,”

*Members of the School of Accounting and the community thanked the students at a recognition ceremony in mid-May.*

said volunteer Luis Meurice (BACC '10). “The people were very grateful for the assistance and, of course, happy if they learned they were eligible for a tax refund.”

Under the direction of Connie Ricardo (MS '00, BBA '83), program coordinator, and Tessie Brunken (EMST '86, BBA '81), administrative director, the volunteers completed basic and intermediate IRS online training, passed a qualifying exam certifying them to prepare free income taxes for the VITA program and then attended training programs on three Saturdays in January.

Elsania Galeano



## Luncheon recognizes case competitors.

More than 60 students, professors and corporate sponsors were invited to the first-ever Case Competition Recognition Luncheon held on April 19, 2011. Among them were veterans of three accounting case competitions: Johnson & Johnson, KPMG and xTax.

“It was gratifying to hear how these opportunities profoundly benefit our students,” said event organizer Ellie Browner, retired director of graduate admissions in the Chapman Graduate School, who now helps with case competitions.

Individuals made five minute presentations, summarizing their event.

“The students enthusiastically described how these experiences took them far beyond classroom learning,” Browner said.

“When I heard all the information, I admit I regretted not getting involved with case competitions earlier in my academic life,” said Elsanía Galeano, a graduating senior earning a bachelor’s degree in accounting and one in business administration. “They are excellent avenues to increase your learning base.”







## Accounting students debate the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards.

A year ago, graduate students in the Master of Accounting (MACC) program debated the question “Should the United States adopt the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) now being used by more than 100 countries?”

This spring, the first IFRS event for accounting undergraduates took place. Ten students enrolled in *Intermediate Accounting* debated the same topic in front of an audience of about 150 and a five-judge panel: event organizers Abhijit Barua, Stephen Lin and John Wang—the faculty members who teach the course—as well as Eric Gillman and Patrick Gutierrez, both from PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Whether or not the United States decides to adopt the standards, their implementation worldwide means that knowledge about them will be critical for future accountants. In addition, since 2010, the CPA Exam has included questions about IFRS.

“I want to do accounting in Brazil, so the research I did to prepare for the debate will be very helpful,” said junior accounting major Jason Karukin, who gave the closing argument for the winning pro-adoption team, and who received the award as the best speaker. “It was also helpful because

I had never participated in a debate before. Plus it was lots of fun.”

The team arguing for adoption also included Matthew Fong Choi, Helen Feliz, Elizabeth Figueroa and Barbara Sanchez. Carlos Andres, Stephanie Hocke, Kevin Pang, Vanessa Penaloz and Maryia Shkaredzenok argued against the adoption.

The event was part of a prestigious curriculum grant from PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation awarded to Barua, Lin and Wang for their proposal “Integrating IFRS in both accounting-major undergraduate and MACC programs at FIU.”

### Second event challenges students on IFRS.

Approximately 130 students took part in the school’s first-ever IFRS quiz competition. During a 40-minute session, they answered 35 questions about the standard.

“The debate and quiz were two ways to help our students perceive the importance of IFRS and to understand ways it is already affecting Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP),” Lin said. “And it is an effort we will continue for our undergraduates and graduates.”



**[TOP]:** Elizabeth Figueroa was on the team that argued that the United States should adopt the International Financial Reporting Standards.

**[BOTTOM]:** Vanessa Penaloz, a member of the team arguing against the adoption of the standards, was voted the third-best speaker.

## Lewis Davidson honored at retirement party.

After a career long enough to have taught approximately 15,000 students, Lewis Davidson retired from the School of Accounting.

Forty-four friends, colleagues, former students and family honored him on April 27, 2011.



"Lew Davidson is a true visionary," said Ruth Ann McEwen, director of the school. "He became director when the School of Accounting was still a small, regional program. Under his guidance, it has become a deeply respected source of accounting staff with one of the largest programs in the United States.

We are grateful for his tenacity and proud to be part of his achievements."

Davidson's colleagues Manny Dieguez, who retired in 2008 after 32 years of service, and John Wrieden, distinguished senior lecturer, also spoke about him at the reception.

"The students at FIU were as good and as bright as any I have taught," said Davidson, who taught at FIU from 1984 on after stints at Penn State, University of Texas-Austin, New York University and University of North Carolina.

## Kannan Raghunandan logs impressive publication record.

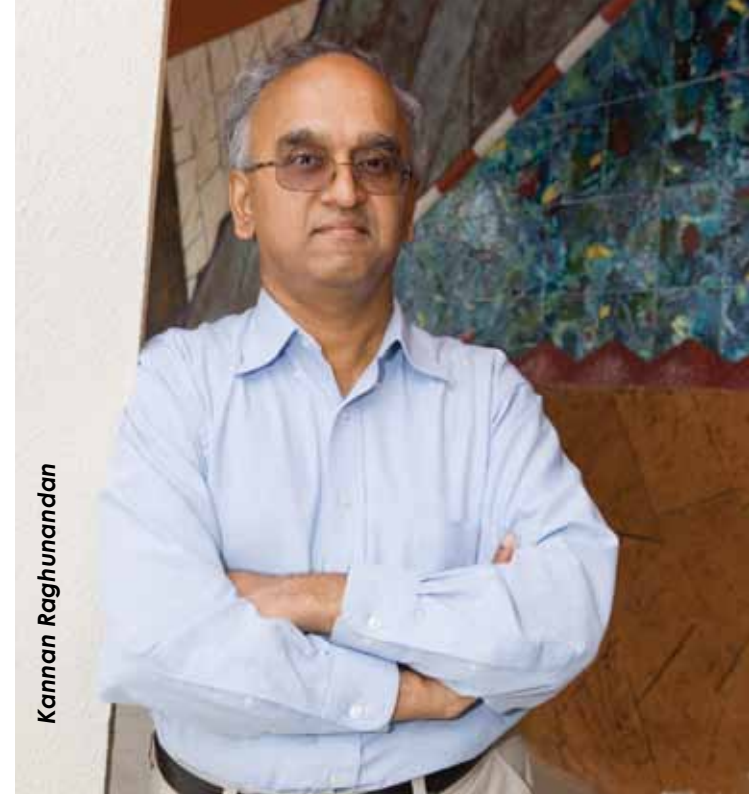
Research by Kannan Raghunandan, professor and Ryder Eminent Scholar Chair in Business Leadership, has appeared in premier accounting journals including *The Accounting Review*, *The Journal of Accounting Research*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, and *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*.

"I work with PhD students and colleagues worldwide to study corporate governance and auditing," Raghunandan said.

A recent study conducted by professors at Brigham Young University (BYU) ranked him as the top auditing researcher in the world over the past six years, based on publications in the most important accounting journals. His output also helped the school earn the top spot in the area of archival audit research during the past six years in another BYU study.

He frequently collaborates with his wife, Dasaratha Rama, professor and Knight Ridder Center Research Fellow in the college. Their work is extensively cited in an April 2011 study related to internal control reporting, conducted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act.

Raghunandan was recently appointed to a team that is helping the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board set standards related to the preparation and issuing of audit reports by registered public accounting firms.



Kannan Raghunandan

## Kenneth Henry captures prestigious office.

Kenneth Henry (PhD '08), clinical associate professor, was elected as the first and only U.S.-based member to serve on the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Board of Directors. As one of 36 worldwide members of the ACCA's governing body, he represents all ACCA members in 170 countries as well as the interests and issues of the United States.



Kenneth Henry



## School of Accounting faculty 2010-2011

Abhijit Barua, PhD, Louisiana State University  
 Yunhao Chen, PhD, University of Minnesota  
 Renu Desai, PhD, University of Central Florida  
 Wendy Gelman, JD, University of Miami  
 C. Delano Gray, MS, New York University  
 Kenneth Henry, PhD, Florida International University  
 Stephen W. Lin, PhD, University of Manchester  
 Adam Maiga, PhD, University of Memphis  
 Ruth Ann McEwen, PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Robert McGee, PhD, University of Bradford  
 Kannan Raghunandan, PhD, University of Iowa  
 Andrew M. Sbaraglia, PhD, Pennsylvania State University  
 Antoinette Smith, PhD, University of South Florida  
 Blaise M. Sonnier, DBA, Grenoble Ecole de Management  
 Krishnamurthy Surysekar, PhD, University of Maryland  
 Thomas Tarangelo, JD, University of Florida  
 Changjiang Wang, PhD, University of Missouri  
 Clark Wheatley, PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
 John Wrieden, JD, George Mason University

## The School of Accounting welcomes the following faculty for the 2011-2012 year.

Jung Hoon Kim, PhD (Dec 2011), University of California-Berkeley  
 Jonathan Milian, PhD, University of Chicago  
 Frederick V. Perry, PhD, University of Miami  
 Maria Vulcheva, PhD, Emory University  
 Kim Westermann, PhD, Bentley University

## Faculty publications

### Selected articles in leading journals

- Abhijit Barua, Dasaratha V. Rama, and Sharma, V. (2010). "Audit committee characteristics and investment in internal auditing." *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, 29(5), 503-513.
- Abhijit Barua and Stephen W. Lin (2010). "Earnings management using discontinued operations." *The Accounting Review*, 85(5), 1485-1509.
- Renu Desai and Robert W. McGee (2010). "The Sarbanes-Oxley Act: deterrent or aid to finance and accounting outsourcing?" *Currents: International Trade Law Journal*, 18(2), 22-29.
- Stephen W. Lin and Khurshed, A. (2011). "Institutional investment in UK firms: do corporate internal control mechanisms matter?" *European Journal of Finance*, 10(2), 133-152.
- Stephen W. Lin, and Chan, A. (Forthcoming). "Which earnings components drive earnings conservatism?" *Accounting and Business Research*.
- Antoinette L. Lynch (2011). "Electronic conferencing: understanding computer-mediated systems." *Journal of Computational Intelligence in Finance*, 22(4), 77-81.
- Adam S. Maiga and Jacobs, F. A. (2011). "Selection bias and endogeneity issues on the relationship between information technology and firm performance." *Advances in Management Accounting*, 19(5) 109-131.
- C. Mazza, Hunton, J., 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.
- Robert W. McGee (2011). "Economic protectionism and the philosophy of Frédéric Bastiat." *Brooklyn Journal of Corporate, Financial and Commercial Law*, 5(2), 427-446.
- V. Munsif, Kannan Raghunandan, Dasaratha V. Rama, and Singhvi, M. (2011). "Audit fees after remediation of internal control weaknesses." *Accounting Horizons*, 25(1), 87-106.
- P. Tanyi, Kannan Raghunandan, and Abhijit Barua (2010). "Audit report lags after voluntary and involuntary auditor changes." *Accounting Horizons*, 24(4), 671-688.
- Blaise M. Sonnier (2010). "An analysis of Colorado's notice and reporting requirements for Internet and remote sales." *Journal of State Taxation*, 28(6), 23-28, 58-59.
- Blaise M. Sonnier (2011). "Colorado's notice and reporting regime faces constitutional challenge: implementation put on hold by federal court." *Journal of State Taxation*, 29(3), 31-32, 72-73.
- Blaise M. Sonnier (2010). "IRS victory jeopardizes workpaper confidentiality." *Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance*, 21(4), 43-51.
- Blaise M. Sonnier (2010). "States continue push to tax internet sales." *Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance*, 22(1), 49-54.
- Blaise M. Sonnier (2010). "Utopia Home Health, Inc.: a case study on C corporation taxation." *Issues in Accounting Education*, 25(4), 755-774.
- Blaise M. Sonnier and Walfried M. Lassar (Forthcoming). "The influence of audit firm size and industry specialization on juror evaluation of liability." *Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting*.
- Blaise M. Sonnier, Hennig, C. J., and Lassar, S. S. (2010). "Protecting work product in IRS disclosures and during the audit after Deloitte." *Taxes-The Tax Magazine*, 88(12), 23-32.
- C.J. Hennig and Blaise M. Sonnier (2011). "Schedule UTP: IRS mandates disclosure of uncertain tax positions." *Tax Advisor*, 42(5), 334-343.
- Clark M. Wheatley (Forthcoming). "Lucent Technologies." *Journal of Finance Case Research*.
- Clark M. Wheatley and Yan, Y. (Forthcoming). "New executives and audit fees." *Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting*.

### Books

Robert W. McGee and Preobragenskaya, G. G. (2010). *Accounting and Financial System Reform in a Transition Economy: A Case Study of Russia*. Dongbei, China: Dongbei University of Finance & Economics Press.



## KPMG LLP makes multi-year gift to the college.

Contributions from four partners at KPMG LLP—Jose Aldrich, Jose Rodriguez, William Schinas (BA '91) and Rebecca Priegues Sproul (MACC '94, BACC '91), matched by the KPMG Foundation, have resulted in a generous donation to the School of Accounting General Endowment and the Global Entrepreneurship Center Endowment. Funds in the five-year gift will support activities such as faculty development, student enhancement and outreach initiatives.

"It gives me a great sense of pride to know that this endowment will give FIU students another opportunity to become what they dream and to make a difference in the

world outside the university's walls," said Aldrich, a member of the FIU Foundation Board; a member of the Dean's Council and the University President's Council; and the university's relationship partner for KPMG LLP, who spearheaded the effort.

He found it gratifyingly easy to enlist the financial commitment from his colleagues.

"I hoped that I would find co-workers who shared my views on education, our community and what FIU represents," he said. "I was not disappointed. I'm very proud to be part of a firm that is committed to diversity and the power of education to open doors for all."



Jose Aldrich

## Endowment honors Albert Morrison Jr.

Albert Morrison Jr., founder of Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra LLP (MBAF) and its chairman beginning in 1971, was always a good friend to FIU, the business school and particularly the School of Accounting.

After he passed away on December 31, 2009, some of those whose lives he had touched began what would become the Albert Morrison Jr. Scholarship Endowment. The fund will support students in the School of Accounting through the Albert Morrison Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

It started with a gift from Theodore Spak, emeritus director, FIU Foundation, that

he requested be used to honor Morrison. His donations, combined with those from nearly 50 others, including one from Tony Argiz (BBA '74), chairman and CEO, MBAF, resulted in the new endowment.

"He would have been thrilled by this gesture, and proud," said Joan Morrison, his widow.

Patrick Noel, a senior accounting major, was the scholarship's first recipient.

"It was a huge honor for me, because it was only awarded to one undergraduate, so I was deeply humbled," he said.



*Joyce J. Elam, executive dean; Krishnamurthy Surysekar, the first Morrison, Brown, Argiz, & Farra, LLP Professor in the School of Accounting; Patrick Noel, the first recipient of the Albert Morrison Jr. Memorial Scholarship; and Joan Morrison*



## Deloitte LLP Classroom named.

Six partners and directors of Deloitte LLP—Javier Bacerio (BACC '88), Antonio M. Giro (MACC '95, BACC and MIS '93), Lisa Napier (BACC '87), Carlos Sabater (BACC '81), Jorge Salgueiro (BACC '88) and John Zamora (MACC '96, BACC '94)—made a generous donation to support the School of Accounting General Endowment. In recognition of their gift, the Deloitte LLP Classroom, which will be used for as many accounting classes as possible, was named in the College of Business Complex.

### *Students outside the Deloitte LLP Classroom*

"This contribution is very meaningful for us because it allows us to memorialize our commitment to FIU and to inspire the students in the School of Accounting to dream and to dream big because the foundation that FIU provides will give them the platform to succeed," Zamora said.

"We have all gotten so much from FIU that the university deserves everything we can do in return," Sabater said. "Thanks really shouldn't come to us but should go to the university for what it does."

## School of Accounting Advisory Board

Stewart L. Appelrouth (MBA '80),  
Co-Founder, Appelrouth, Farah & Co., P.A.

Alfredo Cepero (MACC '90, BACC '88), Audit  
Partner, BDO USA, LLP

Albert D. Lopez (BACC '78), Managing Partner,  
BDO USA, LLP

Manny Matalon (MACC '03, BACC '01) Head of  
Internal Audit, Bupa Latin America

Antonio "Tony" Giro (MACC '95, BACC and  
MIS '93), Audit Partner, Deloitte LLP

Steven Davis (MBA '93), Partner, Ernst &  
Young LLP

Alvaro Florez (BBA '88), Partner, Ernst &  
Young LLP

Carlos F. Garcia, Partner, Goldstein Schechter  
Koch Company, P.A.

Mitchell Less, Audit Partner, Grant Thornton LLP

Gerry Pombo, Partner, Grant Thornton LLP

Jose (Joe) Sirven (BBA '78), Partner, Holland &  
Knight

Jorge N. De La Torre (BACC '96), Partner, Kabat  
Schertzer De La Torre Taraboulos & Co.

Steven M. Berwick (BACC '74), Partner,  
Kaufman, Rossin & Co.

Edward V. Gannon (BBA '88), Principal &  
Director, Litigation Consulting, Kaufman, Rossin  
& Co.

Rebecca Sproul (MACC '94, BACC '91), Partner,  
KPMG

Donald Butler (BACC '79), Partner, Marcum LLP

Morris Hollander, Partner, Marcum LLP

Sergio de la Fe (BBA '90), Partner, McGladrey &  
Pullen LLP

Robert R. Feldmann, Managing Partner,  
McGladrey & Pullen LLP

Frank Gonzalez (BBA '90), Partner, Morrison,  
Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP

Hiram Ocariz (BACC '84), Founding Partner,  
Ocariz, Gitlin & Zomerfeld, LLP

Michael Torres (MACC '98, BACC '96), Partner,  
Perez-Abreu, Aguerrebere Sueiro & Torres P.L.

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

Rafael Garcia (MST '97, BACC '94), Director,  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Thomas A. Burke (MACC '93), Vice President,  
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**Ana Estevill retires.**

After 21 years of service to the School of Accounting, Ana Estevill has retired. She began as senior secretary in 1990 and in 1999, was promoted to office manager. She was the assistant to Mort Dittenhofer, then the school's director, and worked closely with him on the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management, serving as conference secretary for approximately 12 years.



**In Memoriam:  
Marguarette Johnson**

Longtime and valued staff member Marguarette Johnson passed away on April 5, 2011. She began at FIU as a college work study student in 1979, was hired in the school as a secretary, was promoted to senior secretary in 1985 and became the school's coordinator. In 2009, she was nominated for four Employee Service and Recognition Awards at FIU.

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