Fall 2009

DOLLARS & SENSE

Lehigh Accounting Club

Accounting Club Executive Board:
Ricky Motschwiller, President; Francesca Picascia, Vice President; Daniel Soloman, Secretary; Scott Silberman, Treasurer; Steven Balter, Editor; Kate Poulillo, Webmaster
Faculty Advisor: Professor Parveen P. Gupta, LLB, Ph.D.

A Message from the Faculty Advisor and Department Chairman

Parveen P. Gupta, LLB, Ph.D., Professor of Accounting

As faculty advisor to the Accounting Club and chairman of the Accounting Department, I am delighted to be part of the annual newsletter of the Accounting Club. Thank you to **Ernst and Young** for covering the cost of composing, printing and mailing this newsletter. The Accounting Department recognizes two student-run organizations: the Beta Epsilon Chapter of the Alpha Psi and the Accounting Club. While Beta Alpha Psi exposes accounting majors to technical and current topics facing the profession, the Accounting Club introduces sophomores and juniors to the "world of accounting" through field trips and numerous co-curricular activities.

The field trips and co-curricular activities target both sophomores and juniors; thus the Accounting Club is an integral part of our department's educational mission. Participation in these activities provides sophomores and juniors the opportunity to gauge their level of interest in accounting and helps the department by attracting only those students who are seriously interested in pursuing accounting as a major. Active participation in co-curricular activities by these students supplements their classroom education. Students not only learn about current topics impacting the field of accounting and business but they also develop "soft" skills that provide them with significant competitive advantage in the marketplace when they interview for summer internships and for full-time jobs.

The co-curricular activities organized by the Accounting Club during the 2008-09 academic year included career-related networking events featuring professionals from public and non-public accounting firms, lectures on current developments in accounting, finance and business topics in general, and training students in softer skills. See inside for a complete listing of the activities during AY 2008-09.

Among the variety of events the club hosts, students look forward to two events in particular: the junior accounting field trip during the fall semester and the sophomore accounting field trip during the spring semester. With invitations to visit the offices of a public accounting firm as well as an investment banking firm in New York City, both trips generate great excitement and enthusiasm among students. While at the offices of these firms' students receive valuable information from presentations by

continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

An Lehigh Alumni Perspective	3
Sophomore Trip to NYC	4
PwC xAct Competition	8
Junior Trip to NYC	10
2008 Employment Statistics	10

President's Message

Ricky Motschwiller (Class of 2010)

Welcome to the 2008-2009 edition of Dollars & Sense! This year has been a successful year for the club, marked by many accomplishments. Club membership is at its highest ever, with well over 150 members. To meet the demand of all the new members, we held almost 20 events with various organizations, firms, and companies during the year. The executive board of the club worked extremely hard in planning relevant and informative sessions for accounting and business students at Lehigh. The year was highlighted with two trips to New York City, both of which were immensely successful.

In fall 2008, the club visited the New York City offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and Eisner, LLP. Over 50 juniors went on the trip, and Club members got to learn about each firm, as well as to tour the offices and meet Lehigh alumni working at PwC and Eisner. The trip ended with the 4th Annual Alumni Reception, hosted by Deloitte & Touche. Over 100 industry professionals attended the event, which served as a great networking opportunity for all the students on the trip. In spring 2009, sophomore club members visited Ernst & Young, LLP and PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP in New York City. The trip was a valuable experience for sophomores as it provided them with a first-hand look at what accounting professionals do at large CPA firms. During the trip, students met with recruiters, partners, and many

continued on page 7

compliments of
Ernst & Young
Quality In Everything We Do

Editor's Note

From the Editor's Desk
Steven Balter (Class of 2011)

Belonging to the Lehigh University Accounting Club is a great way for Lehigh students to gain expertise in accounting outside the classroom. Our events have helped students gain access to recruiters and partners at major firms—access hardly possible without the membership in the Accounting Club. Big Four Accounting firms and other recruiters will continue to reach out to Lehigh's accounting sophomores and juniors despite the on-going economic and financial crisis.

For me personally, accounting has always been the top choice as a major because I feel that it gives me the background and skills to succeed in the post-Lehigh business environment. As an accounting major, I am taking courses that are developing in me the ability to read and analyze financial statements, understand how to make business decisions, and how accounting choices often challenge ones ethical boundaries in practice. I feel that all of my accounting professors have aided in my particular liking of accounting by showing their enthusiasm and concern for the accounting majors. This year, I eagerly anticipate my junior-year accounting classes such as Cost Accounting, Intermediate Accounting I & II, and Accounting Information Systems, as I continue to assimilate into the accounting profession.

As the newsletter editor for the Accounting Club, I have gained valuable experience interacting with other accounting students and various recruiters. It was amazing to see how enthusiastic my peers were when I asked them to write stories and columns for this newsletter. Despite the challenging economic environment, recruiters were equally enthusiastic about supporting this newsletter by placing advertisements in it. Although, I do not plan on becoming an editor in my professional career, putting together the newsletter has been a great learning experience for me. **I encourage other accounting majors to consider volunteering for this role during the next election call.**

Overall, this newsletter would not be possible without student contributions and the Alumni Perspective writer, Mr. Todd Bialick of PricewaterhouseCoopers. I offer my sincere "thank you" to all the contributors to this newsletter. I would also like to thank my fellow officers and most importantly Professor Parveen Gupta, our club's academic advisor and chairman of the accounting department for his guidance and direction to our club throughout the year. **Last but not least, I thank Ernst & Young for sponsoring this year's newsletter.**

A Message from Chairman *continued from page 1*

firm's senior management about career opportunities in accounting. They also learn more about each firm by participating in group exercises and by interacting with recent Lehigh accounting hires. To accommodate the rising demand for these trips the club rents a large bus with a capacity of 50-55 passengers. As their club advisor, I accompany the students on these trips and every year I am amazed at the growing popularity of these field-trips, as the bus seats are booked almost instantaneously as the trip sign-ups are announced. Other accounting department faculty also regularly travel with the students on the bus for the day-long trip.

The club's executive board for 2008-09 comprised Ricky Motschwiller, president (Class of 2010), Francesca Picascia, vice president (Class of 2011), Daniel Solomon, secretary (Class of 2010), Scott Silberman, treasurer (Class of 2011), Steven Balter, editor (Class of 2011), and Kate Poulino, Webmaster (Class of 2010). I thank all of the officers for serving on the Executive Board and giving their best to make the club a big success this year. Read more about club's activities during the year in various columns written by each of these officers and other students in this newsletter.

My role as the club's advisor was made immensely easy this year by Ricky Motschwiller (Class of 2010). Ricky assumed leadership of the club just as soon as he got elected to the position of president. Throughout the year, with help from his executive board, Ricky worked with enthusiasm and dedication in planning and executing 19 different programs and field trips. I thank Ricky for his leadership of the Club and wish him well during his senior year at Lehigh. Last but not least, I thank Steve Balter (Class of 2011) for working as an editor and putting together this newsletter. I also thank Abaigail Price (Class of 2011), in-coming editor for 2009-10 academic year, for working with Steve to finalize this newsletter. The Accounting Department and its faculty recognize the club's contributions during the 2008-09 academic year in enhancing the quality of the accounting majors' educational experience at Lehigh.

I look forward to working with the newly elected executive board during the 2009-10 academic year: Kevin Ostroski, president (Class of 2011), Scott Silberman, vice president (Class of 2011), Jennifer Waughtel, secretary (Class of 2011), Steve Balter, treasurer, (Class of 2011), and Abigail Price, editor (Class of 2011).

Lehigh Accounting Alumni Perspective

Todd Bialick (Class of 1995)

My name is Todd Bialick and I am a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Stamford, Connecticut, and the partner-in-charge of recruiting for PwC at Lehigh. I graduated from Lehigh in 1995 with an accounting major and a computer science minor. When I was asked to write this article, I tried to put myself in your shoes as an accounting major at Lehigh and came up with a few topics that I thought would be interesting.

How did Lehigh prepare me for my career in public accounting?

The accounting faculty at Lehigh have a great mix of theoretical and real-life experience. This allows faculty to effectively instruct on the technical accounting topics as well as their practical application in the business environment. The curriculum is challenging, which helps to build a great foundation for an accounting career. An example that comes to mind is having two or even three exams on the same day. Now, my first thought was -- what did I do to deserve this? But as someone who has been out of school for a long time, I look back at these situations as extremely valuable. I learned essential lessons that are important to me today -- how to multi-task, prioritize and manage time effectively.

Most important, I was able to take classroom learning and apply it to situations beyond a case study in a book or a specific accounting topic. This approach allowed me to build upon the knowledge obtained in school once I entered the business world.

With the ever-changing rules and complexities of public accounting, the ability to continuously learn and effectively adapt to a changing environment is critical to your success.

What tips would I give to accounting majors on the verge of entering the workforce?

Students need to position themselves during their undergraduate studies to have the requirements necessary to sit for the CPA exam. Be especially cognizant of the requirements for the state in which you plan to work (specific classes required, 150 credit hour requirements, etc.).

Prepare a resume early, probably by the end of your sophomore year. By understanding what your resume looks like, you can identify gaps and work to address them.

Also, begin considering your personal brand. Think early about where and how you add value in your work and life, and where you make an impact. This type of focus is exceptionally helpful in your career as well.

Although the interview process is stressful, especially when it is your first time going through it, try to relax and be yourself. Interviewers certainly want to understand your technical qualifications, but they also want to see the soft skills that will make you a valuable counselor to clients and colleagues.

Finally, although you need to focus on your studies, be sure to enjoy yourself while at Lehigh. Some of my closest personal and professional friends are folks I met at Lehigh.

What do I believe are the benefits of being an accounting major at this time?

Although all companies are affected by the current economic crisis, there is certain stability to the accounting profession. At PwC, we take a longer-term, strategic view of the current economic situation and continue to invest in our people, and recruiting the best people is part of that commitment. Our approach ensures that when the economy bounces back, and it will at some point, PwC will have the right level of talent to serve our clients at the highest level of quality.

Good luck with the rest of the academic year, and I look forward to seeing you soon as I continue my recruiting efforts at Lehigh.

Todd is a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers in the New York Metro technology practice, principally serving clients in the technology, financing and communications industries and has been with the firm for fourteen years. Todd holds a BS in Accounting from Lehigh University (1995) and an MBA in Finance from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania (2003).

ERNST & YOUNG
Quality In Everything We Do

The Sophomore Trip to New York City

Abigail Price (Class of 2011)

In March 2009, the Accounting Club held a trip for sophomores to New York City where we visited the offices of Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers. All of the students dressed in formal business attire and met early that morning outside of Rauch. We traveled by bus with Professor Parveen Gupta, Chair of the Accounting Department, and Professor Dave Hinrichs, who had many of us as his students in ACCT 152.

Our first stop was Ernst & Young, where all of the students were assigned to tables with various Lehigh alumni. It was such a comfortable environment because although Lehigh's campus was hundred miles away in Bethlehem, there were so many familiar faces in the room that it was almost as if we had never left campus. One of the most interesting things I heard through the presentation was about how Lehigh is considered a priority school by the Big Four Public Accounting Firms, and that they spend a lot of their time and energy visiting Lehigh campus many times during each academic year. The presentation included information on the various lines of business that E&Y is involved with, as well as the general environment that its employees work in. The firm emphasized that it invests in the long-term well being and satisfaction of its employees by focusing on a healthy balance between their work and personal lives. In addition, the firm also ensures that all E&Y employees are pleased with their placement within the firm and work for a department or a line of business that interests them and where they would have the most opportunity to succeed. After the introductory presentation, we had a working lunch with the Lehigh alumni and other Lehigh sophomores who were sitting at our table. This gave us the opportunity to directly ask the alumni questions about what they do for E&Y, how satisfied they are with their jobs, and how they managed the transition from Lehigh to E&Y. It was a great experience not only to practice our networking skills but also to picture ourselves working at E&Y and to have the opportunity to meet the Lehigh recruiting team. Through these interactions, I learned a great deal about E&Y specifically and the public accounting profession in general.

Our final stop was PricewaterhouseCoopers, where we were also introduced to the Lehigh recruiters and presented with information about the firm. PwC talked a lot about its investment in its people as well, and that the company is one of the few in this economy that has continued to invest in people, it considers people PwC's most valuable asset. The presentation included specific information regarding the different levels of employment and specific tasks that one would do daily while working at the firm as a staff accountant. After the presentation, we met with young Lehigh alumni who were a part of our team in a game we played focusing on what each level of rank (e.g., senior, manager, and partner) does in a typical day in the firm. This game was set-up as a competition and the winners received a prize—a wireless mice. Once we finished this game, we toured around a floor of the firm to get an idea of what the environment

CBE sophomores visiting the offices of Ernst & Young in New York City during Spring 2009

would be like if we were potentially to work for PwC. The tour was very interesting to me because it was, again, another chance for us to try to picture ourselves working at the firm. After the tour, we met the rest of the students and the professors in the cafeteria where we ate dinner and had the opportunity to personally interact with the Lehigh recruiters and ask them any questions we had regarding possible internships. All of the students really enjoyed the time we spent at the firm and once we finished dinner we returned to Lehigh.

From visiting these firms, speaking with Lehigh alumni, and meeting the Lehigh recruiting teams from both E&Y and PwC, I gained an appreciation for how fortunate I am to be part of the accounting family at Lehigh. Often when students are in Lehigh's rigorous classes, they wonder how they will apply what they learn in class in the real world. Those of us who were on the trip saw Lehigh accounting in the real-world work environment, and consequently we really understand and appreciate how valuable the education is that we are receiving as accounting majors.

Time and again I heard from the various alumni at both firms how prepared they felt compared to their co-workers from other universities because of the education and training they received as an accounting major at Lehigh. For me especially, because I transferred to the College of Business and Economics in the beginning of my sophomore year, it was very comforting to see that the nurturing environment I feel at Lehigh continues when you work for these large firms. Both E&Y and PwC talked a lot about the different mentoring programs they have implemented to sustain learning throughout one's career.

After going on this trip, it became evident to me that being involved with accounting organizations on campus, personalizing relationships with your professors, as well as having the confidence to meet the Lehigh recruiters and ask them individual questions, are all so vital to being successful in the accounting profession. The unique opportunities that Lehigh's Accounting Department provides its students is something that all accounting majors should take advantage of for internship and future employment possibilities.

Will your education stop when you leave campus?

Or will you be a lifelong learner?

You are never too experienced or too senior to learn. This belief is central to the way we work here at Deloitte & Touche USA LLP ("D&T USA"). We recognize that everyone has something to contribute, and even as you learn about the business, we will be keen to learn from you. Our commitment to each other is a core belief and just one of the ways we'll support your advancement. We also offer room to grow across service lines, industries and specialties. The more options you have to choose from, the greater flexibility you'll have to extend your career with us. Are you ready?

Please contact Career Services to find out when we will be on campus.

To learn more about D&T USA and the opportunities now available, please visit our website at www.deloitte.com/us.

Deloitte.

Audit.Tax.Consulting.Financial Advisory.

Deloitte refers to one or more of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, a Swiss Verein, its member firms and their respective subsidiaries and affiliates. As a Swiss Verein (association), neither Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu nor any of its member firms has any liability for each other's acts or omissions. Each of the member firms is a separate and independent legal entity operating under the names "Deloitte," "Deloitte & Touche," "Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu," or other related names. Services are provided by the member firms or their subsidiaries or affiliates and not by the Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Verein.

Deloitte & Touche USA LLP is the U.S. member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. In the U.S., services are provided by the subsidiaries of Deloitte & Touche USA LLP (Deloitte & Touche LLP, Deloitte Consulting LLP, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP, Deloitte Tax LLP and their subsidiaries), and not by Deloitte & Touche USA LLP.

Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Copyright © 2006 Deloitte Development LLC. All rights reserved

Executive Board Student Officers' Reports

From the Vice President
Francesca Picascia (Class of 2011)

This year, the Accounting Club has been very successful in retaining old members as well as recruiting new ones, with approximately a 30% increase in our membership. The success of the club can be attributed to the great leadership and teamwork among club officers and the guidance of our club advisor, Professor Parveen Gupta. It has been a great learning experience for me to work with all the officers and to attend many accounting presentations and events organized by the Accounting Club. From small to Big Four firms, the Accounting Club had an abundance of companies provide their perspective on a number of current topics such as IFRS, Sarbanes Oxley, Healthcare and public accounting. As the uncertainty of the economy grows, more business students are turning to accounting as their major of choice. As an accounting major, it was reassuring to see so many recruiters holding Lehigh's Accounting Program in high esteem. I am certainly proud to have been part of the Accounting Club this past year at Lehigh. I hope that next year will be even more successful and more business school students will attend accounting club programs. I am positive the club will continue to serve its members with the same passion and distinction.

The AY 2008-09 Accounting Club Executive Board with Faculty Advisor and Department Chairman Professor Parveen Gupta

From the Secretary
Daniel Solomon (Class of 2010)

This year has been a great first-time experience for me as secretary of the Accounting Club. Serving in this role has provided me with an opportunity to become familiar with many public accounting firms and various professionals who work for them. I have had a great time attending many of the events held by our club. For example, KPMG's presentation on "Careers in Public Accounting" gave me tremendous insight into the world of public accounting and what it would be like working for a large CPA firm. At various events, I was delighted to see the enthusiasm with which Accounting Club members participated in club's programs and events. I hope that everyone had a great year with the club and I look forward to seeing many of the returning members at future events during my last year here at Lehigh. I thank the entire Executive Board for their hard work and teamwork in making our club a great success this year.

If anyone has any questions about the club, please feel free to contact me; I am always available and eager to help out.

From the Treasurer
Scott Silberman (Class of 2011)

The Accounting Club experienced tremendous success and improvement in both its membership and in the prestigious guest speakers who were invited to campus. Having the opportunity to listen to professionals from premier firms such as the Big Four, Rothstein Kass, IBM, and Hess, the club members not only learned a great deal about the accounting field, but also had the opportunity to network with Lehigh alumni, recruiters, and employees. Highlights of the year included the fall and spring trips, during which members visited accounting and financial firms in New York City. As treasurer of the Accounting Club, I was in charge of the budget and financial accounts of the club. This responsibility gave me relevant experience that I can utilize elsewhere in accounting as well as in the business world. Being part of this executive board was an enjoyable privilege, and most important, gave me valuable insight into the accounting profession.

From the Webmaster
Kate Poulillo (Class of 2010)

It has been a pleasure to work with Professor Parveen Gupta and the dedicated officers of the Accounting Club executive board this year. As a junior accounting major, I am looking for ways to get more involved on campus, and becoming an executive officer of the Accounting Club is a perfect outlet in which to do so. I am able to use my technical skills to contribute to the continued growth and development of the organization by designing a Web site to store information about club events. My club involvement has given me opportunities to network with members of numerous prestigious firms, and I strongly recommend that younger accounting majors become involved in leadership roles in our club.

A continuous JOURNEY of COMMITMENT...

To our EMPLOYEES.

To our CLIENTS.

At Rothstein Kass, we recognize that our people are our greatest asset, and we are dedicated to maintaining a dynamic and evolutionary workplace experience. Through firm-wide cultural initiatives, a dedicated in-house university focused on training and development and ancillary programs that concentrate on achieving successful work/life balance, career development and personal enhancement, Rothstein Kass demonstrates our commitment to the holistic development of our professionals, being a firm of choice and providing our clients with the highest caliber of talent.

Whether you're launching your career or want to put it in motion, visit us at **www.rkcocareers.com**.

NJ, NY and Grand Cayman: hreast@rkco.com
CA, CO and TX: hrwest@rkco.com

AUDIT • TAX • ADVISORY

Beverly Hills
Dallas
Denver
Grand Cayman
New York
Orange County
Roseland
San Francisco
Walnut Creek

www.rkco.com

Rothstein Kass EST. 1959 50
Certified Public Accountants

Message from the President

continued from page 1

Lehigh alumni at each firm. On behalf of the Accounting Club members, I thank PricewaterhouseCoopers, Eisner, Deloitte & Touche and Ernst & Young for hosting us at their offices this year.

On a personal note, my year as president of the Accounting Club broadened my view of the accounting world. Before stepping into the role, I had limited exposure to firms, faculty, and many of my classmates. Throughout the year, I was impressed by the professionalism of everyone I was in communication with. Presiding over the Accounting Club has afforded me the opportunity to establish relationships that will extend beyond my term as president, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity to serve. **I would urge rising sophomores/juniors to actively consider taking on a leadership role by volunteering to run in the elections of the club held each year in April.**

With the conclusion of another successful year, the Accounting Club has once again confirmed its standing as a critical resource for business majors contemplating accounting as their careers. I want to encourage all business majors to actively participate in the numerous events the club offers on-and-off campus. The club is a valuable resource for networking, meeting recruiters, and for exploring your career options.

This year, the club's executive board achieved both of its goals: creating the Accounting Club Web site and drafting an initial version of club's constitution. I would like to thank the executive board members: Francesca Picascia, Dan Solomon, Scott Silberman, Steve Balter, Kate Poulillo and our advisor Professor Parveen Gupta for all of their help and dedication throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge Kathy Smith for her help in coordinating events and answering questions. Finally, I would like to thank all the firms that supported the club's efforts throughout the year. Without their continued participation, the club would not have achieved its goal of connecting Lehigh CBE students with the "real" world of accounting.

ERNST & YOUNG
Quality In Everything We Do

Accounting Major Holds Strong in Tough Economic Times

Stephen Frey (Class of 2011)

In a March 10, 2009 speech, President Obama described his vision for the future generations of Americans. The vision includes a strong foundation in education. "So let there be no doubt: the future belongs to the nation that best educates its citizens—and my fellow Americans, we have the best universities and the most renowned scholars. We have innovative principals, passionate teachers, gifted students and parents whose only priority is their child's education. We have a legacy of excellence, and an unwavering belief that our children should climb higher than we did," he said.

President Obama's words speak directly to Lehigh's students who desire to attain academic excellence. But in this uncertain economic environment, academic excellence may not guarantee a bright, promising future. Positioning oneself in a profession that is timeless may warrant serious consideration. Lehigh's accounting hiring has held strong even during the current financial crisis.

During a recent trip to New York City, sponsored by the Accounting Club, Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers told us that Lehigh is a priority recruiting school for both of these firms and Lehigh accounting majors are in high demand in their organizations. Job offers are still being made to graduating seniors. Neither of these firms has scaled back the number of students it has hired, which is not necessarily true for every university major.

The Big Four accounting firms recognize that accounting program at Lehigh trains students to work hard and succeed in times of difficulty. Success breeds success, and the accounting program continues to flourish based on a reputation of producing diligent, ethical, and bright students despite one of the largest economic downturns in our nation's history.

A Young Girl's Dream

MaryHelen Werley Price (Class of 2011)

Many students choose to pursue accounting solely because of its practicality and high wages; however, I chose accounting because I dreamt of this profession for quite some time. Yes, I know this sounds rather unbelievable, but while most little kids were dreaming about flying into space and putting out forest fires, I was dreaming about debits and credits.

As a young girl, my mother constantly reminded me of her great experiences at Lehigh, which eventually led her to a flourishing career in accounting. She often reminisced about meeting my father and her maid of honor at her first accounting firm, now PricewaterhouseCoopers. Her fond memories inspired me to dream of an accounting career of my own.

In my eyes, accounting is not only a college major or a guaranteed job path, but a way of life. It symbolizes the successful and jubilant lives my parents have led, filled with great friends and unforgettable experiences. Without accounting, my parents never would have met, and I would not have the friends I have learned to love as family.

As I continue my studies at Lehigh, the accounting career I always dreamed of is within reach. The seemingly impossible methods and difficult terms once thrown around at my family dinners now make a lot more sense to me. Nostalgic feelings set in as I register for a class taught by the very same cost-accounting teacher my mother had over 30 years ago. After watching numerous presentations and visiting New York City accounting firms, I have learned an abundance of information about life as an accountant. These classes and seminars have further built my passion for accounting by giving me a great understanding of the many career options available in the industry. Lehigh's comprehensive accounting program will continue to provide me with invaluable opportunities and will inevitably lead me to the life as an accountant I've dreamed of for so many years.

PwC xAct Competition

Bergen Minniman (Class of 2010)

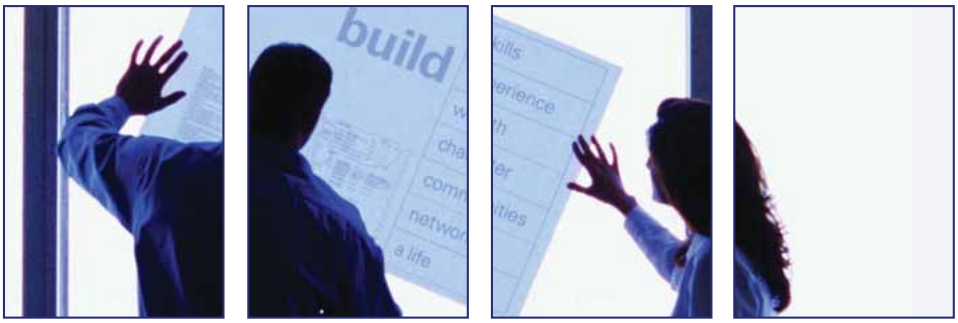
In October 2008, PricewaterhouseCoopers visited the Lehigh campus for its annual xACT (Extreme Accounting) Case Competition. xACT is part of PwC's xTREME Games program, which also includes xTAX, an Extreme Tax Case Competition. The program has grown substantially over the past few years since beginning in 2002. Now, over 85 schools compete across the country with over 10,000 participating students and $1 million in prizes awarded.

Five-member teams comprised first-to fifth-year students with at least one member being an accounting major. Teams receive two weeks to apply their classroom knowledge, not only from accounting classes but from all business courses, to the case and to present an analysis and solution to the issue. Each team received a mentor, a PwC professional, who was available for critiques or questions. At the end of the two weeks, each team presented its solution to a panel of PwC judges who chose the winning team that would continue to the national competition.

For winning the competition, PwC offered $1,000 for first place and an iHome portable music player for the second-place team. The case involved a fictitious struggling energy company that had to decide between investing $25 million in energy-efficient research and development or merging and acquiring another energy company that already had an alternative fuel source.

Students were given the opportunity to think critically and to network with PwC professionals. The challenge of the competition was to address the issue in a creative, intelligent, and professional manner.

Build your career your way.



skills

experience

wealth

character

communities

networks

a life

You're in a great place. You can design the future you want and make it happen. KPMG can provide the tools, resources and opportunities to help you do just that.

At KPMG, you could get the chance to start contributing right away. We work with some of the world's largest and most complex clients across our Audit, Tax, and Advisory businesses. The opportunity to see and experience multiple industries and practices is one of the greatest advantages to working in a Big Four environment.

Opportunity to grow? Yes. A chance to be heard and make a difference? Absolutely. A respect for work/life balance? Definitely. Whatever you're looking for in a career, you can find it at KPMG—the Big Four accounting firm that can help you build your career, your future and your life.

kpmgcareers.com

A great place to build your career.

AUDIT ▪ TAX ▪ ADVISORY

KPMG

AY 2008-2009 Accounting Club Events

September 2, 2008
Ernst and Young- Welcome BBQ
September 8, 2008
PriceWaterhouseCoopers- "Interview Skills"
September 15, 2008
Accounting Dept.-"Accounting Career Fair"
September 17, 2008
KPMG- "Careers in Public Accounting"
September 23, 2008
Parente Randolph- "More Than Just Eating with the Right Fork"
September 25, 2008
Deloitte and Touche- "IFRS"
October 6, 2008
Junior Accounting Club Trip to N YC
October 7, 2008
Rothstein Kass- "Public Accounting and Internship Opportunities"
October 16, 2008
Ernst and Young- "Sarbanes Oxley and Accounting"
October 23, 2008-PricewaterhouseCoopers
"Audit and Tax Opportunities"
October 30, 2008
Beard Miller- "From Dorm Room to Board Room"
November 18, 2008
IBM- "Soft Skills: Building Foundational Competencies"
January 15, 2009
Rothstein Kass- "Sarbanes-Oxley from a Public Accounting Firm's Standpoint"
January 21, 2009
Larson Allen- "The Healthcare Field in Public Accounting"
February 3, 2009
Hess- "How a Public Company Must Comply with Sarbanes-Oxley"
February 4, 2009
KPMG- "Summer Leadership" Information Session
February 9, 2009
PriceWaterhouseCoopers - "Leadership Adventure, 150- Credit Hour New York Requirement and Interview Skills"
March 10, 2009
Prudential- Career Opportunities Information Session
March 19, 2009
Sophomore Trip To New York City

Junior Trip To NYC

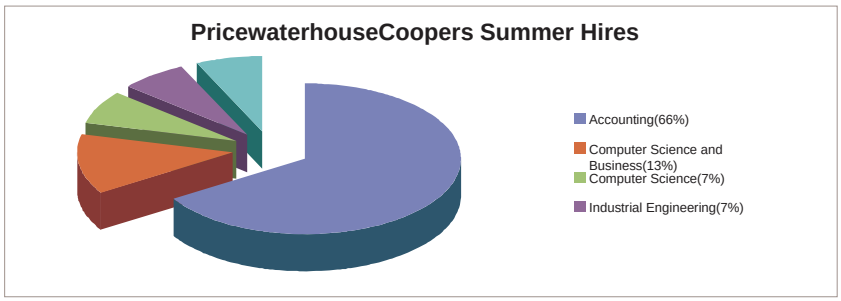
Kevin Ostroski (Class of 2011)

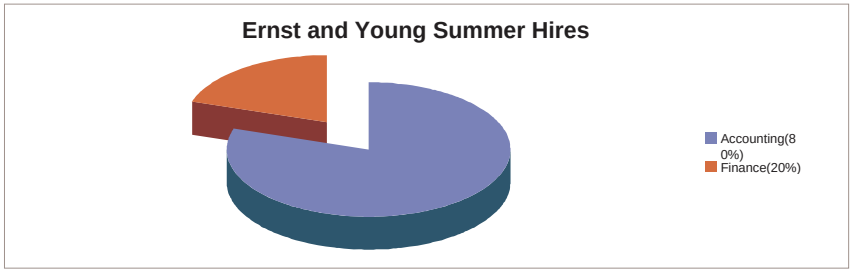
This past fall, the Lehigh Accounting Club ventured out of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and into the streets of Midtown Manhattan to meet with two accounting firms and attend a networking reception at a third. The first accounting firm we visited was PricewaterhouseCoopers. As we arrived, we were met by campus recruiters, partners of the firm, and various other professionals. They related an overview of the firm and then asked us to play a game based on the responsibilities given to the various levels of professionals at the company. This game led us to understand the role each rank level plays as a team member on an audit. A delicious lunch soon followed, where we met with other professionals working at the firm. After lunch, the students travelled to Eisner to experience what working for a midsize firm entails. We listened to a number of professionals tell us about their personal experiences working for a Big Four firm and then switching to a midsize firm.

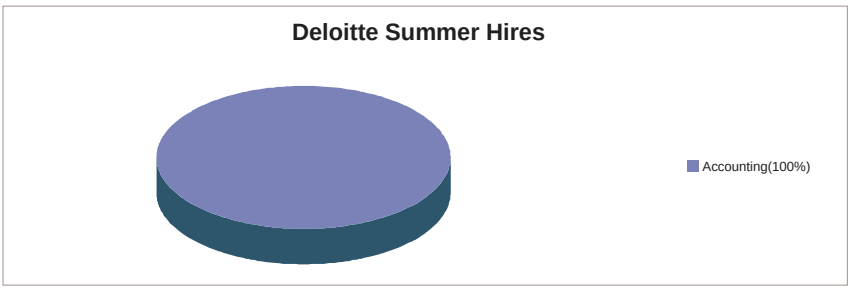
We concluded the day with a reception at Deloitte & Touche. The reception included professionals, mostly Lehigh alumni, who work at various firms in or around the New York City and Philadelphia areas. This trip provided students with an opportunity to network with a number of individuals, as well as to meet them in an informal setting conducive to asking questions related to their respective fields.

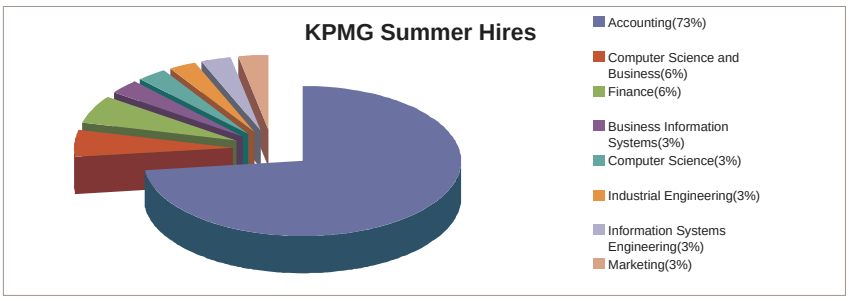
Led by Professor Gupta, Lehigh students visit the offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City

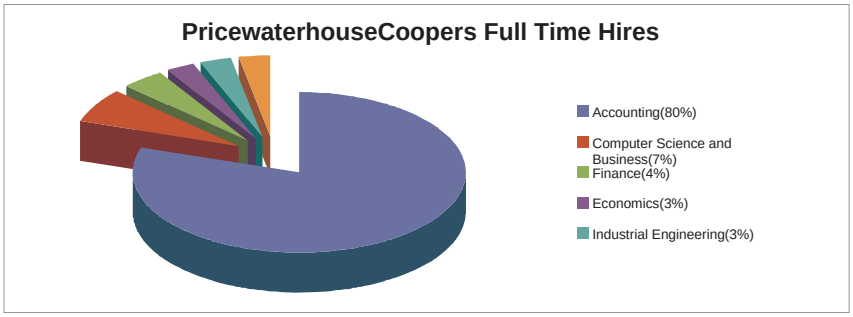
2008 Hiring Information:

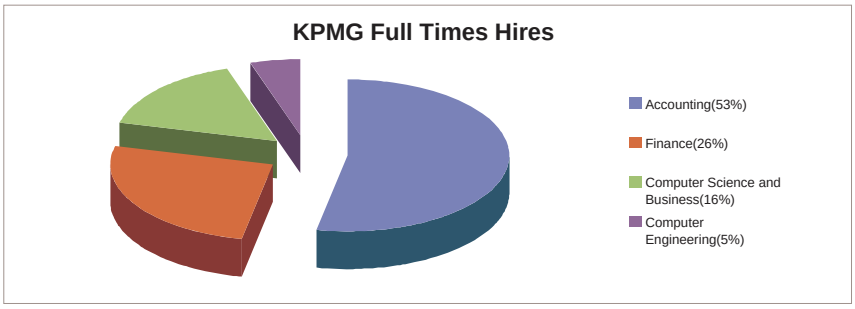


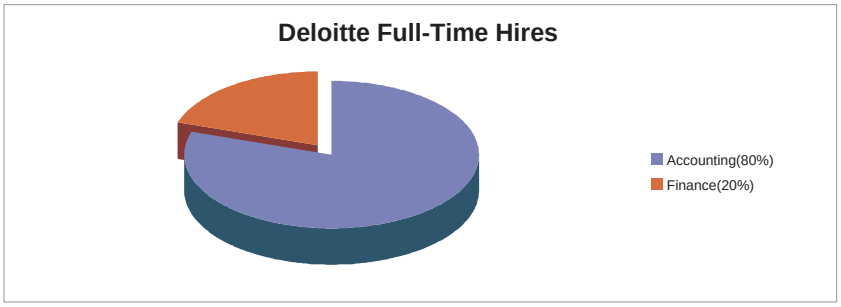












Class Apart

Eisner
Business is Personal™
Accountants and Advisors

Distinguished performances deserve distinguished careers. That's why Eisner, a premier CPA firm headquartered in NYC, recruits forward-thinking graduates with new ideas and great aspirations who are looking to separate themselves from the pack.

We ease the transition from college to work life with our buddy program. Through our leadership development classes, we provide the stepping stones for advancement. We also offer many networking events, social gatherings, and service programs that help you build and enjoy a well-rounded and fulfilling way of life.

Embrace a diverse and creative community of accountants and advisors. Come talk to us!

Fullfilment. It's our thing.

To explore a career at Eisner, go to **www.eisnerllp.com**

For more information, contact:
Lea Bender
Human Resources Manager
212.891.6940
lbender@eisnerllp.com

KPMG National Fast Forward Leadership Program

Adam Taplinger

The crunch to find the next accountant has begun to reach students as early as sophomore year, as firms are competing for the best and the brightest from the top Universities across the country. As Lehigh's accounting program ranks among the top, recruiters from the Big 4 hurry to line up, starting their process earlier each year.

This strategic move places more of an emphasis on leadership abilities as well as academic prowess in only four semesters of work. However, with adversity comes opportunity; students have the ability to get involved early on through programs like KPMG's National Fast Forward Leadership Program in Hollywood, California in which I participated the summer after my sophomore year at Lehigh.

This conference empowered me to learn more about myself, others, and surrounding environments. The new prospective that I have gained will hopefully prove to be invaluable in everyday life, both at Lehigh and once in the field. Conferences like these help to expose students to the broad spectrum of accounting and where the opportunities exist for internships and full time placement. There is also a level of self developmental leadership training which links the personal behavior and style of work to the existing atmosphere of various firms, helping to prepare and ease the gap for new interns or hires. Not only was the program educational but also the thrill of Hollywood hit me full throttle with networking events at locations like Universal Studios. All in all I came out with a greater appreciation for the accounting field and was able to make new friendships while learning more about myself.

Feed your future

See how many ways there are
to create your own path at PwC.

Begin at www.pwc.tv

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

© 2008 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. All rights reserved. "PricewaterhouseCoopers" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP or, as the context requires, the PricewaterhouseCoopers global network or other member firms of the network, each of which is a separate and independent legal entity. We are proud to be an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer.