

# Rutgers Business School

MBA IN PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING

## Class of 2017 Graduation Ceremony



15 WASHINGTON STREET  
NEWARK  
AUGUST 18, 2017  
10 AM - 1 PM



An MBA in 14 months, eligibility to sit for the CPA exam, and preparation to take advantage of leading opportunities in the world of business - these are the hallmarks of the MBA in Professional Accounting program. Specifically developed for

undergraduates holding degrees in the arts and sciences or business degrees other than accounting, the program integrates management skills with accounting theory and practice, with a strong emphasis on teamwork, case studies, and final team projects. One measure of success is the large number of graduates that we place in career positions each year.

Rutgers Business School (RBS) thrives within Rutgers University, the nation's eighth oldest institute of higher education. The recent addition of seven health sciences schools and a number of research centers, institutes, and clinics reinforce the university's mission of teaching, research, and service, and has helped propel the state university into the top echelon of national research universities.

The MBA in Professional Accounting program focuses on developing ethical business leaders with strong insight into the financial and non-financial performance of organizations, sound decision-making and communications skills, and the ability to leverage technology and information resources to better serve the needs of employers and clients.

More than 130 partners and principals in the Big Four firms are Rutgers alumni - representing one of the single greatest concentrations from major business schools. Graduates of Rutgers accounting programs are highly sought by all major accounting firms and corporations.

# Commencement Ceremony

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## **Graduation Processional**

### **Welcoming Remarks**

Professor Alexander Sannella,  
Program Director

### **Class Speaker**

Jankee Dani,  
Class President

### **Keynote Speakers**

Matthew Schwartz,  
Partner, Bederson LLP

Frieda T. Aboyou,  
President, Clarewood Consulting, LLC

### **Presentation of Diplomas**

Dean Phyllis Siegel,  
Sr. Associate Dean of Graduate Programs

### **Presentation of William Lins Award**

Vicki Lins

### **Closing Remarks**

Professor Alexander Sannella,  
Program Director

## **Graduation Recessional**

## **Reception**



# Program Director

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## **Alexander J. Sannella, CPA, PhD Director, MBA in Professional Accounting**

A widely respected educator in the areas of finance, market-based accounting, and information systems, Professor Sannella brings valuable accounting and Wall Street experience, and an informed perspective to the classroom. Students have voted him teacher of the year numerous years running, and benefit from his strong connections with leaders in the financial and accounting industries.

Professor Sannella has public accounting experience as an auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and KPMG, LLP. Dr. Sannella was also an independent consultant working on many projects with other public accounting firms, bankruptcy trustees and leasing divisions of major insurance companies. He also served as a consultant to the Line of Business Program at Federal Trade Commission in Washington.

Professor Sannella has over 40 years teaching experience at the university level and over 24 years experience in developing and teaching commercial and investment bank training programs. His clients included eight major investment banks and four of the world's largest commercial banks. His training programs include courses designed for financial analysts, associates and special programs for sales and trading professionals.

Through Professor Sannella's enthusiastic support and guidance, the MBA in Professional Accounting program has grown to become a highly regarded source for talented and skilled graduates.

# Keynote Speaker

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## **Matthew Schwartz, CPA/CFF, CFE, CIRA Partner, Bederson LLP**

Matt Schwartz is co-managing partner of the Insolvency and Litigation Division of Bederson LLP (CPAs and Advisors), where he has been a partner for twenty years. During that time, he has also served on the firm's IT, Marketing and Executive Committees.

Matt is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants where he chaired the Bankruptcy Task Force; the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, where he served as President in 2014. He is also an active member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), The Turnaround Management Association and the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) where he served on the "Cracking the Code" editorial board and published several white papers including "IRS Access to Pension Funds" and "Where'd the Money Go? Restructuring Cash Flow."

He has developed and taught courses on financial accounting, tax, EDP investigations and insolvency for professional groups and colleges including Warren County College and Kean University. During his tenure at Bederson, Matt has appeared and testified in Bankruptcy, District, and State Courts in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. He provides insolvency and reorganization, forensic accounting, turnaround and workout and other litigation services throughout the tri-state area. He has investigated and uncovered numerous defalcations, leading to recoveries and arrests. In that capacity, Matt received recognition from the FBI for his work on one of the largest bankruptcy fraud cases in New Jersey's history.

Matt was recognized in 2013 by the West Orange Chamber of Commerce for outstanding service to the community and Chamber, where he held numerous positions including President. He also received the AIRA's Emanuel M. Katten Award for service to the organization and profession. He is a Board Member and Chairman of the Audit Committee for Alzheimer's New Jersey and is Past President of the West Orange Lions' Club. Matt served as Treasurer and Capital Campaign Steering Committee Member of Latino Justice PRLDEF, an organization which champions the legal and educational rights of Latino-Americans.

Matt earned a B.A. with distinction in Economics from University of Virginia and an MBA in Professional Accounting from Rutgers University.

# Keynote Speaker

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## **Frieda T. Aboyoun, CPA, CGMA President, Clarewood Consulting, LLC**

Frieda is founder and president of Clarewood Consulting, LLC, an innovative business advisory firm known for integrity and fast-track delivery of strategic, practical solutions.

Drawing on over 30 years of experience, including several leadership roles at Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers, Frieda specializes in helping global and domestic companies: identify, manage and mitigate risk; ensure regulatory compliance; reengineer business processes; integrate fragmented business systems for top performance; and lead and manage organizational change. Frieda has been engaged by a Fortune 500 company to support transitioning a new legal entity from design to an operating commercial business.

In senior level roles at Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers she was cited for the many successful initiatives she led, most notably for leadership and training development, competencies for new business strategies, and the PricewaterhouseCoopers business ethics training program which won the American Business Ethics Award. Frieda was an integral part of the firm's strategic shift to "go-to-market" by industry, thus enhancing client relationship management.

Frieda introduced an innovative performance support system servicing PricewaterhouseCoopers clients that integrated technical financial services knowledge, data, tools and content with ROI attained within one year, continued annual cost savings of \$2.5 million, and increased capacity to serve additional clients by 16.8%. She presented "From ROI to Results at PricewaterhouseCoopers" at an International Learning Conference.

Frieda's initiative helped enhance Deloitte's reputation as "Employer of Choice." She initiated and secured recognition for the firm's first and second nomination for Training Magazine's Top 100 Award. The firm placed ninth and eighth respectively. She was invited to become a member of the Training Magazine Advisory Board.

Frieda is a member of professional and volunteer organizations including: the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, where she served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Accounting Education (2014-2016) and Chair of the Strategic Planning Task Force; the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, where she served several leadership roles including Vice President of the Board of Trustees (2000) and Chair of the 150 Hour Educational Requirements; and Rutgers Business School Alumni Association, where she served as President (1986-1988). Frieda is a member of the Girl Scouts of America and served as a board member of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut.

Frieda earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University and an MBA in Professional Accounting from Rutgers University.

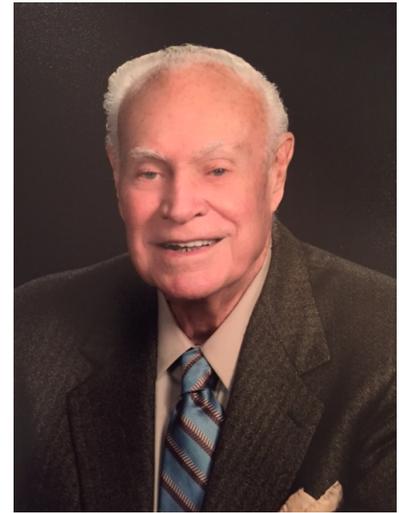
# William Lins Award

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## **William Charles Lins (1930-2016)**

William C. Lins, Ph.D., was an accomplished academic, accountant, and author. He was a CPA and served on several corporate boards, but his true passion was teaching.



Bill spent 37 years in graduate education, first at Columbia University Graduate Business School and then at Rutgers Graduate School of Management, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1993. During his 29 years at Rutgers, Bill served on numerous university committees, including serving as University Senator, Chairman of the Accounting and Information Systems Area, and Director of the Professional Accounting program.

His particular areas of interest included accounting theory, auditing, cost accounting, controllership and information systems. Cutting-edge research and publications included books and articles on accounting theory, cost accounting, auditing, and white collar crimes in not-for-profit organizations. In addition to teaching and writing, he maintained a CPA practice where he combined his professional and personal passions by focusing on auditing services for not-for-profit organizations.

In 2016, Bill was recognized by the State of New Jersey with a commendation for his philanthropy and community service. His volunteer work was extensive, particularly serving on the Board of Trustees of the River Edge Public Library for over 40 years and holding various committee positions with the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Association of Retired Persons as well as holding numerous leadership roles in his church. He also served on the Board of Directors of Geneva Point Center, a not-for-profit Christian conference center.

Bill earned a B.B.A. from Pace College, an M.B.A. from Rutgers University (where his academic achievement was honored by his induction into Beta Gamma Sigma), and a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Bill and his wife, Gladys, were married for 45 years. They had one daughter and a grandson. Bill passed away in December, 2016, remembered for his intelligence, integrity, and social impact.

# Congratulations Class of 2017

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Laurenz Abella  
Kwesi Asante  
Michael Borkowski  
John Choi  
Sarah Cowan  
Matthew Daly  
Jankee Dani  
Dwayne Defreitas  
Stephanie Giordano  
Narangerel Gorky  
Amanda Hutt  
Andrew Johnston  
Yong Young Jung  
Aboli Khapekar  
Taylor Kolbeck  
Andrew Lee  
Gloria Lee  
Xiaoran Li  
Scott Lissner  
Che Wei Liu  
Ju Liu  
Yingyi Liu  
James Maleski  
Hui Miao  
Sofia Ortin  
Yueing Shen  
Yanqi Shi  
Jorge Sigcha  
Fred Sisto  
Daniel Sweet  
Yu-Hsuan Tai  
Avinoam Teplow-Phipps  
Pietro Tollis  
Stephen Willey  
Xibei Zhang  
ChuxinZheng



# MBA PA Administration

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**Kathleen Harmon**

Assistant Dean of Special MBA Programs

**Alexander Sannella**

Program Director

**Michele Taylor**

Administrative Assistant

**Elizabeth Fieseler**

Administrator of MBA and MAACY Professional Accounting Programs

**Devon Powell**

Secretary Assistant

# MBA PA Executive Student Board

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**President** Jankee Dani

**Vice President** Jorge Sigcha

**Secretary** Antonia Li

**Alumni Chairs**

Scott Lissner

Sofia Ortin

Fred Sisto

**Social Chairs**

Stephanie Giordano

James Maleski

Pete Tollis

A special thank you to the administrators, faculty, friends and family members who supported us

**- Rutgers University MBA-PA Class of 2017**



Contact Us

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**RUTGERS**

Rutgers Business School  
Newark and New Brunswick