Speaker Biosk by Date of Presentation

September 5 – Ralph Thomas (New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants) – RB 184

Ralph A. Thomas is CEO and Executive Director of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA). Prior to joining NJCPA in 1999, he held various accounting-related management positions at Citibank, AT&T, Potomac Electric Power Company and PriceWaterhouse (now PwC).

Mr. Thomas has extensive leadership experience on accounting industry boards and committees. He was appointed to the inaugural American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) National Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, and subsequently the AICPA Foundation Board. Mr. Thomas is a lifetime member and former national and chapter president of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), a member of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy’s (NASBA) State Society Relations Committee and the NASBA Diversity Committee and is a member of the accounting advisory boards of Lehigh, Rutgers, Seton Hall, Montclair State, Felician and Thomas Edison universities and Middlesex County College. He is a trustee emeritus on the Lehigh Board of Trustees and was recently awarded Lehigh’s Costel Denson Alumni ’56 Award.

Mr. Thomas was selected for the last eight years by Accounting Today as one of the “Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting.” He is the treasurer of Opportunity NJ, a non-partisan 501(c)4 grassroots coalition comprised of New Jersey organizations that strives to be an independent voice to provide data based education about New Jersey policy actions.

Mr. Thomas earned a B.S. in business and economics as well as an M.B.A. from Lehigh University.

September 12 – Roger O’Donnell (KPMG) – RB 184

Roger O’Donnell, a senior U.S. audit partner with KPMG, leads that firm’s Global Audit Data & Analytics (D&A) initiative. He currently serves as the lead engagement partner for several multinational companies, and he previously served as the industry leader for the New York Consumer and Industrial Markets practice for KPMG in the US. In addition he formerly served as the Lead Northeast Audit and Training Methodology Partner in the US and on the US firm’s Audit Quality Council. Mr. O’Donnell earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Villanova University.

September 19 – Big 4 Public Accounting Panel (Deloitte, EY, KPMG & PwC) – RB 184

This panel will discuss the breadth of services and work experiences available in large public accounting firms. Panelist will include:

Shirley Choy (‘99), Managing Director, KPMG, NY Financial Services Audit Practice

Rona Hummel (‘97), Tax Senior Manager, Deloitte

Lindsay Schmedes (‘04 G’05), Tax Partner, PwC

Brendan Maher (‘04), Senior Manager, Financial Services Advisory, EY
October 3 – Matthew B. Greenblatt (FTI Consulting) – Sinclair Auditorium

Matt Greenblatt is a Senior Managing Director at FTI Consulting. Mr. Greenblatt has extensive experience in auditing and accounting matters; litigation consulting; forensic accounting and internal investigations; post-acquisition and shareholder disputes; anti-money laundering; and advising troubled companies.

Mr. Greenblatt has conducted multiple forensic investigations in connection with cases involving diversions of funds and fraudulent accounting activity by management and has been involved in several internal forensic investigations conducted on behalf of Audit Committees and/or Boards of Directors for both public and private companies. Mr. Greenblatt is currently managing a team of FTI Consulting professionals and forensic accountants in connection with the firm’s retention by the court-appointed trustee under SIPA in the liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities.

Mr. Greenblatt is also an adjunct professor at NYU where he teaches “Prevention and Detection of Fraudulent Financial Reporting.” Prior to its acquisition by FTI Consulting, Mr. Greenblatt joined Kahn Consulting in June of 1998. Before that, Mr. Greenblatt was a Senior Auditor with Price Waterhouse’s Audit and Business Advisory Services Group.

Mr. Greenblatt holds a B.S. in accounting from Lehigh University. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Fraud Examiner, and is Certified in Financial Forensics.

October 10 – James G. Kaiser (Public Company Accounting Oversight Board) – RB 184

James G. Kaiser, CPA, was appointed a Board Member of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) by the Securities and Exchange Commission in December 2017, and sworn in on March 1, 2018. He joined the PCAOB after a 38-year career with PwC, including 28 years as an audit partner. From 2015 until retiring in in early 2018, he was a member of PwC’s Global Assurance Executive Leadership Team that developed the firm’s global strategy for the audit and assurance business, including its global digital audit strategy, and led the transformation of PwC’s audit software platform.

Since 2014, he also served as the Global Assurance Methodology & Transformation Leader, where he led the firm’s efforts to drive innovation in auditing and was responsible for its adherence to international auditing standards. From 2011 to 2015, he served on PwC’s Board of Partners and Principals and the Clients, Governance, Risk, and Accounting Regulation committees.

Mr. Kaiser received a MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a B.S. from St. Joseph's University.

October 17 – Elizabeth Folsom (Population Services International) – RB 184

Elizabeth (Liz) Folsom is the Chief Audit Executive and Director of Global Internal Audit and Investigations for PSI (Population Services International), an international non-profit health and social marketing organization. She is directly responsible for 14 internal auditors and investigators, and indirectly for 35 local country office internal auditors, and oversees all audits and investigations in 60+ countries and over 250 donor-funded projects around the world. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland where she teaches graduate-level classes in Internal Auditing and Fraud Investigations and Enterprise Risk Management.

Prior to PSI, from 2011-2014, Liz worked as an Audit, Risk and Compliance Consultant for a variety of government, non-profit, and publicly-traded organizations, most recently at Graham Holdings (formerly known as The Washington Post Company).

Prior to her consulting career, Liz was the Senior Vice President and Director of Internal Audit for AED, where she established and built the organization’s first internal auditing and fraud investigation
function. Before joining AED, Liz was Auditor General for the Inter-American Development Bank, auditing grant and contract financing of public and private development projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. She also spent eleven years with CARE, the international relief and development organization, the last five as Director of Internal Audit. Liz started her career with Coopers & Lybrand in Stamford, CT.

Liz holds a MBA from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting & Management from Lehigh University. She hold a New York State CPA license, as well as the following certifications: Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified in Financial Forensics, Certified in Control Self-Assessment, Certification in Risk Management Assessment, and is a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

October 24 – Marc A. Panucci (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) – RB 184

Marc Panucci is a Deputy Chief Accountant in the SEC’s Office of the Chief Accountant (OCA). Mr. Panucci leads the OCA’s professional practice group, which includes understanding investor and audit committee perspectives and consulting with registrants and auditors on the application of internal control over financial reporting obligations, independence requirements and auditing standards. Mr. Panucci also assists the SEC in its oversight responsibility for the activities of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB).

Mr. Panucci has more than 23 years of public accounting, standard-setting, and regulatory experience. He was a partner in PwC’s national professional services group (2010 to 2016) and a Senior Associate Chief Accountant at the SEC (2007 to 2010). Mr. Panucci has also served on the AICPA’s Auditing Standards Board. He holds a bachelor degree in accounting from Robert Morris College.

October 31 – Michele Scaringella (CBS Television Stations) – Sinclair Auditorium

Michele Scaringella is the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of CBS Television Stations, based in New York City. As CFO, Michele has financial oversight for the twenty-nine local television stations owned and operated by CBS Corporation. Michele previously served as Senior Vice President, Internal Audit, for CBS Corporation (2006 to 2010), Vice President in charge of Financial Reporting and Analysis for Viacom (2000 to 2005), and Director of Financial Reporting for Viacom (1994 to 2000). Her work at Viacom included responsibility for quarterly earnings releases, SEC reporting, and the planning, supervision and review of Viacom’s annual budget and quarterly forecasts. Before Viacom, Michele was employed at Coopers & Lybrand where she supervised audit engagements. Michele is a CPA and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Lehigh University where she serves on the Lehigh Accounting Program Advisory Board.

November 7 – Richard Petrino (American Express) & Lisa Sawicki (PwC) – Sinclair Auditorium

Richard (Rick) Petrino is Executive Vice President, Corporate Controller and Principal Accounting Officer of American Express Company (NYSE: AXP). Rick’s prior roles at American Express include Senior Vice President, Global Head of Operational Risk and Oversight (May 2016 – March 2018), Senior Vice President, Head of Global Capital Markets and Basel Program (2014 to 2016) and Senior Vice President, Corporate Planning & Investor Relations (2007 to 2014). Prior to joining the American Express Company in 1996, Mr. Petrino worked for CS First Boston and KPMG as a Certified Public Accountant. Rick earned a M.B.A. from NYU and a B.S. in Accounting from Lehigh University.

Lisa P. Sawicki is PwC’s Global Engagement Partner for the American Express Company and the New York Metro Financial Services Assurance Leader. Lisa is also an elected member of PwC’s U.S. Board of Partners and Principals, which is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of PwC. Her prior roles with PwC include serving as the Assurance Diversity Leader for the U.S. firm. In the community, Lisa is a member of the Board of Directors of Junior Achievement of New York and serves as their Audit Committee chair. She is a graduate of NYU’s Stern School of Business.
November 14 – Young Accounting Alumni Panel – RB 184
This panel will include Lehigh accounting alumni who graduated within the past three to five years and are now employed in various capacities within the accounting profession. Panelists will discuss their transition from student to professional life. Panelist will include:

Kathryn Bahner (‘17), Audit Associate, KPMG
Annie Bienstock (‘13), Associate Manager, Long-Term Care Finance, Prudential Financial
Domenic DeNiro (‘16), Audit Senior, Deloitte
Scott Grossnickle (’14, G’15), Senior Tax Associate, PwC
Samantha Krutal (‘15), Assurance Associate, EY
Meredith Tate (G’17), Senior Accountant, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

November 28 – Charlie Bustin (Douglas C. Lain & Associates) – RB 184
Charlie Bustin is a Partner and Equity Analyst with Douglas C. Lain & Associates (DCLA), a registered investment advisory firm based in New York City that manages approximately $5.2 billion of capital for its clients. Charlie joined DCLA in 2010 after working in EY’s assurance and advisory practice (2005 to 2010).

Charlie holds two degrees from Lehigh University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting (2004) and a Master of Science degree in Accounting (2005). While at Lehigh, he was a Presidential Scholar and member of the nationally ranked varsity soccer team. Charlie serves on the board of directors at Soccer Without Borders, a non-profit organization that uses soccer as a vehicle to help under-served youths overcome obstacles to growth, inclusion and personal success. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Lehigh University Alumni Association. Charlie holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, is a Certified Public Accountant, and is a member of the New York Society of Security Analysts.

December 5 – Dr. Christine Ann Botosan (Financial Accounting Standards Board) – RB 184
Dr. Christine Botosan joined the seven member Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) on July 1, 2016. Her first term concludes on June 30, 2021, and she is eligible for reappointment to a second five-year term. Prior to joining the FASB, Dr. Botosan served as the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Presidential Endowed Chair in Ethical Financial Reporting and Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs at the David Eccles School of Business, University of Utah. An award-winning professor and researcher, Ms. Botosan has a broad knowledge of accounting issues, with particular expertise in the areas of financial statement analysis and valuation. She has published over 20 articles in peer reviewed journals, including The Accounting Review, Journal of Accounting Research, Contemporary Accounting Research, Review of Accounting Studies, and Accounting Horizons. Christine is the recipient of several prestigious awards for research excellence, including the American Accounting Association’s Competitive Manuscript Award, Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award, and the Accounting Horizons Best Paper Award. Dr. Botosan served as President of the American Accounting Association from 2014 to 2015. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and a B.S. (Accounting) from Wilfrid Laurier University.