



# FROM THE DEAN

## A VESTED INTEREST IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONS

It is safe to say that there is no one who has been untouched by the difficult economic conditions of the past year. Because the College of Professional Studies is committed to developing educational programs that align with today's leading industries, we are among those with a vested interest in what lies ahead for the financial services industry.

In this issue of Encore, our alumni offer some perspective as we turn a spotlight on the challenges of the current economy and what they mean for our students who are aspiring to the financial services professions, and those who are currently working in the industry.

We will hear from Beverly Cleathero (UC '72, NU '82), retired John Hancock portfolio manager, who believes the market and economic troubles that came to the fore in 2008, though significant, are cyclical and that financial services stability should return, as it did in both the 1987 and 2001-02 downturns.

Insurance executive Peter Dignan (UC '85) talks about how increasingly complicated investment structures built a global market that exceeded many investors' abilities to understand and keep up. Investment products have "gotten so complex, that people don't understand the domino impact of some of the things that are going on."



Despite the current environment, Martin DuWors (UC '04), Assistant Vice President and Associate Counsel, State Street Corporation, believes, “People who commit themselves can do really well and advance, and there are always opportunities for talented IT people” in financial services.

At the College of Professional Studies, we are fortunate to be able to draw on the wisdom of our faculty, which includes distinguished researchers and industry leaders who have experienced the real-world ups and downs of the economy over time. Adjunct faculty member Robert Goldberg shares his insights on the economy. As he explains, “The interesting thing is that as you get older, everything is in cycles. Markets go down and markets go up. It’s as obvious as anything in times like this. The opportunities may not seem as large, but what’s going to happen is that there will be more changes in the financial services industry—more oversight. The industry will get robust again.”

In reading about the experiences of our alumni and faculty in the financial services industry, you will discover valuable examples of achievement and fulfillment earned throughout a range of economic conditions.

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