

THE MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE AND CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP at Montgomery College



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Career Moves

Macklin-Georgetown Grad Joining KPMG Staff

by **Maria Kostaris**
Macklin Scholar '02

I start my career in public accounting this September and, although I recently graduated from Georgetown University, I owe much of the credit for the successful launching of my career to the Macklin Business Institute at Montgomery College. Given the quality of education that I received, combined with the confidence instilled in me by a tightly knit and dedicated faculty, I never had a doubt that I could become a CPA.

Where I come from in Greece, not many students finish high school and very few go to college. I was born in the United States, moved to Greece at the age of nine, and attended Greek school for almost seven years. I decided to return to the States to finish high school and go to college. When I came back, I came without my parents. I lived with siblings and relatives over the years, so that I could accomplish my college goals and get a respectable job.

After much research, I chose Montgomery College as the best fit for me. It was close to my new home, and I felt I would get the most personal attention from the professors. As it turns out, I was right. Becoming a Macklin Scholar in my sophomore year—which was my best year in college—marked the real beginning of my business career.

As a Macklin student, I networked with successful and important business figures from the metropolitan area; I worked two internships, one with



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Development Alternatives Incorporated and another, which I was able to land on my own through the "Take a Student to Lunch Day" event, at Davis and Associates, where I worked with CPAs for the first time. I participated on the MC-Macklin Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team, where I learned how to work well with the other Macklin students.

The Macklin Business Institute gave me many opportunities and experiences to mature and become a responsible young adult. I developed a sense of self-confidence to the degree that I felt I could achieve almost anything. I also discovered a profound interest in business. After completing my associate's degree, I

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transferred to Georgetown University to pursue a B.S. in accounting.

After my experience in the Macklin program, I was completely prepared to compete—and excel—amongst some of the brightest students in the country. I graduated with cum laude honors from Georgetown this past May.

Now about my future plans: at the end of my summer 2003 internship with KPMG in D.C. (one of the Big Four public accounting firms), they offered me a full-time job, which I happily accepted. I start my career in public accounting this September. I have taken one part of the CPA exam this summer, and will take the next at the end of August. And while I am beginning my new career, I am also planning my fall wedding. And yes, of course, the "Big Fat Greek Wedding" jokes have already started!

MBI Staff Update

New Academic Director Anderson Guides Business Scholars toward Goals

Long-time Montgomery College Economics Professor Tom Anderson has assumed the post of academic director for the Macklin Business Institute. A new position, the academic director promotes the honors program to the students, selects the students for the program, advises the scholars throughout the year regarding appropriate coursework, academic progress, business school transfer opportunities, and financial aid/scholarship opportunities. In addition, Anderson will be responsible for a weekly three-hour seminar for the scholars on business-related topics. This year's topics will include managing and working in teams, conflict resolution, and marketing skills.



"I see the goal of the Macklin Scholars Program as twofold," said Anderson, "First, to provide the scholars with the best possible academic preparation for their junior and senior years in the nation's top business schools; and second, to nurture development of their 'social consciousness'—a desire to give back to their communities—a trait that Mr. Gordon Macklin so admirably exhibits."

Anderson, an 18-year Montgomery College professor, adviser, tutor, and committee member, has been active in the College's Honors Program for the last 10 years, serving on the campus Honors Committee and Montgomery Scholars Steering Committee, teaching honors macroeconomics and microeconomics classes, and serving as a mentor in the Montgomery Scholars Capstone Program.

Married with children and grandchildren, Anderson has been a lifelong resident of Maryland. He holds an M.A. in economics from the University of Maryland College Park and a B.S. from Towson University, and worked as an economist and water resources planner for the Army Corps of Engineers in Baltimore, Fort Belvoir, and Washington, D.C.

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