

FEFF

Student Success Stories

in Fraud Examination & Financial Forensics

Student Success Stories

Scholarship winners

In 2016 two John Jay students were granted Richie Jennings Memorial scholarships by the ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners) Foundation. The Foundation supports the education of students who have an interest in pursuing a career in fraud examination. The scholarship provides an opportunity for students to advance their education and anti-fraud career paths. Many of these outstanding and deserving students go on to become Certified Fraud Examiners. Students studying the FEEF major are eligible to apply. The winning students were:



Alvad Ramcharran



Harini Maragh

Student Success Stories



Byron Garcia

Class of 2014

Currently: Special Agent Diplomatic Security Service, Dept. of State

My dream was to be a Special Agent in a federal law enforcement agency, and I knew a forensic financial analysis degree from John Jay would help me achieve that goal. The major exposed me to the principles and techniques of investigating fraud, embezzlement, money laundering, corruption, and other white-collar crimes. I had a chance to participate in the NYCFFE's conference at John Jay and a workshop at KPMG Forensics for John Jay students; these gave me the opportunity to network with professionals in the forensic accounting and fraud examination practice. Thanks to the knowledge and experiences I gained, I was able to make my dream come true; I am now a Special Agent in the Diplomatic Security Service or DS, the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Department of State.

Previously: June - Dec. 2014 Hospital Corpsman

Student Success Stories



Zachery Fuld

Class of 2013

CFE

Dec 2014

Currently: Compliance Analyst, Cross River Bank

In figuring out what I wanted to do with my life, I decided I wanted to work somewhere within the broader legal field. This inevitably brought me to John Jay, where I discovered a little known concentration within the fairly new economics program. This concentration, which was known as Forensic Financial Analysis at the time, was a great mixture of criminal justice, economics and accounting. The opportunities provided to me through this concentration helped ensure my success after graduation. By attending the KPMG/John Jay Forensic Scholars Workshop, I became exposed to the different fields in which criminal justice, economics and accounting all converge within the private sector. The professionals I met and the experience I gained at these workshops would eventually help me in acquiring a position at this firm within their Anti-Money Laundering group, where I assist large financial institutions comply with constantly evolving laws and regulations.

Previously: Nov 2013 - May 2015: Associate Advisory Risk & Compliance, KPMG; May 2012 - Aug. 2012 Corporate Compliance Intern, DTCC

Student Success Stories



Vitali Kremez

Class of 2014

CFE

Currently: Cybercrime Intelligence at Flashpoint

Some programs bring practical experience. Some build intellectual muscle. The John Jay Forensic Financial analysis program does both with lyricism and dedication to creating a rich, meaningful, and just society that transcends through lifetime experiences. Indeed, I have learned more than concepts and theories in my academic career at John Jay.

I believe that to beat a criminal, you have to think like one. To achieve successful cybercrime prosecutions, investigators should be able to speak the same language with cybercriminals. The successful career in this field requires strong knowledge of digital forensics and fraud examination techniques. Through the KPMG workshop and NYCFCF scholarship events, I was exposed to various white-collar crime investigations, successful interview and interrogation techniques, anti-money laundering, and cybercrime investigations that eventually helped me become a Certified Fraud Examiner."

Previously: Jan 2014 - Jan 2016, Cybercrime Investigative Analyst, Manhattan District Attorney's Office; Jan 2011 - May 2014, Security & Investigations Officer, Sentinel Management Group

Student Success Stories

Currently: Associate at Guidepost Solutions



Jose Arcos

Class of 2014

When I came to John Jay I knew I wanted to be an advocate of economic justice. Specializing in forensic financial analysis allowed me to grasp the knowledge needed to excel in this work force. The professors in this major are experts in their field and provided me with professional insight and advice. The classes within this major are very accurate in developing the skills you need to advance and succeed. This major provided me with valuable resources and the background I needed to obtain a full-time position with a financial investigations firm. It also helped me get one step closer to becoming a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Previously: June 2013–Aug. 2013 Intern at NYC Department of Finance

Student Success Stories



Krystal Ffrench

Class of 2014

M.S. SUNY 2016

Currently: Audit Examiner at the NYS Office of the State Comptroller

John Jay has been a great experience and I am glad I chose to come here for my undergraduate career. The school's reputation has landed me interviews for internships and career opportunities. It is great that many public agencies and private corporations know the quality of the education and the well-respected professors. The best thing about being a Financial Forensics major was the fact that all of my professors had years of experience in the field that I was pursuing. This was amazing because not only did we learn "textbook theories" but we learned how they applied to real life cases and situations. John Jay gave me a unique education and I am now a proud alum!

Previously: Feb 2013 - April 2016, Various Forensic Accounting, and Finance Internship in the private sector and at New York State Office of the Inspector General

Student Success Stories

Currently: Risk Analyst MLPG, UBS Wealth Management



Inna Shea

Class of 2012

I discovered the existence of the program provided by John Jay college while being on the path to becoming an accountant. Forensic studies is an interesting addition to accounting and I therefore transferred and later graduated with a degree specializing in forensic financial analysis. The program provides great understanding of financial forensics that opens opportunities to select from many interesting career paths in both the private and public sectors. With the help of knowledgeable and experienced professors, the program at John Jay College provided the solid base and knowledge for me to become a part of anti-money laundering department at the investment bank.

Previously: March - July 2013: Accounting Analyst; Dec 2012 - Mar 2013 Inventory Control Analyst; Feb. - Aug 2011: Intern at CPA firm

Student Success Stories



Aimee Estrada

Class of 2014

Currently: Advisory Associate Compliance & Monitoring, KPMG

I chose John Jay's program over other schools' because of its multidisciplinary approach. The program doesn't just focus on accounting. We learn about the psychology and sociology of fraud, so we can identify red flags and focus our investigation. We learn about the law and criminal justice systems, so the evidence we collect is admissible and has the proper chain of custody. We learn about economics and business, so we can understand financial statements beyond just the numbers. And we learn accounting, so we can analyze a company's books and financial statements for fraud and other misstatements. Fraud is about more than accounting and this program addresses that.

Student Success Stories

Currently: Project Consultant – STRATCO Property Group



Ariel Sosa

Class of 2013

I am very proud to have graduated from John Jay College. The John Jay community and the Fraud Examination and Forensics Finance major offered me many opportunities for growth in my career. They helped me in getting a great internship at KPMG LLP and they even helped me to land my dream job. I am currently working in a real estate investigative managerial position that deals with real estate, property, asset management, and investment. I highly recommend this major at John Jay because of the very much talented and dedicated faculty, all the professional workshops and opportunities including the Big 4 accounting firms, and the professional/student organization such as the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA). They all contributed to my success.

Previously: March - July 2013 KPMG Internship

Student Success Stories



Andrea Ciotti

Class of 2014

Currently: Advisory Associate, Compliance & Monitoring, KPMG

The Forensic Financial Analysis program at John Jay helped introduce me to and prepare me for the opportunities available after college. During my first Forensic Accounting class with Professor LaSalle I was immediately drawn to the Anti-Money Laundering field. The KPMG Forensic Scholars Workshop for John Jay students provided me with even more information on this growing field. I was able to use the connections I made during this workshop to acquire a job at KPMG in Anti-Money Laundering.

Previously: 2009 - 2011 Accounting Clerk, Polonia Bank, Member Services representative, Sierra Credit Union

Student Success Stories



Akeel Uddin

Class of 2011

MPA JJAY 2015

Currently: Forensic Accountant, NYS Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Investigations Bureau

John Jay has prepared me in ways I never would have imagined. The motivation, encouragement and legal insight that I received from the very business savvy and law enforcement affiliated staff was uprising. It made me believe I too could be just like them someday, and even better with the new dawn of financial crimes we see today. From the day I started as a Forensic Accountant for the AG's office, there wasn't a day that went by where I didn't apply the things I learned in the classroom to the real world. I investigated and audited bank statements of politicians who embezzled money in addition to seeking out fraudsters who employed ghost employees at not-for-profit organizations. These people make an effort to steal from taxpayers. If it involved the theft of money, I followed the money using the skills I acquired from John Jay.

Formally: Dec. 2014 - Nov 2015, Forensic auditor at TIAA-CREF; Aug 2011 - Dec 2014, Forensic Accountant NYS Office of the Attorney General, NYS; Feb 2010 - Aug 2011 Investigative Assistant.

Student Success Stories



Felix Alvarez

Class of 2015

Currently: Audit Associate at BDO USA, LLP

John Jay's Forensic Financial Analysis program has been a pivotal part of my success. This program provides the perfect mix of legal knowledge and accounting procedures which are needed for a future in Forensic Accounting. The motivation, encouragement and professional expertise from professor LaSalle and other very knowledgeable professors are very important factors that places this program on the top of the list for me. Everyone is willing to help and really desires for you to be successful in this field. I am currently on my third year as an Audit Associate at BDO, USA LLP. I am also currently studying to take the CPA exam.

Previously: Jan 2014 - April 2015 Audit intern at BDO; June 2013 - Dec. 2013 Accountant, Aug. 2012 - Dec 2012 Accounting intern

Student Success Stories



Diandra Russell

Class of 2015

Currently: Associate in Regulatory Enforcement and Compliance – Anti-Money Laundering, KPMG

I just wanted to extend another big THANK YOU for the opportunity to be a part of the KPMG Scholars Discovery Workshop. If it was not for this program I would not have been able to meet the amazing people that I am now in contact with. I also may not have secured a full time position in the Compliance and Monitoring practice.

Previously: 2009 - 2015, Purchasing and Accounts Payables

Student Success Stories



Natalia D. Sousa
Class of 2015

Currently: Forensic and Compliance Associate within J&J Corporate Internal Audit

Attending John Jay has been wonderful in every aspect, and I'm very pleased to have found in the Financial Forensics Analysis program an opportunity to challenge myself and settle on a career path as my John Jay journey comes to an end. I have been fortunate enough to encounter wonderful and experienced professors in the field, such as professor Randal Lasalle who has been a great supporter who referred me to the Johnson and Johnson's Forensic internship program where I'm currently working as a Forensics and Compliance intern in the Corporate Internal Audit department. An internship is an important experience, especially for this major, as it fosters a mental readiness to maximize relevant experience required outside of the classroom. Students interested in pursuing a career in the investigation/fraud examination field should reach out to your professors, network, attend the KPMG Forensic Scholars Program and definitely acquire your CFE Certification after graduation."

Previously: J & J Internship Program

Student Success Stories



Devaki Naik

Class of 2013

Currently studying for her Masters in Criminology at the National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science in India

I graduated from John Jay College in 2013 with a B.Sc. in Economics specializing in Analysis of Economic Crimes.

John Jay has been very kind to me. I was on the Dean's List for two consecutive years (2011- 2013), and my capstone Economics research Paper was published in John Jay's Finest. I was also the Senior Representative at Student Council and the President of the Economics Club (2012 - 2013).

I owe my excellence in academics to the strong support and guidance I received from the faculty - Prof. LaSalle, Prof. Hamilton, Prof. Mulder and Prof. Dhondt. John Jay has an abundance of resources for students - all that I had to do was show interest!

After graduating, I came back to India and worked with Deloitte for close to two years. I was part of the Financial Advisory Sector and worked with the Core Economic Offence Investigation Team.

Previously: Jan 2014 – July 2015, Executive/Senior Executive at Deloitte India

Student Success Stories



Emily Walsh

Class of 2013

Currently: Analyst, Forensic Advisory, Regulatory Enforcement and Compliance, KPMG

Throughout my high school career, I dreamed of attending John Jay because I knew that I wanted to be one of its fierce advocates for justice. After taking a class focused on white-collar crime, I realized how extensive it is and thus how relevant it is to contemporary criminal justice discussions. Upon completing that class, I decided to pursue what used to be the forensic financial analysis track that John Jay offered economics majors. Shortly thereafter, through the KPMG/John Jay Forensic Scholars Workshop, I learned about the employment opportunities available to me in the private sector through forensic advisory. After graduating, Professor LaSalle contacted me regarding an employment opportunity with KPMG, for which the firm's recruiters were interested in John Jay graduates. For three months I worked as a temporary analyst on a project team that conducted a review of Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) compliance within a large financial institution. Recently, I have accepted an offer to permanently join the firm's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) group so that I can continue to help advise clients on how best to comply with evolving-AML regulations."

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