



**The PhD Project Hall of Fame
2012 Honoree
Thomas J. Lopez, Ph.D.
Professor and Steven Ross-Hugh Culverhouse Chair of Accountancy
University of Alabama**

While still a doctoral student at Arizona State, Dr. Tom Lopez served as a presenter at the first PhD Project Conference in 1994. He has not missed a conference since then and continues his involvement as a faculty advisor to the Accounting Doctoral Students Association. Now a Full Professor at the University of Alabama, he continues to serve The PhD Project as a member of the conference planning committee, a presenter and a recruiter for his university's doctoral program. Dr. Lopez said, "I am honored to have been given the opportunity to play a small part in the successes of The PhD Project. In contrast, The Project has played a huge role in my academic career. From financial support as a doctoral student, to several published co-authorships with PhD Project-affiliated students and faculty, to deep lifelong friendships, my association with The PhD Project has provided me way more than I could ever possibly repay."

Thomas J. Lopez is a Professor and the Ross-Culverhouse Endowed Chair of Accountancy at the University of Alabama. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Alabama, Professor Lopez served on the accounting faculty at the University of South Carolina, Georgia State University and Texas A&M University. Professor Lopez earned his Ph.D. in accounting from Arizona State University. In addition he has a Masters in Taxation from California State University, Hayward and a B.S. in Accounting from Florida International University. Professor Lopez teaches at both the undergraduate and doctoral level. His research interests are primarily in the areas of corporate restructuring, executive compensation and various aspects of analysts' forecasts. Professor Lopez has published his research in journals such as the *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, *The Accounting Review*, the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, and the *Journal of the American Taxation Association*. He is currently on the editorial board of *The Accounting Review*. Prior to entering academia, Professor Lopez was a practicing CPA in California for seven years and prior to that a police officer in Miami for 13 years.

Professor Lopez has been affiliated with the PhD Project since its inception in 1994. In 1994, Professor Lopez, a doctoral student at the time, was a member of doctoral student panel at the first ever PhD Project Conference in Chicago. Since then Professor Lopez has attended and spoken at each of the annual conferences either as a general session speaker or as the coordinator of the Accounting Breakout session. Most recently, he has been a general session speaker in the “Secrets of a Successful Candidate” session. In addition to participating at the conference as a speaker, Professor Lopez has been a member of the conference PhD Project Planning Committee for over 10 years. Over the years Professor Lopez has worked with a number of faculty and students affiliated with the PhD Project. These collaborations have resulted in the publication of several articles, some of which are in the most prestigious journals in accounting.

Beyond his activities with the PhD Project, Professor Lopez has been an active advocate for diversity in a number of other areas his entire academic career. He has been a speaker at the PhD Pipeline Opportunity program hosted by Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. In 2008 and 2009, Professor Lopez was a member of the President’s Minority Affairs Review Committee at the University of South Carolina. From 1998 to 2000 Professor Lopez served as a member of the AICPA’s Minority Initiatives Committee. While at Texas A&M, Professor Lopez developed and led the Business Careers Awareness Program (BCAP). The objective of the program is to increase minority enrollment in the Mays School of Business at Texas A&M. Although Professor Lopez left Texas A&M in 2001 that program is still operating successfully today. In 2007 while at the University of South Carolina, Professor Lopez developed and led a similar program for the Darla Moore School of Business, Business at Moore (BAM). Like the program at Texas A&M, BAM is still operating successfully today. In 2009 and 2010, Professor Lopez served as the faculty advisor for the PhD Project Accounting Doctoral Student Association.