E.M.B.A. Program Means Business
by Michael C. Stencel ’01

To reflect its commitment to management education, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business now offers an Executive Master of Business Administration (E.M.B.A.) within its portfolio of graduate programs. After an intensive and challenging 20-month program, Hofstra University graduated its first E.M.B.A. class this past May.

The E.M.B.A. program provides students with a focused curriculum in management education. They are exposed to a comprehensive foundation of core business courses with a global focus, as well as skill development workshops and a practicum specific to the career demands of the enrolled managers.

This intense and accelerated program allows students to investigate global business strategies, management theories and study external variables that may influence decision making. “Hofstra’s E.M.B.A. program offers seasoned executives an academic experience that broadens their professional abilities and awareness,” said Dr. Ralph Polimeni, Dean of the Zarb School of Business. “The success of the E.M.B.A. program went far beyond our expectations,” said Polimeni. “The structure, substance and quality of the program coupled with the intellectual diversity of the class contributed to the high level of success and satisfaction on the part of the students and faculty. It has set a standard for future classes.” The style and delivery of the course work differ greatly from that of a traditional program partly by design, but largely due to the profile of the students, many of whom are experienced managers and CEOs. Also, E.M.B.A. students are engaged in a “lock step” program remaining with the same group until graduation. “It is much more dynamic,” said Professor Barry Berman, Director of the E.M.B.A. program. “It’s the fun part of teaching. Someone can add that ‘even though that’s the theory, my company did it that way and it didn’t work.’ Then we can discuss how to make it work better.”

Extensive student interaction and group projects provide an optimal structure for learning challenging material within a limited time frame. The interaction among students is one of the more favorable aspects of the program. “Everyone adds something new and exciting to class,” said Steven Forte, a U.S. Postal Service senior plant manager. “People who are experts in their professions can lend a different and entirely new perspective that sometimes even a professor can’t provide,” added Robert Milke, North American sales manager for Solutia who is responsible for selling specialty water treatment chemicals to major industrial groups, such as Kodak. “There were times when I was pushed to limits I never realized existed inside me. Each professor wants you to grasp the information being taught and apply it to your daily profession.”

Classes are small and are comprised mainly of individuals who are identified as current leaders and future executives and presidents. “The smaller class sizes were favorable for me,” said Joseph Vincent, who was promoted to vice president of operations at the New York Post while in the E.M.B.A. program. He

School of Business Timeline

From the first day of classes on September 23, 1935, Hofstra students have taken business courses. The curriculum was organized into divisions in 1953, and the Division of Business became the School of Business in September 1963.

The School of Business was accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business in 1968 for the B.B.A. program and in 1982 for the M.B.A. program.

In 1969 Hofstra’s Theta of New York Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma was founded.

In 1976 the Small Business Institute began and provided consulting services to more than 100 Long Island businesses and nonprofit organizations. In 1976 Hofstra established a chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the premier professional accounting and business information fraternity.

In 1986 Hofstra’s Business School became a sponsor of the Long Island Venture Group, a forum for facilitating contracts among entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and other investors.

The Hofstra Retail Management Institute, headed by Professors Joel Evans and Barry Berman, was formed in 1989 in order to serve the needs of the academic and retail communities.

On May 11, 1994, Hofstra named the Business School in honor of alumnus Frank G. Zarb ’57.