For Immediate Release

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FORDHAM UNIVERSITY’S GRADUATE BUSINESS SCHOOL BEATS OUT 42 TEAMS TO WIN ASSOCIATION FOR CORPORATE GROWTH (ACG) CUP –NEW YORK

Competition Provides Real World Business Experience and Networking Opportunities

NEW YORK, N.Y., April 12, 2013 -- The Fordham University Graduate School of Business has taken first place in the annual Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) Cup-New York, an annual competition designed to provide real world experience to students in leading metropolitan New York business graduate programs in a variety of subject areas, including mergers and acquisitions, investment banking, financial advisory and private equity, ACG New York announced yesterday.

It was the second consecutive win for Fordham.

The four-student team was given a case study and asked to provide financial advice to a panel of seasoned mergers and acquisitions professionals, who were role playing as investors from a hypothetical private equity firm. Fordham University beat out 42 other teams from graduate business school programs at six other universities in the New York region to take home the coveted $10,000 prize. This year’s other participating universities were runner-up New York University, Baruch University, Cornell University, Hofstra University, St. John’s University and Pace University.

WINNERS: Robert M. Blumenfeld, executive director, ACG New York (left) and Kathy L. Nalywajko, ACG Cup–New York competition chair and principal, Legg Mason Investment Counsel, with ACG Cup 2012 winners from Fordham University Graduate School of Business (seen l-r) John Pharr, Buffalo, NY; Nataliya Kondratenko, Kiev, Ukraine; Will Metzidakis, St. Louis; and Keith Knobelauch, Sebastopol, Calif. (Photo by Lou Halstead)

“The dramatic increase in interest and number of teams in our fifth year of competition—up from 22 teams last year—underscores the interest at business schools in the art of deal-making,” said Kathy Nalywajko, ACG Cup–New York competition chair and a principal at Legg Mason Investment Counsel. “It results from the experience of prior-year teams, who have spread the word about this event.
“Teams are judged on three criteria—valuation, alternative deal structures considered, and presentation,” she continued. “This year’s winning team nailed all three. They thought outside the box—and were not afraid to do so. Their approach was very fresh and grabbed our attention. They also defended their position extremely well.”

The final round of competition was held on April 11 at the Union League Club in Manhattan. The winning team of Keith Knobelauch, Sebastopol, Calif.; Nataliya Kondratenko, Kiev, Ukraine; Will Metzidakis, St. Louis; and John (Pepper) Pharr, Buffalo, NY, was announced at an ACG New York luncheon at the Club following the competition with all of the finalist teams present. Attended by over 100 senior executives from private equity firms, investment banks and commercial lenders, M&A consultants and transactional advisors, the luncheon afforded the students valuable networking opportunities with leading business professionals. ACG New York will link their resumes to its website for prospective employers to view.

Teams are typically composed of four to six students, with multiple teams from each school, and they are judged based on content and presentation. Each school’s teams compete internally in round one for the right to go to the second, final round. The 2013 competition was the fifth year for the ACG New York contest.

Judges for Interschool competition on April 11, 2013 were Kathy Nalywajko, principal, Legg Mason Investment Counsel; David Acharya, partner, Ascend Global Investments, LLC; Alysa Craig, managing director, Tegris LLC; Victor Danett, managing director, HT Capital Advisors, LLC; Scott Estill, vice president, Heidrick & Struggles; Michael Goldman, CPA; Josh Haron, vice president- financial advisor, Merrill Lynch; Laurie Liu, MBA, MS; Dileep Saksena, advisor, WAIN Street; and Dickson Suit, partner, Ironwood Capital.

ACG® New York (www.acgnyc.org), founded in 1954, is the leading membership organization in New York that facilitates relationship building and focused education for middle market dealmaking professionals. Each year over 8,000 professionals participate in ACG New York’s 70+ networking and educational events in New York City and Westchester and on Long Island, including healthcare, manufacturing & logistics, and retail conferences.

ACG New York’s Capital-Connection® and Deal-Source® events put buyers together with funding sources in scheduled private meetings. The organization’s annual Champions Awards recognize the year’s outstanding middle market firms and deals, while its Education Cup competition honors the best graduate business school team from the New York City area for M&A counseling prowess. These and other programs have spurred ACG New York’s rapid growth in recent years, with membership now exceeding 1,000.