

Alden Takes Top Honors in Massachusetts

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Boston audit associate Steve Alden filled a tall order, in short order. Not only did Alden complete all four parts of the exam in less than six months, but he also received the highest cumulative score in Massachusetts in 2007 --of the more than 615 successful test-takers for that year.

"I knew that I wanted to finish the exam quickly so I could jumpstart my career," Alden said. "Like every other candidate, my goal was just to pass each part on my first try. I actually received my last score on my birthday, which was a great gift."



Steve Alden earned his birthday cake this year.

Alden attributed his top grade to disciplined preparation. He studied for the exam using the Becker review course, but he gives most of the credit for his performance to the excellent accounting curriculum at his alma mater, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"My professors at UMass taught me everything I needed to know about accounting and then some," he said. "While many people played a role in my achievement, I wouldn't even be in this profession were it not for the love of accounting I developed in my introductory college courses. That was a great gift from my professors."

UMASS-Amherst campus development manager Diana Frascella noted that "I have truly enjoyed getting to know Steve over the past few years, as a student, as an intern and as a full-time associate. He has been an enthusiastic presence at recruiting events at UMASS and a positive image in representing KPMG. Steve really is a superstar, an excellent role model for his peers, and a great addition to our Boston audit practice."

Alden's SPML Boston audit partner Steve Bowen echoed Diana's sentiments, adding that "frankly, I am not surprised by his accomplishment. UMass grads entering the firm are extremely well trained, self-motivated and typically keenly focused on the goals and successes they hope to achieve at the firm, including passing the exam as soon as possible! Steve's achievement is a true testament to not only to his hard work, drive and discipline, but also to the preparedness and determination shared by all of KPMG's UMass-Amherst alums."

Now that Alden is licensed, he can enjoy spending more time relaxing with his fiancée, friends, and family. "I also love rooting for my colleagues to finish the exam," he added. "It is always nice to find out that another KPMG member has bested FAR or REG."

In May, Alden will be honored for his accomplishment at the Massachusetts Society of CPAs' annual banquet.

Approved By Rob Arning