

## **Biographies of the Finance Department Advisory Board Members Western Connecticut State University**

### **Robert (Bob) H. Barghaus | Retired Chief Financial Officer, Blyth, Inc.**

Mr. Barghaus was the Chief Financial Officer for fourteen years of Blyth, Inc. a New York Stock Exchange (BTH) traded company with operations in 16 countries. Mr. Barghaus served as a member of the Office of the Chairman and was responsible for finance, treasury, accounting, SEC reporting, tax, legal, internal audit, human resources, investor relations and corporate IT.

Prior to Blyth, Mr. Barghaus held senior financial and operating officer positions with Reed Elsevier, John Labatt Limited of Canada, May Department Stores, American Can and Arthur Andersen. He has a total of 35 years of business experience.

Mr. Barghaus is a Board member and Chairman of the Audit Committee for a large direct selling company.

Mr. Barghaus has an MBA in finance and accounting from Cornell University, a BS in Mathematics and a minor in Economics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a licensed CPA. He was a Board member for the Federation of the Handicapped in New York City and is a member of the Financial Executives Institute.

Mr. Barghaus instructed various finance courses at Western Connecticut State University and accounting courses at Cornell University.

## **Daniel Berta | President, Fairfield County Bank**

Dan Berta has been in banking for almost 30 years, starting as a management trainee at JP Morgan Chase. He held various positions there in credit cards, commercial banking, private banking and retail banking. He left as the Senior Vice President overseeing the \$11 billion, 125-branch retail banking group in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Rochester, Syracuse and Connecticut.

Mr. Berta joined Fairfield County Bank in 2007 as Executive Vice President and Head of Strategic Planning. He became the Chief Operating Officer in 2009 and assumed the role of President in 2011. He currently oversees all Retail Operations including; branch banking, operations, technology, e-banking, call center operations, marketing, sales management, training, Fairfield County Bank Insurance Service and Fairfield County Investments Services.

Mr. Berta graduated from Villanova University with a BS in Business Administration & Marketing. He received his MBA from Columbia University.

He lives with his wife and three children in Ridgefield, CT. He and his wife are active with many local boards and organizations including, The Ridgefield Symphony, The Ridgefield VNA, The Ridgefield Fresh Air Fund, Ann's Place, The Women's Center of Danbury, Founders Hall, Ridgefield ABC, The Ridgefield Playhouse and more.

### Corporate and Community Boards:

- Fairfield County Bank (2018 – Present)
- Fairfield County Bank Insurance Services (2011 – Present)
- CT Bankers Association Executive Committee (2017 – Present)
- Independent Community Bankers Association Executive Committee (2018-present)
- Ann's Place (2013 – 2015)
- Ann Olsen Golf Chairman (2012 – 2015) / AOG Committee (2012-2018)
- Ridgefield Fresh Air Fund (2012 – Present)
- Ridgefield Cemetery Board (2012 – Present)
- Ridgefield Fund (2017 – Present)
- Ridgefield Symphony Foundation (2012 – 2018)
- Ridgefield A Better Chance Advisory Member (2014 – 2017)
- United Way of Westchester (2003 – 2007)

**Denny Brown | Vice President, Finance, Praxair Distribution, Inc.**

Denny Brown was named Vice President, Finance for Praxair Distribution, Inc. in 2011. He leads the division's accounting, financial reporting and business analysis functions. Brown also sits on the division's Compliance Review Board and is a member of Praxair's Pension & Savings Plans Administration and Investment Committee.

Brown joined Praxair in 2004 as an analyst in the Corporate Controller's group. He subsequently held a series of increasingly responsible roles in external reporting, technical accounting and financial planning & analysis. In 2007, Brown transferred to Praxair's largest business unit, North American Industrial Gases as the controller for its Eastern region. Brown then transferred to Praxair's North American Healthcare Division as business unit controller in 2009. He oversaw the preparation and execution of the US Homecare division sale to Apria Healthcare Group in 2011. After the sale, Brown joined the Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions department where he continued to leverage his divestiture experience by successfully marketing and selling Praxair's Advanced Components business in 2011.

Prior to joining Praxair, Brown was a senior associate at KPMG, LLP spanning five years where he focused on planning and executing external audits for a diverse client base.

Brown holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Western Connecticut State University and is a Certified Public Accountant.

## **Colette Chestnut | Executive Vice President of Finance, Havas Health Global**

Colette Chestnut is CFO, CPA with over 30 years of experience in executive finance roles at public and private global media communications companies. She started her career as a CPA in New York City with Main Hurdman (now KPMG) and Price Waterhouse (now PWC) and left after 9 years as a senior audit manager to join an advertising client. She stayed in that sector and has served as a CFO at advertising agencies JWT and TBWA Worldwide, MTV Networks and a market research company, Millward Brown. She is presently EVP of Finance at Havas Health Global, a healthcare communications company, where she responsible for all corporate transactions - acquisitions, mergers, strategic alliances and joint ventures. In addition to corporate transactions she has extensive experience in strategic planning, client and vendor negotiations, real estate including design and negotiations, budgeting and forecasting and overall business management.

**Terry Friedman | Senior Finance Manager, IBM**

Terry Friedman is a senior financial manager at IBM Corporation, where she has had held many financial planning positions, including division CFO and worldwide financial planning manager. In her management positions, she has had responsibility for financial planning & modeling, pricing, accounting, and business controls. She also managed a unit divestiture. She earned a BS in finance and insurance from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA in finance from the University of California Berkeley.

**Brian J. Nethercott | Managing Director & Commercial Leader of GE Capital Americas  
(Danbury, CT)**

Brian Nethercott began his career with IBM, as an Analyst supporting the Technology Group in 2001. In 2003, he joined GE Capital as a Sr. Financial Analyst supporting the Equipment Leasing business. Over the last 10 years he has held various executive leadership positions within the GE Capital finance organization. In 2008, he became the Chief Financial Officer of the GE Trade Services supporting GE Industrials working capital initiatives. During this assignment he was able to complete the GE's EFLP (Executive Financial Leadership Program). Upon finishing the program he transitioned into larger finance leadership roles with GE Sponsor Finance & GE Corporate Finance supporting the senior lending relationships as staff executive to the business CEO's. Most recently he has transitioned from his Finance leadership roles, to rejoin the GE Trade Services business as the Managing Director leading the businesses commercial organization across North America. Brian currently serves on the board of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA as Treasurer. He received a B.S. in Business Administration from Marist College in 2001, and later earned an M.B.A from Marist College in 2003.

## **Jean K. Robinson | Retired Chief Operating Officer of Kantar Millward Brown NA**

Jean Robinson spent the first half of her career on Wall Street at JP Morgan in several commercial and investment banking roles. She then joined the original dot-com boom as Chief Financial Officer of a digital research company, Jupiter Research. She took that company public, merged it with another and sold it. After that, she became CFO of another early stage digital research company, Dynamic Logic, which she helped bring to profitability and then sold to a large market research company, Kantar Millward Brown NA. After that merger, she ran Dynamic Logic through a number of years of growth and success and rose to be Chief Operating Officer of Kantar MBNA. She stepped down from that role in late 2015 but remains a consultant to Kantar. She also serves on the Boards of the New Milford Visiting Nurses, the Bridgewater Land Trust and the Bridgewater Senior Center.

Jean holds an MBA in Finance and Accounting from Columbia Business School and a BA in Economics and Government from Smith College.

## **Verne O. Sedlacek | Retired President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonfund**

Verne joined Commonfund in 2002 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and was appointed President and CEO July 1, 2003. In addition, he serves as a member of the Commonfund Group Investment Policy Committee. Prior to Commonfund, Verne was President and COO of John W. Henry & Company, Inc., President and Director of Westport Capital Management Corporation and Global Capital Management Limited since 1998. Previously he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the Harvard Management Company, where he was responsible for managing the areas of personnel, budgets, systems, performance, analysis, contract, credit, compliance, custody, operations, cash management, securities lending, and market risk evaluation for the then approximately \$14 billion University Fund. He also has served on many not-for-profit and for-profit boards. Verne currently serves on the boards of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the NYSE Pension Managers Advisory Board and is a member of the Samsung Global Investment Advisory Council (SGIAC). He earned an A.B. in Economics from Princeton University and was certified as a CPA by the State of New York in 1978.



**Kenneth Weinstein | President & Chief Executive Officer of Newtown Savings Bank**

Ken is President and Chief Executive Officer of Newtown Savings Bank, a \$1.3 billion Mutual Savings Bank founded in 1855 and headquartered in Newtown, Connecticut.

Ken currently serves on the Board of the United Way of Western Connecticut and its Northern Fairfield County Council. He is also a Director and former Chairman of the Board of LifeBridge Community Services, one of Connecticut's oldest and most comprehensive private non-profit human services agencies, and a Trustee and Chairman of the Finance Committee at Berkeley College.

A life-long Connecticut resident, Ken is a graduate of Trumbull High School, Dartmouth College and Harvard Business School.