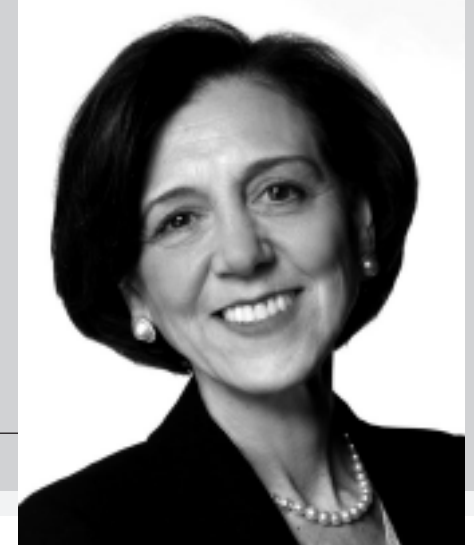


DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Joan Lordi Amble '75



To Joan Lordi Amble for a distinguished career in corporate finance and her commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards in her profession.

"You're good at math. You should try accounting," Joan Lordi Amble's father told her. Though Amble was planning on majoring in home economics, she registered for the renowned G. K. Nelson's introductory accounting class, then "simulcast" via closed circuit television to classrooms in Boucke Building. Upon earning an "A," Amble aspired to be a paid proctor for future classes, a job usually reserved for graduate students. She persevered and eventually was called to substitute, then hired—as an undergraduate. Today, Amble is executive vice president/corporate comptroller at American Express in New York City.

At American Express, Amble is responsible for all controllership finance functions across the company, including oversight of all aspects of global reporting, financial control, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, and technical accounting advisory functions. *CFO Magazine* named her one of the "25 Women to Watch in Finance" (2008), and *Treasury & Risk* magazine cited Amble as

one of the "100 Most Influential People in Finance" (2007). Before joining American Express in 2004, Amble spent 14 years in senior leadership roles with General Electric.

Amble's first job was at Honeywell in Minneapolis, where she had moved with her husband after both graduated from Penn State. "We met after tax accounting class," Amble explained. "We were both Type A personalities, taking it on Saturday morning." Amble said at that point she had no intention of becoming a C.P.A. but ended up taking and passing the test. Amble considered an academic career—completing coursework toward a Ph.D. in accounting at UCLA—but returned to corporate work as a public accountant with Ernst & Young in 1977. She also spent five years (1984-89) with the Financial Accounting Standards Board where she specialized in pensions and derivative products.

At Penn State in the 1970s, Amble said she was often the only woman in her business classes. Not surprisingly, one of her passions is mentoring young women early in their careers and helping them build targeted leadership skills. As a result, Amble co-founded and serves as chairwoman of the W.O.M.E.N. in America, Inc. Leadership

Program, launched in 2009. Amble also is passionate about creating better work-life balance for employees by promoting greater efficiency at work and limiting the amount of work spilling over into evenings and weekends. Her team has developed rules banning work e-mail after 8:00 p.m. and on weekends and requiring leaders to delegate authority to one person during vacations. "If you're a good leader, then you should have someone you trust who can make decisions while you're away," Amble said. A recovering workaholic herself, Amble said leaders must set the example by adhering to the rules as well.

Amble is a director of Broadcom Corporation and Sirius XM Satellite Radio, where she chairs the audit committee. She also serves on the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council and is a member of the Hidden Brain Drain Task Force, created by The Center for Work-Life Policy.

Reflecting her passion for integrity and high ethical standards, Amble was a strong advocate for the development and launch of the Smeal College of Business Academic Honor Code. Her commitment will continue in September when

American Express and the University co-sponsor a symposium on ethics in business. Amble remains involved with Penn State in other capacities, serving on the Accounting Advisory Board since 2001 and as a member of the Smeal College of Business Board of Visitors since 2005. She was the keynote speaker at the inaugural Pennsylvania State University Annual Symposium Celebrating Women in Business (2008).

Penn State previously honored Amble with the Alumni Fellow Award (2005) and as the Outstanding Accounting Alumna of the Year (1996). She is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association.

Amble and her husband, David '75, live in Darien, Conn. They have two grown daughters, Susan, a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, and Catherine, a graduate of Dartmouth College.

