

# Lalita D. Booth

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Lalita.booth@gmail.com

## Education:

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**Harvard University, Cambridge, MA**  
*Joint Degree Candidate, Class of 2012*

**09/09 – 05/12**

- Pursuing joint Master of Public Policy and Master of Business Administration degrees through Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Business School

**University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL**  
*B.S.B.A. in Accounting with Highest Honors and Honors Diploma*  
*B.S.B.A. in Finance with Highest Honors and Honors Diploma*

**08/06 – 05/09**

- Member, Burnett Honors College
- Honors in the Major in Accounting
- Honors in the Major in Finance
- University Honors awarded on both degrees
- Summa Cum Laude: graduated with a 4.0 GPA on 175 credit hours earned
- Member, Golden Key Academic Honor Society
- Member, Tau Sigma Academic Honor Society

**Seminole Community College, Sanford, FL**  
*Associate of the Arts Degree with Highest Honors and Honors Diploma*

**06/04 – 08/06**

- Member, Art and Phyllis Grindle Honors Institute
- Member, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- Member, Phi Beta Lambda Academic Honors Societies

## Major Awards:

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**Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholar**

**2009 - Present**

Each Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholar receives \$50,000 a year for up to six years of graduate study. Among other criteria, Scholars must demonstrate extraordinary academic excellence, a diversity of interests, and the will to succeed despite adversity. In 2009, just 30 graduate scholars were selected from a pool of nearly 650 applicants.

**Harry S. Truman Scholar**

**2008 - Present**

Each year, the Harry S. Truman Foundation selects up to 75 scholars nationally from an applicant pool of roughly 700. Applicants are selected only after an extensive and rigorous application and interview process. Each recipient receives \$30,000 to attend the graduate degree program of his or her choice, as well as opportunities for government internships at the federal level. To be eligible for the award, each candidate must be nominated by his or her undergraduate institution.

***Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholar***

**2006 - 2009**

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is the largest scholarship in the United States available to community college graduates. Each year, the Foundation selects approximately 30 students nationally to receive the award, which provides \$30,000 a year for up to 3 years of undergraduate study. To be eligible for the award, each candidate must be nominated by his or her community college.

***Glamour's Top Ten College Women***

**2008**

Glamour Magazine selects ten women nationally each year to be recognized as the Top Ten College Women of the year. Winners are selected on the basis of leadership experience, personal involvement in community and campus affairs, and academic excellence. Winners receive a trip to New York, a \$3000 cash award, and coverage in Glamour Magazine.

**Public Service Internships:**

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***Rep. Tom Feeney, United States Congress***

**08/2007 – 05/2008**

*Administrative Intern*

***Rep. Dean Cannon, Florida House of Representatives***

**06/2007 – 05/2008**

*Administrative and Legislative Intern*

***Rep. David Meador, Florida House of Representatives***

**06/2007 – 09/2007**

*Administrative Intern*

**Published Works:**

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***Accounting Ethics and the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct: A View through the Lens of Ethical Theory:*** University of Central Florida, 2009

***Financial Education for Low-Income Audiences: A Guide to Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation*** University of Central Florida, 2008

***Between the Wish and the Thing:*** Veritas Insightful Short Fiction, 2005

**Volunteer Work and Public Service:**

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***Lighthouse for Dreams Financial Literacy Project***

**2006-Present**

*Founder and Program Director*

- Founded and organized a community outreach program dedicated to teaching disadvantaged teens, adult learners, and high school students the principles of sound financial management
- Developed a base of over 120 professional and student volunteers
- Testified before the Florida Financial Literacy Council about the importance of incorporating financial literacy into the k-12 educational curriculum

- Established a free online financial literacy course for UCF students that covers fundamentals such as credit management, budgeting, investing, and saving for retirement
- Speak regionally and nationally to raise awareness of the importance of financial literacy
- Teach financial literacy lessons to high school students, adult learners, and foster teens
- Manage strategic partnerships with regional organizations such as banks, credit unions, and nonprofit community development organizations

***Special Enrollment to Practice before the IRS***

***2003-2009***

*Enrolled Agent*

- Serve as a free tax advocate and return preparer for low-income filers
- Represent taxpayers before the administrative, audit, and appeal functions of the IRS
- Negotiate payment agreements, offers in compromise, and reduction of collection activity for taxpayers facing wage garnishments, liens, levies, and hostile collection action
- Provide free tax advisement to low-income families, single parents, and college students

***Junior Achievement College Shadow Day Team Member***

***03/2009 - 04/2009***

***Junior Achievement: five-time volunteer teacher, kindergarten -5th grade***

***01/2007 - 05/2008***

***Community Education Partners: email mentor for at-risk youth***

***01/2007 - 05/2008***

***New Hope for Kids: event organizer and fundraising volunteer***

***05/2006 - 08/2006***

**Work Experience:**

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***Berman, Hopkins, Wright & LaHam, Winter Park, FL***

***01/2009 – 07/2009***

*Staff Accountant*

Responsibilities included preparing individual and corporate tax returns and assisting senior staff accountants in the performance of audit fieldwork.

***Cygnus, Incorporated, Lake Mary, FL***

***06/2005 – 09/2006***

*Accounting Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer*

Responsibilities included processing accounts payable and accounts receivable, translating contractual terms into payment reporting tools, reconciling numerous bank accounts, preparing journal entries, managing client relationships, maintaining fixed asset accounts, drafting correspondence, and managing all disputes relating to online credit card transactions for 27 theme parks, including Universal Studios Orlando and Knott's Berry Farms.

***Bodan, Incorporated, Boulder, CO***

***09/2002 – 01/2004***

*Executive Administrative Assistant*

Responsibilities included providing administrative support to the President, Vice President, Human Resources Director, Chief Financial Officer, two District Supervisors, and thirteen store managers. Prepared various managerial accounting reports including materials and labor cost variance reports, flash reports, and sales reports. Additional responsibilities included drafting correspondence, reconciling bank accounts and daily cash deposit logs, and responding to customer complaints.

## **Academic Extracurricular Activities:**

***UCF Burnett Honors College Honors in the Major Peer Advisor***      ***02/2009 – Present***

- Serve as a peer mentor for new students of UCF's Honors in the Major program

***Grindle Honors Institute, Seminole Community College***      ***01/2005 – 08/2006***

- Facilitated Honors charity drives and fundraising auctions
- Attended enrichment seminars on social issues
- Frequently invited to speak to benefactors and partners of the college at official functions

***Captain, SCC National Academic Quiz Team***      ***03/2005 – 08/2006***

- Competed regionally and nationally in Brain Bowl and Academic Quiz Bowl tournaments
- Won the 2005 East Central Florida Region Battle of the Brains Tournament
- Competed in the National Academic Quiz Bowl at Tulane University in New Orleans

***Captain, SCC Intercollegiate Debate Team***      ***01/2006 – 08/2006***

- Competed in regional parliamentary intercollegiate debate competitions
- Organized and led weekly debate team practice sessions

***Seminole Community College Leadership Institute***      ***06/2006***

- Participated in a 4-day leadership development retreat organized by the Honors Institute
- Engaged in leadership training, teambuilding, communication exercises

***Participant, Salzburg Seminar International Study Program***      ***05/2005 – 06/2005***

- Participated in an seminar on globalization in Salzburg, Austria on a full scholarship
- Selected as one of two seminar participants to take part in a televised panel discussion on issues of international importance
- Presented to the Seminole Community College Board of Trustees and incoming Honors Institute students during the 2005-2006 academic year

## **Notable Public Speaking Engagements:**

- Featured Speaker, Children's Home Society Summer Initiative      07/09
- Guest Speaker, University of Central Florida Honors Orientation Event      06/09
- Featured Speaker, Burnett Honors College 2009 Graduation Banquet      05/09
- Keynote Speaker, Central Florida Auto Dealer's Association May 2009 Luncheon      05/09
- Featured Speaker, Seminole Community College 2009 Commencement Ceremony      05/09
- Keynote Speaker, Coalition for the Homeless Hearts of Gold Banquet      04/09
- Featured Speaker, Seminole Community College Dream Gala      02/09
- Featured Speaker, United Way Women's Leadership Council Conference      01/09
- Featured Speaker, University of Central Florida 2008 Poverty Banquet      11/08
- Guest Speaker, Healthy Start Coalition of Central Florida Annual Conference      10/08
- Guest Speaker, Heart of Florida United Way Women's Leadership Conference      09/08

- Facilitator and Keynote Speaker, College Leadership Florida Poverty Simulation 07/08
- Guest Speaker, Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies 2008 Poverty Summit 07/08
- Guest Speaker, Education Finance Council Mid-Year Membership Meeting 07/08
- Guest Speaker, Florida Financial Literacy Council Quarterly Meeting 10/07
- Keynote Speaker, Seminole Community College Adult High School Graduation 10/07

## **Media Coverage:**

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“From Homeless to Harvard” <i>Real Clear Politics Blog, Time Magazine Online</i>	July 20, 2009
“Once a Homeless ‘Wild Child,’ Single Mother Lalita Booth is Well on her Way to Harvard” <i>St. Petersburg Times</i>	July 19, 2009
“From the Streets to Ivy League” <i>WDBO Local News</i>	July 11, 2009
“Hero Central: From Homeless to Harvard, She Credits Her Son” <i>WTSP Channel 10 News</i>	July 7, 2009
“Smart Woman: Homeless to Harvard” <i>Ivanhoe Broadcast News Network</i>	June, 2009
“Determined to Turn Around a Life, She Did” <i>St. Petersburg Times</i>	Feb. 6, 2009
“Orlando Student Goes from Homeless to Harvard” <i>WFTV Channel 9 News</i>	Feb. 6, 2009
“Success, The Hard Way: From Homeless to Harvard” <i>Orlando Sentinel</i>	Feb. 4, 2009
“From Struggle to Survival: The Strength & Courage of a Young Mother” <i>Orlando Woman</i>	Dec. 2008
“Lalita Booth Receives Award from National Magazine” <i>Lake Mary Life Magazine</i>	Oct. 2008
“Floridians Who Will Change the World” <i>Florida Trend Magazine</i>	Sept. 2008
“America’s Next Top (Role) Models” <i>Glamour Magazine</i>	Sept. 2008
“UCF student among Glamour's 'America's top (role) models” <i>Sentinel School Zone</i>	Aug. 22, 2008
“The Long, Strange Trip” <i>Orlando Home &amp; Leisure Magazine</i>	July 2008
“UCF Student Wins Truman Scholarship” <i>WFTV Channel 9 News</i>	May 2008
“From Dark Streets to Lighthouse for Dreams” <i>Central Florida Future</i>	Apr. 28, 2008
“All for Kieren” <i>Asheville Citizen-Times</i>	Apr. 03, 2008
“From Homeless to Truman Scholar” <i>Sanford Herald</i>	Mar. 30, 2008
“Study: Single Women are Majority of Poor” <i>East Orlando Sun</i>	Mar. 20, 2008
“Lalita Booth wins ‘Against the Odds’ Award at FACC” <i>Lake Mary Life Magazine</i>	Sept. 2007
“High School Dropout Learns to Succeed” <i>Orlando Sentinel</i>	June 21, 2006
“Homelessness, Divorce, Doesn’t Dim Future for Seminole Grad” <i>Sanford Herald</i>	Apr. 2006
“SCC Student Wins Major Scholarship” <i>Central Florida News 13</i>	Apr. 2006
“Seminole Student Wins Major Award” <i>Seminole Government TV</i>	Apr. 2006

## **Other Recognitions and Memberships:**

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### **UCF Alumni Association Distinguished Student Award**

This award is granted to a single student each year in recognition of exceptional academic merit.

### **Harvard Kennedy School of Government David Rubenstein Fellow, 2009**

The Rubenstein Fellowship is both need and merit based. It provides recipients with a full scholarship to cover the cost of fees and tuition for a single year of study at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

### **Seminole Community College Distinguished Alumni Award, 2009**

Each year, Seminole Community College selects one alum to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is granted on the basis of exceptional professional achievement.

### **University of Central Florida College of Business Administration Top Honor Graduate, 2009**

The Top Honor Graduate award is granted to the seniors within each college who have the highest GPA at graduation.

**University of Central Florida Founder's Scholar Award, 2009**

This recognition is awarded to university students in the top 1% of the class within their respective colleges.

**Financial Executives International Senior Award for Outstanding Chapter Achievement, 2009**

This recognition is awarded annually to a single finance student from each of Florida's universities.

**University of Central Florida's Order of Pegasus, 2008**

This is the highest honor awarded to University of Central Florida students. Twelve students are inducted annually from a student body of nearly 52,000. Students are selected on the basis of academic achievement, outstanding university involvement, leadership, and community service.

**Burnett Honors College Dean's Gold Medallion for Civic Service, 2008**

This award is granted upon completion of fifty hours of community service in the Honors Educational Reach Out program at the University of Central Florida. All service hours must be completed within a single academic year.

**L'Oreal Beauty of Giving Award, 2008**

Each year, L'Oreal selects one of Glamour Magazine's Top Ten College Women of the year to receive this award. L'Oreal then makes a \$2500 charity gift to the charity of her choice.

**University of Central Florida College of Business Founder's Day Award, 2008**

UCF's College of Business Administration selects a single student each year to receive this award. Applicants are selected on the basis of academic merit and campus involvement. The selected student receives a \$500 scholarship and recognition at a special awards banquet.

**University of Central Florida Founders' Scholar Award, 2008**

This recognition is awarded to university students in the top 1% of the class within their respective colleges.

**Governor Leroy Collins Distinguished Community College Alumni Against the Odds Award, 2007**

One graduate of Florida's community college system is selected for this award each year. Selection criteria include academic merit, leadership, and will to succeed despite significant adversity.

**Jerie Barber Memorial Scholarship, 2008**

**University of Central Florida Foundation Scholarship Recipient, 2007 and 2008**

**Seminole Community College Foundation Scholarship Recipient, 2005 and 2006**

**Seminole Community College Achievement Award, 2006**

**Graduate, College Leadership Florida**

**Member, Florida Society of Enrolled Agents**

**Member, Financial Planning Association of Central Florida**

**Personal Interests:**

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In her spare time, Lalita enjoys oil painting on canvas, cross stitching, crocheting, winemaking, stained glass, sewing, beading, leatherworking, numismatics, bird watching, herpetology, hiking, rock climbing, botany, chess, kung fu, cooking, and writing poetry.