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Tried & true: By the numbers

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By the numbers

The summer before his senior year, **Teodor "Tedo" Simeonov** suddenly discovered that he had an unusual amount of power.

Wherever he worked, department heads and managers were at his beck and call. You see, Simeonov was an auditor for the South Carolina Office of the State Auditor.

"People pretty much have to do what you tell them to do," laughs Simeonov, whose nine-member team conducted several audits of state-funded agencies, including the University of South Carolina, where his specific duty was to scrutinize the financial records of the school's athletic department. He also helped audit several school districts, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the State Ethics Commission.

The accounting major's internship was supported by the Furman Advantage, a program in which the employer and Furman share the costs associated with the internship. "It could be really intense at times, but all of your work was checked and rechecked by other accountants," says Simeonov, a native of Bulgaria.

The previous summer, he helped audit several small non-profit agencies as an intern with Greene and Finney, LLP, a Greenville firm. As part of that internship

he traveled the state with four other accountants, conducting audits of fire stations, police stations and small school districts. The workdays were long, with his calculator often running from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

The internship with Greene and Finney was funded through the Francis M. Hipp Internship Program. Named for a Furman alumnus and former Liberty Corporation chair, the program supports about 18 internships each year.

Simeonov says that the internships, particularly the one with the Office of the State Auditor, helped him "get a really good idea of how different aspects of a business all work together. The internships gave me real life experience, much different than class," he says.

They also helped him clarify his professional interests, which are international business consulting and accounting.

Simeonov, who speaks four languages (Bulgarian, English, Russian and German), was introduced to Furman by Diana Dimitrova, a 1994 Furman graduate who was his American Studies teacher in Bulgaria.

Once he arrived, he quickly became a well-known figure on campus. As a part-time employee of Computing and Information Services, he helped many

members of the faculty and staff with their computer problems. He also worked in the Admissions Office, conducting summer campus tours.

Since earning his Furman degree, Simeonov is off to a fast start on his career path as an employee of Elliot Deddorfer, LLC, a subsidiary of Elliott, Davis & Company, where he works in the international division. He provides consulting services to European-based automotive suppliers that do business with BMW and Michelin.

His talents seem to be a perfect match with the Upstate's growing international business climate. He's happy in Greenville and has enrolled in additional accounting classes at Clemson University. But he says that someday he may return to his native Bulgaria to put his business experience to work.

"There's a world of opportunity out there," he says.

— John Roberts