



## **John Cabot University**

### ***ALUMNI PROFILE***



**Rumiana Uzunova**

**BA, Business Administration, Class of 2002**

**European Offices Manager, The World Bank**

*Interviewed February 2009*

*What was your career path after graduating from JCU?*

My first job was as a Marketing Manger of a local exports company in my home country of Bulgaria. After a short time there, I returned to Rome, where I worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization. A year later, I found an opportunity at the World Food Program in my area of expertise, International Human Resources. Between breaks of contracts I have worked in other NGOs and international organizations in Rome, advising them on recruitment and staffing issues.

*Tell us a little about your current position.*

At The World Bank, I am in charge of managing and coordinating our offices in Europe and Washington, DC, and monitoring financial sector modernization projects which take place in the various countries of operations. It's a rather difficult task to coordinate virtually with staff in different time zones, to report overseas, and to travel so often, but I truly enjoy the visibility and flexibility of my job.

*What is it like living in Rome?*

I have been in Rome ever since 1998. Life as a student was as exciting as it was difficult, and I was impatient to graduate and start working. As a professional, life in Rome is challenging in many ways. It all depends on what you aim for and what kind of standards you hold.

*What professional organizations are you involved with?*

I am currently a candidate to the Society for Human Resources Management in the United States, where I will be receiving my chartered certificate as an International HR Professional in the year to come.

*Was there anyone during your time at JCU who acted as a mentor for you?*

I have very fond memories and a very high admiration for Professor Battelli, who sadly is no longer among us. He was an inspiration to me in the whole academic experience, and his tough discipline aligned with my personal beliefs. I remember him always telling me, "Never stop doing something, no matter what it is. The moment you stop, you will lose yourself." I always follow this principle in everything I do.

*How have you given back to your alma mater?*

I gladly come back to campus often and have helped with Career Week, including helping to prepare students for the interviewing and hiring process. I am really glad to be able to participate in JCU life as an alumna, and I believe it's a mutual benefit to all of us. I hope that one day the University will make Human Resources a more key area of the curriculum, to help better inform students about overall organizational behavior and prepare them for the feeling of being "at a crossroads" just before graduation.

*Where will you take your next vacation?*

I will go to my family's house in the Caribbean. I miss the JCU days when I would leave immediately after finals week each semester... the feeling of taking off was the best!

*What advice would you give to students attending JCU today?*

Never stop looking for other possibilities and never give up what you believe in. If at times life seems hard or finding a job looks impossible, prioritize and look into the niche market. You will be surprised how much is there yet to discover. And do enjoy yourselves while it last. Those will be the memories to keep forever.