On Campus newsletter / Grow your own way...in a new city / Issue 17

As an employer of almost 8,000 interns and new full-time associates from campuses across the country each year, PwC knows that students may seek employment opportunities in geographic areas beyond where they go to school. Sometimes students want to work in a city that brings them closer to family, others want to try living in a new city after they graduate, or some students want to move to a market where they can find industry opportunities aligned with their passions. Whatever the reason, at PwC, we do our best to help students find positions in the cities they prefer. Our culture of flexibility encompasses geographic mobility and is one way how we help our people grow their own way.

*On Campus* recently caught up with Aaron Lasher and Chelsea Dickinson, two students joining PwC full-time next fall, to talk with them about how they landed career opportuni­ties with PwC in offices that seem unexpected relative to where they are going to school.

***Aaron Lasher***

Indiana University

Bloomington, IN

***PwC / In which office were you interested in working?***

***Aaron*** Detroit, MI.

***PwC / Why were you interested in work­ing in Detroit?***

***Aaron*** As a lifelong fan of cars, Detroit is the place to be. Detroit is filled with the rich history of the American automotive industry and still serves as the heart of its worldwide operations. When a partner from PwC’s Detroit office traveled to Indiana University to talk about the office and his clients, I was really impressed with the interactions that he’d had with some of the major players in the industry. I could tell from his experiences that the firm would give me the opportunity to work within an industry I’ve always loved.

***PwC / How did a PwC recruiter help you in the process to get an internship in Detroit?***

***Aaron*** I had the great fortune of meeting John May, the Greater Michigan Market Sourcing Leader, at a career fair at Indiana University. Talking with him really helped me learn more about the Detroit office, the city, and the auto­motive client base that PwC served in Detroit. I told John I would like to work in Detroit, and he connected me with the recruiter for Indiana University, Shannon Anderson from the India­napolis office. Shannon was incredibly helpful, and she encouraged me to apply for an intern­ship in the Detroit office. Shannon and John made the process easy and enjoyable for me, and they gave me an incredible opportunity to reach my personal goals.

***PwC / Tell us about getting connected to a partner in the Greater Michigan mar­ket. What did the partner do to facilitate your recruiting process?***

***Aaron*** Since he knew I was very interested in working in Detroit, John arranged a meeting for me with a PwC partner from the Detroit office who was visiting Bloomington, IN, where Indi­ana University is located. The partner, Mike Marcero, and I had the opportunity to speak at length about his experiences in Detroit—from the city to the PwC office to the sports teams. That was an eye-opening experience for me, and really stoked my interest in that office even higher. It was a very open conversation, and gave me an incredible view of PwC Detroit and its people. I can’t say enough how important and meaningful this meeting with Mike was for me.

Since John was highly aware of my passion for the automotive industry, he also had a fellow car buff from the Detroit office reach out to me, and we spoke for a while about his work in the Auto­facts Group. This conversation showed me that there were more opportunities at the firm than I even knew about.

***PwC / What did your experience in the recruiting process tell you about how you can grow your own way at PwC?***

***Aaron*** I realized there are so many paths and doors open at any given time for people who work with PwC or want to work with the firm; the most important thing to do is be upfront about where you want to be in the near-term as well as long-term. Throughout the recruiting process, I was encouraged to reach out and ask questions and felt that PwC was interested in helping me develop myself professionally. The care that the firm takes with its potential really convinced me that I would have vast opportuni­ties available at PwC, and the support network to help me take advantage of them.

***PwC / Are you going to be working with PwC full-time? When do you start?***

***Aaron*** I’ll be starting at PwC in the fall of 2013.

***PwC / What are you most excited about starting your career?***

***Aaron*** Part of my interest in cars comes from wanting to know how every piece works together to keep the car rolling. I’m really excited to watch the whole audit, from start to finish, and see how my own part plays into the team’s successes.

***PwC / Do you have any tips to share with students who are looking for a role and perhaps in an unexpected geographic location?***

***Aaron*** I think that showing your passion for a particular area or role is the biggest asset you can have during the recruiting process. If you’re really excited for a particular location or line of service, let your passion for it show. I was really excited for the opportunity to work in Detroit, and the people I met from the office really appreciated that and wanted to work with me to help me realize that dream.

***Chelsea Dickinson***

University of Mississippi

Oxford, MS

***PwC / In which office were you interested in working?***

***Chelsea*** New York, NY.

***PwC / New York City may seem a long way from Mississippi. Why were you interested in working in New York?***

***Chelsea*** My primary reason for wanting to work in the New York City office was because I wanted to work with PwC in Assurance in the financial services sector. The office has a large client base of organizations in this sector. I actually had a specific client with whom I wanted to work in mind since freshman year of college. Also, I have extended family in the New York City area so I spent a lot of time there growing up. I love the high-octane lifestyle and you just can’t get a good bagel in Oxford, MS.

***PwC / How did the PwC recruiting team help to get you placed in the PwC location you wanted?***

***Chelsea*** The Ole Miss and New York office recruiters were extremely supportive of my goal to end up in the New York City office—I feel like they went above and beyond to make it happen. I know there was a lot of work and ef­fort going on behind the scenes so that I could end up in the right office. It was obvious throughout the recruiting process that PwC truly cared about me as a potential recruit and that was one of the deciding factors in my decision-making process. For example, the recruiters knew I had researched the client base in New York, and the New York City life­style— and they provided me opportunities to meet the right people to learn more about both.

In the end, not only did I end up in the location that I wanted, but I also ended up assisting my dream engagement team as well. I am so appre­ciative of the recruiters’ efforts and their confi­dence in my ability.

***PwC / What did your experience in the recruiting process tell you about how you can grow your own way at PwC?***

***Chelsea*** As a freshman I competed in the xTREME Games, and was a National Finalist in 2009, and won the campus round again as a sophomore in 2010. The xTREME Games were a fantastic way to get to learn more about PwC and to help the people of PwC learn more about me. I felt that the interviewing process for an internship position was very quick and easy be­cause by the time I was interviewing, as a result of participating in xTREME, I had already built a huge network within PwC.

***PwC / Are you going to be working with PwC full-time? When do you start?***

***Chelsea*** I will be going back to New York City in January 2013 for a second internship and I will be on schedule to start full-time with PwC in September 2014.

***PwC / What are you most excited about starting your career?***

***Chelsea*** I’m excited to get back to New York and hang out with my engagement team. I can’t wait to learn more about my client and sec­tor. What I enjoy most about public accounting is that there are opportunities everywhere to make the job more challenging and exciting—for ex­ample, special research projects, industry-specif­ic research, and more. You know you really enjoy your job when every day you go to work and wonder where the time went when the day ends. I found during my internship that working at PwC feels more like fun than work, because I enjoyed applying what I learned in school and because my engagement team became not only my work colleagues, but my friends.

***PwC / Do you have any tips to share with students who are looking for a role and perhaps in an unexpected geo­graphic location?***

***Chelsea*** I would advise students who want to work in a market outside of where they go to school to do their research, to form a com­pelling reason why they would like to work in a particular market, and to let PwC know their preferences as part of the recruiting process.

**Contact your recruiter to learn more.**