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Scott Fine

Wall Street Trek Seminar

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Ashley Carnes - Alumni Interview Write-up

Ashley Carnes is a recent graduate (Class of '19) with a bachelor's in Accounting and Finance. She took a roundabout path into her current role as a Strategy and Operations Consultant at EY, one she's glad she took. Ashley interned at a small accounting firm, Keybanc, Riverside, and Deloitte while an undergrad, and said she felt all these experiences built upon each other. Learning what she was good at (and what she didn't enjoy as much) led her to a career in consulting today. The largely independent work at the accounting firm pushed her to seek opportunities with more personal and client-side interaction involved, which she says is one of her favorite parts of consulting.

The trek took place the fall of her junior year, after her internship in Private Equity and before interning at Deloitte. She greatly enjoyed the trip, and learned a great deal about the breadth of opportunities available. She wishes she had started the networking process earlier - getting to know alum before meeting them in person would be invaluable, especially for those coffee chats and eventual follow-up emails.

I reached out to Ashley since she's a recent grad who was noted by Scott to be a master networker. I asked her a few questions about what that process looked like for her. She suggests starting as early as possible, and not being afraid to be aggressive

with it. Reach out to alumni of Case, of your high school, 2nd degree connections on LinkedIn, and don't say no to any opportunity. You never know who will help you get your next job. She described the spreadsheet she kept for connections: name, location, phone number and email, notes about your relationship with them, and a date last contacted.

I also asked Ashley about some of the must-have consulting skills she described during the Alumni Panel. She said she gained a lot of her interpersonal skills through leadership roles on campus, big and small - she especially noted that things like planning one-off events can be great learning opportunities. She also mentioned her public speaking classes and Organizational Behavior minor as parts of her undergrad that directly helped her develop these skills. On the technical side, classes like BAFI355 and Scott's Cases class were both highly recommended.

In the last few minutes of the phone call, I asked her about case interviews. She said that while she was an undergrad, her peers would reach out to her for help prepping for these. She has a lot of materials on case interviews she was happy to share with me, and offered to help me prepare with mock interviews. Her final, parting advice was to trust in the process and never stop reaching for those goals through networking, applying, and practicing.