



Alumni Spotlight: Chris Schiermeyer '17

1. When were you a member of LLC and what positions did you hold?

Beginning with a vision from the co-founders, I, along with the founding Executive Board, transformed the idea of a new investment fund at Penn State into Leveraged Lion Capital. This included writing a constitution, seeking recognition from the University and Smeal, recruiting and interviewing students, creating onboarding and educational materials for members, and building the framework for our investment process. I had the privilege of serving as the organization's first President, which was almost entirely an executive, administration, relationship building, and a vision-oriented role.

Chris is a Post-baccalaureate Pre-medical Student at Bryn Mawr College. Chris graduated from Penn State in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Finance. During his time at Penn State, Chris helped found LLC and served as President for the 2017 calendar year. He interned with J.P. Morgan during the summer of 2017 in the Global Securitized Products Group before returning to the group full-time.

2. How did LLC help prepare you for your career?

LLC helped prepare me for my career by developing my skills and understanding of leadership in a professional setting. My role in LLC was largely focused on the vision of the future, and I quickly learned in order to achieve any vision, it would take a collective team effort. Fortunately for the organization, great people became involved early on. Every individual is unique in that they are motivated by different factors, respond differently to challenges, and work in different manners. As a leader, or in any position, it is important not only to get the pulse of the organization as a whole but also each individual member if you want to develop success. For me, developing a sense of everyone's thought processes, work style, and goals became essential to build for the future. Furthermore, it was imperative to have this understanding in order to have a diverse group buy into the strategic vision and organization's potential, which seemed far off.

From these experiences, I believe some of the most important traits of a leader are humility, which allows you to recognize you don't always know the answer and that it is ok to follow; responsibility, which allows you to accept all organizational shortcomings as your own; confidence, which enables the team to believe in you and themselves; and interpersonal skills, which enable you to develop an understanding of your peers and ultimately leads to you, the leader, being someone they can trust and strive to do their best for. Overall, the most important lessons I learned were about developing positive and productive relationships with the professionals around you.

3. What advice would you give to the new members of LLC?

My advice to new members of LLC is to take advantage of this opportunity. As a member of LLC, any business career coming out of university is a possibility if you are willing to work for it. Be honest with yourself about what you are interested in and then learn more about it. Find your passion and then pursue it. Above all, recognize that you have just arrived and in order to be great you need to work hard and be a good person. Through hard work and decency, the world will begin to open up for you. For any university student, there are countless resources and unlimited knowledge right at your disposal. You can learn or begin to learn nearly anything in those four years. Have fun but make the most of it. Lastly, give back to the organizations that helped you along the way.

4. What advice would you give to current LLC members for their internships this summer?

My advice to current LLC members regarding their internships this coming summer comes in tiers:

Tier 1: under-promise and over-deliver, be the first one in and the last one out, find ways to add value, and over-communicate.

Tier 2: don't sacrifice quality for speed, maintain intellectual curiosity, make everything perfect, and don't lose sight of the big picture.