

# UIC

The University of Illinois at Chicago

# THE CBA INTERN

Vol. 8, Number 1

<http://www.uic.edu/cba/ugrad/businesscareercenter.html>

Fall 2007

## McGLADREY & PULLEN LLP Offers Field Work Auditing Experience



*Intern Jonathan DeVries at McGladrey's offices on North Wacker Drive.*

Accounting major Jonathan DeVries commenting on his summer internship at RSM McGladrey observed, "I was blessed enough to obtain an internship on the Government and Not-for-Profit team at McGladrey & Pullen. It was their busy season, so I was able to go out to

## PETER WOLTERS OF AMERICA Provides Intern with Insight into Corporate Accounting

Peter Wolters, a Novellus company, is a leading provider of advanced process equipment for the global semiconductor industry. The company provides products and technologies that meet the ever-increasing complex needs of the world's largest chipmakers.

Accounting major Heta Soni found her internship there to be a great experience. She observed, "Novellus, being a multinational manufacturing unit, has helped me to explore my knowledge in the fields of international accounting and finance. A majority of my work included building out KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) for different departments and taking this data to forecast performance for the next year. This helped the unit measure performance in terms of productivity and profitability for different product lines.

"As an accountant, there was a possibility of work load fluctuation as we moved toward a month's end. This internship has taught me all aspects of month-end closing for a multinational corporation by using SAP software tools. It was

clients on a regular basis. During my fieldwork I was able to learn a great deal about what auditing really is. I was also introduced to a whole different sector of the accounting profession--government and not-for-profit organizations.

"Most of my time was spent at village halls, school district offices, and a few not-for-profit organizations' offices. My tasks varied with each engagement, but with the help of the "in-charge" on the various jobs, I was able to complete each task assigned and began to understand not only how, but why, we do each task. One aspect that surprised me was my interaction with clients. I thought that as an intern I would be doing the trivial jobs that no one else wanted to do but was happy to find out on my first day that I actually interacted with the client. If my task required input from the client, then I was the one who was responsible for getting it.

"Overall, this internship was a very rewarding experience. It related to many different classes at UIC, such as auditing, financial accounting, governmental accounting, and every communication course required by the curriculum. It allowed me to see how the vast knowledge required of accountants is put to use in the field on a daily basis."

rewarding and interesting to see how the assumptions that we make in our classes are applied in the real world. My internship has also enhanced my communication skills as I had to interact with people from different departments on a daily basis."



*Intern Heta Soni looks up from her desk along with her supervisor Marcus Ludwig.*

## Alumnus at LKQ CORPORATION Offers Intern a Career in IDS

Most upperclassmen endure the stressful but inevitable trials of securing a job in their chosen fields after graduation. For CBA senior Naveed Shareef, the transition from student to professional will be seamless thanks to the education and connections provided by the CBA.

While Naveed chose the CBA for a variety of reasons, it was the opportunity to get hands-on, real-world experience that was particularly appealing. "The field of information management is constantly changing as new technologies are introduced and applied. A quality college education is essential, but there is so much additional learning that takes place on the job. I am grateful I had the opportunity to experience both."

Through the Undergraduate Business Career Center, Naveed was offered a paid internship with Chicago-based LKQ

Corporation, the largest national distributor of recycled automotive products and related services. Its convenient downtown location allowed him to continue working year-round while taking courses.

Mike Feltz '03, a fellow CBA graduate and LKQ team leader, oversaw Naveed's internship and eventually offered him a full-time position as a technical analyst.

"Naveed came to us with a good knowledge base, but it's the extras that he brought to the job that made him stand out. He is always looking to learn. He knows how to prioritize his work assignments so they are completed correctly and on time. If he comes to me with a problem, he also comes prepared with suggested solutions--an invaluable quality in the fast-paced IT business. Those individuals with the correct thought process and attitude will succeed in this career field, and Naveed, like so many students I see coming out of the CBA program, epitomizes what we look for in an employee. I was more than happy to make him an offer, and was even happier he accepted."

LKQ is one of the many Chicago area companies posting internship opportunities through the Undergraduate Business Career Center. The corporate internship program is among the support services offered through the center, which helps students define and reach their career goals.

Because of UIC's close proximity to the Chicago financial district, CBA students, like Naveed, are able to take advantage of internship offers year-round and, as a result, benefit from the increased potential for full-time employment offers following graduation.



*Alumnus Michael Feltz '03 with Intern Naveed Shareef at LKQ's offices located in the Loop.*

## Spotlight Employer: STATE FARM



*Intern Kerry Lisman with supervisor Dan Cochran at State Farm's Corporate Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois*

According to information on their website, State Farm's mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. It claims to be a company which makes it their business to be "like a good neighbor," bringing diverse talents and experiences to the work of serving State Farm customers. Furthermore the company claims its success is built on a foundation of shared values -- quality service and relationships, mutual trust, integrity and financial strength. It was into such an environment that CBA intern Kerry Lisman inserted herself for a summer internship down in their corporate headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois.

Commenting on her internship Kerry observed, "I worked on various projects, including one of my larger assignments, which required me to calculate corporate risk measures based on State Farm, competitor, and industry financial data and the S&P 500. I reviewed the State Farm Enterprise Economic Capital Initiative. I used Dreamweaver to redesign and update the FO&C website. I was also able to attend a speech program where I gave presentations. I attended and ran many meetings and seminars, ranging in topics from management compliance and imaging, to auditing and budgeting.

"I learned a lot about State Farm, the insurance industry, Bloomington, and the corporate world. Every person I met at State Farm was helpful, allowing me to learn something new every day. State Farm also offered a community not just at work, but also outside of work. My overall experience at State Farm was excellent."

## Leadership Skills Acquired at SUBURBAN BANK & TRUST



*CBA Intern Mark Jeziorczak seated at his desk at a Suburban Bank and Trust's branch in Oak Lawn*

Mark Jeziorczak started working for Suburban Bank and Trust in his freshman year. He first started out as a teller at their 99<sup>th</sup> and Western location. At that time he quickly learned through his responsibilities to practice the company's slogan, "The experience of exceptional service."

After seven months he was transferred to the Oak Lawn location at 103<sup>rd</sup> and Cicero where he continues to work today as a junior. At this location in Oak Lawn, he gained more knowledge of the banking world and received a promotion to "Teller Supervisor" after being there for two months. He comments, "At the age of nineteen (sophomore year), a year after I began at the bank, I was responsible for nightly closing of the entire branch. This afforded me great

experience. And if that was the goal, then it was accomplished in a joyful and pleasant way."

responsibility and it built my leadership skills. I had to look over another teller as well as make operations run smoothly during the late afternoon and early night time."

A year after becoming a teller supervisor (his junior year at UIC), he was asked to become an Associate Banker, a position which he currently holds. He describes this as what the banking world would call a "floater." He goes to the part of the bank that is busiest, whether it's the operations on the teller line or the personal interaction with customers in the financial services area.

His official responsibilities are to cross-sell products and services to existing and prospective customers. He must proactively maintain client relationships to increase client satisfaction and customer profitability to the bank.

Mark observes, "Throughout my time at Suburban, my motivation and inspiration for the business world has increased like never before." He thanks UIC and his experience at the bank for inspiring and motivating him throughout his early professional career. He says he hopes to one day give back to those who gave him the knowledge and inspiration that has fueled his passion for the business world.

## Accounting Major Gains Experience at RED CROSS

Benjamin Hernandez claims that his internship experience at the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago headquarters was a great and pleasurable experience. He asserts that he worked with great people and the office provided a very friendly environment.

Benjamin worked with a number of staff people in the Financial Management Department. He helped with accounts payable and receivable. He made journal entries, posted them to the general ledger, prepared and cut checks and did the necessary filing. He also found himself doing updating of the cash book, reconciliations, and allocated expenses for executives of different grant accounts.

Commenting on an overall view of his internship, Benjamin stated, "Working in a not-for-profit organization has many advantages as well as disadvantages. However, I appreciate and am thankful for the opportunity that I've been provided to polish my skills and gain some



*Accounting major Benjamin Hernandez, surrounded by his supervisor Narahian Hanna (left) and CFO, Guillermo Becerra '83(right)*

## Marketing Major's Internship at TURNER BROADCASTING

CBA intern Patrycja Palak claims that her internship at Turner Broadcasting with CNN was the best experience of her life. She was an intern for the digital and television side of CNN. On the digital side, she handled the advertising part of their website. As on all websites there are pop-up advertisements. She helped manage the timing, what category (health, news, weather, etc.) the advertisement appeared in, and the size of the ad.

On the TV side, she handled make-good orders. The basic idea is to "make good" on advertisements that have been missed as a result of a major breakthrough story. She also learned about the meaning of impressions and researched companies that might be interested in advertising with CNN. She also had the opportunity to attend client meetings.

Patrycja commented "This internship has given me real hands-on experience. It has been, by far, the best internship of my college career. It has taught me to multi-task, lead, network, follow deadlines, and the importance of accuracy in documents and beyond. I love the people at CNN and I hope that I will be so lucky as to receive a position with them after my graduation."



*Intern Patrycja Palak at her desk at Turner Broadcasting*

The CBA Intern is published by the Business Career Center, 1118 University Hall, Chicago, Illinois 60607. Phone: (312) 996-2700. Website: <http://www.uic.edu/cba/ugrad/businesscareercenter.html>

## An Intern Reflects: Roman Chernyhovsky at AT&T



*Intern Roman Chernyhovsky (right) with co-worker and alumnus Sebastian Poniecki '99 (left) at AT&T Corporate Offices in Hoffman Estates*

"I was able to find a great internship at AT&T working as a summer support manager. It was the kind of job that combined many aspects of finance and marketing. It allowed me to gain very realistic and applicable examples of what a full-time profession in these areas might be like once I graduate from UIC.

"AT&T bought out Bell South and acquired ownership of Cingular for their wireless division. I was one of the people that was primarily responsible for consolidating and merging many of their Business-to-Business accounts in the midwest.

"Working at AT&T provided me with the opportunity to meet and work beside many great professionals and develop a lot of important business contacts. I got to see the inside of how a major *Fortune* 500 company operates and does business on a daily basis.

"Overall I was extremely satisfied with my experience working at AT&T and would recommend it to anyone looking to obtain some hands-on experience in the business world."