

Alumni Spotlight: Emalee Landis '21



Emalee Landis is a TMT Leveraged Finance Analyst at Goldman Sachs. Prior to her full-time role, Emalee studied Finance and Spanish at Penn State from 2018 – 2021. Following her first semester, she became involved in LLC as an associate analyst in the IT sector and spent her last year serving as the President of the organization.

Contact Information:

Email: emalee.landis@gs.com

1. When were you a member of Leveraged Lion Capital and what positions did you hold?

I joined LLC in the Spring of 2019 as an Associate Analyst in the Information Technology Sector. Subsequently, I spent a semester as Lead Analyst and then held roles as Director of Education and most recently President.

2. How did Leveraged Lion Capital help prepare you for your future career?

As part of my current role, I evaluate optimal capital structures for non-investment grade companies and advise on / execute leveraged loan and high-yield bond transactions. Leveraged Lion Capital gave me a solid foundation and understanding of the fixed-income universe. As part of my time spent in the club, I read a credit agreement for the first time, gained a thorough understanding of credit drivers, learned how to have an “investor’s mindset”, and became more adept at understanding LevFin syndication processes. Learning how to synthesize credit drivers and technicals has been a distinguishing quality in my full-time role that I credit to LLC.

3. What advice would you give to new members of Leveraged Lion Capital?

Reflecting on my time spent in the organization, I am most appreciative of the “upside-only” learning environment that LLC provides. As it relates to the people, being surrounded by the smartest students in Smeal, having open access to alumni through recruiting, and having Robin and Dr. Wooldridge as direct mentors were invaluable resources that helped me draw a line from State College to Goldman Sachs. Furthermore, having resources such as LevFin Insights, Covenant Review, CapIQ, Bloomberg, etc. helped me gain familiarity with the tools that I now use full-time. The learning curve was infinitely steep during LLC which enabled me to learn more in four years than I could have ever expected.

4. What advice do you have for members of Leveraged Lion Capital who are currently recruiting for internships?

My best advice for current LLC members is as follows: 1) be a sponge to new information, 2) set your personal bar high and take specific, tangible action to achieve your goals, 3) capitalize on all the resources available to you and 4) remember that confidence comes with hard work. As intimidating as it is to pitch your first investment in LLC or interview on Wall Street, confidence isn’t acquired overnight. The best pitches, interviews, and deals often come from weeks or months of hard work that help you build the confidence to eventually take on client discussions and successfully price a transaction. Take notes whenever you are learning something new and be diligent in your preparation.