



Michael is an Investment Banking Analyst in the Leveraged Finance Capital Markets group at Deutsche Bank. Michael graduated from Penn State in 2019, where he served as the President of Leveraged Lion Capital. Michael interned with Deutsche Bank during the summer of 2018 before returning to the group full-time as an analyst.

Alumni Spotlight: Michael Coppola '19

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

I joined LLC when it first started in the Spring of 2017 with no formal title as it was just starting off. It's crazy to think of what the club was back then, as it really was a group of ~25 students in a room with limited knowledge and no idea what we were getting ourselves into. That fall, I formally became an Associate Analyst in the Natural Resources sector and then in December, I interviewed and became the President for the 2018 calendar year. By the time 2019 came around, I was a second semester senior & was "retired" from LLC.

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

LLC was tremendous in helping me prepare for my career - essentially everything I learned during my time in it has translated into my current role. A lot of the material I was expecting to learn was leveraged finance-related (covenant analysis, valuation, analyzing businesses, following credit markets, free cash flow modeling, etc). All of that stuff most certainly applies to my current job, but looking back I realized one of the most significant things I learned had nothing do with finance, but rather, people.

During my time as President, it was tremendous working with and leading such a diverse group of students who all had different personalities. It was a phenomenal learning experience for the Exec board and myself, especially being in a leadership role during LLC's growth stage. As I walked away from LLC, I realized that the greatest skill I picked up was how to work with many different types of people and how to be versatile in any situation.

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

Aside from the cliché stuff of working hard, trying to learn as much as you can and be a sponge, I would say try to keep yourself inspired. It's easy to get caught up in the short term and not think bigger picture, but take a look at the remarkable things you'll get the opportunity to do one day. You'll get to meet many successful people in LLC and you will hopefully one day work on Wall Street where you'll get to do something exceptional. I would say once you are inspired and motivated, it becomes pretty easy to want to work hard, learn and develop.

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

Aside from the cliché stuff (again) of working hard, maintaining a positive attitude and being a sponge, I would say don't be afraid to be human. I think it's the little moments where you act genuinely that make a substantial difference - whether it be making small talk about sports, TV, Penn State, etc. - it's definitely a chance to let your personality come out and show who you really are. People will remember you for that and more importantly, you yourself will have a better gauge of how well you fit into the team and can better assess if the role would make you happy.