



Anna Hardy (Reger)

Binghamton University Class of 2011

PwC Scholars VP of Communications, 2009-2010

What degrees did you earn?

- B.S. in Accounting, Binghamton University, 2011
- Master of Taxation, University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, 2012

Where are you working right now? How did you choose your career path after graduation?

I worked at PwC right after graduation. I enjoyed working at PwC in Denver and left because I had a strong desire to move home and be close to my family. I worked at PwC at first because of all the connections I made with them while at Binghamton. I did the National Leadership Conference and interned at PwC in New York City, so of course I accepted my full time offer and started working with them after grad school. After I moved home, I started at Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. It is a regional CPA firm that serves Western New York and Northern Pennsylvania. I absolutely love it here. There are about 100 people that work for the firm between 3 offices. It feels like I work with my family every day and we have very close relationships with our clients and community – that is important to me.

Outside of work, I am also the co-founder and CFO of a not-for-profit called Elmira Discipleship Ministries. EDM is an 11 month training program for young adults who want to live in community and want to learn leadership, discipleship, and communication skills. The students do a tremendous amount of outreach in the local community. I take care of the

finances and the business side of the operation. It has challenged me to learn all sorts of things I never thought I would need to know, but running a non-profit has been an awesome journey!

What projects are you currently involved with?

I work on everything! Our location has a small tax department with six people that includes two staff, two managers, and two tax partners. During tax season, we have others who help with returns too. I do corporate, partnership, individual, and not-for-profit tax returns. I also do tax research and some general accounting. I even go out on some compilations and reviews in the summer with the assurance team. It's pretty cool how I have been able to become very well rounded. Each day at work is different.

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What community service opportunities does your firm provide?

Our firm often helps the community both with hours and with finances. MMB also does a big annual community service project which is usually at a local park. Most everyone I work with is heavily involved in a non-profit board or volunteering. Honestly, working at a firm that does "lots of community service projects" is not nearly as meaningful as working WITH people who love their community and chose to serve the community themselves. Sure, the firm can be a catalyst for community service, but it's working with caring people that means more to me. There is a distinct difference there. I work with people who love our region and we represent the firm any time we serve, even when we aren't at work.

What about your job motivates you?

I am motivated by knowing that my work has a direct impact on our local community. Our clients are everywhere and I love that it seems to be a small world.

I'll see them at the gym or at Wegmans. I am also motivated by truly being able to design my own career. For example, I saw a need to develop a formal recruiting process, and I just did it because I thought it was fun. We also have half day Fridays from June-September and reduced hours from May-December. We have true flexibility.

What are some obstacles that you have had to overcome during your career?

Honestly, learning how to sit still and work is a challenge. At Binghamton, I was all over the place doing a million different things, and I loved it. Now I have to sit still and focus quietly, which is really difficult for me.

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What do you consider to be your most important accomplishments post graduation?

It was an accomplishment to find a firm that I enjoy to work at and have good connections at. Thanks to those I work with, my job has made me a well-rounded accountant and individual. I am valuable at MMB, but I can use my skills to help people outside of work too. It was also an accomplishment to start the non-profit company, but a lot of that credit goes to the awesome team I work with as well.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I love to be outdoors! Fly fishing, hiking and snowboarding are my favorite activities. I love going to the Adirondacks with my husband. Time is limited, so it's very precious when I can do these things. I cherish time with my family and spend a lot of time keeping up with friends I have made through the years.



Anna with Professor Kamlet, Edward Calderone, Melissa Wolkis, PwC Relationship Partner Matt Singer, 2010 Campus Recruiter Emma-Anne Millard, and Dean Dhillon at the PwC Scholars Community Service Day in 2010.

Do you have any final advice for current Scholars and/or new professionals?

I sure do! Stop worrying about landing your “dream job.” It will come. What you are doing right now and at your first job is teaching you valuable skills that you can use when it comes time for it. You have to grow and develop; that takes time. I know it seems so urgent to land that job right after college, but don't let it consume you. Be humble. You are strengthened through failures and disappointments, so don't get discouraged. Instead, be thankful for the struggles. Besides, you appreciate things more when you have had to fight harder and wait longer to get them. Keep moving toward the dream, but enjoy the long journey you are on. Lastly, your character is way more attractive than your GPA, trust me. ■

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Note: If you are a current Scholar interested in setting up a networking session with Anna, please contact VPMR Hannah Hersch at [hhersch1@binghamton.edu](mailto:hersch1@binghamton.edu).