



David Schwartz

Binghamton University, Class of '14
Scholars President, 2013-2014

What was your area of study at Binghamton?

Double Degree B.S. in Management with concentrations in MIS and Leadership & Consulting and B.A. in Music.

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

I am a Technology Consultant at Protiviti - a global consulting firm - working in our IT Consulting ERP solution. I started with Protiviti right after graduation because I was drawn to the company culture as well as the learning opportunities that were offered to me throughout the recruiting and onboarding stages. Protiviti is a younger firm with a startup mindset that has huge growth potential and many opportunities for helping shape that growth.

What project are you currently involved with?

There are two main sides to my position; the client side and the internal side. On the client side I have been on 7 different projects over the past year. Right now, I am working down in St. Petersburg, Florida on an SAP Security role redesign. Every project is unique and the work I do is always different even if the engagements are the same type. Some of the projects I have been involved with include an SAP GRC implementation and upgrade, SAP and non-SAP Operational and SOX Reviews testing, and SOD Quantification. On the internal side, I am the Lead Consultant for our recruiting at Binghamton, Community

Service Lead for our New York Office, and also lead our Town Hall Band that performs at each of our quarterly All Hands meetings at the Hard Rock in Times Square.

Protiviti and its independently owned Member Firms serve clients through a network of more than 70 locations in over 20 countries. I am based out of our New York office but travel as the nature of the work requires me to be at the client site. With that said, the office can have anywhere from 40 people in the office to 300 when you can barely find a seat. Team size varies as well - I have worked on small teams of 2 all the way to large projects with closer to 20 people.

What about your job motivates you?

One thing that keeps me excited about going to work every day is the fact that I know I'm always going to learn something new from the people around me. There is always a challenge where I am able to learn a new skill or further develop my current skillset by working creatively to benefit the client. No matter what I am working on day-to-day, I am always surrounded by a great team of people that are easy to work with. This is important as it makes it much easier to sit in a conference room every day for months when your team is fun to be with.

What are some obstacles you have faced?

The biggest obstacle would have to be commuting 4 hours a day when I'm working out of the New York office. With the traveling, it didn't make sense to get an apartment in Manhattan. Longer-term I see myself moving closer to work but with my current situation, it makes the most sense.

As far as work goes, I haven't had many obstacles as it was easy for me to find my place. I made goals when I started including helping with recruiting and community service. Getting involved was extremely beneficial to assimilating to my new environment and the busier I was, the happier I was - something I learned in school.

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What community service opportunities does Protiviti provide?

We have office specific and firm-wide initiatives that I am involved with. Internally, we have roughly one new community service effort we focus on a month - some lasting several months. From toiletry drives benefitting the Covenant House (nonprofit charity serving homeless youth with a network of shelters across the Americas) all the way to our Project Yellow Boots volunteering (Disaster Recovery Organization formed to help rebuild Staten Island after Super Storm Sandy), we have many different opportunities and varying causes that we help with throughout the year.

In terms of firm-wide service, we are wrapping up our year of 'i On Hunger' aimed at serving one million meals to food-deprived people around the world. The New York Office held events where we delivered food (Meals on Wheels) and packaged meals (Stop Hunger Now) throughout the year. After Scholars, it was very important for me to continue my involvement with volunteering and community service opportunities - I'm glad to have found so many with Protiviti!

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What are some of your hobbies and interests?

- Singing and music
- Jets and Yankees fan
- Technology innovation
- Community service
- Skiing and watersports

Note: If you are a current Scholar interested in setting up a networking session with David, please fill out the interest form sent out by VPMM Hannah Hersch at hhersch1@binghamton.edu.



Do you have any final advice for Scholars?

Take the time during college to explore different things! If you come to school with one thing in mind, don't be afraid to change if it doesn't feel right. I changed schools and adjusted my major several times before it felt right.

Even though you've probably heard it before, be nice to everyone you meet. On top of that, find something that you can connect with them on. For example, the Scholars in your classes will be just as important of a resource in your professional life as recruiters are now. Make sure that you're promoting yourself and creating your own brand every day. You only have one chance to make a first impression.

Finally, explore as much as you can during your 4 (plus or minus a few) years at Binghamton, meet new people, and go do different things especially if they are out of your comfort zone. You never know what cool things you may learn or interesting people you will meet. ■