

EOC Mentee Experience: Alvin Kumaga (BA, Economics, 2016)

I am a native New Yorker, and I trace my family's roots back to Ghana, West Africa. I am an avid sports enthusiast, and I also enjoy singing and playing the piano. More importantly, I am a hard-working, strong-willed individual who is near the completion of my college journey at Baruch College, which I started in the spring of 2013. I have enjoyed my experiences at Baruch, and throughout this journey I have been able to realize a considerable amount of personal growth. As I start my final year this fall, I can say that I am much stronger mentally, physically, and spiritually. A large part of my success is due to my tenacity to learn the lessons from all the challenges I have faced. I believe that the hurdles I have overcome, and how I choose to resolve them will ultimately lead to great success in my career and in life.

When I first entered Baruch College, I had a plan in action to make sure that I took advantage of the many career development tools and resources available to students. Resources such as the student-led organizations, career development center, and the Executives on Campus mentoring programs. When I set up my Baruchmail account, I began receiving messages about Executives on Campus' upcoming events, like *Mentor for a Morning/Evening*. The *Mentor for a Morning/Evening* programs are EOC's very popular networking events that pairs students with experienced business professionals and executives. The executives participate in these programs donate their time and expertise to help counsel and support students like myself. Excited to develop my networking skills, I have participated in this event every semester, and was fortunate to be matched with my mentor, Carol Gamm, an executive education consultant. Having Carol as my mentor has been invaluable to the gains I made in the past year. It was her who stood in my corner, believing in me as I interviewed for competitive internships. When I would express doubts about securing an internship, Carol would always remind me that success involved tenacity and initiative. She had a funny way of remind me, by saying, "Why not you, Alvin? You're not chopped liver!" Carol has been a blessing, and I am thankful that Executives on Campus connected us.

“*My relationship with Carol has one been of continuous encouragement and expert advice, especially at a time where I am preparing for my post-collegiate career. Due to Carol, I have put together professional business cards, improved my resume, and developed sharp networking skills.*”

In the fall of 2014, I attended an ALFPA Baruch event; an information session about Sponsors for Educational Opportunity. After hearing about all the advantageous opportunities provided through SEO, I immediately applied. The application and recruitment process were long and arduous, and the three rounds of interview were some of the toughest interview processes I had ever participated in. Within four months of painstaking anticipation, I received the good news: I had been selected as a 2015 SEO Career Fellow and I would be

interning at Morgan Stanley in the summer. The news was so humbling; learning that I had competed with thousands of other qualified applicants, but was chosen. I credit my success to my mentor, Carol Gamm's sincere belief in my goals, as well as my determination to succeed. As an SEO Career Fellow, I was able to take part in train programs in financial education, corporate etiquette, and pre-internship preparation.

Also, through exclusive seminars and networking events hosted by SEO, I was able to meet with Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JP Morgan, and Henry Kravis, the CEO of KKR.

Recently, I completed my summer internship at Morgan Stanley, and it was an amazing experience! As an intern, I truly felt valuable to the organization



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and professionals that I worked alongside. During my time there I worked with a team of other interns, and our shared journey to attaining this coveted internship brought about an authentic collegial atmosphere in the workplace. Everyone genuinely cared for one another, and this was evident in how we supported one another in our assignments, as well as how we celebrated important events such as birthdays and farewell celebrations. My takeaway experience from this internship was how to incorporate the skills learned and developed to success in my final year of undergrad at Baruch, and eventually in my post-collegiate career.

Without the mentorship provided by Carol Gamm, I would have not been able to prepare for the challenging application process for SEO and intern with Morgan Stanley. Due to the guidance and support of Carol Gamm, and the resources within Baruch College, I was able to conduct an effective internship search, improve my networking skills, and achieve desirable opportunities. As a member of the Executives on Campus community, I felt well prepared in presenting myself in professional settings, highlighting my unique skills and abilities, and making thoughtful decisions that will impact my future career.

I believe that my experiences through the past few years have greatly facilitated my personal and professional development. My desire to improve myself academically and professionally led me to Executives on Campus where I met my trusted advisor and mentor, Carol Gamm. Now, I am much more sharpened, seasoned, and optimistic individual. By virtue of the opportunities provided by Executives on Campus and the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, I am confident in my future success as a business professional, and look forward to one day becoming an EOC mentor.

Alvin Kumaga is an undergraduate student at Baruch College, pursuing Bachelor's in Economics with a minor in Psychology. His goals are similar to that of any determined business school student — to secure a full-time position at a top-tier financial institution. Alvin aspires to climb up the corporate ladder to achieve the role of Director at a top firm.