Alumni Spotlight

Samantha Beasley ’11

Samantha Beasley ’11 majored in Accounting. She first realized she wanted to become an accountant in high school. Samantha is extremely proud to be the first in her family to attend college. Family pride continues with her sister, Ashley, who also recently graduated from Ramapo in May 2012 with a Biology degree.

As a Ramapo College senior, Samantha received assistance from the Cahill Center to land a co-op position with Stryker Orthopaedics. She worked in Accounts Receivable and says her managers, Yvonne Harris and Nancy Castro, were “great onsite mentors.” Stryker is a wonderful Business Partner with Ramapo and Samantha recalls three other students completing co-ops while she was there. It was a “sweet deal,” she recalls, to get paid and earn college credits. On campus she was involved with the Accounting Club.

Samantha views accounting as a secure profession. She found her current position at RotenbergMeril, a top SEC audit firm, at a Ramapo College job fair. A Human Resources representative from the company conducted a mini-interview on the spot. Samantha took the steps to set herself apart from the crowd by having a strong resume printed on resume paper and arrived at the job fair early to begin networking. She followed up with the Human Resources rep and went through a series of four individual interviews with different levels of employees at the firm. In her position, Samantha must earn continuing professional education credits as part of the continual changes that occur in the profession of Accounting. She is pleased that RotenbergMeril sponsors workshops and seminars for employees so that they may earn the required 40 credits per year.

The accountant’s advice for students striving to land a job: work experience is just as important as dressing up professionally for interviews. She also suggests to “be professional now and to register with LinkedIn” and to list the affiliation on your resume.

Samantha reminds Accounting majors that it’s crucial to earn 150 credits in order to sit for the CPA exam. She urges students to earn the 150 credits before graduating, and to take on a minor if necessary. Employers in the Accounting field like to see how many credits you’ve earned throughout your college career and she recommends listing it directly on your resume.

As with many students, the best memories of Ramapo are the extracurricular activities. Samantha remembers late night dining, trips to Dorney Park and to Yankee baseball games.

Katrine Beck ’97

Katrine Beck ’96 always knew she wanted to become a lawyer and try cases. She believes that spending her first five years in Iran and witnessing the injustices that took place there may have influenced her decision. Katrine was a world traveler without fully realizing the significance of her journeys. When her family fled Iran, they lived in Spain for a year, and then Italy, before settling in upstate New York. They moved to Rockland County in 1983.

The Political Science major transferred to Ramapo after spending freshman year at SUNY Oneonta. Due to a family illness, she chose to come home and help the family. She took several independent study classes, which she found to be intense. She also
had a co-op position with a local lawyer, Tom Williams, Esq. who ran a solo practice. Jill Cabett in the Cahill Center helped her secure the co-op. Katrine worked there shortly after graduation as well. "Having a paid co-op taught me to balance school, work and a social life. It got me into the groove earlier."

After graduating from Ramapo, Katrine earned a J.D. at Albany Law School. She then went on to work at the New York City Law Department, the attorneys that represent New York City and its agencies. Katrine had interned there during her second semester in law school. She is pleased that she was given the opportunity to try cases just a year after landing the position. "Attorneys learn on the job," she says. "The best way to learn is to get hands-on training and experience." In March 2004 she accepted a position as an Associate with the national law firm Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP where her practice focuses on New York labor law violations, premises and auto cases, construction and municipal law. She handles cases from inception and tries cases in all five boroughs of New York City. Katrine was named a partner in 2010. In 2012, she was named as one of Westchester's "40 under 40 Rising Stars."

Education is valued in her family and both Katrine and her brother applied themselves academically. She sought out faculty for advice about law school and prides herself on her strong analytical skills that prepared her for law school.

Husband Christopher, a History major, graduated from Ramapo College in 1997. They met in high school. Both she and her husband worked in Washington D.C. for a summer semester. Professor Fluhr helped them find the internships- Katrine at a lobbying firm and Christopher in a position with Congressman Gilman. Katrine describes the internship as powerful. "I really learned the meaning of networking." She stresses the importance of doing something outside of the school experience and outside of one's personal safety zone.

Katrine was a commuter student. In her last year at Ramapo she was looking for employment. A college administrator advised her to look for a job on campus, in residence life, perhaps. She did and became the resident assistant for Butternut.

Katrine has fond memories of Professors Mike Fluhr, Jennfer Mazza, Cliff Peterson, Steven Arianus and Ting Gong. She says, "They were advisors and mentors and always had time to answer questions. They were dedicated and took interest in their students." She notes the small class sizes "gave her individual attention and forced her to be prepared and ready to participate."

At Ramapo, Katrine played on the tennis team and is still in touch with her former coach, Marilyn Morello, who worked in Health Services. Katrine participates in Marilyn's family charity (Family Reach Foundation) and attends an annual gathering of alumni Marilyn coached.

She advises students that a co-op or internship is a must. "Competition is fierce. Have good grades, build your resume early on and work when you can to see if you like it or not." Networking, such as through the College's Alumni Association, is important, too. "Networking is the foundation of your success. Maintain relationships with people and the school."

Katrine and Christopher reside in Bergen County and have a three-year-old son, Donovan.