IIP: Rogers Investment Advisors; Tokyo, Japan

Brighie Leach ‘19
BA, Philosophy
My Internship Consisted of...

- Conducting due diligence and analyzing company’s comparable margins, valuation multiples, and financial statements within the global automotive, retail, and food industries to assist the fund managers in their valuations of single stocks.

- Trading securities in a $1M personal portfolio as part of an intern-wide investing competition.

- Presenting global news to staff, focusing on economic policy and hedge fund industry developments.

- Consolidating my auto industry research into a final oral presentation and in-depth written report given to the fund managers and other senior staff members in week 10.
The Best Parts

- Daily lectures with a Rogers employee who was a total genius (as in PhD in Finance from Stanford genius) yet also an incredible teacher (we’re talking 5/5 on Course Evaluations)
- Working with 10 other interns from all around the world (ie. China, India, Japan, UK, ...does the midwest count as international?)
- Weekend trips with the interns (ie. climbing Mt. Fuji, exploring a huge wilderness area in the north, visiting Hiroshima, etc.)
- Running with Japanese triathletes
more travels
(food & shrines)
The impact of my work

My research on the auto industry contributed to the portfolio managers’ decisions to buy or sell Japanese auto equities.

For example, they had a big long position in Toyota so they were eager to hear what my forecast was for the success of this company because, as someone from a younger generation, I have a different perspective on the future of electric-powered vehicles and automated driving systems.

My research also made them reconsider the weight of their position in Subaru.
How it changed my academic life/career

- I realized from daily lectures how much I love learning about finance and I got recommendations on useful finance classes to take at Princeton from a Rogers employee.
- I’m taking more economics classes to supplement my philosophy classes.
- I found a true passion for finance, particularly on the buy-side where I can make actual investment decisions.
- An extra bonus was that the interns’ all helped each other with applications for next summer internships in banking.
Cultural Awareness Tips

- Japan is quiet; if you’re in a big group make sure you are aware of your cumulative volume (we often forgot!)
- Sit down to eat... always
- Slurp your ramen-- it signals to the chef that you enjoyed your meal, odd as it feels while you’re doing it
- SMILE! Locals always want to help a friendly tourist
Personal Growth

- Knowing I can survive in a totally different country on my own
- Learning how to make friends with people with totally different backgrounds, foundational beliefs
- Budgeting aka figuring out how to make it 10 weeks without going broke in a city where it’s far too easy to spend money
THANK YOU IIP...
For the lifelong friends and memories!

Rogers interns in NY!

Sunrise on the top of Mt. Fuji