

# Catching Up With . . .

## Former Business Students at CHS

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight former student's accomplishments in the business field after getting their start by taking our courses here at West Chicago.

The Business Department offers a wide variety of courses ranging from computer based classes to accounting to work experience. All courses strive to be hands on, practical, and implement real world scenarios in the curriculum.

Students who enroll in business classes at West Chicago gain valuable skills that will benefit them in future high school courses, college,

and in the work place.

Below is a list of our current courses offerings:

- Keyboarding
- Computer Apps I
- Computer Apps II
- Desktop Publishing
- Website Production
- Introduction to Business
- Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT/BTI (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Amy Axelrod, Class of 2006, current Accountant

District 94  
Information &  
Technology  
Division

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## Matt Shambo—Class of 2003

Matt Shambo graduated from Community High School in 2003, Illinois State University in 2007, and received an MBA in Management from Roosevelt University in 2010.

Since graduating from college he has been work-

ing for Marriot Hotel's in sales and account management in Kansas City and Naperville.

While a student at CHS Matt took several business courses including Marketing, Business Law, Accounting,

Investments, and Desktop Publishing.

Matt had this to say about his experience in the business department in high school:

*"West Chicago's business courses provided a strong understanding of*

*key business principles that allowed me to excel as an undergraduate marketing major at ISU. FBLA proved to be an invaluable experience, which fostered a competitive drive, and networking, communication, and leadership skills."*

## Jackie & Marlene Ocampo—Class of 96/97

Jackie and Marlene Ocampo both participated in our Cooperative Work Training (CWT) program while students at Community High School.

Jackie worked at Harris Bank while in high school and Marlene worked at TJ Maxx. Both gained valuable work experience that has benefited them throughout their careers.

They now have gone into the family business, Tampico Supermarket, in West Chicago. They helped manage the original store on Main Street and have now opened a second store at the corner of Rt. 59 and 64.



## Amy Axelrod—Class of 2006

Amy Axelrod graduated from Community High School in 2003 and Indiana University in May 2010 with a double major in Finance and Accounting.

Amy said her business classes at CHS prepared her to know what she really wanted to do for a career, and therefore she was able to declare her major as soon as she arrived at Indiana. At IU, many of her classmates never had a business class in high school and she

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*“I had a great business education experience at CHS and it really gave me an advantage in my career path at IU and beyond.”*

felt she had an advantage in her classes having had the business class background from high school. For in-

stance, when her college accounting class covered a year worth of high school accounting in one week, she had a foundation for the knowledge that was about to come very quickly.

Amy currently lives in Louisville, KY and works in cost accounting for Dow Corning, a global leader in silicones, silicon-based technology, and innovation.

## Brian Nelson—Class of 2003

Brian Nelson graduated from Community High School in 2003 and the University of Illinois in 2007 with a degree in Business Administration. He has just accepted a new position with Walgreens Headquarters in Deerfield, IL as Manager of Finance/IT Shared Services after being the Senior Financial Analyst/Team Lead for Allstate Technology in Northbrook, IL. While a student at Community High School

Brian took nearly every business course offered, including Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Website Design, Marketing, Business Law, Investments, and Consumer Education. Brian was also a member of our Future Business Leaders of America student group and was on the Lifesmarts State Champion team in 2003. Brian had this to say about his experience here:

*“The business department at West*

*Chicago truly provided me with a jump start on the career path I am currently on. When I started high school I had no idea what I wanted to do for a living. By taking a variety of business classes in my first couple of years, I was able to experience several aspects of the business world from marketing to law. To say West Chicago helped me prepare for my journey through college and now corporate America would be an understatement.”*