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What have you been up to since you graduated?

I recently joined Bank of China International, which is the Bank of China's global investment banking arm. I am now with the Energy & Power team. Upon graduation I studied at UVA's Econ Ph.D. program for one year. Then I was recruited by Noble Group of Hong Kong. Noble is a global diversified commodity trader and supplier. I first worked with Group CFO on various projects and later as a steel trader focused on Southeast Asian markets.

What do you do for a living?

I work on the banking side (as opposed to sales and trading) of an investment bank. We are financial intermediaries that help companies raise capital, connect them to investors and find solutions for their financial needs.

How has being a math major helped you get where you are?

As a math major you have an advantage when it comes to numbers. In my case, be it trading or banking, at the end of the day to your client you want to substantiate your arguments and you have to be very confident dealing with numbers. For example, when on the trading desk I was always swarmed with numeric information and never did I feel even a bit nervous or less comfortable. In addition, studying math gives you intense training in logic, attention to details, and more importantly creative thinking. When I first joined Noble I got involved in a couple important projects immediately. My supervisor considered my math background an advantage to add to the project team.

What were the steps involved in getting to where you are? / Some other tips on getting a job outside academia

- (1) Start early! Employers these days are very practical these days. They always prefer people who have taken relevant courses (accounting for banking?) or had related work experience. You will be amazed how busy people are and how less interested they are in listening to your story.
- (2) Networking is important! Don't be shy. Be persistent but polite.
- (3) Prepare your interviews well. I've interviewed people who asked me what my company's business was.
- (4) Your best teachers will be your colleagues and do your best to learn from them.

Are there classes you wish you would have taken while you were at Carleton which you didn't?

More math courses?! :)

Had I the chance I would shoot for some courses in psychology.

What advice would you give current math majors?

Keep pushing yourself out of your comfort zones. Do not settle down for anything but the field

you truly enjoying working in. Follow your heart, keep trying and don't give up. In my humble opinion a lot of our majors are rather introverted by nature (like myself) and do need more encouragement to pursue their dreams. That being said, I think it would also be good to remind my fellow Carls to pursue anything but their own interests. Do not linger in a field just for the name of it. And yes I am talking about the current mania in finance, particularly investment banking.