

Alexander LaTouche
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Professor Kremen

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Zach Lecky's unique path to success

Zach has always done things his way, and it's starting to pay off.

Senior year is a stressful period for any college student. Between juggling class, trying to enjoy their final year, and taking steps toward their career, there is no room for complacency. Reality comes after graduation with real world responsibilities such as finding a job and paying bills. Seniors are making sure they have enough credits to graduate and are trying to secure a job after graduation. With Rutgers' huge alumni network, students are reaching out as much as they can, trying to find positions that will fuel their passion and kickstart their career. On the other hand, senioritis can kick in, and students lose the motivation to do their homework, let alone scour Indeed and LinkedIn.

Zachary Lecky, a Rutgers graduate in 2018, was going into his ultimate year enjoying the final memories he was making with friends, while exploring his passions at Rutgers.

"I had a radio show called "Talk to Me Nice on WRSU, and I worked with R/Vision in the BIG10 Network. I was interested in anything sports, entertainment, or music related."

Zach and I are on FaceTime close to midnight, 20 minutes after he returned from an all day shift at MLB. Despite the long work day, his high energy can be heard in his voice and felt through the call.

"After graduation I wasn't really looking for work. I was going to chill...like I wanted to go to Africa." Zach says this with thought, as if his plans were coming back to him as he said them to me. He still applied to internships, but he said he wouldn't of been bothered if he didn't get any. In January, he applied to a fellowship program at MLB that was recommended to him by Steven Miller. After a few weeks he learned he didn't get in, but instead he got an email asking him if he was still interested in a job at MLB. The very next day, he was on the phone with a lady from the HR department.

"I couldn't believe what was happening, like everything was happening so fast. The lady told him there isn't that much diversity at MLB, and she wanted to tell help him being that he was a young African American graduate. "I said I was good at things with producing, TV stuff, and she said ok, I'll see what I can do, you're going to get contacted within the next few days."

It seemed like things were just falling in place for Zach, and although he may not have had the best grades, his bright personality and way with words found him one step away from having a job at Major League Baseball. With sports being one his hobbies and passions, it would be a great start to Zach's career. While he was telling me his story via Facetime, he kept smiling as he recounted the story, and we both got more animated as he got closer and closer to getting the job. The Tuesday after his phone interview, he was at the MLB offices in Secaucus meeting staff for an hour-long interview.

Zach talks with his hands to punctuate the highs and lows of his story.

"It's crazy because this was in early May, I had just graduated literally the week before, and now I'm about to go for an interview!" Zach said as he moved his hands in disbelief.

In his interview, he made sure to speak with confidence and mention every skill set

“I took a class freshman year on video editing at Rutgers,” he said. “I can do anything really... I can do some other stuff I learned. I wasn’t lying! I could of done or learned anything they were going to make me do.” He told me now that he made it this far, there was no way he was not going to get the job. By the energy, descriptions, and imagery Zach gave telling his story, I could tell that an hour-long interview was probably no problem for him. Anyone who knows Zach knows how impressionable and well-spoken he is when you meet him. Once he left the interview, he said he felt good about how it went. From his experiences at RVision, WRSU and class, he was able to remain calm and apply all the skills and experience from those into his interview.

I decided to speak to one of Zach’s former co-hosts from his WRSU Radio Show- Talk To Me Nice -- to learn more about Zach’s character. Brianna Armstead, a junior at Rutgers told me what it was like working with Zach every Tuesday.

“Being that the other hosts were girls, Zach provided a male perspective on many subjects we spoke about to counter us. Zach overall is a goofy individual. He’s also a great and reliable friend. He is one of the most carefree and laidback people I know.”

A few months after his interview, Zach is a broadcast associate and loving every day of it. He helps with highlights and video editing, and all of his work has been featured on mlb.com and MLB’s social media platforms. Zach says he feels if you just apply yourself and try not to stress things good things will come. Before we hang up, he gives me tips on getting a job after college. Zach’s reply was advice anyone can apply to life, and why he is where he is right now.

“Never get down on yourself, and honestly trust the process. Rutgers is a great school and I didn’t stress about it. I just applied – everyone has their own path but things will happen if you believe in yourself, and have patience. “