



ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

PRESENTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL ALUMNAE COMMUNITY

Brianna Gardner Truitt '12

Risk Management Business Consultant, Manager at Ernst & Young; SHA Alumnae Board President



What inspired you to pursue your current career path in business consulting?

Like many college students, I had a wide range of interests but wasn't sure how to translate them into a career path. During my junior year at the University of South Carolina, I called the Sacred Heart Alumnae Office and asked if any parents or alumnae worked in Finance and had summer internships. Among the people I connected with was the parent of a middle school student who spent most of our first conversation getting to know me beyond what was written on my resume. That parent, a Partner at EY, introduced me to the world of consulting, which allowed me to combine analytical problem-solving, collaboration, and my creativity into a career.

What drew me to consulting then, and continues to inspire me now, is the variety and challenge it offers. No two days are the same. Over the past year, I've helped design and facilitate an enterprise-wide training program for a client with 10,000 employees and partnered with teams across India, South Africa, the UK, and the US to build a global quality assurance framework and evaluate AI-enabled solutions.

I began my career in consulting because it aligned with my curiosity and desire for diverse experiences. I've stayed because it continually pushes me to grow, collaborate across boundaries, and create meaningful solutions alongside people who empower me to lead with confidence and authenticity.

What advice would you give to women aspiring to follow a similar path?

Consulting can be a lifelong career, but it can also serve as an incredible foundation for many other professional paths. With so many consulting fields and specialties (i.e., Financial Services, Pharmaceuticals, Technology, etc.), you can shape your career around your interests and strengths.

My biggest piece of advice for women aspiring to enter consulting is to network relentlessly and intentionally. Network in school, on LinkedIn, at events, even in unexpected places like the gym or an airport. Everywhere can be a networking opportunity to authentically connect with people. As women, we often have a natural sense of building community, and it's important to bring that same mindset into your professional life. And while your network is invaluable for its ability to support and uplift you, always remember to advocate for yourself and for the things that matter most to you.

My own consulting journey began through a single networking conversation, and it continues to be shaped by the relationships that I've built along the way.

What are you most excited about being the new SHA Alumnae Board President? What inspired you to take on the role?

As a Sacred Heart lifer, this school and its community have been an instrumental part of my life since I was four years old. Sacred Heart instilled in me the importance of giving back, so it felt natural and meaningful to contribute to the community that has shaped and supported me in so many ways.

During the last four years as a member of the Alumnae Board, I've seen opportunities to strengthen how we connect and communicate as alumnae. As President, I'm most excited to reimagine the ways we connect with each other reinvigorate our network in ways that reflect who we are today, and can evolve with us in the future.

While we all share the same core values as alumnae of Sacred Heart, we lead diverse lives with different needs and expectations. I'm eager to listen, adapt, and create meaningful opportunities for alumnae to support one another and our broader Sacred Heart community.

Brianna started her career with Ernst & Young (EY) as a Financial Services Risk Management Consultant in 2016 after graduating from the University of South Carolina, Darla Moore School of Business. Over the last 9 years, she's worked with some of the biggest financial services organizations (banks, credit unions, financial market utilities) to help build and maintain strong operational risk management programs. On a day-to-day basis, Brianna collaborates with team members across the world to evaluate current state environments, solve complex problems, and implement solutions that enhance financial services institutions' strategy and operations. She was recently nominated as a "US-East Woman Who Inspires," an award presented to women who motivate, support, and encourage others through everyday actions.