

My name is Marissa Levin and I was born in Philadelphia on October 16, 1984. My parents, Francine and Bruce, raised me and my two older brothers, Jay and Andrew. I attended schools in the Philadelphia School District.

At my high school I was involved in sports and music. I was also involved with the music program at a neighboring high school. As a member of the All-Philadelphia High School Orchestra and Concert Band, I performed in four concerts at the Academy of Music. My senior year I joined the Philadelphia Spirit (a tournament softball team) and spent my weekends competing in the tri-state area. Even with all my involvement in extracurricular activities I was able to graduate in the top 10% of my class.

The second I turned 15 I got my first job at Sesame Place. Busch Entertainment Corporation is one of the few employers to hire 15 year olds. For the past five summers I have worked at Sesame Place. Most recently I was the Culinary Operations Auditor. It was my job to make sure that employees were following proper register procedures. I reviewed receipts to look for suspicious transactions and attempted to fix tills that were over/short. For the tills that could not be reasonably fixed I started to investigate. Most commonly, I would conduct an audit with help from Security and Cash Control. If an audit did not uncover anything I went to the surveillance video. Last summer I helped uncover more than five skimming schemes by employees. This was an exciting and interesting summer job that only furthered my interest in fraud. It made me aware that fraud is everywhere and should not be ignored.

At West Chester University I have been listed on the Dean's List four times and I currently have a 3.86 cumulative GPA. I have student associate memberships with the ACFE and the AICPA. I am involved in Beta Alpha Psi - the National Honors Accounting Fraternity - and the Accounting Society. Aside from accounting, I am also involved in Phi Sigma Pi, a National Honors Fraternity. I help pay for college by saving the money I have earned during my last 5 summers at Sesame Place, with a great deal of help from my parents. My hope is to relieve the financial burden on my parents who are also trying to support one of my brothers through law school. I feel that this scholarship is exactly what my family and I need. I am currently looking for a summer internship related to Internal Auditing and Fraud.