

horizons

Changing Her Mind



“Women shouldn’t be afraid of putting themselves out there and showing the world how smart and powerful we really are.”

—KAYLA LEACH, RSC '05

Kayla Leach, RSC '05 is a newly-minted Russell Sage College graduate with a degree in forensic science and a concentration in chemistry. She is the first Sage student to intern at Evident. Before her internship was over, she was offered a full-time job in technical inside sales for Evident’s Life Science products.

But high-tech science and marketing was not what Leach had in mind when she first started at Sage, so, she changed her mind. She was a nursing major, who switched to forensic science, but maintained a rigorous slate of chemistry courses at Professor Tom Keane’s urging. As a professor and chair of the chemistry department, Keane offered Leach some sage advice: “Companies are going to be looking at what you do in the lab, not just what’s on your degree.”

“Chemistry was a much better fit for me,” admits Leach. “Being at Russell Sage and having the teachers I had, who believed in me more than I did at times, gave me the strength and courage to pursue a degree in science. To this day I am happy with the decision I made in changing my major to a science degree. I am a strong woman and with a degree in science, I can show other women they can do the same. Women shouldn’t be afraid of putting themselves out there and showing the world how smart and powerful we really are.”

Evident has strong intersections with Sage’s flagship programs in chemistry and biochemistry, along with its business programs that couple social responsibility with management. In her position, Leach is bridging science and business, which are no longer mutually exclusive fluencies in today’s global marketplace.

“As part of the sales team, I work on outbound calls to the U.S., landing new sales and clients throughout the world, working on prospecting new distributors for business-to-business relationships, and following up on technical questions pertaining to our products,” says Leach. “I think the most rewarding aspect of any job is the continuous process of new knowledge.”