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MERCY COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2017

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INSIDE:

Meet Mercy Alumnus
Anthony Sicuranza, Jr. '15

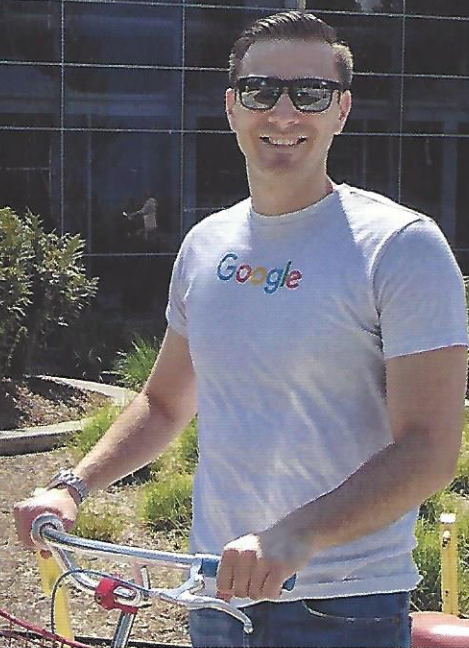
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FOR THOSE WITH A PASSION TO GET AHEAD



DETOURS AND MOUNTAINS THAT HELP, NOT HINDER, A CAREER

ANTHONY SICURANZA, JR. '15



At 29, **Anthony Sicuranza, Jr. '15**, has a job that can only be described as way cool—he's a Compensation Analyst at Google in Silicon Valley, California. His path to this high-yield opportunity was neither easy nor straight. In fact, for many years he believed he would never amount to much.

But the Mercy alumnus has amounted to quite a lot, and Sicuranza sometimes can't believe his good fortune. "A blue-collar kid getting recruited by a place that's almost ten times harder to get into than Harvard," he said. "It still doesn't feel real."

Sicuranza grew up in a loving, hardworking family in Mount Vernon, N.Y., the son of an auto body worker and a teacher's aide, neither of whom attended college. "I was a poor student in high school, and I believed college was a waste of time," he said. "I wanted to own a business and work on cool cars like my father." But saving enough money for a startup was much harder than he'd anticipated. "I finally accepted that I would have to go back to school or I would be doing this all my life."

Sicuranza was going for an associate's degree at Westchester Community College when he heard a speech given by Dr. Ed Weis, dean of the school of business at Mercy College. Weis spoke about the entrepreneurial spirit that Sicuranza always suspected he had. "He used the example of someone who might have fixed bikes in the neighborhood when they were a kid—and I had done exactly that! It was like the speech was written just for me," Sicuranza said.

Soon after that, he enrolled in Mercy's undergraduate business program, with Dr. Weis as his advisor. As a nontraditional student, he knew he needed to ramp up quickly. "Before I even started classes, Dr. Weis arranged an internship for me at Viacom. Honestly, I didn't want to give up my job at the body shop to take a low-paying

internship!" he said. "But I trusted my mentor and decided it was worth any sacrifice." It turned out his mentor was right: after Viacom, Sicuranza landed an internship and ultimately a full-time position at PepsiCo before being recruited by Google.

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In addition to Dr. Weis, Sicuranza's greatest influencers at Mercy were Undergraduate Business Program professors Victoria Roberts-Drogin and Chuck Garcia, M.S. '14. He recalls Garcia's mountaineering expedition as a metaphor for business as "one of the most difficult yet rewarding experiences of my life." Sicuranza also credits both professors with helping him overcome his profound fear of public speaking. "I'm a better communicator in every setting because of the mentoring I got at Mercy," he said.

Now living in San Jose, California, with his girlfriend Emma, Sicuranza is grateful for everything he went through to get where he is today. His advice to current Mercy students preparing for a career? "Even if you have an ideal job in mind, stay open to other experiences," he said. "And don't worry if you don't get there right away. The detours are great preparation for figuring out your dream job and gaining the necessary experience. And never stop believing in yourself. I can't tell you how many times I've failed or was told I'd never amount to anything—or said it to myself. You have to be persistent, and believe you'll get there—even if you don't know what the end point is going to look like."