

# LAURA KLEM

## Fast Pitch Your Way Into Accounting

Graduate: Class of 2003    Occupation: Internal Auditor and Financial Analyst  
By Jonathan Klem, Spring, 2008

Laura Klem graduated from Forest Park Jr./Sr. High School in 2003. During her athletic career as a Ranger, her teams in volleyball, basketball, and softball won the 2001 Class A Softball State Championship, seven sectional titles, and eight conference championships. Laura was a class officer and a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, and National Beta Club. As a senior in November 2002, Lisa Navas, Head Softball Coach at North Carolina State University, recruited and awarded Laura with the Atlantic Coast Conference Softball Scholarship.

In May 2007, Laura graduated from North Carolina State University College of Management with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and financial analysis. She graduated magna cum laude at the Honors Baccalaureate and Celebration of Academic Excellence. Throughout her academic and athletic career at NC State, Laura received Dean's List recognition, Caterpillar Scholar Athlete awards, National Fastpitch Coaches Association honors, Atlantic Coast Conference Honor Roll membership, and was named the College of Management Outstanding Accounting Student Athlete. The College of Management inducted her into the Beta Gamma Sigma Honorary Accounting Society upon graduation. As an inaugural team member of NC State Wolfpack Softball, Laura helped earn the coveted 2006 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship titles for both regular season and tournament play along with the NCAA selection to compete in the NCAA Softball World Series in 2006 and 2007.

Laura accepted an accounting position in Raleigh, North Carolina at the office of Leslie Merritt in April 2007. Prior to accepting this position, Laura was an intern specializing in internal auditing and financial analysis during her junior year at NC State. Her responsibilities as an internal auditor and financial analyst encompass examining, verifying, evaluating, and reporting on financial and managerial processes to ensure financial and operational integrity. Highly regarded by her colleagues, Laura also recruits interns and graduates for the office from North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina, and Duke University; the three universities are known among the academic community as The Triangle.