Analytical Consulting Lab Alumni

Hear from class alumni!
David van der Keyl, CFA
Equity Analyst

"A stand-out professor at Northwestern! I enrolled in two of Russell’s Analytical Consulting Lab classes, which are essentially quarter-long consulting projects in which small groups of students work together on data analysis problems posed by participating companies. What struck me about Professor Walker is that he is equal parts creative and pragmatic – he quickly framed the “right” questions for my teams, providing structure to our projects, and helped develop effective roadmaps for our analysis. He also has the unique ability to explain complex data analysis concepts in layman’s terms, which I think speaks to his command of the material. Finally, he’s very passionate and intellectually curious. His genuine interest in our projects energized my teams, and I never walked away from a conversation with him without having learning something new.

I highly recommend Professor Walker to students seeking a challenging experience, and to colleagues and organizations seeking a creative and pragmatic leader to solve business/analytical problems. less"

October 7, 2016, David worked directly with Russell at Kellogg School of Management

Elise Krieger
VP Sales and Marketing at Advanced Wheel Sales

"The only thing that eclipses Professor Walker’s impressive intelligence is his encouraging curiosity and infectious enthusiasm. Professor Walker consistently pushed me and my classmates to think bigger, dig deeper, and work with more intent. His classes were some of the most immersive; his hands-on teaching approach gave us real life experiences and modeling skill to advance our careers. Finally, Professor Walker is a pleasure to be around! His interests are both broad and deep--never a dull moment with him! less"

October 7, 2016, Elise worked indirectly for Russell at Kellogg School of Management
Richard Barbier  
Senior Consultant at Deloitte  

“Professor Walker’s Analytical Consulting Lab was one of the highlights of my Kellogg experience. Working closely with Russell, I was part of teams that supported both a popular sports franchise and a small start-up. In both instances, the professor empowered my team and I to leverage our past experiences in diagnosing client challenges and developing solutions. Throughout the process, he enhanced the team’s work product by highlighting out-of-the-box considerations that leaned on his years of experience.

I personally appreciated the fact that Professor Walker always insisted on being in the background for project support. He maintained that students should be at the center of projects, and he did not want his presence to overshadow our efforts. This is consistent with Russell’s approach to students outside of the Analytical Consulting Lab. He’s never too busy to ask about your day and engage in conversations centered around your personal passions. Top notch class taught by a stand up man. less”

October 9, 2016, Richard reported to Russell at Kellogg School of Management

Ben Woodman  
Senior Consultant at Deloitte Consulting  

“Dr. Walker is one of the best professors that I’ve ever had, and between Princeton and Kellogg I’ve had a lot of famous professors. I took both his Analytical Consulting Lab and Risk Lab courses in which he takes a very wise approach to teaching—he prepares his students with the basics, gives them the resources and mentoring they need, and then sets them loose to chart their own path in learning and working as a team. He sets clear expectations for high-quality work and gives actionable, constructive feedback. The process results in outstanding deliverables, numerous repeat clients, and learning that students can actually apply (and remember) post-graduation. Having Dr. Walker as a professor is sort of like having a job that assigns you an interesting project and a manager who truly wants you to grow and succeed. It could be because he is both an MBA and PhD. In any case, his approach to teaching and his commitment to the student experience at Kellogg made a significant positive impact on many of us. less”

October 8, 2016, Ben worked directly with Russell at Kellogg School of Management
Katie Twohy
Marketing Strategy | Brand Development | Product Management

"Professors like Russ Walker are why Kellogg is a top business school. I had the good fortune to be a student in three of his classes, including his Analytical Consulting Lab and Strategic Data Driven Marketing. The reason that I sought out Professor Walker's classes each semester is simple: he teaches his students to become better business decision makers through real-world case studies. It's not about theory - it's about improving your corporation's marketing, risk management, and strategy through data and analytics. There is an abundance of data today, but only a few people know how to leverage it. Russ Walker is one of those people, and he imparts that wisdom on his students. He also knows how to bring out the best in his students by challenging them and being engaged in their success. Truly a stand-out professor at a stand-out institution! less"

September 19, 2016, Katie worked directly with Russell at Kellogg School of Management
Drew Dilts
Co Founder at Kronos Air

"I took three courses taught by Russell Walker during my MBA at Kellogg because of the quality of the course content and the instructor. Prof. Walker understands the importance of teaching students how to apply the analytical frameworks learned in class to the complex real-world problems that companies face every day.

In his Analytical Consulting Lab course, my team worked on a pricing and operations strategy project for a healthcare provider. While my team had minimal consulting experience prior to this course, we felt confident from the start because Prof. Walker helped us to formulate our project roadmap, key objectives, and strategies for managing the client. During our weekly meetings, Prof. Walker would help us break down the complex problems we faced into easy-to-grasp pieces that we could tackle in the coming week. He provided holistic insights that considered not just an analytical framework to solve a problem, but also the bigger picture, the human element, and logistical considerations.

In his Global Lab course, my team worked with a financial group based in South America. Again, despite minimal financial experience among the members of our team, Prof. Walker helped us to break down the complex challenges of the project into manageable steps that we were able to solve each week. He also provided valuable insights into the culture of our client and their work environment, in addition to communication skills to manage the project remotely.

Finally, in an independent study, Prof. Walker worked with me to apply principles from his Enterprise Risk Management course to a battery technology startup. He helped me identify risks that are critical for entrepreneurs, such as the startup’s intellectual property portfolio, fundraising, pricing, business development strategy, and management team.

I fully recommend Russell Walker to anyone (student or business) who wants to work with one of the leading minds in analytics. His ability to simultaneously consider the big picture while zeroing in on the key issues within highly complex problems—all while communicating his insights and solutions clearly to students or clients—is outstanding. less"

October 3, 2016, Drew reported to Russell at Kellogg School of Management
Pulkit Agarwalla  
Private Equity Professional at Helix Investments, Kellogg School of Management, International Mobility Scholar-CUHK  

"Prof. Walker is a visionary who leads the Risk Lab program at Kellogg. His book “From Big Data to Big Profits” is a must read for everyone. The Risk Lab program has been the highlight of my Kellogg experience due to the exciting Healthcare strategy project with Microsoft senior management sourced by Prof. Walker. Through regular in-person meetings Prof. Walker provided insightful guidance to my team which helped us to solve a real-world critical problem by identifying key business drivers through the lens of analytics and big data. Prof. Walker’s advice on best practices of client engagement helped my team to successfully deliver the client project. This course is a must take for all Kellogg students since it gives students a great opportunity to work on a live client case. Prof. Walker is an amazing mentor and look forward to work with him soon. I would highly recommend companies looking for niche, creative business solutions to get in touch with Prof. Walker. It has indeed been an honor to be his student. less"  

October 3, 2016, Pulkit reported to Russell at Kellogg School of Management  

Lumay Wang  
MBA Candidate, Kellogg School of Management  

"Professor Walker challenged me and my team to be client-first, analytical problem solvers. I took two classes (Analytical Consulting Lab and Risk Lab) with him, and in both, I applied what I had learned in my other classes to current, real-world situations. Both projects prepared me well for my current career in consulting. Our weekly meetings with Professor Walker were helpful in that he served as a mentor and sounding board for us. He taught us a variety of statistical analyses and guided us to pick the right analysis for different situations.

Most of all, I appreciated that Professor Walker had a genuine interest in our project and encouraged us to get in the field (literally) to understand the project sponsor’s world. Professor Walker is very experienced, and I highly encourage Kellogg students to take his classes! There’s a reason why there are so many repeat students like myself. less"  

October 11, 2016, Lumay worked directly with Russell at Kellogg School of Management
**Gillian Casten**  
Director of Operations at Candid Wines

"I took part in the Analytical Consulting Lab program overseen by Russell at Kellogg. This is essentially a consulting assignment for an outside firm; students express interest in available projects and are matched based on skill set and field. Our project turned into an end-to-end wine production costing analysis, and was both challenging and rewarding. Russell's oversight of the project was invaluable, as he has a keen sense of the big-picture factors at play in a business and provided insightful guidance on where we should be spending our time to have the biggest impact for the client. This program is unique in that it requires Russell to source interesting projects to drive student application interest, and then manage the students to provide the best experience to those clients. I highly recommend this course to other students at Kellogg, as it enabled us to apply academic concepts to real-world scenarios, both reenforcing classroom-only learnings and also giving students a taste of the challenges of real-world application.

I also fully recommend Russell to anyone looking for a thoughtful, big-picture guidance for their business, as he is incredibly adept at seeing above the weeds and zeroing in immediately on most important challenges and hurdles to growth.

As a testament to Russell and to this program, as an alumna I am now in talks with Russell to take on an ACL project for my own company."

October 2, 2016, Gillian worked indirectly for Russell at Kellogg School of Management

---

**Andres Oksenberg**  
MatrixConsulting - MBA Kellogg School of Management

"Professor Walker was very helpful to solve our questions during our project with the Chicago Bulls, he also proved deep knowledge about analytics and statistical analysis in general. As a team we are very thankful to his contribution in the project.

October 3, 2016, Andres reported to Russell at Kellogg School of Management"
Mark Giangreco  
MBA Candidate at Kellogg School of Management  

"Prof. Walker understands the power of applying data to business problems. As the head of the Analytical Consulting Lab course at Kellogg, he secured an excellent project for my team with a company that collects overhead camera tracking data from NBA games. He facilitated communication with the client and was a good sounding board for our team as we considered different analytical approaches to the problem. I would definitely work with Prof. Walker again. less"

September 30, 2016, Mark reported to Russell at Kellogg School of Management