

## TimberGyms Owner Shares Expertise

**Submitted by Bernard Kavalier**

EXPRESS STRATEGIES  
NEWINGTON

Clint Anderson, owner of TimberGyms and small business mentor, hosted an on-site visit with college student interns recently to share his experience, in a program developed by Accounting Connections.

TimberGyms, located in Newington, is a provider of wooden swing sets, educational toys, moonbounce rentals, ice rinks and other outdoor toys. TimberGyms' indoor showroom also doubles as a venue for birthday parties and open play.

For Anderson, a graduate of the University of Connecticut, it was an opportunity to share with students what it takes to run a small business, and explore with them how their education can help forge a career path.

"As a small business owner, I am passionate about supporting the community and giving back. Meeting with these students was an opportunity to share my experiences," said Anderson, who discussed the importance of community involvement with the students, offering

examples from his own business. TimberGyms has donated various playscapes to the Make-a-Wish Foundation as part of its community involvement.

The students are part of a paid internship program offered by Jolie Swanson, owner of Accounting Connections, an area firm that works with small businesses to coordinate customized accounting services. Students gain valuable field experience while directly marketing to small business owners.

As part of the extensive marketing training program, Accounting Connections interns meet with small business mentors — including TimberGyms — throughout the region.

"For college students, there is nothing quite like hearing first-hand from an owner like Clint who has lived the challenges and rewards of building and sustaining a small business. I have been tremendously impressed with business owners' willingness to share their stories, advice, guidance and encouragement, as students consider their own career paths and entrepreneurial possibilities," Swanson said. "It is wonderful making that connection — and seeing

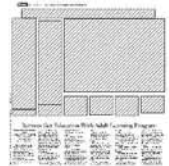
the enthusiasm on both sides of the conversation."

The internship program is an integral part of Accounting Connections' work with small business owners. Participating students have attended universities and colleges including UConn, University of Pennsylvania, University of Vermont, Fordham University, Rider University, Tunxis Community College and Manchester Community College. Accounting Connections is a participating business in the UConn Sales and Leadership Certificate Program.

Students can apply for the program by providing a resume and cover letter to Accounting Connections at [jolie@accounting-connections.com](mailto:jolie@accounting-connections.com). The deadline to apply for summer internships is April 1.

For more information about Accounting Connections, visit the website at [www.accounting-connections.com](http://www.accounting-connections.com), or contact Jolie Swanson at 860-993-4418 or [jolie@accounting-connections.com](mailto:jolie@accounting-connections.com).

TimberGyms is located at 94 Pane Road in Newington, and on the Web at [www.timbergyms.com](http://www.timbergyms.com).





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**JACQUELINE ROJAS**, left, Clint Anderson (TimberGyms), Elizabeth Peregrin, Matthew Swanson, Emily Vasington, Chloe Swanson, Jolie Swanson (Accounting Connections), Kara Landauer, Stephen Davids, J.B. Aliyu.