I am Hannah, 22 years old and I am from Munich. Since I am quite interested in the field of tax, I also wanted to gain international experience in this area before starting my Master's degree this fall. On May 5, 2018, my big adventure started: The plane from Munich to Atlanta departed (... of course my suitcase got the hint "heavy" at the baggage claim ;-))



During May 5 until September 28, 2018, I will be working in a German Tax Consulting Company called Rödl & Partner.

I started directly on Monday 7, 2018. Rödl & Partner is centrally located, in downtown Atlanta. I am quite happy, it only takes me about 20 min. to go to the office everyday, so I have a short way to work. When arriving in the office, I was warmly welcomed by the following welcome sign.



Afterwards, I got to know my colleagues (there are also a few German (speaking) ones) and the whole office during a first office tour in the morning. I am quite happy that there

are also a few other **interns**. I got to know Simon and Lena who are both from Germany but also other interns from South Africa or the United States who are doing their summer internships in Atlanta. All in all, there are about 150 people working on three different floors.

After two weeks, I moved to Georgia Tech (which is one of Atlanta's universities). I live there in an apartment with three other American interns in the 13th floor. Living on an American campus is a completely different feeling than in Germany, here are even shuttle buses to the grocery store! The following shows a picture of the building where I live (and I think, it is only 2% of the whole campus..;-))



Due to Simon and Lena, I am lot on tour, already since my first days here. On my fourth day, we have been to a **soccer game**: Atlanta United - Kansas City. The Mercedes-Benz-Stadium here is bigger than the Allianz-Arena in Munich and so was the atmosphere



Due to Atlanta being an important industrial city in the United States, there are a lot of interns from different companies, so I also got to know interns from Lufthansa. I really love that most of the international share the same attitude and want to experience and travel a lot. During my first month now (... time runs so fast!), we went to **Acworth Lake**, did a few barbeques, visited Georiga's Little Grand **Canyon**, fore sure we already went **shopping** in Tanger Outlets, celebrated a birthday pool party, had some beer at a student bar called Moondogs (every Wednesday there is beer for 1 \$), went out for Burger/ Mexican food/ etc. or simply cooked together!



One weekend, I have been to Florida, namely to St. Augustine which is the oldest city of the US and to Amelia Island where you can find the most beautiful beaches! Fure sure, I could not resist the warning "keep off" at the typical red lifeguard chairs. I really appreciated the coastal feeling as well as the delicious seafood in Florida!



So, I already experienced a lot during my first month here and I am looking forward to the next months to go.

the second month is over and I have experienced so much! ©

In the June report, I will tell a bit more about my work here! In the US, the students have holidays from May until August. Many of them use the time to do so-called summer internships. So in our company: Currently, about ten summer interns are working for the Tax and M&D (Manufacturing & Distribution) team in our Atlanta Office. Interns in the US are completely different than interns in Germany, the companies hardly fight for the students interning at their offices, but you will see in the following.

At the beginning of June, our company organized a three-day-Intern-**Training**. All interns (also from the other US Offices like Chicago, Birmingham, etc.) were invited. Finally, we were about 20 interns. We have been trained on special tax and audit softwares, the company and its values as well as soft skills, etc. What I liked the most was the speech of the Manager during that he personally talked to every single one of us. An extra benefit for us was free food the whole day! One evening, we even had a Social Night Event at a new brewery in Atlanta. We did not only get delicious food and good beer but also an interesting tour through the brewery! I really appreciated the possibility to get to know the other

interns and other full-time workers as well as the opportunity to learn more about tax and audit.





One week later, we had the next event: In the US, it is common that the companies organize socalled Summer-**Leadership-Programs** where potential summer interns for the next summer period attend (so 2019, it is crazy, the whole event takes place one year earlier for potential interns that will be working there only for 2 months). We, as current interns, were also allowed to take part and share our experiences.





Moreover, we, as interns, have the possibility to ask

personnel and professional questions to full-time employees as part of the so-called "Tuesdays at two". Each session lasts about one hour and takes place every Tuesday with a different employee of our company. I really appreciate the personnel atmosphere since the fulltime workers are really honest and open-minded towards us interns.

Here is a picture of all interns at the Walking **Tour** through Atlanta.



At the end of June, Lena, Simon (the other German interns) and me planned to go to Chicago over the weekend. Since Rödl Langford de Kock has an office there, we got the opportunity to already fly one day earlier and work that day from the Chicago Office. It was great! Although the Chicago Office is much smaller than the Atlanta one, it has its own particular charm as the view is fantastic. From the Partners' offices you can directly see the Lake Michigan. Wow!



On the following picture, you can see Lena and me in front of the big wheel at the famous Navy Peer.



Beside the "special events", I am currently working in a big project of a major client. Furthermore, I am working a lot on tax research and tax returns for indivuals as well as corporations. Even though I already have done an internship in a tax consultancy company before, I learn a lot new things. Rödl Langford de Kock is not only a completely different company but the area of tax is also varied that it never gets boring.

Apart from work, I did a lot of activites with the other

interns here. We travelled for example to **Asheville** which is close to the Great Smoky Mountains for some hiking. I love it that I met so many other young people here that are as motivated as I am to explore the US!





We also got to know Atlanta better through visiting **World of Coke** (there were over 100 different types of coke to try!). ... and more to come in the July report!



it is more than half-time now! I have about 8 weeks left here in the USA!

In Atlanta, it usually gets really hot in July and August. Having this in mind, we planned some trips to survive the heat in Atlanta!

4th of July, it was Independence Day in the US, which is one of the most important public holidays here. Since it was a Wednesday in 2018, we took Thursday and Friday off to go to Florida. Our first destination: The Okefenokee Swamps. This is a National State Park that is famous for **alligators** and about four hours away from Atlanta. Taking a boat tour through the swamps, I really hoped that I get the chance to see at least one alligator. I was at first a bit disappointed when our guide told us that the most likely time when seeing an alligator is during night and in spring and fall. Well, we were there at noon in midsummer :D But suddenly, I discovered one of the beuatiful animals sleeping in the swamps, it was a baby alligator! I was really happy. When later strolling thorugh the park, I saw a bigger alligaor again. Seeing these alligators in the swamps, free off any zoos and cages, made my day!





Afterwards, we continued our roadtrip to Jacksonville. There, we

had a great Airbnb next to the river. From there, we wathced the Independence Day firework. Besides, we made a few day trips to the most beautiful beaches in Florida. Pure white sand, clear sea water, ... Great!









When back in Atlanta, we participated in a so-called Night Nation Run. It was a pure Party Run where there was a Live DJ Stage after the Finish line. It was a fun event but also a weird experience of a run:D



We spent the next weekend in Atlanta. One day, we drove to the so-called Chattanooga River for rafting. This was so much fun. We got a few instructions of our great guide Jackson on how to use the paddles and control the boat in the wild water. Afterwards, we started our two-hour trip. At first, everyone was a bit scared of Jackson's stories and warnings but already after 10 minutes we felt so comfortable that our guide intentionally lost the control of our boat so that we fell into the water.



The weekend afterwards, we started out trip to Nashville (Tennessee) = **Home of Country Music.** What we didn't know before was that Nashville is also famous for bachelor's parties. There is one famous street ("The Broadway") where there's a bunch of bars and restaurants. On the ground floor there are mostly musicians playing country music while on the rooftops there are modern DJs playing charts. Of course, we have also tried the whole thing: Enjoying lunchtime on the rooftop and dancing to country music at night. Great experience. What I also tried the first time (and what is on every Bucket List when in America and especially when in Nashville) is typical Mac 'n' Cheese with Nashville fried chicken: You have to try it but it is enough one time :D





On our way home, we made a stop in Lynchberg (Tennessee) since there is the original **Jack Daniels Distillery**. There, we took part in a guided tour through the whole Jack Daniels premises. It is very astonishing that all Jack Daniels Whiskey is only produced in Lynchberg, this small little town in Tennessee. The picture shows 'the real Jack Daniel', me and our quide.



In July, we also had our company's annual summer event which took place at Foxhall Resort in Douglasville. It was a different experience to the company events I know from Germany. On the one hand, everybody could bring their familiy. On the other hand, I guess only a third of all employees took part. During the day, we had a wide offer of activities like archery, kayaking, mountain biking, playing ball games, riding ATVs or simply relaxing at the pool. It was a fun event but for me, the team concept was missing since almost everybod did the activities with their small group or with their family and on top, only part oft he employees joined the event. But this is also a new experience that has

shown me another difference between the American and the German culture.



In July, we also attended the BB&T Open (ATP Tennis Tournament in Atlanta) since I am a big Tennis fan. It was my first professional Tennis Tournament and I have to admit I loved it, this won't be my last Tennis Tournament ©



I am already looking forward to the next exciting trips and events that we have planned!

time flies so fast! I am already 4 months here!

On our first weekend of August, we actually planned flv to Washington for a more cultural weekend trip. The emphasis is on "actually". Full happiness of Washington we made our way to the airport Friday night. Arriving there, we saw that our flight got cancelled. Since the next possible flight would have been Saturday night, we decided with a heavy heart to take the full refund. Anway, as wanderlust has gripped us, spontaneously rented a car and changed the destination of our weekend trip from Washington to Destin (yes, finally I also have the possiblility to see the Gulf of Mexico with ist clear sea water and its sand beaches). There, we spent the days at the beaches, unfortunatelly got a little sunburnt (but hey, luckily the weather was great), enjoyed fresh seafood and stayed in a motel. Even though, the trip was not planned like this, it was one of the best weekend trips, I have had so far here!







The next weekend, haven't planned any big trips. Enjoying Saturday at Lake Lanier which is only one hour away from Atlanta and having a big barbecue in the evening was really relaxing! Sunday, we were "hiking" on top of Stone Mountain. It is a popular granite rock from where you have a great view on Atlanta's skyline ("hiking" because it is only a onehour-trip to the top, so really easy compared to mountain tours in the Alps..





The next week, my old roomate from Germany came to Atlanta! I took two days off, so that we drove to Charleston in South Carolina for lona а weekend. I really like this city since it is so various. One day, we enjoyed the sun at the beach while

another day, we strolled a bit through the beautiful old city centre. What made our trip special was a sunset boat tour because we could enjoy the great view on Charleston's river front with some music and beverages (you have to be really careful with drinking alcohol outside, it is prohibtied drinking alcohol outside of restaurants and there are SO little restaurant that offer a seating area outside). On our last day in Charleston, we went to an old rice and plantation called cotton Boone Hall Plantation (the ex manor house is the setting of the famous Nicolas Sparks film "The Notebook"). It was quite Ιt is impressive! unbelievable that it is not long time ago that slavery and racial segregation happened!









What also happened in August was my first **College Football Game:** Georgia State against Kennesaw State! The atmosphere was great there. It is said that the atmosphere is quite better at a college football game than at a professional football Game of the Atlanta Falcons. Before the game starts, there is a big ,ceremony' where players are celebrated like professional football stars: Cheerleaders are dancing, music playing and even a few military persons were present. On top of that, in the end there was a big firework.



Some more impressions:

Free Yoga at Piedmont Park:



Renting a car (which was then upgraded to this beautiful yellow Jeep):



Burger at our favourite Burger Restaurant ,The Vortex' in Atlanta:



Sense of home: Spotting some pretzels at LIDL US ©



End of August means also one month left in the US, and I am quite looking forward to my last month in Atlanta!

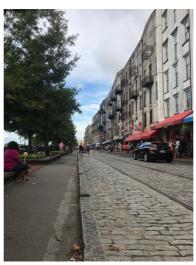
This is my last report of my 2018 adventure in the US! On September 28, I flew back to Germany! But first, I'll tell you a little bit more about my last month in the

August 31, I turned 23. At the same time, it was Simon's last weekend before heading back to Germany. Enough reasons to celebrate a little birthdayfarewell party! The party took place at Simon's house, we invited all the people we got to know our internship, prepared some little snacks (this turned out to be more difficult, I struggled with finding "Blätterteig" in any American grocery store) and beverages and had a great party!





The next morning, we started our trip Savannah. Savannah is in Georgia, but at the border between Georgia and South Carolina. When arrived, we recovered from our "partytiredness" at the beach... The following day, we left early for attending a real gospel service, it was fantastic. I have never experienced such a positive and cheerful service before: We were hugged as a warm welcome, everyone laughing, singing and some were even dancing! In the evening, we did a famous Savannah-ghost tour since it is said that Savannah's streets are haunted...



Here is a picture of when we went to the musical Aladdin in Atlanta, great show:



An also big event in September was the two-day music festival Midtown in Atlanta. My first festival ever! Great artists such as Arizona, Thirty seconds Mars, to Postmalone, Khalid, Imagine Dragons, Foster

the People, ... were there! It was a great experience!





On my last weekend in the US, I flew to Miami to finally see my twinssister again! In the meantime, she did a Florida round-trip with one of her friends. After five months, we had our reunion Miami International Airport haha

We stayed at a nice apartment directly located in Miami Beach, so we only had a short walk to the beach. The weather was great, I think we had over 35 degrees, so almost even too hot! What was also part of our weekend trip, was a trip to Key Largo. Key Largo is part of the Florida-Keys, they are great! The width of the Keys is so small that you can see the ocean on both sides when drivina highway there. At Kev Largo, we went to a beach that famous is snorkeling. This beach also contained a danger sign with warning of crocodiles... (see next pictures)...



What I liked most about Miami was the art and graffiti district Whynwood Walls where almost every wall thorughourt the whole quarter is full of graffitis.





Here are some more pictures of Miami:









My sister came back with me to Atlanta for my last 4 days there! It was nice to show her the city where I lived the last five months!

Last view on Atlanta's skyline:



Finally, on September 28, I flew back to Germany!



There, I had a great welcome! My dad picked us up from the airport. When coming home, my mom had organized a surprise party where my family and best friends were welcoming me! I was so happy to see them all again that I had two, three tears of joy!

Thank you to all for this great adventure! I had such an awesome time in the US!