

Diversity

## KPMG Professional Featured in Diversity Journal

8:40 AM ET, June 29, 2010

**Matt Johnson**, an Advisory managing director in the Atlanta office, is featured on the cover and in the latest edition of *Profiles in Diversity Journal*. Matt was among two dozen Asian-American leaders featured in the magazine's celebration of Asian-Pacific American heritage. Profiled were professionals from fields ranging from finance to fashion to manufacturing and more; many are first-generation immigrants, and all had much to share about their road to success.

**MATTHEW PRAJNA DENNIS JOHNSON** Managing Director

**KPMG LLP**  
Headquarters: New York City  
Web site: www.kpmg.com  
Primary Business: Big Four Accounting firm providing audit, tax, and advisory services  
Employees: 21,000



**What is your definition of leadership?**  
Leadership is consistently using actions, words, and behaviors to help others, while being guided by a strong moral compass and supported by strength of character. Strong leadership is exemplified by unbiased behavior, principled approaches to decision making, clear communication, and an ability to genuinely connect with people.

**What advice can you provide for young leaders?**  
Develop the leader within you—starting now! You'll likely need to continue developing your technical and soft skills, but first understand what gives you a sense of fulfillment or purpose in your life. If you can align your career, employe, and job responsibilities with what you enjoy doing, you will experience a sense of purpose, and your work will enable you to build a more fulfilling life.

Take charge of your career; don't wait for it to happen. Create a vision statement, share it with your team, and be accountable to it. If you don't want to be the best at whatever it is you're doing, then you should probably try doing something a little different if you want to be successful. Don't define yourself by a title or metric; work hard doing what fulfills you and you'll enjoy success. Have a global perspective and learn from those who have different cultural or socio-economic backgrounds. Give back generously, and lead with integrity.

**Education:** B.S., Business Administration, Accounting, Master of Accounting, University of South Carolina

**What I'm reading:** *Superforecasters*, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

**My philosophy:** I am thankful to have the opportunity to work with those around me. As a leader, I am in a better position to serve and uplift others.

**Interests:** Activities with my three children, traveling (I've been to more than 40 countries to date), reading, mentoring, and college football.

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When asked his definition of leadership, Matt replied that it's "...consistently using actions, words, and behaviors to help others, while being guided by a strong moral compass and supported by strength of character." He also advises young leaders to "Take charge of your career; don't wait for it to happen."

Read more about Matt, along with thoughts from leaders of other organizations, in this month's issue of *Profiles in Diversity Journal*.

Approved By Kathy Hannan



KPMG's Matt Johnson is one of two dozen Asian-American leaders on the magazine's cover.