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April 2013 Newsletter

Career Center, Illinois Wesleyan University

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CAREER PROFILE

a look at life outside Illinois Wesleyan University

Congratulations to the Class of 2013
on all of your accomplishments!

Best wishes in your future endeavors.

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What made you decide to pursue medical school?

The idea of pursuing a career in medicine came to me in 7th grade. We were required to report on any profession of our choice, and through my research I decided on Cardiology. This was an extremely rudimentary report, but it helped me think precisely about what I wanted to do with my life. Having been in a Catholic School at the time, it came quite naturally that I wished to pursue a job where I could directly help people. All of this and my enjoyment of Biology ever since directed me to medicine.

How did you prepare for this opportunity?

I can definitely say I did not do enough. What I mean to say, is that I concentrated primarily on my studies and having a job here on campus. Through my junior and senior year I participated by volunteering at Advocate Bromenn Medical Center. That and the opportunity to shadow Dr. Spaniol over last May Term were direct results of the IWU's Pre-Med council's assistance.

Most memorable IWU experience:

There is one special moment that I experienced while shadowing Dr. Spaniol over at St. Joseph's. The day prior, he had examined a woman who'd been brought in overnight due to a stroke. When he examined her, she could not speak or follow his movements, and not a single part of her body responded in any portion of the examination. She looked dazed, clueless, and Dr. Spaniol really didn't think she had much of a chance of recovering. He merely calibrated her medicines, and we moved along. The next day however, was miraculous. As we walked in, she greeted Dr. Spaniol by name, instantly throwing him, and myself for a loop. She proceeded

to respond perfectly to every test of consciousness and control over her body, though she could not remember anything that had happened in the last two days. It was undoubtedly a miracle to witness, and helped to truly solidify that this profession was something I wanted to experience.

Advice for current students:

Go to class every day. There's really no substitute for a professor's lecture. Furthermore, I would say to get involved **early** in activities associated with your education, even if you're not entirely certain it's what you want to do. Anything you can do that'll be a new experience, or help to make you a stronger person should be done.

Danielle Jauregui
At IWU: **Hispanic Studies & Sociology**
After IWU: **Council on International Education Experience and the Local Spanish Government**



What's next for you?

I cannot fully express how much I enjoy using the Spanish language and although I've had an amazing experience at IWU, nothing else quite lived up to the experience of study abroad. Through spending time with Spanish-speaking students at Bent Elementary since I returned, I realized just how much I enjoy working with youth as well. Returning

to my other "home" in order to teach children, therefore, seemed like the perfect opportunity.

How did you prepare for this opportunity?

Studying abroad in Alicante, Spain and my time tutoring and reading at Bent Elementary have been influential. I also had the chance to intern through the Community Partnership Program which placed me in the Multicultural Business Development Group at State Farm as well as at the American Red Cross of the Heartland. At the Red Cross I was able to develop and implement my own youth program. This was great preparation with lesson plans and leading a classroom.

What will you be doing in Spain?

I will serve as an English language instructor and assist the primary teacher by leading the students' English lessons. I will also serve as a one-on-one tutor for students outside of school.

Most memorable IWU experience:

Living in Bloomington this past summer and interning through the CPP was something I never anticipated when I came here but it was exactly what I needed. It allowed me to see Bloomington from a new perspective and it was memorable not only for the professional experience and connections I gained, but also for the good friends I made.

Advice to current students:

Take on new projects that scare you. If I hadn't done anything that forced me outside of my comfort zone, I would have no idea how rewarding all of those experiences would be and I definitely wouldn't be going to Spain next year. Also, follow your heart. I spent a lot of time trying to "be realistic" and make an informed decision about teaching abroad, but the truth is, my heart was always in it and that's why it's the right choice. I know I'm going to love it!

CAREER CONNECTIONS

a newsletter from the hart career center

April 2013

News Flash: The Class of 2013 conquers the Real World!

The time has finally arrived... Graduation! All the seniors have different feelings about this monumental point in their lives. Emotions are ranging from pure excitement to the uttermost fear of leaving the place that's been a home away from home these four short years. The Class of 2013 will show you that their experiences at IWU truly prepared them for their future endeavors.

Katherine Filippo
At IWU: **English Writing**
After IWU: **Cambridge Educational Services**



What's next for you?

I will be an editorial assistant at Cambridge Educational Services. CES provides test preparation and other educational products for schools

and colleges. I will be working in the publishing department, which pertains to the project management and production process, editing texts, and writing creative copy.

What drew you to Cambridge?

I really liked Cambridge's dedication to providing quality test preparation that is affordable for all students. I believe in the importance of the product and its ability to assist students; a good test score can open up so many educational and professional opportunities. I like how the office has a friendly, close-knit atmosphere similar to IWU's community.

How did you prepare for this opportunity?

My coursework at IWU as an English Writing major definitely refined my writing and editing skills. Writing is such an essential skill for all jobs and I received plenty of practice at IWU. During my junior year, I interned at the Great Plains LIFE Foundation, where I honed my multitasking skills. I also worked in the Office of Communications this year as a student writer where I got a lot of practical experience.

Most memorable IWU experience:

One experience I'll never forget was qualifying for Nationals in cross country. It was the culmination of four years of mental and physical dedication. It's an amazing feeling to accomplish something you've only dreamed about.

Advice for current students:

Be confident in who you are and don't sell yourself short. I can't tell you how many times people have questioned my decision to be an English major or desire to pursue a career in publishing. I stuck with it because it was my dream. Yet, it can be scary to put yourself out there. Send out your resume to your favorite company or talk to a person at

a random booth at a job fair, you never know what will happen.

Ammar Malik
At IWU: **Computer Science/Math**
After IWU: **Amazon.com**



What's next for you?

I'll be a Software Development Engineer at Amazon.

How did you prepare for this opportunity?

It was a combination of a lot of things. I had large final projects in my upper level CS courses that mirrored real world projects. I actively participated in the ACM (a Registered Student Organization related to computer science). I had guidance from some great professors and the opportunity to do research. The double major gave me an edge as well.

What drew you to Amazon?

Amazon is a great company. There's a huge customer-oriented focus in all elements of their work. Amazon has grown to become more than just an online retailer. Their web services are among the best out there. People usually don't know that their favorite websites like Netflix, Pinterest, Reddit or even things like NASA's JPL all run on the Amazon cloud. As a result, there are fascinating new problems and developments

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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p. 3 Even more seniors!

(From page 1) happening there.

Advice for current students:

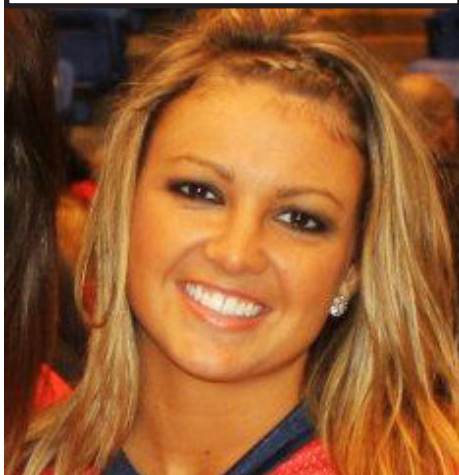
Work hard. Break out of the Wesleyan bubble. Get an internship. Go abroad. Do research. Write or start something. Do more than just attend classes.

Jessica Scharf

At IWU: Business Marketing

Minor: Religion

After IWU: MetLife



What's next for you?

I've been hired onto MetLife's "Employee Benefits Sales Academy" program. I will spend a year training in a class of 25 MetLife professionals to sell employee benefits and group insurance. We will sell to small businesses with five employees to top Fortune 500 companies with +10,000 employees. I will be living and training in Seattle. After the year of training and visiting major MetLife offices across the US; learning the products and services; and getting licensed to sell these benefits; all 25 professionals will be relocated to fulfill account executive positions across the country.

How did you prepare for this opportunity?

I have immersed myself in a variety of experiences that have led me to be a very unique candidate. My sophomore year I started interning for various companies fulfilling different positions to figure out what I did and didn't like. I learned that I wanted to go into business-to-business sales. I also became highly involved in Alpha Kappa Psi, the business fraternity; worked 2 years for IWU admissions as a tour-guide; spent a semester working and studying in Barcelona, Spain; danced for semi-professional teams; and even operated heavy construction

equipment on a mining site! All of these experiences gave me a lot to talk about in today's competitive job market.

What drew you to MetLife?

The company culture and the time I spent with my Seattle team were amazing. It's a company that equally cared about what was best for MetLife and me. From the very beginning, MetLife has sincerely cared about my best interest and has gone above and beyond in making me feel comfortable, giving me the tools, resources, and reassurance that will enable me to thrive.

Most memorable IWU experience:

My semester in Barcelona, Spain. It was unbelievably fun, challenging, and rewarding. I cannot put into words what an individual can learn when they are thrown into a foreign country by themselves. It was a busy semester spent interning for a foreign company called "Apartment Barcelona," traveling to other countries, making memories, and cultivating friendships.

Advice for current students:

EVERYTHING you do counts. Every action, moment, and thing you do everyday makes a difference. Conversations you have, e-mails sent, on-campus speaker events, phone calls made to network, extra-curricular involvement, completed internships, late nights in Ames, and Career Center visits are all things you can do to set yourself apart. Things you do everyday that you think do not make a difference really do make a difference.

Yelei Kong

At IWU: Political Science

After IWU: Colombia Law

School



What made you decide to pursue a Political Science degree?

I was always interested in politics and international affairs when I was in high school. During my first semester here, I

took Comparing Nations with Professor Montgomery. I really enjoyed the class and wanted to learn more. Then, I took three more poli-sci classes second semester and absolutely loved the subjects I was studying.

How did you prepare for law school?

The classes I took, the close relationships with professors, and the Career Center really helped a lot along the way. My gateway with Professor Marvin on the jury system really opened my eyes to the legal world. Yet, I think the classes that really prepared me the best for law school are the three political theory classes taught by Professor Simeone. His classes have a lot of reading, writing and debates. When I started to prepare for the LSAT, I felt that I already had the mental strength to handle the test. The other thing is the close relationships with professors here. Lastly is the Career Center. I worked closely with Warren and he helped me a lot during the application process. He gave me advice, reassurance, and guidance which certainly had a positive impact on my application.

What inspired you to write a more unconventional personal statement?

Unlike other specialized programs, Law admissions offices look for more than just interest or work in the field. From my research, I found they look for individuals that have the potential to do well in law school, and also those with distinct character and experience to build a well-rounded class. I wanted to write something more interesting. The recommendation letters would speak to my academic strength. I built a narrative from personal interest and internship stories. My essays would then show who I am as a person. This "risky" approach worked well for me as one Dean of Admissions wrote that he really enjoyed reading my statements.

Advice for current students:

Keep your mind open. Just because you plan for one thing doesn't mean you have to turn down other opportunities. In fact, I had zero experience in law when applying. The variety of experience I had in other fields actually helped me to get into great schools. Cherish every opportunity that comes across and make the most out of it. Work hard; keep an open mind; and be willing to work with others.

Rachel Paturi

AT IWU: Business Finance
After IWU: Stun Creative
Advertising Agency

**What's next for you?**

Since graduating in December, I am the Accounts Payable Coordinator at an advertising agency called Stun Creative in Los Angeles, CA, that specializes in network rebranding. I make sure that all of the production costs and general overhead expenditures are being paid on time.

How did you prepare for this opportunity?

Everything that I was involved with at IWU was absolutely essential in order for me to do my job well. I learned how to manage a small business through my time as Titan TV Executive Director, as well as, the technical and legal sides of television. I learned management and communication skills from my time as Student Body President which has been so critical to my success at my job.

What drew you to Stun Creative?

They are an innovative firm, but more importantly, I think they are the best at what they do, which is creating television promos for network television. I like that they aren't afraid to take risks with their content. They are still a relatively small firm so I am learning a lot, and I truly enjoy working with the other people in my department.

Most memorable IWU experience:

My most memorable experience at IWU was being the Student Senate President. I met so many amazing Wesleyan faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and feel so incredibly fortunate that I was able to form some fantastic relationships. I wouldn't have been able to move out to California straight out of college without the support of my fellow Wesleyan alums and friends of the

university.

Advice for current students:

Find what you are passionate about, pursue it, and don't take no for an answer. Everyone told me I was crazy for wanting to work in the entertainment industry as a business major, and that I would never make it. It is easy to fall into the trap of believing everything is about school recognition right out of college, and that is true to a certain extent. However, I am a firm believer that nothing trumps genuine passion and persistence, and if you love what you do, then persistence follows naturally.

Sijia Song

At IWU: Economics and
International Studies
After IWU: Ernst & Young

**What's next for you?**

I will be working for Ernst & Young's Transaction Advisory practice in Chicago. This practice provides consulting services in mergers and acquisitions deals.

How did you prepare for this opportunity?

Two things were extremely important for me to land this job with Ernst & Young. The first was my work experience. My internship last summer with a merchant bank in California that advises private equity investors was especially valuable. I gained hands-on experience in the deal making process of M&A. The second was my preparation for consulting interviews. My background in Economics was certainly helpful. But the most valuable pieces were the critical thinking and analytical skills I gained from a liberal arts education, as case studies require the ability to approach a problem from different angles and offer solutions. I had to spend a considerable amount of time studying finance, accounting, and practice cases on my own.

What drew you to Ernst & Young?

The thing that I really like about

Ernst & Young is its global presence. With my own international background, I found the diverse working environment and the potential opportunities for personal development at Ernst & Young very appealing.

Most memorable IWU experience:

I studied at Oxford University my junior year through IWU's Pembroke Program, which was one of the most memorable experiences for me. A lot of companies came to present on campus at Oxford. I took that opportunity to talk with professionals working for major consulting firms, investment banks and the big four. I also attended workshops hosted by those companies that introduced me to M&A and other business cases. All of these enhanced my interest in consulting and M&A, and gave me an idea what I needed to prepare to get my foot in the door.

Advice for current students:

Whatever your interests are, it is very important to gain more insight into the industry you want to work in by talking to people already working in that area. It is also crucial to gain practical experience through internships, which largely increase your employability. For all the internships I did in college and this job with Ernst & Young, I got the initial interviews through referral by either friends or IWU alumni. By actively reaching out to people, no matter their relation to you, you can significantly increase your exposure to the organization and your chance of getting an interview with them. And that will be a good start.

Spencer Rzeszutko

At IWU: Biology
After IWU: University of Illinois-
Chicago Medical School



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