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April 2012 Newsletter

Career Center, Illinois Wesleyan University

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CAREER PROFILE

a look at life outside Illinois Wesleyan University

Name: Pete Leibman
**Author of “I Got My Dream Job
and So Can You”**
**Founder of Dream Job
Academy**

In his Mar. 21 talk, Pete Leibman challenged students to take their job search seriously by showing them how to get their dream job after graduation. His book, “I Got My Dream Job and So Can You” gives students concrete guidance on how to make that happen. If you haven’t graduated yet, here is list of some things to do before you graduate:

1. Lead

Take on a leadership position for an organization on-campus or off-campus. Leadership skills are gold for your career, and they build confidence and strong communication skills.

2. Travel/Study abroad

By spending time in new places, you will build your confidence, open your mind, have fun, and meet interesting people. One of my biggest regrets is that I did not study abroad in college.

3. Donate your time

Volunteering for a cause that matters to you will make the world better, make you feel better about yourself, and make you more marketable to employers who will see you as a quality person.

4. Do some dirty work

Working a menial job that requires physical labor will build work ethic and character and make you more appreciative when you move up. Or, it might help you realize that you like dirty work...

5. Join a professional association

The best way to break in to an industry is to join an industry association as a student. You’ll have the opportunity to build relationships with people in the “real-world” who could hire you later on and/or who can introduce you to others who can.

6. Start your own organization/club

It will build your confidence, lead to new relationships, and strengthen your communication and leadership skills. Employers will be very impressed by this initiative.

7. Blog.

Start a blog at yourname.wordpress.com on any topic you are passionate about; just keep it respectable. Write at least one 500-word, high-quality entry each month. A well-written blog will really impress potential employers and it will build your writing skills.

8. Speak

Find a Toastmasters club in your area and/or take a public speaking course. The ability to speak confidently and competently in front of others is one of the most impressive skills a young professional can possess. This will also increase your confidence exponentially.

9. Start a rolodex

Your personal and professional relationships will be your greatest asset in every area of your life. Start cultivating them as early as you can. Think of your network like a garden that you take pride in maintaining and growing.

10. Choose your friends wisely

Surround yourself with people with strong character, good attitudes, and similar values. Your success and happiness will be directly related to the people you hang out with most.

11. Reflect weekly

Set a weekly 1-hour appointment with yourself to go somewhere quiet and reflect on your life. Make sure you are headed where you want to be, not where others think you should be. If you are headed down the wrong path in any area of your life, identify some steps you can take to change directions immediately.

12. Create your rules

Take one weekend afternoon and establish 5-10 “rules” for how you will live your life. Look over your rules each morning and night. This keeps you on track.

13. Intern

Do an internship each year in college, and do a great job. You’ll enhance your resume and your marketability, you’ll learn more about your passions and tal-



ents (and your dislikes and weaknesses), and you’ll develop networking contacts that will be valuable in the future.

14. Study outside your major

After checking with your academic advisor to make sure this is allowed, take at least one course each semester not related to your major. You might realize another subject interests you more than your current coursework. Either way, you will open your mind.

15. Join LinkedIn.com

Create a professional profile on LinkedIn, start building your professional network, and join LinkedIn groups relevant to your career aspirations so that you can learn more about your field and meet people who already work in it.

16. Clean up your Facebook page

Remove any questionable pictures, comments, quotes, or wall posts on your page. Employers make judgments about you based on what they find online.

17. Identify your passions

Find out what gets you excited. Make sure you pursue a career connected to your passions.

18. Identify your talents

Make sure you pursue a career where you will be able to use those strengths on a daily basis.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

a newsletter from the hart career center

April 2012

The Class of 2012 Takes on the Post-Grad World

As graduation looms near, many seniors feel a wide range of emotions from happiness to complete anxiety. Much of this stress centers on trying to find a job or graduate school placement for next year. However, these seniors show that their experiences at IWU have prepared them for the post-graduate world, and they are ready to take on their new careers and studies!

Kelsie Gleason
At IWU: Biology and Hispanic Studies
After IWU: Dartmouth Medical School



What will you be studying at Dartmouth?

I'm going to be in a dual-degree program, so at the end of my four years there, I will have an M.D. (medical doctorate) and an M.P.H. (masters in public health).

What made you decide to pursue this degree?

The things that stand out the most to me are the chance to get to be the leader of a team, getting to problem solve every day, and having a career in which no two days are ever exactly the same. I like the excitement, the fast pace, and the challenge, and I also really like that I will get to improve the quality of life for my patients. As far as pursuing the M.P.H., I am very interested in working with Doctors Without Borders, and even though a background in public health isn't a prerequisite for that, I think it will make me a lot more prepared to deal with some of the issues that I'll face as a physician in developing countries.

What did you do in college to prepare for this?

In college I took biology, chemistry, and a couple of physics classes to meet the requirements for pre-medical coursework. However, everyone who goes to medical school will have taken those same required courses, so I think that what made me stand out as an applicant were the things I did differently than other applicants. Specifically, taking a variety of classes and becoming involved in a variety of different student organizations helped to prepare me the most.

What was your most memorable experience while at IWU?

My most memorable experience at IWU would have to be any of the many opportunities for travel that I've had while here. I got to explore the rainforests of Costa Rica, spend a semester in Barcelona, Spain, set up a clinic in a rural

town in Honduras, and stay with university students in Morocco.

What advice would you give to current IWU students?

I would tell current students to get as involved as they can at IWU. College is all about finding a balance between classes, extracurricular activities, and social events. All of them played a huge role in my education, and I don't think my college experience would have been complete if I hadn't been able to balance my in-class learning with all of the learning experiences I had outside of the classroom.

Sarah Latshaw
At IWU: Political Science
After IWU: Obama for America



What position will you be taking next year?

I will be working as a Field Organizer for President Barack Obama's reelection campaign in Las Vegas, Nev.

What made you decide to pursue this job?

I was first involved in the campaign

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in 2008 at the National Headquarters in Chicago, and I had wanted to be a part of the reelection campaign since he won in 2008. The field department of a campaign is my favorite part, and this position is exactly what I was looking for. **What did you do in college to prepare for a position like this?**

Being a part of College Democrats, canvassing for candidates, the multiple internships I did while in school, studying abroad and the classes I took all prepared me for my future job. I was able to put myself out there and try new things. This gave me confidence to take risks and to move across the country upon graduation.

What was your most memorable experience at IWU?

I think my most memorable experience at IWU was participating in the May term trip to South Africa with Professor Munro. We were able to witness and study the political system of South Africa after Apartheid, and we were there during the municipal elections.

What advice would you give to current IWU students

Get involved, take a variety of classes and get an internship. This will help you find what you want to do and what you are passionate about. The connections and contacts you make with your internship will help you when you are looking for a job in the future.

Amanda Huels
At IWU: Religion
After IWU: Princeton
Theological Seminary

What will you be studying at Princeton?

In September, I will begin the Masters of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary. The primary purpose of a seminary education is to be educated and trained to become a pastor. Princeton offers a Dual Degree Program with Rutgers University for a combined Masters in Divinity and Masters in Social Work.

What made you decide to pursue this degree?

I sensed a calling to ministry very early. In the 8th grade, I had this feeling that I was supposed to be a pastor. In high



school, my confidence in this feeling only grew, and I therefore set all my ambition towards achieving that goal.

What did you do in college to prepare for this?

First, I found Second Presbyterian Church in the Fall of my sophomore year. It quickly became my church home. My junior year, my volunteer position was turned into a part-time internship and now I work full-time as the Youth Ministry Intern. Second, I took my first social work class. It helped me realize that ministry can be at the crossroads of social work and social change. Third, I participated in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest - Chicago Programs in the fall of my junior year. It exposed me to tangible social justice issues and equipped me with the skills to participate in the movements on behalf of different social justice issues.

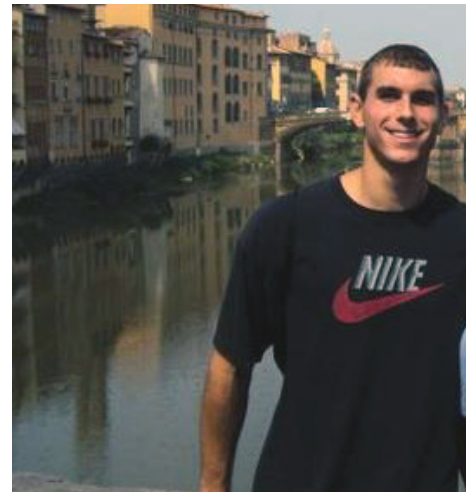
What was your most memorable experience while at IWU?

My most memorable experience on campus was when the Action Research Seminar in the Fall presented our findings from a series of studies about the Illinois Wesleyan Bubble to community partners, faculty, and students. I know that our work in that presentation helped people realize the ways IWU could improve on being civically engaged with the community.

What advice would you give to current IWU students

The single most beneficial way to make the most of your Illinois Wesleyan education is get off campus, get in the community, and put your academic learning into civic action. This is the only way to truly know the value of your education.

Dan Schouten
At IWU: Economics and
Business Administration
After IWU: Stratford
Advisory Group



What position will you be taking next year?

Next year, I chose to become an Investment Analyst at Stratford Advisory Group in downtown Chicago. Stratford Advisory Group is a full-service investment consulting and advisory firm.

What made you decide to pursue this job?

At first, I was struggling trying to figure out what type of career I wanted to pursue. I have a wide range of interests which made it very difficult to focus on exactly what type of position I wanted. I knew I wanted to work for a company that was very successful, had a great career path, and where the work is challenging, yet rewarding. The Investment Analyst position at Stratford Advisory Group covers all of these criteria in addition to providing a great compensation package and a great work environment.

What did you do in college to prepare for a position like this?

I think that double majoring in economics and business administration was the most helpful in preparing me for a position like this. It not only gave me a basic knowledge of the financial world but also taught me how to problem solve and analyze situations. In addition to this, a number of my electives I took were related to finance topics, which included Money and Banking as well as Investments. These classes, I believe,

helped me prepare for a position in the financial world.

What was your most memorable experience at IWU?

I have had so many great experiences here at IWU that make it too difficult to pick just one. Some of these experiences include traveling abroad to England and Italy, competing on the basketball team, and spending May term on campus every year.

What advice would you give to current IWU students?

The biggest suggestion I can give is to visit the Career Center early and often. I, regrettably, did not use the Career Center until my senior year. Also, I would recommend taking advantage of every opportunity to interview with companies that come on campus. I truly believe that one of the reasons I landed the job I did was because I interviewed with countless other companies and became very comfortable with the interview process.

Jazmyn Becker
At IWU: Marketing
and Interdisciplinary
Educational Studies
After IWU: Teach for
America

What position will you be taking next year?

Next year, I will be a part of the Metro Atlanta 2012 corps for Teach for America. I was placed in the Early Childhood Education initiative. I am very excited to have my own group of adorable 4-year-olds in the heart of Atlanta!

What made you decide to pursue this job?



Through my major at IWU and life experiences, I have seen the impact education can have on one's life. It is literally the "make or break" of our society, and I had to find a way to make an impact. What better way than to pursue membership with an organization that is devoted to helping the most challenging education environments?

What did you do in college to prepare for a position like this?

One of my majors is Interdisciplinary Educational Studies with a focus in Public Policy. My courses have shown me the ability policy has to essentially create or diminish educational opportunities for children. The education department also does a great job of teaching educators how to work with children and understand the unique challenges and strengths that each child brings into the classroom.

What was your most memorable experience at IWU?

Oh my goodness, there are way too many! I think to encompass it all, it's the people that I will remember the most. IWU has some of the most amazing, kind hearted, hilarious, and intelligent students and faculty. I will also miss being able to say "Hello" every three minutes to a familiar face.

What advice would you give to current IWU students?

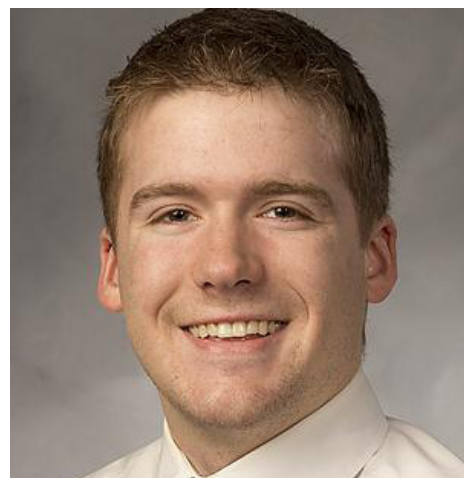
Work hard and play hard. It's important to do internships and homework because it will open up tons of opportunities at graduation. However, it's also important to be able to look back on the past four years and say, "Wow! That was fun." Finding the balance is the way to make the most out of IWU.

Cory Sloan
At IWU: Economics and
Business Finance
After IWU: Federal
Deposit Insurance
Corporation (FDIC)

What position will you be taking next year?

I accepted a job with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). My office is in Madison, Wis., and my position is officially named Financial Institutions Specialist.

What made you decide to pursue this



job?

I went to the ISU/IWU Career Fair, and I decided to stop by the FDIC table because it had no line and was in my field of study. I ended up talking with the recruiter for about 15-20 minutes, and she piqued my interest. It was different than most of the other jobs that I had looked at, as the job is very travel-oriented. To me, this was a huge plus. I applied online, and then a few weeks later, I got a call, offering me an interview in Washington D.C.

What did you do in college to prepare for a position like this?

I would say the greatest experience I had to prepare me for the business world was my year as treasurer for Phi Gamma Delta. Being able to try leading an organization for a year was eye-opening to say the least. I used so many experiences from that position to answer interview questions as well as handle problems that I face.

What was your most memorable experience at IWU?

The first thing that comes to mind was the first week of school freshman year. I was absolutely shell-shocked and knew nobody. However, I quickly made friends with some of the other students on my floor. I remember the first time I talked to them was the floor meeting that week in which everybody joked around and laughed at each other's embarrassing stories.

What advice would you give to current IWU students?

Probably the most influential piece of advice to me is to take things in stride. It isn't worth stressing out about a big project because you have to do it, regardless. Just put your time in when you have to and know that's all you can do.