



9-2011

September 2011 Newsletter

Career Center, Illinois Wesleyan University

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Recommended Citation

Career Center, Illinois Wesleyan University, "September 2011 Newsletter" (2011). *Career Connections Newsletter*. 16.

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Beyond the Bubble

a look at life outside Illinois Wesleyan University

What does Red Frog do, and how did you hear about it?

Red Frog is an event planning company that hosts 5k obstacle series: Warrior Dash, the Great Urban Race, and Beachpalooza. It also just launched “Red Frog Bar Hops,” which are essentially bar crawls for adults to be held across the country. I found about this internship through LinkedIn. I have an account, and it suggested I apply for this. It’s also advertised on Titan CareerLink.

What was the interview for this internship like?

When you sit down at the interview table, they throw a ball with questions written all over it at you. Wherever your thumb lands, that is your question. Mine was “At a slumber party, were you the first person to fall asleep or the last one to wake?” From there, the interview consisted of behavioral and situational questions, as well as some personality questions. There is no right answer to any of

INTERN PROFILE
Jordan Diehl '12
Major: Business Administration - Management
Minor: Psychology
Red Frog Events (Chicago)

these, but it forces you to think on your feet, which is what the job is looking for. Because things at Red Frog Events are constantly moving so quickly, you need to be prepared for anything.

What was a typical day at your internship like?

There wasn’t one. It’s a very fast-paced environment so every day is different. Interns, or Event Coordinators as they’re called, do, however, respond to customers via phone or email. We also were all put on five different teams in the company. Among others, my favorite teams I played a role in were the sponsorship/venue searching committee and Red Frog Bar Hops Planning Team.

What was your most memorable experience?

Probably my first Warrior Dash. The team was working 15 to 16 hours a day, doing manual labor to set up for the event - and we were all happy about it. When it was done, it was an amazing feeling because I literally put my sweat and tears into it. We had about 23,000 participants in two days who came along with 40,000 spectators. And I was one of fifteen Red Frog staff members there. It was amazing to me that only fifteen people set up a



Warrior Dash for over 60,000 people with the help of some pretty amazing volunteers.

Did this internship influence what you want to do with your life?

I will soon find out if I have a full time job offer from Red Frog. If it doesn’t work out, it definitely sparked my interest in event planning. But I realize it’s not something I could do for a long time, since there is a lot of physical work that goes into it. I would like to eventually move on from that to sales or some other type of field of work related to event coordinating.

What was the most important thing you learned while there?

Be eager from day one. If you’ve run out of things to do, ask what to do next, and don’t be afraid to make decisions when you’re confident.

Representatives from Red Frog Events will be attending the IWU/ISU Career Fair on Oct. 5.

Career Connections

a newsletter from the hart career center

September 2011

The Fall Career Fair: Because Having a Job is Good

Oh, Illinois Wesleyan University. Has it really been so long? I feel as though I never left you... probably because I was in Martin Hall all summer, slaving away over a hot computer keyboard, traveling to work by bike and bus uphill both ways, and wondering at which temperature does the human body begin to melt as I dragged bags of groceries back to my humble abode. But now as my senior year breaks upon the horizon, I am aware of a new challenge in my sight. Yea, one that overshadows that of my sweltering summer; a task that seems both insurmountable and glorious in its hasty approach; an event that makes me want to play the theme to Braveheart while screaming "FREEDOMMM!" atop the rubble of Sheean Library. This, my friends, is the IWU/ISU Fall Career Fair.

All right, I'm willing to accept that was a tad overdramatic. But I will be real with you. The career fair is something you do not want to miss out on. I am sure that most of you, right now, are shouting, "Why?!" at your copy of the newsletter. So I will quickly explain the benefits of having a job since that is what you will potentially end up with if you attend this event.

1. Success (a.k.a. who doesn't love someone with a career?)

What do Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, and Johnny Depp all have in common?

Aside from being three of the most suave men to ever walk this planet, they are all men with very successful careers. Now, I'm not saying that finding a fantastic job at the IWU/ISU Career Fair will turn you into the Denzel Washington or Natalie Portman of your field, but I'm not saying it won't! Just remember that the Career Fair could put you one step closer to a brighter and better future. By then, you'll have to shoo your admirers off of you as you step into your Mercedes and drive to your glorious place of employment. Swag.

2. Confidence - work it!

If there is one thing the Spice Girls taught me in the 90s, aside from if someone wants to be my lover, they've got to get with my friends, it's "girl power." Yes, between wearing the platform shoes and animal print and releasing a movie with questionable cinematic value, this iconic girl group persuaded me that I, too, could be as assured and confident as they are. So, women of IWU, I ask you: are we going to let ourselves undo all that Ginger Spice and the other girls with names that aren't even seasonings have done? I say, "Nay!" Get out there and show everyone that you can hand over that resume, wear that suit, and nail that interview.

3. Skills. Mad skills.

I consider myself to be a person of many unique, yet often useless, talents. You know, like my broad repertoire of Disney music. Because of that, I'll probably need a job someday. If I want to be the next Anderson Cooper some day (only, you know, a girl...), swinging on a vine into enemy territory with a video camera in my hand, I will need to start



Anderson Cooper says, "This could be you!"
(Photo courtesy USA Today)

somewhere. That is where the IWU/ISU Career Fair comes into play. In order to become the Indiana Jones of broadcast journalism, you need to start somewhere. Maybe that means working for a local radio station or news channel. Well, what do you know? WMBD TV/WYZZ Fox will be at the IWU/ISU Career Fair! Look out, CNN.

4. Money: that thing college kids don't have

You know what I like most about money? Making it. There are few things that feel better than payday. There are also few things that feel worse than an empty wallet, other than realizing that U2's next album has been pushed back another month instead of being released last Christmas like they promised! But if you want to make the big bucks like Bono, you have to get a job. Or be Paris Hilton, which I do not recommend. Yes, my fellow students, there is a life where you do not have to eat ramen noodles every day. You and I can get there! The IWU/ISU Career Fair is here to help.

5. Stability. It's a good thing.

Some day, I hope to get married and live in a house with a white picket fence and two dogs named Ringo and

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Inside this Issue

p. 2 A quick guide to resumes

p. 3 Upcoming Career Center events that no one wants to miss

“But I Don’t Even Know What a Resume Is!”

There are some people out there who probably don’t need resumes. If a retired, somehow moneyless Batman were to show up and apply for a job on the police force, I’m pretty sure no one would question his credentials. However, no matter how often I may assert otherwise, I am not Batman, and more than likely, you are not either. So the rest of us common folk need resumes if we are ever going to start a career. Don’t worry. You’re still a superhero in my eyes.

Many students never end up putting a resume together and bringing it into the Career Center because, quite frankly, they do not know how to write one. This isn’t a terrible thing; you can’t learn something you were never taught. (Okay. In theory. Don’t get philosophical on me. I haven’t had my caffeine yet.) So here is a quick explanation of how to write a draft of your resume.

Heading

This is the easy part. Your heading should include your name, address, email address, and phone number. To save space, I often put my name centered at the top of the page and my contact information in one line below it, separated by bullet points. Look at my example below to see what I mean.

Objective

Oftentimes, people do not include objectives on their resumes. This is usually if they are applying for a specific job as opposed to creating a general resume that will be submitted to several. Your objective should tell employers what you are hoping to get out of the application process. So if you are looking for a teaching job, it could say, “To find a job in secondary social studies education that will utilize broad academic background and experience with youth.” Notice that I did not stop after the word “education.” It is important to include a couple of characteristics about you that make you stand out over other candidates. Remember: this is the first thing employers see on your resume.

Education

When writing about your education background, you should list the name of your university and its location on the first line. On the second, say what degree you have obtained/will soon obtain and when. The third line should list your major(s) and minor(s). It is also

a good idea to include any study abroad experience and your GPA.

Experience

In this section, your resume should list all of your employment history in present tense if you still have the job and past if you do not. I typically break mine into two sections: professional experience (i.e.: internships, office jobs, full-time jobs, etc.) and other relevant experience (i.e.: volunteer work, retail jobs, camp counseling, etc.). This should be listed in reverse chronological order, starting with the most recent, listing where you worked, where it is located (city and state, not street address), your job title, and length of employment. After that, use bullet points to explain what you did at this job. Here is where you can really make your experience stand out. Instead of saying, “Sent out emails and letters to customers,” say something like, “Drafted letters and other correspondence to keep communication steady between the company and its customers.” Not only does this say what you did, it says why you did it.

Activities

Here is where you can list all of your extra-curricular and short-term volunteer experiences. If you held executive board positions in any of these organizations, these can be noted after the organization is listed. It is helpful to include anything that you think presents you as well rounded or experienced. Additionally, note any honors that you may have received, such as Dean’s List or scholarships.

Above All...

Make sure you have at least two people look over your resume before you attend a job fair or interview. The Career Center has multiple opportunities throughout the semester for you to do this. Our drop-in hours are from 3:00 to 4:30 on Wednesdays and 1:30 to 3:00 on Fridays. We also have a Resume Workshop on Thursday, September 15 at 4:00 in the Welcome Center Auditorium. On Friday, September 23, we have Resumania from 2:00 to 4:30 in the Career Center where local employers will be happy to review and edit your resume.

Bruce Wayne

121 Gotham Ave. Gotham City, IL 60664 • 111-222-3333 • bwayne@imbatman.com

OBJECTIVE

To find a career in law enforcement that utilizes stong ability to punch out bad guys and save the day.

EDUCATION

The Ras Al Ghul School of Combat, Mt. Liam Neeson, IL

Bachelor of Arts, June 2005

Cumulative GPA: 4.0/4.0

Major: Roundhouse Kicks

Minor: Gadgets and Expensive Cars

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Gotham City Police Department, Gotham City, IL *The Batman* 1939 - present

- Drives around Gotham City in very expensive Batmobile to assure that no criminals are harming its innocent people.
- Defeat the Joker, the Riddler, Two-Face, the Penguin, and other assorted villains to restore order to a chaotic Gotham City.
- Runs around in an awesome cape with tons of gadgets and technology to make up for not having real superpowers.

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Gotham City Rich People Club, Gotham City, IL *Bruce Wayne* 1939 - present

- Acts as the resident Bruce Wayne to have one suave-looking man in town for everyone to admire and fawn over.
- Throws extravagant galas and parties to ensure position as richest man in all of Gotham.
- Utilizes new technology to assist Morgan Freeman in building new gadgets to conceal identity as the Batman.

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

The Crime Stopping Team

Gotham City Dancers, President

Gotham School of Not Flying, instructor

The Official Christian Bale Fan Club

From page 1...

Chewbacca. I also dream of having a gigantic walk-in closet, filled with clothes that Stacy London and Clinton Kelly of *What Not to Wear* have personally chosen for me. Yes, I dream big. But to get to this albeit unbelievable goal, I will inevitably have to find a career that guides me toward that. If only there were a place that has over 90 employers in one place, all interested in hiring a wide-eyed college student like myself, prepared to grant me a coveted interview, happy to give me one of those elusive "jobs" everyone talks about... Oh, that's the IWU/ISU Career Fair? Well then...

The IWU/ISU Career Fair will be held at Illinois State University's Redbird Arena on Wednesday, October 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Don't have a car? Well, fear not. Transportation will be provided from IWU to ISU on that day starting at 9:30 a.m. from the south doors of the Memorial Center and through the close of the event. Be sure to bring your resume to the Career Center, book a couple of practice interviews, and decide if the blue or green tie goes better with your eyes beforehand.

Exclusive Interview Opportunities from the ISCPA

Are you interested in a career in business or accounting? What about math or technology? Do you want exclusive access to interviews that only students from certain schools can get? Well, read on, dear reader. Read on.

The Illinois Small College Placement Association (ISCPA) will be holding its annual **Fall Interview Day on Friday, October 14th**. This one-of-a-kind opportunity allows students from member schools of the ISCPA to enter their resumes in a selection process for potential job and internship interviews. Only 25 universities in the state of Illinois qualify to be a part of the Fall Interview Day, and Illinois Wesleyan is

one of them!

If you are interested in applying for consideration for such a unique recruiting event, here is how you do it:

Go to www.iscpa.org. You will then need to click on Online Career Center where you will, from this point, be able to complete a profile and upload your resume. Your resume must be approved by our university's representatives before being forwarded to possible employers. After it's approved, you will be able to apply for jobs with employers participating in Fall Interview Day from September 8th to the 20th. When the application deadline is up, employers will select who from the applicants they would like to interview. All accepted students will receive a time for their interview, which will be held at Ashton Place in Willowbrook, Ill.

The best part about this event is that it narrows the pool of possible competitors. Because students have to be attending one of the ISCPA universities, there are better odds of you landing an interview and then, hopefully, a job. So make the most of this chance, and apply early for full consideration.

Participating ISCPA Fall Interview Day Employers

- Motorola
- Porte Brown
- Sogeti
- Allstate Insurance
- State Farm Insurance
- Kimberly - Clarke
- Navistar
- CEB & Company
- Kutchins, Robbins & Diamond
- Federated Insurance
- MB Financial Bank

...and more to come!

Upcoming Career Center Events

9/14 ~ Internships 101 @ 4:00 p.m. - Welcome Center Aud.

9/15 ~ Resume Workshop @ 4:00 p.m. - Buck 202

9/20 ~ Bring It On: Standing Out in an Interview @ 4:00 p.m. - Welcome Center Aud.

9/21 ~ Graduate School Preparation: Navigating the Maze @ 4:00 p.m. - Welcome Center Aud.

9/23 ~ Resumania! @ 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Hart Career Center

9/26 ~ Big City Internships Seminar @ 4:00 p.m. - Welcome Center Aud.

9/28 ~ Majors and Minors Fair @ 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Young Main Lounge, Memorial Center

10/1 ~ Free Kaplan Practice Tests - Various times and locations

10/3 ~ Resume Drop-In Blast @ 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Hart Career Center

10/4 ~ Crystal Ball Coffeehouse @ 7:00 p.m. - Welcome Center Aud.

10/5 ~ IWU/ISU Fall Career Fair @ 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - ISU, Redbird Arena

10/5 ~ UIUC Grad School Fair @ 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - U of I, Illini Union Rooms A, B, C, and South Lounge