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## Interview with Jesse Boyle : Manufacturing Guru

**Susan Brown, '96**, is attending SIU-Edwardsville part-time for her MBA while working at Canadian-based Philip Environmental, Inc. There she does market research related to a variety of environmental services for automotive and mining companies, among others.

**Jeff Burke, '96**, holds a graduate assistantship as he works on a Masters Degree in Economics at Illinois State University.

**Diana Imaka, '96**, holds a position with the Latvian Privatization Agency working with foreign investors interested in purchasing state-owned enterprises.

**Greg Jansen, '96**, is pursuing his law degree at the University of Minnesota.

**Kimberly Nelson, '96**, has taken a position as an administration consultant with Hewitt Associates, the largest benefit / compensation consulting firm in the Chicago area.

**Ming Sun Wan, '96**, is in New York, working for a Malaysian securities firm selling Malaysian securities to institutional investors--mutual funds specializing in emerging markets.

## **Interview with Jesse Boyle: Manufacturing Guru**

**Steve Krull**

Recent graduate Jesse Boyle completed his Illinois Wesleyan career last spring with Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration and Economics. Today, he is one of three "Team Developers" in a foams manufacturing facility in Frankfort, Illinois.

Having worked as an intern for the Tenneco Packaging Co. in the summer of

1995, Jesse received his current position last April after interviewing with five managers of the facility. As a "Team Developer," Jesse supervises a team of thirteen employees and attempts "to develop highly effective work teams" and to "ensure [his] work force has the necessary technical skills and demonstrates effective team dynamics / behaviors to run an efficient day to day operation." Although such a job may sound simple, Jesse stresses that it is extremely difficult to maintain 100% efficiency with your machines and, most importantly, your labor.

Jesse firmly believes that his work experience has been tremendously helpful by allowing him to use management skills in numerous difficult situations. Furthermore, he feels that the skills he learned as an Economics major allowed him to be sufficiently prepared for his current job. These skills include the "ability to express and present complex ideas" and "the ability to analyze problems and situations effectively."

Moreover, Jesse expresses the importance of writing skills. He says that courses such as Senior Project have enabled him to effectively write important daily memos, team assessment analyses, and a skills certification program for all of the employees. Without developed writing skills, the supervisors and operators would not understand the skills certification programs and the entire process would fail.

As far as the Economics curriculum is concerned, Jesse believes that there must be a more intense focus on the use of technology and the vast information resource that the Internet provides. He states, "For Economics majors to be truly effective, competitive, and valued by the job market and academia, they will need to have the best understanding of what current technology has to offer." However, this is not to say that the entire curriculum should be based on the technology available. He believes that the focus should never change from the core of the curriculum: teaching the ability to think. He asks, "What

good is the information on the Internet if you can't think about it or analyze it properly?"

In his future plans, Jesse will be returning to school next spring to pick up his Masters in Business Administration. He hopes it will set him up for a significant advancement within Tenneco. If not, he has thought about pursuing a career in operations consulting or human resources. Although he never imagined himself working in the manufacturing discipline, Jesse says, "At this point, I really couldn't be happier as far as my career is concerned."

Jesse Boyle is just another example of the success an individual can have with a degree in Economics from Illinois Wesleyan.

## **Interview with Bill Takahashi: Student of Many Disciplines**

**Steve Krull**

As a double major in Economics and Political Science, Bill Takahashi found success throughout his Wesleyan years. He received honors for his research on cultural wage differentials last spring. Drawing on his past performance, Bill is determined to earn a law degree at Boston University. Furthermore, he may be able to pick up an MBA degree along the way. To do so, he would have to stay only one extra semester.

Bill states that a degree in Economics from IWU has clearly been very beneficial to his law school experience. He explains, "Economics is a fantastic background for law school. Recently there has been a movement in the law to analyze legal questions using economic tools. Many judges and schools now spend considerable time teaching and applying these economic principles." A good example of this involves whether a law will provide individuals

and institutions with incentives to behave at optimal levels. This question is largely based on economics, yet it is also one that the law grapples with on a daily basis.

Bill says that a typical day in law school is very similar to one at IWU. Although it may seem boring, Bill enjoys what he is studying and that makes all the difference in the world. As one might expect, he spends the majority of his time at classes and studying in the library. However, he does have enough time to spend evenings with his wife, whom he married shortly after graduation from IWU.

Bill believes that any Economics major who enjoys classes in economic theory will also enjoy many aspects of law school. As for plans after school, Bill plans to practice either anti-trust or securities law. Both of these disciplines involve a great deal of economics.

Bill Takahashi's experience is just another example of the wide range of post-graduate opportunities a degree from Illinois Wesleyan provides.

## **The Graduating Class**

**Jennifer Van Dyke**

**Dave Antolik**--Dave is currently in the interviewing process. He would like to work for an investment banking firm. He has an additional major in Risk Management. His most memorable moment at IWU was when he walked over to the Economics house to finally hand in his senior project. He is from Brighton, Illinois.

**Yahya Serhan Arcan**--Serhan is from Istanbul, Turkey. He will begin working for Coopers & Lybrand following graduation.

**Leslie Ayers**--Leslie has an additional major in Accounting. She is from Monticello, Illinois. She will have a position in information systems