College to Career
IS and LACIS Majors in the Field

*Molly Krochalk* of the College of Letters & Science Career Services presents and in-depth workshop

**Thursday, November 17th, 2011**
5:00-7:30 pm
University Club, Library Mall

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*International Studies Major*
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1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

I majored in both political science and international relations (focus: international political economy). I knew when I graduated that I was going to go on to law school after graduation. I went to The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus, Ohio, for law school. There I took some elective courses on international business law, EU law, and comparative law, but ultimately found that I most enjoyed practicing law with nonprofit organizations. I studied abroad during my law school experience, and spent a summer studying law at Oxford University in England.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

I attended law school and took courses I thought I may be interested in. Ultimately, work, like life in general, is about trial and error. I experimented with areas of law that I felt may be fun as well as rewarding until I found one that fit. The winner was nonprofit law.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Absolutely!!! The University of Wisconsin--Madison is a widely-recognized, world-wide brand. The university has helped me network, get clients, build relationships, increase my knowledge base, and grow as an individual.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

I was a student athlete for my first semester (women's rowing - crew), and spent the rest of my college experience in Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Theta taught me leadership, philanthropy, and scholarship. I also joined Golden Key National Honor Society and some other honor societies.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

I enjoy that I help people give back to others in the community. Ultimately, I feel fulfilled at the end of the day. I also enjoy that I work for myself and have the flexibility to set my own schedule. The most challenging aspect is that I must find clients on my own and there are lots of risks involved with owning a small business.
Allison Wells
Field: Law

1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?
When I graduated from UW, I knew I wanted to work on something related to international law and public policy. I had spent my semester abroad in Brussels learning about the EU, including how the various structures within the EU framework carry out policy creation and implementation, which I found extremely interesting. Prior to those studies, I hadn't considered how public policy occurred beyond the confines of the American political system. I did not have a good sense of an “ideal” future job title, but for financial reasons it was the best time for me to pursue graduate school, and I had gone into college knowing I wanted an advanced degree. My options were essentially getting a master’s in public policy, IR, or pursuing a law degree. I spoke with prior internship supervisors, professors, and individuals involved in public policy and politics, and from those conversations determined that law school would be the best option for me immediately following college.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?
In law school it was initially difficult to stick to my international law focus because the first year of law school gives the impression that you need to be on the path to practicing law, instead of working in a more public policy and research-type position. However, I took the approach of pursuing a variety of jobs that gave me exposure to different areas of law, while allowing for chances to show my international law knowledge.

My post-college career path as been as follows:
1) My first summer during law school, I worked at a multinational corporation, where much of my work had little to do with international affairs. However, I made sure that my background was known to the "higher ups" in my department, and as a result I was able to work on topics such as Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance, and I was able to use my French language skills in handling foreign purchases, as well as make sense of mismanaged documents on Haitian subsidiaries.
2) The summer after second year of law school I worked on food security issues with the Development Law Service in the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) in Rome, Italy. I conducted research and drafted internal and formal documents pertaining to legislation that promotes food security in under-developed countries.
3) During my third year of law school I served as a research associate for 2 professors, drafting memos on foreign case law, international organization efforts, and international agreements pertaining to economic development, health law, environmental law, immigration law, and transitional justice frameworks.
4) I continue to work with Professor Ramji-Nogales, conducting domestic policy research pertaining to consumer protection and banking regulations, and provide additional research for use in upcoming publications. I am working these positions while waiting to sit for the UN National Competitive Exam in December.

Each of these positions does not encompass every interest that I have, and I have had to confront some realities about my own limitations and the state of the job market, but from each career opportunity I made sure to extract the best international experience that I could.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?
My departments - both the international studies department and the comparative literature department were extremely international-oriented. Many of my classmates were from other countries, and I appreciated that this made much of class discussion focused not only on an American-centric point of view, but a more worldly take on the issues in question. I also enjoyed having professors that were either foreign-educated or had previously worked abroad in - be it research, academic, or professional (such as in international journalism, etc).

Studying abroad. I don’t believe that anything I did in college had a greater impact on me than my study abroad experience. Being part of the Brussels program gave me an opportunity to study a new form of collective multi-national governance in person, as well as the chance to interact with students with similar interests. At UW it can often seem that you’re alone in your interests, but in Brussels I was with a group of 44 students who loved discussing I.R., the political implications of US foreign policy, and policy alternatives to war, sanctions, and other political tools. It was exhilarating.
Career Profiles

Alison Wells, continued…

Research opportunities. The ability to think and communicate critically and clearly cannot be overstated. Although in law school it is even more crucial than elsewhere perhaps, I believe that UW offered many research and independent study opportunities that I did not take full advantage of. I would encourage anyone there today to research and write extensively on anything they find interesting about international affairs - diving in and immersing yourself in a topic will make you stand out later in an interview or a grad school application. Plus, it’s often difficult to find internships related to certain international interests (unless you’re able to fund your own travels, or are able to procure grant financing for overseas internships) - researching and writing on your own is a great way to still demonstrate your passions without going broke.

Foreign Language Skills - I chose a second major (comparative literature) that involved extensive foreign language coursework. Whether you’re double majoring in Spanish, French literature, or conversational Japanese - foreign language abilities are often CRUCIAL to I.R.-related jobs. I have worked many gigs on the side that involve simple translation skills, including translating for nonprofit organizations, decoding corporate documents, or carrying on conversations with coworkers!

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?
During college I was part of Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood, which gave me an opportunity to be involved in local political issues that I felt strongly about, as well as the Roosevelt Institute (RI). Through the RI, I had the opportunity to connect to like-minded students in WI and around the country, as well as to participate in national meetings on politics. It was at Roosevelt’s annual meeting in DC in 2006 that John Podesta was the keynote speaker. He had finished his time under the Clinton administration, and was at that point a law professor at Georgetown. It was Mr. Podesta that encouraged me to pursue a law degree. RI is a great way to connect students interested in being politically active with politicians who can use the research assistance.

I interned with Planned Parenthood (local, not in Madison, but near my parents’ home) working on public policy. Between that, and my work with RI had many opportunities to gain a certain level of comfort interacting with politicians and "adults" and became extremely familiar with discussing difficult-to-talk-about topics such as reproductive health care, sexual education, and the impact that legislation can have on underprivileged communities. I would encourage anyone to pursue internships that challenge them - as a 20 year old I never would’ve guessed I would become comfortable confronting politicians about the impact their stance on reproductive healthcare access has on immigrant populations in south Florida. But, I did!

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?
I have only recently graduated from law school, so I hope that there is a lot more that I will find both enjoyable and challenging in the near and distant future. However, I’ll write a bit about my experience working for the Development Law Center at the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, and my recent law research opportunities (last summer I studied for the bar exam - nothing too enjoyable to write about that haha!)

The most enjoyable part of the UNFAO was to see steps taken by underdeveloped countries to truly improve their citizens’ lives -- it is easy to become disenchanted with the possibility of eradicating global hunger, and improving underdeveloped economies - we see so much negativity on the news, read so many sad stories on the internet, but it is inspiring to realize that many countries are taking slow steps, behind the scenes, to improve their frameworks and support the growth of food-related industries. One of the more difficult aspects of this job were the limits - you cannot simply provide an underdeveloped country with the best technology ASAP - if it breaks down, there may be no one there who knows how to repair it, and if you funnel too much money into one project, it can easily backfire into individual exploitation, corrupt practices, and mismanagement.

Research has afforded me chances to learn more about the inner workings of the international law arena, and to interact with many persons involved in the policy decisions promoting new directions for international law and justice. Research and writing may seem passive to many people, but it is the cumulative effect of papers written on topics that promote particular perspectives that lead to vocal support for new initiatives.
Career Profiles

Paul Fervoy
Field: Business
Co-Founder & President
Internexo Web Marketing
B.A. Latin American & Iberian Studies & Spanish, 1992

1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?
I was always interested in international development issues while a student at Madison, especially in regards to rural development, technology, and land tenure policy. My ambition was to work in an international development agency.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?
During my last semester, then former president of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias, came to campus and met with us LAIS students interested in being a program assistant for the "Women's Access to Land in Central America" project. I was lucky to win the internship and left for Costa Rica soon after graduation. For two years I was the go-to person to help my co-workers use those early software tools. I found another NGO called Fundación Acceso where I helped build a program area dedicated to applying Internet to the needs of non-profit organizations in Central America. After nine years with Acceso, I was part of a software start-up where I have been working full-time for six years. I was elected to the Board of the Costa Rican National IT Business Association (CAMTIC) and now hold the position of Vice President of that organization.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?
I believe that an IS professional needs to be strong liberal arts so that he/she can understand the context of the organizations and situations she is involved in, develop creative "out-of-the-box" proposals and relate well to a wide variety of people on issues and interests that are important to them. I studied in UW Madison's ILS program, a two-year interdisciplinary approach to liberal arts. If you are a freshman, get into ILS.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?
I volunteered at McBurney Disability Resource Center and in the student center of the Meiklejohn Integrated Liberal Studies Association. I did a summer program in The Gambia Africa with Crossroads Africa. I did a junior year abroad in Madrid. I worked for three years in the University of Wisconsin Extension Telephone Research Center. This was an excellent experience as a student and I learned quite a lot about research, "cold calling", questionnaire design, etc.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?
The small business gives me ample opportunity to have hands-on opportunity to apply new technology tools to business, government and organizations' needs. "Starting from scratch" in a new country, new field, new language and having to learn everything about how things operate is the most challenging aspect.

6) What advice do you have for students who want to get into the field?
Take time after your B.A. before thinking about a Masters. Volunteer. Seek out internships. Take entry-level jobs. Ask someone in the field to be your mentor. Take time to take courses when you need them. Over time you will discover what work in this field is about, what parts you like, what regions of the world inspire you.

7) How was the adjustment to moving and working in a foreign country, personally and logistically? How did you get abroad? What connections did you use to get there?
I first went abroad with Crossroads Africa. As a student I wanted to focus on African Studies. The experience in Africa taught me important lessons about what that career would involve and I realized I wasn't cut out for it.
My next experience was the year abroad in Spain. I learned to live independently, as an adult in a foreign place/culture. That was essential to feeling I could survive abroad in the world.

I came to Costa Rica through an internship (low paid) organized through the UW. The receiving organization provided me a room for the first month while I got my bearings. They provided me the time and friendship to figure out the rest. Once here, the most important thing was to make acquaintances, then friends. To avoid the temptation to go home after work and keep out and about meeting people and extending a network locally. Many of the closest friends I have are other ex-pats. Don't feel you have to avoid expats, but also don't just make the foreign community your only one. You need to make extraordinary efforts to build local friendships. Participating in, volunteering in local organizations is a good way to do that. Take classes locally. Learn to Salsa. Go dancing.
1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

I had done an internship in Washington DC my junior year with the hope of a State Department career track, but I saw that being a really long career path...when all I wanted to do out of Madison was travel. The only way I could afford to travel was to work at the same time, which is why I sought out teaching jobs. I actually had two jobs to choose from: one in Mexico and one in Japan on the JET Program.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

I have been taking an inventory of the skill sets in my current position, and concentrating on the skill sets that I would like in my next job. From grading schoolwork, I moved to editing for an English magazine in Tokyo. From editing publications, I moved to writing textbooks. While writing textbooks, I picked up project management and layout experience, so now I am writing and managing the proposal process for an insurance brokerage in Seattle.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Basic economics has been helpful for understanding basic business, the market, etc. I studied a lot of diplomacy and languages. However, the diligence of meeting deadlines, putting together cohesive reports and papers are all skill sets that have benefited me in my current career. Cross College Advising Service, the French House, and the Bookstore were all excellent help in transitioning from college to a real job.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

I remember AIESEC being of great value, because it involved real sales calls.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

I enjoy the variety of working with a number of companies on a daily basis in order to learn about their business models and the risk associated with their business. I also like being plugged into the sales process. Also, I love the competitive nature of the position.

6) What advice do you have for students who want to get into the field?

Your degree won't give you entitlement for that dream job out of college. You need to be strategic, patient and aggressive. You need to put in your time and do it well with passion. No matter how tedious of a job you think it is, if you do it well and better than anyone else, you will get new opportunities because you will have built personal brand equity.
Career Profiles

Wendy Appel
Field: Business

International Consultant & Author
Confluence Consulting International
B.A Ibero-American Studies & Spanish, 1981
M.A. Social & Cultural Anthropology

1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?
I graduated from UW in 1981. I was an Ibero-American Studies major, emphasis in History and a Spanish major. I followed my heart and studied what I loved without really worrying about what career I would have.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?
I worked my way through school (both High School and University), however I didn't have jobs that paid well or did anything. At that time the Spanish department was developing a Medieval Spanish Dictionary. After I returned from my junior year abroad at the University of Madrid, I worked on that project, transcribing the lives of Plutarch from microfiche onto a mainframe computer. This was revolutionary at the time, because everyone was in transition from punch cards to mainframes.

My boyfriend and I had both graduated and his parents moved to California just south of San Francisco. We both had international aspirations and felt that San Francisco would offer better opportunities than would Wisconsin. I had visions of going into International Marketing. I took temp jobs to get exposure to different types of companies, which was a good idea. Then, I landed a job as an administrative assistant--something I said I would never do. The company I joined was only 300 employees and when I left 7.5 years later, it was 3000 and growing and I had climbed the ranks as far as I wanted to go there. I didn't want to become a manager or move to the HQ in Dayton, OH so it was time to try something else.

When I was 32, I went back to university to study Social and Cultural Anthropology. From a practical standpoint, I thought that I would likely go into the field of Organization Development, so I got many certifications so that I would have the tools I needed to do that work. Anthropology has really served me well in my chosen profession.

Again, my career shifted and I landed consulting assignments and then a job as an internal OD Consultant. I ended up in Europe during my studies of the Enneagram (which is used in my work), where I met a Danish man and fell in love with him. I chose to leave my job, sell my house, store my things, uproot and take my dogs to Denmark.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?
At that time, there was no career counseling for Liberal Arts Majors, just engineering, business, etc. I tried to make my studies well-rounded so I would be prepared for the world. I took econ 103 and 104 as well as International Marketing and Personnel Management. Because of this, I thought it would be important to learn about coding, so I took a Basic programming course. Following my instincts has always served me well. I had no idea what was in store for me.

4) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?
Because I have experienced so much change in my life, I understand it from the inside out. This gives me the empathy and compassion and wisdom about how to work with people and organizations undergoing change. This is the core of my work, whether it is changing behavior, processes, etc. I work with and coach leaders to help them understand the nature of change and how to support their organization to move through it and how to be more effective leaders. I work with teams, departments, etc. I help them engage and involve the organization in the change. It is creative, fun, rewarding, challenging and uses the best of who I am. My skills as an Anthropologist have very much come in handy in understanding cultural differences, doing qualitative research (org. assessments), and being a bridge across cultures.

5) How was the adjustment to moving and working in a foreign country, personally and logistically? How did you get abroad? What connections did you use to get there?
It is easier when you are younger, but it had effects on me that I could never have imagined. Once you leave your homeland, you really can't go back--at least not to the way you left it. Something happens to your psyche where you suddenly feel like home is everywhere and nowhere. Acculturating is very difficult. If you have children, it is the easiest way to enter a new culture. Learning the language is a must and should be the first thing you do. Having a "cultural guide" to explain the "unwritten rules" is essential.
1) When you graduated (as an undergrad) did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?  
No, I did not know. I had not one idea what I would do with the two majors.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now (i.e., from undergrad to the present)? How did you narrow your focus?  
How did you incorporate all of your interests?  
I worked in the UW School of Music after graduating, eventually getting a full-time state position running the concert halls and practice facility. After doing that for 4 years I realized I wanted to know more about the Arts Administration field, become higher educated so I could get a better job, so I pursued the masters degree. During the masters, for extra pocket money, I worked part time at a wine store, selling wines on the floor to customers. After the masters I worked for a local non-profit (Madison Youth Choirs) for about 18 months, and continued working at the wine shop. The non-profit was just that, non-profit, and I got tired of not making any money, so I looked into getting into sales. After working at the wines shop for about two years, I had made enough contacts and showed enough interest in the field to get an interview and a job with a large wine and spirits distributor. My undergraduate and masters made me one of the highest educated people in the company: the degrees themselves did not necessarily mean anything, but the experience of my schooling (meeting deadlines, practice writing, learning good communication skills, learning how to work with others, etc) did the trick and within 6 months I was the Madison-area manager. My undergraduate (music and German) taught me to think for myself and think creatively, my masters (business school) taught me how to work with others and think about how to be financially successful.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?  
Basic skills learned as an undergrad are still helpful: meeting deadlines (when something is due, make sure you get it done); pushing myself through the required general studies classes (economics for an Arts degree) and realizing I like a lot more that’s out there than I know; writing skills…can’t emphasize enough the importance of learning that (should have learned more).

4) Did you study abroad? If so, how did that experience further your academic and career aspirations?  
1 year abroad in Germany (1992-93) and spring semester 1995 in Italy. I would do it again and again. Germany helped me complete my German degree of course, whereas Italy was to help work on with a professor studying abroad an undergraduate research project. As for my career, knowing how to speak German and Italian, and also generally understanding how languages work, helps me seem credible when talking about imported wines: correct pronunciation is important. For my job, I travel internationally 2-3 times per year visiting wineries. I learned the importance of cultural sensitivity abroad, and before I travel I educate myself about the country I will visit. For example, I recently traveled to Brazil on a wine trip, and I wanted to bring a small token of my appreciation to the vintner. I learned that it is insulting to give clothing (e.g., a UW t-shirt) to a Brazilian, so I brought chocolate instead.

5) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student? How did they help you?  
I worked for a stock broker part time for 6-9 months. Having that job as an undergrad helped me understanding investing after school, allowing me to save a bit of money to go back to grad school. The arts administration program was taught in the business school, so having some investing background helped there too.

6) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?  
The wine industry is enormous, and you never can say you learned it all. Always something new to know.

7) What advice do you have for students who want to get into your field?  
You have to know about wine, first and foremost. Second, you have to have drive, want to succeed. It’s a very competitive industry: if you are not willing to work hard, long hours, don’t bother. In sales, the harder you work, the more money you make.
Debra Morse  
Field: Policy

Medical Economics Analyst  
APS Healthcare  
B.A. International Relations & French, 1990  
M.P.A. La Follette School of Public Affairs, 1996

1) When you graduated (as an undergrad) did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

No. I focused so much on getting through both majors and holding down 2-3 work study jobs in any given semester that I didn't have anything "ideal" that I wanted to do when I graduated. The second semester of my senior year I looked into getting into the School of Education to become a French teacher (which I swore I'd never do with that degree, but I was feeling desperate). It was a 2 year wait to get in. I'm thankful that there was a wait because I would have hated being a teacher. I like how my career has ended up so far.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now (i.e., from undergrad to the present)? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

After graduation I returned home (Janesville, WI) and signed up with a temp agency. I was placed in the Finance Department at the City of Janesville (city hall). The skills that I had learned and used in those work study jobs are what got me employed in a decent place. It wasn't the French major! At that job I met a few young professional women who were working on their masters degrees or had just obtained them. They encouraged me to look into Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs for a few reasons: I was intrigued about government, especially since I was working for a municipality; I cared deeply about health policy, social welfare policy and women's rights; I excelled in the political science classes I took as part of my International Relations major; I was toying with the idea of getting a PhD in Political Science but I didn't want to teach (see the earlier comment about the teaching certificate). Since I didn't want to go into academia, an MPA program sounded idea as many include a terminal/executive option rather than PhD preparation.

I applied to a few schools and was shocked that I was accepted at the LaFollette School of Public Affairs at UW-Madison. I was local and the school was known for recruiting students from across the country, and I did not have a strong statistics background. I did have a lot of work experience and a lot of tangible skills and an inquisitive mind -- I loved toying with policy problems. Maybe that's what got me in.

Graduate school was difficult for me. I focused on Health Policy and Social Welfare Policy. The beautiful 3.85 GPA I had as an undergrad disappeared. Thankfully in a terminal masters program the GPA doesn't matter. But, a B- is considered "failing" ... let's just say I got through that program by the skin of my teeth. Guess what? My grades didn't matter in the real world. I had my MPA. I had that piece of paper as proof that I had committed 2 years of my life to studying in that program -- that's what mattered.

When I was originally accepted into the MPA program my goal was to get one of those "really interesting jobs" as a Program & Policy Analyst (PPA) posted in the State Jobs Bulletin. I didn't aim all that high financially -- I wanted something interesting. My first job out of graduate school was a limited-term PPA position at the Wisconsin Lottery -- a far cry from health policy! After 6 months I took a "real" PPA job at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT). I had worked at the DOT as an intern while I was in graduate school, so I knew people there and they knew my work. I worked at the DOT for 1 year in the Department of Transportation Investment Management. I worked on pressing policy issues like "how far should we mow from the side of the road -- 4 feet or 8 feet? What are the financial implications? How does that impact deer-vehicle crashes? Will the endangered Karner Blue butterfly become extinct if we mow more?"

After a year of that I had to get into health policy I met great people at the DOT -- some are friends even now, 14 years later. I took a pay cut to get into the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). My first job there was as a Senior Budget & Policy Analyst with the Wisconsin Medicaid program. Sounds fancy, right? I did very little budget work. Instead, I was charged with being the liaison between Wisconsin Medicaid and the Wisconsin Dental Association. I realized after 9 months I wasn't a good fit for that job because I had a lot of empathy for the dentists and couldn't represent the Medicaid program fairly.

My next job at DHS was in the Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care resources. I was a SAS programmer there. Thankfully I had learned just enough SAS in graduate school to get by! This is the job that really launched my career. I was smack-dab in the middle of long-term care policy, fiscal reconciliation of human services funds, and doing some really detailed, complex and fun analysis on medical and long-term care claims data. I didn't realize I was such a data nerd until this job.
After 3 years and no pay raises (this was state government), I decided to make a move. In the classified section of the Wisconsin State Journal (back when people actually read the newspaper on paper) I found an ad for a Health Care Programmer Analyst job at a company I'd never heard of: MetaStar. I was hired on quickly after my interview. I worked 7 years in the Information Technologies department there. Those were the 7 best years of my career. Although I was a SAS programmer, I also worked extensively in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access -- skills that I originally learned during those undergraduate work study jobs and summer jobs all those years ago. The work at MetaStar was varied: I worked with hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, home health agencies, health plans. I worked on quality improvement studies, complex studies with UW professors, and taught statistics to clinicians (thanks LaFollette School!).

After 7 years the Federal funding for the analyst positions at MetaStar was cut. Earlier that year I gave birth to my daughter. I was not prepared to look for work outside of MetaStar. I was also fully vested in my pension, made a decent salary and had excellent benefits. I applied for and obtained another position in the company, working only on Family Care (Wisconsin's long-term care program). I was qualified for the position since I had worked with this program at DHS. But it was not a good fit for me. After about 2 years I was given the opportunity through MetaStar to become a Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditor (HEDIS = Health Plan Employer Data & Information Set) through the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). It took me a year of on-the-job training and at-home study to prepare for the exam in October 2009 in Washington, DC. The exam was more difficult than anything I did in graduate school ... and remember, I barely got through that!

I then worked as a HEDIS auditor for 1 year leading audits for 9 health plans across the country. It was a busy job and I was very good at it. But, in addition to traveling and doing the audits, I was expected to do all of the work from my former position. Within less than a year I was burned out. My daughter was 4 years old and even though I was working evenings and weekends at home, I was not able to spend time with her. My marriage was also stretched to the limit. I had to decide between keeping up that pace at work or my family. My family won.

In August 2010 I took a job as a Medical Economics Analyst at APS Healthcare in downtown Madison. It is a very boring job. At first I was thrilled to not be wanted all the time. I am still a Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditor, and I am beginning to consider going back into the audit business independently. It is risky and scary to think about opening my own business, but slowly I am preparing for it. I filed the paperwork to establish my own Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). My LLC has an Employer Identification Number (EIN) through the Federal government so I can report any income through the LLC. I am building my website. I am preparing to contact health plans soon. I am also looking for a different part-time or full-time job since the audit work is seasonal. After a year of twiddling my thumbs I am ready to get back at it. But this time I am going to manage the madness instead of the madness managing me.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Critical thinking. Tons of work study opportunities. Lots of volunteer opportunities. I pick up computer languages more easily than others because I learned French and Spanish: a language is a language -- one for speaking, another for computers. All of those presentations in French classes prepared me to stand up in front of a crowd. I learned how to teach (even though I am not a teacher, per se).

4) Did you study abroad? If so, how did that experience further your academic and career aspirations?

No, I did not. I had a boyfriend at UW-Stevens Point. We saw each other almost every weekend. I was stupid and didn't study abroad. That is one of my biggest regrets. I dumped the boyfriend my senior year in college as it was, so I could have spared myself a few cruddy months with him if we had broken it off my junior year so I could study abroad. NEVER STAY BACK BECAUSE OF A BOYFRIEND!

6) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

If I could go back in time I would return to the Health Care Programming Analyst job I held for 7 years at MetaStar. The work was challenging and varied, and I learned so many new skills through the work. I cannot fairly tell you what’s best about my current job as I am looking to leave it. I am challenged most by inept management, boredom on the job, and dealing with people who treat others like trash in the workplace.
1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

I definitely did not know exactly what I wanted to do. I knew I wanted to be in the environmental field but I was applying for anything and everything. That meant grassroots organizing jobs, non-profit organizations, government positions, greening within business, green retail jobs, etc.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

Well, I'm still working on getting to where I want to be. Graduating in 2008 was not the easiest time to be thrown in to the job market. A couple months after graduating, I landed a job with an alternative energy group/environmental documentary in Los Angeles and that was pretty much purely through networking and chance. Due to the recession, that ended a few months later and I had the opportunity to come to Chicago. I had to take a retail job to stay here but I wanted to keep up with the environmental community so I also applied for and got an internship with the Environmental Law and Policy Center. I also began working with a family friend who was starting a rain barrel and water education group (again through networking). I learned a lot about what I wanted to do through my internship with ELPC. My supervisor was great and really steered me to the area of public policy which she said would give a good foundation for any work in the government and non-profit sector. I then set my sights on graduate school but needing help with funding. I started off temping at Northwestern University, was hired earlier this year, and am now taking advantage on the employee tuition assistance program and have started the Master's of Public Policy and Administration program this Fall.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Everything! Every class I took in environmental studies, international studies, political science, history, economics, etc. has given me my knowledge base for what I want to do in my career. No, it has not made me an expert and in this tough job market, unfortunately, more education and experience has become necessary. But, my undergraduate education has made me a viable candidate for many different types of positions in the field.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

As I mentioned above, I interned with the Environmental Law and Policy Center and also worked/volunteered for a group called Recycle the Raindrops which really helped me focus my goals and see how advocacy and policy work really function. I also studied aboard in Sydney, Australia and was part of the internship program where I was able to intern with a group called, The Total Environment Centre, which gave me some great experience in organizing and research work.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

Since I'm not in the international environmental field right now I don't know yet! When working in Los Angeles and with other environmental groups I think the hardest part is gaining support, getting people to listen and to change. But, that is sometimes also the most enjoyable part for me, too. When I do find those that are willing to listen and are excited about the issues and wanting to make changes.
Jessica Chung
Field: Policy

Career Profiles
ASPH/CDC Allan Rosenfield Global Health Fellow
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Nigeria
B.S. Medical Microbiology & Immunology, 2009
M.A. Public Health, Boston University, 2011

1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

When I graduated, I knew I wanted to go into public health. I had applied and been accepted to several schools of public health around the country. I finally decided on Boston University due to their strong international health program. My ideal position when I graduated was simply something that would tie health and international work together. I had no idea what that would entail; I was just looking to get that travel experience in while doing something interesting.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

I took a broad range of classes as an undergrad to really get a taste of many different things. I received a certificate in African Studies, but I took everything from East Asian Studies classes to Middle Eastern classes. I took a chance by taking the Field Experience Course in the Population Health Sciences Department and I really fell in love with Uganda. I think it helps to try several different things and then assess what you like the best.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

My field experience to Uganda helped solidify my desire to do public health and work internationally. If it had not been for that, I don't know where I would have ended up.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

I was the co-president of the club for my major. I interned with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, which then turned into a job. I also volunteered at hospitals.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

I love the travel aspect, but sometimes it gets tiring trying to figure out a new culture and adapt to leaving in hard conditions.

6) How was the adjustment to moving and working in a foreign country, personally and logistically? How did you get abroad? What connections did you use to get there?

Adjusting is always hard, but you have to remember to be flexible. I pack lightly, so logistically it's never too bad. I try to just do as the locals do whenever I get to that part of the country. The key is to network once you are in country to get as much help and advice from expats or local people as possible.
1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

I was in the Army when I went to UW at Madison. I was in training to become a Foreign Area Officer or FAO. FAOs are trained in language, in-country and a graduate degree in area studies to become regional political-military experts for the Army. When I started Southeast Asian Studies at UW I had already spent a year in language school learning Indonesian and about a year and a half living in Singapore where I audited courses at the National University of Singapore and was a visiting Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. I also had a travel budget and traveled all over Asia. So the short answer is yes I already had a job in mind, being a FAO.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

I did not narrow my focus, in fact, because I studied Southeast Asia, I have spent most of my career broadening my focus. First I spent a lot of time trying to understand the rest of Asia and now I am a Global analyst I am trying to use my education and training to understand the world.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Everything in my education at Madison helped my career. In particular is the ability to think critically.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

When I was at Madison I was in the Army and raising a family, so those activities pretty much consumed all of my non-study time. At the time I was there (graduated 1994), there was a weekly brown bag lunch on Southeast Asia I attended.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

Across the expanse of my career I have done many different jobs including intelligence and policy. Personally I prefer policy work because you can see a visible result of your activities. Intelligence on the other hand can be a lot more interesting. Alternating back and forth between those two forms of work, as I have done, gives me a very broad and deep understanding of US policy and the workings of global international relations. In short, I enjoy it all.

6) How was the adjustment to moving and working in a foreign country, personally and logistically? How did you get abroad? What connections did you use to get there?

I visited more than 30 countries, but lived in only two of them. Both times I was in the Army and there is a system set up to take care of soldiers living overseas. So my experience on that is limited and probably not useful. If a company sends you overseas they will most likely have some contact for you in-country. If not another source is probably the American Chamber of Commerce. There is one in every country and they are happy to help new companies move in.
Dan Morse
Field: Government

1) When you graduated (as an undergrad) did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

Yes I did. I had volunteered for a political campaign as an unpaid intern. I knew I wanted to remain in politics and have done so ever since.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now (i.e., from undergrad to the present)? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

I had an interest in politics for quite some time. When I got to college, I joined the College Republicans. I was asked if I was interested in being an unpaid intern on a campaign. I jumped at the opportunity. I still had to pay for college, so I also had two part-time jobs as well. During my internship, I worked as hard as I could. I knew that if I did a good job, I would be able to advance and eventually make a career of it. That is exactly what happened.

In campaigns, there are three areas in which you could work. There is the political, communications and finance. I had interned in the fundraising area and realized that is the area I wanted to be in. I really like dealing with people and that is a large part of what I want to do.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Not really. I realized about halfway through my studies that the reality of campaign fundraising is much different that the theories that are taught. I really don't think you can teach people how to deal with people. Having said that, I realize that if it were not for me being in college, I would not have had the opportunity to start in politics.

4) Did you study abroad? If so, how did that experience further your academic and career aspirations?

No.

5) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student? How did they help you?

I was in the College Republicans and was an unpaid intern. They helped me very much. The political campaigns look to the college organizations for interns, etc. Without doing the unpaid internship through the college Republicans, I never would had the chance to get into politics like I did.

6) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

The thing I enjoy most is the fact that I get to meet so many people around the state. The most challenging thing about my job is that it is very stressful at times. If I do not raise the type of money that is expected, the candidate needs to cut something out of the budget which can lead to that persons defeat. These days, success in campaigns is largely based on how much money one can raise.
BryAnn Chen  
Field: Non-Profit  

1) When you graduated, did you know what you wanted to do?  
No, but I knew it would be related to social justice in some way.  

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?  
Frankly, I think it was the sociology degree focusing on social justice work and the practical experience of volunteering that did more to help me get to where I am in my career. In undergraduate school at the UW I was very active with the Asian American Student Union and also with Wisconsin Student Union but to a lesser extent. I always credit AASU with making me politically aware and politically active. Then in grad school, I worked as a research assistant in anthropology on a Vietnamese refugee nutrition education program. That was my entry into the field of working with refugees. And I've always been a feminist.  

Once I was involved in the refugee field, I learned about Refugee Women's Network and its work regarding domestic violence and refugees and immigrants. So I started volunteering with them as it was the intersection of refugees/immigrants and women's issues. Given my IR background, I was familiar with the geopolitics that caused refugees and seeing the impact on the individual people. Working with refugees who are here in the US really brings home the fact that what is theoretical in books is real life for other people.  

3) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?  
Being active with the Asian American Student Union was critical for me. Through AASU I learned about coalition building with the Black Student Union, Wunk Sheek, Jewish groups, LGBT groups, and so on. I learned about the common cause many oppressed groups have, and the intersectionality of it all. I can't and won't choose between working on women's rights or the rights of people of color, or of immigrants, because I am all of them. And why should I choose? Coalition work is the way to go.  

4) What do you enjoy the most about your work?  
Meeting new people, seeing how we can work together to achieve common goals (there's the coalition work again). Working with amazing talented committed people who want and are changing the world. Seeing how individual refugee and immigrant women are able to achieve independence and self-sufficiency because of the training, leadership skills, and confidence-building we are able to provide them. We are able to help a refugee woman go from "oh, I kinda have an idea but I don't know how to get it done and I don't know if I can do it" to "I have my own business, you gave me a loan, I'm building my own credit history, I control my own money, and I've hired other people." To share in sisterhood with other women at the end of a 5 day training and see them weeping because they have to leave the circle of support is just amazing.  

5) What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?  
Fundraising, especially in this recession.
When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

After completing undergrad in 1998, I really did not know what I wanted to do. I knew I wanted to do some combination of public service and entrepreneurship. I also knew that I wanted to work in or with Latin America but that was about it. I had many ideas and many passions and had trouble narrowing it down at that point in time.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

After college I went to South America for 6 months. I backpacked through Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Peru to explore the region. Until then, I had only spent limited time, primarily in Peru and Argentina, with extended family. After that trip I returned to Madison, my home town, and taught Spanish for a few years at UW-Madison and Edgewood College. It was a great experience. I learned quite a deal through teaching others, not only about myself, but also about conveying information successfully to a diverse group of students with different learning styles. I then decided to apply to law school and pursue a career in immigration law. I had a background working with the Latino community in Madison and I wanted to build on that experience. While in law school, I studied abroad in Lima, Peru at the Pontificia Universidad Católica as part of a dual degree program JD/MA (LACIS). During my year abroad, I became increasingly interested in the cross section between law, sociology and development. Specifically, I was fascinated by the limitations of the law to impact behavior in certain social contexts that face constraints such as poverty, gender discrimination, corruption and violence. I also learned about various international development initiatives, many focusing on women and economic independence, which were very inspiring and motivated me to pursue my current field of work in Washington D.C.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Yes, there were many things. The vast diversity and high quality of course offerings, study abroad opportunities, as well as the wide array of visiting speakers and events helped develop my expertise in the region. My education and experience at UW-Madison helped build the foundation I needed to specialize in international development and focus on Latin America.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

While in undergrad, I co-founded a student group that promoted Latin American culture and I was also involved in other student organizations. I also took advantage of the wide array of international events and activities that connected me to a diverse student body and visiting experts. I also interned at the United Way of Dane County on a social policy and literacy project, and worked freelance as an interpreter and translator. The exposure to so many different cultures provided me the necessary sensitivity to connect to and collaborate successfully with diverse actors and partners, something that is fundamental in my current position.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

What is most fulfilling is the opportunity to connect to and support so many inspiring and courageous women, and men, that are having a real impact on changing attitudes, seeking justice and creating opportunities for others to succeed, often in very difficult circumstances.
Eugenia Podesta continued...

Here is one example:
In 2006, the first and only domestic violence women law was passed in Brazil. Known as the Maria da Penha law, it is named in tribute to a survivor and prominent figure in the women's rights movement in Brazil, Maria da Penha whom survived her ex-husbands attempt to murder her twice. This law is a quantum leap forward in Brazil, where there is a long history of domestic violence. Even with the passing of this law, too many women remained uninformed about its existence and did not understand how to take advantage of it for their own protection. Panmela Castro, an artist by training and renowned graffiti artist and community organizer felt compelled to take Marias story into the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. Along with other young women artists, musicians, and producers, she formed Artefeito to educate and inform women of their rights under the law. At workshops throughout the favelas, these women come together to beautify their communities with murals that serve as a constant reminder of the safety and security that every woman deserves.

One of the most challenging aspects is dealing with a constantly changing international development landscape where priorities, and funding opportunities, are always changing. It is necessary to be innovative, adapt and work with the trends in order to ensure that programs and initiatives survive and grow. Another challenge is balancing the needs and goals of your work with that of your funders and partners. Finally, Washington D.C. is a vibrant professional environment that is difficult to maneuver at first for someone who is not familiar with it. There are many internal dynamics and issues to familiarize yourself with that at first, it can be quite overwhelming – once you have an understanding of how things work, things get easier.
This is what Carl said about deciding to go to graduate school:

My decision to go to graduate school was based in part upon my study abroad experience. I knew that if I wanted to work in Turkey or the region that I should probably spend the time to get a masters degree in order to really make myself an expert in the region. For graduate school I had the choice of either doing a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) at UW-Madison or a MA in Russian/East European/Central Asia studies. I decided that I preferred the interdisciplinary nature of the MA as opposed to the rigid structure of the MPA. I saw the MA in area studies as an opportunity to become a jack-of-all-trades but master of none :) I had been considering joining the CIA or Foreign Service during my graduate studies (both careers that value masters degrees), but ultimately decided just to journey to Turkey and try to make something of myself over there.

1) When you graduated, did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

When I finished my MA in Russian, Central Asian and East European studies at the UW in 2003, I didn't know what I wanted to do. What I did know, however, is where I wanted to be: Turkey. It just so happened that everything was perfectly aligned at the time to make the move possible. I had finished my MA and there were no appealing job prospects for me in the US. Given my previous study abroad experience in Turkey as an undergrad when I was at Ohio State, I was familiar with the country and I knew that with my background I could make something of myself over there.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

I began as a Russian language major at Ohio State in '96. During my second quarter at OSU I took a class on post-Soviet politics and became really interested in some of the former soviet republics, particularly Azerbaijan. It was then that I realized that if I had knowledge of both Russian and Turkish languages as well as an understanding of the history and current events, I could really make a name for myself in that part of the world. I then switched from being a Russian language major to being a double major in Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures with a minor in Russian. Essentially an IR major by another name. One of my main areas of focus during my undergraduate at Ohio State was the politics of oil in Central Asia and that Caucasus. I had been thinking about doing a study abroad in Turkey.

3) Was there anything from your education at UW-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

The interdisciplinary nature of the MA in REECAS allowed me the opportunity to take everything I had learned as an undergrad to the next level. I was able to fully concentrate on what I wanted to study under the guidance of some of the best professors in their fields (I turned down an opportunity to do an MA at Harvard to come to UW). In my current field (higher education / student recruitment) a Masters is pretty much mandatory.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

I was president of the Pi Sigma Alpha society for a year. During the year that I was president we were able to invite a speaker to campus to talk about the time he spent as a war correspondent in Azerbaijan and Chechnya. So I certainly played up my interests when I had a chance.
Career Profiles

Carl Holtman continued…

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

I absolutely love the work that I do (student recruitment / college counseling). Turkey is a top-10 nation in terms of the number of international students that are studying in the US. If a Turkish student plans on studying abroad the US is always the top choice. So I like the fact that I get to play a major role in helping some people make arguably the second most important decision in their life. Having gone through the liberal arts tradition of higher education in the US I can really speak to these students about the value of a US education. The opportunities that are opened by a liberal arts education are endless. At the same time, this is also the most challenging aspect of my job. That is, trying to convince students that they are free to explore their interests and that they don’t have to study engineering if they would rather concentrate on art history.

6) How was the adjustment to moving and working in a foreign country, personally and logistically? How did you get abroad? What connections did you use to get there?

I actually enrolled in an MBA program at a Turkish university as I thought that learning the business practices of the country would help me a great deal. So I actually came to Turkey in 2003 on a student visa. I was offered a job at a major newspaper after my first semester in the MBA program. After that it was a matter of finding creative ways to ensure that I maintained legal residency in Turkey. The first year my wife and I had residency because I was on a student visa. The following year she was able to get a working permit at her school, so I was able to maintain residency as her spouse. As far as my current job with ELS Educational Services goes, I of course have a working permit etc.

Connections played a very important role in landing me this job. I had spent a great amount of time at the US Consulate during a stint as an independent consultant in higher education from 2007-2008. I was visiting people at the consulate and in the US commercial services quite a bit to discuss education initiatives in Turkey. I became so well known to them that when the former president of ELS came to Turkey to inquire about setting up an office the people at the Consulate insisted that he get in touch with me. ELS’ desire to establish an office in Turkey that would support students wishing to study in the US is something that I could immediately get behind. I told them that I was their man. I took the job with the intention of learning how to set up a foreign office so that I could use that skill set to help other institutions do the same.
Jacob Kushner
Field: Journalism

Freelance Journalist based in Haiti
B.A. LACIS, Journalism 2010

1) When you graduated did you know what you wanted to do? Was there an ideal position you had in mind?

About a year before I graduated, I decided I wanted to move down to the Dominican Republic and Haiti to do journalism there. Having gone through the journalism school and worked a lot of journalism internships and jobs through college, I knew I wanted to pursue reporting, and decided that international journalism would be the perfect opportunity to combine that interest with my Spanish fluency and my desire to experience more of Latin America. I had studied abroad in the D.R. during college, and figured that would be the most logical place to start.

2) What steps did you take to get where you are now? How did you narrow your focus? How did you incorporate all of your interests?

I enrolled in a semester-long independent study class in the J-school in which the Journalism advisor worked with me to develop a plan for how to approach freelance journalism. He gave me advice as I developed a personal website, discussed my reporting strengths, and introduced me to a couple international freelance journalists who then gave me tips.

3) Was there anything from your education at U-Madison that is helpful in your current career?

Certainly the Spanish language classes prepared me technically to work abroad; History 260 introduced me to a lot of interesting historical trends in the region that I realized must still have journalistic relevance today; and the LACIS capstone seminar with Alberto Vargas took a dozen of those issues and explored them in-depth, which got me thinking about how I could develop reporting projects in other Latin American countries.

4) What extra-curricular activities or involvement in student organizations/ internships/ professional organizations/ summer jobs, etc. helped you while you were a college student?

As a journalism major, the internships and jobs were essential, because the journalism program at UW’s focuses on theory and the basic principles of reporting, but doesn’t place you in internships and professional reporting situations like other J-schools do. As a student of Spanish and LACIS, volunteering as an interpreter at the UW Law School clinic on the south side, and writing and editing for the Spanish Newspaper La Comunidad News, convinced me it was realistic to pursue a career using a foreign language.

5) What do you enjoy the most about your work? What is (are) the most challenging aspect(s)?

The most rewarding thing about doing journalism is it gives you a sort of unprecedented justification for digging into the most intimate and personal moments of a someone’s life—which is something that can really change you as a person. Hearing those powerful stories and bearing witness first-hand to the experiences of people in places so profoundly different that the United States is truly mind-blowing. And the relationships you build offer something that you just can’t get sitting at a desk job in the U.S. The most difficult part is that you spend long periods of time away from your own friends and family.
Advice from Alumni

Jenn Urban:
“Work hard, get a mentor, and don't be afraid...you can do it!! I'd suggest narrowing down your ‘ideal’ job. Maybe you could shadow someone from each of these fields for a day or two and see what their days are like and what they actually do in their daily lives related to their positions. That may make narrowing down a bit easier. Also, keep in mind if you want to go into certain areas, you will need to consider additional schooling. For example, you may need to attend law school, paralegal training, training for financial advisors, etc. This may weigh in your decision, and may be weighing on potential employers' minds.”

Dana Dillon:
“First, don't believe that government or academia is the only way to go. My daughter recently graduated with an IR degree and she works for a transportation company organizing shipments to foreign countries. She works closely with foreign counterparts and the job does entail travel to some exotic locations. Also, the only lawyers I know that are happy with their choice of profession are lawyers that work international law. Second, if you do decide to go the government route, the military and the Department of State are not your only options. Every Cabinet level Department has an International Policy Department of some kind and some of them are quite large. That includes, the Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Homeland Security Commerce and all the rest. Lastly, I highly recommend the Army FAO program. It is recognized throughout the military and the rest of the government as the best program for training foreign area specialists.”

Wendy Appel:
• “Belief in yourself
• Have the desire and set the intention
• Be willing to do what it takes
• Be humble
• Develop a strong network and be willing to give at least as much as you receive
• Go on informational interviews
• Be clear about the specific type of work you want to do: marketing, consulting, engineering, etc. You need more than just a desire to work outside of the U.S. and in an international arena
• Do volunteer work--especially at international non-profits or NGO's -- this can really help open doors
• Work for global companies--perhaps you can get a transfer
• Make sure you are proficient (fluent would be ideal) in at least one other foreign language
• Be curious and open
• Be a life-long learner
• When you manage to get work outside of the U.S., try to integrate with the local culture. It is very easy to just hang out with the expat community because breaking into the local culture is tough.
• Educate yourself about the differences between Eastern and Western culture--especially in today's world. Understanding culture clash--what it is, why it happens, and how to bridge will be essential.”

Abby Lerner:
Be persistent and don't have too narrowed a focus. Be willing to talk to everyone and consider everything.
Advice from Alumni

BryAnn Chen:
“Volunteer. Get practical experience. Be committed to volunteer for an extended period of time. I volunteered with RWN for at least a year while in school. When I graduated, RWN hired me to work in the program that I was volunteering with. When they knew of another job opportunity in the world of philanthropy, they urged me to apply, and I got it. Then when they were looking for an executive director, they recruited me back.”

Carl Holtman:
“My number one piece of advice would be to explore. I happened to sign up for a class or two that looked interesting, and that led me to consider taking other classes and so on. Learning a “critical” language is also a great piece of advice. There are tons of funding opportunities available for students studying “critical” languages (NSEP grants http://www.nsep.gov/, FLAS fellowships etc.). I was funded for my second year of study at UW-Madison via a FLAS fellowship for studying Turkish.”

Allison Wells:
My main piece of advice is to get involved early and as much as possible. I was always afraid to dive in too deep on any one topic (so afraid that I would change my mind, want to switch gears, etc). But I think the key to showing initiative in college is to show passion and drive. Don't just take the classes that you find interesting, but talk with your professors, ask them their advice when it comes to getting involved in international-related fields, and research and write on anything you find interesting. Especially in this day and age, it is easy to get involved in international affairs simply over the internet (blogs!). I would also naturally encourage anyone to study abroad - while it may be a financial strain, there is no comparison to the benefits of gaining a broader world view.

Finally, in considering your post-grad opportunities, be flexible: Your first job is not going to be the "ideal" job - I have worked many internships and jobs, and at the end of the day, they are all very different. However, I can sit in an interview and tell a cohesive story about how each one played a part in my professional development. Even if you want something related to international affairs, you can often find a domestic affairs-based position that you can later parlay into an international one (ex: if your interest is in international women's rights, working domestically on domestic women's rights is a great stepping stone to positions with international women's rights groups). Students shouldn't lose heart if their first job is not with an international organization or corporation - there are always ways to make employers aware of your international interests and find ways to use your background, or at the very least your foreign language skills, in order to help their work.

I think in general it is very difficult and unusual to know for sure what you want to do with your life coming straight out of college. Your best hope is usually to have a sense of your interest areas, and the coursework and extracurricular experience that can demonstrate your dedication to those interests. Even if you do have a sense of your dream job, many things such as the economy, family concerns, and financial realities can get in the way. I have had to come to terms with the fact that while I love international affairs, I also want to raise a family in the states so that my future children can be close to my parents, and so that my significant other can also pursue his career of choice. You never know what will come up in the future to impact your later career-related decisions, but coming out of college all you can really do is have a field in mind, and evidence to back up your claims about your areas of interest and to demonstrate your abilities.”
Advice from Alumni

Eugenia Podesta:
Study and/or work abroad and prepare yourself for both the academic and technical approximation to the field. This is very important! This field requires strong program management skills. A significant amount of this can only be acquired on the job through work experience, but internships and volunteer opportunities can help you develop those skills. Technical training in program design, proposal writing, budgeting and other financial management, presentations and partner relations are also helpful. Also, networking is fundamental. It is important to build relationships, cultivate them, know who the other players are, what they are doing and that they know who you are and protect your professional integrity.

Lastly, it is important to remember that you do not have all the answers, despite your level of academic or personal expertise with a particular region or issue. Incorporate feedback from the people or communities that you are supporting. Work with them and make sure that they are involved in designing the solution and have a role in the project execution, because locally driven and led initiatives are better positioned for success.

Jacob Kushner:
I’ve known a lot of people who agonized over the decision to go live and work abroad, but if you are truly destined to do so, you’ll just pack up and do it. It’s natural to envision barriers like uncertainty, money and student loans. But the bottom line is, you are inherently more prepared than almost anyone in the world to do something like that. As a UW grad, you’re among the only 7 percent of the world population privileged enough to have a college degree. And as an American, you have an unparalleled opportunity to travel. If my best friend Jonas in Haiti risks traveling to the U.S. the only way he knows how, there’s a 75 percent chance he will drown on the journey. Whereas, if you travel to another country and things don’t work out, worst case you end up back where you started—having learned something about the world, not to mention yourself. The risks are low, and the rewards are infinite. Just do it.

Debra Morse:
BE FLEXIBLE! I started at the Wisconsin Lottery, then DOT, then DHS, then MetaStar, now here at APS, opening my own company ... I never, ever would have guessed as a new French and International Relations major in 1990 that I would be here, now. But, I’m glad that I am. I can't imagine my life having turned out any other way.

Jessica Chung:
Go out there and just do it. Volunteer first if you can't find anything paid. It is worth it to just go out and see what else is going on in the world.

Dan Morse:
Be patient and the right job will come to you. Also, you MUST get involved early and volunteer. The people who do a good job and volunteer even once a week will make a name for themselves in the campaign and will be rewarded. I volunteered three to five days a week (unpaid) and I ended up making a career choice I do not regret.
Career Resources

**Internationally-Geared Resources**

Job search tools, employment resources, recruitment contacts, work permit regulations, salary information, professional and social networking groups, resume tips, interviewing and cultural info.

**Idealist** - [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)
Idealist is an interactive site where people and organizations can exchange resources and ideas, locate opportunities and supporters.

**Jobs Abroad** - [www.jobsabroad.com](http://www.jobsabroad.com)

**International Jobs Center** - [www.internationaljobs.org](http://www.internationaljobs.org)
You can search for jobs all over the world in fields such as intl development, environmental programming, democracy building, health care, foreign policy, etc.

Networking opportunities, tips, trends, workshops, and freely available listing of international alumni chapters and contacts.

**After Latin American Studies** - [http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/students.html](http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/students.html)
This guide is only available as a pdf file by visiting the above website and scrolling down to “Career Assistance” and clicking on “After Latin American Studies”.

**Enlace (U of TX)** - [http://lanic.utexas.edu/enlace/resources/](http://lanic.utexas.edu/enlace/resources/)

**Jobs in Spanish Speaking Countries Database** - [http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt/work/options/spanish.html](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt/work/options/spanish.html)

"The Essential Job Board for Hispanic & Bilingual Professionals"

**Saludos** - [http://www.saludos.com/](http://www.saludos.com/)
Jobs for bilingual college graduates.

**Transitions Abroad** - [www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)
Short-term positions at various schools, business, non-profit orgs., etc., around the world

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**On-Campus Resources**

**BuckyNet** - [http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers/](http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers/)
An interactive online system that allows you to search for jobs and internships, participate in on-campus interviews, and more. Before getting a login, students must attend a short orientation via web or workshop through L&S Career Services.

**Center for Leadership and Involvement** - [http://cfli.wisc.edu/](http://cfli.wisc.edu/)
Campus portal for student orgs, campus jobs, and leadership opportunities. Offers advising.

**Go Global** - [http://go.global.wisc.edu/](http://go.global.wisc.edu/)
Individual advising on online resources to assist in the search for international work.

**L&S Career Services** - [http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers/](http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers/)
Workshops and career fairs for students preparing for the job market. Resources for searching for internships and jobs. Resume and cover letter preparation, mock interviews, skill assessments, and more. Group and individual advising.

**Morgridge Center for Public Service** - [http://www.morgridge.wisc.edu/](http://www.morgridge.wisc.edu/)
Campus hub for volunteering, service learning, research and community involvement.

Information about law and medical schools, the application process and preparation. Workshops and individual advising.

**The Writing Center** - [http://writing.wisc.edu/](http://writing.wisc.edu/)
Workshops and individual appointments on writing resumes, cover letters, personal statements, writing samples, and all your writing needs.

**International Internships Program**
The opportunity to earn credit for participate in an international internship with the support of the UW.
Effective Job and Internship Strategies

Tired of searching for jobs online that only lead to dead ends? Not sure how to go about finding that perfect job or internship? A successful job and internship search involves utilizing an array of techniques and strategies. While they require more work than a simple “point and click,” many students find these strategies are worth the effort. For additional information on search strategies set up an appointment to meet with a career advisor.

Networking
While some might find their dream job searching the employment section of a newspaper or website, it is far more likely that you will find a job informally through contacts and the people you know (and the people they know). Here are some tips to develop a personal network and connect with professionals in your field:

- **Connect with family, friends, faculty, volunteer affiliations, former and current employers, social group members and alumni as they can be a great resource for uncovering job leads.**
- **Arrange brief meetings with each professional and solicit job advice and information regarding your field of interest.** These meetings could be held in person or on the telephone. Mention your career objectives, the type of employment you are seeking, and your qualifications. Ask them to recommend at least two new contacts, as the more contacts you make, the more your network will take shape.
- **Developing relationships is what networking is all about! Remember to send a thank-you note after making a new contact and create a database of all your contacts for future correspondence.** It’s not enough to just hand out your resume and run!
- **Attend Career Fairs and Events on campus to make contacts with professionals in your field of interest.**
- **Contact the UW Alumni Association and access the many networking opportunities they offer through their career programs. In addition, you can contact UW Alumni Clubs in the locations where you would like to live after graduation.** [www.uwalumni.com](http://www.uwalumni.com)
- **For more help, see our guide to Informational Interviewing.** This handout has information about how to best network with people you don’t already know.

Professional Organizations
For every field there should be at least one professional organization with the primary purpose of providing news and career information, addressing current issues, and describing important developments in the field. The internet is an excellent source for directories of professional associations and most associations have regional chapters. Nearly all chapters have regular meetings and membership lists that enable you to meet professionals and develop contacts. Keep up-to-date with current events by reading an organization’s journal or newsletter. Ask your networking contacts what they read to stay informed.

On-Campus Recruiting
Our office’s On-Campus Recruiting program (BuckyNet) is an online system used by our office to assist Letters and Science students in their job and internship search. With this program, you can participate in on-campus interviews, search job and internship listings, and access BuckyNet’s national database with hundreds of position listings from employers across the U.S. targeting a variety of students.

To sign up for BuckyNet for free, visit our website [www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers](http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers). You can access BuckyNet for a year after graduation!

Volunteering
Through volunteer work you can gain first-hand knowledge in your field and establish yourself in a professional network and become involved in relevant projects. If your research indicates that you need to gain more related experience, volunteering is an excellent way to accomplish this and apply your skills. Volunteering is also an excellent way to make contacts in your field and find out about job openings before it becomes known to the public.
Job Fairs and Workshops

Job fairs, career-related events, workshops, and conferences are arranged by universities, professional organizations, and independent groups at different times throughout the year.

- Career fairs are excellent ways to network, get feedback about your resume, find out more about an industry, and meet many employers at once.
- These events allow candidates and employers to engage in a mutual screening process. By speaking with several employers in your area(s) of interest at a concentrated time, you will get a better sense of the range of positions available, and the qualifications necessary to assume those roles.
- See our website for more details about career fairs sponsored by our office (www.lssaa.wisc.edu/careers/events/event_menu.php)

Prospecting

Prospecting letters are used to contact specific individuals in the organization you are interested in to take a look at your resume, learn more about the position, and then market yourself and your qualifications. Letters, emails, phone calls, and cold calling are all tools to inquire about potential employment or internship opportunities and indicate an interest in an organization or industry. It is your responsibility to do the "follow-up" and build relationships with people in specific career fields of interest to you. There are sample prospecting letters in Job Choices magazine, found at the Career Services Office.

Employment Agencies and Professional Search Firms

Involving a third party in your job search is another alternative that may be considered, but with due caution.

- Employment agencies serve as a clearinghouse, linking candidates to organizations with vacancies
- Since most agencies work on a commission basis, it is best to identify agencies operating on an "employer paid" fee basis. This means that the employer will pay the agency a finder's fee, and there will be no cost to the candidate.

Follow-Up: A Strategy For All Strategies

Following up with all professionals with whom you interact is a very important step in the job search process. Simply making "contacts" with no follow-up or genuine interest will most likely lead to dead ends. The follow-up strategy most appropriate will depend on how far you have progressed in your job search.

- For example, you may call an employer after your application materials have been sent to an organization, or you may be at a point where you are sending thank-you letters after job interviews
- The follow-up may be with your initial contact, another person in the same organization, or another employer in the field. Since you will be contacting several employers, it is quite possible that you will use several follow-up strategies concurrently.
- As a job searcher, it is important that you take the initiative to make the appropriate contact in a timely manner to demonstrate your appreciation for the time they have invested in you.

Be proactive in your job/internship search! While it takes more work than simply answering an ad in the newspaper, going the extra mile will help you land a great job or internship!
Informational Interviews / Meetings: A Networking Tool

An informational interview is an interview that you initiate – you ask the questions. The purpose is to obtain information and get job-search advice from people working in the field (not to get a job). With this distinction in mind, we recommend asking people for Informational Meetings to eliminate any confusion!

Reasons to conduct an informational meeting

- Help clarify and define your career goals and build confidence for job interviews.
- Gather information and gain insight into an occupation, industry or specific employer and learn what types of skills are needed on the job.
- Convey your motivation and interest to an employer.
- Expand your professional network and gain visibility.
- Find out what your next best steps might be regarding job-search strategy and receive advice and information regarding hiring trends.

A few guidelines

- Never ask for a job! The typical job searcher is going around asking for a job. An “informational interviewer”, on the other hand, is just seeking information and advice about a job, industry or organization.
- Schedule a meeting prior to a job opening being posted: Most professionals feel uneasy talking with a potential candidate when the agency is actively recruiting to fill a position.
- Don’t forget to get the names of other people to contact before you leave an office, hang up the phone, or sign-off on an email.

Before the meeting

- Identify the occupation or industry you wish to learn about. Prior to the meeting assess your interests, abilities, values, and skills to identify the best fields to research. Select occupational fields or organizations which match your career interests.
- Identify people to meet/network with. Start with people you already know – friends, relatives, fellow students, present or former co-workers, supervisors, neighbors and ask them who they know.
- Make a list of potential employers (check the local library, Chamber of Commerce, yellow pages, or internet). Consider checking their website for more detailed information before you call. You may then call an organization and ask for the name of a person by job title or department.
- Join professional associations, attend conferences and participate in career fairs to grow your network.
- Prepare for the meeting. Find out as much information as you can about each organization. Research the organizations either through their company website, online career resources, through your local library or Chamber of Commerce.
- Prepare your questions ahead of time. See the sample questions on the next page for ideas.
- Be prepared to talk about yourself. Don’t count on it, but some informational meetings have turned into actual employment interviews so… it might be helpful to brainstorm some short answers to the following questions:
  - Why are you interested in this type of work?
  - Why do you feel you would be a good “fit”?
  - What interests you about this industry or organization or job?
  - What are some of your longer range career goals?

- Arrange the meeting. Contact the person to set up a meeting by letter, email, phone, or in person. The best times to reach someone can be before 9:00 am and after 4:30 pm. Tell them your name, who referred you (if applicable), why you are contacting them and that you would like to meet. Emphasize your interest in information rather than looking for a job. Remember to mention that you will only take 20 - 30 minutes of their time. The following is an example of what to say:

  “Hello, my name is ____________. I was referred by ______________. I am investigating career opportunities and trying to make some good decisions. I thought you might be able to answer a few questions. I would like to meet with you. Would you have 20-30 minutes sometime to talk with me so I can find out more about your organization and how someone with my background and skills can fit into this field?”

The day of the meeting
- Show up early - plan to arrive 10 minutes early for your meeting.
- Try to relax and be yourself.
- Dress appropriately. Professional business attire is always safest, but business casual is often acceptable. Jeans, shorts, short skirts are often too casual, so are open-toed shoes and sandals.
- Remember first impressions count.
- Make sure to have the necessary materials. Bring copies of your resume (distribute upon request only!) You can always send on as a follow-up, as is appropriate.
- Come prepared to take notes: i.e. names, phone numbers or other information. Make sure you have a list of questions you want to ask, as well as topics to discuss.

During the meeting
- Be prepared to initiate and keep the conversation going. Stay on track, but allow for spontaneous discussion, and ask questions. Adhere to the original time constraint of 20-30 minutes.
- Be enthusiastic and friendly! Show interest. Be polite and professional. Remember to be a good listener, maintain eye contact, and be responsive. Share something about yourself, but do not dominate the conversation.
- Remember that this is an information gathering and advice seeking interview, not an employment interview! Let the person you are meeting with bring up specific job vacancies.
- Before leaving don’t forget to…
  - Thank them and ask if you could stay in touch if you had any more questions.
  - Ask him/her to suggest names of others who you might benefit from talking to.
  - Ask permission to use their name when contacting these new contacts.
  - Consider suggesting a follow-up appointment somewhere further down the line (to stay on their “radar screen”).
After the meeting

- Be sure to send a thank-you note within a couple of days of the meeting. This is an effective way to keep in touch and to stay in people’s memories. Let them know they were helpful and thank them for their time. Mention something they said that made an impression. E-mail is okay!
- Ask them to keep you in mind if they come across any other information that may be helpful to you. Include your phone and email under your signature.
- Keep a notebook to track your conversations, follow-up ideas or commitments.
- Keep in touch with your contacts by keeping them abreast of your job search.

Suggested questions for an informational meeting

About the person and their present job
What is your educational background? How did you get started in this field?
What was your career path like? How did you get your present job?
What do you like most and least about your job?
What do you wish you would have known prior to entering this field?
What would you change about your job/career path if you could?
Where do you see yourself going from here?

Work activities
What do you do during a typical work day/week?
What are some of the problems/decisions you are likely to face in a day?
What do you spend most of your time doing?
How much paperwork? Interaction with others? Do you have frequent contact with people-customers/co-workers/supervisors/general public? What is the nature of those contacts?

Lifestyle
How does your job affect your general lifestyle? What is your schedule generally like?
How many hours do you generally work in any given week?
What obligation does your work place upon you, outside of the ordinary work week?
How much flexibility do you have in terms of dress, work hours, vacation, etc.?

Work setting / culture / climate
Do you determine what tasks you will work on and how to structure your time? Or is that determined for you?
How would you characterize your working relations or work environment (formal, informal, etc.)?
Do you work primarily alone or in collaboration with others? With whom?
How are decisions made? What is the company’s management philosophy?
About the career field / industry
What are the employment trends and how rapidly is your present career field growing?
What specific jobs are in demand and which are being cut back?
Is relocation to another state or company necessary? What is the turnover rate like?
What is the salary range for the various levels in this field?
What type of professional development or training opportunities are there?

Preparation / qualifications
What credentials, educational degrees, licenses, etc. are required for entry into this field? What kind of prior experiences would be good background for the position?
How do college majors fit in?
What specific skills are required? What are some additional skills that will be helpful?
What qualities / qualifications do you look for in an ideal candidate?
What is the profile of someone who is successful in this field?
How are hiring decisions made?
How did the last few people you hired obtain the position? What were their backgrounds?
How do people find out about these jobs? Are they advertised? If so, where? How else does one hear about openings?

Advice to you
Is this a realistic goal? Am I in the ballpark?
How does someone with my background and skills fit the needs of an organization in this industry?
Do I have to develop some skills or gain some experiences to make myself more competitive?
What professional associations or organizations do you think might be useful to contact for information or to belong to?

Next steps
What’s next and where do I go from here?
How do people break into the field? What is my next best step?
What advice do you have for me as I try to break into this field?
What entry level jobs are best for learning as much as possible?
Are there people you think I would benefit from talking to?
Can I use your name when I contact them?
If I have any questions could I stay in contact with you?
# Global/International Studies

## What can I do with this major?

### Areas

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<tr>
<th>International Business</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>Domestic and foreign corporations</td>
<td>Learn at least one additional language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Multinational service firms</td>
<td>Spend a semester studying abroad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Relations</td>
<td>Global small and medium enterprises</td>
<td>Seek an international internship, even if unpaid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banking and Finance</td>
<td>Domestic and foreign financial institutions</td>
<td>Obtain volunteer, part-time, or summer experience at related organizations.</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
<td>International marketing firms</td>
<td>Make personal contacts within targeted businesses.</td>
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<td>International Development</td>
<td>International real estate firms</td>
<td>Learn about NAFTA, WTO, and GATT policies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>International trade firms</td>
<td>Develop your skills domestically and begin to develop a network of contacts if you want to pursue a career abroad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Contracting and consulting firms</td>
<td>Acquire supervisory skills and experience by taking leadership roles in student organizations.</td>
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<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Convention and visitors' bureaus</td>
<td>Learn about geography and international travel regulations.</td>
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<td>Product Management</td>
<td>International airlines</td>
<td>Sharpen your public speaking skills and communication skills between cultures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Administration</td>
<td>Transportation, travel, and hospitality industry</td>
<td>Make a commitment to continuous growth in understanding cultural diversity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Economics</td>
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<td>Keep abreast of political, economic, and social changes worldwide.</td>
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<td>Increase cultural awareness and sensitivity for foreign markets and people.</td>
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<td>Develop an understanding of the international business environment.</td>
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<td>Research firms with international interests.</td>
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<td>United Nations</td>
<td>Participate in an overseas mission experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diplomacy</td>
<td>Relief organizations</td>
<td>Plan to study abroad or participate in an international work experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>Religious organizations</td>
<td>Learn a second or third language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>Non-profit organizations/corporations</td>
<td>Demonstrate your depth of dedication, willingness to adapt, and coping mechanisms to combat stress and difficult situations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional/Community Development</td>
<td>Educational institutions</td>
<td>Develop skills in the areas of organizing groups, efficiency, and the ability to calm people.</td>
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**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CONTINUED**

### AREAS

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<td>Policy Development</td>
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<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>Government agencies with an international focus</td>
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<td>Program Evaluation</td>
<td>Relief organizations</td>
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<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
<td>Associations, societies, research institutes</td>
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<td>National Security Council</td>
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<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>Defense contractors</td>
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<td>U.S. Peace Corps</td>
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<td>U.S. Foreign Service</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
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<td>Armed Services</td>
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### EMPLOYERS

Study abroad while in school. Learn one or more foreign language.
Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills.
Develop networks.
Complete internships in related areas.
Participate in an international service learning experience or go on a mission trip.
Federal international jobs require careful observation of a formal hiring procedure.
Research the international organization/agency's structure and function.
Volunteer at relevant social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.
Volunteer in health related settings such as the American Red Cross.
Develop good working knowledge of international humanitarian law.
Demonstrate strong analytical and management skills.
Government work in the foreign service requires passage of the Foreign Service Exam, after obtaining a master’s degree or significant work experience.

### STRATEGIES

Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills.
Acquire supervisory skills and experience by taking leadership roles in student organizations.
Learn about geography and international travel regulations.
Sharpen your public speaking skills and communication skills between cultures.
Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental.
Learn to work well on team.
Earn a relevant graduate degree such as international diplomacy, international relations, or law.
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| **LANGUAGE SERVICES/EDUCATION**  
  Teaching  
  Curriculum Development  
  Interpreting  
  Translating  
  Research and Writing  
  International Student Support Services  
  Study Abroad Programming  | Public and private schools abroad  
  Community organizations  
  Federal government agencies  
  English language institutes  
  Overseas dependents' schools  
  Religious and volunteer organizations  
  Colleges and universities  | Gain practical domestic teaching experience and necessary training or certificate to teach abroad.  
  Research certification options (TESOL, CELTA, CELTC, TEFL)  
  Obtain certificates from schools whose graduates are hired in the international marketplace.  
  Teaching training should include supervised classroom experience.  
  Consider obtaining intensive TELS (Teaching English and a Second Language) training.  
  Volunteer to tutor children and adults in English.  
  Learn other languages to help understand how languages work.  
  Sharpen intercultural competency, sensitivity, and tolerance.  
  Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language including proper sentence structure and comprehensive vocabulary.  
  Notify local hospitals, schools, and chambers of commerce of your availability to translate or interpret for international visitors.  
  Minor or double major in another subject that you could also teach.  
  Earn a master's degree in College Student Affairs to work with study abroad programs or with international student services. |
| **JOURNALISM**  
  Foreign News Correspondence  
  International Broadcasting  
  Reporting  
  Editorial/Column writing  
  Investigative Journalism  
  Research  
  Photography  
  Freelance Work  | Foreign news agencies  
  TV networks  
  Large circulation newspapers  
  Wire services  
  Trade newspapers  
  Online publishers  
  Labor unions  
  Academic journals  
  International newspapers  
  Magazines  
  Museums  
  Self employed  | Obtain a summer job or internship with a newspaper.  
  Demonstrate curiosity, high energy level, ability to produce under pressure, and withstand criticism.  
  Develop excellent grammar and writing skills.  
  Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published.  
  Join a professional journalism organization.  
  Research international newspapers.  
  Gain experience with campus newspaper or media.  
  Travel or study abroad. |
GENERAL INFORMATION

• Entry-level positions are generally in the U.S., with mid-level positions involving some international travel. Corporations hire employees with the most experience or skills set for overseas work.
• Target larger firms that may be more likely to employ contracting services.
• Develop linguistic skills. Learn a second and third language.
• Demonstrate intercultural competency, sensitivity, and tolerance.
• Gain experience in communications with people from other countries. Get to know international students on your campus.
• Live and/or work abroad while in school.
• Commit to a continuous study of host country’s language.
• Develop a good understanding of etiquette and business practices in country of target.
• Look for temporary positions abroad.
• Obtain daily papers in target city to determine international and national news, business features, real estate markets, and community calendars.
• Work domestically with an international firm as a contract representative.
• Develop traits such as creativity, initiative, tenacity, a willingness to take risks and an adventurous spirit, and a sense of humor.
Resources available for those in need:
- Acquire knowledge of government and community
- Become bilingual in English and Spanish in order to better assist some clients.
- Share the importance of understanding various cultural customs and beliefs.
- Participate in training opportunities.
- Provide feedback on culture.

Volunteer with organizations that best serve people of color.
- Get essential practical experience through part-time or summer work or increased volunteer opportunities.
- Obtain a graduate degree in psychology.
- Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology.

STRAATEGIES

EMPLOYERS

AREAS

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LAW AND POLICY CONTINUED

STRATEGIES

EMLOYEES

AREAS

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