What am I going to do after I graduate?

I have heard this question a lot recently with second years apply and interviewing for jobs and with first year students seeking out summer internships and opportunities. Check out some Advice, fellow alum Callie Frieler has to say!

Before Graduation Advice:

➤ Maximize your internship/ assistantship/volunteer opportunities and try to make them as diverse as possible. No one really will know what the job market looks like or what jobs are available until it may be too late. Don’t pigeon hole yourself into one particular discipline. When you work or gain experience in several areas you are just maximizing your opportunity. This really helped me in my job search, Although I knew the area that I wanted to work in, I also had other fall back areas if jobs in this particular department were not readily available.

➤ Experience matters. As a director who is currently searching for an assistant director I can tell you first hand, the more experience in higher education you have the better your chances of a job. Look for summer internships working at different institutions. ACHUO-I, NODA, and NASPA all have great summer internship programs. Independent searches are also really beneficial as well. Some employers like to see a variety of school experience on an applicant’s resume. This shows that they are able to accommodate and adapt to different institutional structures and needs.

➤ Network. Student Affairs is an incredibly small field. When you start working full time you will find that most of your supervisors or colleagues know at least one other person you do. When leaving UWLAX I was amazed at how many people knew and had relationships with several of the UWL staff. Four years later my network has grown, but I still go back to where it all started with my professors, supervisors, and mentors at UWL.

Job Search Advice:

➤ Job searching is a full time job in and of itself! Start early. December through March are when most of the entry level applications will be posted.

➤ If possible attend NASPA or ACPA and check out their placement exchanges. You don’t necessarily have to participate but going and checking them out will give you a great idea of what your competition looks like and how prepared they are in their job searches. This really motivated me and kicked me in the butt!

➤ Tailor your resume and cover letter for the job! It is very obvious to employers when they receive a general cover letter and resume. If you are applying for a housing position, put your housing experience first, if you are applying for an activities position, put those experiences first, etc. Also, say something specific to the position and institution in your cover letter! Take words right out of their job description. Make it easy for them to read!

➤ When sending out your resume and cover letter send them both out as PDF’s. Maybe this is something personal, but it looks really unprofessional when you just get a word document with edit marks all over it. . . a PDF is much more professional.

➤ Use your connections! Make sure your colleagues and contacts know you are looking and what you are looking for! Most jobs opportunities come from people who know you are looking and something crosses their desk!
Research: JAM’s & ARP’s

Now that the semester is almost halfway done, the second years are working hard to finish up their work on their ARPs or JAMs. To showcase the work we all have been working diligently on, here is all the research topics of the second years:

Carrie Bero: College Women and Consent
Angela Birrittella: Identity of Queer Students of Color
Aiyana Bloome: Transfer Student Orientation
Tarra Bourgeois: Increasing Student Association Involvement
Jenna Fremstad: Online Training for Student Staff in Residence Life
Tiffany Koeshall: Housing Needs of Transgender Students
Kelsey Kopp: Non-traditional Majors and Departmental Climate
Tev Lee: Identity of Multi-racial College Students
Ryan Nell: Recruiting Students with Disabilities
Gina Montilino: Reentry Course for Study Abroad Returners
Trent Mortimer: Perceptions of Masculinity and Help Seeking of College Men
Kayla Piper: Self Sufficiency Program for Students with Children
Jackie Rindone: Senior Capstone Course
Kim Soumar: Size and Identity Formation in Female College Students
Yang Cha Thao: Hmong Student Perceptions of University Programs and Services
Sarah Weiler: Role of Gender Specific Programming in Residence Halls

I know many of us feel very passionate about our topics, so whether you’re wanting some tips on the research process, wanting to brainstorm for your upcoming JAM/ARP, or just wanting to discuss our topics any further, please feel free to ask one of us!

-Jackie Rindone
Shout Outs

**Libby** for being an awesome coworker.

**1st Year Cohort** for helping me out in a time of crisis. It helped me out a lot!

**Kim** for rocking a tough conduct / incident weekend in Coate! Turn UP!

**Students** who completed the first round of online 720’s!

**Dr. Nick and the Residence Life Staff** for all their support at OPE.

**Noelle** for supporting Libby through a rough week.

**Bailey** for her photography skills.

**Alyssa** for conquering all the challenges that are visit day!

**Carmen** for seeing her dream become a reality – Woot LeaderShape!

**Katie** for always supporting and encouraging her friends to be the best they can be!

**Warmer weather** and snow melting!

**Spring Break 2014!**

---

Event Insight!

**LinkedIn Presentation!**
Be on the look out for more information coming in the next few weeks about time and dates!

**Seroogy’s Fundraiser**
Talk with any SAA ORG exec! We are selling the candy bars foe $1.50 to help raise money to put on events and programs for SAA cohorts!

**Enjoy Spring Break!!!!**

---

Use @UWLSSAORG to engage in discussion and stay up to date on events.