

# Beyond the Dubble

a look at life outside Illinois Wesleyan University

## Alumni Profile:

### Deon Hornsby

## Business Administration Major, Class of 1997 Regional Underwriting Manager American International Group

#### Deon, how long have you been working for AIG?

I've been with AIG since May 2005. This is my third job since graduation: State Farm for nearly 3 years and Chubb Group of Insurance Companies for nearly 5 years.

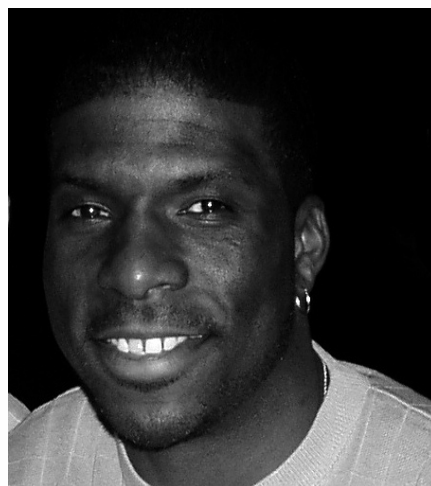
#### What are your specific responsibilities as an underwriting specialist?

As of May 2005, I was promoted to Regional Underwriting Manager of the Cleveland Region. I handle a team of 3 Underwriters, 3 Underwriting Technicians, 1 Underwriting Analyst and 1 Professional Associate (trainee). My responsibilities - in a nutshell - include the professional growth and development of my team, while making sure we meet our growth and profitability goals. A lot of my position involves the technical aspect of underwriting, but the majority involves managing the people on my team.

#### When did you decide that a career as an underwriting specialist was for you?

For me, it was not a decision to become an Underwriting Specialist or a Regional Underwriting Manager. My goals are to learn as much as I can from what I'm doing and try to advance to the next level. I believe that I can learn from every position and every job experience and I try to take that knowledge and further advance it. I'm not a person who is

easily satisfied at a job. I want to take my skills to the highest level possible. I keep my eye on those that are ahead of me and try to understand what they did to get there and do that for myself.



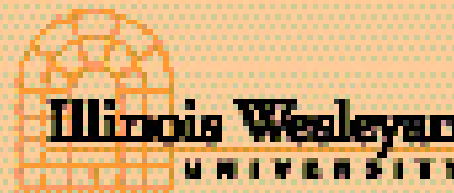
#### How did your undergraduate experiences at IWU help prepare you for the "real world" in general and for your job in particular?

The environment on campus is similar to the real world. Although there is an African-American presence in the corporate world, it really mirrors my experience on campus. Being at IWU taught me that I could still maintain my person-ality,

yet be an effective communicator and someone that is respected for the work that I do. Being on campus taught me that there will always be challenges on the road of life and it's a matter of how you handle those challenges which will determine your success.

#### Any advice you'd like to give to current Wesleyan students regarding their career searches?

Work hard. Take advantage of the resources that you have on campus and work to build relationships. Being in the insurance industry for over ten years taught me that the majority of business dealings are based on strong relationships. There is a unique opportunity at IWU to master those skills at an early age. Make sure you get every bit of the Wesleyan Experience!



Career Connections is printed on 100% post-consumer fiber.

Editor/Writer: David R. Jennings | Director: Warren Kilmer

<http://www.iwu.edu/~ccenter>

## The Hart Career Center Has a New Home!

September 2008

As those students who've recently visited the familiar basement of Gulick Hall may already know, the Hart Career Center has relocated to the brand new Minor Myers jr. Welcome Center! Here are all the essentials regarding the new Welcome Center:

- The Center, located across the street from Presser Hall and next to the Chapel, houses both the Career Center and the Office of Admissions. The Career Center occupies the second floor.
- According to President Wilson, the Center "is designed to be the front door of the university" and will operate as an impressive, alluring starting point for visiting potential students. It will also provide a warm, professional welcome to visiting employers.
- The building is the first major construction on campus since 2002 when the Ames Library was opened and Hansen Student Center underwent renovation. Special care has been taken as well to make it the first "green building" at IWU.

## Let the Job Seeking Begin:

### Fairs offer internships, jobs and more

There are some scary creatures out there. You've got snakes, spiders, bears... Dementors. It's a lot to cope with. Still, the one terrifying creature that might out-scare them all is one most of us are familiar with: the dreaded employer. These highly elusive beasts can send even the most confident of us into a panic, as we desperately try to gain their attention and approval. Wouldn't it be nice if a whole batch of these employers were just available all at once, ready and happy to speak with you?

Well, this fall, several such opportunities become a reality. On September 19, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the ISU Bone Student Center, the ISU/IWU Fall Internship Fair will take place. In addition, the ISU/IWU Fall Job and Internship Fair will occur on October 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ISU Redbird Arena. Better yet, IWU will provide transportation throughout the day – look for the van at the south entrance of Memorial.

These incredibly convenient chances to learn from and network with hiring organizations are some great career seeking tools.

This year's Job and Internship Fair boasts some 165 organizations, including the Department of Homeland Security, State Farm, and Walt Disney World. The organizations span a wide area of interests and offer many different positions - for all majors!

The fairs also build essential interviewing and social skills. Says Heather Lindquist, a senior accounting major who attended last fall's Internship Fair, "You actually have to go up and introduce yourself, hand them your resume, and you have to start the conversation which is probably the hardest part... for anybody. So really it was good practice."

For those interested in even more practice, the Career Center offers two workshops, "Resumes that Get Noticed" and "Job Fair Jitters," prior to the Internship Fair.

Extra practice or not, make sure you present yourself like you would for a one-on-one interview and don't be afraid! "They expect you to come up and talk to them," Lindquist said of the employers. "That's why they're there. They're there as a resource for you and as a resource for their companies." So, use these valuable experiences to conquer your fear of the employer once and for all. Your career ambitions are ready to launch. Why not here?

## Inside this Issue

**Job Fair Quick Tips!** p. 3

**Important News for Graduate and Professional School Searching** p. 2

Check out Beyond the Bubble on the back page!

# Chicago Graduate and Professional School Day

We can probably all agree that Job Fairs present wonderful opportunities for students seeking the perfect job or internship. But what about those students who would rather face the rigorous demands of grad school? Are they supposed to be left in the cold Fair-less, with naught but a desire for more years of schooling and a name?

Fortunately, no. The 4th annual Chicago Graduate and Professional School Fair will take place Thursday, October 2, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The Fair boasts representatives from over 200 highly acclaimed schools, including Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University,

and Northwestern University,

Collectively, the schools will cover a vast array of specialties, from aeronautics to urban planning, and each representative will be there to discuss program requirements, scholarships, and much, much more. Best of all: There is no cost for IWU students to attend and IWU will even provide transportation! The bus leaving from Wesleyan will require a \$10 deposit to hold your seat, but that deposit is fully refundable as long as you show up.

For those interested, more information can be found on the Career Center's website or on the official site of the fair ([chicagogradfair.ocs.uic.edu](http://chicagogradfair.ocs.uic.edu)).

And while we're on the subject, the Career Center also offers several other incredibly useful resources relating to graduate school. Within the Career Center's library you will find Peterson's Graduate and Professional Programs directories, which provide complete information on all graduate programs and degrees at over 1,500 institutions. In addition, the electronic CollegeSource ([collegesource.org](http://collegesource.org)) stores over 3,600 college catalogues that can be read at your convenience.

If all this only leaves you wanting more, on October 7 the Career Center will host "Grad School Prep: Navigating the Maze," answering any further questions you may have.

## Interviewing 101: Styles and Locations

Whether you consider yourself an interviewing stud, or you would rather sleep out on the quad this winter than have to present yourself to a stranger, the Career Center offers plenty of different interview opportunities – many of which can be conducted right on campus. Check out the seminar "Impress Me: Standing Out in an Interview" on September 25 and take a look at these interview resources below.

### Mock Interviews

Even if you're not job-seeking at the moment, there's a good chance you will be in the very near future. A mock interview is the perfect way to help you establish essential interviewing skills (in a comfortable atmosphere) before the real interviews become a reality. Don't let the title fool you though – mock interviews are conducted by professionals in HR from many big name firms. According to Sarah Micale, a junior Accounting major, the process "was very beneficial in that it helped me get used to speaking to an interviewer."

To sign up, you must be registered through eRecruiting and have uploaded a current resume. The mock interview process is open to any major – no matter which company the HR representative is from. A schedule of upcoming interviews can be viewed on eRecruiting as well, but move quickly. The first mock interviews, scheduled for September 18th, have application deadlines of the 16th!

### On-Campus Interviews

For those of you ready to interview for available jobs and internships, the Career Center offers the wonderfully convenient option of interviewing here on campus. Many different companies – from Allstate Insurance to PricewaterhouseCoopers – will be sending representatives. "Definitely take advantage of the interviews available on campus because it is far more convenient than trying to go to various corporations," said Micale, who ended up getting internship offers from some of the companies she interviewed with on-campus.

Interviews are pre-selected, so be sure to view the schedule of companies visiting on eRecruiting and apply as soon as possible. On the date of your interview, make sure to dress professionally and do advance research on the company you're meeting with. Just because it's a campus location doesn't mean the interview should be taken any less seriously.

### ISCPA Fall Interview Day

In addition to the ISCPA online services described on page 3, ISCPA members can reap the benefits of such events as Interview Day. This year's event will be on Tuesday, October 21, from 8:45 am to 5:00 pm, at Ashton Place in Willowbrook, IL. Registration is required ([iscpa.org](http://iscpa.org)) as employers will pre-screen candidates. The deadline to register is September 29. Interview Day offers the rare chance to interview with many high-quality companies throughout the course of one day, at one location. Visit the ISCPA website to view a list of employers that will be attending.

# Online Resources: Jobs At Your Fingertips

You ever get that sinking feeling where you know you need a job or internship, but you're just not sure where to look? It's a pretty terrible feeling: one that leads you to push the worry to the back of your mind and eventually resort to babysitting the diabolically twisted Domson twins for the umpteenth summer. Well, with the online resources available from the Career Center, there's no reason that should be the case. You can check out these resources from the comfort of your own room and make your career search easy – and Domson twin free!

## eRecruiting

If you're not familiar with eRecruiting yet, you should make it a priority. The online service provides a convenient method for you to view job or internship opportunities through a number of criteria (location, field of interest, paid/unpaid positions, and more). You can create your own professional profile, post and update resumes, and ultimately apply to whatever positions suit your interests. You can also look to eRecruiting to sign up for on-campus interviews or to work with an alumni mentor who can share information and insight about their career field. Access to the site (<http://iwu.erecruiting.com>) is easy – and free for IWU students! For a tutorial on eRecruiting with Career Center staff, call extension 3071.

## ISCPA Online System

This career resource is only available to a network of 25 small private colleges and universities throughout Illinois. The ISCPA (Illinois Small College Placement Association) online career center is open to all majors. To use the website ([iscpa.org](http://iscpa.org)) all you need is your IWU e-mail and you'll be allowed to search for jobs and internships, post your own resume, and even get the chance to find interview opportunities on the campuses of other member schools.

## Career Center ListServ

The easiest way to keep up with all the events and important dates at the Career Center. The ListServ is a weekly e-mail that will be sent to your IWU account. To receive the e-mail all you have to do is send an e-mail of your own to [careersubscribe@lists.iwu.edu](mailto:careersubscribe@lists.iwu.edu) and type "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.



## Upcoming Seminars and Events:

Event: "Semester in the Big City: Affiliated Internship Programs"

Date: 9/23

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Welcome Center Auditorium

## Homecoming Events (10/3)

Event: "Healthcare Reform and the 2008 Presidential Election"

Time: 2 to 2:50 p.m.

Place: Beckman Auditorium, Ames Library

Presenter: Distinguished Alumnus Award winner, Steve Ondra '80

Event: "Architecture of the New: Searching for the Space Between"

Time: 3 to 3:50 p.m.

Place: Beckman Auditorium, Ames Library

Presenter: Outstanding Young Alumnus Award Winner, Joe Herzog '98

Event: "Student/Alumni Law Mentoring Sessions"

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Welcome Center Conference Room

# The Job Fair Essentials: How to Make Yourself Memorable

You won't have a lot of time to speak with employers at the Job Fair. The fast paced nature means sometimes you'll have to leave a lasting impression in five minutes or less. Here's how to do it:

- Practice introducing yourself. Prepare a quick intro including your name, major, graduation date, relevant experience, and anything else you want the employer to remember about you. And, no, that probably doesn't include your ability to chug a gallon of milk in under an hour without throwing up.

- Have plenty of copies of your resume ready to give to potential employers. You want to be able to give a copy to each company you speak with, so make sure your resume is quality material, too. Set up an appointment with one of our terrific staff at the Career Center to help.

- Do not be scared to walk up to any and all organizations you have an interest in. That's why they come to these fairs. To meet you! Your chances of standing out in an employer's mind increase greatly when you not only provide them with your resume, but also demonstrate communication skills in person. Maintain eye-contact, sound confident (but not cocky) and you'll be fine.

- Look nice. As in very, very nice. Sure the Job Fair isn't exactly the same thing as a formal, on-site interview with one company. But that doesn't mean what you're wearing won't make an impression. In actuality, the same dress you would wear to a formal interview is recommended for the Fair. Don't over-do it here (you're prom tux or dress won't be necessary) but a suit is generally a safe bet. And besides, how often do you really get to look this good for a reason? Enjoy the opportunity!