

SU Career Connections BBQ 2014 – Alumni Participants

Friday, April 11, 12-1:40pm

Sign up in person at Career Services (M-F, 8am – 5pm)

Nick Alter '09

Nick obtained a degree in **English and Communications**. After graduating college, he worked as a **grant writer, social media consultant, waiter, restaurant manager and book peddler**. In 2011, Nick started a digital marketing agency called **Alter Endeavors**. Alter Endeavors has worked with dozens of brands consulting on various elements of **brand development and online marketing** strategies. Past and current clients include Fall Creek Vineyards, EB Lewis, St. David's Hospitals, St. David's Foundation, The Samaritan Center of Austin, CCIM Technologies, YouPlusMedia, Fast Eddie's Billiards and Sports Bars, Texas Hospitals Association, Square Cow Movers, Jennifer Kahnweiler, The Confidence Code, etc. Nick established Alter Endeavors LLC in order to effectively utilize some of the most talented multimedia and digital experts in Austin, TX, as well as to bring excellent and ethical practices to deserving brands. (*Kappa Upsilon Chi, SU Lacrosse*)

Matt Beck '01

Matt earned his degree in **Political Science**; he minored in **Economics and Computer Science** then began working at **National Instruments** as a Technical Sales Representative. Using his background in political science, he moved into a role in global trade compliance at NI as a Trade Compliance Analyst. He also held the positions of Senior Trade Compliance Analyst and Corporate Trade Compliance Manager while at NI. Matt earned his **Master's in Public Administration** from **UT Arlington** and is a licensed U.S. customs broker. He is currently the **Director of Global Trade Compliance** with **ATMI** where he is responsible for compliance with all laws and regulations affecting the import and export of ATMI products and technologies in every country where the company has operating units including Belgium, China, Germany, South Korea, Taiwan and the United States. (*President of APO, intramural referee and supervisor, IT Help Desk*)

Noah Bickford '09

Noah double-majored in **Anthropology and English**, then spent a year as an **AmeriCorps** volunteer working as a literacy tutor for Spanish-speaking kindergartners at an Austin school. After finishing his AmeriCorps term, he began working at the **Austin Children's Museum** in 2010 as the Gallery Educator/Tour Guide and Technology Education Lead Teacher. In 2013, he made the move with the museum to their new location, and currently serves as a **Floor Supervisor**, managing and supervising staff and overseeing daily operations of the museum. (*Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society, OASIS - Organization for Anthropology and Sociology Interested Students, Resident Life*)

Lisa Marie "Reese" Cisneros '10

Reese graduated with a degree in **Communication Studies**. She is a **Senior Event Producer** with **Kennedy Creative Events** where she works to create one-of-a kind events in an organized, professional and profitable manner. She coordinates multiple events for multiple clients at one time, single and multi-day events as well as conferences. She **interned** with this organization as a student to learn the ins and outs of event planning, which eventually led to a full-time opportunity upon graduation. (*SU Volleyball, Zeta Tau Alpha, Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Student Foundation, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Operation Achievement, Megaphone photographer*)

Kimberly Palmer Contreras '07

Kimberly majored in **Accounting** at Southwestern and is currently a **Senior Global Distribution Audit Specialist** at **Whole Foods Market Global Headquarters** in Austin, TX. She performs contract pricing compliance audits of various distributors and suppliers that service Whole Foods Market stores across the nation, in Canada, and the UK. Additionally, she resolves pricing issues, ensures reimbursements are paid back to the stores, and trains new team members.

Previously, she was a **Distribution Audit Specialist** for Whole Foods. She has known since her junior year at SU that she wanted to work for Whole Foods and has loved it ever since! (*SU Cross Country, Track, Financial Analyst Program*).

Amy Crook '11

Amy majored in **Sociology** at SU and went on to **Boston University** to receive her **M.S. in Public Relations**. After graduation, she spent two months in **London** as a **Development Intern** for Prince's Foundation for Building Community, then became the **Donor Relations Coordinator** for **Caritas of Austin** where her responsibilities included donor acknowledgement and recognition, donor communications, in-kind donation management and donor database management. She currently works with **Spirit Reins** as their **Development Generalist**, where she manages all fundraising programs. (*Student Foundation, Delta Delta Delta, Southwestern Gives: Student Gift Council, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, Alpha Delta Kappa Sociology Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi Educational Honor Society*)

Nicole Golan Green '10

Nicole majored in **Fine Arts, with a focus in Painting**. She now works as the **Sales & Catering Account Manager** for **Austin Marriott North**. She is responsible for selling hotel event space and group rooms for social, corporate, and other business meetings or events. She also details events based on customer needs and assures that these details are followed by the hotel staff. (*University Planning Council, Jewish Students' Association, New York Arts Program*)

Katie Gutierrez '06

Katie with majors in **Philosophy and English**. In 2011 she also earned an **MFA** in fiction at **Texas State University**. After an internship at **Phenix and Phenix Literary Publicists** and experience at **People Magazine**, Katie wrote as a freelancer for a variety of publications. Currently an **executive editor** at Round Table Companies, she also founded her own business, Legacy Editorial Consulting.

Jill Sacra Hoffman '02

Jill majored in **Business** and upon graduation from Southwestern served for two years as an **Environmental Education/Agroforestry Volunteer** with **Peace Corps El Salvador**. She then worked for **LeapFrog SchoolHouse** in Austin as an Educational Sales Associate focusing her sales efforts in Florida, Alabama and Mexico City. Jill attended **South Texas College of Law** where she earned her **law degree**. She is now an **Associate Attorney** for **The Bojorquez Law Firm**, where she represents small municipalities across Central Texas advising her client cities on issues involving land use, including zoning and annexations; open government laws; employment law; municipal revenue sources; elections; and utilities. While at SU she interned in DC and Austin for **Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison**, and for **Texas Monthly** in Austin. (*SU Volleyball, Zeta Tau Alpha*)

Jodi Kirk '12

Jodi majored in **Chemistry** and works for **Cerilliant Corporation** as an **Associate Scientist**. She is responsible for performing synthetic work in support of the Cerilliant catalog and custom products. They make certified reference standards serving forensic, pharmaceutical and chemical testing and research. Prior to her current position, she was a Synthesis Lab Tech, responsible for laboratory maintenance and housekeeping activities. (*American Chemical society, Student Congress, Delta Delta Delta*)

Charlotte Law '12

Charlotte graduated with a major in **Sociology** and a minor in **Communication Studies**. While at SU, she worked and interned with nonprofits **Headstrong, The Georgetown Project** and **LifeWorks**. After graduation, she was an **Assistant to the Editor for Interviews** with **Austinist.com** where she conducted interviews with visiting musicians and entertainers as well as attending press events. She currently works with **H.A.N.D.** as their **AmeriCorps VISTA Development and Communications Associate**, working with media and

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marketing. She also works with **channelAustin**, Austin's only public access television network, as a **Marketing Communications Consultant**. She offers support in the development of communications, marketing and public relations planning. Charlotte is on the Development Committee for the **Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Austin**.

Ryan McDermott '12

Majoring in **Philosophy**, Ryan also completed a four-month summer Software Engineering program at **UT in Austin** where he worked with a graduate student for a project with NASA reprogramming satellites. He started programming as a hobby and had a **freelance** business during college and was also a **music teacher** at Georgetown Music Studio. He was hired in Austin based on his experience. He currently works with **Riskpulse** as a **Python and Javascript Developer**. (*choir, Megaphone*)

Erica Navaira '08

Erica graduated with a B.S. in **Biology and Psychology**. After graduation, she worked as a research assistant and lab manager at the **UT Health Science Center** at San Antonio. Wanting more clinical experiences with individuals affected by mental illness, she decided on a career change and returned to school to pursue a Master's of Science in Nursing at **The University of Texas at Austin**. She is now a registered nurse and has experience working as a **psychiatric RN** at a local residential treatment center for children and adolescents with mental illness. Once she receives her Master's, she plans to seek employment in a role of a Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner where she will be able to assess, diagnose and treat mental illness using medications and psychotherapy. She has experience at Meridell Achievement Center, Austin Travis County Integral Care, Austin Psychiatric Alliance, NeuroPsychiatric Associates of Austin, CommUnityCare, Hope Through Health Clinic and Austin Child Guidance Center. (*Alpha Phi Omega*)

Ben Oakley '09

Ben majored in **Psychology** at Southwestern and went on to become a licensed paramedic. He started out as a **Field Medic**, then became Captain, the front-line supervisor to ambulance crews in the field. He currently works for **North Blanco County EMS** as the **EMS Director** where he is in charge of the entire Emergency Medical Services agency and is ultimately responsible for clinical education, research, quality assurance, human resources, public relations, community outreach, financial management, budgeting and emergency preparedness. (*Res Life*)

Nick Pate '13

Nick double majored in **Business** and **Economics** and currently works as a **Business Advisory Services Associate** at **Grant Thornton LLP**. He primarily helps organizations to solve issues, create value, maximize growth and improve business performance. He helps clients improve operations by developing new methods or changes to existing practices. Prior to his current position, he worked as a Certificate Specialist with Marsh in Austin, TX. (*Kappa Alpha Order, Financial Analyst Program, SU Economics Club*)

Samandra Rivera '10

Samandra was a **Spanish** and **Psychology** double major at Southwestern and is currently in charge of **New Client Development & Marketing** for **Arthur J Gallagher & Co.**, a US-based global insurance brokerage and risk management services firm. Her duties focus on creating marketing material for the Houston sales team and prospecting for mid-market energy companies. Previously, she was an HR Assistant for Goodwill Industries of Houston, working in

cooperation with DARS and The Work Source ensuring the placement of clients needing to gain work experience. (*Delta Delta Delta, Student Foundation*)

Maddie Robertson '09

Maddie majored in **Psychology** and minored in **Spanish** at Southwestern and now works as a **Senior Account Executive** for **Publicis Hawkeye** (an advertising agency) and also as an **Event Planner for Keestone Events**. At Publicis Hawkeye, she currently works on the **CiCi's Pizza** account and is the main point of client contact for all day-to-day projects. With Keestone Events, she books, plans, and executes weddings, personal, and corporate events for clients. She previously worked as an Account Executive at Publicis for the **Terminix** and **Lake Austin Spa & Resort** accounts. She uses her education and what she learned in her psychology classes multiple times each day and employs networking to continue growing her career. She also has a shop on **Etsy** where she sells custom wooden signs. (*SU Peer Academic Mentor Program Lead, Academic Probation Assistant Advisor*)

Erin Ross '03

Erin majored in **Communication Studies** while at SU. She attended **St. Mary's University** and earned an **M.A. in Communication Studies** as well as **Marriage and Family Therapy**. She graduated with a **Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy** from **Texas Tech University**. She was a Clinician for Algos Behavioral Health before starting her own practice as a **Marriage and Family Therapist**. She enjoys working with adults, adolescents and children. She specialized in couples therapy, sexual trauma and dysfunction for both children and adults and issues concerning self-growth and personal empowerment. (*Southwestern tennis team, Zeta Tau Alpha, Panhellenic, and Phi Alpha Theta history honors society*)

Lori Warren '11

Lori majored in **Communication Studies** at Southwestern and currently serves as the **Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps Coordinator for Front Steps**. She manages an AmeriCorps program that recruits, trains, and places 31 AmeriCorps members at 9 different homeless service agencies in Austin. Previously, she worked as a **Housing Stability Specialist** with **Caritas of Austin**, where she provided case management services to clients who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. Keep Austin Housed is currently hiring for the 2014-2015 program year. (*SU Methodist Student Movement, Lambda Pi Eta*)

Brent Webster '03

Brent majored in **Political Science** at Southwestern. He also spent a semester in Washington at American University, interning for the House Committee on Ways and Means. Brent continued his education at the **University of Houston Law Center**, earning his **J.D.** in 2005. He interned with the General Counsel for the Governor of Texas, then became a criminal prosecutor here in Williamson County in 2006. Brent is currently an **Assistant District Attorney for Williamson County** and is assigned to "white collar" crimes and civil litigation for the District Attorney's Office. Brent has extensive jury trial experience, and is proud of his many successes trying domestic violence cases, child abuse cases, and a recent murder case. (*Kappa Chi, Residence Life*)