

Southwestern University

Career Services

POST GRADUATE SURVEY



Ashley Bird '06 and Hugh Arrington '06 turned hard work on the court and in the classroom into careers in health care and business.

graduate profile

Ashley Bird
CLASS OF 2006

Hugh Arrington
CLASS OF 2006

As student-athletes, Ashley Bird '06 and Hugh Arrington '06 gained valuable leadership, teamwork and communication skills. On and off the basketball court, they learned to work with a variety of people to achieve a common goal, a skill both attest has helped them smoothly transition to their respective jobs as an exercise specialist in Cardiac Rehabilitation at St. David's Georgetown Hospital and an account executive at Clear Channel Radio Houston's KBME 790 The Sports Animal.

Bird, a kinesiology major, explains, "Extracurricular activities such as basketball, student government and Zeta Tau Alpha contributed immensely to my success outside of Southwestern by teaching me how to balance my time and work with a variety of people. These experiences have allowed me to ease gracefully into my position, where I am required to work with special populations and a diverse group of coworkers."

Arrington, a communication studies major, concurs. "Even though radio sales are based on individual effort," he says, "my leadership ability, which I strengthened in extracurricular activities, helped me take charge of my own fate and motivate myself to do what I have to do to become successful." He continues, "My work with 790 The Sports Animal is a good fit. I've always been involved in sports, and it was an easy transition from playing sports to talking sports with my clients as a segue into talking business."

Both graduates also credit close connections with professors and internship experiences as key to their success. "By taking advantage of my professors' willingness to aid in my career development," Bird says, "I was not only able to find a field in which I could be successful, but also able to obtain an invaluable internship that later evolved into my current job. My professors' connections in the Georgetown and Austin communities helped me to network with a large

group of people in my field.”

“My business capstone with Dr. Don Parks and Foundations of Business I with Dr. Mary Grace Neville really helped my critical thinking ability and helped me truly understand the different aspects of business and its effects on society,” Arrington notes. He put this knowledge into practice through his internship in the Promotions Department at Clear Channel Radio Houston. “The Promotions Department is known as ‘the face of the radio station,’” Arrington says. “My internship there really helped me understand the radio business and how it affects people in different ways. As an intern, I established great relationships with Clear Channel management and periodically kept contact with them—which really helped me keep my foot in the door after I graduated from Southwestern University.”

Networking, both as a way to land an internship and to convert that internship into a job offer, paid off for Bird and Arrington, as well as many of their classmates. Of 289 Southwestern graduates, 98 percent responded to the 2006 Post-Graduate Survey, and 48 percent of those working full-time attributed their job search success to networking. Another 18 percent secured their positions through the Internet, 12 percent did so through Southwestern University Career Services and 10 percent contacted employers directly. Like Bird and Arrington, nine percent of the Class of 2006 gained positions as a result of previous internships with their employers, a growing national trend as organizations rely on internship programs to identify and train top talent for eventual full-time employment.




Bird and Arrington also share another commonality: both made effective use of career planning resources on campus. “Career Services really helped me understand the importance of starting your job search early,” says Arrington. “They really emphasized that internships will help you get a job! I can attest to that. Career Services also played a big part in helping me gain employment, including helping with resume development and offering an etiquette dinner and mock interviews, among other things.”

“I got great help developing a successful graduate school application, including writing my resume and personal statement,” adds Bird. “Though I’ve been accepted to the University of St. Augustine’s Health Science dual-degree program for a master’s degree in occupational therapy and a doctorate in physical therapy, I am also considering the Peace Corps, becoming a nurse practitioner or joining my family’s business.”

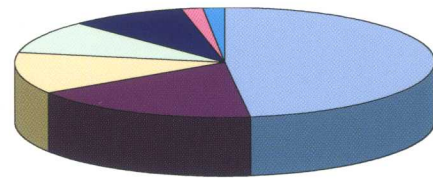
Bird and Arrington are among the 64 percent of responding graduates of the Class of 2006 who secured employment in Texas, around the country and in Guatemala, Spain and Taiwan. While 86 percent of those graduates remained in Texas, 14 percent ventured to 20 different states, as well as abroad. Alternately, 30 percent of respondents elected to pursue graduate or professional school before joining the workforce. Of those, 56 percent are enrolled in graduate school (master’s and Ph.D. programs), 13 percent each in law school and medical school, four percent in schools of theology, five percent in other professional schools and 10 percent in advanced coursework. Seventy-one percent of graduates continuing their education did so in Texas, while 29 percent ventured to 21 other states, Australia, Italy and England.

For most of these students, these destinations are but the first of many in a dynamic career founded on a liberal arts education. Arrington summarizes what he, Bird and numerous other Southwestern University graduates know. “At this point, it’s tough to tell where I will end up,” he says, “but I can tell you that my Southwestern University experience groomed me for success, and I will do whatever it takes to achieve every goal I set for myself.”

Distribution of Southwestern Graduates

| | | |
|--|--|-----|
|  | Employment | 64% |
|  | Graduate/Professional School & Advanced Coursework | 30% |
|  | Other (Seeking/Volunteering) | 6% |
| Total Number of Responding Graduates | | 284 |

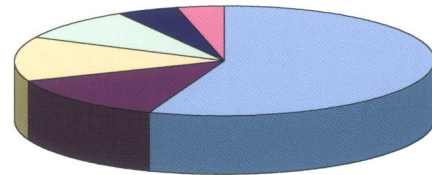
Method of Locating Employment*









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|---|--------------------------------------|-----|
|  | Networking | 48% |
|  | Internet | 18% |
|  | Career Services | 12% |
|  | Directly Contacted | 10% |
|  | Career-related Experience/Internship | 9% |
|  | SU Professor | 2% |
|  | Job Fair | 2% |

*For graduates employed full-time who reported method

Graduate/Professional School & Advanced Coursework



| | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|
|  | Graduate School | 56% |
|  | Law School | 13% |
|  | Medical School | 13% |
|  | Advanced Coursework | 10% |
|  | Professional School | 5% |
|  | Theology School | 4% |

