Laura Brown ’07 and Chris Paiz ’07 credit their liberal arts education with preparing them for graduate study and careers in consulting. At Southwestern University, Laura Brown ’07 and Chris Paiz ’07 learned writing, public speaking, interpersonal and time management skills and the value of a broad liberal arts education to their career interests in consulting. While Paiz launched his career as a consultant with Navigant Consulting (PI) LLC in Houston directly after graduation, Brown is pursuing a Master’s degree in Organizational Communication at Texas A&M University in College Station with an eventual goal of working for a consulting firm and even possibly pursuing a PhD to become a college professor. Both graduates credit faculty, extracurricular experiences, internships and Career Services with helping them develop the knowledge and skills their current pursuits require, and, perhaps more importantly, the vision and self-confidence to dream big.

“Southwestern helped to open my eyes to many things,” says Brown, a first-generation college graduate and graduate student. “First, I did not even know anything about graduate school, or that I could possibly obtain a master’s or even a doctoral degree. Also, everyone on campus was always very encouraging. If your advisor was not telling you to push for your dreams, you would see posters and services available to get jobs, go to grad school or make something happen with your life. When I would start meeting with my professors and studying interesting research projects, the subject of graduate school would always come up. Being able to see that graduate school was a possibility really opened up my eyes to a lot of opportunities.”

Brown exemplifies the 28 percent of the Class of 2007 who continued their education directly after graduation. Like Brown, 68 percent of these graduates remained in Texas, while 31 percent ventured to 15 other states and China. Sixty-three percent of graduates continuing their education enrolled in graduate school, 16 percent in law school, six percent each in medical and other professional schools and nine percent in advanced coursework. Graduates like Paiz, who pursued employment upon graduation, made up 65 percent of the Class of 2007. While 78 percent of employed graduates work in Texas, 22 percent spread out to 18 other states and international destinations including Argentina, China, England, France, Guyana, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Ukraine.

Paiz credits his Southwestern experience with teaching him the analytical and time management skills needed in his job. Consulting, he says, is “not unlike Southwestern and the liberal arts college idea. Students at Southwestern become knowledgeable in many different disciplines, not just their major. As a consultant, I feel like I’m extending that experience. Navigant fits well for me because it gives me an opportunity to see a wide range of work types. I currently work for the disputes and investigations practice. My most recent project saw me in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where I worked with a small team that investigated a company’s business dealings in the Middle East. We worked closely with lawyers and even the Department of Justice. On a daily basis I’m presented with problems that need to be solved. I find that being able to view these issues from multiple angles and backgrounds allows me to find the best solution. And I believe that both going to class and playing on the golf team taught me how to juggle a pretty hectic schedule.”

Paiz captained the golf team and served as a Head Resident Assistant, while Brown actively engaged in her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. This leadership experience taught them valuable skills and provided a network of support. “Without some kind of social release or avenue for fun,” Brown explains, “everyone can get bogged down with school work and the stresses of college. But, as a member of ZTA, I always had a program...
to attend, a party to help put together or a roommate and a friend to talk to. “Through new member recruitment and philanthropy efforts to raise breast cancer awareness, Brown says she developed interpersonal skills and dedication. “I learned that when I am dedicated to something—like my school work, entry into graduate school or need to raise awareness—I can reach my goals.”

Neither Brown nor Paiz neglected to take advantage of specific opportunities to explore career options and develop career goals. Both discovered that internships can help confirm and rule out career options. Paiz explains, “I had one internship at a television news station in Houston, which helped me figure out that I did not want to go into the broadcast industry. The work was too high-stress. Every day there were deadlines that you had to meet three hours ago. It did, however, give me some insight into how professional people operate in the real world. You can learn theory in school, but taking what you learned and applying it is a different story. Internships allow you to get an invaluable glance at the working world while still in school.”

Brown interned in the Communications Office at Southwestern, where she wrote articles for the Southwestern magazine and the “Who’s Who” page on the university Web site. Brown and Paiz also worked with Career Services to learn specific strategies for pursuing their continuing education and employment goals.

“Career Services helped me to put myself together!” Brown exclaims. “I had no idea of how to even start applying for graduate school, let alone a job. It was so nice to know that I had somewhere to go to people who knew what they were talking about, and actually get some answers.”

Paiz adds, “Career Services helped me by putting me in touch with many employers who were recruiting. I learned about the job market, what to expect out of college and even how to properly conduct myself in an interview. Early on in my senior year, I was not quite sure what type of job or career I wanted to pursue. Career Services helped me point in the right direction.”

Indeed, nine percent of employed graduates continued to pursue Southwestern graduates in less tangible, but equally important, ways. Brown notes that her first Year Seminar professor, Dr. Sharon Winust, empowered her to think differently about everything that she had ever been taught, while Professor David Olson helped her identify her future goals. “Without his help,” Brown says, “I wouldn’t be in graduate school.”

“Internships allow you to get an invaluable glance at the working world while still in school.”

—Chris Paiz ’07
Career Services at a Glance

Southwestern University Career Services’ mission is to help students and alumni explore career options, gain marketable experience and engage in the search process for internships, jobs and graduate/professional school admission.

ADVISING
Career Services offers one-on-one advising for:
- Major and career exploration
- Self-assessment testing
- Internship development
- Résumé development
- Graduate and professional school advising
- Job search strategies

EVENTS
Special programming events throughout the year provide occupational information and teach career skills. Examples are:
- Professional Practice Interview Day
- Etiquette Dinner
- Getting into Graduate School
- Career Connections
- Résumé Drive
- Careers in… series

RESOURCES
- Career Services Resource Center
  (600+ publications)
- Career Services website
  (www.southwestern.edu/careers)
- Major Possibilities Guides
- Résumé Writing Guide
- Alumni and parent networking contacts

NACELink
Students and alumni can register free of charge with NACELink, a web-based résumé referral system, to search for jobs and internships. Registered users are eligible to participate in on-campus recruiting.

Recruiting and Career Fairs
Students can interview on campus and attend information sessions for non-profit, government, private-sector business and education employers. Career Services hosts an annual internship fair and provides transportation to career fairs around Central Texas.

Location and Hours
Call or email for an appointment or stop by the office in the McCook-Crain Building (next to the Kyle E. White Religious Activities Center). Office hours are 8 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

First Destination for 2007 Graduates by Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Divisions</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Graduate/Professional School &amp; Advanced Coursework</th>
<th>Other (Seeking/Volunteering)</th>
<th>Total Responding Majors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent/Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Of 287 graduates, 44 completed programs for two or more majors in 2007.

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