

THE LINK

Lamar University

Career and Testing Center

Your Link to the Future



Student Spotlight: Arin Wilson

College of Education and Human Development

In honor of this month's Educator's Career Fair, our student spotlight falls on a future elementary school teacher. A Professional Pedagogy major, Arin Wilson has taken full advantage of her time at Lamar. Her passion for children and learning has made her successful in student teaching and will continue to be beneficial to her after graduation.

Former Kappa Delta Pi President
Arin Wilson found a rewarding experience student teaching at Nederland ISD.



Q: Describe your experience as a Lamar Cardinal. How have you handled your busy schedule at Lamar and all its demands?

A: Wow! A busy schedule could sum up my career at

Lamar. As an education major, you must do an immense amount of interning in schools. This is very time consuming on top of your regular Lamar classes. It takes a lot of balancing and staying on top of your work to be successful. I always tried to get all of my homework and presentations finished and presented as early as possible, in order to have some down time at the end of the semester. And of course to give myself more time to study for finals! Once you are accepted into the Pedagogy department you are required to take Pedagogy classes. These classes require at least 30 hours of interning at an assigned school. During these assignments we get the opportunity to create lesson plans and teach to the students in the classroom. Our classes at Lamar prepare us for our intern experiences. Although we are constantly busy with this degree, I would have it no other way!

Q: What concentration and level of teaching have you chosen and why?

A: Elementary education is my passion. My degree allows me to teach pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. Through

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Are Your Students/Alumni Sweating the Tight Job Market?

JobWeb offers a wide range of materials for NACE members to use to help students and recent grads update and polish their resumes and interview skills. You are invited to place links to these JobWeb articles on your career center web site. It's just one way JobWeb can help you do "more with less" during this economic crisis when demand for your services is at an all-time high!

Job Listings: The JobWeb home page offers links to job listings for students and alumni through their school's NACElink connection. See the "jobs" box

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“JobWeb” Continued



“Spotlight” Continued

in the upper right corner of the JobWeb home page.

Research Employers: Explore information about a variety of companies and get direct links to employers’ web sites.

Cover Letter Rubric: Help students and alumni judge the quality of their cover letters and improve them.

Interview Rubric: Challenge your students and alumni to prepare for interview success with a mock interview rubric.

Resume Rubric: Offer an easy, step-by-step method your students and alumni can use to critique their resumes.

Resume Samples: Access more than 40 sample resumes to get students started.

http://www.naceweb.org/promail/2009/jw_coll031209.htm

my internships I have had the opportunity to teach each grade. Most of the schools I have had the chance to work at have self-contained classrooms. These classroom teachers are the sole teacher and teach every subject. The students do not rotate into specialized classrooms. However, Lamar’s Education Department provides us with a Generalist degree plan, so if I obtain a position in a school district with specialized classrooms, I will be fully prepared! I love having the freedom to be able to teach any grade. There is a vast difference between the personalities and abilities in a Kindergarten and a Fourth grader. I do not have a favorite grade, I think they are all special in their own way.

Q: Are you involved in any student organizations?

A: I am involved in Kappa Delta Pi which is an International Honor Society in Education. At Lamar, our Kappa Delta Pi chapter opens up plenty of windows for opportunities. Our chapter does at least two community service projects a semester. I have participated in book drives, in-school readings, and food drives. Kappa Delta Pi also allowed me the opportunity to become friends with other highly

motivated and determined students in my degree. I have gained some wonderful friendships and made lasting memories through Kappa Delta Pi. I was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi in my junior year in the Fall 2007, and during Fall 2008 semester, I became the President of our chapter. This position has helped me improve upon my decision making skills and has taught me to never be afraid to ask for help. As a leader, you must always be prepared to make decisions that are the best for the majority of the group. Being President of this organization was a rewarding experience, and it has prepared me for being the leader of my classroom after graduation.

Q: Describe your student teaching and what you have taken from it. How can you apply these experiences to your future job?

A: I have been blessed receiving a student teaching placement in my hometown of Nederland. Because this was my first time to be placed in the 4th grade, I was a little unsure at first. However, this quickly changed, and it has been the best experience of my life. I have learned more about myself in the past few months than ever

before. One of my favorite parts about student teaching is the relationships I have formed with the students. I love being able to learn about each individual student and get a little insight into their lives. Having these professional relationships with the students enables me to become a better teacher for the class. I know their interests and learning styles, and therefore, I am able to adapt my lessons to their preferences. From student teaching, I have learned that teachers never stop learning. I am constantly researching subjects and refreshing my memory over forgotten concepts. I love the challenge of the everyday random questions that keep me on my toes! Having this opportunity to student teach is the best preparation for my future job. I get the chance to live my future career all day, every day. I believe there is no better way to learn how to teach, than to actually teach. I am very grateful that the Lamar Education Department allows us to have the chance to student teach.

Q: What are some achievements you have accomplished while at Lamar?

“Spotlight” Continued

A: While at Lamar, I have achieved many personal goals. I have been awarded the Lucy Turner LUF Scholarship. This gratifying scholarship covers the cost for the majority of my college tuition every semester allowing me to focus on school rather than working a part time job.. One of the scholarship requirements was an essay explaining my college career in the Education Field, and I believe I was rewarded the scholarship because I am diligent in my studies and maintain a high grade point average. I stay well-balance by being involved in many organizations at Lamar as well as outside of school activities.

My greatest accomplishment at Lamar was becoming Kappa Delta Pi President. I learned the importance of prioritizing and setting appropriate goals. I had to sustain a balance of school work, interning, and my KDP position. I was successful at my Kappa Delta Pi position mainly because I surrounded myself with positive people who were always there to assist me when needed.

Q: What are some goals you have set for yourself before/after you graduate?

“FROM STUDENT TEACHING, I HAVE LEARNED THAT TEACHERS NEVER STOP LEARNING. “

A: As I progressed into my college education, I began setting achievable goals for myself. I started aiming to get excel-

lent grades on all my homework, tests, and presentations. I strived to be a great intern and get positive remarks from all of my mentor teacher and anyone who observed me teach. I also made personal goals to gain new friends, and achieving this goal has been the most rewarding by far. Having a great group of school friends has made my college experience all the more enjoyable because we enroll in the same classes together and offer encouragement and support to each other. As I approach graduation, my goals have shifted from school goals to finding a place of employment, and I am currently in the midst of the application process. My ultimate goal is to make a difference in the lives of children. My long-term goal is to become the best teacher I can be.

Q: What advice would you give to a student wishing to go above and beyond in their professional/educational/personal lives?

A: I believe the best advice would be to network, network, network! You need to start gaining relationships with all types of people in all types of positions. You should definitely try to gain a good rapport with your professors. Having your professors be able to match your name you're your face will open up many opportunities and help your educational journey. Not only will it help you out in the class to be familiar with your teachers, but if you gain a really good relationship you have just gained a great reference for when you start interviewing! Knowing your professors is excellent, but getting to know the classmates in your program is the key to success in my opinion. Having a positive set of peers will allow you to have people to talk about assignments with, help you study for finals, and of course de-stress together! Not only are school friendships good for you educationally, but they can grow into personal life-long friendship. Who could ask for anything more than that! Also, seek a career that you enjoy and are passionate about. Embrace each and every challenge that you face with enthusiasm, and you will exceed all the goals you set for yourself and achieve great things.

My career at Lamar University has been great. I have realized that I have chosen the perfect career path for myself. I have had a wonderful college life experience by hanging out in the Setzer Center, going to all types of sport events, attending job fairs, studying at the library, and loving the free lunches! Through the Education Department and with the help of all the wonderful professors I have had, I am fully prepared to take on my first teaching job. I have had a wonderful amount of experiences with different grade levels and different socio-economic school districts. Thanks to interning and student teaching I have the confidence to take on anything that comes my way!

*Article by Tara Trevino
Student Coordinator of Publications*

Land the Ideal Job Using Social Networks

How to Use Social Networking as a Job Search Tool

From Sherry Schuller, ViralCommerce.com, for About.com

Guest Author Sherry Schuller is President of Zabbo Communications and ViralCommerce.com.

Land the Ideal Job Using Social Networks

With at least 60% of job-seekers finding employment through networking, it's no wonder that people are turning to their colleagues and acquaintances for advice and help in finding employment. The old adage, "It's not what you know, but who you know" rings true when it comes to sources of labor in today's economy.

The Traditionalists

In the recent past (and even today for some unbending traditionalists), if you were unemployed you would focus on perfecting your resume, scour through the classifieds, or spend \$5K getting help from an employment firm only to end up with outdated job leads and generic career advice —but still no job.

While these tactics are still important (other than paying \$5K to anyone!) to employ as part of an overall job hunt, it seems like a lot of work and energy (never mind monetary resources we don't have) when you consider the 60% of people who are finding jobs via referrals and relationships they've built.



Dinosaurs can Change

But even old Traditionalists can learn new tricks.

Take my close colleague, J.V., for example — an experienced traditionalist and professional in the insurance agency who is just now 'succumbing' to e-mail technology and implementing it in his daily interactions with customers. Some people are slow to adopt new technology. J.V. is slower. So when I told him I was launching ViralCommerce.com (a social networking tool for professionals) and explained it helps people to create new contacts and build their social network via their existing contacts, I fully expected him to turn and run. Instead, he replied (via e-mail) "Give me a demo sometime. You never know. Dinosaurs can change."

And he's right. People change... but only when the old way isn't working anymore. After all, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. No one wants to be insane.

Enter the Social Network

Social networks provide a fresh avenue for professionals to make new contacts without the time expenditure incurred attending mixers or scheduling lunches. Based upon the six degrees of separation theory, whereby you and anyone you could want to meet are separated by a maximum of six people/connections, social networks have become an extremely helpful resource tool for job hunters and employers alike.

Unlike sites built on classified ads, a social network like ViralCommerce.com promote traditional networking, building relationships by e-mail and interviews. Instead of hunting for a specific job, members of the network look to reach out and expand their network — in turn expanding their job opportunities. Often, building connections with other members results in accessing top jobs that aren't published in classifieds or traditional job postings.

The concept behind using social networks to find a job is easy: The more connections you make within the network, the more friends-of-a-friend you can meet, and the better your chances of finding an employer or key contact who can make an introduction resulting in employment for you.

Networking Online

Why do it all online? Why not take the concept and just apply it to your own existing inner circle? The answer: Diversity. Chances are, the people who are already in your network probably feel the same way you do about pretty much everything. You probably agree on most matters and likely have a large number of similar contacts. And those contacts that you don't already know, you probably weren't even aware your colleagues knew. They didn't think to introduce you because the obvious synergy between you wasn't obvious to them.

Using a social network like ViralCommerce.com gives you access to your colleague's contacts without them having to determine who you would or wouldn't benefit from knowing. You can search through contacts and request an introduction with

ease. In addition, because most social networks aren't limited by demographics the diversity is incredible. Take ViralCommerce.com for instance, where you can request a connection with the Chaplain of the Oakland Raiders, a Norwegian Software Programmer, a Sales Professional representing Usana Health Sciences, or a Professional Recruiter from Illinois.

Mixing it Up

Of course, it's recommended that you use online tools to complement, not replace, traditional efforts. Networks aren't an instant fix. It takes time to build relationships, but once they've been established the pay off is great. Think of it as a whole new set of contacts and opportunities, or perhaps the tool that might just help you land your ideal job. After all, it's not what you know, it's who you know.



Thursday, April 9, 2009

1:00-3:00pm

Montange Center

For more information visit

<http://dept.lamar.edu/careerandtestingcenter/>



At the Career & Testing Center, our recruiters request the best and brightest students of Lamar University. This is a prestigious career event and professional attire is required.

Our Icons and Their Meaning

As you read, you may see important icons such as the Cardinal in Flight, LU! and the Chain Link. Read below for an explanation on these symbols and their meaning.



An important part of growing as a professional is learning punctuality. This icon can be found anywhere where deadlines are approaching, so be sure to fill out applications on time!



The Lamar University Career and Testing Center is your link to the future. Wherever you see this icon, be sure to visit the helpful links to companies, registrations, and more found in the corresponding section.



The Lamar Cardinal in Flight represents growth, strength, and ambition--L.U. pride! Find this icon to learn interesting facts and expand your knowledge of both Lamar University and various professions.

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			April Fool's Day			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Educator's Career Fair	Good Friday (No Classes)	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter	Summer/Fall 2009 registration for special populations begins		Backpack to Briefcase Professional Development Workshop Taxes Duel!			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Open registration for Summer/Fall 2009 begins		Etiquette Dinner (Sponsored by PCA) Earth Day			
26	27	28	29	30		

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