
ALUMNI CAREER SPOTLIGHTS

Associate Banker | Crystal Chai, '20

Can you tell us about your current profession and the industry you work in?

I am an Associate Banker at JPMorgan Chase and I handle maintenance on clients' accounts, refer clients out to other bankers to assist with their financial goals. I also help them with deposits, withdrawals, and things of that nature.

Can you describe the path you took after undergrad to get to where you are today?

The path I took as an undergraduate began with getting a job offer from a branch manager at Chase. I went into a branch to help make a payment for my mom and was talking to the manager and she told me she was interested in meeting with me if I was interested in a job offer. This shows that interpersonal communication skills make all the difference in someone choosing you or someone else! I stuck with Chase throughout my undergraduate career and was fortunate enough to hold multiple positions with Chase and build a professional network and a lot of connections.

What are some skills/knowledge that you gained during your time at UC Davis that you have been able to apply in your career?

The knowledge and skills I gained during my time at UC Davis I have been able to apply to my career is organizational management, interpersonal and persuasive skills, and most importantly the skill of learning Excel and interpreting data with Excel. Everything I have learned from UC Davis has been applicable to my career, especially time-management.

Can you describe what some of your primary responsibilities look like on an average day?

Some responsibilities on an average day is opening the branch, assisting clients with their maintenance, responding to emails, answering phone calls. Though it sounds redundant, time goes by fast as there are a lot of things to do in the branch and plenty of customers to call and email.

Do you have any career-seeking advice for current Communication undergraduate students preparing for life after graduation?

Some career-seeking advice for current Communication undergraduate students preparing for life after graduation is to use all your resources. Get as many people as possible to look over your resume and your cover letters, work on your interview skills, and begin early. Though some employers do not want to hire months in advance, begin applying early to gauge if you're going to get any calls back or need to fix up your resume materials.

Recruiter | Katlyn Hanf, '18

Can you tell us about your current profession and the industry you work in?

I am a recruiter at Northwestern Mutual in Sacramento! Northwestern Mutual is a comprehensive financial planning/financial advising company so my main job is to bring in talented individuals to our financial representative roles.

Can you describe the path you took after undergrad to get to where you are today?

I started my career at Northwestern Mutual shortly after graduating in June of 2018. I applied online and decided it was the right fit for me based on the reputation of the company, the culture of the office, the opportunity to work with people and connect them with an outstanding career, and the energetic people I interviewed with throughout the selection process.

What are some skills/knowledge that you gained during your time at UC Davis that you have been able to apply in your career?

Do as much as you can and build meaningful relationships with people! I encourage all students to get involved on campus and meet as many people as possible. Share your dream with anyone that will listen and don't be afraid to ask for help or for an introduction to someone who can help you get there.

Can you describe what some of your primary responsibilities look like on an average day?

My main responsibilities include sourcing candidates on LinkedIn or Indeed, prospecting with our current representatives for referrals to more outstanding people, scheduling interviews with candidates, conducting phone interviews, determining the next steps in the selection process, and guiding the candidate through following interviews with the leadership in our office.

Do you have any career-seeking advice for current Communication undergraduate students preparing for life after graduation?

LinkedIn is an AWESOME tool for connecting with recruiters, hiring managers, and alumni on your ideal career path. Don't hesitate to reach out to these people on LinkedIn to inquire about an open role at their company or to request a networking meeting/call! Most are happy to help, especially fellow Aggies!

Communications Director | Eric Olsen, '16

Can you tell us about your current profession and the industry you work in?

I currently serve as communications director for Congressman John Garamendi in his Capitol Hill office. I manage the Congressman's social media, earned media, direct mail, and internal communications strategy.

Can you describe the path you took after undergrad to get to where you are today?

I established connections in Congressman John Garamendi's office as a member of Davis College Democrats. I joined his 2014 campaign as an intern and worked my way up to become a field organizer on the same campaign. I managed his fundraising operations in 2015 before managing his 2016 campaign. That work took me to Washington where I have served on his Capitol Hill team since January 2017.

What are some skills/knowledge that you gained during your time at UC Davis that you have been able to apply in your career?

I utilized the excellent career resources UC Davis has to offer. I also joined several clubs and organizations that helped me gain experience and contacts to cultivate my skills in the political arena. The knowledge I gained through the UC Davis communications and political science departments influences my work today.

Can you describe what some of your primary responsibilities look like on an average day?

I brief the Congressman on news of the day, cultivate relationships with reporters and pitch them stories pertaining to the Congressman's legislative efforts, manage all paid and earned media, and develop and execute a strategic communications plan.

Do you have any career-seeking advice for current Communication undergraduate students preparing for life after graduation?

It's never too early to build professional experience and relationships. Once you have built habits to succeed academically I strongly encourage all undergraduates to get involved in a club or organization pertaining to their field of interest. If you are interested in politics and communications, consider volunteering on a campaign and building skills and contacts in the industry. Always remember that your professors are experienced and knowledgeable professionals. Attend office hours and come with questions pertaining to coursework as well as the career you're interested in pursuing if they have relevant experience in the same field of work.