Front Door

Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2013 session of Grinnell College's CSC 295.02, a special topics course entitled *Thinking Beyond Grinnell - Learning from Alumni*. In this course, we will meet (often virtually) with alumni with careers related to computer science who will talk about their life and career paths, and will provide advice for students on things to learn and things to do. You can read the offical blurb for more details.

The focus of the class is the visits by alumni. While some of these visits will involve alumni coming directly to campus, the majority of the visits will be "virtual"

Participants in the course (students, faculty, alumni, other visitors) are expected to use the Color Q personality assessment to identify some of your important characteristics and how they may be channeled into a rewarding life and career.

The Web site for the course is
`http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2013S.02/`. You can find all sorts of interesting things on the course web, and I'd encourage you to look there.

This is an experimental course. Among other things, this means that I expect to be updating the syllabus as the semester goes on.

Basics

Meets: Mondays, 2:15-4:05 p.m., Science 3821.

Instructor: Samuel A. Rebelsky, Science 3824. 269-4410 (office). 236-7445 (home). Office hours: Wednesday 10:00-11:00, Thursday 2:15-3:05, Friday 10:00-11:00.
I tend to follow an open door policy: Feel free to stop by when my door is open or to make an appointment for another time. I have children, so please do not call my house before 7 a.m. or after 10 p.m.

Grading

This course is offered for one credit or two credits and is graded as S/D/F. All students who take the course are expected to

- attend at least eleven of the thirteen class meetings;
- do all assigned readings;
- facilitiate (or co-facilitate) approximately two physical or virtual alumni visits (the precise number depends on the number of students enrolled);
- write a short reflective piece on each alumni visit; and

- write a short reflective piece at the end of the semester.

Facilitating Visits

The students in this course are responsible for hosting and facilitating the visits of the alumni. (Practice with organizing visits is one of the learning goals of the course.) At the start of the semester, and again halfway through the semester, registered students will sign up in groups to facilitate alumni visits (see the schedule for details of particular visits).

As the facilitator for a visit, you are expected to work with the alumnus or alumna on the following in advance of the visit.

- Develop a structure for their visit. While most visits will involve a moderate-length lecture (say 45 minutes) and a follow-up question and answer (or discussion) session, some alumni might want to consider other approaches.
- Identify any resources that they would like students to read or explore before their talk.
- Write a short biographical sketch that can be distributed to the class before the class meeting.
- Write a short abstract for the lecture that can be distributed to the class before the class meeting.
- Work out any technological issues for their visit. For in-class visits, that means making sure that we have the resources (Internet, projection, etc.) that they need for the visit. For remote visits, that means making sure that Skype (or whatever communication system they suggest) works appropriately.

Your work also continues into the class session. During the class session you facilitate, you should do the following:

- Arrive early to set up technologies.
- Introduce the alumna or alumnus.
- Continue to monitor technologies during class.
- Facilitate discussion.
- Be ready to ask a wide variety of questions.

Textbooks and Other Readings

This reading list is tentative. It is currently based closely on the books Doug Caulkins uses for his course.

Zichy, Shoya and Bidou, Ann (2007). *Career Match: Connecting Who You Are With What You'll Love to Do* AMACOM 2007

Career Match helps you explore some possible directions for someone with your personality profile.

We will also encourage alumni to suggest short readings that can help you build skills and perspectives.