

THURSDAY CAREERS CHATS

Date of Session: 4/19/12 Title of Session: Careers in News Media

Alumni Presenter: Jonathan Haworth Class Year: 2004

Title: Freelancer Employer: NBC News, Channel 4 News and Channel 5 News in London

Notes from Session:

Background

- From Washington, D.C.
- Graduated in 2004 with an American Studies major and Anthropology Minor
- Studied abroad in London, fell in love with it...study abroad changed his perspective
- After Dickinson, attended the University of London and received an in M.A. Cultural Theory
- After his first M.A. program he stayed at the University of London and received a second M.A. in Theatre Studies
 - o "Probably not the best idea, but wanted to stay."

Work History

- After the University of London, he was approached by an agent in a pub and ended up getting some theatre work. Acted in London for one year and bartended.
- His 2nd job was in PR at a Marketing agency.
- After 5 years in the UK, came back to DC in 2008. He applied for jobs, but nothing really clicked, so he began substitute teaching in McLean, VA. He loved it, but wasn't what he wanted; wanted to work in news, but it's difficult.
- In 2010 he started calling ITN (Independent Television News...ITV and Ch. 4 in UK) every 2-3 weeks for 4 months: "I was relentless." Was told to stop calling, but then a year later he was called in for an interview. Ended up with an internship at age 29, making no money but learning a lot and networking.
- He needed a job and they had one in London, he now works as a Freelancer with NBC and Ch. 4.

His Work

- Work on London news desk for NBC News, Channel 4 News and Channel 5 News (Assistant News editor)
- Foreign news desk, assignment desk (send crews)
- Main conduit for news around the world
- Six functions mainly each day:
 - Identify and read for future and breaking news: read news, wires
 - Deploy crews and correspondents around the world: work with correspondents
 - Liaison with NBC, AP, Reuters: overseas bureaus
 - Ensure that info flows between them: partner, share images
 - Make editorial calls and do interviews: correspondent talks with him off-camera
 - Organize bookings and travel
- Anticipate needs of our partners
 - Know who is who, suggest coverage plans
 - Need to be up to date with news (all sources)
 - Always aware of competitors
 - "Engage the world"
- Must be very organized and flexible – it's not a 9-5 job
- Job is never the same
- People being covered by the media know how to deal with us
- You have to know a little bit about everything

Advice

- Don't do what I did! It's hard, but not impossible
- -Create opportunities for yourself
- Get work experience, don't ever sit - intern, volunteer, network
- Generic resumes are bad - personalize it
- Stand out from the crowd - show, don't tell
- NETWORK! So important, and remember to send a thank you to people that help
- News world is small, have good rapport, so many different jobs in their field, think about your passions and skills
- Make yourself indispensable
- Don't settle
- There are tons of internships, but not too many entry-level jobs. If you see a job, CALL THEM to get more info, let them put a name and voice or face together.