Professional Development

Stephanie Buechler
DVP 697B
Implications of Points Made during Career in Development Panel (November 28, 2018)

- Partnerships prevalent in development work
  - Show in your job applications that you know how to collaborate with multiple organizations at a time

- Multi-disciplinary approach important
  - Take courses in multiple programs at UA and integrate multiple themes and literatures from multiple disciplines into your MA Report
  - Multi-disciplinarity enables you to apply for the widest array of positions (many ways to participate in development)
Implications of Points Made during Career in Development Panel

- Networking is critical
  - Network during your time in MDP
    - Attend conferences, campus lectures (meet presenter and organizers), join clubs and associations, strengthen LinkedIn profile
    - Get to know: multiple organizations’ staff during your practicum, visiting practitioners and scholars, other students.
    - Acquire the necessary skills of civility/politeness, affability, collaboration and cooperation during your time in MDP so that you will have these essential skills for the workplace.
    - Follow up on leads your contacts give you and thank them for their help.
Implications of Points Made during Career in Development Panel

**In-demand skills**

- Data analysis and development of recommendations based on that analysis
  - Make sure data supports your arguments and your recommendations
    - Learn how to spin your analysis
    - Bullet point style recommendations should be actionable, specific and outcome oriented

- Data Visualization skills
  - Practice by analyzing and presenting your findings from your practicum
  - View S. Evergreen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BGJjYJisyA
  - Play up your visualization skills on your resume (put: 2 years visualization experience)
Implications of Points Made during Career in Development Panel

- Writing skills
  - Particularly in demand: shorter pieces and executive summaries
    - Supervisors will have no time to edit your work so practice polishing your work and proofreading before submission
    - Own the quality of your work
    - Practice explaining topic of your research in a few words
Grant writing skills

- Go to grant-writing workshops at UA and get one-on-one help
  - Practice by producing shorter outputs based on your practicum
  - Practice by producing abstract for MA Report, abstract for conference submissions, abstract for journal article or book chapter
  - Practice by applying for grants
    - Get internships and let them know you would like to help write budgets
Implications of Points Made during Career in Development Panel

- Learn foreign language(s) while at UA
  - Audit or take a foreign language class at UA or Pima Community college
  - Even conversational language proficiency is very useful
  - Learn to be sensitive to language, body language, local customs and expressions/communication styles so that you are effective in the field.
Implications of Points Made during Career in Development Panel

- Consultancies
  - First work in organizations to get a wide set of contacts
  - Can start by doing a fellowship
    - UN Young Professional Program
    - CRS Fellowship program
  - Get on consultant databases
  - Set up networking lunches to get consultancies
    - Already do this while at UA
Implications of Points Made during Career in Development Panel

- Remember to practice self-care
  - Meditation
  - Yoga
  - Daily walks
  - Stability comes from within
  - Social networks important to foster

- Practice reciprocity
  - Linked to greater sense of well-being
  - Great practice for daily team work in the workplace
  - Reference writers will often mention this if you have this skill