

IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN

TID BITS YOU MAY FIND HELPFUL

SUGGESTIONS OFFERED BY MARY M. WANSER, USFSM CLASS OF 2011.

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BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Graduation is an exciting, yet frightening time and you can hardly wait to get out of the classroom. Nervous energy might cause you to bolt without considering some final tasks that need tending. Creating a professional profile is one them. The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee offers a wealth of resources for this purpose. Take advantage of them before you leave. Your writing professors in concert with the Career Services Center can help you.

- **Design a business card**

Call it an introduction card if you wish, but you need one. Distribute it.

- **Draft a writer's résumé**

Don't be shy about promoting yourself. Embellishing is not lying. Keep a master copy and tailor it to individual job applications.

- **Get a mentor**

People are more apt to guide you while you are still a student.

- **Post a digital portfolio**

Consider adding academic essays, PowerPoints, professional-style homework assignments, etc. Use your personal email address rather than your USF address. It's free!

- **Secure some references**

It is likely that most grads don't have a long list of



former employers. Often, former professors are willing to vouch for you, but ask ahead of time.

- **Write a self-commercial**

Memorize the tag line and use it.

MAKE FRIENDS WITH THESE PEOPLE:

- *Ms. Toni Ripo*
- *Professor Davidson*
- *Professor Roberts*

They do care and are willing to assist students and alumni.

READ WHAT YOU WANT TO WRITE

INTERESTED IN FREELANCING?

- *Buy Writer's Market*
- *Join FlexJobs.com*
- *Know Linda Formichelli, the Renegade Writer*
- *Publish your work . . . anywhere!*

GRAD SCHOOL



- Blackboard doesn't go away
- MLA citations still haunt
- Scholarships are limited
- Subsidized Stafford loans disappear

BUT

- Invest in yourself
- MFA is the new MBA
- Don't postpone it

LET'S FACE IT!

Whether in business or in academic pursuits, attempt to make an in-person connection instead of, or in addition to, cyber contact.



Network! Network!

JOIN CLUBS

Alumni Association
Toastmasters
Writing Groups

I WISH I HAD . . .

Kept in touch with fellow students from my senior writing seminar.

CORPORATE WORLD

There are many job openings available in the technical writing field. Get on Professor Roberts' email list for frequent leads. Here are at least two reputable sites to search for ads:

- www.ProEdit.com
- www.WorkforceCentralFlorida.com

MAY I HELP YOU?

CONTACT ME
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FOLLOW MY BLOG
EVERYDAY ENLIGHTENMENT
AND VIEW MY
DIGITAL PORTFOLIO
VIA LINKS AT
WWW.MARYWANSER.COM.

DON'T MISS MY
ONLINE NETWORKING
MANUAL IN THE
"BUSINESS COMMUNICATION"
SECTION OF MY
WRITING PORTFOLIO.

JOB MARKET

- Apply even if the ad requests more experience than you have.
- Brush up on a foreign language.
- Don't let negative talk about the economy discourage you.
- Get on the USF Career Center email list.
- Pursue a passion, not a paycheck.



Ladies Only

Manatee and Sarasota counties each have their own Women's Resource Center.

MOST ENCOURAGING ADVICE I RECEIVED:

WRITING IS ABOUT REWRITING;
IT'S OK TO WRITE IT WRONG
THE FIRST TIME.

BRIGHT IDEAS



MY BIGGEST ERROR: Self Doubt

- Carve out time in your day, everyday, to write *something*.
- Clean up your image in Google search.
- Host a blog to showcase your writing and to build a platform.
- Post comments on others' sites and link to your own space(s).

"IN THE BEGINNING,
DON'T SAY NO
TO ANY OPPORTUNITY,
EVEN IF IT
MEANS GRATIS
WORK."

CONSIDER TEACHING

In some cases, no teaching certificate is required for those holding a Bachelor's Degree.

- There is a demand for teachers of foreign students. Try ESLEmployment.com for permanent nationwide and short-term overseas opportunities. Many do not require you to be fluent in a second language.
- Private schools, sometimes, pay better and, usually, have less stringent requirements than public ones. Try the National Association of Independent Schools at www.nais.org.
- Writing tutors are valued. Register with www.WyzAnt.com or promote yourself independently.

DISCLAIMER

Information contained herein is based solely on personal experience and opinion. It is not meant to take the place of professional advice or your own promptings. You can take what you like and leave the rest, but I reserve the right to say, "I told you so!"