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UNF Transportation and Logistics Society

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TLS Transportation & Logistics Society University of North Florida

TLS NEWSLETTER: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

TLS MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3



9:00 p.m.

Room 42/1020

Bingo Extravaganza

TLS Elections



TLS PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Hello,

Even though the spring semester is rapidly coming to an end, April will be jam packed with great events. Be sure to attend the Bingo Extravaganza on Wednesday, April 3. It will be a fun event with prizes and Chick-fil-A sandwiches. During the meeting, we will hold elections for all board positions for the 2013-14 academic year. I encourage you to consider serving on the board for a great opportunity to develop and enhance your leadership and networking skills.



Everyone is invited to join the TLS Relay For Life team on April 5 & 6 to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. TLS is in first place raising over \$3,500. That is more than twice as much as the closest team! On April 6 TLS will be *Setting the Pace for Peace* in a walk to support Hubbard House and put an end to domestic violence.

Mark your calendar for the 5th Annual T&L Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 25. It will be a wonderful evening to celebrate accomplishments, recognize service, and congratulate our recent graduates.

Serving TLS as President has been a great experience and I would like to thank the board and members for making TLS the best club on campus!

Take Care, Brandon Little

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 5: Relay for Life

Coxwell Amphitheater 6:00 p.m.-Saturday, April 6 at 12:00 p.m.

Saturday April 6: Pace for Peace Walk at the Jacksonville Landing

Registration 8:00 a.m. Walk 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 25: T&L Flagship Spring Banquet

Friday, April 26: UNF Commencement Congratulations Graduates!

Technology Careers for Transportation and Logistics Graduates

A wide variety of job positions in transportation and logistics are related to information technology. These jobs may revolve around using a certain type of logistics system such as those found in enterprise systems (ERP), transportation (TMS), warehousing (WMS, WCS), or manufacturing (MRP, MES).

Regardless of whether you choose to work for a shipper or a carrier, these technology-related jobs can be good places for UNF graduates to begin their careers. For students that follow this route, they typically specialize in using a certain type of software, such as a transportation planning system or a demand forecasting system. Once proficiency is achieved, they become useful to the company not just by completing the work of planning transportation or forecasting demand, but also by improving the functionality or processes that the software can do. A good business employee is always thinking of ways to improve their operation, save cost, and increase revenue. Since most everything is done on computer systems, these systems can be the enabler or the inhibitor of progress. A person who knows logistics and also knows the advantages and limitations of a company's logistics systems is very valuable.

Often logistics system experts have an opportunity to shine when a company is re-engineering its operation. Of course computer science majors are needed too; however, computer technicians need to be told what to put in place by the logistics experts. The logistics systems experts know what the company needs and know the capabilities that can be available through technology, such as warehouse automation, RFID, and electronic data interchange.

Even for students who don't aspire to work in information technology these types of jobs can be good place for the student to learn the logistics processes within a company. For example, consider a shipping company which operates an ERP, WMS, and TMS system. Virtually all of the logistics processes and transactions will be done through these systems. If you know how these systems work, then you know how the company works. That is money in the bank.

One final thought to remember is that most companies purchase and install packaged logistics software, including solutions such as SAP, Red Prairie, and Magaya. These packaged solutions have many features that are designed to accommodate the wide variety of businesses and the resulting wide variety of business processes. However, each particular company doesn't need or use all the features of the packaged software. So recognize, as an expert in the company's logistics software, when you want to do something new to make an improvement, the software program may have the capacity to do it. You may just need to find it.

By David Swanson

Executive Board Spring 2013

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GET TO KNOW TLS ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR: MICHAEL KALIN

Michael Kalin is from Highland Beach, Florida and will graduate from UNF in April with Bachelor degrees in Transportation and Logistics and Business Management. Michael's involvement in student life includes the Transportation and Logistics Society as Assistant Recruitment Director, Coggin Career Management Center student ambassador, and mentee in the Coggin Mentorship program. Outside of school he enjoys working out, playing sports, and socializing with friends.

Michael joined TLS because he thought it would be great to get more involved on campus. Being a TLS member has provided Michael with nothing but opportunity and showed him how competitive the job market is and the importance of being involved and making a name for yourself on campus and in the business community. Through TLS he was able to develop an impressive resume, network with industry professionals and make friends with students who will be his professional colleagues in the future. T&L Career Day has provided ample interview practice and hands on experience in the logistics field. Michael said that, "TLS changed the course of my life for the better and I'm grateful for it every day. As I continue to put my heart and soul into this program, I really want to encourage other students to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by TLS and the Transportation and Logistics Flagship Program. I promise it pay off in the future."

By Lacey Greene



ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR TLS



LIFE AFTER GRADUATION: BEN RICHARDS

Benjamin Richards graduated from the UNF T&L program in 2010. As a student, Ben was a member of TLS and served as the Social Director and Vice President. For the last year he has been employed with Barloworld Supply Chain Software as a Supply Chain Analyst. On average his work week consists of about 45 hours, but may be more depending on the status of the project. His typical day includes waking up at 4:30 in the morning for a Skype conversation with clients in South Africa or England. He learned recently that he will be moving to the UK for 6 months to work for the business there.

Ben works with clients on specific software projects, and daily duties are determined by what stage the project is in.

First, customer data is received. Using advanced supply chain mapping knowledge, current network and requirements are defined. After the data is massaged into a standard format, a demonstration of the proposed software is presented, which requires advanced knowledge of the supply chain and the ability to answer questions and anticipate solutions before the client even knows there is a problem. Once the software is developed and under contract the implementation process begins. This includes installation of the software onto servers, data validation, training users and administrators to maximize the product's value, and eventually moving the project into "live" status. Supply chain software development is a challenging and rewarding facet of the supply chain profession that many are not familiar with.

When asked if he felt like the T&L Flagship Program prepared him for his job he said, "Without a doubt, yes. Optimization of the fundamental 6 supply chain cost centers is the key behind the software we run. Economic order quantities, safety stock levels, demand replenishment channels, warehousing costs, model calculations and supply chain metrics are all important to successfully reduce supply chain costs while increasing actual service levels."

Benjamin would recommend that TLS members use volunteering to develop the skills needed for the workplace. A common question is: "I want a managerial position, but all the positions I apply for require managerial experience. How do I break this cycle?" The answer is to volunteer. You can commit yourself to a managerial role without compensation however, that experience can help you break into a managerial track." Benjamin also recommends that members of TLS cultivate and maintain their professional network. "It's one thing to get a bunch of business cards, but it's another thing to keep in contact with these people in your network. You have to make the phone call periodically, and even remember to send them a treat every so often. A simple way to do this is get your company (or company contacts) involved with TLS. This can be mutually beneficial, but will only happen only if you initiate the connection."

By Lacey Greene

