

Santa Clara University

Let Your Life Speak: Exploring Majors, Work, Meaning and Vocation with Students

Elizabeth Thompson, Assistant Director
The Career Center

Plans

- What is vocation?
- What are students asking?
- DISCOVER Project
 - Let Your Life Speak classes
- Student panel
- Developing skills
- Career Center resources



What Are Students Asking?

- “Today’s students are grappling with the more philosophical questions. What is my life’s purpose? What can I do to serve the greater good? What is my personal calling? In secular and non-secular institutions across the country, career practitioners are seeing students who want to discuss the deeper questions of career exploration and decision making.”



Source: Pamela Braun. *Employers are Looking for Students Who Reflect on Life's Bigger Questions.*
Campus Career Counselor, March 2005

What Are Students Wanting?

- **Cone, Inc. Study**

- 1800 respondents, between ages of 13 and 25
- 28% employed full-time
 - Among latter subgroup
 - 79% said they wanted to work for a company/organization that cares about how it impacts and contributes to society
 - 69% said they were aware of their employer's commitment to social and environmental causes
 - 64% said their company's social and environmental activities enhance their loyalty to the company; and 56% said they would not work for an organization that was socially and/or environmentally irresponsible

Source: Campus Career Counselor, October 2006

Vocation



“The place where your deep gladness meets the world’s deep need.”

Frederick Buechner

The Three Key Questions

- What brings me joy?
- Am I good at these things?
- Does anybody need me to do these things?



What Are Students Asking?

- How do you know you have found the path meant for you?
- Can I pay off my debt and do something meaningful?
- How do I find my passion in my life?
- Is it possible to achieve work/life balance after graduation?
- How do I balance my family's expectations for me with my own interests?
- What am I going to do when I graduate that I love to do and where I am serving others?
- How can I find a career related to both business and social justice that gives me energy and security?

DISCOVER Project

- Ignatian Center
 - Immersion Trips
- Campus Ministry
 - DISCOVER weekends
 - DISCOVER Groups
 - Discernment Training
- Career Center
 - Let Your Life Speak , 2-credit courses
 - Social Justice, Diversity in Business, Science, Liberal Arts



Let Your Life Speak

Goals

- Develop greater self-awareness through engagement with readings, assignments, and speakers to aid students in making academic and work decisions
- Gain a deeper understanding of vocation and the applications to students' lives
- Identify majors and careers through a variety of resources and methods
- Develop the skills necessary to successfully conduct a job search, including the ability to articulate students' "stories" for purposes of networking, resume writing, and interviewing

Meet Our SCU Students

Nick Duston

Management, 2010

Diversity in Business Vocation Symposium

Michelle Johnson

Sociology, 2009

Social Justice Vocation Symposium,
DISCOVER Weekend, DISCOVER
group, discernment training,
immersion trip

Lorraine Tsang

Finance, 2004

Social Justice Vocation Symposium



Panelist Questions

- Share a little about yourself and describe some of the questions you have been exploring as you consider your future.
- Describe your experience with the class, and if applicable other DISCOVER programs. How they have helped you address your questions.
- How would you like your parents to support you?

Where Are Our Alumni?

Speakers in Let Your Life Speak courses

- '60 Accounting
SCU President
- '68 English
Director of International Business, ALZA
- '77 Masters in Counseling
Principal, High School
- '94 Physics
Programmer, Docutek
- '96 Biology
Founder, TOCORE DNA Sequencing
- '02 Finance
Analyst, City National Bank
- '02 Psychology
Small Business Owner
- '03 Political Science
Consultant, Accenture
- '04 Philosophy
Catholic Worker House

Transferable Skills

Top 12 Skills Valued by Employers

Communication	4.6
Strong work ethic	4.6
Teamwork skills	4.5
Initiative	4.4
Interpersonal skills	4.4
Problem-solving skills	4.4
Analytical skills	4.3
Flexibility/adaptability	4.2
Computer skills	4.1
Technical skills	4.1
Detail-oriented	4.0
Organizational skills	4.0

5-point scale

1 = not
important

5 = extremely
important

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, The Job Outlook
for the Class of 2008



SCU Resources

- Career Center
 - Career counseling
 - Assessments
 - MyRoad.com
 - Internships
 - BroncoLink: www.scu.edu/careercenter
 - Career Fairs and other events
 - Same Day appointments
 - Resource library
 - Campus student employment
 - On campus interviewing
 - Major guides:
<http://www.scu.edu/careercenter/students/majors.cfm>
 - Graduate school resources
 - Career Center courses
 - Career Strategies Seminar
 - Let Your Life Speak



Falling in Love

“Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything.”

Pedro Arrupe, SJ (1907-1991)