

## Welcome

Welcome CAN members to the CANConnect newsletter! The theme for this issue is **Pay vs. Passion**. Should you pursue money or fulfilment or can you have both?

**Pay vs. Passion** considers your career choices and whether or not you can or should pursue a career based on monetary rewards or on your own personal passions and interests.

This question is often a personal choice, and for some it is possible to achieve both pay and passion in their career.

The Cooperative Alumni Network will be holding the final CAN function for this year on Thursday 25 November. The function will be another great evening with speakers and activities around the theme of Pay vs. Passion. Don't miss the chance to catch up with your fellow CAN members and hear from interesting speakers.

## Save the date!

**Date:** Thursday 25 November 2010  
**Time:** 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
**Venue:** Executive Function Room  
Bldg EB, Room G.0.2  
**Location:** UWS Parramatta Campus, Corner  
James Ruse Drive and Victoria  
Road, Parramatta NSW  
**RSVP:** Friday 19 November 2010

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The event is free and refreshments will be provided. You are welcome to bring a guest, but be quick to RSVP as places are limited.

Join the UWS Alumni Cooperative Alumni Network (CAN) Facebook group:  
[www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=71833851161](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=71833851161)

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## Helen Lyons



We are delighted to announce that Helen Lyons will be the guest speaker at our next CAN function on Thursday 25 November 2010.

Helen began her career in Investment Banking but decided to pursue her passion for Human Resources which has led her to a successful and fulfilling career.

Helen is the Interim Executive at Alcatel-Lucent. Her impressive professional career includes working as the Human Resource Director at the University of Western Sydney (UWS), Group Manager of HR Operations at Campbell Arnott's, HR Director at The Benevolent Society and Head of HR Transactional Shared Services at AMP.

Some of Helen's exciting achievements include creating networks of executive coaches, recruitment agencies, systems providers and human resources professionals.

At AMP Helen implemented an innovative HR Shared Services. This was used by the Australian Graduate School of Management as a "best practice" mentor site which generated substantial income for AMP.

## Coop CAN Take You Places!

Your coop placements can certainly help you take that first step in your career. Many of our CAN members who were able to use their placement as a launching pad for the stars!

Attendees of the first bi-annual CAN function for 2010 were able to talk and learn how to use their placements as a valuable first step. The theme for the evening was '**Where are they now? Coop can take you places!**' A panel of successful CAN members discussed their unique career paths and how they used their coop placement to reach their current position.

The speakers were all from different sections and CAN members were able to relate to them in different ways. The three speakers were: **Dr Yi Chen Lan** who is the Associate Dean (International) for the College of Business at UWS, **Julianne Christie** who is a Senior Policy Advisor – Economic Development at Fairfield City Council, and **Stephanie Vaccarella** who is a Small & Medium Business Marketing Manager at Microsoft.

From the night a take home message was employers truly want to hear what you have to say! All three speakers were able to testify to this fact, each having their own humorous story. It is common for students and recent graduates to write off their own opinions; however, this is the complete opposite to what employers have hired you for!



Elien Weeks from Careers & Cooperative Education ran a speed networking activity. Each CAN member had to ask several members the exact same question. It was incredible to see how many different types of answers were received from different people to the one question!

The CAN Function was an eventful night, not forgetting to mention Freny accidentally leaving a cardboard pizza box on a hotplate that was turned on! But overall it was an excellent evening, CAN members catching up, finding out about each other's career progression, attempting to speed network, and munching out on pie faces and pizza.

## Where are they now?

### Internship to International Poker Tournament...Jesse is certainly playing his cards right!

Jesse McKenzie is currently playing professional poker and has won competitions in the ANZ Poker Tour and will soon be heading to the Philippines, where he'll compete at the Asia Pacific Poker tour in Cebu. He said that he's looking forward to getting in touch with those he completed his Coop placement with at the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) in the Philippines. Jesse says "the internship was an amazing experience and I would recommend it to anyone."

He states that completing an internship at WOSM in the Philippines contributed to his decision to do marketing as a major in his Business degree. Since he completed his internship he has worked at Almark Edge in the sales and marketing division, as a sales representative with Sydney Bowl Centre, as a coach in lawn bowling with the Western Region Sports Academy and in sports administration at Club Merrylands.



Jesse McKenzie

"I was well supported by my supervisor, we set out a work plan together, I worked on various international marketing projects that included over 50 countries. I worked in a team of supportive professionals who came from all over the world," said Jesse.

Given that the WOSM is such a large global organisation Jesse said he expected to enter a faceless corporate work culture, however this was not the case. Jesse says "the workplace and team felt like a family, every day lunch was provided to us around a large dining table. I've never seen this done anywhere else, I felt as though I was part of the family and it also gave me the opportunity to get to know others I wasn't directly working with." He says that working in a global company such as WOSM gave him the opportunity to explore different cultures, customs and ways of life.

Jesse says, "it was easily the best experience I had at UWS and there was nothing quite like it."

## Pay vs. Passion



VS.



Should you choose a job because of the amount of money that is transferred in your account at the end of the pay run, or purely for the love and enjoyment you get from it?

Curt Rosengren in The Occupational Adventure on [passioncatalyst.com](http://passioncatalyst.com) states that some key questions you should ask yourself when choosing a job or working in a job are:

- How well does what I'm doing align with who I am?
- How well does what I'm doing align with what I'm here to do?
- Does my work feel natural, or does it feel like a constant strain to force myself to fit?
- Do I feel like I'm making a difference that I care about?
- Am I getting to use the skills and abilities I love to use?
- Does what I'm doing leave me feeling positive?
- When I think of the way I feel about my work, is that a feeling I would wish for a loved one?
- Does the way my work make me feel create a positive ripple effect in my life, or a negative one?

On the other hand, business coach Sharon Shierling in Purpose vs. Passion on her website [sharonshierling.com](http://sharonshierling.com) states that “there is nothing wrong with having a passion for something that does not give one a living, in fact many times that makes one’s passion more interesting and exciting... sometimes trying to make our passion pay for itself can kill the passion we have for it.”

Whilst, editor Penelope Trunk in The Brazen Careerist Colum on [bankrate.com](http://bankrate.com) writes that “everyone wants to feel passion about their job, but passion and pay do not always go hand in hand, and often they are inversely related”, and that the trick for many of us is to figure out how to balance the love of our life with the food on our table.

The theme of **Pay vs. Passion** is sure to spark interesting speeches and discussions from our guest speakers and members, so make sure to come along to our next CAN function on Thursday 25 November!

## Careers Q&A

### Where can I find information about average graduate starting salaries in my field?

There are different sources of information which apply to different fields. General information about graduate starting salaries in Australia can be found through the website of Graduate Careers Australia, which conducts an annual national survey and publishes the results at [www.graduatecareers.com.au](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au). The only problem with this information is the “lag time” – for example, the current information is for starting salaries in 2009. This is because of the time it takes to collect and analyse the data. Another national site, [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au), has comprehensive information about salaries for literally hundreds of occupations in Australia.

If you are in a professional discipline, such as teaching, or social work, or engineering, where, at least in the public sector, there are clear award rates, it is not too difficult to find about salary structures from the sites of professional bodies, or major employers like the relevant government departments.

In other fields, like most areas of business and corporate employment, there are no fixed award structures, and starting salaries can vary widely depending on the size of the organisation and the supply and demand. Again the Graduate Careers website can give you some general guide, a “ballpark figure” if you like. You might also have friends who have been offered positions in the same general area, and (if they are prepared to tell you what they earn!) you could also use this as a guide.

## CANContacts

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