Welcome CAN members to the first CANConnect newsletter of the year! The theme for this issue is **Small Business vs Big Business**. What are the advantages and disadvantages of working in a small/medium enterprise compared to working in a large multinational organisation?

**Small Business vs Big Business** explores the best way to start your career. Should you pursue your career in an unknown company or a well known company? Which one is best for you? The big leaguers or the little guys?

Our next CAN Function will be a great evening with the juicy theme **Small Business vs Big Business** and will have great speakers and activities. Don’t miss out on the chance to catch up with your fellow CAN members and join us on Thursday 2 June 2011.

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**Save the date!**

**Date:** Thursday 2 June 2011  
**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:** Monday 23 May 2011  
**Caroline Casse**  
Email c.casse@uws.edu.au  
Phone 02 4736 0369

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:  

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We are delighted to announce that Mahmoud Kebbi will be the guest speaker at our next CAN function on Thursday 2 June 2011.

Mahmoud is the Outdoor and Industrial Lighting Marketing Manager for Thorn Lighting, a sub-brand of the second largest lighting company in the world.

Mahmoud has been with Thorn Lighting for ten years, beginning his career as an intern arranged through the Careers & Cooperative Education unit. After Mahmoud graduated from his Bachelor of Engineering he completed his Master of Business majoring in Marketing (which was sponsored by Thorn Lighting). This led to his current job as Marketing Manager!

One of Mahmoud’s greatest achievements was launching the Thorn Lighting’s Domestic Down Lights into the market which generated $3 million for the company and he now manages a $24 million product portfolio!
Where are they now? Kristen Yates! Fighter for Small Businesses!

Kristen Yates is the Human Resources Assistant and the Return to Work Coordinator at The Le Mac Australia Group, a family-owned manufacturing company. She is a fighter for small to medium sized businesses encouraging students to give the ‘little guys’ a chance.

“I work with all levels of employees at Le Mac from the factory workers to senior management, that’s the best part of working in a small business, you get to liaise with everyone.” says Kristen.

“Students should give small/medium businesses and different industries a chance. I never thought I would be working in the Manufacturing industry, but I love it. My role is constantly growing, which is fantastic!”

Through the Careers & Cooperative Education unit Kristen began her career with an internship at The Le Mac Australia Group right after she graduated with her Bachelor of Business majoring in Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations.

And she is not the only one! Over eleven graduates from UWS have participated in the Placement Program with Le Mac and have become full-time employees in a range of roles.

Follow the Money or Follow your Passion?

The Last CAN Function was a hit with the theme Pay vs Passion. Should you choose a job for the pay cheque or choose a job for the joy you get from it? Or can you weave both money and passion into your dream career? These are great questions graduates ponder over when looking for their first job!

Attendees were able to learn and discuss how to incorporate both money and passion into their careers from the dynamic panel that included Helen Lyons (who is the Interim Executive at Alcatel-Lucent), Jesse McKenzie (a professional Poker player) and Scott Stephenson (an Ice Hockey player for the Sydney Ice Dogs).

Speakers had their own unique stories, with some actively choosing and leaving their old professions for careers they felt passionate about, whilst others stumbled onto their passion and were able to incorporate both their passion and education into their careers.

Attendees were able to see the different ways careers are created and they were also able to view how important passion was for both their career and personal fulfilment!

Kelly Whitney from Careers & Cooperative Education ran an entertaining Pay vs Passion activity. This sparked a lot of dialogue between all groups which was fantastic to see!

The CAN Function was a great success with both attendees and the Panel having long, involved discussions and it was a wonderful way to end 2010!

CANContacts

Careers & Cooperative Education CAN
☎️ can@uws.edu.au

Freny Tayebjee
Manager Careers & Cooperative Education
☎️ 02 4736 0376
☎️ f.tayebjee@uws.edu.au

Saskia Kremer
Program Coordinator
☎️ 02 4736 0388
☎️ s.kremer@uws.edu.au

Caroline Casse
Communication and Events Assistant
☎️ 02 4736 0369
☎️ c.casse@uws.edu.au