

# Armchair College Fair

## Students need to plan for entry into the job market

By Laura La Bella  
Guest contributor

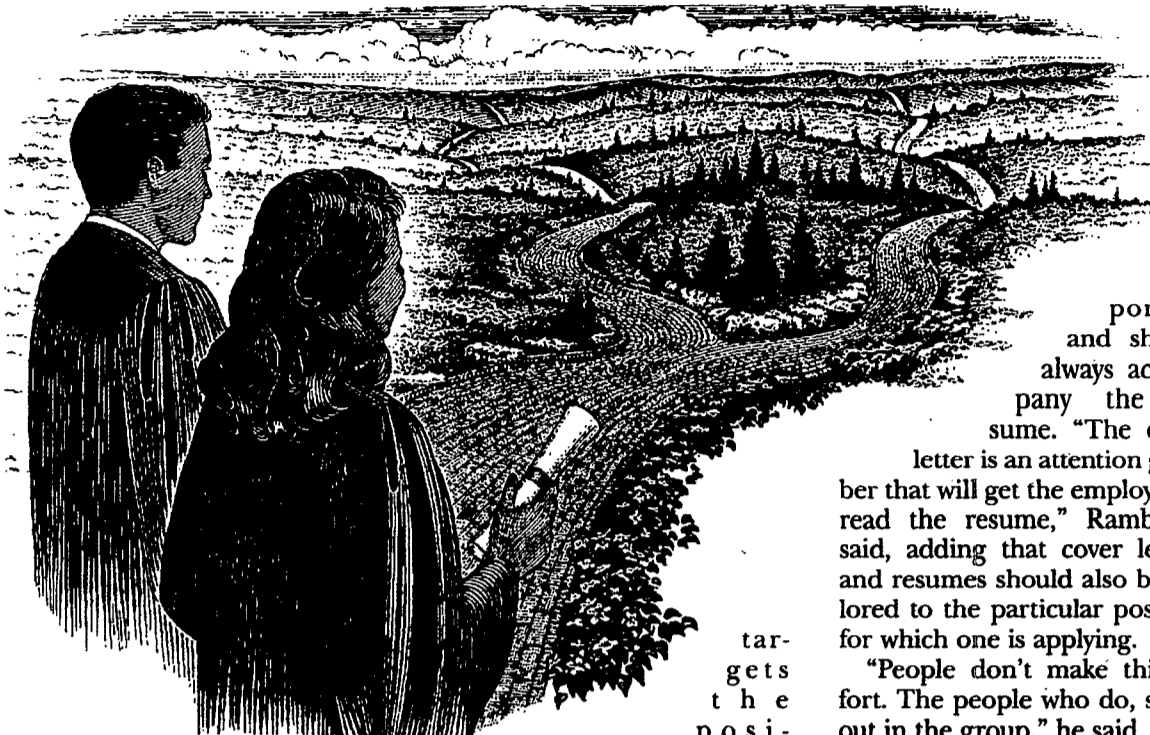
People today want to learn how to survive the job market amid constant change. This uncertainty ranges from high school students looking for their first summer job to college graduates hoping to get their careers off to a successful start.

Erik H. Rambusch, a 1964 graduate of Pittsford's St. John Fisher College, frequently shares his tips on mastering the job market. He is a career consultant and the author of two books on strategies for securing a job.

Rambusch's first piece of advice, outlined in his book *Conquering Interview Objections*, is structuring an interview to your best advantage.

"As soon as you can, talk about requirements," Rambusch said. This gives the prospective employee an opportunity to find out what the employer is seeking to fill the available position. "As soon as you know the requirements, search through your background for your skills and present yourself as the perfect candidate."

The companion book to inter-



viewing tips, *Conquer Resume Objections*, targets 23 frequent objections to resumes — any one of which can find the resume filed into the nearest wastebasket — and offers practical solutions for conquering them.

Rambusch identifies three items that catch an employer's attention: the objective, which

targets the position one is applying for and explains exactly what one can do for the company; the summary statement, which should summarize the experience outlined in the resume; and the resume's appearance, which should be neat and make effective use of white space.

Cover letters are equally im-

portant and should always accompany the resume. "The cover letter is an attention grabber that will get the employer to read the resume," Rambusch said, adding that cover letters and resumes should also be tailored to the particular position for which one is applying.

"People don't make this effort. The people who do, stand out in the group," he said.

To tailor your resume and cover letter, Rambusch emphasized, include all of the information important to that position. "Talk about experience pertinent to the job," Rambusch said. "Emphasize these points with longer sentences, and a longer statement of results."

He cited several tips to help

sell yourself in today's job market:

- Look at the interview as a consultative sales call. The interview is an opportunity to present yourself and your skills.

- Take an aggressive stance. Ask questions and initiate responses from the interviewer.

- Cut through the clutter. Stand out in the interviewer's eyes. Keep the conversation focused on pertinent information relative to getting the job.

- Keep a pad of paper accessible with questions ready to ask.

- Research the company. Give yourself a head start by knowing both the company's and the interviewer's background.

- Request feedback. Ask how you stand up against other prospective employees.

The idea is to present yourself as the solution to the employer's problem, Rambusch said. Fit the requirements the employer is looking to fill and be the solution, he concluded.

*La Bella, a sophomore communications/journalism major at St. John Fisher College, recently began her first career-related internship writing for the Rochester Business Journal.*

## Univ. of Fla. students establish Catholic student union

By Tom Tracy  
Catholic News Service

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (CNS) — Hoping to attract Catholics who are not yet affiliated with the Newman Center or who have stopped going to church, University of Florida roommates Catherine Grindler and Michelle Santamaria recently established a Catholic Student Union.

The Catholic Student Union is a "student-run organization devoted to promoting Catholic multicultural fellowship through social, recreational and service activities," according to their mission statement.

In short, it is an organization for students who consider themselves Catholic but who may not be practicing their faith or who aren't yet plugged into the local parish.

Membership is limited to students and there is no official church link or clergy oversight.

"We go to church, but a lot of our friends don't," said Grindler, an anthropology student who attends Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church in Royal Palm Beach, Fla., during the summer.

"We wanted to make an organization that is more affiliated with the school," she told *The Florida Catholic*, newspaper of the Palm Beach diocese. "There is a Newman Club, but we were trying to address those Catholics that weren't going to church. If you don't go to church, you don't see the bulletin and don't know what is going on."

Grindler said other religious groups had an official student organization, so why not Catholics? "The Newman Center is not listed as a student organization," she added.

As a university-sponsored organization the Catholic Student Union is eligible to receive funding from the student govern-

ment. It must also have a faculty adviser.

"I hope it can get other students involved who aren't involved at St. Augustine Parish," said Santamaria, 18, a finance major and a 1994 graduate of Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"During college, a lot of kids are trying to find what God means to them," she said. "It really is a time to define yourself and get involved. Not going to church is an experience that most people have to go through."

The women recruited friends Lily Valdivieso and Lisa Bergmann to help serve as the organization's first officers, with Grindler serving as president and Santamaria as vice president. All four grew up in Palm Beach County; three had a Catholic education there.

The Catholic Student Union will promote volunteer projects at nearby St. Francis House Soup Kitchen and the Ronald McDonald House and with Habitat for Humanity. Pro-life events, Christmas caroling, retreats, sports, picnics and potluck dinners may also be on the agenda.

David G. Hackett, an associate professor of religion at the University of Florida, will serve as the group's faculty adviser. He teaches a course on Catholicism in America and is himself Catholic.

"The impression is there is a large number of Catholics at the university, perhaps as much as a third" of the more than 28,000 undergraduate students there, he said. "What's different here is that this will be a student-run organization recognized by the university."

"Anything they can do to reach out to somebody else is not a bad idea," said Father Tim Lozier, associate pastor at St. Augustine Parish and chaplain of the Newman Club.

"I hope that somehow it leads to people getting involved in the parish," he added. "One of the main vehicles for evangelization among students is simply friendship."

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