Networking: Creating Realationships, Making Contacts, Endless Possibilities

It is almost unquestionable that you should be familiar with the saying “It’s not what you know but who you know.” One of the most important secrets to a successful career is the ability to network constantly and effectively. The art of networking is a tool that we use on a daily basis. Anyone and everyone can become part of your network! Networking can certainly be intimidating, thus it is recommended to start with the people you know such as family and friends and expand to their acquaintances and eventually to strangers as you become more comfortable with the tool. Yes, networking is a tool!

There are many ways to network. There are social networks, professional networks and affiliations with certain organizations. But most importantly, your most valuable tool for networking are other people! Consider your professors, internship and/or employment supervisors, work and/or class peers, and even professors who sponsor organizations that you may be a part of.

Here is a list of some other popular ways of networking:

With the increase in the use of technology, one of the most frequently used mediums for networking are social networks. Here are some of the most popular sites:

- LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, MeetUp, Google+, Pinterest…
  - Remember to be mindful of the information that you choose to post online. The Internet is easily accessible and if you want to be perceived as a professional, you must portray yourself as such.

As college students, there are hundreds of different ways to network whether that is through affiliations with sororities and fraternities, honor societies or organizations related to specific disciplines. For example there are a number of organizations with student affiliations that should be of interest to Psychology majors. Some of these include:

- **Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM)**- TCNJ has a chapter on campus. For more information email shrm@tcnj.edu
- **Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP)**- Click here to inquire about the student membership and the numerous benefits!
- **American Psychological Association (APA)**- If you are taking courses in psychology you are eligible to become a student affiliate! Learn more about becoming a member of the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology by clicking here!
- **American Society for Training and Development (ASTD)**- The world’s largest association devoted to training and development professionals. Join now!

With networking the possibilities are endless. You can connect through alumni networks, field-specific associations such as Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Psi Chi (Psychology Honor Society), and professional organizations. Do the research; it is worth it.

General tips for networking:

- Attend events and get business cards when attending any event
- Always have a few copies of your resume handy (just in case)
- Make eye contact, master a firm handshake
- Be organized- Keep track of your contacts: where you met, something you learned about the person…
- Networking should be a priority! Happy Networking!

Upcoming Events:
Be on the lookout for future events!
Remember to check the psychology department’s calendar for events to satisfy PSY 096 097 098 and 099! This is a requirement for graduation!

Interesting Fact about Dr.Dahling and Dr.Kirnan:
Dr. Kirnan volunteers with two certified therapy dogs! You should meet Bob!
Dr.Dahling has a Jack Russell Terrier who needs to be certified for therapy!