



Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What was the biggest challenge you faced during your job search before graduating?

The US was in the midst of a severe recession. Jobs were non existent. While I did find an accounting job, the Controller of the company encouraged me to go ahead and get my MBA before starting work. It was great advice! And I applied to 4 programs, and was accepted at all 4. VA Tech offered a full scholarship with an internship in Collective Bargaining and with Department of Housing.



William
Martin '84

Finding the right place to begin teaching.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

There are a limited amount of positions available in my organization. Applying and waiting for a placement was by far the hardest time. I had to learn and foster patience during that time more than I ever had before.



Chris
Johnson '18

No experience; wanted to live in the Southeast; there was a appropriate push to hire veterans.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

How did Bluefield College assist you in obtaining a job in your field?

Bluefield, via my academic advisor, Will Gordon, assisted with an Internship with a local CPA firm and helped with references for my MBA program applications. They were GREAT!



William
Martin '84

BC added confidence, an invaluable trait.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

My professors were very supportive and helping in the process of discerning a calling in my life that ultimately led me to take the position I currently have in the organization of Young Life.



Chris
Johnson '18

Business Department prepared me well in that area; small class sizes allowed involvement with professors; classmates were willing to help you with subjects.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What do you like most about your current job?

Currently, I work for a 212 bed hospitalmy dream place to work. I assist all departments by helping them right size their staffing. I network with peer hospitals across the US and speak annually at national conventions.



William
Martin '84

Retired-I'm the author of To End All War, a historically accurate novel based in WWI.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

My job requires that I work with people!! I love building teams and equipping folks in ministry alongside me.



Chris
Johnson '18

My last job before retirement - managing international staff made up of individuals from ten countries.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What do you like least about your current job?

I would like more interactions with patients. Have just finished training as a Stephen Minister and will use those skills to visit patients from our church.



William
Martin '84

Without research, you can't keep to history.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

Being in full-time ministry, I don't have any set hours of work. It would be easy to work 24 hours a day because there is always something to do. There is a real struggle to manage my work life and personal life in a way that is healthy.



Chris
Johnson '18

Retired - spend a lot of time giving back (mission trips, Habitat, HandyHelpers, bible study teacher, etc



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What class at BC prepared you most for your current job?

Of course, accounting classes were a HUGE help in helping me pass the CPA exam. Also, the business writing class I took from Ann Rantis was a huge help in improving my correspondence skills.



William
Martin '84

Both English and psychology.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

Wow, it's difficult to narrow it down. So many of the classes I took in Christian Studies have proven to be very helpful. However, I also took a lot of classes in my major (Criminal Justice) that have proved helpful. Rather than narrow it down to one class, I'll just say that the well-roundedness of the education I received at BC has ultimately served me in multiple way in my job.



Chris
Johnson '18

Accounting



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What is one thing you wish you had known about the workforce before graduating?

There is so much team work involved in hospital work. We all pool our skills to get the best results for our patients and staff.



William
Martin '84

That public schools can be overly political and less innovative.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

I am far more busy now than I ever was in college. I wish I would've known that I was a time-billionaire during my time at Bluefield.



Chris
Johnson '18

Not everyone came to work for the same reasons I did; I needed to be more assertive and promote myself.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

If you had the chance, would you change your major and/or career choice?

I would have liked more training in healthcare administration. That is what I learned at VA Tech.



William
Martin '84

No way!!



Nicholas
Lambros '64

Nope. I know that sounds crazy considering I majored in Criminal Justice but now work full time in youth ministry. But honestly, the experience I had in the CRJ department has informed so much of my leadership style as well as the way I interact with people which is the biggest part of my job.



Chris
Johnson '18

No my career was an 'E' ticket ride.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

How do you incorporate being a Christian in your workplace?

Our hospital allows us to pray with patients while visiting with them. Have also trained as Stephen Minister to have better patient skills.



William
Martin '84

Well, seeing as that I am in full-time ministry, I certainly hope that I do a fair job at this. But to be honest, it can be easy (even in ministry) to get so caught up in productiveness and efficiency with things like budgets and fundraising that I can forget to allow my relationship with Christ be the ultimate informer of my decisions. It requires discipline, even for someone working in ministry.



Chris
Johnson '18

Ethics and moral compass, in general conduct myself as a Christian.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What gospel principles should shape my thinking about how to treat my boss, my co-workers and my employees?

Do unto others.....I have spent many years managing healthcare practices and now working in the hospital. I try to see everything through the patient's eyes....how do they feel...what do they need...how can I be of help.



William
Martin '84

Do unto others...



Nicholas
Lambros '64

I am immediately drawn to the Greatest Commandment and Paul's exhortation in 1 Thessalonians 2:8. In Matthew 22, Jesus commands for us to love God and love others. LOVE. That's the ticket. If the love of Christ compels me, then it should be the force driving all of my decisions and influencing the way I treat the people around me in my job. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul states that he and his comrades loved the people in Thessalonica so much that they were delighted to share with them their lives as well as the Gospel. That's principle #2 - relationship. I strive to be a person that serves in humility and loves with a passion for people given to me by the Holy Spirit.



Chris
Johnson '18

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.



Tem
Marshall '68



Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

How do you prioritize or balance work, family, etc.?

I set a schedule and stick to it.



William
Martin '84

Family always takes priority.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

For me, this is a very hard question to answer. Ministry demands a lot. I don't have the ability to "turn-off" my job at 5pm. If a high school kids calls me in the middle of the night, I have to decide whether to answer right then to save it for the next business day. What I've learned is that I have to prioritize and be a person of principle. Identifying the things that are important to me and for ministry ultimately leads me to a healthier balance that serves people in my ministry context while also responsibly stewarding my personal life.



Chris
Johnson '18

Always ask yourself WHY you are working, hopefully for the family. When you leave the Co. there will be NO plaque on the wall about your sacrificing your family/health/soul for the Good Old Company, None!



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What factors should matter most when choosing a major and career?

What is your passion, where is God calling you?



William
Martin '84

Don't underestimate yourself, and do something you like and is within your ability.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

The Lord's call and our passion. Listening to what the Lord might have to say about our career choice is critical. That doesn't mean that we're all called to be in full-time ministry. For me, I knew that I was called to work with people. Whatever job I took after college, I knew I needed to work in the context of relationships. When that calling lined up with my passion for adolescents knowing Christ, I was led to the mission of Young Life. Calling and passion. Identify those things and pursue them vigilantly.



Chris
Johnson '18

Both should tie into your goals, play into your strengths, avoid your weaknesses and MOST importantly lead to something you enjoy doing at enough salary to support you reasonably but allow you outside life time! Do not be surprised if you change paths it is OKAY.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

Is it okay to be motivated by salary?

Yes, but its not everything. I wanted to be a swim coach....but the pay was terrible. So, I have a career in healthcare, which makes me enough money that I can still be in the pool every day. You can balance both.



William
Martin '84

Salary is second to doing something you want to do.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

If I'm motivated by salary, then I picked the wrong profession! It is definitely ok to consider salary. The Bible teaches about money and how we are to be good stewards. That doesn't mean that the Lord wants us all to be millionaires, but it does mean that He wants us to handle money in a way that is honoring to Him. For example, every year in my job, I am tasked with submitting a budget alongside my supervisor and committee members in my local area. Occasionally, I'm eligible for a raise, though I don't have to accept the raise. I can't be motivated by the money, but I should be wise in considering the financial aspect of my job. I ask myself these two questions: (1) What do I need? and (2) How might the Lord use my salary?



Chris
Johnson '18

What good is an eight figure salary when you die from a heart attack at 45? Be reasonable also make sure there is an upside. Companies today like to shed employees at 5 years and replace them with younger folks with newer degrees. Salary is important BUT not the main objective.



Tem
Marshall '68



Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What experience did you obtain before graduating from BC?

My accounting internship convinced me that I had made the right career choice. The year before me, the intern found out she hated accounting and had time to change her major.



William
Martin '84

I was in the US Army for 3.3 years and learned how I was. Job number 1 is "Know thyself" before judging others.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

In addition to the incredible knowledge I gained in my classes, I received an abundance of community during my time at BC that I will forever cherish and it has also greatly influenced my in job and day to day life.



Chris
Johnson '18

Nothing that applied to my grown up job, I was a greens keeper on a golf course and other pickup jobs to earn my way through school interviewers did not see this as very applicable to their jobs.



Tem
Marshall '68





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

Did you participate in any internships while in college?
How did they help prepare you?

My accounting internship convinced me it was the right career, but, I also wanted to get my MBA so that I could offer more assistance to small business clients.



William
Martin '84

Yes, I was a substitute teacher for a high school.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

Yes, I participated in a youth ministry internship through the local Young Life office. It was very helpful in that it gave me a better idea of what the job looked like.



Chris
Johnson '18





Ram2Ram Alumni Networking Survey

What is one piece of advice you would give a college student preparing to graduate and looking for a job?

Find an internship!



William
Martin '84

Be patient. Be cordial. Be prepared.



Nicholas
Lambros '64

Be diligent yet patient. You never know the Lord's timing and He can do some pretty awesome stuff if you just let Him.



Chris
Johnson '18

Use ALL your resources, tell EVERYONE you are looking for a job!!



Tem
Marshall '68

