EPICS WELCOME

Welcome MS in Leadership for Creative Enterprises students! The External Programs, Internships, & Career Services (EPICS) office is here to support your professional development through creating engagement opportunities with alumni and professionals, providing exposure to the creative sectors, and providing career coaching throughout your degree progress.

As the direct liaison to the MSLCE program, Colin DeKuiper coordinates the career services and programming efforts for the program. This includes the monthly MSLCE Professional Development course, the MSLCE Speaker Series, the spring Industry Immersion Treks, and the Industry Immersion Visits.

In addition to supporting the MSLCE program, Colin works as a member of the EPICS team to connect with employers to develop internship opportunities for the School of Communication. He also assists and supports the EPICS programming and workshops that are available to all School of Communication students.

It has been an exciting year for the EPICS office as we have added many new staff members to assist in supporting many of the School of Communication programs. Similar to the role that Colin serves, we also have ADs that support our two MFA programs, our MS in Health Communication program, our MS in Communication program, and our undergraduate programs.

Beyond having direct contact with Colin, please make sure to connect with the EPICS office and welcome to Northwestern University’s School of Communication! You can connect to our social media via the links to the right for Facebook, Twitter, and our Blog. Please feel free to contact our office via phone and email as well.

MEET THE EPICS TEAM

Heather Trulock, EPICS Director, has a passion for helping students pursue creative career paths. As a former Music Industry Executive at Sony Music and current educator, having held appointments at Emerson College and the Kelley School of Business, she is able to blend her professional experience from the business and entertainment worlds with her more recent work in academia to develop new leaders for the creative economy.

Having worked side-by-side with SoC alums in the field and having hired interns from this school, Heather has experienced first-hand the high-caliber of the Northwestern SoC students. She says, “I strongly believe that the School of Communication develops some of the top talent in the industry and I’m excited to be here in the SoC to help them achieve their career goals.” Originally from New Jersey, Heather received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and graduate degree from The Ohio State University. Clearly she can’t get enough of the Big 10!
Colin DeKuiper, EPICS Assistant Director, joined EPICS last fall for the first year of the MSLCE program. Colin received his B.A. in Communication (Media Studies) and his M.Ed in Counseling (College Student Development) from DePaul University. Colin comes directly from working at the Portfolio Center of Columbia College Chicago and teaching in Columbia College’s Arts Management program.

In addition, to his work in higher education and career services, Colin has actively been involved in Chicago’s music scene. After completing his BA, he spent years writing, recording, promoting, and touring on multiple releases, as well as holding down production duties at Chicago venues such Schubas and the Empty Bottle. You can still often find him performing at these venues almost every month. Colin also serves on the board for the Chicago arts non-profit, Homeroom and assists his wife in providing foster care for the Chicago dog rescue One Tail at a Time.

Mandi Glowen, EPICS Coordinator, obtained a M.Ed. in Counseling with a concentration in College Student Development from DePaul University and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Iowa. Prior to joining the EPICS team, Mandi served as a career counseling intern with Northwestern Career Advancement (NCA) and was an employee at Kellstadt’s Career Management Center. Mandi supports the MSLCE program and all School of Communication programs as our central administrator with SoConnect. She also assists and supports the School of Communication programs by coordinating internship applications and evaluations with faculty and internship sites.

SOCONNECT

SoConnect is the School of Communication’s career management system. This database allows you to:

- Search for and apply to SoC-specific internships, full-time jobs, and freelance jobs
- Register your internship experience for credit
- Request and view career coaching appointments with the EPICS staff
- Upload multiple resumes, cover letters, clips, and other documents
- Set automatic notifications to announce when new postings hit the database
- Save settings for job searches to be used again at the click of a button
- Register/RSPV for EPICS programming and workshops

To log in and get started working with SoConnect, go to the student login page. A student guide for using SoConnect can also be found here.

If you are having problems accessing SoConnect, contact the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357).

Make sure to follow EPICS on social media and through our blog where you can regularly find our Weekly Round-Up of new internship postings within the system.

Current internship opportunities include:
- MGM Studios – Winter TV Development & Production Internship
- Red Hour Films – Winter/Spring Internship
- CBS Radio – Key Account Coordinator
- Universal Music Group – Fall 2015 Music Sampling Assistant
- Liquid Thread – Winter 2016 Marketing Internship
- Circle of Confusion – Winter/Spring 2016 Agency & Production Internship
EPICS FALL EVENTS

EPICS programs are available for you to take advantage of beyond the events within the MSLCE program, so please make sure to keep up with our calendar and social media for events each quarter. We currently have the following events for the fall quarter confirmed and you can always RSVP through the EPICS calendar.

- **Hash it Out**
- **Lunch and Learns**
  - 10/23 - Resumes
  - 11/13 - Reels
- **EPICS Connections**
- **Leadership Journeys**
  - 10/16 – Periscope @ Cinespace

MSLCE & EPICS TIMELINE 2015 - 2016

The EPICS office and MSLCE program has worked to develop career related programming to align with the progress that you are making towards your degree. Through the professional development course that includes programming efforts from the EPICS office, you should begin thinking about approaching each quarter with the following topics in mind.

- **Fall Quarter** – This is a great time to further explore your interests and make connections at Northwestern, online, and in Chicago. Use the program and Northwestern’s many resources as well as those that you seek out to do research on the areas of industry that you are most interested. Develop a wish list of the job roles and companies that interest you. As you are gaining focus on your interests and goals, spend time to further develop and assess your career materials (resumes, cover letters, work samples and portfolio) to best represent the opportunities you will soon be applying for.

- **Winter Quarter** – During winter quarter you should be closely tracking and applying for internship opportunities. We have seen a trend in recent years that many of our desired internship opportunities close their postings in early February and make their summer internship selections by March. Take the time to seek out opportunities on campus and beyond to practice interviewing via mock interviews and informational interviews.

- **Spring Quarter** – As you approach your third quarter in the program, begin preparing for your internship and the opportunities you plan to seek after it concludes. This may include working to strengthen the development of your own personal brand, network, and job related skills that you need to develop/strengthen. Begin developing a strategy for how you plan to bridge your internship experience to your career plan.

- **Summer Quarter** – Continue job tracking and applying for opportunities. Seek out and develop relationships through your internship site and within the industry. Take time to assess the growth and development that you have gained over the last 9 months and funnel that knowledge into your career strategy for your next steps.

With those benchmarks in mind, we have developed the following opportunities to further your professional development and exposure to industry. We are excited about what we have lined up for you this fall and know that there is plenty more to come in the winter and spring quarters!

**MSLCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE**

This course provides a structured academic component to the professional development and industry engagement opportunities and occurs during each academic quarter leading up to the required MSLCE Internship Seminar during the summer quarter.
**MSLCE CAREER COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

In addition to the Professional Development course, Colin is available for individual appointments each week. These appointments are scheduled in advance through SoConnect and provide the opportunity for you to discuss your individual career questions or review materials with Colin. Colin’s fall office hours are:

- Mondays (3 – 5 pm)
- Tuesdays (12 – 2 pm)
- Wednesdays (12 – 2 pm)

**MSLCE SPEAKER SERIES**

Our fall speaker series agenda is confirmed and we’re very excited about the guests that we are bringing to campus!

- **Thursday, Oct 1** | Mara Webster, Panels & Programs Producer for the Tribeca Film Festival
  5:15pm | Frances Searle - Room 1-421

- **Thursday, Nov 5** | Len Kasper, Chicago Cubs announcer for WGN, WLS, WPWR and Comcast SportsNet
  5:15pm | Frances Searle - Room 1-421

- **Thursday, Dec 2** | Erica Labovitz, Indiegogo Film Category Business Director
  5:15pm | Frances Searle - Room 1-421

If you are interested in viewing our series from last year in full, you can visit [MediaPortal](#) and view each individual session (log in with your NetID and password)

**MSLCE INDUSTRY IMMERSION SITE VISITS**

As a part of the MSLCE Professional Development course, we have arranged for 3 site visits to creative organizations in Chicago. You will have the opportunity to select your site preference based on your interest in the organization and the time/date for the visit, but due to restrictions on the size of the groups that can attend we cannot guarantee your first choice. If there is availability to attend more than 1 visit, we will provide an announcement. Our fall visits include:

- **Oct. 23rd | 2pm** – Threadless

- **Nov. 6th | 11am** – **Jeff McClusky & Associates (JMA Promo) and Audiotree**

- **Nov. 13th | TBD** – Lookingglass Theatre

**MSLCE SPRING INDUSTRY IMMERSION TREKS**

The MSLCE Industry Immersion Treks during the spring quarter will allow current full-time students (part-time students can elect the academic year in which they will participate in the Industry Immersion trek) the opportunity to visit either New York or Los Angeles.

The Industry Immersion treks provide students with the opportunity to meet and engage with professionals through individual talks and through site visits. Each day is typically structured with a morning session at the hotel where the group is staying with one or two speakers who will join the students for a breakfast session providing an overview of their career, current work, and the opportunity for dialogue with students. After these sessions, students will tour one to three site visits that often include office tours, panel presentations from staff, and professional meet and greet receptions.

The Industry Immersion Treks are open to MSLCE students only. For the 2016 treks, students must be available from 3/20 – 3/26.
MSLCE INTERNSHIP SEMINAR

EPICS will be earmarking internship opportunities within the creative industries throughout the year. Make sure to keep an eye out for our **Weekly Round-Up** of opportunities on SoConnect through the EPICS blog.

The MSLCE internship seminar is managed by the EPICS office and taught by Colin. The internship seminar provides the opportunity to practice the skills you’ve been developing in class and occurs simultaneously during the summer quarter while students are interning to provide a structured approach to the internship experience.

OTHER NU CAREER RESOURCES

**Northwestern Career Advancement**

In addition to utilizing the services and resources of the EPICS office, you also have access to **Northwestern Career Advancement (NCA)**. NCA provides career advising and counseling services, a job and internship board (CareerCat), and career fairs on campus.

**Northwestern University Entertainment Alliance**

NUEA (Northwestern University Entertainment Alliance) is the alumni organization for Northwestern grads working in the entertainment industry. They currently have two chapters; NUEA West in LA and NUEA East in NYC. Every summer, EPICS will pay for graduating students first year of membership to this organization (upon their request/an email will follow spring quarter).

**Chicago Career and Industry Related Events for Fall 2015**

There are many programs and events happening on campus to take advantage of, but also make sure to keep your eyes open for Chicago based industry events, conferences, and festivals to take advantage of this fall. A few of these include:

- **Chicago International Film Festival** | Oct. 15 – 29
- **Chicago Humanities Festival** | Oct. 24 – Nov. 8
- **Social Media Week** | Nov. 16 – 20