



CAREERS

Looking Ahead

By Sara Tusek

John Lennon once said that “life is what happens while you’re making other plans.”

Helen Keller said that “life is either a grand adventure or nothing at all.”

Albert Einstein said, “There are two kinds of people. For one kind, everything is a miracle. For the other, nothing is a miracle.”



How would you describe your life so far? Have you been happy with your career, or has it been less than thrilling? Where do you want to go in the future?

Looking Ahead: a brief history

In 1987, I became the Director of Career Services at the University of the South (Sewanee), an Episcopal university in the eastern mountains of Tennessee.

Before I was hired, the office had offered only a few on-campus recruitment opportunities in business and government. There was no career library and no comprehensive career development course; no career counseling and no centralized help with internships or summer jobs in career fields of interest.

The vast alumni network was not being tapped as a source of advice and contacts for students.

All of the 1000 students in the College of Liberal Arts were studying in non-professional, non-technical areas such as British Literature, German and Political Science, meaning that their classes were not immediately relevant to

any particular career. They needed help to link their college studies with jobs they could like and do best.

Within the first month of my working there, I was offering the “Looking Ahead” career development program. It carried no college credit, and was an entirely new idea at the very traditional college.

But from the start, I had students signing up for the 6-session course. They heard from their friends that the program was interesting and useful, so they were willing to give up some precious time to prepare for their live after graduation.

The first 3 weeks of “Looking Ahead” focused on self-analysis, values and goal clarification and preparation for writing an effective resume by pinpointing important career-related accomplishments, skills, and experience.

The rest of the course consisted of career and job research, producing a professional resume, preparing for interviews and choosing from various job offers.

In 1993, I left the job at Sewanee to work full-time with my husband Jarda in our business, the International Leadership Institute.

Over the past 17 years, we’ve used the activities, readings and exercises of the first three weeks of “Looking Ahead” with people ranging from teen-agers to mid career professionals and career changers.

We have found that beginning with self-analysis is the key to getting the job you like and can do best. That way, you’re not “stuck” in a job that’s boring or irrelevant to your true goals.

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Looking Ahead: in Prague

Here in Prague, we've decided to offer the first three weeks of "Looking Ahead" as a stand-alone program, in addition to the "21st Century Jobs" seminars we are already running with a group of Prague professional and business executives .

The idea of "Looking Ahead" is to have a quick, simple course for people who are at a career crossroads. Many of our friends, Prague-based expats, have to make tough decisions as to whether to stay here, return home or go to another part of the world for their next job or

graduate school experience. We'd like to help them make sound decisions by using a process that we know works—self-analysis, accomplishment and skill inventory, values and goal clarification, and taking action by setting just one goal—and making that goal happen.

We're inviting a few friend for the first "Looking Ahead" course in 2011, on January 18, 25; February 1, 8, from 7-9 pm. This initial course will be free for our friends; if it helps them as much as we think it will, we'll start offering it as a regular ILI program.

Looking Ahead Program Description

This program will give you a chance to develop the basic elements of self-knowledge you need to steer your life in productive ways. These elements include

1. "The 7 most successful accomplishments of my life, so far"
2. "My 10 most-used skills and my 3 life skills"
3. "My 3 top values"
4. "My Next Goal"

This program coordinates with "21st Century Jobs," an intense job-search seminar also offered by the International Leadership Institute

Looking Ahead Program Format

- Small group (4-6 people)
- Meets once a week for 2 hours, for four weeks.
- Possibility to meet one extra week, if needed to complete all four elements.

To get help in the career development process, you can attend the "21st Century Jobs Seminar," led by Jarda Tusek, President of the International Leadership Institute (www.ili.cc). You can buy a copy of the course textbook, 21st Century Jobs, for \$10.00 plus postage by contacting Sara Tusek, ILI Managing Director, at stusek@ili.cc.

The International Leadership Institute has been devoted to leadership development since 1985. Jaroslav Tusek, President & CEO, has more than 35 years of experience in designing and leading seminars on leadership development for business executives, university students, mid-career professionals and people changing careers. He and his wife, Sara (Managing Director) have written numerous books, workbooks, articles and newsletters on leadership and career development; their most recent book is 21st Century Jobs. The Tuseks have extensive experience in education as administrators, teachers and program developers at the executive, university and secondary levels. The International Leadership Institute has worked in partnership with the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Covenant College, the Slovak Chamber of Commerce for Bratislava, and more than 650 businesses in the Business Leadership Forum: USA and with the State Department of the United States in its AID (Agency for International Development) programs through World Learning in Washington, DC. More information at www.ili.cc.

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