

a mental hospital before," she says. "I wanted to see if I really enjoyed working with these patients — to see if I really wanted this for my career."

"I wasn't volunteering to get a job out of it — but I really liked the work."

When she heard about an opening for a psychology assistant at the end of her senior year, she applied, interviewed and got the job. Now she evaluates patients and runs the VOICE program, which involves coordinating activities for 10 to 15 male patients and seven to 22 student volunteers a week.

"I learned a lot in psychology classes, but getting in the field made me interested," she says. "I learned so much through volunteering in the hospital."

Leap of Faith

Say you live in Hicktown, Ky., but long to be on Broadway. Or you want to be the next Jacques Cousteau but live in Dryville, Ariz. If your dream home — or dream career — is miles away, start packing. That's what Brian Livingston, a '93 grad from Indiana U., did when his hometown job didn't meet his expectations.

"I wasn't getting enough hours at work, and my lease was running out," he says. He decided to quit his job as a geotechnical engineer, split from his Indiana home and head out to Minnesota, where he'd worked at a canoe area two summers earlier.



Brian Livingston landed a job cleaning up the Mississippi River.

River. When a full-time position as a lab technician opened up with the company, Livingston landed it.

He's 10 hours from home and working with hazardous waste — and doesn't have a single regret.

A Yen for Camouflage

You hit your 20s, outgrow the family-mini-van-to-Disneyland trips and realize that travel isn't free after all. And when the hospital visit for your twisted ankle saps up the money you had stashed for that Corvette, you see that (gasp!) health care actually costs money, too.

Rodger Martin, a '94 Washington State U. grad, might tell you a different story. After earning his associate's degree in criminal justice from Grossmont Community College in San Diego, he spent five years in the Air Force — including stints in Korea and England.

"It was a good opportunity to see areas of the world I wouldn't have seen otherwise," he says.

When he returned to the United States, Martin enrolled at WSU for his junior and senior year on a GI Bill. It was there, while in the ROTC program, that he filled out his dream careers and locations on, get this, an Air Force "dream sheet."

"The military wants to give you your top-choice assignment, and they don't want to move you unless you want to move," he says. "And the pay? It's a lot better than the reputation says."

In May, Martin will start training to become an intelligence officer. Starting



Work for free? Kristen Blazewicz did.

salary is \$24,000, and in four years, he'll be making \$40,000.

"Medical benefits in the military don't cost you a dime," Martin says. "My friend had a kid, and it would have cost \$3,000 or \$4,000 in the hospital. But it cost \$37, and that was for the meals she ate at the [military] hospital."

But the biggest perk of enlisting could be the option of changing your career halfway through your life and not losing any benefits.

"If you spent five or six years in, say, the fire department and decided you didn't want to do it anymore, you could become a pilot — or whatever you wanted to be." Hey, man, like the ad says: Be all that you can be.

Campus Connections

Your spring break trip is nonrefundable. You hate baseball. You just don't have time to volunteer. You don't like Minnesota. And you look *horrible* in combat fatigues. That doesn't necessarily mean you're destined to be unemployed. In fact, you can just sit back and let employers come to you. Sound too good to be true? Ask Hillary Crane, a '94 graduate of California State U., Northridge, who interviewed with 10 accounting firms without ever leaving campus.

The career center set up an on-campus recruitment program, which brought accounting firms to Cal State. Her campus interviews led to four call-backs at the firms themselves. After her second call-back, she accepted a position with B.D.O. Seidman, a national accounting firm.

Here's the kicker: She had a definite offer seven months before graduation.

"It's not easy to find a job — it took quite a bit of effort," Crane says. "I would tell [students] to get involved in different activities, work and social, and to use the resources that are available on campus. If you just try to get a job after graduation through ads — cold turkey — it's difficult to do. Almost impossible."

Hey, Hillary, thanks for the support.

■ Rachel Eskenazi, *The Review*, U. of Delaware, contributed to this article

Operation Résumé

"Stand out from the crowd, but not too much." "Don't list references, but if you don't, you're hiding something." Advice about the ultimate marketing ploy — your résumé — comes from every corner. Professors, parents and peers may inundate you with the perfect solutions for your job hunt, but sometimes just listening to yourself can render surprising results.

Take chicken man Patrick McGuire. He landed his first job at the *Baltimore Sun*. Not bad, considering he put a photo of himself dressed in a chicken suit on his "clucking" résumé. It began: *Patrick McGuire. Pronounced dead at birth, Nov. 6, 1848, in Syracuse, N.Y., but saved by an alert nurse who dunked me into tubs of hot and cold water.*

The *Sun* pecked up McGuire. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* also considered making him an offer. Jim Naughton, *Inquirer* executive editor in charge of hiring, says McGuire's approach was effective because he broke the yolk — um, rules.

"The whole point behind a résumé is not to get a job, it's to get an interview," McGuire says. "You have to answer the question: 'What can you do for us?' I've been cautioned all my life to be serious, but... by showing humor, you show that you are confident in yourself."

Figuring out just how creative you can get without going overboard on that multi-color, tri-fold flip calendar of your life is important. Gauge this by what you know about the company that will be receiving your golden egg.

For careers in creative or personality-

intensive occupations — advertising, graphic design, publishing — try a résumé with color or an unconventional design. However, if your sights are set on the corporate world, that cute stuff may not fly.

"Attention is the name of the game," says Amy Connelly, research manager for the employment consulting firm Johnson-Brown Associates. But she warns that there are two kinds of attention: good and bad.

Good: Skills listed in bold or italics. Sticking to one page and an objective that sells: *I hope to work like a dog for peanuts.*

Bad: Sloppy grammar, overcrowding and vague descriptions: *Advisory assistant supervisor to the chief.*

Several hundred drafts later, your résumé should be good to go. But where? These days, you can use the traditional postal route or take a high-tech approach.

Corporations, like Acumark Marketing in Waterford, Mich., will send your résumé to up to 10,000 potential employers' cyberstep via CD ROM, the Internet, video and more.

Acumark is also working on voice mail interviews of you talking about yourself and your skills. If employers want to know more about you, they can select your recorded message. (*Press 1 for desperately seeking, 2 for great coffee-making skills.*)

One last piece of advice: There's no "right" way to do a résumé. Remember, what's on paper doesn't amount to a hill of beans if you don't have the skills to back it up.

■ Christian D. Berg, *York Dispatch*, Messiah College contributed to this article