

# Career ConneXions

## Students and Alumni Make Great ConneXions in Summer Internships

Through the ages, the wisdom and knowledge of the masters have been saved on parchment and paper. Now, for the St. Xavier community, they're being saved digitally.

"Masterclass" the latest component of Career ConneXions, the three-year-old experiential learning program designed to help St. X students choose their college majors and careers. The brainchild of St. X student John Piehowicz '21, the program fills a void that was created when the Covid-19 pandemic canceled in-person school activities and programs in March 2020.

"Masterclass is our online learning platform to bring educational and career content to students where and when they want to view it," said Christine Dauenhauer, director of Career ConneXions. "It was launched this summer as a response to two factors: Covid made in-person learning events more challenging, and students are time-constrained during the school year.

A Masterclass is an online video in which John interviews a subject-matter expert. Accompanying the video is a workbook "that summarizes the video, builds on it and provides actions steps a student can take to further develop the skill," John said.

John got the idea for these Masterclasses after his parents gave him for Christmas a subscription to MasterClass, "a Web site where famous people teach different skills, from cooking to dog training," he said. "I thought that, hey, we could do this with Career ConneXions, but we should ask people to do only one, instead of a series. Mrs. Dauenhauer loved the idea as a way to move some of our educational materials online.

"So, we sent out some mass e-mails, and during June we had the videos produced, edited and ready to launch, which we did on July 10."

John produces the Masterclasses himself. He meets the expert before the interview to outline what will be discussed and to answer any lingering questions. John conducts the interview on Zoom, which he records. He exports the video to Adobe PremierPro, edits it, and adds program graphics. Either he or his brother, Joseph '22, writes the workbook and tends to any last-minute changes. Finally the video is uploaded to YouTube and the Career ConneXions Canvas Page by Trevor Tiemeyer '21. The process takes from a few days to a week to complete.

Masterclass was launched July 11 and marketed heavily through social media. Reminders were sent at the start of the school year, and messages will continue through the years. As of September 1, there have been 265 views of all of the Masterclass videos – 185 during the week after the launch.

As summer ended, there were five videos published: interview tips; entrepreneurial mindset; a two-parter on resume writing; leadership skills. Ten



more are coming by mid-October. About 20 are in the planning stages. "We continue to receive e-mails, almost daily, from people saying they would love to help us," John said.

"Most of our initial Phase 1 subject-matter bases are covered," John said, "but we're always looking for new people to make a video on anything they feel comfortable with." Phase 2 plans to incorporate overviews of various industries and career journeys, so nearly anything about an individual's experience in the professional world can be turned into a Masterclass. Mrs. Dauenhauer said the Masterclass platform's benefits extend beyond current students. "It can engage also our young alumni, who until now have not been served by Career ConneXions. We're excited for our full St. X community (current and past students) to benefit from this content. Beyond Career ConneXions, the Masterclass format and learning platform can be used to help any department at St. X better operate by incorporating video/online learning – Admissions, College Advising, and Counseling, for example."

If you'd like to get involved, head to the adult registration page, <https://www.stxavier.org/academics/careerconnexions/career-connexions-adult-volunteer> and when it asks about interest area, select "Record a Masterclass."

