Capturing IIT Reality in Video: The Experience of Finding a Job as an IIT Grad

Objectives:
The mission of IPRO 333 was to provide IIT students with insight into the job search experience, learn how to find a job, and make them more effective. To facilitate this objective, in this second semester, we captured film about the preparation, the emotions involved in a job search process, the career fair, on campus interview, on-site interviews, and the offer/decision. This was accomplished through film in order to create a documentary. All the film we captured will be put together next semester to produce a documentary. Next semester, the team will edit and produce the final documentary for release to campus theaters by December 2006.

Team Organization: Spring 2006

The team was organized into a matrix of four challenges and subteams based on the most important parts of the job search process most IIT students will pass through, encounter in their job search process, with three task teams of filming, editing, and scripting cutting across subteam boundaries, all the subteams to provide technical support. The subteams challenges were as follows:

1. The Job Fair: How to prepare for and what a typical Career Fair looks like

2. The On-Campus Team: The importance of mock interviews and company on-campus interview process, the initial on-campus interview held by companies at IIT

3. The On-Site Team: The employer and student perspective on the interview process at a company site

4. The Job Offer/Decision Team: The process of making a decision to accept offer, decline offer, go to graduate school, offer, or choosing a graduate school. The goal of each subteam for this semester was to capture up to 10 hours of film showcasing the nitty-gritty of every process.

The three task teams cutting across every subteam were:

1. Scripting Team: Scripting interviewing questions and recruiting the people for the interviews.
2. Filming Team: Handling the camera, lights and sound during the interviews and other shots.
3. Editing Team: Cataloging, editing and organizing to aid next semester's editing team.

Current Team Progress/Accomplishments:

This semester's main goal was to capture as much footage as necessary for each subteam listed above to equally contribute to a 1 hour documentary. After 12 company interviews and 20 student interviews, the team has put together 20 hours of film to produce the documentary next semester. This filming was done through personal interviews and group events such as the IIT career fair which the whole team attended to record 6 hours of film in a 10 hour period. Each interview required lighting equipment, cameras, props, sound equipment, interview questions, and a crew of at least three to operate the equipment and conduct the interview in a professional manner.

To better organize all of this footage, the team has also cataloged, time-stamped, and organized the film into categories that relate to each challenge, giving the fall 2006 team a script for this semester's filming vision. In order to support IPRO 333’s sponsor, the Career Development Center, the Career Fair team also mastered filming techniques in a short period of time and interviewed people associated with different parts of our objective. We interviewed about 80 people and got a total of about 80 hours of film.

We obtained film footage of the IIT annual spring career fair. We filmed mock interviews on campus at the CDC to showcase the common errors of students during interviews. We interviewed company representatives we had met at the career fair and through professors and personal contacts. We were able to conduct most of these interviews at the company sites. We interviewed students about their career fair...
experience, their on-campus and on-site interview experiences as well as the emotions in making decisions about accepting or declining job offers and deciding whether or not to go to graduate school.

We put together an 8-minute video for use in the Career Development Career (CDC) training workshops highlighting the functions and services of the CDC.

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<th>Faculty Advisor</th>
<th>Job Fair</th>
<th>On-Campus</th>
<th>On-Site</th>
<th>Job Offer &amp; Decision</th>
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Future Work:
The process for creating a documentary of any length is a complicated one. Through experience of creating the shorts, the development and editing for the final product is going to take nearly double the amount of hours it took to film the events. The next team needs to take all of the footage captured and review it, decide how to make the story flow, and edit the film into a final product which should be a 40-60 minute documentary.

Team Members:

Advisors: Daniel Ferguson, James Opon, Jim Burstein
Paul Lenzen, EE, Jaime Banuelos, IB, Andrew Battaglia, IB, Julia Campagna, HUM, Jaime Banuelos, IB, Andrew Battaglia, IB, Julia Campagna, HUM
Rania Hallak, IB, Saba Mahmud, BCPS, Neil Mashruwala, BME, Michael McCourt, MATH, Brandi Shelton, PSYC
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