

# **Questions Answered by Alumni!**

## **Question #1: "Could you please expand on the phrase: 'It's not what you know, but who you know?'"**

**Samantha Tushaus (2012) said: "Networking is incredibly important because our field is relatively small. You'll see professionals you meet at conferences or lectures (or even other students!) again and again at those conferences in later years, and you'll be working with a lot of them in about 5 years. Additionally, chances are there's no more than three degrees of separation between you and some of those AMS bigwigs, so in that sense \_who\_ you know is important for connecting to those scientists you look up to. However, don't totally disregard \_what\_ you know, because it's your accomplishments that will inspire your peers and professors to mention you to their important contacts."**

## Question #2: What does a typical job interview consist of?

Rachel Anna (2011) said: (I'm in broadcast) most of my interviews have had a phone interview/Skype then a trip to the station, where there was sort of an "audition" to see if I was compatible with the anchors I might be working with. All pretty typical stuff you'd expect out of an interview. Haven't had any "use three words to describe yourself" questions, most of mine have been what would you do in this situation type questions. The weirdest though? A news writing test! Seriously I had an hour to write a news script. I failed, of course, since I knew nothing about news. I about cried halfway through."

Liz Suess (2011) said: (Meteorology grad and brand new web designer here - as in I start on Monday! haha) First off, don't be afraid to switch or expand your options if it's not working out for you. Out of the few meteorology jobs I did manage to snag an interview for, I always had some sort of mini test where I would have to answer some meteorology questions so they could make sure I really did know what I was talking about. Otherwise it's a lot of talking about what the job will entail and your particular experiences related to the various responsibilities of the job. And do *\*not\** be afraid to ask questions. Ask about insurance. Ask about time off. Ask about the town itself. It shows that you're really interested. And be very open that you are ok with moving if needed, even if they won't pay anything to help.

# Question #2 (continued)

**Brittany Peterson (2012) said: Before my NWS interviews, I sent in a resume, cover letter, references, and ranked myself based on my qualifications. I interviewed for several offices, and all of the interviews were phone interviews. The majority of the interviews were based on personality questions, strengths/weaknesses, communication skills, and "what/if" examples or scenarios (like Nick mentioned above). Preparation and practice are very important! Before an interview, I came up with several thoughtful questions for my interviewer and something unique that I could do/add that would make me stand out. Any applicant can say he/she is the best forecaster in the world, but is he/she friendly, honest, and confident (not arrogant)? Can he/she contribute an innovative, exciting idea (give an example) that may benefit the office, or does he/she enjoy teaching the public/students about severe weather? I also practiced interview questions with a close friend and tried to present that I'd be a great fit for office climate, city/local area, and position requirements.**

## **Question #3: What is one thing you wish you knew as an undergrad?**

**Tyler Roney (2011) said: The one thing I wish I knew was how many resources there were to take advantage of. It's easy to be conservative and coast, but you realize all there is that the University has to offer when it's too late! Make sure to get involved with as much as you can while still maintaining a good balance of the workload because we know how heavy it is in meteorology. Thankfully, that's where AMS comes in!**

**Justin Schultz (2009) said: I wish I knew how to better connect with others professionally. I'm sure you've all heard of the phrase "It's not what you know...it's who you know that gets you ahead." I've even heard others go further by saying "...it's who knows YOU that gets you ahead." I've learned it's even more than that. It's not about what you know, or who you know, or who knows you, it's about who knows what you are capable of. Getting the right people to know your character, skill set, and demeanor is what truly helps you.**