

AYEAR IN REVIEW 2015-2016



Toppel Values Wall (installed Spring 2016)

A Message from the Associate Dean & Executive Director

We believe that the past year at the Toppel Career Center was one of our strongest in recent history. We are very proud of a number of brand new initiatives we launched during that time. The Toppel Awards have given us a chance to recognize people throughout the University and beyond for their contributions to University of Miami students' careers. Career Crawls exposed students not just to potential industries, but also to cities around the world and what it's like to work and live there. We launched a brand new website that makes it easier to find what you need and also provides valuable insight into our students' career outcomes with interactive infographics. We have also engaged in a variety of initiatives that celebrate our Toppel values and culture, cementing our role as a model to other departments on campus as the entire University engages in culture transformation. We look forward to continuing this trajectory

throughout the coming years. As you read about what we've been up to lately, we also sincerely hope that you will be our partner as we strive toward preparing our students for their future careers and lives beyond the U.

Christian Garcia

IMPLEMENTATION OF HANDSHAKE

Handshake, our new online career management system, was implemented in the summer of 2015.

- Staff was prepared for the implementation during a two-day training and numerous followup sessions.
- · Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive and is reflected in student usage.
- Significant improvements were made and continue to be made to the employer experience with the platform.

REDESIGN OF TOPPEL WEBSITE

During the 2015-2016 academic year, we redesigned and restructured our website to better meet the needs of today's students. We reduced the number of pages by 75% in order to make important content easier to find, rewrote all content with student-friendly language, and redesigned the actual look of the site.

Additionally, we created a career outcomes page showcasing student outcomes with filters by major or school/college, **available at miami.edu/outcomes**.



EMPLOYER SPONSORSHIPS

Employers continue to support new student initiatives through event sponsorships and the Toppel Partner Program.



EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

This year brought a variety of new organizations to recruit at the University of Miami, including: American Airlines, Canon Solutions America, Department of Homeland Security (Office of Intelligence and Analysis), Minnesota Vikings Football, Fast Enterprises, Pepsico-Frito-Lay, Maximus, and Walmart.



STUDENT EMPLOYEE CAREER READINESS INITIATIVE



We launched the Student Employee Career Readiness Initiative in Fall 2015 with the purpose of **enhancing our educational impact** on student employees and interns. The program included students and supervisors sharing expectations of each other, students creating a professional development plan, specific learning goals and desired outcomes, and completing a career readiness pre- and posttest based on NACE's seven career readiness competencies. At the midway point, supervisors checked in with their students to review challenges and successes as well as to review the professional development plans. At the conclusion of the Spring semester, student staff wrote an End-of-the-Year Report reflecting on their set goals and career readiness development throughout the academic year.

CHAOS THEORY PROFESSIONAL & STUDENT STAFF TRAINING

In spring 2015, we decided to investigate frameworks that could provide theoretical guidance for the educational experiences provided by the Center. In summer 2015, Toppel adopted the **Chaos Theory of Careers** (CTC) by Pryor and Bright and conducted a series of extensive trainings for professional and student staff. We chose CTC because it assumes that there are

many influences in our lives that make it difficult to predict the outcome. Therefore, nothing is certain and everything is possible. In order to deal with inevitable change and uncertainty, we work with students and alumni to understand their limitations, identify opportunities, recover from obstacles, find meaningful work, take advantage of chance, and develop the necessary skills to handle a life that fluctuates between stability and change. 2015-2016 marked the first full year during which the CTC approach was utilized across the entire Center.





TOPPEL AWARDS

In February 2016, we hosted the inaugural Toppel Awards, an appreciation luncheon for students, faculty, staff, and employers. In front of over 100 attendees, award recipients were recognized in a variety of categories: Student of the Year (Undergraduate/Graduate), Student Group of the Year, Employer of the Year (For Profit/Not for Profit), Recruiter of the Year, Internship of the Year, Distinguished Administrator, and Excellence in Career Education. We created the Awards to recognize commitment to professional development across the University of Miami campus. Gapingvoid sponsored the ceremony, providing recipients with pieces of art that represented the virtues of each award category.



SEBASTIAN'S CLOSET

With the support of Student Government and Liberty Cleaners, Toppel launched a new service for students to rent professional and business casual attire for a weeklong period for any career-related purpose. The closet was stocked through collection drives by members of Student Government and the Toppel Staff. During our Career Expo events, Sebastian's Closet is provided on-site for students needing attire to make the best first impression. Requesting a rental is easy: stop by the Toppel Career Center during regular business hours and ask to see what's available!



TOPPEL GIVES BACK

Toppel has a long tradition of engaging in service projects in the local community. Last year, we continued our partnership for the annual Toppel Day of Service with the National Pan-Hellenic Council during Greek week, completing a service project to benefit United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). Students from Multicultural Greek Council also participated as we planted flowers and beautified the grounds of UCP's group homes. Additionally, Toppel team members volunteered time with organizations such as the Federal Correctional Institution, Downtown Miami Charter School, US/Spain Chamber of Commerce, and the Year-Up Program.



LEADING THE WAY

Our staff continues to lead in the fields of career services and higher education by maintaining leadership roles in local, regional, and national associations. Additionally, two staff members were recognized for their contributions to the field with awards from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE):

- Samantha Haimes was recognized with the 2016 NACE Spellman Johnson Rising Star Award for demonstrating leadership potential and contributions to the profession
- · Christian Garcia was honored as the NACE Mentor of the Year
- 5 staff members presented at conferences across the globe



CAREER CRAWLS

Career Crawls attracted students from a variety of majors to experience career immersion locally, nationally, and internationally.



Ten students participated in the Downtown Miami Career Crawl, which featured three nonprofit organizations, including the United Way of Miami-Dade and The Miami Foundation. Eighteen students participated in the first traveling crawl in May 2016 to Washington, DC. Employer site visits there included the Alpine Group, Maximus, Federal Reserve Board, and US Department of State. Twenty students traveled abroad for the London Career Crawl in October 2016, featuring Morgan Stanley, Diageo, LetterOne, and White & Case. All crawls featured receptions with employers and UM alumni in those respective cities.

PEACE CORPS PART-TIME RECRUITER

As a result of a grant from the Peace Corps, UM hired its first parttime recruiter, housed at Toppel. Accomplishments included presentations at 13 classes, 40 students appointments organized through Handshake, 156 leads through Toppel events, and a film screening for *Girls Rising* in collaboration with Americorps.



TOPPEL CAREER CENTER



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5225 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33146 HireACane.com | toppel@miami.edu | 305-284-5451

