

Eileen Beall, AB 2002

Bookkeeper at film distribution company

Career arc

Ms. Beall got her current job through a Washington University network. While attending an event, she met a friend of a WU alum who was looking for a bookkeeper. Because this event was social, rather than one designed for networking, Ms. Beall stresses how important it is not to be afraid to tell people that you are looking for a job. You might not think of a social event as a place to meet a potential employer, but you never know when an opportunity will present itself.

The relevance of anthropology

Ms. Beall finds that studying anthropology helps in terms of interacting with different kinds of people, and it has helped her think “outside the box.” Studying other cultures has forced her to look at her own and appreciate that certain ways of life are not inevitable. This viewpoint can allow you to think more creatively and recognize possibilities that you might not have thought of otherwise.

Marketing anthropology

Ms. Beall has marketed anthropology by highlighting how her anthropological background helps her get along with different people and appreciate different perspectives. She also notes the importance of anthropology in her ability to take an analytical approach when solving problems.

Advice to undergrads, new grads

Ms. Beall wishes that she would have networked more when she was an undergraduate and that she would have gotten to know her professors better. She recommends taking an internship and finding a mentor in the field that interests you. Establishing these connections prior to beginning the job search can help the process go more smoothly.

Ms. Beall also feels that anthropology majors are well-positioned to go into business and become entrepreneurs in this kind of economy. If you are willing to accept the risk and the work involved with starting your own business, it can be satisfying, creative, and constantly motivating.