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On-Campus Job Hot Spots

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Published: Monday, September 19, 2011

Updated: Monday, September 19, 2011 00:09

Everyone has, at some point during his or her time at Boston College, has been stuck in the seemingly endless line at Hillside. It's usually just after class has ended, right at the top of the hour, and everyone seems to be craving a panini. Of course, it's so good that most people are willing to wait the 20 or so minutes it will take to get to the front of the line, but not without complaining to everyone around you about how ridiculously long the line is. Yet somehow when you finally get up to the counter, there's someone waiting with your New England Classic in-hand and a smile on their face. Many people probably grab their long awaited sandwich and jump into the checkout line, not even thinking twice about what it's like to stand behind the counter and serve the endless masses.

Pressing panini after panini for a continuously growing line of impatient college students seems like it would be taxing, yet it's estimated that approximately 40 students do so every week. Molly Cummings, A&S '14, was hired on the spot at Hillside her freshman year. "Everyone on the staff is really friendly," she says. "It's a unique work atmosphere because we're really social, and that extends beyond the workplace. I met some of my best friends at work last year," Cummings raves. She's moving up in the ranks as well, joking that she had her first experience working behind the coffee bar last week. "It's the most coveted position," she says. "Last year only the senior girls got to do it." Even after spending nine hours a week working, Cummings admittedly heads to Hillside even when she's off-the-clock. "I love the Tuscan Cheese dipped in barbeque sauce," she says. "I tried it once and now that's the only way I eat it." Cummings divulged a couple of delicious sandwich modifications not on the menu.

Hillside's arguable competitor, Addie's Loft, boasts a similar workplace atmosphere. "I've

made a lot of friends there, and with about 30 students under the management of other students, there's a lot of co-worker bonding during shifts," says Gracie Horner, A&S '12. She was drawn to Addie's in part due to her desire for a job and her belief in the Real Food movement that Addie's adheres to.

"Food production is a complex interaction between the earth, and humans, and animal well-being," she says. "I really believe in the ideals held by Addie's regarding food production," Horner says. The employees at Addie's are a mix of genuine believers in the Real Food Movement, and students who just wanted a campus job. What are the perks of a position at Addie's beyond supporting the Real Food Movement? "We always get a shift meal of \$8 and a drink, and shifts are only about three to five hours with a lot of flexibility," Horner says. Unique to Addie's is the opportunity for students to join management, as it is student-run with only one non-student employee, Francisco, who heads the cooking.

Work opportunities at BC aren't solely limited to food service, however. After contacting the athletic program upon arrival at BC her freshman year, Tori McClemens, A&S '13, landed the coveted position of student video manager for the football team. "Basically we film all the practices and games," she says. "Sometimes the coaches will ask us to get specific angles or players, and we send some of the footage to the coaching staff. Other footage is used to make the highlight reels," McClemens says. She hopes to work in sports after graduation, and interned this summer with the NHL team, the New Jersey Devils. The large commitment of her job, with roughly 15 hours each week and required attendance at all practices and summer training in August, doesn't bother McClemens at all. "My hours are really structured so there's never any surprises as far as schedule, and it's really nothing compared to the commitment of the players," she says. In addition to the opportunity to view all the football games from the sidelines, McClemens says that another one of the perks is the opportunity to travel with the team. "They need two of us at every game so we get to divide up the away games and go with the team," she says. Though she was unfamiliar with operating camera equipment initially, McClemens learned the ropes quickly. "I was really nervous at first that I would get the wrong footage, but I picked it up pretty quickly, and really love the job and the opportunities it has afforded me."

Working in athletics at BC doesn't always mean working with the athletic program. There are roughly 70 students that call the Plex their workplace, though it's by no means an easy job to acquire. One of only two freshmen hired by the Plex last year, sophomore Cole Rabinowitz, A&S '14 is often recognized outside of work as "the guy who swipes the cards at the door."

"Working at the front is nice because I don't have too much responsibility, but I still get to talk to people, and I can occasionally get some work done on the side," he says. As far as his personal recognition of gym-goers is concerned, he laughs, "It's sometimes really funny seeing people's transformations from when they initially swipe in to their post-workout appearance." Rabinowitz, who usually works about six to 15 hours each week, appreciates the consistency of the work schedule. "The only bad thing is that you can sometimes get a bad shift, like Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., which I had last year, or the night shift on Friday from

8 p.m. to 11 p.m.," he says.

Office work jobs are one way to avoid untraditional hours. Rachel Saunders, CSOM '14, spends nine to 11 hours each week as the front desk worker at the Student Programs Office. She, along with about 10 other students, performs traditional office tasks like such as answering phones, making appointments, copying, taking questions, and assisting walk-ins.

"The first week of freshman year I wanted to get a job, and my mom suggested that I go to the Student Programs Office and see if they were looking for anyone," Saunders says. It turned out to be a good thing that she applied right away. "There's usually a four-year retention rate, so they only hire about two people a year," Saunders says. She plans to stay with the office for the remainder of her time at BC.

There are as many different on-campus jobs at BC as there are personality types. Everywhere on campus there are examples of students getting paid to perform interesting or fun tasks, and often enjoying themselves in the process. So next time you're in line at Hillside slammed against the back wall with a crowd of 50 in front of you, when you finally get to the front of the line remember to smile and say, "Thank you," to the friendly face behind the counter.