Finding BC Alumni Using LinkedIn

On your LinkedIn home page, set the Search (upper right) to “People”, type in “Boston College” and hit return.

This will bring up a large search yield, approximately 71,000. It will also bring up the advanced search features on the left-hand side.

To make sure everyone you brought up went to BC, start by opening the “school” filter on the left hand side and check off any Boston College schools listed.

You can then refine your search more by any of the search filters on your left: keyword, industry, geography, company etc. Your search results will filter as you click those boxes.

Once you find an alumna or alumnus you are interested in speaking with, email them a specific request (see boxes on right). Be sure to indicate in the subject line that you are a BC student seeking advice.

To learn more about this “informational interviewing” process, visit http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/networking.html

SAMPLE MESSAGE
Dear Ms. Johnson:
I am a senior at Boston College and found you on LinkedIn.com. I am very interested in learning more about your experience working in the educational consulting industry. Would you be willing to chat with me? Any advice you can provide is greatly appreciated. Please let me know how to proceed if you are willing. Thank you for your consideration.

HOW TO ACCESS ALUMNI EMAILS
When sending an “Inmail” to an alum, you will be prompted for an upgrade. You can pay for an upgraded membership OR try these strategies:
1. If you have a level 2 connection (a shared connection) to that person, you can use the “get introduced through a connection” feature.
2. Email them directly at their company (figuring out company emails is pretty simple).
3. Use BC’s Alumni Directory to find email addresses – e.g. LinkedIn says that “Andy G.” graduated from BC in 2005 with a degree in History. NOTE that only alumni have access to the Alumni Directory, so students will need to ask an alumni friend for help.