

The do's and dont's of social networking

How to protect your reputation online and at work

By JANELL HOWELL
STAFF WRITER
JLH5470@PSU.EDU

relationships via the Internet.

One, do not post any compromising pictures or use inappropriate language. There are an increasing number of employers investigating sites such as MySpace and Facebook to evaluate the character and integrity of future interns and prospective employees. If there is something personal you wish to share, (I'm talking poetry or a blog, folks), do learn all the features of the site in order to permanently or temporarily block any prying eyes.

Do not stalk anyone online. If you are not invited into anyone's network, do not "stake out" their page or obsess about what they are doing. While that cute guy in English class has his online status set to "having a night out on the town", you've stocked up on potato chips and Starbucks waiting to see what he posts next. Not cool. Do seek out those who know you, appreciate your company and value your companionship. If not, just keep it moving. There are too many clubs and organizations to get involved with than to worry about someone



"accepting" you as a friend or colleague. Whatever you do, just be sure to change your status from stalker; stalking is not attractive and just downright creepy.

Do not inflate your resume. This advice is for all the LinkedIn users trying to show off credentials they don't have. Yes, there are some people who have accomplished quite a bit, but

It might look a bit suspicious if you're a 20-something year old who is a CEO of a Fortune 500 company, and completed law school at the age of 9. If you do not have an extensive resume, do emphasize your volunteerism, course work and career goals. Also, it does not hurt to ask for a couple recommendations (from trusted peers, employers or professors) to boost your credibility and networking confidence. Do NOT assume they will give you permission to use their name for recommendations, so ask

beforehand.

Do not add just anyone to your network. It looks pretentious and desperate. The purpose of social networking is to connect with those who share your interests and visions – not just anyone in your zip code. Do a process of elimination and evaluation.

Most importantly, remember that while social networking is fun and invigorating, nothing will

replace face to face interaction. Get out there and meet people! Surf on over to meetups.com and sign up for a book club, music appreciation club, scrapbooking – something! Find a mentor at a local organization or even on campus! As human beings we crave communication and contact with others; do not let the innovations of media stop you from publicly interacting, building bonds and truly living.

Social networking is truly the wave of the future. With the onset of MySpace, Facebook, and LinkedIn (to name a few), social networking has further transformed into a powerful and playful way to tap into people all over the world.

For textbook's sake, social networking can be described as a large network composed of individuals who share a common bond or vision – think college students, professionals, etc. As with any new trend, there are always unspoken rules and customs to follow, and for those who choose to break those set of laws, ultimately face rejection (and quite possibly embarrassment) from the social scene. Here are a few things to keep in mind when building personal and professional



HOLIDAY TRAVEL

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seat you paid for.

Road trips are a little less stressful, minus the security, but you need to make sure you have a few extra items. Make sure you have an emergency kit, a car cell phone charger, extra blankets, extra snacks, and the number to your nearest AAA dealership, or road side assistance. Being prepared will not only make for a safer trip, but a smarter trip. If you are an AAA member, they will map out your route of driving with an easy to read journal. This

journal map will make sure you are taking the most fuel efficient route and still make it in time for the family gathering. If not a member, purchase an area map of where you are headed and be aware of the heavy traffic areas.

Other holiday travel, via trains, subways, or public transportation, just make sure you have the right schedule of departure and arrival, and are prepared with photo ID in case the weather does not cooperate and you need to board a second form of transportation. I hope these little tips help to make the season bright. Happy Traveling!

Photo Club contest winners: Week 9



FIRST PLACE
"Painted Track" by John Chmilariski



RUNNER UP
"Boothbay Harbor" by Robert Hoffer