

January 15, 2009

# The Career Connection

a publication for SU faculty and staff from the **Center for Career Services**

## Dear faculty and staff:

With the new year, the Center for Career Services is launching a newly-redesigned version of *The Career Connection*, our monthly publication for faculty and staff. We want to keep you informed about the job market, and share with you information that may help you in dealing with students. We encourage collaboration between your department and our office, and welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your students.

Despite the ominous economic conditions, we believe students will continue to place into desired, relevant positions as they graduate from Syracuse University. While lay-offs and downsizing are a reality in many industries, there are still entry-level job opportunities in most fields. It is important that students maintain a proactive approach toward the job search, and that they take advantage of the Career Services resources on campus. We are confident that – with serious preparation and effort – students graduating in May will be successful in finding opportunities and securing positions.

We continue to impress upon students the importance of coming to see us early and often. We provide help for students deciding on a major, finding internships, applying for jobs, and preparing for interviews, among other services. We love to see freshmen and sophomores visit our office, and we frequently hear from upper-classmen that they wish they heard about our office sooner. As such, I hope that you continue to encourage students to visit our office, located in Suite 235 of the Schine Student Center.

Best of luck with the start of the semester.

Sincerely,

**Mike Cahill**

Director, Center for Career Services

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## Career Services responds to the economy

*To ensure that students receive optimal career-related assistance during this difficult economic period, the Center for Career Services has devised a plan. This spring, we will offer a number of opportunities for students to enhance their job-seeking skills and develop job search strategies, connect with employers, and take steps toward securing employment for after graduation.*

### Access to service

To provide greater access to our services, we have extended our office hours to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and re-structured our drop-in hours to better accommodate students' schedules.

#### *Drop-ins*

Mondays and Thursdays – 2:00 - 4:30pm

Tuesdays and Fridays – 12:00 – 2:30pm

Wednesdays – 3:00 – 5:30pm

### Workshops and programs

We have launched a weekly workshop series to prepare students for the job search. Scheduled workshops include resume writing, interviewing, finding a job in a tough economy, networking with alumni, how to succeed at a career fair, and more. We will also continue to offer customized workshops to campus organizations and departments.

### Employer development

The Center for Career Services is increasing efforts to reach out to employers to expand opportunities for this year's graduates.

- Staff recently received training on how to search and apply for jobs in the **federal government**, which is expected to increase job opportunities in the next few years.
- We will be connecting with **alumni** and **parents** throughout the spring to identify entry-level job opportunities with their employers.
- We are reaching out to employers in the **Syracuse area** to expand job and internship opportunities locally.
- We are collaborating with the Office of Alumni Relations and regional alumni clubs to implement programs that **welcome new graduates** to Boston, New York, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles, and connect recent graduates with alumni in these regions.

# Career Services News

*continued*

## Resources

The Center for Career Services has invested in a variety of resources to help students access job opportunities and identify potential employers.

*Orangelink* - online system which coordinates on-campus recruiting opportunities, posts jobs and internships for SU students, provides access to a nationwide listing of current entry-level job opportunities, and allows students to find SU alumni in their fields of interest.

*Career Search* - database that helps students identify and gain information about organizations in their field of interest and preferred geographic locations.

*Vault* - source of research on employers, industries and much more. This is a great tool to assist students in becoming effective job seekers.

*Mentor@SU* – a database which allows students to find and network with SU alumni in a wide variety of career fields.

## Spring 2009 Career Fairs

Spring Career Expo – February 5

Environmental Career Fair – February 25

Engineering Career Fair – February 18

Big East Career Fair, New York City – March 13

Design Career Fair – April 3

Communications Career Fair – April 13-15



*The Center for Career Services is dedicated to the post-graduate success of all Syracuse University students. We strongly recommend that students, at all stages of their academic studies, use our services to determine what they want to do, make connections with organizations of interest, and develop the strategies and skills that help them achieve their employment or educational goals. This is especially important in these challenging economic conditions.*

# Career Events



# Job market trends

## Career Week

### **Career Expo (Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Schine Student Center):**

Encourage all students interested in internships and full-time jobs to attend this event. Featuring more than 80 employers, the Expo will give students the chance to network with people in the business sector, non-profits, government, and more. A full list of participating organizations is available on the Career Services website (<http://careerservices.syr.edu>).

### **Resume 411 (Feb. 2, 3, 4, 12 to 2:30 p.m., Center for Career Services):**

Employers will work one-on-one with students to critique their resumes, point out strengths and weaknesses, and give special insight into the mind of hiring managers. This is a valuable experience for all students, especially those looking to enhance their resumes for the Expo. The event runs on a first-come, first-served basis; when students arrive, they will get in line to meet with a recruiter. Participating companies include Macy's, WSTM-TV, First Investors, CIGNA, and more.

### **Interview Blitz Day (Feb. 6, Center for Career Services):**

Many students who apply for specific internships and full-time positions via Orangelink will be selected for interviews the day immediately following the Expo. For this reason, it is imperative that students activate their Orangelink account and take advantage of the opportunities therein to connect with employers.

## In the news

*From the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 1/8/09*

- Market analysts speculate that, in 2009, overall unemployment could reach 8.5 percent. Furthermore, they say, unemployment for those with a bachelor's degree or better is likely to climb from the current 3.1 percent to 3.7 percent, while unemployment for young bachelor's degree holders figures to bump up from the current estimate of 3.4 percent to an estimated 4.1 percent.

- Undergraduate majors with "technical" skills (accounting, engineering, computer sciences) command the most attention in today's job market. Following are the top degrees in demand: Accounting, Mechanical engineering, Electrical engineering, Computer science, Business administration, Economics/finance, Information systems, Computer engineering, Management Information systems, Marketing.

*From Forbes.com, 1/15/09*

- Career Web site Jobfox has analyzed Obama's plan and come up with five areas of likely job growth over the next two years, with 22 specific job titles among them. Engineering, accounting, nursing and information technology will all fare particularly well, Jobfox predicts.

For the full article:

[http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/15/obama-jobs-stimulus-leadership-careers-inauguration09-cx\\_tw\\_0115weiss.html?partner=alerts](http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/15/obama-jobs-stimulus-leadership-careers-inauguration09-cx_tw_0115weiss.html?partner=alerts)

# Job hunting tips

## Alumni stories

### Searching for employment during a recession

**Network, network, network.** Though always important, networking becomes more crucial during a recession. As job openings become fewer and fewer, they slip into the “hidden job market,” where those people with a significant professional network will hear about them first (and get the inside track on interviewing). Broaden your concept of “network” and tap into opportunities like the Mentor@SU database, which features nearly 2,000 Syracuse University alumni willing to talk with current students and recent grads.

**Be prepared.** Before applying for jobs, learn all that you can about the industry, the company, and the position that you seek. Figure out the skills and types of experience that the hiring manager is looking for. This information will give you an edge when crafting cover letters and strategizing responses to interview questions.

**Be flexible.** Expand your idea of acceptable employment to include different areas within your industry. For instance, you may desire to write for print media, but the only jobs available are in digital journalism. Also, consider short-term stints as a volunteer or intern, to bulk up on experience and develop contacts. In addition, stay open to job opportunities in geographic areas outside of your first-choice locale; sometimes the best jobs spring up in random places.

**Stay active.** Attend job fairs and other professional meetings where you are likely to run into hiring managers. Make sure that your resume is up-to-date and looking sharp. Create an online presence via LinkedIn, where interested execs can quickly eye you up. Continue your daily activities and do not let the terrible economy deter your optimism and perseverance in the job search.

### Recent grads share tips for success

“A lot of people get locked into the mindset that your major is your career. Follow your passion and pursue jobs that interest you. Your major does not have to hold you back; leverage it in whatever way you want.”

— *Fern Langham '08, biomedical engineering major*  
*Morgan Stanley*

“For the interview, the best thing you can do is to be yourself. Employers want people who are well-rounded and can communicate properly; that means knowing what’s going on in the world around you and at large, including sports. Yes, I talked about the NFL during my interview.”

— *Jayson Garcia '08, aerospace engineering major*  
*National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

# Internship Program



## Companies still hiring interns

While employers have cut back on full-time hires, many are continuing to bring on interns. Summer internship programs at most major companies have not been significantly cut by the economic downturn. This is good news for current sophomores and juniors, whose internship experiences will enhance their qualifications for full-time positions down the road.

There are many benefits to having an internship. First, students can apply their academic knowledge in a real-world setting, giving them a taste of the pressures and stresses that they will face when they eventually work full-time. Second, employers often hire interns to work full-time after the course of their internship. An internship is a way to test compatibility between a student and employer. Employers figure that if the chemistry is good, why not turn the internship into a full-time position? Third, internships are an opportunity for students to network with other professionals in the organization, many of whom are happy to mentor their young colleagues.

As your students express interest in internships, we encourage you to refer them to our office. We can help the students decide with what type of organization they would like to intern, and teach them specific strategies for finding and securing these internships (including the use of Orangelink, our online search portal). We can also assist them in registering internships for credit.

## About Us

### The Center for Career Services

The Center for Career Services provides a comprehensive selection of services to the University community. We offer resume critiques, interview preparation, job/internship search strategizing, as well as more in-depth career counseling. In addition, we manage an alumni networking database, and host a variety of career fairs throughout the academic year.

The Center for Career Services is located in Suite 235 of the Schine Student Center. For questions and comments about *The Career Connection*, or to request a presentation from our office, please contact Outreach & Marketing Coordinator, Daniel Klamm ([deklamm@syr.edu](mailto:deklamm@syr.edu)).

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