

FROM HOGG TO HOME - The Lafayette Parents' Career Connection

Lafayette College
Office of Career
Services
September 2009

Welcome!

Career Services is pleased to provide you with our electronic newsletter created just for Lafayette parents and families. FROM HOGG TO HOME is produced three times a year to keep you "in the loop" about the extensive career-related programs, events, and services we offer to students throughout the year. We welcome your suggestions for article and feature ideas.

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Message from the Director



Dear Family Members,
Many of you may be wondering what the current economic climate will mean for your students this year as they seek internships, apply for full-time jobs, and/or apply to graduate and professional schools. While the projections for this year do not indicate improvement over this past year, there are opportunities available for students

who are well-positioned, who work hard to uncover those opportunities, and work hard to compete for them. They will need to be flexible in terms of location and specific job targets. They will need to devote significant time to networking. Students planning on graduate school and/or professional school will need to expand their lists of schools to include "safety schools" since they will be competing with a record number of returning adults who are entering graduate programs at this time.

In an economic climate like ours, the students who are most successful in executing on their career goals are those who intentionally set aside time each week to work on them. This means treating their internship, job search and/or graduate school application process as an additional course. Recent research by the National Association of Colleges and Employers indicates that students who significantly utilize their Career Center have much greater success in achieving their post-graduate goals.

We have put together a strong calendar of programs for

Fall Dates to Remember



September 16 - Annual Career Fair, Marquis Hall

September 17 - On Campus Interviewing Begins

September 21-25 - Recruiters in Residence Mock Interviews

October 11-12 - Fall Break

October 15 - Finance Night in New York

October 20 - Advice from Young Alumni Dinner Panel: Social Networking Dos, Don'ts, and Experiences

October 23 - Columbia University Engineering Career Consortium

October 26 - Student Externship Applications Due

November 3 - The Three Secrets to Finding the Job you Love with Susan Berg

November 11 - Making Green while Going Green Alumni Dinner Panel

November 12 - Cable Mavericks Lecture Series

Quick Links...

[Career Services Fall Programs Calendar](#)

[InterviewStream program for Mock Interviews](#)

[Career Services Parent Webpage](#)

[Online Webshops](#)

[Graduate School Information](#)

[Parent Externship Hosts Needed - Click here for more info](#)

this fall to assist students with their career exploration. I encourage you to look closely at the calendar, and to encourage your student to take advantage of all that is offered. This means not only participating in programs, but also using our web-based resources, tapping into alumni networks, and most importantly meeting with his or her Gateway counselor in order to stay on track. Networking is more important than ever!

In November, Susan Berg, author of Choose on Purpose, will conduct a new and interactive program for juniors and seniors to help them clarify their talents and passions, as well as outline a plan for achieving their goals. We are excited about this new program, and look forward to working with students this year. They will be learning skills that will serve them well throughout their careers.

Best regards,
Linda Arra

Career Fair Kicks Off Fall Recruiting Season

Although the semester has just begun, students need to be prepared to jump right into the fall interviewing season. The annual Career Fair will take place on September 16th with 50 employers



interested in meeting students of all majors to discuss internships and full-time positions. Even in tough economic times, employers are still anxious to speak with potential interns and full-time hires. The advantage of the Lafayette Career Fair is that your student can meet with a wide variety of employers in one time period while only traveling steps from their room. Many of the employer representatives are Lafayette alumni, and therefore able to relate to the unique experience of your Lafayette student.

The Career Fair is a perfect opportunity for students of all class years to explore options, practice their communications skills, and become more comfortable with the art of networking. Career Services staff will be present throughout the event to answer students' questions, assist them in navigating the room, and provide support for those feeling overwhelmed by the scope of the event. There are also a number of programs offered that will prepare students for the Career Fair. See the Career Services Fall calendar for more information.

Here are a few basic tips to share with your student when talking about how to make the most of the Career Fair:

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- Make eye contact immediately when introducing yourself and give a firm handshake.
- Be prepared to share a one-minute introduction about yourself with the employer.
- Dress as if you were going to an actual interview.
- Seniors and juniors should wear suits.
- Have a few questions prepared to ask the employer.
- Offer a professional looking resume. Gateway Counselors are available to critique resumes prior to the day of the event.
- Ask for a business card or write down the representative's name.
- Speak with organizations that you have not considered before.
- Mailing a thank you letter to employers after the Career Fair is not only appropriate; it can also bring attention to your name.

When your student contacts you after the Career Fair and asks, "now what?" You can help by reminding him or her to follow up with employers within 48 hours of the event. Many students do not do this, resulting in dead ends. Employers are often on the road for weeks in the fall visiting dozens of colleges, so it is imperative that your student take action to remain on the radar.

The Daunting Interview: Resources to Help Your Students Shine



Students' most important and first "real" interviews typically occur during their college years through the internship, scholarship, employment, and advanced degree application processes. Up

until this point, most students have only had basic interviewing practice for part-time job opportunities and perhaps, during the application process for undergraduate study. Due to this limited exposure, it is critical that students participate in activities that will prepare them for the interviews that will count the most.

Through Career Services, there are a number of opportunities to gain hands-on interviewing practice. From September 21st through September 25th, Career Services hosts the Recruiters-in-Residence program in which recruiters, spanning a variety of industries, come to campus to conduct mock interviews with students. The students' time with the recruiters includes not only a question and answer component, but also time for feedback from the recruiter. Students also have the opportunity to do mock phone interviews with Lafayette alumni who work as professionals across diverse fields. Gateway Counselors are available to conduct both in-

person and phone practice interviews as well at any time throughout the academic year and even over breaks.

InterviewStream is another wonderful tool that is available for students to hone their interviewing skills from the comfort of their own computer. This free tool allows students to design custom interviews and record their answers to these questions utilizing a webcam. Students can then play back their interviews to hear how they answered each question, and see their body language as they responded. Did they use "um" and "like"? Were important experiences, accomplishments, or activities left out? Did they fidget in the chair? Students can even e-mail their recorded interviews to others, such as a Gateway Counselor, friend, family member, or professor for feedback on both the content of their answers as well as the delivery. Each of these opportunities provides the student with practical, tangible feedback to help them improve their interviewing for when it really counts. In the event your student does not have a webcam on their personal computer, they can sign-up to record a practice interview on InterviewStream using a designated computer in the Career Services office.

Interviewing is a skill that requires continuous practice to gain proficiency. The interview process can truly be the hurdle that makes or breaks a student's chance at receiving their dream job or landing a spot at a top graduate program. The resources mentioned are just a sample of those available to Lafayette students. Each of these opportunities can serve to help your student overcome the common nerve-induced tendencies such as overuse of "filler" words, or body language habits such as slouching, foot tapping, or even biting of the lips. Practice interviews and extensive preparation for each interview can also leave your student less likely to minimize their qualifications and fit for the role they are applying for - another common faltering point for students. Whether the cause of this challenge is modesty, nervousness, or lack of preparation, the Recruiters-in-Residence program, InterviewStream, and opportunities to conduct mock phone and in-person interviews will leave your student feeling less stress and greater confidence when faced with the real situation. We hope your student will take full advantage of each of these great resources as they prepare for their turn to shine in the interview room!

Special Fall Program not to be Missed

**The Three Secrets to Finding the Job You Love
Tuesday, November 3, 7:00pm - 900pm**

Students will learn how to find work they'll love by getting clear on what they want and ways to go after it. In this active, fun-packed workshop, author Susan Berg will get their hearts pumping and minds sharpened. They'll learn to both cope with stress and make things happen.

