

FROM HOGG TO HOME - The Lafayette Parents' Career Connection

Lafayette College Office of
Career Services

January 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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The Facts on Job Searching in a Tough Economy



Many of you may be wondering what the current economic climate means for your graduating senior. I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify some misconceptions and give you a few facts regarding the hiring picture for the Class of

2009.

The Facts:

- According to a recent survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, recruiters expect college hiring to stay even with last year's levels. This means that employers are and will be hiring new college graduates.
- We have seen a similar trend at Lafayette, with almost the same number of employers recruiting on campus this fall as last year.
- The full time opportunities posted to the Job Vault are up 5% over last year.
- Even when organizations are downsizing, they are

Spring Dates to Remember



January 13 - Philadelphia Networking Night at the Park Hyatt

January 15 - New York Networking Night at The Harvard Club

February 9 - On-Campus Interviewing Begins

February 17 - Federal Job Search Workshop

February 18 - Lehigh Valley Collegiate Career Expo held in Fogelsville, PA

February 24 - Non-Profit Jobs Workshop

March 6 - Columbia University Non-Profit Career Fair

March 9 - Arts, Entertainment, Media and Communications Night in NYC

March 16-20 - Spring Break

April 3 - Deadline for Internship Stipend Applications

May 23 - Commencement

Dates for additional spring programs and workshops will be available on the [Career Services web page](#) by January 30th.

sometimes still hiring for certain positions.

- Conducting a job search takes significant time and effort even in a strong job market. (Students have sometimes compared their job search to having an additional class during senior year.)
- Postponing a job search, because the economy is weak will not enhance your senior's chances of effectively launching his/her career.
- A challenging job market should not be the sole reason for applying to graduate school.

What Employers Want:

- Effective communication skills: face-to-face, on the phone, and in writing.
- Internship experience.
- Interpersonal skills.
- Strong work ethic.
- Professionalism and knowledge of business etiquette
- Flexibility.

Here's the Advice We Offered to Seniors in an Email Sent in Mid-November:

- Begin your job search now, if you haven't already.
- Have confidence in yourself, and what you have learned while at Lafayette.
- Use your network: this means friends, family, hometown neighbors, faculty, alumni, and others.
- Consider a post-graduate internship if you have no related experience.
- Consider opportunities in public service where hiring projections are expected to be strong.
- Consider doing a term of service program after graduation.
- Ask for help.

"Whether you know specifically what you would like to do, or have no idea at all, the staff in Career Services is here to help you figure that out, make a plan, and direct you to the right resources. If you haven't worked with your Gateway counselor in a while, now is the time to schedule an appointment. If you have never worked with a Gateway counselor, just call our office to schedule a meeting. Transitions are never easy and that's why we're here to help."

We meant what we said to your Senior back in November, and we are here to help when they are ready.

Linda Arra
Director

Quick Links...

[JobWeb - a great source of career information for students and parents](#)

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

[Career Services Parent Webpage](#)

[Services for your Student](#)

Join our mailing list!

Exploring Careers through the Lafayette Network and Beyond

Career Counselors often talk with students about establishing and maintaining their professional network while in college. In our current economy; the power of networking and connections is even greater.



When times are tough and employers are experiencing hiring freezes, a "foot in the door" can be the key to a job offer. Fortunately for Lafayette students, the Lafayette alumni network is strong and willing to offer support in the career exploration process! **Students will have two wonderful opportunities to meet and connect with Lafayette alumni in a variety of career fields at our annual Philadelphia and New York Networking Nights, on January 13th and 15th, respectively.** Additionally, students should look beyond the Lafayette network to meet professionals in industries that are exciting to them.

Building one's network is not an easy task as it requires diligence and a passion for learning. Students must think about their areas of interest and then engage in opportunities and experiences where they can meet professionals. Informational interviewing is a great way to begin a connection. Very often, professionals are willing to talk with students about their career path and position responsibilities, which can be very eye-opening for students. Even a shy student can develop a successful relationship with a professional via email and phone correspondence. Furthermore, some campus events begin with a panel discussion which can break the ice and give students topics with which to begin a discussion. If students begin early, they will gain valuable insights into the realities of the work world and be better positioned for opportunities upon graduation.

As a parent, you can certainly assist your student in the process of networking. Here are some tips:

- Encourage your student to think about his or her areas of interest and brainstorm about possible connections through family and friends.
- Suggest that your student reach out to professionals, approaching them as valuable sources of information. Both email and phone are appropriate ways to start the relationship.
- Support your student in attending the Philadelphia and New York Networking Nights. Even if the student does not want to live in either of the cities, the connections made can prove invaluable.

- Encourage your student to attend events on Lafayette's campus where alumni and professionals will be in attendance.

Expanding Your Horizons: Working in the Non-Profit Sector



While the well-publicized, challenging economic conditions are impacting employment opportunities throughout many areas of the private sector, non-profit organizations have reported plans to continue to hire through the economic downturn.

In fact, some of these organizations will actually increase their employment rates in the upcoming year. Exploring non-profit organizations offers your student an expanded selection of job and career opportunities that may not have been previously considered. The roles and responsibilities within non-profit organizations vary greatly based on the type, size, and structure of the organization. Non-profits hire employees to fill assorted roles and select individuals from diverse educational backgrounds to become a part of their cause.

Many think of non-profit organizations as being solely in the area of charitable human services. However, in addition to this area, non-profits also include private schools and universities, legal services, political lobbyist groups, environmental agencies, advocacy groups, research organizations, hospitals, public radio stations, among many others. In fact, there are over one million not-for-profit organizations in the United States and this number is continuously growing. Lafayette College is proud to have many alumni who are currently employed in non-profit organizations that are dedicated to diverse missions. Lafayette alumni have attained employment within top tier higher education institutions, well-known non-profit organizations such as AmeriCorps, United Way, Rails to Trails Conservancy, as well as in many smaller organizations and foundations.

Within the Career Services office, we speak with many students interested in doing work that "they feel good about", that "helps others", and which "contributes to the greater good". The non-profit sector is composed of many organizations that may fulfill such passions of students. Regardless of a student's academic major or specific intrinsic driver, employment opportunities exist across the diverse

arena categorized as "non-profits". When students are considering employment with a non-profit, it is essential that the student not only be interested in the specific position they are applying for, but also that their personal values align to the mission of the organization. Employment with non-profit organizations offers many intangible as well as tangible benefits. Non-profit organizations provide challenging positions with diverse responsibilities, often including early career managerial opportunities. Not only are individuals challenged in the roles they hold, but when they are passionate about the mission of the organization, they also gain great satisfaction from the work they do.

Students interested in finding out more about working for a non-profit organization should visit with their Gateway Counselor. Additionally, in the spring semester, the Career Services office will hold a workshop for students interested in finding out more about working for a not-for-profit organization.

STUDENTSPEAK

"My 10 week adventure in the world of consulting allowed me to experience the business world as well as work on a wide array of projects with many different individuals. I had a wonderful experience, and it has helped me decide what I would like to do after graduation: begin a career in consulting."

Alaina Masler '09, a Spanish and Economics & Business double major, spent her summer interning at BDO Consulting in New York City under the direction of David Berliner '83, a partner with the firm.

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