

Spring Career Fair Kicks Off New Semester

Career Services will be hosting Saint Louis University's Spring 2003 Career Fair in the Simon Recreation Center on Wednesday, January 29, from 12:00 noon – 4:30 p.m. The spring fair is open to students and alumni of all majors and academic levels. Whether you are hunting for a permanent position or just beginning to explore career fields, the Spring 2003 Career Fair offers numerous resources.

In these challenging economic times, it is important for students to take advantage of opportunities to meet and network with representatives from their field of interest. Employers will be on hand to serve as informational contacts and recruit students for full-time, internship, and seasonal positions. Among the organizations scheduled to attend are Abbott Laboratories, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, Edward Jones, Nestle Purina, and the U.S. Postal Service Information Technology Center.

For those students looking to further their formal education after graduation, a variety of graduate schools will also be in attendance. SLU's graduate, medical, and law schools will be in attendance, as will the University of Missouri – Columbia, Webster University, Xavier University, Eastern Illinois University, the Washington University School of Medicine, and the University of

Tennessee Space Institute. For the full list of Career Fair attendees, please visit our website at careers.slu.edu.

To help students prepare for the fair, Career Services counselors are available to review resumes and provide career fair tips. Call 977-2828, or stop in on Monday, January 27, or Tuesday, January 28, between 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. for resume reviews or to discuss how to make the most of the Spring 2003 Career Fair.

By: Sara Ramos, Employment Coordinator



For more information, visit careers.slu.edu, or call 977-2828.

Inside this issue:

Spring Career Fair 1

What Do I Do After Graduation? 2

Ask Tyler 2

Alumni Briefcase 3

Welcome

Denise Pearl
Career Counselor

Nathan Burge
Practicum Student

Marsha Yost
Practicum Student

Ask Tyler-

A question/answer column responding to all your career inquiries.

Q: How do I decide which graduate school to attend?

-Ryan, Junior

A: There are many factors to consider when deciding where to attend graduate school. It is extremely important that you find a program that has a high caliber faculty, mentoring opportunities and research opportunities that excite you. Some faculty and career services professionals feel that this is the single most important criterion in choosing a graduate program. Once you've identified what you want to study, locate the schools that have the top researchers and publishers in your area of interest. If you are geographically limited, your options will be more limited.

Q: What should I expect to talk about at a career fair?

-Annie, Sophomore

A: Be prepared to talk about yourself. Research the employers in which you have an interest. Plan and practice an introduction or "commercial," but not more than two minutes long, that advertises your skills and experiences. Consider the following: Greeting, name, major, expected graduation date, purpose in attending the fair, skills and experience that demonstrate how you meet their employment needs, and knowledge about their company, products, or industry.

*To submit a question,
E-mail Tyler at
cutrobt@slu.edu*

What Do I Do After Graduation?

By: Kim Reitter,
Career Services Assistant Director

As students look ahead to commencement, they begin to contemplate life after graduation. For most, it is time to start considering starting that career. A lot of people think about this step with a feeling of dread. Although the economy is showing small signs of recovery, the newspaper is still filled with articles about company layoffs. This news makes it difficult to get excited about the prospect of looking for a job. Finding a job in itself can be a full-time job.

But don't despair! There is a new course that is being offered Spring II called Job Search Essentials (PSY 394-01). Job Search Essentials is targeted to juniors and seniors to help students prepare for the next steps after graduation, whether that is a decision to start graduate school or to enter the work force.

This class will take the anxiety out of the job search process. The first step in this procedure is figuring out what job to target, and this class will help students gain some insight into their career direction. It will also take students through the process of writing an effective resume and cover letter as well as learning how to generate job leads and networking contacts. Finally, it will teach some successful strategies to ace the job interview and some helpful hints as students start their career. For more information, please call 977-2828.

The Alumni Briefcase



Erik Lunsford, 2002

Have you ever had the feeling that you haven't accomplished enough? Have you ever thought that by this time in your life you could tally more achievements on your life's list? If what you need is inspiration, look no further than Erik Lunsford. Erik began as a Saint Louis University student in 1998 declaring a major in Communication. He also took up a position as a staff photographer with *The University News*. Promoted the following year, Erik became a photo editor. This same year he began networking through *The U News* both within SLU and around the city and neighboring businesses. Flourishing at *The U News*, Erik participated in his first internship at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* during the fall semester of his junior year.

All along on the side, however, Erik had also begun a free-lance photo journalism business, shooting for newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and also for corporations such as *The Ford Motor Company*. Erik's next internship took him to Springfield, Illinois, during the fall of 2001 for a photo journalism position with the *State Journal-Register*. After his time in Springfield, Erik returned to SLU to continue his studies during the next spring semester. Finally, the fall of his senior year brought him the opportunity to work with Edward Jones in branch offices in St. Louis.

In December of 2002, Erik graduated from Saint Louis University with a Bachelor's degree in E-Communication. Immediately, he joined Edward Jones full-time. Based in St. Louis, his main tasks include various marketing and administrative projects in office with an advertisement representative.

He also continues to maintain his free-lance photo journalism business.

Along the way Erik has certainly had some excellent assistance to get him to where he finds himself today. SLU professors Dr. Avis Meyer and Dr. John Pauly were instrumental in "setting a foundation providing supportive advice and inspiration." They helped to create an internship plan that was unique to Erik and fit his schedule. Also, Dr. Robert Stahl, his advisor, worked out his schedule with Erik, allowing him to remain a full-time student while working with Edward Jones. Erik also feels it is of the utmost importance "to utilize the services Career Services offers." As part of his Communication major, he participated in a class taught by Susan Gale, a career counselor at Career Services. According to Erik, she was "instrumental in helping me to clarify good interviewing techniques and teaching better skills for working in a corporate environment."

The future looks pretty bright for Erik Lunsford. Although he has no official plans, he maintains that he is always looking forward to a career that integrates journalism and business. Getting to this point was made easier because of SLU. At SLU, "you can expand and do whatever you want (finance and journalism)."

If opportunities and internships are what you want, networking in the area and at SLU is essential. Erik shares this advice, adding, "look towards your professors." Also, use Career Services in every way possible to benefit your goals and your options.

By: Brent Cutro



Career Services
3840 Lindell

Academic Resource Center, Suite 110
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: 314.977.2828
E-Mail: careers@slu.edu

Saint Louis University

Career Services

..... your path to success

Editor: Brent Cutro