Internship Quest 2013 is On!

According to the ever-so knowledgeable UrbanDictionary.com, a quest is defined as “a mission that could involve battle, but the outcome of said mission is full of worth.” The Career Development Staff is gearing up once again to “fight” for our students, and this year, we are asking for your help.

One of the most pressing needs of our student body is the ever elusive summer internship. Many of our students have been working diligently, some starting as early as last semester, to secure a summer position but thus far have not been able to do so. Part of this is the economy, but another part is that summer internships are highly competitive.

This is where you come in. Does your organization have a summer position that would be right for a Kenyon student? Are you in a position to create a summer opportunity that would be right for a Kenyon student? Perhaps you know someone who is hiring for a summer position? Any connections you might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated.

Last year, the Career Development Office was sending internship opportunities to a total of 242 students who expressed interest in a wide variety of industries in various locations.

This year, we have just finished collecting information from 186 internship-seeking students expressing an interest in 39 different states naming over 25 industries.

If you have a position, please email it directly to cdo@kenyon.edu. We just need the basics -- title, description/qualifications, employer, location, and how students should apply -- and we will help take care of the rest. Please include your contact information though, as we may want to follow up about the opportunity, ensuring that we target the right students for you. If you don't have a position but would like to talk about creating one, please call our office at (740) 427-5165 as we are more than happy to work with you on developing an opportunity.

Also, thanks to the efforts of key faculty and administrators here at Kenyon students are able to receive academic credit for their internship. If this is a requirement of your organization you can now hire with confidence.

If you think your student will need to receive credit, encourage them to register for EXPL 205.

This week, we are planning to divide the students by geographic region and help them conquer the task of establishing meaningful summer plans. We are ready for you now—so if you have something in mind with an impending deadline, do not hesitate to send it now. The CDO Staff will be in touch with you soon, so please keep an eye out for a separate email from a member of our staff asking you for your assistance.

Thank you in advance for helping other Kenyon students succeed.

Prepared by Allison Suflita, Associate Director
Networking: Kenyon-Style

A recent New York Times article highlighted the fact that more employers are making hiring decisions based upon employee recommendations. As new graduates contend with a challenging job market, many employers are receiving hundreds of applications for a single position. However, having a current employee pull your resume out of a pile can greatly increase your chances of getting an interview. This was my own experience with the Kenyon Career Network of amazing alumni.

When I began my job search in October, Assistant Director Karen Sheffield was kind enough to forward a series of internship emails from the CDO’s popular Internship Quest program. Internships are evolving into fantastic opportunities to jump-start careers. As I desired to parlay my sociology and women’s studies majors into the business world, I was looking for a summer internship after Kenyon that would allow me to get my feet wet. One of these emails sparked my interest: an alumna’s spouse was the CEO of a marketing/recruiting firm in Boston. I emailed the alumna’s spouse about a possible summer internship. Luckily, the CEO of this firm responded to my email inquiry. After a series of emails, we chatted on the phone during Thanksgiving Break. He then invited me to Boston over Winter Break to continue our conversation.

I arrived in Boston on a snowy January afternoon expecting to interview for a summer internship. However, after two grueling hours of interviews with several members of the firm’s team, the CEO informed me that they were considering hiring me for a full-time position. The CEO was impressed by my Kenyon background, and work-ethic. He was an enthusiastic supporter of his wife’s alma-mater, and applauded Kenyon for graduating intelligent young adults with excellent problem-solving capabilities.

Two weeks later I was offered a position with the company. The Career Development Office worked with me every step of the way: from practicing interviewing skills to reviewing and considering the offer.

I decided to accept the offer. The relief of having a job waiting for me after graduation is insurmountable. I know that it was the exceptional network of Kenyon alumni and the support of the Career Development Office staff that truly helped me take my first, tenuous step into the real world.

Prepared by Morgan Peele, Career Development Office Intern.

Kenyon Students Attend CareerFest 2013

On Friday February 1st, the Ohio Federation of Independent Colleges hosted CareerFest 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. Over 100 employers participated in the career fair with over 1000 students attending from 34 colleges and universities from across the state.

Students were able to connect with a variety of employers including JP Morgan, Gap Inc., McGraw-Hill Education, McMaster Carr, and Nationwide Insurance (visit www.ofic.org for a complete list). Employers were promoting full time positions as well as internship opportunities.

Students were invited to register ahead of time and indicate whether they needed transportation from Kenyon to the event. A total of 17 Kenyon students attended and two vans were driven by Leslie Harding and Allison Suflita to accommodate the 11 students needing transport. Those students that attended indicated that the career fair was a great way to connect with employers to learn about opportunities and would definitely recommend this event to other Kenyon students.

CareerFest is an annual, free event open to all OFIC member institutions. Even if your student is not interested in working in Ohio after graduation from Kenyon, CareerFest is a fantastic opportunity to hone networking skills in a professional environment. Encourage your student to attend next year!

Prepared by Leslie Harding, Associate Director
Connecting Students to Employers: Regional Interview Day Success

The Selective Liberal Arts Consortium’s Regional Interview Days were a great success once again. Kenyon is a proud partner of the Consortium, which in 2012-2013 consisted of 13 highly selective liberal arts institutions across the country.

Each year, the Consortium is responsible for organizing recruiting days in the late fall and early winter, geared toward helping your student connect with employers who are seeking liberal arts graduates for full-time positions and internships.

This past winter, the Selective Liberal Arts Consortium held recruiting days in Chicago, New York, Washington D.C. and San Francisco. Employer participation was high in the cities, since these events are an affordable way to interview the best and the brightest of the 13 partner schools. Legal, education, technology, finance, health care, management, and non-profits are a sampling of the types of employers who participated in the regional days.

The Chicago event took place in late November and students had the opportunity to interview with 14 employers. Our employer numbers were the highest in New York City in January, topping out at 30 employers and two information tables. The Washington D.C. event followed, with 22 employers and three information tables. San Francisco ended the “in-person” interview days with 16 employers.

The Consortium also organizes a Virtual Recruiting Fair, this year being held from April 1-8, where employers can review resumes from all partner schools and select students to interview.

What can my student do with a Kenyon Major?

Greetings Kenyon Parent!

I’ve heard the question raised countless times over the last 18 years, whether I was working at Seattle University back in the late 90’s or here at Kenyon in 2013. The short answer you often hear is that you can do anything you want to do with a liberal arts degree. The trouble is that isn’t a very comforting or useful statement to a 22 y.o. who, quite frankly, doesn’t know what they want to do. In some cases, they know what they want to do, but don’t know how to get there. But in any case, the answer offers little more than additional stress on an already stressful situation. So the short answer is one that I don’t offer. Instead, I will say that a liberal arts degree prepares you for everything, now and into the future. The skills obtained through a liberal arts education do not erode over time as some industry-specific knowledge or know-how might. To illustrate this, I offer this quote from a recent CNN article.

“Well, strange as it may sound, if you’re an employer who needs smart, creative workers, a 50-page honors project on a 19th century French poet might be just the thing you want to see from one of your job applicants. Not because you’re going to ask him or her to interpret any poetry on the job, but because you may be asking him or her, at some point, to deal with complex material that requires intense concentration - and to write a persuasive account of what it all means. And you may find that the humanities major with extensive college experience in dealing with complex material handles the challenge better - more comprehensively, more imaginatively - than the business or finance major who assumed that her degree was all she needed to earn a place in your company.”

--Michael Bérubé, Director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Pennsylvania State University, and the 2012 President of the Modern Language Association. CNN online article January 4th, 2012.

To read the full article, please visit: http://schoolsofthought.blogs.cnn.com/2013/01/04/my-view-what-will-you-do-with-an-english-degree-plenty/?iref=allsearch

I’m always impressed when I speak with recent alumni. The speed with which they rise in organizations is astounding. I recently spoke to a 2007 alumna in San Francisco who started at a social media company as a receptionist. Within two weeks she was promoted. She is now at the same organization as a Program Manager.

So now when a student or parent asks me, “what can be done with a Kenyon degree?”, the first thing I think is, “I wonder what they will do first?”

Prepared by Scott Layson, Director
Student Employment Opportunities at Kenyon

Is your student interested in working on campus in the future? If so, please encourage him/her to search for available student positions on the Career Development Office website, under the Student Employment link. Once students are on the Student Employment homepage, students should scroll about half way down the page to the “How to Find a Student Job” section, and follow the instructions for the Kenyon Career Connector.

Alternatively, students can go to http://kenyon-csm symplicity.com/ students/. From the homepage, students login by entering their Username, (their full Kenyon e-mail address), and their Password, which was sent to their Kenyon email address, and then hit Go. After they login, they can complete the following steps:

- Under “Shortcuts” on the right hand side of the page, select On-Campus Student Employment Jobs.

- Select any criteria that you would like to search for, or type in any keywords. Default is set to search all Student Employment positions. Click Search.

- Click on the job titles you are interested in and follow the prompts to apply* for each position.

(“The application requirements may vary for each campus employer, but students “must submit a resume” to apply for positions through the Kenyon Career Connector.)

If students do not have a resume and/or cover letter developed, it is a good idea to create them now, so that they can upload these documents when they start applying for jobs. Our guides are available to download from our website, at career.kenyon.edu.

When completing job applications, students should indicate if they are a Federal Work-study or Kenyon Institutional Work-study recipient in their resume, cover letter or another document. Students should check the job postings, and apply for positions frequently throughout the academic year.

If they would like to work on campus, they will need to bring appropriate identification with them to complete the I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification form, state and federal tax forms and the direct deposit form with the College. Per federal law, we must review original documents. Photocopies and faxed documents are not acceptable. Examples of the most common IDs are listed on the last page: http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-9.pdf. They must present either one item from List A or one item each from lists B and C.

If they are hired for campus positions, students must bring proper IDs to the Career Development Office, and complete the I-9 form, on or before their first day of work. They will record their hours on an online timesheet, and payment will be issued through direct deposit to their designated bank or credit union.

For more information, please contact Lisa Jones, Student Employment Coordinator, at 740-427-5165, or at stuemp@kenyon.edu.

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Our Mission
To facilitate the career success of students and alumni.

Services We Offer
- Career Assessments & Exploration
- Resume & Cover Letter Writing
- Extern Program
- Internship Search Assistance
- Job Search Tools
- Interview Preparation and Mock Interviews
- Graduate School Preparation
- Social Networking
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- Phone and Skype Appointments
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