The Future of Storytelling

On Wednesday November 13, the Career Development Office sponsored a talk on “The Future of Storytelling” presented by Kenyon College alumnus Geoffrey Long ’00. Additionally, students were invited to sign up for one-on-one meeting with him to discuss their career aspirations. Geoffrey was eager to share his advice and knowledge with students and encouraged them to reach out to him should they have any questions.

Geoffrey graduated from Kenyon as a double major in both English and Philosophy with concentrations in Creative Writing and the Integrated Program in Humane Studies (IPHS). After graduation, he pursued a master’s of science in Comparative Media Studies from MIT where his master’s thesis was titled “Transmedia Storytelling: Business, Aesthetics and Production at the Jim Henson Company.” Geoffrey went on to work as the Lead Narrative Producer for Microsoft Studios, in a think tank under Microsoft’s Chief Experience Officer and its Chief Software Architect, a researcher and Communications Director for the Singapore-MIT GAMBIT Game Lab, a magazine editor and an award-winning short film producer. As of August 2013, he serves as the Technical Director and Research Fellow for the Annenberg Innovation Lab at the University of Southern California (www.geoffreylong.com).

During his presentation, Geoffrey discussed the future of the narrative through the use of transmedia storytelling. Transmedia experiences use various media platforms (print, film, video games, web, etc.) to tell a story with each type of media adding a unique significance to the overall story. The connections between the media types are strategically designed to contribute to the entire experience. Examples included Star Wars, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Doctor Who, Assassins Creed, and many more. He also discussed the value of independent interactive art, which tends to rely heavily on social media. Designing transmedia stories was the final section of the presentation.

Geoffrey focused on four steps:

1. Discover – How will your audience find your story?
2. Collect – How will your audience acquire each piece of your story?
3. Consume – How difficult will it be for your audience to experience each piece of your story?
4. React – How will each piece of your story be set up for the audience to respond?

But above all else, tell a great story.

Prepared by Leslie Harding, Associate Director hardingl@kenyon.edu
One item on my growing list of things to be thankful for this year, are the students and employers who make my job so enjoyable. It has been a very busy semester, and now that our fall on-campus recruiting season is behind us, I wanted to share some reflections I had with employers who interviewed Kenyon students this semester for internships and full time positions. Turns out, they are pretty thankful for your students too!

Morningstar, Inc. is a leading provider of independent investment research in North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. They offer an extensive line of products and services for individual investors, financial advisors, asset managers, and retirement plan providers and sponsors. This year, they were recruiting at Kenyon for their Morningstar Development Program.

Jane Kapka, Human Resources Business Partner at Morningstar, Inc., shares a few reasons why they are interested in recruiting from Kenyon each year for their program. She stated, “(1.) Kenyon students have a variety of different interests and backgrounds, making them very interesting to speak with. (2.) The students tend to be adaptable, passionate, and creative thinkers. (3.) Also, students may share our Midwestern roots, and enjoy working in our downtown Chicago office.”

Another organization that considers location a factor in their recruiting process is Southern Teachers Agency. Recruiting at Kenyon since 2007, Southern Teachers Agency is the premiere PK-12 teacher and administrative recruitment service in the South, offering free teacher placement for candidates, in schools from Maryland south to Florida, and as far west as Texas.

STA provides personal service to their candidates and their schools. Just as Kenyon values the uniqueness of each individual student, Southern Teachers Agency focuses on and is recognized for knowing and honestly assessing their candidates.

In the last three years, Southern Teachers Agency has found jobs for 10 Kenyon graduates in private and independent schools. Shannon Johnston, Coordinator of College Recruitment states, “We continue to return to Kenyon each semester to meet students for the same reasons that our schools continue to hire them. Kenyon students are involved in a variety of activities and pursuits; they are grounded and bright, outgoing and genuine. We have taken notice that Kenyon students appreciate the efforts of, and care taken by, the professionals in the Kenyon community and sincerely believe Kenyon graduates are the product of a great liberal arts program. We look forward to connecting with Kenyon seniors each and every season!”

Carney, Sandoe & Associates is another highly recognized and respected teaching placement agency that recruits teacher and administrative candidates for schools across the country and abroad. Our campus recruiter for the past four semesters has been Schuyler Horn. Carney, Sandoe & Associates comes “back each year because Kenyon students have diverse interests, and they pursue their interests to best of their ability. Kenyon College is such a great environment for passionate learners, it gives them the support they need to excel in the classroom, and a foundation to build upon after graduation.”

While Morningstar, Southern Teachers Agency, and Carney, Sandoe & Associates have recruited at Kenyon College for some time, we also enjoyed the opportunity of bringing a new employer to campus this semester. A privately held independent consulting firm, Cambridge Associates provides consulting and investment services to over 900 clients worldwide.

A fan of candidates from the liberal arts, they have participated in the Washington D.C. Recruiting Day through the Selective Liberal Arts Consortium over the past few years. This year, Mr. Casey McIntyre, Director of Performance Reporting and Manager Information, came to Gambier to recruit for their Operations Associate role.

Asking Mr. McIntyre why they added Kenyon to their recruiting schedule, “We decided to broaden our recruiting horizon to include Kenyon College because we highly value individuals with critical thinking, communication and problem solving skills that are refined through a liberal arts education. We believe the rigorous academics at Kenyon College fosters an environment of discipline and encourages life-long learning, which translates to the culture at Cambridge Associates. Through our recruiting efforts we were introduced to polished, professional, intelligent and articulate students who are eager to have an opportunity to start a job where they can gain practical experience.”

This is a small sampling of the employers we work with regularly to recruit your student(s). If your student will be home for Thanksgiving Break, encourage them to find out which other employers are coming to campus, or are recruiting through another method. Most of this information can be found in Symplicity, at http://kenyon-csm.symplicity.com/students.

If you or your organization would be interested in hiring Kenyon students for internships or full-time opportunities, please call me at (740) 427-5165 or send an email to suflita@kenyon.edu. I would be happy to discuss the options that are available to your organization.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Prepared by: Allison Suflita, Associate Director of Career Development
Welcome Lee Schott!

We are excited to announce the arrival of our newest staff member, Lee Schott! Lee has been very familiar with Kenyon College since he was a child. Born and raised in Mt. Vernon, he spent a good deal of time exploring Kenyon’s campus and attending Kenyon-sponsored events.

Lee earned a B.A. in Psychology from Ohio Wesleyan in Delaware. He balanced his education with a variety of jobs and community involvement. He played on the OWU soccer team, worked at the local Krogers and in OWU’s Admissions Office, was active for two years in Big Brothers, studied abroad in Ireland, and was involved in many student groups. Needless to say, he can relate to many students at Kenyon College!

After graduation, he was accepted into AmeriCorps where he managed low-income, single-family homes in Columbus, Ohio, for a non-profit called Homeport. He returned to Mt. Vernon to teach in the Knox County school system and was ultimately hired by Kenyon to work in the Admissions Office for two years.

Lee wanted to work more closely with Kenyon students and promote the importance of thinking earlier about post-grad employment, so he made the switch to the Career Development Office this past October. Lee’s primary focus will be working with first-years and sophomores, and managing the Extern Program.

By connecting students with alumni, he hopes to be a catalyst by offering advice and guidance to assist them in discovering careers in which they find deep satisfaction after their Kenyon years.

Welcome Lee!

Documents Needed to Work on Campus

Is your student hoping to work on campus next semester but has never worked on campus before? If so, he/she will want to bring his/her I-9 verification documents to campus after break, enabling them to start working as soon as they secure a job. As with any job in the US, students must complete the Federal I-9 and present identifying documentation to our office within 3 days of their first day of work. The whole process goes much smoother if a student has the proper documentation with them on campus when they are offered a job.

Acceptable forms of identification are displayed in the table to the right. All documents must be current originals, NOT copies.

Student employees of the college will also be asked to fill out the federal and state tax withholding forms and complete a direct deposit form.

Available positions will be listed in the Symplicity system located on the Career Development Office website, at http://kenyon-csm.symplicity.com/students.

For more information, please contact Heidi Norris, Student Employment Coordinator, at (740) 427-5165, or at stuemp@kenyon.edu.
Each year many college seniors apply to graduate school with plans to enroll in the fall following college graduation. Continuing to grad school directly from undergrad seems like a safe choice. Professors sometimes advise undergraduates to continue straight on, especially if the goal is to earn a Ph.D. Some students worry that if they do not continue immediately after graduation, they will never go back. (Parents, we know you worry about this too.) For others applying to grad school is a lot less intimidating than a first-ever job search. Finally, on a personal level, a student may think his or her family will probably be proud of his or her ambition, his or her friends will be impressed because he or she has a sense of direction, and he or she will be able to answer the, "What are you going to do after graduation?" question at the next family holiday meal.

In most professional masters degree programs, however, work experience—experience away from the classroom—is highly sought-after if not required. If your student is an undergraduate debating whether to apply to grad school, or if they have recently been notified that he or she was not admitted to grad school, here are some reasons why waiting a few years to go back to school may be the wisest decision he or she can make.

Clarifying your chosen field - Experience in the field helps an individual to know whether he or she is headed the right direction.

Getting experience now means better learning later - Your student will be more motivated in his or her graduate program if he or she knows what is on the other end.

Strengthening your application to grad school - Your student will make a much more compelling argument as to why a program should accept him or her if it is based on real experience. Additionally, he or she will have more time to prepare for the GRE, GMAT, LSAT or whatever test is needed (if he or she isn’t applying on top of an already packed academic schedule during his or her senior year).

Strengthening your application to jobs later on - Your student will walk out of his or her graduate program with not only an advanced degree, but with experience (and some maturity) to back it up.

Improving your financial outlook - In a year or two out, he or she will have earned some money to help fund graduate school.

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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
- Custom Designed Programs
- Phone and Skype Appointments
- Student Employment Assistance

Prepared by Maureen Tobin, Graduate School and Preprofessional Advisor