

February 2010

CAREER CONNECTIONS

A BAROMETER SPECIAL SECTION

CAREER SERVICES

PRESENTS

Winter Career Fair

**TUESDAY
FEB. 16**

11 A.M.-4 P.M.

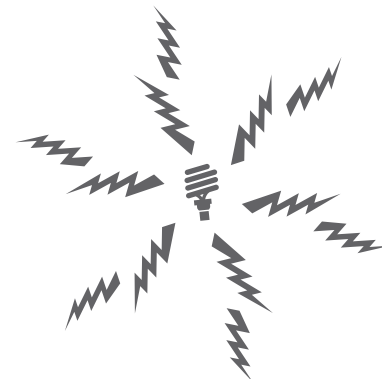
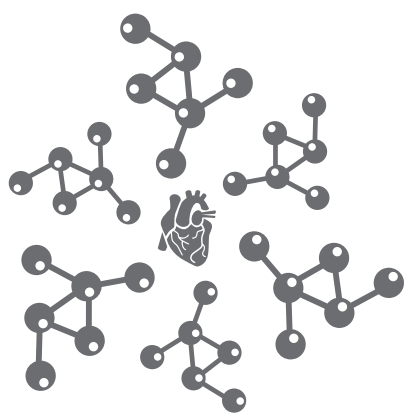
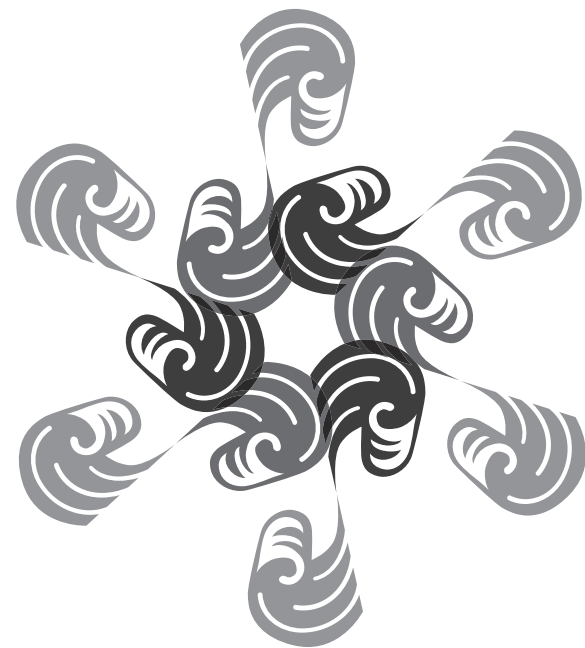
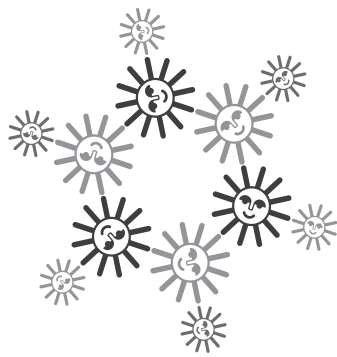
CH2M Hill Alumni Center
725 SW 26th Street

Engineering Fair

**WEDNESDAY
FEB. 17**

11 A.M.-4 P.M.

CH2M Hill Alumni Center
725 SW 26th Street



Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

MYTH: THERE ARE NO JOBS OR INTERNSHIPS FOR ME

FACT: THERE ARE MANY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Your Career Services team hopes all OSU students are having a great winter term! This past year, most of you have witnessed in the media disturbing news about the global recession. Some areas have been hit harder than others. The Pacific Northwest has been significantly affected, especially with high unemployment rates. However, please keep in mind the unemployment numbers for college degree holders are much lower than the overall averages you see published. There ARE job and internship opportunities available, but maybe at slightly reduced rates. Connecting and networking with employers is becoming more important than ever before. Estimates show between 60-90% of college graduate employment is obtained through networking.

We hope you find the information enclosed in this insert useful as you read about some of the upcoming career events. There will be lots of employers on the campus during the next few weeks. Some will be conducting workshops during the Beaver Career Days which will be held on Feb 11th, 12th, and 15th in Career Services located in the basement of the Kerr Admin Building. More than 100 employers will be attending the Winter 2010 Career Fairs and they want to talk to YOU. They are coming to hire OSU students for internships and full time positions. The all-majors Career Fair will be held on Feb 16th and the Engineering Fair will be held on Feb 17th. Even if you don't see a company you are specifically interested in on the list of attendees (<https://oregonstate-csm.symplicity.com/events/>) we highly encourage all students to stop by the CH2M Hill Alumni Center and make a connection with some of the employers and recruiters. This is a great opportunity to network with prospective future employers and also learn about internships. It is never too early to start planning for your future—so don't put off these opportunities. We hope to see you at the Beaver Career Days workshops and the winter Career Fairs!

Doug Cochran
Director
Career Services

Special thanks to our Premier Employers!

ViewPlus Technologies, Inc.
Xantrion
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Northwestern Mutual
Marquis Companies
Hitachi Consulting
Maxim Integrated Products
RealNetworks, Inc.
Shimmick Construction
Mowat Construction Company
Hill International, Inc.
ESI, Inc.
Slayden Construction Group, Inc.
Kiewit
WebMD
Harder Mechanical Contractors
ESCO Corporation
BIOTRONIK / Micro Systems Engineering
Turner Construction
Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc.
Mead & Hunt, Inc

What's Working?

By: Anne Lapour, Career Counselor

What's working?

As a career counselor, I get this question all the time from students at every phase of the job search process. There's no perfect formula. Fortunately, I meet with many students—many of whom ARE having success in the job search. I've noticed some patterns among these successful job applicants. And yes, I'll share them with you. Here's what they have in common...

1. They've experienced rejection as well as success.

Generally speaking, the students I meet who find jobs have also experienced their fair share of rejection. But they keep plugging away, and they stay positive. If you're using all your resources and tapping all the options you can, you will experience some rejection.

2. They continually hone their resume.

If you're using the exact same resume for every job you apply for...stop. You should tailor your resume to the exact position you apply to. This doesn't mean there will be drastic changes—your format and basic info remains the same. But make adjustments for the job you want.

3. They do a mock interview. Or two. Or three.

Sorry to break it to you, but nobody is a "born interviewee". An interview isn't a particularly natural situation, even in the best of circumstances. This means you'll need to practice. A lot.

4. They're devoting a lot of time to the process.

As I tell students all the time, your job search should feel like a part-time job, or even an extra class. That can be daunting, so try breaking it up. Even just 20 minutes per day can really push you ahead of the competition.

5. They're flexible.

Not every job can be your dream-job, fulfilling all your "criteria". You don't have to sacrifice all your preferences, but perhaps at least one or two. Location. Status. The type of organization you work for. (Consider non-profits or government jobs as well as private companies.)

And remember...Career Services is here for you when the job search seems confusing or unproductive. Come see us! 541-737-4085

WANTED: Engineering Students for Summer Employment at Lane County Public Works!



The Construction Services Section is now hiring for the summer 2010 construction season.

Successful applicants will:

- Gain hands-on skills
- Acquire experience in the field
- Learn firsthand about the engineering and construction industry

Spend your summer:

- Working on construction survey, construction inspection, and materials testing teams;
- Interacting with Construction Services staff, contractors and members of the public;
- Helping create the infrastructure of Lane County.

Interested?

Download applications at www.lanecounty.org/jobs
Submit online to Jobs@co.lane.or.us as a Word document.
Applications also available at HR, 125 E 8th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401. 541/682-3665. Refer to posting SUM10A.

Application Period: February 14 – March 12

Must be 18 or older at time of hire and possess valid Oregon Driver's License.

Applicants MUST attach Certified Court Print DMV Record (5-year employment & non-employment driving history) to application or fax it to 541-682-8500.

These records can be obtained at the DMV; must be dated within 30 days of application & received by 3/16.

We only accept Certified Court Print Driving Records. EOE / ADA

Look for us at the Engineering Career Fair.

FIRE MOUNTAIN GEMS™ and Beads "Friendly Service" Since 1973

Come visit us at the University-Wide Career Fair Tuesday, February 16!

Fire Mountain Gems and Beads is a leading direct marketing company in the jewelry-making industry and has been satisfying customers with excellent products and customer service for over 35 years. We successfully market our products through our technologically advanced e-commerce site and our extensive catalogs to a broad, international customer base of creative jewelry makers, jewelry stores, and crafters.

We are searching for enthusiastic college grads for challenging positions in the following areas:

Web Programming

- Join a team of fun, bright, experienced programmers
- Work with the latest technologies; VB.NET, ASP.NET, MySQL

Web Analytics

- Begin your career in one of today's hottest fields
- Utilize current tools including Omniture and WebTrends

Marketing

- Web or Print—we have it both!
- Looking for Web and Print Designers, and Copywriters

Based in Grants Pass, Oregon, Fire Mountain Gems is located in one of the most picturesque areas on the West Coast. The Rogue River flows right through the heart of the city and outdoor activities are abundant, with rafting, fishing, hiking, skiing, golf, and many other adventures just minutes away from the Fire Mountain Gems headquarters.

We offer competitive wages and a generous benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, & Life Insurance, employer-match 401k plan, paid time off, and more.

For immediate consideration, visit our web site at www.firemountaingems.com and apply through the Employment Opportunities link.
Drug Free Workplace, EOE

Mark Your Calendar Now!



Spring Term OSU Career Fair

Wednesday, April 21

11am-4pm

CH2M Hill Alumni Center

Department of Recreational Sports

“Not just a great place to work-out...
It’s a great place to work!”

The Department of Recreational Sports is one of the largest employers of students at Oregon State University. RecSports employs over 350 students each year. We have a variety of jobs including:

- Lifeguards
- Fitness Instructors
- DRS Facility Operations Staff
- Climbing Center Staff
- Outdoor Center Operations Staff
- Challenge Course Facilitators
- Safety Staff
- Intramural Officials
- Facility Maintenance Staff
- Fitness Technicians
- Wellness Staff
- Recreation Services



If you are interested in working for RecSports, pick up an application at either entry desk to Dixon Rec Center or COME SEE US AT THE CAREER FAIR!

Explore Careers and Practice Interviewing in Your Pajamas

Career Services has two programs for the sole use of OSU students: Vault Career Insider and InterviewStream. Both are available on the Career Services website: <http://oregonstate.edu/career>

Vault Career Insider



- Download Career Guides
- Look at Employer profiles and rankings
- Read discussion boards, industry blogs and news covering of the latest trends and issues
- Learn about diversity, green programs and leadership development profiles
- View Vault’s job board, which matches employers and recruiters with top talent (that’s you!)

“Ask Anne”



Dear Anne,

How do I answer the “what is your weakness” question in an interview? I never know what to say. I always thought you were supposed to say a weakness that’s also a strength, but now I’m hearing that it’s too cliché to say something like “I’m a perfectionist”. What’s the right way to go?

Sincerely,
Confused in Corvallis

Dear “Confused in Corvallis”,

Ah, the weakness question. It’s tricky, isn’t it? It’s a delicate balance. The career website “wetfeet.com” sums it up really well in a recent article (Seasholtz, 2010). When an interviewer asks you about your greatest weakness, they’re interested in not only the content, but also how you answer. Is it a well-articulated response? And what does it say about you? As for the “perfectionist” answer—I’m afraid it’s one that’s overstayed its welcome. It falls under the “cliché” category. Here are a few others:

“I’m a perfectionist” and “I’m a workaholic”

The oldest trick in the book is to take a weakness and turn it into a strength—and it’s one that any seasoned interviewer knows and hates. “It comes off to gimmicky, clever, insincere, and not putting in effort to think about the answer,” says Lewis Lin, founder of Seattle Interview Coach and former hiring manager for Microsoft and Google.

• “I procrastinate” and “I’m disorganized”

Honesty is the best policy, but these answers tend to be a little too honest. Although you may brag to friends about making your deadlines in the final seconds, it will not impress interviewers.



Plug in a camera, choose questions, and conduct a mock interview. You can do this from home or schedule a time to use equipment in Career Services (basement of Kerr). You can view your interview and send it to others for review. To access, log into Beaver JobNet of the Career Services website.

• “I have high expectations for myself.”

This answer translates into “I put a lot of pressure on myself,” and this is bad for two reasons: first, you may be unpleasant to work with; second, you may become easily stressed out, which is a concern for employers.

• “I don’t know.”

A red flag answer that shows the employer you’re not self-aware or that you can’t think on your feet. Everyone has a flaw. Identify it, and preferably before the interview so you’re not put on the spot.

• “I don’t have any.”

Another red flag. It’s best to avoid sounding egotistical, defensive, and phony in an interview, and this answer is all three. As stated before, you need to identify a weakness before you’re put on the spot.

So now you’re probably wondering what on earth you should say in an interview! According to Seasholtz, here are the qualities of the “million dollar answer”:

“Break your response into three parts. “First, demonstrate you’re self-aware by stating a weakness. Second, share how you’re taking initiative to improve upon it. And third, discuss your success thus far—or as Lin says, tell the ‘happy ending’ of it all.

For example, if you’re bad at giving presentations, you might identify your weakness as public speaking. Tell how you overcame this weakness by constantly volunteering to present on behalf of your department in your old job, or attending Toastmasters meetings. Then reflect on your comfort level with presenting now.

Just remember to keep it short and sweet—Neece says most interviewers lose focus after 60 seconds of monologue, so practice making your story as concise as possible.”

Content from:

<http://www.wetfeet.com/Experienced-Hire/Getting-hired/Articles/The-Weakness-Question.aspx>

LOOKING FORWARD



Keeping an eye on the future has made us who we are today. Becoming a global leader in energy production takes clear vision, commitment to excellence, and the ability to look to the future. That’s why at Pacific Power, a division of PacifiCorp, we’re always looking for bright, new talent. Smart, dedicated individuals who want to make a difference and help us as we try to better our environment and positively impact the lives of our customers. If you have the focus and drive to work in a fast-paced, ever-changing industry, Pacific Power has great career opportunities including the salaries, benefits, training and technology that keep everyone growing.

Visit www.pacificpower.net, click on the CAREERS link at the bottom, and look forward with us.



How Can I Get a Job Without Experience?!

How Can I Get Experience Without a Job?!

The Answer: Internships

An internship or is an on-site work experience that is related to your major or possible career interest. During the academic year, internships are typically part-time and you take regular OSU courses while working. Students need professional work experience to compete in the entry-level job market.

Intern for Experience and Exploration

Employers are looking for additional experience and skills that will set you apart from other graduates. In today's job market, a college degree doesn't guarantee employment upon graduation. Internships help you gain valuable skills and demonstrate your abilities and interests.

Internships also help you make career decisions. They allow you to "reality check" your current career goal. If you are undecided within your major, still searching for a major, or trying to narrow your career options, internships offer an opportunity for you to see what the industry, field, or job title entails.

Intern from freshman year through graduate school

A freshman or sophomore can benefit from just being exposed to a professional environment. It prepares you to take on bigger roles later on. Brian, an OSU zoology freshman, started his internship at a reptile breeder by cleaning the cockroach cage – not the best job, but the employer saw he was committed and gave him a promotion.

Juniors and seniors can often contribute considerable expertise and skill. Nathan, a marketing senior, expanded the business of a local internet provider, by targeting new segments and employing "hip" methods to promote services.

Many resources are available for students in search of an internship:

- Hundreds of internships are posted on Beaver JobNet every year. Log in from our website, <http://oregonstate.edu/career> and search by many criteria. Visit often as internships can come and go quickly.
- Career Services has postings and directories which can be used to identify publicized opportunities. Internship experiences are posted on the Career Services web site at <http://oregonstate.edu/career>. Use the "Students" menu to find the "Internships" link.
- Register with Beaver JobNet. Did you know that many recruiters are coming to OSU to interview students for internships? To learn more about on-campus interviews and utilizing Beaver JobNet in your internship search, contact Career Services at 737-4085.
- Meet with a career counselor to learn about search strategies, such as networking, finding unlisted internships, or alternative resources.
- Speak with your college internship coordinator, academic advisor, or faculty members who may be aware of opportunities specific to your field.
- The IE3 Global Internship program is an outstanding option for those interested in international experience. Visit <http://ie3global.ous.edu> for more information, including lists of opportunities.
- You should also plan to attend the Winter Career Fair on Tuesday, February 16 and/or the Engineering Fair on February 17. Most companies are recruiting for interns as well as full-time employees.

As you prepare for your internship search, Career Services can help you sharpen your tools, such as resume writing and interview skills. Regardless of your year in school, your major, or your previous experience, an internship may be the best thing you can do to supplement your academic program at OSU. The insights you gain about the world of work and the job-related skills you develop will prove invaluable!

Winter Career Fair Workshops

February 11, 2010

10:00-11:00	Effective Job Search
12:00-1:00	Resume Writing
10:00-3:00	Wardrobe & Makeover Event (MU Ballroom)
2:00-3:00	Interviewing Skills

February 12, 2010

11:00-12:00	Finding an Internship
12:00-1:00	Success at the Career Fair
2:00-3:00	Resume Writing

February 15, 2010

2:00-4:00	Spread Mock Interviews (sign up at www.oregonstate.edu/career)
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*All workshops held in Career Services located in 008 Kerr Administration Building – unless otherwise noted. Refreshments will be provided.



The Ten Keys to Success at Job and Career Fairs

As with any situation where you find yourself with a potential employer, job-seekers must be prepared to ask insightful questions of recruiters at job and career fairs.

There are four categories of questions you can ask recruiters at career and job fairs. Each category of questions has a specific strategy. Which questions should you ask? It depends on the recruiter, on your interest and knowledge of the company, and how much time you have with the recruiter.

Strategic Comeback Questions

These questions are designed to give job-seekers the chance to respond to the recruiter's answer with a positive spin on how you perfectly fit (and ideally exceed) what the company is looking for in an employee.

- What kinds of skills and experience do you look for in the employees you hire?
- What are the characteristics of your most successful employees?
- Are graduate degrees important to advancing within your organization? Which ones?
- Which courses or experiences do you suggest to be a successful candidate?

Strategic Planning Questions

These questions are designed to give the job-seeker more information and knowledge about the hiring process for each particular employer.

- What kind of entry-level positions (or internships) exist within your organization?
- Does your company hire on a continual basis or just at certain times of the year?
- How long does the hiring process take? What does it consist of?
- What percent of applicants are eventually hired? What is the retention rate?

Key Company Information

These questions are designed to provide you with critical inside information you need to know when making a decision about the attractiveness of each potential employer. Remember, a job fair is a two-way street and you should be evaluating these companies as much as they are evaluating you.

- Are there specific career tracks within the organization? In other words, what can a typical employee (for the position I am seeking) hired in your division expect to be doing 2, 5, or 10 years after hiring?
- What is your organization's culture like?
- For how many years does the typical employee stay with the company?
- Are there opportunities for ongoing training through your organization?
- Do you expect your employees to relocate? How much travel is involved?

Recruiter Information

Some experts advise not asking the recruiter personal questions relating to his or her job, but especially if the recruiter is an alum of your university -- or you have some other personal connection -- these questions are fine. Even if there is no connection, these questions can be asked -- and their answers can provide you with some critical insights.

- What made you choose this company and why do you stay?
- How long have you been with the company?
- What's the one thing that most surprised you about this company?

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