

The Career Connection

Spring 2007

Southern Connecticut State University

Vol. VII Issue I

Personal information online can detract or enhance your professional image. If you would not want your parent or employer to see it, then it has no place on the World Wide Web.

In This Edition

Vice President Ronald Herron on Student Success
Page 2

Career Calendar
Pages 2-4

Alumni Spotlights
Page 3

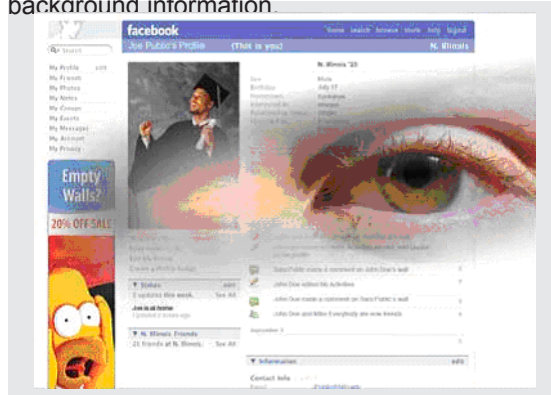
Career Myths and Facts
Page 4

SCSU Career Services
Schwartz Hall
Room 102
501 Crescent St.
New Haven, CT
06515
Tel: 203.392.6536
Fax: 203.392.6541

Facing Unemployment Because of Facebook?

By Bethany Ruotolo

How would you feel if your parent or supervisor accessed your Facebook account? Would a company manager contact you for an interview if they saw what you posted? Although you may not want to believe it, employers are Google-ing prospective job candidates to obtain background information.



According to Facebook.com, the site has a network of 16 million users. This makes students' personal information bait for background checks. Although some would argue this information is private, it is displayed on the Internet so that anyone with a Facebook account can access it, including pictures, quotes, and comments from your friends.

"The thought of an employer reviewing your information can be a scary thought to a candidate, especially in the case of a college student or recent graduate," commented Brian Krueger, President of CollegeGrad.com. "But as long as the information is posted publicly, it is available to others and could potentially hinder your job search. It could keep you from getting the job. Or, from even getting the interview in the first place and usually you won't know why."

Students who have kept their personal sites appropriate may have a networking advantage. During her job search Catherine

Germann, a 2005 Information Technology graduate from Rochester Institute of Technology, was contacted by a recruiter. He had seen her resume online and Googled her name for additional information. After discovering her personal website and finding that they had a mutual friend, he contacted her for an interview. Catherine had cleaned up her personal pages and adjusted the privacy settings to project a more professional image. Her site assisted her in finding a potential employment opportunity.

In addition, information about you on a friend's web space may be a liability. Do a Google search on yourself. If you find there are pictures or information about you on someone else's site, ask them to remove it. If they refuse you may be able to do damage control by putting your own positive information out on the web. Generally, people will only view items that come up on the first page of a search.

Personal information online can detract or enhance your professional image. The responsibility is yours regarding the quality of information you share with millions of other users. If you would not want your parent or employer to see it, then it has no place on the World Wide Web.

OOPS...I can't believe that happened!

Chris, a junior Marketing major here at Southern, met an employer at the Career Fair last fall and was called back for an interview. Chris had heard stories about employers looking up Facebook accounts and had cleaned up his account to present a professional image. Chris was prepared when he arrived to the interview and, after a brief explanation about the importance of projecting the appropriate image to clients, was asked by the interviewer to log into his Facebook account so the interviewer could view his profile. Chris avoided what could have been a major OOPs, however, all the students interviewing that day were not as lucky!

Career Calendar

Career Workshops

All Career Workshops are held in the Career Center located in Schwartz Hall Room 102. Registration is encouraged.

3/5, 4/16, 5/1 Job Search Strategies
3/2, 4/25 What Can I Do with my Major?
4/12, 5/7 Don't Sweat the Interview
3/8, 4/27 What is a Co-op?
3/14, 3/29, 4/3 Making the Most of Career Fair
3/17, 4/17 Career Services 101

Career Events

RESUMANIA

Stop by with your resume for a quick review by a member of our professional staff.

3/13 11am-2pm, Engleman Hall
3/28 4:30pm-6:30pm, Davis Hall
4/4 11am-2pm, Schwartz Hall
4/19 11am-2pm, North Campus

Career Fairs

4/9 Education and Nursing
4/10 General Career Fair

Continued next page

Vice President Herron discusses his commitment to student success

Q. What is the best advice you would give a student who wasn't sure about what major/career to choose?

Explore, explore, explore, and when you have finished that, explore some more. The fact is that our largest major for freshmen is undeclared. According to national data, the average student changes his or her major 4-6 times. I don't consider someone who is undecided as being on a path they shouldn't be on. What concerns me is the student who is still undecided, and still on that path, at the end of sophomore year. Explore, decide, and don't be tentative. Do field work, engage in research and collaborative service-learning projects, do things outside of the university. Be open. Do the Discover program in Career Services; that software helps students think about their strengths, attributes, hopes, and about the requirements in the world of work. We tend to know a very narrow range of careers, based upon what our parents, families, neighbors, and people we have known do. That probably rules out about 98% of the available places in the world of work where one can do something interesting, exciting and rewarding. The four (or more) years of college are some of the most exciting and challenging years in an entire lifetime; if used wisely, these years can be used to help students discover themselves.

"The four (or more) years of college are some of the most exciting and challenging years in an entire lifetime; if used wisely, these years can be used to help students discover themselves."

Q. What do you feel are some of the most important things a student can do to prepare for life after graduation?

Employers are not just looking at your degree and grades. They are looking at who you are and what you value. Academic performance is critical, but it is not all that is important. Employers are looking for potential employees who can successfully perform many roles at the same time, and keep them all in balance, i.e. someone who is engaged in life outside of their primary role of student. They are really not evaluating someone on the basis of the quantity of activities participated in, for example 14 clubs and 16 community



Dr. Ronald D. Herron, Vice President for Student and University Affairs

organizations. They are evaluating the quality of that participation and what it reveals. Involvement in a community service group, church group, or a social service agency, demonstrates a kind of depth of character, and employers want to see the kind of initiative, compassion, and team work that comes out of those activities. In addition, if you are an undergraduate thinking about a career that requires an advanced degree you should consider doing things to get poised to be a better graduate school applicant, including pushing yourself academically and seeking out opportunities to work closely with faculty in research projects which foster scholarships.

Q. One of Southern's core values is student success. Looking to the future, what can Southern do to help students achieve success?

I think we need to be active and intentional in the way we assist students in making choices about majors and careers. I've always felt that very few people "run a race" well if they don't know where the finish line is! First, we need to help the students define and refine. Number two, we need to streamline, making transparent all of our administrative processes. Many students have reported, both anecdotally and in the NSSE assessment data that they really don't feel supported, or informed about how to navigate the administrative process, about what steps they need to take to become an enrolled student, once admitted. So we have produced a booklet for incoming students from the point of admission to enrollment to assist them in taking the right steps. This booklet has everything in it, from instructions on getting a MYSCSU e-mail account, to being prepared to transact business from registration to paying bills electronically, to living on campus, coming to orientation, and getting involved in clubs and organizations. There is also a check list which will help them keep track of becoming a Southern student and what is necessary to join the Southern

Alumni Spotlights

By Bethany Ruotolo

A Passion to Change Students' Lives

With a passion to help and change students' lives, Terra Johnson completed her Bachelor of Science degree in an astounding two and a half years at Southern Connecticut State University. Immediately, Terra began substitute teaching for secondary levels in the Milford public schools. She now works as the Marketing/Campaign Director for United Way in Norwalk, CT. Although she loves her current position at the United Way, she still finds time every week to do what she has always loved to do, teach. She knows that Career Services helped her not only find a job, but has given her tools and knowledge necessary to succeed in any work environment.



Terra Johnson, '05, Marketing Campaign Director, United Way of Norwalk

Management Potential

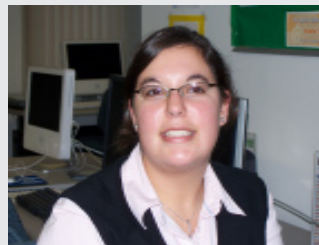
Jamel Lewis distinguished himself as a student while at Southern. As a player on the Owl's football team, Communication major, Conference Assistant/Supervisor, and intern for the Center for Career Services at Southern he was certainly a man about campus. Jamel has taken the skills he developed while at Southern and is parlaying them into a career at Sherwin-Williams. As a member of the Management Training Program at Sherwin-Williams. Jamel will train first to become an Assistant Manager and hopes to soon work his way up to a Manager position. Jamel credits the Career Center for encouraging him to become successful in the professional world.



Jamel Lewis, '06, Management Trainee, Sherwin-Williams

Political Science Grad Runs for Office

In Jennifer's four years of studying at Southern Connecticut State University, her accomplishments were many, including being a Resident Advisor, an Online Mentor for the Disability Resource Center, the Assistant Editor of the Resident Life News Magazine, and a member of the Student Career Council, just to name a few. With a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, she now works as a Business Analyst at Coface Services International Trading Company in New Haven. Her determination even led her to run for Legislative Council for the 3rd District to help improve and revitalize our society. Since graduation Jennifer has not only grown to become successful within the professional world, but has also become influential in the community. Jennifer's ongoing involvement with the Career Center has helped her to gain the skills to succeed in all her endeavors.



Jennifer Cutrali, '04, Business Analyst, Coface Services International Trading Company, 2006 Candidate for Legislative Council for the 3rd District

community. To assist students once they are a part of the Southern community the administration is working on establishing a one stop shopping information center, which will be an integrated student services center in Wintergreen where students can go to transact all of their administrative business with the university, rather than having to go "from office to office". In addition, we're also totally rethinking the new student orientation. Hopefully by the fall we'll have a first year experience course, a 3 credit course, which will in effect introduce students to the university. We are working on a lot of things right now to improve student success, including improving recognitions and celebrations of the incredible, outstanding achievements of our students. We should always be willing to stand and cheer for our students; they deserve it!

Career Calendar

Both fairs will be held in Michael J. Adanti Student Center, 1:00pm-4:30pm

On Campus Interviews

All on campus interviews are held in the Career Center, SZ 102, unless otherwise noted. Please submit your refined resume to the Career Center at least one week prior to the interview date.

This is a list of interviews compiled to date, additional interviews will be added throughout the semester.

- 4/17 Waterbury Public Schools
- 4/18 Oce North America
- 4/18 First Investors
- 4/19 Primerica Financial Services
- 4/20 Marrakech
- 4/23 Sherwin-Williams
- 4/24 CT Tech High School System
- 4/25 Wallingford Public Schools
- 4/25 W.B. Mason
- 4/26 First Investors
- 4/27 Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- 4/30 W.B. Mason
- 5/1 Bridgeport Public Schools
- 5/2 Serra Creative

Continued next page

Career Calendar

Staffing

5/3 Lyle Group

5/4 ABF Freight Systems

5/7 Northwestern Mutual

5/8 Bristol Public Schools

5/8 Middlesex

Mutual Assurance

5/9 New York Life

5/10 Defense

Contract

Management

Agency

5/11 Social

Security

Administration

Informational Recruitment Sessions

All Informational

Recruitment

Sessions are held

in the Student

Center Lobby

unless otherwise

noted.

3/15 Public Allies

from 10am-2pm

4/18 First

Investors from

10am-2pm

4/25 W.B. Mason

from 10am-2pm

4/25 Kaplan Test

Prep from 10am-

2pm

Career Myths and Facts

Myth #1

There is one perfect job for me!

Fact!

It is good for students to have specific career goals as they go through college. However, it is unlikely that your first job out of school will encompass **everything** you want. With many people, getting to the job of their dreams requires experience in several different positions. Be open to the many possibilities that are out there and you may find yourself in a job you never thought you'd have!

Myth #2

Career Services is only for students who are looking for jobs, and know what type of job they are looking for.

Fact!

Sure, Career Services has hundreds of listings for jobs both on and off campus. But the Career Center also offers many resources and programs to help students select a major, research potential careers, brush up on interviewing skills, and so much more. Schedule an appointment with a career counselor or stop by Schwartz Hall 102 and learn how we can help you.



Myth #3

As long as I have good grades, I will be able to get a good job.

Fact!

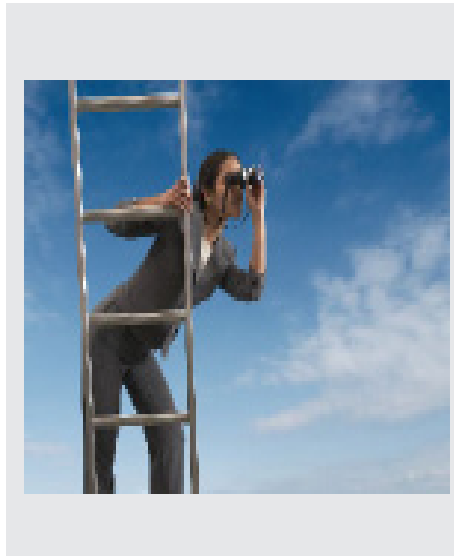
Although grades are important when finding a career, most employers look for employees who also have good communication and leadership skills, technical skills, integrity, motivation, and who have interned or done volunteer work.

Myth #4

The most important thing I can do to prepare for an interview is to know my own strengths and weaknesses.

Fact!

You need to know your own strengths and be prepared to showcase those using specific examples from past experiences. However it is important to know about the organization you are interviewing with and how your strengths fit the employers needs. Therefore it is important to research the organization before the interview. The Vault is a good place to start, visit the SCSU Career Center website (careers.southernct.edu) to gain access. This is just one of many tools that can be used to research an organization or industry, you may also want to visit the website of the organizations where you are applying to work.



The Career Connection

Center for Career Services Southern Connecticut State University

Phone 203.392.6536 www.careers.southernct.edu

Marge Fadden, Director

Pat Whelan, Associate Director

Gerry Prince, Recruitment Coordinator

Andrea Barton, Associate for Career Services

Julia Doherty, Assistant Director

Aimee Bonn, Assistant Director

Susan Larson, Secretary

Charlie Davison, Clerk Typist

Aimee Piccin, Graduate Intern

Jenna Trojanowski, Intern

Tim Faherty, Intern

Bethany Ruotolo, Intern

Special Thanks: Dr. Ronald Herron, Terra Johnson, Jamel Lewis, Jennifer Cutrali, Chris Zavesky, and Nancy Margiano