Director’s Corner

Rachel Loock, Director of Undergraduate Programming, Office of Career Services

Serendipity is the ability to take a chance occurrence -- a surprising idea, person or event -- and make creative use of it.

Yet serendipity can be difficult to pull off in the midst of our busy lives. As creatures of habit we are wired to find the things that match our expectations and ignore what doesn't. Our daily routines only reinforce this behavior, limiting those we see and interact with everyday.

Big events that matter most are often those that we can least predict. This is often true in the job search process. For example, the course or that inspires you to change your major, a job lead from a friend of a friend referring you to a company you have never heard of before.

Making the most of unexpected moments comes with positive thought, the act of living in the moment, seizing opportunity, and creating action.

What makes serendipity work when looking for a job or internship? It has to do with personal attributes and positive characteristics of the individual, as career professional, John Krumboltz states in his Planned Happenstance Theory. Krumboltz states “that people with optimistic qualities are more likely to capitalize on chance events and turn serendipity into opportunity.”

Whereas, more pessimistic individuals might get frustrated with the same event, dismissing it as insignificant or bothersome. This critical difference is imperative both in career and life success. Those who are optimistic, flexible and develop a positive attitude to cope with challenges tend to get the most out of unplanned events, especially those who try to see things from a new perspective and are open to change. To start using serendipity in your job search, keep the steps below in mind:

- Be observant and inquisitive – Observe those who enjoy and are successful at their jobs
- Become a savvy networker
- Use coaches, mentors, faculty and staff advisors effectively
- Get involved beyond your academic coursework—workshops, clubs and volunteer opportunities provide networking and professional development opportunities that can lead to career success!
The 2012 Undergraduate Career Fair was attended by approximately 850 students and 80 companies (represented by 86 booths). The Freshmen/Sophomore First Look held during the first hour of the fair provided the opportunity for students to network with recruiters in a less crowded environment. New employers participating this year included:

- Dell
- Stifel Nicolaus
- The Charmer-Sunbelt Group
- Teach for America
- Excella Consulting
- Siemens
- JB Hunt Transport
- Kohl’s
- Berkley Research Group
- JCPenney
- Biegel and Waller
- The Hartford
- Insight Global, Inc.
- Coastal Sunbelt Produce
- Dixon Hughes Goodman
- MyOwn TM
- Net Impact Strategies
- Nielsen
- The Princeton Review
- Verigent
- Wawa

Undergraduate Club Spotlight – Accounting and Business Association (ABA)

An Interview with Matt Chin, Co-President, ABA

Periodically, the Undergraduate Career Connection will feature an undergraduate club or organization to help educate students about the opportunities for extracurricular involvement and professional development at the Smith School. This issue features the ABA.

**OCS:** Tell us about the upcoming ABA career fair that will take place on September 20th. How should students prepare?

**MC:** The ABA career fair is our signature annual event this Thursday, September 20th, from 3:30-6pm at Riggs. Over 25 firms will be in attendance as well as a few other organizations related to accounting such as the Smith school’s master’s program. Students should come dressed business professional, research the firms attending prior to the fair and bring copies of their resumes. Many of the recruiting partners have mentioned how evident it is when students are not prepared, so it is wise to do a little research ahead of time.

**OCS:** Do students have to belong to ABA to attend the fair?

**MC:** Approximately 40+ members attend our meetings on a regular basis and a considerably larger number receive information about ABA through our listerv.
MC: Students do not have to belong to the ABA to attend the fair. The ABA is an open membership club. If they are interested in the firms attending, they are welcome to come.

OCS: What other events does ABA host throughout the year?

The ABA hosts meetings on most Tuesdays from 5-6pm in VMH 1330. We feature different firms that give presentations on various topics regarding professional development. Time is also allowed at the end to network with the employer. It is a great opportunity to hear from the employer and meet people in the industry. We also host a mentor program and reception in the spring semester where students who are interested can sign up to be paired with an employee at a firm and have them as a personal contact there. Check out our website at marylandaba.com for details on our events.

OCS: What have you enjoyed most about serving as ABA co-president? MC: The relationships I have built and opportunities it has given me. I cannot put into words how monumental of an effect it has had on my professional and personal development. Walking down the halls I know so many more people whether it's from the ABA or other SUSA meetings. It was my first big involvement on campus and I definitely think everyone should get involved with a club in order to fully experience what Smith has to offer.

OCS: What suggestions do you have for students who wish to obtain a leadership position in ABA or other SUSA clubs?

MC: Shoot for the highest position you feel you can handle. Serving as co-president of the ABA (or any club) requires a huge commitment. I almost did not run for co-president and now that I am here, I definitely do not regret it. I was only a sophomore and did not believe that people would elect me or that I was ready. It was a position outside of my comfort zone because it involved networking with recruiters and was just a huge responsibility. However, I have grown immensely from this experience thus far and would welcome people looking to get involved and who are willing to make the ABA, or any club for that matter, a priority, to run. Definitely do it if you're thinking about it because you never know what will happen and the opportunities that arise are just to great to pass up!

**SUSA & Club Programming Events**

**September 20th, 3:30-6:00 pm**
ABA Accounting Career Fair, Riggs Alumni Center

**September 21, 2012**
AkPsi Consulting Career Fair

**September 26, 2012**
Careers in IS Night, Sponsored by the Business Information and Technology Society (BITS)

**October 25-26, 2012**
SUSA – NYC Trip
Tracks in Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Consulting, Entrepreneurship

Registration opens on September 21st at 10:00

Visit the SUSA Facebook page for more information
# UNDERGRADUATE RECRUITING

Information Sessions, Employer of the Day and Resume Deadlines

September 24-October 5, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer of the Day</th>
<th>Information Sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/24 Aronson</td>
<td>Capital One, Censeo Consulting, Dupont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/25 Aflac</td>
<td>Berkeley Research Group, Freddie Mac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26 Rose Financial Services</td>
<td>CSX Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/27 Hertzbach &amp; Co., Kohl’s</td>
<td>Kohl’s, Morgan Stanley, Hitachi Consulting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1 Liberty Mutual Group</td>
<td>Liberty Mutual Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Macy’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PreNite Sessions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>Otis Elevator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Grant Thornton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>Reznick Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resume Deadlines**

| 9/23 | Calibre CPA Group, Chess Consulting, Reznick Group |
| 9/24 | Reznick Group             |
| 9/25 | Censeo Consulting Group   |
| 9/26 | GE                        |
| 9/30 | Hertzbach & Co., FactSet Research, WTAS          |
| 10/1 | Deloitte, TekSystems, Marriott,                     |
| 10/2 | IBM, Fannie Mae, Dupont                                   |
| 10/3 | Macy’s, Bank of America, Dixon Hughes Goodman               |
| 10/4 | PepsiCo, Wells Fargo                                         |
| 10/5 | Capital One                                             |

*For more information, visit HireSmith: www.HireSmith.net*