Congratulations
To
Kelli Rosenkrans &
Cody Sullivan
Selected
“Student Employees of the Semester”
Fall 2007

Career News
From the Parkland College Career Center, serving more than 15,000 students, employers, and District 505 residents each year.

217.351.2536  ▪  www.parkland.edu/careercenter

January 2008

From the Director

Happy 2008 to all of you! I want to thank you for the positive comments regarding our fall semester Career News letters. Your feedback motivates us in continuing to provide current career and job search information.

While discussing career options with students, many have said that they want to do something “of value.” According to a recent study in the Journal of Vocational Behavior, many of today’s college students have identified-or are looking for-a “calling” that will likely play a key role in their career-decision making.

Over 3000 first-year students completed the Career Decision Profile, as well as two other brief assessments measuring their search or presence of a “calling” in their lives. The study found that the presence of a calling positively correlated with decidedness, comfort and self-clarity; and negatively correlated with indecisiveness and lack of educational information.

How many of us are doing what we are meant or ‘called’ to do? Are we having that conversation with our students, impressing upon them how fulfilling that is? If a student is feeling a little “stuck” in choosing their college major or career, maybe we can help them to get at the heart of what they’re ‘meant’ to do instead of what he or she ‘should’ do.

Have a great year,
Sandy

Booming School Enrollments Sustain Teacher Demand

A record 55 million students showed up for school in 2006, and that number is expected to increase by about 200,000 a year until it peaks at 56.7 million in 2014. The grandchildren of the baby boomer generation have been augmented by millions of students from the families of recent immigrants.

However, the increase in enrollments, and demand for teachers, has not been consistent throughout the country. New York and Connecticut, for example, will have fewer school-age students in 2014 than in 2006, while the number of students in Texas schools is expected to increase by 16 percent and in Nevada by 28 percent. A growing proportion of students will be minority; their share in 2004 was 47 percent, up from 23 percent in 1973. This puts an even greater burden on schools as they seek to meet their special needs.

Las Vegas hired 2,000 teachers for 2006-07, but was still short 400 a few weeks before school began. The district in Plainfield, Illinois, which has seen its enrollment jump from 8,700 in 1998 to 26,000 this year, hired 300 new teachers to keep up with the anticipated growth, but a few days before school 500 new students enrolled for classes and the district had to reopen teacher recruitment.

Especially in demand are those prepared to teach math or special education. Come boom or recession, the growing school population should ensure a strong and sustained demand for public school teachers.

Source: Career Opportunities News Sept. 2007

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Border Patrol Eyes College Grads to Fill Job Openings

The U.S. Border Patrol is actively recruiting college students and recent graduates - from various academic backgrounds - who want to pursue careers in federal law enforcement.

The agency has an ambitious goal to hire 3,000 new border patrol agents by the end of next year, bringing the total number of agents to about 18,000, according to an article in The [Memphis] Commercial Appeal.

“There is no career quite like that of a U.S. Border Patrol agent,” says Joe Abbot, national recruitment director for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). “It’s the only profession in the nation specifically aimed at preventing terrorists and other criminals from entering the United States between the ports of entry into this country.”

The job pays $40,000 to $52,000 a year to start and includes federal government benefits.

Source: Campus Career Counselor November 2007

Hiring Will Rise, but Employers Want Experience

Graduating college seniors can expect the number of entry-level job opportunities to be up about 7 percent this academic year over last, according to the recently released results of the 2007 Recruiting Trends Survey conducted by the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University.

That said...grads better have real-world experience to offer prospective employers. 50 percent of the employers surveyed were “emphatic” that students/grads have at least one internship under their belts, according to study director Phil Gardner.

“Students who haven’t held internships, investigated the job market, or used their college or university career networks are going to have to work just a little harder to find [a job],” says Gardner.

The study also notes that larger companies - those with more than 3,900 employees - will likely lead the entry-level hiring growth, especially within the business, engineering, computer science, and accounting sectors.

Source: Campus Career Counselor November 2007

It’s All About the Money

Of course it’s not! But here are the highest paid occupations in 2006, according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiologists</td>
<td>$184,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgeons</td>
<td>184,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetricians</td>
<td>178,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodontists</td>
<td>176,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Surgeons</td>
<td>164,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internists</td>
<td>160,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatrists</td>
<td>149,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Executives</td>
<td>144,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatricians</td>
<td>141,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>140,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interesting Facts

Average pay in San Francisco is 17 percent higher than for the nation as a whole. The lowest, in Brownsville, Texas, is 19 percent below the national average, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Each year around 85,000 young law school graduates take bar examinations in the United States, according to the New York Times. Despite the fact that most take a special two-month law review course (cost: around $2,100), the overall national passing rate is only around 67 percent.

Of course it’s not! But here are the highest paid occupations in 2006, according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor.
Physician Assistants/Fast Growing Profession

Physician assistants are licensed to practice medicine under a physician’s supervision. They conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and in most states have the authority to write prescriptions.

The Department of Labor describes the physician assistant profession as one of the fastest growing in the nation.

The popularity of the field has created competition for places in 136 institutions accredited to offer training. These include colleges and universities, medical schools and centers, hospitals, and the armed services. Both bachelor’s and master’s degrees are offered in the field and take around two full years for candidates who have already completed two or four years of college.

An Online PA Programs Directory is available at [http://www.PAEAonline1.org](http://www.PAEAonline1.org), under “For Applicants.”

Source: Career Opportunities News Sept. 2007

Resume Tip of the Month...

Career counselors don’t usually recommend using a resume wizard or template when preparing your resume. The templates tend to generate resumes that all look alike, and job seekers get frustrated when the program won’t let them edit the resume in the way that they want. It’s best to use a blank Microsoft Word document that can be submitted electronically and is easily “tweaked”, depending on the job you’re applying for. Individualize your resume but be sure not to overdo it--it should be streamlined and conservative for easy readability.

Interview Tip of the Month...

Do thank-you notes after job interviews really matter all that much? They do if you’re a hiring executive trying to distinguish among candidates, according to a recent survey by staffing firm Accountemps. In the study - which questioned senior execs from the nation’s 1,000 largest companies - 88 percent of the respondents said they consider a post-interview thank-you note as influential in their evaluations of candidates. “Regardless of how someone believes he or she performed during the interview, sending a short thank-you note afterward demonstrates initiative and courtesy,” says Max Messmer, chairman of Accountemps. Unfortunately, far too many job seekers still fail to take advantage of this simple strategy, the study found. The respondents said that only about half (51 percent) of the job candidates they interview bother to send thank-you notes of any kind.

Source: Accountemps News Release August 9, 2007

“This program was extremely helpful and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is unsure of their future.”
- Parkland Student