

The Big Picture

Volume 8, Issue 1

Fall 2009

Key Words to Remember for each Academic Year:

Freshman Year

Exploring

Sophomore Year

Deciding

Junior Year

Experience

Senior Year

Job Seeking

Inside this issue:

<i>Upcoming Career Days!</i>	2
<i>What Employers Want</i>	2
<i>Don't be paralyzed by fear</i>	3
<i>On-Campus Interviews</i>	3
<i>Time to Resuscitate!</i>	3
<i>Resume Referral</i>	3
<i>Successful Interviewing in Choppy Waters</i>	4

Did You Know?

• You have full access to your career center while a student and/or alumnus of Valdosta State University:

unsure what to major in OR desire confirmation of career choice ♦ need help with a resume ♦ seeking guidance in your job search ♦ your interview skills need work ♦ you don't have a clue what to do after graduation ♦ where are the jobs ♦ seeking a part-time off-campus job while a student

• Students who used career center services extensively fared better in the job market than their peers who didn't use the career center or used the career center in a limited way.

• Choices made now will gravely impact your future in the "real world."

• College Central Network (CCN) is the "free" online registration procedure for career assistance in your job search:

review THOUSANDS of current jobs across the U.S. ♦ have your resume sent to potential employers AND make your resume accessible to employers ♦ become eligible to participate in the campus interview program ♦ find out who's hiring.

If you are not aware of one of the most critical departments on campus while traveling along on your "college" journey, **RUSH TO** or **CALL** Career Services, Powell Hall-West, Second Floor. (229) 333-5942.

Fall 2009 Career Development Seminars

Monday Matinee	Prepared For Your Date?
Job Search: The Whole Story	Successful Interviewing
Attending Graduate School	Resume Construction 101
Guide to Professionalism (<i>Getting Ahead in the Work Place</i>)	

For dates/time and registration information visit our website or contact the office at 333-5942/5414.

Upcoming Career Days!

Fall Career Expo

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

10 a.m.— 2 p.m.

University Center, Magnolia Room

Education Career Day

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

University Center, Magnolia Room

What Employers Want

Communication Skills

Initiative

Problem-solving Skills

Flexibility/adaptability

Technical Skills

Organizational Skills

Self-confidence

Teamwork Skills

Interpersonal Skills

Analytical Skills

Computer Skills

Detail-oriented

Leadership Skills

Source: Job Outlook 2008, National Association of Colleges and Employers

Don't be Paralyzed by Fear

Many graduating seniors this past year were paralyzed by fear when it came to searching for a job in their career field. Dismal economic news reports seemed to be the main impetus for this paralysis. Students seemed to lend a very attentive ear to daily economic news while turning a deaf ear to the pleas and promotions from the VSU Career Services Staff. In a time of severe economic downturn, the Career Services Office hosted major corporate, governmental, and nonprofit organizations during the 2008 – 2009 recruiting season. Yes, unemployment is the highest that it has been in decades but employers are still hiring recent college graduates. Recent graduates are an attractive bargain to employers because they bring an updated skill set to the workplace and they are a cost savings to the employer in both salary and benefits. If you are a recent VSU graduate and have not found a job in your career field, make an individual appointment with a career counselor for job search assistance. If you are an upcoming graduate, get started today even if you are not scheduled to graduate until May 2010. Upcoming graduates should allow two semesters before graduation to conduct a proper job search. Think of your senior year as a time of transitioning from the classroom to the workplace. Also, be mobile when it comes to relocating after graduation and make sure to get relevant experience while in college. ***Remember, don't be paralyzed by fear, launch your job search today and let the Career Services Office assist you with embarking on your new career journey.***

Fall 2009 On-Campus Interviews/Information Sessions

Tuesday, October 27th — Lowe's

Positions: *Human Resources Retail Management Leadership Program*

Tuesday, November 10th - Sherwin Williams Automotive Finishes Corporation

Position: *Management Trainee*

Go to www.valdosta.edu/career and select the On-Campus Interviews link in the student section for an updated interview schedule and to gather additional information on these opportunities.

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. Theodore Roosevelt

Time to Resuscitate!

Bored or struggling with your major classes? Heart not in it? GPA suffering? It is time to resuscitate your college career with an individual meeting with a career counselor in Career Services. You can discuss your current career/major issues in a confidential setting and take the opportunity to explore your interests, skills, abilities, personality preferences and work values. Your counselor can assist you with identifying majors that fit your career interests as well as exploring careers that fit an individual major. Additionally, you will gain access to software and the career library to gather specific information on careers such as work tasks, educational requirements, training, salary, and job outlook. So what are you waiting on? Make an appointment today and bring life back to your academic pursuits.

Resume Referral

The Office of Career Services provides **Resume Referral** for seniors, graduate students and alumni. There are two types of resume referral within the office: **Employer Requested** and **Student/Alumni Requested**. An Employer requested referral is when employers contact the office for resumes of candidates who meet their specific qualifications. A Student/Alumni requested referral is when students/alumni request that their resume be sent to an employer. The office uses College Central Network for our resume database. For more information about resume referral through College Central Network go to www.valdosta.edu/career and select the resume referral link in the student section or contact Career Services for more information.

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
CAREER SERVICES**

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Career Services Staff

Winifred V. Collins, Director

Kevin Taylor, Associate Director

DeLois Hargett, Employer Relations Coordinator

Crystal Goode, Career Counselor

Attention Seniors!

Until you have found your new job, make the Office of Career Services your second home!

The same assistance available to you for free from your Career Services Office costs \$500—\$5,000 at a private, professional career search

Successful Interviewing in Choppy Waters

Today's graduates are facing increased competition in the current job market but they are still receiving interviews and job offers even in today's economy. Let's assume that all your phone calls, networking, and the dozens of resumes you've sent out have finally resulted in some interviews. The following are things that can affect the outcome of your interview... positively and/or negatively!

Research the organization thoroughly prior to the interview. Be prepared to discuss what you know of the company, why you want to work for them, and what you can offer them.

Research the position. If there are key knowledge areas indicated in the job description, research those prior to the interview. You may not have had experience in those areas but you'll be able to discuss your understanding of them and any related experiences/skills you can offer.

Prepare in advance by developing a list of potential questions you might be asked and practice your answers. Consider taking advantage of practice interviews offered through Career Services.

Dress appropriately for the interview. Suits are preferred for men and women as a general rule of thumb in many environments.

Don't snub the front office staff. These individuals probably have more influence than you realize on the interviewer's impression of you.

Be prepared with specific examples to support the skills and experiences you discuss with the interviewer.

Don't hit on the interviewer or make references to anger issues in former jobs (it's happened!).

Don't fail to ask questions to learn more about the company and position as well as demonstrate interest.

Reiterate your interest at the end of the interview, inquire about the hiring timeline, and obtain interviewer's contact information for future follow-up. Send a thank you letter!

*For more tips and information, sign up for an Interview Skills workshop hosted by Career Services professional staff or peruse videos and reading materials available in the office.