

# Getting Your Student Off the Family Payroll

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# Class of 2006 Statistics:

- 24.21% Graduate school
- 69.47% Employed
- 1.05% Other
- 5.26% Unemployed

*- 78.84% response rate – Six-Month Out Survey*

# Class of 2006 Statistics

Looking at the past 5 years, Class of '06:

- Highest employment rate
- Highest unemployment rate
- Lowest graduate study

# Class of 2006

- More students are waiting a year or more to go to graduate school
  - This is not just a “Knox thing” – it is a nationwide trend

# Some Perspective

- Jobs can be in a field different than academic major
- 1<sup>st</sup> job lasts an average of 18 months
- 10 years after graduation:
  - 72% will have had 3 or more jobs
  - 52% will have had at least 1 major career change

*-- National Association of Colleges and Employers*

# What Do Employers Want?




*Hint: It's not necessarily a high GPA*

# What Do Employers Want?

1. Communication skills
2. Honesty/Integrity
3. Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)
4. Motivation/Initiative
5. Strong work ethic
6. Teamwork skills

-- NACE Job Outlook 2007

# What Do Employers Want?

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7. Computer skills
  8. Analytical skills
  9. Flexibility/adaptability
  10. Detail-oriented
  11. Organizational skills
  12. Leadership skills

# What About GPA?

- GPA was ranked only 18<sup>th</sup> out of 21 attributes employers want
  - For most positions, a 3.0 is good enough to get a potential employee past the first cut

# Career Success

- Skills and character determine career success
- A college degree guarantees neither
- Hard to change character; instead, we focus on skills

# Important Skills & How to Get Them



## Resident Advisor position

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Work Ethic

# Important Skills & How to Get Them

Reporter for TKS

- Illustrates evidence of writing skills

Steady record of community service

- Shows caring for others

# Important Skills & How to Get Them

- Telephone sales or survey job
  - Shows communication skills
  - Ability to deal with rejection

# Important Skills & How to Get Them



Research project with professor

- Higher level analytical skills
- Information gathering

# Important Skills & How to Get Them

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Courses that emphasize writing and team projects

- Builds strong writing skills
- Ability to work well with others (interpersonal skills)

# Important Skills & How to Get Them

Treasurer for a student organization

- Money management
- Attention to detail
- Leadership skills

# Important Skills & How to Get Them

## High-quality summer internships

- Shows they've already been "hired"
- They have had the opportunity to further develop workplace skills

# What the Career Center Can Do for Your Student

- Individual counseling and testing
- Mock interviewing
- Library resources
- Electronic resources
- Workshops
- Credential files
- Career and graduate school fairs

# Workshop Sessions

- Orientation to the Center
- Writing resumes and cover letters
- Preparing for graduate school
- Internships: A Bridge to Your Future
- "I've declared my major...now what?"

# Workshop Sessions

- Attending and benefiting from job fairs
- Interview skills
- Job search strategies
- Fall Institute workshops

# Life After Knox Workshop

- Tips for the new professional
- Managing credit, creating (and sticking to) a budget
- Your first apartment
- Insurance matters

# Life After Knox

Speakers discuss:

- Making your own way
- What you should be thinking about
- Establishing your supports: financial, emotional, social, etc.

# Carlin Career Development Forum

- February 25-26, 2008 (tentative)
- Evening Panel discussion
  - Panelists' career paths
  - Advice to students
  - Surprises and pitfalls along the way
- Networking lunch with speakers

# Organized Recruitment Efforts

- Summer job and internship fair
- Chicago internship fair
- CareerFest
- Fall Interview Day
- TeacherFest

# Graduate School Fairs

- Graduate and Professional School Fair (held on campus early fall term)
- University of Illinois at Chicago graduate school fair

# Individualized Plans

For students job searching outside of the region:

- Alumni networking
- Job search engines
- Focus on companies at job fairs with non-Midwest locations

# What Students Can Do

- Learn what alums are doing with their majors
- Build strong job search skills
- Be an active player in their job search
- Career Center can play a supporting role in helping develop needed skills

# What Parents Can Do

- Encourage your student to visit the career center
- Advise your student to write a resume early on
- Challenge your student to become “occupationally literate”
- Encourage them to build leadership skills

# What Parents Can Do

- Allow your student to make the decision
  - Rather than major in something “practical,” follow own interests and passions
- Emphasize the importance of internships
- Encourage extracurricular involvement

# What Parents Can Do

- Expose your student to the world of work
- Teach the value of networking

# What Parents Can Do

- Encourage your student to attend career talks:
  - Individual alumni talks
  - Seminar in Chemistry
  - Carlin Career Development Forum

# Most Importantly...

- Listen to your student
- Advise him or her
- Be supportive

# Questions

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