



ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Illinois' first public university

Parent Services Newsletter

SPRING 2009

Resources for success

The Career Center is a valuable resource for Illinois State University students, alumni, faculty, and the wide variety of employers in search of well-prepared candidates. We assist students in the exploration of satisfying career opportunities that match their talents, interests, and goals. The Career Center staff also helps students and alumni develop job search skills that aid them in pursuing full-time positions, internships, and cooperative education opportunities.

Students should be proactive in developing the specific skills that will position them above other candidates when applying for a position. These skills are acquired through academic classes, research experiences, internships, extracurricular activities, community service, study abroad programs, and alternative spring break opportunities. The Career Center provides assistance with resume and cover letter development. The Career Center also offers walk-in resume critique hours that are posted at www.CareerCenter.ilstu.edu.

How can you help your student develop the skills that will get them a job?

As your student begins the job search process, it is important for them to know their own qualifications. During their college years, students develop many skills from coursework, extracurricular activities, and life experiences. If your son or daughter has researched, written, edited, and presented in class, they have used skills that are not limited to any one academic discipline or knowledge area and can be utilized in many occupations.

According to the 2009 National Association of College and Employers Job Outlook, employers are looking for a combination of grades, extracurricular involvement, and employment history from prospective candidates. Ideal candidates should have a number of soft skills, leadership abilities, and teamwork skills. "One of the greatest recruiting philosophies I was taught is the SWAN approach," Smedstad said. "I look for students that are smart, well-rounded, ambitious, and nice."

continued on page 4



Qualities employers seek

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Initiative
- Teamwork skills (works well with others)
- Problem solving skills
- Analytical skills
- Flexibility/adaptability
- Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)
- Technical skills
- Leadership skills
- Organizational skills
- Self-confidence
- Computer skills
- Detail-oriented

Parent
Services
Newsletter



Family Weekend AT THE BIRD'S NEST ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Family Weekend 2008: A wonderful time at the birds nest

This year we took advantage of the Halloween weekend to work with Habitat for Humanity and Trick or Treat for Change. Trick or Treat for Change participants raised over \$12,000 for the construction of Habitat homes in the Bloomington-Normal community.

The warm weather on Saturday put the 2,200 tailgaters in a festive mood as they ate hotdogs and hamburgers while enjoying the tent city, which was full of games and activities for children of all ages. The Redbird football team provided a rousing victory over Youngstown State. Saturday evening activities were filled to capacity. The weekend ended with a great performance by the Acafellaz.

Mark your calendar

We plan on making Family Weekend 2009 even better than last year. Family Weekend 2009 will take place from November 6-9. Make your hotel reservation as soon as you can. Refer to your parent guides or the Parent Services Web site for location suggestions. We look forward to seeing you for Family Weekend 2009!



Career Center spring 2009 calendar of events

Tuesday, March 3

Mid-America Educators' Job Fair
Bone Student Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

This event is a part of the Mid-America fairs taking place each day of this week across Illinois. Our event participation has averaged over 190 districts and related agencies for the past three years and approximately 800 candidates.

Monday, March 30

Student and employer networking dinner
Bone Student Center, 6-7:30 p.m.

During these challenging economic times it is more essential than ever for students to foster important connections with employers. This event provides opportunities for students to network with employers while dining.



Parents Association Board grants for 2008-2009

Each year the Parents Association Board awards monetary grants to Illinois State University programs with a share of the gifts donated through the parent telefund. The following programs and projects were funded for the 2008-2009 academic year:

- Lick the Blues Campaign (Student Counseling Services)
- West Campus Academic Services Initiative (University College)
- Intergenerational Peace Studies in International Humanitarian Law Workshop (Peace Studies)

Perry and Helen Obalil grant recipients

- Colleges Against Cancer: The Great American Smoke Out
- Colleges Against Cancer: Men in Tights

Student Accounts billing dates 2008–2009 school year

Spring 2009

Billing date	Mailing date	Due date
1st installment	12-16-08	1-09-09
2nd installment	1-20-09	2-06-09
3rd installment	2-17-09	3-06-09
4th installment	3-17-09	4-03-09

Summer 2009

Billing date	Mailing date	Due date
Summer billing	4-14-09	5-08-09
Summer billing	5-19-09	6-05-09
Late registration	6-19-09	7-03-09

Spring 2009 Commencement

Illinois State University will be celebrating Commencement on Friday, May 8; and Saturday, May 9 with ceremonies honoring students who have completed their degree requirements. Guests at Commencement are not required to have tickets. Seating for each ceremony begins one hour prior to the start time of each ceremony.

Friday, May 8

- 4 p.m. Mennonite College of Nursing, Braden Auditorium
- 7 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences, Redbird Arena

Saturday, May 9

- 9 a.m. College of Education, Redbird Arena
- 12:30 p.m. College of Applied Science and Technology, Redbird Arena
- 4 p.m. College of Business, Redbird Arena
- 7 p.m. College of Fine Arts, Braden Auditorium

The Dean of Students Office will be sponsoring a commencement fair, Grad Finale, where graduating students have the opportunity to take care of many of their Commencement needs in one location at a convenient time. Grad Finale will be held on Thursday, March 26, from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. in the Brown Ballroom of the Bone Student Center. Visit www.GraduationServices.ilstu.edu for more information.

How to get on the dean's list

Undergraduate students who meet high academic standards, as established by the college of their major, are included in a dean's list issued each semester.

Students must complete 12 or more graded semester hours to be included on the dean's list. Courses completed after the official end of the semester and courses taken with a credit/no credit option are not counted for this purpose.

The dean's list for the College of Applied Science and Technology, College Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Fine Arts, and Mennonite College of Nursing will include students whose grade point averages place them among the top 10 percent of students majoring within the college, based on their semester GPA. The dean's list in the College of Business will include only undergraduate students majoring in business who have completed 12 or more semester hours with an overall semester grade point average in the top 10 percent and an average of at least 3.33 for all courses taken during the semester. Students whose major does not place them in one of the six colleges that offer degrees, and whose semester grade point averages are within the top 10 percent of the University, are identified on the list of the associate vice president for undergraduate studies.

Off-Campus and Nontraditional Student Services

Location:

Bone Student Center, room 142
Coordinator, Michael P. Zajac
Graduate assistant, Autumn Hollenkamp
Administrative support, Judi Khalilallah

Hours of operation:

8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday



About Off-Campus and Nontraditional Student Services

Off-Campus Student and Nontraditional Student Services provides Illinois State University students support and services to enhance their off-campus living experience so that they can focus on education.

Off-Campus and Nontraditional Student Services works to:

- Provide students with information regarding off-campus housing (vacancies, subleasing, roommate needed and roommate available) through the Off-Campus Housing Database (och.DeanOfStudents.ilstu.edu).
- Provide programs and services to educate students about their rights and responsibilities as residents of the Bloomington/Normal community.
- Develop initiatives, programs, and committees that promote off-campus student safety, citizenship development, and educational and community resources.
- Promote positive student interactions with the larger residential community.
- Offer programs and services that help students remain connected to the Illinois State University community such as coordinating campus events and meetings with academic departments, university staff, and community contacts.

Helpful points for students interested in obtaining a successful internship

- With the assistance of your department faculty/internship coordinator, select an internship that closely matches what you want your future career to be like. Check-out the Career Center Web site for your faculty/internship coordinator's contact information.
- Be prepared to go outside of your immediate geographic area—don't limit yourself!
- Find pertinent information about an employer's internship program application deadlines and requirements.
- Consider unpaid internships—the benefits can be extremely rewarding.
- Work like your career depends on it—because it does!
- Use your networks during your internship experience. Networking is often the key to moving your career forward.

Resources for success, continued from page 1

How to leverage internship success into a job

Why is it important for your student to have an internship experience while they are in college? Monica Poindexter of *The Black Collegian* reports, "Internship experience is one of the most important characteristics managers look for when evaluating a new college graduate. Most college hires are expected to have had at least one internship after their sophomore year. It is becoming increasingly common to have had two or three by the time they graduate. Not only are internships important in academia, but individuals within industry also realize the need for students and faculty to have their academic studies and curriculum augmented with real world industry experience."

Why intern?

- Employers look for students with real-world experience
- Gain exposure to professional industry
- Create relationships with people already working in the field
- Gain confidence in your profession
- Internships may turn into full-time jobs
- Gain hands-on experience

eRecruiting: A great resource for finding internships and full-time positions

Illinois State University students and alumni can search for internship and employment opportunities and apply directly online using eRecruiting. Students and alumni can also upload and publish their resumes, cover letters, references, and writing samples to Illinois.eRecruiting.com.

What next?

The Career Center staff encourages you to work with your son or daughter throughout college to help him or her have success in reaching academic and professional goals. Encourage your student to take advantage of the many services and events planned by the Career Center. These programs will assist your student in finding an appropriate career path, acquire career-related experiences, learn how to effectively conduct a job search, and identify post-graduate or professional school goals.

Parents have a significant influence over the new college student's sense of self-confidence and self-worth. To maintain your student's confidence, your communication with him or her should consistently identify their strengths. During the process of clarifying their academic, career, and other lifetime goals, students respect and appreciate when parents:

- Exhibit patience, tolerance, and support when they change directions.
- Identify their strengths, limitations, potential, and allow them to make final choices.
- Communicate genuine understanding and agreement with the final degree selected.

How to contact the Illinois State University Career Center

Encourage your student to make an appointment with a career counselor who specializes in their major or field of interest by calling (309) 438-2200 or e-mail careercenter@IllinoisState.edu.



in touch

Parent Services Newsletter

Vol.7, No.2 • Spring 2009 • Published semiannually
Illinois State University
Office of Parent Services
Campus Box 3090
Normal, IL 61790-3090
Phone: (309) 438-3753
E-mail: parentservices@IllinoisState.edu
www.StudentLife.ilstu.edu/parentservices