



Recruit-A-Duke

JMU Career & Academic Planning

Newsletter

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HEADS UP!

Upcoming Dates:

Majors Fair

Jan. 25th 2-5:00 PM

Speed Networking With Employers

Feb. 8th Time: TBD

Spring Career Fair

Feb. 22nd 12-4:00 PM

Maximize Career Planning This Winter Break



Questions? We Are Here To Help!

Students, instead of sleeping in past noon and catching up on your favorite TV shows this winter break, think about getting a head start on your post-graduation job search. With exams and term papers temporarily out of the way, the **vacation is ideal for exploring professional avenues**. Don't know where to start? **Try these six activities** and put yourself on the fast track to landing work in your chosen field after graduation:

1. **Do An Externship:** An externship is an opportunity for students to shadow professionals in action at their workplace to see their daily activities. Most are for one week, involve a light workload and are unpaid.
2. **Try Informational Interviewing:** These interviews are informal meetings with professionals. They typically last 30 minutes to an hour and range from topics such as what skills are used most on the job to daily expectations.
3. **Follow Industry News:** Haven't had enough time during school to pay attention to what's happening in your field? Now's your chance to learn which companies are the industry leaders, what products are hot and the names of major players at top firms.
4. **Practice Interviewing:** Being able to comfortably give a firm handshake, make eye contact, dress in clothes that are appropriate and show enthusiasm counts a great deal. You may have all the right qualifications on paper, but unless you come across as passionate and focused, it's hard to make a case for yourself as a strong candidate.
5. **Find A Mentor:** Establishing a connection with an expert in your field (possibly through Informational Interviews) may give you a leg up in the job market. Your mentor may also be able to put you in contact with other professionals to increase your network of contacts.
6. **Target Top Jobs:** Begin by listing the jobs you want the most and determining how long it will take you to research and write cover letters. Concentrate on each job application, paying close attention to details. Spelling and grammatical errors can mar your candidacy, so always have someone else proof your letter and resume before sending them.

For More Information Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ProductiveWinterBreak>



Oh, 2011? - We've Got You Covered!

Idle Hands Over The Holiday Break?

ROAD TRIPS TO THE REAL WORLD

January 3 through January 14, 2011

Sponsored by the **Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers**, Road Trips to the Real World Committee



Register now for these exciting employer site visits, where you can **LEARN ABOUT CAREERS**, make contacts for **INTERNSHIPS** and **JOBS**, improve your **NETWORKING** skills, and meet other college students from Williamsburg, VA to Portland, ME and many points in-between. Just a few of the companies who have signed up for site visits include Anheuser-Busch, City Year, Deloitte, MTV, the Smithsonian and Target.

ALL MAJORS & CLASS YEARS WELCOME!

REGISTRATION: Begins November 15th and ends December 3rd. Limited spots are available, so register early at <http://www.eace.org/committees/roadtrips.html>

COST: \$5.00 per site - Students are responsible for their own transportation.

Majors Fair

January 25, 2011
Warren Transitions
2:00-5:00 PM

Speed Networking

With Employers

February 8, 2011
Festival Ballroom
Time: TBD

Spring Career Fair

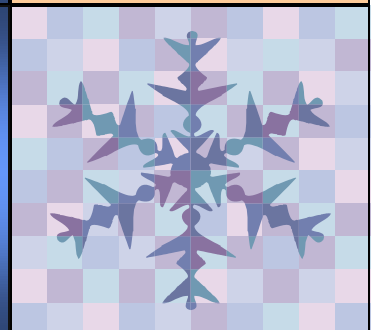
February 22, 2011
Festival Ballroom
12:00-4:00 PM

Teacher

Recruitment Day

February 28, 2011
Festival Ballroom
11:00-4:00PM

Career & Academic Planning would like to wish the JMU Community a safe and happy holiday season! We look forward to seeing you next semester, with a great line-up of events for 2011.





Student Question & Answer

WHO: John Elwell, corps member

WHAT: City Year Washington, D.C.



Q: Please share with us more about City Year and what your role entails?

A: City Year is a nonprofit organization under the umbrella of AmeriCorps that brings together a diverse group of young people from across the country to engage in a year of full-time public service. City Year corps members serve across the country in 20 cities, as well as sites in Johannesburg, South Africa and London, England. I currently serve as a first year corps member in City Year Washington, D.C. and work at the Charles Hart Middle School in Southeast, D.C. My team and I serve as tutors, mentors, and role models for these young students.

Q: What attracted you to City Year?

A: Back in high school I decided that I wanted to devote a year or two of my life to public service after graduating from college. While searching for opportunities during my senior year at JMU I came across City Year and was struck both by its inspiring vision and challenging mission. In my opinion, education is the single greatest determining factor in a young person's life and City Year gives me the opportunity to help bring positive change to that environment.

Q: Tell us about your experience at JMU and how your English Major helped you prepare for your position?

A: Let me start by saying that I could not imagine having gone to college anywhere but James Madison! All the people I met, all the fun I had, and all the things I learned accounted for the absolute greatest college experience possible. JMU provided me the opportunity to participate in clubs, sports, and other student organizations, all while receiving a superb education. As a student at JMU majoring in English, I thoroughly enjoyed my classes and that joy is something I want to bring to the students with whom I work. School is important and difficult, as well as life-changing, but it can also be fun.

Q: What are the challenges of your role, as well as the rewards?

A: When I first learned about City Year I remember reading a testimonial from a former corps member saying it was the hardest year of his life, but also the most rewarding. Being in that position now, I understand completely and can validate his claim. Every day is a challenge: there are long hours, the workload is demanding, and the students sometimes do not want to be helped. But at the same time for every challenge comes a reward that is worth twice as much. The simplest thing, such as a shy student participating in class, or a failing student getting an A on a quiz can make each day worth the struggle.

Q: How do you believe City Year will prepare you for the next step in your career path?

What do you envision your career path to look like?

A: City Year Washington D.C. has three main goals: **1) helping children and youth succeed, 2) improving the DC community, and 3) developing diverse leaders.** The first two goals are part of the service we provide to the city as corps members, but the third is a service for ourselves and our future. During the course of our service year we are provided so much that will aid us in our endeavors. As corps members we are offered training in tangible skills such as resume building, public speaking, event planning, networking, etc., but through our experiences we also develop skills that cannot be measured on paper like creating an inclusive environment and becoming engaged citizens. As I noted earlier, before starting with City Year, public service was something I wanted to do for a couple of years after college, but only a couple years. Now that I am in the thick of this experience, I can see my career path changing right in front of me. In just this short amount of time the things I've seen and experienced have shown me that public service is not simply a one or two year commitment, but a life-long commitment. It is not for everyone and perhaps in the future it will not be for me either, but right now I can make a difference. And more importantly, I *know* I am making a difference.

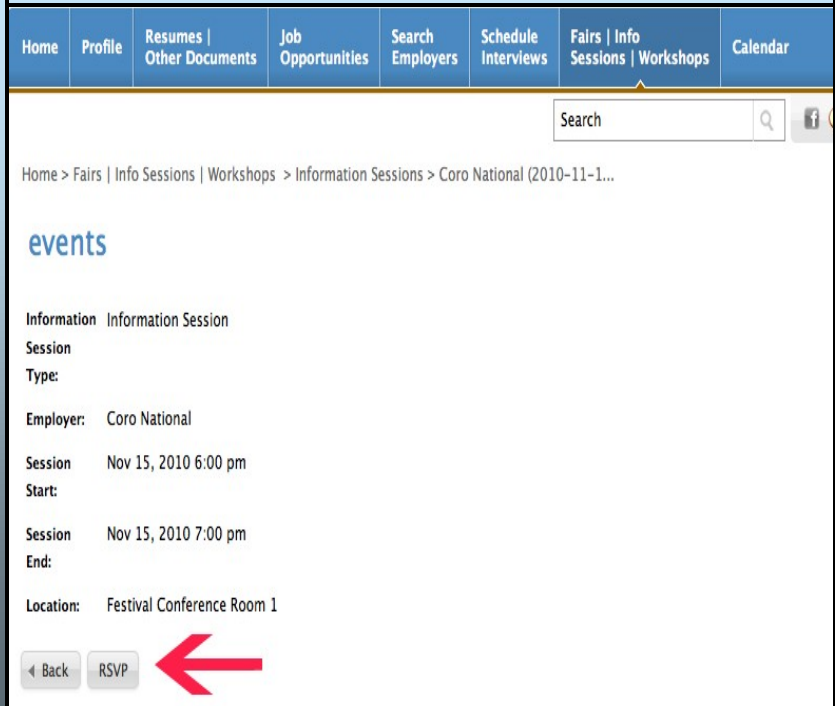


RSVP's & Scholarship Winner!

Don't Forget To RSVP For Events In Recruit-A-Duke!

Students, this is a friendly reminder about the importance of RSVP'ing on Recruit-A-Duke for events you plan on attending. This allows Career & Academic Planning and visiting employers to fully prepare for your attendance and appropriately bring the right materials to best serve you! In other words, this is to benefit you, as members of the JMU community to get the most out of the services and events offered.

Here's What It Looks Like to RSVP In Recruit-A-Duke:



Meet the 2010 Fall Career and Internship Fair Scholarship Winner!

Hi! My name is Kristin Nimitz, and I am a senior at JMU. I am a Business to Business Marketing major, with a minor in Human Resource Development. In early October, I went to the Career and Internship Fair. I was able to talk with many employees from several different companies.

This was an opportunity for me to talk to potential employers and find out more of what their companies had to offer. Another benefit of the fair was that I was randomly selected as the Career and Internship Fair Scholarship winner!

I grew up in Richmond, Virginia and came to JMU to play for the Women's Tennis Team. It has been an amazing experience, but I am looking forward to the exciting changes that will happen in the near future. After graduation, I am hoping to get a job in Sales, Marketing, or Brand Management in a big city somewhere on the east coast.

