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Three Reasons College Students Aren't Getting Hired

LaTara Holloway

Finding a job can sometimes seem like an impossible task. Qualified job seekers can spend hours online searching for employment, but still not receive any call backs. Some of the reasons job searchers aren't getting hired rely on their own actions. Keith Cullen, AUM's Associate Director of the Career Development Center, recently sat down with us and targeted some of the main reasons that students are being overlooked in the job market.

The first reason Cullen gives is that students do not have a clear goal when applying for a position. Many students go into the job search simply hoping to be placed in any position. Employers do not have the time to find out what job will be best for an applicant. "Employers want somebody who has a clearly defined and articulate career goal and is pursuing that goal," said Cullen. To narrow down their search, students should be focused on the skills they have and how they relate to a job.

Relying solely on job listing websites is another reason Cullen gives for students not being able to find work. This approach to the job search is reactive—waiting for a posting then reacting by applying. Job postings online are seen by thousands of people who will all be competing for that position. Cullen advises students to be proactive instead.

"Proactive job seekers seek companies, not listings. Their job is to become known in the industry, in the



Keith Cullen, AUM's Associate Director of the Career Development Center, discusses some of the reasons college students have difficulties getting hired.

Courtesy of LaTara Holloway

field that they want to go into by the people who are doing the work on a daily basis."

Networking in your career is critical to being the first to know about job openings and increasing your chances of getting hired. "Proactive job seekers have to work much harder than reactive job seekers do, but they'll find their jobs much quicker; and they'll find the best jobs—the most productive and best paying jobs."

One of the biggest roadblocks facing students in their job search is a false sense of entitlement. Many students believe that graduating with a degree translates to job offers overnight. Job seekers with this mentality usually end up facing a harsh reality. "Job seekers, especially in this market, have got to be a lot more proactive in the process. They've got to take charge of their career development". The job market is more competitive than it was 15 years ago. With more degree holders seeking the same positions, it's vital that students be more active in their job search.

These problems standing between students and potential employment all have solutions. Being clear about your goals, networking in your field, and being proactive, are all choices that will lead job seekers to a new career.

The Career Development Center also has many resources available to students to aid them in their career search such as Friday Career Webinars and Lunch and Learn Sessions. This month, the CDC will be hosting a Graduate and Professional School Fair where over 65 grad school programs will be on location to answer questions from students. The CDC will also be taking students by bus to the Auburn Career Fair on October 22nd. Students can apply to attend the Auburn Career Fair through their War Hawk Jobs account. For more information on the CDC stop by their office, located in room 323 of the Taylor Center, or visit their website at www.aum.edu/CDC.

Basic Budgeting: How to Increase Your Finances

Jade Curtis

Do you know how to budget your money? For many of us, college is the first experience we have had away from home; therefore, we may not have the knowledge or experience of how to budget our money effectively. Some students are working and paying for their education whilst others receive financial aid. But the situation is always the same; no one wants to pay back money he or she does not have to. If we learn how to budget our money better now, then we may have an easier life financially after graduation.

This month, AUM hosted a series of events to assist students with all of their financial concerns. Christian Ware, the Assistant Vice-President of Commercial Banking for Servis First Bank, and former Auburn University graduate, presented "Basic Budgeting for College Students" on Tuesday, Oct. 15th. The following day, Pete Knight, the President of Montgomery's Renasant Bank, presented on Wednesday, Oct 16th. Both of the presentations on budgeting were from successful bankers who provided college students with important tips on how they can budget their money better and make it last during their time at AUM, as well as in the future. As they have already been in the shoes of college students, these speakers provided us with first-hand insights of the do's and don'ts of budgeting. Also, AUM's Financial Aid Office presented on scholarships

and Financial Aid in Warhawk Alley on Thursday, Oct 17th.

Knowing how to manage your money well can help college students in several ways such as; maintaining a solid credit rating, saving for big-ticket items, and avoid wasteful spending on unnecessary things. Budgeting is a part of life within college as well as after; therefore, if college students can get to grips with it now they will find it easier to adjust to life after college.

Student Spotlight: Savannah Szabo

Dagur Jonsson

Age: 21

Major: English



Savannah Szabo, president of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority is an English major here at AUM. Courtesy of Savannah Szabo

Where did you grow up?

"My parents were in the Air Force, so I moved around quite a bit when I was growing up. I have lived in Alaska, Arizona, Norway and Texas, just to name a few. However, I have lived in Montgomery for a total of five years now."

Now, you are the president of the sorority Alpha Gamma Delta. What exactly is a sorority and what do you all do?

"A sorority is a student organization that offers the opportunity to meet new people who share similar interests and values, and who will become your friends for life. These organizations bring out the best in their members through strong friendships, common goals, and a focus on personal development. Most importantly, sororities have an invaluable impact on their members' lives in many ways, offering learning and life experiences through their core values of community service, friendship, leadership and scholarship. We plan and attend many events throughout the year to further our philanthropic efforts. In particular, Alpha Gamma Delta's philanthropy is the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation, which supports education and awareness for Juvenile Diabetes.

Is there a rivalry between the sororities within AUM? What's the difference between each sorority?

"There will always be healthy competition between Greek organizations, because when you join a sorority, you have found a home among sisters and want to display it proud and loud. However, we also realize that if the other sororities are not thriving, we cannot all reach our fullest potential in the Greek life organization as a whole. Therefore, we host events together, help each other out in community service or campus-related activities, and promote recruitment efforts year-round. Networking is one of the greatest benefits in joining a sorority and this extends into the overall Greek community as well. Each sorority offers a plethora of opportunities and experiences for its members, represents high ideals, and focuses charitable efforts on its respective philanthropy. Each sorority has its own historical roots, mascots, colors and rituals as well."

If you could change one thing about AUM, what would it be?

"Although many developments have been made recently to encourage student involvement and activities on campus, I think progress can be made to make AUM students more involved in campus organizations. By encouraging students to attend athletic events, join academic clubs and other student organizations, as well as utilize the available resources such as the fitness center and Warhawk Alley, we can continue this progress."

If one would want to become part of a sorority on campus, what would they need to do?

"Every fall semester, Panhellenic advertises and organizes Formal Recruitment, a weekend of fun events that allows those interested a chance to see the unique features and meet the members of each sorority. Information about this weekend is sent out in the summer pamphlets for graduating seniors and displayed on the AUM website. Members of the sororities also organize events on campus for students to ask questions and fill out applications before the weekend arrives."

What advice can you give students that are new to AUM?

"Just like anything you do in life, you'll only get out of your college experience what you put into it. If a new student does not try to get involved or meet people, he or she will have a difficult time adjusting to college life. Joining groups and organizations and just being open-minded to new things will go a long way. Also, AUM's fitness center is an amazing facility, so I recommend taking advantage of that."

Finally, what is your plan after your graduation?

"After I graduate in May, I would love to get involved in the realm of publishing or editing, preferably a big publishing house or prominent magazine in New York City. I am open to all possibilities however, and I hope that someday my own writing will be published. I also look forward to traveling, as there are still a lot of places I would like to see."

Paternity Leave

Kyle Edwards

Theatre AUM has started off its 2013-2014 season strong with a comedy that both defies conventions and addresses some important issues. "Paternity Leave," written and directed by AUM's own Neil David Seibel, follows the love story of Joe and Malin, and their surrealistic journey, from their meeting in America to living in Sweden. Specifically, it portrays the sometimes chaotic experiences of Swedish medical care. This comedy breaks conventions in many ways with its set, and is definitely the most unique play I've seen at Theatre AUM. It utilizes sitcom scenarios, lightning-fast quips, memorable one-liners, montages at every turn, and a very creative delivery with the multi-dimensional set.



(Left to Right) Samantha Blakely, playing Malin, and Mark Dasinger Jr., playing Joe. Courtesy of Kyle Edwards

The story is fast-paced: one of twists and turns. As you meet the characters of the play and delve deeper into the story, you're confronted with the dynamic display of this delightful cast. I was particularly impressed with the performances of Amber Baldwin, who displayed many personas and delivered some of the funniest moments of the comedy; Samantha Blakely, who portrayed the Swede, Malin, tastefully with charm and allure; and Mark Dasinger Jr., who played a loveable and goofy lead who you can't help but root for. Also, the contributions of Erica Johnson and Chris Howard cannot be ignored, as they balanced numerous roles and other contributions to the play's execution.

One of my favorite aspects of this play is the set. Multidimensional, it utilizes break-away, set-up boxes and rolling crates to mimic the IKEA brand. Little things like this are what make the set so memorable, peppering in Swedish culture and creative ways to implement several different settings, simultaneously. The set utilizes projectors that cast auroras and quaint Swedish towns. The narration is also simulated through projected texts through an iPhone between Joe and Malin. There are also several Swedish songs, ranging from ABBA to a great acoustic ballad sung by Erica Johnson, that really help set the atmosphere and spirit of the play.

"Paternity Leave" also tackles two controversial issues: paternity leave and universal healthcare. With the controversy over the Affordable Care Act, and the debates between the "socialist" healthcare system and the privatized system, Seibel uses the story to

explore and compare the two: personified in Joe's reluctance to the long waits and seemingly difficult nature of Swedish healthcare, juxtaposed to Malin's patient and understanding acceptance of the free system. This juxtaposition really does a fantastic job at presenting both approaches to these issues in a tasteful manner.

The next Theatre AUM production will be "No Exit" by Jean Paul Sartre, starting Nov. 7.

Tech Tips: Laptop Treatment

Matt Estes



Laptops have become a staple of portable technology. While smartphones may technically be able to do almost everything that computers can do, there is still an overwhelming need for laptops. It is practically impossible to type a report or play a full-fledged video game on a smartphone.

You want a laptop to last at least five years. It is important to take measures to maintain the physical condition of a laptop. Here is a collection of simple tips to increase the lifespan of your laptop.

Hold the laptop with two hands. I have seen many people grip the laptop by a corner. While the structural integrity of the components are improving with technological advances, this can still be a serious problem. When a laptop is gripped with one hand on a corner, internal components, especially the power jack and USB inputs, can break. Instead, be sure to grip the computer with both hands.

Keep the laptop on charge or shut it down. Battery technology is not perfect. With each successive charge, drain, and recharge of the computer, you lose precious seconds of battery life. Keep the battery on charge whenever possible if you insist on keeping the computer. To save energy and take care of the environment as well as your power bills, simply shut

down the computer after saving your work.

Don't buy the cheapest computer possible. Buying the cheapest computer possible is not a wise investment. They are cheap because they are made of cheap parts. Most cheap laptops that I've seen stop working within two or three years. Instead opt for a mid-range computer. Prepare to spend between \$400 and \$600, as it will save you money in the long run.

AUM Students Place in Writing Competition

Moriah Hagel

AUM students, Charisa Hagel and Jacob Lambert, received honors for their creativity in their writing abilities in the Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Literary College Level Competition on Sept. 30, 2013. At this event, the co-founder, Martha Cassels, discussed how awards are constantly given out to sports competitions, but very rarely to student writers. The Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum hosts an annual creative writing competition every spring, both for college and high school students. In a creative writing class this past spring, taught by Dr. William Gerard, Hagel and Lambert were inspired to enter the competition. Lambert wrote a story outside of the class and asked Dr. Gerard to be his editor. Hagel, on the other hand, used a story that she had written in Dr. Gerard's creative writing class. Her short story was inspired by the real life story of Sandy Hook Elementary School. Both students entered their stories into the competition in May 2013. Lambert placed first, and Hagel came in second. As Cassels mentioned many times throughout the night, the competition is completely unbiased, and the authors of the stories are not revealed until after the decision has been made. This is not the only competition that the Fitzgerald museum offers; another upcoming competition is going to deal with writing poetry. Congratulations to Jacob Lambert and Charisa Hagel for doing so well in the Fitzgerald competition. I would encourage all AUM students to dust off their creative writing, let their talent come to life and compete in the Fitzgerald competition next spring.

Warhawk Squawk

LaTara Holloway

It's that time of the year again. The air is finally getting cooler, pumpkin spice is on every restaurant's menu,

and movie theaters are advertising for this year's most frightening thrillers. October is known as the month for candy corn, haunted hayrides, ghouls and goblins. In the spirit of Halloween, we asked students, "What are you afraid of?"

Photos courtesy of LaTara Holloway

Tori Carter Physical Education Sophomore

I am afraid of animals. Squirrels, dogs, cats- anything you name I'm scared of it.



Kenya Drayton Graduate Assistant Criminal Justice

I fear God.



Elias Lee Mechanical engineering Sophomore

I would say if something would happen to my family. That's probably my biggest fear.

Shane Williamson Mathematics Concentration in Computer Science Sophomore

Needles. I'm reminded every time they have a blood drive.





Jasey Stevenson Political Laboratory Science Sophomore

My biggest fear is not doing well in school.

Elliot Jacobson Information Systems Freshman

Getting hit by a train when I'm crossing over the railroad tracks.









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Calling All Writers and Artists!

The Filibuster, AUM's literary journal, is now accepting submissions for the 2014 publication. This student-led, creative arts journal showcases the talent of AUM students. Submissions include anything from poems and short stories to photographs and drawings. The theme for the 2014 edition is identity; submit a piece that explores important and unique aspects of your world. Any and all majors are welcome and encouraged to submit a creative work. So, why should YOU submit?

- 1. You're going to be published; what's a better way to show off?
- 2. Publishing looks awesome on a resume.
- 3. Most importantly, you can brag to all of your friends!

Get your pens, pencils, brushes, cameras, and computers ready, and let your creativity shine!

Send all submissions to filibuster@aum.edu. Please send all submissions as attachments to retain formatting. Each submission must be an unpublished, original piece. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31, 2013.

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Interested in Contributing to the AUMnibus?

Stop by our office, located in Room 401-402 of the Ida Belle Young Library Tower. You can also email the editor, Corsica Taylor at ctaylo35@ aum.edu, or call us at 334-244-3662.

Office Hours

October 1	12:30 pm- 2:00 pm
October 7	11:00 am- 12:30 pm
October 17	10:30 am- 12:00 pm
October 23	2:00 nm- 3:30 nm