



Scholar Talk



CollegeBound Foundation



Volume 2, Issue 3

Mark your calendar:

- April 8th Easter
- May 13th Mother's Day
- June 1st **NEW DEADLINE** for materials from renewing scholars
See *TIDBTIZ* on
- August 7th 19th Annual Scholars' Luncheon at the Baltimore Sher-

Check Out The Difference One Student Can Make!

Robin Ricks of St. Mary's College has given back while she's gained invaluable experience! *By Robin Ricks*

My commitment to my community commenced during my freshman year at St. Mary's College. I became a member of the Black Student Union to help raise the concerns of African American students. I became a mentor for at-risk students in the St. Mary's community through the First Saturday Mentoring Program. This program was instrumental in helping these youths in mathematics, language arts and social skills. I later held a position as parliamentarian for the Black Student Union and the Student Government Association, served as an advisor to the Dean on the Dean's Advisory Council, and participated in the school's gospel choir. During my junior year at St. Mary's I was appointed as Student Chair of the Judicial Affairs Boards.



Robin Ricks will graduate from St. Mary's College of Maryland this spring.

recommendations on how Maryland's lesson plans can be improved. This internship allowed me to realize the importance of state government on the lives of the poor.

Through my involvement with extracurricular activities and community service I had the wonderful opportunity to receive the Government Service Award and the William Donald Schaefer Legislative Internship in Annapolis, Maryland. My responsibilities for this internship include researching and summarizing legislative bills, managing legislative hearings schedules, and attending legislative hearings.

It is extremely important for scholars to take advantage of the opportunities that are available. The knowledge and experience that I have gained throughout my scholastic, volunteer, and work experiences while attending St. Mary's College of Maryland have provided me with the tools and proficiency that will assist me in becoming a great individual academically and professionally.

Are you interested in having your story published? Send it to Ms. Rodowsky: srodowsky@collegeboundfoundation.org.

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This past summer, I worked in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the Office of Oral Health. I was responsible for developing state lesson plans for WIC (Women, Infants and Children) and Head Start programs, creating surveys for the Head Start and WIC programs, and assisting and providing

Seven Steps to Landing a Summer Internship *By CareerBuilder.com*

It's not too late to land a summer internship at a great company according to career counselors and corporate recruiters. Don't assume that all good internships are already filled. It's never too late to seek out summer opportunities as major companies, small businesses and non-profits often do not

recognize the need for an intern until summer has begun. All you need is a little creativity to get going. Before you know it, you'll be negotiating this summer's start date.

(Continued on page 5)

Scholar Talk

Volunteering for Your Future

By Roxana Hadad



Volunteer! Add weight to your resume while you give back to your community!

“Volunteering is a risk-free way to try out a field you’re interested in without making a long-term commitment.”

You’re getting the most out of your education and job preparation by doing your best in class. But you can continue your education outside of class as well by volunteering. Volunteering teaches you more about yourself and your world while preparing you for the future and connecting you to your community.

Community Service for Career Building

You’ll get more than just warm fuzzies for performing community service. Volunteering can help you:

- **Gain practical skills and experience.**

Volunteer positions can develop your problem-solving and organizational skills, your ability to multi-task and work well under pressure — which are great skills to have on the job.

- **Explore possible career tracks.**

Volunteering is a risk-free way to try out a field you’re interested in without making a long-term commitment.

- **Build a strong networking base.** The people you meet while volunteering can make great mentors, giving you career information and insight — and even reference letters and news about job openings.

- **Develop your interpersonal abilities.**

Community service jobs involve working with a variety of people from different social, economic and cultural backgrounds. You’ll learn to operate effectively in a diverse workplace.

- **Prove that you care.** Apathy isn’t in demand. Volunteer work demonstrates your motivation, energy and enthusiasm.

Opportunities Near You

There are opportunities to make a difference all around you. But choose carefully. Look for a position that will help you feel connected to your community, but that is also conveniently located and fits your schedule. Here’s where to start your search:

- Look for postings on campus. Departmental bulletin boards, campus kiosks and university Websites are good places to check for volunteer opportunities.
- Check with clubs or your fraternity or sorority. Lots of campus organizations set up volunteer positions for their members. Ask club officers for more information.
- Call your area Chamber of Commerce. Many businesses and civic organizations coordinate volunteer efforts. In addition to helping you find volunteer opportunities, working with business leaders can give you connections that may come in handy when you’re looking for a job.
- Contact campus organizations that interest you. Many community service organizations operate active chapters on college campuses.
- Check the Web. Major service organizations list volunteer activities on their home pages, and a lot of local opportunities can be found on sites like these:
 - o **Idealist** Browse volunteer organizations and opportunities from all over the world, or check out non-profit job and internship opportunities.
 - o **VolunteerMatch** VolunteerMatch is a search engine that matches thousands of volunteers with non-profits according to interest, location and schedule.
 - o **SERVEnet** SERVENet is a program of Youth Service America and specializes in providing volunteer opportunities for high school and college students all over the country.

Thousands of organizations are looking for motivated students just like you. You might not get a hefty paycheck, but what you do get in return will be invaluable.

Article retrieved from www.fastweb.com, Resources section on 11-21-2006.

College Students Think They're So Special

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Today's college students are more narcissistic and self-centered than their predecessors, according to a comprehensive new study by five psychologists who worry that the trend could be harmful to personal relationships and American society.

"We need to stop endlessly repeating 'You're special' and having children repeat that back," said the study's lead author, Professor Jean Twenge of San Diego State University. "Kids are self-centered enough already."

Twenge and her colleagues, in findings to be presented at a workshop Tuesday in San Diego on the generation gap, examined the responses of 16,475 college students nationwide who completed an evaluation called the Narcissistic Personality Inventory between 1982 and 2006.

The standardized inventory, known as the NPI, asks for responses to such statements as "if I ruled the world, it would be a better place," "I think I am a special person" and "I can live my life any way I want to."

The researcher describe their study as the largest ever of its type and say students' NPI scores have risen steadily since the current test was introduced in 1982. By 2006, they said, two-thirds of the students had above-average scores, 30 percent more than in 1982.

We're all above average!

Narcissism can have benefits, said study co-author W. Keith Campbell of the University of Georgia, suggesting it could be useful in meeting new people "or auditioning on 'American Idol.'"

"Unfortunately, narcissism can also have very negative consequences for society, including the breakdown of close relationships with others," he said.

The study asserts that narcissists "are more likely to have romantic relationships that are short-lived, at risk for infidelity, lack emotional warmth, and to exhibit game-playing, dishonesty, and over-controlling and violent behaviors."

Twenge, the author of "Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled — and More Miserable Than Ever Before," said narcissists tend to lack empathy, react aggressively to criticism and favor self-promotion over helping others.

The researchers traced the phenomenon back to what they called the "self-esteem movement" that emerged in the 1980s, asserting that the effort to build self-confidence had gone too far.

'I am special, I am special'

As an example, Twenge cited a song commonly sung to

the tune of "Frere Jacques" in preschool: "I am special, I am special. Look at me."

"Current technology fuels the increase in narcissism," Twenge said. "By its very name, MySpace encourages attention-seeking, as does YouTube."

Some analysts have commended today's young people for increased commitment to volunteer work. But Twenge viewed even this phenomenon skeptically, noting that many high schools require community service and many youths feel pressure to list such endeavors on college applications.

Campbell said the narcissism upsurge seemed so pronounced that he was unsure if there were obvious remedies.

"Permissiveness seems to be a component," he said. "A potential antidote would be more authoritative parenting. Less indulgence might be called for."

The new report follows a study released by UCLA last month which found that nearly three-quarters of the freshmen it surveyed thought it was important to be "very well-off financially." That compared with 62.5 percent who said the same in 1980 and 42 percent in 1966.

Yet students, while acknowledging some legitimacy to such findings, don't necessarily accept negative generalizations about their generation.

Hanady Kader, a University of Washington senior, said she worked unpaid last summer helping resettle refugees and considers many of her peers to be civic-minded. But she is dismayed by the competitiveness of some students who seem prematurely focused on career status.

"We're encouraged a lot to be individuals and go out there and do what you want, and nobody should stand in your way," Kader said. "I can see goals and ambitions getting in the way of other things like relationships."

Kari Dalane, a University of Vermont sophomore, says most of her contemporaries are politically active and not overly self-centered.

Enough about me, what do you think of me?

"People are worried about themselves — but in the sense of where are they going to find a place in the world," she said. "People want to look their best, have a good time, but it doesn't mean they're not concerned about the rest of the world."

Besides, some of the responses on the narcissism test might not be worrisome, Dalane said, "It would be more depressing if people answered, 'No, I'm not special.'"

Article retrieved from www.msnbc.msn.com on 2-27-2007.



Do you think that your peers are only worried about themselves? Or do you believe that your fellow students consider the impact their words and actions have on others?

Send us your reactions to this article and we may publish your response in the next issue of Scholar Talk!

“By its very name, MySpace encourages attention-seeking, as does YouTube.”

Scholar Talk

What Not to Say at a Job Interview



Be sure to put your best face forward at your next interview.

“You don’t want an awkward silence when asked if you have any questions. Speak up.”

During the dozens of years I’ve worked in human resources for global organizations, I’ve seen plenty of job candidates sabotage themselves during interviews. Take, for example, Noah Ferr — an amalgam of the less-skilled interviewees I’ve encountered.

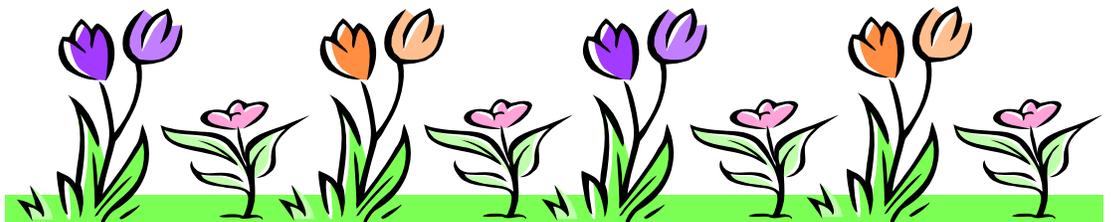
Noah made no eye contact. He inquired about being reimbursed for the \$12 round-trip expense he incurred to visit our offices. He explained that he’d fallen into his profession (the same profession for which we were interviewing him) and wanted out. He gave rambling five-minute answers to questions that could have been answered with a simple yes or no. And his handshake was akin to a near-death experience.

The takeaway: Don’t be like Noah. And if you want to land the job, here are a dozen more things you should never say (or imply) at a job interview:

1. **This suit has been in my family for five generations.** Fail to ace attire and grooming and you can sink your chances before you say a word.
2. **You think this is disorganized. Wait till you see me on work projects.** Neglecting to bring information required on the application, or bringing too few copies of your typo-free resume, looks just plain careless.
3. **I’d rather watch The Worst of C-Span than research your company.** Bone up on recent new business the company has landed or write-ups about the firm in trade publications.
4. **I expect you to provide the exact job I want on my terms — now.** Say too much about the job you want and you risk eliminating yourself.
5. **I could care less — but not much less.** You don’t want an awkward silence when asked if you have any questions. Speak up.
6. **If you hire me, you’d better get your own resume up to date.** Come across as overly aggressive and you may scare the interviewer into rejecting you.
7. **You might want to have security frisk me before I leave.** Sharing confidential information about past or present employers will make the interviewer wonder if you can be trusted.
8. **I think you’re not playing with a full deck.** If you’re asked the “What are your weaknesses?” question, the interviewer wants a straight answer. Mention one non-critical area you’d like to polish.
9. **I’m just going to go ahead and answer the questions I wish you’d asked.** Failing to answer the question that was actually posed will frustrate the interviewer.
10. **I’ll be a huge drain on company morale.** A negative attitude regarding your current or past employers or colleagues will make your stock drop.
11. **Ask not what I can do for you. What can you do for me?** Asking questions about salary or benefits prior to getting a job offer is a major turnoff.
12. **Why did we meet?** Candidates who leave without underscoring their great interest in being hired are quickly forgotten.

Peter Phelan (www.funnyphelan.com) is the humor columnist for *Employee Benefit News*, a contributor to *Wealth Manager* and a popular speaker at business conferences.

This article was retrieved from <http://www.kiplinger.com/features/archives/2006/11/jobinterview.html> on 1-17-07.



Seven Steps to Landing a Summer Internship

(Continued from page 1)

Step 1: Talk with your professors and guidance counselors about your desire to land a summer internship at a company that specializes in your field of study. You may be surprised by the number of contacts they have. This is no time to be shy. Ask him or her directly about any opportunities they know about in your field and for their help in putting you in touch with people who may be able to help you land a summer internship. If they suggest you call someone they know, ask for permission to use their name and be sure to use it!

Step 2: Surf the 'net. Log on to an Internet job search site such as CareerBuilder.com. Use CareerBuilder.com's Quick Job Search feature to locate summer internship opportunities by using the keywords "internship" or "summer." You'll find thousands of openings across the nation at great companies like Lockheed Martin, Ernst & Young, Motorola and more.

Step 3: Use your network of friends, family members and neighbors. Experts agree that using a contact to help you get your foot in the door before a position is advertised is one of the keys to success. Contact them and let them know you are looking for a summer internship. Ask them if they know of any openings or have a contact in your field of interest. One college freshman shared her interest in landing an internship in genetics with a neighbor while at her brother's soccer game. Turns out the neighbor has several clients in the biotechnology field and was able to put the student in touch with a number of top firms.

Step 4: Reach out to the community. If necessary, expand your network to other people you know in your community such as church members, fellow athletic team members, former employers and fellow volunteers. Tell them you are looking for a summer internship in your field and ask for their help. Most people won't be able to resist helping a hard-working college student find summer employment.

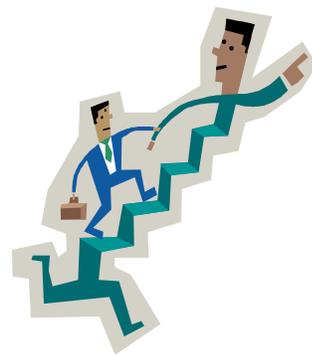
Step 5: Find a personal connection within the

company with which you would like to work. Use your "personal hook" in your contact with the prospective employer. You can find a hook by researching the company on the Internet and looking for clues that could lead to a personal connection with someone in the company. Suppose you research the company's executives and find that the chief information officer attended your university. Use this connection by calling him or her directly, identify yourself as a student of his or her alma mater and communicate your desire for an internship at the company. Chances are, they'll be happy to help you by either paving your way to their company's human resources contacts or by putting you in touch with their fellow industry contacts.

Step 6: Look into non-profits for opportunities. Nearly every student — regardless of their major — would benefit from a summer internship at a non-profit organization or company. Many internships at non-profits often provide opportunities not available to student interns at traditional companies. Because staffing is often tight and budgets are even tighter, non-profit organizations are eager to find student interns with a desire to head up projects or put their knowledge to work on a variety of high impact and meaningful tasks. Students gain real world experience and valuable skills, and the organization benefits from the student's contribution.

Step 7: Contact small businesses in your area and propose a possible internship. Although the local print shop may appear to be running smoothly, you may not realize that its owners are struggling with the need to market their business, establish better pricing methodologies and improve their antiquated bookkeeping methods. Local consulting firms may have experts in their field, but lack the money or expertise to hire a full-time business manager. They would certainly benefit from a summer intern who is majoring in business administration or marketing. Watch your local newspaper for chamber of commerce and other business association meetings to make contacts within your community. [Land That Internship Now!](#)

Article retrieved from www.CareerBuilder.com, College Graduate Section, on 3-12-2007.



Race your way to the top of the internship applicant pool with these tips!

"Most people won't be able to resist helping a hard-working college student find summer employment."



Making the dream of college a reality for Baltimore's Youth

CollegeBound Foundation

Suite 300
300 Water Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Phone: 410.783.2905
Fax: 410.727.5786
www.collegeboundfoundation.org

Ms. Jamie Crouse
Scholarship Program Administrator
jcrouse@collegeboundfoundation.org

Ms. Samantha Rodowsky
Scholarship Program Associate
srodowsky@collegeboundfoundation.org

ATTENTION

TIDBITZ: Quick Snip-Its
NEW DUE DATE FOR RENEWAL MATERIALS!
June 1, 2007!

All scholars with renewable awards must submit copies of their:

- complete 2007-2008 Student Aid Report (all pages)
- 2007-2008 Financial Aid Award Letter or printout of *all financial aid offered* to the student
- form or letter verifying completion of at least 4 hours of volunteer service
- and an official or unofficial transcript *printed in landscape format* (when you select Ctrl-P or Print, click on Preferences and set the Finishing tab to print Landscape rather than Portrait.)

All materials must be in our office by June 1st. Items postmarked June 1st or later **WILL NOT** be accepted. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, contact Ms. Crouse (jcrouse@collegeboundfoundation.org) or Ms. Rodowsky (srodowsky@collegeboundfoundation.org) immediately. Students who miss the deadline **WILL NOT** receive funding for the 2007-2008 academic year.