Alumni Mentoring Opportunities

By Charlie Endicott, Associate Director of Career Services

Not long ago, a student seeking an internship opportunity that was relevant to his major and chosen career field was having a great deal of trouble finding that “right” internship. The student was in his junior year and felt he needed “hands-on” experience to make certain he would be competitive in the job market when he graduated. He searched through some of the larger online databases with no luck, and then remembered an e-mail he received from Career Services advertising something called the “Salisbury University Mentor Network.”

He made an appointment with Career Services, and the counselor suggested he try using the SU Mentor Network to find all the necessary contacts to help him locate an internship for his field and major. After searching the database, he e-mailed three mentors who worked for employers in whom he was interested. He networked with them, and with their assistance, he was able to setup a summer internship with a potential employer. The student came out of the experience significantly impressed by the network’s efficiency, as well as the mentors’ willingness to help him pursue that all-important internship.

During that same semester, a sophomore walked into the Career Center for an appointment with no idea what she would do with her degree. Yes, she knew all the content of her major and she was very good at writing papers, preparing projects, conducting research, presenting in class, etc., but she was still unsure of what she wanted to do with her degree. After giving it much thought, she had her career aspirations narrowed down to two fields. She was advised by a career counselor to contact two mentors in each of her interest areas and ask them questions about their careers. The assistance the mentors provided helped the student focus her ideas, and it left her energized and excited to pursue her dreams.

As you can see by the above stories, the SU Mentor Network is a wonderful resource for current students. The Mentor Network provides access to alumni who truly want to provide students with help in:

- Locating employment and internships with your employer
- Figuring out their major and career
- Writing their resume and cover letter

Discussion what your job consists of
- Researching career options with your employer

The SU Mentor Network is a group of over 500 Salisbury University alumni who have volunteered to help current SU students with career-related issues. One of the nicest things about the Mentor Network is that it hardly interferes with your busy schedule – usually involving just a few e-mails or phone calls per month.

Becoming an SU Mentor Is Very Simple

Follow these steps:
- Go to the website: https://www2.salisbury.edu/alumninetwork/default.aspx
- On the right side of the page, locate the box that reads “New User?”
- Click “CREATE ACCOUNT”
- Complete the form

That’s all there is to it! If you need to make any updates at a later date, go to the website and login via the “Mentor Login” box. We appreciate your time and hope you will consider being a mentor for current SU students.

Student Interns at the Ward Museum

by Hallie Kroll ’14

As an educational program of Salisbury University, the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art employed seven interns and graduate assistants from SU in fall 2013. The Ward Museum partners with the University to allow its students to gain course credit or paid assistantships while working with the museum’s staff and volunteers. SU students not only receive tangible benefits, but also gain valuable workforce experience while still in college. Internships and graduate assistantships are available for both fall and spring semesters, and cover a wide range of experiences, giving students the tools they need in order to select a career and – more importantly – be hired.

As a senior, I am interned with the Development Department as a grant writer and special assistant to the executive director of the museum. I am a history major and conflict analysis minor.

Clay Girard, who is majoring in environmental studies and economics, worked with the museum’s Education Department to promote a green school initiative with local high schools, as well as completing a solar/lighting project within the museum’s building. Communications major Carolina Hollingsworth worked with the Membership and Marketing departments on her senior practicum. Taylor Linker, a public relations and journalism major, was the Ward Museum’s Events Department public relations intern, working on planning and developing various events the museum offers throughout the semester. Intern Nick Almony is an environmental studies major, who worked with the Facilities Department on environmentally sensitive landscaping projects, including restoring the museum’s rain garden.

The Ward Museum also employs two graduate assistants to provide support for their educational programs and exhibits. Eric Nardi is a first-year graduate student majoring in history and works with the Curatorial Department on the museum’s exhibits and archival work. Jackie Darrow is a first-year graduate student majoring in biology and is working with the Ward’s Education Department. She is currently working on environmental education activities for pre-K students through the Growing Up Wild initiative.

Each of the Salisbury students interning or working for the museum provide valuable support to the departments and administration, while also learning important tools for their future careers. An internship at the Ward Museum is not only a line on a resume – it is invaluable life experience for SU students.