



Issue Date: Friday, October 3, 2003

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CRC helps with summer opportunities, careers

Armed with information about internship and job opportunities and a well-trained staff, the Career Resource Center is ready to help Wesleyan students plan for the future. But nestled away in Butterfield C, the CRC—and planning for the future, in general—are not always among the top priorities on a student's mind.

Associate Director of Career Development Carol Crosby and her colleagues want to change that by exposing students to summer internship opportunities before they are faced with career choices after graduation.

Through our website [www.wesleyan.edu/crc], students can explore over 6,000 potential internships through MyCRC," Crosby said. In addition, the CRC has purchased top databases, including internship-usa.com, which has extensive internship descriptions in fields ranging from Human Rights to Law and Policy, as well as Vault.com, which carries great descriptions of top companies potential internships—and jobs—applicants can review. "

While internships are a good way for students to gain experience in a field that interests them, many are unpaid. As a result, those students who need to make money over the summer are often unable to take these positions. The CRC offers a solution to this problem in the form of the Dana Grant.

Dana Grants are funds for low-paying or non-paying summer internships," said Michael Sciola, Director of the CRC.

Students who are sophomores or juniors and who are receiving need-based financial aid are eligible to apply. We normally get 35 or so applications and award 25-30 grants. You can pick up a Dana Grant application in the CRC library. Applications are due in February, but students shouldn't wait until February to start. "

David Martin '04, a Dana Grant recipient, interned in Prague for a summer with the editorial staff of an international Internet magazine called Transitions Online (TOL)

They're based in Prague and cover mostly political news in the former communist countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union," Martin said. This is exactly what I want to do when I leave Wesleyan. TOL could not afford to pay me—the long and short of it is that I could never have done this if I didn't have the help of the Dana Grant. "

Many students do not have the same degree experience with the CRC's resources.

I haven't had the chance to visit the CRC yet, but I'm hoping that in the future they will be able to help me figure out some possible internships that will help me along with my career," said Emily Klasson '06. I'm hoping they can help me narrow down possible career choices based on my interests. "

For CRC staff members, this is an especially important year as they integrate in suggestions made last year to upgrade services offered to students.

According to Crosby, these include a newly revamped library with up-to-date text resources, new furniture and more computers, expanded drop-in hours, additional individual counseling sessions, expanded peer career advisors programming for residential halls and a soon-to-be revamped website.

Beyond internship opportunities Sciola said his office provides counseling, self assessment, graduate and professional school advising, resume and cover letter writing and information on academic majors.

We also bring many alumni back to campus during the academic year to talk about different career opportunities," Sciola said. Consider the CRC as your personal career consultant. "

He added that his office also provides information about scholarships and fellowships.

Think of us as your one-stop, soup-to-nuts career consulting center. You don't need to wait until you know what you want to do. A great time to come into the career center is when you have no clue what you want to do. "

The CRC is also offering different types of programs designed to attract students with a broad spectrum of career interests.

We have returned this year with our Career Outlook program, for all students who wish to shadow a professional, the Venture program, for students who wish to spend a non-academic leave in a non-profit internship," Crosby said. The Wesleyan Business Immersion Program is a series of workshops designed to help any students interested in a career in finance understand the field as well as prepare them for job hunting. "

For some students, the career programs have had a profound influence.

I've heard of the CRC and actually did go there during orientation week for a presentation for people who were interested in being pre-med," said Arielle Cohen '07. Their presentation inspired me to take my time doing the pre-med requirements, and I would definitely go to them again, probably for info about internships or opportunities to shadow doctors. "

Throughout the week, students can stop by the CRC during drop-in hours without making an appointment

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