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"Engineering a Change"

By Ismail Muhammad

August 31, 2011

"African American students are avoiding engineering careers and the lucrative pay. Some groups are trying to steer them into the field.

Itanza Lawrence, a rising senior at Columbia University's School of Engineering and Applied Science and a Los Angeles native, is a successful student by any measure."

Read more of the article at <http://www.ourweekly.com/issues-archive/school-daze/>

Say goodbye to this version of the Scholar Monthly!

Beginning with the January 2012 Issue, the Scholar Monthly will have a new look! It will be distributed as an email newsletter rather than as a link or attachment. This will make information that you want to read easier to access.

As a scholar or alum, if you are interested in writing an article for next year's newsletters, please email Meredith with a potential topic and which month(s) you would want to write for. Have a topic that we haven't written about before that you'd like to know more about? Suggest that as well!

The South Central Scholars Renewal Application

The 2012 Renewal Application will OPEN on **June 1, 2012** for all rising sophomores through seniors who plan to continue their undergraduate programs for at least ONE semester during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Note: There will be a separate application for students requesting graduate assistance. These are reviewed on a case-by-case basis as funds are limited for graduate school support.

As a requirement of your participation and to be eligible to renew your scholarship each year for the length of your college career, we have certain expectations regarding your involvement and participation in South Central Scholars' year-round activities. The activities that we host are meant to get you thinking about the future and prepare you now both for college and career success. They are not meant to be time-consuming, but are meant to be educational, both for you and for us as an organization devoted to supporting you throughout your matriculation.

Our expectations for 2011-2012 are:

- 1) That you will participate in 2 webinars per year
- 2) That you will complete 1 survey and 1 evaluation per year.
- 3) That you will reapply each year to renew your scholarship.
- 4) That you will attend at least one general meeting per year.

For more information or for updates on the process, go to
http://www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center-2012_renewal.

Tips on Studying Abroad from an International Student

By Wei Wei

Studying abroad was a very precious experience for me. Two years ago, I got a scholarship from the Chinese government and came to Los Angeles to study and do research at UCLA. Now I have just finished a joint PhD program and returned to Donghua University in Shanghai to finish my dissertation. Looking back at the time I spent in LA, I find that I have benefited a lot from this study abroad experience, much more than just academically.

Here is some advice from my study abroad experience I would like to share with students interested in studying abroad:

- ✓ **Be determined and resourceful.** I always wanted to study abroad when I was in college, but money was a big roadblock. My family couldn't financially support my study abroad, so I did a lot of research to find a fellowship to help. Luckily, I got a scholarship from the China Scholarship Council, which allowed me to study abroad for up to two years during graduate school. I believe that if you are really determined to do something and you are willing to do some research, you will find that there are people and resources around you ready to help.
- ✓ **Be aware and make connections:** Who you meet today could be the VIP that helps you tomorrow. Professor Yunfeng Lu from UCLA is that VIP person for me. I met him in 2008 in a lecture in China. After his presentation, I talked to him and asked for his business card. After that, I emailed him a couple of times. The following year, I asked him whether he could accept me as a visiting student. He agreed immediately. You never know which weak tie you make will lead you to new opportunities. Next time, when you attend a lecture, remember to network with people. From my personal experience, it works.
- ✓ **Be prepared for culture shock:** No matter which country you decide to go abroad to study, you will get culture shock. From the food to the way people interact with each other, it can be so different. Before I came to LA, I seldom talked to strangers on the street, but now I miss such small talk. Just remember no matter if you like it or not or agree with it, there are just culture differences. And something that you may feel is strange at first could be something you miss later when you get back to your own culture.
- ✓ **Be open, meet new people and make new friends:** When we go to a new country to study, we arrive there with academic and social expectations. To make academic progress and in order to learn new knowledge and techniques, we need to open our minds to new ideas. To make new friends in a different culture, we also need to be more open-minded to overcome stereotypes. Most universities have international student centers, which offer great opportunities to students from other cultures to meet people and to learn more about the school and the city.
- ✓ **Be appreciative and seize the day:** Though it becomes more and more easy to study abroad, it is still a very important and precious experience. Try to seize the day, to learn more, and to make the best use of each day. At the end of this article I would like to share a sentence I love, one I heard from a commencement speech: "consider yourself as a cell: no matter where you go, there you are, try to develop the best you can."

Good Luck!

Obama Unveils New Student Loan Rules

October 26, 2011, <http://www.npr.org/2011/10/26/141734190/obama-unveils-new-student-loan-rules>

The Obama administration is revising some rules on federally guaranteed student loans. The administration says the changes will make it easier for graduates to repay them. It's making it easier for students to consolidate loans into a single payment and expanding a program that bases payments on a graduate's income.

Report: More Jobs This Year for Recent Graduates

By Jon Christian, October 25, 2011, CampusProgress.org

Despite [modest salary gains](#) this year for recent graduates, high unemployment still poses a problem for young job seekers. But according to a recent report [[PDF](#)] by the Graduate Management Admission Council, there are good signs for 2011 graduates—especially for those who earned Masters in Business Administration degrees.

According to researchers, this fits into a general positive trend for the Class of 2011. And research at Georgetown University suggests that while the education system is producing sufficient numbers of technical degrees, many are choosing to opt out of technical fields.

“With the exception of the energy/utilities, products and services, and high technology sectors, the percentage hiring recent graduates with a bachelor's or first university degree increased as well,” reads the report.

The yearly report, called the Corporate Recruiters Survey, shows that 57 percent of individuals who earned MBAs in 2011 have already received job offers—a figure comparable to pre-recession findings.

Sixty-seven percent of sampled companies said they plan to hire MBA graduates in 2011, while 56 percent plan to hire undergraduates from the Class of 2011. Those figures represent a five percent gain for planned MBA hires, but just a one percent gain for undergraduate hires.

Just four percent of companies polled reported that they're not planning to hire any new workers this year, down from eight percent in 2010 and 13 percent in 2009. This year's Corporate Recruiters Survey collected employment data from 1,509 employers in 51 countries.

“The post-recession recovery is gaining momentum as companies turn more toward growth and focus less on overcoming economic challenges and reducing costs,” reads the report.

To read the entire article, go to: http://campusprogress.org/articles/report_more_jobs_this_year_for_recent_graduates/

WORDS OF WISDOM...

“The community stagnates without the impulse of the individual. The impulse dies away without the sympathy of the community.”

William James

Upcoming Career Panels & Webinars!

Career Panel: The Associates Program through the Capital Group

Linda Toth will discuss the application process, timeline, and requirements for The Capital Group Companies' internships and fellowship programs. Suggested for college Juniors but open to Sophomores that may consider applying next year.

Monday, December 5, 2011

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Thursday, December 1st!

Career Panel: Conducting an Effective Job Search

Ronald Roberts, Jr. will discuss how to develop a strategy to research and apply for job opportunities.

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, December 12th!

Career Workshop: Developing an Elevator Speech

Ronald Roberts, Jr. will provide tips and direction in developing a 3-5 minute "pitch" that you can use in informal interview activities such as networking events and job fairs.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, January 9th!

Fellowships & Scholarships

Urban Teacher Center for Opportunity

www.urbanteachercenter.org

DUE December 15, 2011

Urban Teacher Center believes that schools need a guarantee—that before teachers are certified, they can demonstrate student achievement gains. UTC's innovative model ensures that districts get only teacher candidates who have demonstrated effectiveness in the classroom.

Interested in learning more? There are three webinars scheduled for interested applicants on Nov. 29, Dec. 4, and Dec. 13 at 9pm EST. Go online to register in the events section!



National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials

www.naleo.org



The NALEO Educational Fund is a nonpartisan 501 (c)(3) organization first established in 1981, we carry out our mission through programs that integrate Latinos fully into American political society, provide professional development opportunities and technical assistance to the nation's more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials, and monitor and conduct advocacy on issues important to the Latino community and our political participation. Internship positions include Volunteer Coordinator, Data Management, and Demographic Research.

Email **Meredith** for links to internship descriptions.

Paul Krekorian Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 2

<http://www.cd2.lacity.org/INTERNSHIPS/index.htm>

The Second Council District includes the communities of: Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, North Hollywood, Shadow Hills, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Sunland, Sun Valley, Tujunga, Valley Village, Valley Glen and Van Nuys.

Fellowships and Internships offered for 2011 through 2012. Visit the website for more information.



Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC)

<http://www.cic.net/Home/Students/SROP/Application/AppInfo.aspx>



The CIC SROP application is accepted November 1, 2011 until February 10, 2012. The CIC SROP application allows you to apply to a variety of widely-recognized summer research programs at participating CIC institutions using a single application. One of the benefits of using the CIC SROP application is that you only need to send one transcript to a central location and your faculty recommenders will only be required to submit one online letter of recommendation. Upon completion, your application will be viewable by faculty from nine top research universities.

SCS Has Launched its Online Internship Database!

The Internship Database will allow you to search through the programs that SCS has collected over the years, including formal internship programs, shadowing opportunities, and volunteer internships. To be able to access it, you MUST submit an Internship Placement Request Form. Go to http://www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center to fill it out!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sr. Manager of Minority Business Development, Walt Disney - Lake Buena Vista, FL

Protect and enhance the company's reputation, brand strength and long-term growth prospects through leadership of outreach to ethnically diverse organizations and multicultural stakeholders in Central Florida and beyond. For complete job listing and requirements, [email Meredith](#).

Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Rep. Xavier Becerra - Los Angeles, CA

Democratic congressional office in Los Angeles seeks a Deputy Press Secretary to work with the Communications Director. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, creating and distributing e-newsletters, franked mailings and questionnaires; planning in-district events; drafting press releases; managing and updating official website and social media accounts; editing video; and helping to develop and implement communications strategies. Candidate must be a team player with superior writing and organizational skills. California ties and Spanish language skills are a plus. Please send a cover letter, resume, and two short writing samples to Resume.California@mail.house.gov. No calls, faxes, or drop-ins please.

Bilingual Speech Therapist, The New You Center, Inc. - Santa Monica, CA

The New You Center, Inc. is searching for a bilingual speaking Therapist (MSW) for its drug and alcohol program. This is a paid position. For more information, please [email Meredith](#).

Organizer and Capacity-Building Strategist, National Council of La Raza - Los Angeles, CA

NCLR is seeking an Organizer and Capacity-Building Strategist in its California office. While a member of the capacity-building team, the position is also a part of NCLR's larger Civic Engagement Department which works to expand the power and influence of the Latino community to shape public policy by linking eligible immigrants to citizenship, citizens to registration and voting, and the community at large to ongoing issue education and advocacy. For complete job listing and requirements, [email Meredith](#).

United Students Site Organizer, InnerCity Struggle - Los Angeles, CA

The US Site Organizer would be responsible for effectively operating the United Students club at 2 East Los Angeles high schools, which require advanced organizing skills to facilitate school-change campaigns. We are looking for someone with previous experience in developing popular education curriculum for youth, facilitating and coordinating youth leadership training and a track record of effective base building. For more information, [email Meredith](#).

Multiple Positions, American Lung Association in California - Los Angeles, CA

Positions available as Advocacy Manager and Advocacy Coordinator. Both are mostly grant-funded positions that require a minimum of a B.A. or B.S., 2-5 years experience in outreach, exceptional people skills, and knowledge of computers. For both listings, go to <http://www.idealists.org/view/org/wjsG3gstCC2D/>.

Multiple listings of seasonal jobs

<http://forms.jobalertsusa.com/L/PagelsEduDefault/?sub=119&prt=2542&refprt=101861&group=season>.

Major Creep: "Why Science Majors Change Their Minds"

By Christopher Drew, The New York Times
November 4, 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/06/education/edlife/why-science-majors-change-their-mind-its-just-so-darn-hard.html?_r=1&adxnml=1&pagewanted=all&adxnmlx=1322519920-w+AafaF4BtmdY2N6ciTMPA

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY / SUNDAY
			1	2	3/4
5 4pm PST Capital Group TAP Webinar	6	7 LA Cash for College	8 LA Cash for College	9	10/11
12	13	14 6pm PST Webinar: Conducting an Effective Job Search	15	16	17/18
19	20 Happy Hanukkah!	21	22	23 SCS Office Closed for Holidays	24/25 Merry Christmas!!
26 Happy Kwanzaa!	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For upcoming events, visit our Calendar of Events!

http://www.southcentralscholars.org/calendar_of_events

For upcoming webinars, visit our Webinars page!

http://www.southcentralscholars.org/calendar_of_events-webinars

Upcoming Campus Visits TBD

UC Los Angeles

UC Berkeley

UC Santa Barbara

Stanford

Univ. of Southern California

Loyola Marymount

Claremont Colleges

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