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The SCS Renewal Application Opens today, June 1st, at 5:00pm PST!

In Summer of 2009, we announced that there would be changes in the renewal application process for current scholars. Here is a review of those changes, and what is expected:

To be submitted online through the [SCS website](#)

- 1) Scholarship Renewal Application and 4 journal entries
- 2) Progress Report for the previous year (2009-2010 school year)
- 3) Scholar Survey for the previous year (2009-2010 school year)

To be submitted by email, fax, or mail to [Meredith](#)

- 4) Submit transcript for previous year (2009-2010 school year)
- 5) Submit financial aid award for upcoming year (2010-2011 school year)

Journal Entries: They answer the questions below, copy and paste into the online application.

- 1) "*What do I know about the jobs that I am interested in?*" - We ask you to identify at least two professionals that have or are working in the industry or career path you are pursuing, and have an informational interview with them. This can be a professor, counselor, mentor, or anyone in the SCS network. The journal entry is 1-2 paragraphs total of what you've learned from those interviews.
- 2) "*What jobs are associated with my major/course of study?*" - We ask that you list at least three jobs/positions that you are interested in pursuing that are related to your major/program/or interests. The journal entry will include the title, brief job description, examples of companies that hire those positions, and any other details of what you think your strategy should be to get there (do you need grad school?)
- 3) "*Who have I worked with (or can I work with) here at school?*" - We want you to identify at least one academic reference that you can use for graduate school, professional school, or future employment. You don't need to get a reference from them now, but we want you to identify who you COULD use as a reference, so that you can start thinking about how to develop that relationship and keep them in your network.
- 4) "*Do I have a resume and cover letter that are updated?*" - The answer should be OF COURSE! Send us an updated resume (especially if you are asking for internship placement assistance) that includes current relevant coursework, extracurricular activities, projects and research, etc.

You can find examples of these journal entries on our website at:

http://www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center

The sooner you send your journal entries, the easier it will be for you later when you go through finals.

The deadline for the full completed renewal application, journal entries, and additional attachments is Friday, July 16, 2010 at 11:59PM.

To apply, go to

www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center-renewal_2010.

If you need assistance with any of the journal entries, please contact Meredith at meredith@southcentralscholars.org. Plan in advance to get the necessary materials, like your transcript and financial aid letter. Let your financial aid office know IN ADVANCE that you have a deadline. And if you can't get an official award letter, find out if your online student account shows your awards for the coming year. Good luck!

If someone listens, or stretches out a hand, or whispers a word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen.

—Loretta Girzartis

A Word from a Mentor: Job & Internship Hunting

By Sherry Casanova

When the time comes to apply for an internship or job, keep in mind that the review process begins as soon as you submit your resume! First impressions are important. Here are a few tips to keep your resume at the top of the pile:

If the job/internship posting asks for a cover letter, send one! Use this as an opportunity to provide more details about your background and your suitability for the position. Explain why you're interested in this particular position or company. How can you distinguish yourself from the pool of candidates?

Do not use a standard cover letter or resume. Adjust your cover letter and resume to reflect the particular job/internship. It may take more time, but it is worth it. Include relevant coursework or projects as appropriate.

Use appropriate professional language in your correspondence. This is possibly your future employer – not a casual, familiar acquaintance. Avoid slang, and use appropriate greetings and salutations. Many positions will require you to coordinate projects or correspondence on behalf of a more senior employee. Your email messages immediately show an employer not only *how* you write, but *how well*.

Organize your resume so your strengths stand out. Present yourself in the strongest light! Are your most relevant experiences easily noticed? If someone had 30 seconds to scan your resume, what would stand out?

Instead of just listing responsibilities, highlight achievements. When possible, provide more than just a list of completed tasks with regards to a previous position or group. How did your involvement improve the group or company? Were you selected as the group leader for a particular research project?

Format your resume so it is easy-to-read. Your resume is not the time to try out unusual fonts or fancy graphics and designs - - unless perhaps you are applying for a creative position. Don't use a colored background. Keep your resume clutter-free. Remember – employers may only briefly look at your resume as they scan through a pile of applicants. If they have to struggle to even read it, you are already behind!

Provide contact information that presents you as a professional, serious candidate. Create a simple, professional email address if you don't already have one. Don't ask employers to contact party4ever@yahoo.com, because they probably won't.

Update your resume. Make sure that your information is up-to-date!

Follow-up on your resume submission as appropriate. Employers are often inundated with resumes, many from candidates with similar levels of experience. Show an employer that you are interested in this particular position, and not merely submitting resumes to any job posting. One simple follow-up email can be the difference between getting lost in the shuffle and getting a second look.

Most importantly, ask someone else – your mentor or a friend - to proof-read your resume for you!

You are all intelligent, vibrant individuals that have so much to offer to prospective employers – make sure your resume reflects that... Good luck!

If you are not yet paired with a mentor, but would like to be, please email Meredith at meredith@southcentralscholars.org to be paired with one of our fabulous volunteers!

Scholarly Insight: The Importance of Studying Abroad

By Amber Harden, Smith College '11

Hello, my name is Amber Harden, I currently am a Junior, Government Major and Spanish Minor enrolled at Smith College in Northampton Massachusetts. However this year I am also a 3rd year student enrolled at the Universidad de Córdoba in Cordoba Spain. I have spent my entire junior year since September in beautiful Southern Spain. I will be leaving in less than a week, and upon reflection of this academic year I can honestly say it has been a life changing experience. I have grown and made self discoveries that I never thought was imaginable.

Living in another country adds a lot of perspective to you own life. I never really realized how embedded I was into the US culture until I was living in a culture totally different. In southern Spain, the way of living is different, eating habits such as meal times are the exact opposite than that of the states. Here lunch is largest meal of the day and normally eaten around 2 or 3oclock in the afternoon and dinner is one of the smallest meals eaten around 9 or 10 at night. Here, because they have siesta, from 2-5 in the afternoon essentially the whole city shuts down and reopens from about 5:30-9. Fashion styles are different, party life is different, educational system is different and oh let's not forget the biggest difference....the Language. It all took some time getting used to but with an open mind and willingness to learn I have become fully accustomed and in some ways prefer the way of living here. And at the very least, my Spanish has improved immensely. When I arrived in Spain I could barely understand the language let alone convey whatever sentiment I wanted to express, but now I have casual conversations, write papers, and have given presentations in Spanish.

Another benefit of studying abroad in Europe was the amount of traveling I was able to do for much cheaper that it is in the states. Before Spain I had never been to Europe. During my time here I have traveled all over Spain and visited Paris, Amsterdam, Portugal, Gibraltar, 3 cities in Morrocco, and 6 cities in Italy. Not an obsessive amount of traveling but enough to realize something that I never really new about myself... I love to travel. You see so many new things, experience new cultures, meet new people and establish friendships that you never would've made.

One the greatest highlights about going abroad are the amazing amount of people that you meet. I have made strong friendships with not only Americans who were also studying abroad but with Spaniards who I know will be friends for the rest of my lifetime. The beauty of Studying abroad is that not only do you realize how big and amazing and different the world is, you also realize just how small it really is and how people and cultures aren't really as different as they seem. The same problems and joys and desires exist in all countries, just with small variations.

And I know that saying that going abroad has truly changed my life sounds very cliché but it holds so much truth. I am no longer and will never be the "Amber" that I once was before I made this journey to another country. Almost everything has changed especially my life plans. Before Spain I wanted to go to law school and become a lawyer in the public sector. However during my time here I have discovered that isn't my passion at all. My time here has inspired me to reach outside of my comfort zone and strive for goals I never thought imaginable and it has reaped amazing results. Now, after my stay in Spain I will be doing a 2 month internship in International Relations in Buenos Aires Argentina and in fall of my senior year I will be applying for an entry level position as Foreign Service Officer for the US Embassy.

So my advice to everyone who maybe be thinking or pondering the thought of studying abroad is to DO IT! If it is only for a semester or an even just a summer, the journey is I guarantee you it is worth it. So go to you international study abroad office and just browse and see what they have to offer. College is the time to grow and discover you more as a person and studying abroad is another facet to help maximize that growth and discovery.



Congratulations to the SCS Alumni Association

On winning a Challenge Grant

With the Frieda Fox Family Foundation

For \$15,000 towards Mentorship Programs for South Central Scholars!

JOBS

Community News, Education Policy Coordinator

The Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) is seeking a dynamic and intelligent individual to serve as its Education Policy Coordinator. The individual will be responsible for developing and managing ABC's education initiatives and policies that advance quality education for all students. The Alliance for a Better Community is a coalition of organizations and civic leaders promoting equity for Latinos in education, health, economic development and civic participation throughout the Los Angeles region. To read the job post and apply, go to <http://afabc.org/getmedia/56d41cea-1776-4e67-9caf-3840bd914491/Education-Policy-Coor-5-13-10-announcement.aspx>.

Administrative/Office Assistant (Pacific Palisades)

Seeking a dynamic, self starter interested in learning and growing with a private equity/investment banking firm. The tasks vary and really need someone who is a team player and willing to do what is needed. Small office setting. The candidate will need to think on their feet, use good judgment, facilitate and follow thru with projects. The more the candidate brings to the table the better. This is a position you can make your own. Salary range 40-50K. Benefits included. Preferred experience in similar industry or professional setting. To apply, send your resume to [Eileen Samuels, Golden Opportunity Placement, at goldnopp49@aol.com, or call her at \(310\) 301-7991](mailto:Eileen.Samuels@goldenopportunity.com).

Consensus Inc., Account Specialist

The successful candidate will be responsible for implementing public outreach and public relations tasks for multiple clients. This entry-level position includes developing and maintaining databases; conducting research; scheduling and coordinating outreach at activity centers; writing basic public information materials; coordinating content for websites, blogs and social media sites; coordinating events and community meetings; conducting door-to-door walks; interacting with community stakeholders and maintaining hotline logs. To apply, go to <http://www.consensusinc.com/about-consensus/careers/>.

Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center, Service Coordinator

Under the direction of the Regional Manager, this position will provide service coordination with and on behalf of developmentally disabled persons and their families. The SC will ensure clients receive services and supports consistent with individual concerns, desires and priorities. The SC will be expected to work in a partnership with consumers, families, service providers and members of the community at large. Bilingual English/Spanish required. To apply, go to <http://www.lanterman.org/index.php/jobs/>.

INTERNSHIPS

Community News, Project Intern

ABC is currently seeking an intern for summer 2010 that would provide support to the Community Health Coordinator on projects addressing the intersection between health, education and urban planning. For further details, go to <http://afabc.org/getmedia/0f056c7e-6ff2-4f53-ae6f-ebac6df17368/Internship-Position--5-2010.aspx>.

*Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR*LA), Intern*

Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) seeks a part-time or full-time Intern to collaborate with staff in program implementation, membership building, organizational development, and office administration. This position will benefit individuals interested in learning about PSR-LA's dynamic programs, the fundraising initiatives on which they depend, and non-profit management. To apply, send your resume and cover letter to Ana Mascarenas at amascarenas@psr-la.org.

FINANCIAL AID EVENTS & DEADLINES

South Central Scholars Renewal Application NOW OPEN!

Read the first page to get the details. **The deadline to apply is July 16, 2010.** Visit the Renewal 2010 page on our website at http://www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center.

To stay IN THE LOOP, go to
www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center

JUNE 2010 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 2010 Renewal Application Opens!	2	3	4	5
7 Registration for 2010 Summer Conferences open!	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30			

Other events TBA:

UC Los Angeles Luncheon

UC Irvine Luncheon

Loyola Marymount Luncheon

JULY 2010 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24
26 Deadline to register for 2010 Summer Conferences!	27	28	29	30	31 First day of 2010 Summer Conference!

Other events TBA:

To stay IN THE LOOP about upcoming events in the following months, go to
www.southcentralscholars.org/Get_Involved-Calendar_of_Events!!