

Name: Antoine Gardner

Age: 20

School Year: Junior

Major: (Double) English (emphasizing Creative Writing) and Rhetoric & Professional Writing

College in U of H: College of Arts & Science

Hometown: Bronx, New York

Coming into college my main concern was achieving my goal of becoming the Editor-in-Chief of *Details Magazine* by my 26th birthday. The only help (I thought) I had was my English major advisor. It wasn't until the spring semester of my sophomore year that I decided to declare another major, Rhetoric and Professional Writing. In addition to adding another major, I acquired another advisor and that pretty much summed up my academic networking system. During this past summer my friend landed an internship with Radio Disney through Career Services and he recommended that I schedule an appointment with a Career Counselor as soon as possible.



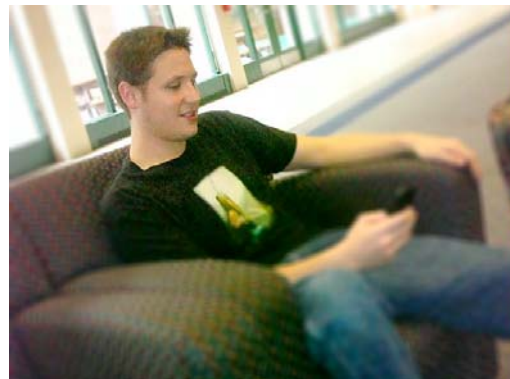
When I first arrived at the Career Services office I was greeted by Marsha, their Office Coordinator, and I knew I was welcome. After a few appointments, everyone in the office knew who I was and I would stop by their offices to converse for a bit. Immediately after speaking with Linda Shultz, the Associate Director of Career Services, about my dream to be Editor-in-Chief, she proposed an idea for me to intern with Career Services. I obliged and I completed intensive tasks over this past semester that I wouldn't have been able to do in a classroom setting. My main priority as an intern was to interview students whose college careers have benefited from the help of Career Services; they are entitled "Student Success Stories."

Entitling each interview as a "Student Success Story" makes success seem more relatable to students and the format resembles that of a magazine interview, giving it a sense of glamour. Conducting the interviews was an absolute experience because it gave me the chance to be on the other side, like that of an employer. I am referred to as "AG" in the interviews (my initials). Speaking of interviews, with the help of Career Services, I am now an intern at HarperCollins. I am so excited to be a part of the HarperCollins staff and I am forever grateful to Career Services for their efforts.

My advice to fellow students is "stop by Career Services and I'm sure you'll be the next 'Student Success Story'".

Name: Stephen Horbachuk
Age: 22
School Year: Senior
Major: Multimedia Web Design and Development
College in U of H: University Studies (Multi-Disciplinary)
Hometown: Watertown, CT

It was 2:00PM (on the dot) in the afternoon of November 5th when I entered Gengras Student Union. Stephen and I had been playing “email-tag” for the past few days and we agreed to meet in Suisman Lounge. As soon as I stepped foot into the lounge I noticed Stephen from afar. He was sitting on one of the big couches, with his back facing me and the main entrance. I walked up to him and introduced myself. He seemed extremely cheery and was enthusiastic about sharing his Student Success Story. Stephen recently landed an internship this past summer with CIGNA Corporation. During his internship he did a phenomenal job and was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. This is Stephen’s story.



AG: Before coming to Career Services, what did you think about it?

SH: “I had no idea where it was even located. During my junior year, I was ready and looking for an internship. I was looking for career advice and feedback on my résumé. Career Services was recommended by a couple of my professors. I figured I’d give it a try.”

AG: How did you discover Career Services?

SH: “Again, it was highly recommended by several professors. They told me where it was located too.”

AG: Specifically, how has Career Services helped your college career?

SH: “They provided information on Career Fairs dates, helpful feedback on my résumé, and informational pamphlets. The biggest thing was the résumé feedback and their availability and willingness to help.”

AG: Exactly how did Career Services help you achieve your internship?

SH: “What happened was Career Services scheduled a CIGNA, on-campus recruitment informational session. This was the first step. They enabled me to get it. But it was my choice to go after it. Through the internship I was able to compete for a scholarship. Out of CIGNA’s 153 other interns, a small group including myself was nominated to compete for the scholarship. The small group had to give presentations to the recruitment coordinators, based on our summer

work and how we applied our education to our overall internship experience. I had to talk about my plans for the future and what I could bring to the company.”

AG: Is there anything else you’d like to share with us about your internship?

SH: “CIGNA’s TEC-DP Internship program provides a stepping stone from academia to the professional, real world. They pay really well and they provide local subsidized housing. They have a lot of corporate sponsored events, such as bowling, laser tag, picnics, whirly-ball, etc. These events were great chances to network with pretty much everyone in their company, including those in higher management. I found out that CIGNA provides a tuition reimbursement program, to assist you with grad school; that is something I would like to pursue in the future. Overall, it was an amazing experience and it really helped me decide what to do with my life, post-undergrad.”

AG: From your remarkable experience, would you recommend other students to Career Services? Why or why not?

SH: “I highly recommend students to take the initiative to go to Career Services and apply for internships as soon as freshmen year. As corny as it sounds, the knowledge is out there and it’s up to students to take their future into their hands.”

Name: Gilbert Ramirez

Age: 22

School Year: 2nd year Grad Student

Degree: BS in Architectural Engineering Technology

College in U of H: College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture (CETA)

Hometown: Monroe, New York

It’s 6:00PM in the evening on November 12th and I’m sitting in Gengras Student Union, awaiting Gilbert Ramirez. I’ve only known Gilbert for less than a year but from what I’ve observed thus far, he’s a phenomenal person. I had no idea he was so headstrong and goal-oriented either. Friends have joined me in Suisman Lounge, waiting for Gilbert, and they happen to be friends with Gilbert too.



Gilbert wants to be an Imagineer after he graduates. (An Imagineer designs the rides at Disney.) He's walking into Gengras now, with one of the most precious smiles I've ever seen. He's wearing a Disney T-shirt too. Here is Gilbert Ramirez's Story, Mickey Mouse shirt and all.

AG: Before coming to Career Services, what did you think about it?

GR: "I knew exactly where it was. I always worked during the summers so I never really worried about the job search. It was only when I started thinking about my résumé that I considered going to Career Services."

AG: How did you discover Career Services?

GR: "I became the building manager for Gengras Student Union my undergraduate sophomore year. I still am the building manager, part-time now. Well, one day I was doing something for my general manager position and I stumbled onto Career Services. That's how I found it."

AG: Specifically, how has Career Services helped your college career?

GR: "They helped me build my résumé and that helped me out a lot. With their input on my résumé, I was able to apply for the internship at Disney. The spring of my junior year, I found out that Disney was having a live presentation at Central Connecticut State University. I went there and thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. At the end of the presentation, I signed myself up for a phone interview. But beforehand, I was required to send them my résumé. When my phone interview came around, the interviewer referenced my résumé and complemented me on its completeness and professionalism. About a day later I got the position."

AG: Exactly how did Career Services help you with achieving your internship?

GR: "They helped me research the background information for the internship. This really helped me because it made me more knowledgeable of this position and the company. Again, they helped me with my résumé but more importantly they tailored my résumé exactly for the position; this made me a suitable candidate for the internship."

AG: Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your internship or anything in general?

GR: "My typical day on my internship would be classes in the morning, and then I would go to work in the afternoon. I took so many classes I can't even remember all of them. I was just drowning in knowledge. I do remember taking a leadership class...I'm sure I don't have to tell you exactly what was taught in that class. More specifically, one of my jobs was a quick service food clerk, where basically people who choose not to dine-in, order their food and they get it right away.

On some days, I would even get to visit the Imagineering department to see exactly what happens behind the scenes of Disney. My internship was actually the greatest experience of my college career. It was a paid internship, which is a gem to find. Plus it was at Disney. Who wouldn't want to be at Disney World practically every day for a summer?

I recommend that students get involved on campus and fill their résumés with as much stuff as possible. Believe it or not, any college involvement can be put on a résumé. Your future starts now."

Name: Katie Roy
Age: 21
School Year: Senior
Major: Politics & Government
College in U of H: Arts & Sciences
Hometown: East Hartford, CT

It's 3:53PM in the afternoon on November 17th and I am just entering Career Services' office. It's full of keyboard clicks, "How to" books, and a roundtable where Katie Roy is studying for her Campaign, Elections, and Voting exam. (She is using a Career Services pen to take notes.) Her test is at 5 o' clock, but she graciously opted to be interviewed before then. After graduating from the University of Hartford, Katie plans to go to law school. She seems anxious about her test but she has the ability to tranquilize her jitters during the interview. This is Katie Roy's story.



AG: Before coming to Career Services, what did you think about it? How did you discover Career Services?

KR: "During the second week of my freshman year, I went to the school's annual work study fair. I noticed that Career Services had a station. Other organizations were hiring on-campus as well, but I figured working with Career Services would benefit me in the long run. This played into my initial impression of Career Services being a place that helps students find jobs, internships and careers, all of which I thought I could benefit from, so I chose to work with them."

AG: Specifically, how has Career Services helped your college career?

KR: "I have developed a great work ethic through working at Career Services; after all, I'm always surrounded by career counselors. Career Services has also instilled in me, the ability to see past all of the homework and stress that plague college students, and instead focus on, and envision my career. Further, the Career Services staff have become like a second family to me, for they are and always will be there to help."

AG: Exactly how did Career Services help you with achieving your internship?

KR: "In the spring of 2008 I interned at the Connecticut General Assembly for the Legislative Internship Program. I was assigned to Senator Gaffey who is the co-chairmen of the Education Committee. It was a really rewarding experience and I credit Career Services for providing me with the tools necessary to land the internship. More specifically, they conducted mock interviews, which prepared me for the actual interview."

AG: Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your internship or anything in general?

KR: "Utilize Career Services; it is extremely beneficial. Not only can they help you with interviews skills, but they can also assist you with their abundance of resources that typical college students don't have access to. After college, it can be quite expensive to acquire resources like Career Services, so I encourage students to stop by the office before it's too late."

Name: Jessica Carter

Age: 21

School Year: Alum May 2008

Degree: BS in Computer Engineering

College in U of H: College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture (CETA)

Hometown: Bronx, New York

It's 5 o'clock in the evening of November 16th and it feels like a true Sunday; lethargic and promising to slug into Monday. Jessica Carter and I have been playing email tag via Facebook. From the first reply message I received from Jessica, I could tell she was excited to be a Student Success Story. We agreed to conduct a phone interview so she could share her experiences with Career Services. This is Jessica Carter's Student Success Story.



AG: Before coming to Career Services, what did you think about it? How did you discover Career Services?

JC: "I was exposed to Career Services as a freshman. I was at the annual work study fair and Career Services had a station there. I didn't have a clue as to what they actually provided or did for students. I just thought it was an ordinary office on campus. I met three pleasant ladies, and they asked me to work for them. I immediately took the offer. I worked for Career Services my entire undergraduate career."

AG: Specifically, how has Career Services helped you throughout your college career?

JC: "I owe the success of my college career to Career Services - they definitely *made* my entire four years. My cover letters, résumés, and everything else career-wise were flawless – in fact I am thinking of sending them copies of my degree and offer letter to my current job! They also mentored me on my personal life. The staff of Career Services is so incredible. Knowing me personally and academically, helped them guide me to choose the right career choices.

They recommended that I take a career development assessment like the Myers Briggs, which gives you an idea of what career path you should follow, based on your personal interests. The results showed me that I am an analytical, people-person and that an ordinary-engineer-job,

testing computer chips isn't for me. The assessment basically told me I could not have a job working at a desk all day and that I thrive in a career where I could talk to people, face-to-face. It was right. Today I work for a company in which I have conversations with customers all over the world – and I love it!

Career Services not only helped me with my career and academically, but they also took an active role in my involvement on campus. All four years I was an active member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). (Actually, I was president my undergraduate senior year.) Taking great pride in NSBE's career awareness and professionalism, Career Services conducted workshops during our meeting times or reserved appointments to prepare our students for career fairs. They discussed pertinent aspects of résumés, cover letters, chosen career paths, and the dress etiquette for a successful interview. Overall, in my book, Career Services is phenomenal.

In addition, many resources were available to me because I worked there. However, the same information is available to every student, if they take the initiative to stop by the Career Services office. A lot of students don't know that Career Services provides on-campus recruiting, where companies actually come onto campus and recruit students. One time, I had an interview that was supposed to be held in Franklin, MA but I had no way of getting there. Career Services allowed the interviewer to come up to their office and interview me there.

They even have the ability to conduct teleconferencing sessions so students can have a face-to-face phone interview with an employer. Career Services' goal is to provide students with all the necessary materials and knowledge to obtain a job or interview. They conduct mock interviews - where they videotape you and ask questions that current employers would ask on a real interview. After the interview they critique you and point out the "do's and don'ts" of an interview – after all, practice does make perfect!"

AG: Exactly how did Career Services help you with achieving your internships?

JC: "Again they helped me with my résumé, cover letters to send to companies, how I should express myself on an interview and they also helped me find internships. Career Services gets a heads-up on available jobs for every major and job listings, in the local Hartford area. I had an internship every summer of my undergraduate year with the help of Career Services. The staff would always tell me to check out the CareerBridge website as well, which provides information on available internships and actual jobs. I was always on CareerBridge!"

AG: Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about your internship or anything in general?

JC: "More students need to be aware of the opportunities available at Career Services. They work really hard to help students with internships and jobs. They really care about students and students need to take advantage of this hidden gem on campus. Career Services is full of such beautiful people and students really need to take initiative if they want to get a head start on their future. The worse thing to do is to wait until your senior year to find out that the real world needed you to prepare yourself earlier."