Ample opportunity
to explore careers

By Ashley Hunt
Ashley.hunt@iowastatedaily.com

The 2012 Ag Career Day is the Thursday afternoon that 1,000 companies are not to make appearances at the fair; agriculture students will have a multitude of potential employers to vie for an interview for an internship or job. Last fall, the Agriculture and Life Sciences Career Day saw more than 1,400 students with approximately 160 employers. With more employers showing up this year, opportunities can begin to make more students in attendance than fall. Each semester, the importance of attending the Career Fair is instilled in our minds, over and over. Whether you’re looking for an internship, a job after graduation or just networking possibilities, the career fairs are a students’ best friend.

Freshmen and sophomores might not realize the importance of attending the career fairs just yet. At this stage, underclassmen aren’t necessarily on the prowl to score a big internship or worried about what they’re going to do after they graduate. However, attending a career fair is still important as ever.

Attending the career fair this early on, without the水库 pressure of needing to make a really great impression on potential employers to secure that internship needed to graduate, can give students the chance to get some practice in before it is absolutely crucial.

By Ashley Hunt
Ashley.hunt@iowastatedaily.com

The Agriculture and Life Sciences Career Day matches the prestige of its school. The Agriculture and Life Sciences Career Day will bring more than 200 companies to campus for the career fair.

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With 450 members, Iowa State’s Block and Bridle Club is easily one of the largest clubs on campus. The club was built out of the department of animal science and is split into six interest groups, which include beef, horse, poultry, swine, meats and companion animals.

Brady McNeil, president of the Block and Bridle Club and senior in animal science, said the club hosts events such as the Little North American Showmanship Contest, pig and sheep sales, dog and horse shows, grill-outs, and more.

“Block and Bridle Club members also give back to the Ames community by holding canned food drives, participating in Veishea service day, and donating tie blankets to the Mary Greeley Hospital,” said Sara Morine, club vice president and senior in animal science.

There are many opportunities in the club whether someone is interested in the show or commercial side of things, McNeil said. “It got me to push myself out of my comfort zone,” McNeil said.

McNeil said that because of his involvement in Block and Bridle, he was able to obtain his internships. He received two opportunities at Kraft Oscar Meyer as a quality systems intern as well as a continuous improvement engineering intern. “The Block and Bridle Club has many leadership opportunities so everyone has a chance to become a leader in their own way,” Morine said.

“Even if you don’t think you will get the internship that you want, there are always other opportunities,” McNeil said.

“Block and Bridle Club helps students prepare by having members that want to hold a committee position go through three to five minute interviews, McNeil said. “As members of Block and Bridle, there are numerous opportunities to speak with industry leaders and organize events,” Morine said.

“This helps give our members experience in professional situations,” McNeil said. Each semester the club invites new members to an initiation meeting to provide them with what they can personally gain from the club.

“No matter what you’re interested in, find a club that you find exciting and engaging and it will allow your resume to speak for itself,” McNeil said.

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Has Yield

Monday, Oct. 15, 2012 | Iowa State Daily | AG CAREER GUIDE | 30
This year there is a new study abroad program for students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This study abroad trip will take students to Greece, where they will develop a marketing plan for a new Greek brewed tea product, which is set to launch in the New York and Boston markets this May, according to the website for the ISU Agriculture Study Abroad program.

The name of this study abroad is the Spring 2013 Travel Course to Greece. There is a $10 application fee.

This trip is a unique experience that students can’t get anywhere else, said Stacey Noe, the program’s contact person. “Ag and Life Sciences students don’t have much course work that relates to ag marketing,” Noe said. “If you want to go into ag marketing, this is where you can get experience.”

This trip is unique in the way that it gives students a real life job experience on how to market a product. “In a classroom, students don’t have the opportunity to take an international product and learn what it takes to market that product,” Noe said.

Students also have the opportunity to travel around Greece and talk to other businesses. Halfway through the trip and at the end, they present their work to a board of directors.

This is a three credit class in the spring semester. The course number is Econ 496. The application deadline is Nov. 15.

The program contacts are Noe and Kevin Kimle. Information, including the full price of the trip, can be found on the Agriculture Study Abroad website.

The program is going to be small — maybe only 10 to 12 students, Noe said. This is because students will be working in small groups to find a way to market the Greek tea product.

In general, study abroad experiences are helpful when students need to gain real world experience and learn about different cultures. Study abroad trips can help students get an internship or job because they provide a good example of something to talk about at an interview or even at the career fair when you’re talking to recruiters.

It also adds to a resume and broadens a student’s horizons. A study abroad can be a priceless experience because of the variety of benefits gained from it.

Going on a study abroad trip like this one could really help a student decide if they are currently in the right major for them.

It can also help you figure out what skills you might need to work on before you get your first “grown up” job. The Greece study abroad program for Agriculture and Life Sciences students has the possibility of teaching the students who participate many things.

Besides hopefully giving you experience that you can use in the real world and at the career fair to make you stand out, it also adds to a resume and broadens a student’s horizons.

The ISU Agriculture Study Abroad program has created a new international experience to Greece that will teach ag marketing in promoting a new Greek tea product in Boston and New York.
When it comes to studying, why not study in a foreign country? Studying abroad is a great opportunity for you to expand your life experiences and add a few new stamps to your passport. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences office in charge of study abroad courses from Italy to Uganda. These courses vary from semester to semester, giving you the perfect time for your time over seas.

Studying abroad will benefit and enrich your life in countless ways. The Institute for the International Education of Students surveyed students after they had returned home from their studies abroad. Their surveys showed 96 percent of students had increased self-confidence and 80 percent increased their interest in academics after studying abroad.

Studying abroad is also a great way to improve your second language skills, gain various activities that you might not be able to do at home and network for your future.

There are many countries to choose from to study in that have a language other than English. This can give you an opportunity to either expand your knowledge of the language or learn a new language all together. Some study abroad programs will require you to take some basic language classes prior to your trip.

When you are abroad, there is going to be a whole new environment right at your fingertips. With a new environment, come new activities. While abroad you could try new things such as, parasailing or zip lining. While abroad, you could try new things such as, parasailing or zip lining.

Networking is a great benefit to studying abroad. You will get to connect and interact with businesses across the world, which could potentially be a great contact in the future while for interesting. To learn more information about all of the study abroad options, talk with your adviser or visit www.agstudyabroad.iastate.edu/travel_courses.htm.

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Job experience

Make your resume stand out

By Ashley Hunt
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We’re all busy college students. We’re working hard to pass those classes and ace those exams. Somehow, whether we can believe it or not, we’ll be done with college and out in the real world. We’ll be competing against our former classmates and our former friends for our dream job.

Employers are going to be looking far more than how good your grades were when they’re deciding whether to hire you or not. They want to see that you have real life experience and real life qualities that are going to be valuable and beneficial to the company you’re applying to.

Any time people talk about working on your resume, you’ll hear “resume builders.” Here are some suggestions of ways to get involved during your college years — some might be obvious, others not so much.

#1. Join a club — and take a position on that club

Joining a club, particularly in your field of study, shows your interest in that field. And as we’ve all had pounded in our heads countless times, joining a club and getting involved is so important to your career after graduation.

To take that next step, and to get one step ahead of your competition, try taking a position on that club. Run for president or treasurer or social chair.

There are countless of things you can do that will add to your experience and that will “look good” on your resume.

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It’s common knowledge that joining a club at Iowa State is an automatic “resume builder.” This is for several reasons.

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You had the drive and the determination to take it up to the next level, and it shows a real passion for that industry.

Also, it shows an immense amount of leadership. Leadership abilities are key in the workplace.

Employers are looking for team leaders, and they’re looking for people who are responsible enough to lead a team. You’ll have the opportunity to lead at the same time being a member of that team.

2. Become a teaching assistant

Remember that courses that just came really easy to you? You really understood what you were doing. Well, if you’ve got a course like that under your belt, possibly teaching a class will feel easier. It could even become a teaching assistant.

Listing yourself as one of your experiences on your resume shows employers that you have communication skills. As a teacher, you will be doing a lot of one-on-one communication and small group communication.

Being an effective small group communicator is essential in the workplace.

Time management will always be the most effective and useful form of communication.

Face-to-face communication will always be the most effective and used form of communication.

As a writer, designer or any other position on a student publication, you need to understand time management. You get your production deadlines.

In the workplace, you have deadlines—such as getting that financial report in on time or providing a presentation on a certain date. In addition to understanding deadlines, as a writer, editor or copy editor, you’ll be working with words.

Employers will see that you have experience with a student publication, magazine or newspaper. It shows that you understand more than just grammar.

It might seem like everything you do in college, but there are always a few grades you want to earn the most.

Lastly working in a student publication, you get the real interview experience and you’ll start interviewing a new source for the publication.

Although, as a reporter and when interviewing others that you’re not used to interviewing, you still get the same experience. You’ll need to adapt and be able to communicate for you to begin interviewing for careers.

You’ll learn to think on your feet and you’ll be able to adapt to the ever-changing situation when you’re trying to hand out pamphlets.

4. Working the fair career

This may be something that many students have never considered.

Working the fair career can open a lot of opportunities for you. When employers are interviewing prior to each career fair, the information they receive is from a career fair ambassador.

Career fair ambassadors help with general activities throughout the day.

Your responsibilities include growing students as they enter the fair. Employers see students with set-up and tear-down being of assistance to the fair attendees throughout the event.

Remember, working on campus as well.

They’ll be able to see that you have required because of your study abroad experience, you have independent, maturity, and time management. You’ll also show that you’ve experienced being of assistance to the career fair attendees.

Working the career fair abroad can really set a student apart on their resume.

You’ll also show that you can work with people who aren’t necessarily like you.

You’ll be in a different culture and learn that there isn’t anything bad or wonderful in a certain way.

That will be true in the real world, too. You don’t get to choose your supervisors or your colleagues; there are the ones you get.

Three Nelson, director of the ISU Study Abroad Center, offered his thoughts on how studying abroad could provide benefits.

I think that studying abroad can really set a student apart from other students that possibly had similar experiences.

While the aspect of a student’s development, whether in independence, maturity, a better understanding of the world or a greater fluency in a second language, in most cases, that student needs to build that on their own.

I think when students have a specifically applied study on their resume, their resume stands much stronger in some cases.

Nelson said that “when you’ve identified the specific skills you have required because of that study abroad experience, employers will notice.”

Nelson, when you’re prepping your resume, you’ll have to spell out some things to let the hiring manager and employer know that you studied abroad.

Remember that opportunities come in all shapes and sizes.

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Join us at the Ag Career Fair on October 16th for more information on our sales opportunities. Visit ISU CMS for full job descriptions!
Career fair attire: Play it safe

By Kayla Schaudt

After every career fair we send out an employer survey, and two career fairs ago, there were a lot of [negative] comments back from employers about how our female students were dressed. "Too conservative is always better than being flamboyant in a situation like this," said Loni Pringnitz, program coordinator in the College of Human Sciences student services.

"I think for women, it tends to be wearing something too tight, too short, too low-cut," Pringnitz said. "Sweatpants, sweatshirts, sweatpants," Pringnitz said. "It's typical for young students to have a little more leeway if they're looking for full-time employment. For girls, jeans and a nice top with a scarf is acceptable."

"For guys, no matter what age you are, don't wear shorts or sneakers," Pringnitz said. "Baseball caps, they're all unprofessional, and I've seen it with them."

More advice from Ludi Pringnitz, program coordinator in the College of Human Sciences student services.

"If you wear something in-appropriate, the employer is bound to notice, and this could seriously impact your chances of being hired. Employers are usually more understanding with the room. Always get feedback from your friends or roommate before you leave the room. Always get feedback if you're uncertain," Hockaday said.

"Too conservative is always better than being flamboyant in a situation like this," Pringnitz said.

"I think men's dress attire is easier than women's, but everyone needs to put thought into their choice of clothing. "I think men should dress in a more casual way because, in general, men take care of their clothes," Pringnitz said.

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Post-career fair interviews available
Several businesses are conducting interviews in the days following the Ag Career Day. Students can visit the companies’ booths to learn more about these interviewing opportunities.
Protector of human health

Food provides more than just calories. Using the tools of plant breeding and biotechnology, crops can be enhanced to provide better basic nutrition and healthier lives.

Agronomists create a healthier world by producing oils without trans fats, peanuts free of allergens, and staple foods such as rice and cassava with increased vitamin and protein content.