

# The Internship and Co-op Corner

Issue 11 □ Winter 2009

## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

for the Best Newsletter 2008  
from the Midwest Cooperative  
Education and Internship  
Association (MCEIA)

## OCC Co-op Student Finds Her Niche

“Creative” is a word that probably best describes Maria Sosa. She came to the United States from her home country of Costa Rica to work as an au pair for an American family in 2005. She was responsible for the care and safety of three small children ages one month, two years and four years old, while adjusting to the transition of living in the U.S. Working as an au pair did not provide her with enough opportunity to use her creative talents, however.



In 2006 she decided to enroll at Oakland Community College to take an English-as-a-Second-Language course. The following semester Maria registered for a Web Design course and decided to pursue an Associate degree in Computer Information Systems, leaving her au pair position behind her for good. As part of her college experience, Maria wanted to participate in the Internship & Co-op Program because she knew that she could earn academic credit toward her degree, in addition to hands-on work experience. After four months of working diligently with her co-op coordinator, Maria was offered a Web/Graphic Designer position with Franklin Athletic Club, in Southfield. “So far the experience has been exactly what I have been looking for since I started attending OCC two years ago.”

Embarking on a job search with thousands of other unemployed people in the Detroit metropolitan area was no easy task, and it became quite discouraging at times. Maria maintained a positive attitude throughout the search, and was quite happy to land a competitively paid work assignment. She even considered unpaid internships as a way to gain experience here in the United States, although she really needed to earn money to meet college and living expenses. “It wasn’t easy trying to remain positive during the job search when everyone else around me seemed to be losing their jobs. My co-op coordinator kept me focused, and by working closely together on my resume, interviewing, employer letters and referrals, I received a great job offer.”

Maria has other creative talents besides creating websites including photography, painting and making jewelry. You can see more of her work by visiting her personal website at <http://mariasosa.com> or <http://masoart.etsy.com>.

## Extended Campus Office Hours

A Co-op Program Coordinator will be available at Royal Oak and Southfield on the second Wednesday and third Thursday of every month. To schedule an appointment call: 248.523.4147

**RO Campus Career Center**, Room B 101, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

**SF Campus Career Center**, 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

**Dates: Jan 14 & 22; Feb 11 & 19; Mar 11 & 19; Apr 8 & 16**

A coordinator will also be available on the second Tuesday of every month at the Highland Lakes Campus.

**HL Woodland Hall, ACCESS Office**, Room 228, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**Dates: Jan 13; Feb 10; Mar 10; Apr 14**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT :**  
[www.oaklandcc.edu/coop](http://www.oaklandcc.edu/coop)

## A “Green” Career Internship

Just think, every individual and business directly or indirectly contributes to GHG or CO2 emissions in the environment...

For over 30 years Carbon Credit Environmental Services has been a leader in the reduction of carbon dioxide (CO2) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The company enables businesses and individuals to eliminate their effect on the planet through education, emission reduction programs and selling of carbon credits.

George Levonsinski, an Auburn Hills student majoring in Environmental Systems Technology (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration), was offered an internship with Carbon Credit Environmental Services where he is responsible for conducting commercial energy audits. Energy audits calculate the amounts of energy used by businesses and residential properties; and offers solutions to reduce the energy costs which in turn helps to reduce “carbon footprints” with the goal of becoming, “carbon neutral” living and working environments.

George says, “I found the work interesting and beneficial to the society in general because we are cleaning up emissions in the atmosphere. What’s most import is the accuracy of data which is necessary for the calculation of energy usage.” Several courses he’s taken at OCC assist in these calculations. To conduct the energy audits George performs assessments and evaluations, and provides customers with proposals on how to save energy. One such client was Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Sterling Heights. “This audit took three weeks to collect the data because the Church and its other facilities are approximately 20,000 square feet”, says George. “One has to be patient when collecting and evaluating data to ensure accuracy.” He suggest that students who are interested in working in the field of energy audits should take, “all of the digital control systems for buildings courses, energy management courses and solar energy and other alternative energy courses that are offered online.”

Michael Dolkowski, CEO and President of Carbon Credit Environmental Services will participate in the college’s Winter, 2009 career lecture series by guest lecturing in one of Bob Featherstone’s HVAC classes. Look for upcoming announcements with the date and time of his visit on the coop website [www.oaklandcc.edu/coop](http://www.oaklandcc.edu/coop) and posted flyers around campus.

Various classes offered at OCC can help prepare you for “green careers” in :

- Solar thermal sales, design and installation
- Solar electric sales, design and distributorships
- Wind, hydro, biomass sales and design
- Renewable energies
- Energy services
- Energy conservation sales and distribution
- Green building and design
- Upgraded training for plumbers, electricians, builders, architects
- Sustainability policy work

For additional information on these classes please contact Dr. Debra Rowe, OCC faculty member.

## The Fall Career Lecture Series

SunTel Services is a privately held leader in providing complete communication solutions for customers’ voice, data, wireless and Internet security requirements. With certification by industry leading manufacturers such as Cisco, Nortel Networks, Mitel Networks, Juniper Networks, Novell and Microsoft, SunTel engineers design, implement and service leading-edge, Internet-enabled networks that data and video traffic concurrently. SunTel customers span a broad range of sizes and industries, including the financial, automotive, government, education, legal and manufacturing industries. On Wednesday, November 19, 2008 Mr. Richard Meganck - Human Resources Director and Mr. Ryan Guzal - Manager of Security Services at SunTel Services were guest speakers in the CIS 1300 class (Networking) taught by instructor Mr. Ashish Rungta. Twenty-eight students and instructor Rungta were presently surprised by the enthusiasm and knowledge shared in the discussion and lecture on the global career opportunities available in the network administration, maintenance and security industry. The guest speakers presented information on the educational requirements to enter the security field and recommended specific certifications which can enhance student opportunities for employment. The discussion topics included: firewalls, clean-up policies, de-primeterization, intrusion detection, landscape of digital security, appliances, practice and regulation compliance. Resume design and interviewing tips were also covered.

After an engaged discussion with the students and instructor Rungta, Mr. Guzal invited students to complete a research assignment and e-mail their findings to him. “Select one of the topics which were introduced to you today, research it and send me a few short paragraphs/blurb to summarize your findings. Researching new topics helps one to take the ideas and place them in the brain so as to learn and retain the new knowledge. This activity will assist you once you’re employed in your field. Right now you’re in a position of strength, by learning all that you can at the direction of your instructor, but once you leave OCC there’s more learning you must complete to stay competitive and marketable. You’re not done learning when you leave OCC!”

Mr. Guzal has received e-mails from four of the students who attended the lecture. I’m confident that when new internships or entry level employment opportunities are available the four will be considered for interviews. (Students, remember to take advantage of opportunities to positively interact with prospective employers – especially when the employer presents/invites the occurrence.)

SunTel Services handles communication infrastructure locations throughout the country from their headquarters in Troy and branch offices in Detroit and Flint. SunTel Services is on the Web at [www.suntel.com](http://www.suntel.com).

# Excerpts from the 2008-2009 Recruiting Trends Study

Conducted by Dr. Phil Gardner, Director of Michigan State University's Collegiate Employment Research Institute

"Small, quickly growing companies will provide the best employment opportunities for college graduates, but graduates must be focused and well-connected to be competitive," according to Michigan State University's Dr. Gardner. "Students will need to use connections to find job leads. Since job openings are slim, connections with alumni and those formed through social networking mediums will provide the best opportunities."

"More than ever, internships play a crucial role in hiring. Companies are using internship programs to create pools of talent that may be converted into full-time hires when conditions improve." Last year, companies reported a total hiring increase of 2 percent with a 7 percent increase in bachelor's degree hiring.

"Folks who have a real focus on what they want to do, who got to work early on their job search and stacked up as many internships as they could will get in line first."

"This year there is no fallback industry. Traditionally, jobless graduates – or students with general majors such as liberal arts and social science – have turned to retail, sales and marketing. But not this recruiting season. Those industries report a 14 to 20 percent hiring decrease."

"The forecast is bad, but it could be worse," says Gardner.

"Large companies faced with a sizable boomer retirement exodus are keeping the labor market afloat. Without them, the market could be down another 4 to 9 percent."

The survey also found:

- Starting salaries will change little from last year, with only 32 percent of respondents indicating they planned to increase salaries.<sup>1</sup>
- With limited resources, companies are pursuing new recruiting methods that save time. Instead of on-campus interviews, employers plan to attend career fairs, which provided one-stop shopping for recruitment.

The results of the study was shared at the 15th annual Trends in Recruiting Conference which was hosted by the Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza. To read the full report visit <http://news.msu.edu/media/audio/2008>.

## 1 = 2008/2009 average starting salaries with bachelor degrees:

Accounting	\$47,413	English	\$34,757	Management	\$43,823
Chemistry	\$52,125	Finance	\$48,759	Marketing	\$43,459
Communications	\$35,196	History	\$35,956	Nursing	\$52,129
Computer Science	\$56,921	Human Resources	\$40,250	Political Science	\$43,594
Economics	\$52,926	Journalism	\$32,250	Psychology	\$30,877
Engineering (all)	\$56,336	Liberal arts (all)	\$33,258	Public Relations	\$30,677

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## Walt Disney World Recruiting OCC Students for Summer and Fall '09 Semesters

Mark your calendar! Disney will be recruiting summer and fall interns at two campuses this semester. If you are interested in working, earning and learning in sunny Florida or California for a semester, attend one of the four presentations listed below. You can also complete an on-line application at [wdwcollegeprogram.com](http://wdwcollegeprogram.com). Call 248.522.3699 for more information.

**March 12, OR Campus, J 303**, 12:00 noon presentation and 5:00 pm presentation

**April 2, RO Campus, A 105**, 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm presentations

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## It's Time to Think About Summer Employment and Internships

If you're interested in working next summer the time to begin to research and apply for jobs is NOW. Many employers will inform us of their needs during the winter months and most will accept applications starting in February. Also, if you're thinking of performing a summer internship visit the co-op website ([www.oaklandcc.edu/coop](http://www.oaklandcc.edu/coop)) which links to several local, state, national and international internship opportunities. We're happy to assist students with completion of applications and the development of portfolios. Please contact a program coordinator for more information.

# Internship & Co-op Program • Winter 2009 Workshop Schedule

## INTERNSHIP & CO-OP INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Attend a one hour meeting to learn how you can participate in the co-op program and earn academic credit for hands-on work experience in your field of study. Prerequisites and program requirements will be discussed. Call to reserve your seat: AH Campus at 248.232.4140; OR Campus at 248.522.3699



January 8	Thursday	3:00 pm	OR	M-146
January 13	Tuesday	5:00 pm	AH	G-230
February 13	Friday	3:00 pm	AH	G-230
February 27	Friday	10:00 am	OR	M-146
March 18	Wednesday	10:00 am	OR	M-146
March 26	Thursday	12:00 pm	AH	G-230
April 7	Tuesday	12:00 pm	AH	G-230
April 24	Friday	10:00 am	OR	M-146

## RESUME CLINICS

In preparation for employment, we invite current students and alumni to meet with a Program Coordinator who will critique your resume; so bring a working draft. Call to reserve your seat: AH Campus at 248.232.4140; OR Campus at 248.522.3699

January 12	Monday	9:00 – 12:00 noon	OR	M-113
January 22	Thursday	12:00 – 2:00 pm	AH	Library D-203
February 10	Tuesday	5:00 – 7:00 pm	AH	Library D-203
March 18	Wednesday	3:00 – 5:00 pm	AH	Library D-203
March 31	Tuesday	2:00 – 5:00 pm	OR	M-113
April 15	Wednesday	3:00 – 5:00 pm	AH	Library D-203
April 29	Wednesday	3:00 – 5:00 pm	OR	M-113



## INTERVIEWING WORKSHOPS

This workshop is designed for individuals who have never experienced a professional interview, and for those wanting to improve their interviewing skills. Learn how to prepare and have good answers ready for potential employers. Call to reserve your seat: AH Campus at 248.232.4140; OR Campus at 248.522.3699.



January 8	Thursday	2:00 – 3:00 pm	OR	M-146
January 16	Friday	3:00 - 4:00 pm	AH	G-230
February 12	Thursday	12:00 – 1:00 pm	AH	G-230
March 16	Monday	5:00 – 6:00 pm	AH	G-230
March 30	Monday	12:00 – 1:00 pm	OR	M-146
April 15	Wednesday	10:00 – 11:00 am	OR	M-146
April 17	Friday	11:00 – 12:00 noon	AH	G-230
April 24	Friday	11:00 – 12:00 noon	OR	M-146

## The Co-op Clothes Closet

Donations of men's and women's business attire (suits, sports jackets, dresses) has resulted in the clothes closet's expansion to include the Auburn Hills campus. If you are preparing for an interview and need professional attire contact Lisa Skowronski at the Orchard Ridge campus at 248.522.3699 or Kathie House at the Auburn Hills campus at 248.232.4140. Clothes are available in many sizes.

## INTERNSHIP & CO-OP STAFF

### MEET THE DIRECTOR

**Willie Lloyd**  
Auburn Hills Campus  
Building G, Room 230  
248.522.4142  
E-mail:  
[wllloyd@oaklandcc.edu](mailto:wllloyd@oaklandcc.edu)

### MEET THE COORDINATORS

**Kathie S. House**  
Auburn Hills Campus  
Building G, Room 230  
248.232.4140  
E-mail:  
[kshouse@oaklandcc.edu](mailto:kshouse@oaklandcc.edu)

**Lisa Skowronski**  
Orchard Ridge Campus  
Building M, Room 113  
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**ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP AND CO-OP CORNER** – *The Internship and Co-op Corner* is a publication of The Placement Services & Cooperation Education Department of Oakland Community College

### PLEASE NOTE:

*You may have questions about your job search or need some individual assistance. If you are a single parent, have a disability, limited financial resources, or are a non-native speaker of English, you may receive support from the Internship & Co-op Office. A program coordinator can assist you in identifying personal challenges to employment and work with you in managing these challenges so that you can begin achieving your career goals.*



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