

The Internship and Co-op Corner

Issue 10 □ Fall 2008

From Disney to D.C.

Oakland Community College Liberal Arts student, Durodgio Peterson, landed his first internship position at Walt Disney World Resort in 2001 where he worked as an *Actor* and *Entertainment Intern*. He was even featured in commercials and television media for Disney! Durodgio decided to join the Navy however, in response to the September 11 attacks. He left his internship position early to serve in the Armed Forces, but it wasn't a difficult choice for him.

While in the Navy he worked as a trouble shooter for computer and electronics systems on submarines. He also assisted with anti-terrorism and overseas briefings for service members and their families. Durodgio was honorably discharged in 2004 after a combat-related injury. He returned to Michigan for rehabilitation and reenrolled at Oakland Community College to resume his studies.

Durodgio's ACCESS Coordinator made him aware of an initiative sponsored through the Internship & Cooperative Education Office, called the Workforce Recruitment Program for Students with Disabilities. He worked with Lisa Skowronski, his Internship Coordinator at OCC, who helped him with his resume, applications, and preparation for the interview. A federal recruiter who visited the Orchard Ridge campus in January interviewed Durodgio, along with eight additional OCC students seeking internship assignments through the Internship & Co-op program. Durodgio was excited to receive the offer to work for the summer for the Department of Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity through Veteran Affairs in Washington, D.C. As a Program Specialist Intern, Durodgio reviewed, analyzed and coordinated diversity management plans and policies. He performed analytical work that involved the management and evaluation of federal, state, and local government veteran preparedness plans. He even worked on a White House Commission project. Durodgio states, "This internship has been by far the best experience in my college career. I would do it all over again if I could. I gained skills that will be essential tools in the working world. I made connections with many different people who I know will be of great assistance to me throughout my life and future career."

This fall Durodgio is completing his last course at OCC and will be dually enrolled at U of M Dearborn, where he will pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Business. **If you are interested in learning more about the Workforce Recruitment Program for Students with Disabilities, or would like to participate in the program this year, contact Lisa Skowronski, 248.522.3699**



Extended Campus Office Hours

A Co-op program coordinator will be available at Royal Oak and Southfield campuses on the second Wednesday of every month. To schedule an appointment call: 248.522.3699. Check the schedule listed on the back of this newsletter for workshops held at all campuses including Highland Lakes.

RO Campus Career Center, Room B101, from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

SF Campus Career Center, Room B 240, from 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Dates: Sep. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT :
www.oaklandcc.edu/coop

General Motors Summer Internship

Last Fall representatives from General Motors visited the Auburn Hills campus for two days of introductions and recruitment. The goals of the visit were to introduce GM reps and the Auburn Hills administration, to provide the Automobile Servicing department chair and faculty members the opportunity to learn about the GM Product Engineering Organization's (PDO) increased focus on Technician Careers and to interview and select students for Technician internships for the summer of 2008.

GM's projection was to hire 30 student technician interns. Students were considered for the internship who had completed either the first or the first and second year of training towards the associate degree. The interview process consisted of a one-on-one interview with a recruiter, successful completion of a performance inventory and a second interview at one of GM's testing centers located in Lansing, Milford Pontiac, or Warren. Eighteen students were selected to interview with Mr. George Burchfield, Senior Engineering Associate – Vehicle Safety Crashworthiness Lab or with Mr. Robert Lawrence, General Shop Supervisor – EMC/Antenna Test Performance conducted the interviews.



In March, 2008 the internship and cooperative education program coordinator, Ms. Kathie House was informed that an OCC student had successfully completed the interview process and was offered a summer internship. The student was Mr. Henry Ogiemwonyi a second year automobile servicing major.

Henry started the technician internship in May, 2008 by attending an orientation session for all interns. "There were six or seven interns in my orientation session, some of the students were from Macomb Community College." Henry was assigned to work in the Structural Development Laboratory, at the Pontiac Centerpointe Campus, where he conducted durability test on cars. "I am working on some of the 2009 and 2010 cars so most of the information is confidential but I run many tests/set-ups on the hydraulics for these cars. Then I either make the corrections and re-test the cars." His supervisor, Mr. Sonny Winston says, "I've had many interns and they have been an asset to work with. Henry arrived with a keen work ethic and he has applied himself to getting every task he was assigned completed in a timely manner. He has endeared himself to his co-workers and the management team has asked that he return or that his internship is continued."

Henry's career goal is to obtain an electrical engineering technology degree. He is considering applying to either Wayne State University or Ferris State University. Oakland Community College has partnership/transfer degree programs with both schools. "Depending on which college I select to transfer to I know that it will be easier to transfer because of the partnerships with OCC." Henry has achieved a 3.44 gpa and has a few more classes to complete before graduation. "I plan to work hard to get my grade point average up to a 3.5 so I can join the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and maybe get a transfer scholarship to help me with the cost of a bachelor's degree."

Like many OCC students Henry is married to a teacher and has two small children. He is a native of Benin, Nigeria, and lived in Munich, Germany before re-locating to Michigan. Any academic financial assistance in the form of scholarships will be of great benefit to achievement of his career goals.

When asked, what do you like most about the internship at GM? He answered, "the internship opened my eyes to things I need to learn; mostly electrical areas and courses I need to take. I also learned how to interact with other workers. Everyone including the other interns from different schools have been very friendly and helpful. I attended GM's employee picnic and had a chance to play soccer with a few of my co-workers. "

"I think the internship is great! You get an idea what you need to know. If it were not for this internship I wouldn't have a clue on how to continue to prepare myself for work. I enjoyed it – it was just what I dreamed of."

Work in Orlando, Florida this Winter

This summer and fall semester, twenty-four OCC students from all five campuses are working, earning money and learning at Walt Disney World in sunny Florida. Students in a variety of academic disciplines can earn internship credit which can be applied toward their certificate or degree in programs including business and hospitality management. Recruiters from the WDW Resort will visit the Auburn Hills and Orchard Ridge campuses this fall for four separate presentations to accommodate student schedules. Attendance at one presentation is required if students want to secure an interview with a recruiter. The presentation lasts approximately one hour and students must be on-time or will not be interviewed. Call 248.522.3699 to reserve your seat.

Oct. 1	Wednesday	12:00 noon	AH Campus	Building T-6
Oct. 1	Wednesday	4:00 pm	AH Campus	Building T-6
Nov. 6	Thursday	12:00 noon	OR Campus	J-303
Nov. 6	Thursday	4:00 pm	OR Campus	J-303

A Case Study on Persistence

Staying motivated and showing persistence while seeking employment during a sluggish job market is no easy feat. One OCC student was able to do just that and obtain an internship offer. Joshua Horn – ACCESS and CAD student who registered with the Internship and Cooperative Education program in October, 2007. Ms. House forwarded his resume to several employers, a total of eleven companies to be exact which resulted in four interviews. Joshua attended every interview – even those that were not in his desired geographical location. “I spent a lot of money traveling to and from internship interviews. At times I would be annoyed and would express my feelings to Ms. House. She’d listen and then phone me a day or two later with another scheduled interview”. “I sent Joshua’s resume out to every employer whose internship announcement matched his qualifications and we received positive responses from his resume. I knew that he’d land an internship offer – I just didn’t know when.”



From left to right: student intern Joshua Horn, Dave Hilborn – CEO Detroit Design Engineering, and OCC student employee Alex Hoover.

During the Winter, 2008 semester, Mr. David Hilborn, CEO of Detroit Design Engineering located in Troy offered Joshua an internship . Detroit Design Engineering Company is one of OCC’s active employers. Mr. Hilborn makes it a point to offer internship opportunities to OCC students. Joshua’s responsibilities included:

- Assisting in the analysis and design of products.
- Building reports and making design recommendations based on the product analysis.
- Learning new software skills (Moldflow and Nastran).

During Joshua’s employment search he was highly motivated and demonstrated his persistence by keeping in contact with the internship office after every interview.

Dave Hilborn states, “the first few months of the internship Joshua was learning the software. Actually he is still learning the software. He’s always on time and displays a positive attitude towards learning and performing his work”.

Thank you Joshua for demonstrating your motivation and persistence!

Joshua Horn demonstrated his motivation while attending job interviews which was an on-going challenge. It is said that obtaining the right job can be a numbers game, the more resumes one sends out will result in more interviews and possible job offers. While this is true it’s only part of the truth. When seeking employment one must maintain high motivation and energy so that during the interviews you can be persuasive and sharp! Job seekers must find a balance between searching for employment and staying motivated and positive. Exercise, meditation, good nutrition, getting the correct amounts of sleep, volunteering, will assist job seekers in maintaining a positive framework – one that’s needed during an employment search.

One of the first things to learn is not to take any rejection personally. Today’s market is extremely competitive. Learn to “self-talk” and think positive. Every time you are not offered a job will enable you to get to the next interview much quicker. “Right now in Michigan, there are 423,000 unemployed workers. Nationwide 8,784,000 people are seeking employment”, says Jim Rhein, Economic Analyst for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. “I’m confident that things will improve – right now it’s tough but the Midwest is still home to the greatest manufacturing resources in the world. We’ll just have to refine operations and make continued paradigm shifts”.

While seeking employment keep track of your expenses and itemize your taxes by including the expenses as deductions for job hunting. During a job search, good planning and research will assist you in locating your best job - the one that will fit your qualifications, lifestyle and finances.

At OCC you have the benefit of working with professional career coaches who will help you develop your plans to find employment. Remember to place your internship experience on your resume and be persistent by following-up with prospective employers. If you’ve had interviews send thank you letters; if you haven’t contact the employer by phone or email at least once a month for a few months to remind them of your interest in the company.

In today’s market obtaining a job is like running for election so get busy with your campaign!



Internship & Co-op Program • Fall 2008 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



Sep. 5	Friday	10:00 am	OR	M-146
Sep. 15	Monday	5:00 pm	AH	G Bldg. Student Center
Sep. 22	Monday	9:00 am	SF	SF-123
Sep. 22	Monday	2:00 pm	RO	A-103
Oct. 6	Monday	12:00 noon	AH	G Bldg. Student Center
Oct. 22	Wednesday	12:30 pm	HL	Woodland Hall 111
Nov. 19	Wednesday	12:00 noon	OR	M-146
Nov. 21	Friday	3:00 pm	AH	G Bldg. Student Center
Nov. 25	Tuesday	12:00 noon	OR	M-146
Dec. 1	Monday	5:00 pm	AH	G Bldg. Student Center
Dec. 11	Thursday	2:00 pm	HL	Woodland Hall 110
Dec. 17	Wednesday	3:00 pm	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

Sep. 8	Monday	9:00 am – 12:00 noon	OR	M-113
Sep. 16	Tuesday	12:00 noon – 2:00 pm	AH	LIB-D203
Oct. 17	Friday	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	AH	LIB-D203
Oct. 22	Wednesday	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	OR	M-113
Oct. 20	Monday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	SF	SF-123
Oct. 20	Monday	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	RO	A-103
Nov. 3	Monday	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	AH	LIB-D203
Dec. 4	Thursday	5:00 pm – 7:00pm	AH	LIB-D203
Dec. 18	Thursday	9:00 am – 12:00 noon	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. *All attendees will participate in mock interviews at workshops noted with an asterisk.



Sep. 5	Friday	11:00 am – 12:00 noon	OR	M-146
Sep. 19*	Friday	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	AH	G Bldg. Student Center
Nov. 17*	Monday	9:00 am – 12:00 noon	SF	SF-123
Nov. 17*	Monday	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	RO	A-103
Nov. 18*	Tuesday	12:00 noon – 2:00 pm	AH	G Bldg. Student Center
Nov. 19	Wednesday	12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	OR	M-146
Nov. 25	Tuesday	12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	OR	M-146
Dec. 5*	Friday	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	AH	G Bldg. Student Center
Dec. 17	Wednesday	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	OR	M-146

Internship & Co-op Staff

Auburn Hills Campus

Building G, Room 230 • Kathie House, Program Coordinator • Office Phone: 248.232.4140 • E-mail: kshouse@oaklandcc.edu

Orchard Ridge Campus

Building M, Room 113 • Lisa Skowronski, Program Coordinator • Office Phone: 248.522.3699 • E-mail: laskowro@oaklandcc.edu

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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