

# CAREER CONNECTIONS

## UNLV Career Services

SSC 301

895-3495

<http://hire.unlv.edu>

2007, Issue 1



## Career Day is February 28th

### Participating Employers Represent Many Fields

The Thomas & Mack Center comes alive with activity on **Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** as recruiters from a wide variety of organizations look to connect with UNLV students and alumni. Over 200 employers attended last year's event, with at least the same number expected this year. As employers register, they are added to a list, which can be viewed on the Career Services website at <http://hire.unlv.edu>. Categories of organizations include Business, Engineering/Technical, Hospitality, Government, Non-Profit, Health Sciences, and Other. Space near the Cox Pavilion entrance will be dedicated exclusively to employers in the Engineering and Technical category, making it easier for students and alumni to locate them.

Career Day presents individuals with an excellent opportunity to make face-to-face connections with hiring representatives from several different organizations – all under one roof. While employers utilize technology in the recruiting process, nothing can replace evaluating a candidate in person, and a positive first impression in person can be a lasting one.

Please encourage students in your class, or students you come in contact with to attend Career Day 2007 on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Make Career Day a Part of Your Syllabus

Having students attend Career Day can be a great way to incorporate a career development component into your curriculum. Whether it's exploring potential career paths or networking with employers for internships or full-time positions, students can gain valuable experience from their interactions at this event.

*Talking with employers in a professional setting will develop communication and business etiquette skills, as well as provide a boost in confidence level.*

In the National Association of Colleges and Employers' 2007 Job Outlook Survey, employers rated communication and honesty/integrity at the top of the list of skills and qualities desired. These transferable skills cut across all fields and are critical to a student's success in whatever career they choose to pursue.

Examples of Career Day writing assignments can include papers on research and communication with participating organizations, self-evaluation of skills while interacting with employers, and knowledge of career field as a result of attending the event.

Regardless of major and class level, students can take advantage of Career Day, and perhaps earn some extra credit as well!

## Employer Spotlight MGM MIRAGE

### CityCenter Taking Shape and Shaping Las Vegas

MGM MIRAGE has broken ground and is making visible progress on the massive CityCenter. The construction site is buzzing with activity, which will result in 18 million square feet of space for hotels, gaming, residences, retail, dining, and entertainment. It will take 12,000 employees to operate the 66-acre campus, and as Vice President of Staffing for CityCenter, Michael Peltyn will oversee the planning and execution of staffing strategies.

Peltyn started with MGM MIRAGE in 1991 as a Graduate Intern while completing his master's degree in hotel administration at UNLV. He accepted a position with the Mirage Training Department, thus beginning his climb through the HR ranks. In 1998, Peltyn was promoted to Recruitment Manager at Bellagio and in 2001 was promoted again to Director of Staffing, taking on responsibility for Bellagio, New York New York, and MGM MIRAGE entities. As a UNLV graduate, Peltyn is excited about connecting with his alma mater in his current position.

***"We fully expect to build a multi-faceted partnership with UNLV to help address the people component of the project. This will include the use of the college's facilities, collaboration with faculty on recruitment and training programs, and the recruitment of students and alumni to staff our spectacular project."***

CityCenter is scheduled to open in November of 2009. Current plans include a 60-story, 4,000-room hotel tower; two 400-room high-end, non-gaming hotels; 2,800 luxury residences and hotel/condominium units; and 500,000 square feet of retail, dining, and entertainment experience. ***Almost 10,000 construction workers will be on-site at the peak of the project's development. CityCenter represents the largest privately financed project in the United States.*** Peltyn reflects on the impact CityCenter will have on Las Vegas and his role in the project. "CityCenter will be an unprecedented architectural creation that will redefine the look and scope of future projects in Las Vegas, or anywhere else for that matter. To me, it truly represents a 'Manhattanization' of our city. It will promote an exciting cultural and lifestyle experience. My ultimate goal will be to attract the diverse talent who will provide the quality customer service that matches the striking architecture."

The Las Vegas skyline is definitely changing in many different ways, and CityCenter is a project that is serving as a catalyst for those changes. Peltyn adds that, "With this remarkable development, Las Vegas is on a fast track to becoming a major urban center. You now hear about other companies in the planning stages of mixed-use design projects. It truly is an exciting time in the history of Las Vegas, and CityCenter is driving that excitement."

### Career Advisory Council Update

The newest members of the Career Advisory Council were recognized during the latest meeting. They include: Ron Lawrence of Community Counseling Agency, Gary Kapral of Bally Technology, Quentin Cox of Target, and Michael Peltyn of MGM MIRAGE.

The meeting featured an open discussion between the council members and student leaders, and focused on effective methods of connecting with today's students. Employers want to reach them as potential employees, and Career Services needs to reach them to promote resources and events. Students are being bombarded with a constant stream of messages in today's fast-paced and tech savvy world. Knowing which method to incorporate is critical. Students highlighted their use of personal networking sites such as MySpace, and the increasing reliance on their cell phones for elements such as text messaging. Maintaining a balance between high tech and high touch is important to assess a candidate for the right "fit," or assist students in the career development process. Students demand convenience through technology, but still need face-to-face interaction. The discussion generated a better understanding of serving students and highlighted the need for on-going dialogue in this area.

## Success Stories



### ***Students Utilizing Career Services***

Josie Ross has had a variety of work, education, and volunteer experiences, and is laying the foundation for her long-term career goals. She sought the help of Career Services in putting together her plan. Hearing a presentation in one of her classes and attending Career Day exposed her to some of the available services. It wasn't until Ross found out that she would be graduating a semester earlier than anticipated, that she focused in on connecting with the office, stating, "I had this wave of panic. I didn't know what I wanted to do, where I wanted to be, and how I wanted to do it. I was really lost and almost desperate." Ross began making lists of things she wanted in her career, and then scheduled an appointment with a career counselor to make sense of it all.

***Through her counseling appointments, Ross learned to focus on what was important to her in a career, as well as what she liked to do and the skills she wanted to use. She also discussed her long-term goals, and how to reach them through short-term goals.***

"I received a lot of support and consolation. I learned that a lot of people don't know what they want to do, and that's ok. You can start small and move towards your long-term goals, and that's fine. You can discover a lot of things along the way."

Currently, Ross is working as a pastry prep cook, and enjoys learning new information and developing additional skills. Her long-range career goal integrates an additional element. "Eventually, I really want to be the food editor of a magazine. I've always had a passion for writing, and I want to combine both food and writing. I've also thought of restaurant critic and cookbook author. Something that can unite the two would be fantastic."

Ross now knows she isn't the only student who struggles with career direction, and can pass along some advice. "The more time I spent in the kitchen, the more I realized I really did like it. Follow your passion, and admit it to yourself if you're in the wrong place, because it's always easier to start over earlier. As for connecting with Career Services, Ross, adds, "It can be a really helpful resource. They can help you navigate your path."

## Dates to Remember

### **On-Campus Interviewing**

February 20<sup>th</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Career Services Office, SSC 301

### **Career Planning Workshop for Graduate Students**

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Career Services Office, SSC 301

### **Career Development Workshops**

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
Career Services Office, SSC 301

### **Rebel Advantage – Inside Advice From Employers**

Technical – February 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., CEB HEA Hotel  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., MSU 208  
Business – February 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., SSC 254  
Liberal Arts – February 26<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., Marjorie Barrick Museum  
Communications – March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., MSU 209  
Criminal Justice - TBA

### **Career Day**

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Thomas & Mack Center

### **Internship Fair**

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., MSU 208

### **Tourism, Events & Entertainment**

### **Student/Employer Mixer**

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Stan Fulton Building – International Gaming Institute

## On-Going Services



### **Walk-in Hours**

For resume and cover letter critiques, and assistance with UNLV [CareerLink](#).

Mondays and Tuesdays 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

### **DISCOVER Groups**

DISCOVER is a computerized career assessment that profiles students' interests, abilities, and values. These elements are then connected to potential career/major areas.

### **Internship Information Sessions**

Wednesdays 12:00 – 12:45 p.m.

### **Other Services**

UNLV [CareerLink](#) online recruiting system  
Career Counseling by appointment  
Digital Video-taped Mock Interviews  
*Backpacks to Briefcases* Career Planning Handbook  
Career Resource Center  
Career Computer Lab

## Meet Our New Employer Outreach and Internship Coordinator

Paul Carpino is the newest staff member in Career Services, but is certainly no stranger to campus, having earned his bachelor of science degree in hotel administration from UNLV in 1974. He graduated from Chapman University in California with a master of arts degree in professional counseling. His most recent position was at Flagler College in Saint Augustine, Florida, where he was Director of Career Services for four years. Carpino also brings ten years of experience in corporate and event marketing, including positions at Alltel in Raleigh, North Carolina. Carpino is excited to return to UNLV, and has been connecting with many faculty and staff members, as well as area employers in his new role.



**Paul Carpino**



## The In's and Out's of Internships



An internship or experiential learning has been used to launch many successful careers. These programs afford students a hands-on setting to apply classroom theory and build their resumes. According to a recent NACE survey (National Association of Colleges and Employers), 75.9% of survey respondents said the primary focus of their internship program is to feed their college recruiting program. A successful internship program can be mutually beneficial for both the intern and the employer. The program affords both parties the opportunity for evaluation over a period of months or longer. The "fit" is evaluated and could lead to an accepted job offer.

Most interns approach their internships from a task perspective. That is a key element of the program; however there is a "flip side to the coin." Interns can empower themselves to observe and identify an area of improvement in the organization. After consulting with their supervisor for approval, the intern can impact positive change for the site. This achievement or accomplishment can become "branding" for the intern and significantly improve the chances for recruitment to a permanent position. The success is also a resume-builder.

Most interns have advantageous positions in learning the key issues within the organization. Co-workers are usually willing to share those key issues with interns. Some of the areas that an intern may impact change are: customer service, sales, productivity, marketing, efficiency, and branding to name just a few.

Successful interns are recruited into permanent positions within the organization. Every productive moment of the internship can contribute to the job offer.

The Rebel Internship program was created to offer experiential learning programs for the students of UNLV. We welcome your feedback regarding quality internship sites for our database. Rebel Internships are paid and/or for academic credit upon approval. We appreciate your continued support!

*For more information on Rebel Internships, please contact:  
Paul Carpino, Employer Outreach and Internship Coordinator  
895-0612  
paul.carpino@unlv.edu*

**Career Connections Editor**  
Don Snyder ♦ Career Counselor ♦ don.snyder@unlv.edu