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Supporting Their Dream Career

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

This biblical principle is something junior journalism major Simone Marshall’s parents always referenced when she was growing up. As she found writing to be more than just a hobby, she knew she had to match this God-given talent with her desire to go into law.

“I have wanted to be a judge since I was about 5 years old,” Simone said. “My parents really encouraged me to think of it as an opportunity to change the world around me.”

Simone chose to pursue an undergraduate degree in journalism after taking a journalism class in high school. As a journalism major she’s able to practice a clear, concise style of writing that mirrors that of writing for legal briefs. She’s also able to learn the fundamentals of fact-finding and uncovering truth.

Though this major is a good start for her career path, she admits there have been times she’s doubted the decision. Yet even in these moments, her parents have encouraged her to stay on the path God set out for her from an early age.

“My parents] waited for me to find my passion; and when I did, they jumped right in with support,” she said. “They have never let me give up on my dreams.”

Simone plans to take the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) and apply to graduate school in the summer. Even then, with her parents’ support, she plans to let God continue to lead.

There are several ways parents can support their student’s dream career. According to College: What Parents Need to Know (Farber, 2010) parents can encourage their students to:

Choose the right major. The major students choose should be directly related to the job they hope to have in the future. Typically, students take about 50-60 credit hours in their declared major. It is important that what they learn in these classes will translate to the workplace once they’re out of college.

Meet with their academic adviser. The easiest way for students to seek advice when it comes to choosing the right major, fulfilling course requirements, and finding internships is to meet regularly with their adviser. This is especially important in making sure they get into the right classes at the right time.

Intern. An internship or practicum is an ideal way for students to get valuable, real-world experience while they’re still in college. Whether it’s paid or unpaid, the responsibilities and tasks they carry out in an internship are a sure way to get an idea of what their future job will entail.

Graduate well. It is better for students to have graduated in good standing than to have killed themselves trying to graduate as quickly as possible. Students should map out a plan where they can go through their college years as efficiently and successfully as possible.

~by Ingrid Hernandez
I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16

Did You Know? Academic Advisers

One of the most undervalued resources in college is an academic adviser. Students and parents are more inclined to speak with financial advisers because they don’t want to waste money. But it’s worth noting that academic advisers have the ability to save something equally as valuable—time.

Grady Todd, senior marketing major, has had School of Business and Management Professor Lisa Goolsby as his adviser for four years now.

“She has honestly been like a mother to me,” Grady said. “She’s always available to talk, and even helped me get two internships.”

Every student at Southern is assigned an academic adviser based on their major and professional objectives. All full-time faculty are advisers and are given an updated reference book, Guide to Academic Advising each year.

“My goal as an adviser is to get to know my students, discover their strengths, and to be their friend and mentor,” Goolsby said. “I want to discover a student’s passion and make sure their educational goals match their career goals.”

Sharon Rogers, assistant director for Records and Advisement, stresses the importance of an adviser’s guidance, especially when it comes to degree audits.

“Students should see their advisers, at the very least, before registration each semester,” Rogers said. “I don’t want them registering for classes they don’t need.”

Rogers mentions that beyond helping with registration, advisers are a valuable resource when it comes to students’ career goals and objectives, and tutoring or counseling needs.

Students and their advisers are also required to complete a senior contract the year before graduation in order to ensure all remaining classes will be taken.

“Mrs. Goolsby has been an amazing adviser to me and I owe a lot of my success thus far to her,” Grady said. “I encourage all students to take advantage of their adviser’s wisdom.”

Parents and students can find related information by visiting southern.edu/records/advisement.

~by Charles Cammack

Ask The President

Question: Besides studying and doing well in his classes, what else can my son do to prepare for his future?

Many students change their major several times throughout college. With this in mind, Southern offers resources to help assure students are confident with the path they choose. Our Career Services department offers job assessments, identifies how degrees relate to careers, examines labor market trends, practices mock interviews, and develops resumes, job search strategies, and networking skills for students.

Counselors work with students to determine how their skills, interests, values, abilities, and personalities will relate with a certain career.

Even alumni can use the resources offered, and many do in order to seek assistance with resumes and job search strategies. Career Services exists to ensure that no Southern student or alumni is left alone in the search for a career after college.

Many additional resources can be found by visiting southern.edu/careers.
Staff Profile:
Jennifer Enevoldson, Employment Coordinator

For Jennifer Enevoldson, working as student employment coordinator at Southern is a natural fit. Having first worked in the Human Resources department while a student here, Enevoldson spent several years observing and gaining skills that now help in her current position.

“My supervisors were great at giving me projects that tested my abilities and increased my responsibilities,” Enevoldson said. “Being a student worker back then has made me a better employee now.”

After working as a student in Human Resources, Enevoldson was offered a full-time position with them before graduation. For the past seven years, Enevoldson has worked hard to connect students with job vacancies around campus and to make sure the paperwork for students to be able to work is completed.

“I enjoy seeing lots of students, helping them find the solution for a job, and seeing the light bulb that goes off,” Enevoldson said.

Enevoldson emphasized several factors for finding a job as a student that can also help in the future, whether on-campus or off. When it comes to on-campus opportunities, there are many jobs available in academic departments that are major-driven and have flexible hours to match students’ schedules, she said.

“Having a job related to your degree is a great step for the future in gaining skills, learning time management, and becoming a well-rounded person,” Enevoldson said. “Students also get money to help pay their bill, so it’s a double benefit!”

As Enevoldson helps students find jobs, she hopes they will continue to learn a work ethic and skill set that will benefit them in their future careers, just as her time spent as a student worker helped her.

~by Shana Michalek

Is Your Student Looking for a Job?
If your student is looking for a job, check Southern’s job board daily at southern.edu/studentjobs.

Student Life: The Southern Accent

Since 1926, the Southern Accent has been a platform for students to express themselves and a resource through which to stay informed about campus happenings. Because it is entirely student-run, students are able to use skills they have learned in the classroom and apply it to the newspaper that acts as the student voice.

Section editors, staff writers, and photographers produce the Southern Accent’s content each week. The editing staff and designers take this information and work late nights to ensure the content is helpful, truthful, grammatically correct, and professionally designed.

Being a part of the Southern Accent staff gives students real experience that not only looks good on their resume, but also prepares them for their future career. Deanna Moore, the current editor of the Southern Accent, said that through this experience she has learned the importance of building positive relationships with those she works with.

“I think that when future employers see my involvement with the newspaper, they will understand that I am ready to work hard and that I can take on heavy responsibilities,” she said. “I have learned how to delegate and rely on my staff.”

Deanna is not the only editor who has felt more prepared for their career after working for the Southern Accent. Andy Nash, professor in the School of Journalism and Communication, had a similar experience. He describes working for the school newspaper as one of the best experiences he had in college and encourages students to find that out for themselves.

“After graduation, it will likely be a while before students have another opportunity to cast a vision and lead a staff like this,” he said. “Though I’ve had many jobs over the years, honestly it was being Accent editor back in college that gave me the most intensive, valuable work experience.”

If you would like to read the student newspaper’s latest stories and features, visit accent.southern.edu.

~by Sarah Crowder
What’s the best advice your parents have given you about looking for the right job?

• “Whatever they make you do, be the best at it. If they make you clean toilets, be the best toilet cleaner.” —Jaqueline Ruiz, junior family studies major

• “Prayer. If you’re looking for a job make sure it’s something God wants you to do or you won’t be happy with it.” —Arthur Theodore, sophomore psychology major

• “Find your passion and stick with it.” —Michael Bent, freshman liberal arts education major

• “Find one that pays.” —Lauren Brooks, senior Spanish and public relations major

• “Whatever you think is best for you, we support you.” —Jonathan Mould, sophomore nursing major

• “You want to do something where you will enjoy going to work every day. You want a job that is in line with your interests.” —Ryan Rigsby, junior biology major

• “Make sure you love what you do.” —Ivonne Cotto, junior nursing major

• “Find something that doesn’t conflict with your religious beliefs, like the Sabbath.” —Kim Quainbea, junior religious studies and nursing major

• “Make sure it’s something that can actually support a family.” —Alisha Ottati, senior nursing major

CONTACT US: We want to know what you think! If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact Ingrid Hernandez by calling 423.236.2689 or emailing southernparents@southern.edu.