

Overcoming a growing fear of the future

Written by Renee Changnon, Daily Vidette Columnist
Wednesday, 22 February 2012 19:12

“The future freaks me out!” This may be the title of a Motion City Soundtrack song I used to hum walking through the halls of my high school, but lately when I think of the next few years, this thought becomes even more relevant.

As senior year is rapidly winding to a close for those of us who will walk the stage this May, the uncertainty of what comes next is only adding more anxiety to our high stress levels.

At this point, for those of us who are not planning on going for round two with graduate school, the step we all came to college to prepare for is the next obvious check mark — finding a job.

For some students, this may already be figured out. Instead of crashing at home with Mom and Dad, some of our lucky peers may already have a job lined up and an exciting living arrangement, yet for a majority (including myself) no employer has called begging for us yet.

While the economy is easy to blame for those of us feeling the itch of nerves as we wonder where we will end up in the months following graduation, perhaps it's time we finally face our fear headfirst and make job hunting a top priority in our busy schedules.

As many who have searched through job board after job board know, searching for positions and applying to jobs is not an easy task. One can spend hours browsing through positions, making it easy to get overwhelmed at the amount of work that will be involved for each application.

One great place to start for those who have not begun the search or those who do not even know what they should be doing is the Career Center.

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Since my sophomore year of college, I have made it a point to go to the Career Center and seek advice from the people there who help us college students reach our goals. By scheduling an appointment with a career counselor, you can get advice and help on the job search, resume, cover letter, and more.

While the Career Center has definitely been a great resource I have used on more than one occasion, at the end of the day, filling out application after application is in each student's very own hands.

This past weekend, I was able to go to a journalism conference of sorts, and while not everything said could apply to me, what the experience did was open my eyes to how much more goes into the job hunt.

Some advice I was able to piece together that may help other seniors like myself is to be persistent, be prepared for the interview process, and, when searching for jobs, make a list of all possible contacts that you know who may be able to help you find the job that is right for you.

While this advice is not new or particularly unique, it reinforces the fact that searching for a job is not easy. In fact, I think the reason many of us are avoiding the hunt is because it becomes a job in and of itself.

As mid-February is near and most of us practically envision the diploma being placed in our hands, it's important to take a few deep breaths and remind yourself that you are qualified and ready to take on the working world.

Make the job search a priority, network with those who may be able to give a helping hand, but, in the midst of planning your future, remember to enjoy the last few months you have left of being a student at ISU rather than the alum you will be a year from now.

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Senioritis is not a diagnosed disease, but instead of completely curing it, continue to work hard with school and job searching and savor the end of your time as a student on campus because you will never get this time back.

Questions or comments to Renee's column can be sent to: dvrnchang@exchange.ilstu.edu.