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Spring Semester Events
by CETL Staff

Welcome to a new semester! This spring we are excited to bring a great line-up of Faculty Development Luncheons (FDL) for faculty and teaching staff. A week following each luncheon a smaller follow-up workshop will be held in Hill Hall for those who are interested in learning more. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities and encourage your colleagues to attend with you.

A complementary lunch will be provided at all the luncheons which begin at 11:45 AM and are held in the Union Ballroom. The presentation usually ends around 12:45 PM with a short Q&A to follow. The workshop topics and speakers are listed below but can also be found on our website at www.cetl.olemiss.edu. RSVP is requested so that adequate food can be ordered. We look forward to seeing you this spring!

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Topic: Breaking the Cycle of Entitlement: Encouraging Autonomy in the Classroom
Speakers: Tony Ammeter, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Associate Professor of Management and MIS
Dr. Nancy Wiggers & Dr. Rebekah Reysen, CETL Learning Specialists

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Topic: Lessons Learned in Studying Seven Years of Teacher Evaluations – Part 2
Speaker: Kathy Gates, Information Technology Chief Information Officer

Tuesday, March 25, 2014
Topic: Classroom Response Systems & Ways to Engage Students in Large Lectures
Speaker: Jasmine Townsend, Assistant Professor of Parks and Recreation Management

Tuesday, April 1, 2014
Topic: The Lighter and Laughter Side of Health
Speaker: Allison Ford-Wade, Associate Professor of Health Promotions

Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Topic: Academic Discipline Policies and Procedures
Speakers: UM Faculty Panel led by Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost, Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry and Director of Accreditation

The Importance of an Internship Program in Student Development and Placement
by Andre P. Liebenburg, Ph.D., Robertson Chair of Insurance and Associate Professor of Finance

The summer internship program is a key component of the Ole Miss Risk
Management and Insurance program's success in helping students find careers that suit their strengths. By completing a (paid) internship RMI majors are able to earn up to 6 hours of internship credit towards their degree. More importantly, the internship experience helps students identify their ideal career and gives them the opportunity to develop professionally. Many students return to campus after an internship with a new sense of purpose and direction, and a much better understanding of the industry. In our classes, RMI faculty routinely call on students to apply their internship experience to the material at hand and share with their classmates their “real-world” observations. It is remarkable to see the increased confidence levels of students that have completed an internship. Quite often, their increased confidence and motivation translates into better exam performance.

Importantly, interns learn first-hand what functional roles fit them well. Students are required to keep a journal of their experiences and are evaluated at the end of the internship by their supervisor. They are also required to write a report in which they reflect on their internship experience and describe what they learned and how they grew – both professionally and personally. Further, we require that students interview a high-ranking officer within the firm and use the interview as part of their assessment of where the firm fits in the industry, where it is headed, and what its strengths and weaknesses are. Ideally, the intern should explain where they would fit in the organization and how they could contribute to the firm’s success.

Our students truly excel in their internships. In recent years our internship placement has boomed and has spanned the industry, including local and regional agents, national and global retail brokers, leading wholesale brokers, property and casualty insurers, life insurers, financial planners, and third-party administrators. Ole Miss RMI interns are in high demand across the across the U.S., with interns working regionally as well as in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and Chicago. Several of the internship experiences are highly competitive – for example, two of our students that interned for a global retail broker were part of an internship class of 35 students that were selected from over 600 applicants.

To facilitate the internship (and full-time) placement process, the RMI program holds two career fairs each year that are attended by a wide variety of local and national employers. We compile and distribute a resume book and, along with our colleagues at career services, help students craft their resumes and prepare for interviews. We also host several employers and industry groups on campus each semester for information sessions with our students. As internship coordinator, I actively seek out new internship opportunities for our students and assist employers with the design and implementation of new internship programs.

Employers are consistently and overwhelmingly positive about their Ole Miss RMI student interns. For example, one employer sent me the following glowing message towards the end of the internship: “First, let me begin by saying THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! I respect and adore [her], and she has done an outstanding job here this summer – she’s leaving us next Friday, and I miss her already!! She has accomplished so much, she has helped bring the
department along so much more than I would have been able to do on my own, she has done an amazing job and held down the fort with absolutely no issues when I’ve been out of town.”

I am proud to say that many employers paid our students the ultimate compliment -- full-time job offers were extended to 7 of our 2012-2013 interns.

If your department or area is interested in establishing an internship program I would be happy to share our experiences. Please feel free to contact me at aliebenberg@bus.olemiss.edu.