

MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR YOU

THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY 5201 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD SC-114 LAREDO, TX WWW.TAMU.EDU/CAREER

TAMIU'S PROGRAM OF THE MONTH: *Fine & Performing Arts*



The Top 100 Employers (page 10)

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TAMIU Program: Fine and Performing Arts

For ten years, Bede Lamar Leyendecker, Assistant Professor of Dance / Chair-Department of Fine & Performing Arts has served at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU); prior to this appointment, he taught Dance at Laredo Community College for 15 years.

As Dean of Fine and Performing Arts, Leyendecker’s responsibility as the faculty side of the job allows her to continue sharing love of dance with students. Currently she teaches two University sections of Dance Performance: Flamenco; one is designated for beginner students and the other for our advanced students. Each of the two groups brings ‘delicacies to the table’!

The administrative aspect of this job allows her to coordinate the events of the Department of Fine & Performing Arts. The department offers many events throughout the year for the enjoyment of our students and employees as well as for the community.

“The Dance world has changed profoundly over the course of a few decades. In the ‘old’ days you were either a performer or a teacher and now there are many other interesting opportunities in administration, videography, choreography, notation and more scholarly areas of research, notation and history,” Leyendecker stated.

According to Leyendecker the most challenging part of the job is when the department provides events coupled with the student performances does not leave with much ‘free’ time; it does however make days fly! “I always look forward to ‘non-event’ weekends when I can spend a little time at home, working in my yard,” Leyendecker stated.

Leyendecker adds, “This job is a 24/7 job! Any career in the Arts requires a great deal of passion, hard work and determination. These jobs are never 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday, they are constant.”

“When I talk to students about careers in Dance I always tell them that they have to be prepared to dedicate their lives to Dance, a very tough decision to make!,” Leyendecker concludes.”

Leyendecker is a graduate from University of Houston-University Park. She received a B.S. in Education, All Level Dance Certification-Magna Cum Laude (1982) and an M. Ed. with Dance Specialization (1983).



Coffee Talk With Cassandra



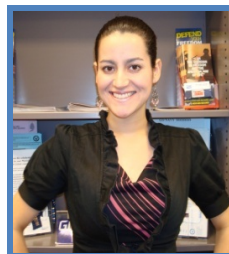
[Cassandra Wheeler, Executive Director, Office of Career Services](#)

Welcome to CAREER CORNER! This newsletter provides information to the University community about our services, and special programming. In addition we connect alumni and students to employers regarding networking and employment opportunities. The Office of Career Services is committed to provide the best services to the University community and is continually “Making Connections for You.”

This month, we will feature one of TAMIU’s programs, Fine & Performing Arts and discuss how to prepare for the job market in this exciting field.

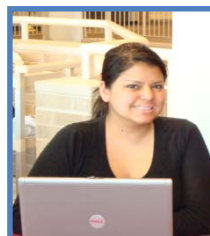
We hope you enjoy this issue. Email us at [Career Corner Newsletter](#) for comments or ideas for future newsletters. We would love to hear from you!

MEET THE STAFF



*[Lygia Perez](#)
[Data & Information Specialist](#)*

My job is to update the Division of Institutional Advancement’s WebPages & newsletters.



*[Dulce Gutierrez](#)
[Staff Assistant](#)*

My job is to tell you about our services and to help students, alumni and employers with Dusty Works.



“I am blessed for the past 25 years of my career and all of the students that I have worked with over the years.”
-BedeLeyendecker

Tips from Terry!

[Teresa Chapa-Cantú, M.Ed.](#)
[Director, Student Relations](#)



E-Portfolio: Who knew!

By now, I'm sure you know what a résumé is, and maybe even an electronic résumé. Well, imagine a jazzed-up electronic résumé, with sections in which you actually display work samples. That is an e-portfolio, and you can create one for yourself on our Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) website.

Okay, for starters there are many uses for an e-portfolio. Businesses, organizations, and individuals can all benefit from such a handy tool to accomplish tasks such as develop programs, track progress, and apply for a job. But, like a basic résumé, there is no standard format or template. On the contrary, there is a great deal of variability regarding what goes into an e-portfolio, not to mention a myriad of ways to organize and display it. For our purposes, I'm going to discuss the kind of general composition that could behoove students, and not just students in the fields of education and fine arts.

Most often, a student might use an e-portfolio to collect, organize and share their work samples, as well as other information such as a résumé. Well, you can probably imagine what a fine arts student might include in their e-portfolio (paintings, pictures, movie clips), but, what about someone in the math or even nursing fields? Well, these students could use this tool to show off their competencies, skill levels, and other accomplishments in a more profound and meaningful way. Imagine what an impact the inclusion of an e-portfolio might make in your next job application!

Most commonly, e-portfolios are held in a secured site, either on a website or external memory device, like a CD. Nowadays, too, a student might go as far as the development of an entire website with navigation to various pages. Fortunate for TAMIU students, *E-learning (Angel)* has the capacity to allow students to create and maintain their very own e-portfolio. By logging in to www.tamiu.edu/elearning, going up to left navigation column and clicking on the symbol that looks like this.



Once you're in the e-portfolio, you can fill in all of your contact information, add a picture, and personalize it. There are icons at the top of the page that guide you to other sections of your e-portfolio, like 'artifacts,' 'blogs,' and 'publications' in which you can add text, upload files, and add links.

In case you're not too familiar with navigation and uploading, there is a training link for Angel on its homepage. Of course, just like any other organizational system, it will take time to complete your e-portfolio. So, it's important to start as soon as you can. I know that the First Year Success program is utilizing this tool for freshman to document their first year experience.

If you're interested in what an e-portfolio might look like, you can follow this link to TAMIU's Teaching Department's E-portfolio Center: <http://empowermentzone.tamiu.edu/portfolios/center>. There you will find the e-portfolios of some of TAMU's students. Go down to 'Search ALL public ePortfolios' and click on *Begin Search*, then click 'List All'. You will notice that the organization is similar to an electronic résumé, except there is a picture attached, and there are links which lead you to an enhanced experience of the professional level and accomplishments of each of these individuals. In this sense, it is quite a leap from a résumé.

So, if you haven't thought of using an e-portfolio, or thought you couldn't because of your major, I encourage you to take the time to learn as much as you can. E-portfolios are becoming the norm, rather than the exception. So, think about how your e-portfolio is going to look next to someone else's paper résumé.

TAMIU OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

Fall 2008 Events:

Graduate and Professional School Fair:

Oct. 20, 2008 (10:00 am -3:00 pm)
Student Center Rotunda (1st and 2nd Floor)

Résumé Roundup:

Nov. 17, 18, 19 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Student Center 114

*Workshops:

Résumé/Cover Letter Workshops:

Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 (12:00 pm -1:00 pm)
Student Center 114

Interview Skills Workshops:

Nov. 25 and Nov. 26, (12:00pm -1:00 pm)
Student Center 114

*Please register for workshops on



Stephanie's Blog

My Life as an Intern

[Stephanie Rueda](#)
[Career Counselor Intern](#)



My name is Stephanie Rueda. There are 5 things you should know about me:

- 1) Doing my Masters in Counseling Psychology
- 2) 24 years old
- 3) Ummm... I know there's more to me
- 4) I like the color blue, wait no, I need something deeper
- 5) Oh yeah, I plan to graduate in May 2009 with my Masters, and will be going for my Ph.D in Fall 2009. Also, I am a Psychology Research Assistant, and have done 2 publications with the awesome Psychology Professor Dr. Christopher Ferguson. (google us!)

In this counseling psychology program we have to do a **MILLION HOURS** of interning with students and clients. Okay, well not a million hours but sometimes it feels like a million. As it is, being a grad student we hardly have time to do anything else other than read, study and study again and read more. Oh don't get me wrong it's totally worth it, I mean who wouldn't want to know how to help someone who is depressed, or has anxiety/panic attacks or help someone with a Mysophilia fetish (someone who is sexually aroused by dirt).

So when you think of counseling what do you think of? Ummm let's see. How about you lay on a **COUCH** and talk about your feelings to someone who is sitting on a brown leather chair with a notepad and a pencil. If you're thinking Freud that's good. If you're thinking will she try to put me on a couch, I don't think so, that's not the type of counseling I do. If you're thinking what type of counseling *does* she do?

Well, that leads me to where I am right now. I am currently sitting in an office at **CARRER SERVICES** at the Student Center room 114H. This is my 3rd week being a **CAREER COUNSELOR INTERN**.

I remember coming in 3 weeks ago so scared thinking I will be the one helping students with career choices, resumes and interview skills. What am I thinking? Can I even handle this load? I am being completely honest with you; I was terrified coming into this department completely new, not knowing anyone, or exactly what to do. I controlled my nerves as I was given a short orientation on what they do here and how I can help. Automatically, my brain started thinking back to my career counseling class, I kept wondering if I still had my book and notes because it looks like I'm going to need them. Even though I have some background with career counseling, I still felt like I wasn't qualified enough to be here. However, the word **INTERN** does mean gaining experience and learning more about your field. I don't know why I felt like I literally had to be a professional and know everything on my first day. So realizing I am here to learn, helped to settle my nerves a lot.

I am a **HAPPY LITTLE INTERN ORPHAN** who has been adopted by my Career Services family. So far they have treated me well. They gave me my own office with an extension line, an awesome name/picture badge, and responsibilities that help me grow as a professional and as an individual. I have gone through some training these past few weeks to brush up on my career counseling skills and I am now ready to get my hands dirty with any questions or concerns students have about **THEIR FUTURE**. Believe me, I know what it feels like to be anxious about the future, but I am here to help develop your confidence level regarding your career choices. At the end of the day it feels rewarding to know I'm guiding students into their future filled with many possibilities and opportunities.

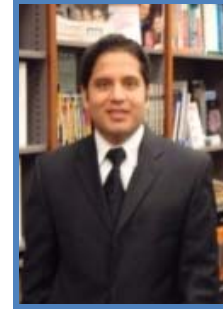
Check back to find out how I am doing

Wish me luck!!!

-Stephanie

Notes From the Director

[Andres Jaime](#)
[Director, Employer Relations](#)



Looking for a Job in the Fine Arts?

Looking for a job has become a more complex and challenging process as the job market grows up to be more competitive and the number of high-qualified job applicants increase. However, the number of jobs in the areas of business, education, health and social sciences remain available despite the fragile economic situation the nation faces today. For students in the Fine Arts field, finding a job related to their major during school or after graduation becomes a truly unique scenario. As we can imagine, the number of employers offering employment opportunities for candidates required to have a Fine Arts degree is considerably smaller than the group of employers requesting candidates with "more traditional" college degrees such as Business Management, Accounting, Marketing, Education or Nursing. Naturally, Fine Arts students are driven by their vocation and passion for the arts and, aware of the challenges ahead, in terms of employment options, they continue their creative academic development until completing a college degree.

Sources of information and other support programs are available to the Fine Arts student to help transition from the academic to the professional stage of their careers in Fine Arts. The Office of Career Services works to have employment information for all areas, including Fine Arts. Besides providing our students with as much information as we can regarding employment opportunities, we also advise our students to consider two critical factors when planning a career in the Fine Arts field:

1) Internships AND 2) Relocation

By analyzing the local market for employers, we have found out that these two factors, internships and relocation availability, will increase employment opportunities for all college majors but, in the case of Fine Arts, these factors are vital. Nevertheless, the Office of Career Services conducts research and gathers as much information as possible to have employment information for students interested in relocating and those wanting to stay in town. We develop relationships with employers that could potentially become sources of employment or

internship opportunities locally and out of town.

Jobs such as school band staff, museum personnel or coordinators of education projects related to programs that utilize art to provide a public service, are only some of the positions that are available in our office year round.

Please visit us at the Office of Career Services to talk about employment options for this major and to take advantage of our services such as resume and cover letter workshops and career counseling sessions. Also, please visit Dusty Works (www.tamiu.edu/careers) our on-line job bank database, to keep up to date on current job openings. In this site, you will find internship opportunities like the one below:

The Laredo Center for the Arts:

Job Description

Each year, the Laredo Center for the Arts hosts a nine-month internship for a college graduate. The goal of the internship is to provide college graduates, who wish to pursue a career in the arts, the opportunity to learn and work in a dynamic museum setting. Interns will gain significant experience in one or more areas of specialization including work with outreach educational programs and temporary exhibitions.

Qualifications

Required Education: B.F.A. or B.A. (Art, Studio Art, Art History or related field)

Applications Instructions

Applications can be requested online via Dusty Works or can be picked up at 500 San Agustin Ave. Candidates must submit resume, college transcripts, one letter of recommendation and a letter of interest with a focus statement. (What knowledge and skills would you bring to the Center and what experience would you like to gain? How would working at the Center benefit your long-term goals?)

Best of luck and we hope to see you soon at the Office of Career Services!



Texas A&M International University “Fighting Dustdevil” Marching Band

The TAMIU “Fighting Dustdevil” Marching Band is in its third year of existence, starting as a small ensemble of 38 members and has now grown to a little over 60 members. Every year, the marching band performs the vast majority of its performances at the 1A High School in the town of Bruni, Texas. Because Bruni High School does not have a band program, but has an excellent football team, Bruni High School asked if the TAMIU Marching Band would be, in a sense, their adopted band program. All of the monies from the performance fees goes directly into the TAMIU Marching Band Scholarship account. The band has also performed at a number of the TAMIU home soccer games. In addition, the Fighting Dustdevils has been featured at the USSBA Southwest Texas Regional and the annual J.W. Nixon High School Marching Band Festival.

The band has twice been awarded the “Little Drummer Boy” Trophy (Best Marching Band) at the annual McAllen Candlelight Posada Parade, bringing home trophies and award monies at both events. This year the band is performing as a “Featured Band” at both the USSBA Southwest Regional Competition at the SAC early this month and at the Nixon Festival later in the month. The band will be performing a three act show entitled “A Ron Nelson Holiday,” featuring two of the wonderful band composition from this great composer: “Rocky Point Holiday” and “Sonoran Desert Holiday.”

[Click here for FDMB Schedule](#)

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(956)326-1046 (Home)

Goal Setting



This is the third in our series of “Career Search” articles. “Know Yourself” appeared in our September issue and “Digging for Data” was published in October.

At this point in your career search, you have developed a solid understanding of who you are and where your strengths can be best utilized within the working world. To take that next step towards your dream job, it’s critical to set specific goals. As you have learned, corporate cultures differ among industries and companies and vary in their potential to give you the future you want. Some organizations offer exciting jobs but no prospects for growth. Others provide opportunities to carry out altruistic work but their employees end up struggling to pay the rent. By taking the time to envision what you plan to achieve and clearly articulate these goals, you are creating the foundation upon which your career search will be built and setting the parameters that will keep you focused on obtaining your definition of success.

Crafting your goals is easier once you have developed a clear sense of self, what you value, and what you believe to be your purpose in life. But simply taking the time to visualize your preferred future is only the first step. It’s essential, if you hope to achieve your goals, to take the time to write them down and not just keep a mental note. An often-quoted study of Harvard graduates found that after 20 years, the three percent who wrote down their goals achieved more financially than the other 97 percent of graduates combined.

Setting goals involves looking at your life as you would like to see it unfold from now into the future. It begins with the development of a clear vision of where you’d like to live, your life-style, family circumstances, leisure pursuits, income, possessions, and other things of importance, followed by identifying the career path to support the life you would like to maintain in the long-term.

Take the time now to do some crystal ball gazing into your future. Sit in a quiet place and allow yourself to daydream. Think ahead to what your life looks like in the year 2016. Identify where you are living, the geographic location, the type of home—someone living in a brownstone in Manhattan has different financial needs than someone living in rural Nova Scotia. Are you living alone or with others? Do you have a family to support? Do your hobbies involve costly club fees and expensive travel or are they simple pleasures like a walk through the countryside? When you have established the kind of life-style you intend to lead you will start to gain clarity around the type of income you need to earn to make that life a reality. Next, think about what kind of work you see yourself doing. Are you working on your own or with others? What is your role? What is your work environment? It’s important to reflect in detail on all these areas in order to set the direction for the career path you will embark on when you graduate. Once you have considered your life 10 years from now, work it backwards to the year 2011, and look at your living situation, your personal/intimate relationships, your life-style and most importantly, your career circumstances. To conclude, repeat this exercise again for next year, focusing on what your goals are upon graduation.

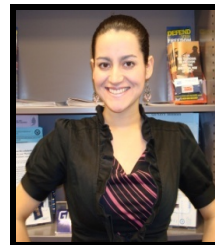
Thinking realistically about your goals pushes you to decide what kind of career and income you will require. Some jobs will offer the platform to prepare you for the next rung on your ladder to success while others will have allure but limited future prospects. Understanding what experiences you need to gain in one position to obtain the necessary skills and training to prepare you for your next career goal will assist in making wise choices. Life circumstances will most certainly compel you to rethink your goals periodically but having a benchmark to evaluate your choices against will enable you to make decisions based on solid targets and to recognize, in the future, what changes need to take place.

In order to get to the top of the stairs - your personal definition of career success - you must take one step at a time and know what you want waiting for you when you get there. Success comes to those who have clearly focused written goals, refer to them often, and plan to make them happen. There are no shortcuts. Those who take the elevator to the top and stay there for good are few and far between.

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It is always important to dress at the level of your profession, it shows the employer how well you will represent them if you are chosen for the job.



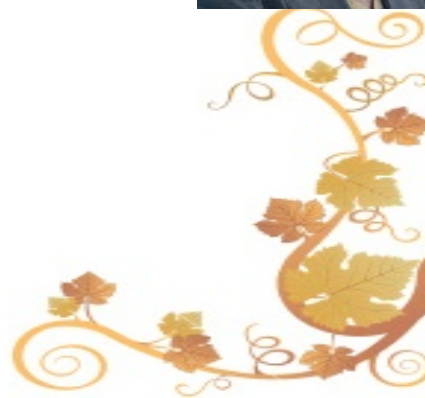
“INTERVIEW ATTIRE TIPS”

For Men:

- Wear any dark suit.
- You can wear a button down shirt (white, black, navy, or brown).
- Make sure your shoes are polished (dark colors)
- You may carry a professional briefcase or portfolio.

For Women:

- Make sure blouses are light colors
- Wear simple accessories (no visible tattoos, pierced eyebrows or nose)
- make sure makeup is natural (use conservative tones)
- Skirt length should always be below the knee.



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Millions of Americans live with disabilities and many others may become disabled at some point in their lifetime. For those disabled persons entering the job market, as for anyone else, job hunting starts with preparation.

If you are unsure of your career path, seek out a career counselor for assessments, resume and interview critique, and to discuss career and employment opportunities. Visit the [Office of Career Services](#) at the Student Center and speak with our staff to schedule an assessment. Check our free online database system for a current listing of local, national and federal jobs at [Dusty Works](#). Should you need counseling services, check out Texas A&M International University's Disability Services at Student Center, Room 124.

Next, research, research and research companies who "actively recruit" persons with disabilities. Surprisingly, you will find the federal government, defense, banking, oil & gas and electrical industries will top the list. Equal Opportunities Publications, has an updated [listing of those companies actively recruiting persons with disabilities](#).

In today's job market, employers are strategically recruiting candidates. Some recruiters only visit college campus in a particular region, while others strategically recruit campuses based on their field. For example, Lockheed Martin would not visit all college campuses, but would narrow it down to campuses with a high minority population and a strong engineering program.

Last, check out The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) under the Department of Labor to find out more about the National Disability Employment Awareness Month and explore other [additional resources](#) such as:

[It's About Talent](#)

[Small Business and Self Employment for People with Disabilities](#)

[Workforce Recruitment Program](#)

What else can I do on Dusty Works?

Check out the Vault where you can research companies and network with professionals.

If you are an alumnus, faculty member or employer, you can sign up to be a mentor, just email our office at careerservices@tamiu.edu and we can show you how to e-network with students.

You can sign up for CAREER EVENTS such as the Graduate & Professional School Fair and other workshops sponsored by the Office of Career Services. Just login the system, go to the top of the page, and click on CAREER EVENTS.

Logon on to [Dusty Works](#) and check out these jobs:

Position

Merchandise and Customer Assistant/Various
Internship Transportation Logistics
English/Spanish Speaking Case Manager
IT Positions
Program Director for Outpatient Treatment Services
Internal Revenue Agent
Tutors
2009 Teach for America Corps Member
Music Instructor
Full and Part-Time
Help Desk Coordinator
Facilities Manager
Account Coordinator

Employer

SEARS
CH Robinson Worldwide
New Beginning Center
eBusiness Application Solution, Inc.
STCADA
Internal Revenue Service
A + Tutoring Center
Teach for America
Children's Fountain of Learning Center
Best Buy
Sony Electronics, Inc.
Diocese of Laredo
PMDG Marketing Communications

Call us or stop by our office. We will be happy to help you logon the system and show you the newest features on Dusty Works. So let Dusty Works work for you!

Let Dusty Work for you!



The job outlook for graduates of 2008 appears promising as employers prepare to seek out the best and the brightest....

Excerpted from the [Black Collegian Magazine](#)--Each year, THE BLACK COLLEGIAN conducts a survey of major employers to determine the most active recruiters of college graduates. This survey results in our Top 100 Employers List, which is published in this, the Second Semester Super issue. Employers were asked about the number of projected hires from on-campus recruiting and the number of campuses they are recruiting on. They were also asked to list the majors they are seeking.

According to Dr. Philip Gardner's [Job Outlook survey](#) included in this issue, large employers with more than 4,000 employees are aggressively pursuing college graduates this year - with 40,000 jobs up for grabs. In addition, employers are prepared to pay more, with 53 percent planning to raise salary offers by an average of 4.2 percent. Much of the growth in opportunities is due to baby-boomer turnover. If you've completed internships, that investment just may pay off, as the largest expansion in hiring is expected to come from employers using applicants from their internship and co-op talent pools.

Rank	Employer	Rank	Employer
51	Accenture	76	Southwest Airlines
52	ExxonMobil	77	Starwood hotels & Resorts Worldwide
53	Electronic Arts	78	eBay
54	HSBC	79	Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
55	Cisco Systems	80	U.S. Air Force
56	3M	81	BP
57	Hilton Hotels Corporation	82	Verizon
58	Shell Oil Company	83	Nestle
59	Credit Suisse	84	Discovery Communications
60	Federal Reserve Bank	85	LVMH
61	PepsiCo	86	Chevron Corporation
62	Genentech	87	Wachovia Corporation
63	Dell	88	Wells Fargo & Company
64	GlaxoSmithKline	89	Fidelity Investments
65	Merck	90	Anheuser-Busch
66	American Airlines	91	Lilly (Eli Lilly and Company)
67	Calvin Klein	92	Kraft Foods
68	Hewlett-Packard	93	General Mills
69	Gap Inc.	94	Amgen
70	Internal Revenue Service (IRS)	95	General Motors
71	Booz Allen Hamilton	96	Siemens
72	Honda Companies	97	Texas Instruments Incorporated
73	Cardinal Health	98	Wal-Mart Stores
74	Maxim Healthcare	99	Best Buy
75	Department of Defense-Missiles and Weapons Division	100	Motorola

Some of the majors most in demand this year are civil engineering, environmental sciences, nursing, accounting, electrical engineering, marketing, business administration, finance, mechanical engineering, computer science, agricultural business, and mathematics. You should visit your career services office to determine if the employers listed in our survey are recruiting on your campus, and meet with a career counselor to plan a strategy for getting an interview with the employers of your choice. THE BLACK COLLEGIAN wishes you much success in your job search! The above list was excerpted from *The Black Collegian Magazine*.