Internships, Opportunities, Graduate Study

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Being Successful as a Student and Beyond

- In today's climate of
 - flat world
 - multitasking
 - diversity
 - need for more and more knowledge,
- You cannot afford to just go to class and expect to be successful after your studies end

Being a Successful Student • What do you need to do?

- First and foremost, learn the fundamentals
- Basic science, math, computer skills (programming and not double clicking), some business background
- WRITING SKILLS
- Then, do not sit still

Being a Successful Student

- Then, make wise use of your time
 - In and out of the classroom
 - During the academic year and during the summer
 - During the week and during weekends

Being a Successful Student

- During summers, always look for opportunities that will grow you, teach you, mature you, and make you more attractive to employers
- One course of action you should follow is to seek internships

Why Internships

- Experience that you won't get in the classroom
- Skill buildup
- Capability to start and complete projects
- Nice line on resume
- Opportunity to land a job

Why Internships

- Most students who intern during summer and take their internships seriously are offered permanent positions by their employers
- Why? Because they come to know you, you get to know the company, you develop expertise

Searching for Internships

- Look everywhere
- Most large companies will offer them
- Talk to your professors
- Several internships directed at minorities
- On-campus or off-campus opportunities
- Do your homework internships don't find you, you find internships

Opportunities at NASA

- NASA has a wide variety of internships and summer opportunities, but you need to look for them
- Check out NASA SOLAR web site (also intern.nasa.gov)
- Also contact your state's Space Grant Consortium (New York's is at Cornell)

While Interning

- Take your job seriously, even if you do not like what you are doing
- Show up at work on time and be properly groomed
- Be respectful, it's OK to make suggestions, but do NOT overtly criticize
- Note that times are tough and jobs are not easy to come by these days

After Graduation

- Opportunities include
 - Entering workforce
 - Continuing on to graduate school or professional study
 - Joining public service or military
 - Taking time off to find yourself is not a good idea

Why Graduate Study

- Increase your knowledge
- Employment that is more challenging (not necessarily more salary)
- Distinguish yourself from people with only undergraduate degrees
- You can do graduate study full-time, or while you are working

Paying for Graduate School

- Company pays (most of the time) if you work full-time and go to school at night
- If you go to school full-time, explore opportunities such as teaching and research assistantships, fellowships, and other on-campus employment
- You need to search these opportunities, they will not find you

Preparing for Graduate Study

- Keep your grades high
- Make sure enough professors know you to write you good letters
- Positive outlook in personal statements
- Helpful if you have done internships or research
- Do your homework and determine the most suitable schools for you to apply
- Search for funding opportunities and apply

Closing Remarks

- Competition is tougher than ever to land a good job (and to keep it)
- Needed: people who can do more with less
- Success is not handed to you in a platter, you have to work on it
- Working for success and a secure future begins at school - you do NOT have time to waste

Contact Information

- Feel free to contact me with any questions
- <u>baruh@jove.rutgers.edu</u>
- Good luck