

Ask Louanne

The Collegian's Advice Column
by Dr. Louanne Barton
Personal Counselor



Hope for seniors

Dear Louanne,

I'm a senior, graduating this May. This is supposed to be a time of celebration, my reward for four agonizing years of hard work, but I'm really dreading it. I have absolutely no prospect of a job, student loans to pay back, and have to face returning home to parents who still feel they have a right to keep track of what I do as long as they're paying the bills.

Let's see you solve this problem!

Signed,
Hopeless Senior

Dear Hopeless,

Boy, this is a tough one. I decided to consult, Kevin Moore, our coordinator of placement and internships here at Behrend. He came up with some helpful suggestions.

The first thing he said was, "Don't panic!" Don't take the first job that comes along if it's not what you want just because you think it's the only offer you'll get. The job search process is taking 6 to 12 months in today's economy. Kevin says he can guarantee you a job but he just can't guarantee when. It is highly unlikely you'll be unemployed five years from now. (If that's any consolation).

Keep your expectations realistic.

People with degrees in social science are starting at \$17,000, biology - \$25,000, and engineering - \$32,000. On the first job hunt don't limit yourself geographically. Be willing to relocate.

Living at home can be very stressful for adult children (and their parents), but it's becoming much more common. If living at home is an option, consider an unpaid internship with a company or agency you would really like working for. You'll learn a lot, it will look good on a resume; and, who knows, they might even like you so much they'll offer you a job.

If you decide to go to an employment agency, choose one that charges the company a fee, not one that takes 15% of your salary the first year.

Did you know that Penn State provides life-long career counseling and placement services to alumni? If you haven't already done so, be sure to register with the Career Development Office on the first floor of the Reed Building before you leave.

Good Luck and remember, if all else fails, there's always the Peace Corps.

Louanne

Send letters to:
Louanne Barton
Personal Counseling
Reed Building



31st Annual Honors and Awards Convocation

Sunday, April 26, 1992
2:00 p.m.
Erie Hall

Please Join the College
in this Campus-Wide
Celebration

