



PARK
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Career Center News

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**SPECIAL
EDITION:
ACCOUNTING**



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Congratulates All
May 2011
Graduates!

Career
Development
Center's Summer

Hours:
Monday-Friday
8am-4:30pm

Have A Happy And
Safe Summer!

Patricia Decker, Seeking Accounting Degree after Employment Transition

By Shelly Summerour

Growing up, Patricia always enjoyed Math and found that she was very good at it. As a teenager this evolved into helping her Dad with the bookkeeping and billing for their family business. Eventually she was able to help even further by handling all the accounting. However, after the economy took a downturn and the business was sold last August, Patricia, like so many others, was suddenly left to find employment elsewhere.



Patricia quickly realized that she faced some challenges. The Bachelor of Science degree in Management that she had earned from Park was helpful for running the family business, however, most employers were looking for graduates in Accounting for the positions she was seeking. "I decided that I needed to go back to school and get my Accounting degree to back up my fifteen years of experience in the field." Patricia was also aware that going back to school would allow her to learn more about the changes in accounting procedures and give her the education hours she needed to take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. To take the exam one needs 150 hours of education, including 24 hours of accounting, which equates to an undergraduate degree in Accounting.

Eventually, Patricia found employment working with a tax specialist maintaining the Sales Tax Exemption Certificates for customers at GE Energy in the Environmental Services branch. "We sell air filtration systems and components to manufacturing plants, large office buildings, ships, oil rigs, etc." She also processes refunds, prepares journal entries to balance accounts, and performs account reconciliations. Patricia stated that because GE is an international company, she works with foreign exchange rates as well.

Even though Patricia experienced being laid off at the end of last year, she took immediate action to move forward and devise a plan. Now on her way to earning her BS degree in Accounting at Park, she believes this is a great area to go into despite its challenges. She encourages other students studying this major to keep their skills current and earn their CPA. "That will definitely give you a boost in this career field."

GE Energy

By Shelly Summerour

GE Energy Environmental Services is located off of 63rd Street in Kansas City, Missouri, with its headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. With 82,000 employees, GE provides energy and the required infrastructures to 140 countries around the world. In 2009, GE had revenues of \$37.1 billion. According to their website, "GE serves the energy sector by developing and deploying technology that helps make efficient use of natural resources." The resources that GE gets energy from include coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear energy; renewable resources such as wind, solar biogas; and other alternative fuels.

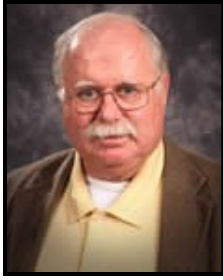
GE Energy started in 1901 by installing their first steam turbine. Over the last 100 years the company has grown to install over 10,000 steam and heavy-duty gas turbines, which represents over a million Megawatts of capacity. "Our mission is to provide cleaner, smarter, and more efficient energy solutions that help our customers and communities to create jobs grow their economies and improve living standards."

For more information you can go to their website at <http://gepower.com>.



GE Energy

A Conversation About Accounting: Professor John Cookinham By LaKeisha Brashier-Halde



Professor John Cookinham is a full-time Accounting Professor at Park, having started out as an adjunct professor in 1978. He earned his MBA from the Kelly School of Business at Indiana University, with an Accounting/Finance emphasis. He is a Certified Management Accountant, and is a member of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants.

With many students considering a major in accounting, Professor Cookinham says that an accounting student will need to devote the time and effort in their studies to gain the knowledge to enter the profession. They will need to have good quantitative skills, be good communicators, and be willing to work. "The accounting course of study is demanding, but the professional positions pay very well," he says.

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Professor Cookinham says the job opportunities for students earning an undergraduate or graduate degree are endless. "We have graduates teaching, working in a variety of positions, and some even own their own businesses," he comments. He also points out that many accountants start out in an entry level position and then move up the ladder, and may even end up in some other field besides accounting.

For students looking for military or government accounting positions, those opportunities definitely exist as well. Having served in the army for 21 years, the accounting field was part of Professor Cookinham's military career. He says, "There was and still is a need for upper-level accountants to serve as controllers, budget analysts, and program analysts." "These accountants bring the military point of view to the financial management of resources needed to support our armed forces".

Park's Accounting Degree is a traditional set of accounting courses that prepares students to enter the field of accounting, as well as provide a foundation for preparing for the certification exams. The program recently changed from a Bachelor of Arts to a Bachelor of Science with more emphasis on business courses and increased coursework to meet the current needs of the profession.

The program is competitive with other schools that have a strong program in that the program offers courses not offered at other schools, with an in-depth curriculum and a balance of liberal learning. The department maintains high standards, and a number of graduates go on to successfully gain the "certified" status. The need for accountants is still strong in the business community, and Park is producing quality accountants who are experiencing success in their careers. "I feel proud of the program that has been developed here at Park," says Professor Cookinham.

Student Stressor: Summer Job Search Tips By LaKeisha Brashier-Halde

With the spring semester almost over and summer just around the corner, it's that time of year when current students and recent graduates will be searching for jobs. For current students who haven't yet secured an internship, you'll be happy to know that some internships have May deadlines and it may not be too late to obtain one of the best and most important summer jobs you could have in your academic career. Keep in mind that fall internships will also start to be posted soon, so be on the lookout for those as well. If you'll be a graduate in May, first of all congratulations on such a big accomplishment! Now, about that job search...It is recommended that you start searching at least 6 months before graduation, but if that isn't the case for you, then it's time to get going! Park's Career Development Center has all the tools you'll need to get started. Make an appointment or walk-in and we can help you prepare/revise your resume and cover letter, improve your job search skills, and provide interviewing strategies. Also, make sure you're registered in our job database, because many times employers are specifically searching for Park students. The database is updated daily and can be located at www.park.edu/career.

