



# Career Center News

VOLUME IV, ISSUE VI

FEBRUARY 2010

## Tami Russo

By: Saroj Lamichhane



Like many of the students at Park, Tami Russo is a non-traditional student. She used to work in a print shop, but always wanted to be a Librarian. After her children started high school, she decided to take a class at Blue River Community College. To her surprise, she loved the class and began taking more classes. As a result, she performed well and received an Associate's degree.

After receiving her Associate's Degree in Arts, Tami wanted to stay around her hometown for college. With the academic scholarships offered by Park University, she could not say no. Like many of the students at Park, she liked it even more after she started attending classes. She loved the Park advantage: small class size, a diverse community and an intimate atmosphere.

Tami's passion for English began when she took a general American Literature class with Dr. Lolly Ockerstrom. She absolutely loved the class with Dr. Ockerstrom, and decided to take more classes with her. Tami always knew she was a good writer, so she decided to major in English.

Tami persistently proved herself as an asset to Park University. She was an Honor's student and member of student clubs; such as the English Club, Sigma Tau Delta and Sigma Pi Omega (Park's Chapter of National Society for Leadership and Success). She even received a scholarship from her Honor's class for a Study Abroad program in England for a month in The Lake District. It is a place with abundant natural beauty that has inspired many famous writers and poets like William Wordsworth. She describes her experience simply as "great." Additionally, while in community college she had been involved in fundraising efforts to help Native American Tribes in Southern Louisiana devastated by an onslaught of hurricanes. She went back again with the help of a Park scholarship and wrote a creative non-fiction piece based on their lives. An outstanding student, Tami has presented her papers at 3 national conferences.

Tami is excited that her speaking and writing skills gained through her major in English are invaluable in any career. She is now interning with "The Writers Place." It is a non-profit organization that promotes art and writing in the KC area. It is the spot where KC writers go for research for the materials they need. To add a further step to her career plan of being a Librarian, she works in The Writers Place library to update and organize the materials so that it will be easy for writing researchers to retrieve information. The Park University mission is vivid in her plans; she wants to engage in life-long learning and she is planning to pursue a Master's in Library Science and achieve her desire of working among the stacks of knowledge by becoming a Librarian. She has not only been a role model for her children, but an example to all Park University students.

## The Writers Place

For over a decade, The Writers Place has served as Kansas City's best-loved literary gathering center, a place where writers -- both local and national -- can meet with readers of all ages for readings, lectures, workshops and receptions. It's a place where readers gather to discuss books, poetry, and plays. At The Writers Place, the art of the spoken word is celebrated every day.

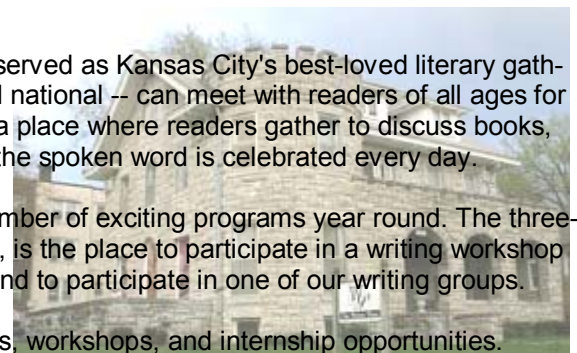
The Writers Place offers a variety and a number of exciting programs year round. The three-story mansion, located in the heart of Kansas City, is the place to participate in a writing workshop with a local or national writer, to attend a reading, and to participate in one of our writing groups.

Visit the website for further information about events, workshops, and internship opportunities.

Information extracted from <http://www.writersplace.org/>.

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## Professor Jane Wood, Ph.D.

By: Tiffany Benson



From a very young age, Dr. Jane Wood, Interim Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, had a desire to become an English professor. In fact, in her younger years in the academic profession Dr. Wood was prepared to do whatever was required to live her dream, including teaching students for free! However, in due time her love for books and the women writers of modern American Literature led her to a career of sharing her interest with others. Dr. Wood believes it is important to be in the classroom teaching her students much of what she knows about the world of literary arts. Encouraging original thoughts and interpretation of literary work are the most exciting aspects of Dr. Wood's journey as an instructor.

Although she will always have a great desire to instruct, she has truly enjoyed her experience as Interim Dean. Assessing the curriculum, preparing students for their future, and being involved with various department improvements are just a few ways that Dr.

Wood makes a positive contribution to Park University. Her immediate interest is always focused on how to best serve the students and get them to the next step in their academic career.

After teaching for nearly twenty-five years, Dr. Jane Wood's future plans include returning to school to attain a Master of Arts in Art History. She is considering taking on the position of a Docent (a well-educated art museum volunteer who leads tours) and this would put her in direct contact with more students and those with an interest in art. As a word of encouragement to Park University's current and future students, Dr. Wood implores everyone to be passionate about their academic career, take the clear and logical steps toward accomplishing goals, and to "own your experience" in and outside of the classroom.

## OPT Stressor

By: Saroj Lamichhane



Graduating international students, what plans do you have for the future? If you are planning to go to work in your field of study, then OPT (Optional Practical Training) is an option you can choose. Park University encourages students to apply for an OPT 90 days prior to their graduation date. For May graduates, now is the time you should prepare and complete an OPT application. You can use your spring break time to prepare your documents to complete the application.

To apply for an OPT you do not need to have a job offer in hand. However, your OPT employment needs to be in the area related to your major. You must possess a valid passport for the period of your OPT. Additionally, if you are graduating without applying for an OPT you will no longer be eligible for OPT. Finally, once you start post-secondary studies while in OPT, your OPT will be terminated.

Application for an OPT requires various documents. You will need to fill out an I-765 application. You will also need to submit photocopies (front and back) of your I-94 card, the visa page of your passport, your passport picture page, and an enlarged color copy of an ID card, i.e. student ID or Driver's License. Additionally you will need to submit 2 passport sized photographs (the exact size is outlined in the I-765 form) and \$340 in a check or money order made payable to the Department of Homeland Security. After having all the documents ready you will need to contact the Office of International Student Services for further processing.

For complete information call 816-584-6379/6834-Office of the International Student Services or visit [http://www.park.edu/International/documents/ChecklistforOPTIONALPRACTICALTRAINING\\_001.pdf](http://www.park.edu/International/documents/ChecklistforOPTIONALPRACTICALTRAINING_001.pdf)

## MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

March 31st

Wednesday,

From 8:30 a.m. to 1:00

p.m.

Students are invited to sharpen their resume and interviewing skills by attending the Mock Interview Day. The interview day is open to Park University Business and Computer Science students. There is a limited number of interview slots available, so please contact Traci Klasing as soon as possible if interested in participating.