

Career Center News

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Aiden Galarza

By Marissa Garcia

Aiden Galarza, a junior at Park University, is definitely taking advantage of the opportunities around her and distinguishing herself as a student. She is working on her BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She chose her field because she has always been much more interested in sciences than arts. She has a knack for the sciences and is really interested in helping people so she knew that a degree in Biology was a great choice to combine both of these passions.

When Aiden began her college experience, her original plan after she graduated was to work in a laboratory to engage in research. However, this past summer, Aiden got the opportunity to work an exciting internship that inspired her to consider new possibilities. She describes the internship as “one of the best experiences of my life.” Her internship was called the BioMed Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) at Washington University in St. Louis, which is one of the top research facilities in the nation. Aiden found out about the program simply by doing a “Google” search of summer undergraduate internship programs, and the RAP program was one of the first results that showed up. For the internship, Aiden got the opportunity to work closely with two mentors working in a dry lab, which means that she worked on computers manipulating data to explore the relationship between heavy metal concentration and the prevalence of Parkinson’s disease. In addition, Aiden assisted with making Botox injections to help individuals with Parkinson’s disease and helped children with cerebral palsy. The RAP Program also allowed Aiden to shadow her mentors periodically throughout the summer, engage in social events with the other students in the program, attend seminars, and participate in a poster presentation at the end of the summer. For Aiden, the experience of RAP was extremely rewarding as it gave her a variety of new experiences inside and out of the lab, and it opened up new options. Now Aiden has been inspired to not only consider researching in a lab after graduation, but also consider pursuing medical school to work in a clinic.

Aiden is the perfect example of how a student can greatly benefit from taking advantage of internship opportunities. For more information on internship opportunities, contact Traci Klasing at 816-584-6407 or traci.klasing@park.edu.



The BioMed Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) at Washington University in St. Louis is an exciting and unique 10-week summer internship opportunity. The program provides excellent experiences to ambitious students who are interested in pursuing biomedical research careers. The program is designed to provide students with in-depth, rigorous research experiences, which will help prepare them for the best Ph.D. and M.D. biology and biomedical sciences programs in the U.S. The many activities that participants engage in through the internship include conducting research with faculty mentors, receiving personal career counseling, participating in workshops and seminars, building a social network with faculty and student peers, and many more. Eligibility for the program is based on academics, leadership experiences, and commitment to diversity. Individuals receive a research stipend for participating in the program.

For more details on the BioMed Research Apprenticeship Program, visit <http://biomedrap.wustl.edu/>. An application for the program is available online, and the deadline for the 2010 program is January 31, 2010.

Brenda Royals

By Tiffany Benson

Visiting Assistant Professor Brenda Royals is a much needed addition to Park University's science department. She has a Master's of Science and intends to teach students what she knows in the areas of life science. Brenda was hesitant in accepting the career position with Park because she knew she would temporarily leave her family behind. However, she is no stranger to pressing forward when the road gets tough. In fact, Brenda was in the middle of furthering her academic career when a natural disaster caused her to put her studies on hold to participate in the disaster relief of Hurricane Katrina. She definitely has come to realize that you must take life as it comes at you.

Brenda knew from a very young age that she was to pursue a career in the field of science. Fortunately, she did not take very many detours from this path. Originally a pre-med major, and a self-proclaimed overachiever, Brenda naturally excelled in math and sciences and did not want to deviate from what was most important. During her academic career, Brenda did have the opportunity to complete two internships at a research institute. This experience is what ultimately caused her to leave her pre-med major behind.

Though Brenda is undecided on whether to pursue her Ph.D. at this time, she does encourage students to go for their passion and to never stop until their goals are reached. Be open to back up plans but also be willing to forfeit those alternative plans when you have the opportunity to pursue your passion—no matter how prosperous those alternative plans may be. Brenda believes no one should force themselves to make a living doing something they will regret everyday of their life. She also believes that any teacher who is not passionate about the role they play in the development of minds is doing a disservice to their students.



Student Stressor



Approaching graduation and needing a reliable source of income? Desire training in your major field(s) of study? Does the idea of snagging a job appear easy enough, but there are no options available? Have you been applying for jobs or internships with no response? For some Park University students it seems the days of job hunting and unemployment are never ending. It may be time to consider the possibility that you are looking in the wrong places.

Park University's Career Development Center (CDC) has several options and services available to all undergraduate and graduate students. The CDC is conveniently located on the Parkville campus near the McAfee Library in room 406. This is the office where students can come to speak with a Career Specialist about editing a resume, inquire about jobs with an Internship Coordinator, set up mock interviews and learn job search strategies. Once you have taken advantage of these services, you do not need to come and visit us to start your job search. Simply follow the instructions below:

Go to www.park.edu/career, click on Job Database in the left margin and go through the **student entrance** to create your database account. When you are confident with your resume and professional practices, you will make your selection of full-time, part-time and internship opportunities from our list of prestigious employers. If you have further questions, please contact the staff in the Career Development Center at 816-584-6330!

DECEMBER GRADUATES—BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE RESOURCES FOR CAREER PLANNING AT WWW.PARK.EDU/CAREER. IF YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE WITH JOB SEARCHING, PLEASE CONTACT LAYNE PRENGER, DIRECTOR OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT
PHONE: 816-584-6350, EMAIL: layne.prenger@park.edu