

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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- Job Market woes?
- Interior Design



Career Center News

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Dedicated To Design

By: Danielle Green



Senior Sara Ramey has always had a passion for design. Sara lived in Vienna, Austria for 18 years before returning to Kansas City with

her family. A transfer student, Ramey chose Park University because of the excellent reputation of our interior design program. Ramey is a very perceptive person, drawing inspiration from her environment. Because of her desire to

design, she was a perfect fit for several internship positions with companies such as Alan Karlin Design and Knoll Incorporated. While interning Sara went on-site with her employers to assess workspaces and aid in the designing process. "The experiences I've had have been incredible," says Sara.

In this competitive field, it takes certain qualities to make it as an interior designer. When asked about these qualities Ramey said, "I think it is important to have a "problem-solving" quality. Design is like a puzzle with several solutions, but not all are equally as good. In order to be a good designer you

have to define the problem and find a good and efficient solution to it. Along with that you need to have good people and communication skills, patience and a sense of humor!" It is also important to be able to adapt to the unexpected, sell your ideas, and above all, have confidence in your work.

Ramey hopes to work for an established architectural firm in the industry as a designer. She would also like to teach interior design at the college level.

It IS Easy Being Green!

Knoll Incorporated is an innovative and eco-friendly group that is recognized for creating workplace furnishings that "inspire, evolve, and endure". This international company is committed to creating contemporary work environments. Their furnishings range from filing cabinets and storage to entire office systems and seating, all using primarily recycled materials. Through their products and education to buyers they hope to safeguard habitats and local communities. Their policies conserve natural resources and reduce waste.

Along with being "GREEN" Knoll Inc. shares another ideal with Park, a connection with students. "Knoll is very supportive of Park University students and does anything possible to help them succeed," says Senior and Knoll Intern Sara Ramey (profiled above). Sara conducts visits with Knoll Representative Johnny Kung, giving presentations at area Architectural Firms about the importance of "sustainable design".

Knoll is headquartered in East Greenville, Pennsylvania and serves clients through 300

By: Danielle Green
dealerships and 100 showrooms in America alone. Independent dealerships are operated in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Knoll has their very own showroom here in Kansas City. It is located in the Crossroads District at 1903 Wyandotte. During the city's monthly First Fridays Event (Friday April 3rd, 2009) Knoll will housed a recycled furniture exhibition created by Park University. For more information please visit www.knoll.com.

Student Stressor: Job Market

By: Sean Crellin

Unemployment rates are up to 8%, which is the highest it has been in more than 25 years. Current estimates project unemployment to increase to 9.4% (CNN.com). In a recent CNN poll, 36% of people questioned said they believe unemployment is the most important economic issue facing the country, which is a significant increase from the 16% last April (CNN.com).

As students near graduation, they may worry about how they will find a career. For underclassman, however, this presents a great opportunity. With companies downsizing they have a greater need for part time, short term employees, a.k.a. interns. The Career Development Center has noticed a recent influx of paid internships.

Employers might not have the funds to pay for a full time employee with benefits, but can pay for a part time intern who can add value to the organization. Now is the time to take advantage of those internship opportunities. It will provide the experience necessary to give you an edge when applying for positions in a market that is not only saturated with college graduates, but also seasoned employees. Networking is a very powerful tool when it comes to getting a job. When you have the connections made from an internship, it can give you an edge in the shrinking job market.

To find a comprehensive listing of internships and jobs, create an account in the Career Development Center's job database at www.park.edu/career under the Job Database link.



Interior Design: Kay Boehr

By: Sean Crellin

Kay Boehr is an Assistant Professor with Park University's Interior Design Department. Kay has been involved with interior design for 30 years. For her, it started when she was a child. Kay remembers when she was in Girl Scouts and she used to sell cookies to the owners of older homes because she liked the way they looked. From there, she thought about going into historic conservation but decided instead to get her Masters in Architecture from Kansas State.

Kay has been working at Park University for 7 years. She has a staff of 6 adjuncts and one teacher. Although the interior design degree does not require an internship many of the students participate in internships. Kay has an extensive network of contacts and can provide information to students regarding internships. She believes internships provide valuable networking and that making connections can be a good foot in the door for a full time position.

Kay says that she is very pleased with the students she has this year. She says that she is happy that each year the quality of work she can expect from her students continues to go up. To learn more about the Interior Design program and Kay, please go to:

<http://www.park.edu/art/interiordesign.html>.



**DECEMBER 2008 AND MAY 2009 GRADS
PLEASE ATTEND:
FAREWELL TO THE GRADUATES**

**Friday May 1st 2009
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Power Plant - Parkville, MO**