

Assumption, good careers go hand in hand



From the left, Rob Younker of Waltham (Assumption College Class of 2009), Katie Brooks of Billerica (Class of 2006), Mike Pruett of Norwood (Class of 2006) and Matt Haggerty of Abington (Class of 2008) helped represent Alexander Aronson Finning & Co. (AAF) at Assumption College's recent Career Fair. (Rod Lee photo)

Assumption College students' great track record when it comes to landing jobs after graduation can be traced to the excellent preparation they undergo while at the school. Much of this legwork in turn can be attributed to the guidance they are given by Carol A. McGuiggan and David J. Kowalczyk, co-directors of Assumption's Career Services/Student Development and Counseling Center.

The attention Assumption pays to getting its students ready for employment with firms such as Alexander Aronson Finning & Co. (AAF), Digital Federal Credit Union (DCU), Amica Mutual Insurance, YOU Inc., Sherwin-Williams and Oxford Global Resources was much in evidence

at a Career Fair held on campus the week before Thanksgiving. There, among the first people to be met upon entering Plouffe Hall were young representatives of AAF—all with ties to Assumption. One of them—Rob Younker of Waltham, a member of Assumption's Class of 2009—said, "I had a summer internship with AAF, which I got from the Career Fair." The "connections" he was able to make with AAF through Assumption were "a relief to me," Younker said.

Matt Haggerty of Abington has been working for AAF since graduating from Assumption earlier this year and says, "from my class, six or seven (of us) went on to AAF."

Taking a break from greeting students on the floor the evening of the Career Fair, Gina O'Neil, an HR generalist with DCU and a member of Assumption's Class of 2005, described the Career Fair as "a busy event. I did it when I was here. I've heard of a lot of people who got hired out of this Career Fair."

For Kristen Camavale of South Easton, a Psychology major who is interested in a career with an organization like Devereux or Seven Hills, and Anna Maffeo of Ansonia, Connecticut, a Business major who is also looking for a position with a non-profit, the assistance offered by point persons like Carol McGuiggan, Dave Kowalczyk and Arlene DeWitt (who runs Assumption's internship program) is invaluable.

The wealth of advice Assumption's Career Services personnel make available to students was showcased 10 days before the Career Fair at a Senior Programming Series workshop attended by both seniors and juniors. McGuiggan served as host for the workshop and, together with John DiPietro of Holden (Assumption Class of 1972, an author, marketer and public speaker), she gave students all kinds of ways to "rise above the crowd."

Tips McGuiggan shared included these: "Create a list of companies you will be visiting at the



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Career Fair," "dress for success," "ask for input from parents and family members," "tell (prospective) employers about you...ask them, 'Can I show you my resume?'," "develop the 30-second introduction," "generate preliminary questions," "collect business cards," "go it alone...this is your opportunity to market yourself... sometimes best friends can be more of a hindrance than a help," "arrive early!," "a firm handshake and eye contact are crucial, and follow up with a thank-you note," "the goal is to make a good impression...you never get a second chance to make a good first impression."

Jason Thomas of Dracut, a senior majoring in Management, said he found the workshop "very informative."

Thomas, and the others who took part, walked into the Career Fair a week and a half later ready and eager to state their case. Taking it all in, with a huge smile on her face, was Carol A. McGuiggan: den mother to the professionals of tomorrow.

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