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# Job Market Looks Promising for New Graduates, Especially Those who Take Advantage of Alumni Connections

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**JOB MARKET LOOKS PROMISING FOR NEW GRADUATES,  
ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALUMNI CONNECTIONS**

DAYTON, Ohio —University of Dayton graduates entering the job market this May have 3,129 advantages over others who are starting new careers.

That's 3,129 potential contacts, listed in UD's alumni career network, who are willing to help them land a job.

Making connections is not new advice, but it's advice that some career counselors say graduates don't take to heart.

"Graduating students need to know the importance of getting their names out to as many alumni as they can," says William Bagot, a 1975 UD graduate and vice president of V & F Coffee in Springfield, Va., who recently hired Eric McBride, a 1998 UD grad. "It so happened that Eric called me at home because I was listed as an alumni in the town where he was seeking employment. It also happened that I was in the market for his talents. So it was a lucky hit," Bagot says.

But even if alumni are not in a position to hire, they can offer contacts to others in the area or simply pass along newspaper classified listings. "I will put job seekers in touch with my contacts in the business world and those contacts in turn pass the word," Bagot says. "It's human nature to want to help others."

McBride took advantage of the UD contacts and ended up with two UD-affiliated interviews. At V& F Coffee, a company that sells coffee vending machines to businesses, McBride was the company's top salesman for the second half of 1998.

"It's clearly a win-win," says Regis Lekan, vice president of alumni relations at UD. "While students truly benefit from networking as a means of expanding their job-searching realm, alums are flattered to assist. They remember the time when they were in the same position, with the whole world at their doorstep, and seem to enjoy telling their success and horror stories to assist a fellow Flyer."

Plus, helping out new graduates is a way to get involved short-term, with no meetings

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or big commitments, Lekan says.

UD's career network is available for students and alumni on the Internet at <http://careers.udayton.edu>. "The web and Internet has made networking simple, fast and easy," Lekan says.

UD has continued to have a high number of corporate recruiters visit campus this year, according to Jenny Fitzpatrick, recruiting coordinator at UD's Career Placement Center. About 180 recruiters visited campus this year, compared to 194 last year and 172 in 1996-97.

"This year's job market continues to be good, with most opportunities coming in the service industry," says Gregory Hayes, director of the Career Placement Center.

Students with computer-related degrees continue to be the most highly recruited graduates. For example, Rob Keberdle, a computer information systems major, had a job lined up by Christmas. After declining two offers in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 salary range, he accepted a systems engineer position at Xerox Connect in Cleveland. And Scott Hartman went from working 70-hour work weeks as a vending machine operator making \$17,000 to graduating with a computer information systems degree and nearly tripling his salary. When he graduated in December, Hartman received five offers from companies across the state and continued to get calls from recruiters.

"In addition to jobs for those with computer-related backgrounds, financial services, retail and insurance hold good opportunities for business and liberal arts majors," Hayes says.

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For media interviews, call **William Bagot** or **Eric McBride** at (703) 569-9500. Call **Regis Lekan** at (937) 229-3299. Call **Jenny Fitzpatrick** at (937) 229-2073 or **Gregory Hayes** at (937) 2292075. Call **Rob Keberdle** at (937) 285-8551. Call **Scott Hartman** at (937) 252-5794.