

## Getting ahead of the pack: tips for job seekers

By Andrew Glass  
STAFF WRITER

Whether you are a graduating senior searching for a job or just looking for the perfect internship or summer job, you might be feeling lost and overwhelmed. Instead of pulling your hair out in frustration, try these steps to help you get through the difficult process.

### Preparation

"The most difficult part of a job search is ensuring that you are clear on what you want to do for a living," said Kyle Kiser '06 in an e-mail interview.

According to Alan Mueller, director of The Career Development Center, a great way to start is through "career deconstruction."

Find your dream job and then research it: read books and websites. Find someone who is working in your dream job. Talk to them, ask to see their resume, find out how they got there, and what the job is really like. Find the major that will help prepare you for the job you want.

"Try to pick up some hard skills," said Carl Simon '07. "Take practical classes while at Guilford."

One of the most important facets of preparation is hands-on experience.

"Employers operate in the skills-based world," said Mueller. "Employers are very tuned-in to what skills you have."

This is where internships and volunteer experience really factor in. Find opportunities to develop the skills potential employ-

ers are going to want from you.

### The Search

Use Google to search for job openings. "Search engines are definitely the way to go," said senior Jillian Farnham, who has applied for over 20 jobs.

Type in the job you want and see what comes up. Use job search websites such as Careerbuilder.com. Visit the CDC and use their resources as well.

"Do not be afraid to e-mail or call people

them so you can learn more about their job and the industry.

"The good thing about informational networking and interviewing is you are getting your name out and you are connecting with people who are doing what you want to do," said Career Coordinator and Advisor Teresa Fitzgerald.

### The Application

The majority of job applications require both a cover letter and resume. Search out

Think about answers to common questions beforehand, especially the "tell me about yourself" question. Ask questions about the company as well.

"A person in a management position will be far more impressed that you are asking thoughtful, relevant questions than they would be if you memorized their stock price or the CEO of the company," said Kiser.

Make sure to send a thank you card after the interview.

"One thank you card could make the difference between you and the next four candidates," said Mueller.

### The Decision

Once you've gone through the application and interview process, be sure to talk to mentors on how they have dealt with rejection. It will help you know how to bounce back if the answer is no.

If you are accepted, you should do more research.

"Extensively research the company and have a few questions to show them you are serious," said Farnham.

Once you decide on a job, differentiate yourself from your coworkers by building skills they may not have, such as computer or language skills.

If you are rejected do not let it get to you. For every one person accepted, there are dozens who are rejected. This is why you have to apply to more than one place.

"I found that people who did not get discouraged, who were confident and positive were more successful," said Simon.

**"One thank you card could make the difference between you and the next four candidates."**

Alan Mueller, director of the Career Development Center

you know in the field (to find open positions)," said Simon.

Networking is also helpful. Knowing someone already in the field or company will help when it comes time to apply.

"It is not common for a person to get hired from applying online or blindly sending a resume," said Kiser. "Use any and every network contact that you have available to you."

A less well-known, but no less useful form of networking is informational networking. Start by finding someone in the career you want. Call and ask to meet with

free templates online when drafting yours or visit the CDC for personalized feedback.

"Cover letters are different for every (job application)," said Farnham. "People have to show why they are interested, not just how they are qualified."

When writing a resume, it's often best to place relevant experience first and then other experience, letting the employer know your best qualifications at first glance.

If you get an interview, one of the best things you can do is to relax. Give a strong handshake, maintain eye contact, and answer thoughtfully to all questions.

## Life Before Guilford: Nancy Daukas

By Sage Donpineo  
STAFF WRITER

On the day that Associate Professor of Philosophy Nancy Daukas turned six, John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

"That's when I realized how big the world was," Daukas said. "Everything came to this standstill ... there was no birthday party that year."

Daukas was born in Germany because her father was in the service. When she was a year old, her family moved to the suburbs of Hartford, Connecticut.

"It was a traditional upbringing," said Daukas. "Every summer for two weeks my family would go to the beach."

After graduating high school, she went to Swarthmore

College in Swarthmore, Penn., where she met her partner Eric Downing and realized her passion: philosophy.

"I walked into a philosophy class, and by the end of the class, I was hooked," said Daukas.

After a year, she got what she called "California Fever." After transferring to UC Berkeley, she bought an old VW Beetle and drove it across the country with Downing.

Daukas lived in California for 12 years, finished her undergraduate degree in philosophy, and took a couple years off. During that time, she managed an open-air produce market.

"California, said Daukas, "was where I belonged."

"The light, the landscape, the social environment ... it's just a really great place to be. You just live outdoors. I like to run, hike, swim in the open water, and it's a great place for that."

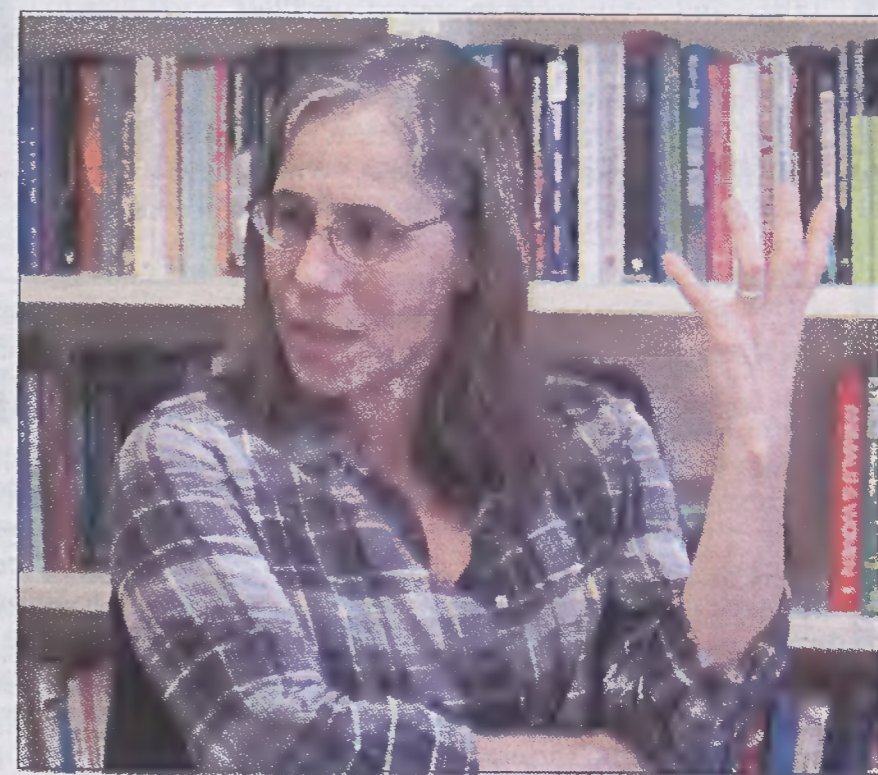
While at UC Berkeley, Daukas was a teaching assistant. One night she saw a startling scene at a Grateful Dead concert.

"One of my students, who was having a rough semester, climbed up on stage, threw herself onto (the keyboard player) Brent Mydland's arms, and received a full-on mouth kiss from Brent," said Daukas. "One of the roadies picked her up, threw her onto his shoulder, and carried her offstage. The next time I saw her (in class), she was beaming."

While living in California, Daukas traveled with Downing throughout Europe, staying mostly in Germany, Italy, and Greece.

"It was exciting to be somewhere totally new," Daukas said. "I was born in Germany, and even though we left when I was a year old, I had felt this pull towards it."

After they came back, she started graduate school (still at UC Berkeley) in 1982. She and Downing moved to Cambridge, Mass., in 1995, where she finished her dissertation



(Above) Associate Professor of Philosophy Nancy Daukas converses in her office on campus. (Left) Daukas perches with her daughter Jessi at the top of a slide in Belmont, Mass.



COURTESY OF NANCY DAUKAS

TAYLOR SHIELDS/GUILFORDIAN

on contemporary responses to Cartesian skepticism.

She married Downing in 1989, and their daughter Jessi was born in 1990.

"We've been together since we were 18," Daukas said.

While in Cambridge, she and Downing were looking for teaching jobs. Daukas received an offer at Guilford, and her partner found a position in Chapel Hill.

"I would have never guessed that I would have ended up in North Carolina," Daukas said. "I am so lucky. I have family scattered in the most beautiful places."