Lauren Niver '05 says extracurricular involvement, internships and alumni connections helped her land her job.

For Lauren Niver '05, leveraging connections through Southwestern University Career Services and extracurricular involvement helped her grow professionally, integrate theoretical classroom knowledge with hands-on experience and, ultimately, secure a position at Austin high-tech firm National Instruments (NI) upon graduation.

Niver, a business and communication major, connected with another Southwestern University alumna, Julianne Pierce Bash '96, through Career Services' on-campus recruiting program and earned the first ever community-relations summer intern position in National Instruments' marketing department after her junior year.

"Lauren was a natural fit for the team," explained Bash. "She brought a strong skill set and level of creativity and maturity not often seen in interns. Lauren impressed me, my colleagues and the company leadership. Southwestern student interns are developing a strong reputation at NI and in the Austin business community."

Networking with contacts like Bash continued to be the most powerful strategy for other graduates of the Class of 2005 searching for employment. Of 264 graduates, 97.4 percent responded to the 2005 Post-Graduate Survey, and 36 percent of graduates working full-time attributed their job search success to networking. Another 21 percent contacted their employers directly. The Internet and Southwestern University Career Services were also popular means of connecting to employment, each helping eight percent. Nationwide, employers also rely heavily on internship programs to identify and train top talent to convert to full-time employment, and seven percent of responding 2005 graduates who are employed secured their positions through previous internships.
Niver’s performance on the NI team’s student outreach initiatives, such as RoboLab Manial, and employee-philanthropy projects, such as NI’s annual Fall Giving Campaign, earned her a second internship semester and then an offer to join the company full-time. She now heads the Community Connections program, focusing on employee philanthropy and volunteerism, in addition to working with community partners such as The University of Texas at Austin Performing Arts Center, Shoes for Austin and the Austin Children’s Museum.

“SU provides an amazing network that should be utilized throughout the undergrad experience and not be overlooked by alums,” said Bash. “Returning to SU to recruit was one of the best business decisions I’ve made, and I am excited about the positive impact Lauren will make in Central Texas and around the world through her work at NI.”

“Internships are invaluable. I now plan on recruiting interns at Southwestern.”
– Lauren Niver ’05

Niver’s success came from planning and hard work, including taking advantage of the resources and experiences available to her on campus. By participating in individual career advising and workshops offered by Career Services, Niver polished her resume writing, interviewing and networking skills, all of which are crucial to job search success. She supplemented this skill-building before ever applying for an internship with hands-on experience in campus organizations.

“Not only did the help I received from Career Services help me obtain a great internship and, later, a full-time position with NI,” Niver said, “but also the experiences I had through programs like the Etiquette Dinner and Networking Basics allowed me to strengthen skill sets learned in school that I utilize on a day-to-day basis whether at NI or out in the Central Texas community.

“In addition, being part of extracurricular activities on campus in some ways taught me more than any classroom environment,” continued Niver. “Experiences with Delta Delta Delta, Panhellenic and Community Chest allowed me not only to learn from others with whom I worked, but also to teach others what I had learned. Without this exposure, my experiences in the classroom and at my internship would not have been as meaningful.”

Niver was not alone in her success. A total of 69 percent of responding graduates of the Class of 2005 also secured employment in Texas, around the country and in Canada and Mozambique. While 84 percent of them remained in Texas, 16 percent ventured to 14 different states, as well as abroad. In addition, many 2005 graduates pursued graduate and professional school before striking out into the world of work. Twenty-seven percent of responding graduates continued their educations. Of those students, 61 percent are enrolled in graduate school (Master’s and Ph.D. programs), 13 percent in law school, four percent in medical school, six percent in theological and other professional schools and 10 percent in advanced coursework. Sixty-nine percent of these students continued their education in Texas, while 31 percent ventured to 13 other states, England and Germany.

Current Southwestern University students and future graduates can also aspire to career success stories and even benefit from Niver’s experience.

“As a full-time member of the NI team,” Niver concluded, “I now plan on recruiting for NI Marketing Interns at Southwestern. I think the opportunities and experiences that students like myself can obtain through internships are invaluable in providing great skill sets and overall work/study experiences that help to lead to career development and full-time job offers.”
Employers rely on internship programs to train top talent to convert to full-time employment.

A Sample of Employers & Graduate/Professional Schools with 2005 SU Graduates

**Employers:**
- Alpha Delta Pi Sorority
- Alvin ISD
- American International Group, Inc. (AIG)
- AmeriCorps *VISTA*
- Ameriprise Financial
- Austin Diagnostic Clinic
- Austin ISD
- Barrington Stage Company
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Texas
- Capstone Real Estate Services, Inc.
- Caritas of Austin
- Casa Marianella - Posada Esperanza
- Children's Hospital of Austin
- CHRISTUS St. Joseph Hospital
- Commercial Texas LLC
- DHL Analytical, Inc.
- DHS Security Systems
- Dillon Corporate Services, Inc.
- Echosphere
- EchoStar Communications Corporation
- Edgetec Inc.
- Encysive Pharmaceuticals
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- ESPN Radio 1500/1280 AM
- First Texas Bank
- Fish & Richardson PC
- Fulbright & Jaworski LLP
- Galena Park ISD
- Georgetown Community Clinic
- Glandia Foods, Inc.
- Greenlights for NonProfit Success
- Habitat for Humanity International
- Harcourt Assessment, Inc.
- Helping Hand Home for Children
- Houston Texans
- Hussmann Corporation
- Hutto ISD
- IBM
- iMedia Corporation
- Insights Austin LLC
- International Studies Abroad
- JM Artworks
- Keller Williams Realty International
- KPMG LLP
- La Union Del Pueblo Entoro
- Language Stars
- Lara Dorbecker Securities Corporation
- Law Office of William H. Connor
- Leander ISD
- Lehman Brothers
- Law Office of Linebarger, Goggin, Blair & Sampson, LLP
- Lockheed Martin
- Lyondell Chemical Company
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Mercury Insurance
- Mercy Memorial Health Center
- M-I SWACO
- Mills College
- Ministry of Science and Technology of Mozambique
- Natalia ISD
- National Hispanic Institute
- National Instruments
- National Notary Association
- Office of the Attorney General - Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Olive Design
- Omnix World Services Corporation
- Optical Entertainment Network Studios
- People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER)
- Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, PC
- PR By The Book LLC
- Princeton Financial Systems
- Project Transformation
- Regus
- RE/MAX Austin Advantage
- Robb & Stucky
- Round Rock ISD
- SafePlace
- Seton Health Network - Brackenridge Hospital
- Sonterra Energy Corporation
- Southwest Airlines
- Speath Communications, Inc.
- Spectacular Cruises
- State Farm Insurance Company
- State Senator Eliot Shapleigh
- Texas Army National Guard
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas House of Representatives
- The DART Center - Direct Action Research Training
- Tidelands Oil and Gas Corporation
- Tifco Industries
- Trammell Crow Company
- U.S. Navy
- Universal Forest Products
- University of the Incarnate Word
- The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- The University of Texas - Pan American
- Unisys Corporation
- Valley Retina Institute
- Weatherford ISD

**Schools:**
- Arizona State University
- Barry University
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Baylor Law School
- Carnegie Mellon University
- DigiPen Institute of Technology
- Duke Divinity School
- George Mason University
- Georgetown University
- King's College London
- New York University
- Our Lady of the Lake University
- Saint Louis University
- Sam Houston State University
- Seton Hall University Law School
- Smith College
- South Texas College of Law
- Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law
- Syracuse University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Christian University
- Texas Christian University, Brite Divinity School
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- Texas Tech University School of Law
- Texas Woman's University
- The Guildhall at Southern Methodist University
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at Austin School of Law
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
- The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
- Union Theological Seminary
- University of Albany State University of New York
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Houston
- University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law
- University of North Texas
- University of Southern California
- Vanderbilt University
- Western New England College School of Law
Career Services at a Glance

Southwestern University Career Services' mission is to help students and alumni explore career options, gain marketable experience and engage in the search process for internships, jobs and graduate/professional school admission.

Advising
Career Services offers one-on-one advising for:
- Major and career exploration
- Self-assessment testing
- Internship development
- Resume development
- Graduate and professional school advising
- Job search strategies

Events
Special programming events throughout the year provide occupational information and teach career skills. Examples are:
- Professional Practice Interview Day
- Etiquette Dinner
- Getting into Graduate School
- Career Connections
- Resume Drive
- Careers in... series

Resources
- Career Services Resource Center (600+ publications)
- Career Services web site: southwestern.edu/careers
- Major Possibilities Guides
- Resume Writing Guide
- Vault Online Career Library
- Alumni and parent networking contacts

MonsterTRAK
Students and alumni can register free of charge with MonsterTRAK, a web-based resume referral system, to search for jobs and internships. Registered users are eligible to participate in on-campus recruiting.

Recruiting and Career Fairs
Students can interview on campus and attend information sessions for non-profit, government, private-sector business and education employers. Career Services also provides transportation to job and internship fairs around Central Texas.

Location and Hours
Call or email for an appointment or stop by the office in the McCook-Crain Building (next to the Kyle E. White Religious Activities Center). Office hours are 8 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

First destination for 2005 graduates by major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAJORS</th>
<th>Fine Arts</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Independent/Interdisciplinary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate/Professional School &amp; Advanced Coursework</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Responding Majors</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Of 264 graduates, 44 students earned two or more majors in 2005.

CAREER SERVICES
Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas
McCook-Crain Building
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