

Wanted – alumni & friend volunteers.

- 1996-2006 – alumni offer to sponsor opportunities for students – limited or no response from career center
- Winter 2006 – career center undergoes internal and external reviews
- Winter 2007 – new career center director appointed
- Summer 2007 – career center staff totally restructured
- Fall 2007 – career center delivers existing and new programs with small “transition team”
- Winter 2008 – three new staff members hired
- Spring 2008 – plan developed for center’s first-ever volunteer enrollment drive at Reunion
- Summer 2008 – alumni board forms; board sets goals for building a corps of volunteers and a global network of support and opportunities for Carleton students and recent graduates
- Most frequent response of alumni to seeing the center’s new model and action plan – “Just tell me how you need me to help.”

STARTING POINT – talk with one of the staff or students in a white Red Tent shirt. They will help you identify and determine your initial commitment to help with the corps/network initiative. Our promise: we will contact every volunteer this summer to customize their engagement in the plan.

COACHES AND ADVOCATES

Examples include meeting in person with individuals or groups of students, leading topical sessions, or facilitating a professional support group, composing handouts and/or contributing to a topical thread on a social network blog (e.g., CarlTown), participating in a panel discussion, posting positions, and/or providing content for other programs or initiatives – either on-campus or at/from remote locations.

FIELD AGENTS

This is the sponsorship set; hosting “shadow” visits, externships (shorter) or internships (longer), group exploration programs, and the like. See the back of this sheet for descriptions of some of our new featured programs.

NETWORK BUILDERS

Take on an organizing role, either with a Carleton club or with other partners – alumni, parents, friends, and faculty/staff. This could involve helping with programs organized specifically around your professional work/interests or generally around your home community or region. Another key role is helping the College to grow and manage the network. We also need regional liaisons and a range of other management-level partners.

LOCAL TALENT

If you live and work in/or near the Cities, we especially need volunteers to help with programs and services on-campus and in Minneapolis, St. Paul, or the greater metro area. The signature “local talent” program is the “Chapters Initiative,” and is one of several new programs described in detail on the back of this sheet.

Many Carls have long seen the career center as marginally useful. We need you, and other Carls you know, to help us with this turn-around.

Check out the *in-brief* descriptions of our new programs on the back of this sheet. And thank you for being part of the solution!

Descriptions of new programs: Below are “thumbnail sketches” of programs new to Carleton, ones that are Carleton-appropriate in design, purpose and ‘vibe.’ After Reunion, we will initiate individual follow-up with every member of the new volunteer “corps.” How fast you will be contacted will depend on only two variables – (1) the proportion of volunteers to callers [our Reunion enrollment goal is an ambitious 1,500 volunteers]; and, (2) your availability. Every day this summer in the career center, each staff member will ask and answer the following question – “How many alumni did I talk with today?” We’ll keep you posted on our ‘running total.’

THE CHAPTERS INITIATIVE: (*Volunteer for ‘Local Talent’*)

The bald spot is 42 miles from downtown Minneapolis. That’s close. The single largest concentration of Carleton alumni is there. That’s huge. If, for example, we can find ten social activists – doing ten different kinds of activist work – willing to visit campus one day a term (i.e., once every thirteen weeks), we have one day every week of the academic year for students to access professional/career coaching. This is the Chapters Initiative. Medicine, law, finance, public health, creative professions (e.g., architects, advertising gurus, arts administrators, curators, performing artists, playwrights, producers), bench chemistry, field biology, political consultants, environmental engineers, the helping professions, and roads less traveled (e.g., street musician/day trader). Not ten in every case, maybe only three for some fields/disciplines. At first we thought we’d identify new retirees for this gig, but mid-career folks have said, “One day a term? I can do that, easy.”

ANTICIPATED LAUNCH OF “CHAPTERS” PILOT PROGRAM – SEPTEMBER 2008

THE MENTOR EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM: (*Volunteer for ‘Field Agents’*)

Look back at the past 50 years when internships went mainstream: interns, coffee pots, filing cabinets, and copy machines all entered the lexicon and showed up on Letterman’s *Late Night* Top Ten lists. Now, go way back to the Renaissance. Apprentices lived where they worked, and mentors pledged to help them improve, refine and advance their craft. This is one of the ideas behind the Mentor-Externship model, short-term career experiences (one to four weeks long) with short-term home-stays. A premium is placed on conversations to and from work, after work, over meals, or at your local version of Goodbye Blue Monday. It’s about work as a part of life, a common bond (that Carleton thing), and a relationship-centered experience. We’ll help you customize your externship; lots of variants are possible.

ANTICIPATED LAUNCH OF EXTERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM – DECEMBER 2008

FIRESIDES (as in chats): (*Volunteer for ‘Coaches and Advocates’ or ‘Local Talent’*)

In the junior spring, faculty nominate students who meet with a pre-identified alumni coach and mentor, one who is in the field/discipline of the students’ interest. Career center staff works with each student in outlining her/his interest profile and taps the network for an alumni volunteer “match.” The following September, Fireside volunteers coach students in creating and executing action plans for their senior year. The ‘fulcrum’ event in Firesides is a noon-to-noon in-person consultation between mentor and senior that will delineate and document plans for post-Carleton engagement.

ANTICIPATED LAUNCH OF “FIRESIDES” PILOT PROGRAM – MARCH 2009

THE “SCHOLARS” MODEL: (*Volunteer for ‘Network Builders’*)

Most career-related field experience programs, like internships and externships, are designed for one student, and group field experiences are rare. The “Scholars” model comprises a “taste of industry” tour where small groups of students survey work in different aspects of a field or discipline, which gives them a chance to showcase their interests and potential, and network with hosts and alumni. Usually lasting several days, led by faculty and career center staff and organized in partnership with alumni or parents “on the ground,” these programs provide more than learning opportunities for students, it’s also a chance for organizations to learn about Carleton students. In 2007-2008, pilot Scholars programs included technology (northern California), environmental sustainability (Colorado), social action (Twin Cities), public policy (DC), and financial markets (New York). A new program in creative arts is planned for December 2008 in New York.

SPONSORED INTERNSHIPS: (*Volunteer for ‘Field Agents’*)

A collection of internships sponsored by Carls (or friends of the College), for Carls. The career center team will help volunteers as they design, build, and host internships, and to identify qualified and interested candidates.

ANTICIPATED LAUNCH OF SPONSORED INTERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM – SUMMER 2009