Tips for International Careers

- \bigcirc Due to costs and immigration \bigcirc oncerns, entry-level international jobs may be more difficult to find.
- O You can start planning for a global career as early as your freshman year.
 - o See 4 Year Checklist for a Global Career for more information
- A well-placed internship may be the best way to jump-start an international career
 - o <u>Idealist.org</u>: Lists internships and career opportunities at nonprofit organizations.
 - o <u>IIE Passport</u> (http://www.iiepassport.org): Contains a searchable database of more than 5,000 international study and internship listings.
 - Transitions Abroad (http://www.transitionsabroad.com): Has a bimonthly magazine
 for those interested in working, studying and living abroad. The Web site contains
 searchable internship opportunities.
 - o <u>GoCorps</u> (www.GoCorps.org): a partnership of ten established, forward-thinking mission organizations that will train and send you with a team of peers to serve among the poor and the least reached.
- Consider studying abroad to gain education and experience in the culture you are interested in.
 - o Do Research: Talk to alumni of the program to ensure it assists in cultural immersion.
 - Think Ahead: The program can help you land a job later if you choose wisely. If you're working toward a specific field, find a program that offers relevant field work or internships.
 - o **Network:** If you ever intend to work abroad later, the contacts will come in handy.
 - o Mind Your Transcript: Find a balance between easy A's and struggling to pass.
 - o **Look into Financial Aid:** Your financial aid will depend on whether or not you are attending a CCCU approved study abroad program.
- Don't Be A Cross-Cultural Causality
 - Explore Expectations: What do you expect for both your personal and professional life abroad? What elements of life abroad are you eager to experience? What aspects of the transition worry you? What challenges do you expect to face? Which do you expect will be the most difficult to handle (language barrier, making friends, etc.)? What assumptions do you have about your ability to adjust?
 - O Make Contact: Find someone who has had an overseas assignment, ideally in the same country and preferably with your company. Arrange a phone conversation or meeting with the individual to garner a firsthand account of the experience. What was most challenging? Most surprising? What were the cultural clashes, both in daily living and values? What advice would the person offer to help you avoid any pitfalls?
 - o **Research the Country:** Look to the Web for resources specific to your host country. Some sites provide information to help you learn local customs. A degree of Web sleuthing may be in order to locate those resources most likely to assist you in gaining a deeper sense of a country's values and current affairs.

