

U-M alumni association offers online career services

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When Julie Chang cranked up her job search last month, she checked out the University of Michigan Alumni Association's Web site. She wanted to get info on the New York chapter so she could attend some meetings, meet people, do the networking schtick.

What Chang found was the association's Career Center, a bundle of online resources launched in November. The site features a searchable data base of alumni who've agreed to help job seekers with their hunt.

"It just walks you through it — it's so simple," says Chang, a 1995 graduate of U-M's business school who works in Manhattan. "It saves me a lot of time. Instead of going to events, I can just contact these people."

That's what Chanel DeGuzman had in mind. DeGuzman, the association's career center coordinator, wanted to make the group's services available to alumni who didn't live in this area.

The best way to do that, she decided, was to put some of those services on the association's Web site. Web Elite, a small Ann Arbor Web design firm, caught her eye when they were featured in a Michigan Daily story last spring.

Web Elite had designed an online resume service for university students, called University Opportunity Network. Their experience developing an automated data base, as well as their use of graphics, caused DeGuzman to pick Web Elite over other design firms for the

CAREER HELP



- The University of Michigan Alumni Association's on-line Career Center features a searchable data base of more than 1,400 'career coaches' — alumni who've agreed to help job seekers with their hunt.
- Within the next few months, the site will include a section where employers can post job openings.
- Web address: <http://alumni.umich.edu/careercenter>

project. "Some of the companies could do one or the other, but not both," she said.

It didn't hurt that Web Elite's founder, Jacques Habra, was a U-M alum who knew his way around campus.

The site features Alumni NetWorks, a searchable data base of more than 1,400 alumni association members who've agreed to be "career coaches" for fellow alum. You can search by state, occupation or specific business name. That gives you an ID number for a person matching your requirements, providing a profile of that person's job responsibilities and education.

Up to this point, anyone can play. But you can't get the person's name or contact information unless you're

an alumni association member. Dues are \$40 for alumni, \$10 for students.

In addition to Alumni NetWorks, there are links to other career related sites on the Web, including Job web (<http://www.jobweb.org>), JobTrac (<http://www.jobtrack.com>) and America Job Bank (<http://www.ajb.dni.us/>).

A link to University ProNet (<http://www.univpronet.com>) taps another job-related site. Anyone graduating from one of 16 universities, including U-M, can become members for a fee, and hook up with employers nationwide looking for workers.

Within the next few months, the site also will include a section where employers will post jobs at their firms.