Graduates face bleak job market outlook

By Felix Oliveros

Many students who graduated from San Jose State remotely in spring say they are experiencing a tough job market amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"I definitely am nervous about searching for jobs," SJSU alumna Shelley Lin said. "I actually had a plan to work with the Apple Wellness Center [after I graduated], but because of COVID, we're not even open due to LOLEP.

"With a public health major and minor in biology, Lin said she hasn't been looking for jobs because there's too much anxiety searching during a time where few are available.

Even though Lin is currently completing her master’s post-graduate internships at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center while receiving a stable income, she said she is uncertain about her chances of obtaining a job after she's finished.

Like Lin, music education graduate Arnie Co said he has faced a turbulent time during the pandemic because finding paying opportunities has been complicated.

"For performances you generally get a lot of work by word of mouth," Co said. "I've gone from maybe four gigs minimum before the pandemic per month, to at the most one and it's been online, like playing Zoom concerts."

Co said he used to depend heavily on live performances for income and his instrumental teaching job, but with the current social distancing guidelines in place, he and many other performance-based artists are finding themselves in a financial bind.

"I've gone from 15 to 20 students all the way down to seven students because not a lot of students like to learn online and music is hard to learn online," Co said.

He said that because of the pandemic, he had to cancel attending for graduate school. His head up plan of getting a job in the public school realm also fell through because of budget cuts.

SJSU economics lecturers Ni Duy Nguyen weighed in on the difficulty of finding employment during the pandemic, saying that it might cause long term effects for many recent graduates.

"You have a lot of mid- and upper-tier skilled workers entering the unemployment ranks," Nguyen said. "So now you have the new grads [and] as they're graduating they have no skills ... and you'll have more people piling into the workforce while employers are keeping a very low absorption rate of these potential employees."

He added that while graduates are educated, there are competing with those who have the same degree and 3 to 7 years of experience. "The entry level jobs will now be overwhelmed with those who have experience," Nguyen said.

He also said there is a pattern of people reeducating themselves to find jobs in areas of work that grew during recissions, such as the Great Recession in 2008 when people had to transition out of being realtors, loan officers, escrow officers and occupations of that nature.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the 2008 housing crisis took 665,000 jobs while the coronavirus pandemic has cost nearly 40 million jobs as of Aug. 15. SJSU’s Career Center is hosting virtual job fairs and providing aid through SJSU Cares to assist students who are facing an uncertain job market.

"It's definitely a challenging time in terms of employer engagement but we keep doing outreach and we're hosting the same events as last year," Catherine Voss Plaxton, Career Center director said the encourages current students as well as recent graduates to utilize the Career Center virtually, even if it is difficult.

"It's definitely a challenging time in terms of employer engagement but we keep doing outreach and we're hosting the same events as last year," Voss Plaxton said. "We get tons of information on our website about all of this."

Voss Plaxton said she is aware of the differences in the remote interview process and urges applicants to adjust themselves in order to maintain professionalism, such as wearing interview attire, having a quiet background and treating the interview as if it were in person.
Electoral College preserves federalism

By Laura Fields

The Electoral College system is vital to preserving state laws because the popular vote could destroy the U.S.

If the U.S. used the direct method, California and New York voters would decide every election while completely alienating Americans who live in the middle of the country with their own set of preferences.

The Electoral College is a step in the presidential voting system that allows each state to cast their vote as a sovereign governing body.

In today’s divided political climate, it is important to remember the U.S. is made up of 50 states with vastly different economies, laws and political views.

This system gives states with smaller populations more power for their votes compared to states with larger populations. For example, the residents of Oklahoma or Arkansas have more weight to their votes than the many residents living in California or Texas.

One may call the existence of the Electoral College voter suppression or a departure from democracy because with the system winner-take-all, if one method, not every vote is valid.

But if the U.S. switched to a strictly popular vote, it could be seen as voter suppression for small population states where there are fewer people to cast votes. States with small populations like Idaho would not stand a chance against states like California.

Electors are chosen by various methods throughout the country. Each state votes for candidates who champion their issues best. This is where the states come about.

The founding fathers created the Electoral College system in the Constitution to prevent tyranny from disintegrating our newly formed government.

They believed in federalism, a form of government that affirms state rights as colonies identified themselves with their state. Today, that belief is instilled in the Electoral College.

According to National Affairs, a magazine on political affairs, a Wyoming resident votes with 3.6 times more weight with the Electoral College than a California resident.

This shows that the Electoral College empowers less populous states to influence the country.

In this presidential race, the electoral votes are won in battleground states longer than Hillary Clinton won the presidency through the Electoral College. With larger states carrying big electoral vote counts, popular candidates typically sweep those up.

If there was direct democracy instead, the U.S. would be run by urbanites who have no idea about the lives of rural Americans and simply don’t care.

Another argument for the abolishment of the Electoral College is that this popular vote would violate the straightforward voting system. However, “We would still have a form of a divide in America because of our two-party system. Further proving the Electoral College is crucial to the presidential election process and keeping the country together.”

According to a 2012 Politico article, “If there is a simple, direct democracy with centralize all power – government, business, money, media and votes – in urban areas to the detriment of the rest of the nation.”

In fact, the Electoral College makes things more straightforward with its winner-take-all rule. If a Republican candidate took 56% of the votes in Montana, they would take all three of the electoral votes, which was exactly the case in 2016 when Trump first ran.

The call to abolish the Electoral College is a one-sided where people are only upset when their candidates lose. Besides, throughout most of our history, a vast majority of popular vote winners also won the Electoral College and became president.

By keeping the system in place, states rights are preserved and less populous states can give their citizens a fighting chance.
Club hockey takes on uncertainty

By Ruth Aguilar

The San Jose State men’s club ice hockey team released a statement on July 20 announcing that the season would be postponed until the Spring semester. But the decision, which was made to ensure a “name of safety for the players,” didn’t come without mixed feelings from the team.

“It’s an unfortunate thing, but at the end of the day I’m healthy,” Stephen Howe, a communications major, team president and senior captain, said over the phone.

“Hopefully we can see the usage of that go up, because if there is any time to need it it’s right now because people from their own homes can have access to their own workouts,” Adams said.

Although the team’s safety and preparation for the possible spring season are important factors to the coaches and captains, they also focus on keeping the team united.

“We’re gonna be working hard to keep the team atmosphere even if we’re not in the same room altogether,” Adams said.

“That’s what we’ve gotta try to accomplish is just that, still acting as a team even though we’re not able to do it in the traditional sense.”

Follow Ruth on Twitter @RuthAguilar

Correction

On Tuesday, Aug. 25, the Spartan Daily published a story titled, “Lightning sets NorCal ablaze” in which the Santa Clara Unit Lightning Complex Fire was misidentified.

The Spartan Daily regrets this error.

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