

More seniors move back home post-grad

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A college senior is much like a skydiver waiting to take flight: to jump or not to jump? To stay with what is comfortable and familiar, or to take a leap of faith into an unsure job market? That is a question haunting many seniors' minds as graduation approaches. While some make plans to move back to the comfort of their parents' homes, others are more than eager to leave this oasis on the hill for a life of independence.

A recent poll by Twentysomething Inc., a research firm based in Philadelphia, found that 85 percent of college graduates move back in with their parents post-graduation. This percentage shows a steady climb from 67 percent in 2006, and about 55 percent in the

years preceding. Though, on a positive note, there has been a 21 percent increase in the hiring of college graduates in the past year.

So why are there so many grads living back at home? Well, it's a tough job market, and few students have the financial means to support themselves right out of college. CNN Money even coined this generation's grads the "boomerang" kids, returning back to the nest from where they began.

This begs the crucial question: Are students more willing to move home nowadays because of the financial support that they may receive from their parents, or because they are simply not ready to live independently?

Some students, such as recent graduate Jeff Love-ness, are already making

strides toward their goals while endeavoring to be self-sufficient by getting help from friends along the

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—**Twentysomething Inc.**

way. Whereas others, like senior Rachel Williams, plan to live at home while they work toward their goals.

According to Amy Adams, director of the Career Center, taking advantage of the multiple opportunities offered right here at Pepperdine will help students to feel less overwhelmed when it comes time to join the job hunt.

"We offer a number of services for all of our students including seniors and alumni," Adams explained. "Even though graduation is in four weeks, all of the services that we offer are still available to our grads, even once they have officially walked across the stage."

From mock interviews to resume evaluations, the Career Center provides the tools to help students make their transitions from college to "the real world."

Multiple resources like Career Space allow students to search for specific jobs in their areas of expertise. Additionally, a newer source sub grouped within LinkedIn, a career networking site, allows students to create profiles of their professional skills and connect with Pepperdine alumni.

"[LinkedIn] is used for

networking, so it's similar to other social media like Facebook in that you connect to friends and colleagues," Adams said. "But it's really used for professional reasons. The profile you develop is a professional profile. You would connect with people that you maybe wouldn't add on Facebook."

Out of all the advice she suggested for graduating seniors, Adams explained that meeting with a career counselor would be the best place to start.

"If I were to highlight one thing for the next four weeks it would be to come in and meet with a counselor," Adams said. "Because they're really going to be able to tailor the conversation to your own experience in terms of your job search process and where you are at

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