

# Minority Fair on Thursday

"Careers don't just happen — they're planned. In order to reap the benefits of freedom to choose from any number of career options, today's minority student needs to begin early to plan for a career," said Marian Holmes, health science placement counselor with University Career Planning and Placement Services.

"Finding meaningful and satisfying employment today is a difficult task for anyone. It involves knowing how to use your talents, inclinations and experiences, how to utilize the art of flexibility, and how to plan a course of action to

improve your chances of achieving vocational and life goals."

Since only a small percentage of UNC students are hired through on-campus interviews, Holmes encourages students to take advantage of all of the resources available to them as a Carolina student. Counselors at UCPPS can assist students in developing the skills necessary to become more self-reliant in their job search. One service designed especially for the minority student is the Minority Career Fair, sponsored by UCPPS.

The Minority Career Fair will

be held on Thursday from noon to 5:30 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium. The fair will provide students with the opportunity to meet with employers from about 75 local and national companies in an informal setting. Students will be able to develop contacts at the various companies and gather information on the firms who attend. It will also help students to learn about the types of skills they'll need for entry and survival in various professions and organizations. For more information about the Minority Career Fair and other services, contact Marian Holmes at 962-6507.

## Tips

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personal disappointment and a renewal of motivation to perform more optimally in the future.

●Remember that non-verbal elements also influence a prospective employer. Dress and act as professionally as you possibly can. Try to make eye contact with any person to whom you are speaking, and demonstrate by posture, voice level, and facial expression that you are interested and enthusiastic about what is taking place in the interview.

●Keep on trying! All job searches require a great deal of time (frequently 3-6 months), and no one should expect to begin job-hunting on May 15 and start work on June 1. It takes just as long to find an unsatisfying job as a satisfying one, so "staying the course" until the right position is offered will benefit you in the long run. Perseverance means continued effort also, so don't make a few half-hearted attempts at the job and then sit around waiting for the world to come to your door. Don't wait for "good luck" — make your own luck.

### Guide to Career Planning

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Representatives of these and other companies will be participating in the Minority Career Fair and the Careers in Business Fair on Sept. 20 and 21. Please plan to attend to talk with them about career opportunities available in their respective organizations.

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## Internships make jobs

You hear it all the time: "I can't get a job because employers want experience. Yet how can I get experience if I can't land a job?"

The answer: You get an internship.

What is an internship anyway? Internships can be lots of different things, but mostly an internship is a transition between learning and practice. Internships are a way of bridging the gap — a way of sampling life in a professional workplace without making a career commitment. Internships can provide a sneak preview of various careers and can give you a chance to measure expectations against reality.

"I can't think of a better experience for a pre-med student," says Margaret Anna Kalet, a senior sociology major from Winston-Salem who spent the past summer interning as a surgical technician in a local hospital. "This experience definitely confirmed by career intentions."

Opportunities to apply what you have learned in the classroom and to acquire new skills and knowledge can also be supplied by an internship. In addition, an internship can help you make important employer contacts that may be useful in your senior year job search.

An internship commonly is short, ranging from a month to a year; it is a limited commitment, with no strings attached regarding future employment. Some internships offer financial reward, some academic credit, others both or neither. They are available in just about any field imaginable from accounting to oceanographic research.

Comprehensive listings of internship information, including local and state opportunities, have been compiled by University Career Planning and Placement Services. Internship directories and summer job listings, information on whom to contact and other prerequisite information is available in the UCPPS resource room. The experiential learning program also offers some on-campus interviewing for internships and summer employment.

Studies clearly indicate that students who have completed internships more frequently acquire jobs in their chosen fields. They more often get the interesting and challenging positions available to entry-level people. And they have better successes at landing the higher-paying jobs. Without the right blend of experience, training and guidance, it is likely that your dreams will remain only dreams.

## Planning

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career. By combining elective courses, internships, summer jobs, extracurricular activities, volunteer work into a package that meets the student's individual needs (known as a "career plan"), he or she can prepare successfully for a career without selecting a career-related major. In addition, several basic steps must be followed:

- Begin investigating various careers by early sophomore year.
- Develop some highly market-

able skills, as explained by UCPPS officials, by the senior year.

●Gain exposure to the type of environment you plan to work in by your senior year.

●Begin developing contacts during your sophomore and junior years for the senior year job search.

Students who would like more information or assistance in developing an individualized career plan should contact McAllister at 211 Hanes Hall.

