Computer science glut means job competition

By SCOTT LARSEN Staff Writer

An increase in the number of computer science graduates during a computer industry slump has created a weak job outlook for computer science majors, said Marcia B. Harris, director of University Career Planning and Placement Services. Harris is also a career counselor for UNC computer science

Though the computer industry is in a slump, a number of computer science graduates will still find jobs with software companies, Harris said.

"Other students, by necessity or interest, are looking for jobs outside computer firms," Harris said.

A recent New York Times article said many computer science graduates are finding themselves in other industries such as auto manufacturing and security companies, which are making increased use of computers.

Many computer science graduates are becoming independent computer consultants, the article said. Those who know how to operate computers can teach others how to set up systems for various businesses and decide upon and purchase computer equipment

Many traditional companies have now started wide use of computer systems, Harris said. These traditional industries include banks, manufacturers program very highly," Doster said. and insurance companies.

"These industries are still strong and need people trained in data processing," Harris said.

Students can also make themselves more attractive to employers by taking additional classes and getting practical experience, she said.

Computer science majors who have an interest in business should try to take introductory business or accounting courses, Harris added.

Three courses, Business Applications, Software Engineering Lab, and Operating Systems, are courses employers repeatedly ask about, she said.

Students may want to take an electronics course to learn how computer hardware operates, she added.

"Any practical experience also puts a student at a distinct advantage with prospective employers," Harris said.

Summer internships, part-time jobs and volunteer work on campus to help various departments automate their functions are all possible ways to gain valuable experience.

The UNC Computer Science department offers a degree in mathematics with a concentration in computer science at the undergraduate level and a Master's and Ph.D. at the graduate level, said Ruth E. Doster, administrative assistant.

"Employers regard UNC's computer science

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Minority job outlook good

By TODD GOSSETT Staff Writer

Minority students Career opportunities for minorities are much the same as for other students, says Marion Holmes, a counselor at the UNC Career Planning & Placement Service.

The job situation for minorities job opportunities, she said.

"It is easier for them to get a college education now than 20 years ago," said Holmes, coordi- chance at employment. nator for this year's Minority Career Fair.

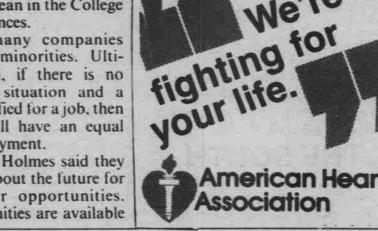
tunities to bring minority students into contact with potential employers."

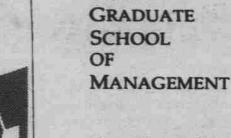
If prejudice is a factor in hiring, there is nothing a minority applicant can do, said Hayden Renwick, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

He added many companies has improved in the past two hired "token" minorities. Ultidecades because they have more mately, he said, if there is no prejudice in a situation and a minority is qualified for a job, then the minority will have an equal

Renwick and Holmes said they felt optimistic about the future for "Efforts such as the Minority minority career opportunities. Career Fair are excellent oppor- Career opportunities are available for minorities if they are qualified and should improve as prejudice weakens.







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