

North Carolina government programs provide various internship opportunities

By **MARY PARADESES**
Staff Writer

The majestic mountains of western North Carolina, the sultry beaches along the coast or the hallowed halls of government are the summer homes

of interns hired by the N.C. government every year.

Summer interns from the Department of Administration and the Institute of Government receive work experience and learn about state

government by participating in government internships, said Robin Joseph, experimental learning program coordinator at the UNC Career Planning and Placement Office.

About 20 to 30 students are chosen for the Institute of Government's program, and 100 internships are available from the Department of Administration. The internships last from mid-May to early August and interns work a 40-hour week at \$3.73 per hour.

Gov. Jim Martin's new budget proposes to raise salaries to \$5 per hour, said Jeff Agee of the Youth Advocacy and Involvement office.

The Institute of Government accepts graduate students, whereas only rising juniors and seniors may apply for the Department of Administration internships. Institute internships require that the interns live on the N.C. State University campus. The Department of Administration interns must find their own housing in the area they are working in, Joseph said.

Tamara Majors, a former Public Information Office intern for the Department of Administration, lived in a Raleigh apartment.

"They were very helpful in finding you a place to live," Majors said.

Jobs in the Department of Administration vary since each department places individual requests for a specific job to be filled by an intern. Agee said not all of the departments that request interns will receive an intern, because the department doesn't have a large enough budget to allow more than 100 internships.

The department has internships in all areas of study including business and the physical sciences, Joseph said. In the past, interns have worked in the Department of Public Affairs, the Governor's Office, and rehabilitation centers.

Internships in the Institute are localized around Raleigh and Cary, including internships at the Museum of Natural History, at the State Auditor's Office, and at the Department of Commerce.

"The internships are a great learning experience because they also offer weekly seminars with state officials," Joseph said.

Although few positions are available, Majors said the application process is fair and thorough. Applicants are interviewed twice, she said.

Majors said her first interview included a panel of three people: a former intern and two state officials. Majors also had three telephone interviews with supervisors from the three internships she had rated as her top three choices.

"I just had a great time working, and we also had a lot of social events such as pizza parties and a beach trip for the interns," Majors said.

Majors' work included writing press releases, editing and proofing manuals and reports, as well as writing a brochure.

"They did tell me that rising seniors had a better chance of receiving an internship, although that didn't affect me," said Majors, a junior.

A student must have a strong B average, be actively involved in one activity, and be either a N.C. resident or an out-of-state student attending a N.C. school in order to be eligible for an internship with the Institute, Joseph said.

The Department of Administration requires interns to have a minimum of 2.5 grade point average and be a N.C. resident and college student, with one activity, Joseph said.

"Grades aren't the only aspect of the student they look at, so don't be afraid to apply if you're strong in the activities area," Joseph said.

Town has openings in regional planning

By **ANDREA SHAW**
Staff Writer

Limited intern positions in Chapel Hill government will be available this summer for UNC students interested in town planning, zoning and community development.

Personnel analyst Betsy Harris said job-hunters should apply for the positions like permanent employees, but the departments are looking for

competitive applicants with master's degrees in city and regional planning, population and data analysis.

"Very few people apply for the few positions, usually between three and 10," Harris said. "Sometimes it makes it difficult for us to hire when questions if they have been able to succeed in those areas are unanswered."

Pay for interns ranges from \$6.50 to \$10 per hour, depending upon the complexity of the job, Harris said. Sometimes, the town pays half of the internship salary and University grants fund the other half, she said.

The internship positions arise out of particular needs within departments, Harris said.

The department in need of the intern reviews the applicants and makes a decision, which is given to personnel, Harris said.

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