

Research takes students out of classroom and into lab

By TOM MCCUISTON
Staff Writer

As pre-registration for next semester's classes begins, many students will search desperately for the course which is an easy A. But others will sign up for such courses as Biology 98 or Chemistry 99, and thus assure themselves of spending many hours in a campus laboratory doing research.

Why do these people subject themselves to such grueling torture?

For students like Ben Sutker, a senior biology major from Charlotte, the decision to do research was an easy one.

"I was tired of sitting in class all day just listening to a professor lecture," he said. "Research gives me the chance to apply what I learn in

class in an inquisitive manner."

Many departments within the University offer undergraduates opportunities to conduct research and gain valuable laboratory experience.

Topics of campus research vary from the morphology of fungus to the presence and absence of drug metabolites to the effect of accounting figures on stock prices.

Most departments require that students do research in order to graduate with honors. Students usually receive three credit hours for each semester in which they conduct research.

Students working toward a degree in pharmacy with honors are typically required to work two semesters

under the supervision of a faculty member, said Ralph Raasch, an associate professor in the School of Pharmacy and chairman of the Pharmacy Honors Committee.

Most professors are eager to have students help them on research, said Kitty Ellison, a representative for the chemistry department. "We have over half of our professors taking on four to five students a semester," she said. Professors require students to commit themselves for at least two semesters of research.

"Research is good for students wanting to pursue graduate studies," Ellison said. "It gives them experience (in areas) they will encounter as graduate students."

"We guide students and train them to think independently," said John

Koepp, associate professor of biology and director of the undergraduate honors biology program.

Koepp said undergraduate students pursuing research in biology have more opportunities to think on their own since they conduct their own research. "Students are given their own projects, generate their own data and communicate their own findings with the advice of a professor."

Undergraduate students can gain research experience in the non-science-related fields.

Students enrolled in Psychology 99 can receive three credit hours for doing research under the supervision of a faculty member, said Barclay Martin, a professor of psychology.

"If an undergraduate is interested in graduate school, research is very important," he said.

While some students gain exposure to research on campus, others learn research techniques in nearby Research Triangle Park (RTP).

Although there are no definite figures on students working at RTP, Robin Joseph, experiential learning coordinator at University Career Planning and Placement, said that the majority of the firms in the Park sought chemistry, physics, biology, computer science and pharmacy majors.

Carol Willis, a General Electric specialist in human resource programs and practice, said the company hires computer science majors from UNC. She added that these

students do work comparable to that of full-time employees.

"We find that students gain valuable learning experience, and we get projects done," Willis said.

Sandy Whitt, employment supervisor for Burroughs Welcome, said the company employs many medical students and chemistry and biology majors. She said these students do support work in 45 to 50 different disciplines.

Sutker gave his advice to other students wanting to do research.

"Make sure you have a topic you are genuinely interested in and the time to expend," he said. Although students will spend between 20 and 30 hours a week in the lab, Sutker said, the benefits easily outweigh the loss of free time.

'Top Gun' video cruises to top with sales of 1.9 million copies

By BILL YARDLEY
Staff Writer

We all knew it was coming; now we must face it.

"Top Gun" mania is sweeping the country," said Bob Klingensmith, president of Paramount Video, shortly after the release of the home video "Top Gun" to stores March 11.

Keep your seats — there's more. Apparently Americans could not get enough of Tom Cruise and the heroic flying efforts of real Navy pilots in movie theaters last summer.

Before its release to stores, "Top Gun" already set a sales record of 1.9 million pre-orders, according to Tim Clott, senior vice president of Paramount Home Video. By March 19, Paramount already had 600,000 back orders, bringing its total sales up to 2.5 million copies of the movie, he said.

Although Paramount's suggested price for the movie is \$26.95, some Chapel Hill stores are selling it for as low as \$24.95.

Part of the reason for the low price of "Top Gun" is Paramount's co-

promotion with Pepsi-Cola, Clott said.

Pepsi commercials, one of which premiered during the Grammy Awards telecast in February, feature action scenes with Top Gun Naval Academy pilots and also have a special promotion for the home video at the commercial's conclusion, he said.

Because the advertising expenditures for the movie are being divided between the two corporations, Paramount can sell "Top Gun" at a lower price, Clott added.

"Paramount is the best overall distributor because of its low sell-through prices," said Walter McFall, owner of Show & Tell Video on Franklin Street.

"By lowering the actual buying prices of movies, Paramount hopes to encourage customers to start their own home video library," he said.

McFall said that he still had a few copies of the movie in stock.

North American Video, located at Rams Plaza Shopping Center, is out of stock of the video, but the store

is receiving shipments every day, said Austin Wallace, store employee.

Those who cannot fork out the big bucks needed to make "Top Gun" the newest part of their video libraries can always rent it.

Well, not quite always. Both McFall and Wallace agreed that the best time to rent the movie is during the middle of the week, since it is nearly impossible to get it on the weekend.

Who's buying this video? "Mostly women are buying it," Wallace said. "We usually have teenage girls (buying the video), or their mothers buying it for them."

"Our customers have been pretty balanced between women and men," McFall said. "Women usually buy it for Tom Cruise and the storyline, and a lot of men buy it for the action."

Pass/Fail

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pass/fail proposal a few days after Tuesday's meeting, Fletcher said, and if the proposal is recommended, it will be presented to the council in September.

If the council approves the proposal, it will probably take effect in the spring of 1988, he said.

At Tuesday's meeting, committee members will listen to recommendations from students and faculty

Petitions

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to mention the issue briefly at the meeting. "It's important that we get something done this semester."

Fleagle said he may ask Student Congress to pass a referendum requiring the University to plan an evacuation.

Stephanie Ahlschwede (Dist. 14), chairman of the Student Affairs Committee of the congress, said Monday that the congress could consider a referendum similar to the one Fleagle proposed. But such a referendum could only recommend that the University develop an evacuation plan, she said.

about changing the pass/fail system.

The committee has not yet addressed several of the problems of implementing the proposal, Fletcher said. Decisions have not yet been made about whether students will have to select a target grade, and whether students who surpass their target grades will receive the higher grades.

Bailey said the proposal will benefit everyone. "It's good for the faculty because it encourages the students to work hard, and it's good for students because they have a good grade."

Under the proposed system, Bailey said, students could broaden their education by taking more courses outside their majors without taking the risk of lowering their GPAs.

"Say you're a computer science major and you take Philosophy 20 and like it, and you find one of these philosophers and you think you want to find out more about him, so you take another philosophy course," Bailey said. "But then you start to do badly, and say, 'Man, Descartes, he could really mess up my GPA, it's not worth it.'"

Students who want more information about the proposal should contact Bailey.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday

- 10 a.m. Career Planning and Placement Services is having an IBM Corporation open house in Rooms 208-9 of the Union. Open to any graduating technical major. Bring your resume.
- 5 p.m. Lab Theatre presents two one-act plays at 06-Graham Memorial. Reservations necessary. Students for Educational Access will meet in the Union to discuss financial aid cuts and handicapped students' issues.
- 7 p.m. UNC Pre-Law Club is sponsoring a panel discussion in the Haywood Room of the Law School. Career Planning and Placement Services sponsors a presentation by Independent Educational

Services in 210 Hanes. Open to all students.

8 p.m. Medieval Studies Committee will have a lecture by Professor D. Bullough of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, in the Hanes Art Building on "Which Fathers? The Latin Patristic Heritage in the Early Middle Ages."

UNC KOALA Week will present "Cocaine Blues," a film presentation and panel discussion addressing the use and abuse of cocaine, in the Union Auditorium.

Southern Accents Fine Arts Festival presents Robert Coles, social critic, in Murphy Hall.

UNC Young Democrats will meet in Room 224 of the Union. Candidates for club offices will present their speeches.

Items of Interest

All Campus Calendar announce-

ments are due by NOON on the day before they are to run in the DTH.

Yackety Yack is holding free portrait sittings until April 3. Call 962-3912/1259 for an appointment.

The Pre-Med/Pre-Dent Advising Office has extended the deadline to turn in student adviser applications until Friday, April 3.

Sophomores and juniors—be a career peer (a trained volunteer assistant for students coming for a resume evaluation) with Career Planning and Placement Services. Applications available in 211 Hanes. Deadline is April 7.

Appointment sheets for English majors to pre-register with their advisers are posted opposite 212 Greenlaw.

1987-88 Glee Club Auditions will be March 30 - April 10. Contact Director Michael Tame-Horan, 225 Hill Hall or 962-5695/1039.

The Carolina Symposium 1988 applications are at the Union desk. They are due April 10 in Suite B of the Union.

Interested in buying a 1985-86 Yackety Yack or another previous edition? Come by Room 106 of the Union or call 962-3912/1259.

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