

# SIGI PLUS

## Development center computer has its mind on your future

By **VERONICA KO**  
Staff Writer

Where can students go to answer the nagging question: "What career is best for me?"

Simple . . . they can go ask SIGI.

SIGI PLUS is a computer program at the student development and counseling center.

"SIGI tries to help you assess your values and abilities, so you can come up with occupations that mesh with the data you put in," said counselor Jane Spanel. "It's a wonderful program."

"SIGI gives students a chance to get occupational titles," she said, "and find out what people

do in those jobs."

The program will provide students with information about jobs, including the average salary range, amount of education needed and the national job outlook, she said.

SIGI is "user friendly," Spanel said, which means "you don't have to know anything about computers" to use the program.

"We'll show you, literally in seconds, what you need to know to use it," she said.

After students are finished with the program, SIGI will give them a printout, almost like a career bibliography, Spanel said.

"It's a very personalized process," she added.

For the first visit with SIGI, "Most people should count on spending two to three hours," counseling psychologist Glen Martin said.

Students must make an appointment to use SIGI, and they don't have to see a counselor. However, Spanel said, counseling is highly recommended.

"We prefer that they see a counselor (before using the program)," she said. "By sharing data with a counselor, students may get even more insight," she explained.

In addition to SIGI, the student development and counseling center, which is located at Nash Hall on Pittsboro Street across from the Carolina Inn, offers many other services to students.

The center has six counselors available for individual counseling, which must be arranged by appointment, Martin said.

The center also offers testing services, including national tests such as the MCATS and GMATS, as well as personality and interest inventories, Martin said.

The personality and interest tests, like SIGI, "help people to think about themselves and their interests," he said, "in the process of identifying a career."

Martin said the center has a variety of programs every year.

This fall the center has a diverse selection, including support groups for black males and females, older students and adult children of disturbed parents.

An additional source of help to students is a career resource room located at the center.

The room contains "all sorts of literature on selecting majors and careers," Martin said. "It's an excellent resource on campus."

Another more recent service being offered by the center is counseling to help students assess learning disabilities they may have, Martin said.

Once students realize their disability, the center refers them to places on campus, such as tutorials or the reading lab, which can help them overcome their problem, Martin said.

Martin estimated that the center sees about "1,000 to 1,200 individuals every school year."

## Elections

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comment.

The mayor's post and four council seats — currently held by Jonathan Howes, Nancy Preston, R.D. Smith and Bill Thorpe — will be up for election on November 4.

Bill Thorpe has said that he will seek re-election, but has not officially announced his candidacy. Council member Julie Andresen filed last Thursday to run in the mayoral race. Incum-

bent Mayor James Wallace and council member Jonathan Howes may also run for mayor, but as yet have not made any formal announcements.

Balan said he hoped other UNC students would run for council seats.

"This is a college town — why shouldn't a college student be on the Town Council?" he asked.

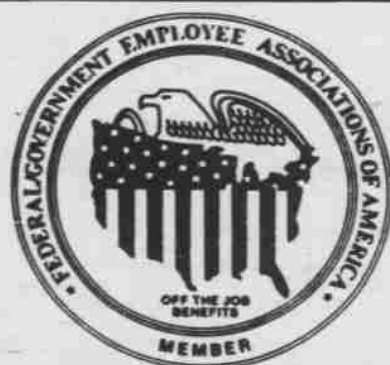
The filing period began July 6 and ends August 7.

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