

More people earning graduate degrees for competitive working edge

By GINGER MEEK
Staff Writer

Graduate school is becoming necessary to stay competitive, according to students and graduate program administrators.

Myra Bower, director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School, advises students to begin thinking about and preparing for graduate school as early as their sophomore year of undergraduate study.

"Students who succeed in graduate school are those whose question is not 'will I go?', but 'where will I go and what will I study?'" she said.

What students look for in a graduate school varies according to their discipline, said Betsy Livak, director of graduate admissions at the University of California at Berkeley.

"Many are looking for a top institution, others are interested in participating in the research of a specific professor, others choose a school solely out of convenience," she said.

Susanne Michael, of Cologne, Germany, is working toward a master's degree in German literature at UNC.

She considered 10 universities in the United States and Canada, comparing their qualifications and her chances of being admitted.

She said she chose UNC because of the merit of its program, the cultural benefits of Chapel Hill and her opportunity to work as a teaching assistant.

Bower said that the reputation of the school was a primary factor. "People like to go to the UNC grad school because the school is one of the best in the United States," she said.

Tammy Ramsey of the graduate records program of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia (UVA) said financial circumstances were an important factor in students' choice of institutions.

"They (students) want to go to the school that offers the research they want for the highest dollar," she said.

Donna Giles, assistant dean of the Graduate School at Duke University, said that in addition to a host of other considerations, smart students look at faculty and research — which school is most productive and provides the most

stimulating research opportunities.

On the other hand, what do graduate schools look for in applicants?

Nearly all schools expect at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average for undergraduate work. Letters of recommendation and admission test scores are basic requirements.

People seeking a master's in business administration (MBA) must take the Graduate Management Achievement Test (GMAT). Those who wish to study law must take the Law Scholastic Aptitude Test (LSAT), and medicine hopefuls are required to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Other graduate programs require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

The weight of these scores varies with each school's admissions process. Elizabeth Mann, co-chairwoman of the admissions committee and rising associate dean of the UNC School of Medicine, said that the graduate exams were not necessarily the most important factor in admissions.

"MCAT scores are solid predictors of a student's capacity to handle the workload, but are not a be-all or end-

all," she said.

Ramsey said UVA requires a score of 1250 on the GRE.

The main factor in selection, according to Anne Marie Summers, director of MBA admissions at UNC-CH, is the quality of full-time work experience since the completion of undergraduate work.

"We want real movers and shakers, people who achieved substantial job progression and promotions since starting to work with a particular organization," she said. Of the students currently enrolled in the MBA program at UNC-CH, 98 percent have had full-time work experience.

However, work experience is not expected of applicants in all disciplines. Mann said the medical school enrolled students with and without work experience since undergraduate school, but the majority moved straight into medical school after earning a bachelor of science degree.

Livak said students in professional fields such as business were more competitive if they had some full-time work experience, whereas students in

more academic fields have no problem moving straight through.

Graduate admissions differ from undergraduate admissions because applications are generally first approved through specific departments, and then receive final approval from the graduate school of a university.

Several admissions directors at various institutions suggest that students take a variety of courses during undergraduate study that will contribute to the breadth and quality they will be able to offer a graduate program.

Summers specifically suggested courses in calculus, micro/macro economics, and statistics while Mann suggested English electives. Both agreed that students should consider the possibility of attending graduate school when choosing courses.

Livak said that of 20,000 applicants every year to Berkeley's 120 graduate programs, 5,000 were admitted. Approximately half of these actually register the following fall semester.

Some of Berkeley's more popular graduate programs include electrical

engineering, computer science, business administration, English, history and psychology.

UVA's engineering school enrolls 800 of 1,100 applicants, Ramsey said. Valerie Brewer, admissions assistant at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), said the graduate school at UPenn (excluding law and medical schools) generally accepted 1,200 of 3,500 applicants, of which only 400 enroll.

Some of UPenn's more popular graduate programs include economics, English, biology, ecology, history and chemistry, Brewer said.

Giles said Duke's arts and sciences graduate program (excluding law and medical schools) received 5,000 applications every year, 1,650 of which were accepted, and 660 students enrolled.

There is a rising interest in Soviet studies at Duke, especially in conjunction with economics and political science, she said. Also popular are religion, medicine and English. The engineering programs are rising in national ranking, but are not yet at the top, she said.

Bust from page 1

counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and was being held on \$75,000 bond Saturday in the Orange County Jail.

Henry Lee Farrar, of 520 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and was held on \$10,000 bond Saturday in the Orange County Jail.

James Lester Watson, of 209-B Sky-light Dr., Carrboro, was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and was released after posting \$2,500 bond.

Kenneth Wilson Fearrington of A-73 Gomain Ave., Chapel Hill, was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and was released on \$1,000 unsecured bond.

Ernest Alston of 110 W. Stinson St., Chapel Hill, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a stolen weapon, and possession of a Schedule VI drug (marijuana) and was released on \$1,000 unsecured bond.

Resident assistants give support, make dorm life easier for students

By STEPHANIE SPIEGEL
Staff Writer

They sponsor educational residence hall programs, organize inter-floor athletic contests and give troubled students a place to sound off.

Living by the motto "RAs ... Supporting Carolina, One Person at a Time," 187 resident assistants help make life in UNC residence halls a little easier and a little more enjoyable.

Applications are being taken for RA positions for the upcoming year. Both a written application and interview are necessary to be considered.

Regina Locke, a sixth-floor RA in Craige Residence Hall, urges anyone interested to apply.

"The interview process is great preparation for future job interviews," she said. "It enables you to find things out about yourself that you never really thought about."

According to L.D. Newman, assistant director of housing, roughly 85 to 100 RA positions will be vacant for the 1991 year. Usually there are 230 to 250 applications turned in. Applications are not pre-screened, and everyone who applies is guaranteed two interviews — the first with a current RA and another with a panel of area directors, assistant area directors and RAs, she said.

Pete Corson, a fourth-floor RA in Carmichael Residence Hall, views the application process as very effective. "As an applicant I thought it was a fair process ... I never felt pressured."

Corson is currently involved with the selection process of new RAs. "On the other side, we do everything we can do to get to know the person because the job involves many personal skills."

After the first two interviews, there is a potential for as many as five interviews serving as follow-up and designed to gather further information about the

applicant, he said.

To apply for an RA position you must reach upper class standing, maintain at least a 2.3 grade point average, have residence hall living experience and be a full-time student.

"From our perspective you need to be a person who has the potential for leadership," Newman said. "Probably the most common misinterpretation of the RA selection process is that you have to be this finished product."

Besides having potential, new RAs need to be enthusiastic, she said. But many hours of classes and other training teach RAs what they need to know to be an effective RA, she added.

Once students go through the process, they are invited to evaluate the system. "A major priority is that every individual is treated fairly and with respect because RAs are the lifeblood of the operation," Newman said, "and they are worth the four-month investment to maintain very

high-quality RAs."

According to Locke, there is no "model RA". Everyone is unique and adds to the very diverse group.

"The best advice for prospective RAs is to be honest and open about yourself," said Vince Lai, a second-year RA in Granville Towers South. The system is very effective and allows RAs a lot of freedom in their responsibilities, while the extensive amount of training serves as a base for the job, he said.

Nancy Brown, a senior sociology major and RA in Avery Residence Hall, cites her former RAs as an inspiration. "My RAs were very outgoing, and I admired them — I wanted to have the opportunity to make other people's residence hall experience as positive as mine."

The job also serves as good, practical job experience, she said. "You have a great deal of training — you also gain a lot of valuable social skills that could be

useful in the future."

Closer to students' hearts, RAs get paid. Each RA, excluding Granville Towers RAs, gets \$4.50 an hour for seventeen hours of work each week, receives reduced rates on single residence hall rooms and gets \$200 a semester added to their meal cards.

While RAs may spend a great deal of time involved in the lives of their residents, they all agree that being able to become such an influence as a mentor and confidant is worth the extra effort. "You learn how to deal and interact with social, political, and racial groups — a whole spectrum of people," Lai said. "You really get to interact with and make a difference in someone's life."

Applications are available at every residence area office and the Carr Building. They are due December 19 at 4:30 and should be turned in at the Carr Building.

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Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Saturday and Sunday events are printed in Friday's calendar and must be submitted on the Wednesday before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, 104 Union. Items of Interest lists ongoing events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

- MONDAY**
 Noon: The Carolina Union Activities Board announces that Fred Holmes will play sax in the Pit.
 3:30 p.m.: The Curriculum in African and Afro-American Studies present "Non-racial Opposition in South Africa in the 1980's," a lecture by Julie Fredericks, Southern Africa correspondent for National Public Radio and the author of *The Unbreakable Thread: Non-racialism in South Africa*, in the Assembly Room of Wilson Library.
 4 p.m.: The Big Buddy Program of the Campus Y will have its last educational program. Listen and discuss the problems of de-emphasizing the dollar and emphasizing the educational. Great speakers and discussion of individual Big Buddy problems. Campus Y lounge.
 Career Planning and Placement Services will hold Job Hunt 104: On-Site Interviewing Skills Workshop for seniors and graduate students in 210 Hanes.
 5 p.m.: The UNC American Advertising Federation will meet in 203 Howell. Is that cool or what?
 The Carolina Union Activities Board announces that Jerry Smith will play sax in Lenoir.
 The Investments Club will meet in New Carroll T-7. Agenda: future plans.
 5:30 p.m.: Duke-UNC Center Research on Women Management will meet in 2 Manning until 8 p.m.
 6:30 p.m.: The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will have a Thanksgiving dinner at the Presbyterian Student Center, 110 Henderson St.
 7 p.m.: N.C. Fellows/Leadership Development will offer a public speaking workshop in 101 Greenlaw. Call 966-4041 for more info.
 The Writing Center is conducting a workshop on Incorporating Source Material in Research Papers in 222 Greenlaw until 8 p.m.
 7:30 p.m.: The Carolina Indian Circle is proud to present Dr. J.T. Garrett of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, who will address Native American
- issues in the Upendo Lounge (upstairs Chase).
 8 p.m.: The Hinton James RAs present a self-defense workshop in the 7th floor lounge of Hinton James. This is a free class and pizza will be provided.
 9 p.m.: The Carolina Union Activities Board announces a mini-jazz festival featuring Group Sax (Latin, jazz and blues), in the Great Hall. Tickets are \$1 for students and \$2 for general public. Available at Union desk.
- ITEMS OF INTEREST**
 UCPPS announces a resume drop for employers recruiting Jan. 14-18 to be held tomorrow, and employers recruiting Jan. 22-Feb. 1 to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4.
 Tar Heel Recycling Project announces that the mobile drop-off site for today is the loading dock at Berryhill Hall.
 The Bicentennial Class Committee wants you to create an original design with an exciting theme for the class of 1990 T-shirt! Turn all designs into the Student Government Office in Suite C of the Union by Nov. 28. There will be a cash prize for the best design. Call 933-5163 for details.
 Carolina Week By Week Lovers: Please send in the evaluation form at the back of the calendar to let us know of any changes or additions you would like to see made in the 1991-92 edition.
 The Carolina Students' Credit Union is accepting applications for the credit committee. Please come by the CSU office to pick up an application from 10-3, M-F, and from 12:30-2 on Saturdays.
 PlayMakers Repertory Company will present "The Nutcracker: A Play," Nov. 28-Dec. 22 at the Paul Green Theatre.
 The Carolina Union Activities Board Theatre Arts Committee presents William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night in the Cabaret from Nov. 29 through Dec. 2. The play is set in the 1920's. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for the public. Call 962-1157 for more info.

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Time is running out...

The Daily Tar Heel advertising sales representative applications are due Tuesday, November 20 by 5:00 p.m. Please return to Suite 104 of the Union