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CAMPUS NEWS

Graduating seniors entering changing job market

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — The job market awaiting college seniors has changed but so has the new generation of workers, career development experts say.

"It's kind of like the old, 'best of times, worst of times,'" said Sarah Bend, a career development specialist at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. "It's scary for everyone, I think — exciting and scary at the same time."

The days of getting on with one company and staying there for 40 years are gone, experts say.

"If you're really uncomfortable with change, I would say, get comfortable with being uncomfortable," Bend said.

Career planning in the 1950s and 1960s has been compared to riding a train — employees tended to stay on the same track, said Bette Olson, director of career development at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

But today, experts compare career planning to riding an all-terrain vehicle — you must drive, read the maps and be alert to changing terrain, she told the Omaha World-Herald.

Omaha's job market is a good place for college seniors to shop around, said Gerry Phaneuf, director of career services at Creighton University.

College placement directors in the area said there is demand for teachers of music, foreign language and special education, and for employees in many health sciences, banking and retail businesses.

Another area that is hot: "Anything with 'computer' in it. Computer sciences and computer engineering will continue to be strong fields," said Geri Cotter, acting director of career services at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Areas that are not in demand are social studies teachers, federal government positions and, locally, law and nursing.

Experts point to health care fields as a hot area in the future.

College students should go after internships or volunteer in the fields in which they are interested, college placement administrators say.

"We like them to splash around before they graduate," Cotter said.

The Internet also is a useful tool, they say.

Students should study the job market and consider what is in demand, Cotter said. But they also need to assess what they enjoy and what they want to do, she said.

"You still need to go with what you really love."



Can't get a date? Workshop has some answers

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

How can you get hooked up with that perfect date?

Go to Winthrop University next month. "Creative Dating," presented by David Coleman, will be presented Feb. 17 at Barnes Recital Hall. Admission is \$3 for the general public; \$2 with Winthrop identification.

Coleman, director of student activities at Xavier University, has spent the last 10 years telling college students that dating doesn't require lots of money or pretensions. His recipe for a good time: Keep things simple.

"Essentially, I provide students with innovative, inexpensive and comfortable alternatives to going to keg parties and bars," Coleman has said. "The '90s MTV generation is glamorized on television as having a reckless, party attitude. The truth is, though, most college students aren't like this. They do indeed want stability and they get tired of bars, parties, and dinner-movie dates."

Coleman developed the idea for his workshop 10 years ago when Xavier students were bummed out over what to do for weekends. The pickings, he discovered, were pretty slim.

"It appeared all they could think of was to go to keg parties with a lot of strangers and alcohol, and bars...with a lot of strangers and alcohol."

Since its inception, Coleman has presented programs at more than 350 schools and 50 conferences nationwide. Workshop participants will meet people of the opposite sex, develop friendships and learn the secrets of successful dating. Topics covered include: the best way to meet other people, pick-up lines, impressing members of the opposite sex, signs of true love, what to avoid on a first date and the effects of popular culture on relationships. You can also learn how to date on a tight budget and get a list of 250 dating ideas.

At Xavier alone, Coleman's workshops have been successful. Students have experimented with his suggestions with positive results. "I'd say 20 to 25 percent of the students at my workshop try five or

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Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary



Location: Salisbury
Founded: 1879
President: Roy D. Hudson
Enrollment: 750
Alumni of note: John R. Kinard, founding director of Anacostia Museum, Washington, D.C.; Elizabeth Duncan Koontz, former direc-

tor of U.S. Dept. of Labor-Women's Bureau and president, National Education Association; Ben Coates, New England Patriots tight end.

Offers degrees in: education and physical education, social and behavioral sciences/business; humanities

and fine arts, natural sciences. Hood Theological Seminary offers master's degrees in divinity and religious education and a certificate program in Christian ministry.

For more information, call 638-5501 (Livingstone College) or 638-5643 (Hood Theological Seminary).

• Roxanna Alanna Parra is the 1995-96 recipient of the UNC Charlotte Golden Key National Honor Society-KPMG Peat Marwick Scholar's Award.

Parra is majoring in marketing and carries a 4.0 grade point average. She is president of the UNCC chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, assistant treasurer and workshops committee chairperson of the National Black programmers Coalition. She is also an employee at Motown Records.

Golden Key awards two scholarships annually to each of its 230 college and university chapters across the U.S., Puerto Rico and Australia. The scholarship is awarded to the outstanding junior and senior initiate of the chapter based on overall scholastic performance, honors and awards received, leadership, campus and community activities and work commitments.

Golden Key National Honor Society is one of the nation's top academic honors organizations. It has more than 500,000 lifetime members.

• Calling Tamia Allen versatile is an understatement. Allen, 15, is a sophomore at East Mecklenburg High School, where she is in the Academically Gifted program. Tamia has a blue belt in tae kwon do, is a member of the National Honor Society and plays cello and piano. She's not old enough to vote, but is involved in the political process as a campaign worker for U.S. Rep. Mel Watt and U.S. Senate candidate Harvey Gantt.

In addition to her activities in the community, Tamia also finds time to work as East Mecklenburg's scorekeeper for the boys' basketball team.

• Nine Mecklenburg County students had won Century Scholarships for study at UNC Greensboro. The winners and their high school alma maters are:

Christopher Novak (West Charlotte); Heather Montgomery (West Charlotte); Michelle Presley (Independence); Christopher Thorne (Olympic); Benjamin Sullivan (West Charlotte); Emily Hickock (Myers Park); Shara Grifenhagen (Myers Park); William Culp (West Charlotte); Caroline Owen (Providence).

UNC Greensboro awards Century Scholarships to freshmen based on outstanding academic achievement in high school and potential for academic success in college. The scholarships, which range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, are for one year and non-renewable.

SHOUTS

Former gang-banger teaches importance of non-violence

By Pat Kossan
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

PHOENIX — If you were a student or teacher at South Mountain High School in the early 1990s, you probably know the name Damian Cuspard.

Or his gang name: Big Yogi. He was a bully and a gang member who finally was thrown out in his senior year for assaulting the principal.

Big Yogi's been doing a lot of thinking since then, and he

now spends his time teaching kids about the foolishness of violence.

For his efforts, Cuspard will receive a Living the Dream Award on Jan. 19 at Phoenix's Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

Cuspard works more than 40 hours a week alongside his mother in C.I.T.Y. Dads, an organization that battles gang violence.

"I ain't trying to do no preaching," said Cuspard, who

teaches a 10-week course in non-violence to children in five elementary schools in the Phoenix area. "I ain't no miracle worker."

"In teaching, I learn myself. I know I've helped kids, maybe not right now, but they'll always remember what Big Yogi told them."

There was a time when it seemed Cuspard's life on the streets was as permanent as the West Side City tattoo on his arm.

Even the fatal shooting of his

older brother in 1990, and the death and maiming of his friends during the following years, didn't stop him.

After his brother's death, his mother started C.I.T.Y. Dads, for Caring and Investing in Today's Youth.

But Cuspard didn't stop.

Being liked always was too important to him, and the pressure to perform for his gang was nearly overwhelming.

"It was fun until I got deep into it," said Cuspard, who

lives with his mother on the far west-side of the Valley. "You'd get that crazy juice in you and start tripping. Somebody would just go to shootin' and someone end up dead or paralyzed or 'vegetabilized.'"

Cuspard's mother had taught him better.

But his mother didn't understand the code Cuspard had learned on the street.

Like his fellow gang members, Cuspard said he was sure

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