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Placement Center Director Says Job Market Great

UNCC Grads 'Sought By Companies'-English

By Steve Bass

"The job market is great for our graduates at the present time," according to Mildred English, director of UNCC Placement Office. "In general the market is not that good, but our graduates are being sought by companies. This fall we have had 50 companies on campus to interview compared with only 39 last fall.

"Best of all, we are seeing a great diversity of companies coming to campus. Companies are seeking out our graduates," said English. "The best advice I can give students is be flexible when they interview with these companies. The ones coming to campus are often national firms wanting people who are willing to relocate. So many of our students, I'd say about 90 per cent, don't want to leave this area, and it hurts their chances in the job market.

"Most students are so busy getting their degrees and working their parttime jobs they don't realize how competitive the job market is. With their schedules, they just don't take the time to plan what they are going to do when they get out of school. But someday there come a time when people have to start doing something to make a living. The time to start a career is when you're in-school," said English.

English said the Placement Office annually helps about 30 per cent of the graduating class in their search for employment. "I have no idea of the exact number of students we help per year. We



Placement Center Director Mildred English (left) and her staff help students find jobs. (photo by Don Waterman)

do most of our work in two ways; students register for placement, and we help them prepare resumes, etc. We also ask the students to get faculty members to sign a confidential report about their abilities. Secondly, we set up the on campus interviews.

"Students are really missing the boat when they don't interview with companies that come to campus," said English. According to English most companies appearing on campus are the result of the company requesting time to

appear on campus or an overture by the Placement Office. "Most companies contact us, but we do a good deal of public relations work with companies. In addition, I meet with representatives of companies at various professional conferences I attend.

"Companies come to campus for specific reasons. Mostly they are seeking students with specific skills. It is unlikely that companies are going to want to see many liberal arts majors, for example, when their personnel office will receive

several hundred applicants from such students. Rather they seek out the engineering students, and others with the specific skills the company needs. What you are facing is a supply and demand situation. If a student is trained in a marketable skill, they will enhance their employability."

English said the Placement Office is not only interested in helping students locate jobs, but they are also interested in the success the students have in their jobs. "We do follow up study per year in which we send a questionnaire to our graduates asking what job they have, what their responsibilities are, what their salaries are. We don't get to do long term follow-ups to see how the graduates fared over the years. I'd like to do this, but my staff is small and I'm just not able to do this."

Students are probably very interested in the Christmas job market at the present time, but English said her office doesn't get too many requests for parttime employment help. "With so many retail stores working extra during the Christmas season, they need help. But it is important that students begin applying immediately, because that's when the company needs help. I would suggest students try the Post Office, they often need extra help during Christmas."

English said students need to remember "the responsibility in finding a job rests with the student. The Placement Office will help as much as we humanly can, but the students must make the first move."

Some Senate Members Upset By Chancellor's Snub

By Nancy Davis

Faced daily with numerous decisions, Chancellor D.W. Colvard often turns to the University Senate for advice and recommendations. Recently, however, the Chancellor did not accept the Senate's resolution concerning the much talked about parking gates and gate cards.

With the Senate serving as the official advising body for the Chancellor, there was some concern by the Senate members over the Chancellor's decision not to accept their resolution. The resolution read that: The Chancellor be requested to withhold for one month implementation of the gate system for "B" (faculty) parking areas," so that the Senate can study it and provide alternative plans.

Accepted by the Chancellor was the Parking Committee's recommendation to implement the parking gates and begin selling the gate cards. Steve Jolly, a professor in the Business Department and President of the University Senate explained that when the Senate passed the Resolution they knew that the gates had already begun operation, but were hoping that the Chancellor would hold off for a while.

"I personally couldn't find too much wrong with his decision. There's a lot of resentment by faculty and staff members, though. They didn't know they'd have to pay three dollars for the card after paying thirty dollars for a parking sticker," Senate Secretary Scott Gardner, however, said he was "Somewhat disillusioned when the Chancellor received our recommendation, yet stuck to his decision to implement the gate set-up...it seemed like it was just skipped over." Gardner feels that there is such a strong opposition for the operation of the parking gates that the resolution should have been dealt with more seriously.

Chancellor Colvard explained his position by saying that he did not see the Senate resolution until after he had already made the other decision. Pointing to his desk, he said, "I can't see every piece of paper the day it gets here."

When asked if he would have accepted the Senate resolution if he had seen it first, Colvard said he "didn't want to speculate. The resolution came after the committee's recommendation had been put into effect," and to accept it would be "Repudiating the committee's decision."

Another Senate resolution "To facilitate the incorporation of the campus traffic and parking committee into the

existing structure of the University Senate," was accepted by the Chancellor. In order to strengthen the Senate, they are trying to incorporate as many workable committees as possible into the body. Jolly feels this will produce better results from the committees, allow for fairer representation, and "Create a better avenue for communication."

Gardner is pleased with the Chancellor's acceptance of this resolution. He explained he was discontented with the parking committee's previous decisions "Because of the fact that there were seldom students there. There was also poor representation from the faculty and

staff."

The UNCC senior also believes "That with a new parking committee integrated into the Senate, there will be more people aware of what's going on."

Realizing that the Chancellor does have a lot of work to do, Gardner feels the Senate could be more effective if Colvard would "Be more responsive to the Senate, since it is composed of the three factions (students, faculty members, and staff members) who sit down and discuss issues together. I feel like this will be helpful in the future, as the Senate proves its worth and the Chancellor can come to realize the effectiveness of the Senate."



"Light Struck" was the winning photograph in the first annual "Carolina Journal" photography contest. The photo was taken by Baron Murphy of 817 Moore Hall. Murphy won twenty-two dollars for his winning photo.

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