

UNCC Career Week Committee

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 Barbara Torres, Center programming director

"Experts in their field"



Center offers advice

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time a student places restrictions on himself, like lack of mobility," she added, "he is eliminating jobs for himself."

In addition, she noted often the student outweighs the short-term disadvantages of a job, such as working Saturdays or split shifts, for the long term opportunity the job might offer.

When asked about the reasons why a student might not be able to find a job in his respective major, she noted often when the student cannot find a company recruiting on campus for a particular field of interest, the student does not bother to ask about other job possibilities.

According to English, companies doing a majority of interviewing on campus are looking to fill positions where they have recurring openings, such as management trainees or claims adjusters. In addition, scarcity in one particular field such as accounting and engineering generates more interviews. "However, just because there is a scarcity there is no guarantee the student will get the job," she emphasized. "Once again if the student is unwilling to relocate or does not have the personality to 'sell himself' he might not get a job in one of the fields where there is a great demand," she stated.

She added students graduating with a degree which is in low demand might consider other areas, such as sales. If, for instance, a student majoring in political science would like to work in his respective field, relocation is one important factor, since the hub of political is Washington, D.C. Or if the person might be interested in local government, it will take a lot of initiative on the student's part to find employment, since most local governments do not interview on campus. English did not there is an abundance of information in the Placement Service which will assist the person and at least get them started in the right direction in

seeking employment.

English also recommended the student take courses which will make him more marketable upon graduation. For instance, when planning course study, the student should consider electives which might make him more valuable or broaden his background. "The student should be very good in his field," she added, "and should be willing to relocate."

Since the Placement Service is more interested in counseling prospective graduates than actually placing them in positions, English feels the office should be titled "Career Planning and Placement."

English noted many students complain about the formal operation of the Placement Service. However, she noted the office attempts to operate at a highly professional level, reflective of the business environment. For example, students are expected to cancel interviews with a 24 hour notice. If the student fails to do so, the office cancels all future interviews until the student has been counseled by the office. The reason for this is to emphasize the importance of the student's individual responsibility which he will face when entering the job market.

Last year, UNCC graduated some 1,600 students. However, on the average day, visiting companies can only interview a maximum of 13 students.

According to English UNCC students are in demand, however, Charlotte cannot be expected to absorb all the UNCC graduates into its labor market. "It is just not possible," she added, "especially with all the other institutions located in the area."

When asked about the most marketable degree in the current job market, English stated nursing appeared to be first, with engineering and accounting majors also in great demand.

Two students express displeasure with services

By Gary Nelson

According to two UNCC students, the Placement Service has been no assistance in helping them find fulltime employment. Michael Evans, a 1977 graduate with a BA degree in political science, noted upon graduation he visited the Placement Service, to investigate the potential for employment.

He was advised of four positions which included a position as night watchman for Jackson Training School and a manager trainee position for a local distributor, neither of which related to his degree.

Evans further noted at that time he was offered no additional information on where to go to find a job in his field. According to Evans, he was given a list of jobs available, none of which involved civil service positions or local government. He was advised to keep in touch with the office, which he found extremely hard to do since they were not offering any aid, and he was discouraged about his placement in the labor market.

However, one year later, he did return to the Placement Service and encountered basically the same situation. He admits the list of jobs available had improved from the previous year, but none of them were either related to his degree or even required a degree, in his opinion.

After learning of Evans' interest in journalism, the office did give him a list of prospective positions in the reporting field. However, according to Evans, some of those were four to five months old. One was listed in the local newspapers.

Evans stated in his opinion and from feedback he has received on campus, the Placement Service is doing a very good job in helping students find parttime employment while in school, but as far as getting jobs for the UNCC graduate, it is failing. He said he felt the Placement Ser-

vice is not actively recruiting business leaders enough to gain the exposure needed for the UNCC graduate.

Another student, who is a senior majoring in business and who wishes to remain anonymous, noted the Placement Service has been very helpful in helping to obtain parttime employment. However, concerning fulltime employment, once again the same feeling prevailed.

The student mentioned in her opinion the Placement Service is offensive in its attitude toward prospective graduates, "they make you feel like cattle," she stated, "they are very strict, and assume their way is the best and only way."

She noted the office is not flexible in its policy. They do not take into account the older student, or the student who has returned to school, who has strong life experiences.

One of the ways this is demonstrated is through the resume form the Placement Service places on file for prospective graduates. It consists of only one page, does not give enough room for additional activities, which is very important to prospective employers, and does not give enough space to list additional job experience which might determine whether or not a student might be considered for a position.

When asked about using a personal resume form, the student noted she was told she could bring a copy of her resume to the interview with a company recruiting on campus, but the personal resume could not be placed in the student's file. Unfortunately, according to the student, this hinders the student from giving a good solid preview of experience before the actual interview.

The student added in her opinion the office is doing a fairly good job in reaching seniors, but when actually implementing the functions or assisting in job placement, they are failing.

