

Economic downturn doesn't deter recruiters

BY MEGAN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Spiraling conditions in domestic job markets have forced employers and applicants to step up the hunt during the past two years for what some recruiters call "the good fit."

Major market sectors, such as the technology and consulting industries, have experienced continuing decline since March 2001, forcing college seniors to be creative when researching prospective employment options.

Students can take steps to make important employment contacts today at the Carolina Career Fair, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Smith Center.

Despite economic panic surrounding the job market, officials at University Career Services are optimistic about the number of opportunities for students.

"We're being especially aggressive with our marketing techniques with employers," said Marcia Harris, director of UCS. "Our philosophy is that there are people hiring out there."

Fields such as library science, health care, pharmaceuticals and teaching have not seen any decrease in recruitment, Harris said. In addition, government agencies and fields related to

defense, security and biotechnology have seen a hike in active recruitment.

For those enrolled in majors that are not experiencing high demand, both Harris and recruiting officials at the Minority Career Night on Wednesday encouraged students to be open-minded and interview with as many fields as possible.

"They should try to think in terms of, 'Can their first job be a good starting point?'" Harris said. Recruiters from firms such as Neiman Marcus and Accenture, a business marketing consulting firm, were quick to say that they look at a variety of majors when interviewing prospective employees. "The last thing we want to do is discourage someone," said Jim Johnson, a Neiman Marcus recruiter.

Meg Bennet, a manager in the financial services group at Accenture, said a candidate's overall skills are more important than other factors, including majors.

Peace Corps recruiter Erin Zuiker echoed those sentiments, adding that candidates fluent in French, majoring in technical science and math and certified in teaching are in high demand at this time.

For Accenture, this was the first year since the tech bubble burst in

2001 that the firm has been an active recruiter at UNC, an encouraging sign for students fearful of the weakened U.S. economy. "We're seeing our market demand coming back," Bennet said.

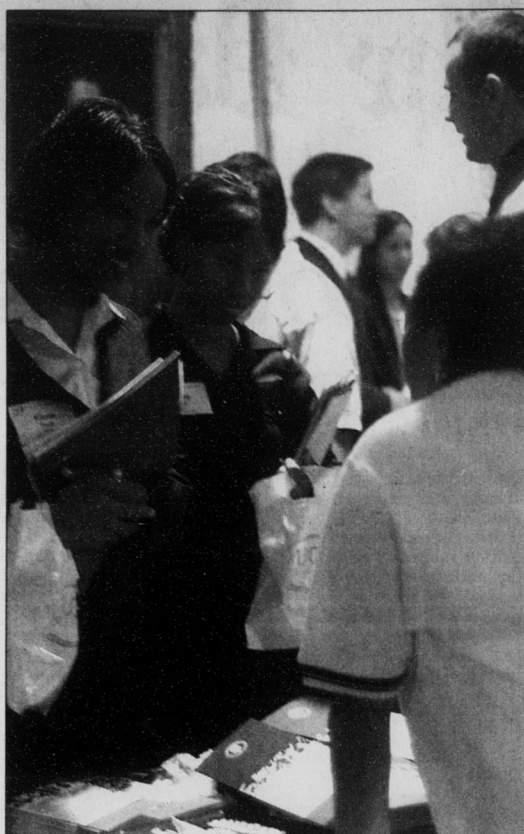
Ernst & Young is one of several companies searching for MBA candidates at the career fair to fill employment slots. The firm has experienced significant growth since competitor Arthur Andersen filed for bankruptcy and is flooded with new clientele, partner Malcomb Coley said.

Some students, including senior International Studies major Michelle Gordon, said they are still skeptical of the effects the economy will have on their job hunt. "I'm definitely looking at more alternatives because of the economy," she said.

Gordon also said her plan to gain work experience before attending graduate school might take a back seat if the job market proves too limiting.

For those entering into careers not heavily recruited on campus — such as the arts and publishing — Harris encouraged students to attend the Networking Nights UCS offers throughout the year.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



Seniors Cicely Allen and Kiona Pruitt talk with a representative from AmeriCorps on Wednesday evening at the Minority Career Fair.

DTH/ASHLEY PITT

Clark's future remains unclear

Late entry might affect campaign

BY TAYLOR STEELMAN
STAFF WRITER

In his hometown of Little Rock, Ark., retired Gen. Wesley Clark announced Wednesday his intention to run for the Democratic presidential nomination, tacking his name to a list of nine other party hopefuls.

His late entry into the race will force him to play catch-up with the other candidates, who have long been campaigning, said Andrew Taylor, N.C. State University political science professor.

He is "clearly disadvantaged in the sense of organization," said Jim Svara, a fellow N.C. State political science professor.

But Taylor said it's not too late for Clark, who could reach voters dissatisfied with their current choice of Democratic challengers.

The late entry is reminiscent of successful Democratic candidate Bill Clinton.

In 1991, Clinton didn't enter the race until October — adding himself to a large field of Democratic candidates — but emerged victorious.

In his speech Wednesday, Clark said he sees himself as more capable to go face-to-face with Bush than the other candidates.

"I don't think anybody has the combination of skills and experiences I've had," Clark said in a Wednesday interview with the Today Show.

Clark, former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, served in Vietnam, helped to draw the 1999 peace accords in Serbia and worked as a budget officer for the White House.

Clark's military experience gives credit to his criticism of Bush's policies in Iraq, said Carlos Yordan, government professor at Hamilton College.

Yordan said Clark's experience also gives him an advantage over other Democratic candidates, such as former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, another harsh critic of the Bush administration. "Dean does not have (military) expertise one way or the other," he said.

Clark cannot rely on his military experience alone, said Mike Miller, a representative for the DraftWesleyClark.com campaign.

Miller said that Clark, while lacking domestic policy experience, can still tackle the most pressing domestic issue at the moment, the economy. Clark has a master's degree in economics from Oxford University.

He said in his speech Wednesday that he will "hold this administration accountable" for the growing national deficit.

In a race between candidates that includes experienced politicians, Clark is a Washington outsider, having never run for any election.

There has been talk of Clark serving as Dean's running mate to strengthen the Democratic ticket, but Clark insists that he is in this race for the presidency. There also has been rumor of Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., teaming up with Clark.

These rumors stem from Clark's late arrival and skepticism that he can build a campaign from scratch.

But Clark already has nearly \$1.5 million in his campaign coffers through an extensive grassroots campaign through <http://www.DraftWesleyClark.com>.

Clark does not seem intimidated by the pressures of being a late bloomer and confidently addressed the crowds at Little Rock: "Get ready. We're moving out."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

County mulls shelter options

Disagreements are hindering process

BY ERIN GIBSON
STAFF WRITER

HILLSBOROUGH — As the issue of who will govern the county animal shelter becomes more urgent, disagreements among officials, local service agencies and residents are putting the brakes on the decision process.

The Humane Society of the United States issued a 156-page report Aug. 28 that gave necessary changes in procedure at the shelter, which is run by the local chapter of the Animal Protection Society.

Pat Beyle, chairwoman of the APS Board of Directors, sent a letter to Orange County Manager John Link on Saturday that stated the APS needs more funding if it is to continue running the shelter in light of demands set forth by HSUS.

The letter asked the county to approve \$10,000 in additional monthly funding to the group by Oct. 1 or else the APS would be forced to cede control. Beyle said in the letter that APS wishes to retain control and that the request is not a back-door means to relinquish it.

But county officials say they felt blindsided by the lack of notice given for the monetary request.

"We should have a shelter that's running very well for the kind of money (we give)," said Margaret Brown, chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

The letter complicated the decision about shelter control.

"I don't feel comfortable dealing with this (issue) tonight the way it is," said Commissioner Stephen Halkiotis.

The board noticed the county makeup for an outside task force contradicted the plan set forth in the Humane Society's report. A task force is needed to evaluate the shelter's condition, administration and operations in relation to the recommendations for improvement.

"It's totally different," Brown said. "This just represents a group that has already been involved."

The task force will also recommend whether the APS or county should control shelter operations.

The county neglected to include a veterinarian with a shelter medicine background or professional mediator as part of the task force.

Brown said she also disagreed with including a representative from Hillsborough since the town allocates no money to the shelter.

Assistant County Manager Gwen Harvey encouraged the board to monitor the creation and activity of the task force regardless of the final decision on its composition.

Elliot Cramer, a local animal rights activist, launched into a tirade against the shelter's administration at the conclusion of the talks. Cramer has filed suit against the APS and has been countersued by the APS and Laura Walters, the shelter's director.

"What you have is a bureaucracy," Cramer told the commissioners. "What you need is a good shelter administration."

He added, "I think the buck stops with you and I hope you don't drop it."

In a prepared statement, APS officials stated that public concerns about the shelter stem from long-term difficulties and procedural impediments for which the APS should not absorb all the blame.

The commissioners expressed frustration that negotiations and plans remain stalled. "It's time to put up or shut up," Halkiotis said. "I'm willing to put up; I'm willing to shut up. But I'd like a recommendation on what I should do."

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