

Internships give students a head start on a career

By KAREN STEGMAN
Staff Writer

Working anywhere from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to the set of the popular children's show "Sesame Street" — either of these different experiences could be the result of applying for an internship during college.

These are just two of possibilities that UNC students have when looking for internships in the summer or during the school year.

Internships are a beneficial way for students to get on-the-job experience in the area they want to pursue as a career. An internship could make a student discover that a certain field is exactly where he wants to be or that such a field isn't what he wants.

Robin Joseph, Experimental Learning Coordinator for the University Career Planning and Placement Services in Hanes Hall, feels internships are one of the most important aspects of a student's college career.

"There are many major benefits from internships, depending on the goals of the student," Joseph says. "It gives hands-on, practical work experience, enables students to make connections and make future career decisions."

Joseph says the best time for students to intern is the spring semester or summer after their sophomore year.

Joseph says, however, that the decision-making process regarding job interests should start early on and continue to develop throughout the college years.

"Students should decide what their interests are, and then get involved in campus activities, volunteer part-time, get a job or take elective classes," says Joseph. This can help to determine the field of greatest interest.

Most students who have had internships agree with Joseph's

assessment of the benefits of an internship.

Tammy Jackson, a senior business major, interned for Apple Computers in Charlotte last summer.

As a product coordinator, Jackson learned quite a bit about holding a responsible position.

"You really grow up a lot," Jackson says. "You're making decisions and standing by what you say. Being able to back yourself up and taking responsibility for your work is a vital skill to have."

Jackson discovered what she did not want to do, which she also found beneficial.

A crucial part of having a successful internship is realizing that the job you're doing may not be the career you wish to pursue in the end.

Joseph has discovered from talking with students over many years that internships can be quite beneficial, even if you discover that the internship is in an area that no longer interests you.

"You learn what your own abilities are, test your interpersonal skills and see if you fit the job or not," Joseph says.

Kenneth Harris, a senior journalism major, found out that his wish to go into journalism became even greater this summer when he interned as a reporter for the Baltimore Sun newspaper.

Harris plans to work as a reporter after graduation for a few years and then to move up into the management level of the newspaper business.

Harris feels his internship was invaluable for a number of reasons.

"The simple fact of the opportunity to work on a paper — getting the experience, (the title on my) resume — is important," he says. "Internships are real jobs, especially on a newspaper. People

treat you as equals, and you're making money doing something you know you want to do with your life. You learn things they can't teach you in the journalism school."

Harris was chosen for the position on the Baltimore Sun out of 200 to 300 applicants. This was his second internship.

Christine Meily, in her second year of the masters program in the School of Social Work, is currently interning at North Carolina Memorial Hospital.

All students in the school are required to do an internship during the academic year in their particular field of study. Meily is a therapist in the child psychology division of the hospital and works there three days a week.

Meily agrees that internships can play a vital role in really learning about a career.

"They are invaluable, especially in a profession working with people," she says. "Without it, you can't apply the theories from class in an actual practice situation. You find out if you like it and if you're adept at it."

Not all internships turn out well, the students cautioned. If a student has unreasonably high expectations about the internship, it can be a disappointment.

"If the student is ill-equipped or doesn't have enough background going into it, he or she could be unhappy," Meily says.

"Students can go in with their eyes half shut," says Joseph. "Some expect to go in and do the same work as professionals, but they're not experienced enough. They don't have the know-how."

Overall, internships are a very important part of preparing to enter the working world. They can help determine what is or, just as importantly, what is not, the right career choice.



DTH/Charlotte Cannon

Former Gov. Jim Hunt gives a dedication speech at Sitterson Hall, the new computer science building

Officials preside at ceremony to dedicate computer facility

By BRENDA CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

Speaking to a crowd of about 250 people Monday, Chancellor Christopher Fordham dedicated the new home of the computer science department to former UNC Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson.

Former Gov. Jim Hunt, who also spoke at the ceremony, said the \$10 million, 74,000 square foot facility was constructed through the will and determination of the people of North Carolina.

"The money for the building came from the taxpayers," Hunt said.

Sitterson Hall was designed to house a communication support plant for research programs. It also provides space for departmental offices, two classrooms, conference areas and six laboratories.

Since the computer science department's inception in the mid-1960s, its facilities have been spread out over six different buildings. The new facility allows the entire department to be housed under one roof.

"We have been playing a continuous game of musical chairs," said Gillian Cell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

When a department has to keep moving, it reflects the ability of an institution to change and it reflects a growth of knowledge, Cell said.

Through a five-year grant received from the National Science Foundation, modern laboratory equipment and computer workstations were built into the facility. The new equipment will help the 120 full-time graduate students develop their research studies.

Hunt said the new facility will help strengthen the University's leading position in the computer science field.

"The citizens of our state want our state to lead in computer technology (nationwide), not just in the South," Hunt said.

"I challenge you, faculty and students, to make the University of

North Carolina's department of computer science one of the absolutely first-ranked among all universities of the world," he said.

Sitterson came to the University in 1927 as part of the freshman class. He received his bachelor's degree in 1931, his master's in 1932 and doctorate in 1936.

After Sitterson became an instructor in 1935, he left the University only twice until the time of his retirement in 1981. In 1955 he became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a position he held until becoming chancellor in 1966.

Provost Samuel Williamson said Sitterson was a very distinctive leader during some of the more crucial times at the University.

The advancement of the computer science department was Sitterson's most conspicuous success, Williamson said.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday

- 12:30 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will hold a workshop on off-campus job searching in 306 Hanes.
- 3:30 p.m. Study Abroad will hold an informational meeting in the basement of Caldwell Hall on study opportunities in Italy.
- 4 p.m. Christian Science Organization will meet in the South Gallery of the Union.
- 4:30 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will hold an internships basics workshop in 209 Hanes. Advance sign-up is requested.
- 5 p.m. The Student Environmental Action Coalition will meet on the second floor of the Union.
- 6:15 p.m. Carolina Speech Communication Club will hold a general meeting

- 6:30 p.m. Order of the Bell Tower will meet in 205 Union.
- 7:45 p.m. Carolina Men's Lacrosse Club will be leaving from the astroturf for its game at Duke. Please come if you need a ride.
- 8:30 p.m. UNC Pre-Law Club will have a LSAT workshop with a representative from the Princeton Review Test Preparation Center in 103 Bingham.

Items of Interest

Dr. Roberto Perez, Dean of Public Health School, Nicaragua, has rescheduled his talk from Oct. 13 until Oct. 26, 3:30 p.m. in 335 Rosenau.

Black Women United will hold a membership drive Oct. 13 and 14 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.. A table will be located in the Union.

Office of Leadership Development, 01 Steele, announces the deadline for registering for the delegation workshop to be held Wed., Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. in 205 Union.

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