

Internships earn money, experience, contacts

By Mary Kempkes

The job market is tight and experience can make the difference between a meal ticket and an unemployment check but graduating seniors find themselves in a Catch-22 situation.

How do you get a job without experience or experience without a job?

An internship could be the answer, according to several UNL students and professors.

Alice Hrnicek, a junior journalism major, took an internship for this summer with the Arizona Republic in Phoenix, Ariz.

Hrnicek said an internship is a must for her to get a job upon graduating because, "it's a very competitive market out there."

Employers tell UNL professors that an internship — work experience related to a student's major — has often been the deciding factor for employment.

"I have had . . . employers and personnel directors say over and over again 'If I see an internship experience on a resume, that resume comes to the top of the stack,'" said Millie Katz, coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences Experiential Education program.

Jim Neal, a UNL journalism professor, agreed.

"If every employer had his way, he would hire someone with two years experience. So internships, part-time jobs and work on campus newspapers make up part of that," he said.

Katz and Neal push internships to students with a fair rate of success.

Last year 213 students were placed in the Arts and Science program and 22 news editorial journalism majors got jobs last summer at newspapers.

"Most students who want internships get them," Neal said.

Students are equally enthusiastic about their internships. They point out the experience opportunities and the possibilities of making contacts that will help upon graduation.

Bill Domeier, a senior mechanical engineering major, participated in a co-op program supervised by the College of Engineering. In the program, students take two semesters out of college to work for a sponsor company. Domeier said it will take a year longer for him to graduate but it's worth it.

"I could have graduated with a regular mechanical engineering degree but an internship will make it better when I graduate," he said. "It will make it easier to find a job."

Students and counselors added that an internship teaches lessons not taught in school.

Gary Sasse, a senior civil engineering major, worked last summer for the Army Corps of Engineers. Sasse worked in Ottawa, Iowa, and spent time traveling up and down the river doing survey work.

"I thought it was helpful," he said. "They don't do anything like that here (at school). It's a different branch



Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

Vernon Cornish, left, and Joel Englebart, right, discuss the merits of an advertising project with student Kevin Eaton, center. Cornish and Englebart interviewed last month for the Omaha World Herald.

of surveying that isn't taught here."

Chris Heng, a chemical engineering major, worked for Omaha Public Power District at the Nebraska City plant.

"I think I got a lot of experience and learned things I didn't learn in school about my major and about what professional engineers have to do," he said.

Katz said the best part of some internships is that they give students confidence in themselves.

"One girl told me after an internship in Washington, 'Now I know I can go to a large city and I know how to handle myself,'" Katz said.

Bigger is not always better in an internship, Neal said. "Sometimes the small newspaper is the better internship because they offer a wider experience."

But an internship is not necessarily for everyone, Katz said.

Financial difficulties will keep many students out of the program, she said. Not all internships pay a salary. In

fact, some of the Washington, D.C., internships can cost up to \$1,100 a semester, she said.

Most journalism and engineering internships pay a salary and ones with the military can pay up to \$10 an hour.

The non-paying internships are often best, Katz said, because the employer is less likely to treat the student as cheap labor or assign him menial jobs. Non-paid interns get more freedom with job assignments, she said.

And experience is not the only benefit of an internship. Internships through the Arts and Science program can give six hours credit or more, Katz said.

Katz cautioned students not to look for a cure-all in an internship. It will not get a job for everyone she said, or the experience they seek.

"Sometimes I think students expect too much of an internship," she said. "They're not gonna save the world or change the organization."

ROTC, sweat pay for college, give start on job

By Jim Garrett

Army. Navy. Air Force. Marines. They don't ask for

**PEACE CORPS
HELPS THE THIRD
WORLD MANAGE
ITS RESOURCES,
NATURALLY.**

Farms, forests, sea coasts, inland waters—all are precious resources to developing nations. If you have skills or training in resource management, forestry, fisheries, or agriculture, you can help others make the most of these resources as a Peace Corps volunteer. Manage to make a difference.

**SIGN UP NOW FOR INTERVIEW AT
E. CAMPUS PLACEMENT OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4.**

experience, they give it.

So says the recruiting song for U.S. military agencies. What the song doesn't say, is that they will pay for college.

Although military service might seem incompatible with school, all branches of the military offer programs that will pay a recruit's college education while letting him choose his field of study. In return, the student must enlist for a contracted number of years and possibly join the Reserve Officers Training Corps — ROTC.

Lt. Carl Gruenler, UNL Recruitment Coordinator for the Naval and Marine ROTC programs, said, "It is a really fine program, one which students ought to be familiar with not so much as they choose a career in the military, but possibly to have alongside the rest of the marbles in the bag."

The ROTC program under the Navy or the Marines, offers the student the opportunity to experience military science their first two years in college without an obligation for a term to the service.

Gruenler said the first two years are quite valuable in that it can be a time of gathering experience and information about military life before signing up.

There are two main points in today's Naval and Marine ROTC programs, Gruenler said, "the four-year scholarship program and the four-year non-scholarship program without any governmental assistance."

More students enrolled

Gruenler said there are 96 students enrolled in the Naval and Marine programs and 40 freshmen scholarship students, more than in preceding years.

The increase, Gruenler said, is because Navy got the word out to more college students and high school counselors.

A tight economy adds to the increase, Gruenler said, because ROTC offers tuition payments.

Gruenler said that at least 17 juniors had to be enrolled in the ROTC programs for it to remain functional, otherwise the Naval program could have been put on probation.

This is the first year where enrollment was not in doubt, he said.

A more intricate but versatile system of recruitment for the military comes from two Department of Defense assistant programs, the Educational Test Program and the Educational Assistance Program.

Educational Coordinator Terry Palensky, of the Army Recruiting Center of the Nebraska Element in Omaha, said when the military went over to the volunteer system it became a whole new ball game.

Marketing strategies

Palensky, a civilian recruiter the past four and half years, acts as a liaison between the recruiting command and educational community.

He said the marketing direction and the sales and promotional systems have been reworked. Under the new DOD programs, initiated by Congress for fiscal year 1981 last October, blocks can be linked together to offer a student the best possible package.

Additional factors like low population, rural environment, partial industrialization, family ties and the overall conservative nature to the Midwest and Plains area, also contributed to the formation by the Congress to enact these new recruitment programs, he said.

The fact that midwesterners don't feel unemployment, recession or inflation as badly as the rest of the United States hinders additional recruiting efforts.

Palensky said if an individual opted for college training but could wait until his or her tour of duty was over, he or she could receive a total of \$7,800 towards financing a college education after the service. But if he or she decided against higher education after the term was up, he or she could receive 60 percent of that package as a cash bonus paid directly to them, after their tour was completed.

Another method offers the opportunity to transfer their educational benefits to their dependents, he said. For example, an enlistee could transfer the \$7,800 to his or her children.

Continued on Page 8