

Interns Learn Job Skills

By Kyle Brunkow
Staff Reporter

Flexibility and effective use of communication are important lessons an accounting internship can teach students, several former interns from the College of Business Administration said Tuesday.

Three students and two faculty members talked to about 30 people on the value and methods of obtaining business internships in a panel discussion.

Terri Svoboda, senior accounting major, spent January through August

in San Jose, Calif., as an intern for IBM. She said that the one thing she learned during her internship was how to be flexible under minimal management. She said, however, that even before being selected as an intern, she learned not to fear rejection. She said that even if a person isn't hired, there is still a lot to learn from interview, letters and phone calls with companies as a person goes through the interview process.

Business graduate student Mike Roe worked as an intern for Amoco Oil Company in Tulsa, Okla. Roe

said living on his own and living in the real world for a while were two valuable experiences. Also, he said, he learned a different perspective on business communication.

"I felt that I even had to prepare myself thoroughly for just a telephone conversation," he said.

Presenting a more local aspect of an internship, Paul Becker, a senior accounting major, worked for one of the eight largest accounting firms in the United States — Deloitte, Haskins and Sells of Omaha. Becker said he shared Roe's view that business communication was a lot more

important than he thought before doing his internship.

"I learned just how important it is to know when to talk sports or when to talk about the business," he said.

With both state and national intern opportunities available, Mildred Katz, UNL coordinator of experiential education, said that there has been good feedback from businesses who have had interns.

"About 90 percent of those students who intern for a business are asked to come back to be hired full-time," she said.

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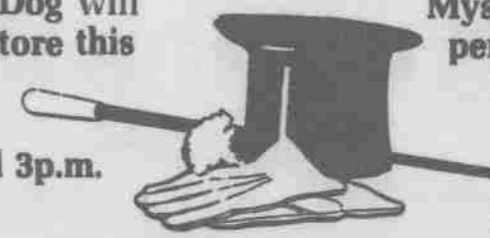
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