

Career - related seminars scheduled to begin tonight

By Barb Tillman
Staff Reporter

Although some UNL students may think Career Information Day '89 is only for graduating seniors, they couldn't be further from the truth, said a Career Planning & Placement representative.

"Career Day is for all UNL students," said Marcia Phelps, internship coordinator for Internship & Cooperative Education, a division of the Career Planning & Placement office.

"Everyone needs to know that even if they aren't graduating this year, employers may still need them through internships and co-ops," she said.

Beginning today, a series of career-related seminars will take place in the Nebraska Union from 6 to 9 p.m. These seminars will focus on "Women in Management," "Labor Trends in Nebraska," "What Employers Look For," "Researching a Corporation," "Management Training

Programs" and "A Results-Oriented Resume."

Thursday, UNL students are encouraged to go to the union Centennial Room and Ballroom to meet with employers who will be stationed in booths. The employers will answer questions about jobs.

Career planning and placement professionals also will be on hand to talk with students.

The day will conclude with a fashion show at 4 p.m.

In past years, about 800 students from UNL and other colleges in the state participated in career day.

"Career days in the past have always been pretty successful," Phelps said. "We've expanded the activities this year, and I think it should be a good event."

"It's gotten better every year," said Larry Routh, director of Career Planning and Placement. "Every year there are more employers and a bigger variety of categories."

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Thomas M. Luker, a systems analyst with the registrar's office at the University of Texas at Austin, said the problems with computer records is that more faculty members want access to them, making records more accessible to everyone.

Askins said faculty members also may not know how to log off of computers with student records, leaving the information on the screen for anybody to read.

At UNL, nearly 1,000 advisers and dozens of offices have access to student records. Reid said that UNL operates on a "need to know" basis. Records can be accessed by those offices that need student information to do their jobs, he said.

UNL policies reflect the federal Buckley Amendment or "the bible of access to confidential records," he said. The act defines what institutions can do with private records.

Askins said that although unauthorized intrusion into files is not common on smaller campuses, all colleges must take preventive steps to protect the privacy of student records.

Universities should establish committees that represent all campus departments with access to student records, Askins said. These committees should set confidentiality policies that will be sanctioned by the administration, she said.

"With electronic records, your level of responsibility is far higher than your level of control," she said. "An institutional approach to the security of records is essential."

Faculty and staff members must become familiar with security procedures followed in registrars' offices through training sessions, she said. Office workers usually have secret passwords to access student records, log off computers when they are not in use and keep computer screens

from students' view, Askins said.

Luker said that training administration and faculty at large universities to know what information on student records can be made public poses a problem.

"At a university the size of ours, it is difficult to teach everyone what state and federal regulations apply to the release of student records," as well as university policies, he said.

Luker said about 50,000 students are enrolled at the University of Texas this year.

"It's a give-and-take situation," he said. "Employees need access to data to do their job, but they need to be aware that this is confidential information, and its release needs to be regulated."

To limit unapproved changes in student files, registrars should document all changes and permit only a few university offices to update records, Askins said. Most attempts to gain unlawful access and alter records are traced back to students, she said.

Reid said UNL's Registration and Records office reviews every change made to student files. Only four people in the records office are authorized to update records, not including Reid and the director of the office, Ted Pfeifer.

Representatives of some universities say unauthorized records access is not a problem, even when files are easily accessible to students.

David Ridenour, associate registrar at Indiana State University, said a system formed in 1987 to give students access to their records from two public terminals on campus generated no complaints of confidentiality violations.

The records list a student's financial aid information, current classes, accumulated hours and address but do not list grades.

Requiring a student's name and identification number to enter a file is

enough safeguard to keep students from looking at each other's records, he said.

Ridenour said he has heard only good comments on the system from students and parents. He added that the system has improved the accuracy of student files and changed attitudes about responsibility for them.

Students are expected to check their files and notify the registrar of any necessary changes. The student becomes an equal partner in insuring the accuracy of his record, Ridenour said.

Reid said UNL has not considered using this system and that he does not believe the system could guarantee adequate security of student records.

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Currently, the maximum visitation allowed for undergraduate housing is 14 hours, Vitek said.

"A lot of students are dissatisfied with the current policy because they feel it's too restrictive," he said. "The common attitude is that the university is acting like a parent to us."

If the bill passes, Vitek said, the Campus Life Committee would be responsible for gathering information from as many people as possible about the current policy to determine what changes, if any, should be made.

He said the committee would talk to university officials concerned with the issue, student assistants in the residence halls, fraternity and sorority presidents and any other students who want to give their opinions.

Student opinion also could be gathered through random surveys or on-campus meetings, he said.

"(The Campus Life Committee) will need to look at all sides of the issue to look at it in an unbiased way," he said.

Committee members also will research the history of the current policy to see why it was established in the first place, he said.

The Campus Life Committee passed Vitek's bill Tuesday by a 5-0 vote.

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ences in study habits. "For a female, the chances of participation in professional sports is almost nonexistent. Therefore she knows that she also has to concentrate on academics," O'Hanlon said.

But men have greater expectations to become professional athletes, he said.

"Even though very few male athletes actually make it into professional sports after college, lots of them think they're going to," he said. "The motivation to do well might not be there because they believe they have less of a need to achieve academically."

But both Osborn and Killion said the lack of a future in professional athletics for women is probably not the motivation for female athletes getting better grades.

Killion said opportunities for women in professional athletics are increasing and many female athletes also turn to coaching after graduation.

O'Hanlon said that increased opportunities for female athletes after college could be responsible for a steady decrease in the grade point average gap between male and female athletes.

He said that when he first had to report athletes' grade point averages to the NCAA several years ago, the difference between male and female averages was much greater than it is now.

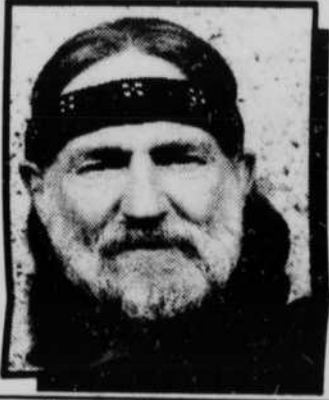
The gap between male and female athletes in the same sport also has declined, he said.

A female tennis player and a male tennis player are more likely to have similar grade point averages than a female tennis player and a male in another sport, he said.

There is also less of a gap between males and females in individual sports than in team sports, he said.

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