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# Robust job market beckons graduates

BY SANDY SUMMERS  
 Staff Writer

For most 1999 college graduates, the future is so bright they'll have to wear shades. Students graduating from college can look forward to a bustling economy, low inflation, a wide open job market and the highest starting salaries in years.

Employer campus visits, interviews with students, job postings and resume requests are way up from last year according to a recent poll by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

"Given 1997-98's record breaking numbers, this is an excellent indication of a vigorous job market," said Camille Luckenbaugh, employment information manager for NACE.

Chris Timm, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's assistant director of Career Services, said UNL offers a resume referral service through the University's Career Service office. Timm said UNL will be sending out over 40,000 resume referrals this year. That's up from last year's figure of 27,000.

Although traditionally computer science and engineering have been the hot jobs for college graduates, Timm said, the job market looks good for all majors.

"Businesses look at not only your major, but what you have done with it," Timm said. "A student with a computer science degree will always have a lot of job opportunities, but students in different fields have just as much potential. It's just more of how they're marketing themselves."

Starting salaries for all majors are also up from last year. Students polled in the 1999 Graduating Student & Alumni Survey conducted by NACE said they expected to earn between \$20,000-\$30,000 a year in their first job, but many of them are getting offers that far exceed their expectations.

The NACE survey showed students with business and administrative degrees were earning an average of \$34,263 their first year. Computer science majors average starting salary stands at \$44,867 while students earn-

ing bachelor's degrees in engineering could expect between \$44,000 and \$48,000 their first year. Most of the liberal art students polled said they expected to earn no more than \$25,000 a year with 17 percent of those surveyed expecting to earn less than \$20,000. Yet even these students will find out their average starting salary runs at \$27,167.

Timm said starting salaries for UNL graduates, although higher than in past years, ranged from \$25,000 to \$40,000, depending on the student's major. Timm said a large factor in the salary was where the graduate chose to get a job. UNL graduates stay in the Midwest where jobs tend to pay less than those on either coast, Timm said.

"The majority of the students say they want to stay here so they typically don't move farther than eight to 12 hours away," Timm said. "Students want to be able to take a long weekend home."

Despite the good economy, students still can increase their chances of getting the job they want. Timm recommended starting to look for a job at least four months before graduation. For a \$20 fee, UNL students may register their resume online with Career Services which sends the resumes they have on file to companies requesting job applicants.

The center also provides walk-in career counseling to students not sure of the direction they want to take with their job search. All students can use the center's resource library and browse the job listings the center has on hand.

Stephen Stein, resources librarian for the Career Services Center, said the Center offers a lot of useful resources to students even before they graduate. He recommended coming into the Career Center as a freshman or sophomore to learn what classes you should take to increase your job marketability when you graduate.

"If you wait till you're a senior, we have to see what job you'll fit in," Stein said. "If someone told you as a freshman that you could take a couple of classes in computers and work anywhere you want, wouldn't you think about your course load differently?"

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CHRIS TIMM  
 UNL's assistant director of Career Services

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Daily **Nebraskan**  
 Summer Edition  
 http://dailyneb.com Fax Number 472-1761

Editor Samuel McKewon, 472-1766  
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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publication Board, Nebraska Union 20, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.  
 Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-2588 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publication Board. For information, contact Jessica Hoffman, 472-2588.  
 Subscription price is \$60 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, P.O. Box 880448, Lincoln, NE 68688-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE

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**New pitcher lightens load for Nebraska**

From Staff Reports

Alabama pitcher Penny Cope has decided to leave the Crimson Tide and transfer to Nebraska. Cope, an All-SEC selection last season, will be the fourth member of the NU pitching staff and will help take some of the pressure off senior All-American Jenny Voss, who had carried much of the pitching load until Leigh Ann Walker came on during the end of her freshman season.

The junior-to-be was 37-23 for Bama during the last two seasons with a 1.95 earned run average. She has thrown ten shutouts and struck out 270 batters during those two seasons. Cope has been to two NCAA Tournaments and follows Ginger Taylor as the second woman to transfer to the Cornhusker program from Alabama in the last three years.