

Education majors up at University

By Jackie Barry
Of the Emerald

College freshmen have changed their minds about careers in computer programming and education.

According to a recent survey sponsored by the American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles, in 1980, college freshmen chose computer programming over education careers. In 1984, that trend changed to education being the favored major.

Sources in these University departments and information from the registrar's office here vary in terms of how they support these trends.

According to Associate Dean Judith Grosenick of the Division of Teacher Education, "We're finding greater interest in teacher education than at any time in the last six years. In the area of elementary education, there has been a 47 percent increase in enrollment over last fall and graduate enrollment is up 60 percent."

Alan Eliason, an adjunct associate professor in the computer and information science department, says fewer freshmen chose CIS as a major during the 1986-87 school year, but this year's graduating class contains about the same number of people.

The registrar's comparative enrollment statistics on students receiving bachelor's degrees in these departments only back up this trend to a marginal degree.

In 1982, 408 students received bachelor's degrees in CIS, as compared with 429 in 1983, 481 in 1984 and 445 in 1985.

In the education college, 476 students received bachelor's degrees in 1982, 487 in 1983, 477 in 1984 and 629 in 1985.

Grosenick believes two factors may have caused the increased interest in teaching as a career: the national attention

received by education in the press and the prediction of a teacher shortage, presumably caused by a current baby "boomlet" coupled with the abundance of retirement-age teachers.

Eliason said the difficulty of the CIS curriculum may have deterred some people from enrolling. He said it has "become a form of engineering. It's coming of age ... being recognized as a science."

Job opportunities upon graduation remain good in both fields, said Larry Smith, director of the University Career Planning and Placement Service.

He said the overall demand for teachers in Oregon has been stable for the last 2 or 3 years, and has improved over the last year. There's a "balance in terms of supply and demand."

While the search for a teaching job can be very competitive in some areas, he says, finding one is "a function of geographical flexibility." Smith noted Western Oregon is more popular than Eastern Oregon and the I-5 corridor is more popular than the coastal region.

He said of the June 1984 teacher-education graduates, 91 percent are employed full or part-time with 9 percent remaining unemployed.

Of those who graduated the same year in computer science, Smith says 81 percent have full-time jobs, 9 percent part-time jobs, and the other 10 percent are either continuing their education or not seeking employment.

Smith noted both fields are still employing a lot of new people. United States Bureau of Labor statistics project the need for 5,387,000 teachers and 980,000 computer programmers in 1995, says Smith. These figures represent a 24 percent increase in numbers of teachers and a 88 percent increase in numbers of computer programmers employed now.

"The job opportunities are simply fantastic," said Eliason of computer related careers, pinpointing good companies, location, and salaries, as well as the opportunity to work with state of the art ideas and equipment and to advance in the field as specific opportunities.

Bryan Dooling, who will be a computer science senior next year, chose that major because he was "really interested" in math and computers in high school and it seemed like the logical path to follow. He said the potential for getting a job after graduation also helped him make his choice.

Dooling got his first job in that field this summer. He is working on a Portland programming team in a company for which his mother also works.

"Computers are the way of the future," Dooling said.

Interest, ability and the possibility of getting a better job helped JoAnne Edin Collier make the same choice.

A June 1987 graduate of the CIS program, she said she was suited to the mathematical nature of the field and wanted to perform work in which problems were solvable. She said she also had been a secretary doing programming but getting paid quite a bit less than co-workers with bachelor's degrees in computer science.

Matthew Doty graduated from the teacher-education program after Winter term 1987. He said he entered college with the idea he wanted to be a teacher partly because a good friend suggested the idea. He's already working as a teacher and said he didn't doubt he would get a job because of his sex, his qualifications and his willingness to relocate.

Eugene area offers variety of summer cultural events

By Aaron Knox
Of the Emerald

The summer calendar of cultural events unofficially opened in Eugene last week with black tie gatherings dominating the schedule, but bandanas and batik will come out in force in mid-July.

The Oregon Bach Festival, held at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, continues through July 12, and features a variety of performances throughout the period, including an a la carte schedule of afternoon concerts and evening performances which feature the baton work of internationally renowned conductor Helmut Reilling.

The opening night performance of "1776" in June featured closing remarks by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, and the musical is being promoted as Eugene's primary celebration of the bicentennial of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Ed Ragazzino's production is presented by the Eugene Festival of Music Theater, and the Hult Center is offering packages which combine tickets to the play with Bach Festival tickets. The play will be presented nightly through July 9.

The Britt Festival in Medford

runs through Sept. 1, and features a diverse mixture of musical theater, dance, classical music, jazz and bluegrass. Dave Brubeck, Ernie Watts, Les Brown and Mel Torme are among the entertainers slated to perform during the jazz festival, which begins July 17. Information on specific performances and tickets can be obtained by calling the Britt Festival at (503) 779-0847.

Eugene returns to more eclectic fare in July, when the Saturday Market begins a summer-long series of events. The Oregon Country Fair plants its rustic stakes in Veneta July 10-12, and the long-awaited Grateful Dead/Bob Dylan tour invades Autzen Stadium July 19.

In addition to the scheduled entertainment, both the Country Fair and the Dead/Dylan concert will provide camping facilities for out-of-town attendees and is expected to create atmosphere and diversions all their own.

The summer promises to offer something for everyone along the cultural spectrum, with numerous other events filling in the Bach-to-Dead continuum. Details on these and other events will be reported as they become available.




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