

Graduates may face rocky times finding jobs

By Dan Eisler
Emerald Contributor

The University Career Planning and Placement Service in June called graduates' job prospects "almost rosy."

These days the prospects — if not exactly wilted — have lost their bloom.

And although Oregon's economy has fared relatively well in

the recession, upcoming graduates will face diminished job opportunities.

Last summer, the career planning department estimated about 82 percent of spring 1990 graduates had found employment, and the success percentages for 1991 graduates should follow fairly close to 1990 estimates, said Larry Smith, Career Planning and Placement direc-

tor.

Overall employment percentages for graduates have remained fairly consistent for the past decade, between 80 and 83 percent, Smith said.

"The difference is it may take (graduates) longer to find a job," he said. "Employers are more cautious about making hiring commitments."

Smith said the number of

companies recruiting on campus appears to be down this quarter from the same period last year. However, he also said certain job fields offer better prospects than others for college graduates.

Graduates searching the job market will find the best opportunities in technical and professional fields, Smith said.

Majors such as accounting, computer science, journalism, finance, marketing, management, rhetoric and communications, and architecture have consistently done well in employment opportunities, Smith said.

Overall prospects for education majors are good, because of a teacher shortage outside of Oregon. The University's education program, which has drastically reduced due to higher education budget cuts, has been reduced in size over the last several years and become extremely competitive, Smith said.

"(Education majors) are of extremely high quality, but the number of them is extremely small," he said.

Finding technically-oriented jobs is more difficult than it was a year ago, but still remains a strong area, while the most frequent job openings are in sales- and management-trainee positions, Smith said.

However, because of the recession, the demand for employees in these fields is still tighter than before, Smith said. "Hopefully, the response of students is to move into their job search if they're not already."

Additional job growth will be found in the service and electronics side, said John Lively, executive director of the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Partnership, a quasi-public agency that promotes economic growth.

Other potential growth fields are in biotechnology and metal-fabrication industries and computer software development, Lively said.

And when times are tight and businesses have a hiring freeze, they turn to temporary workers to fill the gaps, said Jan Cox, Eugene office manager of Manpower Temporary Services.

The highest demand is for office automation is for temporary workers with "hard skills" — such as word processing, Cox said.

"Oftentimes at every desk there's going to be a computer terminal," she said.

Job prospects in Oregon seem better than in the rest of the

country because of the state's continued growth, said Jeff Hannum, state Employment Division economist.

The Pacific Northwest is still the relative bright spot in the national economic picture, said Jeff Hannum.

"The economy is still growing but the growth is slower," he said.

And businesses haven't waited for the recession to hit before taking precautionary measures, he said.

Manufacturers have been keeping their inventories low, Hannum said. Traditionally, a major factor in recessions has been manufacturers' overproduction and excess inventories.

"Diversification will help, but we're not insulated, just better able to cope with a recession," Hannum said.

While timber and related industries are currently in a recession of their own, state construction employment is way up at the same time, Hannum said.

The state's economic condition also benefits from the fact that the country isn't in a high-interest-rate recession, said Joe Stone, University economics professor. "Interest rates really aren't that high, which helps to mitigate the construction industry slump."

The Federal Reserve Board has cut its lending rate to banks several times in the past few months, in an effort to alleviate existing economic conditions.

"There'll still be prospects, but not as good as in the last couple of years," said Gary Sincick, labor economist with the Employment Division's Eugene office. "There're still good prospects for people who have degrees."

Because of the state's slump, employers and consumers are taking a wait-and-see attitude, which in turn is causing the economy to lose its momentum, Sincick said.

That trend has helped reduce, but not eliminate, job prospects for upcoming graduates, Sincick said.

According to the usual definition, a recession occurs after six months of decline in the Gross National Product — the total value of new goods and services in the nation.

However, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress in September he'd prefer a less rigid definition.

The last national recession lasted from July 1981 to Nov. 1982.

XANADU

A stony fortress in the Earth
Beneath the swan song on the rocks
Building a new chandelier for the store
Enough power to melt clocks

White hair lost to time
Leaving a second generation
Torn apart like two hands clapping
His home in his imagination

Dedicated to my grandfather Joseph Chester Kime (Kime and Bonebreak, J.C. & E.K., photographers, Akron.) A pioneer in color photography, he bought his wife Margaret "Peg" C. Kime (a high school classmate of John S. Knight of Knight Ridder) a Willys Knight (whose namesake W.J. Willy died with Joseph Patrick Kennedy, Jr. in 1944. (Joe Jr.'s sister Kick's husband William, Marquess of Hartington, also died that year. (Kick died in '48.)) He died of alcoholism in 1944 (2/2) leaving 3 children: Joseph (a slide trombonist), Janet (a violinist) and William (of DePere, WI and salesman for Employers' Insurance of Wausua (dec'd. '86))

Also to Richard Sternberg, attorney, whose son produced and wrote the Bangles' hit record "Walk Like an Egyptian."

TUDOR ROSE

The linenfold hallway to the music room
A little old lady in arrears
Her face rose to the iron light fixtures
And she asked if they were chandeliers

I told her they truly were
But said there were better ahead
I hurried her onto the card room
Where my usual piece was said

The red is really blooming peach
And is answered on yellow
A price is placed upon each response
Just like the girls in a bordello

Write again upon blue
And hope for a reply on grey
Then you can use white paper
Which means you will have your way

But if a step goes backward
Your food is on the line
A serious error in judgment
Your will is what you sign

A piece of green is trouble
Serious resistance has been met
Purple is imperial rage
Your wager may be a losing bet

Wrenches tossed into the system
The brown tries to sop it up
An offer of indebtedness
A coin for the blind man's cup

Or they may be thrown out in sequence
Shown as a series of walls
Railroaded by the organization
A shot is fired and the body falls

Dedicated to W.E. Wright (son of Christina Eichenberger) who helped his brother C. Nelson (born Nelson in Rittman, OH) found Wright Tool & Forge Co. in Barberton, OH in 1927 before his death on Nov. 18, 1929. His obituary in the Akron Beacon Journal, a Knight Ridder newspaper, appeared on page 1 under the headlines, "Announce Wright Services Are to be Held at Home; Rev. Stephen E. Keeler May Come from Chicago to Officiate at Rites; Name C. of C. Committee." This very interesting piece included a eulogy from Harvey Firestone, one of his Florida neighbors, as well as an account of how W.E.'s chauffeur found him dead in the backseat on the way back to the office from lunch. (The day's overall headline was, "Railroads Speed Up Building," relating to a \$1 billion program.) Nelson, who had sold tools from the trunk of his car prior to founding Wright Tool, and whose son Richard B. was born Oct. 16, 1928, always kept an oil portrait of W.E. on the wall across the landing at the head of the front stairs in his home (as well as a pair of antique dueling pistols atop the grey metal cabinet in his upstairs office there.) He died Easter Sunday, 1972.

Also to Miss Helen Kime, a tough little old lady who lived stubbornly alone in her Civil War era shotgun shack until her death in late 1983 at about age 90. She would never permit a phone in the house (or anyone to go upstairs,) and, as such, all visits had to be arranged in writing. (I only saw her 2 or 3 times.)

And to Krover Nacharsch, a white Mosel wine with a really funky label depicting a large man carrying a bare-bottomed child down into the cellar for a paddling. I haven't seen any of that spirit since I was about 9 years old (it was common on our dinner table.)

And, dedicated as well to the partnership between William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Patrick Kennedy that resulted in F.D.R.'s nomination in 1932 (per The Kennedys: An American Drama by Collier & Horowitz.)

Please see my ads in the 1985-86 Emerald; 3/16/90 Boston Globe (p. 9); 4/13/90 Washington Post (p. 2); 6/22/90 Cleveland Plain Dealer (Friday! section); 7/20/90 Oakland, CA Tribune; 8/28/90 Texan (Austin); 9/14/90 Harvard Crimson (p. A5); 11/30/90 Emerald; 12/7/90 Kent Stater; 12/28/90 LA Times (p. A17), Boulder Camera (Friday section); 1/15/91 U of Akron Buchtelite (p. 2); 1/25/91 (NM State) Roundup, Register Guard (p. A11); 2/1/91 Camera (Friday section.) Never forget Alice Cooper's "Billion Dollar Babies" and watch out for spiders!

Richard Bruce Wright, II
b. 8/31/60, c. 9 am, Akron

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