

Plans: Job market contains abundant opportunities for grads

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al to be placed in an international situation immediately, students who have those experiences have an edge on moving into international assignments, he said.

Students who are entering the job market this year, however, have abundant opportunities.

"It has been one of the best years in a decade," Smith said. He said he believes that the trend will continue next year.

At a recent recruiters conference, a number of potential employers indicated that the demand for college graduates is going to continue to be strong, he said. This year, the number of companies that came to the University to recruit undergraduates was up by more than 22 percent, he said. Compared to last year, more accounting, insurance and finance firms and retail companies attended the recruitment fairs, he said.

The campus recruitment and interview programs provide "a barometer as to the condition of the marketplace," Smith said.

Many companies do not look for specific majors who are have technical skills, but are looking for student who are problem-solvers, have strong communication skills and work effectively in teams, he said.

Although the Career Center has many resources for job seekers, it

is not the primary place students go to make contacts. They also find jobs through internships and networking, he said.

Julie Keyantash, a journalism major, is moving to Los Angeles after graduation to intern at CBS Evening News. For journalism students, an internship is often the only way to break into full-fledged news career.

After she completes her internship, Keyantash plans to travel for

a while, then find a job in her field — "not just any job," she said. Eventually, she would like to sign on as a reporter or anchor at a news station somewhere on the West Coast, she said.

"It feels like I am going through the motions with internships," she said. "I feel like I can go and do a reporting job and really know what I am doing. I am definitely capable of entering the job market. I am antsy to get things going."

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