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The ODE Classified section ... much more than a place for the crossword

Career Center offers hope for seniors hunting for jobs

Seniors can use University resources to find work or an internship before, or up to one term after, graduating

By Kathryn Petersen for the Emerald

June 15 marks the day when University seniors' titles will change from college students to college graduates. Along with the excitement, some students set to graduate are feeling nervous about what to do next.

Environmental studies and political science major Kayce Klecker is apprehensive about entering the work force.

"The stress I feel when thinking of attending graduate school pales in comparison to the prospect of entering the current job market," Klecker said. "There is very little job security."

Graduating senior and sociology major Aaron Durand hasn't really thought about what to do next.

"I am not worrying about jobs and things like that right now," Durand said. "I am currently just worried about passing my classes and having a good time while I am

still at the University."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics calculated the nation's unemployment rate at 6 percent for April. This is the highest unemployment rate since August 1994, and it means 483,000 more people were out of work than in March.

Although the economy isn't looking so hot, all is not lost. Seniors getting ready to graduate have options to help them find a job, even in a slow market. Assistant Director of Internships Rick Guerra said the University Career Center would be a good stop for graduating students who don't yet have a job.

"We have jobs online, a large database as well as hard copy information," Guerra said.

Guerra stressed the importance of networking after graduation.

"Talk to friends, family members, your doctor, anyone that you run across," Guerra said. "Let people know that you are on a job hunt. When connections are made, career opportunities are, too."

The Career Center is located in Hendricks Hall and is open to graduates up to one term after they graduate. After that term is over, gradu-

ates can pay an alumni fee that will allow them to continue using the Career Center's resources.

Another troublesome prospect for some graduates is loans.

Associate Director of Student Financial Aid Jim Gilmour estimated that half of the graduating seniors will have loans to repay. Repayment begins six months after graduation and can be arranged into a payment plan that could last up to 10 years or more.

Gilmour warns against the penalties for defaulting on loans.

"If a student just walks away, there are adverse effects," Gilmour said. "They could face the possibility of receiving no federal assistance in the future, and their credit rating would suffer."

For some students, the alternative to dealing with the job market and loans is simply to stay in school.

"As of now I have no job prospects, so graduate school seems like the best option," Klecker said. "Also, if I stay in school, I won't have to pay my loans back right away."

To schedule an appointment at the Career Center, call 346-3235.

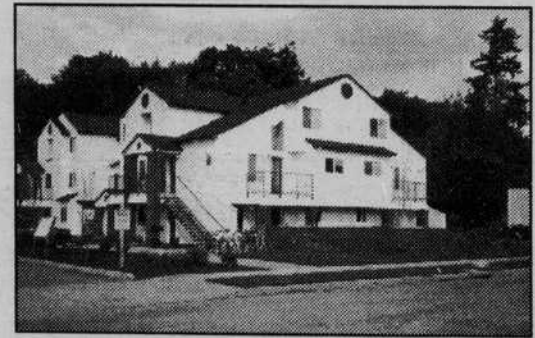
Kathryn Petersen is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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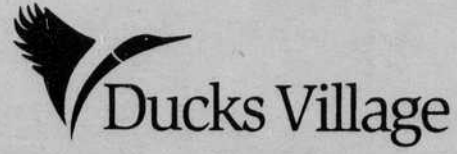
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