

Career Center's programs help with job searches

By Tauma Wiggins
THE BATTALION

With mixed emotions, Texas A&M graduating seniors are getting ready to toss their caps and step out into the real world.

Jeff Anderson, a senior journalism major, will be moving to Chicago after graduation to pursue an acting career. He said he is prepared to leave, but apprehensive.

"It's exciting and terrifying really," Anderson said. "I'm nervous about moving to a new city, and at the same time it's exciting that I'm floating with the wind, going wherever it takes me."

Tanisha Hicks, a senior journalism major, said she is relieved and sad to be graduating and moving on.

"I was picking up my announcements in Rudder Theater and they had this film of different shots (of A&M students)," Hicks said. "Then I saw a clip of me and some of my friends from my Fish Camp all acting crazy and I started crying! Now it's finally over, but you feel sad."

Jane Groff, a senior industrial distribution major, said she is ready to graduate and start working.

"It feels great," she said. "I can't wait to start making my own money."

Graduating seniors have used a variety of techniques to find jobs after college, one being the Texas A&M Career Center, which matches companies' requirements with students' qualifications.

Thousands of A&M students like Groff have found the Career Center's programs rewarding.

"I used the placement center exclusively," Groff said. "I got offers within a month for a job, and I got accepted for a job in Houston."

Glenn Payne, the Career Center's associate director for placement, said 23,000 interviews were done last year for job placement, and 60 to 70 percent of the interviews were with engineer majors and related companies.

Payne said the Career Center provides services for co-oping, where students intern for college credit, and a career library, which shows students the jobs available for their majors.

Payne said 75 percent of co-oping programs are completed by engineering majors, with liberal arts and other majors making up the remaining 25 percent.

Emily Lenker, a senior biomedical science major, said A&M science majors frequently have trouble finding jobs using the Career Center.

"Lots of people in my major don't have any luck with it (the Career Center) at all," Lenker said. "They (at the Career Center) assume you'll go to medical or veterinary school right out of college. I'm still looking for a job."

Graduating seniors in non-engineering classes have been forced to use other job-search options.

Hicks said she has not found help from the Career Center, but networking is the key to finding a job.

"I don't think A&M could be very helpful because I want a job in the entertainment field," Hicks said. "I found a job in Atlanta strictly through networking and doing it on my own. As far as liberal arts majors, you have to do it on your own."

Payne said A&M does not attract liberal arts-related employers, such as magazine or newspaper agencies, because of a disjointed voice from liberal arts students on the jobs they desire.

"It will take a lot of cooperation from (liberal arts) students," Payne said. "As

long as students can tell me what (jobs) they want, I could make up a résumé book and send it to newspaper companies, for example, and even arrange a group visit. But I need a group pull."

As graduating seniors face the realization that college is behind them and a new world awaits, they offer advice to students still in school.

"It's important to have work experience," Groff said. "During an interview you have nothing else to talk about really, I'm glad I worked through college."

Zinnia Garcia, a senior industrial distribution major, said endurance is the key to graduating.

"Don't ever give up," she said. "It takes some people five to six years to graduate. It's fun while it lasts, so enjoy it and don't rush through it."

Hicks said for the liberal arts student, maintaining contacts is vital to finding the perfect job.

"As far as jobs, networking is important," Hicks said. "Everyone is a potential contact that can help you in some kind of way. This person may not be able to help you, but they may know someone who can. For instance, a DJ in Houston was able to get me in contact with someone who could help me find a job."

Anderson said procrastination is a job searcher's enemy, and he offered some advice.

"Do your résumé at the beginning of your senior year, not at the end," he said.

Payne said there are three crucial points to having success when job search time rolls around.

"First, do your best at schoolwork," Payne said. "Second, get involved in student activities so you learn to work with other people. And third, be actively looking at experiences like co-oping that give you ideas what the work world is like."

New computers make updating résumé easier

By Melissa Nunery
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Career Center is updating its placement services with four computers donated by Koch Industries.

These computers will allow students to access the Career Center home page and update their résumé disks from the Career Center lobby. Eleven computers will have Internet access. Dr. Glen Payne, associate director of placement, said a representative from Koch saw some of the old computers in the Center and offered to donate new equipment.

"They (Koch) hit an extreme need," Payne said. "Now students can come here and do on-campus interviewing and Internet job search."

Payne said students use a Windows résumé disk. Until now, the Career Center has not had the equipment to make changes to the disk.

The new computers will enable students to access the Internet job line. The job line includes location, start date, description and the names and addresses of companies that are hiring.

Scott Minear, a Class of '90 operations analyst for Koch, was the interviewer who saw the need for new computers at the Career Center.

"Every student goes through the Career Center. They still had computers that were here when I was a student,"

Minear said. "We (Koch) had some computers to donate. I thought it was mutually beneficial to Koch and the Career Center. It's a win-win situation."

Because of Koch's donation, the Career Center will offer one-stop service with interviews, Internet job search, library resources and literature.

"By networking these machines, networked virus software, students use them to access cooperative education, the on-campus interview and Internet job search all in the Career Center. I don't think even I need for new equipment," Payne said. "Company generosity is what is ahead in the game."

Michael Grundmeyer, a Class of '91 natural gas analyst for Koch, said computers in the Career Center are a big improvement.

"(As an MBA student), I did something from the MBA lab," Grundmeyer said. "It was slow and cumbersome. Windows is an improvement, but I do it (update résumé disk) from the lab. Before, you could only do it from the lab."

Dwight Tomkins, assistant director of Career Center computing services, said some students have complained about having to go to other computer labs to update their résumé disks.

See Computers, p. 2

Faculty, students react to tenure decisions

By Brandon Hausenfluck
THE BATTALION

Much more than success as a teacher, researcher and publisher is required to earn tenure at Texas A&M.

Less than 60 percent of faculty members hired as assistant professors are promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Dr. Walter Boles, a former assistant professor of civil engineering, is one who was not granted tenure.

Boles has earned a reputation in the space exploration industry as a leading researcher for developing ways to live on the moon. He has led students to win second place in the national Lunar Shelter Student Contest for two consecutive years. He has also supervised students doing lunar excavation experiments on NASA's aircraft, the KC-135. Both of these events, among others, have brought worldwide recognition to this University. They have also greatly benefited space exploration research.

Wes Scott, a doctoral candidate of industrial engineering, said Boles was always readily available to assist him.

"He (Boles) wasn't one of those profs you would want to get rid of," Scott said. "We've all run into a couple of professors who you wonder how they got tenure."

NASA is one institution Boles' research benefited.

John Connolly, lunar and Mars mission designer for the NASA Johnson Space Cen-

ter in Houston, said Boles was dedicated to his research and is on the cutting edge of space exploration.

"Walter Boles is trying to explore areas of civil engineering that no one has explored," he said. "I commend him for the work he's done."

Connolly said Boles was good with students and treated them as equals.

"He does more things for students than most professors," he said. "Students to him are colleagues, not cheap labor, and he is always doing all sorts of student-motivated things."

Boles' colleagues respected him as a professor and were sorry to see him go.

Dr. Ignacio Rodriguez-Iturbe, department head and professor of civil engineering, said although Boles is a qualified professor, he was not a survivor of the tenure process.

"I have the highest respect for Dr. Boles," he said. "This does not reflect his academic qualities at all."

The tenure process starts when a prospective faculty member is considered for employment. Once hired, the faculty member is subject to a probationary period of full-time service, not to exceed seven years. They are also carefully evaluated each year so they will be aware of their progress toward tenure.

Dr. David Ellis, an assistant professor of finance, did not receive tenure because he did not send out enough publications. He said one of the disadvantages of publication is the length of time it takes.

"It's a long process to send a paper to be

published," he said. "You have no control over the paper for six to eight weeks. Revisions take a long time."

Ellis said he became a member of the faculty at A&M before he finished his Ph.D.

"I came to A&M six years ago without finishing my Ph.D.," he said. "I was going through the best part of my first year here finishing my dissertation."

Ellis said he looks forward to relocating his wife and four kids and does not have any bad feelings towards A&M.

"I have no ill feelings at all. I have enjoyed my time at A&M. I have developed a solid foundation and have very good colleagues," he said. "It's not worth the hard feelings. My wife and I can be happy wherever we go, so I hope we can find the best place for me professionally and for my family."

Candidates must meet criteria in three categories to be eligible for tenure.

During the review process, assistant professors should contribute to the development of new courses and create new methods of teaching. Publications of their research conclusions should be made in journals and other works pertaining to their field.

The candidates for tenure are also expected to serve the University, students, departments, colleagues, and their colleges.

Their research should also benefit professional societies, research organizations, and government agencies.

America Offline

Technical glitch causes online service to crash

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — America Online was knocked out Wednesday by a technical glitch, leaving more than 6 million customers worldwide without their e-mail and favorite Web sites for almost 19 hours.

The nation's largest online service crashed about 4 a.m. EDT, while new host software essential to operating the system was being installed.

The outage is probably the biggest in online history, said Mark Mooradian of Jupiter Communications, a New York online marketing firm.

"Good-bye from America Online. The system is temporarily unavailable," was the message customers got when they tried to log in. They were asked to try again in 15 minutes ... then one hour ... then an hour and 15 minutes.

And so on, and so on, until 10:45 p.m.

"What happened was, when we were doing the installation, we had a technical problem," America Online spokeswoman Pam McGraw said from the company's office in Chantilly, Va.

McGraw said the problem was different from a software glitch that brought down America Online's e-mail system for an hour on June 19. This time, it involved new host software, essential to the network's operating systems.

"We know it's a huge inconvenience and we want to compensate our members for the time they've not been able to get online," she said.

Customers will get a day's free service to make up for the inconvenience, and e-mail sent to AOL users from outside the system was being stored and would be delivered as soon as possible after the system is running again.

"We'll start processing when we get back up. It'll take a little time, but it'll get to them," McGraw promised.

Yvette DeBow of Jupiter Communications attributed the outage to growing pains at America Online, which has 6 million members at the beginning of the year and nearly 6.3 million.

"They've added a lot of subscribers. They told me it was a main database problem that they were taking time to fix. Because there are so many members and so much information, it's going to be a while to get everything back running," she said.

Steve Case, America Online chairman, said the company was doing everything it could to store service.

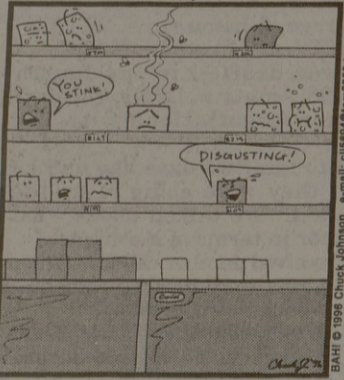
Across the country, users countered blank screens with empty feelings.

"My whole computer stopped. We've got people lining around trying to do off-line. Everyone's suddenly realizing how addicted they are to instant access," said E. J. Ellington, president and executive of NetNoir, a San Francisco-based media company.

Still, Ellington was philosophical about the breakdown. He took his company's World Wide Web site off-line: "Hello, we're welcome to technology. It's perfect, so get over it."

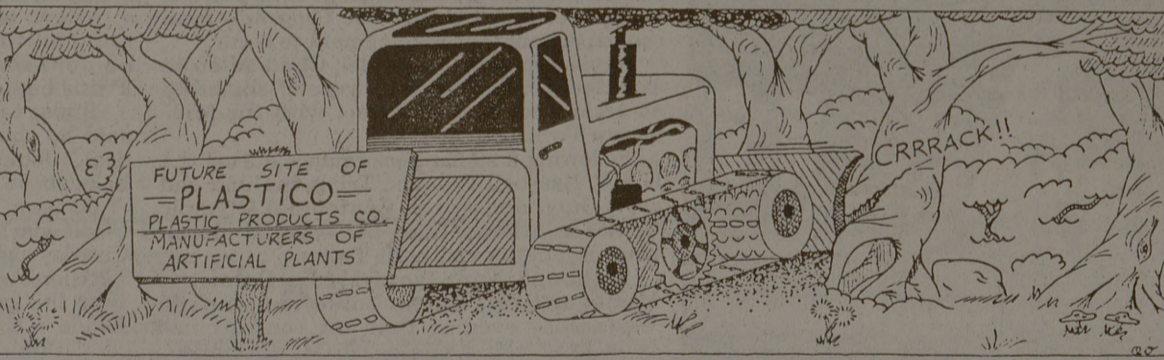
DeBow said the outage probably not cause customers to drop America Online in droves. "Users of online services are still aware that this is a technology that's growing. People who use computers are familiar with just how fragile it can be at times," she said.

BAH! by Chuck Johnson



He tried deodorant, cologne, even wearing air fresheners, but to no avail. Limburger remained the scourge of the cheese counter.

Sketch



By Quatro

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NEWS: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism.

News offices are in 015 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647
ADVERTISING: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertisements are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2670.
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year. To charge by USA Mail, Card, Discover or American Express, call 845-2611.
The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except on University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 210 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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By James F
THE BATTALION

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