

Cooperative Education fair draws 50 employers to A&M

BY SAMEH FAHMY
The Battalion

More than 50 national employers and 700 students participated in the spring Cooperative Education fair Monday and Tuesday in the Zachry Building.

Cooperative education is a supervised, academic program for students that integrates academic study with paid, full-time work.

The fair, sponsored by the Texas A&M Cooperative Education Office, is designed to enable employers and students to make face-to-face contact.

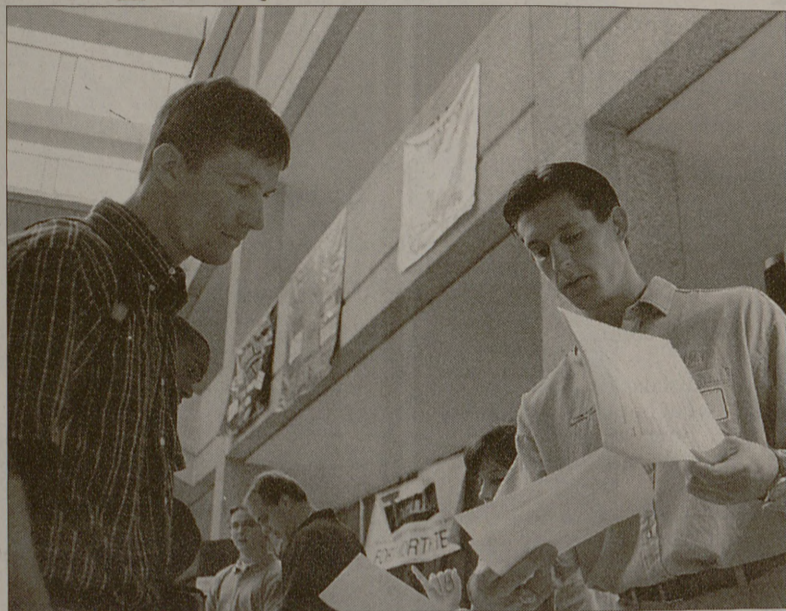
Martha Boerema, associate director of the Office of Cooperative Education, said co-oping can provide students with a competitive edge.

"Relevant work experience is no longer optional," she said. When employers are looking for graduates, they are looking for experience."

Companies use cooperative education as a recruitment strategy, and 80 percent of students are offered full-time positions upon completion of their co-ops.

Jennifer Dieterle, a representative of National Instruments, said companies gain exposure and maintain a presence on campus by attending the co-op fair.

"We recruit a lot of people," she said. "[The fair] is our best opportunity to see students and how our products to them."



John Carliste (left), a senior industrial engineering major, speaks with Jeremy Eubanks, a recruiter with General Electric, at the Cooperative Education fair Tuesday in the Zachry lobby.

Lindsay Bridges, a junior mechanical engineering major who is co-oping for Chevron, said co-oping has showed her how academic studies apply to real-world situations.

"I get lots of hands-on experience," she said. "[The co-op] has taught me how to apply common sense and what I learned in school to real-life applications."

Clay Daigle, a senior computer engineering major who is co-oping with National Instru-

ments, said co-oping has allowed him to explore career options within his field.

"It's a chance to see what's out there," he said, "and it's almost like a little break from school."

Boerema stressed the importance of early planning when considering cooperative education.

"Finding employment is just as competitive, if not more, than getting into A&M," she said. "The earlier you start, the better."

SWE



Society of Women Engineers
General Meeting

When: Wed., Feb. 10th
Time: 6:45 p.m. - Subway Sandwiches
7:00 p.m. - General Meeting
Where: ZACH 102
Topic: Salary Negotiation

Flannigan's

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Information Table
Thursday, February 11, 1999
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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Replant Sign-up

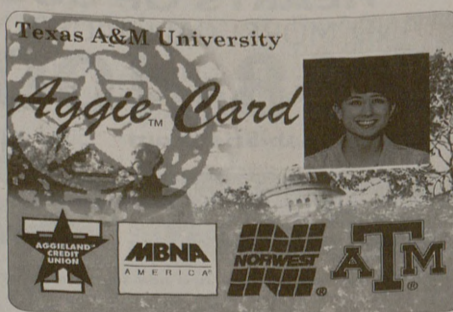
1. Fill out form below.
2. Attach a list of the participants' names.
3. Turn in the form and list of participants to the Fish Aides Desk in Koldus 127.
4. Have one representative from your group attend an informational meeting. The informational meetings will be February 22 @ 8:30 p.m. in Rudder 301 and February 23 @ 6 p.m. in Rudder 301.

Organization: _____
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of People Attending: _____
*If you are signing up as an individual, try and find 4 or more Ags to come out with you!

Please check off your preferred time and site:
Time: 8:00 a.m. Kickoff _____ 11:30 a.m. _____ 1:00 p.m. _____
Site: Tree Farm _____ School _____ Landfill _____ Park _____

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