

Campus

Thursday, November 1, 2001

THE BATTALION

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GRADUATES

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fields that relate to industries affected by the downturn, Jansen said.

The service industry — travel, hotels, restaurants, tourism and commerce — has been hit hard the aftermath of the attacks. Jansen said the effects of service cutbacks are less direct on graduates and will influence the economy as a whole.

Leigh Turner, executive director of the Texas A&M Career Center, said the center has seen a decrease in the number of on-campus interviews since the economy began to slow down, mostly in

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— Leigh Turner

Texas A&M Career Center executive director

areas of consulting, telecommunications and technology companies.

In Fall 2000, the center facilitated 9,100 interviews, compared to 8,700 this Fall. The number of companies interviewing on campus is down by about 100, from 600 companies last year to 500 this year, Turner said.

“The number of interviews and active company hiring is down, but not by fifty percent — it is not dismal by any rate,” Turner said.

Nicholas Welch, a senior finance major who will graduate in December, has been interviewing with companies since Spring 2001.

“Interviewing seems to be down, many business students are having a much harder time finding interviews and getting job offers compared to the last two years,” Welch said. “I feel like I’m having good interviews, but the job offers are not like they could be, especially compared to 1999 when graduates had their pick of jobs and locations.”

Welch said he is optimistic about finding a job, but in the long term, he may go back to school.

Carol Terry, a senior English major also graduating in December, is considering furthering her education because she wants to find a job in College Station, but has encountered a lack of demand for English teachers.

“There is still no demand for English teachers right now, so I haven’t been offered a job for that yet,” Terry said. “I will probably go to the alternative education program to teach special education. There’s a demand for teachers in that field, and I heard it is very rewarding.”

The career center can provide options and opportunities for students who may be struggling with their job search, Turner said.

“Given the already weakened economy and the attacks, some businesses are staying with their regular plans, but are cautious about how many offers they extend,” Turner said. “Salary offers may not change, but students may not be in a position to negotiate and there are fewer sign-on bonuses.”

Turner recommends that students begin interviewing and creating a network at least two semesters before graduation. There are plenty of jobs available, despite the economic situation, she said.

“We can help you network and research companies,” said Turner. “There are still job opportunities and we can assist in a number of ways.”

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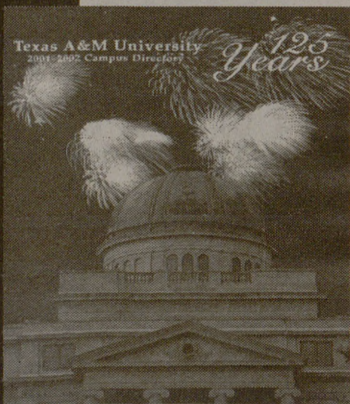
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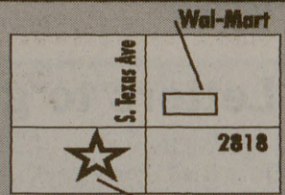
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