

Vast resources

by Danielle M. Murphy
News Editor

The Career Development Center makes vast amounts of resources available to Behrend students. The CDC not only helps in job searches, but can help students choose a field of study or career pertaining to their interests, values, and skills.

The CDC, located in the Advising and Counseling Offices in the Reed building, offers students opportunities to explore different majors and occupations associated with those majors.

In March, a survey was conducted of Behrend graduates. Six months after graduation, 90 percent were employed in their field of study or attending graduate school. Six percent were employed in other fields while only four percent were unemployed and not attending school. Compared to other college graduates, Behrend graduates found employment before the average six to nine months necessary for other people to find a job.

Mary Beth Peterson, Director of the CDC, can aid students undecided in choosing a major. According to Peterson, counseling can help a student focus on what really interests them and discover aptitudes and values of importance to them.

"A lot of times it helps to use the Skrong Interest Inventory Test," said Peterson. The Skrong

is the most widely used interests test available. The Discover computer system also offers an interest test.

By gathering this information, a student is better equipped in making decisions concerning majors and possible occupations. In choosing a career, Peterson stresses, "Students must make sure when going to head towards a career, that it meets their values...I suggest doing something that will make them happy, something that is fulfilling and satisfying."

"To make a decision [concerning a major or career]," said Peterson, "you must get in touch with who you are, and a lot of people don't do that."

When a student has interests in a particular field, the CDC offers research materials concerning occupations, income, and educational levels for that field.

"Often what they think are realities," said Peterson, "are based on hearsay. Students don't read and research enough [about career choices]."

With over 30,000 job titles in the United States, there are many careers to choose from. "Make sure you know the truth about an occupation and field," said Peterson.

To learn more about the realities of a career, the CDC offers an externship program. A student can spend a day "shadowing" some one at work in their field of interest, learning

about the daily tasks associated with a career. Applications for externships are available in the CDC and can be done throughout the semester and during summer.

The resource room of the CDC is available to students without an appointment and contains a multitude of information on fields of study and occupations. "A lot of students don't realize we have all this," said Peterson.

The resource room boasts an Internship Station, providing internship directories and announcements. Paid and unpaid internships are available and students can receive four credits for internships. The internship program is organized by Kevin Moore, assistant director of the CDC.

Discover, new to the resource room, is a computer based career guidance system. Peterson describes it as a "great help to students." Discover offers information on graduate schools, fields of study, and occupations. Printouts on occupations include salary potential, projected job demand, educational requirements, and projected job growth. Also included are pros and cons to the career according to people actually employed in the field. Discover is updated annually.

Information on government jobs is available in the resource room. This information includes how to apply for state and federal jobs and what government agencies look for in a job

candidate. Suggested majors and educational levels desired by certain agencies are available here.

The resource room offers a lending library, with books color-coded by interest. These books include career directories, information on majors, and career forecasts. A VCR is available for use with videos about careers associated with certain majors and company videos.

The CDC offers many resources for students conducting job searches. "Students should not just be satisfied with one type of job search," said Peterson. "My advice is to use all particular methods. Networking is extremely important, many jobs are found through making connections."

HelpWanted USA, found in the resource room, offers the classified ads of 64 Sunday papers from across the country on microfiche. HelpWanted USA is updated weekly and students can conduct job searches in a particular area.

Graduate school directories and applications for graduate school exams are available in the resource room. For job seekers, the Resource Room contains information on summer employment and job applications. Career guides and state job banks are available as well as books offering ratings of certain geographical locations.

In preparing cover letters and resumes, it is "important to know as much as you can," said Peterson. For information on

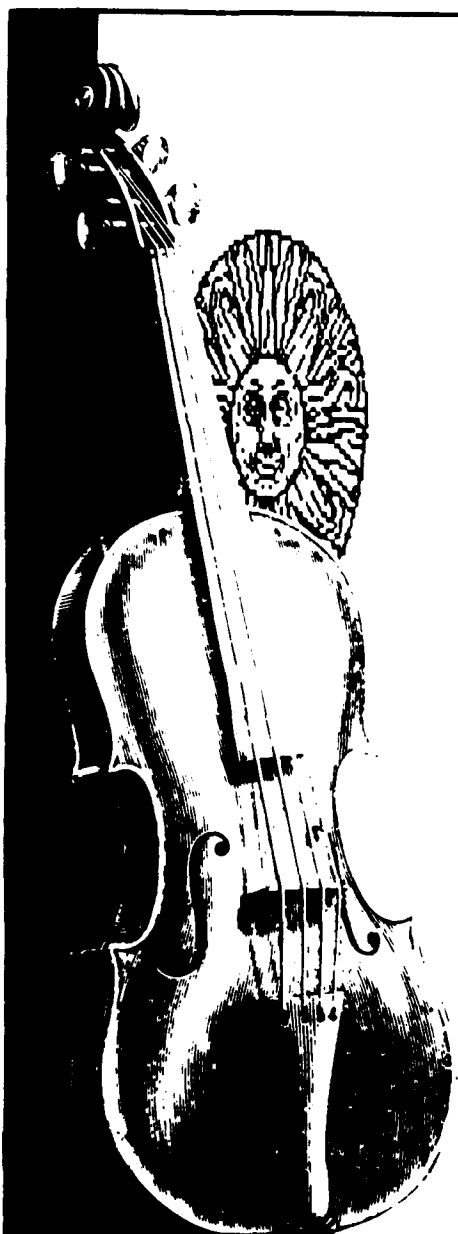
companies, the resource room has files on 2,000 companies as well as videos.

New this year to the CDC is the Lion Jobline. The Jobline allows Penn State students to have access to more than 22,000 job listings using a toll free number. By obtaining the password from the CDC, a student can limit their job search to full or part-time, degree or non-degree necessary, and to a specific category. The system is available 24 hours a day and also offers information on internships.

On-campus recruitment is an important source for job information. The CDC brings about 60 recruiters to Behrend while over 900 visit University Park. Behrend students do have an opportunity to interview with recruiters at UP via video phone. The CDC has a video phone in its interview room that is available to student job seekers.

The CDC also offers a one credit job search course to prepare students for job hunting. Students participate in mock interviews, write cover letters and resumes, and hear a variety of speakers. "In the course, students are able to do all the things you need to do [in a job search]," said Peterson.

Students wishing to discuss education and career choices can make appointments with Peterson or Moore. The resource room is open to students and does not require an appointment. A student assistant is available to answer questions students may have



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