

CC Pub Pol degree ups U Park equivalent

By Joseph L. Michalsky

Capitol's Bachelor of Social Science degree offers a slight advantage over University's Park equivalent B.S. in Political Science degree in respect to job placement according to Public Policy Program Chair, Robert Bresler.

"I think our close proximity to the job market here for getting student placed in internships may give them a bit of a better advantage over the people at University Park," said

Bresler, who is an Associate Professor of Public Policy.

Bresler feels Capitol's B.S.S. degree graduate are more readily able to locate a job because of the nearby job market.

In order to graduate from Capitol with a B.S.S. degree in Public Policy, a student must complete courses in social science (public policy), statistics, American politics, and economics. In addition, each student must attend a senior seminar, which is a small group of advanced college students engaged in original research under the guidance of a professor, Bresler said.

Capitol has been offering a Bachelor of Social Science degree for at least as long as Bresler has been here which is 15 years. The major is not unique to Capitol for other colleges also offer majors in public policy.

"Public Policy has become a more distinctive major certainly at the graduate level," said Bresler. "It is also becoming a more popular major."

How does the outside world view this degree?

"My guess is that the outside world isn't too concerned about the lettering in that degree, in other words B.S. or B.S.S.," said Bresler. "I think in reality it doesn't make any difference." Bresler thinks that students would feel better with a B.A. or B.S. degree.

Bresler also supports a change from a B.S.S. degree to a B.S. or B.A. for the students' sake. He described the students' emotions as "nervous" in accordance with the B.S.S. Although unsure, Bresler believes changing from a B.S.S. degree to a B.A. or a B.S. would result in little or no change in course requirements.

"I do know that a B.A. does traditionally require foreign languages, but with the watered-down B.A. degree requirements all around the country, I don't think it would make a difference," he said.

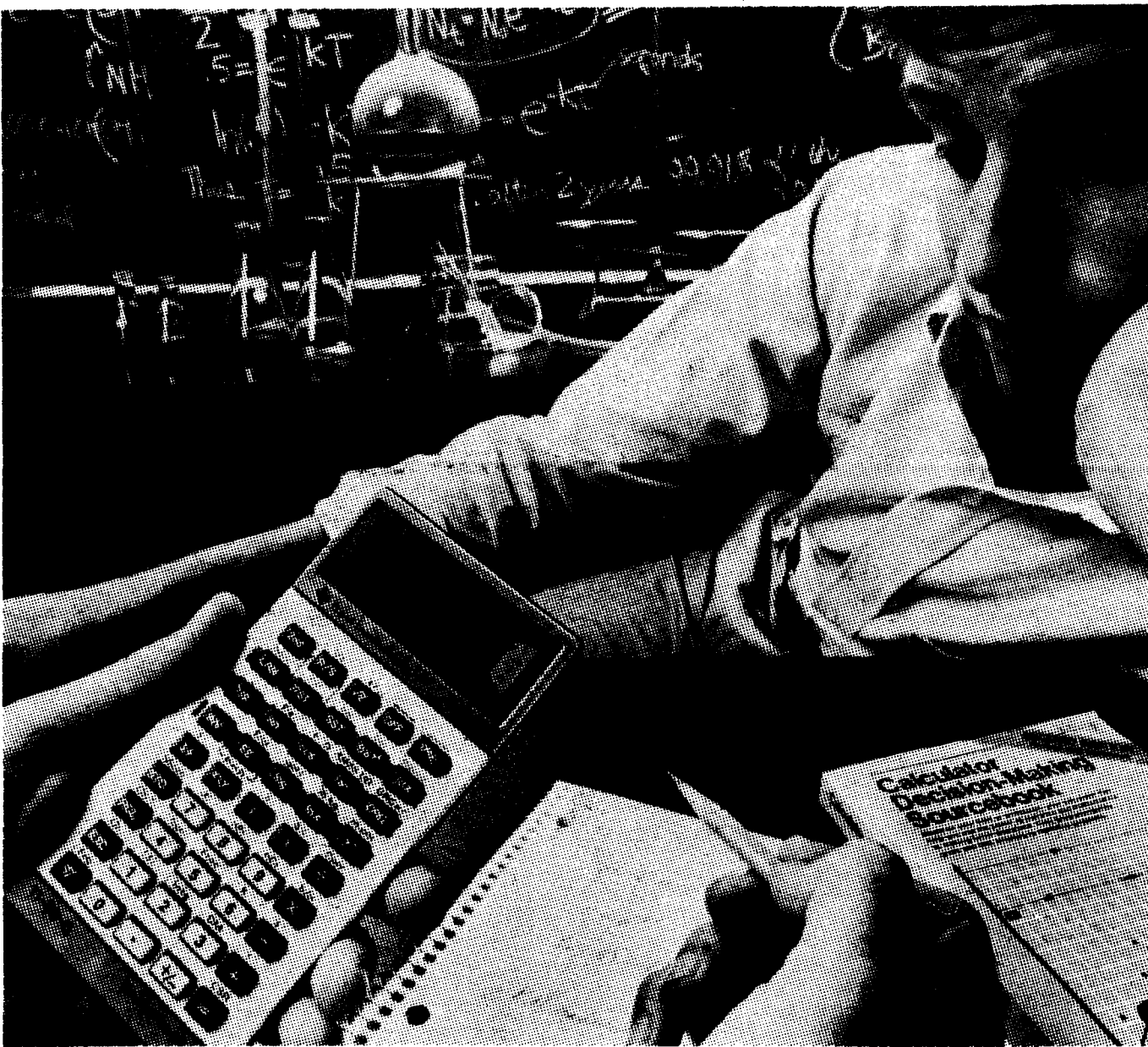
In the 1982-83 academic year 14 percent of the public policy graduates were employed in their field, 29 percent were employed out of their field, and 50 percent were actively seeking employment, according to Career Planning and Placement Specialist Julie Burton. Of the 65 B.S.S. graduates 28 percent were Public Policy majors according to career statistics.

Dr. Bresler feels that public policy majors are becoming more popular and that it doesn't make any difference if you have a B.A., B.S. or B.S.S. degree.

"The important thing is not the degree itself, but the major," said Bresler.



Dr. John Patterson, Associate Professor of American Studies and History, receives a surprise gift from the Humanities faculty in recognition of his service as Head of the Humanities Division. The surprise came at a reception last week for Dr. Murray Budney, Assistant Professor of Humanities and French, who was recognized for his 25 years of service to Penn State.



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