**Career Center, useful aid for students**

Georgia College’s Career Center’s role on campus is to help students bridge the gap between their college experience and their entrance into their particular career field, doing so through career fairs, workshops and online assistance sites.

The Career Center is a part of the Division of Student Affairs at GC and is operated by professional staff members. Mary Roberts serve as the Director, Jennifer Cash Birch is the Assistant Director, Michelle Berg is the Internship Coordinator, Sarah Schanck is the Job Development Consultant, and Pam Spires is the Administrative Assistant. Graduate assistant, Daniel Morris, helps the Career Center with resume reviews and setting up student and employer events, particularly for the College of Business. There is also a Career Peer Advisor Team staffed by students as well as two students assistants, Julia Richardson and Sydney Jessup.

Career Peer Advisor Emily Russel thinks everyone should take advantage of the Career Center’s services. She even hosts resume review nights where students can begin a resume, have one corrected, or simply ask questions about interviews or the job market in general.

“The college experience is only four years and I strongly encourage students to begin their resumes and career development early,” Russel, junior nursing major, said.

Roberts sees the Career Center as a tool for students to use to assist in the grueling process of leaving college and finding a job.

“That transition is one of the hardest ones we ever make,” Roberts said, “and we try to be the place on campus that provides both the support and appropriate challenges that will make them more prepared.”

Formerly known as the College Placement Center, the Career Center was founded in 1969. In the late 80’s and early 90’s the mission of the center shifted, and to reflect the change the name switched from “placement” to “career”.

The career center implements its mission to assist students in the career search in a variety of ways.

“We instruct students on writing resumes and cover letters that will get those interviews,” Roberts said, “And coach them through the interview process for both jobs and graduate school. “

Also provided is the Intern Ready and Backpack-to-Briefcase Workshop series to provide students with a checklist of activities that will make them more career ready. In addition, the Career Center provides technology to aid students with job and internship search. Through Career Connection, students can find jobs and internships posted by employers interested in GC students. InterviewStream is another online tool students can to practice their interview skills via webcam and offer an online career assessment. Students can accesses this website at [www.gcsu.interviewstream.com](http://www.gcsu.interviewstream.com).

“We post over 1000 jobs and internships each year on Career Connection, but we’re always surprised at the seniors who will not use the resource,” Roberts said. “Students who do use it often report that they have found an internship or job through the system.”

For the past 23 years the Career Center has been taking students the Career Opportunities Fair at Cobb Galleria. This year the event is scheduled for November 14th. So far the fair has 70 employers registered to attend and it is anticipated for more to sign-up before the 14th. AFLAC Corporate, CNN’s IT department, Madison Consulting, The Carter Center, The Georgia Aquarium (who has also donated free tickets for a drawing during the event), LifeScience Logistics, DEA, Peace Corps, and many other organizations will be present. It’s a diverse range of companies with opportunities for many fields and majors, many of which have openings to fill right now as well as anticipated openings in the spring. The Career Center normally brings anywhere from 30-60 students and alumni but hope for that number to increase this year.

Roberts believes that by students attending events and fairs like this that they can reap the benefits in the long run and be better off finding a job upon graduation.

“You probably won’t walk out the door with a job but if you play it right, you’ll walk out with positive leads and connections to real people involved in the interviewing and hiring process,” Roberts said.

Also in the month of November the Career Center will be hosting mock interviews with executive members of the College of Business Advisory and meetings with students that have completed the Focus 2 Career Interest Inventory.

A look ahead to spring semester shows a busy schedule for the Career Center.

On January 25, there will be the Teacher Recruitment and Mock Interview day. The Nursing and Health Sciences Career Expo is on March 4th and the GC Career Expo and Interview Day is on March 11. Their will also be many career workshops as well as the College-to-Career Fair in Atlanta on April 9. This is similar to the Career Opportunities Fair but is on a larger scale.

The Career Center is located in 132 Lanier Hall where students are welcome to stop by anytime for assistance or to sign up for events.