Musicians make violins instruments of community service

By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Two middle schoolers paired during orchestra rehearsals four years ago learned they shared much more than a music stand. The musicians struck up a friendship based on a love of violin and a desire to make it an instrument for community service.

Their efforts have played out in Project Harmony, a program that provides music therapy and supports area programs for young musicians. J.H. Rose High School junior Anna Dietrich and Greene Central senior Emily McLawhorn started the program in 2005 and were joined within the first year by Anna’s sister, Mia, a Rose freshman.

“We’d been playing violin for so long and I was just kind of realizing it was not something I wanted to pursue as a career,” Anna said. “We just wanted something that would make it all worthwhile.”

The Dietrich sisters, who started violin lessons when they were toddlers, had for years accompanied their physician father to the hospital to play for patients during the holidays. At the inception of Project Harmony, first dubbed “Noteworthy,” Emily began to play along at places like nursing homes and physicians’ offices.

“That was the idea.” Mia recalled, “to reach out to more people in the community. We spend so much time playing. It’s definitely what we want to do, make people happy with music.”

Together, the three adopted the motto, “United by strings, motivated by love.” They also launched their first fundraiser, a play-a-thon to raise money to provide a scholarship to North Carolina Suzuki Institute at East Carolina University’s School of Music.

“As we got older, we realized it would make a lot of difference to reach outside of the medical community and try to help out other local children’s groups,” Anna said, “because we know how much music’s helped us in our lives.”

Since that time, the group’s fundraisers have grown larger and more diverse. Today, as many as a dozen volunteers may join in performances to raise funds for causes from Spinal Muscular Atrophy to Reach out and Read, a program to encourage literacy.

“Basically, if we’re not fundraising for a music charity,” Anna said, “we’re using music to fundraise for another.”

Most recently Project Harmony has directed much of its efforts toward Suzuki music programs at Sadie Sautter Elementary School in Greenville and in Greene County Schools, raising funds and volunteering to help with the programs.

Emily, who plans to study music education next year at Meredith College as a North Carolina teaching fellow, offers private instruction to Greene County students. She spends weekends working in the concession stand at ECU baseball games to raise money for Greene County’s Suzuki program.

“Greene County is a very poverty-stricken county,” said Emily, who lives in Snow Hill. “(The Suzuki program) literally survives month to month, so some of our money we decided would go in that direction.”

At Sadie Sautter, Project Harmony has provided funds to purchase and repair instruments and has worked to prepare young Suzuki students for public performances. Sadie Sautter Suzuki violin instructor Glenna
Theurer said project volunteers have helped her and her students set up for concerts and even tune instruments for students who are too young and inexperienced to know how to do it for themselves.

"We started when we were that little." Anna said. "It's really great to see these students get the same experience."

When Sadie Saulter students are out for the summer, Project Harmony volunteers plan to offer one-on-one refresher workshops and camps. Theurer said that offering students refresher courses in the summer will help them retain the skills they have learned during the year.

"Here they see these high school students, not much older than they are, they're coming back as kind of coaches," Theurer said. "They're coming back as mentors for young people.

"I just think it's a wonderful inspiration," she said. "It's just an example for these children of what young people can do."

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Mary Easley is advised to resign

Top officials of the UNC system and N.C. State say that she should quit her $170,000-a-year job for the university's good.

BY J. ANDREW CURLISS, Staff Writer

Leaders in the state's university system moved publicly Monday to force the resignation of Mary Easley, the former first lady criticized over a $170,000-per-year position she holds at N.C. State University.

The chairwoman of the UNC Board of Governors, the president of the UNC system and the chancellor at N.C. State University all said Easley should give up her job.

They all gave the same reason: for the good of N.C. State.

"It would be in the best interest of the university if she were to resign," Chancellor James Oblinger said. He said he has had a conversation with her.

Easley could not be reached for comment. Oblinger would not comment further, citing personnel laws.

Controversy has erupted amid disclosures over the past 10 days in The News & Observer about the creation of the position for Easley in 2005. She was hired to direct a speakers series at $80,000 per year. Last summer, she accepted a five-year contract worth $850,000. The raise came with an expanded role to include the formation of a public safety leadership center.

Easley has defended her job, saying she was uniquely qualified for it. She has refused
numerous interview requests from The N&O in recent months.

Reporting has shown that Easley was first hired in May 2005 by Larry Nielsen, then the interim NCSU provost about to be replaced. N.C. State was conducting public interviews with four other candidates for the provost’s job when Nielsen received a résumé from Easley, created a position in the provost’s office, waived a job search and hired her.

For months, officials have said Nielsen acted alone. But university trustee McQueen Campbell, a longtime friend of Easley and former Gov. Mike Easley, told UNC system President Erskine Bowles last week that he played a role in the hiring.

Campbell, a real-estate broker, businessman and private pilot, flew the governor often while Mike Easley was a candidate and at other times. Campbell also got help from the Easley administration about the time the first lady’s job was created.

The permits for a real-estate deal Campbell was involved in came through in what Campbell said was nearly half the normal time. He credited political contacts he would not reveal. And the Division of Motor Vehicles set aside two investigations involving a vehicle inspection station Campbell owned.

Nielsen resigned as provost Thursday, saying it was best for N.C. State. He said he was not subjected to improper influence about Easley's job.

Campbell gave up his position as an NCSU trustee Friday after Bowles sought his resignation. Campbell denied wrongdoing; but, according to Bowles, he acknowledged he let Oblinger know that Easley wanted to change jobs before she was hired at the university. Oblinger says he doesn’t recall the exchange.

On Monday, Bowles said Mary Easley should also resign. He said officials are awaiting a response.

Bowles also said university officials could act on Easley’s position when they write the university budget for the coming fiscal year. Given the difficult budget times, he said, centers such as the one Easley is charged with creating are under scrutiny at all campuses.

Despite the existence of a contract, Bowles said he would not support paying Easley any money to quit her job.

"I wouldn't recommend any buyout," Bowles said. "I don't know the ultimate legal consequences, but it is in the best interest of the university for her to resign."

Bowles said he does not expect to seek other resignations. If and when Easley resigns, "that will be the end of it," he said.

GOP legislators poised

Republicans in the legislature said they were ready to craft budget language to cut Easley’s position.

"If Mrs. Easley does not voluntarily leave her post, I will ask Gov. Perdue and legislative Democrats to join me in supporting legislation to eliminate state funding for her position," said Phil Berger, the Republican leader in the Senate.

"The scandal surrounding her hiring has cast a shadow on the university," Berger said.

Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the UNC system’s Board of Governors, said Oblinger has done "the right thing" in asking for Easley's resignation.

"At a time when the university's focus has to be on budget cuts, the Mary Easley story has been distracting and is really eclipsing the important work of the university," Gage said. The
Board of Governors sets policy for all state universities. "She's one of the most capable women in the state," Gage said, "but we're no longer debating her capabilities. It's gone beyond that."

Separately, state and federal investigators are examining the use of cars, air travel and other issues surrounding the Easley family. On Saturday, the former governor said in a statement he is "comfortable" with any federal review.

Mike Easley, a Democrat who left office in January after two terms, now works at the McGuireWoods law firm in Raleigh. He has declined to give interviews.

A statement from Easley's campaign lawyer late Monday said the campaign is working to "bring these matters to an appropriate resolution."

Staff Writer Eric Ferreri contributed to this report.

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**Special NCSU trustees' meeting**

The N.C. State University Board of Trustees has called a special meeting via telephone Wednesday night to select a chairman to replace businessman McQueen Campbell.

Campbell is stepping down after admitting that before former First Lady Mary Easley was hired by the university in 2005 he told Chancellor James Oblinger that she was seeking a new job.

Campbell's term ends in just a few weeks, but the board's bylaws require it to have a chairman, said Keith Nichols, a university spokesman.

After the current term ends July 14, Nichols said, the board will have to again elect a chairman to a full term.

**Related Content**

- The News & Observer's 'Executive Privilege' series on former Gov. Mike Easley

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Biden urges grads to shape history

BY JIM MORMILL, The Charlotte Observer

WINSTON-SALEM - Vice President Joe Biden told Wake Forest graduates Monday that history is theirs to change.

"As corny as it sounds, this really is your moment, he said. "History is yours to bend."

Wearing a black gown as he stood in front of Wait Chapel, Biden spoke to 1,500 graduates and thousands more clustered on a brisk morning on the school quad. He urged graduates "to take history into your own hands and write it larger."

"Folks, we're either going to fundamentally change the course of history or fail the generations that come after us, because change will occur. Nonaction is action," Biden said. "...You graduates give hope that we will not only survive today but thrive tomorrow. We're either going to fundamentally revive our economy, or we're going to fall behind."

Biden told graduates to imagine a future of energy independence, affordable health care and opportunity.

"Imagine ... a country that once again leads the world by the power of our example," he said, "and not merely by the example of our power."

Biden's visit caps a flurry of recent administration visits to the state. Last month, he went to Eastern North Carolina with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to highlight how the area would benefit from federal stimulus money. President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, also have come to the state, which last November went Democratic for the first time in 32 years.

"It's absolutely political," said GOP consultant Doug Heye, a North Carolina native. "This is part of a political strategy that targets the state. It's very smart, but it's definitely political."

In a column for Politico last week, Heye wrote that Biden's visits suggest Democrats are
trying to capitalize on Obama's 14,000-vote victory and keep the state blue in 2012. He said that if Obama were to carry North Carolina again, "re-election is virtually assured."

A poll last week by Raleigh's Public Policy Polling found that 51 percent of North Carolinians approve Obama's job performance, while 41 percent disapprove.

Biden called the speaking invitation "a bittersweet honor." That's because the speaker was to have been the late NBC newsman Tim Russert, who died a year ago next month.

Biden described how he and Russert shared similar working class backgrounds and became friends a few years after Biden arrived in Washington.

"Tim Russert enlivened and enriched our debate," Biden said. "He gave it meaning. He gave it substance. Along the way, he made all of our lives richer."

Journalist Al Hunt, a Wake Forest graduate, announced a posthumous honorary degree for Russert that was presented to his widow, writer Maureen Orth.

"He carried his fame so lightly," Hunt said, "and carried the responsibilities of a journalist so seriously."

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Man Is Shot Near Harvard Dorm

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 11:15 p.m. ET

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) -- A man has been shot near a Harvard University dormitory.

The man was wounded in his stomach Monday outside an entrance to Kirkland House, one of a dozen dorms on the university's campus in the Boston suburb of Cambridge. He's hospitalized in stable condition.

Police say it's unclear if he's a student. House Master Tom Conley tells The Harvard Crimson daily student newspaper the man doesn't live in the undergraduate dorm.

A witness tells the Crimson the victim appeared to be "college-aged" and was bleeding but conscious.

Dorm administrators have e-mailed students about the shooting and asked them to cooperate with police. No arrest has been made.

Harvard says the shooting appears to be an "isolated" incident. It says Kirkland House residents should remain there but other members of the university community can resume normal activities.
May 18, 2009

Psst! Need the Answer to No. 7? Click Here.

By LISA W. FODERARO

In the old days, college students might turn to classmates for help during all-night cram sessions before final exams. Now their study buddies are just as likely to be commercial Web sites with step-by-step solutions to textbook problems, copies of previous exams, reams of lecture notes, summaries of literary classics, and real-time help with physics, math and computer science problems.

"It's a backup," said Chris O'Connor, a pre-med sophomore at Columbia University who relies on a popular site, Cramster, to unravel the mysteries of complex math and science problems. "Many professors who return homework won't tell you how you got it wrong — just that it's wrong. This way you can complete the feedback process, which is essential to learning."

But as companies with playful names like Cramster, Course Hero, Koofer and SparkNotes are transforming the way undergraduates like Mr. O'Connor study, some professors and ethicists are questioning whether such Web sites encourage cheating and undermine the mental sweat equity of day-to-day learning by seducing students with ready-made solutions and essays.

On Course Hero, for example, students can type in a college name and course number to unearth the previous semester's particle physics final exam. They can find examples of research papers on, say, the causes of World War I. For homework, Cramster supplies step-by-step solutions to problems in more than 200 college-level math and science textbooks.

"There are professors who don't change their questions from semester to semester, and one of the things that this raises is how problematic that is," said Teddi Fishman, director of the Center for Academic Integrity, which is part of the Rutland Institute for Ethics at Clemson University. "Part of what's valuable about homework is that it gives you a safe space to practice and struggle."

But defenders of the Web sites — including some professors — say that teachers should not be recycling exams and that students who simply copy homework solutions hurt themselves at exam time. Many of the documents posted on the Web sites, like term papers and prior exams, have long been available to members of fraternities and sororities, which archive them (this has also been a source of complaints in the past).

David A. Sachs, an associate dean in the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace University who is joining an advisory panel for Cramster, said in an interview that colleges need to rethink practices in light of the Internet age.

"As faculty, we need to be better educated about what the possibilities are, and the truth is you can't put the genie back in the bottle," Dr. Sachs said. "If Cramster and all these companies disappeared tomorrow, you could still do
a Google search and find what you’re looking for in five minutes.”

David J. Kim, president and chief executive officer of Course Hero, which started early last year, said the premise of the company was to “bring the concept of study groups” online. “A student may know one or two people in their class,” he said, “but we wanted to provide an online community where you could connect with students from different colleges studying the same subject.”

Course Hero offers three million student-submitted items from 400,000 courses at more than 3,500 institutions, including lecture notes, study guides, presentations, lab results, research papers, essays and homework assignments. Users who submit such items can navigate the site free of charge; others pay a monthly fee. Mr. Kim declined to say how many users had registered beyond “hundreds of thousands” and said they included more than 1,000 professors using the site to refresh their teaching materials.

Mr. Kim also said that Course Hero, which warns users against cheating and plagiarism, had honored a handful of requests from professors to remove certain notes. “They felt that some material was released only to their students and they didn’t want it disseminated beyond that,” he said.

Cramster, which went online in 2003, has carved out a different niche, with many of its 500,000 registered users visiting the site specifically for solutions to math and science textbook problems. Solutions to odd-numbered problems are available free, but college students must pay $9.95 a month to see the even-numbered ones (solutions to even-numbered problems are not available for high school textbooks).

Students can also post queries to Cramster’s 3,000 “experts,” who are rated for quality (just like sellers on eBay) and earn “karma” points for rewards like laptops, iPods and gift cards. An expert, according to Aaron Hawkey, Cramster’s chief executive officer, could be a brilliant high school senior bound for MIT, a professor or a retired engineer. In addition, the company has in-house staff members who moderate the question-and-answer board.

“There’s no doubt our site can be abused,” Mr. Hawkey acknowledged. “Let’s say I have a take-home test. We had one incident where someone posted a question on our site that was the same one on an exam.”

He said that Cramster had banned individual students from the site after receiving complaints from professors. “We know that some professors don’t think their students should see the step-by-step solutions,” he said. “But homework is worth such a small percentage of your grade. And Cramster can’t take the exam for you.”

Some professors counter that sites like Cramster have helped devalue homework. “For large undergraduate entry-level classes, it’s something you need to take into account and have a strategy for,” said Kyle Cranmer, an assistant professor of physics at New York University. “One way of coping is not to weigh the homework as much, or you try and adjust the problems.”

William H. Kinney, an assistant professor of physics at the State University at Buffalo, Cramster’s biggest source of users in New York, said that for students who have genuinely wrestled with homework problems, the ability to identify where they got stuck — by taking a peek at Cramster’s step-by-step solutions, for example — can be a “great thing.” But he finds some of the items available on the site disturbing.

“Students have projects where they’re supposed to write a piece of code,” he said. “One thing the Cramster computer science message board has in large quantities is functional computer codes that you can cut and paste.
In the computer science department here, that would be serious academic misconduct."

Ultimately, though, Professor Kinney said the system is "self-policing." "If the students just copy down answers to the homework, they will not do well on the exam," he said. "The students who behave ethically will do well."

Eric Jongsma, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at SUNY Buffalo, said he had found Cramster invaluable for extra practice and problem sets, but learned the hard way not to abuse it, after getting lazy last fall and turning to the site to "just plug in the numbers" for physics homework.

"When it came to the test, I tried to learn multiple chapters at the last minute," he said. "I failed the test."
Here Are the Bright Spots for Scholarships

Despite the recession, 3 types of college students might get more and bigger scholarships this fall

By Kim Clark
Posted May 14, 2009

Some of the biggest and most important scholarship programs will be handing out more free money to more people this fall. Unfortunately, the recession, state budget crunches, and declines in the stock market are, in some cases, overwhelming the improvements and are making college less affordable. But many kinds of students do have some good news to look forward to this fall.

Low-income students:

The good news: The amount of money you can get from the single biggest college grant program in the country, the federal government's Pell grant, will jump dramatically this fall. The maximum grant, which generally goes to students with incomes below about $20,000 a year, will rise by $619, or 13 percent, to $5,350. Those from families earning enough so that they qualify for only the minimum Pell grant—typically those with annual incomes of about $45,000 to $50,000—will get $976 this fall, up from $890 last year.

Better yet, the government plans to give out almost 1 million more Pell grants this fall.

Low-income students can also look forward to more Pell increases in the future. The government plans to add about $200 to the maximum Pell grant in the fall of 2010. And after that, President Obama has proposed raising the Pell maximum automatically so it slightly outpaces inflation every year.

Not only will low-income students get more Pell money, but the government will broaden the standard to make more students eligible for the grants.

Last year, only those undergraduates whose Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) revealed that they could afford an estimated family contribution (EFC) of $4,041
or less received a Pell grant—a total of 6.1 million students.

For this fall, the government will award at least some Pell grant money to any student with an EFC of $4,617 or less. That's about 7 million undergraduates.

And if Obama's plan goes through, in 2010, the government expects to award a Pell to any student with an EFC of $5,273—which is expected to total about 7.6 million undergraduates.

A few other scholarship programs have also expanded during the recession. The Denver-based Daniels Fund awarded 263 scholarships in 2009, up from 256 last year, for example.

**The bad news:** Unfortunately, many schools are raising their prices more than the increase in the Pell. The University of Mary Washington, a public university in Fredericksburg, Va., recently announced that its costs would jump by $760 in the fall. The costs of many private colleges have grown even more. Students who get no aid and thus pay the full cost of Stanford University, for example, will have to come up with $48,843 this fall, at least $1,600 more than last year.

In addition, many smaller grant programs for needy students, such as those offered by some nonprofits, states, and colleges, have had to reduce their payouts this year. The Ron Brown Scholar Program, for example, offered just 12 $10,000-a-year scholarships for freshmen entering this fall, down from 20 in previous years. And the Central Scholarship Bureau of Maryland lost about $500,000 in scholarship money in the recession and will be able to hand out only $1 million this summer.

Meanwhile, the recession has created so many newly needy students that almost all scholarship programs have been deluged with applications. While many government scholarships, such as the Pell grant, are guaranteed to all who qualify, the odds of getting other kinds of scholarships have worsened dramatically in many cases. The Daniels fund awarded seven extra scholarships this year, but it saw the number of applicants jump by about 1,000, to 2,009. The Central Scholarship Bureau of Maryland says that budget cuts, combined with a 70 percent increase in applications, mean that instead of helping about one fourth of its applicants, it may be able to help only 1 in 10.
Finally, President Obama's ambitious long-term plan to raise Pell grants automatically hasn't been enacted yet. It currently depends upon funding projected to be reaped from a controversial plan to reform student lending.

**Good students:**

**The good news:** Many schools, especially the richer elite schools, are actually increasing the amount of aid they will hand out. Brown University stepped its financial aid up by 11 percent, or more than $7 million, this year. Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., raised its financial aid budget by 12 percent, or $3.5 million, this year. Colgate University is putting an extra $2 million into financial aid this fall, an increase of more than 5 percent.

**The bad news:** Many of the biggest and most popular merit aid programs, such as Florida's Bright Futures and West Virginia's Promise scholarships, may no longer be enough to cover full tuition and fees at public universities. To save money, many legislatures are proposing capping the amount they will hand out to students with good grades, while letting state universities raise tuition dramatically.

**Adult students:**

**The good news:** A growing number of schools are offering scholarships to laid-off workers, such as the 73 colleges offering Bernard Osher "re-entry" grants for working-age adults who want to finish their undergraduate degrees. And President Obama has proposed creating more and bigger retraining scholarships as well as allowing those collecting unemployment benefits to attend school. In addition, the Department of Education has urged all college financial aid officers to be more flexible and give recently laid-off students more of a chance to qualify for other federal aid, such as Pell grants.

**The bad news:** There is no requirement that colleges be flexible, and scholarships for the laid-off are comparatively rare, as yet.

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Tough go for new college graduates

Chris Lavender
May 17, 2009 - 2:47PM

All the pomp and circumstance traditionally on display at college commencements has been replaced now with graduates frantically searching for employment.

The economy continues to slump as layoffs, furloughs and pay cuts dominate the employment landscape. Lenoir County's unemployment rate is near 12 percent, but it has leveled off after a year-long ascent to double digits.

Budget deficits persist and home foreclosures continue statewide as the global financial industry continues to experience uncertainty.

Nearly 760 Lenoir Community College students said goodbye to each other Thursday during the college's commencement. Today, many recent college graduates are competing with more experienced workers for the same jobs.

LCC graduate's job search and expectations

"I am excited and nervous about my job search," LCC graduate Jessica Meadows said. "It's a good nervous."

Meadows earned an associate degree in graphic arts and imaging technology from LCC. She moved to Duplin County at age 14 from Salt Lake City, Utah and graduated from East Duplin High School during 2007.

When she began her educational career at LCC during 2007, the economy hadn't declined and she thought her prospects were good for landing a job upon graduation.

Those prospects aren't panning out, though.

"The job choices are a little limited," Meadows said. "It's hard for a lot of graduates to find work."

Meadows said she hopes to find a job as a graphic designer and enjoys screen-printing. She hasn't ruled out attending a four-year university in the future.

"I really like Appalachian State University's graphic arts department," Meadows said.

For now, Meadows will continue her job search. She said she hopes to work and live in North Carolina.

In the past, employers had visited LCC to review graphic art students' portfolios during their
final semester. In her final semester, Meadows said there were no company visits for graphic art students hoping to show off their skills and gain employment.

Despite fewer choices, Meadows said a Kinston-based graphic arts company - Advantage Printing - has offered her an opportunity to do some freelance work.

"A lot of my friends are in the same situation," Meadows said. "A few of them have jobs but not in the industry they went to school for."

Stress and anxiety coincide with ECU graduate's employment options

As with Meadows, East Carolina University 2009 graduate and Tarboro native Catherine Potter is living a new reality.

"At this point, I am not very hopeful," said Potter, a J.H. Rose graduate who is currently living in Greenville. "I've been looking for a job since December and I've only been called for one interview."

Potter earned her Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Anthropology from ECU on May 9. At first, Potter limited her job search to full-time jobs but after realizing how tough the job market is, she has turned her focus to part-time job opportunities as well.

"At graduation, I talked to a couple of people graduating in my department," Potter said. "Many of them were doing temp work until something better came along or are going to grad school."

Potter said her job search has proven to be stressful but plans to stay focused. ECU's career center has provided some assistance for the new graduate.

"I'm not sure any university can ever really prepare you for a job search but ECU has a really great career center," Potter said. "They reviewed my resume and gave me information on various careers I was considering."

During her senior year at ECU, Potter said she was ready to leave school.

"I've actually had a lot of anxiety since school ended," Potter said. "It is pretty ironic. I wanted to get out as soon as possible and now that I'm out and am faced with the reality that I have no job or money and probably won't get one soon, as well as a surplus of student loans, I'm not very relieved."

ECU graduate succeeds in job hunt

It's not all gloom and doom for the Class of 2009 college graduates.

ECU graduate Elise Phillips accepted a job offer Friday from Charlotte-based Advantage Promotions. Phillips earned a Bachelor of Science in Communications on May 9. Phillips
was born in Campo-Grande, Brazil before moving to Jacksonville.

Phillips graduated in 2005 from Jacksonville White Oak High School. She currently lives in Greenville but will move to Greensboro in about a month where she will begin her sports marketing training. Phillips also plans to also get married in June.

"It's been a whirlwind since graduation," Phillips said. "I have been looking for a job since last October. The competition for jobs is intense."

Phillips said several of her friends have decided to accept unpaid internships or continue their education in graduate school, hoping the economy will improve when they are finished.

It's difficult all over.

Recent college graduates will encounter more companies with hiring freezes and budget cuts this year, limiting the number of graduates finding work.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, college graduates with degrees in accounting or engineering are more likely to find work in their selected fields of study.

The NACE reported that projected hiring for the Class of 2009 will show minimal increases, as compared to last year’s graduates.

A survey conducted by NACE showed that 19.7 percent of the 2009 college graduates polled who had applied for a job actually secured a job upon graduation.

In 2007, 51 percent of the new college graduates who participated in the survey had secured a job before graduation. The number declined in 2008, when just 26 percent of the new college graduates said they had secured a job.

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