Night Lights
A city by night has a special charm all its own, worker with promises of rest or excitement, and Columbia is no exception. Here, lights within beckon to the weary traveler or the restless

USC legislative intern program commend by state legislators

By Brian Duncan
Gamecock Staff Writer

The first group of participants in the University of South Carolina's Legislative Intern Program has received a commendation from the S.C. General Assembly in a resolution adopted May 30.

The resolution commended the intern program for its "proven benefits to the legislators and researchers so ably assisted," according to USC Information Services.

Jill Pylant, a government service specialist with the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service and acting program coordinator, said the first class of 10 interns, who serve for one semester primarily as research aides for senate and house committees and legislative staff, were appointed to the new program this past January.

ACCORDING to Pylant, some duties similar to a page's are involved, but the majority of the work involves research. An example of the work conducted last spring dealt with the Criminal Procedures Act where researchers went through existing codes of law, looking for elements already contained and those not covered previously for clarification in the new law, Pylant said.

A creation of USC President James B. Holderman, who was responsible for a similar program of legislative internships while a professor at the University of Illinois, the USC-funded program was proposed as a part of the Carolina Plan, a five-year master plan of programs at USC, and it provides students with an educational opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge and experience in state government, according to Information Services.

Pylant said positions for both full time, 40-hour-a-week as well as half-time, 20-hour-a-week participants were available last spring, with full-time interns receiving compensation of $600 a month. Part-time interns received $200 a month.

BECAUSE the General Assembly is not in session during the fall, only six half-time interns were appointed for the autumn months, Pylant said, although as many as 12 positions are anticipated for next spring, depending on budgetary considerations.

All interns appointed for the fall are: Barbara Pace, a graduate student in public health administration; Beth Peral, a senior English major; Lester Bates, a junior in business administration; David Murphy, a Ph.D. candidate in psychology; Rosalyn Henderson, an undergraduate political science major and Charles Martin, a junior broadcast journalism major.

All interns are required to take one course involving legislative programs, as well as one dealing with the intern program itself, Pylant said. Both courses carry 3 hours credit. Part-time participants may take additional courses upon approval from the faculty adviser assigned them, she said.

THE DEPARTMENT of Governmental and International Studies co-sponsors the program along with the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service, according to Pylant, who described her role as coordinator of a "liaison between the university and the state legislature."

Although the interns are considered graduate assistants, the program is funded by USC and college credit is given, Pylant said, "We (the university) do not supervise the students on the job. We work closely with them and help where we can, but they work for the General Assembly." She added the students are expected to be at the State House during working hours.

All policy decisions governing this program are decided by a committee made up of seven directors of areas involved within the co-sponsoring departments, according to Pylant. The members are: chairman and executive director of the government department; the chairman and graduate director of the international studies department; the MPA (Master of Public Administration) program director and the legislation intern director; and the director of the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service.

APPLICATIONS may be submitted by any undergraduate with a GPR of 3.00 or better, or any graduate student in good standing, Pylant said. Three letters of recommendation from faculty members and non-relatives and a written statement telling why the student desires an internship and how it would relate to their careers are also required in order to be granted an interview, Pylant said. The final selection is determined by competitive basis of merit.

Pylant said any USC student can apply for an internship, but to serve, one must be at least a junior. Applications may be obtained by letter or phone from the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service.

The application deadline for spring positions is Nov. 1, and for fall, Pylant said early applications are encouraged, especially in the spring because, "We try to make the decision before they leave for the summer."

Air conditioning

From: The GAMECOCK

Bousbousis revealed copies of two memos requesting installation of air conditioning, one dated July 7, 1977, and the other dated Nov. 9, 1977. The first was directed to Otis' office from Bousbousis, and the second was addressed to W.S. Turbeville, physical plant supervisor and renovations committee member, from Ken Brands, assistant director of Russell House.

Both memos specifically mention excessive heat causing repair problems and employee discomfort.

The November memo reads in part: "The theatre projection booth for the Russell House is presently not air-conditioned and as a result we are experiencing certain problems. The booth is used seven days per week and during periods of hot weather it becomes extremely uncomfortable for the projectionist to remain in the booth for a five hour period of time. A larger problem is the damage to the equipment caused by excessive heat. We have had extensive motor repairs the past two years."

"THE PROGRAM Area has been sort of a problem area," Otis acknowledged. Concerning the failure to provide adequate air conditioning, Otis remarked, "we've been fighting that battle for a long time. I guess they (renovations committee) must weigh the priorities all over the university."

"I AM UNDER the assumption that the university will pick up the tab (for renovations including air conditioning, and expansion of the Gamecock and radio station WUSC)," Otis said. "I don't want to spend RH funds if the university is going to pick up the tab."

RH funding is provided through the use of student activity fees. A university union employee presented a copy of a purchase requisition showing that parts for "one night's blowout" cost $1,128.32. "That does not include the two other amplifiers that have been blown out in the past two-and-a-half weeks," the employee added.

Bousbousis said repair expenses have totaled more than it would have cost (an estimated $2,000) to install air conditioning at the original date of renovation.

"THAT IS just inexusable to leave the projection booth un-air-conditioned," Bousbousis said.

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