High tech auto classes set

A brochure containing information on Oakland Community College's high-tech Autocad classes is now available.

Fall classes begin Monday, Sept. 14. Winter classes begin Monday, Jan. 11.

Sections include beginning, advanced and 3-D Autocad, customizing autocad, autoslip programming and advanced autocad working. Classes meet 6-10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Additional information is available by calling the OCC Business and Professional Institute, 540-1511. The Auburn Hills campus is at 2900 Featherstone Raod, two miles east of the Pontiac Silverdome.

College job help for old, young grads

BY WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

Back to school takes on new meaning in today's troubled job market.

Thousands of students are returning to college as they pursue advanced degrees or alternative majors, all while awaiting that all-important job offer.

But there's a way to make those old college ties work for you without stepping back into the classroom.

Many area colleges — Oakland University and the University of Michigan-Dearborn among them — offer continuing job counseling to grads.

"We have about 200 alumni on our active list, but I'd say another 200-300 come in a year and don't register with us," said Bob Thomas of Oakland University.

It doesn't matter when or if you graduated, either.

TOUGH TIMES

"You could have been here when we opened in 1964," said Jean Pike of Schoolcraft College, Livonia.

Oakland Community College goes the others one better, offering counseling to all county residents.

"We view ourselves as a community organization and that is a part of it," OCC spokesman George Cartsonis said.

Now that you know where to look, what kind of a job should you look for?

How about health care.

"Health care, physical therapy, nursing, medical technology, they're all strong," Thomas said.

The trend carries over to all area universities and community colleges.

"Nursing is currently our most popular major," said Lou Brohl, admissions director at Madonna University. Almost one-third of all students at Madonna's campus in Livonia are enrolled in nursing programs.

Nor has high tech cooled off.

"There's still a big demand for people with computer skills," Pike said.

Business related majors are also a safe bet, according to OCC's Cartsonis.

"There's always going to be a demand for accountants," he said. "There's always going to be a demand for people with business skills."

For potential engineers, the news isn't as good.

"We used to have automakers come in here and do block hirings, but those days are over — at least for now," Thomas said. "Ford is still hiring, but on a much smaller scale. GM and Chrysler aren't doing much of anything."

College and university spokesman, however, advise job-seekers to be flexible in developing job skills.

"We've heard from employers who are looking for people with specific skills, but not necessarily a degree in the field," said UM-D placement director Janet LaRose.

That also means being flexible in job expectations.

"A common stumbling block for students is they see salaries alone as a measure of success," La Rose said. "Sure, you can brag about your salary, but we tell them to look at benefits, too."

Of course, that advice only pertains to those still lucky enough to have a job choice. For others, the advice is simple: A job beats no job.

"Even a part-time job can build your experience," LaRose said.

In the meantime, you can always go back to college.

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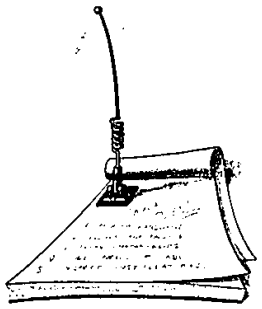
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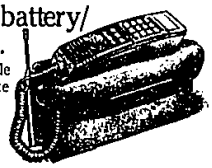
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