Peer Advising:  
A Little Help From Friends

By Alicia Austin

Do you have class scheduling problems and frustrations? Questions about professors' teaching styles and difficulty levels? Concerns of fulfilling major requirements? All of these questions and more may be answered individually through the new Peer Advising Program of CNR.

With the incredible success of the peer advising program in the College of HASS, this winter it was extended to all USU colleges. Funded through USU Academic Services, the program employs a certain number of student advisors based on the enrollment in each college. CNR employs two peer advisors, Laura Price and Joanna Garrard. In addition to six hours of basic training required of all new advisors, they must attend weekly training sessions, be of junior or senior status, full time students, and have a minimum GPA of 3.3.

The peer advising program was designed to provide academic advising between students. "Some people feel more comfortable talking to someone their own age," commented Laura Price. It also seeks to alleviate many of the pressures on academic advisors in departments with high enrollment, for a common frustration to students is not finding an advisor available to assist them.

Some of the major roles of peer advisors include: assisting in fulfillment of major and general education requirements and class scheduling problems, i.e. picking new classes and/or times to fit them into schedules; provide personal insights on courses and professors; give information regarding the allowable number of pass/fail classes and available job opportunities.

Since winter quarter marks the beginning of this new option in the College of Natural Resources, peer advising is a relatively new concept and the potential user may be somewhat hesitant to participate. However, students who have already taken advantage of this service have found it to be very helpful. Price said students have come into the Academic Service Center stressed and worried about various problems but leave feeling "there is actually light somewhere."

The importance of traditional academic advising via professors cannot be over emphasized as integral to academic success. However, peer advising may offer valuable supplemental assistance. Both Laura and Joanna enthusiastically invite all CNR students to take advantage of this service.

Advising hours are Mondays at 1:00-5:00; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 1:00-2:30; and Fridays from 1:30-5:00 in the CNR Academic Service Center, NR 112.
A New Way To Recycle

by Mike Sawyer

The CNR Student Council is very interested in helping CNR students find opportunities to be good stewards of our natural resources. With this in mind, we have come up with two new ways for students to recycle certain types of paper. It gets better. You don't just get satisfaction from recycling and sparing a tree its life, but your contribution will help other students in their scholastic pursuits.

What is this great new recycling program? Well, I will tell you.

Undergraduate Test Bank - Most of you probably were not aware that there is a filing cabinet in the CNR club office that contains old exams from classes required for CNR majors. The problem is that most of the exams are old—really old. Jenn Farrar found an old silviculture exam from Doc Daniels class that her father took when he attended USU. The CNR Student Council is presently updating the list of CNR required classes and trying to locate exams from within the last 2 years. Most of these exams will come from students, so you won't only get to see what types of questions your professors have asked in the past, but some of the exams may actually contain an occasional right answer.

We hope to have this all put together by early February. If you saved any of your tests from any CNR required classes, and want to recycle them, we would be happy to include them in the file. Just black out your name, put the course number and professors name on the exam, and put them in the box outside the club office.

Graduate School Bulletins - Graduating and don't have a job? Does the thought of not having discount tickets to the local college athletics team give you chills? Are you just plain masochistic? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should look into going to graduate school. To help you in your search for the right school, we are putting together a file of bulletins and prospectuses from natural resources related graduate programs from across the USA. This information will either be stored in the CNR club office or in the Quinney Library. Anyhow, if you have graduate school information (please, only graduate school information that is related to natural resources), you can recycle it. Just place it in the box outside the door to the CNR club office. We will have this file together by early February (just after the 1996 graduate school...
LET THE JOB HUNT BEGIN!

by Jenn Farrar, CNR Senator

Welcome to 1996, CNR folks! Along with a new picture on the calendar comes the annual opportunity to start anew, expand career aspirations, and delve into unchartered territory: apply for a job! Whether you’re looking for a temporary position to last the summer, or the “life-long, year-round” type, this is the time of year to start searching.

As you would expect, there are quite a few choices out there, but employers don’t always make it easy for you to find the job of your dreams, let alone get hired. My advice is, have confidence and be persistent! Jack Ward Thomas, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service once told me: “Look upon the opposition of a bad job-market as a challenge, not a brick wall. You aren’t entitled to a job merely because you’ve got a diploma, you’ve got to compete with many for a limited number of job opportunities. Don’t let that threaten you—let it motivate you!”

As you pass through the NR atrium, take a glance at bulletin boards outside department offices, and at the job clip-boards adjacent to Maureen’s office and NR 105. These are good places to start if you aren’t sure what kinds of positions or what types of companies, agencies, universities, or other paycheck-awarding entities hire people like us. Each place specifies what sort of procedure you have to go through in order to apply. Some required materials include: a resume, college transcripts, letters of reference, federal or state application forms, and sometimes special emphasis in particular fields of study. Any volunteer or paid experience that applies to the position is very helpful, as are computer, writing, and communication skills.

All of this job-acquiring mumbo-jumbo is a lot to absorb in one sitting, especially if you haven’t been through it in years past. Now you have an idea of where to start, but if you need additional advice, help, comfort, guidance......

Here are some people to see:
Maureen Wagner NR 112 797-2448
Aaron Poe NR 112 797-2448
Jenn Farrar NR 212 797-1270

Or consult your department office. Also, watch for flyers advertising for Utah State University’s 1996 Job Fair, coming in mid-February. It will be held in the Taggart Student Center’s Sunburst Lounge. On your mark, get set.....APPLY! (Good luck job-hunting!)

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CNR NEWSLETTER

Editor: Danielle Slaughter
Assistant Editor: Alicia Austin
Advisor: Mike Kuhns
Sponsor: Jenn Farrar

The purpose of the CNR Newsletter is to inform students of activities, events, and pertinent issues in the college. If you have suggestions or contributions, please contact Danielle in NR 212 or e-mail SLCT2.
FROM MAUREEN'S OFFICE....

SCHOLARSHIPS: Apply now! Applications are due for CNR and departmental Scholarships on February 26. Students are encouraged to apply. Not all scholarships were awarded last year because not enough people applied.

SUMMER JOB SEMINAR:
This seminar is for students interested in natural resources jobs for the 1996 summer field season. All are welcome, but the seminar is geared toward CNR students without prior experience. Job workshops are held every Thursday in January from 3:30-4:00 p.m. in NR 202. Topics to be covered include types of jobs available, how and when to apply, and assistance available through the CNR Academic Service Center (NR 112).

PEER ADVISING: Peer advisors are available: Monday from 1:00-5:00 p.m., TWH from 1:00-2:30 p.m., and Friday from 1:30-5:00 p.m. in NR 112.

NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE
If you have a moment, please answer these questions. It will help me to make a better newsletter for everyone!
When you're done, take this slip to the Club Office (NR 212) and drop it in the newsletter box (feel free to write on a larger piece of paper). Thanks! -Danielle, Editor P.S. Thank you to the two people who filled this out last quarter!

1. What is the best way to distribute the newsletter to people in the college?

2. What items are you interested to see in the CNR Newsletter? (colleges activities, feature articles, etc.)

3. Do you have any other suggestions? Are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? If so, how? Please include your name and number.