Jobs will be few for Dec. grads

May graduates are expected to land jobs easier than December graduates as economy recovers

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ

Students graduating in December will have a tougher time landing jobs than those who graduate in May, campus career experts and economists said.

Hiring has been weak this year. Though between 1,500 and 2,000 students interviewed with prospective employers who visited campus this fall, the recruiters offered fewer positions than in past years, said Bill Ruggirello, assistant director of Career Services.

This semester, 110 companies sent recruiters to campus.

“We’ve been in a period for the past year in which the economy has not been creating a lot of jobs,” said Marshall Vost, UA director of economic and business research. “In the Tucson and Phoenix markets, the job base has been declining.”

Although Vost said the job market has not recovered from the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and 1990s over-investment in technology due to fear of technological problems associated with the year 2000, he expects to see a better economic picture for May graduates.

“By midyear, we will see hiring again,” Vost said. “The job picture is going to brighten.”

He said that by 2004, the job market will be healthy again but will not equal the levels it reached a few years ago when high-tech companies offered graduates jobs, signing bonuses and new cars.

This year, a growing number of UA stu-

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Budget cuts prompt UA to ask faculty, staff to decorate work spaces without holiday lights

BY REBEKAH JAMPOLE

The UA is asking faculty and staff to find creative and less expensive alternatives to holiday lights this year because of recent budget cuts.

Facilities Management and Risk Management and Safety have asked faculty and staff to eliminate lights from their holiday decorations and replace them with more “creative” ornaments.

The UA spends about $1 million on electricity each month.

Some faculty members who usually put lights up in their offices said the money and energy that will be saved is worth the sacrifice.

“Of course, it’s a little disappointing, but we’ll have the same holiday spirit still,” said Jane Hickey, administration and athletics administrative assistant.

Since the UA is one of the larger consumers of energy in Tucson, all energy conservation efforts will not only benefit the UA, but the community as well, said Terry Sweet, Facilities Management’s senior staff technician.

“We set a standard for the community,” Sweet said. “They are constantly looking to us for ways to conserve energy and preserve natural resources.”

Facilities Management sent out a similar memo last year following the rolling power blackouts in California. This year, the recent announcement of a $18 million reduction in state funding to the campus has prompted Facilities Management to stress the need to conserve energy on campus.

“Energy conservation” has been