

# Grants given for Afro-American studies

Two NU graduates were awarded Ford Foundation grants enabling them to continue research in the field of Afro-American culture.

Ph.D. candidates Thomas R. Holland of Lincoln and Joseph Hrabá III of Ames, Iowa, were among the first in the nation to receive grants under this program, said James V. Drew,

assistant dean of the Graduate College.

Chosen by a committee of multi-racial scholars, Holland and Hrabá received one-year grants on the basis of their planned dissertations relating to minority studies.

Holland, an English instructor, will study the African traits in Afro-American culture as expressed in its formal and folk literature.

"A good deal of research is needed on cultural tradition," he said.

Holland added that his grant of \$1,400 will be used to finance trips to Atlanta, Harvard and possible New Orleans.

He received his bachelor degree in 1965 from NU and his masters in 1967.

Currently teaching at Iowa State, sociologist Hrabá will use his \$1,165 grant to study the socialization into black consciousness. He will attempt to locate some of the reasons for "Black pride" of Lincoln children and expand the inquiry to Black adolescents.

Hrabá earned his bachelor degree in 1965 and masters in 1968 from NU. He, like Holland, plans a career in college teaching.

As the grants don't provide for living expenses or salaries, both recipients will continue teaching while working on their dissertations.

These Foundation grants were available only to Ph.D. candidates in humanities or social sciences who had completed all course work and were at the point of preparing

dissertations dealing with an ethnic minority in the U.S., said Drew.

Each candidate submitted a budget request with a summary of his dissertation and a "letter of support" from his major professor, Drew explained.

"This is the first year these fellowships have been offered. It's a trial year for the program," Drew continued, "but I believe the Foundation intends to increase the number of grants in the future."

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