

Bring together...

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well-known in the community and have no problem finding teachers.

Persons often have heard about the program from friends and volunteer to teach courses, the coordinators said. KSU free university also advertises in the campus newspaper and talks to local clubs to find teachers skilled in particular areas, according to Maes. Both professional and nonprofessional persons teach courses, she said.

About 50 per cent of Heliotrope's teachers also are professional teachers. Many have their doctorates, Yoder said.

"The only real criteria for teaching at Heliotrope are an ability to communicate, a thorough knowledge of the subject and a lot of enthusiasm," she said.

Unlike the other free universities, the three-man Heliotrope staff interviews all potential teachers before the course descriptions appear in the catalog.

"We always have too many applicants wanting to teach the 150 or so courses our office feels it can handle," Yoder said. "Interviewing them beforehand is a good way of eliminating the real kooks who often cancel the courses they planned to teach at the last minute."

Teachers and students at all three free universities decide when and where classes will meet and for how long.

Teachers offer courses in everything from bread baking to how to open a small business, according to the coordinators.

Most classes meet an average of four to 10 weeks, but some meet only once, they said.

One free university course at KSU, a dinner club for married couples, met for over two years, Maes noted.

The KSU free university publishes a new catalog each fall, spring and

summer. In addition, a Christmas catalog is published, which offers courses for "people who want to make their gifts and have a non-commercial holiday," Maes said.

The number of courses offered in each catalog averages about 200. Student enrollment at any one time is about 500.

The Denver Free University, which offers about 120 courses in each quarterly catalog, averages about 800

students at one time, Smart said.

"However, Denver is a very transient community, and enrollment has varied all the way from 40 to 2,000."

The difference is partially due to catalog appearance, staff coordination and weather conditions on registration days, she said.

In its monthly catalog, Heliotrope offers about 150 courses, Yoder said.

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