

Biological station opens for study

UN-L Chancellor James H. Zumberge gazed across Keystone Lake from his vantage point on the southern shore.

"In five years," he said, "people will be beating a path here from throughout the region...not only from Nebraska."

Zumberge visited UN-L's new Biological Field Station about 10 miles northeast of Ogallala in Western Nebraska. He said he was impressed by both the environment—sloping, cedar-lined canyon walls, rippling waters and miles of sandhills on the far shore rolling away toward the horizon—and by the enthusiasm of faculty members

and the 28 students who are pioneering the first five-week session at the field station.

The University obtained a lease on the 40-acre site last spring, ending several years of search for a suitable location in Western Nebraska where students would be able to study plant and animal life in their natural settings.

Ecological merits

Gary Hergenrader, interim director of the School of Life Sciences, explained the scientific and ecological merits of the site.

Pointing to the western extremity of Keystone Lake, Hergenrader said "It's just a mile from here to Lake McConaughy. Together with

Keystone Lake, and the nearby Sandhills lakes we have a broad array of aquatic environments which in turn contain an abundant variety of fish and aquatic life, which limnologists and biologists will find of great interest.

"On the other side of the lake," Hergenrader continued, "there's a flood plain forest typical of many such forests found in Nebraska where many kinds of ecological studies can be conducted. And of course, there are thousands of acres of sandhills which can provide an enormous outdoor laboratory for the study of grassland ecology."

The new Biological Field Station was a former Girl Scout Camp. Ten cabins, each with room for four students, stand among the cedars along the canyon slopes. Nearer to the lake, a two-level building of wood and stone contains a mess hall and laboratories. Two larger cabins and a trailer provide housing for faculty members and their families.

Three courses are being taught during the first five-week session at the field station. The first session integrates studies in ichthyology, protozoology, and helminthology. Teachers are UN-L Professors Brent Nickol, John Janovy Jr., and John Lynch, (next session, starting July 14, Professors Robert Kaul, James Rosowski and

Eugene Martin will provide related course work in aquatic plants, phycology and aquatic microbiology.)

Begin at 7 a.m.

Students begin their day with breakfast at 7 a.m. It's prepared by a graduate student in home economics who has faced such challenges as preparing turtle stews and soup from a giant snapper brought back from the wilds by some of the students.

At 8 a.m., the "work-day" at the field station begins, and it usually lasts until 11 p.m. six days a week. Normal routine includes classroom lectures, field trips, laboratory work, an independent study project, and an occasional seminar with a guest lecturer.

Returning late in the afternoon from a field trip along a section of the South Platte River, students Rick Golbe, Mike McCarty and George Acker dumped about two dozen killifish (a small colorful minnow), into a tray in the laboratory on the lower level of the mess hall.

"We're studying the incidence of a protozoan parasite found in killifish taken from various points along the South Platte, explained Gobel, a senior zoology student from Beatrice. "So far, we've found a high incidence of the parasite, but can't say at this point why this should be so or whether it poses any threat to the killifish or other fish in the

river."

McCarty, a junior from Hastings, and Acker, a UN-L graduate who teaches at Ogallala Junior High School, agree with Goble that the field station is a bright new addition to UN-L's program in the Life Sciences.

"Beats formaldehyde"

"It beats the smell of formaldehyde. Here we can gather our own biological specimens for laboratory use, instead of relying on preserved specimens provided in the laboratories on campus," said one student.

Students noted the informal atmosphere that prevails at the camp. "We work closely with the faculty and it's been a good experience to get to know our teachers and their families on a personal basis," said a student.

Some students will be enrolled in classes during the second session at the field station. Others indicated they would come back next year if new courses are offered. Next year's program hasn't been decided, according to Hergenrader.

"I believe the field station is an excellent addition to the academic program of the University of Nebraska. Its use is bound to increase and the diversity of its programs will expand greatly as new possibilities for special studies are revealed," Hergenrader said.

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Musical program among UN-L Bicentennial plans

Activities and projects to celebrate the United States Bicentennial are being planned by several UN-L departments.

Honoring native Nebraska writer Willa Cather, the department of music will present a musical theater based on one of her short stories, "Eric Hermanson's Soul," music professor Robert Beadell said.

Beadell will compose the musical score and Virginia Faulkner, University Press editor, will write the words. Consultant for the musical theater will be English professor Bernice Slot.

Funds for the student-produced musical theater have been granted by the University Foundation, Beadell said.

The originator of the musical theater was John Moran, Music School Chairman.

New Course due

According to history professor James Rawley, the history department is observing the Bicentennial by offering a new course emphasizing the American Revolution. The course will be offered for the first time next fall for two to three credit hours.

A Bicentennial issue of Rawley's books, "Turning Points of the Civil War," will be published as another part of the history department's contribution to the Bicentennial.

Another Bicentennial book to be published by the University Press, said Dave Gilbert, press manager, will be a new edition of "A Pictorial History of Nebraska," by Bruce Nickoll. The revised issue, edited by Gilbert Savery, will bring Nebraska history up-to-date.

Funding for the revision of the pictorial history has been approved by the Bicentennial Committee. The book is scheduled by the Bicentennial Committee. The book is scheduled to be released September 1975 in both paper and cloth editions, said Gilbert.

Arboretum planned

A proposal to launch a statewide Nebraska arboretum has been submitted to the Bicentennial Committee, according to Dr. Dermot Coyne of the department of horticulture. The proposal indicates plans to plant trees throughout parks in the state for recreational beauty and research.

Media services at UN-L will also take part in the Bicentennial celebration.

As its contribution to the Bicentennial activities, the Nebraska Educational Television System (ETV) plans to release a series of films depicting life in the Nebraska plains, said Ron Hull, ETV's director.

Filming of ethnic festivals in Nebraska will be another Bicentennial project. Hull said the first of the festivals, the Fiesta DeVela in Scottsbluff is already completed.

Although plans are still incomplete, the University libraries and museums will set up special displays and exhibits of books and artifacts relating to the early Independence era, according to the assistant dean of libraries, Dean Waddel, and the director of museum, James Gunnerson.

U.S. eating habits change

(Continued from front page)

"Not everything can be done in schools but it is one way of introducing people to new things," Fox said.

"Better choices should be made available to people instead of expecting them to make the best choice," she said.

Profit hampers change

However, she said, this will be hard since business is built on profit and industries must

be convinced that they can make money before they will make a change.


"Nothing will change unless it can be translated into profit," Fox said.

"People usually thing of nutrition as dull and creativity is hard in teaching nutrition," Gerner said. She stressed that nutritionists need to work to make nutrition education exciting.

"Nutrition is boring

because of nutritionists," Fox said, adding that people always think of nutrition as boring although everyone is interested in food.

"We need to work on gearing nutrition education to peoples' interests," she said. "Food is more than nourishment—it means love, affection and approval to people and this must be recognized if changes are to be made."



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