

New student orientation for parents, too

About 100 new UNL students and their parents participate each day in a summer orientation program designed to answer questions and ease anxieties about entering a college environment, according to Mary Dean, orientation director.

New-student orientation began last week and is scheduled each Tuesday through Saturday through July 10. High school graduates and transfer students who have enrolled at UNL, and their parents are sent orientation invitations.

Fourteen UNL student hosts were selected earlier this year from about 250 applicants. Hosts were selected on the basis of their involvement in campus activities, their knowledge of UNL, their leadership abilities and their personality, Dean said.

The hosts present mini-sessions, answer questions, discuss concerns, conduct campus tours, take students through advising and drop and add to try to present an accurate picture of UNL life, according to hosts Steve Upton and Chakameh Habibi.

Mini-sessions offered

Besides asking about campus life, touring UNL and dining at Harper Hall cafeteria during their day on campus, orientation participants attend three mini-sessions conducted by student hosts.

Mini-sessions, each a 15-minute presentation, include financial planning, student activities, university services, living alternatives and student academic programs.

Several student hosts agreed that the questions students and parents have reflect their concerns about the university environment.

"Students' questions are generally about academics, housing, classrooms, and what's going on around campus," Upton said.

Impressed by size

"Some students are impressed by the size of Hamilton Hall's lecture room and the inside of residence halls. Some rumors are passed that dormitories are not too great," said host Earl Singh.

"A girl asked me where she could keep her horse when she came to Lincoln," said host Jim Carlson. "Someone had the same question last year, so we should be able to find an answer for her."

Parents, however, express greater concern about alcohol and drug problems on campus, as well as campus security.

"Lessening parents' anxieties also gives a new student more confidence," Singh said. "Dining at a dormitory cafeteria helps ease their worries about their children not eating well, and both parents and students seem relieved to know that there are smaller classrooms also."

Singh, who has been a student host for two years, said orientation exposes new students to the university environment and helps them to see that UNL's 20,000-student campus isn't as awesome as it might seem.

Students who participate in orientation are generally a little more confident than students who don't because they come in contact with the university earlier, said Barb Berry, orientation secretary.

Dean: Typewriting most usable skill

Since more students enroll in typing than in any other business education course, it is important that typing be taught well, according to Lawrence Erickson.

Erickson is assistant dean of graduate studies in education at the University of California in Los Angeles. He was a featured speaker at the 17th Annual Summer Conference on Business Education last week at UNL.

Erickson illustrated techniques of typewriting teaching to an audience of high school business education teachers. He illustrated teaching methods which he said over a semester result in typing of more than 100 words a minute.

"What the teacher does is the most important thing in a typing classroom," Erickson said. "Typing is more than a condition-response process."

Many teachers preach, "I want you to do this," or impeach their students with, "you're a failure," he said. Teaching attitudes such as this, along with parental pressures, are hindrances to developing typing skills, Erickson said.

"Important things to keep in mind when teaching how to typewrite are position, purpose, practice and goals," he said.

"For too long a time, teachers have been putting emphasis on things that aren't important. It's stupid to insist that students put their feet exactly where the book says to," he said, "because no one types with their feet."

Typing teachers should not grade papers without the student playing some part in evaluating what he has produced, Erickson said. The student learns better by being actively involved in the learning process, by having an intention to learn and by understanding how to learn, he said.

Lacing his talk with humor, Erickson said if formal education, except for the teaching of usable skills, was eliminated, typing teachers would be the only instructors remaining by 2000 A.D.



Student host Luann Tichy, far left, takes parents of new UNL students on a campus tour. Photo by Marcia Synovec

NEW-FERS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2-9

Lowenbräu

on tap

"Big Blue"

Pabst Blue Ribbon in a 32 oz. glass

OSCAR'S

up

stairs Gunnys 13 & Q