

University Studies offers alternative to boredom

By Deb Palmer

For UNL students who find their major course of study dull, Joan Wadlow, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, offers an "exciting and challenging" alternative.

The 80 students participating in University Studies are able to design their own major, choosing classes from various departments to fill their requirements. Work experience in a related field also counts as credits toward the student's degree, Wadlow said.

For example, a student working toward a University Studies degree in political science with an emphasis on management might take supporting courses in business administration, speech communication and psychology.

Work experience varies from one person to the next, Wadlow said. One student interested in history helped with the restoration of an historic building. Another student, who combined political science and history, was praised for his work in helping reconcile an Omaha labor union.

Rigid requirements

University Studies has the "most rigid set of requirements" at UNL, Wadlow said. Before a student is accepted

into the program, he must draw up a proposed course outline, which must be approved by a committee of six faculty members.

This committee eventually must approve all courses the student takes before he is awarded a University Studies degree, Wadlow explained.

A misconception on the part of faculty members is that University Studies is a way to get out of specific college requirements, such as the language requirement in the college of Arts and Sciences, Wadlow said.

A student is turned down if the faculty members think he wants to enroll to bypass these requirements, Wadlow said. Occasionally a student is allowed to skip these requirements if he has compiled a "strong and coherent program".

"Once students are accepted, I know of no one who has dropped out," Wadlow said.

Placement success

She also said UNL has had success in placing its University Studies graduates.

"I don't know of any instance where someone has had difficulty getting into any program they wanted with a University Studies degree," she said.

About half of the graduates go on to graduate or professional school, Wadlow said, although she expects this proportion to change.

"Non-traditional students (25 years and older) will advance on, with no more schooling, she explained.

Wadlow said about 20 per cent of those enrolled in University Studies are non-traditional students, and that an important part of the program is to meet the needs of these students.

Wadlow said one of the main reasons students say they want to enter a University Studies program is the chance of applying work experience toward their degree.

Another reason, related to those coming from social sciences, is that students are interested in "helping professions," she said. This means they want to work with people in the community and in training to do so, work closely with the Psychology Dept.

University Studies began under the Venture Fund from the Ford Foundation, which UNL was to "vent into something creative," Wadlow said. Budget funds will be requested for University Studies, Wadlow said, although the program's cost is now divided among individual departments.

Five UNL staff members to winter in Antarctica

Five UNL staff members are flying south for the winter.

John Clough, Karl Kuivinen, Paul Breckenridge and William Rierden left for Antarctica last weekend. B. Lyle Hansen will join them in two weeks. The men who are with the Ross Ice Shelf Project (RISP) management office, will stay about four months.

Clough is the RISP science director, Hansen is a research associate and specialist in drilling systems, and Kuivinen, Breckenridge and Rierden are field operation managers.

RISP, based at UNL and financed by the National Science Foundation (NSF), was organized in 1972 by former UNL Chancellor James Zumbege. Zumbege, now president of Southern Methodist University (SMU), did research on the Ross Ice Shelf about 20 years ago and received the NSF grant.

Because the program already was operating at UNL when Zumbege left for SMU in 1975, the RISP office stayed at UNL.

The Ross Ice Shelf, one of the two largest ice shelves in the world, is named after Sir James Clark Ross, who discovered it in 1841.

An ice shelf is formed from snow that falls on the antarctic continent and turns into a mass of ice. It floats on the sea and is connected to the continent.

Rierden said the ice shelf is about 2,000 feet thick and nearly the size of Texas. He said Hansen helped develop a wire-line drill to cut through the thicker areas.

"We're drilling through the ice shelf towards the middle to the back (bottom) of the ice shelf," Rierden said. "No one has drilled through the ice shelf at this thickness."

John Spletstoesser, administrative director of RISP, said the ice cores will be checked for volcanic ash and radioactive material (residue from nuclear bomb tests) trapped in the ice.

Glaciologists will try to determine the age of the ice shelf and biologists will search for life in the sea, and will study currents, temperature and chemistry under the ice, he said. Geologists and oceanographers also will study the shelf.

"We must be very careful that we do not contaminate either the animal life or the ocean waters," Spletstoesser said. "We are not expecting to hit oil, but if we did we'd immediately stop drilling and plug the hole."

The drilling, which costs about \$40,000, is paid for by the NSF. This does not include the cost of designing and developing the drilling system.

Scientists from Russia and six other countries will do research on RISP, Hansen said.

Rierden said the only danger would be from the environment, which "is pretty hostile."

"The wind and the cold are the two biggest dangers you can freeze to death."

"It's about like Wyoming during the winter except it's summer there," Rierden said.

UNL students have study vacations through 13 Flight and Study Tours

Thirteen Flights and Study Tour classes offer students the opportunity to earn college credit while studying in Europe during the semester break.

The UNL Flights and Study Tours office charters a passenger flight yearly to Europe.

Thirteen courses from nine academic departments are offered in this year's Flights and Study Tours. Included are classes in art, architecture, Centennial College, drama, education, English, journalism and modern languages.

Classes will be taught in England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Costs for the three-week tour vary with each class.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for flight reservations. A \$100 down payment on the \$369 airfare is required when reservations are made.

Enrollment in a Flights and Study Tours class is not necessary to make reservations on the charter, Jacobsen said. However, persons not enrolled in the courses will have to find their own transportation and lodging while in Europe.

The UNL charter leaves Lincoln Dec. 26 for London and Zurich, and returns Jan. 14 from Paris and London.

Student reaction to the tours has been fantastic, according to Mark Cory, UNL associate professor of modern languages, who instructed two German classes through the program. Besides earning three hours of

college credit, students receive exposure to European culture, which is educationally valuable, Cory said.

The three weeks in Europe are not all study. Classes are scheduled several hours in the morning and afternoon.

"I give students time to look at the culture. It's necessary to understand the people and what they do," said Charles Godwin, UNL associate professor of elementary education. Godwin will teach a course in British education.

A separate tour to Israel is being planned by UNL Associate Agronomy Prof., Leon Chesnin. His agronomy courses are offered to both undergraduates and graduate students. Chesnin's tour, arranged with the Ministry of Agriculture in Israel, leaves Lincoln Dec. 22. Students will be "learning in a way they cannot in the classroom," Chesnin explained, because most of their work will be field study.

The Israel tour will return to Lincoln Jan. 12. Chesnin said tour costs, including airfare, lodging, transportation and meals, will be about \$1,550.

Ezra Koh, UNL associate professor of sociology, is sponsoring a flight-study tour to India through the NU School of Social Work.

Students interested in enrolling for a Flights and Study Tour may register at Nebraska Union 345. Scholarships for \$100 will be awarded to one student in each Flights and Study Tours class, Jacobsen said.

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