

Avery weather station to reopen next semester

Although the Geography Dept. weather station in Avery Hall is inoperative now, it will be used by students taking new climatology courses next semester.

UNL Geography Prof. Arthur Douglas said the weather station is used primarily as a training laboratory for climatology students studying weather conditions.

The department will offer two courses for upperclassmen and graduate students, Systematic Climatology, he said, in which students will be directly involved in the weather station's operation.

The courses would be of interest to agriculture students, Douglas said, because of the importance of weather conditions in agriculture.

Structural engineering majors also would benefit from the courses because of the expansion and contraction effects weather has on building materials, he said.

The station was set up three years ago by UNL Geography Associate Prof. Merlin Lawson.

Climatology is "a field of specialization within geography," Lawson said. Geography majors who work with the weather station receive a certificate of climatology training upon graduation.

Meteorological instruments at the rooftop weather station record several kinds of weather data.

However, the roof of a building isn't the best place to record weather data, he said, "because data recorded on a

roof doesn't necessarily reflect ground conditions."

Ground and rooftop weather conditions vary somewhat, Douglas said, because wind strength is greater at the top of the building than at ground level and extra heat is absorbed in the roof that escapes from the soil.

The ground also retains moisture and is cooler than temperatures on the roof.

However, these differences are small, Douglas said, and not substantial enough to affect the accuracy of the data collected.

Updating Japanese studies is topic

A pilot program to help Nebraska's public schools update their Japanese curricula will begin this weekend in Lincoln.

The program, co-sponsored by the UNL Asian Studies Committee and the College of Arts and Sciences, is designed to help 30 selected teachers update their information and understanding of Japan, according to the program's director.

Peter Cheng, UNL political science professor, said it will be a three-day, in-service training program, beginning Sunday at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. The 30 elementary and secondary teachers were chosen following application and recommendation by school principals.

Cheng said the highlight of the training workshop will be an address by Kyoshi Sumiya, Japan's newly appointed

consul general in Chicago. He will speak at a banquet Monday evening.

The conference will emphasize the economic growth and social change Japan has undergone during recent decades, he said.

The workshop will include 25 class sessions in which information about current economic, political, social and international conditions in Japan. Assistance also will be provided in developing teaching units appropriate for various age levels.

In addition to Sumiya, Yoshiharu Nishikawa, executive director of the Japan Trade Center in Chicago, and Kimiaki Sasada, an agricultural expert from the trade center, will act as resource persons at the conference.

Assisting them will be UNL faculty members in the Asian Studies program.

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