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Journalism students to focus on Mexico

By Mike Schmoldt

Relations between the United States and Mexico will be the subject of depth reports by 21 UNL journalism students this spring.

The UNL School of Journalism has been assured a \$5,000 grant for the project from the Tinker Foundation of New York City and an equal amount from the Gannett Newspaper Foundation, according to Jim Patten, journalism professor. Groups will travel to Mexico and the southwestern United States in March, he said.

Patten said students will report on drug smuggling, economic problems, cultural exchanges and the problems of illegal aliens. Patten said he will make final assignments after his conference Friday in Washington with State Department experts on Mexico.

Professors and reporters in southwestern states also have been consulted about story ideas.

An assignment has been made to study the Mexican-American community in San Francisco, Patten said. Other students may travel to Mexico City, El Paso, Tucson and Phoenix for stories, he added.

Patten will accompany at least one group of students. He said he probably would stay near the border with students who have no knowledge of Spanish. Spanish-speaking journalism professors Josie Weber and Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo will take groups further into Mexico. However, plans are tentative, he said.

The project began with the idea of using the depth reporting class to study international relations, he said. Originally, Patten said, he intended to focus on Canada, but funds were easier to get from the Tinker Foundation, which sponsors Latin American studies.

UNL School of Journalism Director Neale Cople later was able to obtain the Gannett funds.

Patten said Francis Schmehl, UNL research administrator, and Robert Rufford, vice chancellor of research and graduate studies helped develop the project.

"I think it's probably the most ambitious project in the nation this year," Patten said. "A group of journalism seniors is taking on as their project an entire nation."

Continued on page 12

union calendar

short stuff

12:15 p.m. - Rockbrook School, North Conference Room.

1 p.m. - UPC-debate on student fees, Main Lounge.

3 p.m. - NUPIRG Mr. Clancy Woolman, Auditorium.

4 p.m. - NUPIRG Dr. William Scheller, Auditorium.

4 p.m. - Eta Sigma Gamma, Room 232.

5 p.m. - Womens Resource Center - womens rap group, Room 343.

5:30 p.m. - Engineering Toastmasters, Harvest Room A.

6 p.m. - Towne Club, Harvest Room C.

6 p.m. - Gamma Lambda, Harvest Room C.

6 p.m. - Beta Alpha Psi - accounting tutoring, Room 225.

6:30 p.m. - ASUN Senate Meeting, Room 202-202A.

7 p.m. - NUPIRG Dr. Edward Anderson, Auditorium.

7 p.m. - Interfraternity Council, Conference Rooms.

7:30 p.m. - Math counselors, Room 225 B-C.

7:30 p.m. - UPC Talks & Topics - international debate, Ballroom.

9:30 & 1:30 - Financial Aids check distribution, Centennial Room.

The Talks & Topics Committee will meet at 1 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Main Lounge.

The Undergraduate Sociology Association will meet today at 1:30 in Oldfather 722.

Interviews for Model United Nations and Foreign Films committee chairpersons will be held today at 4:30.

The UPC Concerts Committee will meet today at 4:30 in Union 202.

The UNL Rodeo Club will meet tonight at 7 in the East Union. Executives will meet at 6:30 p.m.

The Women's Resource Center is sponsoring a co-ed rap group at 7 p.m. in Andrews Hall 39.

The UNL Pre-Vet Club will meet tonight at 7 in Hamilton 110.

The UNL Young Republicans will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the union. Room number will be posted.

The UNL Block & Bridle Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in Marvel Baker Hall.

Beta Alpha Psi will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the union. Room number will be posted.

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