

Midterm evaluations give professors time to change

By Jeff Goodwin

UNL faculty members have a chance to improve their teaching methods mid-semester instead of waiting for year-end evaluations because of a midterm student feedback program directed by the Teaching and Learning Center.

Delivee Wright, TLC director, estimated that more than half of the university's faculty have used the TLC in one way or another.

Wright said the midterm feedback program is designed to help teachers pinpoint their classroom problems.

The feedback takes two forms. In the first, the students complete questionnaires, the results of which are analyzed and passed on to the teacher.

Joyce Povlacs, faculty instructional consultant, said the questionnaire is used in an attempt to answer three questions — what's going well, what's not going well and what can be done to improve it.

"These are useful because they get a lot of conversation going," Povlacs said.

The second method is the use of small groups which discuss what they

like and dislike about a class and how it can be improved.

"One method is not intrinsically better than the other," Povlacs said. "The questionnaire gives us individual student response and the small groups give us a feeling of consensus."

Povlacs said some instructors add a question at the end of an exam asking for comments about the class.

She said the TLC also has a procedure for following up the initial questionnaire to see if positive results have been achieved.

She said the value of the program lies in its immediacy.

"It affects the learning going on at the moment," she said. "End-of-course evaluations often seem like a waste of time to many students."

Povlacs said many instructors come to the TLC after hearing about it from colleagues.

"We get a lot of new faculty members by word of mouth," she said.

Povlacs said the TLC also conducts a seminar each fall for new faculty members to tell them about the resources TLC has to offer.

Political economist talks on policy of public lands

John Baden, director of the Center for Political Economy at Montana State University, will deliver the third lecture in a seven-lecture series at UNL dealing with the future of private and governmental security programs.

Baden's lecture on "Public Lands Policy? What Legacy for the Future?" will be Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center in Omaha. Two of the seven lecturers are scheduled in Omaha.

The UNL College of Business Administration's Department of Economics and the Center for the Study of the American Business System is hosting the series, funded by a grant from the Dr. Scholl Foundation administered through the Association of Private Enterprise Education.

Admission to the lecture is by free tickets, available from the UNL Center for the Study of the American Business System.

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Charles chosen Miss Black UNL

More than 300 spectators witnessed the crowning of the new Miss Black UNL at a pageant Sunday in the Nebraska Union Ballroom. Judges chose Doreen Charles as the new queen from a field of 12 contestants.

Charles, a 21-year-old senior journalism major from Chicago, will represent UNL blacks while visiting other campuses. Charles said she will attend the Big Eight Conference of Black Student Governments at Iowa State University in February.

Contestants were judged on criteria including talent, poise and leadership.

Charles is the Afrikan Peoples Union community coordinator, a Daily Nebraskan columnist and a former ASUN senator.

Runners-up were:
—1st runner-up Wendi Ann Triplett, a senior life sciences, pre-med major from Omaha.

—2nd runner-up Llana Searcy, a freshman communications major, and a member of the UNL Scarlet and Cream Singers, from Jackson, Miss. She was also selected as Miss Personality.

—3rd runner-up Patti West, a junior urban studies major from Omaha.

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