

Foreign languages add to floor life

By Kirsten Nielsen

Christmas carols float through the hall in four languages. Murals of several countries brighten the walls. No, it's not the United Nations, just the Modern Language Floor in Neihardt Residence Center, Raymond 2. This is the fourth year of the floor and participation has doubled every year since its start, according to Gayle Smith, an assistant director for the floor.

"We have 58 people on the floor involved in the program," she said. "That's about 85 percent occupancy, up from 55 percent last year."

The idea for the special floor originated with Mark Cory, vice chairman, and David Gitlitz, chairman of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department.

Douglas Zatechka, housing director, was also instrumental in getting the floor started.

"Housing has been very supportive of the program," Smith said.

There are four main language groups on the floor: Spanish, French, German and, starting this year, Russian. Each group has an assistant director, who is a student living on the floor.

"We're there to provide help, basically," Smith said. "For instance, if someone is writing a paper (in a foreign language) and they're having problems, we'll read it and discuss it with them."

Each group also has a faculty adviser, who meets with the group each week for dinner and discussion in that particular language. They also help schedule programs and speakers for the group throughout the year.

Eduardo Varela, the floor director, is the faculty adviser for the Spanish group. Karen Hibbel advises the French group, Peter Rinecort, the German, and Bruce Kochis, the Russian.

Speakers this fall have included Bonnie Brown, assistant dean of the modern languages department, who spoke on careers in modern languages. Denise-Claud LeGoff gave a presentation on combining French with business classes. Ramon Hernandez spoke about the life of a writer in Spain.

Although most of the students belong to one of the four language groups, some residents speak Dutch, Italian, Portuguese or Chinese.

"There is a lot of language exchange on the floor," Smith said. "We have offered mini-courses for residents in the past and the floor also has a language lab with textbooks, tapes and dictionaries."

Only 12 percent to 15 percent of the residents are language majors, Smith said.

"Many are people who took a foreign language here or in high school, but whose schedules don't allow them to take any more language classes," Smith said. "Living on the modern language floor is a way to keep up. The only prerequisite for living there is a strong interest in a foreign language."



Have fun AND study!

If you want to take to the slopes -- or the beach -- yet get a head start on classes during the interim:

If you're having trouble fitting your class and work schedules together, or need courses for graduation:

If you must leave campus for some reason next semester, but want to continue your education:

College independent study, offered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Division of Continuing Studies, may be for you. For information call 472-1926, or visit room 269 in the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege.



UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admissions or employment programs and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same.

TRADE TEXTBOOKS' FOR



WHO: UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORES

WHAT:

BOOK BUY BACK:

We will give you sixty percent of the new price on textbooks that are readopted and needed by the store.

WHERE:

NEBRASKA UNION
NORTH LOBBY AND
UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
EAST UNION

WHEN:

DECEMBER 9-18
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

UNL BOOKSTORES

NO
R.S.V.P.
NECESSARY

