

# World traveler

*New director has 'international perspective'*

By Beth Thompson

Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Rod Merta has "an international perspective on life."

That's how co-worker and international student adviser Judy Wendorff describes Merta, new program coordinator at UNL's International Education Services office.

As coordinator since July 1, one realm of Merta's IES responsibilities is at the Overseas Opportunities Center. Merta said the center, at Nebraska Union 345, provides a wealth of information for all students planning or hoping to travel, work or study abroad. Because IES works closely with international students, Merta said most American students do not realize the gold mine of information IES offers — inexpensive travel ideas and fantastic educational opportunities.

## Profile

Merta's second job is to coordinate various social activities and programs that help acquaint and involve international students with university life.

Does Merta's interest in international cultures end at work? No way.

Merta, an extensive traveler himself, said many people who travel collect souvenirs while traveling that "don't have too much to do with themselves."

"I'd rather talk to people and see things," he said.

That's not to say Merta does not collect some international

memorabilia. He treasures a black marble cube he got while visiting Taiwan. "To me, it represents Taiwan," he said.

He also keeps a sea shell he discovered off the coast of Guam — a shell that was still the home of a live animal. Merta's wife, Aggie, a native of the Micronesian island of Yap, keeps a hand-woven basket and a pair of used moccasins given to her by a dying Hopi Indian woman.

These trinkets, Merta said, are special to them. "They're personal," he said.

Merta, who has traveled out of the United States to Guam, Taiwan, Yap and Canada, could have an impressive list of favorite tourism sites. But, he admits, his favorite thing to see is simple — a desert or island sunset.

Merta's extensive travel began his senior year in high school. Then, and for the next few summers, Merta and his friends quit their jobs two weeks before fall semester and began to travel cross-country.

From 1971 to 1974, Merta worked with the Peace Corps in Micronesia, specifically on the outer island of Yap, east of the Philippines.

During these four years in the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific, which was and still is overseen by the United States, Merta taught English to first through sixth grades. He then moved to the island of Palau, where he worked with natives through community development and recreation.

In 1974 the Mertas moved to San Francisco, where he had previously earned his degree



in political science, history and psychology from San Francisco University. For the next two years, Merta worked as an educational director in a psychiatric center during the day, and with juveniles in a county detention hall at night.

From San Francisco the Mertas moved to northern Arizona. From 1976 to 1978 they lived with Hopi Indians. As director of a special services program, Merta counseled high school and college Hopi students. He also helped find Hopis who were not aware of or had never been to a Hopi reservation, and shared with them the educational opportunities available through the Hopi culture.

In 1978 Merta retraced his steps to Micronesia.

After two years he returned to Arizona to work with Micronesian students on American soil.

Earlier this year the Mertas moved to Lincoln to attend UNL. Aggie now is pursuing an art degree, and Merta, while coordinating programs for IES, plans to study for his doctorate in counseling psychology.

# Fall tuition payment due no later than Sept. 26

The following lists important information and instructions regarding payment of fall semester tuition:

- Payment must be received in the Office of the Bursar no later than 4 p.m., Sept. 26. Mail it no later than Sept. 24, or bring it to the Bursar's Office, first floor in the Administration Building.

A \$20 service charge will be added to your account if it is unpaid.

- Payment of the balance of your account, which must include the \$20 service charge, must be

received in the Office of the Bursar no later than 4 p.m. Oct. 3.

- Check your statement carefully and return the top portion with your payment. If the address pre-printed on your tuition statement is not your current local, campus or commuting address, or is incomplete, file an address changed form at Information Window 2 in the Administration Building.

If you have further questions, contact the Office of Student Accounts, Administration 204 at 472-2887 and they can direct your call.

## Police Report

UNL police received three reports of alleged vandalism to five cars in Parking Area 1 at 17th and R streets.

Taillights were reported broken on one car, the rear-view mirror broken on another car and the antennas on three cars were reported bent or broken.

The following incidents were reported to UNL police between 12:17 a.m. and 10:14 p.m. Sunday.

12:17 a.m. — UNL police assisted the Lincoln Police Department with a car and motorcycle accident at 19th and R streets.

1 a.m. — Noise disturbance reported near the University Health Center. Persons were gone when officers arrived.

2:04 a.m. — Noise complaint reported at 1510 Vine St.

2:11 a.m. — Window reported broken at Neihardt Residence Center.

2:27 a.m. — Glass door reported broken at Nebraska Union.

9:19 a.m. — Vandalism reported at 10th Street from R to T streets.

Poles used to block off grass reportedly were dislodged.

9:48 a.m. — Three reports of alleged vandalism in Parking Area 1 at 17th and R streets. Taillights reported broken on one car, rear-view mirror reported broken on another and the antennas on three cars were reported bent or broken.

1:07 p.m. — Person reported trespassing on the softball field near Mable Lee Hall.

2:07 p.m. — Security alarm reported sounding at Love Library.

5:16 p.m. — Injury reported at the playing field near 19th and Vine streets. Person was taken to hospital.

6:36 p.m. — Disturbance reported on the north side of Abel Hall.

8:49 p.m. — Noise disturbance reported on U Street between 15th and 16th streets.

10:14 p.m. — Officers assisted LPD in looking for a burglary suspect in the campus area. No one was located.



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