

# Grants specialist keeps federal funds rolling in

By Erin Hicks  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

In August alone, nearly \$2 million was awarded to UNL in the form of grants, contracts and gifts.

Since the July 1 onset of fiscal year 1984-85, almost \$3 million has been granted. Much of the credit for these substantial sums should go to the programs and personnel of UNL's Research and Sponsored Programs Services.

Mary Severs has been a grants information specialist for RSPS for three years. Along with working as a graduate assistant at the Teaching and Learning Center for three years, she also earned her masters in special education at UNL.

Severs said she works to do two things.

"First of all, I try to inform the faculty of funding opportunities as I get that information from the funding agencies, and secondly, I

also help faculty locate funding agencies or opportunities for specific projects they have in mind," she said.

Funding and grant information is supplied primarily by private and government funding agencies; but also from state government, state, local and national foundations and occasionally city government, she said. RSPS also has extensive subscriptions to national newsletters and professional periodicals that provide new information about the major federal grants and their guidelines.

Two major programs Severs works with are the Key Word Thesaurus Project and the Illinois Researchers Information System. The Key Word Thesaurus Project is a federal project funded by the National Science Foundation. UNL is one of about 300 universities across the nation involved in this project.

Specific key words and code

numbers are first assigned to funding announcements that are distributed to the universities. Then faculty members complete interest profiles using the same key word system of identification.

"When I get a funding announcement from one of the government agencies, I run it through the computer and match the numbers on them with faculty who have an interest in each area," Severs said.

Since Severs began working at RSPS, she said she has seen an increase in the number of faculty who use the information and services provided by RSPS. She now has more than 700 faculty interest profiles on record.

The three major funding agencies that cooperate with the Key Word Thesaurus Project are the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Institute for Health.

The Illinois Researchers Information System is a computerized data base that RSPS subscribes to. Any faculty member interested in finding a grant for a specific project can get a listing of funding opportunities in that area. IRIS also helps new professors learn about grant opportunities in their fields.

RSPS has existed at UNL for

about 15 years, Office Manager Dianne Horracks said.

"We function as an intermediary contact between faculty members and funding agencies," she said. "Often it is scary to approach these federal agencies, but they are usually very helpful and nice people."

RSPS helps faculty members find funding for research, instructional and public service projects.

"Faculty members come to us with a specific project or a funding source in mind. We match their needs with what is available and then provide them with application guidelines, forms and deadlines," Horracks said.

After these funding proposals have been compiled, RSPS reviews their general content and ideas, then checks to make sure all of the funding agency guidelines have been met.

After a project has been awarded, RSPS follows up by assisting with grant and contract negotiations with the funding agency.

"A funding agency may accept a proposal as it was submitted, or they may like only a certain aspect

and will allocate funds for parts of a proposal. We work with the faculty and the funding agency negotiating the terms and conditions of awards," Horracks said.

RSPS, in conjunction with Norman Rosenberg, acting assistant chancellor for research, works with UNL department chairpersons to stimulate research activity and to maintain UNL's reputation as an active university across the nation. According to Horracks, RSPS reviewed more than 500 proposals last year.

Proposals submitted by UNL this August totaled \$2,457,411. Of this, \$1,972,688 was actually received. Federal agencies awarded \$1,110,225, state agencies, \$241,064, area and local agencies, \$83,500, industry, \$179,905, the NU Foundation, \$187,346; and other various agencies provided \$170,648.

RSPS publishes a monthly newsletter that informs professors of ongoing grants, programs that will be discontinued, changes in eligibility requirements and specific deadlines that must be met. People interested in the newsletter can have their names placed on a mailing list free of charge by contacting the RSPS office at Administration 414 or call 472-3171.

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# UNL Chess Club gains recognition, prepares for Pan-Am tournament

After two years of not being officially recognized by the UNL Campus Activities Office, the UNL Chess Club is back in action with hopes of becoming a large and successful team.

"The club never disbanded," said Robert Narveson, UNL Chess Club adviser. "We just were not active enough to be recognized by the Campus Activities Office as an organization."

A recent tournament helped to recruit eight participants who

each played three, two-hour Swiss rounds.

Kevin Flemming, the Nebraska state chess champion, and Matt Mohowald tied for first place. John Stepp placed second.

The next UNL Chess Club-sponsored tournament will be Oct. 14th in the Nebraska Union at 1 p.m.

Narveson said club players are excited about the Pan-American Tournament. The tournament is held in late February or early

March every year in a different location and its participants are from various states and regions. The UNL Chess Club won the Pan-American Tournament in 1976.

Narveson, the chess club adviser since the early 1960s, was the Lincoln city chess champion in 1974.

"Chess is an absorbing hobby," Narveson said. "Players feel as though they are in an 'interspace' and you move into another world that is totally absorbing," he said.

Narveson, 54, became interested in playing chess when he was 18.

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## Citizens urged to help fight alcohol abuse

Gov. Bob Kerrey will usher in October as Alcohol Awareness Month in Nebraska by signing a proclamation Wednesday at the Capitol.

The proclamation urges Nebraskans to become actively involved in increasing awareness of alcohol and drug abuse and to take individual responsibility in preventing alcohol-related problems.

Alcohol Awareness activities are scheduled throughout the state during October.

The Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs will be hosts of Challenge to Fitness, a track and field event to promote physical fitness as a healthy alternative to chemical use, Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Lincoln High School.

The council also is assisting in producing a television program on chemical dependency among women, scheduled to be broadcast on KOLN-TV/KGIN-TV's "Etcetera," Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

The Omaha Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is coordinating a series of events including poster contests, shopping mall displays, workshops for youth and programming for cable television.

The Daily Nebraskan will run a five-part series beginning Monday exploring various issues of the topic, "Alcohol on Campus," in coordination with National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.