

Make the
move toward
a learning experience.
Apply to be a
student assistant.

The Division of University Housing is looking for applicants for student assistant positions to begin Fall Semester, 1986. For information and applications come to one of the following meetings in the Nebraska Union. (Check Daily Events Calendar for location).
January 27, 3:30 p.m.
January 28, 7:00 p.m.

To apply you must,
... be available for a group process interview on Feb. 8 or 9
... 2.0 G.P.A.
... Sophomore standing, by Fall Semester

Application packets can also be picked up at the Residential Education office "1102 Seaton Hall" by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday January 29.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Time ticks away as Tom Humphrey, left, and Mark Massaro debate about their weather predictions before their 5 p.m. deadline Friday.

Forecasting for fun

Students predict weather, gain experience

By Sandy Heng
Staff Reporter

The competition is on in the UNL meteorology department.

For 13 weeks, three times a week, about 50 professors and students will predict the weather for the next day. The winner earns one of the top five "hall of fame" awards, said assistant geography professor Dr. John Harrington.

With the help of a new computer program, contestants will receive daily progress reports, he said.

"After every forecast, we put out an updated list of who is in what place so there is the competitiveness associated with any contest," Harrington said. "But also the learning that goes on."

"Anybody who really wants to forecast can. It helps to have had a few classes to know what you're doing," he said.

Contest participants base predictions on maps that describe the state of the atmosphere.

"We want students to learn by

doing it, and sometimes us old faculty members learn a little bit, too," Harrington said.

Professors are available for questions, said senior meteorology student Mark Massaro.

"It's like getting on-the-job experience without being on the job ... the contest is good experience to see if we want to do it for the rest of our lives."

—Massaro

"It's a lot of fun to see the professors and work with them outside the classroom," he said. "Being able to talk to them on a one-to-one basis helps when you have questions."

Massaro said making a good forecast takes anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half each day.

"It's like getting on-the-job experience without being on the job," he said. "The contest is good experience to see if we want to do it for the rest of our lives."

Because of the experience students get, Ohio State and Arizona State universities have designed contests similar to UNL's.

Assistant geography professor Dr. Jay Hobgood started UNL's contest 5 1/2 years ago to help his students in a synoptic meteorology class. Since then, the top five forecasters each semester earn spots in the "hall of fame." Additional prizes will be awarded to the top five contestants in each of the categories for the first time this semester. The Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society are sponsoring the awards.

Massaro, vice president of the chapter, said certificates will be presented to the top five forecasters in temperature, precipitation and overall forecasting. First-place winners in the three categories will receive plaques.

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