

ROTC gains recruits

By Kip Fry
Staff Reporter

Movies like "Top Gun" may be boosting enrollment in the Reserve Officer Training Corps programs on campus, according to the acting commander of Navy ROTC on campus.

"The Navy has been getting some exceptional press lately," said Lt. Col. Lee White. The program also has been helped by the presence of outstanding athletes such as football's Napoleon McCallum and basketball's David Robinson, who both recently competed for the Naval Academy, White said.

That, along with President Reagan's strong support for the military, has helped increase enrollment in the Navy program 25 percent over last year, White said.

The same phenomenon also is affecting the other service programs on campus.

"The enrollment in Army ROTC has grown significantly since 1983," said Lt. Col. Gary Wade, commander of Army ROTC. In 1983 only 50 students enrolled in the program. Now, he said, there are about 200.

Although it is too early in the semester to compile figures, Col. John Vick, commander of Air Force ROTC and professor of aerospace studies, predicts that "the numbers are up."

"I have seen a resurgence in patriotism," Vick said. "The negative aspects

toward the military have been overshadowed, and international events the military has been in have shed good light on them."

Generous financial benefits also have attracted many students in need of help. Scholarships available can pay for tuition and books and provide a stipend of \$100 a month in the Navy ROTC. Army ROTC also offers a scholarship which pays 75 percent of a student's tuition.

Of course, students who have made a commitment to any of the programs must serve in the military after graduation. Those in the Navy must serve four years of active duty, followed by four years of inactive reserve.

There are a variety of options for those in the Army program, with three- or four-year stints available in either the Army or the National Guard. Students get to that point only after making a definite commitment to the service in their junior year.

"There is no commitment for freshmen or sophomores, so there is a lot of attrition," Wade said.

Another thing on the rise is the number of women in the various programs. There are more women in this year's freshmen Navy class than any other year, Wade said. Eleven are enrolled this fall, compared with five last year, he said.

A variety of academic majors are attracted to the ROTC program, according to Vick, although the Air Force ROTC caters more toward students who are technically oriented, such as those in engineering.

"After their initial stints, they will have excellent training," he said.

Program cited for excellence

BARKLEY from Page 1

- A program requirement that students have 100 hours of contact with the hearing impaired early in their programs.
- A reading class for the hearing impaired.
- Student training and experience in assessing skills of the hearing impaired students.

Stoephen-Fisher said she attributes the program's excellence in part to the amount of time that went into developing the program.

"We surveyed approximately 300 teachers of hearing-impaired students, 150 administrators of programs for the hearing impaired, and 65 other teachers of training programs asking them what students need to know to be good educators of hearing impaired students," she said.

Stoephen-Fisher also attributed the program's success to the support of the Barkley endowment and the diverse faculty that the students have to interact with.

Although there is no national ranking among similar centers around the country, George Propp, assistant professor in the department of Special Education and Communication Disorders, said that with the exception of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the only liberal arts college for the deaf equipped to teach pre-school through the doctorate level, that UNL probably has one of the best programs preparing teachers for the hearing impaired anywhere in the nation.

Students involved in the program gain experience working with the hearing impaired at practicum sites located within the Lincoln and Omaha public school systems and the Nebraska School for the Deaf as pre-student and student teachers for the deaf.

Stoephen-Fisher said students in the program also are introduced to the media center which is nationally recognized for its research and design of structural material for the hearing impaired.

The CED letter of evaluation also cited "the vitality and enthusiasm of faculty, students and administrators in support of a very fine program for preparing teachers of the hearing impaired."

For anyone interested in learning sign language, Propp hosts sign table, a brown-bag luncheon every Wednesday at noon, designed to get students involved in learning sign language. For more information call 472-2141.



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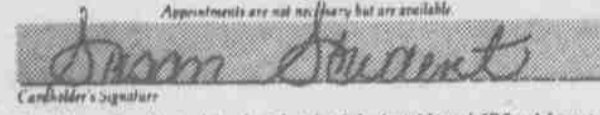
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