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Non-traditionals meet weekly

Group supports older students

By Angie Beiriger
Staff Reporter

Starting a new school year, making friends and fitting in are difficult for all students, but it poses a bigger problem for older members of the university community, said the head of an adult student group.

A group called the Adult Student Network was formed in response to this, said Rachel Loyd, the group's program leader.

The informal group is open day and night to University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, but concentrates on members over the age of 25, she said.

The group started more than 10 years ago through UNL's Division of Continuing Studies, Loyd said, because non-traditional students found it difficult to get acquainted with other students.

"We're mostly an information group," Loyd said. "We give support to the older students because they find it hard to get acquainted with others like them."

The group not only brings the students together, but invites several speakers from the Lincoln community and UNL departments to talk with the group.

About 25 students attended the first meeting Sept. 7. Loyd said she hopes more students attend the next meetings, especially night-class students and commuters. The group also plans to have some breakfast or dinner meetings.

Judith Kriss, the group's adviser, said she thinks if the group included evening activities, more students would be able to attend.

"It's just too hard for a lot of the



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Adult networking group leader Rachel Loyd listens intently to the topic at hand. The group of non-traditional students meets every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

students to attend these afternoon meetings," Kriss said.

The group meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday in the Nebraska Union. The room number is posted on the daily events calendar in the union. Meet-

ings are informal and members come and go as their schedules permit.

For additional information or inquiries, call Kriss at the Counseling Center, 472-3461, or Loyd at 488-8702.

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Students can voice concerns to new board

ADVISORY from Page 1

affluent family who's receiving a scholarship."

Wyatt said the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska will appoint the six representatives, three of whom will run for two-year terms and three for one-year terms.

Beacon and Wyatt said the advisory board will serve two purposes.

It will allow students to voice their concerns to the financial aid office and allow students to become "educated" on the steps they must follow to get their financial aid on time.

"They need to know what documents to hold on to over the years," Wyatt said.

Beacon said they must also understand that congressional regulations require the financial aid office to request so many documents.

Beacon said 1,700 students who have not received their fall awards need to understand the office's current crises. Alterations in computer software required by the federal government are responsible for the delays, Beacon said.

Beacon said he hopes board members will make suggestions on how to improve the office.

The suggestions "must be made within certain parameters, however, because financial aid has become so complex over the years," he said.

"I want people who will offer positive criticism," Wyatt said.

If it seems that the board isn't representing the needs of the "masses," Beacon said he and Wyatt will consider holding an open forum for all students. Beacon said he also has plans to install a complaint box in the financial aid office.

Beacon said he wants to "go with the small group first," though.

Beacon and Wyatt said they hoped the advisory board would continue after the "crisis," or as long as there is a need for one.

"We don't know," Beacon said. "Maybe this won't work at all, but we aren't going to know until we try."

The first board meeting will be in early October. Applications for board positions will be available in the future.

Department spiffs up campus

By Courtney Butherus
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has put a new emphasis on campus beautification instead of just maintenance, according to the director of the grounds department.

"For the last 10 years, we've been in the process of general landscape

renewal," Bud Dasenbrock said, "and now that we've finished some of the major work, we're able to concentrate on the little things."

Since trees and shrubbery already have been planted, he said, the department's current emphasis is to improve the flower gardens and complete special botanical displays.

Dasenbrock said identification labels have been placed next to flowers and plants. New benches, trash cans and a complete vine arbor are also being added.

The vine arbor is the latest addition to the Maxwell Arboretum, east of the Thompson Library on East Campus, he said.

Kim Todd, campus landscape architect, said the changes in the landscape have reached the point where people are taking notice.

"I've noticed a difference and I think it's great," said sophomore Susanne Williams.

"Pleasant surroundings give me a better attitude toward everything I do," she said.

A recent study done by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching indicates that campus environment also affects the enrollment of incoming students. Of high school students surveyed, 62 percent

said the appearance of campus grounds and buildings most influenced their decision in choosing a college.

Junior Stacey Switzer, a former New Student Enrollment host, said the recent beautification of the grounds is a great attraction for new students.

"When students come and see a nice campus, it makes an impression," she said.

Dasenbrock said an attractive campus is not only a benefit to present and incoming students, but to faculty as well.

"A desirable atmosphere plays an important role for both college students and faculty as they carry out their daily routines," Dasenbrock said. "And when faculty come here and are looking to take a job, it also influences their decisions."

Dasenbrock said that although beautification is the department's current emphasis, the department's regular duties also include clearing and sanding sidewalks after snowfalls, hauling garbage for residence halls and unions and providing adequate lighting outside.

"Our goal is for all those using the campus to be comfortable and be able to relax and enjoy themselves," Todd said.

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