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UNL unaffected by HEAF problem

By Mark Georgeff
Staff Reporter

Recent financial problems with the nationwide Higher Education Assistance Foundation (HEAF) thus far have had no impact on University of Nebraska-Lincoln student loans, according to the director of scholarships and financial aid.

John E. Beacon said student loan disbursement at UNL is "business as usual."

Kansas, Minnesota and Wyoming lending institutions have delayed college student loan proceedings

Turns B+ project into award-winning entry

Recent architecture graduate earns award

By Kara Wells
Staff Reporter

A recent graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln turned a B+ architecture project into an award-winning entry for the 1990 Autodesk Images Awards held this spring.

Barry Shull, who received his master's degree in architecture from UNL in May, submitted his project to CADalyst Magazine's competition.

Of the seven categories in the competition, Shull entered his proj-

because of current financial problems within the Kansas-based HEAF organization.

Beacon said HEAF still is in business, and he doesn't think it's good for financial institutions to "panic" at this time.

College students apply for loans through their personal choice of banks, savings and loan institutions and credit unions, and lending institutions' student loans are financially secured by a guarantee agency such as HEAF.

When college students default on their school loans, HEAF is legally obligated to pay back the lending

institution.

And student loan default rates are on the rise. Beacon said a \$1.8 billion default rate existed last year on student loans nationwide with that figure possibly exceeding \$2 billion this year.

Federal government administrations previously have secured HEAF's financial obligations to its creditors.

But according to Beacon, the government is not obligated to reimburse HEAF at all.

Beacon said the federal government does not have to refund 100 percent of HEAF's capital.

ect into the animation category for faculty and graduate students. As the first place winner, Shull said, he won a trophy called the "Caddie" and also was awarded \$5,000 in both hardware and software.

"I didn't think I had a chance," Shull said. "I only got a B+... I'm surprised I actually won."

Shull said this is the first year for the competition. He said the magazine already has called him and asked him to enter next year's competition.

The winning project was part of the Architecture 955 class, a design

studio. Students were asked to create a multi-purpose high-rise building for the Baltimore inner harbor. Shull said most of the students created their projects on drawing boards, but he decided to do his project entirely on computer.

Shull said he used snapshots of the inner-harbor and used the computer to superimpose the building onto the Baltimore background.

After receiving an undergraduate degree in computer science, Shull eventually decided to go back to school to earn his master's degree. While

He said if the government reimburses HEAF at even a 90 or 80 percent margin, the possibility for bankruptcy within the HEAF system exists.

Beacon said some banks are nervous right now, but he's not sure if anyone can predict what will happen with HEAF's financial situation.

"The banks are still using HEAF, and HEAF is still backing the loans," he said.

The student loan default rate problem exists primarily among technical

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UNL receives record grants for fiscal year

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

The amount of money UNL received in grants for 1989-1990 fiscal year was up, stimulated by the Research Initiative program, according to Bill Splinter, interim vice chancellor for research.

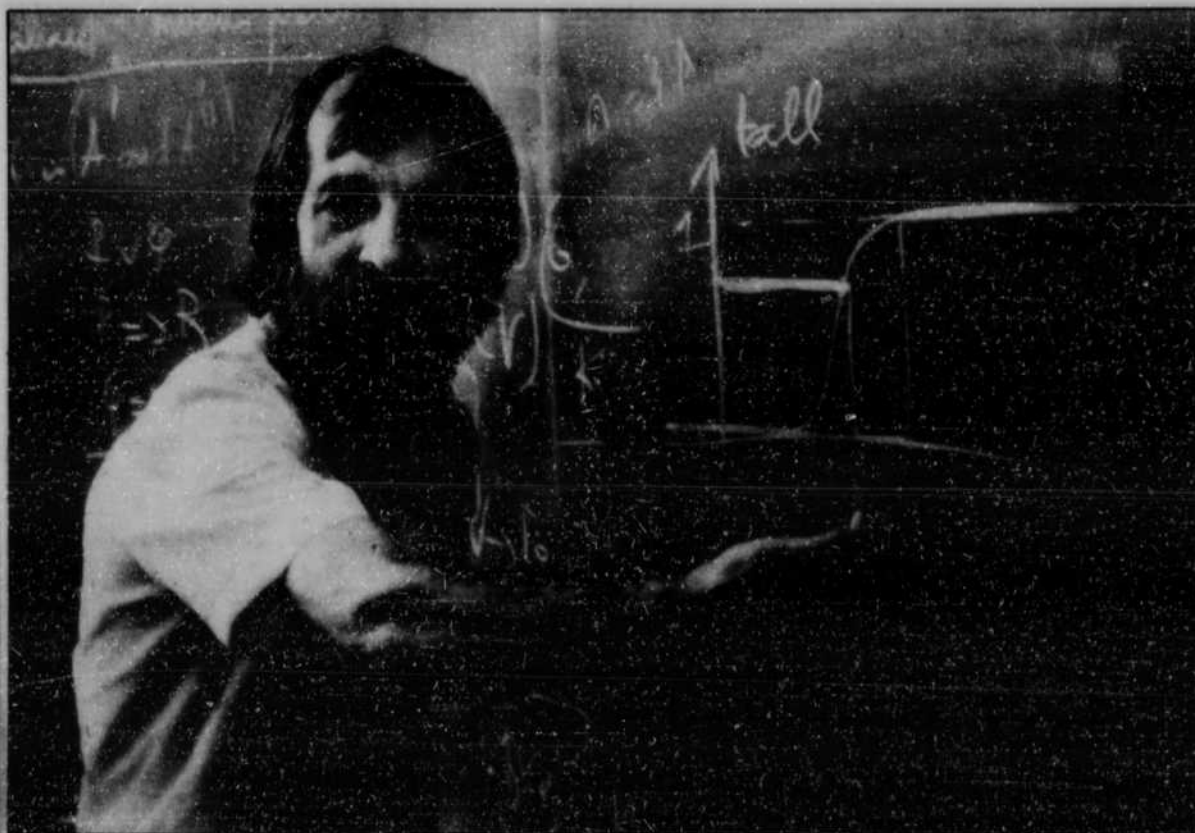
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln received a record \$29.7 million in research awards in 1989-1990, \$1.5 million more than the previous year and almost \$7 million more than in 1987, before the Research Initiative program began.

The program, established by the Nebraska Legislature two years ago, provides money for research in areas that might lead to economic development for the state.

The money invested by the state encourages research awards from other sources, Splinter said.

For example, Nisar Shaikh, UNL assistant professor of engineering mechanics, planned a research project on "smart materials," with sensors that detect information about inter-

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Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Belgian professor Etienne Kerre illustrates fuzzy logic on the blackboard in terms of "fuzzy." Kerre's five students have researched the Fuzzy Set Theory this summer and completed papers on the subject.

Five students participate in scientific research project

By Matt Herek
Senior Editor

Five University of Nebraska-Lincoln students were taught to look into the gray areas of science this summer.

Kcane Streicher, David Holliday, Jeff Niemann, Paul Poulosky and Daniel Guinan were instructed in the Fuzzy Set Theory by a visiting professor from Belgium, Etienne Kerre.

The theory attempts to find a better way of representing imprecise concepts, whereas the classical method of scientific interpretation uses only binary logic, said Tadeusz Radecki, faculty coordinator and research scientist for the project.

The project, Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Computer Science and Engineering (SURPICSE), provides the opportunity for undergraduate students to participate in university research.

One of the goals of the project was for the students to produce publishable work over the two, five-week summer school sessions, Kerre said.

The five students were divided into two groups and were given specific

topics upon which to base their research, he said. Their research was then published.

The students said they worked about eight hours a day in the classroom, on homework and on their research topics.

The young people got motivated to think in ways they had never done before, Kerre said.

"In my opinion, this was a very great initiative," he said.

At the beginning of the summer, Guinan said, none of the students had been introduced to the Fuzzy Set Theory, but within one month they were doing research on it.

The students said they learned about things that will help them in whatever they decide to do after their undergraduate studies are completed.

"An artist needs paints before he can paint a picture, and we were just given a whole new set of colors," Guinan said.

The project was made possible through funding from the National Science Foundation, UNL's Center for Communication and Information Science and UNL's Extension and Service Council.