

Students find extras on special floors

By Troy Falk
Staff Reporter

It's 10 p.m., the assignment is due tomorrow and you've run into a problem. Where do you turn?

If you live on one of the twelve specialized residence hall floors, academic help can be as close as a knock on the door of your student assistant.

Lyn Jakobsen, assistant director of housing for residential education, said that even though each S.A. is normally assigned a floor relating to his or her major, the specialized floors offer more than

just academic support.

The modern language floor is located in Neiharut Residence Center. Tutors are provided in Japanese, Russian, Spanish and French.

Head resident Audie Keaton, an engineering senior, helps many of the foreign students on the international floor in Piper Hall adapt to American campus lifestyles.

Although his academic major may not be international studies, Keaton said that as a military dependent, his many years of overseas experience help in understanding how the international

student might feel or what his or her needs might be.

Engineering students in Abel Hall receive visits from professors designed to help students feel less anxious as finals approach.

Other academic floors include a communication floor in Schramm, business floors in Cather and Pound, a health occupation floor in Selleck, a floor for students with academic scholarships located in Harper and a fine arts floor in Schramm.

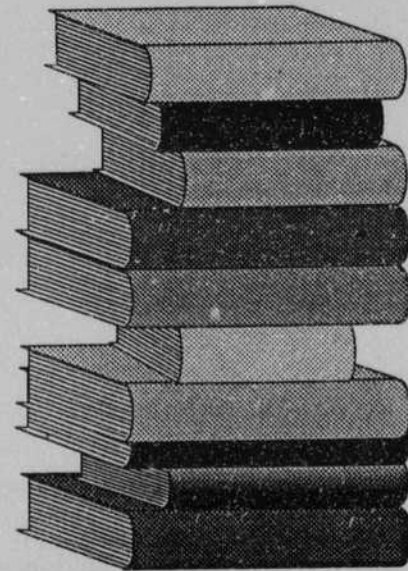
Jakobsen said other specialized floors deal with housing students

of similar ages and needs together.

Several of these are the non-traditional student floor and the upper-class floors in Selleck, the graduate floors of Selleck and Fedde and the special needs floors located in Cather and Pound.

Jakobsen said that in addition to the required accredited training course, special floor S.A.s also learn the art of tutoring students.

And they must learn to deal with the specific problems that might arise from having a specialized floor, she said.



SA

Continued from Page 9

"we found the same data for about six years in a row," she said.

Survey results will be verified in the future through sampling a section of the students, because "these poor people get surveyed for everything," she said. Because the students are demographically similar year after year, the job of monitoring the collective student pulse falls to the student assistants.

"It's a big, big job with a tremendous amount of responsibility," she said. "They are the ones who can inform us about what the students want out of their lives."

"We're actually having an impact, which is really nice to see," Jakobsen said of the programming efforts.

Evaluative analysis of the student population from the beginning of the school year to the end has shown student growth in a number of areas. These areas in-

clude student feelings of belonging, knowledge acquisition and value structures, including a tolerance of diversity. An outside research institute verified the results as valid, Jakobsen said.

The residential education program at UNL functions in cooperation with similar programs at other state universities, including Iowa State University and Missouri.

"Through S.A. conferences, we can compare notes on an individual level," Jakobsen said, "and in an operational sense we share a lot of numerical information."

Programmatically, we're all in the same ballpark," Jakobsen said of the universities.

"The breadth of what we're doing here is very large," she said. "In terms of peers teaching other peers, I think that's very effective. Basically, we're looking at the students and saying, here's your life and anything that could possibly affect it, and we'll structure a program to meet those needs."

Skills grow with S.A. experience

By Robert Richardson
Senior Reporter

Doug Daubert is one of UNL's finest. He's not a cop, and he's not in the military, although sometimes he has to act like he's both.

Daubert is a student assistant in Cather Residence Hall in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln residential education program.

Daubert, a senior philosophy major, said he has learned a lot of skills from his S.A. job. Leadership and programming skills are important, he said, but so is meeting people.

"One of the main things I take with me is a greater ability to communicate with people," Daubert said.

One of the hardest things to make students understand is the "big two rules to live by" in the residence halls, Daubert said.

Students must abide by the alcohol policy and the 12 p.m. to 2 a.m. visitation policy.

"Because," he said, "anytime you have 40 guys living in such a small area, if there were no rules, it would be chaos."

““ I try to get them to think a little bit about the other side of the issue.

Daubert
student assistant

““ "You've got to have rules as far as quiet hours and stuff like that," Daubert said. "People need to sleep and need to have time to study. I mean, that's why you're here at school, to study."

Although Daubert said rules were important, he said that when things go well on his floor, he just tries to be one of the residents.

"I try not to be a total disciplinarian. I try to be a friend and try to explain to them what the rules are and if they're breaking them in any way," Daubert said.

"But when everything is going

okay, I just try and be their friend and get along with them," he said.

If being a friend means sometimes "just hanging out with the guys," Daubert is the epitome of a friend. His floor eats together, plays intramural sports together and watches movies together.

And, Daubert said, he sometimes confronts his residents with difficult topics like sexual orientation.

"I challenge them a lot. I challenge them on diversity," he said. "I challenge these guys on those issues, and I say how do you know these people are wrong, or how do you know you're right?"

"I try to get them to think a little bit about the other side of the issue and make them look at it that way," he said.

Daubert said he agrees with university policy requiring all incoming freshmen to live on campus.

"When you come in here as a freshman, you're forced to live and get along with 40 other people, plus your roommate," Daubert said. "It makes you look at yourself and your own habits and his habits. You see his bad points, and it also helps you see your bad points."

Sweatshirt of the week.



SALE \$9.88

reg. \$25.95

Sale price good while quantities last through January 26.

Lower Level
Nebraska Union

Garden Level
East Union

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
University Bookstore
FEB. 15, 1989

OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

M-F 8-5
Sat. 11-4

East Campus
M-F 8:30-5

Program

Continued from Page 8

she said.

"The job wears you down . . . You have to know your limits of study and social life," Jakobsen said.

But, she said, there are numerous benefits to being a student assistant.

Student assistants receive stipends and free room and board, which saves them about \$3,000 a year, she said.

Being an S.A. also is beneficial to career-oriented students, Jacobson said.

"The job teaches them people skills," she said. "There are not too many jobs that make you so aware of having to deal with people non-stop."

In the end, she said, it's the student assistants' devotion to their jobs that makes the program successful.

"We have a high-caliber group of students dedicated to their job," Jakobsen said.

Next Week:

Exotic
And
Erotic
Foods

