

Accreditation places Morrill Hall among elite crowd

By Paula Lavigne
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska State Museum joined 650 other museums across the nation this month when it received a 10-year accreditation from the American Association of Museums.

Dr. Judy Diamond, assistant director for public programs, said only 10 percent of the museums in the United States were accredited.

The museum, which specializes in natural sciences and science education, is headquartered at Morrill Hall on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

"This accreditation is the highest recognition of quality in collections, research and programs that currently exists for museums," she said.

Diamond said the accreditation meant the museum was fulfilling its mission in a manner that met the highest standards of the museum profession.

The accreditation committee examined a 14 ft. stack of materials "about the same height as Archie, our mammoth," which included documents and photographs of everything

in the museum collection and the museum's future plans.

After pouring through the materials, Diamond said the accreditation committee organized a three-day site visit to observe the museum and its programs.

The director of the site visit, Dr. Michael Mares, and other members of the committee released a report of their findings.

According to the report, "...the University of Nebraska State Museum fills an important roll on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus and has expanded this roll across the state..."

"It is a facility that can attract potential students to the university from the time they are preschoolers to the time they are ready to select an institution for university education."

Diamond said the committee was impressed with the museum's educational programs, especially the NASA Teacher Resource Center, the Encounter Center, grant-funded science educational activities and planetarium programs.

She said the report stated the museum's programs would serve as models for other university and state museums.



Jason Levkulich/DN

Welcoming visitors into the University Museum's Elephant Hall, this African elephant represents one of the two types of pachyderms left in the world.

July Jamm to feature fine food, art, music

By Ann Stack
Staff Reporter

Lincoln is in for a weekend of the blues.

July Jamm, a three-day festival featuring theme food, music and art, kicks off tomorrow at 11 a.m. The festival, sponsored by the Lincoln Downtown Merchant Association and the Updowntowners, will be held at 12th and N streets.

"July Jamm in its current form has been around for three years," said Marcia White, co-chairperson of the July Jamm's Steering Committee.

"Before it became a three-day festival, Lincoln had a one-night festival as early as '88 or '89, with some variation on jazz and blues," White said. "Since then it's grown into July Jamm."

This year the festival has several new additions, including a fine arts show, a wine tasting booth and a children's fair called Kidz Jamm.

"Twenty-one artists from five different states were selected through a jurying process to exhibit their work," White said.

The fine arts display will include watercolors, porcelains, jewelry and photography. The display will be set up in tents along N Street for the duration of the festival.

Of course, an outdoor festival would not be complete without food. Seventeen food vendors will be on hand to satisfy almost any craving.

Returning are favorites OK Cafe from Hastings, Valentino's, Billy's, George's Greck Gyros, Vien Dong and Crane River Brewpub and Cafe.

New to the festival are Sooo

Gute, which features authentic German cuisine, gourmet desserts from the Lincoln University Club, Falk's Classic Homemade Ice Cream, Just Pretzels, Oom-Pah Tacos from Cheyenne, Wyo., Blue Heron Wine and Bar Bistro, Huey's Fine Foods and Spirits and P.O. Pears.

The Updowntowners/Family Services will be selling gourmet cookies from The Cookie Company.

The weekend's spotlight will be on the musical entertainment, featuring jazz and blues artists playing non-stop throughout the festival.

Headlining the street dances on Friday and Saturday nights will be zydeco blues hero C.J. Chenier and blues queen KoKo Taylor, respectively.

"We have the best entertainment lineup ever," White said. "C.J. Chenier and KoKo Taylor are names you hear at Kansas City and Chicago jazz festivals... it puts ours in a bigger and better league."

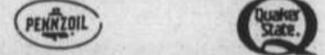
Two California-based bands will open the dances. The Loved Ones, a rhythm and blues oriented group, will open for Chenier at 7 p.m. Friday. Chris Cain will open for Taylor at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Also appearing are Jumpin' Kate, Spiral, The Grylls, Johnny and the Wheezetones, Justice League of the Blues, Annette Murrell and the Jim Williamson Trio, Simbiko, Kasi Taki and the Lincoln Community Gospel Choir.

Admission is free during the day, but there will be a \$3 cover charge after 7 p.m. Attendance is expected to be close to 30,000 people.



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