

Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

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THURSDAY

WEATHER:

Today - Breezy. Hot.
Mostly Sunny. South
wind 15 to 25 mph.

Tonight - Fair. Low
around 70



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Jeff Haller/DN

Jill Fazzini, left, and Page Baumbach clap along with members of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority Tuesday evening while practicing songs for rush.

UNL rush moved to Labor Day

Rebecca Oltmans
Staff Reporter

A traditional campus sight during the first week of classes is missing this year: new sorority members busy with their pledge activities.

That's because campus sororities have not pledged new members yet.

This year's rush week will be held during the Labor Day break, from Sept. 1 to Sept. 5.

During rush week, rushees visit each sorority to decide which one they would like to join. Sororities plan activities, including slide shows and skits, to tell rushees about their chapters.

Usually, rush week took place the weekend before classes started. Sorority members often returned days before to prepare for rush.

Rush preparations include making decorations, practicing skits and learning conversation skills.

Rush has spanned the Labor Day weekend before, but it's been a while, said Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs.

Rush week traditionally was held before school began, she said, because football games usually were played over the Labor Day weekend.

"And you know when there is a football game in Nebraska," Anderson said, "you just don't have rush activities at the same time."

But the football team does not play at home this Labor Day weekend. Also, Anderson said, classes started earlier than usual this year.

"Students would have to come back so early," she said, and that would have interfered with summer jobs and classes.

But for some sorority members, postponing rush has interfered with fall classes.

Angie Marasco, assistant rush chairwoman for Kappa Delta Sorority, said it was hard to prepare rush activities during school because activities had to be juggled around students' schedules.

Not being able to go home over Labor Day weekend is another drawback, said Brittanie Leffelman, rush chairwoman for Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority.

"It's a nice time to go home, especially for freshmen," she said.

But there are some benefits to the change, Leffelman said. For example, everyone has a chance to get settled, she said.

The change hasn't hurt the number of students planning to rush. There are 641 rushees enrolled this year, compared to 550 last fall.

Peterson hired by foundation

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

For Chris Peterson, a Nebraska Athletic Department employee for the past three years, a job change equals a clean slate.



Peterson

Peterson was named a consultant at the NU Foundation on Wednesday. He went through an extensive audit in February while he was an athletic department fundraiser.

Although the audit — sparked by allegations of misuse of funds from anonymous parties — proved nothing illegal from Peterson's office, he said, but his name wasn't cleared until now.

"That's just total exoneration," Peterson said. "The trustees of the Nebraska Foundation are some of the most powerful people in the state of Nebraska, business-wise."

"If I was guilty of anything, the foundation sure as hell wouldn't have hired me. It's total exoneration, which I think I deserve."

Peterson has been turned down for a number of jobs since the audit, including the athletic director position at the University of Miami of Ohio. He said he was rejected because of news coverage surrounding the audit.

"There was nothing illegal at all," Peterson said. "That was proven. But just the fact that there was an audit creates the aura of suspicion. It seems like the first articles kept popping up about the audit and it was really hurting my chances."

Now, Peterson said, that may change.

"This was a very good professional move," he said. "It will look good to college presidents that are looking for an athletic director. That is where I would eventually like to end up, and this is a good step towards that."

"I think this is a very good move for me."

Peterson was hired by NU Foundation President and CEO Terry Fairfield, who said Peterson would help the foundation develop a plan to increase the number of endowed athletic scholarships.

"A program to increase scholarships for student athletes is part of the impending major gifts campaign," Fairfield said in a news release. "We want to develop a specific plan for the Omaha and Kearney campuses."

The foundation raises money for all three University of Nebraska campuses — Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney.

Peterson's connections to the athletic department have ended.

"I am a native of this state, and when I got this job, I thought it was a job I'd be happy with for the rest of my life," Peterson said. "But sometimes things don't work out as you planned. Overall, I'm really excited."

However, Peterson would not comment on whether the move was related to the audit or his relationship with Athletic Director Bill Byrne.

NU Regent Robert Allen of Hastings said he wished Peterson could stay, but problems between Peterson and Byrne must have been too intense.

"It's obvious to all of us that when a top-notch associate athletic director has moved out of that kind of position, then there were some problems there," Allen said.

"I'm sorry to see Chris leave the athletic department. When you look at the tremendous talent that he had, you really don't like seeing him leave the athletic department."

"At least he will still be at the university. We need him."

Allen said he hoped Peterson stayed at his job at the foundation, but he also wanted him to get a shot at an athletic director job somewhere.

"I'd like to see the guy stay at the university, but he's such a talented

See PETERSON on 13

Enrollment figures on the rise

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

After a four-year slide, enrollment at UNL is inching toward recovery as the children of baby boomers come of age.

Preliminary figures show about 500 more students enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this semester than last fall, when enrollment reached 23,854.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the increase was caused by a rising number of high school graduates.

The children of baby boomers are starting to graduate from high school, he said, and that could keep the enrollment trend rolling into the 21st century.

About 19,871 Nebraska high school students graduated in 1995, Griesen said. That number could grow to 22,789 in 1999, he said.

The trend follows a steady four-year decline that came after a peak in 1991 of 24,620 students. But even though the numbers went up this year, more than five years may pass before they peak again.

"You don't recover from a slide like that real quickly," Griesen said. "These successively smaller fresh-

man classes project through the curriculum."

Griesen said it was difficult to pinpoint the trend's future because other factors — a 6.2 percent tuition increase, new admission standards in 1997 and stricter residency requirements — may influence enrollment.

And the university is not only pushing for more students, Griesen said, it is pushing for more quality students.

Because of stricter residency requirements, Griesen said, he initially predicted a decline in the number of non-resident students.

To offset that decline, the university spent \$700,000 on special scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,540, he said. The scholarships were offered to above average, out-of-state applicants.

"I'm not expecting any new decrease in non-resident enrollment thanks to the fact that we came up with this program," he said. "We didn't want to interrupt that pipeline coming in from other states."

The number of students shouldn't decline, he said, because the residency requirements and new admission standards should screen out the students who would have normally dropped out.

The number of graduate students also would affect enrollment figures, he said. That number has been rising for about 10 years.

Recruitment is another enrollment factor. Admission workers took advantage of the rise in graduates by visiting high schools, attending college fairs, making phone calls and organizing seven Red Letter Days.

Lisa Schmidt, director of admissions, said her office made more phone calls and had more people reaching out to potential students.

"We've had twice as many campus visitors this year," Schmidt said.

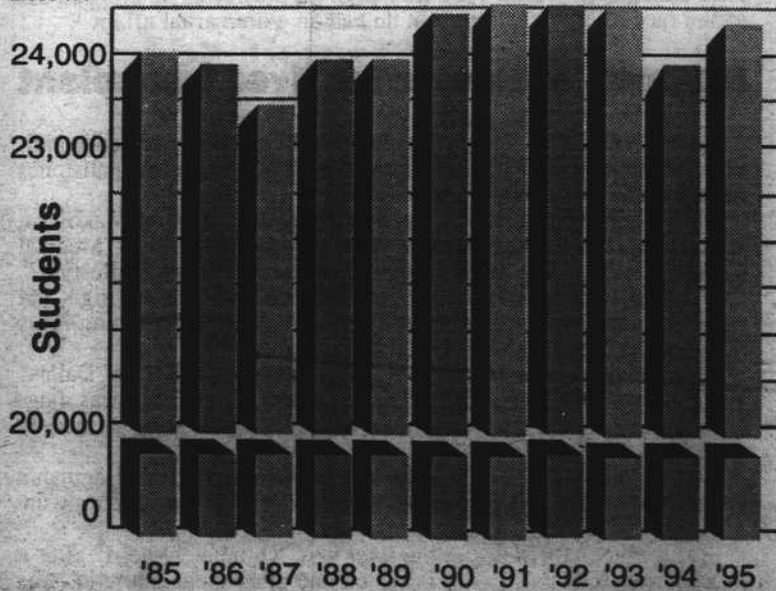
The office works with thousands of high school students each year, she said, and tries to make them freshmen at UNL.

Griesen said those freshmen have accounted for the bulk of this year's increase. Even though some may have to live in a lounge or scrounge for a parking space, they, along with the rest of the students, may benefit from the increase.

More students mean more revenue, which could mean lower student fees, Griesen said. But whatever impact the increase has on student fees could be offset by future fees for the Nebraska Union expansion.

UNL Student Enrollment

The number of students to attend UNL has fluctuated in the past 11 years. The preliminary enrollment for the 1995 school year is 24,354 students, up from 23,854 in 1994. The number of students attending UNL is shown on the left, and the year of enrollment is below.



Source: Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Office

Aaron Steckelberg/DN