

ISO welcomes new members

By Kasey Kerber
Staff Reporter

The International Students' Organization opened its doors this year to American members.

Previously, the club was open only to foreign students.

Muhammad Javid, the organization's second vice-president, said they decided to open membership at the first meeting.

"We felt that our name implied that this was a worldwide organization, and the United States is part of that world," he said. "American students as well as foreign students should be welcome."

ISO's constitution states that the organization can have five executive officers and 21 counselors. The number of counselors can vary, however, from 21 to 29. Currently, five American students are counselors.

One of those students is Joanna Halbgewachs, a senior environmental studies major from Cozad, Neb. Halbgewachs is the organization's East Campus coordinator in charge of working with students and publicizing events on East Campus.

ISO appealed to Halbgewachs because she was interested in learning more about foreign cultures and traditions.

"I joined after making a trip to Scotland, where I saw an international organization in the country," Halbgewachs said. "I had a lot of fun and knew there had to be an organization like this back home."

Another new member to ISO is Christopher Apple, a sophomore international affairs and Spanish major from Hastings. Like Halbgewachs, Apple became interested in ISO after spending time in a foreign country. Apple was a foreign exchange student in Spain.

He is also one of the three American students who are part of the six-member International Subcommittee of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

"In the subcommittee, we bring international concerns to the attention of ASUN," Apple said. "We work with many issues, from representation to insurance."

Both Halbgewachs and Apple said they felt no resentment from foreign members upon joining ISO.

"People care in this organization," Halbgewachs said. "There are no pretenses."

Javid said he was encouraged by the new members.

"They are very eager to learn," he said. "They want to know of foreign traditions, ask about our countries, know about our food and even our clothes."

"It's been a very good response."

New standards mean diverse UNL royalty

Committee expands qualifications, raises grade requirements

By Tedd Taylor
Staff reporter

Students interested in becoming a homecoming royalty candidate this year can jump on one of three new tracks.

Andy Vuko, ASUN homecoming royalty chairwoman, said the change was meant to correct a shortcoming in the homecoming application process.

"In the past, we mainly looked at the applicants' campus involvement," Vuko said. "We realized you don't have to be in X number student organizations to be an ambassador for the university."

The three new tracks are campus involvement, community service and athletics.

Vuko said that in recent years, applications had been dominated by people in the greek system. This year's application process should change that, she said.

"Now, anyone qualified in any of those three areas has a chance to shine," she said. "We want to diversify the courtship based on what they do."

Vuko said the athletic track was not limited to varsity athletes. It includes campus intramurals and other competitive athletes, as well.

Another change applicants can expect to find this year is the grade requirement.

Now, applicants must not only have completed at least 75 credit hours, they must also hold a 3.0 grade point average. No other grade factors will

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ANDY VUKO

Homecoming official

figure into candidate screening.

Last year, students needed only a 2.4 grade point average. Bonus points were added for any grade points above that.

"This is also a much smaller application," Vuko said. "It is very cut and dry, and students only need one reference this year."

Applications are due in the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska office by noon Sept. 18, Vuko said. Candidate screening will begin then.

Screening will be conducted by three committees each made up of a staff member, an off-campus student, a residence hall student, and a greek student.

Each committee will choose between 10 and 15 semifinalists, who will be interviewed Sept. 26 and 28.

Ten male and 10 female candidates will be chosen for this year's royalty court and will be introduced at the NU-Kansas State football game Oct. 21.

Students will vote for a king and a queen Oct. 18.

Robak

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said. "I don't dwell on that side of it because there are opportunities out there."

"Everybody gets treated differently based on who they are," she said. "The last thing we want is for everyone to be treated the same because people have different skills and aptitudes."

Although she would serve out Nelson's term as governor, Robak said it was too early to know whether she would run for the post herself in 2000.

Robak said she would consider running and would make the decision with her family.

"I see a real opportunity for some leadership," she said. "The public is really looking for people who can take Nebraska into the 21st century."

But for now, Robak said, she will

continue to work hard in her current position, especially on her project to reform health care in Nebraska.

Robak began the task of changing the current health care system soon after becoming lieutenant governor. In one of the high points of her service, she said, a 10-point package she put together was passed unanimously by the Legislature.

That package included provisions for immunizing children, reforming small-group insurance laws and government funding for doctors' medical school bills if they practice in rural communities.

The current phase of her reform program focuses on how the Department of Health and Human Services works. It examines how federal funds are used, from when they are received to when services are provided.

No matter which executive job she holds, Robak said, there is one aspect

of her life that will always come first. Her family.

"It's a tremendous amount of work to be a working mom, or a working parent even."

Robak has been married for nearly 10 years to Bill Mueller, a Lincoln attorney who does lobbying work.

Because of the nature of their jobs, they don't take their work home with them, she said.

"He represents the interests of his clients by giving information to the senators," Robak said. "We don't talk about those issues."

Most of their attention is on their two daughters: Katherine, 7, and Claire, 4.

"Now that we have two girls," Robak said, "it makes it impossible to talk about anything."

"When we go home, our time is spent with them."

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