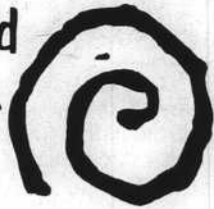


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A-MUSE-ING — Steven Sparling performs part of a poem he wrote as Misty Banks looks on. The two members of the UNL Angrian Revolution opened the Poetry Slam in the Nebraska Union Thursday night.

Students take in farm life
Stereotypes broken in Homestay program

By Michaela Pieler
Staff Reporter

Shiuh-Ney Chan didn't expect Nebraskan farmers to care much about foreign cultures. A weekend at an Auburn cattle farm proved her wrong. Chan, an exchange student from Malaysia, was one of 33 international students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who spent part of spring break in Auburn or Neligh.

The Homestay program has been organized by International Affairs for almost 30 years, said Hongwei Xia, program assistant for international student programs.

Chan said she was surprised about the open-mindedness of the couple with whom she stayed.

"They were incredibly interested in my culture and in exchanging ideas," she said. "Farmers in my home country would never be like that."

The farmers' lifestyle totally differed from that of the "cowboy guys" she expected, Chan said.

"The husband did dress like a cowboy," she said, "but he did not behave like one at all. He and his wife listened to classical in the evening and had a piano and a computer at home."

Chan said she enjoyed how the couple showed her around the farm and explained how to take care of cows.

"The husband did dress like a cowboy, but he did not behave like one at all. He and his wife listened to classical in the evening and had a piano and a computer at home."

SHIUH-NEY CHAN

exchange student from Malaysia

Another student saw the birth of a calf, she said, and one other student helped milk a cow.

"For the first time, we really experienced typical American life," she said. "It was so much different from campus life."

Students were impressed by the modern equipment in an elementary school in Auburn, Chan said. The school had its own classroom for teaching children about oceans.

"The kids have more possibilities and much more freedom than in my country," Chan said.

Joyce Oomen from the Netherlands said her host family's attitude toward animals puzzled her the most.

"They speak to their pets all the time," said Oomen, an intern at UNL's Department of Biological Systems Engineering. "The pets were actual members of the family. That was really different from the Netherlands."

Xia said learning about rural family

life was an important part of the Homestay program. Many international students only experience city and campus life and think the entire United States is highly developed.

"But that's not necessarily true," he said. "Our program allows international students to experience another side of this vast country."

And the rural communities benefit from the program, too, he said. They don't get many visitors, Xia said, so the students' visit has become a big event for them. Every year participants celebrate an international night, when students cook dishes from their home countries and give a 5-minute presentation about their cultures.

The program also includes visits to a dairy farm, a mill and local businesses, Xia said.

He said the students loved staying with the hospitable families and would stay in contact with them.

UNL undergraduates to show off projects at research conference

By Tasha E. Kelter
Staff Reporter

More than 100 UNL undergraduates will showcase months of work on research projects this weekend at the Undergraduate Research Conference.

The conference, which will be held at the College of Business Administration, will feature student research presentations from about 20 University of Nebraska-Lincoln departments.

Alexia Scott, undergraduate assistant for the University Honors Program, said each department would have about an hour to make presentations, giving each student 15 to 20 minutes with a question-and-answer session following.

"We have research in chemistry, research in women's studies—there's a wide range of what the presentations will entail," Scott said.

The conference will include several multimedia projects, Scott said, as well as "what would be considered traditional thesis-type projects."

Some research areas, including computer science and engineering, will use computers in their presentations, she said.

"Most of the projects have taken at least a semester, but some have taken longer," Scott said.

Some of the projects were researched in groups, including projects in the Communications Studies and Agricultural Research departments.

Kendra Liedle, a freshman advertising major, was involved in a three-person research project dealing with husbands and wives on prime-time television. She said it was "definitely easier to do it with a group."

"There was such a wide span of information to go through, it would have taken lot longer with just one person," she said.

For roughly a month, Liedle's group worked on the project for a communications seminar last semester.

"Ours turned out really well," she said. Her professor told the group about the conference.

The conference offers a way to get involved with the university as a freshman, Liedle said.

Paul Cain Jr., a senior mathematics and history major, has been involved with the honors program at UNL for four years. His research project is a

72-page undergraduate thesis regarding the global aims of Adolf Hitler.

Cain has been researching the topic for the past two semesters, and he has figured out a way to connect Hitler's war goals to Nebraska.

"Hitler had plans for America," he said. "The most interesting rumor connects Hitler directly to the state capitol building."

Cain said he was interested in the conference last year, and this year decided to become involved.

"I thought it would be a neat way to present my work," Cain said.

The purpose of the conference, Scott said, is "to give undergrads who are involved in research some recognition."

"Research is a lot of hard work," she said. "(The conference) gives students the opportunity to present to an audience. It's a chance to get recognized."

The conference will begin at 2 p.m. today with the marketing department's presentations. The presentations will continue Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All presentations are open to the public.