

Tidball honorees named

Winners recognized for contributions to university

By CHAD ELLSWORTH
Staff Reporter

Greeted by clowns, poetry and lively local folk music, those who attended the 1998 Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity Celebration at UNL Sunday found it easy to slip into the festive atmosphere.

The late Webster Robbins, a past assistant professor of curriculum and instruction and of ethnic studies, and Cheryl Card, a food service manager, received the award named in honor of Sue Tidball. The award's namesake was a staff member of the United Ministries in Higher Education at the university who died in 1976.

The award was created in 1982 to honor and encourage those on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus who make significant contributions to the development of a humane, open, caring, educationally creative and just community.

Nine staff and faculty members were nominated for the award this year.

"What makes life so precious are the little things people care about," said James Griesen, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, who spoke at the Tidball awards cere-

mony. "These people make the university a caring place by doing the little things," he said.

Robbins, who died of a heart attack in September 1997, was honored Sunday for more than 20 years of teaching multicultural education and ethnic studies.

"He taught about things he had experienced in his own life," said his wife, Alice Robbins. "He devoted his life to teaching people to understand."

Robbins, who in 1976 became the first American Indian to earn his doctoral degree at UNL, served as a role model for minority students and young American Indians, the awards committee said.

In addition to his work at UNL, Robbins also played a prominent role in Lincoln's American Indian community. He served as president of the Indian Center, served on its board of directors, and played a key role in the planning and building of the million-dollar center.

Card, who has managed the Cather-Pound-Neihardt Dining Service since 1988, was nominated by the residence halls' employees for her reputation as a manager who "never complains, who celebrates the positive in everyone, and is caring, enthusiastic, and joyful," the awards committee said.

She has worked with students in planning special meals, events and celebrations. She also led the restructuring of the management staff in her halls' dining service, helping improve job equality among the kitchen staff.

"It's easy to treat people with respect when they give you the same respect," Card said, praising her co-workers.

Also nominated for the Tidball awards were:

■ Kirby Baird, City Campus landscape manager

■ Keith Bartels, coordinator and manager of communications and information technology for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ Carol Danielson, a staff secretary in the School of Accountancy

■ Sue A. Eckerson, a staff secretary in the Student Affairs office

■ Gina Matkin, Nebraska Unions training coordinator

■ Kim Schellpeper, coordinator of learning and development programs in the NU Athletic Department

■ Karen S. Schurr, a lecturer in the civil engineering department

Griesen said all were deserving. "Everyone who was nominated tonight is a winner."

UNL leaders entertain children at Circus Day

By KELLY ROMANSKI
Staff Reporter

UNL freshman Eryn McConnell said she cringed when two children asked her to paint a complicated Dracula and a Siberian tiger on their faces Sunday afternoon.

But lucky for her, most kids requested a simple rainbow or balloon while she painted faces at Lincoln Children's Museum's annual Circus Day.

McConnell, along with the members of the Emerging Leaders class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, helped design and sponsor the annual day for preschool and elementary school children.

UNL students in the Emerging Leaders class work to develop organizational, teamwork and leadership skills on campus and in the community.

Students said they enjoyed the day, especially the time they spent playing with children.

"It reminds me of being a kid," said Reed Anderson, a freshman business major known Sunday as "Bobo the Clown."

Among attractions and exhibits at Circus Day were a child-size grocery store with miniature grocery carts, replicas of a Cornhusker locker room with NU uniforms and of Memorial Stadium with green AstroTurf, and a display where children could stand inside a giant soap bubble.

The Lincoln City Jugglers per-

formed, and children toured a replica lunar space module. Cotton candy and balloons awaited children on their way out of the museum.

Three-year-old Sierra Drake of Lincoln said she was having a good time playing with illuminated building blocks on a light table.

"I liked the magic shows," she said. "I like the clowns."

Her mother, Cyndee Drake, also enjoyed the circus.

"This is really neat," she said.

Linden Kaliff, a 2-year-old from York, said he liked the model train and the bubbles.

Linden summed up the afternoon with one word: "Good."

Josh Stevenson, a 12-year-old from Lincoln, said the magic and the clowns made his visit more interesting than a typical day at the museum.

Anderson, a.k.a. "Bobo," said it was the presence of the children that made the visit enjoyable for class members.

"It's fun seeing the kids' faces when they see me," he said, "if they don't run."

Some children cried when they saw him dressed as a clown, he said.

Rae-Hope Putney, program and volunteer coordinator for the Lincoln Children's Museum, said Emerging Leaders students were wonderful hosts and made Circus Day "very much a success."

"They relate to the children so well."



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