

Many fellowships offered to aid women, minorities

By KIM SWEET
Staff writer

Women and minority students considering graduate school have opportunities to get their graduate careers off to the right start.

For graduate students, especially, the right start includes having money to fund their research.

Fellowships for minority students and women are available, but students have to start applying early to get the coveted dollars that could fund their research, said Barbara Brennan, fellowship assistant in Graduate Studies.

Applying as a senior while finishing up undergraduate work or during the first or second semester of graduate study is the appropriate time, Brennan said.

One of the best fellowships that is available to minorities is the Ford Fellowship, said Suzanne Ortega, associate dean of Graduate Studies.

With three fellowships targeted at students who are either entering a doctoral program, in the process of completing it or graduated from a doctoral program, the Ford Foundation is offering money to fund students' research-

based doctoral programs.

The Ford Foundation Fellowships offers awards ranging from \$21,500 to \$37,500 for each winner.

The award is one of the best that minority students can receive from a private source, Ortega said.

"The Ford Foundation has one of the largest, best-established, best-paid programs," she said.

Ortega said though minority students have many fellowship opportunities, most are given by universities.

Brennan said that the National Science Foundation, the American Psychological Association and the American Political Science Association also offer awards for women pursuing doctoral degrees in those fields.

The Internet is a good place to find fellowships, Brennan said.

Two of the pages she recommends are <http://www.nsf.gov> and <http://sandburg.unm.edu/scholarships>. Both pages contains links to different fellowships.

The Office of Research and Grants also can help University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and faculty members win outside grants to help with study and research, Brennan said.

The competition for awards such as the Ford Foundation Fellowship is tough, but Ortega said UNL students do win them.

Because of UNL students' success in winning the stipends and allowances, Graduate Studies continues to push students to apply for the fellowships, Ortega said.

"We keep trying to get our students to apply," Ortega said. "(The fellowships) are really competitive, but our students do receive them."

Applicants for the Ford Foundation Fellowships must be U.S. citizens or nationals who are American Indian, Alaskan Native, African American, Mexican American/Chicana/Chicano, Native Pacific Islander or Puerto Rican.

Ford Foundation Fellowship awards are given for doctoral programs in life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, engineering sciences, behavioral and social sciences, education and the humanities.

The application dates run from November to January.

Students interested in applying or receiving more information on available fellowships can contact Brennan in Graduate Studies.

New UNL literary journal to offer Nebraska theme

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"In a way, Plains Song Review is a celebration of what it means to be Nebraskan," Pappas said.

Because the subject is so broad, the writers and their manuscripts will decide the journal's contents.

"It is really created by the manuscripts themselves," Pappas said.

The idea for the journal came up when Pappas and an advisory board of 16 members began looking for a way to get undergraduates thinking about Nebraska authors.

"The journal is what we thought about because we could have a little more student involvement," she said.

The journal also will be a way to put undergraduate work and professional work side by side, she said.

Pappas said that the journal should be well received by writers because the only other journal on campus that is intended for undergraduates is the Laurus, the journal of the English department. But that journal contains mainly fiction and poetry, Pappas said.

The Plains Song Review will not take away from the Laurus' efforts at recruiting writers.

"The more people that encourage writing, the more writing will be done," Pappas said.

If the idea for the journal takes off, Pappas hopes that the Plains Song Review will be published biannually.

By combining the talents of stu-

dents and established Nebraska authors, the journal will take an important place in the literary community, said Vicki Clarke, curator of the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors in Lincoln.

"It's very important that people write about where they are from," Clarke said. "With so many talented writers, we can appreciate where we are from."

Student editors will select the manuscripts that will appear in the journal. Representing a variety of disciplines, the editors also will choose the recipient of the \$200 Plains Song award for the best student work, Pappas said.

The student editors will collaborate with Pappas as well as the assistant editor, Laura Lacy, a reference librarian at Lincoln City Libraries.

With the amount of support the journal is receiving, Pappas said, the journal could be a big success. But students have to send in manuscripts first.

So far, Pappas said, about 20 manuscripts have been submitted.

"It really has a lot of support in the arts community," Pappas said. "I'm hoping that a lot of people will enter at the last minute."

Students interested in submitting manuscripts to the Plains Song Review can mail them to Christine Pappas, Editor; Plains Song Review; 511 Oldfather Hall; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Lincoln, Neb 68588-0328. They are due Dec. 1.

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UNL campaigns to secure regional humanities center

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Humanities will select three to five universities to receive \$150,000 for the planning and development of the center during phase two of the competition. The expected deadline for the planning proposals is in March or April 1999, he said.

If UNL's planning grant is accepted, Wunder said, the university will submit a proposal to the national endowment asking for UNL to be designated as the regional host for the center.

"This is where we really must develop the center," Wunder said. "We will have to show NEH why the center should be in Nebraska and how the Great Plains region will benefit."

Wunder said the deadline for this proposal is expected to be in the spring of 2000.

Rosowski said she and Wunder are currently taking a cultural inventory of the region, including talking to scholars and representatives from museums, art galleries and state historical societies.

"When people start talking, people get excited about what might happen," Rosowski said. "We want to articulate the voices of people from the Plains, as

well as listen to and bring voices in."

She said the center would serve as a kind of regional clearinghouse for the humanities.

Wunder said that along with gathering inventory, he and Rosowski are interested in "ideas, good judgment and expertise" of other humanists within the university.

Rosowski and Wunder have invited 20 to 25 other humanists from the faculty who are known to have interests in the Great Plains to sit on panels that will discuss proposal efforts.

Edwards said he appointed Rosowski and Wunder to write the proposals because of their rich background in the field of humanities.

"These two individuals are dedicated to the humanities," Edwards said. "Not only are they predominant scholars on campus, their names are recognized nationwide."

Rosowski said she is looking forward to the entire Great Plains region benefiting from the regional center.

"If you look around, what you will see is all generations and backgrounds," Rosowski said. "We are a rich region. The center would be a wonderful extension to the resources we have available now."

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