

Foreign enrollment up at UNL

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UNL. "That's something we can anticipate being more and more significant," he said.

For the most part, the recruiting took care of itself through family and friends of the international students who have studied at UNL, he said.

"We like to think this office has a reputation of being quite helpful to students from other countries," Levitov said. "They learn from family and friends who have studied here that the staff at International Affairs really cares for them."

Shama Ali, who works in International Affairs and has helped coordinate programs such as English Conversation Partners, said minority organizations at UNL have helped a great deal in recruiting Asian students.

In some of the organizations, she said, members will volunteer to pick up newly arriving students at the airport to help with their transition into a new country.

Sometimes members provide temporary housing until the students find living arrangements, she said.

Programs such as English Conversation Partners, which match UNL students with international students, also help international students to feel comfortable, Ali said.

"It gives them an opportunity to make friends with the Americans," she said. "I think they'll probably feel more comfortable one-on-one before meeting people in a large group."

Jackson Chung, a junior actuarial science major from Hong Kong, said

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PETER LEVITOV
associate dean of International Affairs

departments such as International Affairs do a good job in helping the university become more diverse.

Amit Shrivastava, a graduate student in environmental engineering from India, said organizations such as the Indian Student Association help international students feel more at home.

Chung said low tuition rates are also a major attraction for Asian students.

"It's very cheap," Chung said. Shrivastava said tuition was a major reason he came to UNL.

"I had to spend practically nothing," he said, "except for the plane ticket."

The presence of Asian students at UNL is especially prominent in the computer science and engineering department.

In the graduate department, for example, only 21 of 102 students are from the United States. Forty-five students are from China, with 28 enrolled from India, Korea, Malaysia, Palestine and Turkey are other countries that have students in the department.

Charles Riedesel, assistant professor and chief adviser in computer science and engineering, said potential salaries in the computer industry are probably the reason for the influx of international students in the department.

Rajat Das, a graduate student in environmental engineering from India, said he feels a lot of students in India enroll in the department because of its reputation.

The department is ranked 70th in the nation by the National Research Council, administrators in the office said.

Chung said he felt more students from Southeast Asia are studying abroad because of changes in their government.

The United States presents a better opportunity for Asian students education-wise, Chung said. He pointed specifically to Indonesia, where the president was recently ousted.

"Let's just say the United States is more popular," he said. "The programs (at UNL) help international students adjust to the American culture a lot."

UNMC, UNL join for funding

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campus that would complement the research going on here, some of the research departments and faculty expertise that UNMC doesn't have."

Through collaboration and increased funding, the schools could provide better laboratories and increased opportunities for graduate fellowships, Torr said.

UNL could benefit from UNMC's participation in research proposals, said Partha Lahiri, director of the division of statistics.

"Right now the university is not associated with a medical school," Lahiri said. "Without a medical school it is difficult to get a big NIH grant."

Together the schools will provide a start-up research fund of \$100,000, which will be awarded to joint project proposals asking for NIH assistance.

Next, the researchers will submit their proposals for an NIH grant, trying to convince the NIH that the research will be successful if continued.

NIH provides about 60 percent of

all funding to colleges for research, Torr said.

Torr said she thinks that because of the high quality of research conducted at UNL and UNMC, they have a good chance of receiving funding.

Last year UNL received about 4 percent of funding for its sponsored research programs from NIH, totaling \$4 million, which was divided among about 10 different proposals, Torr said.

During the same time, UNMC received about 50 percent of its total research funding from NIH, or about \$18 million, Rosenquist said.

The schools' first step in collaboration is to provide six workshops on the two campuses to allow faculty members from the two schools to get to know each other.

Between six and 12 faculty members will be able to participate in the workshops.

The specific dates and times for the workshops have not been scheduled, but they will take place throughout November and December.

The workshops will also help in

the selection of the best possible proposals made for the NIH's first selection, Torr said.

Researchers will begin collaborating in November and will present their ideas to the UNL and UNMC funding committee in March.

After receiving funding, they will then propose their projects for NIH funding, which has various deadlines throughout the year, Rosenquist said.

Torr said selection for federal funding is decided about a month after submission.

Rosenquist, optimistic about the research, said it might take a few years for the program to iron out all its kinks.

Both Lahiri and Charles Wood, UNL molecular virologist, are already working in collaboration with UNMC.

"We are writing grants with the people at the Med Center. I think it's great," Wood said.

"We really need to emphasize that. I think it will make us stronger, for both institutions."

"There is no reason why we shouldn't establish more ties for our research."

Clinton takes talk to Web

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton can talk about the vast changes the Internet age has wrought, and the yet-unknown opportunities the blooming technology offers to America. He also admits he barely knows how to turn on a computer.

"The fact that I'm technologically challenged has become legendary in our administration," Clinton said during a speech on education last month.

Nonetheless, Clinton will be online Monday, conducting a computer chat with Internet users worldwide. Organizers of the Democratic-themed

event liken it to Franklin D. Roosevelt's Depression-era fireside chats, which were addresses to the nation broadcast over the then-new technology of radio.

To make things easier for Clinton, his part of the 90-minute discussion will be videotaped and then "Webcast" over the Internet computer network. Participants can watch the event live on their computers and submit typed questions as the president talks.

"Anybody who is on the Web can interact with the president," said Matthew Frankel, spokesman for the Democratic Leadership Council.

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