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Fulbright program sends UNL professor to Philippines

By John Hejkal

Staff writer

Terrorism and organized crime stretch beyond national boundaries. In order to address these issues, Chris Eskridge is stretching, too.

Eskridge, a criminal justice professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will spend five months in the Philippines.

A grant awarded under the Fulbright Program is sending Eskridge to the Philippines to give a series of university lectures.

Eskridge, the executive director of the American Society of Criminology, will also be working directly with Filipino judges on projects dealing with the criminal justice system in the Philippines.

The field of criminology is becoming international in scope, Eskridge said, so the importance of international communication is increasing.

In Eskridge's 22 years teaching at UNL, he has worked with many topics in criminology, but his current interest involves organized crime, terrorism and the court systems.

"Crime is an international phenomenon, and borders don't mean much, especially in the area of terrorism and organized crime," he said.

The Philippines has had problems with terrorism, Eskridge said, with Muslim insurgents in the south and communist insurgents in the north.

Eskridge has been involved in international work before receiving the Fulbright grant.

He has been working with Martin

"Crime is an international phenomenon, and borders don't mean much, especially in the area of terrorism and organized crime."

Chris Eskridge

UNL professor of criminal justice

Killias, a professor at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, to establish a European Society of Criminology, which Eskridge hopes to see up and running by the end of the summer.

He also plans to work on establishing a Filipino Society of Criminology during his stay as a Fulbright lecturer.

Eskridge lived in the Philippines for two years in the 1970s. He was encouraged to return by Rolando del Carmen, a distinguished professor of criminology at Sam Houston State University.

Del Carmen, a former law professor at Silliman University in the Philippines, moved to the United States in 1966.

He said Eskridge's broad knowledge should serve him well in the Philippines.

"Just about every facet of the Philippines' system is based on the American system, so Eskridge can help in all facets," del Carmen said.

Del Carmen said other countries look to the United States for solutions to organized crime and terrorism, so Eskridge's work in those areas should be relevant to the Philippines.

But del Carmen, a former Fulbright grantee, said the program's main benefactor is the person who travels abroad.

"Understanding another culture in depth is the primary benefit of the Fulbright program," he said. "The academic part becomes almost secondary to cultural absorption."

Intermediaries are often used to settle disputes in the Philippines. American society often lacks that aspect of conflict resolution, del Carmen said. He said American society has not fully explored the use of third parties in solving problems.

Del Carmen said Eskridge's interpersonal skills and upbeat personality will make him an effective communicator in the Philippines.

"He was the kind of person who really wanted to go out of his way to understand the people and mix with the culture," he said.

Eskridge said he wants to make sure the lines of communication are open so both countries can become more aware of what they are doing.

"We hope to learn from them as to what they're doing and how to help them with some of their problems," Eskridge said.

Doctors research domestic violence

UNMC researcher Dr. Robert Muellemann assists group with article focusing on domestic violence.

By John Hejkal

Staff writer

The battle against domestic violence is gaining ground, and work by University of Nebraska Medical Center researcher Dr. Robert Muellemann is helping.

On Dec. 16, The New England Journal of Medicine published the study "Risk Factors for Injury to Women from Domestic Violence," which was written by Muellemann and eight other doctors from universities across the nation.

The article promotes the idea that researching domestic violence from a medical perspective can help identify ways to end it, Muellemann said.

"I think that the more we can understand it, including the risk factors, the better we'll be able to prevent it," he said.

Muellemann said research concen-

trating on risk factors can help identify the best ways to help battered women.

"If a 19-year-old girl comes into the emergency room, and it's the first time, she may not be interested in shelters," he said. "Maybe in that instance it would be better to talk to them about education in the cycle of violence."

Characteristics of violent partners can include alcohol abuse, recent unemployment and having less than a high-school education. Abuse can also occur after the couple separates.

"These were all things people would have guessed, but nobody had ever rigorously determined it," he said.

The study used a standardized questionnaire to obtain information from 256 women who visited the emergency room because of physical assault by a male partner. As a control group, 659 women in the emergency room for other reasons were also surveyed.

Part of what made this study different was the use of the case-control method, Muellemann said. Instead of concentrating only on victims of domestic violence, women injured for

other reasons were questioned.

Muellemann worked on a similar study at the UNMC hospital this summer. The study has not been published yet, so the results are not entirely conclusive, he said, but some preliminary inferences can be drawn.

"It looks as if problem gambling in the partner is going to be as much a risk factor as problem alcohol, and that's really new information," he said.

Because the emergency room may be the only place battered women are getting help, research in that area is important, he said.

"Medicine has an important role in this system," he said.

Mary Larsen, director of the YWCA Women Against Violence program, agreed that physicians should be informed about domestic violence.

"If a physician is open to asking questions of his or her patients, he or she can be a contact individual, so hopefully intervention can be provided early on," Larsen said.

"I think that whenever any discipline can work with domestic violence programs, hopefully we'll be able to reduce the incidents of domestic violence in our state."

UPC requests 7.8 percent budget increase

By Sara Salkeld

Staff writer

The University Program Council requested a 7.8 percent budget increase at Tuesday's Committee for Fees Allocation meeting.

The UPC asked the committee for \$124,695 in student fees, \$9,030 more than what it received last year. Last year, CFA allotted UPC \$115,665.

UPC brings education, entertain-

ment and diversity-related activities to campus.

Members David Lockwood and Adam Kafka weren't specific in why they wanted more money.

"We are trying to get closer to the \$120,000 we got for the 98-99 year," Lockwood said when asked for a reason for the increase.

Kafka said the UPC also wants more student fees because it would like to bring bigger, more popular names to Lincoln.

For example, the idea of bringing

a major concert to Lincoln was brought up repeatedly.

This year, the UPC took advice from last year's CFA and sold tickets for some of the larger events that were held.

The budget proposal showed UPC asked for a budget increase in nearly every category, asking for the most funds for programs involving music, films and forums.

The Committee for Fees Allocation will vote on the UPC budget proposal on Tuesday.

Talk back to us at letters@unl.edu