CPACS Happenings (May-June 1980 Newsletter)

College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Ak-Sar-Ben Royalty Once Lived in Annex 27

The Norman French style home of the John W. Delehant, Jr., family with its elaborate Federal doorway and turreted balcony was originally built in 1926 when Farnam Street was outside the city limits. Once the home of an Ak-Sar-Ben queen, it now houses offices for Public Administration and Urban Studies.

FIT FOR A FUTURE QUEEN, a princess, and a page of the royal court—that was the Norman French style house at 6608 Farnam, now known as Annex 27, when the Delehant family lived there.

One of the daughters, Trish, was queen of Ak-Sar-Ben in 1974, the year after her family sold their home to the University and moved to 6054 Country Club Oaks Place. Connie had been a princess in 1966, and Susan was a page in 1959.

They were the daughters of John W. Delehant, Jr., an attorney, and his wife Irene who purchased the home from Charles Mogil in 1954. The Delehant family, including sons David and John, who were both Ak-Sar-Ben escorts, lived there until 1973 when the University bought their home for $85,000. Mrs. Delehant was a member of the Ak-Sar-Ben Women's ball committee for a number of years.

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Four more CPACS students are featured in this month’s HAPPENINGS. Faculty members are invited to nominate interesting students and their projects or activities to feature in subsequent issues.

Abbas Heydarian, a graduate student in Public Administration, has been working on a study of redlining at the Center for Applied Urban Research under the direction of Jack Ruff. He is attempting to find out if discrimination by lending institutions is taking place and to assess the housing market as it relates to lending activities. Gathering information by census tract, he is calculating the percentage of blacks living there, the value of the housing, and incomes by using the 1978 intercensust data as well as mortgage disclosure data from savings and loan institutions and banks.

Working on the project has given him a feeling for research, and he feels this project is timely and important. He’d like to continue working at CAUR and to pursue his Ph.D. He has found that economics has a higher correlation than race to the loans given.

Originally from Shiraz, Iran, Abbas has been in the United States for seven years. He received his undergraduate degree in business management from West Chester State College in Pennsylvania. He expects to receive his M.P.A. at the end of the summer session. He and his wife have a five-month-old baby. Eventually he’d like to return to his country “when things are settled.” Abbas feels he has made a lot of friends here and that the University is a nice place to work. He hopes that in the near future relationships between the two countries will improve.

The effects of divorce on family relationships is being investigated by Sue Edholm, a graduate student in Social Work, under the direction of Dr. Jane Woody. Sue is determining post-divorce adjustments by working with ten families a month in a series of workshops aimed at improving these adjustments. Attitudes and opinions about divorce are determined by administering a questionnaire to this group and also to a control group who do not participate in the workshops. Dr. Woody developed the survey instrument, and Sue has been administering it.

She has found a real need to help people going through a divorce and that they can be helped. A great deal of information has been gathered by comparing members of the same family and by comparing controls to samples. The work has been very interesting and Sue feels she has learned a lot. People in the workshop feel they have been helped and have gained an understanding of their children’s needs.

Sue has enjoyed working with Family Service on this project and would like to do her practicum there.

Originally from Lincoln, Sue attended Nebraska Wesleyan for two years and UN-L for another two.

David Anderson received a graduate fellowship in Public Administration and during the spring semester worked as an administrative intern in Valley under the supervision of the city administrator, John Sullivan.

Dave’s assignments included writing a grant application, helping develop a cable TV ordinance, and providing background information in reference to cable TV. He developed an inventory insurance system, including a product price list for city use.

In working on these assignments Dave called suppliers to obtain prices for the city or met with them personally. The grant application required him to work with the Farm Home Administration and the Department of Economic Development. While developing the ordinance draft, he worked with a citizens’ committee and the various cable TV companies and researched the ordinances of other cities.

Valley will have a cable TV system installed this year, and the necessary paper work is done. The town now has an inventory and knows what it is worth so it can be insured for proper value. The grant application is in review process at this time, and the product price list facilitates the budget preparation.

David feels that he has been able to see the scope of the activities administrators in local government perform. His experience has given him new perspectives of Public Administration from “nuts and bolts” knowledge and not just books.

David is interested in local government administration when he graduates, hopefully in December. This summer he is working as a researcher in the Council Bluffs City Administrator’s office. Originally from Alpena, Michigan, Dave received his BA degree in political science and economics from Park College in Kansas City, Missouri.

David Groshans is a graduate student who was awarded a fellowship in Public Administration. During the spring semester he worked as an administrative intern in Columbus, Nebraska under the supervision of Lloyd Castner, city manager.

Dave’s assignments included researching and writing grant applications, writing job descriptions, doing a phone cost study, and rewriting the local Civil Service rules and regulations. On the grants he also coordinated the efforts of the City of Columbus, the YMCA, and the State Game and Parks Commission.

The grants are now awaiting the review process. The job descriptions have been completed and accepted. These descriptions will give a more consistent base for personnel action within the city government. As a result of the phone study, the city government will be changing their long distance phone equipment and techniques with savings for the city. The Civil Service rules (Continued on Page 3)

Above—Ginger Burch and Joan Holley chat with Dean Kerrigan. Below—Ron Ozaki and Jim Thorson utilize a stand-up lunch counter.

Below left—Sam Walker and Betty Mayhew keep their eyes on the ball as Jason Chen volleys. Below right—Bruce Horacek and Jim Thorson get set for Jack Ruff's spectacular shot as Betty Mayhew, Ron Ozaki, and Jason Chen get set for the return.
Staff Activity

BEVERLY HARTUNG
Social Work
Dr. Hartung was a co-presenter of a workshop entitled “Counseling With Children—An Adlerian Approach” at the Child Welfare League Regional Convention at Des Moines on May 13.

BARBARA F. KENDRICK and CAROL ERTL
Foster Parent Training Program
Ms. Kendrick and Mrs. Ertl presented a workshop on Nebraska’s Foster Parent Training Program, May 1, at the National Foster Parent Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. Ertl conducted a session on the training program for *Fostering the Adolescent* at the “Building Family Strengths” Conference in Lincoln, May 15.

ETHEL WILLIAMS
Ethel Hill Williams, formerly at Public Administration and CAUR, will be returning to the University for the fall term. She will teach two P.A. courses and also be working for the Goodrich Program.

CAUR RECEIVES GRANT FOR DAY CARE TRAINING
The Center for Applied Urban Research has received a Title I higher education grant to train day care center directors in business and financial management and personnel administration.

Training will consist of 28 hours of instruction in these areas and will be available throughout the state. Directors of nursery schools, Head Start, and other pre-school programs may also avail themselves of the training which will count toward licensing requirements.

Dr. Genevieve Burch is the project director.

GOODRICH PROGRAM HOLDS RETREAT
Goodrich Program faculty, staff, and graduate assistants held a retreat on May 14 - 16 at the Creighton O’Donnell Center to plan for the coming academic year. Students were invited to a session on Friday morning to discuss their concerns and suggestions for the program.

STUDENTS
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and regulations now conform to state and federal regulations and statutes.

When asked about his experience as a whole, Dave’s reply was, “It gave me a better understanding of all of the facets of city administration.” He felt it was beneficial for any student to get into a practitioner situation so he could relate his education to the real world. Dave felt his work was beneficial to both the city and himself.

After graduation Dave will be looking for an administrative position at the state or local level. He and his wife Rhonda have been living in Omaha while he was working on an MPA degree. This summer he is working as a researcher in the Council Bluffs city administrator’s office.

David’s home town is Sidney and he received his BA degree in political science and history in 1974 from Chadron State College.

PHILIP E. SECRET
Goodrich Program
Dr. Secret gave a presentation, “Sex, Race, and Political Participation,” at the annual Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago in April.

JAMES THORSON
BRUCE HORACEK
LEO MISSINNE
Gerontology
Dr. Thorson’s book, *Spiritual Well-Being of the Elderly*, was published in April by Charles C. Thomas Publishing Co. The book includes a chapter on “Life Review: A Pastoral Counseling Technique” by Dr. Horacek and a chapter on “Personal and Institutionalized Religiosity of the Elderly in a Midwestern Community” by Dr. Missinne and Conni Brennan, a former Gerontology graduate student.

CHUCK POWELL
Gerontology
Mr. Powell’s article on “Aging in America: Toward the Year 2000” has been reprinted as a chapter in the book *Dimensions of Aging*, edited by Jon Hendricks and C. Davis Hendricks. The article was co-authored with David Peterson, former Gerontology Program director, and Lawrie Robertson, former Gerontology community service associate.

SHIRLEY WASKEL
Gerontology
Dr. Waskel spoke on “Attitudes Toward Retirement” at a pre-retirement workshop for City Hall employees on May 20. On June 9 and 12 Dr. Waskel, along with five Gerontology students, trained eight residents of senior citizen high rises to conduct problem-solving workshops entitled “Better Living through Planning.” The three-week workshops will be offered to a total of 60-80 high-rise residents between June 16 and July 3.

BRUCE HORACEK
Gerontology
On May 12 Dr. Horacek spoke on “Dying, Death and Bereavement” at an in-service workshop for staff and clients of the McAuley Bergan Day Services Program. As chairman of the Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Committee, Dr. Horacek distributed awards and addressed the foster grandparents at their recognition banquet on May 15 at the New Tower Inn. He spoke on “You and the Aging Process” on May 16 before a senior psychology class at Ralston High School.

PATSY DANIELS
Gerontology
Ms. Daniels left her job as assistant to the Gerontology Program director at the end of May. She plans to enter a doctorate program in English at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where her husband, Dave Schulze, has accepted a teaching position in the Economics Institute.

JOANNE LOFTON
CHUCK POWELL
Gerontology
Mrs. Lofton and Mr. Powell moderated discussion groups May 19 at the 1980 Governor’s Conference on Aging. Mrs. Lofton’s group discussed “Heat or Eat: The Effects of Inflation.” Mr. Powell’s group covered “Dollars and Sense: The Role of the Government in the Lives of Senior Citizens.”

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Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Moore started the house where Public Administration now has its offices in 1925, but shortly after it was framed up, it burned, was rebuilt, and finished in 1926. The Moores’ son, also named Frederick, was 12 years old when the family moved into the new house, which was then outside the city limits. He recently retired as head of the pathology department at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The front door has a copper hood and is done in the Federal style. It leads to a foyer with a circular stairway rising to the second floor. The sweep of the stairs and the second floor railing create a balcony effect.

Up two steps to the east off the foyer is a powder room. Plumbing fixtures and decorations here are elegant including gold-plated faucets, gold tassels on the drapes, elaborately framed mirror, and foil paper on the walls, all as the Delehants left it, as is most of the rest of the beautiful and expensive decor throughout the house.

The effect of the years of impersonal use as offices, however, is beginning to be apparent. The rich carpeting is worn and soiled in places, and walls and doors are fingerprinted.

A library is entered through an arched doorway leading off the same landing as the entrance to the powder room. The conical hood of the fireplace here and the one in the living room repeats the typically Norman shape of the turret above the outside balcony on the front of the house.

To the west of the foyer is a large living room with a semi-circular bay window hung with Austrian sheers that match the color of the walls. Floor to ceiling folding screens at the entrance to the living room are covered with the original foil paper but have been fixed so they won’t fold to set off the secretary’s desk area.

Two steps lead up to the dining room where the walls are fabric covered. Most of the kitchen equipment has been removed, and desks and business machines occupy the space formerly used for eating in the kitchen.

The Delehants turned the former garage into a family room with a bay of casement windows on the back of the house. A beamed ceiling, built-in cupboards and matching doors to conceal duct work, and a built-in grill and ice-maker were features of this charming room which now is the office of Dr. Peter Suzuki of the Urban Studies Department. A new detached three-car garage replaces the one that was part of the house.

A basement under most of the house contains a laundry room and a pine-paneled recreation room with a fireplace and built-in charcoal grill with a power exhaust. Graduate students occupied space there until fire regulations dictated that they be moved to the attic because the basement did not have an outside entrance.

The second floor originally had five bedrooms, but when the Delehants remodeled, they made one larger room out of two.

In the southwest corner is the master bedroom with a semi-circular ivy covered balcony, formerly carpeted. A dressing room off the bedroom includes drawers and shelves, and another small closet and some built-in drawers and a TV or stereo recess are also found in this large, sunny room made even more so by the bright colors in which it is decorated. Here Dr. David Scott, chairman of the P.A. department, has his office.

In one of the other bedrooms a red, white, and blue color scheme is used. In another the wallpaper matches the valances, and in the fourth bedroom the ceiling is papered to match the drapes. Two bathrooms have extensive built-ins and are largely tiled.

A carpeted stairs leads to the finished third floor which has another bath and storage areas including a cedar closet. Graduate students make use of the space, and stairs have been built on the outside to provide a fire exit, the base resting on a circular concrete paved patio behind the house.

The well-landscaped triangular lot measuring 316 feet on Farnam Street and 200 feet in depth contains .67 of an acre. The house has 2,305 square feet on the first floor and 1,584 on the second for a total of 3,889. Brick veneer is used on the exterior of the first floor and stucco on the second.

Certainly the old Delehant house and the other converted mansions which now serve as housing for various arms of CPACS provide a unique environment and warm atmosphere for learning and the business of education. This environment, which is due in large measure to the unique architecture and spacious lawns and gardens of the mansions, is all the more appealing and attractive as a setting for education and creativity, especially when contrasted with the monolithic structures which make up the bulk of the repertoire of modern architecture.

What a pity it is that these lovely old homes will one day be torn down to make room for some more of it.

KEN HAMIK RECEIVES HONOR

Ken Hamik, a junior in Public Administration featured in last month’s HAPPENINGS, has received notice that he is one of 40 students from around the nation chosen to attend the Washington Election Seminar, an honors program at Maryland University. Ken will be living, working, and studying in Washington, D.C. during the fall semester.

PAUL S. T. LEE

Dr. Lee, who has returned to the University after a nine-month leave of absence, gave a paper on “Remote Sensing and Land Use Planning” at the Sixth Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, last month. He also presented a paper, “Remote Sensing and Changes in Land Use in Central Arizona,” at the International Symposium on Machine Processing of Remotely Sensed Data held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana from June 3 to 6.

SENIOR CITIZEN DAYS ARE WELL-ATTENDED

About 1,450 people attended the eighth annual Senior Citizen Celebration Days, sponsored by the Gerontology Program May 14-16 in the UNO Student Center.

Four Gerontology Program faculty participated in mini-courses during the Celebration Days. Gail Kara served on and moderated a panel on “Housing Alternatives for Senior Citizens.” JoAnne Lofton moderated a panel on “Unraveling Government Red Tape.” Chuck Powell spoke on “The 1981 White House Conference on Aging,” and Jim Thorson discussed “Coping with Stress.”

He also discussed the Gerontology Program and the Senior Citizen Celebration Days on KMTV’s “Conversations” on May 13.

To promote the Senior Citizen Celebration Days, Kathy Sullivan was a guest on WOW/KEZO’s “Spotlight on UNO” on May 4, KVNO’s “Table Talk” on May 7, KYNE’s “UNO Scene” on May 8, and KETV’s “Newswatch Omaha” on May 13.

JOAN HOLLEY

Dr. Holley has been named president-elect of the Community Development Society of Nebraska.
STAFF ACTIVITY
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LAURENCE FRENCH
Criminal Justice

Dr. French’s article, “Regional Comparisons of Suicidal Aggression,” (w/ S. N. Walles, Jackson State University), is being published in Corrective and Social Psychiatry, Vol. 26, No. 4, 1980. Two other articles, “Appalachian Fundamentalism Among Whites, Blacks and Indians” and “The Isolated Appalachian Black Community,” are both being published in the Journal of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. French was one of six people honored in April at the second appreciations award banquet by the Lincoln Indian Center. He received a “Certificate of Appreciation” in recognition of outstanding support, contributions and services to the Lincoln Indian Center and the Indian community.

MYLON WINN
Public Administration

Mylon Winn has resigned his position at the University to return to Seattle to work on his doctorate.

JIM THORSON
BRUCE HORACEK
Gerontology

Dr. Thorson and Dr. Horacek have had an article, “Program Development in Gerontology,” published in the Journal of Theological Education.

Dr. Thorson and Betty Foster, an adjunct faculty member in Gerontology, gave presentations on death and dying and on aging and sexuality, respectively, at Northeast Technical Community College in Norfolk on May 1. Also, Dr. Thorson was in Washington, D.C. June 2 and 3 reviewing grant applications for the U.S. Administration on Aging.

SHARON DAVIS
CAUR

Dr. Davis has been awarded a Title IA HEA contract for a project entitled “Mid-Life Career Planning for Nebraska Rural Women.” The contract was recommended by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

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