

Friends Program helps exchange students adjust

By CINDE WALSH
Staff Writer

Being a student in the United States is "just like dreaming" for Masumi Asano, a 21-year-old exchange student from the University of Japan.

But the dream is not always a pleasant one. "One reason I came here was to learn to communicate with people," Asano said, although her ability to communicate is limited. "Sometimes I get frustrated when I can't make people understand."

One thing that has helped Asano adapt, despite the language barrier, was the International Center's Campus Friends Program. Taylor Smisson, a UNC senior, served as Asano's campus friend. Smisson has been a good campus friend, especially because he can speak Japanese, Asano said.

Smisson said that Asano had studied English in Japan but hadn't really tried to speak with natives before she came to UNC last August. "It's funny," Smisson said. "At first we spoke mainly Japanese, but now we switch back and forth between Japanese and English."

As a campus friend, Smisson helped Asano through drop-add and went with her to open a bank account. "It took her about two weeks to learn to walk beside me rather than behind me," he said.

Although Smisson learned a lot about Japanese culture through classes, he said, "The best way to learn about other countries is not through books, but by interacting with the people."

Ron Talley, a UNC graduate who was head of the campus friends program while in graduate school, said that American or returning international students who served as campus friends learned from the experience.

"It's the best possible way to learn about other countries," Talley said. "You can read all you want and study these cultures, but it's just not the same without the perspective of someone who lives there."

Talley said that students who put time and effort into helping new international students adjust "get back every bit as much as they put into it."

Peter Topping, present head of the program, is now taking names and addresses of American students and returning international students who are interested in participating in the program next fall. These students will help new international students adjust to American culture and the UNC academic system during the first two to six weeks in the country.

"The time commitment is not much," Topping said. "It's as much as the student wants to make it." Topping said the most important part of the program was the initial contact when the new student first arrived.

Talley said the program basically gives the new student a contact person he can feel comfortable calling on.

New international students often have questions about day-to-day problems, like how to dress for specific events. "For many of them, it's the first time they've

ever had to use their English," Talley said. Others, like British exchange students, "just want to find out about the local hangouts or the sightseeing attractions of the area."

About 100 new international students are expected in the fall. "A substantial number are going to be graduate students over 25 with families," Topping said. The program's personnel are especially interested in getting UNC graduate students to participate as campus friends, although undergraduates also can serve as campus friends for graduate-level international students.

The type of person who makes the best campus friend, Talley said, is "mainly someone who's just interested in other cultures and other people, someone who is open to new and different experiences. Topping said, "Motivation is the sole criteria. We don't turn anybody down."

Smisson, an East Asian studies major who has been a campus friend for two years, said the program had given him excellent contacts because he probably would be living in Japan next year.

Talley, who also served as a campus friend, said she met unique and close friends through the program. She also said the program had given her a different perspective of the world.

Topping said, "It's a chance to help someone new to the area to get adjusted, to learn a little bit about the world, and possibly meet a new friend."



Three participants in Campus Friends program study ... program helps international students to adjust

Climate changes feared

By MARK SCHOEN
Staff Writer

The international community must become aware of the problem of increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the implications that might have on the future global climate, the organizer of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration said Wednesday.

In a seminar before 40 persons at Berryhill Hall, Robert M. White, also president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, said that energy policy must take into account the fluctuations in weather caused by the use of carbon-dioxide-producing fossil fuels.

"We have disrupted the environmental equilibrium by the use of fossil fuels," he said. "This climate issue raises questions of a global nature."

White's visit is sponsored by the Institute for Environmental Studies. He is scheduled to speak again at 8 tonight in the Rosenau Hall auditorium on "Experimenting with the Climate."

During the seminar, White said that increases in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would cause a rise in the earth's temperature. This, in turn, would alter the climate, a change which would have social and political implications.

"We have to be worried about energy sources, adaptive measures for people and regulatory concerns. We must be concerned about humanity's effect on the climate," he said.

White said that there should be no commitment to an inflexible energy policy. "The action to take is to build an international consensus where scientists can begin to agree on the facts," he said. "Political solutions will then follow."

A native of Boston, White was an administrator of the Environmental Sciences Service — forerunner of the NOAA. In addition to his current position at UCAR, he is chairman of the Commission on Natural Resources at the National Research Council. He also is affiliated with the Division of Engineering and Applied Physics and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

UCAR is a Boulder, Colo., association of 48 universities that provides aircraft, computers and facilities for atmospheric research.

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'Ordinary People,' De Niro and Spacek win Oscars

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — The biggest winner in the 53rd Academy Awards — *Ordinary People*, which was named best picture — took just four of Hollywood's Oscars.

Robert De Niro and Sissy Spacek were named best actor and actress for their performances in *Raging Bull* and *Coal Miner's Daughter*.

Major awards also went to two novices in *Ordinary People*: director Robert Redford and supporting actor Timothy Hutton.

The movie's fourth award went to Alvin Sargent for screenplay adaptation.

Only one other movie, *Tess*, took more than two awards. It won in three of the

lesser-known craft categories: cinematography, art direction and costumes.

The awards presentation was not as electric as some past shows, probably due to the attack on President Reagan. The show was postponed from Monday after the assassination attempt, and it opened with a straight-faced Johnny Carson introducing a 2-week-old videotaped message from the president.

The Reagan assassination attempt came up again after the ceremony. De Niro, who won the best actor award for his portrayal of boxer Jake LaMotta, walked out of the interview room after repeatedly being asked about the possibility that a movie he starred in, *Taxi Driver*, prompted

the attempt on Reagan's life.

De Niro said he didn't want to discuss it. When a reporter continued to ask the question, De Niro became angry, curtly thanked everyone, and left.

John Hinckley Jr., who is accused of shooting the president, reportedly addressed a letter to actress Jodie Foster saying that he intended to kill Reagan. Foster co-starred with De Niro in *Taxi Driver*, in which there is a plot to assassinate a political figure.

The other major acting award of the Oscar ceremony, best supporting actress, went to Mary Steenburgen for her part in *Melvin and Howard*. *Melvin and Howard* could be considered

the surprise of the Oscars. It was nominated in only three categories but won two — Best Original Score and Best Original Screenplay.

Raging Bull added an editing award to De Niro's best actor award, and *Fame* won for best original score and best original song.

The Empire Strikes Back, the biggest money-maker of 1980 but largely overlooked for the major nominees, collected the Oscar for achievement in sound as well as a special award for visual effects. The award for best foreign language film went to the Soviet-made *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears*.

Speth to speak on future condition of the earth

Gus Speth, a founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council, will speak about the "Global 2000" Report on Population, Resources and Environment — a government study forecasting the state of the planet in the year 2000 — at 4 p.m. Thursday in Gerrard Hall.

Speth is an associate of the Conservation Foundation and former chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality. Speth's talk is sponsored by the botany department, the ecology curriculum, the zoology department and ECOS.

The "Global 2000" Report was released last year, while Speth was CEQ Chairman. Its authors report stressed that their conclusions did not predict what would occur. "Rather, they depict conditions that are likely to develop if there are no changes in

public policies," according to the report. The report addresses specific problems, such as population increase, food and fuel shortages, minerals, water and deterioration of forests, soils and the atmosphere. According to the report "Prompt and vigorous changes in public policy around the world are needed ..."

Coffee will be served at 3:30, before Speth's address. More information can be obtained from Professor Charles

Jenner of the zoology department at 933-1350 or 942-1421.

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