

'Mild Climate' Attracts Dean Hosley

Can an anthropologist whose research has centered in interior Alaska, where temperatures occasionally fall to 70 below zero (fahrenheit), ever find fulfillment in a warm place like Potsdam?

"To tell you the truth, it's good to be in this mild climate," jokes Dr. Edward Hosley, teacher, anthropologist and now Dean of Student Development at State University College at Potsdam.

Dr. Hosley may joke about the climate, but for the most part he is intensely serious about his work—centering on ways Potsdam State can encourage each student to realize his or her academic and personal potential.

Hosley came to Potsdam in the fall from Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls where he had been a professor of anthropology and associate dean of students for the past seven years.

"I consider myself a teacher who has become an administrator," the Potsdam

dean said. "I always want to keep a foot in each camp. That's why I'm teaching an anthropology course here this semester. I insisted on it when I was hired."

Hosley said that he doesn't believe he can be effective in administration unless he can stay in touch with students—what they're thinking and what their needs are.

It is this attitude that makes him the ideal initiator and overseer of the college's new program to guide excellent students who are finding it difficult to decide what they want to do with their lives.

Called the "FOCUS (For Outstanding, Concerned, Undecided & Students) Program," it is Potsdam's answer to the often-ignored need to provide special help and guidance to students who are well above par academically but who lack direction and information to choose their academic major or career interest.

Faculty "mentors" will provide the primary assistance in this regard. These specially-trained members of the Potsdam faculty will counsel, advise, and generally befriend FOCUS participants during their freshman year at Potsdam.

In addition to the mentor relationship, students in this program will have the advantage of special developmental seminars and workshops, take a career planning course during their first semester, and utilize a specially-developed program handbook to assist in self-assessment and the career choice process.

FOCUS Program participants will also enjoy brief "hands-on" work experiences in selected career fields during their second semester, through the cooperation of various alumni and other friends of the college.

"We know that there are many students who are highly qualified, but who drop out of college after a year or two because they haven't been able to decide where they're heading," Hosley said. "Through the FOCUS Program we hope we can provide the direction they want and need."

"By the end of the first year, this program will provide a sense of direction and career orientation far surpassing that of the average freshman," Hosley predicted.

Because FOCUS is new and evolving, it somewhat captures the limelight in Hosley's work schedule, but as Dean of Student Development he must bring his attention to bear on many other areas of the college, all of which are geared toward evoking Potsdam students' fullest possible potential.

Career Services, Academic Counseling, Special Programs, Student Counseling—these are all offices over which Hosley has general supervisory responsibilities.

"Some may wonder what is the link between this job and my background as an anthropologist. To me, what I am doing here is 'applied anthropology,'" the dean said.

Seeing this tall, slender man sipping tea in his tastefully decorated office in the administration building of a college campus, one might never guess that this is the same man who some years ago trudged into interior Alaska to become the first anthropologist to study the social organization of a tribe of Northern Athapaskan Indians and give the group the name Kolchan.

As one hears him describe his ambitions for the areas under his supervision, however, it soon becomes aware that mere weather would not be likely to deter this man from achieving a goal. Then it comes as no surprise at all to discover that Ed Hosley is a gogger (during my lunch hour), a backpacker and hiker, and a trout fisherman.

But the conversation soon comes back to his desires to make student help programs more effective.

"We're planning a pre-freshman summer orientation program for EOP students to help these educationally disadvantaged students be better prepared when they start college. We're looking to expand their tutorial services too. We want to explore the possibility of getting all student development services in a location more convenient for students."



DR. EDWARD HOSLEY

Legion Gives Donation For Summer Camp

Commander Jim Hewey of Post 74 Potsdam American Legion has announced that the Post, in conjunction with the ladies auxiliary has donated \$60 so that

an underprivileged boy or girl will be able to spend ten days at a summer camp this year.

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