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Benton Coopridge photo

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anne Weaver of Angel Flight raises a flag in front of the VA Hospital to honor hospitalized veterans. The ceremony, which took place yesterday morning, was sponsored by the Arnold Air Society.

How Russian studies program got up, student effort leads way

 by O'Mara
 Traveler Staff

Because of the efforts of a few students interested in furthering their education in Russian and Soviet studies, a new interdisciplinary minors program has been set up in the William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences.

Johnson, a senior from Springdale majoring in political science, led the venture to create the program.

"Some faculty members had the idea (to create the new program)," Johnson said, "when we approached them about it. They encouraged us to take the ball and run with it."

Johnson served as chairman of the committee, which was set up to study prospective students for the program. "We sat down and hammered out the curriculum," he said. "We took into consideration the wants and needs of the interested students, the abilities of the faculty involved, and what the administration would accept."

"We also solicited input from other departments in the college."

Johnson said over 30 students had shown interest in the program by attending a panel discussion of the proposition. He said once the proposal was completed, the next step was to convince the college's course committee that there was a student interest in the new program, that there was available faculty with the ability to take on the courses offered under the new program, and that there is a definite need for the program at the University. He said the committee reached a unanimous decision in favor of the new program.

Donald R. Kelley, chairman of the department of political science, is a specialist in Soviet politics and will serve as director of the new program. He said the new program will offer a broad overview of Russian and Soviet studies, similar to larger existing programs in other parts of the country.

"Our program will be a mini-version of these programs," he said.

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Enrollment down 2.7%; UA, UAM figures rise

 By Kim Ferritor
 Contributing Writer

University of Arkansas officials recently released 1985 spring enrollment figures that showed the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville enrollment was down by 2.7 percent compared with the spring of 1984, but two other campuses in the system showed enrollment increases.

The office of vice president for academic affairs announced that 12,934 students were enrolled at the Fayetteville campus this spring. The drop of 360 students (from 13,295 in 1984) represents the largest drop in the University of Arkansas system from the spring 1984 to spring 1985.

Milton Copeland, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, said that since 1984, fall enrollment went down (by 3.6 percent), the 2.7 decrease for the spring semester can be misleading. He said that the Fayetteville campus retained 92.49 percent of the number of students enrolled in the fall semester of 1984, from 13,982 to 12,934.

"We actually did better for spring enrollment than in the past," he said.

He added that the colleges on campus were making significant efforts to advise and counsel students about remaining in school.

"This effort to retain students is really paying off," he said.

On the other University of Arkansas campuses:

*The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences enrollment decreased by 1.1 percent, from 1,689 in spring 1984 to 1,670 in spring 1985.

*The University of Arkansas at Little Rock enrollment decreased by .97 percent, from 9,234 in spring 1984 to 9,144 in spring 1985.

*The University of Arkansas at Monticello enrollment increased by 1.9 percent, from 1,771 in spring 1984 to 1,805 in spring 1985.

*The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff enrollment increased by 11.7 percent from 2,330 in spring 1984 to 2,602 in spring 1985.

The total enrollment in the University of Arkansas system decreased by .54 percent, from 28,401 in spring 1984 to 28,246 in spring 1985.

Hicks explains veto to senators; ACLU may step in if bill passes

 By Nicolai Cranford
 Contributing Writer

Sarah Hicks, ASG President, Tuesday night said she vetoed a bill, which passed by a 40-19 margin last week, that would prohibit funding an organization whose function was to promote or educate a sexual preference because she wanted "to temper rash actions of Senate."

The bill was proposed by Clint Beutelschies, who said he wasn't aiming it particularly at GLSA (the Gay and Lesbian Student Association) but "for the future of other groups that could spring up that don't serve any purpose."

Several senators hissed as Hicks read her statement of veto.

"...The purpose of intelligent senators is to look at the long-term ramifications not just the emotional, short term issues.

"Whether or not one likes or approves of homosexuality, it does exist and is perceived as a threat, perhaps by those who, for some odd reason, feel their own sexuality is threatened.

"I'm horrified that ASG would choose to join a discriminatory movement that so clearly will become a thing of the past. Colleges and universities have traditionally been places of open-mindedness and growth, not closed-mindedness and stagnation. Once, the American public felt quite threatened by skin color. Bizarre acts of legislation that on the surface seemed reasonable were used in blatant acts of discrimination.

"Fortunately, most of us are now able to see that skin color can't possibly be a threat, and only through hard work and open minds is this realization coming true.

"I sincerely hope that the senators who so openly advocated this bill with such statements as 'I'm a heterosexual and damn proud of it,' can open their narrow minds to

see the obvious act of discrimination they so blithely passed. Statements such as these don't indicate a well-rounded, educated person who is secure in his own self. Attacking others is a clear sign of the bully's insecurity."

Hicks commented on the hypothetical possibility of funding a heterosexual club.

"...Historically, senate has been able to distinguish groups that advocate the need for education against discriminatory acts of skin color, why not sexual preference?"

We have never funded a group of white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants; indeed, one has never been foolish enough to claim that they are discriminated against. But, perhaps Senate was much more intelligent in the past, as were groups seeking funding. Is this what Senator Beutelschies is trying to tell us?

As I said, I would feel insulted if I were a senator. I believe Senate is intelligent enough to realize the differences."

Last week Beutelschies started petitions to override Hicks' veto. The *Traveler* erred in reporting last week that the petition must contain two-thirds of the Senate's signatures; this number must be three-fifths or 60 percent of all members according to ASG's constitution. There are 121 possible seats, but only 95 are filled. ASG will use 121 because that is the number of seats eligible. It will take 73 names on the petition to override Hicks' veto.

Hicks addressed ASG about the legal implications of the possible override. She said that the Arkansas Civil Liberties Union had contacted her and planned to intervene if the override succeeded. All senators who signed the petition will be named in a lawsuit.

She urged senators to take their names off the petition and consider GLSA and groups like them before passing "discriminatory pieces of legislation."