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AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
TERMED SUCCESSFUL
BY TWO UM STUDENTS

MISSOULA--

The Student Ambassador Program at the University of Montana has met with a great deal of success, according to two UM students who have been in charge of the program.

The ambassador plan was launched in the fall of 1967 at UM to inform high school students about college and university life in general and to stimulate interest in high school students to attend the University in Missoula. UM students, as ambassadors, visit with high school students about various phases of campus life.

In charge of the undertaking in recent months have been Fred W. Traber, a sophomore majoring in accounting, the ambassador chairman, and Ronald L. Molen, a sophomore history major, assistant chairman. Both are from Great Falls and both agree the plan to stimulate interest in university life and in the University in particular has been very successful.

Traber said the UM Student Ambassador Program Executive Committee has received a considerable number of letters from high school administrators throughout the state and out-of-state praising the program's objectives. UM Student Ambassadors visited 54 high schools during the most recent spring break.

A total of 104 student ambassadors from UM participated in the program last year, visiting high schools in their respective communities during Thanksgiving and Christmas vacation periods and spring breaks.

An innovation in the program starting next fall is one in which the University ambassadors visit various civic clubs--including Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Moose and Elks--and other organizations which wish to learn more about the University of Montana through students' eyes.

"The visits by UM student ambassadors to civic groups and other organizations is by invitation," Traber said, "much the same as the faculty talks are presented in various communities by the UM Faculty Speakers Bureau through the UM Alumni Association."

Traber said civic groups interested in hearing discussions by UM student ambassadors may contact the UM Alumni Association at the University in Missoula for further information. Student speakers will be available throughout the year for this segment of the program.

Molen said the UM Student Ambassador Program varies in approach according to the size of the high school being visited.

"Generally, large group meetings are held at the larger high schools," Molen said, "and then the larger groups are divided into smaller groups for more specific discussions about University life and question-answer sessions between high school and University students."

Traber said the ambassadors have visited schools ranging in size from 100 to 1,800. Regardless of size, most of the basic questions asked by the high school students are the same. How do University ^{students} dress? Do University students want 19-year-olds to vote? What are some of the major social problems faced by the students on the Missoula campus? Where do students live when they attend UM? What recreational facilities are available to University students? What political attitudes are expressed by UM students?

"The answers given for these and other questions are honest student opinions from the ambassadors themselves," Molen said.

Traber added, "The ambassadors meet several times before visiting their hometown high schools to discuss potential questions and gain ideas on a collective basis for answers."

UM students participating in the ambassador undertaking make themselves available to the respective high school students for individual consultation.

Beginning this Christmas, information notebooks will be available through the UM Student Ambassador Program for loan to high school guidance counselors and other administrators. Notebook information includes housing, curriculum, financial aid, Army and Air Force ROTC programs, and UM recreational facilities.

Faculty adviser at UM for the ambassador program is Wesley N. Shellen, a speech communication instructor.