

Women in science get a room of their own

■ **PROGRAM:** Tuition relief is one of the several benefits offered by the University's Women in Physical Sciences

By Laura Cadiz
Higher Education Editor

Physics major Teha Kordich used to get lonely sometimes.

"I'm the only woman in my physics [major]," she said. "I just don't see any women. I did feel kind of lonely."

Her loneliness was cured when Kordich was accepted into the University's Women in Physical Sciences Program. And this week, she will be a member of its first graduating class.

The four-year-old program was developed "to address the severe shortage of women in physical science in the U.S. work force," said Graduate School Dean Steadman Upham.

"Women have not been encouraged, until recently, to pursue careers that emphasize math and science," Upham said. "We're only using one half of the talent in the country in physical sciences."

The program, which currently includes about 20 women, accepts a handful of junior and senior women each year and pairs

them with a mentoring professor, who is often female.

This mentor is very beneficial, geology major Molly McCanta said.

"You have someone there who may have gone through what you are going through ... being a woman in a male-dominated area," she said. "There are very few women role models. That's a problem because a lot of women will think that it's a place they shouldn't be."

The program also offers the students tuition support.

"Most of the support for undergraduates is directed toward tuition relief," Upham said. "We felt this would be a way to recognize them."

For McCanta, the tuition waiver was one of the more attractive aspects of the program.

"I'm from Seattle, so that's a lot of money," she said. "And it looks good on graduate school applications."

It looked so good, in fact, that McCanta is headed to Brown University in the fall.

"The professor there is very well known," McCanta said. "He's a great guy."

The tuition relief was also a

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Teha Kordich
Physics major

bonus for Kordich.

"The program provided me with enough financial support to do only research and not have to work too," she said. "In physics and all sciences, you have to be really focused. It allowed me to do that."

And Kordich is headed to an equally impressive university — Yale.

After being accepted to and visiting various universities, Kordich said she decided upon Yale because of the physics department's attitude.

"Yale went more along with my attitude of group work," she said. "They were excited and enthusiastic about working in teams."

But Kordich and McCanta not only gained a stepping stone to graduate schools through the Women in Physical Sciences Program, they also gained confidence.

"It shows someone had enough confidence in me ... that someone believes that I can do this," McCanta said.

Kordich agrees, "In general [the program] was more of a feeling that someone was saying, 'I hope you do well.' Knowing that made me feel more confident that I could find help."

The program also made McCanta realize how few women there are in physical science fields.

"It actually got me to focus on what women face in science," she said. "I never realized how bleak the statistics were of how many women were Ph.D.s in science."

And because of the program, Kordich doesn't feel lonely anymore.

"In general, women have different concerns," Kordich said. "You develop different types of friendships with a woman ... men don't always relate to you. It can be lonely. The program replaced that feeling of being left out in the cold."

Closed fraternities re-open as boarding houses

■ **LIVING:** Manager Steve Frichette expects business to expand as the greek system continues to have problems

By Michael Hines
Freelance Reporter

The University offers only a few community-based living experiences, but another option was added this year and will be expanded in the coming school year.

Students who are not interested in living in residence halls, fraternities and sororities or co-ops can now choose to live in a community called a boarding house.

This was the first year for a boarding house known as The Noble House. Steve Frichette, 31, the manager of the house, calls it a "unique college living experience." Located on East 14th Avenue and Alder Street, the boarding house is the former home of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

"Essentially, I'm after the serious student who wants convenience," said Frichette, former president of the University chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. "It's not a party house."

The Noble House is the first of two boarding houses on campus, with the chance that more will come, Frichette said.

The Noble House boasts convenience, including its close-to-campus location, meal service, furnished rooms and cleaning service in common areas. There are 28 single rooms and three bathrooms in the co-ed boarding house.

The prices for rent vary from \$595 to \$645 during the school year, but are lower in the summer, when meals are not offered.

Frichette, in his third year as a law student, plans to open a second house, tentatively called The Courtyard, at 1440 E. 19th Ave. during the 1997-98 school year. The Courtyard is the former house of Sigma Chi, a fraternity that lost its charter last year.

The Courtyard will have several differences.

"The target market is more undergraduates," Frichette said.

The boarding house, which offers a sauna and a basketball court, will also be a slightly cheaper residence for males only.

Frichette expects the business to expand at the University but does not have any set plans.

"These fraternities are having problems," he said.

Frichette said the fraternities do not seem to stand for what they did in the past, as drinking and partying have replaced the drive for academics and leadership. The greek system is suffering from low recruitment and general problems with handling money, he said.

"The fact is people need to occupy these houses, and the boarding house is the only other alternative," Frichette said.

Frichette said he likes the fraternities and wants to see them grow at the University.

He also said he does not want the University area to change.

"We don't want a bunch of apartment buildings where these houses are," he said. "They add a lot of character."

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