Bean brings music to life for students

By Carla Fried

"I like to make music come alive. Music is a very important part of my life," said Carole Bean, chorus master for Opera Omaha.

Next year Bean will become the assistant director of the University of Nebraska. "I've always wanted a chance to do this," she said. "It will give me a chance to grow."

Bean, who has been with Creighton's Fine and Performing Arts Department for 12 years, has taught music appreciation, music history, voice class, university chorus and chamber choir.

Although music is not a major at Creighton, Bean said, it has the highest enrollment of the fine arts.

Creighton has a university choir of 45 members and is open to everyone, Bean said. The chamber choir has 20 members who have auditioned. Chamber choir does a different type of music which is suited to a smaller group.

Next year, the music department plans to do a musical, Bean said, but has not decided on which one. She said Creighton offers its own private voice lessons and anticipates building.

Bean, whose mother was a pianist, began piano lessons at age four and violin lessons at 15. She played the violin at college. She learned vocal choral conducting. Her voice is a soprano coloratura, which is, "a light and high soprano," she said.

Bean attended Wichita State University in Kansas. She received a bachelor of science degree as a string (violin) major. In graduate school, she majored as a choral conductor in voice, and then studied voice for one year.

Bean said she moved to Omaha after looking at Chicago and New York. "I liked the size of Omaha. It had a symphony and opera company with lots of job opportunities," she said.

Bean is very involved with opera. As a chorus master, Bean said she auditions and trains the chorus for each opera, doing mostly off stage conducting.

Opera Omaha has a chorus of 36 contracted singers. Bean said, although the number varies with each opera. In the opera "Aida," she said 180 singers were used.

Opera singers do not use microphones. Bean said they learn to project their voices. Since most operas are in different languages, singers learn language dictation and pronunciation. Bean said she speaks French, Italian and German.

Bean has played first violin in the Omaha Symphony for the last 15 years. She was named a director of Creighton. The symphony at the time was in charge of teaching music appreciation at Creighton. Bean volunteered to give lectures to the students. She also taught private voice lessons.

Bean said she prefers to listen to classical music. "The older I get the more I like Mozart," she said. Although she enjoys listening to whoever is singing at the time. Placido Domingo is her favorite. "I like the sensitivity in his singing, the sound of his voice. He's easier to listen to," she said.

Spring travels determined by funds

By Colleen Connolly

"Spring break, that long-awaited time of year, will come whether we like it or not. So you best save your money now."

By now, you know you're going on a trip for spring break. You've been looking forward to it for months. But now you're faced with a big decision: where do you go? And how do you get there?

With spring break being right around the corner, you need to start planning now. First, you need to decide where you want to go. Do you want to go to a beach? A city? The mountains?

Once you've decided where you want to go, you need to start thinking about how you're going to get there. Are you going to fly? Drive? Take a bus? It's important to factor in the cost of travel when making your plans.

Finally, you need to think about your budget. How much money do you have saved up for spring break? Are you going to have to take out a loan? It's important to be realistic about your finances when planning your trip.

And those that will return home to "party" with their parents, must be submitted to the same rules.

parents sent you enough) you can fly to your destination, saving time and your sanity. That's the best deal.