

Reception held for assistant director

CISP director Susan Hertz Khawaja retired after over 20 years of service.

BY KRISTEN SERROKA
Jambar Reporter

A reception was held Friday, June 28 for Susan Hertz Khawaja who retired from the position of assistant director for the Center for International Studies and Programs, which she has held since 1978.

Khawaja was accompanied by colleagues, friends and international students who attended the reception while enjoying friendly conversation and a light lunch in the lobby of the center.

Khawaja said she has many plans for retirement, which include the usual rest and relaxation along with working for the international volunteer movement, working with refugees, as well as an application for the Peace Corps.

Khawaja said she will miss "the chance to view the world's future through the eyes of international students." She said that feeling could not be replaced.

Ozgur Baykal, graduate student from Turkey, said Khawaja is very experienced in her job and he will miss her because she always understands situations and can give answers.

Ehsan Mehri, freshman from Iran, said Khawaja was the first

person he met at YSU and will miss her and stay in contact with her since "she will always be a part" of YSU.

Khawaja, who was supposed to retire last July, said her duties of assistant director included helping to orient students and faculty who come to YSU from overseas for studies and research to the campus and American education system. In addition, she is responsible for the legal compliance with U.S. immigration regulations.

Some YSU international students who attended the reception said they enjoyed working with Khawaja and are worried about who will take her position once she is gone.

Enyinda Onunwor, graduate student from Nigeria, said the hardest thing will be trying to find someone with as much experience as Khawaja. He said himself, along with other students, are concerned about their future because they have grown accustomed to Khawaja.

Dr. Sylvia Jimenez Hyre, director of the center, said Khawaja has had a difficult job to do, but has reached a milestone by retiring and hopes that she enjoys her retirement.

Hyre said the students of the center are very concerned with Khawaja leaving because immigration procedures have become more complicated since September 11.

Hyre said the position will be advertised, but has not yet been filled temporarily. She said she will have to approach the provost because the transition period will be extremely important.

"She will always be a part of YSU."

— EHSAN MEHRI
Freshman, on the retirement of CISP assistant director, Susan Hertz Khawaja