

Professor accepts position as diplomat

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Jambar Feature Editor

Carey Cavanaugh, political science professor, accepted a position last week with the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer, better known as a diplomat. He will be specializing in political affairs, a position that only 800 people in the country hold.

"The job sounds more glamorous than it is," Cavanaugh said. "The work itself isn't as exciting as some may think."

A diplomat acts as the government's official source of information in the U.S. Like a messenger, he conveys the wishes of our government to other countries and relays their desires back to us.

He is "constantly analyzing their (the country's) political situation, watching for deviations that would affect their position with the U.S.," Cavanaugh said.

The job entails monitoring elections and discussing political affairs with other foreign officials.

Cavanaugh will be sent to a special school in Washington, D.C., in June, where he will receive an orientation on foreign affairs, including a briefing at the White House. This education will last anywhere from eight weeks to eight months, depending on what country he is designed to.

Cavanaugh said that it is quite possible he will be sent to the American embassy in Moscow, since that is his area of expertise, but officials will not make that



The Jambar/George Nelson

Professor Cavanaugh will attend a special school in Washington where he will learn about foreign affairs. He is preparing to be a diplomat.

decision until July.

"If assigned to Moscow, I will go immediately after the eight week orientation period, since I already have the background," Cavanaugh said.

If he were assigned to some other country, he would spend more time at the Washington school to learn the language.

"I applied for the job in 1979 and had not heard from them — until last week,"

Cavanaugh said, attributing part of the delay to the large number of applicants. Over 16,000 people apply for about 200 of these openings each year.

The delay was also caused by an involved security check conducted on potential applicants. The check usually takes about three years, but since "I have literally been leaving the country every six months," Cavanaugh said that the process

may have taken even longer with him.

Cavanaugh has been "leaving the country" the past two summers to do research on Soviet politics in West Germany. He

wrote articles which were then broadcast over "Radio Free Europe/Radio in the area of Soviet leadership, concentrating on figures like Andropov, Chernenko, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev.

Cavanaugh's interest in the Soviet Union began at his Florida high school where he learned to speak Russian. He majored in that language at the University of Florida with concentration on Soviet studies, Soviet politics in particular.

He earned his master's degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he will receive his PhD this summer. He also studied for three months at the Leningrad Poli-technical Institute.

Coming to YSU directly from Notre Dame, Cavanaugh has been teaching classes in Soviet and international politics for three years. "It has always been my desire to teach," he said. "I derive a lot of pleasure from teaching the things I like."

A diplomat could ultimately become an ambassador, a struggle that usually takes about twenty years, but that doesn't seem to be the goal of Cavanaugh. He says he would like to spend three or four years gathering data, then write a book. He may eventually return to teaching because that is what he enjoys.