

Woman earns degree after 40 years

Promise to father eventually fulfilled

By Jodi Finch
Staff Reporter

In 1943, the world was in turmoil. Young men left their jobs, college or high school to fight in World War II, and young women often quit school to fill voids the men left.

Helen Greene remembers. Her best boyfriend, William Greene, joined the war effort. She, in turn, abandoned her UNL career and moved to California to write in the U.S. War Information Office.

But before quitting school, Helen Keisselbach, as she was known then, promised her father — renowned scientist and professor of Agronomy, Theodore J. Keisselbach — that someday she would return to college and finish her degree.

Greene received that degree on Dec. 21, 1985 — almost 40 years after she made her promise.

"I did it to keep my promise, to make my parents happy," Greene said of her degree in university studies.

When William was injured in 1945, he and Helen returned to Lincoln where they married. Helen got a job writing for the Lincoln Journal and began her family.

While her six children were growing up, she held several positions in political offices, such as being the state public information chairman for the Kennedy administration, the state Coordinator of Safety for Gov. Frank Morrison and editor for the Nebraska Democrat. She was also a member of the Ashland school board and the state school board, a position she still holds.

Between her career and children, Greene said she did not have time to return to school.

"I kept saying I'd go back as soon as my kids left home," she said. So, in the summer of 1983, when her youngest son



Greene
Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Alex graduated from high school, she decided to fulfill the promise she had made 40 years earlier.

"At first, I figured I would be the oldest person to receive a degree," Greene said. "But after I read about an 81-year-old man who received his degree in 1984, I decided I was OK." Greene said she felt at home among the non-traditional students.

"Almost all of my classes had at least one other non-traditional student in it, so I was pretty comfortable," she said. "The traditional students don't really care one way or the other about us, and we non-traditionals are a very

close knit group." The transition back to school wasn't as smooth for Greene's family.

"At first, my husband was shocked. He had just retired from Goodyear following heart surgery, and he expected me to be around to hold his hand all the time," she said. "My kids were very accepting and supportive from the beginning, and eventually he (William) came around."

Greene attended classes part time for about two and a half years before graduation, keeping her school board jobs. Now, she said, "a political office is a possibility."

Digest

Degree deadline

Friday is the final day to apply for an advanced degree at Administration 208. If a student fails to apply by this date, graduation will be postponed.

The final examination report for a master's degree is due April 8 in the Office of Graduate Studies, Administration 412. All master's theses are due April 22. The final date for submitting doctoral dissertations and for filing applications for oral examinations is April 16.

Summer internships

Applications for national summer internships offered through the Experiential Education Office are available. Deadlines are: Mellon Research Program for Undergraduates in Psychiatry, Feb. 26; Washington Center, Feb. 15; and the Student Conservation Association, March 1.

Applications and information on additional internships is available at 102 Teachers College or by calling 472-1452.

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BITNET brings worldwide research link

By Andy Pollock
Staff Reporter

A recently-installed computer system allows UNL to share research with universities in Europe, Japan, Canada and the United States.

Donald Leuenberger, assistant vice president and director of university-wide computing, said the BITNET system was installed in September as part of an international cooperative agreement among universities. The universities agreed to share the cost of communication lines to promote research.

Leuenberger said any UNL faculty member can use the system to share research information with, or request information from, any university linked to the system.

He said that UNL's BITNET is linked directly to the University of Missouri at Columbia. The Missouri BITNET connects to another university. Thus, a chain is formed, consisting of more than 400 universities.

Leuenberger said BITNET increases speed of research exchange among universities.

"It takes about eight seconds to communicate a message and response with a BITNET in Germany," he said.

One BITNET system is in Nebraska Hall, Leuenberger said. That system is a resource for UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center, he said. A BITNET system in the College of Engineering and Technology is used only by UNL faculty.

The BITNET system was acquired through an agreement between the Institute of Agriculture and Natural

Resources, UNMC and the Computing Services Network, Leuenberger said.

Other than the installation of a "dedicated" telephone line to Missouri, the BITNET system's only other cost is the monthly lease of the line, said Lee Graham, director of financial administration of the Computing Services Network.

Leuenberger said the Central Administration UNMC split the \$400 lease payments.

Leuenberger said that use of the BITNET at UNL is increasing. The system also is expanding to more universities.

"BITNET extends Nebraska's 500-mile campus to a center of research information from all over the world," Leuenberger said.

Police Report

Saturday

1:41 p.m. — Shoulder pads reported stolen from East Stadium. Three students arrested for alleged burglary.

3:58 p.m. — Criminal mischief reported at Nebraska Union. A karate instructor allegedly pulled wires from a student's camera so the person could not film a karate demonstration being given in the main lounge.

4:09 p.m. — Money and clothing reported stolen from residence in Abel Hall.

5:03 p.m. — Intoxicated person reported in Taco Inn at 12th and R streets. Person taken to a detoxification center.

Sunday

12:05 a.m. — Furniture reported stolen from Neihardt Residential Complex.

1:39 a.m. — Medical emergency reported at Schramm Hall. Person became ill and was taken to the hospital.

3:38 a.m. — Door at the Whittier Junior High building reported vandalized.

2:35 p.m. — Bicycle reported stolen at 14th and R streets.

3:38 p.m. — Car reported vandalized in parking area 3 near Harper Hall.

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