

Positive



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—Johnson**

Photos by Dan Dulaney

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Kolb

ment with the National Parks Service.

The service allows students to go on archeological digs.

For instance, Kolb said, an excavation in the Grand Tetons in Wyoming gave her on-the-job training guided by professionals.

Kolb said she thinks the professors in UNL's anthropology department are just as good as at other schools.

Of the students interviewed, all said they were impressed and pleased with instruction given by UNL's professors.

But they said they also realize how easy it is for some students to simply go through four years of college without getting the most out of it.

Talbott said he realizes there are apathetic and disinterested students. From those students, the university may get a bad knock or two.

"There are students who don't care, those that just go through the motions of just going to class," Talbott said. "Those are the ones who are apathetic, but it's their own fault."

Talbott said those students don't give what the university has to offer a fair assessment.

"You can make it as vigorous as you want it to be," Talbott said about the rigors of class work.

Barbara Bennett, a senior international affairs major, said she agrees that there is a lack of interest in students not only academically,

but in extracurricular activities as well.

"I think students at more prestigious schools get drunk just like we do," Bennett said, "but there I think there's more of an atmosphere where students get together at the coffee shop and talk about pressing issues of the day. There isn't that kind of thing here."

But Bennett said she doesn't feel as if she has missed out on anything academically.

She was reassured of that when she served a three-week internship in Washington, D.C., with students from East Coast schools.

"I have never been put to shame because of my education," she said.

Bennett said in comparison to the Ivy Leaguers she worked with, she felt she had a more well-rounded education.

Involvement in extracurricular activities and the fact that a great majority of UNL's students work part-time showed her that Midwestern students may have more to offer than Ivy Leaguers who haven't worked a day in their lives, she said.

"I think it gives us a different outlook on life," she said.

So all in all, although these merit scholars may have come close to entering the likes of famous hallways and learning from well-known professors, they believe their education at UNL has prepared them for whatever the "real world" has to offer.

But Loretta Johnson, director of preadmissions, said she knows of students who have walked away from the university with bitterness or resentment.

But Johnson said merit scholars with corporate sponsorship could have gone anywhere they chose.

Johnson said she knows of one case in which a student transferred to Smith College because of her frustration with what UNL had to offer.

But Johnson said she also knows of cases where students attending Wellesley and Northwestern universities transferred back to UNL after their freshman years.

Johnson, who deals with entering freshmen regularly, said she always tells parents that wherever their children end up going to school it will be the right place.

"It's a matter of their perception of reality," she said. "It depends on how you look at it."

Johnson said all students should be impressed by the number of outstanding individual faculty and excellent programs at UNL. Quality should be a student's main concern for their education, she said.

A student's success will be a reflection on his or her view of their university, she said. "It's a self-fulfilling prophecy. It will be positive if that's the way they perceive it to be."