

# Double major benefits students

ARTS from Page 9

The job market is always good for a student with a liberal-arts major, although the push for more liberal arts has just blossomed in the past two or three years, said Gerry Phaneuf, director of the Office of Career Planning and Placement.

"Employers are seeking arts and sciences majors," Phaneuf said. "There is a fairly good percentage of companies doing that."

Phaneuf, who received his bachelor's degree in sociology, said that he didn't know how to apply for his degree when he graduated.

"The degree isn't always job-related," he said.

Employers will be more apt to look for those candidates who fit their positions, rather than a person who has the appropriate degree, Phaneuf said. Students would be best served if they took a double major, one vocational, such as business or journalism, the

other a liberal-arts major, he said.

"That kind of combination could be very, very good," he said.

Numerous reasons are cited for the change in attitude. Ten years ago, there was a tendency to view science and technology as dehumanizing, Yost said. But now, he said, people are able to see the challenge of technological change, and this is urging students to seek double majors.

"We have to ask what liberal arts should be," Yost said. "It has to mean more than the great books when we are dealing with a technological society. We have to ask, 'should technology be a part of the liberal arts and can there be an educated person today without some knowledge of technology?'"

### Built-in conflict

In trying to deal with this question, there is a built-in conflict in the way a large university, like UNL, is designed, according to John Berman, chairman of the department of psychology. Subsequently, there is a constant dilemma

between liberal arts and technical courses of study.

"We try to do a bit of both, and we end up in between," Berman said.

The economy may be another reason for the change. Students may look at what is happening to their wallets and become tense with the prospects, Hilliard said. Subsequently, they may be more apt to turn to those subjects that are more "relaxed" such as those in the liberal arts.

No one is certain how long the trend toward liberal education will last, but several agreed that it should last several years.

While Berman feels that in five or six years, the pendulum should start swinging back toward vocational subjects, Phaneuf thinks that it will last for "quite a long time."

No matter how long it continues, Yost said he is convinced that such an emphasis will "prepare students to have a flexible handle on a changing world."

It is not, however, just the curriculum that will benefit by these changes, Yost said. Out of it all will come a new spirit and a new attitude, he said.

# UNL honorary society initiates 10 members

Ten senior UNL students were initiated into the UNL chapter of Phi Beta Kappa national scholastic honorary society at a ceremony Friday in the Nebraska Union.

The ceremony preceded the honor society's fall banquet. The speaker for the event was Charles Oldfather, professor of law at the University of Kansas and son of the former UNL chancellor for whom Oldfather Hall is named.

The new members elected to Phi Beta Kappa include:

- Shauna J. Meyer, a mathematics major from Auburn.
- Andrea Kay Bjorklund, a history and French major from Lincoln.

Matthew R. Larson, a history major from Lincoln.

Jana Rae Turpin McGuire, a broadcasting major from Lincoln.

Patrick Joseph Nebel, a mathematics major from Lincoln.

Steven D. Johnson, a psychology/organizational communication major from Lincoln.

Craig Allan Riecke, a computer science major from Lincoln.

Tim Lee Teebken, a speech communications major from Nickerson.

Cody W. Wall, a political science major from Guttentberg, Ia.

Teri Claire Sperry, an English major from Parsons, Tenn.

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