

Financial investments, gifts to UNL reach record level during past year

By Jennifer O'Clarka
Senior Reporter

Two years into the university's Five-Year Initiative, the NU Foundation's focus on the "personal touch" has led to a record level of new gifts and investments, an official said.

Theresa Klein, director of public relations for the foundation, said gifts and investments topped out at a record \$46.5 million during the 1989-90 fiscal year.

Credit for the increase goes to the response by University of Nebraska alumni after the foundation started its push in support of the Five-Year Initiative, she said.

The initiative is a program announced in August 1988 for a state, federal and private partnership to improve faculty and research at the university.

"The Five-Year Initiative really fueled a lot of response because that focuses a lot on the human resources of the university," Klein said.

Such an approach worked "particularly because it had not been done before," she said.

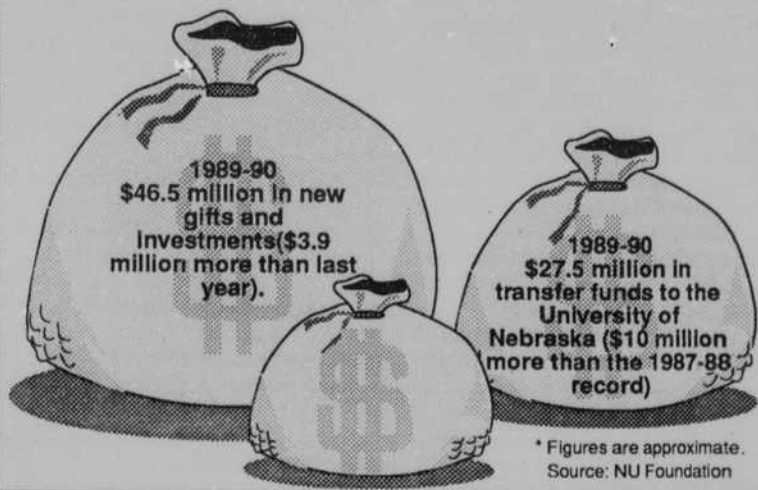
Klein said the foundation reached \$46.5 million because gifts and bequests to the foundation rose to \$28.4 million, a \$2 million increase from the past fiscal year, and investment income increased nearly \$1.9 million to a record of \$17.9 million.

The increased money helped the foundation fulfill its goal of providing the "margin of excellence" between state and federal funding and the money the university needs, she said.

The foundation had 56 active professorships in its 54-year history, Klein said. During the last two years, 63 more professorships were added.

Forty-six of those professorships will be active before the end of the five-year period and the remaining 17 will be financed through deferred gifts, which are established through a trust or a will and become the foundation's

NU Foundation records for 1989-90 fiscal year



after the person's death.

Professorships are annual stipends typically of \$5,000 to \$25,000 used for faculty rewards or to add more faculty, depending on department needs, Klein said.

Besides the additional funding for professorships, Klein said, the initiative led to the designation of more than \$4 million for research in the past two years, \$1.6 million for the encouragement or retention of faculty members, more than \$8 million for graduate fellowships and \$713,000 for university libraries.

Because of the record donation level, the foundation's transfer of funds to NU jumped to \$27.5 million, \$10 million more than the \$17.5 million transfer made in 1987-88.

The record transfer level to the university was possible because of the greater amounts of expendable funds, or dollars donated for immediate use; additional endowed funds, from which the interest is used; and

funds specifically donated for campus buildings and improvements, she said.

The money donated for campus buildings and improvements went for such projects as completion of the Henningson Memorial Campanile and Durham Science Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha; construction of the Food Processing Center and Veterinary Training Center; expansion of the West Stadium and Cook Pavilion; and payments on bonds issued for construction of the Lied Center for Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Although donors restrict most contributions to certain uses, unrestricted funds are donated for the area they are needed most, Klein said.

"You never know when an opportunity to start a program or fund some significant research will come along," she said. "By unrestricted funds, we can capitalize on those opportunities."

Lax life down under suits UNL students

By Anita Parker
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students aren't worrying about life in the land down under.

"It was such a relaxed and friendly atmosphere," said Chris Sommerich, a senior political science major. "People went to school barefoot and girls didn't wear any makeup. Americans spend a lot of time studying and stressing out, but over there they say 'Oh mate, don't worry.'"

"I don't get as stressed out as I used to," said Doug Agne, a senior business major. "I take things with a grain of salt. In Australia there are no definite plans, you just play it by ear."

These students took part in an exchange program UNL began in the fall of 1988 with the University of New England, Northern Rivers in Australia. It has been the most requested place to study since then, said Susan Dahm, UNL study abroad coordinator.

Craig Jephcott, an Australian student attending UNL this semester, said, "When I get back home, I think I'm going to take school more seriously. There is much more pressure to excel here. It kind of bums me out because things are always tense and there is always work to do."

To participate in the program, students fill out an application that

is reviewed by a selection committee of faculty and international studies staff, Dahm said.

The prospective exchange student's grade point average is not the most important factor, she said. The students' reasons for wanting to study abroad and the courses they plan to take are more important, she said.

"If one student has a 4.0 and wants to study English and another student has a 3.0 and wants to take some general classes, the 3.0 student will probably have preference," Dahm said.

The cost to attend school in Australia is no different than the cost at UNL, Dahm said. Tuition and housing is paid directly to the university at UNL rates, she said, although the student must pay air fare.

The number of outgoing UNL students depends on the number of students coming to Nebraska from Australia, Dahm said.

The money paid to UNL from students bound for Australia is put into an account, Dahm said. The account then is used to pay the tuition of the Australian students who study at UNL, she said.

There are four UNL students in Australia this semester.

The credit is transferable as long as it is in an area of study offered at UNL, Dahm said.

Bike

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cific date for beginning construction has been set.

The trail would be an extension of the existing Rock Island Trail that runs on or parallel to the abandoned Rock Island Railroad right-of-way. The trail would deviate from the abandoned right-of-way at Y Street, Brienzo said.

The Lincoln City Council is providing up to \$25,000 for a design study on the trail. Hammer said this is part of a \$1.7 million bond issue the city passed in 1989 for the Mopac trail that officials hope eventually will link up with the Capitol-campus trail at 19th Street.

The money left after completion of the Mopac trail can be used on other bike trails, she said, although the \$97,000 that Orr allocated should be enough to build the basic concrete trail between J and Y streets linking Capitol Parkway and campus.

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College Students: Sunday School
9:30 a.m.
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