

Grad student will be missed

By Jeffrey Robb
Senior Editor

Venetta Aaron was a person who was concerned about others. But last weekend, Aaron's friends from the sociology and communication studies departments were the ones who were concerned about her.

Aaron, 25, a graduate student in sociology, entered Lincoln General Hospital Friday and died Monday from a heart attack. Aaron, a first-year graduate student in sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, had developed pneumonia and a blood clot, which may have moved to her heart.

"She was such a wonderful, loving person," said Naomi Lacy, a graduate student in sociology.

Friends said Aaron would be missed dearly.

Aaron was a bit of sunshine, they said. She always smiled and had a

"She [Venetta Aaron] touched a lot of people's lives with the kind, beautiful Christian spirit she had."

■
STACY WEBSTER
Sociology graduate student

great laugh that could be heard all the way down the hall.

Loving, kind, generous, positive, and soft-spoken were words used to describe her. She was a beautiful person, said Stacy Webster, who has taken every class with Aaron.

"She touched a lot of people's lives with the kind, beautiful Christian spirit she had," said Webster, also a graduate student in sociology.

Aaron was close to her family and always talked about them, her friends

said. Her parents arrived in Lincoln just after their daughter's death.

Aaron, who graduated from Clemson University in South Carolina before coming to UNL, taught a nationality and race relations class. She took her graduate work, teaching and relationship with students seriously, Webster said.

A few sociology classes were canceled Wednesday.

"She'll be so missed by the community here at UNL," said Ana-Maria Wahl, a sociology professor and friend.



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Smith addresses future of university

By J. Christopher Hain
Senior Reporter

Coffee, rolls and a healthy dose of university-speak were the prescription Wednesday morning at a legislative breakfast held by Lincoln area state senators.

About 65 people, most over age 50, turned out to hear University of Nebraska President Dennis Smith speak about the university's future.

Smith was the guest of the eight senators who represent some portion of Lancaster County.

Smith said there had never been a tougher time to be president of the university.

"We are entering a new era in higher education nationally," Smith said.

In the next century, Smith said, more than 65 percent of all jobs will require some type of post-secondary education.

Smith said he was focusing on five areas to bring the university forward: the food processing business, biotechnology, health care, information tech-

nology and engineering.

He said the university needed to be a major player in the future of the agriculture-related fields of food processing and biotechnology.

The transplant center, as well as cancer research and treatment at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, will keep NU involved in health care, Smith said.

Computers, interactive video and other multimedia, Smith said, could end the way classes have been taught for the last 200 years — standing and lecturing.

"Information technology will transfer the way in which we educate," Smith said.

The university should proceed with its plan to enhance engineering education at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, Smith said.

Engineering, said Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, was one of the thorniest issues a university president has had to step into.

"(Smith's) handling of that issue has been much admired by many of us

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■
DENNIS SMITH
NU president

in the Legislature," Wesely said.

People attending the breakfast had the opportunity to ask Smith questions.

J. Warren Vannoy, an 80-year-old retired farmer from the Lincoln area, expressed to Smith his displeasure with NU.

"If I had any more children, they wouldn't be going to the University of Nebraska."

After the breakfast, Vannoy said he had two problems with NU — scholarship money going to students from outside Nebraska and teaching assistants who can't speak English well.

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