

Professor shared with students

By Rebecca Oltmans
Staff Reporter

Gordon Greene's office in Henzlik Hall is covered with pieces he left behind.

Comic strips and a picture of him sketched by a former student cover the door.

Inside, hang little handprints, thank you notes and elementary school drawings. A picture of his dog, Buster, shares the wall with a map showing the route of Greene's cross-country bike ride.

Korean War memorabilia and a picture of actor Tim Matheson, whom Greene taught in his 1958-59 sixth grade class, hang just across the room.

Greene taught that "teachers should share pieces of who they are with students," said colleague Karla

Greene



Wendelin, and it seems appropriate that the teacher, author and soldier left so much of himself in this room.

Greene, 64, died Aug. 4, two months after he was diagnosed with cancer.

Wendelin, who worked with Green teaching language arts to elementary education students since 1977, said Greene shared the most about himself by making others laugh.

"He was a great storyteller," she said. "He'd tell students about his dog, his childhood and life back home in Indiana."

Greene would go to the extreme to get a student's attention or relieve tension in serious situations, said Bill Sesow, who worked with Greene for 25 years.

"He would sometimes start class by blowing a bugle," Sesow said.

But Greene took his job seriously, Sesow said, and was one of those rare professors who emphasized students' strengths. He was always approachable and available to students, Sesow said.

"If I had a student who was running

behind deadline and they needed another professor to read their paper," Wendelin said, "I could always tell them to ask Gordon, and I knew he would do it."

In return, he gained a lot of respect and admiration. His wife, Marynelle, said one of his students expressed that on a card Greene received during his illness:

"If your life were a baseball game, your stadium would always be filled with fans."

Greene came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1969. Before that, he was an elementary school teacher and principal.

He won the Bereuter Outstanding Teacher Award, the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Student Education Association in 1977 and 1986, and the 1991 Recognition Award for Contributions to Students from the University Parents Association.

He also wrote children's books, most recently "A Star for Buster" in 1994.

Leitzel will give State of University address

From Staff Reports

Joan Leitzel, interim chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will deliver the annual State of the University Address Aug. 18 at 11 a.m. at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

A picnic lunch for university employees will follow the address, which is open to the public. The address is

free and will be broadcast live on KRNU Radio, 90.3 FM.


The UNL Academic Senate's annual forum also will be Aug. 18 from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel.

The forum is called "Higher Education in Transition: Who Will Be in Charge?" It will feature keynote speaker Peter Bishop, associate professor and chairman of the graduate program

in studies of the future at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. The public forum is free.

Also on Aug. 18th, the League of Women Voters will conduct voter registration from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with Big Red Welcome.

The voter registration booth will be set up at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Track Arena.



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