

Gates, Buffett follow Huskers

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Bill Gates is a Cornhusker fan. In fact, the Microsoft president likes the Huskers so much that when he and Omaha businessman Warren Buffett were in China recently, he made his senior vice president fax him reports from the games.

And his senior vice president, an Ashland native, was happy to do the job.

Jeff Raikes, one of Microsoft's original 75 employees, said he brought Gates, who is the richest man in America, to the Nebraska-Washington football game in 1991.

Gates came to Raikes' home in Ashland for a barbecue before the game, Raikes said.

"Yeah, Bill's been out to the farm," Raikes said, laughing.

The visitor impressed Raikes' mother, Alice Raikes.

"He's a genius," she said. "That's about all I can say."

Raikes said Gates also was enthusiastic about his relationship with Buffett, the second richest

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JEFF RAIKES

Microsoft senior vice president

man in America.

Gates and Buffett were in China on business for three weeks earlier this fall, Raikes said.

"Bill gave me an important responsibility," Raikes said.

"Every Saturday afternoon at about 5 p.m. Pacific time, I had to send a fax to a contact in China giving Warren and Bill a complete rundown of that day's Nebraska football game."

Raikes faxed reports from the Arizona State and Pacific games from Seattle, but he faxed reports from the Washington State game from the Huskers' press box in

Memorial Stadium.

Gates hired Raikes in 1981, Raikes said. He has worked with Gates throughout Microsoft's climb to computer domination.

"Bill is not in any way focused on being wealthy," Raikes said. "What he cares about is the technology and building a successful product."

Although Gates keeps up with college football, Raikes said he has noticed the software giant has another sports interest.

"He's a little bit more of a golfer."

Raikes was one of Microsoft's first product marketing employees in the applications division. During his 14 years with the company, he climbed to senior vice president.

Along with his work at Microsoft, he's been pairing up with administrators at Washington State University. That's how he created the "Virtual University" presentation.

His presentation focuses on how technology can improve education by creating four "virtual" areas:

- The "virtual textbook," which uses multimedia programs in the classrooms.

- The "virtual lecture," which puts lectures on video and the information superhighway.

- The "virtual classroom," which breaks down physical and

geographic barriers for students by bringing the classroom to them with computer and information technology.

- The "virtual student union," which creates a social service for students by weaving technology into campus life.

The presentation to the regents is a combined effort between Raikes, NU President L. Dennis Smith and Sen. Bob Kerrey.

Technology can overcome limitations on education, Raikes said, and provide better education for Nebraska students.

"The university needs to educate students at low cost and high quality," he said. "With funding being cut, it's very important that a university recognize these challenges."

History expert lands job as director of NU Press

By Stacey Range
Staff Reporter

With decades of experience in the press business, Daniel Ross is ready to advance to a new level as director of the University of Nebraska Press.

Ross took over the position Wednesday. He replaces former director Willis Regier, who left the position in April to become director of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

Ross, who came to the University of Nebraska Press in March 1989, has spent six years as assistant director, six months as interim director and two years as editor in chief.

Ross said he planned few changes for the press.

"This is one of the leading presses in the country, if not the top, especially in Native American literature," Ross said. "But I'm a little prejudiced."

As director, Ross is responsible for a press that publishes about 80 new books and 85 paperback reprints each year, with net annual sales of more than \$6 million.

Priscilla Grew, who oversees the press as vice chancellor for research, appointed Ross to the position.

"I am pleased that Dan Ross has accepted this position and I am confident that he will continue the press's interest in serving both the publisher and the reader," she said.

Grew said there were several reasons Ross was chosen from a pool of national candidates.

Ross received strong support from the search committee for his leadership background in history, she said, and he showed that leadership by launching several popular new book series on the history of the American West, sports history and Civil War history.

By the end of the year, Ross will have brought to contract and publication 83 original book projects, 109 paperback reprints in the Bison Book series and the American Indian Quarterly journal.

Ross also impressed the committee with his strong knowledge of press relations and the role of the press, Grew said.

Raikes

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brother wanted to modernize the farm, so he bought an Apple II computer.

"I taught myself how to program it," Raikes said.

Apple computers came to Stanford a month later, Raikes said, with Visicalc — one of the first spreadsheet programs.

Raikes was still working with the computers when he saw a company called Microsoft at a trade show. They wanted to bring him to Seattle for an interview, he said, and he accepted.

"One of my sisters lives in Seattle," he said. "I wanted to get a free trip."

Grant

Continued from Page 1

satellite, he said, and team teaching also may be used. Instead of having four or five faculty members in transportation engineering, each university would have access to 20 faculty members, he said.

Satellite television also will allow graduates to telecast their research in a series of seminars, he said.

Each university is developing new courses in transportation. For example, Human Factors in Transportation will be offered at UNL next semester, he said.

Four expert speakers also will offer lectures each semester. The speakers will meet with transportation officials from the area, he said. The first speaker, Sandra Rosenbloom,

met with a representative of the bus system in Omaha.

Both sides benefit from the face-to-face talks, McCoy said.

"You can read reports all you want," he said. "This makes them aware of things unique to our area and us aware of things we'd be less inclined to read."

Some research projects in the program now are improving the safety of roadsides, preventing the loss of short-line railroads, designing less costly bridges and making pavement cheaper and longer lasting, he said.

Grant money also will be used to share research and the latest technology with other regions, he said.

The next competition for the center will probably be in three years, McCoy said.

The Midwest center was the only one to change sites this year, he said.

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