



Matt Miller/DN

Joan Giesecke, dean of libraries pending the NU Board of Regents' approval, stands in front of pre-1800 books in the Archives room in Love Library.

Library may undergo face-lift

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Union won't be the only building with plans of expanding on campus if the new dean of libraries accomplishes her goals.

Joan Giesecke, dean of libraries pending the NU Board of Regents' approval, took office as acting director Feb. 1.

During her term as dean, Giesecke said she would be seeking funds for an addition and renovations to Love Library.

About \$30 million would be required to make the needed expansion, she said.

Two floors would be added to the Love North wing, and one floor would be added above the link between Love South and North, as well as an addition that would fill up part of the area under the link.

Because the library is not paid for by student fees, finding the money will be a more widespread process, she said.

Funding would come from state and private donations, she said. The university will handle the fund-raising, and the library would not have any say in how it was done, Giesecke said.

Money has not been raised yet, so renovations are years away, she said.

She also wanted to continue to strive for improved service and expanded collections, she said.

Library service should be improved by expanding electronic resources, Giesecke said. She wants to continue to seek funding for CD-ROM and databases, which have been requested by all academic colleges on campus.

Giesecke was hired after the university restructured computing and library services to be headed by one associate vice chancellor. She replaced Kent Hendrickson, who became associate vice chancellor of information services.

Journal editor to talk on homosexual issues

By Karl Anderson
Staff Reporter

Educating students and staff about homosexuality and homophobia is Warren Blumenfeld's main goal for the week as he gives a series of talks at UNL.

Blumenfeld, editor of the Journal of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Identity, will be speaking about the impact of homophobia on homosexual youth in school and on homosexuals in the work place.

The talks are sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Affirmative Action and Diversity Office, the Teachers College and the UNL Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

Blumenfeld, who has been speaking on issues surrounding homosexuality for the past 25 years, said education was the key to gaining support for the homosexual population.

More gay and lesbian support groups should be established within schools and communities — not only for homosexuals, but also for heterosexuals who understand the needs of homosexuals, he said.

These "Gay/Straight Alliances" would support homosexuals and their families and friends. They also would provide needed education in schools and communities.

Blumenfeld said more policies should be developed by government and school boards to protect homosexuals from harassment, violence and discrimination at work, at school and in society.

Homosexuals have little chance to advance in the work place because they are afraid to come forward about their sexuality, he said. They often put shields around themselves that protect them from discrimination but don't allow them to move forward.

Coming forward and gaining acceptance is important for progress, he said.

"The contributions we could make are hidden in the closet," Blumenfeld said.

Domestic-partnership benefits for gay and lesbian employees should be equal to heterosexual employees, he said.

Warren Blumenfeld will give a series of talks this week at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

- "Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price," today at 3:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.
- "Equity Issues in Schooling for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth," Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.
- "Recovering the Past: Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual History," Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Wick Alumni Center.

People who step out of their gender role are hated, he said.

"This is a life-and-death issue we're dealing with," Blumenfeld said. "Gays have been designated the demon in order for other people to gain and maintain power."

Although he said he knew that increased visibility could cause a backlash, Blumenfeld said he was optimistic about the future.

Same-sex marriages could be legal in the future, he said, and a bill protecting homosexuals in the work place could be passed as well.

More people will become accepting of homosexuals, he said.

He said homosexuality and homophobia were being discussed more, and he was being invited to speak at more locations — indications that people are becoming more educated.

He said more polarization also has taken place, with individuals in the middle deciding whether they supported homosexuality.

But homophobia doesn't affect just homosexuals; it hurts everybody, he said.

"Gays lead proud and happy lives like everyone else," Blumenfeld said. "And I don't care who's in your bed, only what's in your head."

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