

## UNL names new community relations assistant

By JESSICA FLANAGAN  
Staff Reporter

Michelle Waite of Hickman has been named assistant to the chancellor for community relations at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Waite will fill a position formerly held by long-time university employee Kim Todd. Todd began assisting the chancellor with comprehensive campus planning in 1996, and her job description went on to include a community relations program in which she served as a liaison between city and state government and university interests beginning in 1997.

Todd left claiming she had a desire to focus on working with plants, and is now with Finke Garden

Center here in Lincoln.

Todd determined how the needs of the University could best be met, and Waite's position will now focus solely on community relations. Waite began working in government in the '70s as a page for the legislature, and went on to seek a position as support staff for a state senator. She eventually took a position as a legislative aide, and has worked in the legislature for 14 years.

"My focus is to be a true liaison between the legislature and the university," Waite commented. "I have a lot of strong political instincts, and I know the players and understand political etiquette. I really think I have the sensitivity to enlist the right support for the university."

Waite went on to state that her previous work in Sen. Withem's office, then Speaker of the

Legislature, gives her a unique understanding of how issues are dealt with. Waite currently works for Senator Ron Raikes of Lincoln.

The assistant to the chancellor for community relations is the principal assistant to Chancellor James Moeser in relations between the university and its external constituencies.

"I am delighted that Michelle Waite had accepted the position of assistant to the chancellor for community relations," Moeser said. "With her experience as staff to two key members of the Nebraska Legislature, in sensitive negotiations and in arranging special events; I believe that she will be an ideal person to represent this office and to advise me on the many areas related to off-campus issues."

Waite will begin her duties August 1.

## UNL receives \$32 million gift from Denver couple

By LINDSEY WRIGHT  
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska Foundation received its largest gift ever — \$32 million.

And the lucky winner is Steve Dunbar, professor and vice-chairman of mathematics and statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was appointed founding director of the university's J.D. Edwards Honors Program in computer science and management.

Dunbar said he was honored to be offered the responsibility.

"I was thrilled ... the responsibility is pretty overwhelming," he said.

He said he had high hopes for the "focused honors program" and would begin his two-year appointment immediately.

The \$32 million gift from C. Edward and Carole L. McVane of Denver to UNL will also establish a residential academic center to house the new program. The building will be named the Kauffman Residential Academic Center, in honor of McVane's mother, Esther Kauffman, of Omaha.

Edward McVane established the Denver-based J.D. Edwards in 1977. He serves as chairman, president and chief executive officer of the computer software firm.

"My personal interest in computer science and information sciences was originally triggered in UNL's classrooms," Edward McVane said in a press release. "And now I want to create the atmosphere for the best computer science program in the world."

Both Edward and Carole McVane are Omaha natives and graduated from UNL. Carole earned her bachelor's

"I want to create the atmosphere for the best computer science program in the world."

EDWARD MCVANE  
Chairman, president and chief executive officer, J.D. Edwards

degree in 1963 in education, and Edward earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1964.

In addition to the \$32 million, the gift includes the potential for an ongoing pledge, based on the continued success of the program, to provide \$4.6 million annually after the fifth year of the project.

The center would house 120 to 150 students. Two locations are available for the building — a parking lot north of the Nebraska Union, and south of Bancroft Hall, or a parking lot on 17th and Vine streets, north of Cather Hall, Dunbar said.

The first masters-level students will be admitted for the fall 1999 semester. Undergraduate students will begin classes in the fall of 2000, and the residential academic center is scheduled for occupancy in the fall of 2001.

Dunbar said he had a clear idea of the aim of the program.

"Our goal is to be the best at preparing students with an understanding of technology and information sciences for business and society."

## Americans buying more new homes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are becoming a nation of homebodies.

About 16 percent of the population moved to new homes in the 12 months before March 1997, the Census Bureau reports. That's similar to the rates of the previous two years and well below the peak rates of past decades, when more than 20 percent relocated in some years.

Of the approximately 42 million people who moved, almost 28 million shifted to a new home in the same county, 8 million in a different county in the same state.

Even though the share of Americans moving remained steady, the 42 million movers was the most since 45 million relocated in 1984-85. Then, that represented nearly one in five Americans, or 19.6 percent.

Other findings of the report,

"Geographical Mobility: March 1996 to March 1997 (Update)," included:

■ While only 8 percent of homeowners moved during the year, nearly one-third of renters, or 32.9 percent, relocated.

■ The central cities lost 3 million people due to moving, while the suburbs gained about 2.8 million.

■ The only region with a significant change in population due to movers was the South, which gained 391,000 people from the other three regions.

■ The likelihood of moving declined with age: 32 percent of the people 20- to 29-years old moved, while only 5 percent of those 65 and over did.

■ More than 1 million people moved to the United States from abroad, and 92 percent of them settled in metropolitan areas.

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