

# UNL receives gift of \$1 million

■ The funds will go toward the creation of a chairman position in the plant sciences department.

BY MATTHEW BEERMANN  
Staff writer

Microsoft vice president Jeff Raikes, who grew up near Ashland, gave UNL a \$500,000 gift Friday as an endowment to help expand the plant sciences department.

The gift was supplemented by a match from the Donald and Mildred Othmer estate, making the total endowment for a chairman position \$1 million.

The position, known as the Ralph and Alice Raikes Chair in Plant Sciences, was awarded to Sally Mackenzie, director of the Plant Sciences Initiative at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Mackenzie's position will be housed in the Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources and is a component of a larger program incorporating many different disciplines.

"We are at a point in history where technology, such as computers, are allowing us to do phenomenal things," Raikes said. "In particular, the university is in a position to become a world leader in plant genetics."

Mackenzie said the gift could also serve as a successful recruiting tool for the department.

She said by focusing on recruiting faculty, improving the program internally and attracting excellent students, she hoped to help the UNL program reach a level "worthy of international recognition."

Jeff Raikes' father, Ralph Raikes, was a UNL graduate and a nationally known leader in agriculture. Jeff Raikes credits his father as the inspiring force behind his gift.

"My family has been very connected with agriculture for over a hundred years," he said.

“*My father felt that the university's agricultural research was absolutely vital to the state's economic success.*”

JEFF RAIKES  
Microsoft vice president

"My father felt that the university's agricultural research was absolutely vital to the state's economic success."

Listed in Forbes Magazine as one of the 400 Richest People in America, Jeff Raikes' personal net worth is estimated at more than \$650 million. He credits his upbringing on a farm outside Ashland with both his success and his desire to give to the university.

"My growing up on a farm in Nebraska was a very important part of my life," he said. "Part

of one's success in life is due to one's community, and so we have a responsibility to give back to that community."

Raikes said he is one of more than 50 Nebraska natives working at Microsoft who he looks to from time to time to make contributions.

"Having worked at Microsoft, I've been very fortunate, and I think that we should help put that success to good use," he said. "This isn't my first gift, and it won't be my last."



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## Events promote awareness

### Do It Sober speech kicks off Alcohol Awareness Week

BY LINDSAY HENSHILWOOD  
Staff writer

Today marks the start of National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, and some students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln hope the week's events will be bigger and better than years past.

Events planned for the week include the kickoff of NU on Wheels – the safe-ride-home program – a dance, live music at the Nebraska Union and the 17th annual Do It Sober speech.

The week starts off with Do It Sober – an annual speech sponsored by Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and, this year, Delta Delta Delta Sorority.

John Bunning, chairman of the Do It Sober program at Sigma Alpha Epsilon, said he expected this year to be the most successful year for the program.

Organizers have spent more money on promotion this year and for the first time are focusing promotion at the residence halls as well as greek houses, Bunning said. Most greek houses require their members to attend Do It Sober.

This year at Do It Sober, Joel Goldman from Campus Speak, a

national group, will talk about sex under the influence, aiming to show how alcohol can dramatically change people's lives and their friends' lives, Bunning said.

The program starts at 7 p.m. at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Jail 'N' Bail will take place from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. outside the Nebraska Union.

For \$25, passers-by can bail out students placed in jail. Jail 'N' Bail is sponsored by Party Smart and Project Care, Creating an Alcohol Responsible Environment, and involves mock breath testing on students and faculty who want to participate.

The aim of Jail 'N' Bail is to raise awareness of the possible outcomes of drinking, said Brett Stohls, co-founder of another venture being kick-started this week NU on Wheels.

Stohls said the most significant part of the week will be Thursday's launch of NU on Wheels. Stohls described the service as a free safe-ride-home program.

The service, run through the Husker Cab Company, will take students wherever they want to go within the city limits providing they can show their ID cards.

It runs on Thursday, Friday and

“*We are really, really optimistic that (NU on Wheels) will be popular with the students.*”

BRETT STOHL  
co-founder of NU on Wheels

Saturday nights from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. and the phone number is (402) 475-RIDE.

"We are really, really optimistic that it will be popular with the students" Stohls said.

Also on Thursday several live bands, sponsored by Party Smart, a group that organizes alternative activities for students to do on the weekends, and the University Program Council, will play outside the Nebraska Union.

The Aaron Zimmer Band will play from 9 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. followed by Blacklight Sunshine from 10 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.

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## NetAid concert brings fund raising to Web

LONDON (AP) – Annie Lennox and The Eurythmics kicked off the first of three fund-raising concerts held Saturday in London, Geneva and New Jersey and broadcast live on the Internet to increase awareness about world poverty.

NetAid organizers had predicted 1 billion Internet hits on their Web site, the largest audience ever for a live music event.

Bono and Wyclef Jean were the first on stage for a duet at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., performing for 15,000.

Rochelle Madariaga, 17, of Union City, N.J., had a front-row seat.

"You know, I've never been this close," she said. When asked if she planned to make a donation, she said, "I'm not too sure. I'll think about it."

For the average computer user, the quality of the London concert footage was akin to watching a shaky, slow-motion security camera.

By the time Welsh band Catatonia had taken the stage Saturday evening in London, an estimated 125,000 Internet users had tried to log onto the NetAid Web site, which was designed to be viewed with a top-speed modem that most home computers do not have.

The sheer volume of Internet users also slowed the system, making pictures grainy and slowing transmission time, said Thomas Ritstetter, spokesman for KPMG Consulting, which set up the Web site. As Internet congestion eased, however, the concert footage became more fluid, although the images were not as clear as a television picture.

The three overlapping concerts were organized by the U.N. Development Program and the California-based Internet development company Cisco Systems Inc. Their goal was to have people watch the concert online, then donate money via the Internet to victims of poverty in Kosovo and Sudan.

The Web site was designed to handle 1,000 financial transactions per second, but the amount of money being donated was unclear.

Speaking before the concert in Geneva, Mark Malloch Brown, head of the U.N. Development Program, said the initiative should be seen as just the start of a "permanent coalition to fight poverty."

"Judge us not by the revenue we generate, but by the number of Internet hits we get," Malloch Brown said.

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