

# Tax help available at UNL

By Lesley Owusu  
Staff writer

Filing tax forms can be a stressful time for students, faculty and staff.

The tax season is just around the corner, and problems with filing income tax returns could be plentiful.

But there are many places and alternatives available for those who need assistance in filing income tax forms.

The Volunteers Income Tax Assistance, established in 1982, is a program that was organized by NU's College of Law.

Young trainee lawyers and graduate students are available to help students and the community with filing their income tax returns.

The students are available to answer questions, provide information and give advice to students and the people of Lincoln to help them complete their income tax returns successfully.

Professor William Lyons, of the law college, said the students' goal is to make tax season a little easier on everyone.

"The main objective of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is to relieve and avoid stress for the taxpayer," he said. "Filing taxes can be a very daunting task, and it is our duty to help make the process easier."

Law students can help reduce anxieties and assist with other services, such as helping low-income families who are entitled to earned income credit, where access credit is refunded by

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the government.

Nancy Addae, a first-year law student, thinks VITA is a fantastic program.

"The program is convenient and service-free, and it also allows law students to gain valuable work experience in their field," she said.

As the tax season approaches, various sites on City and East campuses will be set up.

From Feb. 3 to March 30, the VITA program will be available every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. for all students requesting assistance in filing their tax returns.

Other locations include Gateway Mall, People's City Mission, community centers and local elementary schools.

Other alternative tax filing methods include Nebraska TeleFile, which has been available since 1995. The program allows Nebraska residents to file their state income tax returns by telephone.

All necessary tax return information is entered on a telephone touch-tone keypad.

Eligible taxpayers will receive a

Nebraska TeleFile booklet in the mail, said Mary Jane Egr, state tax commissioner.

"The great advantage of the Nebraska TeleFile system is that it is a quick and speedy process," Egr said. "Tax-payers can receive their tax returns in less than a few days by direct deposit."

Electronic filing is another program that allows both federal and state tax returns in one transmission to the Internal Revenue Service using IRS- and state-approved software.

Software companies are donating Web-based federal and state tax preparation and e-file services.

For more information on tax returns there is a Web page, [www.nol.org/revenue](http://www.nol.org/revenue).

Electronic filing and TeleFile are both free services for families or individuals who earn less than \$20,000 annually.

Students at the law college recommend that students and staff file their income tax returns early, before the April 15 deadline, to take advantage of all the services that are available.

# UNL celebrates century of research

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ic community.

She said she was asked to be on the panel of speakers to talk about art in terms of research.

"I think it's very important that it's seen in the same realm with other methods of intellectual activity," she said.

"I'm representing the visual arts because that's my field, but considering the creative arts, that covers music and theater and dance, as well."

The planning for the events this semester began about one year ago,

Massengale said, when Senior Vice Chancellor Richard Edwards appointed a committee to examine the possibility of celebrating 100 years of graduate education.

After all the speakers have finished, there will be a question-and-answer session, Massengale said.

A free recital featuring alumni and faculty members will continue the celebration from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Kimball Hall.

Future programs to honor the 100-year anniversary include a research fair on March 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Nebraska Union and a

symposium on April 13. Speakers for the April 13 symposium have not been selected yet.

Individual departments and colleges will also be holding various conferences, exhibits and lectures throughout the semester.

The celebration should help people consider research and creativity in its historical context, Kunc said. Graduate education and research have helped explore how to create and what that means for our culture, she said.

"All of this creative activity has really enhanced our quality of life here," she said.

## ELECTION 2000

# Maurstad announces candidacy for Senate

■ He said Sen. Bob Kerrey's decision not to run will help his campaign.

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

The race for Bob Kerrey's soon-to-be vacant seat in the U.S. Senate got a little more interesting Wednesday.

Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad announced he is seeking the Republican nomination for Kerrey's seat in the U.S. Senate.

Maurstad joins Republican candidates Attorney General Don Stenberg and Lincoln dermatologist Elliot Rustad in the race, said Chuck Sigerson, Nebraska Republican Party chairman.

Maurstad said he decided to enter the race so he could work alongside Sen. Chuck Hagel to help return power back to the states and the people.

Maurstad's campaign has been positively affected by Kerrey's decision not to run for reelection, Maurstad said.

"Kerrey's decision changed the whole dynamics of the race," Maurstad said.

Maurstad said he was dedicated to providing tax cuts for the middle class

and preserving Social Security and Medicaid, as well as decreasing the national debt.

Maurstad also stressed the importance of rebuilding the armed forces because they "preserve the prosperity of the nation," he said.

He said he wants to focus on issues that affect the everyday Nebraskan.

"It's very important we have a strong voice for agriculture," Maurstad said.

His experience as a business owner, Beatrice mayor, state senator and lieutenant governor makes him qualified for the role of senator, Maurstad said.

"I understand what is important to Nebraska," Maurstad said.

The Republican Party does not actively recruit candidates after individuals announce their candidacy, but the door is always open to new candidates, Sigerson said.

Sigerson said candidates for such a high office cannot be preoccupied with who else is running.

"If someone thinks they can win, they'll run," he said.

The Republican Party will hold its election the second Tuesday in May to determine who its candidate will be.

Maurstad said if he is elected in November, Gov. Mike Johanns will need to appoint a new lieutenant governor to replace him.

# Shovel fight ends in death

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - An argument over snow shoveling ended with a man shot to death Wednesday.

Police said Michael Kirkpatrick apparently became angry after seeing a man, who was digging a woman's car out of the snow, tossing the snow toward his pickup truck.

Kirkpatrick and his father began arguing with the man, and the younger Kirkpatrick was shot, police

said.

He later died at a hospital.

Kirkpatrick had a gun on him at the time he was shot, and the suspect, who was in custody Wednesday, knew he carried a gun, police said. Police did not release the suspect's identity.

Neighbors said Kirkpatrick was a soccer and football coach for fifth- and sixth-grade boys at a nearby school.

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