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Search narrows to two for Omtvedt replacement

By Raymond Rinkol
Staff Writer

After nearly 12 years of service to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Irv Omtvedt will retire on June 30 as vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

His departure will mean the loss of an adept administrator and listener, a hard worker and a magnanimous person, said Herbert Howe, a UNL professor of psychology. Howe is an associate to the chancellor who has worked on the same cabinet as Omtvedt.

"He has done a lot of wonderful things for the institute and the university," Howe said.

What will be missed most, however, was Omtvedt's ability to build a consensus among his colleagues, Howe said.

Attempting to fill Omtvedt's shoes and undertake the vice chancellor responsibilities are two candidates: Thomas Fretz and Edna McBreen.

Fretz is currently responsible for directing the University of Maryland's agricultural programs, which have an annual

"This is a place where you can make teaching, research and outreach truly work."

Edna McBreen

candidate, vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

budget of \$60 million and 730 employees. He received both bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture and earned his doctorate in plant science at the University of Delaware.

Fretz has been a member of the horticulture faculty at both the University of Georgia and Ohio State.

Fretz later served as a professor and department head of horticulture at Kansas State from 1979 to 1981 and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1981 to 1989.

McBreen works at UNL, where she has been the IANR's associate vice chancellor since 1998.

Highlights of her resume include serving a year as an agricultural education specialist in the African Bureau of the U.S.

Agency for International Development.

She has also been an associate director for international programs for the State University of New York Central Administration in Albany.

Her experiences abroad, coupled with those at universities in the United States, is what McBreen considers to be one of her more advantageous qualities.

Since the University is a land-grant university, said Howe, it is obligated to convey its researched expertise on agriculture and natural resources to the people of Nebraska.

This feature of the Nebraska program attracts McBreen.

"This is a place where you can make teaching, research and outreach truly work," said McBreen.

Mid-Week Farmer's Market adds to UNL's summer events

By Tim Karstens
Senior editor

The Corvette had the Stingray, "Happy Days" had "Joanie Loves Chachi" and Microsoft Windows has a new one seemingly every two years.

It seems everything successful or popular demands a new version with the presumed intent of improving on the original. The City of Lincoln and the Farmer's Market hope to do the same with the Mid-Week Haymarket Farmer's Market held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The market, which will be held on Tuesdays this summer for seven weeks, was conceived with the hope that the recipe that made the Haymarket Farmer's Market successful will work its magic at UNL. According to Billene Nemeč, manager of both Farmer's Markets, the new mar-

ket will not just sell fresh produce.

"The market is more than food," Nemeč said, referring to some of the goods that will be peddled during the market. "It is about having people stay downtown a little longer and enjoy what we have to offer."

The original Farmer's Market capitalized on the rustic appeal of the Haymarket. Doing the same at UNL had always made sense to Nemeč, given the campus' green spaces, historic buildings and summer events such as the Jazz in June series.

Nemeč pitched the idea to the City of Lincoln and UNL in December 1999. All sides approved the concept and the Mid-week Haymarket Farmer's Market began to take shape. From the outset, holding the market during the Jazz in June series was a priority. To Nemeč, it was a

perfect marriage: city and campus, food and music.

"The setting is ideal for a market," Nemeč said. "Jazz is food for the soul."

UNL's Michelle Waite, assistant to the chancellor for community relations, helped Nemeč create the new market. With the addition of Jazz in June and other summer events like Tuesday Tales—a storytelling event on the steps of Architectural Hall—the Mid-Week Haymarket Farmer's Market will distinguish itself from the original market.

"We thought it was a great opportunity to piggy-back on the Jazz in June series," Waite said. "It will have more of an artsy feel than the Haymarket."

Waite said the new market will bring together vegetable growers, artisans and food ven-

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