

You are not your pants:
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plans her great escape
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**New director wants to
show off the secrets of
UNL's 'jewel': the Sheldon**
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**Wannabe Nebraska
golfers tee off in search of
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"We ought to still be pursuing the truth. We ought to be trying to uncover important realities about how people live."

Jeremy Vetter, who completed seven majors at UNL

Former UNL student holds onto passion for learning

BY BRIAN CARLSON

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. — Three years after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Rhodes Scholar Jeremy Vetter's passion for learning — and changing the world — still burns brightly.

After completing two years of study at the University of Oxford in England, Vetter is one year into his pursuit of a doctorate in the history of science at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

For Vetter, a 1997 graduate



Vetter

who became the university's first Rhodes Scholar in more than 20 years, the field is a perfect way to combine his interests in the natural sciences and the social sciences.

He wants to use his Ph.D. to fulfill his longtime ambition of becoming a professor and studying the development of field sciences in the United States.

"It's a really interesting field," he said. "I think science and technology have been very central to the development of society, especially in the last couple of centuries."

Vetter's broad range of interests dates back to his days at UNL. As an undergraduate, Vetter earned accolades for completing seven majors — anthropology, economics, history, philosophy, physics, political science and psychology — all while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. During his last semester, he completed 36 credit hours.

After graduating from UNL, Vetter began two years of study at Oxford. He earned a master's of philosophy degree in economics and history and a master's of science degree in human biology, then began his study at Penn during the 1999-2000 academic year.

Earlier this month, Vetter had a chance to meet up with two friends from his days at UNL who were in Philadelphia for the Republican National Convention.

Brian Buescher and Chad Pekron enrolled at UNL in fall

1993, the same year Vetter, a North Platte High school graduate, began. They were part of the first class of UNL honor students.

Although Buescher and Pekron soon discovered that their political views were completely at odds with those of Vetter, the three became fast friends.

Buescher and Pekron attended this year's Republican National Convention as guests, staying in Vetter's dorm room. On the afternoon of the day GOP presidential nominee George W.

Bush was to give his acceptance speech, the three visited Valley Forge, about a half-hour's drive from Philadelphia.

While touring the grounds where Gen. George Washington's troops spent the brutal winter of 1777-78 during the American Revolution, Pekron saw a chance to tease Vetter.

Noticing several tourists wearing "Bush-Cheney" buttons, Pekron said: "Hey, Jeremy, look at all these Republicans."

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Scott McClurg/DN

Thanks Mr. Alexander: Nebraska I-Back Dan Alexander adds his signature to the collection of Eric Seevers, 11, of Norfolk during Photo Day at Memorial Stadium on Saturday afternoon. Fans endured long lines in the sun to get autographs from the Huskers.

Domenici stumps for fellow Republican Stenberg

■ Alongside the attorney general, the New Mexico GOP senator blasts Democrat Ben Nelson.

BY BRIAN CARLSON

If Nebraskans want George W. Bush in the White House and Republicans in control of Congress, they cannot afford to send Democrat Ben Nelson to the Senate, New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici said Friday.

Domenici appeared in Omaha with Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg, Nelson's Republican opponent in the Senate race. Nelson and Stenberg are vying for the seat of Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey, who is retiring.

Domenici accused Nelson, who served as governor from 1991-99, of trying to act like a Republican to improve his chances in a state with more registered Republican voters than Democrats.

But in the Senate, Domenici said, senators must work with their party if they want to be successful.

"You can't be a maybe Republican or a maybe Democrat in the Senate," he said. "You are one or the other."

Election 2000

"If you send your attorney general, Mr. Stenberg, to the Senate, let's make sure everyone knows he will go there as a Republican through and through."

Although Stenberg would work closely with the Republican Party, that would not prevent him from being an independent voice in the Senate, Domenici said. He noted that Sen. Chuck Hagel, who appeared with Domenici and Stenberg on Friday, has often broken with his party on Senate votes.

But with the Republicans holding a narrow 54-46 majority in the Senate, electing Stenberg would help ensure the party retains a majority, Domenici said. Unlike Nelson, he said, Stenberg would help elect Republicans to committee chairmanships and other leadership positions.

"It doesn't mean he has his hands tied," Domenici said. "It does mean he's with us in organizing the Senate."

Domenici said Stenberg would help Bush eliminate the inheritance tax and the so-called marriage

penalty, which forces some married couples to pay more income taxes than if they were single.

A Republican Congress would use the budget surplus to provide a sizable income tax cut while leaving enough to decrease the national debt, increase defense spending, reform Medicare and provide prescription drug coverage for seniors, Domenici said.

Nebraska has given its electoral votes to the Republican president candidate in every election since 1964. With Bush expected to carry the state this year, Stenberg urged Bush supporters to vote a straight party ticket.

"We need a member of the Senate who will help George W. Bush carry out his vision for the future of America," Stenberg said.

Nelson's campaign criticized Domenici's appearance, citing several of his Senate votes.

In a statement, the Nelson campaign criticized Domenici for voting against ethanol subsidies, for the free-market reforms contained in the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, for a cut in student loan funding and for slowing the growth of Medicare.

"Every time team Stenberg-Domenici gets up to bat, they strike out for Nebraska," the statement said.

Friday Arts Festival serves mix of music, dancing, crafts

"I liked listening to the different music ... it broadens your mind."

Kari Michaelis
freshman

BY GEORGE GREEN

Eddie Dominguez, a professor of art, threw clay. Lil' Red did the limbo.

And Daryn Warner, a senior theater major, relieved the thirsty.

Together, they and about 500 others enjoyed the Friday Festival at the Arts Quad near Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

The festival, organized by the Freshman Year Experience Task Force and the University Program Council, featured live music, dancing, arts, crafts,

food, raffles and ceramic demonstrations.

"We wanted to have students and faculty participate in academic activities outside of class," said Deb Johnson, an academic adviser in general studies and coordinator of the festival.

Several festival participants relished the variety of live music.

"I liked listening to the different music that is around because it broadens your mind," said Kari Michaelis, a freshman advertising major.

Kusi Taki, a seven-member band from Lincoln, introduced listeners to South American folk music.

The music features a combination of strings and a special flute called a quena, said Erica Biry Rios, Kusi Taki's manager.

Rusty White, associate jazz professor in the School of Music, and Little Slim, a blues performer, also entertained.

While listening to the music, festival participants ate food from Crane River, Flatwater Grill, the NU Dairy Store and Vien Dong.

Participants also built kites, ornaments and box towers.

Dominguez noticed, "a lot of creativity going on" around his ceramics station.

Matt Wilhelm, a graduate student in architecture, competed with his professor, Mark Hoistad, associate dean of the college of architecture, to see who could build the tallest cardboard box tower.

"I think it's safe to say it is over," Wilhelm said as he watched Hoistad's tower buckle and sway.

Regents

Budget woes force audit of NU classes

BY VERONICA DAEHN

Because of an expected budget shortfall, the Board of Regents voted on Saturday to evaluate the 7,000 classes the university offers.

The prioritization of classes, which is the first time each class will be examined on all four NU campuses, could mean the combination or elimination of certain classes or departments. University President Dennis Smith said the regents' vote more formally recognizes a process that has been sporadic in the past.

"This provides an opportunity, over time, to take an internal audit of what exists at the university and identify by consensus the top programs," Smith said.

A Smith-appointed task force put together nine criteria that will be used to evaluate each academic program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The criteria include how well a program relates to the strategic plan of the university; the need and demand for the program; the impact the program has on the campus, the university, Nebraska and society; and the amount and quality of research and creative activities each program has.

The 26-member task force included members of the Board of Regents, administrators, faculty, community members and a student. Lincoln Regent Charles Wilson, a member of Smith's commission, said the board was taking a big step in adopting the criteria.

"They have the potential to make a positive impact on the University of Nebraska," Wilson said. "It will involve some patience, but this will be a better institution."

The academic prioritization was necessary partly because of budget concerns. The university has calculated a \$50 million budget shortfall.

The Regents discussed a possible tuition increase this summer as one way to make up for the shortage. Joel Schafer, student regent and Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president, said he had mixed feelings about the prioritization.

"It will be interesting," Schafer said. "With a funding gap, you have to do things with prioritization. But at the same time, doing a wholesale audit of all programs is so daunting and difficult, it's almost unattainable."

Harvey Perlman, UNL interim chancellor, said the criteria would enable administrators to make better decisions. But he said evaluating academic programs is not new to UNL.

"I'm enthusiastic about the process," he said. "But we have reallocated considerable dollars over the last several years."

Perlman said adopting the criteria only served to make sure everyone involved with the evaluations was using the same guidelines.

Even though the university has been evaluating programs, Schafer said it now becomes a problem. It will be difficult to compare different programs with each other and list them in order of priority, he said. Smith said he already had talked to the four chancellors and asked them to identify the top 30 percent of programs at their campuses.

The academic prioritization should be done within nine months, he said.

It is imperative that the university sticks to the criteria, Wilson said.

"These are good guidelines, and they will make us better," he said.

"But we have to believe in it, and we have to mean it."

■ Philanthropist bestows record donation on the University of Nebraska Medical Center
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