Improving your communications style

To be successful, you need the respect and support of your customers, co-workers and managers. But sometimes, in an effort to come across as hardworking and professional, you can appear distracted or aloof. To avoid alienating people, follow these guidelines:

**Focus on others.** Are you preoccupied with your career path and looking good at the expense of others? If you share credit and show concern for the success of others, people will want you to do well.

**Choose people over technology.** A surefire way to alienate people is to respond to calls or e-mails in the middle of a conversation. That sends a message that they are less important than the caller. Let the calls go and return them when your current conversation is over. If you are expecting an urgent call, alert those present.

**Stop leaving long voice-mail messages.** People will think you like the sound of your own voice. Briefly state your objective or main message and follow it with short, supporting sub-points.

**Give your undivided attention to the group.** Don’t read reports or tap away on your laptop during meetings. That sends a clear message that you don’t care about the meeting or its attendees. Instead, be fully focused and engaged.

Saving Veterans Stories Preserves History

At Wednesday’s UAAD meeting, we’ll hear first-hand accounts from veterans, ordinary people who did extraordinary things. Many of these deeply personal memories of wartime are as vivid to veterans today as they were years or even decades ago. The treasure of these memories is now being preserved for history by the efforts of the Veterans History Project (VHP)—a national project of the Library of Congress.

In conjunction with this discussion, two veterans will share their stories: Les Arasmith, an ace pilot from WWII who also served in Korea and Vietnam, and Helen VanSickle, who served as a surgical supervisor in Europe during WWII.

The VHP relies almost entirely on volunteers to interview and record these personal recollections. Major Judith Rosenkotter from Grand Island is one of these indispensable volunteers who has documented the stories of dozens of veterans in central Nebraska. Judy is passionate about the project and will join us at our general meeting Nov. 17th to give us an introduction to the methods we all can use to begin interviewing these honored storytellers.

Will you be getting together with family over the holidays? Why not spend some time with those loved ones who have served this country and see that their personal experiences gain a permanent place in the national treasure of the Veterans History Project.

For text and audio samples of interviews that are now part of the national VHP archive, visit “Experiencing War: Stories from the Veterans History Project” at http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/stories/wwilist.html

UAAD Harvest of Books drive

Stephanie Budell, General Book Manager at the University Bookstore, gratefully reports that UAAD members bought 18 children’s books and donated $14 in cash from her Harvest of Books sale table at the UAAD professional development meeting in October. These contributions helped the University Bookstore make one of its largest donations to the book drive ever! Thank you!

—Margaret Koczan
Nominations Needed for New UAAD Vice President

When Tad McDowell left UNL, Russell Bartholow as Vice-President/President Elect stepped into the role of President of UAAD, leaving the Vice-President position vacant. According to UAAD by-laws*, the organization must hold an election at the next business meeting to replace the Vice President position.

Under the assumption that Russell will continue as president through the end of the 2005-06 year, which is his choice under the by-laws, the Vice President we will elect at next week’s meeting will be a one-year term and will not go on to serve as President. The main duties of this position will be standing in for Russell if he’s unavailable, serving as Academic Senate Liaison and coordinating the awards process. Having explained that, we now need nominations.

This is the perfect chance to get involved with UAAD at the Executive Board level. If you would like to run for Vice President yourself or would like to nominate another member, please call Marilyn Fenton at 2-3982 or e-mail through Lotus Notes or at mfenton1@unl.edu. Nominees will be contacted for consent and paper ballots will be provided at our meeting on November 17th.

*Article V, Section 3.

Should the President resign during the term of office, the Vice-President/President Elect will assume the duties of the President for the remainder of that term. The Vice President / President Elect will have the option to continue as the President for the second year. The Executive Board will need to identify a replacement if the Vice President/President Elect decides to forego the second year. For any other officer vacancy, the position shall be filled by an election at the next regular meeting.

Quote of the Month

If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have paradise in a few years.
—Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)