

## Today

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Senior tests...  
What's In It For Me?

Senior tests. The very mention of them puts nearly every NMSU senior in a bad mood. "What do they do for me?" one might ask in a disgusted tone. Or, "They're just another part of that stupid Value-Added Program the administration has thrown at us to make our lives more difficult."

Despite the fact that spending a whole day taking the National Teacher's Examination, the Graduate Record Examination or one of the locally designed senior tests is not necessarily a pleasant task, the tests do bear great importance on the value and integrity of those same seniors' degree.

"If you're really interested in a bachelor's degree, you should be concerned with the quality of your degree," Darrell Krueger, dean of instruction, said.

What weight does the senior testing program have on the value and integrity of your degree? Trace the path of cause and effect.

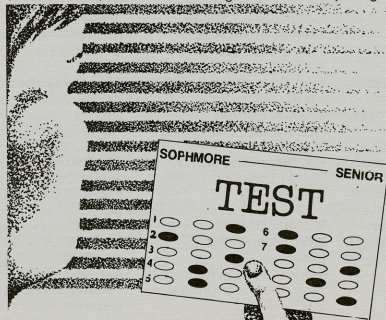
Joe Senior has evolved from an inexperienced freshman to the final semester of his undergraduate college career. In theory, Joe has amassed vast amounts of knowledge. But this is only in theory and all colleges and universities claim their graduates have "learned" or been "educated." NMSU's Value-Added Program, of which senior tests play a vital role, ensures the accountability of each student's education.

Joe takes his test and a few weeks later, both he and the University receive the results. His individual results and the collective results of all NMSU seniors who took the same test in the same or similar major, are then examined and used at all levels of the University.

First, Joe, who suffered through four years of early-morning classes, late-night cramming sessions and hours of sophomore and senior tests, can look at his results and determine how he ranks nationally with graduating seniors in his field of study nationwide. If Joe scored in the 90th percentile, he can feel pretty secure when he enters the competitive job market. If a prospective employer in a job interview asks Joe why he thinks he should be hired when recent graduates of other fine colleges and universities across the nation also want the job, Joe can say with confidence, "I'm the right man for the job. In addition to my credentials, I scored above the 90th percentile nationwide on the GRE." All of the sudden, Joe has something on

the Harvard graduate who took the same test and scored at the 70th percentile. So much for relying solely upon the reputation of one's alma mater.

Besides the mileage Joe can get from his results, faculty can draw certain conclusions from his score and the scores of other seniors in that area of study. Prof. Einstein, who teaches all sections of Underwater Basketweaving I and II, could focus on the scores from the section of the test which pertain to her teaching area. If the average score among 20 NMSU graduating seniors who took the test ranks at the 85th percentile nationwide, Prof. Einstein has the knowledge that her students have learned in her courses and that she is preparing them well for their future. On the other hand, if the average score is low, she may take a second look at her syllabus. She doesn't need to feel compelled to "teach to the test," but depending on how much stock she puts in senior test scores, she may choose to do some adjusting.



The head of each academic division also studies the test results, individually and collectively, from each major area of study under his or her "jurisdiction." Dr. Division Head doesn't peruse the results, looking for the best scores, then give substantial raises to faculty members who teach in related areas. In the same vein, Dr. Division Head doesn't find the lowest scores then begin putting faculty members before a firing squad. The purpose of Value-Added testing is not to discourage individual faculty from teaching their area of expertise by their individual methods. The purpose is to guarantee the University's students an education that prepares them for their chosen career.

The administration also takes a scrutinizing look at the test scores. Again, they don't use the results for or against individual faculty members or division heads. They consider the results in relation to the

overall picture. If students score particularly well one a certain part of their test, or if students in a particular major score well above the national average, from the administration down to the individual students who took the test, they know the University's program is effective and that its majors have truly been educated. Areas where the test scores are weak become primary focal points for curriculum improvement. Once they make changes in any curriculum, future senior test scores help everyone involved determine whether or not the changes were effective.

"Our goal is to prepare people to be nationally competitive. We look at why a student doesn't score above the 50th percentile as well as why they did," Krueger said.

Of course, the testing program is not the only facet of NMSU's Value-Added Program, but it does provide everyone—from the individual student to the president—with tangible statistics that provide insight into the effectiveness of the education students receive at NMSU.

In the case of senior tests, Joe Senior can be as selfish and self-centered as he wants and take the test with the attitude of what those results can mean to him. What the rest of the University does with those results can remain immaterial to him. On the other hand, he can take pride in not only the national reputation his alma mater is building for being a responsible, accountable institution of higher education via Value Added, but in the knowledge that NMSU provided him with the opportunity to get the best education possible in his career field. Joe knows he is not being sent off with only a piece of paper and a few student loans to repay, but with a degree of confidence and integrity.

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## D A T E L I N E

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### MONDAY

**Senior Tests**, Child Development; CTR: Home Ec., 2:30-4:30 p.m., 234 PB

**Blood Drive Sign-Up**, lunch hours through Friday, Ryle, Centennial, Missouri

**Intramural Women's Basketball** required manager's meeting for finalists, 4 p.m., 232 PB

**German Language Table**, 5:15 p.m., Ryle Hall

**IBM and Marketing Program**, Tim Lamkin, 7 p.m., Tangerine Room, SUB

**Your Career and Your Life**, 7 p.m., Dobson Hall

Lounge, Darlene Baker, "Career Decision-Making"

### TUESDAY

**Last day** to drop full-semester courses with a code

**Academic Festival 1985**

**Bulldog Baseball** vs. Westminster College, doubleheader, 1 p.m.

**Senior Test**, Speech Path, 2:30-4:30 p.m., 234 PB

**Your Career and Your Life**, 7 p.m., Dobson Hall

Lounge, Gordon Richardson, "Advanced Degrees"

**Japanese Film Series**, "Dersu Uzala," 7:30 p.m., Little Theater, BH

### WEDNESDAY

**Bake Sale**, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., VH

**Senior Tests**, Industrial Tech. and Occupations, 2:30-4:30 p.m., 250 BT, Criminal Justice, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Act. Room, SUB

### Intramural Badminton,

men's and women's entry deadline, 5 p.m., 309 PB,

manager's meeting, 4 p.m., March 25, 232 PB

**NMSU Historical Society**, "Defense of the Liberal Arts 1870-1910," Mina Carson, 7 p.m., Tan. Room, SUB

**Your Career and Your Life**, 7 p.m., Dobson Hall

Lounge, Joanne Jackson, "Graduation Checks"

### THURSDAY

**Senior Test**, Agriculture, 2:30-4:30 p.m., 250 BT

### FRIDAY

**Senior Test**, Mass Communications, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Act. Room, SUB

**Testing Services**, ACT Assessment, faculty only, 2:30 p.m., 103 A/H

**Bulldog Softball** vs. Grandview College, 1:30 p.m.

**SAB Movie**, "Tightrope," 7 & 9:15 p.m., Aud., BH

### SATURDAY

**Bulldog Baseball** vs. Central Mo. State, doubleheader, 1 p.m.

**Car Wash**, Alpha Phi Omega, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Food Barn, \$2

**SAB Presents** Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, 8 p.m., Aud., BH

### SUNDAY

**Faculty Chamber Music** Recital, 3 p.m., Aud., BH

**Christian Broadcasting** organizational meeting, 8 p.m., 310 LB

### MARCH 25

**Communications Festival**, through Thursday

**Blood Drive**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Act. Room, SUB, also Wednesday

**Bulldog Softball** vs. St. Ambrose College, 2 p.m.

**Senior Tests**, Music, Fine Arts, Aviation, Env. Science, 2:30-4:30 p.m., 234 PB

**Celebrate Singers**, 8 p.m., Little Theater, BH

# THIS WEEK...

**THE 1985 HOMECOMING** Theme Contest ends today. Submit ideas to the Student Senate Office in the Student Union Building. First prize is \$10.

**A FINANCIAL AID PACKET** Workshop is being sponsored by the Accounting Club from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, in 119 Violette Hall. Students will be assisted in filling out their packet by Wayne Newman, director of Financial Aids, and the Special Programs Committee of the Accounting Club. The service is provided free of charge.

**RESIDENCE LIFE APPLICATION** deadline for apartment manager and apartment resident assistant positions is Wednesday in the Residence Life Office, 101 Administration/Humanities Building. Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Applications are available in 101 A/H.

**FREE THROW ALL-UNIVERSITY** Shoot-Off is scheduled from 10 to 10:45 p.m. Wednesday, in Pershing Arena. All finalists for the All University Free Throw Contest must attend. For more information, call Karen Brents at 785-4467.

**THE CITY OF BERLIN** is the focus of a German Club program at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, in 285 Baldwin Hall. Graduate Assistant Sabina Moehle, a graduate of the University of Berlin, will speak on the city. The program includes a film on life and conditions of the divided city. There is no charge to attend.

**"THE EXORCIST"** is being shown by the Psychology Club at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, in Baldwin Hall Auditorium. Tickets are available for \$1.50 in 206B Administration/Humanities Building or at the door.

**THE ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS** Assembly, recognizing NMSU students who have received scholarships or other awards, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, in the Quiet Lounge of the Student Union Building. A reception honoring the recipients begins at 6:30 p.m. All students receiving awards should attend and other students, faculty and staff are invited.

**FACULTY AND STAFF** may take the ACT Assessment from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, in 103 Administration/Humanities Building. Any faculty or staff member interested in taking the test and becoming more familiar with the Value-Added Testing Program should call the Testing Services Office at 785-4140 before the test begins.

**CAMPUS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** Christian Evidences Series presents programs from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday and Friday, in 172 Violette Hall. Lynn Gardner, instructor from Ozark Bible College, speaks on the topics "God Stands True in the Universe" and "Christianity Stands True in Life," Thursday, and "Jesus Stands True as the Son of God" and "The New Testament Stands True as History," Friday.

**THE FOURTH ANNUAL** Photography Contest, sponsored by the Graphic Arts and Photography Club, is open for entries until Saturday at either Rider Drug location. Rider Drug and Milburn Photography will award six first place prizes, six second place prizes and one best-of-show prize, totaling more than \$790. All entries will be displayed at the Consumer Electronics Sale-a-thon, March 29-31, at the old Harmon's IGA on old Highway 6. Entry forms are available in 210 Violette Hall or Rider Drug.

**FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE** is available from the Accounting Club between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and March 30 in 140 Violette Hall. To receive Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), participants should bring their federal and state return forms, their W-2s and a copy of last year's return.

**CONCERT TICKETS** for Joan Jett and the Blackhearts and a special guest, are on sale in the Student Activities Board Office in the Student Union Building. The concert begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, in Baldwin Hall Auditorium.

**THE INTERNATIONAL DINNER** is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sunday, in the Georgian Room of the Student Union Building. Tickets are on sale for \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for students and \$2.50 for children under 12, in the Student Union Building, the International Student Office, in 332 Administration/Humanities Building and 287 Baldwin Hall.

# ITEMS OF INTEREST...

**EARLY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS** are available in the President's Office, 200 Administration/Humanities Building. The Board of Regents established a March 31 enrollment deadline for those desiring early retirement during the 1985 fiscal year. For more information, call the President's Office at 785-4100.

**GRIM HALL** is accepting donations for the Kirksville Birthright Center until the end of March, during regular office hours at the Grim Hall desk.

**THE CAREER PLANNING** and Placement Center has interviews scheduled with five companies this week. Warren County Schools and Camp Sunnyside interview Tuesday. Camp Sunnyside is seeking summer employees and no degree is required. Edison Brothers Stores and Liberty Mutual interview Wednesday. K-Mart Apparel interviews Friday. For more information, contact CPPC at 785-4237. Interviews are by appointment only.

**MALE AND FEMALE MODELS** are needed for the Second Annual YMCA Benefit Fashion Show, April 23. Professionals will train interested models at a workshop, at 5:30 p.m., Monday and Tuesday. Contact the Home Economics Division at 785-4472.

**A COUNSELOR** from the Kirksville Counseling Clinic will be available for consultation between 1 and 4 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays in the Student Health Clinic. Consultations are by appointment only.

**AN ESSAY WRITING CONTEST**, focused on women and history, is being sponsored by the Kirksville National Organization for Women for undergraduate and graduate students. The undergraduate essay topic is "What woman, lost from history, should be rediscovered by contemporary persons?" The graduate topic is "How would you raise the consciousness of a group of people (whom you specify) about women in history?" First place winners receive a \$15 gift certificate at the Chariton Bookstore and the first through third place entries will be published, along with Adair County's essays from grades four through 12, in a booklet to be distributed at the Women's Fair, April 11. Entries of a minimum length of 1,500 words and a stamped self-addressed envelope must be submitted by March 29 in the NOW mailbox in the Student Union Building.

**FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE** for the ACT Family Financial Statement to be received from the processing center is April 30. Application packets are available in the Financial Aids Office, 100 Administration/Humanities Building. Processing requires four to six weeks, so pick up your application now.

**QUALIFIED FRESHMEN** and sophomores should apply for a six-week summer leadership experience in Kentucky, sponsored by the Military Science Division. Applications are available in the division office, Hardman Building.

**BUSINESS DIVISION SCHOLARSHIPS** are available for the 1985-86 academic year. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Applications are available in the division office, 182 Violette Hall, and deadline is April 1.

**MATHEMATICS DIVISION** scholarship applications are available in the division office, 287 Violette Hall. Math majors who have completed 75 semester hours prior to the semester of application with a minimum 3.5 grade point average are eligible for the Dale Woods Mathematics Scholarship. Junior math majors with at least a 3.25 grade point average may apply for the Dean and Mrs. Earl D. Ludlow Scholarship. Students who have completed 10 hours of math courses, but are not necessarily a math majors, are eligible for the Harry W. Williams Memorial Scholarship. Application deadline is March 29.

**PHI DELTA KAPPA SCHOLARSHIPS** of \$400 each are available to a BSE major with 60 hours and 3.25 cumulative grade point average and to a graduate education major with a 3.25 grade point average. Applications are available from Bill Searcy, 276 Violette Hall. Application deadline is March 29.

**THE LUTHERAN STUDENT HOUSE** is accepting applications for summer and fall residents. For more information, call Billy Bynum at 665-6122 or Mark Appold at 665-6488.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** for the Delta Sigma Pi/Tina G. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship are available in the Business Division Office, 182 Violette Hall. Applicants for the \$100 award must be an accounting, business administration or business education major, have completed 45 hours with a minimum 3.2 cumulative grade point average and are not receiving any other academic scholarship. Application deadline is April 1.

**ECHO YEARBOOK EDITOR POSITION** applications for 1985-86 are available in the ECHO Office, 305 Laughlin; Dean of Students Office, 204 Administration/Humanities Building; or the Language and Literature Division Office, 310 A/H. Paid editor positions available are: editor, production manager, layout editor, copy editor, feature editor, photo editor, sports editor, people editor, organizations editor, index editor, darkroom technician. Application deadline is April 3, to Debra Shroud, ECHO adviser. Interviews begin April 10.

**SAB APPLICATIONS FOR 1985-86** are available at the Student Activities Board Office in the Student Union Building or in the Student Activities Office, 204 Administration/Humanities Building. Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average, be energetic, creative and possess the ability to work hard while having fun. Application deadline is April 3.

## NOTES...

Several NMSU faculty, staff and students have received recognition inside and outside the University. The **NMSU Forensics Team** competed against 13 universities at the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities Tournament in Eureka. **Ken Johnson** capped off his seventh first or second place finish in eight tournaments by capturing first place in After Dinner Speaking. **Johnson's** award included presenting his humorous speech during the closing awards banquet. He also took sixth place in the Informative Speaking category. **Karman Wittry** placed fourth in Informative Speaking and **Lora Wollerman** took sixth in Oratory. In the **Health, Physical Education and Recreation Division**, three faculty members received recognition. **Fontaine Piper** spoke on the topic, "The Role of Human Performance Research in More Effective Tennis Instruction" at the recent United States Professional Tennis Association, Midwest Division's annual meeting. **Piper** also took part in a panel discussion on "How Does the Tennis Professional Implement a Sports Science Approach?". **Jerry Mayhew** and **Larry Boleach** had their manuscript, "Effect of Plyometric Training on Vertical Jump Performance in High School Basketball Players," accepted for publication in the "Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness." **Major Paul Spivey** of the **Military Science Division**, received the Army Commendation Medal for his accomplishments while serving as assistant professor of military science since June 1982. **Spivey** is scheduled to leave for assignment in Germany in August.