

Kearney Hub

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Look no further than Hyatt

Lewis Hyatt is honing his skills on all fronts: As a sergeant, UNK student, husband and volunteer

By **MOLLY ALBRECHT**

Hub Staff Writer

KEARNEY — University of Nebraska at Kearney senior Lewis Hyatt succeeds on all fronts.

On the school front, 24-year-old Hyatt is 2007's top industrial distribution student in the nation, having received a \$10,000 scholarship in

May for his studies. He'll graduate in May 2008 with his bachelor's degree in the field.

On the homeland security front, Hyatt is a sergeant who has served in the Nebraska National Guard since 2000. He was deployed to Iraq in 2003-2004 as a military police officer.

On the work front, Hyatt is an employee in sales support for Fastenal in Kearney and recently completed a management and sales internship in Denver.

On the home front, Hyatt has been happily married to Bethany, a graduate student at UNK, for a year. The couple own their home near the UNK campus.

With all he's accomplished, Hyatt's used to accolades.

"After I received the \$10,000

Gary L. Buffington Memorial Scholarship, I was featured in an industrial distribution magazine," Hyatt said. "I also gave an acceptance speech to nearly 2,000 members of the Industrial Supply Association at the opening session of the ISA conference and trade fair in Las Vegas."

The Industrial Supply Association Educational Foundation selection committee evaluates candidates from colleges with programs in industrial distribution. Industrial distribution programs prepare students for careers as technical sales representatives and to become future business leaders.

The last three winners of the Buffington scholarship were from Alabama, Purdue and Texas A&M University.

DON ENVICK, professor and coordinator of the industrial distribution program at UNK, said the award is the most prestigious award given to any industrial distribution major in the nation.

"Lewis represents our program very well. He is very mature and has great leadership qualities. He is a

very proficient speaker, trainer and presenter and has strong moral and ethical values," Envick said.

Hyatt is on the leadership team of UNK's student-run Industrial Distribution Organization. His other extracurricular activities include being a member of Epsilon Pi Tau, the International Honorary for Technology Professions, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Hyatt said he tries to focus on the positives of his time in Iraq. "I matured a lot during my deployment. I made a lot of good friends. The experience taught me leadership skills. Since I've gotten back from Iraq, I've spent a lot of time training younger troops that are being deployed," he said.

Hyatt is a member of the 1195th Transportation Company of the National Guard unit based in Kearney. As a military police officer in Iraq, he was responsible for the security and management of Iraqi interpreters and police.

"The shocking thing about Iraq was that the quality of life there is so low. It was disturbing, but I was able to adapt."

As a sergeant in the National Guard, he has also assisted in security for the 2002 Winter Olympics; provided emergency state service during the 2003 summer fires in Colorado; and served as a volunteer military honors funeral team member and trainer.

Before leaving for Iraq, Hyatt, a Canon City, Colo., native, was a student at Colorado State University South in Pueblo, Colo. He was studying criminal justice.

"After returning from Iraq, I wanted to get away from security and focus on something more positive," Hyatt said.

He came to UNK on a wrestling scholarship. As a varsity wrestler at UNK, he made the NCAA Division II All-Academic Team in 2005.

Hyatt has received several other honors on many fronts. He was awarded the Horatio Alger Military Scholarship in 2005; earned the Soldier of the Year award in 2006 from the 1195th Transportation Company and received the Papé

Group Industrial Distribution Scholarship in 2006.

AFTER GRADUATION, Hyatt hopes to have a career in sales or management training with an industrial distribution company.

To help prepare him, he completed an internship in early 2007 at Winair Denver, a member of the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration unit of WinWholesale.

"I miss wrestling, but I wanted to focus more on school and my marriage," Hyatt said. "I'm still a volunteer coach with the Canon High School wrestling team when I visit my hometown," he said. "I try to visit as often as I can."

In his free time, Hyatt likes fishing, riding his motorcycle, playing the guitar, walking his dog, Max, and finding other ways to be active outdoors.

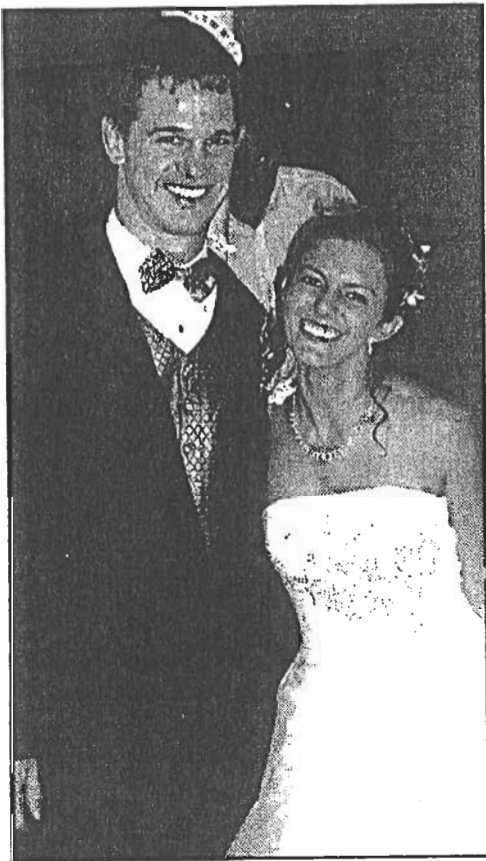
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Don Envick: *"He is very mature and has great leadership qualities."*



Lewis
Hyatt

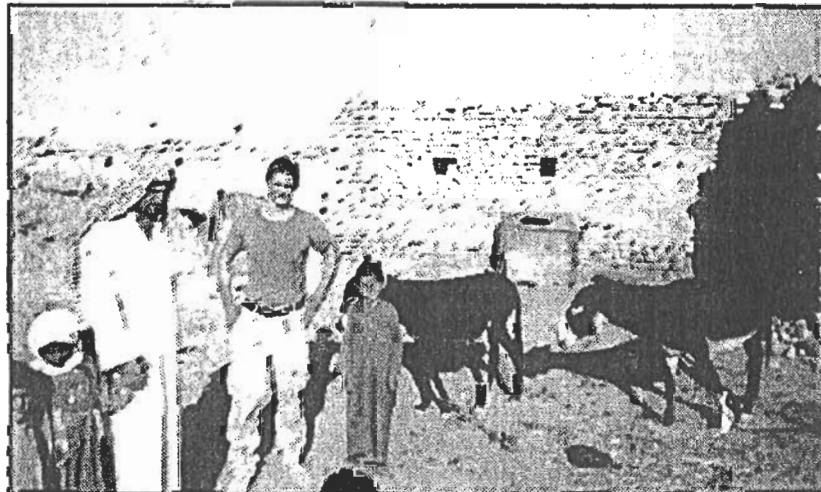


University of Nebraska at Kearney senior Industrial distribution major Lewis Hyatt and his wife, Bethany, a graduate student at UNK, have been married since June 2006. They live near the UNK campus.



LEFT: Hyatt is a sergeant who has served in the Nebraska National Guard since 2000. He was deployed to Iraq in 2003-2004 as a military police officer.

Courtesy photos



Of his time in Iraq, Hyatt said, "The shocking thing about Iraq was that the quality of life there is so low. It was disturbing, but I was able to adapt."