Message from Juan N. Franco

I am delighted to introduce the first issue of the Division of Student Affairs newsletter “The Husker Advocate.” The primary purpose of the newsletter is to provide one more communication venue. One of the measures of a healthy organization is good communication. I hope to use the newsletter to inform our staff about new and ongoing activities, but we also want to highlight a Student Affairs department in every issue and also feature a student or staff member. In this issue we are featuring the department of Student Involvement and highlighting ASUN President Emily Zimmer.

This promises to be another great year for UNL. Our enrollment is up again. The New Student Convocation and the Big Red Welcome were huge successes. There is construction going on everywhere (another sign of the vitality of a campus). Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Gaughan Multicultural Center were held on September 19th near the City Union. Construction will also begin this fall on the new residence hall to be built on the corner of 17th and R streets. The new hall will house about 560 students. Remodeling of the Abel and Sandoz towers is also underway. A new dining facility between the two towers will be a welcome addition. The Mabel Lee campus recreation field now has new all-weather turf and is ready for use.

We are also very excited about new programming for students. The Night Life Committee has been busy scheduling late night activities for students. These activities are scheduled for select Friday nights throughout the year normally beginning at 9:00 pm. The Housing and Dining Services department is sponsoring tailgate activities before some football games. Of special interest to many is the presentation of financial management workshops for students. This is a cooperative effort between ASUN, Scholarships and Financial Aid, the Alumni Office, the Child, Youth and Family Studies Department, and the Division of Student Affairs.

There are several other exciting things occurring on campus. We have two new eating establishments in the City Union food court: Runza and Planet Sub. Renovation of the Whittier building will begin this semester and will house, among other things, the UNL Children’s Center. For the third year in a row, UNL Housing will set a record for number of students living on campus. This year the number will be around 6,200. Wireless connections for computer access are being installed in all residence halls.

The University Health Center (UHC) has been re-accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. In conjunction with University Housing the UHC is establishing a satellite office in Selleck Hall with an

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“At UNL we look for ways to help students, not reasons why we can’t.”
emphasis on services for international students. The Scholarships and Financial Aid Office is assisting with the financial literacy program and with the Federal Government’s TEACH grant which provides grants up to $4,000 per year to students who plan to teach in low-income areas. Several departments are involved in securing a new student information system. In the next issue of this newsletter, I want to go into much more detail on this project. I wish you well in what appears to be an exciting year for UNL.

Featured Department .......................... Student Involvement

Student Involvement provides co-curricular opportunities that complete the educational experience, foster student development and prepare students for life beyond the University. Meaningful co-curricular opportunities are facilitated through the department’s program areas, which include Student Organizations, Service-Learning and Volunteer Services, Leadership Development, Gender Programs, and LGBTQ Programs and Services. Communication, marketing, and design materials for all programming is provided by the Student Involvement Information Strategies student staff who practice what they learn in the classroom in a real life setting.

In addition to offices in the Nebraska Unions on both city and East Campus, Student Involvement is also home to two resource centers on the third floor of the Nebraska Union. The Women’s Center and the LGBTQ Resource Center provide safe spaces, resources, and referrals for students interested in gender issues and changing roles, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation.

New in 2008, Student Involvement is host to the Campus Night Life program, a collaborative project involving Recognized Student Organizations across campus. Campus Night Life encourages students to seek entertainment on campus by providing free entertainment, food, and a wide range of late Friday night programming at the Nebraska Union. The kick off event is Rock the Vote on September 26 from 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Rock the Vote will include live music from three bands, a T-shirt give away, voter registration, candidate information, election-related crafts, international displays related to voting, video games and karaoke.

Student Involvement is also proud to introduce UNLife.com to the campus community this fall. UNLife.com is a student-driven, interactive website that provides students with customized information about co-curricular events, programs, and services and replaces NUtodo.com as the online student calendar. UNLife.com uses the social media model of soliciting content from users; students and campus community members can submit essays, polls, events with images, photographs, and enter contests.

Student Involvement invites comments, collaborations, and inquiries about our programs. For more information, contact Linda Major, Director of Student Involvement, at 472-8154 or visit involved.unl.edu.


“At UNL we look for ways to help students, not reasons why we can’t.”
Upon my arrival on campus, like many freshmen, I was overwhelmed by all the opportunities and experiences. I chose to react by diving in head first and I am so glad I did. While the time I have spent in classrooms at UNL has been enriching, the majority of my growth has occurred through the relationships I have formed and the organizations in which I have taken an active role.

I am Emily Zimmer, the President of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and my duties also include representing UNL as the Student Regent on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. I am currently a senior majoring in Political Science with minors in English and Art History. I was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. With my childhood home five minutes from campus I like to say that I am about as Lincoln as they come. I am a proud graduate of Lincoln High School where my most enriching experience was my time running in both the cross-country and track teams.

I was one of those Lincoln kids who thought they had to go out of state for college. I did not want college to be just like high school and I virtually eliminated UNL as an option, only applying as a backup plan. After evaluating my options UNL came out on top (good job Admissions) and I packed up my room August 2005 and moved my belongings a mile down the road to Nebraska.

At UNL I have been involved in Kappa Delta Sorority serving as the Vice President of Standards and now as the Leadership Chair. I am a member of the 104th class of the Innocents Society, and I participate in the Alumni Association’s Cather Circle, The Big Event, and Dance Marathon.

My story with ASUN begins at the same time my UNL story. I was a member of the Freshman Campus Leadership Associates that resurrected the Husker Homecoming Parade after its 19-year hiatus on campus. I have served on the Judicial Appeals Board, worked for two years on the Government Liaison Committee and last year was a senator representing the College of Arts and Sciences. I am a Regents Scholar and a member of the UNL Honors Program. When I get a few precious moments to myself I enjoy long distance running, painting and cooking. Like almost every college student a night is well spent relaxing with close friends. After graduation the plan is to attend law school. Ultimately my life dream is to earn a living, raise a family and contribute to my community.

I feel very privileged to have been given a chance by my peers to spend a year representing them and implementing positive change in their university lives. I am so proud to be a Husker and I truly believe there is no place like Nebraska. But, there is always room for improvement and this year’s group of dedicated student leaders within ASUN is utilizing every moment they have to affect change. A few projects that we have in the works include a database listing professionals as a resource to students exploring different careers, environmental sustainability on campus, a 24 hour student space on campus, improvements to the NU on Wheels program, a strategic communication plan, laptop check out in the residence halls, coffee vending machines and the list goes on and on. One project that is particularly exciting is the Student Money Management Program, in which the Office of Student Affairs has been a great partner. The program is set to train dozens of UNL students to be peer financial advisors. Those peer advisors will meet with students in one-on-one consultations to assist them in basic finance skills like planning a monthly budget.

As well as working on projects, ASUN provides a student voice on subjects like the new A.C.E. requirements, the implementation of the new student information system and the revision of the Student Code of Conduct. In my time in office I have learned so much more is accomplished through partnerships so please feel free to contact me with any project on which we can work together.

Much like many of you, ASUN is putting a lot of energy into letting students know we are a resource available to them. From small problems to grand ideas, we want to hear from students so we can facilitate and advocate for them. Never hesitate in sending a student into the ASUN Office with a question. Thank you for taking time to get to know a little about me.

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