Message from Juan N. Franco

We are now past mid-semester (oh how time flies!) and this seems like a good time to reflect on what we have done so far and what we still need to do. In many ways we are still riding the coattails of an excellent recruitment year. Now that the students are here we need to look at how we are doing to retain them and graduate them. I am happy to report that we are doing quite well in both of those areas. The figures which have just been released show that our retention rates have increased and our graduation rates have also increased at both the four-year and six-year marks.

Now that we have students on campus, we need to provide them with excellent facilities. This semester we have broken ground on the Gaughan Multicultural Center and the new residence hall to be built on 17th and R streets. We had a dedication ceremony for the Mabel Lee Recreation fields and continue remodeling the Abel and Sandoz towers. We have recently received final approval to renovate the dining facilities for these towers. Students are also reviewing the need to improve the Campus Recreation Facilities and the University Health Center. A survey is going out to students to help determine their interest addressing these needs.

Other activities include the training of the peer educators for the Student Money Management Workshops which are intended to help educate students about their finances; the Night Life Committee had a very successful "Rock the Vote" which drew a large number of students and the committee is now looking at other events; the Empowerment Forum was held at the East City Campus and drew a very enthusiastic and committed crowd.

I am delighted to report that our early recruitment activities for next year’s freshman class have been very well attended. We have had three honor student recruitment receptions (two in Omaha and one in Lincoln). In all three cases, the number of attendees has been the largest ever! Kudos to the Admissions Office staff and others who have been involved in these events.

Now that the elections are over, we need to focus on what the results of the elections mean for us at UNL. We certainly have new players to work with, from local elections to the presidency. Over the next few months we will begin to see how the University is impacted by these changes. By now you probably know that Initiative 424 (the affirmative action petition) was approved by the voters. In the next issue of this newsletter, I will discuss what this means for the University and the State of Nebraska. Until then, have a great rest of the semester.

Find calendar information at:

UNL Calendar: [http://events.unl.edu/](http://events.unl.edu/)
Student Affairs Calendar: [http://stuafs.unl.edu/](http://stuafs.unl.edu/)
Interested in getting a degree in Student Affairs? Consider the **UNL Student Affairs Graduate Program**. Further your education, work with great people and advance your career in **Student Affairs**! For more information, please visit us online at [http://stuafs.unl.edu/grad.shtml](http://stuafs.unl.edu/grad.shtml). To speak with someone about the program, call 402-472-3755 or stop by 106 Canfield Administration Building. We look forward to hearing from you!

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**Featured Department . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Career Services**

Do you remember your last job search? Have you thought about your career plans lately? University of Nebraska-Lincoln Career Services works to make these efforts easier for students and alumni. Whether a student is unsure of career plans, or is looking for an on or off campus part-time job, or an internship or full-time professional position, Career Services can help. “Walk-In Counselor” is a popular place to start.

Offered Monday through Friday, a Walk-In Counselor is available between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM on a first-come, first-served basis. In these 20 minute meetings, students might have a resume critiqued, be given a career exploration assignment, or be introduced to Husker Hire Link, Career Services’ on-line connection between employers and students. Scheduled hour long appointments are also available by calling or stopping by the center.

Husker Hire Link allows students to search campus, local, national, and international volunteer and work opportunities. Conversely, it serves employers seeking part-time, internship, or full-time staffing. On-campus employers may use it to advertise student opportunities by going to [www.unl.edu/careers](http://www.unl.edu/careers).

Career Services also presents programs and activities throughout the year to educate students and to bring opportunities to them. Programs include “Job Search Survival,” “Insights into Internships,” and the “Networking Workshop.” Career fairs bring hundreds of employers to campus to recruit UNL students. Also available are presentations to classes and student groups. To schedule a presentation, students and faculty may go to the on-line request form at [http://www.unl.edu/careers/events](http://www.unl.edu/careers/events).

You know that career decisions and job searching can be stressful. Career Services helps UNL students and alumni to be confident and successful in these efforts.

Please contact Dr. Larry Routh at 472-8013 for more information on the services and resources of UNL Career Services.

**Career Services Staff. Left to right. Back Row:** Kim Schafer, Ruth Ulrich, Chris Timm, Becky Faber, Emily Wilber, Molly Klee. **Middle Row:** Jake Kirkland Jr., Larry Routh, Tania Greene, Kelli Smith, Jan Kendall, Christina Fielder. **Front Row:** Tom Allison, Molly Handke. **Not Pictured:** Linda Schreiner, Ariella Paintsil, Maria Hansen, Suyenti Gunawan.

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“At UNL, we look for ways to help students, not reasons why we can’t.”
It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to the readers of the VCSA newsletter! My name is Ashley Easter, and I am a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am majoring in international studies, and have minors in both communications and Spanish. It is my hope that I will be able to continue my education in non-profit law in the Fall of 2009. My educational background is just a small reflection of who I truly am, and I would like to share with you a little bit more about my experiences at UNL.

I first arrived at UNL in the Fall of 2005, and have loved every minute of the rich environment that UNL has to offer. I would describe myself as a typical college student; fun-loving, energetic, and often bogged down with homework. However, one cannot dwell on the daily stresses of college. College is truly what you make of the experience, and it is up to the student to take advantage of the available university resources in order to have the best experience possible.

I am proud to say that my involvements expand far beyond the classroom, and it is these extracurricular activities that have molded me into the person I am today. It is amazing that UNL offers over 400 recognized student organizations to serve the various interests of its student body! I am the current president of the Afrikan People’s Union (APU). APU serves as the primary Black student government on UNL’s campus. Its primary goal is to advocate for the best interests of the black student body, both on and off campus. I also serve as the Vice President of the National Panhellenic Council, and the State Facilitator for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Other organizations that I am (or have been) involved in include: Campus Night Life, Students United for Nebraska, Melvin Jones Scholars, and NU Connections. My most recent project is working to charter the W.E.B. DuBois Honors Society at UNL. I have fully taken advantage of many campus opportunities, and would encourage others to do the same. The memories that one gains from such organizations are invaluable, and will certainly help to develop many of the professional and interpersonal skills that are necessary for post graduate survival.

My involvements on campus have allowed me to develop a support system that continually keeps me striving for excellence. The various relationships that I have been able to develop not only cultivate a network of merit, but have also allowed me to actively address the needs of diverse students on UNL’s campus. I am honored to have been able to create long-lasting relationships with ambitious students and faculty/staff members, and to know that I attend a university that supports and recognizes the significance of a diverse student body.

One of the most important lessons that I will take away from my experience at UNL is the value of setting/reaching high goals. This lesson will undoubtedly prepare me for what is to come in the future. I find the following quote to be quite fitting for this priceless lesson:

“When we are doing something we're passionate about, failure becomes a non-issue... Pursuit of a dream rarely leads to regrets... Too many of those with unrealized aspirations have set them aside due to fear of failure.” Farson and Keyes, 2003

UNL has taught me to reach for my dreams, no matter how extravagant they may seem. This is a lesson that few people rarely learn and practice, and I am thankful that the university takes pride in innovative ideas.

I would not trade my experiences at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln for anything in the world. It is my hope that I will continue to be involved with university activities; even as an alumna of the university. Hopefully I will be able to impact the campus in such a way that will allow future undergraduate students to be proud members of Husker Nation!

Thank you,

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