



THE HUSKER ADVOCATE

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

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Message from Juan N. Franco

The Remaking of Student Affairs

Let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy New Year. I hope you had a restful break and had the opportunity to spend time with family.

By now, I am sure you have heard that some re-organization is taking place with some units being moved from Student Affairs to Academic Affairs and vice versa. While we are saddened by the departure of some units (Registration and Records, Financial Aid and Admissions), we are also delighted to have OASIS



and the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center join our family. We have also been asked to play a greater role in the engagement of international students.

I believe these changes provide Student Affairs an opportunity to be more nimble, more flexible and to be more purposeful in how we engage students. We will undertake a major effort to provide a more engaging environment for all of our students. There are certain student populations, such as veterans, international students, out-of-state students, etc., to whom we need to pay more attention. I will provide further explanation as to how we propose to do this in the near future.

During the holiday break, I took time to reflect on the many things we have accomplished and the many things that came to fruition during the summer and fall semesters. This past summer the Board of Regents approved the two new residence halls and the new and remodeled Campus Recreation facilities which include constructing a new facility on the East Campus, building a new Outdoor Adventures building on City Campus and remodeling the Sapp facility, also on City Campus. The Center for Civic Engagement opened in September 2011, the Nebraska Campus Compact hosted by UNL became a reality on October 1, and the Certificate for Civic Engagement received final approval in December. The City Union is undergoing a minor “face-lift” to make it feel more like “Nebraska.” You may have noticed more red paint and “N”s appearing on the walls and windows. The MyRED student portal underwent some changes to make it more user friendly and more intuitive. Feedback from the students has been very positive.

Let me end by once again letting you know how much I appreciate your good work on behalf of our students. Your work reflects very positively on the Division of Student Affairs.

Find calendar information at:

UNL Calendar:

<http://events.unl.edu>

Student Affairs Calendar:

<http://stuafs.unl.edu/>

Student Involvement:

<http://involved.unl.edu/>

Featured Student Alexi Brown

Entering Nebraska to begin New Student Enrollment in 2009, one of my first impressions came from the state's slogan of "Living the Good Life." Now a junior, my interpretation of that slogan's meaning is to seek out and experience the broad range of opportunities available to UNL students, ranging from development of themselves and their character while obtaining an exceptional education, to creating lifelong friendships, and to benefit from service to others in their communities.

To introduce myself, I am Alexi Brown, a junior at UNL pursuing a major in environmental economics, with the energy option, and minors in math and in energy science, originally from the Kansas City area. Initially, my academic orientation and guidance began with wise counsel and generous kindnesses extended to me by Husker Nation alumnae in Kansas City, NSE student leaders and Dr. Dennis Schulte to whom I shall always be grateful!

My first UNL opportunities included participation in the Freshman Campus Leadership Associates as Secretary, the Honors College, and offices within my sorority, Alpha Phi, and for Panhellenic. Acting on advice from student leaders in NSE, FCLA and the Greek community, "living the good life" expanded as I confidently learned the bright potential that is achievable at UNL.

As a part of UNL's Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication department, Nebraska Human Resources Institute ("NHRI") is a strength-based leadership mentoring program, in which college student leaders are identified and allowed to maximize their talents by placement with elementary and secondary education students. In 2010, I began service as a NHRI Senior Counselor to a dynamic Lincoln high school student, Whitney, and in my junior year I served as a Teaching Assistant and Teenage Project Co-Chair. Now, with the able support of Lindsay Hastings, the Director of NHRI, I will serve on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Human Resources Foundation.

My NHRI experience is inspiring and significant to me, as it provided the means to see that the best way to help people grow and build on their strengths is to invest in positive relationships with successful people who are willing and capable of investing in others. Mentoring my junior counselor is a uniquely intimate leadership experience which exceeded my expectations, and I find extremely positive. In my NHRI experiences, I have practiced a servant-leadership style, developed meaningful friendships, and been surrounded with inspiring people who have enriched my own experience. The skills and tools that I have learned in my NHRI roles not only positively impact me in collegiate success, but provide me with the framework for achieving success in future leadership roles.

ASUN participation is also a large part of my collegiate experience in 'living the good life'. After serving the 2010 Homecoming Committee with public relations, and as a part of the N'Vision Campaign, I was elected to the Academic Fees Advisory Committee, and now serve as its Chair, after 2011 reelection with the Action Campaign. Through this Committee, I have been privileged to assist the entire student body in the use of fees for technology at each college and the library while funding student resources such as Blackboard, computer labs, and the Microsoft contract. This service includes my participation in



Alexi Brown (Continued from Page 2)

meetings of Student Senate and its Executive team, during which I have been inspired by and honored to have worked with Dr. Juan Franco, Marlene Beyke, Pam Holley-Wilcox, and other UNL students, whose extensive efforts are to be applauded.

ASUN's faculty and student leaders impressively seek to better the opportunities and experiences to be had at UNL. Current planning for UNL's continued success includes enrollment growth, additional research funding, new residence halls and recreation facilities, to follow recent program implementations in the Office of Student Affairs. These new endeavors offer additional opportunities for students seeking to live the good life of UNL.

This year, after serving as a Panhellenic Recruitment Coordinator to incoming freshman women and as Alpha Phi's Chaplin and Campus Involvement Director, I have a deeper appreciation for the benefits and strengths of UNL's Greek community and sororities at UNL. Local volunteer service opportunities are numerous and rewarding, as I found in two years' service through the Big Event, culminating in my decision to serve as Secretary to UNL's 2012 The Big Event (a part of ASUN). The efforts of its Executive Team and all UNL volunteers will again provide unique chances to give back to the Lincoln community which provides students with a welcome home.

Service to the Capital Humane Society and a disabled women's project are other local volunteer opportunities I have been fortunate to serve. Now registered to run in my second year of Lincoln's marathon, I am training at the 'Rec Center', another great opportunity for student growth, with a number of fellow UNL students for this May 2012 event.

My career and avocation interests have been positively developed in Nebraska, as only here have I explored interests in mentoring, government, engineering and environmental affairs, among many others. My Nebraskan experiences have taught me to be a steward of my personal strengths and talents and to develop the best ways I can connect with others, provide intellectual thought, and give back to the world around me.

As a UNL student, I encourage all other students to engage, invest and live "The Good Life," to explore all opportunities, to consciously develop their gifts, skills, traits, and to work for positive change in themselves, the University and for others. By doing this, my UNL experience has been enhanced by its people who have generously given motivation, care, and joy to me, and I have experienced innumerable blessings. Thank you for your interest, and I wish you good luck in "Living the Good Life"!

Alexi Brown

**Living the
Good Life . . .**



Featured Department....Nebraska Unions

The Nebraska Unions on City and East campus are undergoing renovations and improvements. The goal is to unify the three different buildings to have one cohesive look so students feel at home here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Here are some of the recently completed and also some upcoming renovations and improvements for the Nebraska Unions.

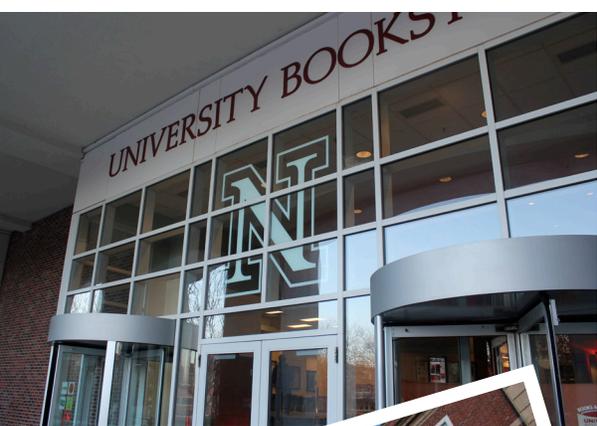
Nebraska Union City Campus:

Recent renovations/improvements:

- Vinyl Nebraska N's on the glass windows of the South, West and North entries
- Red Nebraska N's on the vinyl flooring of the Crib
- Red Nebraska N's on the carpet in the Center for Civic Engagement
- Red painted walls in the food court area.
- Red painted wall with pictures of student's being involved
- Neighborhood Movie Box: where students can rent movies and games for around a dollar.

Upcoming projects:

- The Nebraska City Union is updating the colors of the Nebraska Ballroom, with era preservation colors in mind. (Spring/Summer 2012)
- The Centennial Room operable partition walls will be replaced. (Summer 2012)
- Student Involvement is working with The Bakery on a "Name This Store" campaign to let students come up with a new name for the store that is now offering healthy options. The Bakery has started selling healthier food options like fruits, vegetables, vegan and vegetarian brownies, muffins, trail mixes, pita chips, and soymilk. They are welcoming any suggestions from individuals on what items they would like them to sell in the new store.



Nebraska East Union:

Recent renovations/improvements:

- Nebraska East Union has finished its renovations and improvements of the bowling alley, Lanes 'N Games
- New outdoor banner and announcement boards have been added
- New event/performance lighting has been implemented in the Great Plains Room
- Hollow Lounge, the Nebraska East Union student lounge, has added new furniture

Upcoming projects:

- New wood flooring in the Great Plains Room
- New improvements and updates to the outside North entrance as well as additional seating, art objects and more
- New interior art to be displayed throughout the building
- Renovating the former Health Center into new dining/meeting room.



Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center:

- New painting of Dr. George A. Flippin located in the lobby of JGMC; free posters of the painting are still available.
- The building is now open 24 hours a day during dead/finals week.

Children's Center:

The UNL Children's Center, another part of the Nebraska Unions, has added a Nursery to the center in May, 2011. The Nursery has 20 infants enrolled ranging in ages from 6 weeks to around 1 year old.

The classroom is divided into 2 separate areas. The area for the younger infants is set up so that they may have space to explore without mobile infants sharing their space. The older infant space offers mobile infants their own room to move and explore in their own way. The room employs a full

time lead teacher for both sides of the nursery and a full-time assistant teacher who shares her time between both areas. To offer smaller teacher-to-child ratios, student teachers are also employed in the Nursery and will work consistent hours weekly throughout the semester.

Along with the Nursery the Children's Center has:

- 165 children
- 24 full-time staff
- 100+ student employees

