

campus report

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN STUDENTS

SPRING 2008 • VOL. 24 • NO. 2



University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Parents Association

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2008

Co-President

Joy Citta
Lincoln, NE

Co-President

Rosemary Eastwood
Lincoln, NE

President-Elect

We need you-please contact
Tonda Humphress at 402-472-3755
or via email at thumphress1@unl.edu

Secretary

We need you-please contact
Tonda Humphress at 402-472-3755
or via email at thumphress1@unl.edu

Treasurer

Kaylene Luedtke
Columbus, NE

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Dick Luedtke
Columbus, NE

Elizabeth Pokorny
Omaha, NE

Susan Rutledge
Lincoln, NE

Second Semester

First Day of Classes

January 14, 2008

Spring Break

March 16-23, 2008

Last Week of Classes

April 28-May 2, 2008

Final Exams

May 5-9, 2008

Commencement

May 10, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska | PARENTS
Lincoln | ASSOCIATION

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcome, Parents!

On behalf of the UNL Parents Association, welcome to your new role as “parents of a college student!” I am certain that your life is changing as your student continues on his or her path to adulthood.

The UNL Parents Association can be a real asset to you as your child comes to the University. One of our goals is to strengthen the bond between the University and parents by encouraging communication in both directions. We sponsor Parents Weekend in early-to-mid October to give you an opportunity to see the campus first-hand, meet faculty/staff, tour our facilities and spend some time with your student. We also meet regularly and maintain a website (www.parentassoc.unl.edu) and newsletter for parents who have questions or need information.

The Advisory Board (Officers) of the Parents Association serves in a supportive capacity to the University through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Vice Chancellor Juan Franco attends each meeting (or has a staff representative on the occasions that he is unable to attend) and updates members on current issues and future plans affecting our students and us as parents. We also have the opportunity to bring questions and concerns to him to be reviewed and addressed. He values our input and provides guidance and direction for our group as we establish our priorities for the year.

Another goal of the Parents Association is to support activities designed to enhance students' educational experiences. This year, we helped sponsor a pre-game “alcohol-free” tailgate party before the Nebraska-USC game. The tailgate event was designed to offer students a safe and fun alternative to get together before our football games. We also provided funds this year to the Student Health Center for promotional materials to help students learn about the Eating Disorders Education and Prevention Program; additional funds for the Student Health Center Health Aide educational and promotional materials; a computer and software for Career Services to assist students with job research and selection as well as résumé development; and tuition and textbook scholarships funded with proceeds from our annual raffle fundraiser.

The Parents Association, in conjunction with the UNL Teaching Council, recognizes the value of outstanding faculty and staff at the University with an annual Parents Recognition Reception. Students and parents are asked to nominate faculty/staff from the University who have made a difference to them. We honor those nominated at this special event with a Certificate and commendation from the Dean of their college or department. The UNL Parents Association also recognizes outstanding student achievement by offering financial support for the Outstanding Student Leadership Award Dinner every Spring. This award recognizes students who have achieved academic success while motivating and encouraging other students to become active with their leadership and involvement roles.

Officially, every parent of a currently enrolled UNL student is automatically a member of the UNL Parent's Association. However, we have many opportunities for involvement within our organization which include: (1) Communication List (receive email notifications and other mails regarding the newsletter and upcoming events); (2) Executive Team/Board (consider being a part of the leadership team. We have opportunities to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and member-at-large); and (3) Activities and Events Programming (help organize and coordinate events such as Parents Weekend and the Outstanding Faculty and Staff recognition). Please consider this opportunity to be engaged with the University and the educational endeavors of your son or daughter by contacting Tonda Humphress at 472-3755 or via email at thumphress1@unl.edu. We look forward to your involvement and continued support of our mission—the success of our students!

Best Wishes for a Happy and Successful New Year!

Rosemary Eastwood (74)

Co-President, UNL Parents Association



Rosemary Eastwood

UNL Parents Association
2008 Executive Committee
Approved January 25, 2008

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
2008**

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Lincoln, NE
citta429@aol.com

Co-President

Rosemary Eastwood
Lincoln, NE
btonmom@aol.com

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Omaha, NE
Susan Rutledge
Lincoln, NE

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dear Parents,

Hello, my name is Tim Alvarez. I am the parent (self-professed “helicopter parent”) of two UNL students: one is a junior anthropology major and the other a sophomore architecture major. So, I believe I have first-hand knowledge and experience about college life and some of the issues with which students must cope. I am also returning to the University after an 8-year hiatus. Prior to returning to UNL, I was the Vice President of Student Services at Western Nebraska Community College. I began work at UNL this last August as the new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Student Ombudsperson. I am writing this article to inform you of my responsibility as a Student Ombudsperson. Most students and parents are unaware that the University has such a service. When issues arise between the student and the University that you perceive are unresolvable, please refer them to me. Below is a brief description of how I can help students. If you have questions please contact me utilizing the addresses listed below.



Tim Alvarez

The UNL Student Ombudsperson provides services for students for the purpose of hearing, investigating and advising on issues ranging from personal problems to matters of policy and procedure.

The Ombudsperson is an impartial and neutral party who strives to see that students at the university are treated fairly and equitably. While the office works primarily with students, faculty and staff can seek advice in working with students from the Ombud Services Office. Conversations with the Ombudsperson are confidential. The rights and interests of all parties to disputes are considered, with the goal of achieving fair outcomes.

The Office of the UNL Student Ombudsperson provides assistance that can help students resolve and cope more effectively with tough situations that may arise in their life while attending UNL. The Ombudsperson:

- Hears and discusses student concerns, identifying and helping them evaluate options to resolve problems;
- Opens avenues of communication and gathers information;
- Provides information about University policies and refers students to other university services and programs; and
- Identifies UNL policies or practices that might need revision.

Lastly, federal privacy laws, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), limit communication with parents (and/or guardians) regarding their student’s educational progress. However, I can speak broadly on the process and procedures. Normally, it is more efficient for students to visit with me directly so that I might be able to initiate the process.

In closing, our responsibility is to assist students to reach their goals through education. We take that job very seriously! We look forward to working with your sons and daughters.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Alvarez, Ph.D.
Student Ombudsperson
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
106 Canfield Administration Building
P.O. Box 880423
Lincoln, NE 68588-0423
Website: <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ombuds/>
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campus report

Campus Report is a publication of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Parents Association.

Advertising in *Campus Report* is subject to approval of the editor.

Rates and schedules available from:
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Parents Association
PO Box 81688, Lincoln, NE 68501

New UNL Alert Multiple Messaging System Implemented: Has your Student Signed Up?

By Kelly Bartling

University Communications

Students at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln now can receive emergency messages wherever they want to get them. The new UNL Alert system was launched in October, and the university community is signing up for the message delivery process now.

“The new UNL Alert system has new services that will let the university send personalized emergency messages to computers, land-line telephones and cell phones with text and voice,” said Christine Jackson, UNL Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance. “Our students, faculty and staff can choose which devices they want messages sent to, and even prioritize which are alerted first. It’s a powerful, customizable emergency communication tool for our university community.”

The service will require UNL students to enter a secure site to sign in their contact phone numbers and text and e-mail addresses. There is no cost to users for the UNL Alert Service (Note: depending on the student’s phone plan, text messaging charges may apply). It is through a Tennessee-based company, W.A.R.N. (Wide Area Rapid Notification Inc.), which was selected this summer after an extensive proposal and interview process. The new service is only for use by registered UNL students, faculty and staff, but the original UNL Alert desktop application (which computer users download to their computers with a client service that goes into action on the user’s computer desktop when an alert is delivered) is still available to UNL visitors or others interested.

Efforts at improving campus safety and emergency communication have intensified nationwide since the April Virginia Tech tragedy, and enhanced text and voice communications have been targeted as a way to warn or alert large, mobile populations—like those on campuses—about emergencies. In April, the desktop UNL Alert application was distributed to computer users to initiate a campuswide warning system, and prior to that, campuswide emails and Web posts have been used to communicate with people on campus about emergencies. The new technologies added will be multiple phones, including cellular phones, and text-messaging, pagers, personal digital assistants and two-way radios. The university continues to look at other emergency and safety measures, in addition to communication tools, as ways to improve security.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Juan N. Franco said the multiple-messaging system is a service to students, and he encourages them to sign up. One part of the UNL Alert system, the



desktop application, is available for parents, and they should download from the UNL Alert sign up site:

<http://unlalert.unl.edu>

“In this age of heightened concern about safety and security, especially where students are concerned, we would really like parents to have discussions with their sons or daughters here at UNL about how to protect themselves and prepare for emergencies, even talking through what they would do in certain situations,” Franco said. “We’d like parents to remind their student that alert systems like these can be very helpful in emergencies.”

The ultimate goal of the project, Jackson said, is to make campus as safe as possible, and communication is key.

“Emergency managers know that effective emergency communication is accomplished with multiple and overlapping, but consistent, messages,” she said. “No one method will reach all recipients, but if we send redundant messages with multiple delivery methods, the chance for receiving the communication is improved greatly. That’s what helps save lives.”

Jackson said the UNL Alert system will be used in imminent life and safety threats only. She said the sign up process is voluntary but 100 percent involvement is hoped for among the university community.

More information and sign up and download links are at **<http://emergency.unl.edu>**.

Majors and More: GPS for Your Future

By JoAnn Moseman M.A., Academic Transfer Coordinator
Office of Undergraduate Studies



THE DETAILS

DATE: January 30, 2008

TIME: 3–5 p.m.

LOCATION: Ballroom, Nebraska City Union

On January 30, the Office of Undergraduate Studies and New Student Enrollment will host Majors and More: GPS for your Future.

This is an opportunity for entering first-year and transfer students to learn about the university and for all undeclared or undecided UNL students to visit with faculty and staff representing UNL academic departments/units.

Participating students will be provided:

- a list of questions they might consider asking department/unit representatives, including questions about specific majors, opportunities to work with faculty on the faculty member's research, study abroad experiences, internships, career opportunities, student organizations, etc.
- the opportunity to complete an assessment of their interests and, from that information, visit with faculty and staff from related departments about their undergraduate programs.

In addition to information about interests and majors, students will be able to attend sessions on academic success. These are the same types of popular sessions offered at the Mid-Semester Check.

If your student is an entering first-year and transfer students or is an undeclared or undecided major, please talk to him or her about this opportunity. For more information, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Studies at 472-1185.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Raffle Winners

Stan Huhmann (Daughter, Kim), Bellevue, NE

Dennis Schulte (Son, Joel), Lincoln, NE

Tom Monda (Son, Marshall), Fargo, ND

Dave and Patty Clawson (Daughter, Kimberly),
Plattsmouth, NE

Linda Augustyn (Daughter, Kristen), Omaha, NE

Tom Soderholm (Son, Brad), Holdrege NE

Wendy Wickard (Daughter, Emily), Bridgeport, NE

Dale and Kathy Bray (Daughter, Cassidy), Omaha, NE

Angela Price (Son, Spencer), West Des Moines, IA

Autographed Basketball

Autographed Football

Autographed Football

Autographed Volleyball



Book Scholarship (up to \$250) at the University Bookstore

Book Scholarship (up to \$250) at the University Bookstore

Book Scholarship (up to \$250) at the University Bookstore

Tuition (up to \$2,500 for Spring 2008)

Tuition (up to \$2,500 for Spring 2008)

Congratulations to all our winners!

Thank you to all who supported the UNL Parents Association and entered the drawing. Your support and contributions enable the UNL Parents Association to continue providing services to make the University an even better place for our students.

Providing Career Opportunities and Information to UNL Students

*Dr. Chris Timm, Associate Director
Career Services*

Thousands of UNL students use Husker Hire Link in their search for part-time jobs, internships, and career opportunities after graduation. These opportunities come from employers from all industries, sizes, and geographic locations. This free service also connects students with other employer information such as career fair participation, “Meet the Employer” sessions, and on-campus interview opportunities. But from where do these employers come? Well, from people just like you who think of UNL when trying to fill job vacancies.



Please consider talking to your employer and ask if they use UNL Career Services and Husker Hire Link. There is no fee for an employer to post a job vacancy at UNL Husker Hire Link to reach current students and alumni. The process begins by going to the Husker Hire Link link on the Career Services website (<http://www.unl.edu/careers>) and creating a profile. From there, all types of jobs can be entered. Employers can also arrange on-campus interviews, search résumés, and register for career fairs. Career Services is glad to help employers use Husker Hire Link and to explore ways to expand a campus presence through opportunities like internships.

A new feature of Husker Hire Link is the “Career Network.” Individuals who choose to be part of the Career Network share information about career fields, industries, geographic locations, etc. and offer their own success tips. Each of you may have information that would be helpful to that student who is trying to determine a major or career path. Students could greatly benefit by hearing about your decisions to pursue additional education, start your own business, or to be involved in community organizations. You control how much information to share and how students can contact you. To become part of the “Career Network,” just go to Husker Hire Link and create a profile attached to your employer account. Then complete additional information under the “Career Network” tab. Again, Career Services staff are glad to help you join the “Career Network” and appreciate your willingness to share information with students.

Husker Hire Link is just one of the services provided by UNL Career Services. The office also provides:

- career counseling,
- job search preparation,
- mock interviews, and
- career related workshops and events.

Encourage your student to connect with Career Services early and often...and consider how you and your employer can provide internships and job opportunities to UNL students.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Mentors Key to College Success

By JoAnn Moseman M.A., Academic Transfer Coordinator
Office of Undergraduate Studies

Parents often ask how they can help their students succeed in college. One way is to encourage the student to talk to faculty and other professionals on campus.

Successful students have a mentor. This may be an adviser, a professor, or another professional that the student can talk to about classes, the future, or life in general. Students have many professors and may have several advisers, but they are encouraged to develop a relationship with at least one mentor.

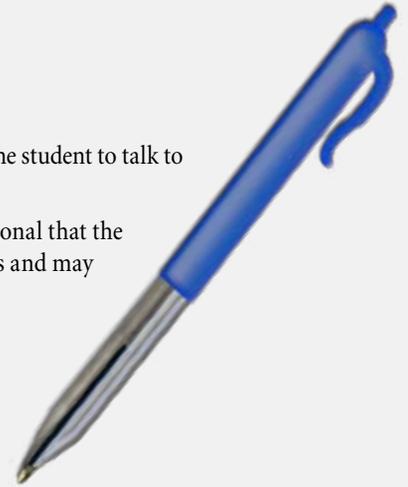
There are many reasons to seek a mentor. A mentor can help the student clarify goals and tailor an educational experience to meet those goals. Professionals on campus know about policies like Academic Probation, or what is required to make the Dean's List. Even more important, faculty and staff want students to succeed.

So, how does a student find a mentor? Start by introducing oneself to professors and advisers. The more these people know the individual student, the more helpful they can be. Like any relationship, it will not be one-sided. Students also show interest in the professionals and their work.

Some students have trouble narrowing down their interests, and may want to start by visiting with an adviser or career services counselor about matching interests with majors and careers. They may help students brainstorm questions to ask or find professionals to interview.

Students need to make an effort to go where they are likely to meet professionals. They can attend optional lectures on topics of interest or participate in student organizations in their major where they can meet faculty advisers and guest speakers. Remind students to introduce themselves each time they meet the professional.

Professors have a world of interests outside the classroom that students may share. Sometimes people in other fields can be great mentors. The goal is for the student to get to know a professional who can look from outside the student's experience.



FINANCES

Credit Card Awareness

By JoAnn Moseman, M.A., Academic Transfer Coordinator
Office of Undergraduate Studies

Credit Cards are easy to acquire, but so is credit card debt. Be selective in the cards you use. Check annual fees, interest rate, policies and late fees. Here are more things you might share with your student regarding the use of credit cards.

- More credit card issuers are shortening the grace period – the time in which you have to pay the bill before the interest-rate clock starts ticking—from 30 days or 25 days down to 20 days in some cases. Paying on-line may help you avoid late fees which are commonly over \$30.
- Organize your records—statements, dates paid, card information and number to call if the card is lost or stolen. If your electronic organization is better than paper, opt for e-mail billing and on-line payments. Late payments can trigger higher rates on other cards or loans or even insurance.
 - Remember to shred pre-approved credit card offers and the unused courtesy checks for advances on your credit cards.
- Reduce unwanted credit offers by calling 888-5-OPTOUT (888-567-8688), or applying on-line at optoutprescreen.com. The three big consumer reporting companies use the same toll-free number and web site to let consumers choose not to receive credit offers based on their lists. Note: You will be asked to provide your Social Security Number, which the consumer reporting companies need to match you with your file. This is one of those times when it's OK to provide it.

