

campus report

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN STUDENTS

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Parents Association

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Welcome Parents

Juan N. Franco, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



As I look out the window of my “bubble” office in the Student Union, I see students bustling about, wearing spring clothes. Mother Nature is teasing us with a warm spring day although there is a prediction for another cold weekend. Did the groundhog see its shadow this year?

We are in the middle of spring semester, but already we are planning for next year. I see several of our student ambassadors walking backwards followed by large groups of students and parents. Some smile and most wonder what I am doing in this glass enclosed office. An occasional student (and in some cases staff) drops by to ask a question or simply say “hi”.

Current students are busily signing up for housing for next year, considering what their class schedules will look like next fall and wondering where they will be working this summer. Others are graduating in May and wondering what impact the current economic situation will have on their job prospects.

At the same time, we are keeping an eye on the economic forecast and are hopeful that Nebraska will not be hit as hard as other states have been. Economic downturns tend to have significant negative impacts on the University and our students.

We are very busy working on implementing a new student information system. This is a project in which the University and the State College systems are working together with the goal of saving the state money.

On a more positive note, students are busily campaigning for the student government election. They are refining their plans for a student financial literacy program to try to help students manage their finances wisely. They continue working with us in our efforts to design a 24-hour study lab in the City Union for students which will probably be adjacent to the existing 24-hour computer lab.

This is the time when student organizations start having their annual receptions or banquets. Usually they have food and usually I am invited (I have the best job on campus!). While student worry about the Freshman 15 (many students gain about 15 pounds during their first year in college), I worry about the “Administrator 20”.

I think I will go out for a walk before the cold weather returns.

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

Meet the Parents . . .

Opportunities for our UNL Parents Association members to meet other UNL Parents exist via attendance at UNL Parents Association meetings and events. However, it can be a particular challenge to our parents who live out-of-state and who have schedule conflicts for the meetings and events. We have recently created a Facebook group for the UNL Parents Association which may help parents connect. (Feel free to join the Facebook group and to send us your suggestions to maximize the usefulness of this tool.) The organization name in Facebook is **UNL Parents Association**; it is a “global” organization. The website is: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22626258497>.

The *Campus Report*, the UNL Parents Association newsletter, is another way we would like to try introducing you to our wonderful parents. We have asked parents to please send us a photo of them and/or their student with a brief introduction that we can share in our newsletter. Mike Sadler, a proud Husker Dad who lives out-of-state was the first to meet the challenge. Now, we want to introduce you to . . .

Mike and Susan Sadler Parents of UNL Student, Emilee

My wife, Susan, is the Pettis County Circuit Clerk in Sedalia, Missouri, and I am an Art Director/Technology Director for Memory Book Company, a division of Josten's, also located in Sedalia. We have a son, Aaron, who lives in Sedalia.



Emilee is a member of the UNL Marching Band.

Our daughter, Emilee, is a student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The reason Emilee wanted to attend UNL is that she wanted to be part of the great band. She is majoring in Music Education. Her high school band director got his masters degree at UNL and encouraged her to check out Nebraska. She spent a week on campus at a Drum Major camp between her junior and senior year in high school and fell in love with the place. Emilee thinks the folks in Nebraska are so friendly and nice and the faculty in the Music Department are awesome. (We think so too.) We are very proud that she is in the "Pride of All Nebraska Cornhusker Marching Band!"

Welcome to UNL and the UNL Parents Association Mike, Susan and Emilee!



Mike, Emilee and Susan Sadler enjoying a visit to the Sunken Gardens in Lincoln NE.

ROCK THE VOTE 2009 – in the Nebraska Union!

By Linda Major, Director of Student Involvement

Tom Baumann (Lancaster County Election Commission Polling Place Coordinator) reported that the NE Union had 1,569 registered voters in our precinct (Precinct 3D) with the greatest percentage of registered voters being students who lived on campus. Of the 1,569 registered voters, 989 voted. This was a 63% turnout of registered voters in our precinct. He was pleased with the turnout. When the voting was held at the Devaney Center, they only saw an 8% turnout which made it one of the lowest percentage precincts in the city. He said the interest of

the election was definitely a huge draw but he was still very pleased with the numbers. He also said he was pleased with how the election in the Union was conducted and the minimal number of problems encountered. He noted that he is looking forward to a return to the Union for the next election on April 7, 2009 (City of Lincoln Primary) followed by the May 3, 2009 (City of Lincoln General).



MEMORANDUM

TO: UNL Parents' Association
SUBJECT: Residence Hall Move-In Assistance Days – 2009

The Department of Residence Life is coordinating a special welcome effort for residence hall students and their families arriving on **Thursday and Friday, August 20-21, 2009**. We are looking for volunteers from the Parents' Association to actively assist in the move-in process.

We need your help to hand out temporary parking permits and direct families to check in locations in an effort to minimize inconveniences. By volunteering, you will have a significant impact on one of our biggest challenges: to reduce unloading time at the designated unloading zones and to keep traffic moving; especially with all of the exciting additions and renovations being made on our campus. This is also a great opportunity for you to make a positive impression on our newest family members to the Nebraska tradition! The connections you make with our students and their families will help pave the way for a successful academic career at UNL. As a volunteer, you will be provided with lunch and a distinctive Residence Hall Move-In Day T-shirt so incoming students and parents will easily recognize you.

We will send another round of volunteer invitations within the next few months with additional information and a link to a registration website. In the meantime, save the date in your calendars.

Please consider taking time to volunteer for this important effort to show new students and their families our Husker Hospitality. Thank you for contributing to the success of our students in and outside of the classroom. If you have questions, please call the Department of Residence Life at 402.472.3882 or email me at clennon2@unl.edu.

Sincerely,

Craig Lennon
Assistant Director of Residence Life

Keith Zaborowski
Associate Director of Residence Life



2008 UNL Parents Association Raffle Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following 2008 UNL Parents Association Raffle Prize Winners. Dr. Timothy A. Alvarez, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, drew the winning entries from the large number of entries received. The winners were:

RP and Beth Smith (Son, Wyatt) from Broken Bow, NE
Connie Carter (Son, Andrew) from Chappell, NE
Lisa Sanderson (Son, David) from Sioux Falls, SD
Randy Wortmann (Son, Travis) from Hartington, NE
Mary Berglund (Son, Daniel) from Alliance, NE
Sara Kapalka (Daughter, Lauren) from Apple Valley, MN
Juan M. Yeefong (Son, Paul) from Bellevue, NE
Michael and Susan Anderson (Son, Erik) from
Prairie Village, KS
Rick Berryman (Son, Richie) from Omaha, NE

Autographed Baseball
Autographed Football
Autographed Football
Autographed Volleyball
Book Scholarship (up to \$250)
Book Scholarship (up to \$250)
Book Scholarship (up to \$250)
Tuition (Spring 2009, up to \$2,500)

Tuition (Spring 2009, up to \$2,500)

Thank you to all who contributed to the UNL Parents Association through the 2008 UNL Parents Association Raffle. Proceeds from the raffle support UNL Parents Association activities and items, such as calendar cards provided to parents and students and the Parents Recognition Ceremony and will benefit UNL students through grants provided to University departments and organizations which will enhance the quality of the university experience for the majority of our students. Past grants have provided furniture for the UNL Library, Career Planning Software and Computers for UNL Career Services, support for University Health Center health awareness programs, and more.

The UNL Parents Association raffle is conducted in the fall, so everyone will have another chance to win great prizes during next year's raffle in the fall!

A big CONGRATULATIONS goes out to our two tuition winners!

Susan, Erik and Michael Anderson

Rick, Anne and Richie Berryman



Good. Fresh. Local. (GFL) The University of Nebraska -Lincoln Sustainable Food Project

*Pam Edwards, Assistant Director
University Dining Service/University Housing*

Apples, heirloom tomatoes, cheese, pasture-raised beef, organic oat flakes, pecans, jelly, flour, corn-on-the-cob, squash, naturally-raised pork, eggs, and potatoes – just a sampling of the local (Nebraska) food being served through “The Good. Fresh. Local. (GFL)” University of Nebraska–Lincoln Sustainable Food Project. The farmers and producers producing these foods represent towns throughout Nebraska.

The idea for a local foods program for University Dining Service at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) began in the summer 2005 as a partnership involving University Dining Service/University Housing, The Food Processing Center, Nebraska Cooperative Development Center and the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society (NSAS). This partnership expanded to include Nebraska farmers and producers and UNL students. These groups were guided by the common goal to serve ‘local food’ to students living in UNL residence halls.

The GFL Project is built on a foundation that:

- Serves traditional menu items that promote the value of local food.
- Educates students about sustainable agriculture and the positive impact it has on the environment, local economy, and communities.
- Provides a new distribution opportunity for local farmers and producers in the world of university food service.

September 5, 2005 marked the first monthly GFL dinner served at Cather/Pound/Neihardt (CPN) Dining Service and student response was very favorable. That positive student response grew by leaps and bounds during the 2005/2006 academic year when monthly special GFL meals were served at CPN.

In 2006-2007, the GFL Project was fortunate to receive an Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added Agricultural Partnership Act Grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. University Dining Service and the Nebraska Sustainable Agricultural Society partnered in writing the grant application administered by the Rural Development Commission. The Grant funds provided GFL the opportunity to expand GFL to the East Campus Union (ECU) Dining Service; increase the number of GFL meals served and the number of farmers/producers involved with GFL; expand food processing capabilities through the acquisition of equipment to streamline processing, preparation, and storage of local food; and educate students about sustainable agriculture and local foods.

Results of the Grant goals showed an increase in student attendance at GFL special meals at CPN and ECU; an expansion of the number of GFL individual menu items served; a jump from 25 to 60 farmers/producers providing local foods to GFL; and an overall positive response from students and farmers/producers about the GFL Project. In addition, the GFL Project has become a popular part of the University Dining Service’s catering department and a few individual GFL menu items are included in the Abel/Sandoz, Harper/Schramm/Smith and Selleck Dining Services.

A major goal of the GFL is to educate students about local foods through a variety of ways such as menu item cards, table tents, posters, articles, interaction with the farmers/producers and the GFL web site. An exciting development in 2007-2008 was the Roots and Shoots UNL Student Group involvement in GFL plans for residence hall students. In addition, individual students volunteered to develop GFL educational materials.



The University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Sustainable Food Project

Mitch Paine, Junior, wrote articles about GFL; Jamie Eggers, Senior, developed table tents about different local foods topics that were presented at CPN and ECU Dining Services during November 2008; and Sarah Melecki, Senior, produced a packet of GFL educational tools for the UNL Housing Resident Assistants (RAs) for the fall 2008 semester.

The local foods movement is sweeping the United States and our own UNL students’ support of GFL is very exciting for all those involved with GFL. We hope that GFL will be able to share our experiences with others as local foods programs take root throughout our great state of Nebraska.



The Game of Survivor

by Anne Tyra

Anne Tyra discusses her experiences as a parent whose oldest son recently started college. Including typical worries of how well the child will handle the responsibilities of life away from home. Anne currently has a son who attends an in-state university. She is a professional writer with fourteen juvenile fiction and historical reference books to her credit.

When my oldest child left for college in August, I spent the first three weeks sobbing in my bathroom. He was only two hours away; heck, it took me that long to get across the city in rush hour traffic. So, why did I feel like he was on the other side of the world? I worried about things that were out of my control: that he would oversleep and be late for his morning classes, that he wouldn't know where to eat and be too embarrassed to ask questions, that he would get sick, and I wouldn't be there to diagnose his malady and take care of him. How would he manage his time? How would he survive on his own?

I spent a good chunk of the summer shopping for him, hoping to transform his little dorm room into a home away from home. By the time D-Day arrived, we needed three cars to transport our little family and all of his supplies to the university, again only two hours away. We trudged up and down three flights of stairs carrying electronic equipment, a fan, his new wardrobe, towels, sheets, bathroom supplies, a first aid kit, tool kits, dishes, glasses, utensils, and enough food to feed his entire hall. I felt good. If he had to stay up late and cram for an exam, he had brain food handy. If he had a headache, he had a bottle of Tylenol. If something fell apart, he had a hammer. He had his cell phone, he had a credit card, and he had a car. I told myself, he was all set.

To my great surprise, he really was. The little boy who never made his bed told was making it every day now. The teenager who slept through his alarm had yet to be late to a class. He has never missed a meal (that he has admitted to), and he respectfully calls home to keep his parents updated on his well-being. He even talks to his sister, and has helped her with math homework several times.

Yes, there have been a few interesting moments here and there. His car was towed because he parked in a reserved space. That cost him \$200. He learned to pay attention to signs. His bank account was overdrawn once or twice. That cost him another \$200. He learned to check his balance every day. We did change his cell phone plan when he went over his minutes by several hundred. Since he had no more money in his bank account, that cost us \$200. We learned to check his minutes every day. When that grew tiresome, we just changed his plan and gave him more minutes. In the long run, it saved us money.

But, as the ensuing weeks and months have proved, he survived just fine. I was the one that fell apart. We both had to make radical adjustments in our lives, but my son made his with an ease and grace and courage that humbled me. I fumbled my way through, and I still am. I do feel sad when I walk by his empty room, and I do feel lost in the mornings without his big sleepy eyes staring at me over a bowl of corn flakes.

Then the phone rings, and I hear triumph in his voice when he tells me how he aced an exam or how excited he is about a concert he attended. I feel proud of this boy-man that I raised. We talk about life, and he shares his dreams, and I think how happy I am to have him in my life – even if he is two hours away. I know he is going to be just fine, and I am at peace again. I will survive this, after all. Before we hang up, I ask him what he wants for dinner this weekend, and I remind him to take his vitamins and be sure to bring home his laundry.

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