

# EDUCATION



Sandy Summers/DN

said, "Americans need to think more internationally, no matter which career they choose."

Choosing to be a foreign student had added challenges, Tan said.

"Trying to get to know Americans is difficult, because everyone is so busy with their own schedules."

He said he hadn't been shocked culturally and realized that people were similar.

"What we all want is to be successful and satisfied."

"I believe that everyone learns at his or her own pace. It just comes naturally; if you like something, you will spend a lot of time doing it and do well at it."

When Ronnie Tan marches forward to receive his degree on May 7, he probably won't be thinking about his achievements at UNL. He will remember a piece of advice his brother once told him.

"It's not what you have achieved; it's what you are going to achieve."



Amy Schmidt/DN

## Outgoing seniors share knowledge

By Lisa Sickert  
Staff Reporter

The 2,000 recent survivors of UNL will soon march to "Pomp and Circumstance" in the Bob Devaney Sports Center and receive their ticket to the real world.

These graduates are survivors of University of Nebraska-Lincoln administration, financial aid bureaucracy, parking headaches, dead weeks that are anything but dead and a number of all-nighters.

Their experiences make them qualified to dole out valuable advice to undergraduates who hope to be in their shoes in two, four or maybe even six years.

Most students arrive at college having no idea what to study. But it's not possible to graduate without a major, so how do you go about choosing one?

### Choosing a major

Matt Mutschler, who majors in human development and the family, said to start undecided. If you take a variety of classes, he said, you'll eventually find where you belong.

It's important to choose something in which you have a genuine interest, said Angela Simpson, a middle school education major.

Wendy Wagner, a communication studies major, said, "Base your decision on enjoyment, not financial factors or prestige."

Lori Sorensen, who majors in broadcasting, couldn't agree more.

"Do something that doesn't feel like work," she said. One's decision about a major is not permanent.

Jeremy Blauser, an accounting major, said, "You can always switch your major if it's not good for you. But switch early before you get too far behind."

### Involvement

Another accounting major, Matt Maser, said to "buckle down" in your first two years and study but also spend those years getting involved on campus.

"Get involved as soon as you can," Maser said. "If you have questions, look in the Daily Nebraskan or go to the Office for Student Involvement."

Maser also encourages students to not hold stereotypes about people or certain organizations.

Blauser said to "look into things interesting to you, not what people tell you to get involved in."

"Other things are important besides studying," he said. Being involved adds to the college experience.

"The more involved you get the more fun

you'll have," Simpson said. "Sample every part of student life. Accept all different kinds of people and different ways of doing things."

Sorensen said you shouldn't join an organization just to have something to put on your resumé.

"Do it because you like it and it's something important to you," she said.

Wagner said you can learn more from campus involvement than you can in class.

It's important to get involved, Mutschler said, because the decisions made by some organizations will affect you.

Chris Post, who is majoring in business administration, encourages involvement because "if you want to see changes made, then you must do something positive. You need to speak up to get things changed."

Megan Schuldt, an accounting major, also encouraged getting involved on campus, as well as the community, early.

"Get involved during your freshman and sophomore year. Meet as many people as possible," Schuldt said.

The more you work with people, the better prepared you'll be in the future, she said. Becoming a leader on campus will help you get jobs later, she said.

### Job search

Networking is important when looking for a job. Simpson said to consult everybody you knew when you began the job search.

"Make sure you have all your bases covered," she said. It's also beneficial to have experience in different areas, she said.

Mutschler and Simpson said to start the search early.

"If you graduate in May, start in February," Mutschler said. Sorensen said with a laugh, "Start when you're a sophomore."

Mutschler said searching for a job was a pain. Blauser didn't have too hard of a time finding his job, because he used the services at the Career Planning and Placement Center, he said. He encouraged people to see what the office could do for them.

Post said it helped to have internships, because they were a good learning experience.

Maser said, "Go through with a job search even if you have other plans, like going to graduate school." Wagner said, "Give up and go to graduate school."

In the end, Sorensen advised all undergraduates to "do all the things you've ever wanted to do in Lincoln now, because all the sudden you'll realize you only have one month left to do all those things."

### TOP 10 LIST

**Things that will be missed by May graduates:**

1. BILL BURNE
2. WERE THE BARS MENTIONED?
3. LIL' RED (HELIUM BOY)
4. FREE NEWSPAPERS
5. RON KURTENBAUCH
6. SWIMMING IN BROYHILL FOUNTAIN
7. GREEN POINT, SPECIAL K, AND THAT BIG SURF BOARD THING
8. PARKING
9. SHORT WALKING DISTANCE TO THE BARS
10. HERMIT THE CAN MAN

DN graphic

## New lives will commence for graduates

It's hard to believe I will be among the graduates saying goodbye to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on May 7.

We will say goodbye to all the wonderful attractions of college life and hello to the buckle-down world of work.

No longer will we walk quickly from class to class in the drizzling rain.

Instead we will drive to work in the comfort of our car, and if we're lucky we will walk less than 50 yards to our cozy office.

We will say goodbye to staying up late, sleeping in late, walking to the bars, Broyhill Fountain, Imperial Palace, weekends that start on Thursday night and constantly being around people our own age.

Those of us who are joining the work force will say hello to getting up with the sun, going to bed with the sun, weekends that start on Friday at 5 p.m., falling asleep at the bars, cooking our own rice and working with people the same age as our parents.

Even though I never took advantage of sleeping in late, except for a few rare mornings, just knowing that I could make all the difference in the world, I had a choice.

In the "real world" there is no choice. Sleeping late equals an angry boss equals lower pay equals less food equals no money to pay the bills.

We will say goodbye to friendly hellos on our way to class. No more will we walk through a college campus greeting our friends with a cheery "Hi, how are you?"

And yes, the hardest part, we will have to say goodbye to our best friends. Those uncondition-

ally loving friends with whom we have lived during our college years. Those who have smelled our stinky feet and still shared an amaretto sour fishbowl with us at Duffy's.

I must admit that for me and for a few others, it will be hard to say goodbye to college life.

We will have to say goodbye to cheap Nebraska football games, basketball games and parking. But wait, I guess those who aren't graduating will be saying goodbye to those luxuries also.

But we're the lucky ones. When our children and grandchildren ask us about our days at UNL, we'll be the ones who can say, "Yeah, little Jimmy, I remember the days when football tickets were only \$50, and we didn't even have to sit in the nosebleed section."

It won't be so hard to say goodbye to some aspects of college life, such as parking hassles, studying on Sunday nights and trekking through rain with a broken umbrella to get to a class that has been canceled.

We won't be here next fall to stand in long lines to buy books in 90-degree weather. We won't get those college coupon books. We'll never get to relax in the green space.

But maybe somewhere out there in this exciting new world, we will find a green space of our own.

Our brains are filled with knowledge. We are set to conquer the world.

If we're lucky, we say hello to a job — and money.

Employers will be begging us to work for them, and soon we will be rolling in the dough, buying a new car and moving into that two-

story house with a whirlpool built into the back deck.

Wait. That was the part of the column that was just a dream.

I have a feeling most of our expectations about life after college will soon be shattered.

Instead of saying hello to money and relaxation, we'll be saying hello to health insurance, rent, car insurance, grocery bills, life insurance, marriage, home insurance, doctor bills and more insurance.

We'll be saying hello to life and all its harsh realities.

From a study recently released by the U.S. Department of Education, we learned that more than one-third of college graduates enrolled in further education just one year after graduation.

I thought we were done with the studying for a while.

And then we learned that 44 percent of the graduates said they were in jobs that didn't require a college degree anyway.

Was this all for nothing? Looking back on my years at UNL, I think not.

We may not find jobs right away, we may not be rich right away, and although we think we may not have learned much at UNL, we did.

But now it's time to leave. Time to say goodbye.

I don't know if I'll shed tears of sorrow the day I leave UNL or if I'll rejoice with happiness.

But I can be sure of one thing. It was worth it.

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