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## Extra! Extra! Read all about New Student Enrollment

NSE activities help both parents, students adapt to trials, tribulations of college life

By Deb McAdams  
Editor

This fall, more than 5,000 new University of Nebraska-Lincoln students will begin their education by learning the ropes — many with the help of New Student Enrollment programs.

Students who are enrolling at a university for the first time face decisions about class schedules, living arrangements, parking and finances. The NSE program is designed to help incoming students make decisions and settle into university life, said Deb Dohmen, an NSE coordinator.

Throughout June, NSE will offer day-long orientations for new students, including nontraditional and transfer students, and their families.

Students and their guests will then follow separate schedules. Students will take math and language placement exams while their families learn about campus life.

"Parents see presentations and get a general overview of UNL and some things that students might encounter," Dohmen said, like incompatible roommates, illnesses, fears and money problems.

Family members will be able to attend information sessions about housing, health services, safety, financial aid, and others. They also will have an opportunity to meet an administrator from their student's college.

Students' families will literally get a taste of college life if they stay for lunch. Volunteers from faculty, staff and administration will accompany guests to Selleck Quadrangle where they will have "dorm food" for lunch.

"All food served at NSE is the same type of food served during the year," Dohmen said.

After lunch, family members will tour the campus before returning to Wick Alumni Center for a presentation on the transition to college life.

"The presentation is geared toward the separation and changing relation-

ship between parents and students," Dohmen said.

It will be followed by a panel discussion with orientation leaders, who are typically students.

"It's about getting a student's perspective," Dohmen said. "Parents ask about money, safety and what it's like to go to UNL."

While parents learn about students' life at UNL, students become a part of UNL life.

Skits and discussion groups will cover issues faced by people who are becoming adults as well as tackling college. Topics range from time management and goal setting to relationships and date rape.

Nontraditional students frequently have questions about childcare and family housing.

"We know we're not meeting the needs of students who are parents," said Peg Blake, assistant vice chancellor for the Office of Student Affairs.

UNL offers childcare through the Lincoln YWCA, she said. There is a waiting list for childcare openings and for family housing, which consists of 80 units on East Campus.

"We will expand family housing," Blake said.

The Office of Student Affairs has also been working with Family Services to locate a satellite clinic for its services on campus.

Nontraditional students must also learn some of the same processes as traditional students. Everyone must enroll for classes.

Advisors from the different colleges will be available during NSE registration sessions to help students choose their classes.

"Every student leaves NSE with a completed schedule of classes," Dohmen said.

NSE orientation sessions begin Wednesday, June 8 and continue until Wednesday, July 6. Some colleges aren't represented at each session, so students should check with the Office for Student Involvement for an appropriate schedule.



Jason Levkulich/DN

### Hitting the Books

Keith Cade, a senior in business administration, studies near the sculpture, Ouramou, located east of Architecture Hall.

## Association educates parents on university life

From Staff Reports

The UNL Parents Association helps parents stay informed about university schedules, activities and resources, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Peg Blake said.

Some parents find it difficult when their kids leave for college, Blake said. Families can meet others in the Parents Association who have gone through the transition of letting go of their children.

"The separation process begins at New Student Enrollment," Blake said.

While parents may be coping with an empty nest, students may be juggling classes, homework, extracurricular activities and part-time jobs.

The Parents Association Handbook offers tips to help parents encourage their student. The handbook suggests that parents stay in touch with students through care packages and phone calls. It also suggests that parents don't drop in on students unannounced.

Some parents may feel they have a right to their kids' records, but academic information at the university level is confidential. According to the handbook, all student information is

confidential except directory information. Other information can be released only with the student's consent. Students may also request that directory information remain confidential.

The Parents Association can help parents learn when to respect kids' privacy and when to become involved in their lives. The Parents Association stepped in when the Lincoln Christian Church became active at UNL.

"They were a very fully committed group," Blake said of the church, "and they encouraged members to put the group before the family."

The church is no longer very active at UNL, she said.



James Mehsling/DN