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# Fulbright program will send two professors to Portugal

By SARAH FOX  
Staff writer

Though well-qualified, UNL Associate English Professor Thomas Caramagno nearly blew his chance when applying for a prestigious international honor — he missed the application date.

Caramagno was given the application by one of his students, who encouraged him to apply as a Fulbright Scholar.

Caramagno was considered a strong candidate because he had taught courses in gay and lesbian studies and had an esteemed fellowship at Harvard University.

Although the Fulbright deadline had just passed, Caramagno followed his student's advice, and he now will teach for three months in Portugal.

The Fulbright Program, which is sponsored by a branch of the State Department, sends professors and graduate students to other countries from the United States to study and teach as well as imports international instructors from abroad.

The program is more than 50 years old and was originally created to

diminish the "appalling ignorance of Americans," said Wes Peterson, campus coordinator of Fulbright programs. The exchange helps promote global understanding.

"It allows students of other countries to get to know Americans," Caramagno said. However, the focus is more academic now, he said.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has two Fulbright Scholars, Caramagno and Dwayne Ball, an associate professor of marketing, who will study overseas in the spring.

Ball will teach and research database marketing at the New University of Lisbon in Lisbon, Portugal, where he and his family will live from January through April 1999.

Ball called his grant the "culmination of a dream." He taught in New Zealand for a year before he came to Nebraska.

"I've been here hoping for an opportunity to go abroad ever since," Ball said.

Ball said he and his wife, especially, had been wanting their eighth-grade son and fourth-grade daughter to live overseas while they still were young.

He also said his foreign study would enable him to gather more

research about European consumer habits.

Caramagno will lecture critical literary theory to graduate literature students and conduct research at the University of Lisbon from February to May 1999. He said he was especially looking forward to teaching gay and lesbian studies on a continent where not many courses are taught in that field.

"They're behind the times on queer theory," he said. "They've been more practically oriented. They have more gay rights laws, but not as many (university) courses."

Caramagno said he thought the Fulbright grant would help his career and reputation in the future. That success started in the early 1980s with a post-doctorate fellowship at Harvard University, where he wrote a book literary criticism.

"The book helped me get the Fulbright, and the Fulbright will help me get something else," he said.

However, the award may be more beneficial to someone else besides Caramagno — his 79-year-old mother "who is always bragging."

"She says it gives her a lot of credit among her friends."

# Senators prepare for new session

## 1999 Legislature will examine education, spending

By TODD ANDERSON  
Senior staff writer

Despite facing a new swarm of state senators and a new governor, the 1999 Legislature's focus on taxes, spending and state education will remain the same as last year, senators said.

About one-fifth of the state's 49 senators will be new to the floor of the Legislature.

In addition, Gov. Ben Nelson has not yet appointed a replacement for the seat vacated by state auditor-elect Kate Wittek.

Speaker of the Legislature Doug Kristensen said the new senators have trained and are searching for areas they would like to specialize in.

Hastings Sen. Ardyce Bohlke said it is up to the present members of the Unicameral to integrate the new representatives into the body.

"It seems to happen naturally that you always bring people in who have new areas of expertise, so we have to make sure that we can work with them," she said. "I think most of them understand the commitment they're making, that they're going to have to dedicate a lot of time."

Though many of the faces will be new, Kristensen said the Legislature will continue work begun last year, specifically concerning taxes and

### Legislature

spending in the wake of the defeat of Initiative 413, a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would have set limits on state spending and revenue.

"The defeat of 413 I think elevated the public discussion about public expenditures," Kristensen said. "But that is an issue that receives a tremendous amount of attention every year in the Legislature."

Lincoln Sen. Ron Raikes said 413 revealed the amount of consideration the Legislature gives fiscal issues.

"I think the record of state government in Nebraska came out well in that discussion, although that certainly doesn't mean that we don't have challenges remaining."

While Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler said he has not yet identified the special projects he will take on this session, he said the Unicameral will continue talking about typical topics:

- Regulating large hog confinement operations.
- Shifting the tax base from property taxes to sales and income taxes.
- State aid to local governments.
- Statewide education standards and funding.

This year the Legislature must set

and discuss the state's budget for the next two years, which is expected to amount to more than \$5 billion over the next two years.

Raikes said funding for the University of Nebraska and postsecondary education always receives a lot of attention.

He said this year's heightened spending for salary increases for faculty members and administrators, as well as capital construction costs for repairs on the campus of Peru State College, will make the education portion of the budget especially important.

Beutler said it remains to be seen how the new Legislature will work on those issues with Gov.-elect Mike Johanns.

"When there's a new governor, the Legislature and the governor have to get to know each other a little bit," Beutler said. "We can get a feel for him, and he can get a feel for us so that we can identify what's important from our relative perspectives."

The newly elected senators who will begin their terms Jan. 6 are:

- Trenton businessman Thomas Baker, Omaha lawyer Patrick Bourne, Beatrice businessman Dennis Byars, Decatur farmer Matt Connealy, Aurora farmer Bob Kremer, Lincoln nurse Marian Price Gering real estate agent Adrian Smith, and Omaha businesswoman Pam Redfield.



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# Suspects wanted for stabbings, robberies

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior staff writer

On Sunday, police were still looking for two men responsible for two stabbings and an attempted robbery in the Near South neighborhood Thursday night.

The three incidents, which police believe are connected, all happened within half an hour of each other inside of a 15-block area.

The two men were demanding money while threatening people with a knife, and two of their victims were stabbed, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

One of the stabbing victims was listed in fair condition at BryanLGH Medical Center West on Sunday evening, and the other man was treated and released Thursday night.

The first incident occurred just before 10 p.m. on 17th Street between K and L streets, Heermann said.

A 39-year-old man was approached as he walked north on 17th Street.

The second man pulled a knife and started yelling at the first man who ran to the Handy Shop, 1700 L St., and called police.

The next incident occurred in an alley between 16th, 17th, L and M streets around 10:40 p.m. when a 25-year-old man was approached by two men, Heermann said.

The two men yelled for the man's money.

The man gave them his wallet containing \$4, but in the exchange he was stabbed three times, twice in the right biceps and once in his lower back.

He was treated and released

Thursday night after he called police from Yiayia's Pizza Beer and Wine, 1423 O St.

The third robbery happened at 1202 F St. shortly after 11 p.m.

The two men approached a 27-year-old man and asked for money.

He refused and was stabbed twice in the left side and once in the left arm. Then the two men took his wallet and fled in a red four-door car, police said.

The victim was still in the hospital Sunday night. Because of a language barrier, police did not know how much money he lost, Heermann said.

There are some discrepancies in the three descriptions given, but police said that was expected with the trauma the victims sustained.

Both suspects are described as Hispanic men in their early 20s with short hair. One man is tall and slender. The other man is short and heavyset.