

Good afternoon,

### **Why I Went to UNO**

This may be surprising but I never took a visit to campus before committing to UNO. I was able to visit the Peter Kiewit Institute during my senior year for an open house and absolutely was blown away by the faculty, staff, and students I was able to meet. I was only able to see the tip of the iceberg but after I was offered a Scott Scholarship I accepted and became a Maverick.

### **Why I Got Involved**

I knew when I got to UNO that I wanted to get involved and give back to a university that had already given me so much. I was able to get involved in Freshman Leadership Council (FLC) right away and that experience was the reason I continued to stay involved with student government. Past my involvement with FLC, I have been able to represent the College of IS&T as a senator for two years.

The last three years have truly shown me what student government is here to do at UNO. Our job is provide what the students want. The first step in accomplishing this goal is to reach out to students across the UNO campus and communicate with them on what they think about UNO and what changes they feel would better the university. The only way to know what people want is to ask them and I plan on doing that a lot. I will be serving as the collective voice for all students at UNO and my goal is to do this in every decision I make in the next year.

Someone who has shown me how to do this is outgoing President Jordan Koch. I have gotten to know Jordan over the past three years and I feel that she perfectly encompasses what a president should do during her term. She created strong relations with administration, faculty senate and staff advisory council, and was a phenomenal representative for UNO at the Board of Regents. It speaks volumes to the work she has done over the past year when nearly everyone I have spoken to at UNO or on the Board of Regents has said "You have some big shoes to fill" in reference to taking over Jordan's role.

### **Looking Forward**

UNO has grown a lot during the three short years that I have been here. I believe that in part this has happened because UNO has had the luxury of great leadership in the past and I hope that I can help to provide that same support for students and the university as past presidents. It's a great time to be Maverick and I will work tirelessly to ensure that student interests are a part of every decision made at UNO during my term.

### **Thank Yous**

To close I would like to say thank you to all of the people in my life that have gotten me to where I am today. First, I would like to thank all of the people involved with the Walter

Scott Scholarship for giving me the opportunity to get a world class education at no cost.

Second, I would like to thank all the friends and acquaintances that I have made over the years both before and during my time at UNO. You are the ones who suffered through two-a-days, 10 and 60s, and Friday morning sled or didn't (I am thinking of you Joe). Also thank you for the 2 A.M. conversations about life. Without you I would not have the lasting memories that make growing up so fun.

I would like to thank my girlfriend who has given me a lot of support through the last 10 months. I am happy to have her to support me throughout my term.

Furthermore, I would like to thank all the mentors I have had in my life. I do not have time to mention everybody who has guided me through life but I would like to mention Nick Sloup. Your years of coaching me and being my boss out in the cornfields of central Nebraska taught me that I hate corn but more importantly that hard work can overcome any obstacle.

Finally, I would like to thank all my family that have had to put up with through no fault of their own. Thank you to my sister for being a nerd with me and talking about superhero movies. Thank you for my Grandma Rabbit who is here today. You are a strong woman, who along with grandpa taught me that again hard work can overcome any situation. I have to give the biggest of thank yous to my parents. You are my heroes and have taught me everything I know. Thank you to dad for always being honest with me such as "You're slow and you and you can't jump so you need to be smarter than the guy guarding you" and "You're a Lewis and that means you're not a quitter." Thank you to my mother who has always done everything in her power to make my life easy. That is of course omitting the 18 mile hike up Mummy Mountain where we almost died.

### **Finishing up**

My parents always raised me with an awareness that in a small town everybody knows who you are and who your family is. When you walk around town and you do things you are not just affecting your own image, but the image of those who you associate with. My parents said, "imagine that you are always wearing a jersey that says Lewis on the back." I have taken this same approach with my fraternity. My chapter always says, "you are always wearing your letters, and you should work to represent them well." I am excited to be able to represent UNO this year. I have always been a Maverick, but now I am truly representing the students and the university at all times. I am proud to be a Maverick and I will act as if "UNO" is on my chest at all times.

Again, thank you to everybody who took time out of their day to come here.

**GO MAVS!**