



## Meet the Director Marty Habrock



Prior to joining UNO on January 27, 2014, I spent 17 years in the financial aid office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The transition to UNO has been a great experience. The culture of caring is evident as everyone has been very supportive and helpful. I have found that UNO has a committed and caring financial aid staff whose mission is to make higher education accessible by minimizing financial barriers for students so they may realize their education goals.

I am active in the state financial aid professional association, currently serving as Treasurer of the Nebraska Association of Financial Aid Administrators. In my spare time, I enjoy following my children around to sporting events, and currently coach my twin daughters' 8th grade basketball team.

### What advice would you give to help students be successful financially?

Congratulations! You have already taken the first step to success – making an investment in yourself by going to college. Now is also the perfect time to establish excellent money habits to ensure current and future financial success. Following these strategies will help you leave college with less debt and lay the foundation for successful money management.

- ✓ Create a spending plan to avoid overspending. Track your spending for a couple of weeks so you know where it is all going (you may be surprised!). Remember to live like a college student while you are in school.
- ✓ Know that student loans are available, but only borrow what you need (you will have to pay them back some day). Make sure you know the terms of your loans and how much you have borrowed.
- ✓ Avoid credit cards. Credit cards give you the opportunity to make impulse purchases, cost more if you only make minimum payments, and damage your credit if you fail to make payments.
- ✓ Save for emergencies. Even if you feel you do not have the means to save, get it the habit of saving some percentage of your income each month.

Have a great spring semester! Go Mavs!

Marty Habrock  
Director, Office of Financial Support & Scholarships

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**“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”**

Vincent Van Gogh



## Financial Aid Reminders

- **FAFSA Renewal**

2015-2016 FAFSA is now available online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Submit your FAFSA by UNO's priority filing date of **April 1st** to maximize the amount of aid you may receive. If you are selected for verification, documents are due by June 1st. Don't forget to add UNO's School Code **002554** to your FAFSA.

- **Utilize the Data Retrieval Tool**

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows applicants who have already filed their federal income tax returns to prefill the answers to some questions on the (FAFSA) by transferring data from their federal income tax returns. This can save time in completing the FAFSA. It may also reduce the likelihood that your FAFSA will be selected for verification.

- **Need FAFSA Help?**

Visit [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) or call 402-391-4033 to speak with a counselor to set up an appointment for assistance with completing your FAFSA.



## Important Deadlines

Mark your calendars:

### **Spring tuition/fees are due February 23, 2015:**

Check MavLink for outstanding documents that may be preventing financial aid from disbursing to cover outstanding balances.



## Money Management Tips

### **Thought of the Day**

"Knowing where you are today can help you determine the best path toward financial wellness"

-Unknown



### **What is Financial Wellness?**

It begins with knowing where your money comes from and where it's going, understanding your financial situation, and preparing you for financial changes.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### **Federal Student Aid**

An Office of the U.S.  
Department of Education

### **Website:**

<https://studentaid.ed.gov>

### **Get more information about:**

- Types of aid (i.e. grants, loans, and work study)
- Student loan interest rates and fees
- Details about the financial aid application process
- Loan repayment plan options
- Current borrowing limits
- Repayment Estimator - use the repayment estimator when you're:
  - » Beginning repayment of your federal student loans for the first time, OR
  - » Exploring repayment options based on your income



# Financial New Year's Resolution

## Budgeting to stay financially fit in 2015

- **Exercise** your right to check your credit report  
"I will check my credit report at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com)."
- **Keep track** of what you spend each month  
"I think I will use a budgeting app to track my expenses."
- **Trim** your budget by assessing your wants vs. needs  
"I vow to go out to eat once a week only."
- **Strengthen** your savings account by setting a monthly saving goal  
"I will save \$\$ per month..."
- **Eliminate** excess waste from your budget by reducing your spending  
"I vow to drink more water and less Starbucks coffee this year."
- **Avoid** unnecessary credit card usage  
"I will pay cash for this purchase this time around."
- **Stick to it** experts say it typically takes 21 days for a new activity to become a habit and six months for it to become part of your personality  
"I am determined to stick to a budget in order to put myself in a better financial position in 2015."

*“Stay committed to your decisions, but stay flexible in your approach.”*

Tom Robbins



## We Need Your Help!

The Office of Financial Support & Scholarships is in the process of developing and implementing a financial education program here at UNO. Our mission is to educate UNO students about the importance of developing healthy financial habits while in college and throughout the rest of their lives. In our efforts to promote financial literacy on campus, we are working on a name for our literacy program. We have come up with a few ideas, let us know what you think by

emailing us at [unofinaid@unomaha.edu](mailto:unofinaid@unomaha.edu). Vote for the name you like best or send us your own suggestions.



1. Be in the Black *knot* in the Red #MavMoneyManagement
2. Mav Moguls
3. Mav Moola Managers
4. Mav Money Masters
5. MavCent\$
6. U KNOW MONEY\$



# Tips for Financial Survival at UNO

1. Make a budget
2. Be disciplined
3. Avoid credit cards
4. Use student loans wisely

Create a **SIMPLE MONTHLY BUDGET**. Write out a budget that lists your sources of income and expenses. Some of your money may come from parents, employers, or even your financial aid refunds. See the example below and use the Excel spreadsheet to craft your own budget.

## SIMPLE MONTHLY BUDGET

### MONTHLY INCOME

Item	Amount
Work income	\$640.00
Other (ex. Student Refund)	\$500.00

### MONTHLY EXPENSES

Item	Amount
Rent	\$585.00
Gas	\$50.00
Cell phone	\$45.00
Groceries	\$100.00
Student loan interest	\$10.00
Credit cards	\$35.00
Auto insurance	\$78.00
Personal care	\$50.00
Entertainment	\$50.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00

### PERCENTAGE OF INCOME SPENT



### SUMMARY

Total Monthly Income	Total Monthly Expenses	Balance
\$1,140	\$1,053	\$87



## Contact Us

Financial Support Counselors are available for one-on-one appointments.

**Erin Moran** (Senior Counselor)  
**Arnisha Collins** (Counselor)  
**John Jensen, Jr.** (Counselor)  
**Ralphine James** (Counselor)

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