

Thank you, Brock, for your introduction. It has been a great honor to serve this organization with you and Amanda this year, and I know you'll go far in dental school and beyond. Thank you all for coming today, and for supporting and recognizing Vice President Bradley and me as we take on these very important roles.

I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to thank some of the many people who helped me along the way to where I am now, starting with my family. First, to my Mom and Dad, Ann O'Connor and Tim Davlin – thank you for everything. Your love, support, and encouragement in everything from school, to music, to Student Government, has made me the person I am today. I wouldn't be here without you.

To my uncle, Jim O'Connor, and to my Mom, thanks for starting the long family legacy of Student Government involvement here at UNO. To my uncle, Mike Davlin, thanks for your thorough use of that special "Davlin encouragement" through the years, which has helped me achieve this position, even though neither you nor my Dad went to UNO (but that's okay). Thanks to my cousin, Maggie O'Connor, for flying home from Denver for this ceremony, and to her sister, Liz, who served in this very position right before I went off to college.

Liz was less than subtle in encouraging me to get involved in Student Government, but has been a great source of wisdom and encouragement throughout my work in this organization. Finally, thanks to Diana Fuller and Leslie Douglas for attending and for your support in my college career.

There is also a myriad of faculty, staff, and administrators who have gone out of their way to make my involvement at UNO special, and whom I've had the great pleasure of working with these past three years. This includes two different advisers, Ben Jager and Bari Marshall, who each in their own way challenged me to think more critically and lead more deliberately, and who both have helped me to not take myself so seriously. It also includes Bill Pickett, the "Director of Fun Stuff," Dr. Rita Henry, long time family friend and the person who did an excellent job putting together this program today, and the myriad of administrators like Vice Chancellors Reed and Shipp and Chancellor Christensen who work tirelessly to make this University the very special place it is.

Finally, I want to thank all the Student Regents before me who have worked to make this position what it is: Brock Lewis, Jordan Koch, Martha Spangler, Devin Bartlesen, and Liz. WOW - That's a lot of Student Regents in one room. I'll also take a moment to recognize Vice President Bradley, who's been alongside me in Student Government

since our time in Freshman Leadership Council. Your work in the organization these past three years has been outstanding, and your passion for this University is second to none.

However, today isn't just about celebrating how far we've come. It also serves as a starting point for where we want to go. Using the tools and skills we've obtained from everyone who's made this possible for us, my first and biggest goal is to grow Student Government's role and relationships to students all over campus to match the strength of the relationships we've built with administrators in recent years. If you ask a random student on campus who we are or what we do, chances are that they really don't know.

With the opening of the newly renovated Student Center in the fall, we will have an incredible opportunity to reach out to a very diverse group of students from all walks of life. To do this effectively, Emily and I plan to expand the roles of our Student Government Agencies, which reach out to varying demographics with students, and to reach out to a variety of student organizations to create dialogue and collect feedback about where we are and where we're going here at UNO. In addition to that dialogue, there will be a great deal of discourse about new policies on campus that need to be effectively communicated with our students, ranging from parking to the University's smoke-free initiative. Student

Government should be a point of contact for all these issues, giving students the opportunities to take part in informed, open dialogue about changes that affect them every day.

Once again, thank you for coming to support us as we begin this journey. Thanks again to all of you—students, faculty, staff, and family—that have made this role what it is, and for helping Emily and I to get here. Now it's our job to exceed your expectations. I'll close with Chancellor's favorite saying: "Go Mavs!"