



CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

# Project Achieve

## GOOD NEWS!

## End of Year Student News

**Samantha Quitl** has been admitted to the social work program in UNO's Grace Abbott School of Social work.

**Alex Guerra** volunteers as a soccer coach at Bryan High School.

**Kim Duong** has been selected for the Intelligence Community Scholars Program.

**Amanda Schroeder-Mansfield**, served as an intern in the Mayor's Office this semester and will continue her work this summer. Amanda is a Political Science Major.

**Luis Miranda-Perez** attended the Hispanic Leadership conference in Chicago this past March. He also serves as a volunteer soccer coach at the Boys & Girls Club of Omaha.

**Julissa Chaidez** has been awarded a scholarship from the Lozier Corporation.

**Paola Perez** and **Jonathon Queen** were inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the honorary scholarship/leadership society at UNO.

**Datrell Morgan**, a junior majoring in criminal justice, will serve an internship with the Omaha Police Department this summer.

**Christine Hernandez DeLaMotte**, a junior majoring in psychology, will serve an internship at the Sienna Francis House this summer.

**Diana Ortiz** and **Max Douglas** has been selected for the study abroad program in Peru this summer.

**Jonathan Quitl** has been invited to compete to speak at commencement this May.

**Katherine Esquivel** will spend June and July in Germany.

## Graduation News

In December Project Achieve graduated nine students and this semester we will graduate 13 students. Staff and I wish you much success. Please continue to drop by and say hello when you are in town or on campus. Project Achieve counts you as a dear friend.

### December Graduates

Cara Carranza, Emilia Chavez, Paris Garrett, Alexis Italia, Christopher Madden, Brandon Mosley, Kimberly Nguyen, Cornelius Reed Jr. , and Kenny Sibrian.

### May Candidates

Brenda Andrews, Racquel Henderson, Lynette Jackson, Shannon Jackson, Passion Johnson, Anthony Lee, Misti Mbida, Herbert Merino-Ponce, Nicholas Muffly-Cunningham, Jonathan Quitl, Alexis Rivera, Casey Ubben, and Nina Wilson.

### August Candidates

Ana Avila, Silvester Juanes, Amanda Schroeder-Mansfield, Denisha Seals, and Teddi Teamer.



## Do You Have Health Insurance?

Much has been written about students your age and the myth of the “Invincible Generation.” When you consider all the things you have on your to-do list, health and dental insurance might not be high on your list. I want you to consider how you would pay a \$15,000 medical bill if you were hospitalized for a few days? Sobering isn’t it?

Now is the time to do some research and find a medical plan that meets your needs. Remember, one of the leading causes of bankruptcy in this country is the inability to pay medical bills. It’s time to get insurance.

If you are interested in finding out more about health insurance, drop by the office and I will help you with your research.

## When To Drop A Class?

There are four things to consider before you drop a class.

1. Make sure you have discussed your situation with an advisor and develop the best plan that meets your needs.
2. Make sure dropping a class does not violate any agreements you have with the Office of Financial Aid.
3. Dropping a class must not reduce your completion rate to less than 67%. See your advisor if you are not sure what this means.
4. Before you drop a class make sure you don’t jeopardize your funding or have to pay for the class you dropped.

## Important Dates

**February 23**—Spring Tuition and Fees Balance Due

**March 11 and 12**—Project Achieve/Multicultural Affairs FAFSA Party. Free Food and FAFSA Finished! 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Multicultural Affairs Study Area.

**March 23-30**—Spring Break

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## FUTURE NEWS

- New comers luncheons starting February 5th
- Honors Program
- Read a sign, earn a prize
- Valentine’s Day Cake Walk

## FEBRUARY 3-11 VALENTINE CARDS

Is there someone you would like to give a special acknowledgement to? Is there someone who would benefit from a kind word? Why not come by the office and make a Valentine card to uplift the spirit of a special friend? You can be as creative as you like. Anna will have all the paper, scissors, glue and markers you need. Cards should be completed by February 11 in time for February 14 pick up. Go ahead, make someone smile.

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE PEACE CORPS?

Listed below are a few benefits of Peace Corps Service

- Living allowance
- Vacation time
- Full medical and dental coverage
- Student loan assistance
- Transition funds after service
- Marketable professional skills through cross-cultural, language and technical training
- Advantages in federal employment
- Transition and job support services

- Opportunity for short-term assignments through Peace Corps Response
- Travel to and from country of service
- No fee to participate

Contact [peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)

1-800-424-8580

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cindy Martinez  
Malia McQueen  
Ursus Guzman  
Annette Sanchez  
Corderro Hall  
Taylor Bell  
Alysha Dalton  
Paul Country  
Nathan Dudley  
Julissa Chaidez  
LaStiuana Young  
Eduardo Ruiz

## STUDENT NEWS

**Angel Torres** served as an advisor for young students in Inclusive Communities over the holiday season.

Former PA student **Melisha Potter** received her master's degree in marketing in January from Bellevue University.

**TeAnne Teamer** and **Datrell Morgan** have been selected as advisors for the Thompson Learning Community.

Recent PA graduate **Emilia Chavez** has been hired as the Human Resources Coordinator at Gaudlon.

## FAFSA TIME

If you are expecting to receive a Pell Grant during the 2014-2015 academic year you must file your FAFSA. Even if you are unsure about funding for the 2014-15 term you should file a FAFSA (yes, again)! Please do so as soon as possible. By the way, do you remember your PIN? If not go to the [FAFSA.gov](http://FAFSA.gov) website and retrieve your PIN now. If you need assistance contact your advisor or Mr. C.

## HAVE YOU MET WITH YOUR ADVISOR TO SET YOUR WILLIAM AND RUTH SCOTT SCHOLARSHIP GPA GOAL?





# Happy New Year

## WELCOME BACK

Staff and I take this time to say welcome back—we hope you had a restful, enjoyable break. Drop by and see us as soon as you can. We must say a happy farewell to a wonderful group of December graduates—they are:

**Cara Carranza, Emilia Chavez, Paris Garrett, Alexis Italia, Christopher Madden, Kimberly Nguyen, Brandon Mosley, Corey Reed, Kenny Sibrian, and Nina Wilson.**

## PROJECT ACHIEVE HIGH-FLYING SCHOLARS

### Chancellor's List

Taylor Givens-Dunn

Jonathon Queen

### Dean's List

Marco Aguilar

Martha Alcantara

Brenda Andrews

Max Douglas

Emilia Chavez

Shantell Ferris

Allison Kalina

Kyle Kinne

Linh Lam

Anthony Lee

Nicholas Muffly-Cunningham

Tierra O'Neal

Paola Perez

Jonathan Quitl

Malalay Rahmanzai

Nazaneen Rahmanzai

Gat Ramdiet

Casey Riesberg

Alexis Rivera

Amanda Schroeder

Bryan Sibrian

Kenny Sibrian

Angel Starks

Laura Tschida

Maria Vargas

Rita Washington

## The Learning Chamber and Conference Room

Many of you took advantage of the quiet study rooms last semester. To ensure everyone gets the opportunity to study in peace you need to ask Anna to reserve the room. Maximum of 2 hours on the current day.

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### FUTURE NEWS

- Scott scholarship information coming soon!
- Honors Program
- Luncheons and other events
- Read a sign, earn a prize

## TRIO MONEY SMART QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

Can you answer the questions below? Giving up a 5 latte-a-week habit and putting that \$20.00 towards long-term savings every week for 30 years at a yearly interest rate of 5% would generate?

- A. \$15,000
- B. \$30,000
- C. Over \$66,000

Which is the best investment?

- A. Real estate
- B. Stocks, bonds, and asset classes
- C. A diversified portfolio of all of the above assets

## SMART MONEY SPECIAL ALERT!!!!

As you may be aware, a new bookstore policy allows you to charge up to \$1,500.00 for books. Please know that this convenience comes with a few pitfalls.

1. If you charge your books, you must have the total dollar amount in your financial aid account to cover your purchases. This amount is in addition to your tuition and fees charges.
2. Beware of cashing any refund checks too early! Make sure your textbooks, tuition and fees have cleared your account.
3. If you fail to have enough money to cover your book charges, there will be a HOLD placed on your account. You will not be able to graduate or register for classes until the bill is paid.
4. Remember to pay cash whenever possible. Project Achieve funds do not pay for student textbooks. Make sure you have enough money to pay your bills.

## SECOND SEMESTER: A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

If you are not pleased with the grades you received first semester please schedule an appointment with your adviser. We want to work with you to develop an academic plan that will maximize your academic skills during the second semester. Please meet with your adviser as soon as you can before you receive a call from us. This is going to be a great semester.

## MATH ALERT!!

If you are taking any form of that great subject called math, please see Kristen Jordan, our Math Specialist. She is prepared to help any student who needs assistance in math during scheduled appointments.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Yen Tran** was recently awarded the Human Resources Association for the Midlands Scholarship.

Did you know that **Angel Torres** is back from his study abroad trip to Chile? That's right; he is back and ready to complete his sophomore semester at UNO. Say hi to Angel when you get a chance.

Project Achieve graduate **Ozzy Perez**, who has been with Mutual of Omaha for several years, has accepted a position as Advisory Consultant for Deloitte in Omaha. He has passed the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) exams, and is currently working on becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Former Project Achieve student **Kendra Robinson** is Director of Shea's Day Care Center in Council Bluffs, and is scouting for a location for her second center.

**Diana Ortiz** was featured in the Lozier company's newsletter in an article recognizing her being selected for the \$2,500 Lozier scholarship.

**Mauricio Davila** is serving on the Freshman Leadership Council of UNO Student Government.

**Nora Rivera**, a pre-veterinary science major, has recently been promoted to pet trainer at PetCo.

Project Achieve grad **Araceli Vazquez** graduated with her Masters of Social Work in December.

Former Project Achieve student, singer/songwriter **Marcy Yates**, was featured in the November/December issue of Omaha's Encounter magazine as one of Omaha's up-and-coming musical talents.

Project Achieve biotechnology major **Samantha Ward** was recently accepted into a UNMC program that allows pre-med students to shadow medical students on the UNMC campus. Samantha's first shadowing experience involved sitting in on a 4-hour lecture and visiting the cadaver lab.

**Olajide Cooper** will start working at Boys Town soon, teaching sign language for Spanish speakers.



# Project Achieve

TRiO | Student Support Services

University of Nebraska at Omaha

November-December 2013



## Dropping a Class – Beware!

If you are considering dropping a class please stop! Consult with your adviser and find out if this is a wise decision. You also need to know if you have to pay back money to the university if you drop a class. Please see your adviser.

Connie will be teaching English Composition II again in the upcoming spring semester. If you need English Comp II, see Connie about this class.

## Student News

**Joseph Italia**, one of UNO's few game design majors, is busy designing a costume for the Neb.com convention in early November.

The Creighton Law Expo was attended by pre-law students **Paola Perez Flores**, **Rita Washington**, **Kyle Kinne**, and **Gat Ramdiet**.

**Brenda Andrews** has been using her vast skills in Social Media/Graphic Design as an intern at LifeSpring Baptist Church.

## The following students have signed up for Benson Plant Rescue Service Days:

Alby Delgado, Alex Guerra, Aquila Chamberlain, Brenda Andrews, Bryan Sibrian, Cameron Middleton, Christine Hernandez-DelaMotte, Ciara Williams, Daisy Gomez, Dakorah Ruach, Datrell Morgan, Deibi Sibrian, Diana Ortiz, Dominique Riggs, Edward Trujillo, Elisa Lopez, Fatima Hernandez-Troche, Heather Brandon, Katherin Esquivel, Kim Duong, Malalay Rahmanzai, Ibrahim Saad, Jacques Musavyimana, Jamia Perry, Jenn Nguyen, Jesus Tapia, Jonathan Quitl, Jose DeArcos, Jose Rodriguez, Joseph Italia, Lily Nyenga, Luis Miranda-Perez, Maria Roman, Mario Vandry, Marvin Sibrian, Matthew McGruder, Max Douglas, Melanie Baumhofer, Melina Morales, Michelle Storm, Naz Rahmanzai, Nicolette Oliver, Paola Perez Flores, Renee Hagedorn, Samantha Quitl, Shih-Yi Yang, Stephanie Trotter, Tyrell Pierce, and Zach Maharaj. Thanks to all of these truly exceptional students for their generosity.

Also thanks to the following students who painted a floral path through the **Benson Plant Rescue** building last month: Deibi Sibrian, Kenny Sibrian, Marvin Sibrian, Bryan Sibrian, Diana Ortiz, Ibrahim Saad, Christine Hernandez DeLaMotte, Renee Hagedorn, Kristen Porter, Alby Delgado, Samantha Ward, Paola Perez Flores, Jose De Arcos, and Jonathan Quitl.

**Do you need a reminder for upcoming Project Achieve Meetings? Just share your cell number with us and you will receive a text message to remind you of upcoming events.**



## Did you Know?

Walk Across America is almost over? We have walked more than 3,000 total miles. Keep up the good work; we are almost home. Just for the fun of it...the first person to identify the song title, singer and her famous dad will win a prize. The lyrics are, ".... these boots were made for walking and that is what I'll do/one of these days these boots are going to walk all over you." Call our office (554-3492) when you have the correct answer. You could be a winner.



## Did You See It?

Our new TRiO signage is going up and there will be room for special student recognition. If you have received an academic honor, award, citation, or promotion please make sure your adviser is aware so we can share your good news via the "Wall." The "Wall" is the new Facebook.

## Affordable Health Care Act - Attention Student!

If your family or you (if you are an independent student) need insurance, the Affordable Care Act might be able to provide you with the insurance you need. Check out the PBS.org website or Nebraska Blue Cross Blue Shield for more information. You really do need health insurance by January 1, 2014.

## Staff News

Did you hear the latest news about Anna? She is engaged! Anna's boyfriend, Derek proposed (one knee and everything), Saturday, October 12, 2013. This guy is so smooth — instead of giving Anna the ring when he proposed, he gave her a "ring pop." That's right, a "ring pop." Is that cool or what? Don't worry, Derek will be taking Anna out to look at "real" rings very soon. Congratulations Anna and Derek!



## Bagels, Jam and Hot Chocolate Week

Oct 28 -Nov 1  
from 8:00-10:00





# Project Achieve

## Student Support Services

### Welcome Back

Staff and I want you to know we are so glad that you have returned for another year of intense learning, high levels of achievement and lots of fun. Did you know that Project Achieve graduated 35 students this past December, May and August? Wow! We also look forward to have a large graduating class during the 2013-2014 term.

### Did You Know??

Did you know that **Kristen Jordan** our new Math Advisor was a great soccer star in college (University of Texas in Tyler). We have pictures to prove it.

Did you know that **Mr. C.** ran the Omaha Marathon (half-marathon) in 2 hours and 30 minutes? Do you think he can run the Des Moines Half Marathon in mid-October?

Did you know that **Anna** went to Thailand this summer and jumped off a three story cliff?

Did you know that **Pat** had a staycation this summer and toured Omaha with her 15 year old granddaughter from California?

Did you know that **Connie** is teaching her dog, Gracie, to dance the bachata? Watch for it on YouTube!

### Project Achieve Students are Awesome!

**Angel Torres** is studying abroad in Chile this semester.

**Alicia Dubuc's** New Year's Resolution was to read 50 books this year and she has 8 left.

**Ana Avila** got engaged this summer.

**Brady Churchill** was on a reality TV show this summer.

**Racquel Henderson** had a baby boy Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 5 lb 12oz.

**Allison Kalina** returned from a summer study abroad in France. **Jonathan Quilt** returned from a summer study abroad in Nicaragua, and **Denisha Seals** from a study abroad in Argentina.

**Ehite Allison**, **Shanta Dean**, and **Deibi Sibrian**, former Project Achieve students, are pursuing Graduate school at UNO.

Great news! **Paola Perez** was awarded the Next Generation Leadership Scholarship, as were **Kenny**, **Bryan**, and **Marvin Sibrian** and **Diana Ortiz**.

Former Project Achieve students **Andrew Vuorela** and **Shantel Thompson** are now in Law School.

**Silvester Juanes** is scheduled to be a speaker and panelist at the Latino Summit in Kearney, NE on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Jonathan Quilt** is teaching a class of fourth and fifth graders for Completely Kids.



## Reaching Your Potential Scholarship Awardees

The students listed below received the Reaching Your Potential Scholarship that provides full tuition and fees for up to five years. Our awardees are: Kim Duong, Alyssa Kelly, Vicente Luis, Melina Morales, Datrell Morgan, and Paola Perez.

## The JAR

If you have not done so, come by the office and ask about the jar that is on the front counter. You just could be missing out on something pretty special.

## Walk Across America

If you have not yet done so, come by the office to get your pedometer and join the fun as we walk across America. This activity involves all who want to participate either as part of a team or as an individual. Not only will you be promoting good health, but also there will be prizes for the top three teams in the team category and prizes for the top three individuals. Come by the office, sign up today, and join the fun.

## New to Project Achieve

To all our new Achievers: you are now a member of a great learning community. Staff and I look forward to getting to know you and have you participate in our upcoming activities. Welcome to Project Achieve!

Maribel Aguilar, Shukri Ahmed, Cruz Alba, Melanie Baumhofer, Dil Biswa, Heather Brandon, Brandon Cox, Mauricio Davila, Alby Delgado, Max Douglas, Shantell Ferris, Salvador Garcia, Cheyenne Gillespie, Taylor Givens Dunn, Daisy Gomez, Alexander Guerra, Danetta Harker, Fatima Hernandez Troch, Linh Lam, Elisa Lopez, Matthew McGruder, Cameron Middlebrooks, Jacques Musavyimana, Jennifer Nguyen, Ahmed Nur, Lily Nyenga, Tierra O'Neal, Tyrell Pierce, Humayra Rahmanzai, Nazaneen Rahmanzai, Gatluak Ramdiet, Jose Rodriguez, Maria Roman, Nicole Schnittger, Michelle Storm, Edward Trujillo, Mario Vandry, Ciara Wright, and Shih-Yi Yang.

