

# PROJECT ACHIEVE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014



# Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

## Scholarship Opportunity

Staff and I have an offer we think you will not refuse. Do you want to earn a William and Ruth Scott Scholarship for the 2015-16 term?

Review the plan below:

First, Project Achieve students (excluding graduating seniors) should make an appointment with their Project Achieve adviser.

Second, during this meeting you will set a GPA goal/student involvement goal.

Third, after setting your goal, you will write a specific/detailed plan describing how you are going to achieve your goal.

Fourth, you will implement your plan during the spring term.

Fifth, staff will review your Project Achieve involvement and spring grades in May, and if you have accomplished your goal, you will be awarded \$1,000.00 for the 2015-16 term. Make your appointment now! All scholarships awarded must align with UNO Financial Aid/federal guidelines.

---

## Reaching Your Potential Scholarship Awardees

Speaking of scholarships, **Tyrell Pierce** has much to be thankful for: his fourth son was just born, AND he was just awarded the Reaching Your Potential scholarship!

**Alex Guerra** and **Apoko Zekpa** were also awarded the Reaching Your Potential scholarship.

---

## Study Abroad, What Every Student Should Know

One of the wonderful benefits of your college education is the opportunity to study abroad. This exciting opportunity awaits any student who is willing to find out how studying in a different country can enhance their college and professional experiences. Listed below are a few things you should consider if you plan to study abroad.

1. Do your homework and find out as much as you can about the UNO study abroad program. Call Emily Hassenstab, UNO Study Abroad advisor, 554-2293, and learn what UNO has to offer.
2. Study abroad is not a personal travel program – it is an academic “study” abroad program that has a wonderful travel component.
3. Most study abroad opportunities must be connected to a class and/or university partner in the country you have selected.
4. Study abroad is not cheap. Expenses include, but are not limited to, airfare, ground transportation, tuition, books, fees, housing and food, not to mention money for any site seeing/excursions you will take.
5. Make sure you apply for study abroad scholarships. Caution: find out what scholarships are available, what the deadlines are and what the university requirements are. See Emily and/or your advisor for more information. By the way, **Esau Betancourt** was just notified that he has been awarded the Gilman scholarship for study abroad. See what happens when you do your homework?

FYI - **Diana Ortiz** will spend the holidays in Mexico and will spend one month this summer studying abroad in Eastern Europe. Last summer Diana studied abroad in Peru. (Have you noticed there is a study abroad theme here?)



# Project Achievers Build Community

Project Achieve's stellar UNO Habitat for Humanity members once again stepped up in support of affordable housing, working on a home for a mom and her three daughters. **Dominique Riggs, Zhomontee Watson, Seven Four, Alby Delgado, Jacques Musavyimana, Melina Morales, Katherine Esquivel, Luis Perez, Ibrahim Saad, Apoko Zekpa, Ursus Guzman** and **Yanira Perez** completed a deck and insulated an entire basement.



Next semester, Project Achieve's UNO Habitat for Humanity members will help build three additional houses and undertake a fundraising project with UNO Athletics to contribute financially to these projects as well. Any Project Achieve student interested in joining the Habitat organization or volunteering for upcoming projects should talk with one of the organization's officers, **Katherine Esquivel**, President; **Abel Rodriguez**, Vice President; **Alex Guerra**, Secretary; **Ursus Guzman**, Treasurer; **Dominique Riggs**, Fundraising Chair; **Paola Perez**, Recruitment Chair; or Connie, who serves as the organization's adviser.



## More Baby News

**Nora** and **Alexis Rivera** are the parents of a new baby girl, Amilia.

## Hard Work Pays Off

**Melissa Ramos** earned her ROTC uniform!



## 10 Things Rich People Know and You Don't

by Jacelyn Black Hodes

In the November newsletter I shared with you four things rich people know and you don't. Today I want to share three additional things you should know.

1. Live Like You are Poor – I know, I know... some of you are saying, "I'm a college student and I live 'poor' every day." This may be so, but most economists tell us that casual, unnecessary spending adds up. Remember, when you have a budget (and most of you don't have one) every dollar must have a name. This means when you have limited funds you don't spend one dime that has not been designated for a specific purpose. There's an old saying that goes, "pennies make dollars."
2. Be Goal Oriented – How much money would you like to have in 5 years? I dare you to set a goal/action plan to determine how you will accumulate wealth. What do you have to lose? Do you want to be broke in 5 years or flush with a little cash? Do it!
3. Get Educated – I'm not talking about your UNO degree because I know you are going to complete your degree. I mean take advantage of UNO and other resources to learn about how to accumulate wealth. This is so easy to do – you could read articles and books, take a course, talk to people, find out what it takes to enhance your economic profile. You will be surprised what you might learn.

I will share the final two money secrets in the next newsletter.



# Project Achieve Celebrates!

Thanks to **Nisha Tangirala**, who stepped up to help make it happen, Project Achieve students celebrated the Indian Festival of Lights in November. Thanks to **Chave' Payne**, we commemorated the African-American celebration

of Kwanzaa in December. What's next? Narooz, thanks to **Malalay** and **Nazaneen Rahmanzai**, and **Safia Rauf**. Narooz will be celebrated in March of the new year.

---

## Red-handed in the Canon

by **Chave' Payne**

I came from unfinished notebooks, garlic peelings, broken timers, and amateur Rococo paintings that smiled sorrowfully at me.

My gaze was stitched with by the legs of wolf spiders and volcanic rocks, African rubber trees, and high end surveillance cameras.

A retired race horse stable just four blocks south doesn't bother my nose anymore, neither does the noisy shade tree mechanics that find solace in wrenches, cinderblocks, and slow train wrecks.

I sigh and glower as I explain directions to my place of habitation because of a map from 40 years or so states that my northern neighborhood doesn't exist.

My aunt Valerie wears the shame of my unknown grandfather as she is my mother's lost half-sister. Uncle Kimmie talks of the strange people Gramma danced with and played dominoes with. He reminds me that I was a person who never got to have fun as she did.

The other grandmother was ecumenical in nature, accepting of all faiths, but wasn't afraid to shove some Willie Lynch Catholicism down your throat with her funny accent and crooked pointer finger.

My roots were engrafted with 'You big dummy!' and 'Time to shine' with a splash of 'stop me if wrong' in which Mother never thought that she would ever be. The nauseous scents of gasoline and potpourri soothe my lactose intolerant tummy as dark green seaweeds oil my fingers while I make the sheets fold on my tongue into little stars.

I was caught red-handed in the Canon, on the walls, yet I didn't age one bit. How I blushed deep in my blood never wanting to be seen by that obsidian eye. I still have that same painting on my skin but this time, it's ready to face this world with maiko steps and a foolproof smile.



The University of Nebraska at Omaha shall not discriminate based upon age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender-identity, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran's status, marital status, religion, or political affiliation.