



some personnel and will reduce the programs we are able to offer.

The Legislature and the Board of Regents have made clear what our priorities should be in all of this. Undergraduate teaching is our highest priority, research is our second priority, and service to Nebraskans is a third priority. In achieving permanent budget reductions, we hope to keep these priorities in mind. Our temporary cuts for this year have been announced. Our permanent reductions will surface about the first of February and will be finalized in March. I will keep you informed about this process.

I assure you that we will do everything possible to protect and maintain the extraordinary academic momentum on this campus. In addition to the new outstanding

faculty members I have mentioned, we continue to make progress in the area of student recruitment and retention. We are in a better position now than ever to attract top students.

None of these achievements would be possible without the great support we get from you and others who care about and support this University.

On behalf of the entire campus — and from Susan and me personally — let me extend to you our most sincere wish that you and your family will have the happiest of holidays and the very best in the New Year.

*Harvey Pulman*



# THE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

A report to special friends and supporters of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln



December 2001

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This fall can best be described as having both roses and thorns. It's not often that any campus can claim a Heisman Trophy winner, and Husker quarterback Eric Crouch is certainly a campus notable for his accomplishments as the 67th winner of that coveted prize. With this award, our campus can now claim three Heisman winners and three Nobel Prize winners.

As for the roses, we will eagerly await the January 3 football game in Pasadena's Rose Bowl to see if we can claim our sixth national college football championship.

As excellence in our sports programs provides a strong sense of community on our campus, we also celebrate the great achievements of our academic champions in some of our top programs. Despite the thorny issue of budget cuts, we have been able to recruit new talent in several key areas. We have welcomed a number of world-class faculty to our campus this fall, several of whom are being funded by earmarked grants from donors supporting our academic programs. Let me introduce you to some of them:

## Additions to our faculty, staff

■ David Keck became executive director of the J.D. Edwards Honors Program in Computer Science and Management on Nov. 26. He is the first permanent director of this innovative honors education program. Dr. Keck has the right mix of business background and academic achievement to lead this signature

program, and we are fortunate to have attracted him to our campus. He most recently was a senior manager at Paris-based Engineering Systems International. He also co-founded Tokyo-based Asia Technology Consulting Inc.

The College of Business Administration and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics also recently filled two endowed chairs that were created through gifts supported by matching funds from the Donald and Mildred Othmer Endowment:

■ Bruce J. Avolio, former director of the Global Center for Leadership Studies in the department of management at the State University of New York at Binghamton, is the Donald and Shirley Clifton Chair in Leadership in our College of Business Administration. Dr. Avolio conducts research and teaches graduate-level leadership seminars in the Center for Advanced Studies in Leadership. He has established leadership centers in Australia, Israel, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea and Sweden.

■ David L. Olson, former professor in the department of information and operations management at Texas A&M University, is the James and H. K. Stuart Chancellor's Distinguished Chair in Management and Information Systems in the College of Business Administration. Dr. Olson teaches graduate-level coursework in management information systems, and researches information systems, project management, multiple objective



decision-making, decision analysis and simulation.

We have also attracted three top faculty to our Sociology Department who are focusing on mental health, adolescent and homeless issues. They are:

- Les B. Whitbeck, former professor and faculty affiliate of the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research at Iowa State University, who recently completed a drug and alcohol prevention study that developed a culturally based family intervention for Native American parents and adolescents. At UNL he is continuing his work developing culture-specific prevention programs.

- Dan R. Hoyt also comes to us from the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research at Iowa State. His areas of specialization include research methods, the sociology of mental health, deviance, and family sociology. At UNL Dr. Hoyt directs the Bureau of Sociological Research.

- Kimberly Ann Tyler comes to us from the University of Central Florida. Her areas of specialization are child abuse and victimization, homeless youth and their families, social support and intergenerational relations, marriage and the family, the sociology of aging, and methodology and statistics.

UNL's Center for Biotechnology recently welcomed a new director:

- Michael Fromm comes to Nebraska after an 11-year career in the biotechnology industry at Monsanto Co., Mendel Biotechnology Inc. and Panakos. As director of the Center for Biotechnology, he will support interdisciplinary research groups in genetics and molecular biology, oversee operations of seven core research facilities that support researchers campuswide and expand collaborations and partnerships with industry. He also will continue his research in functional

genomics, focusing on drought tolerance in corn, as part of the Plant Sciences Initiative, and as an agronomy faculty member. Dr. Fromm's research will yield great benefits for Nebraska agriculture.

Finally, in January we will welcome two new world-class researchers in mathematics and biochemistry:

- Lucheazar Avramov, one of the premier commutative algebraists in the world, will become the Dale M. Jensen Chair of Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics beginning in January. Avramov has been instrumental in developing commutative algebra as a tool for problem-solving in disciplines that require information encoding and analysis. He was most recently a professor of mathematics at Purdue University.

- We also welcome to our campus Zoya Avramova, who will be joining our Department of Biological Sciences as an associate professor. She is a world-class biochemist and the wife of Lucheazar Avramov.

We are excited to welcome these and other new faculty members to our campus this fall. They will further strengthen some of our strongest research and academic programs.

### Student achievements in research

Research breakthroughs are not limited to our faculty. We also have many successes in undergraduate student research. Let me offer you a just two examples of our student research achievements sponsored by UCARE, a program funded by the Pepsi Endowment that funds intellectual partnerships between UNL faculty and undergraduates:

- Corrine Kliment, a sophomore from Lincoln majoring in biochemistry, worked with Dr. Ted Pardy, a UNL professor of biology and UCARE sponsor, and Dr. Deb Romberger of the



University of Nebraska Medical Center, and learned how to grow and analyze *Prototheca*, an algae that can cause serious skin infections in livestock and pets, and, in rare cases, even humans. Ms. Kliment's work will be the first ever to assess how certain molecules extracted from the algae react to various skin tissues.

- Douglas Grafel, a junior from McCook who is majoring in psychology, worked with Dr. John Flowers, a professor of psychology, on a series of experiments involving the auditory display of weather data. Mr. Grafel has been developing software that converts climate records obtained from weather databases (such as UNL's High Plains Regional Climate Center) to an auditory format used in the research. In the next phase of the study, they will design and conduct experiments to determine how efficiently listeners perceive the information in these displays.

We are also excited by the student research inspired by such programs as the Innovative Uses of Soybeans Contest, sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board and the UNL's Industrial Agricultural Products Center.

- The most recent winner, Lisa Durso, is microbiology doctoral student from Lincoln. She developed an all-natural, soy-based and environmentally sound car care product — Eco-Auto — that brings out the natural color in a car's plastic, vinyl and rubber surfaces and helps restore the original luster. Ms. Durso plans to use the \$3,500 in prize money to begin the patent process for her product. Previous contest winners include Ginger Ivy Jo Wingate, a biological systems engineering and communications studies major from Adams, and Kelly Kinnison, an agricultural engineering major from Lexington, who invented Soy Smaks, a soy-based lip balm. In addition to the prize, they received a \$7,000 grant to do a consumer acceptance study of the product.

### The budget challenge

Along with our many successes we also face challenges on our campus. In particular, it is important that I keep you informed on the budget reductions that are the result of a shortfall in state revenues.

As you probably have already read in the news reports, the Legislature has asked that we reduce our budget in the current fiscal year by 2 percent and by an additional 2.5 percent in the following fiscal year. The total reduction for the University system will be about \$19 million. UNL represents slightly more than half of the system budget, and therefore we will be looking at an overall reduction of about \$11 million over the two years.

We are planning a two-step process for arriving at our reductions. Because we are well into the fiscal year, we have little choice but to temporarily give back dollars on an opportunistic basis. We will delay some hiring and some badly needed equipment purchases, reduce our library expenditures, reduce some offerings in the summer session, and make other adjustments to get through the fiscal year. Fortunately, I will not be forced to lay off employees or cancel programs at this point. However, our summer school offerings will need to be reduced. We are working to make this as painless for our students as possible and to assure them that they will be able to get the courses they need in order to graduate.

The other step in our budget reduction process is the identification of permanent reductions to our base budget. This second step, now under way, is considerably more difficult than our first step. It requires broad campus participation in order to assure that our reductions leave the University in the strongest possible position. Most likely, these permanent reductions will adversely affect