

# **SECRETARY OF STATE'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SYMPOSIUM**

Hosted by John Gale, Nebraska Secretary of State  
State Capitol Building, Lincoln, NE

## **Introduction – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale**

A warm welcome to all of you for taking the time to attend the symposium. The first symposium was held in 2005. We especially welcome diplomatic representatives from other countries: [add names, if desired].

## **Welcome – Mayor Chris Beutler, City of Lincoln**

This is going to be a mind opening kind of experience. There always has been a need to communicate between countries, for political security and, to some extent, for economic reasons. I don't need to tell you how everything is changing. Globalization puts upon us an economic imperative we've never seen before. We are losing Lincoln companies to Mexico and other places, and this phenomenon will accelerate. If Lincoln and the state of Nebraska are to survive in this new world, we have to start competing on a new playing field. We have to learn the new rules of that playing field. We need to have more meetings like this. Some people are insular in their points of view and do not believe it's important. However, it is no longer a curiosity. It's an impediment when other cultures and perspectives are not understood. To those of you from Nebraska, I congratulate you for being here...you are the ones who will bring us closer to an international future than we've ever been before.

## **Opening Remarks – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale**

A large area of emphasis of my administration has been international relations. Because international matters have become increasingly important, I've expanded my role in international relations. Legislation has given me authorization to do this. First, I have taken on the duties of chief protocol officer. Second, I have promoted commerce, cultural exchange and education studies between foreign nations and Nebraska. Third, as a requirement of the legislation, I coordinate with federal, state and local officials in the international arena. It is important to hold symposiums like today's event. It will help us shape the future. I recently heard a speaker at UNL about the kinds of things that are happening there with relationships between the university and other countries. The speaker literally blew me away. It is exciting to find such things happening in our university. I hope the symposium allows you a great opportunity to learn, network, develop new ideas and become inspired.

## **“A Global Perspective” – Governor Dave Heineman, State of Nebraska, Keynote Speaker**

I recently returned from a trip to Asia, where we pursued a number of activities that helped support the four priorities of my vision for Nebraska: education, economic vitality, efficiency in government and protecting families. Strengthening the state's ties to the international community is a top priority of my administration. John has an important role in advancing Nebraska's interests around the world. Events like these help promote Nebraska's commerce and cultural exchanges. They also help promote international cooperation, partnership and good will. As governor, my international duties are primarily in economic development. Expanding into the global economy is important to our state *and* our country. This isn't something we started yesterday. My predecessors have furthered Nebraska interests in the global market. We are successful, thanks in part to their relationships over the years.

One of the most important things about this is the opportunity to do business in virtually any corner of the world. Nebraska is one of the best places to live, work, raise a family. In agriculture, especially, we have known we are competing in a global market. We appreciate the strong work ethic of Nebraskans—it is mentioned time and time again in other places. We enjoy one of the best qualities of life. We provide students with the best education. This is the environment in which economic development is a priority.

Our trip to Asia shows that we understand the value of developing these relationships. In Taiwan, we signed a trade agreement for \$400,000 million. In Hong Kong, we agreed to a deal that will feature Nebraska beef in the prominent restaurants of Andre Lee. In Macau, there is one of the largest agricultural production plants in the world. They employ 10,000 to 11,000 people. The kitchens can have as many as 5,000 people working in them at one time. We made a deal that will feature Nebraska beef in their kitchens. In Shanghai, the University of Nebraska Medical Center signed an agreement for a treatment program for doctors and nurses. We are expanding, not only on the business front, but on the education front. We won't know how fully successful all of this was for another four or five years. We also have foreign companies wanting to come to Nebraska. In Japan, there is a company that has been in existence for only three years, and it has become as important as Cisco is to us. They've captured a large piece of the Japanese market, and they want to come to Nebraska, possibly to South Sioux City. When we met with the Mayor of Shanghai, he said, "At today's meeting, we are new friends. At our next meeting, we will be old friends." We will continue to expand and try to create opportunities like this.

Nebraska already exports to more than 170 countries. The range of guests here today reflects the new reality of doing business in our world. We need to expand, not only global business relationships, but also relationships in education. We are pleased to have you in Nebraska, and we want to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with your countries. We understand it's a two-way street.

Question: We are opening a trade office in Japan—the first such trade office. Are we planning others?

Answer: Asian markets are all about building relationships. We already had a number of them in Japan, so we decided to open our first office there. Since we've been to Hong

Kong and China, we are giving thought to other offices. Two-thirds of the world's population is within 5 ½ hours of Hong Kong. We want to determine the maximum benefit, but I do anticipate opening at least one more office.

Question: Is there any room for ethanol and organic foods in the discussion?

Answer: There is room for this. We discussed ethanol opportunities while in Asia. Nebraska will surpass the number two producer of ethanol in America. By the end of this year, we will be producing one million gallons, and double that by 2008. All of the issues we face, other countries throughout the world also face. In Shanghai, they asked us about roads infrastructure, water and sewer systems. There, in an area roughly the size of Omaha where we have 500,000 or 600,000 people, they have 20 million people. Their needs are enormous.

Question: How far do you see ethanol going and where do other alternative fuels fit in?

Answer: The American free market, capitalistic system will be in place on this, so we'll build one ethanol plant too many. This is part of the answer to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Here's what I see happening: we'll need all 127 plants (we're building 110 in eight to 10 months). I believe there will be another expansion of ethanol. We have a ways to go in terms of other alternative fuels.

Question: Besides agriculture, in what other areas of business are we seeking international cooperation?

Answer: ConAgra foods was with us in China, where they want to expand. FDR wants to expand there and also PayPal. PayPal is a perfect example of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century company we want. The location in Omaha was voted the best place to work of all 128 PayPal locations. The average age of a PayPal employee is 26, and many graduated from Nebraska. AFLAC gets 80% of its business from international operations.

#### **“International Student Programs – Panel Discussion**

- *Dr. Harriet Turner, Director of International Affairs, Director & Professor of Hispanic Studies, University of Nebraska – Lincoln*
- *Peter Levitov, Associate Dean of International Affairs and Immigration Attorney, University of Nebraska – Lincoln*

#### **Dr. Harriet Turner:**

My office is truly a focal point of international education. Since 9/11, our country has changed its idea radically about international education. The university in Lincoln has two leaders very aware of this: our president, J.P. Milliken, who just returned from study abroad, and chancellor Harvey Perlman. They have set the bar much higher for students and faculty. In every era, a different country has taken the lead. In the third and fourth centuries, it was China. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, rule fell to Britain. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, American took the lead. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century will belong to all of us, with globalization. My office is focused on programs that will help students understand people in other

countries—to work productively with them, speak their languages, work within their cultures. They must adjust their thinking to the thinking of people in other nations.

I'd like to tell you about two programs we've created. The first, the Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program, is focused on bringing in international students. The university has 1,389 students from 103 countries. The program has brought to campus 160 international students overall and 41 participants from 28 countries the last time. In a five-day immersion program, we introduce U.S. culture to the students. The program includes sessions on cultural awareness, federalism, local/state government, volunteering and how to solve community problems, with a home stay in rural Nebraska. We end with a leadership seminar to show students ways they can become leaders in their own countries. Secretary Gale awarded certificates making each of the students an honorary citizen of the Great State of Nebraska. Another program sends students out of Nebraska to other places. This is a new program named for Harold Spencer, a 1932 alumni of UNL. He was a transportation lawyer, and his great mission was to provide a means for Nebraska students to learn another language and study abroad. This program will send teaching students to Spain, where they will teach, learn and live with families. We will also bring Spanish students here. These are only two programs among many. We are right out there, reaching out to take advantage of international opportunities. We are engaged in international education.

### **Peter Levitov:**

I like to think of foreign students in both directions—coming here and going abroad to study. Nebraska is very active in promoting both. Enrollment of foreign students has continued to climb since a drop off after 9/11. We are overcoming the difficulties of getting foreign students visas to come here. Several of the terrorists came to the country on student visas, primarily to pilot schools. A great round of caution has been exercised since them. Students were particularly scrutinized. Individuals were frustrated and countries were frustrated. The U.S. was seen as restricting international commerce and the free flow of ideas. That policy was reversed through the U.S. Department of State, and now students can go to the front of the line, because they have to begin at the beginning of a semester. That's why numbers have gone up.

In Nebraska, our foreign students consist of 65% graduate students and 35% undergraduates. We have a **total of 284 students** this year. There are about 1,400 foreign students in the U.S. More than 2% of all U.S. college students are foreign, and 20% of all graduate students are from foreign countries. In Nebraska, we have a small intensive English language program to improve proficiency. In another project, we have entered into a partnership with a Chinese university to establish the Confucius Institute. In this program, we will teach Chinese language and culture to citizens of the entire state, not just the University of Nebraska. The entire cost is paid by the government of China. They will send two teachers here later this month for an inaugural ceremony. The program will include short courses in the daytime, evenings and Saturdays for people in the community, for businesses interested in having employees learn about China. There will

be programs in the school (dances, concerts, culture). This is one of only 20 such venues who have received the funding to establish the Confucius Institute in their communities.

Setting all of this up is one of the things we do when we go overseas. One day in Washington D.C., we met the king of Swaziland, because he wants to enhance his human capacity by educating students in forensic science and health education. This morning at 9:00, I participated in a signing ceremony. A university in India enrolls 70,000 students in science and engineering. There is a supportive environment here for foreign students. Nebraska students volunteer to help them with the transition: getting housing, buying books, getting to classes. The volunteers are also cultural ambassadors to help visiting students. It helps to get advice from peers. Students who have studied here and then have gone to other places say they wish they were back here, because they believe the staff here cared about them. We are pleased to provide opportunities like this for Nebraskans to be immersed in foreign cultures and interact on a casual basis, not a formal basis. We are all the same in many ways, but to get along in this world, we have to figure out why people in different places think differently. With that knowledge, we expand our own range of perspectives, then when we leave the university and go to business and government, we are more comfortable. This goes a long way for education in the best sense. We are a university that supports international education, and we will continue to do so.

Question: There is still a small number of students going abroad. How can we increase that number?

Answer: Most undergraduate students are funded by personal and family funds, with some limited scholarships. At best, scholarships reduce out of state tuition, bringing it down to in-state rates—unless you can kick field goals! At the graduate level, there is a combination of funding. Many graduate students are funded with graduate assistantships. They assist in teaching languages in which they are fluent. It pays tuition and a basic living stipend of nine to 11 thousand dollars a year. More than half of the graduate students are working this way. There is very little government funding, with some support from organizations and church groups. At a private college, they have funds to attract students. Awhile ago, the university set a goal that 20% of our students who earned bachelors degrees would study abroad. We met that goal roughly. We are on the right track. It's harder in Nebraska. We aren't on the coast. We don't have international people in Lincoln as frequently as in L.A. or Boston or Houston. We also have a smaller percentage of parents who have a college education and/or have studied abroad, so it's a tougher row to hoe, but we are doing well.

Question: How would you characterize the student population before and after 9/11?

Answer: Numerically, the highest enrollment was in the year after 9/11. Restrictions hadn't been implemented very strongly. In that first year, we had a little more than 1,500 international students in Nebraska. Thirty-five years ago, there were only about 500. With the advent of OPEC, the oil producing companies sent more students here, which kicked up numbers. Opening relations with China increased the number of international students, then Malaysia. After 9/11, in the second year, it dropped to under 1,300, then

kicked back up. Geographical distribution of students is about the same as it was from five to eight years ago: they are mostly from China, India, Japan and Malaysia.

### **“International Education Partnerships” – Panel Discussion**

- *Tom Gouttierre, Dean, International Studies and Programs, University of Nebraska – Omaha*
- *Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Assistant Director for Research & Outreach Office of Latino/Latin American Studies, University of Nebraska – Omaha*
- *Dr. Charles Braithwaite, Director and Chief Advisor, International Studies Program, University of Nebraska – Lincoln*

### **Tom Gouttierre:**

Thank you to John for being a steadfast supporter of international affairs and for helping set the tone in our state. Governor Heineman’s recent trip was important for Nebraska business, but he also looked at communities in higher education. President Milliken’s trip to Latin America made important statements about international education and the education of our citizens. We are shooting for global synergy. We try to use the programs to bring together students from abroad with our students. Those who don’t have an opportunity to study abroad have a chance to do it right on campus. We have successfully obtained more than \$100 million in grants and contracts since 1973 to make international studies possible. Every year, international students bring many millions of dollars to the local economy throughout the state and all colleges, not just UNO, UNL, UNK and Creighton. This really helps enrich our communities. One of our office’s priorities is community engagement. One of the more visible programs is the Center for Afghanistan Studies. We are primarily training Afghan women to teach. We have trained more than 4,000 women and brought them back into the work force from Afghanistan. They stay for several weeks, then they train their colleagues. It’s inexpensive and a low security risk. It’s a good way to rapidly multiply the value of our work in Afghanistan. They did not have school for 30 years during the war, so they are enthused about being back in school. U.S. Department of State and Fulbright money pays for them to go to outlying areas of Nebraska to teach. They learn about us and our communities, and we learn about Afghanistan.

We have lots of other programs. We call our exchange programs “friendly invasions.” International visitors go to our schools, they see the rest of the community and stay overnight. It creates a neat set of long-term connections. We are active with Sister City associations around the state. Recently some representatives from Scottsbluff traveled to Afghanistan through this program. The Omaha Rotary and the Nebraska National Guard took balls to the schools for the Afghan teachers who were being trained. Rotary money paid to dig wells for water at the schools. The president of Afghanistan visited West Point recently. He is an avid horseman, and said he was impressed by the collaborative way farmers produce 380,000 head of beef each year. He was impressed by all the ideas they have for increasing production. We also have an active medical education program, involving primarily volunteers from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. We are

working to teach Afghans how to teach themselves medicine. We worked with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce on a business research project, too. It was a great opportunity for our students. The Omaha World Affairs Council has monthly speakers. We are involved in the Model United Nations program in high schools. We give an award called the Andy Award, named after the Omaha World Herald's Harold Anderson. It is presented to the Nebraska media that covers the most stories about international citizens of the state. International students are required to perform service for organizations such as the Habitat for Humanity, the Chicano Awareness Center and others.

We like to think all these things help UNO in particular, with a community of friends throughout the state, to know our place in the world. This kind of think provides the groundwork for internationalizing all of our citizens in the state, not just students. The more we do that, the more we will have the kind of world we would like.

### **Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado:**

We have been to Cuba four times with Nebraska students, and we have established warm relations. I love to watch students' eyes light up when we are there. We are trying to expand the program by linking travel study to curriculum in a rigid fashion. We want to create opportunities for students to understand intellectually and also experientially. We want to create an interactive learning environment and provide an opportunity for self-assessment and reflection through learning. We give lectures while in Cuba, but also interact with government officials, artists, journalists and others, so students can get a full flavor of the country. We have group encounters with social workers and other students and community groups across the strata of Cuban society. We visit historical sites, schools, universities and experience the night life. We created this program in 2004, involving UNO, UNK and UNMC students. We forged very good links with government and community organizations. Nothing is off limits in terms of what the students can ask. In fact, they asked some very controversial questions, and the Cubans seemed to really embrace those questions. The Cuban economy has been growing five to seven percent for the last five or 10 years. We get to see how Cubans are living, and we begin to see that it's a society that has a lot of work yet to do. Substantive areas of study include U.S./Cuba relations, Cuban socialism, health and education policies. We try to understand the impact of globalization and what it means for a poor country like Cuba. We study economic development, as in Cuban energy. We want an opportunity to interact, and some amazing things happen. Some Cuban students sang a song to us in English, then one of my students asked, "How do you like living in a communist regime." One little boy read us the riot act. He was firm in his conviction. It's those types of experiences that allow us to learn. We need more opportunities for students to see this country.

We are going to Peru this summer. We are creating a new urban Latin America course, including Internet mediated opportunities to complete modules of study before going to Peru. It will be the same kind of experience as in Cuba, but it will include something we couldn't offer in Cuba: service learning, allowing students to apply their knowledge while working on a community development project in a shanty town. We guarantee it

will be safe. We will add other destinations and expand in Latin America, including Mexico and Venezuela. We received money from the U.S. Department of State and the Ford Foundation.

The international experience is life-altering for students. We want to provide a structure to engage and tie to their knowledge. These programs give students a much firmer understanding of what the world is like and where they want to go. We hope to produce engaged citizens of the world.

**Dr. Charles Braithwaite:**

Here is an example of how personal relationships lead to important events: I was at a conference in Sacramento, Secretary Gale's daughter was there and told her father there is something in Lincoln you should hear about—a global classroom. This changed me as a teacher, and I've been teaching for more than 25 years. It's hard to surprise me in the classroom. We use the commercial Internet to have live, synchronous, real-time interaction with students in other countries. My students are talking to students in Russia, speaking face to face with only the slightest time delay. We never know what's going to happen. Some Pakistan students asked why we eat turkey on Thanksgiving. Another time, the Pakistan students talked about why the Danish cartoons about the Islamic prophet were so upsetting. My students stumbled around to explain. I point out the differences between our countries. We have moments when the class moves in a direction you would never expect, and we have a marvelous discussion. We consider ourselves partners with other universities. We started with Russia and Voronezh State Agricultural University. We expanded to three locations in Russia. We work with the first public women's university in Pakistan. We also work with schools in Yemen, Spain and Turkey. UNL helped found the university in Turkey. Most of these relationships came about when others put me in contact with the other universities. We have hundreds of students per year now. Nothing is censored. There is nothing between them and us but technology. These are marvelous relationships, working with schools that really want to know something about the U.S. They don't know much about our world here.

The program was initially funded by the Undersecretary of State for Public Programs. Some of those programs didn't continue, so we relied on other organizations and offices for funding, including the International Affairs Office at UNL, extended education and communication studies, in partnership with the information services department. The technology people travel with us to help set things up and negotiate the technology. All of the students speak English—both here and in the other countries. We prepare Power Point programs to help overcome language barriers as we look at the way they see their world and understand the way they want us to see them. My students have opportunities to choose topics and share. We also have support from private industry. A textbook publisher, for example, donates the \$70 books that are out of reach for students around the world. We are looking at other private partnerships. The thing that shocked me about this class is that the students actually forget the interface. They try to look around the corner of something on the screen. One woman in Pakistan was trying to tell one of us how to wear a scarf. She reached out to try to touch the scarf, forgetting it was only on



screen. We share information about social life, religion and politics. In a final survey, we ask our partner school students to list the three most important things they have learned about America. They are surprised that the students all work and that they do so much volunteer work. They are also surprised at how religious the students are...that they talk about the importance of church. There is a misconception about normal American life—MTV, couch potatoes, etc. It works the other way, too. One Pakistan student said her favorite music is rap. The class challenges students to think differently about their counterparts in other countries.

We're not all the same, but there are so many parts of life that we share. In Pakistan, they go to the library for textbooks. The students find themselves being changed by some of the similarities. One class sang us a song half in English and half in Russian. We create true partnerships. We make foreign instructors part of the planning. I never had to give up so much control over a class; I negotiate the class with all different kinds of instructors. They are so excited to talk to REAL Americans. You can't get more real than Nebraska. The back-and-forth works wonderfully well. We get to interact in as normal a situation as possible. A woman from Spain described how amazed she was at the involvement of the students at 8:00 in the morning. The moment the screen came on and the woman said "Hello, America, from Russia," they were talking, smiling and looking. I've never been able to do that with my students! Senator Hagel visited and said he saw this as the future of education. After his visit, we received more funding. Now we can go anywhere. To the diplomatic visitors here today, I ask you to think about how your country's students would benefit from face-to-face interaction with American students. It changes you. It's not just a geopolitical event. It's real for them. At the end of the semester, both classes are one big family! We even had one romance develop. That's the power of international relations for you.

#### **Commentary from Secretary Gale:**

A friend of Dean Gouttierre's tried to reach out to the world with a radio show in her home. She was threatened, but she did it anyway and was eventually assassinated. It is dangerous out there, but things are moving on and in some of these ways we are making progress. Dr. Benjamin-Alvarado was just awarded \$60 thousand for a Latino outreach program to help citizens fully encompass citizenship and democracy. I attended Dr. Braithwaite's class. It was amazing that no one was monitoring the questions and the students handled it very well. It was one of the most exhilarating things I have done.

#### **"International Health Care Services" – Nizar Mamdani, Executive Director, Office of International Healthcare Services, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha**

The international health care program at UNMC started 7 ½ years ago. Its main purpose is to create international health care partnerships to bring in the extraordinary patient, and to partner with institutions internationally. I was born in Tanzania, Africa. My parents were involved in many different industries. Because of the relationships my father had

developed with Japanese companies, my parents sent me and my brother to a university in Japan, with the thought that we would go back to work for our parents. However, most of the businesses and bank accounts were nationalized and we had to find a new home. My brother and I came here to start a new life 35 years ago. We started businesses in the U.S., then moved to the Middle East. We have many companies.

What am I doing in Omaha? My late wife Nancy had non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She had treatment in Atlanta twice, but everywhere I went I was told, "You need to go see Dr. XXXX in Omaha, one of the best in lymphoma." For my wife, it was too late. For what would have ordinarily taken seven weeks, she was in the hospital for over a year and on a respirator for five months. Everyone told us she was not going to make it. But the type of care she received was amazing. She was off the respirator, went through physical therapy and was able to come home for awhile. She was in Omaha for more than 15 months.

The main focus since we came to this country was to expand business, and by the grace of God we've been very lucky. But being in the hospital that long changes your perception. I wanted to take this perception and create a program that would help international patients in other countries. We put together a business plan and set it up about seven years ago. We now have office in several locations.

UNMC was established 125 years ago. It spans 112 acres, with 31 major buildings, 1,000 physicians, 1,500 nurses and more than 6,000 support staff. *U.S. News and Reports* says this is one of the best cancer hospitals because of the technological advancements, the number of kidney transplants over 32 years, and it's one of the three busiest transplant centers in the U.S. J.D. Powers gave UNMC an award for excellence in care. Research led to the first peripheral stem cell transplant in 1983. We are leaders in living-related kidney and liver transplantation. We were the first to combine liver and small bowel transplant. We have created a wonderful transplant center. One night last year, four transplants were performed at the same time. More than 11,000 transplants have been completed, as well as 3,600 bone marrow/stem cell transplants. The Lied Transplant and Cancer Center has become a model for patient care. We have many educational and certification programs, including nine academic units, a school of nursing leading to a PhD., professional certification programs and research centers in a variety of areas. We are doing research in other areas, including lymphoma, breast cancer, plus delivering nano-medicine in which we can detect only the parts of an organ damaged by disease.

For the international program, our philosophy is simple. As we go around the world, we find in most countries the doctors are very good. They are trained in the U.S., U.K. or Europe. But the support services are very poor. We wanted to design programs to help nurses and allied health professionals. And I wanted to do it for free. The idea didn't go over very well. The chancellor asked me why I wanted it to be free. I asked him to give me two years and I would show him why, so he allowed me to start for free. There are four phases. We start with no cost training for one to three weeks. We send our professionals to a partner institution, so they can exchange ideas and teach them in their own environment, because environment makes a difference in how care is given to patients. We encourage partner institutions to exchange students with us regularly. Lastly,

we wanted to pass out two-year scholarships to medical students of distinction. We pay for everything once they arrive in Nebraska, including living expenses, materials and electronic communications. It is open to doctors, but we encourage nurses, radiologists and others. Up to now the program was concentrated on transplantation and cancer care, but we are expanding to other areas also. We started a tele-education program to exchange data, research, and patient info over the Internet. We also offer continuing education online. Two years ago, we started a state-of-the-art Web-based second opinion consultation system. We upload all patient records and information online; specialists can consult and decide on protocol and treatment. We just gave a consultation to the former prime minister of India.

The hallmark of our program is patient care. We value patients that come to Nebraska from other countries. We provide a concierge-type service, including transportation. I found it's very lonely here. You don't know anybody, and you have a spouse or family member who is seriously sick. We had no where to go on Christmas, for example. If the patient does not want to be alone, we take them to dinner, go out with them and have fun with them. A lot of patient care depends on how we treat patients and their families outside of medical care, and that is what we are trying to do. How are we doing? We have traveled to more than 200 institutions, have over 140 partnerships and have served hundreds of patients from 34 countries. Eighty-seven professionals have come from other countries to take advantage of the programs. We sent 22 teams to partner institutions for training and education. International professionals from 48 countries have participated in research and education programs. We were a lead member for the establishment of a Nebraska trade center in Japan, and we also started an office in New Delhi, India. Our department was in charge of creating Five Star hotel rooms for families to stay in through the Symphony Showhouse project.

The international arena has changed dramatically since 9/11. We need to look at different ways of providing services to international patients. The U.S. is still regarded as the premier provider of health care services in the world. We are expanding by doing online programs. Nurses without degrees can participate in a one-year program and get a degree. We have 20 established allied health online programs in select countries, and we have established joint ventures with hospitals in select countries for cancer care. Where does the money come from? The University of Nebraska Medical Center helps us with the free program to some extent, providing education, for example. The university helps with training. We started the Nancy Mamdani Cancer Care and Training Foundation when my wife passed away, and raised money for the foundation.

Our objectives: 1) long-term relationships, 2) free training to specialists, 3) establish comfort levels, 4) form true collaborative relationships.

### **“Bi-National University Cooperation for Economic Development” – Panel Discussion**

- *Dr. Don Beerman, Department Head, Animal Science Department, UNL*

- *Dr. Jeff Keown, Professor, Extension Dairy Specialist, Animal Science Department, UNL*

**Dr. Keown:**

A national Fipse (?) grant aided a university outreach program, sending 70 students to Mexico for two-week summer sessions. Thirty-five Mexican students came here to tour ag biotech. Forty UNL students spent six months at the University of Chapingo, and three came here from there. Mexico doesn't have an extension program, and the leaders of the school proposed the program. We have an arrangement between a land grant university in the U.S. and a public university in Mexico. It is essentially a "Marshall Plan" with Mexico. We started an extension program with Mexico to address world poverty. We go there and they come here. Mexican students have to do 700 hours of community service before they graduate. It gives them a chance to address rural poverty issues. It is a broad, all-encompassing focus. The program is jointly funded by the Mexican and U.S. governments, because the Mexican people are proud and do not want anything for free. We need support from congressmen to get the program authorized. It was in the last immigration bill, but it was not funded. UNL would have a permanent office in Culican, Mexico, one of the largest, most progressive ag centers in the country. It is where most of the peppers and tomatoes come from here in winter months. They have large animal and vegetable populations, but they are not advanced. They were walking through irrigation canals, spraying plants by hand while children were swimming in the irrigation channels. There are simple things like this we can help them with. They can learn by coming here. Fourteen Mexican states have signed on to the program and would be paired with a U.S. land grant institution.

One of the things we are doing is trying to change the attitudes of our students about Mexico. We took 23 students there last time. A lot of them had never flown before and it was mind boggling to them. They are frightened at first, so we fly in at noon so they'll feel safe. It is an agricultural, cultural, historic and religious trip. You have to understand all these things. Religion, for example—it is very important to for us to understand why they have the family associations they have. We visit all these places: the centers of culture and history, we go to the pyramids, the ballet and more. We go through seven climatic regions. One thing we do that is unusual and that the kids enjoy is we spend one day on a farm with natives, with people who actually go pick coffee—an entire family. They get \$10 a day to pick. We also spend time at a Vera Cruz pineapple cooperative. They get 48 cents to pick a pineapple. They sit on a dirt floor and eat a meal prepared by the ladies, with our students on one side and Mexican students on the other side. There are no holds barred. They can ask anything. It's good for the students to be exposed to that type of culture. Some of the pineapple plantations were so impressed with the students, they want to come to Nebraska to see how we grow corn. The assistant ambassador comes out and greets the kids and we have a four-hour conversation about government and politics. We go to the metro cathedral, so they understand more about Mexico. We change attitudes about Mexican immigration and about rural Nebraska. The cost of the trip is covered by the Fipse grant (\$33,000), the students themselves (\$16,000)

and a CASNR scholarship (\$11,000). We generate 75 credit hours and get 23 students involved.

It's important for the students to really understand. When they graduate, they will go out to work with these Mexican workers. They can understand why they are there, their home life and cultural life.

### **Don Beerman:**

There are several kinds of collaboration you'll find at almost any university with an outreach program. We research to solve problems, improve food products, assess new technologies and hold jointly sponsored scientific workshops. We are moving research forward at a faster pace. We research consumer preferences, develop effective outreach/extension infrastructure, student recruitment and education exchange programs. The collaborations have targeted outcomes to benefit research. We were invited to a workshop in Beijing, China, to address the growing concern for the use of animal health products and potential carryover that might influence environmental and human health. This workshop was set up for administrative representatives from China and other countries. The approach varies dramatically around the world. Efforts are being made to understand the regulatory process of the use of these compounds, help people understand how they work and the benefits, and agree on how these compounds should be regulated and monitored for use in human food production.

**Ractopamine**, for example, increases muscle growth in animals. It is approved for use in the U.S., but there are only a handful of other countries—10 in all—that allow use of this in pork production. We need to educate people that this compound is different from others in its use, in aspects of safety. People from China were instrumental in providing information over 15 or 20 years, in which people have been measuring the use of products to establish the basis of the appropriateness of approval of some of these compounds around the world. Other distinguished symposium participants were included. We met in Breckenridge, Colorado, and moved regulatory approval ahead. We can use similar venues to engage in discussions and move research forward.

Value added meat products are having tremendous impact on beef markets. Dr. Chris Calkins has helped develop niche markets with a focus group study. The current situation with beef around the world has been a challenge. In 2003, there was a total ban on importation of any beef by a variety of countries, because of several incidences of **bovine encephala**. Before that, a significant number of countries benefited from import of Nebraska beef. One of the problems was that there was no demographic information on who uses certain cuts of Nebraska beef. Dr. Calkins' focus groups addressed which cuts were available and what methods of preparation are used. The study resulted in the following descriptors, which indicate the perceptions of Japanese women about beef from different places:

HanWoo Beef (from Japan): good taste, expensive, fresh, tender, trusted domestic product

Australian Beef: grass-fed, clean, fresh, inexpensive

U.S. Beef: not clean, BSE concerns, expensive, not tender, distribution concerns, distrust, contains bone, animal welfare concerns

Further, the consensus in the focus groups was that the U.S. keeps the best quality meat and ships lower quality to Korea, that the U.S. ships beef to Korea that would not be accepted by Japan—and other perceptions. Koreans in the focus groups thought all frozen meat is bad and most meat from the U.S. is frozen, so it is distrusted. They believe domestic HanWoo meat is authentic. It is perceived that imported meat, including meat from the U.S., is made available to areas with lower incomes. There are a lot of questions about meat byproducts, as well. These are the areas UNL has been active in research.

**“Research Grants: Attracting International Graduate Students” – Dr. Prem Paul, Vice Chancellor of Research and Development for International Studies, UNL**

Nebraska is not only good at football. We are good at anything we put our minds to. Nebraska is the place to be if you are thinking about graduate studies and research. I was an international graduate student almost 40 years ago, thinking about where to get a PhD. I was thinking about getting a good education, and I wanted to work with the very best faculty in my discipline, where there was the latest technology. My mom wanted to make sure I was safe. This was the place to be! UNL has many strengths: agriculture, life science, physical science, social sciences and the arts. We have a long history of working with international communities and universities. I have a lot to brag about—faculty members making major discoveries, for example. In 2006, two Nebraska programs were among the top hundred discoveries in the world: one was in chemistry to determine the structure of gold, and the other had to do with the most powerful laser in the world (with applications for defense, medicine and more). In 2004, two stories were published in *Discovery* magazine. In 2006, we were honored again as one of the top 15 places for scientists to work. In 2006, once again, we were among the top discoveries, with biodiversity in ecosystems and a touch sensor used in robotics.

The challenges in the world are so huge that no single discipline can solve them. We need all disciplines. Since 2000, our research funding has doubled and it is because faculty from different disciplines are working together. This affects children’s issues, biodefense and a variety of issues. We have been known for agriculture for a long time, and I am proud of our accomplishments. Nebraska is a powerhouse in agriculture. We continue to be on the cutting edge, not only the capability of working in the lab, but we have the largest field testing facility. We have come up with new technology in insecticides and some of the projects are being commercialized. For example, we’ve developed a turf grass that is sold all over the world. We are improving food quality through food processing and food safety research. We have rapid tests for allergens in food, for example. We also are concerned about energy. A couple of years ago, UNL formed a partnership with the Nebraska Public Power District to look at various forms of renewable energy, as well as ethanol production and its byproducts, such as cattle feed. Water is an issue everywhere. We have one of largest core faculty groups working on

water in multiple areas, and we have many challenges. The national drought monitoring center is located in Nebraska. The Nebraska Transportation Center researches safety in transportation. On NASCAR tracks, drivers would die in crashes, and because of research done at Nebraska by civil engineers, they are cushioning the walls and saving lives. President Bush awarded us the national medal of technology. We also were recognized for technology we developed in rapid bridge deck construction which allows bridge repair with a minimum of time traffic must be displaced. Fundamental research is most important, because it creates a new line of companies and a new line of knowledge. We are working to develop partnerships between UNL and the business sector to create new jobs. Some local examples of companies that have come out of research are Geneseek, Li-Cor and Todd Valley Farms. Products of UNL include surgical robots.

Research provides world-class opportunities for students. Grad students are involved in each and every research project. We produced famous UNL faculty, including Ted Kooser, John Anderson (president's council of academic advisors), national academy members, James Van Etten, Brian Larkeing, William Splinter. If you want your children to have a good education, you are going to send them to Nebraska, where we have 964 graduate students from 78 countries. UNL is a member of the AAU, one of the top 62 universities, and ranked 27<sup>th</sup> among all U.S. public universities.

#### **“Community International Outreach” – Panel Discussion**

- *Brian Ridenour, President, Mayor's Committee for International Friendship*
- *Lee Rockwell, President, Friendship Force of Lincoln*
- *Dr. Natalie Hahn, Founder & President, Malaika Foundation*

#### **Brian Ridenour:**

We have learned a great deal about university and government programs. Now we will take it down to the citizens' level. We are involved to a large extent in diplomacy. The Mayor's Committee for International Friendship has existed for 40 years. We provide programming for visitors who come to Lincoln. We do this largely with volunteers from Lincoln and the surrounding areas, for people who visit under the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs International Leadership Program. The program identifies young leaders in other countries who will lead their countries in years to come. They are invited to come learn more about us. It is funded by the State Department. Visitors are educated in Washington D.C., then sent for three weeks to two or three additional communities. We arrange professional meetings, hook them up with their contemporaries, take them to cultural events, visit American homes and farms, go see the Unicameral, government offices and schools. Four thousand to five thousand visitors come to the U.S. in this program annually, assisted by volunteers all over the country. Nationally, there were 47,882 visitors who participated in thousands of events and visits. Locally, we've arranged 17 programs for more than a hundred visitors. We judge the program by looking at the people who participate and seeing where they have gone with their lives. We have served 200 former and current heads of state of other countries, 1,500 cabinet level ministers and 33 heads of state. We focus on agriculture,

education and government in Lincoln. They have an opportunity to better understand the U.S., which we believe benefits our country in the long term. We are advocates of peace through friendship. We also gain an understanding of their countries.

**Lee Rockwell:**

Friendship Force believes that a world of friends is a world of peace. Friendship Force International has 350 clubs in 60 countries, in which each person can contribute to global goodwill. It is non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit, founded with the endorsement of President Carter. The organization was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. International headquarters is located in Atlanta. We emphasize people above places. Each club is assigned specific countries. It's all about home stays. We go to other countries for a week, and we get to know people well and find out what their lives are all about. The Friendship Force club in Lincoln has existed for 25 years, and there are currently 250 members. We've visited or hosted 81 clubs in 42 different countries. We are one of the largest and most active clubs in the U.S. and around the world. In the past year, we had incoming delegations from Hiroshima and Australia. We went outbound to Tanzania, Canada, New Zealand and other places. In 2008, we will host exchanges inbound from Perth, Australia, and we will go outbound to Brazil and Belgium. We get to know some of these families very well. There is a family in Brazil, for example, with which we've built a wonderful relationship. When we first met Alfredo, he was single. Now he has a wife and a family of five. Sometimes we do specialized exchanges focused on common professions, interests and hobbies. The Open World Leadership program was established by Congress in 1999, and is administered through the L.O.C. to enhance understanding and cooperation between the U.S. and Russia, then it was expanded to include all post-Soviet states. More than 12,000 people have been brought to the U.S. through this program. Friendship Force has had active involvement in the program since the beginning. The first delegation was from Ukraine, and we will soon bring the 10<sup>th</sup> Russian delegation for a visit dealing with youth issues. We plan a two-day bus tour through rural Nebraska to see youth activities. The trip will include home hospitality and club activities where club members can meet each other.

**Nancy Hahn:**

The Malaika Foundation is three years old. "Malaika" is a Swahili word that means "my angel." The goal is to ensure that Nebraska kids understand the world. Teachers also can teach about the world as global citizens. Forty-five percent of Nebraskans are born abroad. Fifty-two languages are spoken in our school system. Nebraska is already international. We want to create a positive image of the many different cultures that are around the state.

I was a farm 4-H girl from Polk, Nebraska. My mother was a journalist and my father was a politician, and we had a world map near the breakfast table. I have always maintained a home and farm here, even when I traveled out of Nebraska. I never met a UNL or high school student who could name more than five countries on the African continent...there are 54 countries! My mother asked me what I was doing for Nebraska,



my home state. So I started the Malaika Foundation. My goal is to teach Nebraska students about the world, to give a multitude of resources, encourage them to network with other schools throughout the world, and—with Ken Morrison contributions—to take teachers abroad. We take them to Cambodia and Thailand, for example. It makes a major impact to take teachers abroad for the first time. We also work with western Nebraska schools. I work with both teachers and parents. We create traveling trunk shows that teachers can borrow and take to their schools to help them teach. We like to link with schools in other countries. We work closely with the Nebraska Department of Education. We will receive a new grant to survey Nebraska schools and find out what they know about international studies, to find out what the needs are, and to hold a state summit on international education. We will bring in the private sector, with the help of the Nebraska Council on Education, to replicate what has already been done in other states. Nebraska has a lot it can tell the world. We need to bring students to Nebraska. We are bicoastal. Europeans often know more about Nebraska than other states in the U.S. We bring more youth to our state. When we bring visitors from the U.N. to Nebraska, they go back flabbergasted. There is so much we need to do to help American understand our pioneer history. I like to say you can't understand Botswana unless you understand the Ponca. We decided to publish a book about famous Nebraskans to help kids learn about people in our own state. I am impressed with the phenomenal progress our state has made and with the leadership in international affairs. Malaika looks forward to working with all of you. We hope there will be a greater coordination of contacts when diplomats come to visit us. What could we be more proud of than, not only our state, but making our kids more international.

### **“Friendship Between Cities” – Charles Marr, Nebraska State Coordinator, Sister Cities International**

At Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, we hosted 150 citizens from **Shizwoka**, Japan, where we dedicated a statue of Buddha. It was the latest event in a relationship of more than two decades between the two cities. As Governor Heineman said, relationships take time to build. Sister Cities International is a local network that develops cross-cultural understanding. It was established by Dwight D. Eisenhower with the focus of building relationships between countries with a common desire for friendship, goodwill and a better world for all. Our mission is to promote peace through mutual respect, cooperation and understanding, one person at a time. There are 664 local organizations that have developed 200 partnerships in 134 nations throughout the world. This is not small achievement. It is all due the work of volunteers with a desire to create relationships throughout the world. In some of our projects, we send teachers to Germany and other countries, we have golfing tours to Ireland, we do museum exchanges with Mexico and Japan. The programs depend only on the imaginations of the Sister City volunteers. There must be solid support from City Hall in a city that wants to participate, as well as engaged leadership and volunteers to assure success. City Hall does not always support the effort, so many Sister City organizations collaborate with businesses, colleges, etc. They must rely on their own fundraising to be vital. The real key to success is the dedication of local volunteers of all ages, drawing from a city's ethnic diversity, strong volunteers who

create and maintain these active relationships. Eleven marriages have occurred between members of Omaha Sister Cities. That is a level of commitment we haven't seen in other programs!

Sister Cities International is prepared to assist any town desiring to develop a sustainable global partnership. This might be the best way to assure world peace and understanding. I believe this is one of the most effective means of establishing ongoing effective relationships.

### **Closing Remarks – Secretary Gale**

Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” You are that kind of people. We are thoughtful committed citizens who can change the world and make it a safer, healthier, more peaceful place to be. All of the presenters today have helped educate us in ways we can make that happen.