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Welcome: North American Symposium on Bat Research

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**WELCOME: NORTH AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON BAT RESEARCH
OCTOBER 9, 2003
CORNHUSKER HOTEL
JOHN C. OWENS, NU VICE PRESIDENT AND IANR HARLAN VICE CHANCELLOR**

Good morning. I'm very pleased to welcome you to the 33rd annual North American Symposium on Bat Research here in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lincoln is our Nebraska state capitol, the state's second largest city, and "home" to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the flagship campus of the University of Nebraska system.

I understand your 20th symposium in 1990 also was held here in Lincoln. Whether you were here then, or whether this is your first visit, there are many new and exciting offerings to see and explore, taste, and smell.

You're just a "brisk walk" away from the south edge of our downtown university campus. I invite you to visit our brand new, official "front-door" to the university: the Van Brundt Visitors Center and UNL Office of Admissions. The north wing of the Van Brunt building is home of the newly relocated Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, which houses two state-of-the-art film theaters, classrooms,

laboratories, film archives, and a research library.

Also at the ~~'south end'~~ of the downtown campus is the recently refurbished Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden. The Sheldon's ~~'permanent collection'~~ explores foundations of American art to new trends in contemporary art.

East of the Sheldon is the large, white "Torn Notebook" sculpture. In this immediate area is the relatively new Lied Center for Performing Arts where world talents perform, such as Mikhail Baryshnikov and Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance. Here also is the recently ~~renovated~~ Hewitt Place building, which houses our renowned Center for Great Plains Studies and the Lentz Center for Asian Culture. On exhibit now is a collection of 50 rare Filipino American photographs, organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

If you walk north into the main part of the ^{CITY} campus, you will come to UNL's newly remodeled student union. And a bit further from there is ~~the destination~~ for many a children's field day: this is our university State Museum, otherwise known as "Elephant Hall." |

understand[“] your[”] 1990 banquet was held at Elephant Hall. When you see[“] Archie[”], a life size bronze mammoth sculpture out front, you'll know[“] you're at the right place!

I also mention[“] the museum[”] because your symposium host,

Dr. Patricia Freeman, is professor there as well as in the newly formed School of Natural Resources. The new School of Natural Resources is part of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources here at the university. It is becoming a regional and national[“] leader[”] in academics, research, scholarly service, and outreach programs in natural resources and environmental sciences. Plans call for the [“]multiple offices[”] associated with the school to be housed under one roof by mid-2005 on UNL's East Campus, which begins at 33rd and Holdrege streets.

I do hope you ^{also} are able to visit our lovely East Campus. It is one of Lincoln's horticultural beauty spots and, just last month, East Campus was the site for the university's major horticultural event of the year, [“]Landscape Connections[”], that attracted 1,200 participants. Nebraskans take [“]great pride[”] in our landscapes and gardens. In fact,

this year the Institute is celebrating 50 years of *Backyard Farmer*, believed to be the longest-running gardening-television program in the nation.

East Campus is home to the International Quilt Study Center, which houses 950 antique and contemporary quilts, as well as the well-known university Dairy Store, a part of our Food Processing Center. The dairy store has been selling milk and other dairy products for more than 80 years. In fact, in the late 1920s, a nickel would buy all the milk you could drink -- if you brought your own cup. While today we provide the cups, you can still buy all the milk you want, plus ice cream, plus fabulous gift boxes of meats, cheeses, and honey.

There has been much excellent, exciting work from the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources to build what we have today. We have made great strides in teaching, research, and extension education; I fully expect that will only continue and that great-achievements will continue to come from Nebraska in the future.

When you think of Nebraskans or read about Nebraska, my hope is that you reflect fondly and with good memories of your time here. I hope you enjoy your stay, and I invite you to come back and visit us again.