COMPLETE E-WEEK 2012 COVERAGE
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About the cover:

E-Week 2012 images from E-Week activities were captured by Amanda Kelebit, Jaafar Jamil and Michael McEniry.

Cover Design: Michael McEniry
Dear Readers:

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2012 issue of the Nebraska Blueprint. As you probably noticed from the cover, the main feature of this issue is Engineer’s Week 2012. A 99-year-old tradition, E-Week offers students of the College of Engineering opportunities to participate in activities that strengthen both students and the college. The key to having a successful E-Week is student participation. Over the last three years, student participation in E-Week events has increased or remained steady over previous year’s numbers. All events comprising E-Week 2012 saw at least two dozen students in events like the Quiz Bowl and the Pi-K Race. While these numbers are good, they look quite weak when compared to the 2,700 undergraduate students in the College of Engineering.

I recently met with Dr. William Splinter, George Holmes Distinguished Professor Emeritus, who among other things was the Nebraska Blueprint Editor from 1947-50. Dr. Splinter emphasized the importance of his involvement in Blueprint during his time as an undergraduate here at Nebraska and encouraged students to “challenge themselves.” He said this involvement helped him improve his organizational and leadership skills—valuable assets for any engineer.

Not limited to E-Week or Blueprint, other engineering organizations could use additional members, including the Engineering Student Advisory Board (eSAB) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). These opportunities to hone your leadership and organizational skills should not be passed up. If you’re unsure of how to get involved, visit Dave Williams, Director of Retention for the COE in Othmer 114 or Alma Ramirez-Rodgers at the Omaha campus (in PKI). Also, next year will mark the 100th E-Week celebration and what better way to celebrate than to be involved in it.

As part of Blueprint’s E-Week coverage, reporter Lorena Carmona attended keynote speaker Pete Ludovice’s presentation mixing comedy and engineering. Reporter Alif Sophian looked to the past to share the history of E-Week and some events surrounding the tradition.

In addition to coverage of E-Week 2012, this issue features reporter Raj Paul’s interview with UCARE student Dongpu Jin about his experiences with research. Reporter Firdous Redhuan was granted a tour of the often-rumored museum on the fourth and fifth floors of Nebraska Hall and shares what activities happen there.

Thanks to all the staff of the Nebraska Blueprint for their efforts in completing another issue!

Sincerely,

Michael R. McEniry
Editor-in-Chief
Omaha Campus Celebrates National Engineers Week

Engineering students at the Omaha campus celebrated National Engineers Week, Feb. 17-23, 2012. The week was filled with such activities as a Nintendo Wii Tournament, a Toothpick Tower building competition, a service project, and the *Minute To Win It* competition.

According to Karina Kelly, president of Omaha eSAB, students thoroughly enjoyed the week’s events.

Left: *Students participate in the Minute To Win It competition.*
Right: *A close match in the Nintendo Wii Tournament*
*Photos Courtesy: Karina Kelly*

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**E-Week 2012 Committee**

E-Week 2012 Committee Chairs: Catheryn Amenta and Rachel Remund
E-Week Committee Members: Mary Pistillo, Pat Graeve, Michael Nordell, Travis Weiser, Aaron Vancura

*Photo By: Amanda Kelebit*

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Want to get involved in E-Week 2013?

Are you interested in being part of the 100th anniversary of E-Week? Are you looking for leadership experience? Need an activity for your resume? Contact E-Week 2013 Committee Chairs Tyler Schmidt (t.schmidt@huskers.unl.edu) or Jessica Blunk (jblunk25@yahoo.com) to find out how you can help during E-Week’s 100th anniversary!
The Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences (UCARE) Program, funded by the Pepsi Endowment, creates intellectual partnerships between UNL faculty and undergraduates by providing funds for research. Reporter Rajkrishna Paul sat down with Dongpu Jin, a senior Computer Engineering major and UCARE student, to share Jin’s experiences with the UCARE program.

BP: When did you become involved in the UCARE program?  
DJ: May 2010, under the supervision of Prof. Sharad Seth.

BP: What field does your research in the UCARE cover?  
DJ: Computer architecture: multi-core processor cache memory management. To be more specific, we are trying to optimize cache memory placement and replacement policy so it can adapt to various types of workload. We apply compiler techniques to analyze web tables. We scan through web tables and decompose them into sums of product equations. Then, parse trees are extracted from those equations and imported into a relational database. With this technique, a web table can be viewed in a variety of different ways. It also makes it easier to retrieve information from a web table.

BP: How has UCARE impacted your academic life?  
DJ: UCARE provides the opportunity for undergraduate students to work alongside faculty members and graduate students. This has helped me to learn how to do research, including reading state-of-the-art literature, writing technical reports and conducting scientific experiments. It definitely has helped me prepare for graduate-level study.

BP: What parts of your UCARE research have you enjoyed the most?  
DJ: I like that UCARE provides me with opportunities to work on research projects with professors and graduate students.

BP: How much coordination with faculty have you had during the research?  
DJ: Our research group collaborated with two other research groups at Brigham Young University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on the web table analysis project. Even though it was very challenging to collaborate with different groups at different universities, with the guidance from the faculty members at those schools, we did a really good job at coordinating tasks and synchronizing information among groups.

BP: How does the UCARE program shape students’ futures compared to a student who does not participate in UCARE?  
DJ: UCARE provides students with opportunities to gain research experience. It helps students to know what research looks like and thus helps them decide whether to go to industry or continue to higher education. Non-UCARE students may not have such experience and opportunities.

BP: How were you selected for this position?  
DJ: I contacted the professor I was interested in working with and planned my UCARE program application ahead of time.

BP: Any closing remarks you would like to share about UCARE?  
DJ: UCARE is a very good opportunity for undergraduate students to get involved in research projects, especially for those who plan to go to graduate school.
History of E-Week

This year (2012) marked the 99th anniversary of the College of Engineering’s E-Week. Well, readers, how much do you know about this storied tradition? Out of the pages of history has emerged a week of unique successes and phenomenal celebrations; what we know as E-Week. Allowing the College of Engineering to introduce itself to the public once a year, the roots of this tradition can be traced back to the late 1800s.

In the spring of 1894, members of the local Electrical Engineering society held the “First Annual Exhibition.” A one-night exposition, this open house featured lab equipment displays and demonstrations for the general public to view. Though the first open house was considered a success, everyone involved proclaimed “Never Again!” One professor’s classes had been canceled for almost a month while students diligently worked on projects day and night for the open house.

Two years later, the ‘never again’ happened again in what was called the “Second Annual Exhibition Charter Days” program. In commemoration of the Electrical Engineering Department’s Charter Day, the program featured speeches and exhibitions.

It would take until 1913 for the show to become interdepartmental, with Mechanical Engineering joining Electrical in a week-long celebration called E-Week. Civil Engineering and later Chemical Engineering would follow the same path. Each department established their own E-Week staff of students responsible for the department’s exhibits shown to the public.

Over the decades, events and activities have come and gone. The public display or E-Week Open House has remained a constant. With Senior Design Projects, lab tours and a keynote speaker, the Open House draws high school students and members of industry from across the state. The Ms. Engineer Pageant, now known as the Mr. & Ms. Engineer Pageant, has been with E-Week for most of its history. The Department Challenge has been a fixture of E-Week for over 40 years. Receiving points for students’ participation and performance in the various E-Week competitions, the Department Challenge is awarded to the engineering department collecting the most points.

Activities no longer with E-Week include a “scandal sheet” entitled The Sledge, where students could rib their friends and professors. Another was the E-Week Dirigible: a miniature blimp operated by the college. This tradition ended in 1927 when students of the College of Law vandalized the E-Week Dirigible and changed the lettering from “Engineer’s Week” to “Pharmacy Week.”

Another clash between law students and engineering students occurred during the 1940 E-Week. A reported 100 law students broke into a storage room for an Agriculture Engineering exhibit and destroyed it with white paint. Nearly 400 engineering students retaliated by storming the College of Law, kicking in doors, throwing eggs and smashing windows. A bloody fight ensued, requiring police to break it up. Four law students were sent to the hospital following the fight, one requiring eight stitches to close a wound. E-Week has yet to see an incident like this happen again.

While the events and people have changed over its history, the traditions and goals of E-Week remain the same. E-Week is still a way of bringing students closer together. It symbolizes the heart of every engineering student. It’s a chance for the public to see what is happening in engineering today.

Photo Courtesy: Engineering Communications
Quiz Bowl
- 10 teams
- 15 seconds per question
- 3 rounds per match
- Any topic

Tailgate Kickoff Party with π a Professor

Above: 1st Place: Team Watson, comprised of Chemical Engineering students Michael Gotrik, Keith Rodenhausen and Devor O’Connor.

Left: 2nd Place: Team M.W.M.E., comprised of Chemical Engineering students Robert Miller, Matt Bowar, Jeff Lopez and Hunter Flodman.

Qdoba Burrito-Eating Competition
-Eat one burrito as fast as you can!

Above: Professors ready for π.
Below: Senior Biological Systems Engineering major Derek Shafer hits Dr. Angie Pannier with a pie.

Right: Dr. Jim Hendrix of Chemical Engineering after receiving a pie in the face.
Below: E-Week 2012 Chairs Catheryn Amenta and Rachel Remund hold the new E-Week Outstanding Department trophy, won by the Chemical Engineering Department.

Right: Daniel Homan, a junior Mechanical Engineering major, devoured his burrito the fastest in a time of 56.5 seconds.

Texas Hold’em Tournament
E-Week 2012 Events and Results

Faculty Flip: Pancakes

Ms. & Mr. Engineer Pageant
Contestants judged on overall creativity and engineering enthusiasm in four competitions:
-Engineering Wear
-Lego Building
-Talent Show
-Formal Wear with Q&A Session

Left: Senior Biological Systems Engineering major Derek Shafer in his Engineering Wear.

Right: Senior Mechanical Engineering major Erik Knudsen performs a song he wrote about his past relationships for the Talent Show.

Above: Lego Building competition
Left: Ms. Engineer 2012: Victoria Fry, a junior Chemical Engineering major
Mr. Engineer 2012 resulted in the first-ever tie with senior Biological Systems Engineering major Derek Shafer and senior Civil Engineering major Caleb Peterson.

E-Week Open House

For E-Week Open House Senior Design Winning Projects, turn to page 15.
The room had reached capacity. The doors were shut. No one else was allowed into Othmer 106. Rows of students and adults waited in anticipation. The noise level was increasing by the minute. When additional guests could not find a seat, make-shift seats were found against walls and on the floor. The room fell silent. Pete Ludovice took his place at the front of the crowded lecture hall. He was ready to tell the audience about engineers and why engineers are more than just funny looking.

Ludovice likes making people laugh. He is a comedian as well as an associate professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Ludovice was invited to UNL as the keynote speaker at the College of Engineering.

Ludovice wanted to inspire the audience on why engineering was a good career choice and inform them of the problems in the marketing of this profession. He mixed information with humor to create an engaging presentation.

The room was filled with laughter at moments when Ludovice would hit his stride.

The audience consisted of middle school, high school and college students, as well as adults and several College of Engineering alumni.

Ludovice spoke on several different topics. He said he wanted to embrace the nerdiness, look at the core challenges, talk about the bad marketing, examine the diversity in engineering and look at the humor and technical innovation.

“We are simple people,” he said. “If something is broken, we fix it and if it is not broken, we still fix it.” He asked audience members if they were geeks and supplied test questions to determine if one was considered a geek. “If you ever referred to any act of physical intimacy as doing the old Fourier Transform, then you might be a geek.”

Ludovice transitioned between topics with the use of comedy. His jokes maintained the flow of the presentation. At one point he warned his audience that “it’s not a dirty joke if a guy with a PH.D said it, it’s educational!” Ludovice reiterated to the audience throughout the program that his jokes were in fact educational.

On the topic of why students are not flocking to engineering, Ludovice said, “because they never portray engineers good in the movies. If you think of James Bond, he doesn’t order his martini with the chemical formula for his drink.” Ludovice went on to say that people don’t see the characters of Family Guy discussing engineering concepts. The laughs continued to fill the room.

Ludovice then shared a simple engineering example: the differences between Oreo cookies purchased at the store and those from vending machines. Based on this question, his daughter did an experiment to discover what the differences were. Ludovice was tasked with eating the cookies while his daughter documented her findings. He shares this story because there is a simplicity in the experiment but the questioning attitude of an engineer comes out.

Ludovice emphasized the issues with how engineering is marketed to people. The slogan is “Engineering- stay with it.”
2. Helps in understanding Saturday Night Live sketches

1. Advanced Materials

Ludovice also emphasized some examples of how engineering works in the everyday world, including shrink wrapped turkeys and Tupperware.

“You need to embrace the nerdiness,” Ludovice said. “Normal people love their geeks.”

He joked that it sounds more like a diet plan than a career option.

To remedy this, he developed five improved marketing campaigns for engineering:

5. Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. “When you graduate, you will get a job.”

4. One word – computers

3. Pocket Protectors

His voice altered from James Bond to Stewie Griffin to Santa Claus. He advised prospective engineering students to talk to college students because if they talk to professors, they won’t be able to relate: “Students don’t listen to professors.”

Ludovice said there is plenty of innovation to be found in engineering. He also touched on the diversity of engineering, noting, “It is more diverse than your parents’ engineering field.”

Women have grown in the number of positions they account for. He said engineering is cool and it is all around us, every day. Despite his talents as a comedian, he would never go full-time because “engineering is such a great gig.”

Matt Wilcher, a junior from Lincoln Southeast High School, said he really enjoyed the speech and that it was really funny.

“It makes you think that you don’t have to be super boring,” Wilcher said.

Michael Onoshko, a junior from Lincoln Southeast High School, said it was simple and fun. It made him more interested in engineering plus it was nice to see someone who can be both successful and funny.

Both high school students enjoyed the lecture and found it not only informative but entertaining. Wilcher said he wants to study architecture when he is finished with high school but that engineering is also an option. He said there is a positive outlook in the future for engineering.
What really is on the fourth and fifth floors of Nebraska Hall? Students who wander through the maze of Nebraska Hall have posed this question many times over the years. Many know a museum exists there but few know exactly what it is and what is done there.

The University of Nebraska State Museum has been in operation since the university was founded in 1869 and was the first department established. The official name of the museum is the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM). This is the same name as the museum inside Morrill Hall. The reason for this is that they are in fact the same museum, the difference being that UNSM in Nebraska Hall is the research branch, while Morrill Hall is the public museum branch. Many of the discoveries and research seen by the public in Morrill Hall were first conducted on the fourth and fifth floors of Nebraska Hall.

UNSM’s original location was not in Nebraska Hall; its first location was next to Morrill Hall. As time progressed and UNSM’s collections grew, the museum started to search for a larger storage area. In 1960, the museum administration began to relocate its collections, an estimated 2.5 million items at the time, from various campus buildings to the western half of the fourth and fifth floors of Nebraska Hall. This made UNSM the first UNL department to move into Nebraska Hall following its purchase by the university in 1958. A generous National Science Foundation (NSF) grant funded much of the cost to renovate the 65,000-square-foot storage and research area in Nebraska Hall.

Having changed little in the last three decades, the fourth floor is mostly used for the preservation of fossilized animals, many of which are extinct today. The fifth floor was divided into a multi-use area for divisions including anthropology, botany, entomology, invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology, parasitology and zoology.

Categorized among the top and largest research museums in the country, UNSM’s collections include preservations as much as 40-50 million years old. Scientists from around the world have been assisted by UNSM’s research and collections. According to Gregory Brown, chief preparator of the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, the museum is a place to collect and preserve the...
fossils that belong to the people of Nebraska. It preserves and holds the heritage and history of the midwest and Nebraska. As a result of UNSM’s role at UNL, it is placed directly under the command of the University Vice Chancellor, on the same level as another school or department.

Aware of the importance of UNSM, the research and activities of the museum are solely funded by UNL. In contrast, the approximately 20 researchers and workers at the museum are funded by external sources such as Friends of the UNL State Museum. There are also specific research topics and fields funded by corporate agencies depending on demand or research.

New additions to the museum can occur at any time. The museum rarely accepts any data or fossils from amateur historians or collectors because they often have little or no information to verify the authenticity of an item. Many of the items in the collections are documented on original log books from researcher field trips many decades ago. Most of these are now stored on microfilm.

One of the most interesting items in UNSM’s collection is the fossil of a saber-toothed cat. From the early discovery of the fossil, it is known this cat had chewing teeth unlike normal cats of today. The teeth of this cat also acted as a pair of scissors to slice food. In addition, the mouth of this animal can open up to 180 degrees based on the opening of the jaw. The complete structure of this cat was placed in a special preservation container and the cat was later determined to be a short-legged cat despite having a fierce jaw and teeth.

Opening its doors just once a year to the public and to visitors of Friends of the UNL State Museum, UNSM research is a worthwhile endeavor for the university.
Anchoring the northern end of city campus at the corner of 16th and W streets, Nebraska Hall has long been a fixture of the UNL campus. This year marks the 80th birthday of Nebraska Hall and what better way to celebrate than to take a look into Nebraska Hall’s 80 years of history. During the semesters I’ve been here, I’ve heard a handful of rumors about what the building has been used for. To discover the history of Nebraska Hall, I consulted the Blueprint archives, and no, there were never any horse stables or a nuclear reactor.

The Nebraska Hall we are all familiar with was not the first Nebraska Hall. That designation belongs to a building that stood at the corner of 12th and T Streets. Dedicated in 1888 and demolished in 1961, the first Nebraska Hall was the third building ever constructed at the university and was the last building of the original campus to be demolished.

The land on which the current Nebraska Hall stands was first platted in 1893. From 1893 through the early 1920s, the land was mortgaged and deeded among the original owners and their wives. From this time until 1931, the land was sold to several companies. Finally, in 1932, a basic warehouse consisting of three floors and a basement was constructed. When completed, each floor of the building was interrupted only by the support columns that still complicate Nebraska Hall’s use today. The building served Lincoln, Omaha and Beatrice by interconnecting the Burlington and Rock Island railroads with tracks running east-west on the north side of the building.

The Elastic Stop Nut Corporation of America purchased the building in 1942. The building was used to create metal and plastic fasteners for aircraft manufacture during World War II. During this time, the only renovation to the building was the construction of restrooms and locker rooms on each floor.

Near the conclusion of World War II, in August 1945, Elastic Stop Nut Corporation closed the plant and sold the building to the Elgin National Watch Company. Elgin began manufacturing watch components in the building in January 1946. During the Korean War, in the early 1950s, Elgin Watch manufactured fuses for munitions.

At its peak, Elgin Watch employed approximately 2,300 workers. To accommodate the increasing workforce and meet wartime production needs, Elgin Watch commissioned an additional two floors of the building in the early 1950s. This is why the exterior bricks of the first three floors of Nebraska Hall are discolored from the top two floors.

Following the conclusion of the Korean War, Elgin Watch saw a dramatic decrease in business. With the introduction of Swiss watches to the U.S. market, Elgin Watch was forced to close the plant in January 1958.

Seven months later, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents signed the deed to purchase the building from Elgin.

Above: The northwest corner of Nebraska Hall
Photo By: Michael McEniry

1 A plat is a plan, map, or chart of a piece of land with actual or proposed features (as lots); also the land represented.
Above: The original west entrance of Nebraska Hall

Photo By: Michael McEniry

Watch for $725,000. The purchase was not without controversy, however. Members of the Lincoln community were displeased that another manufacturing industry had not even been offered a chance to bid on the building. Adding to the controversy was that the building had been appraised by the Lancaster County Assessor in 1953 for $1,739,325 and was sold for just 42% of its appraised value five years later.

With the addition of the 440,000 square foot building, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln elected to name it Nebraska Hall. The first major renovation was started in 1962 and focused on the east half of the third floor for the School of Journalism, the fourth floor for Photographic Productions and the Bureau of Audio Visual Instruction, and the fifth floor for the Extension Division.

The basement became home to the Printing and Duplicating Department.

The University of Nebraska State Museum received a grant in 1968 to renovate their space on the western half of the fourth and fifth floors, where they still remain.

Also in 1968, the western half of the first, second and third floors were renovated. This included the Engineering Library on the second and third floors, classrooms and offices on the first floor, and the addition of the stairwell and elevator on the southwest corner of the building along 16th Street.

Between 1969 and 1970, the College of Engineering and Technology moved into the west half of the first floor, vacating Stout and Richards Hall.

Since 1970, and the construction of the Walter Scott Engineering Center Link in 1986, departments have migrated among the buildings, seeking ways to renovate and more efficiently use the available space. Recent changes include the move of the Mechanical & Materials Engineering (formerly Mechanical Engineering) Department from the second floor of the Link to the third floor of Nebraska Hall. Civil Engineering vacated their first floor Nebraska Hall offices for the second floor of the Link. These first floor Nebraska Hall offices are now home to the Mechanical Engineering Computational Facility and Graduate Student offices. The Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction also has renovated space in the east end of the building.

The Engineering Library renovated their second floor space over the past two years, adding study areas, consolidating its collections to the third floor and adding new video equipment for group study.

For 80 years, Nebraska Hall has provided a roof for many different people and organizations. Here’s to another 80 years.

Author’s note: A special acknowledgement is made to Mark Reznicek of the 1985 Blueprint staff, who conducted research into the early history of Nebraska Hall for an article in the October 1985 Blueprint Magazine.

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E-Week Open House Senior Design Winning Projects

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<th>Agricultural &amp; Biological Systems Engineering</th>
<th>Construction Management</th>
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<td>1. Air Leak Detection of the Pleural Space</td>
<td>1. JH Construction</td>
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<td>2. Geothermal HVAC System</td>
<td>2. IGN Construction</td>
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<th>Chemical &amp; Biomolecular Engineering</th>
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<td>1. Hydrogen Peroxide Manufacture</td>
<td>1. Directional Audio System</td>
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<td>2. Removal of Trace Amounts of Hydrogen Sulfide from Industrial Processes Using Bioremediation</td>
<td>2. The R.I.P.</td>
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<th>Civil Engineering</th>
<th>Industrial Engineering</th>
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<td>1. S. 56th Street Expansion from Shadow Pines Drive to Old Cheney Road</td>
<td>1. LICOR Bio-Assembly Process Improvement</td>
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<td>2. VIP Enterprise</td>
<td>2. Pfizer Packaging Process Improvement</td>
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<th>Computer Engineering</th>
<th>Mechanical &amp; Materials Engineering</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Medicine Manager</td>
<td>1. Camera Attachment for Prosthetic Arm</td>
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Do you remember...

The Day Reunion Died

Nebraska Hall’s neighbor to the west for over 70 years, the Reunion was once a privately owned building designed to compete with the Nebraska Union. Reunion featured a food court that included an Amigos, Joyce’s Subs & Pizza, Hamburger Patty’s and “The Pub,” a licensed bar where students of age could drink beer.

The Reunion building was purchased by UNL in 1997 following its closing for financial reasons and was demolished in November 2009.

Top: Demolition of the Reunion building on the corner of 16th and W Streets.

Left: The neon Reunion sign is torn off the side of the building.

Bottom Left: The vacant Reunion site in April 2012.

Photos: Michael McEniry

Join the Blueprint!

Nebraska Blueprint is a great opportunity to get involved in the College of Engineering and enhance your writing and communication skills. For more information about the Blueprint and how to join the staff, contact unlbblueprint@gmail.com.