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Gamma Sigma Delta Reception

John Owens

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, jowens2@unl.edu

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GAMMA SIGMA DELTA RECEPTION
APRIL 9, 2001
EAST UNION
JOHN C. OWENS
NU VICE PRESIDENT AND HARLAN VICE CHANCELLOR, IANR

What a pleasure it is to be here today as we "recognize" outstanding scholarship.

Like everyone here, I want to congratulate "each" of you students being recognized today for your scholastic accomplishments. I want you to know we are happy you've chosen to study with us ~~in~~ the College of Human Resources and Family /Sciences, ^{THE} Department of Biological Systems Engineering, and ^{THE} College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

We "celebrate" your achievements, and we wish you well in all your future endeavors. We look forward to hearing of your successes as you make your way through life, and we are proud to be "part" of the preparation for your future careers.

I know you are busy learning, in all your classes and in all the experiences that come your way "every day," and if there is "one wish" I could confer on you it would be the wish that you will "always learn," every day of your life. That you will always be open to new experiences and be curious about the world around you, that you will appreciate the "gifts and talents" of all the people you meet, even if those gifts and talents are "very-different" from your own. And that you "always" will have

the courage and enthusiasm to explore new ideas and new interests, as well as the constant ability to wonder.

People who maintain a sense of and ability to wonder are people alive to all the possibilities that surround them, and it is people who grasp and explore possibilities who are always leading us onward.

Henry Ford once said that, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning is young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

Those of you being honored here this afternoon are strengthening your skills to do just that, and your presence here demonstrates your success in learning. I hope each of your tomorrows is touched by that success, as well.

I personally think learning is a constant adventure. And while we may not know exactly where we'll end up when we start down the path, there is a great deal of excitement and fun in the journey.

It was Thomas Edison who said, "If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astonish ourselves."

Each of you has it within you to be absolutely astonishing, in every good sense of that word. I know everyone present here this afternoon joins me in congratulating you on your accomplishments, and in wishing you a grand and glorious lifelong learning adventure.