

COLLEGE of EDUCATION

Happenings



Students at Rue Elementary School hold David Diaz and Brain Pinkney illustrations and books .

(photo courtesy of Tim Fitzgerald)

Lecture Series Launched

Del and Lou Ann Weber are remembered for their leadership and support of the university during Dr. Weber's tenure as Chancellor. But, their leadership and support for the students and the university continues in many ways. One specific example of their commitment is the Del and Lou Ann Weber Distinguished Lecture Series.

Dr. Weber recently commented, "It was our hope the lecture series would be more than bringing in a speaker for one presentation. We wanted to bring in outstanding people who would participate with students, faculty and the community in a variety of activities. We are pleased with the format for the lecture series this year."

In collaboration with the College of Education, as well as multiple community partners, Dr. M. Su-

san McWilliams is serving as the "point guard" for developing the lecture series which focuses on promoting family literacy. McWilliams said, "It is a thrill to have an opportunity to raise the public consciousness about the importance of reading to a child."

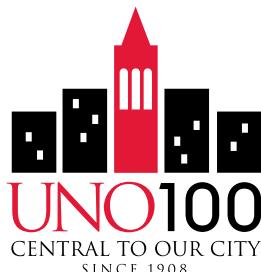
McWilliams explains the childhood reading focus of the centennial year is an outgrowth of concern voiced by community leaders relative to the comparative standing of the level of literacy in Omaha with the level of literacy in other metropolitan areas of our country. The lecture series is the key component in the effort to bring about change in this area.

The lecture series was launched on Thursday, October 16, 2008, at the Strauss Performing Arts

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEAN'S message	2
COLLEGE news	4-7
FACULTY news	8-10
ALUMNI news	11-13
STUDENT news	14-15



...continued on page 3

DEAN'S message



Since I last shared my thoughts with you, much has been happening in the college. This spring semester has been very busy. It has been a time of accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities. Several of these are highlighted in this issue.

In this centennial year, the college has sponsored several activities to help celebrate UNO's anniversary. Professor Josie Metal-Corbin's year-long retrospective look at the life and accomplishments of The Moving Company culminated in a month-long photographic exhibition in the Criss Library. The exhibit opened with a reception highlighted by dance performances by members of the company. The college and the university have supported the company for over 78 years. It is one of the oldest modern dance companies in the United States.

The annual Distinguished Alumni Luncheon was a special celebration this year. Along with four new recipients, nearly 50 previous recipients were able to attend the luncheon. It was a pleasure to welcome all of those past recipients back to campus.

While the downturn in the state and national economies has posed challenges, it also has brought opportunities for us to examine how we can continue and enhance our efforts to best prepare our students. HPER Building additions are well underway. If you have been on campus you can see the changes each day. A \$12.4 million plan to renovate Roskens Hall as the new home for the college units now housed in Kayser Hall has been completed and approved by the Board of Regents. Renovation will begin when the College of Business moves into its new building on the Pacific Street campus. We are optimistic that a renovated Roskens Hall will be ready in the fall of 2011. We are already excited.

It has been a privilege to serve as Interim Dean this year. I have gained greater insights into the vibrancy of the college, its faculty, staff, and students. I have a deepened understanding of the wonderful partnerships we have within the community and the impact that the college makes in the health and well being of the community. I also gained an appreciation for how much a Dean is involved in activities outside of the college. It was a pleasure to work with the other Deans and administrators at UNO. While I will miss many of the activities as Dean, I am very excited that Nancy Edick is assuming this role. Nancy is an exceptionally talented person who brings a skill set and leadership style that will serve the college well into the future. I will return to my role as Associate Dean and look forward to working with Nancy, the faculty, staff, and students as we forge ahead. As I said at the College of Education meeting in May and with apologies to W.C. Fields, at the end of the day, I am so glad that my "home" is in the College of Education.

Cordially,

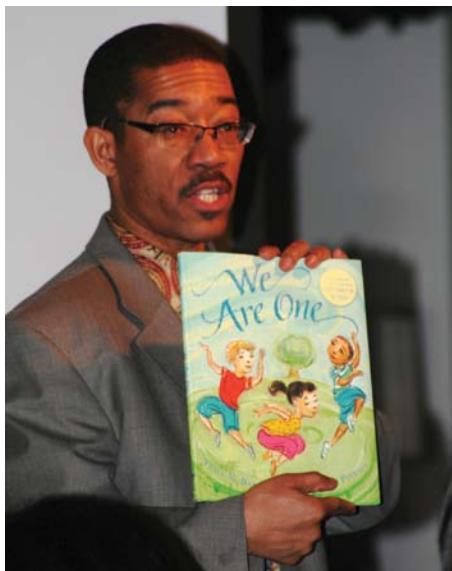
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Conway".

Dr. David F. Conway
Interim Dean

FEATURE story

Lecture Series

...continued from the front cover



Brian Pinkney

Center. The presentation, "Beads on One String: A Celebration of Culture and Tradition Through Music and Story," featured folk singing, storytelling and storyacting.

The performers included **Dennis Warner**, **Rita Paskowitz**, **Idu Maduli**, and **Sheila Rocha**. Performances were also held at area schools and several branches of the Omaha Public Libraries.

Three additional events were held during this centennial year. In November, **David Diaz**, an award-winning illustrator of children's books, presented a lecture about his journey as an illustrator of children's books. His illustrations were on exhibit at the Joslyn Art Museum. Omaha Public Schools dual language students heard Diaz speak about his work and they created their own illustrations in accordance with Diaz's style. Diaz also participated in activities at El Museo Latino.

Brian Pinkney, a widely known author and illustrator of children's books, spoke in March, at the Thompson Alumni Center. Pinkney has received the prestigious Caldecott Honor Award and the Coretta Scott King Award. Presentations by Pinkney were also made in schools in Omaha and Council Bluffs, at Love's Jazz and Arts Center, and the Council Bluffs Public Library.

The lecture series will come to a close in late September and early October of 2009. The Asian American author/illustrator team of **Chris and Yin Soentpiet** will present a lecture at the Thompson Center on Thursday, October 1, 2009. They will also visit public schools in Omaha and Council Bluffs and have a presentation and autographing session at the Omaha Public Library and

the Union Pacific Museum. Chris Soentpiet won the Jane Addams Award for his illustrations in the book *Molly Bannaky*. The Jane Addams Award is presented for literature that promotes peace.

The Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Humanities Council, and the Iowa West Foundation also helped support the lecture series. McWilliams calls the project, "...one of the most meaningful and most successful of which I've participated."

The project provided funds to purchase children's books so teachers could work with their students prior to their experiences that were part of the lecture series. The Scholastic Foundation donated books for the Pinkney project that became part of the classroom or the children's personal libraries.

As Dr. Weber hoped, the project has been more than a series of lecturers. It has involved the participation of many people in multiple activities, from many groups and organizations, all coming together to work for the improvement of literacy.

Information about the series is extensive and available on the Family Literacy Partnership webpages: <http://coe.unomaha.edu/oflp/upevents.php>.

COLLEGE news



Edick Named Dean

Dr. Nancy Edick has been named dean of the College of Education, effective July 1, 2009. Edick is the seventh person to fill the role of dean since the college was established in 1950. Two persons have also served as acting dean until a dean was named. She is the first woman to hold the position.

UNO senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, Terry Hynes, said, "Dr. Edick's ties to UNO and the Omaha community combined with her outstanding track record as a teacher make her the ideal person to lead the College of Education at this time."

Dr. Edick served as the Acting Associate Dean during the 2008-2009 school years. Her experience prior to serving in this position included being a tenured associate professor in teacher education at UNO, serving as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) from 2002-2006, serving as the coordinator of MOEC 2000-2002, and serving as the initial project director for the national award winning CADRE program from 1993-2000. She began her professional education career as an elementary teacher in the Omaha Public Schools.

Edick has made numerous presentations at professional meetings and has several publications. She has been active in numerous community activities, including serving on the Board of Directors for the National Safety Council for Greater Omaha, the Children's Hospital Friends Board, and the YWCA's Women of Distinction Selection Committee.

Dr. Edick earned her Ed.D. in educational administration and supervision from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Lincoln joint program in December of 2001. She also has earned two other degrees from UNO; a bachelor of science degree in elementary education in January of 1982, and a master of science degree in administration in January of 1993.

Dr. Edick provided the following comment in regard to accepting the responsibility of dean of the college: "The College of Education has a legacy of excellence because of the outstanding students, dedicated faculty and staff, and committed community partners. In this 100th anniversary of our university, it is inspiring to reflect on what we've accomplished and I look forward to providing leadership for advancing our college into the next century. It is an honor and a tremendous privilege to be selected to serve as dean."

Staff Retirement

Two staff members retired at the end of the 2008-2009 school year



Ms. Joyce Sorrels,
Staff Assistant for the
Metropolitan Omaha
Educational Consortium
(MOEC) Office and the
Dean's Office, began at
UNO in 2003. She worked
closely with CADRE and other MOEC proj-
ects. Prior to coming to UNO she worked for
many years as the Child Care Services Ad-
ministrator at Child Savings Institute.



Ms. Marilyn Curran,
Advisor, Student Ser-
vices, received her mas-
ters degree in counseling:
college student person-
nel, from UNO ('84) and
a bachelors degree from

UNL. Curran became an academic student advisor in the college in 1985 after completing her masters degree. She was a graduate assistant for Dr. Ray Ziebarth while working on her masters. Curran taught sixth grade for two years at the beginning of her educational career.

Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium Celebrates 20 Years

The Vision Statement of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Strategic Plan is: *The University of Nebraska at Omaha will be among the nation's premier metropolitan universities—a university of high distinction with strong academic and scholarly values distinguished by creative relationships with the communities we serve.* One of the most distinguished, successful and long lasting relationships with the communities we serve is the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) formally established on August 11, 1988.

Approximately 150 people attended a 20 Year MOEC anniversary celebration on March 26. Three of the original persons signing the agreement of collaboration were present: Dr. Ken Rippe (Ralston), Dr.

Don Stroh (Millard), Dr. James Tangdall (Westside) and Dr. Richard Flynn (UNO) provided a video taped message. Other former members of the Executive Steering Committee, former Executive Directors of the collaborative, and many task force members, CADRE participants, and TAP participants were also present.

A highlight of the event was the recognition of teachers who participated in the MOEC sponsored NBPTS project. Those teachers were: Kelly Welsh, Theresa Jensen, Tara Fabian, Kelly Arbuckle, Deb Hall, Amy Burk, Sara Henrichs, Bodwin Hutchinson, Janet Larson, Simon Rohde, Kathi Smith, Sarah Kroenke and Rustin Slaughter.



MOEC Executive Director, Richard Christie

Center for Economic Education Hosts Educators from South Africa

South Africans Vincent Feltman, Deon Prins and Lodi Van Deventer now know more about Omaha and the American economic system following a seven day experience that began with an orientation meeting in Washington, D. C. Dr. James Dick, Professor Teacher Education and the Co-Director of the Center for Economic Education (CCE) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha also participated in the orientation.

Their Omaha experience included a tour of the UNO campus, meetings and class observations in the College of Education and the College of Business Administration. They also toured South 24th Street, the traditional immigrant arrival area in Omaha, and visited Marrs Magnet School that focuses on economics, technology and business for middle school students.

Additional experiences included meeting with personnel from the Omaha Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, and visiting classrooms at Millard North High School and Omaha's Crestridge Magnet School. On the following days the guests kept busy with community cultural experiences such as the symphony, touring businesses, participating in informal sightseeing, and shopping. CCE personnel believe the tour was very successful and anticipate hosting additional study tours sponsored by the Council for Economic Education's International Economics program.

COLLEGE news

UNO PDK Chapter Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

What was it like to be an educator in 1959? Have things changed? Are many things the same?

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, a professional educator's association, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the chapter with two days of special events on April 24 and 25, 2009. A dinner event on April 24 featured keynote speaker, Dr. Joe E. Hanna (B.S. 1956, M.S., 1961). A charter member, Hanna spoke on the topic of the transition of education since the chapter was chartered on June 20, 1959. Hanna earned two degrees from the college, a Bachelor of Science (1956) and a Master of Science (1961).

Hanna identified some specific landmark changes. He noted Sputnik, school integration and the implementation of special education programs as probably being the three most significant influences in edu-

cational changes over this period of time. Fourteen past presidents attended a celebration dinner that was held on April 24.

The UNO Chapter has had a distinguished record of members providing leadership for the association and within the field of education over the past 50 years. For example, H. Vaughn Phelps served as the president of the American Association of School Administrators; John Lammel served as the president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals; Martha Bruckner served as president of the Association of School Curriculum Development; LaNeta Carlock served as president of the International Society for Business Education; and Rick Kolowski served as president of Phi Delta Kappa International. In addition to Kolowski, members Ron Burmood and Robert Meyers have both served terms on the Phi Delta Kappa International Board of Directors.

A seminar was held on Saturday morning featuring presentations by local educators on what works in the classrooms in the metropolitan area.

Faculty and staff from the Elkhorn Public Schools, the Millard Public Schools, the Omaha Public Schools, the College of Education, Gallup Corporation, and a member of the Learning Community Board of Directors volunteered for the presentations. Participants learned about the cultural lenses of teachers and students, what cultural responsive teaching is and what it is not, how technology is used throughout the curriculum, how career clusters are used in implementing career specialization programs, the International Baccalaureate Program at all levels, and innovative methods of teaching reading.

A presentation by Gallup Corporation focused on findings about student engagement and staff engagement. The results were research based and came from a 100,000 student study across 18 states.

Those attending praised the high quality of the program in terms of content, technology, and presentations. A special session focused on the Learning Community updated those in attendance relative to the current status of this new educational structure in the metropolitan area.

Past Presidents of the UNO PDK Chapter who attended the anniversary dinner: Lou Worm, Ron Burmood, David Hemphill, George Collins, Joe Hanna, Robert Mortenson, Carla Gries, Rick Kolowski, Fred Anderson, LeNeta Carlock, Marsha Ochsner, Cathy Daters, and Roger Givens



First Ever College of Education Bike Ride

Ten cyclists joined together on Saturday, May 9th, for the first ever College of Education Bike Ride. The ride was organized by Dr. Becky Pasco (Teacher Education) and Ms. Kay Grant (HPER and Dean's Office). Kay said, "We had a blast. It was a little chilly, but it was a great day!"

The bike riders assembled at the trail head of the Wabash Trace Nature Trail just south of Council Bluffs. They rode to the Mineola Steakhouse in Mineola, Iowa, for a roundtrip experience of approximately 20 miles.

They are already planning a second ride in the near future, perhaps on a bike trail that leads to Peru, Nebraska. Get your tires pumped up!!!



Participants in the COE Bike Ride



Professor Metal-Corbin (middle) with Moving Company dancers, Kara Gillmore (left) and Kyan Doubet (right) after receiving the Omaha Entertainment Award at the Holland Center.

The Moving Company Continues to Receive Awards and Gain Recognition

Persons entering the south door of Kayser Hall are now welcomed by the Centennial photo exhibit, *A Legacy of Dancers: 1935-2008*. This collection of archival photos documents the history of the Moving Company. When the renovation of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building is complete, the exhibit will be moved to its permanent location in the renovated facility.

The tradition of the Moving Company has continued with the receipt of the Omaha Entertainment Award for the Best Local Dance Production, "Spared from the Storm." The award presentation was held at the Holland Performing Arts Center on January 9.

Meanwhile the company is not resting on its history and recent laurels. Performances were broadcast on Sundays throughout May on educational television. You can keep abreast of what is continuing to happen by accessing the website: www.unomaha.edu/themovingcompany.

FACULTY news

Swain Appointed Chair of Special Education and Communication Disorders



Dr. Kristine Swain was recently appointed Chair of the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. She assumed her new responsibility in January. Swain has been a member of the College of Education faculty since 2001.

Dr. Swain's previous experience includes teaching elementary and middle school students with disabilities. Her research interests include academic interventions for students with disabilities, attitudes of special and general education pre-service teachers towards special education practices, and implementing and monitoring research-based interventions.

Kris earned a bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Nebraska Kearney; a master's degree in learning disabilities from UNO; and a doctorate from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. She currently serves on the board for the Nebraska Federation for the Council for Exceptional Children.

When asked about her appointment, Swain said, "I appreciate the opportunity to work with the faculty, staff, and students in the department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. There are so many individuals in our department making an impact on the community through their involvement in various university and community activities. I want to increase the visibility of our programs in order to highlight these exceptional accomplishments and to increase future partnerships within our community."

Mini-Grant to Help Young People Deal With Grief

Dr. David Carter, Counseling, received a UNO Civic Participation Project Grant that was aimed at providing a counseling experience for young people between the ages of 7 and 14 to cope with the feeling of loss brought about by divorce, a death of a family member or friend, or other issues of separation. The project gave counseling practicum students an opportunity to have approximately ten hours of direct time with clients.

Fifteen young people and five practicum students participated. The fifteen young participants were identified by community

agencies that provide practicum experiences for graduate counseling students.

The counseling experience focused on thinking, feeling, and action using the VAK approach (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic). Participants identified a goal and went through a set of structured activities designed to develop the use of both sides of the brain in dealing with problems or issues.

Counseling practicum students who participated were those who have a specific interest in working with young people. The

camp experience benefited both the young people ages seven through fourteen, and the students enrolled in the graduate counseling program.

Faculty Notes

Dr. Jennifer Huberty, HPER, was mentioned in Prevention Magazine, U. S. News and World Report, and msn.com health and fitness page in relation to her research with physical activity adherence and women.

Dr. David Corbin, HPER, is the chair of the National Safety Council Greater Omaha Chapter's Falls Intervening, Reaching Seniors Together (F1RST) Committee which was awarded a Chair's Partnership Award by the United Way. The award recognized the organization's work in many health and safety areas, but especially for work in senior fall prevention.

Dr. Melodee Landis, TED, is partnering with the Institute for Science and Technology, the Omaha Public Schools, and the Nebraska Distance Learning Association to offer new content in TED 8600, Advanced Seminar in Educational Technology, in the fall of 2009. Participants will be engaged in sessions via videoconference across the State of Nebraska.

Ms. Rose Shires, Joint Appointment, HPER, received the Excellence in Teaching Award as a joint appointment faculty member at the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation's 11th annual appreciation and awards luncheon on March 24, 2009. **Ms. Beth Gruber, HPER**, was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award for part-time faculty in HPER at the luncheon.

Cushenberry was Known for His Work in Reading

One of Dr. Donald Cushenberry's most memorable experiences was receiving the Great Teacher Award from UNO in 1971. Cushenberry, who joined the faculty in 1964, was a highly respected faculty member and developed the graduate reading courses and initiated the first reading clinic in the college.

Dr. Cushenberry passed away on January 12, 2009. Cushenberry's work went beyond the college walls. He was the author of several textbooks and also assisted local school districts. In October of 2008 he recalled, "I designed the first state-wide graduate program for reading specialists. It was my privilege to work as a reading consultant for Omaha Public Schools and helped design their reading clinic. I developed the Volunteer Aides in Reading program for OPS and gave graduate students from UNO an opportunity to participate in the operation of this new program."

Messerole Selected for the Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award 2009

Dr. Michael J. Messerole, an associate professor in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, received the 2009 Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award for the College of Education. Dr. Messerole serves as the Assistant Director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and teaches methods of teaching courses and adapted physical education at the undergraduate level and analysis of teaching at the graduate level. He serves as a mentor for HPER incoming faculty, for part-time and joint appointment faculty, and supervises student teachers. He has been a faculty member since the fall of 2001.



Dr. Messerole is an active member of the local elementary and secondary education communities serving as a Consultant in the development of Physical Education Curriculums for several school districts. He is currently working with the 2010 National Special Olympics Committee as they plan for the 2010 Education Conference to be held in Omaha.

Messerole has presented ideas on teaching physical education at state, regional and international conferences. His bachelor of science degree is from the University of Northern Iowa and his master of science degree is from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. His Ph.D. in Physical Education Pedagogy is from the University of Northern Colorado.

The awards are presented annually to faculty members chosen by their peers in each college. The honorees receive \$1,000 and a commemorative tablet at ceremonies held during Honors Week.

FACULTY news



Anastasia Kyvekidon works in research with sitting infants.

Education and College of Arts and Sciences, and UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, College of Arts and Sciences, and College of Education and Human Services. The purpose of the proposal is to establish the University of Nebraska as a national model for the preparation of secondary math and science teachers. The award is for \$299,976, with a subaward to UNO being \$129,976.

The goals of the proposal are to increase the number of graduates in science and math disciplines, to double the number of secondary math and science teachers educated on the two campuses, and to strengthen the content knowledge and pedagogical skills of future secondary science and mathematics teachers. The project will also include local school districts and Nebraska Educational Service Units in professional development activities designed to strengthen the content knowledge and pedagogical skills of current math and science teachers in Nebraska.

Stergiou is involved in 3 NRI grants. He is the Principal Investigator in one award, and the Co-Principal Investigator in two others. Stergiou is the principal investigator for a two year \$453,863 award entitled, **Bioengineering a Medical Device for the Evaluation of Sitting Posture in Infants with Motor Disabilities**.

Faculty Score Four Nebraska Research Initiative Awards

Dr. Nick Stergiou (HPER) and Dr. Carol Mitchell (TED) have partnered with faculty from other University of Nebraska campuses to receive Nebraska Research Initiative (NRI) awards. Mitchell is the Co-Principal Investigator, along with Dr. Janice Rech, Associate Professor in Mathematics in Arts and Sciences for the NU-Teach award.

Mitchell is the Co-Principal Investigator, along with Dr. Janice Rech, Associate Professor in Mathematics in Arts and Sciences for the NU-Teach award. **NU Teach** is a partnership involving mathematicians, scientists and educators from UNO's College of

tion of Sitting Posture in Infants with Motor Disabilities. The purpose of this award is defined in the following paragraph:

Our NRI proposal will result in the development of a biomedical device and clinical assessment software that will revolutionize the way clinicians evaluate the effectiveness of treatment on a short term basis in the early part of an infant's life. These projects are feasible because they are extensions of the current research being conducted in the collaboration between the HPER Biomechanics Laboratory and the MMI Motion Analysis Laboratory. Therefore, this NRI proposal will enhance the current research and scholarly activities already being conducted.

In addition to Stergiou, this proposal involves faculty members from the Munroe Meyer Institute at UNMC, the UNL College of Engineering and Technology, and the UNO College of Arts and Sciences. Graduate assistants and post doctoral students will work on the building of the necessary hardware and in collecting data.

Dr. Stergiou will work with Dr. Dmitry Oleynikov at UNMC and Dr. Song Ci from the UNL College of Engineering and Technology on a two year \$681,057 award entitled, **The Use of Virtual Simulations and Robotic Manipulators for the Improvement of Robotic Surgical Educational Training.** The purpose of this proposal is "to develop new independent virtual training simulators and to build isolated robotic manipulators for minimally invasive surgery." The innovative training simulators "will ultimately be commercialized to allow more scientists in clinical and academic institutes to improve in their medical training."

Stergiou will work with Jong-Hoon Youn from the UNO College of Information Science and Technology (IS&T) along with others from IS&T, UNMC, and the UNL College of Engineering on a two year \$538,000 award entitled, **A Novel Wireless Mobility Monitoring System.** The proposal identifies predicted increases in the population age 65 years and states, "Mobility is the key to independent living." The proposal states: In this project, we seek to develop a software architecture and hardware platform for novel wireless monitoring devices and an overall system that will provide instrumented mobility analysis outside of traditional expensive motion labs.

ALUMNI news

21st Annual Hollie Bethel Distinguished Alumni Luncheon

One measure of the success of a college is the performance of its alumni. The College of Education has been crafting a record of alumni performance by hosting an annual alumni luncheon that recognizes graduates who have earned recognition for their achievements.

The event is named after Dr. Hollie Bethel. Dr. Bethel was a long-time faculty member and chair of the Elementary Education department in the college. She gave a significant contribution to the college upon her death.

At the end of the day on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, there were 133 alumni who over this twenty-one year period have been identified for this special recognition. For the University's centennial year, recognition was given in four distinct categories.

The honorees and awards were as follows:

Dr. Timothy Rasinski

received the Distinguished Service Award. Rasinski has written over 200 articles and has authored, co-authored or edited over 50 books or curriculum programs on reading education. He is the author of the best selling book on reading fluency entitled, *The Fluent Reader*, and is the co-author of an award winning fluency program called *Fluency First*.

Dr. Rasinski served on the Board of Directors of the International Reading Association, and from 1992 to 1999 he was co-editor of *The Reading Teacher*, the world's most widely read journal of literacy education.

Rasinski was recognized by the college in 1997 as a Distinguished Alumnus. He has also received the Elva Knight Research Award and Grant from the International Reading Association.

Dr. Rasinski earned both his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education (1977), and his Master of Science degree in Reading (1979) from the College of Education. He is currently a professor of literacy education at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

Ms. Karen Clark

received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Clark began her 48 year career in education as a middle level teacher at Lewis and Clark Junior High School in Omaha. Her career as a counselor began 44 years ago at Omaha South High School and has impacted the lives of literally thousands of students.

Clark has for several years, served as the academic and college counselor at Omaha South. A counseling colleague describes Ms. Clark as "the" advanced education counselor.

21st Annual
Hollie Bethel
Distinguished Alumni Luncheon

...continued on page 12

ALUMNI news

Distinguished Alumni

...continued from page 11

Although not known at the time of her selection, it was learned that Miss Clark was a personal friend of Hollie Bethel. In fact, Dr. Bethel and Ms. Clark had traveled together through England and France driving a rental car and staying in cities and villages in both countries.

Ms. Clark earned her Bachelor of Science in Education degree (1961) and her Master of Science in Counseling degree (1969) from the College of Education. She continues in the role of counselor at Omaha South, is not planning to retire, and expresses that she continues because of the enjoyment she receives from serving students.

Dr. Max Kurz

received the Promising Professional Award. Dr. Kurz has been involved in several research projects that are unique, and meaningful. His research on penguin waddling and space suits was featured on the Discovery Channel.

Kurz's research at the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center

focuses on the use of biomechanics for the assessment of walking patterns of children with movement disabilities (such as cerebral palsy).

Kurz states, "My profession is quite rewarding because I get to use my training to change the lives of children with movement disabilities."

Dr. Kurz earned his Master of Science degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation (1997) from the College of Education. Although his doctorate degree was earned from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Nick Stergiou of the College of Education faculty served as Kurz's committee chair. Kurz also worked as a graduate research assistant in the biomechanics laboratory in the college.

Kurz is an assistant professor at the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Dr. Dick C. E. Davis

received the Friend of Education Award,

given to a person from the community who demonstrates exceptional support for students, education, or the college. Dr. Davis earned his Master of Education degree in Educational Administration (1972) from the college.

Davis was an educator for several years. He began as an art teacher, became a high school assistant principal, a central office administrator, and prior to leaving for a career in business he was principal at McMillan Junior High School in Omaha.

Dr. Davis left education to enter his family's insurance business. Under Davis' leadership the business has grown to include services beyond insurance. He is the chief executive officer of the Davis Companies.

Davis was recognized for his personal contribution of time and service on many educational boards, committees, and commissions. This service includes a lengthy tenure on the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education. In addition, the Davis Family Foundation has contributed significantly to scholarships for minority students.

The contribution goes beyond the value of the scholarship by providing the recipients with mentoring support through their college years. Davis gave some poignant advice when he stated that students should: "Go with their passion, do what they really want to do. And, then do it very well!"



Interim Dean David Conway, Dr. Max Kurz, Dr. Timothy Rasinski, Dr. Dick C. E. Davis, and Ms. Karen Clark

Alumni Notes

The celebration of the awards given to these four graduates was made even more special by the presence of forty-eight past Distinguished Alumni. Those present included:

Kathleen Adams; 1998; TED
 Cherie Barg; 1994; HPER
 Rick Black; 2001; Ed Ad
 John Bonaiuto; 1993; Ed Ad
 MaryAnn Bragg; 1998; EdAd
 Joseph Caniglia; 1990; SPED
 David Carter; 2000; Coun
 Mark Caughey; 1992; HPER
 Joyce Christensen; 1992; EdAd
 Dick Christie; 2006; EdAd
 Connie Claussen; 1990; HPER
 Bob Danenhauer; 2004; HPER
 Bobbie Davis; 1991; Couns
 Joan Denton; 1998; TED
 Bruce Dickinson; 2007; Couns
 Larry Dlugosh; 1988; Ed Ad
 Jeri Engen; 1993; HPER
 Ted Esser; 2005; SPED
 Janet Fidler; 1999; Couns
 James Freeman; 1993; Ed Ad
 Deborah Frison; 2007; Ed Ad
 Janice Gilmore; 2001; TED
 Pat Hageman; 2002; HPER
 Gary Hammack; 2001; Ed Ad
 Linda Hayek; 1995; TED

If you know of a graduate who you believe has earned the right to be identified as a distinguished alumnus, please let us know. Contact: Office of the Dean, UNO Kayser Hall 334, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0161

LeAnn Heflin; 2003; SPED
 Sandra Hodges; 2004; Ed Ad
 Robert Ingram; 2001; SPED
 Karen Johns; 2000; TED
 Roger Kassebaum; 2000; TED
 Cookie Katskee; 1997; Ed Ad
 Rick Kolowski; 2002; Ed Ad
 Carolyn Law; 1994; Ed Ad
 Vincent Lenz; 2006; Couns
 Helene Lohman; 2007; HPER
 Ann Luther; 2004; Couns
 Nancy Matsukis; 1988; TED
 Kathy Menke; 1996; HPER
 John Moore; 2003; Couns
 John Morrissey; 1992; TED
 Bernice Nared; 1992; Couns
 Michael Nuschy; 2008; SPED
 Jolene Pace; 1999; SPED
 Linda Placzek; 2005; TED
 Kay Ryan; 2003; HPER
 Barbara Schweiger; 1991; TED
 Steve Shanahan; 1998; Ed Ad
 Betty Start; 1994; SPED
 Bob Whitehouse; 1999; Ed Ad

Alum Illustrates DVD

Georgia Welch Cronin (BS '96, MS '04) is the illustrator of a physical therapy education and exercise DVD aimed at helping the over twenty-million women who suffer from incontinence, prolapse or pelvic floor pain due to a weakened pelvic floor, often the result of pregnancy or aging. The product can be viewed on www.hab-it.com

Ms. Cathy McMahon

a December 2008 Teacher Education graduate with a bachelor's degree in library science, was featured in an article in the Fremont Tribune upon her employment as the new children's librarian at the Keene Memorial Library in Fremont.

Cernech Receives Award

Betty Cernech (MS '71, Health Education), the Vice President of Community Health Services and Development at the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), was awarded the Exceptional Merit Award at the 2009 Nebraska Public Health Conference held in April in Lincoln. The award recognizes an individual, organization, or business that has made a significant impact on public health, especially among underserved populations.

Graduates are Buffett Award Winners

Congratulations to the alumni who were recently announced as 2009 Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award Winners. This \$10,000 award is given annually by the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation to teachers in the Omaha Public Schools who are nominated for the honor by students, parents, and peers. The alumni who received the award were: **Colleen Aagesen, Cari Briscoe, Cheryl Hurley, Kelly Karkosky, Charles Thomas, and Jennifer Thompson.**

STUDENT news



“Together We Dance”

Are you ready to join a conga line? The UNO National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) hosted a fund raising event for the Autism Society of Nebraska that used dancing, games, face painting, raffle prizes and massages to create a memorable and fun event for families and people of all ages.

NSSLHA members greeted those who attended and eagerly played with the children, directed the parents toward the massage chairs, joined the teenagers on the dance floor, and painted faces of anyone interested. Almost every face at the dance was decorated. Children as young as two, teenagers, and parents enjoyed their time together.

Julianne Fazio, a member and officer of the UNO NSSLHA chapter quoted parents as saying: “We have never seen our children like this. It is so fun to watch.”

The event was called, “Together We Dance.” Fazio states: “‘Together We Dance’ was a success in that it drew attention to autism spectrum disorders, raised money for the Autism Society of Nebraska, but most importantly, it offered a night of fun-filled memories for families and friends to share.”

Book Bash for Crescent School Library

The UNO student members of ASCD annually participate in a book bash. The idea of the book bash is for ASCD student members, other students in education classes, and faculty members and staff to bring books for children that will then be given to a local school. After Crescent Elementary School in the Council Bluffs Community Schools burned it was determined to give the collected books to the Crescent Elementary School to help rebuild the library collection. Last year over 200 books were collected, and this year the students were even more successful as 435 books were collected and presented to the Crescent School Library. This project was featured in a February 7 issue of the Omaha World-Herald.

Future Leaders in Math Education

Twenty-nine students preparing to become either elementary or middle school teachers were recently given FLME (Future Leaders in Mathematics Education) awards. The awards are granted to pre-service teachers who demonstrated great potential in becoming leaders in mathematics education at the elementary level. Those students receiving the honor include: Kathryn Armstrong, Janessa Batchelor, Rachel Bauermeister, Malia Blay, Kathleen Bock, Brittany Cadlo, Matthew Colburn, Allison M. Davis, Megan Donnelly, Carol Gotch, Lindsey Hageman, Maggie Hansen, Alicia Hoesing, Nicole Johnson, Tristan Koehler, Brittany Kvasnicka, Nicole Lange, Matthew Lund, Sasha McKenzie, Ann Marie Nelson, Kathryn Nootz, Shannon Otterson, Sarah Redfield, Stacy Reimer, Amanda Wetgen, Allison A. Winkler, Sarah M. Witt, Meghan Wright, and Amanda Zakrzewski-Aten.

School of HPER Holds Student Awards Banquet



Dr. Blanke presenting an award to Mira Momcilovic

The Thompson Alumni Center was full of activity on April 24th for the 2009 School of HPER Student Awards Banquet. The evening activities included a silent auction with funds going to support HPER student organizations and offset expenses of future banquets. Dr. Daniel Blanke, Director of the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation presented the awards.

Students honored included the following:

Campus Recreation Employee of the Year: Lindsey Johnson

Outstanding Students of the Year in Health Education: Undergraduates, Mariama Issoufou & Bobbie Johnson; Graduate, Ashley Overberg

Outstanding Undergraduate Service Award: Alex Curran, Laura Folchert, Erin Fosnaugh, Karla Popp & Brian Porn

Outstanding Graduate

Service Award: Morgan Chaffin, Jessica Dozark, Elizabeth Gerguson, Lindsey Johnson, Stephanie Martin, Tamra Trehearn

NAHPERD Award: Katie Hubbell & Emily Voog

NASPE Award: Katie Hubbell & Sara Wolfe

Undergraduate Major Awards & Dean's Award Winners

Honors Week, a celebration of academic excellence, campus leadership, and volunteerism, was held March 23 through the 27. Chancellor John Christensen was quoted as saying on Honors Day: "This is a day of pride and joy at UNO, especially during this Centennial year. The accomplishments of the men and women set a standard of excellence for our university and our community"

Students in the College of Education who were recognized as the Outstanding Undergraduate Majors included:

Melissa Chohon, Columbus, Nebraska. Athletic Training

Emily A. Geopforth, Omaha, Nebraska. Elementary Education

Julie A. Grotelueschen, Columbus, Nebraska. Special Education

Brooke M. Hagenau, Omaha, Nebraska. Elementary Education

Trenna L. Hart, Omaha, Nebraska. Recreation Therapy

Katie L. Hubbell, Lincoln, Nebraska. Physical Education

Mariama Issoufou, Niamey, Niger. Community Health Education

Bobbie J. Johnson, Omaha, Nebraska. School Health Education

Makayla N. Patrick, Ralston, Nebraska. Elementary Education

Danielle L. Ray, Omaha, Nebraska. Exercise Science

Tricia L. Soares, Omaha, Nebraska. Speech-Language Pathology

Christopher A. Villarreal, Omaha. Secondary Education

Lynnette R. Wieger, Omaha, Nebraska. Library Media

Selected as the Dean's Award winner was **Julie A. Grotelueschen**. Julie is spending this semester in Kenya and was featured in the last issue of Happenings. Watch for a story about her experiences working with special education students in Kenya in the next issue of Happenings.



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings is published twice yearly by the UNO College of Education, Kayser Hall 334, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0161.

Co-Editors
David Conway
Nancy Edick

Writers
Ronald G. Burmood
and other contributors

Let us hear from you
(402) 554-2719

COLLEGE of EDUCATION
Happenings

COLLEGE news

College of Education Dean Named page 4

FACULTY news

Mini-Grant Received To Help Young People page 8

ALUMNI news

Twenty-first Annual Distinguished Alumni Luncheon page 11

STUDENT news

Dean's Award Winners page 15

PERMIT NO 301
OMAHA, NE
PAID
U.S POSTAGE
NON-PROFIT ORG

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Omaha, NE 68182-0161
6001 Dodge Street
Kayser Hall 334

Nebraska
University of
Omaha