



**FACULTY HONORS**

# CONVOCATION

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha



# PROGRAM

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## INTRODUCTION

Christina Dando, Ph.D.  
*Vice President, Faculty Senate*

## WELCOME

Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA  
*Chancellor*

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## PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA  
*Chancellor*

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## ALUMNI OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARDS

Recognized by Anthony Flott  
*Executive Director, Alumni Engagement*

Presented by Phil He, Ph.D.  
*Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,*  
and the UNO college deans

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## CAMPUS HONOREES

### **UNO Campus Honorees Introduction**

Phil He, Ph.D.  
*Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

### **Distinguished Research or Creative Activity Award**

Presented by Sara Myers, Ph.D.  
*Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activity*

### **Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award**

Presented by Juan Casas, Ph.D.  
*Dean, Graduate Studies*

### **Outstanding Faculty Service Learning Award**

Presented by Julie Dierberger, Ph.D.  
*Paul Sather Director, Service Learning Academy*

### **Excellence in Teaching Award**

Presented by Candice Batton, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs*

### **Excellence in Part-Time Teaching Award**

Presented by Candice Batton, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs*

### **Faculty Excellence in Engagement Award**

Presented by Jody Neathery-Castro, Ph.D.  
*Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement*

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## CAMPUS AND COLLEGE NAMED PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS

### **Named Chairs and Professorships**

Candice Batton, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs*

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## CLOSING REMARKS

Phil He, Ph.D.  
*Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*



## OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD (OTICA)



**BETTY LOVE, Ph.D.**

Mathematical  
and Statistical Sciences

UNO professor and Governing Committee chair Betty Love, Ph.D., is the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA). The award recognizes individual faculty members who have demonstrated meritorious and sustained records of excellence and creativity in teaching. Love has been dedicated to teaching innovation throughout her 30-plus year career at UNO. Anticipating the growing role of technology in learning, she obtained funding for the first high-tech classrooms at UNO. She was an early developer of an asynchronous, online course in mathematics, creating videos that have been viewed worldwide. Love became

a leader in the creation and implementation of classroom pedagogy, pioneering the use of flipped classrooms and inquiry-based learning. Recently she has focused on curriculum development, securing National Science Foundation funding to create new types of classes in which students learn critical mathematical reasoning skills as they create digital art or partner with local nonprofits to analyze and visualize their data. Her dedication to innovation has allowed UNO to keep up with an educational world that is constantly evolving, as well as be a leader in it. In 2022, Love was awarded the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Excellence in Teaching Award.

## INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE COLLABORATION AWARD (IECA)



### HEALTH CAREERS RESOURCE CENTER

Created in 2015, the Health Careers Resource Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha serves as an academic and career advising center for all students interested in a career in healthcare. Led by Dr. Paul Davis, a UNO biology professor, the center is staffed by a team of advisors who serve UNO's 2,500-plus pre-health students. The center is also home to the Urban Health Opportunities Program, a scholarship pathways program to the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Through close collaboration between UNO and UNMC, the program provides personalized advising and mentoring to students throughout their undergraduate careers and transition to UNMC. The program has been highly successful in improving student outcomes: More than three-quarters of UHOP students over the past three years have successfully entered medical school, and of those, all have either graduated from UNMC or are on track to do so. The Health

Careers Resource Center also houses the Area Health Education Center, which works to expand the Omaha area healthcare workforce with a special emphasis on preparing health workers to effectively serve patients in North and South Omaha. UNMC is a close partner in the effort; for example, the College of Allied Health Professions and College of Nursing are co-sponsors on training and continuing education for local healthcare professionals. Data show that the Health Careers Resource Center is having a strong impact on student outcomes. Before the center was established, medical school acceptance rates for UNO students was about 20 percent. Today, that figure is 81 percent. Acceptance rates to nursing, pharmacy, dental and other professional programs have similarly increased. The center's staff also contribute to broad UNO recruitment and orientation programs including Be A Mav Days, Transfer Visit Days and New Student Orientation.





**ELIZABETH L. CHALECKI, Ph.D.**  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Political Science

Elizabeth L. Chalecki is an associate professor of International Relations at UNO, a research fellow in the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center, and a research chair with Fulbright Canada. Her expertise lies in the areas of climate change and security; international environmental policy; and the intersection of science/technology. Chalecki has authored

groundbreaking research on geoengineering and just war, and has published more than 25 books, articles, and book chapters on topics such as climate change and Arctic security; environmental terrorism; climate change and international law; public perceptions of environmental issues; and water in outer space. She also serves as an environmental security subject matter expert for NATO.



**MICHELE MARIE DESMARAIS, Ph.D.**  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Religious Studies

Michele Marie Desmarais, Ph.D. is a Métis, Dakota, and settler poet and scholar from Canada. Desmarais is an associate professor in religious studies and a faculty member in Native American studies, medical humanities, and international studies. She was the founding director of UNO's medical humanities program, and publishes on Indigenous and non-Eurocentric perspectives in the health humanities. Desmarais' poetry

has appeared in literary journals and more recently in her poetry chapbook, *Owlmouth*. She received a Ph.D. in Asian Studies from the University of British Columbia. Desmarais developed the internship course in religious studies, including a paid internship with the Tri-Faith Initiative. She is a passionate advocate for inclusivity, diversity, equity, and Indigenization in education.



**PATRICE JUNE PROULX, Ph.D.**  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Foreign Languages and Literature

Patrice J. Proulx is professor of French and the director of Women's and Gender Studies at UNO and holds affiliated faculty status with The Goldstein Center for Human Rights. Her primary teaching and research interests include contemporary French and francophone

literature and film; cultural studies; and the literature of immigration in France and Quebec. Proulx serves as a French and WGS student advisor, is a co-organizer of the French Club, and created and directs the Summer Study Abroad Program in Quebec City, Quebec.



**MARY J. HALLIN, Ph.D.**  
College of Business Administration  
Marketing and Entrepreneurship

Mary J. Hallin teaches business statistics and tutors in the CBA Statistics Lab. She brings an international and interdisciplinary background including health care, business, and medical anthropology to her teaching. Hallin has brought CAPS leaders to Scott Campus to conduct Gatekeeper suicide prevention workshops. Beyond the classroom and UNO, she organizes international sessions and gives international presentations

on teaching remotely and teaching across cultures. Hallin is a board member for the Teaching Anthropology Network and is chair of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences Commission on Documentation. Hallin helped establish the Catholic University of Cameroon Bamenda library by donating books from book drives she organized.



**SETH SHAFER, Ph.D.**  
College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media  
Music

Seth Shafer is a composer and researcher whose work focuses on real-time notation, interactive music, and algorithmic art. His compositions have been performed internationally in London, South Korea, Athens, Hamburg, Shanghai, Kraków, Spoleto, and Rio de Janeiro, and across the US in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Dallas. His sound

installations have been shown at Kaneko (Omaha), the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and the Long Beach Museum of Art. Seth is assistant professor of Music Technology at UNO and holds degrees from the University of North Texas and California State University, Long Beach.



**ROBERT FULKERSON, Ph.D.**

College of Information Science & Technology  
Computer Science

Bob Fulkerson has taught and coordinated undergraduate courses at UNO for nearly 30 years, including computer literacy, honors theses, web development, and introductory computer science. Over the past decade, he has played a key role in rethinking how

introductory computer science courses are taught at UNO. His work with other faculty has led to the CS1 course being taught using peer instruction for large sections, which has resulted in a 20% drop in the DFW rate for the course each semester.



**ASHLEY J. BLOUNT, Ph.D.**

College of Education, Health,  
and Human Sciences  
Counseling

Ashley J. Blount is an associate professor in the Department of Counseling in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at UNO. Blount specializes in clinical mental health counseling and her research is focused on women’s health, athletes and coaches, and counselor education and supervision. Blount

specializes in clinical mental health counseling and teaches a variety of master’s-level classes. She mentors many student researchers and supports students in conducting research and publishing original pieces within the counseling and related health fields.



**NURI HECKLER, J.D., Ph.D.**

College of Public Affairs  
and Community Service  
Public Administration

Nuri Heckler focuses his research on whiteness and masculinity in public organizations including nonprofits, social enterprises, and government. Using experimental, qualitative, historical, and theoretical research methods, he examines the mechanisms that reinforce inequities and inefficiencies in public organizations. As a Maryland barred attorney, his research also examines

the role law plays in the work of public administrators. His research can be found in *Administrative Theory and Praxis*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Administration and Society*, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Public Integrity*, and the *Oxford Handbook on Jane Addams*, among others.



**JONGWAN EUN, Ph.D., PE**

College of Engineering (UNL)  
Civil and  
Environmental Engineering

Jongwan Eun is an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He received his Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin. Eun has more than 15 years of professional and academic experience in geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering. Before joining UNL, he was

a research faculty at New York University Abu Dhabi. His research interests are waste containment systems, contaminant transport, and radioactive disposal facility. His research has been published in more than 50 national and international journal papers and proceedings. He is an associate editor for the *KSCE Journal of Civil Engineering* and a reviewer for several journals.

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD



**SONG-YOUNG PARK, Ph.D.**  
Health and Kinesiology

Song-Young Park, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the School of Health and Kinesiology. Since joining the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2017, Park has made a substantial impact on the students he has mentored in the classroom and his laboratory. He has taught a broad spectrum of classes including laboratory and research

methods, clinical exercise and prescription, and exercise physiology. Park is also the director of the Vascular Research Laboratory, and mentors undergraduate and graduate students. Through his mentorship and leadership, his laboratory and students have made significant contributions to modern biomedical research.

## EXCELLENCE IN PART-TIME TEACHING AWARD



**CORAL HANNAH, M.Sc.**  
Teacher Education

Coral Hannah began as a mentor teacher to Teacher Candidates from UNO and then was invited to be a guest lecturer and eventually an adjunct instructor for the ESL endorsement program for Teacher Education. In nine years with UNO, she has taught TED 3050 – Foundations of ESL and TED 4000 – Special Methods in a Content Area (ESL), and

the equivalent graduate-level courses (TED 8055/ TED 8120, and TED 8006, respectively). She has collaborated extensively with her colleagues to renovate and co-develop a new curriculum incorporating Culturally Responsive Teaching practices. She also co-presented their efforts at two professional conferences.

## DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH OR CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD



**MARK GILBERT, Ph.D.**  
Arts

Mark Gilbert is an associate professor in the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media and participating faculty with UNO's medical humanities program. Gilbert has edited the *American Medical Association's Journal of Ethics* special issue on the role of arts-based research and medicine. Last fall he delivered a series of events entitled "Memory Serves: Drawing Others Close" held at UNO, which included an exhibition

of his portraits exploring the experience of people living with dementia and their partners in care. The exhibit was accompanied by an international symposium that engaged students, faculty, and the Omaha community in critical discussions exploring the capacity of the arts and social sciences to highlight the challenges and rewards of care of older adults.

## FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN ENGAGEMENT AWARD

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**JONATHAN B. SANTO, Ph.D.**

Psychology

Jonathan Santo is a professor of psychology at UNO. He serves as director of the graduate developmental psychology program and faculty member in the Office of Latino/Latin-American Studies. Most of his research focuses on the impact of peer relations on child and adolescent development, with an emphasis on the importance of friendships as

a source of social support. Santo also studies cultural differences in factors related to self-esteem as well as classroom-level influences. Ultimately, his research is aimed at improving the lives of children and adolescents by fostering supportive school environments and encouraging positive peer relationships.

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE MENTOR AWARD

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**ANGELA M. EIKENBERRY, Ph.D.**

Public Administration

Angela M. Eikenberry is D.B. and Paula Varner Professor in the School of Public Administration and a Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration. Her research focuses on the social, economic, and political roles of philanthropy and nonprofit/voluntary organizations in democratic governance. She is recipient of the UNO Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity, UNO Student Government Curulis Award, CPACS Outstanding

Teaching Award, and Fulbright Scholar Award (UK). In recent years, she served as President of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA). Throughout her career, Eikenberry has advised and mentored dozens of Ph.D. and master's students at UNO, continually seeking to create a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment toward achieving their personal and professional goals.

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY SERVICE LEARNING AWARD

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**SHANNON CUMMINS, Ph.D.**

Marketing  
and Entrepreneurship

Shannon Cummins, Ph.D. is a professor of marketing and entrepreneurship and founded the CBA sales concentration and the USCA-accredited Center for Professional Sales at UNO in 2019. Her work connects students with live case-based classroom and extracurricular experiences to develop communication and critical thinking skills. Many students find employment through these projects and others

have won prestigious national and international collegiate competitions. Having published more than 20 peer-reviewed articles, she is an editor and associate editor in her field. Cummins has served three years as the Service Learning Faculty Fellow for CBA and has been honored as her college's awardee for both faculty service and teaching excellence across her career.

## REGENTS/FOUNDATION PROFESSORSHIP



**SAM HUNTER, Ph.D.**

Psychology

Sam Hunter is a professor of Industrial and Organizational Psychology and the head of Strategic Operations at the National Counterterrorism, Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE) center of excellence. Hunter teaches graduate courses about leadership, industrial psychology, and malevolent innovation in organizations. He currently manages more than \$7 million in grant and contract funding

around the topics of extremism, organizations, and novel threats. He has published more than 100 peer reviewed papers and book chapters, including four books on the topics of leadership and innovation. He is a fellow Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 2007.

## ISAACSON PROFESSORSHIP



**WAI-NING MEI, Ph.D.**

Physics

Wai-Ning Mei, Ph.D. has been a physics professor at UNO since 1984. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of New York at Buffalo. Mei served as a research associate at Purdue University, the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington D. C., and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Mei focuses on ferroelectric materials and has collaborated with theoretical and experimentalist colleagues in the NU System, publishing celebrated papers in the areas of polymer, high-dielectric constant and ferroelectric materials. Mei has published more than 170 papers in refereed journals,

and about 20 papers based on his teaching materials in the pedagogical journals. Six of these papers have been cited by the most widely adopted Quantum Mechanics textbook. In 1987, Mei and several senior colleagues at UNO applied for the first Nebraska Research Initiative (NRI) grant. Proposals were submitted to multiple government agencies, resulting in substantial funding for UNO's research on ferroelectric materials. In recognition of their accomplishments, all team members were recognized with UNO Distinguished Research Award.

## FREDERICK W. KAYSER CHAIR



**RONI REITER-PALMON, Ph.D.**

Psychology

Roni Reiter-Palmon, Ph.D. is a Distinguished Professor of Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology and the director of the I/O Psychology Graduate program. She is also the director of Innovation for the Center for Collaboration Science. Her research focuses on creativity and innovation in the workplace, cognitive processes of creativity, team creativity, and development of teamwork and creative problem solving skills. She is published in leading creativity and I-O Psychology journals. She serves

on multiple editorial boards of I/O, management, and creativity journals, as well as an associate editor and editor role. She has published six edited books, including a two-volume "Handbook of Organizational Creativity." She has obtained over \$9 million in grant and contract funding from government and businesses focusing on creativity, leadership, and teams. In 2017, she was named recipient of the University of Nebraska system's President's Excellence Award for Outstanding Research or Creative Activity.



## ROBERT M. SPIRE CHAIR OF MUSIC



**KAREN FANNIN, DMA**

Music

Karen Fannin is a professor and the director of the UNO School of Music. In her eight years as conductor of the UNO Symphonic Wind Ensemble, students under Fannin's direction were selected for two conference performances, as well as a performance at Orchestra Hall in Chicago. She guest conducts around the country and region and has presented at

numerous conferences on topics related to conducting. Several of her conducting students have been selected as participants at conducting symposia around the country. Fannin is president of the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association and serves on the board of the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras.

## CHARLES W. AND MARY C. MARTIN PROFESSOR OF WESTERN AMERICAN HISTORY



**SUSANA GRAJALES GELIGA, Ph.D.**

History

Susana Geliga, Ph.D. joined UNO in 2021. She currently teaches courses in Native American identities, history of Native American women, introduction to Native American studies, and history of North American Indigenous Peoples. She is currently working on her book, *I am Thankful I've been Called and Permitted to Serve: A Story of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte*,

participating this fall in the To Tell All Truths Project from the Mellon Foundation, and spent the summer conducting oral history interviews for the Honoring Indigenous Community Knowledge: Expanding the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project Beyond the Government Archive.

## ALBERT AND HELEN JEFFERIS CHAIR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE



**KRISTIN M. GIRTEN, Ph.D.**

English

Kristin Girtten is associate professor of English and assistant vice chancellor for Research and Creative Activity at UNO. She specializes in eighteenth-century and Romantic British literature. Her research focuses on intersections between literature, philosophy, and science in the British Enlightenment, giving special emphasis to how women and other marginalized groups contribute to and feel the effects of such intersections. Her essay collection, *British Literature and Technology, 1600-1830*,

which she co-edited with Aaron Hanlon (Colby College), was published in 2023 with Bucknell University Press. Her monograph, *Sensitive Witnesses: Feminist Materialism in the British Enlightenment*, is currently in production with Stanford University Press and will be available in February 2024. Girtten offers courses within the Department of English and also for the UNO Women's and Gender Studies program and the UNO sustainability minor.

## DR. HOLLIE BETHEL PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION



**KELLY GOMEZ JOHNSON, Ed.D.**

Teacher Education

Kelly Gomez Johnson is an associate professor and department chair of Teacher Education in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. Her teaching, research, and service focus on effective and equitable K-16 teaching, learning and leadership practices. She serves as PI/Co-PI on various STEM education projects attracting over \$5.5 million, and in 2021, she

was awarded UNO's campus-level Excellence in Teaching Award. She currently serves as the inaugural STEM Leadership Fellow for UNO's STEM TRAIL Center and on the Executive Council for the Nebraska Women in STEM organization. She serves to empower others to achieve personal fulfillment and maximum success.

## DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN AVIATION



**VICTOR HUANG, Ph.D.**

Public Administration – Aviation

Victor Huang is an associate professor in the Aviation Institute at UNO. Huang leads the development and operation of the Uncrewed Aircraft System(UAS)/Drone program in the Aviation Institute. He developed the UNO UAS program to be part of the FAA UAS Collegiate Training Initiative, developed a new UAS

minor program for non-aviation students, and established a variety of collaborations with industry and government on aviation education and research. He also developed a solid multidisciplinary research portfolio and secured a number of federal and state research grants.

## MUTUAL OF OMAHA DISTINGUISHED CHAIR OF INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



**DEEPAK KHAZANCHI, Ph.D.**

Information Systems and  
Quantitative Analysis

Deepak Khazanchi, Ph.D is the Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Chair of Information Science and Technology and a professor of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis. He is the director of the Executive Master of Science in

Information Technology (EMIT) Program and the executive director of the Center for Management of IT (CMIT + Attic). Khazanchi was a Fulbright Specialist (2012-2016; 2014 Norway; 2022-2025) and Fulbright Core Scholar (2022; Austria).

## GOLDSTEIN FAMILY COMMUNITY CHAIR IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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**RAMAZAN KILIÇ, Ph.D.**  
Political Science

Ramazan Kiliç, Ph.D. is a professor of political science at UNO. His research focuses on the comparative study of religion and human rights. He is the author of *Alien Citizens: State and Religious Minorities in Turkey and France* (Cambridge, 2019) and a co-author of *Generating Generosity in Catholicism and Islam: Beliefs, Institutions and Public*

*Goods Provision* (Cambridge, 2018). He is the recipient of the 2022 UNO Faculty Service-Learning Award, 2021 NU Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award, 2021 College of Arts Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award, 2020 UNO Excellence in Teaching Award, and 2018 UNO Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award.

## WILLIAM C. HOCKETT DIAMOND PROFESSORSHIP

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**WIKIL KWAK, Ph.D.**  
Accounting

Wikil Kwak, Ph.D. has been teaching undergraduate and MBA managerial accounting at UNO for the past 33 years. He received the Distinguished Alumni Professorship in 2002 and William C. Hockett Diamond Professorship in 1997. He is a two-time recipient of the universitywide summer research fellowship, was also awarded a university faculty research

award in 2019 and a research fellow by the International Academy of Information Technology and Quantitative Management (IAITQM) in 2022. He has served as vice president of Finance for the past 10 years for the IAITQM and has helped to organize the ITQM conference for the past 10 years. The ITQM2023 was held in U.K. Oxford in August, 2023.

## JAMES M. EARL DIAMOND PROFESSORSHIP

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**BETTY LOVE, Ph.D.**  
Mathematical  
and Statistical Sciences

Over her 33-year career at UNO, Betty Love has been dedicated to teaching innovation. Beginning with her early insight as to the increasing role of technology in learning, she obtained funding for the first high-tech classrooms at UNO. As technology advanced, she kept UNO ahead of the curve as an early developer of asynchronous online course in mathematics, creating videos that have received over 400,000 views worldwide. As technology in the classroom became normalized, she then became a leader in the creation and implementation of classroom

pedagogy, pioneering the use of methods such as flipped classrooms and inquiry-based learning. Currently she is focused on curriculum development, securing NSF funding to create new types of mathematics classes in which students learn critical mathematical reasoning skills as they create digital art or partner with local non-profits to analyze and visualize their data. It is Love's dedication to innovation that has allowed UNO not only to keep up with an educational world that is constantly evolving, but to be a leader in it.

## DR. GEORGE F. HADDIX COMMUNITY CHAIR IN PHYSICAL SCIENCE



**CHRISTOPHER MOORE, Ph.D.**

Physics

Christopher Moore, Ph.D. is the Dr. George F. Haddix Community Chair of Physical Science and professor of physics at UNO. He is the author of the books *Creating Scientists*, *Teaching Science Thinking*, and the bestselling high school science curricula *Experience Chemistry and Experience Physics*, which have sold over 350,000 copies

nationwide. Moore has published more than 45 academic papers across the three fields of materials science, science education, and institutional change. He has been awarded more than \$7 million in grants, has presented over 40 invited lectures across eight different countries, and is a Fulbright Scholar alumnus.

## EDWIN CLARK DIAMOND PROFESSORSHIP



**AMY MILLICENT MORRIS, Ph.D.**

Arts

A Northern Renaissance Art Historian, Amy Morris has published on Magdalene iconography, artistic self-awareness, and indulgence art and currently has a book contract with Routledge for a Renaissance companion. Her research has expanded to encompass curation and instructional design. A member of the Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center Advisory Board, she helped coordinate the inaugural Bak exhibition and

contributed to its catalog. Reflecting decades of teaching she created an online study guide for a leading publisher, an OER art history text, and many online courses. Morris has been active in the medical humanities program as research coordinator and as a participant in the IHAPAE project. As director of the School of the Arts she has transitioned into administration and was recently named Leadership Faculty Fellow for the Office of Academic Affairs.

## HADDIX COMMUNITY CHAIR IN SCIENCE



**CLAUDIA RAUTER, Ph.D.**

Biology

Claudia Rauter, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Biology. Her lab investigates the physiological and evolutionary costs of parental care in beetles with elaborate parental care. Many undergraduate and graduate students, as well as high school teachers and

their students, gained research experience in her lab. Her teaching interests include biology, biostatistics, behavioral ecology, and STEM education. As a member of the S-STEM and NE STEM 4U leadership teams, she strives to advance students' interest in STEM fields.



## CHARLES W. AND MARY C. MARTIN PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

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**JEANNE REAMES, Ph.D.**

History

Jeanne Reames, Ph.D. has taught Greek, Macedonian, and Ancient Near Eastern courses for UNO since 2000. She also directs the Ancient Mediterranean Studies Program. Her most current/forthcoming publications include two chapters in the *Cambridge Companion to Alexander the Great* (2023), a chapter in *Brill's Companion to the Campaigns of Alexander the Great* (2024), as well as editing *Macedon*

and *Its Influences* for Peeter's *Colloquia Antiqua* (2025). Her other work includes acting as chief historical consultant for the forthcoming Netflix docudrama "Alexander the Great," being interviewed for The History Channel's "Ancient Empires: Alexander" and publishing two historical novels, *Dancing with the Lion: Becoming* and *Rise*, about the young Alexander before he became "the Great."

## BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA CHAIR IN HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

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**WILLIAM L. SWANN, Ph.D.**

Public Administration

William (Will) Swann is an assistant professor and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska Chair in Health Care Administration and Policy. His research and teaching focus on health and social policy, local government, and public administration. Supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration,

his current project focuses on collaborative at the University of Colorado Denver, where he received the Graduate School Dean's Doctoral Mentoring Award. Swann enjoys sports, nature, animals, performing arts, and spending time with his wife, family, and friends.

## JOHN T. LANGAN COMMUNITY CHAIR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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**DEBORA B. WISNESKI, Ph.D.**

Teacher Education

Wisneski teaches Play as a Learning Medium and Leadership in ECE. She helped design UNO's early childhood inclusive major and teacher preparation program. She has led her profession as president of the Association for Childhood Education International (2012) and The Association for the Study of Play (2020). She is co-editor/coauthor of the

texts *Reconsidering the Role of Play in Early Childhood* (2018) and *The Powerful Role of Play in Early Education* (2021). Wisneski leads a team of researchers who have developed the UNO PLAY Lab and the Omaha Urban Thinkscapes project. She is the 2022 recipient of the Joe L. Frost Award for Distinguished Research through the US Play Coalition.

## SOPHIE AND FEODORA KAHN PROFESSORSHIP IN BIOLOGY



**RYAN WONG, Ph.D.**

Biology

Ryan Wong received his Ph.D. from University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. He joined the Department of Biology at UNO in 2014. While at UNO Wong has been awarded over \$2.2 million in grant funding to investigate the neurobiological and genetic mechanisms linked to stress and cognition. In his career, 17 of his 20 peer-reviewed publications were

as lead or corresponding author. Wong has taught 9 different classes (30 in total) at UNO that range from introductory level lecture and lab, advanced lecture, course-based undergraduate research (CURE), and graduate lecture classes as part of the Neuroscience program, Molecular and Biomedical Biology, and Departments of Biology and Psychology.



## University of Nebraska at Omaha Administration

Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA, Chancellor

Ni (Phil) He, Ph.D., Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Adrian Dowell, M.B.A., M.S.S.M., Vice Chancellor of Athletics

Carol Kirchner, M.B.A., C.P.A., Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance

Rich Klein, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success

Jaci Lindburg, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovative and Learning-Centric Initiatives

Sara Myers, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activity

Cathy Pettid, M.S., L.M.H.P., Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Wellbeing, Dean of Students

Deborah Smith-Howell, Ph.D., Senior Advisor to the Chancellor

Bret Blackman, Chief Information Officer

Keristiena Dodge, MSc, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor

Victoria Kohout, Chief of Government and Community Relations, Interim Chief Communication and Marketing Officer

A.T. Miller, Ph.D., Chief Diversity Officer

Drew Nielsen, Chief Compliance Officer

Sara Woods, MPA, Chief Engagement Officer

Anthony Flott, M.A., Executive Director, Alumni Engagement

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## The Colleges

Juan Casas, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate Studies

Melanie Bloom, Ph.D., Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Neal Grandgenett, Ph.D., Interim Dean, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

Michelle Trawick, Ph.D., Dean, College of Business Administration

John Bartle, Ph.D., Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Martha Garcia-Murillo, Ph.D., Dean, College of Information Science & Technology

Michael Hilt, Ph.D., Dean, College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media

David Richards, M.A., MLIS, Dean, Library Services

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## University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Programs

Lance C. Pérez, Ph.D., Dean, College of Engineering

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## University of Nebraska Board of Regents

Timothy Clare, J.D.

Robert Schafer, J.D.

Jack Stark, Ph.D.

Paul Kenney

Jim Scheer

Kathy Wilmot

Elizabeth O'Connor, J.D.

Barbara Weitz, MPA, MSW

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## Student Regents

University of Nebraska at Omaha, **Hakim Lotoro**

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