



**FACULTY HONORS**

# CONVOCATION

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha



# PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION  
Patty Bick, Ph.D.  
*President, Faculty Senate*

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

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PRESIDENT'S  
EXCELLENCE AWARD  
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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COLLEGE OUTSTANDING  
RESEARCH AND CREATIVE  
ACTIVITY AWARDS  
Recognized by Sara Myers, Ph.D.  
*Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activity*  
  
Presented by Phil He, Ph.D.  
*Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,*  
and the UNO college deans

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## CAMPUS-WIDE AWARDS

**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*

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

**Outstanding Faculty Service Learning Award**  
Presented by Julie Dierberger, Ph.D.  
*Chief Engagement Officer*

**Excellence in Teaching Award**  
Presented by Connie Schaffer, Ed.D.  
*Director, Center for Faculty Excellence*

**Excellence in Part-Time Teaching Award**  
Presented by Connie Schaffer, Ed.D.  
*Director, Center for Faculty Excellence*

**Outstanding Honors Faculty Award**  
Presented by Lucy Morrison, Ph.D.  
*Director, Honors Program*

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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*



**PHANI TEJ ADIDAM**

Marketing and  
Entrepreneurship

## OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD

Phani Tej Adidam is a professor and chair of marketing and entrepreneurship and the director of the Center for International Business Initiatives at UNO’s College of Business Administration. As a Fulbright scholar and current Fulbright specialist, he brings a wealth of global experience and insight to his roles. Dr. Adidam holds a bachelor of commerce (honors) from Banaras Hindu University, India, an MBA from the Institute of Management Technology, India, and a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. He was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Faculty of Commerce at Banaras Hindu University, India. His dedication to teaching has earned him numerous teaching awards at UNO. Dr. Adidam teaches sales, brand, marketing, and management strategies in the MBA, Executive MBA, and BSBA programs. His innovative approach has transformed key programs at UNO, including the Executive MBA and MBA programs. He has introduced dual-degree programs that have expanded UNO’s global footprint, attracting international students and enriching the academic environment. Beyond traditional degree programs, Dr. Adidam excels

in engaging a wide range of stakeholders. He has conducted executive education sessions, workshops, and summits, benefiting countless executives, faculty, and students. His mentorship extends to entrepreneurs, and he actively supports industry associations and nonprofits with his expertise in branding, digital marketing, and customer engagement. Dr. Adidam’s contributions to global education are unparalleled. He has taught at 12 prestigious international business schools and created global teaching opportunities for his colleagues. His leadership in international student immersion trips and the innovative Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) approach has provided enriching, cross-cultural experiences for students. Through global capstone projects and education abroad programs, he has prepared students for impactful careers worldwide, enhancing their international competencies. Dr. Adidam’s research appears in several leading academic journals – *Journal of Marketing*; *Journal of International Marketing*; *Journal of Marketing Management*; among others.





### PAUL DENTON

College of Arts and Sciences  
Biology

Paul W. Denton is an associate professor in the Department of Biology, teaching undergraduate and upper-level courses, and leads a research group focusing on immunotherapy. His passion lies in engaging students in STEM. He earned his Ph.D. in immunology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He is the faculty leader of a UNO biology-based volunteer journal club that focuses undergraduate students' efforts on the critical reading and comprehension of primary scientific literature related to biomedicine. The undergraduate student-researchers in his immunobiology research

group perform U.S. National Institutes of Health- and Nebraska Research Initiative-funded projects using immunotherapies to boost human immune responses against diseased cells such as malignant or infected cells.

Denton also engages students through several STEM education-related grants on which he serves as principal investigator or co-principal investigator. These awards support scholarships for STEM majors and support community engagement efforts by bringing UNO undergraduate student mentors into Omaha Public Schools as after-school STEM program providers.



### JODY KEISNER

College of Arts and Sciences  
English

Jody Keisner is an associate professor in the Department of English with a specialization in creative nonfiction. She has contributed curriculum to the Department of English, medical humanities, master of arts in critical and creative thinking, and women's and gender studies. Her research and teaching reflect her interests in women's issues and the intersections of gender, health, and society, among other areas of study.

She is the author of *Under My Bed and Other Essays* and the recipient of a 2024 Individual Arts Fellowship from the Nebraska Arts Council. Her work appears in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Fourth Genre*, *Women's Studies*, and many other places. Keisner is the editor-in-chief of UNO's international journal of health humanities and creative nonfiction, *The Linden Review*.



### RYAN RISKOWSKI

College of Arts and Sciences  
Physics

Ryan Riskowski, Ph.D., has an academic work focus on developing our understanding of the physics of biomolecules at the nanoscale and generating new applications for nanoscale sensors and molecular actuators. As a fellow of the National Strategic Research Institute, he contributes to several working groups whose aim is to translate academic research into modern applications. Riskowski has mentored an array of students in formal research projects in the areas of physics, mathematics, engineering, chemistry, and biology.

In the classroom, he integrates new approaches from evidence-based practices to increase student engagement and learning and has implemented new curricula for introductory and upper-level classes, emphasizing peer learning and student-led inquiry. Most recently, after introducing student-created research experiences into his upper-level medical physics classes, two student-created projects have transitioned into full-fledged research projects in the lab.



### XIAOYAN CHENG

College of Business Administration  
Accounting

Xiaoyan Cheng, Ph.D., is a professor in the School of Accounting. She earned her Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since joining UNO in 2009, Cheng has taught principles of financial accounting, intermediate financial accounting, advanced financial accounting, and graduate seminar in financial statement analysis. Her research interests include corporate governance, shareholder activism, and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulatory

compliance and reporting. Her research can be found in *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *Advances in Accounting*, *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*, *Research in Accounting Regulation*, and *Global Finance Journal*. As the faculty advisor of Gamma Kappa Chapter of UNO Beta Alpha Psi, Cheng connects students with peers and industry leaders, while developing their business skillset.



### TODD ROBINSON

College of Communication,  
Fine Arts and Media  
School of the Arts -  
Writer's Workshop

Todd Robinson, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Writer's Workshop, where he serves as coordinator of the Spring Reading Series. He earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has published two collections of poetry, most recently *Mass for Shut-Ins* (University of Nebraska Press). His work has appeared in 60 literary magazines, including *North American Review*, *Rattle*, and *The Adroit Journal*. He is the recipient of an Academy of American Poets Prize and was a finalist for

the Maureen Egan Literary Exchange Award. He is a sought-after master of ceremonies and workshop leader for area literary events, including Omaha Lit Fest and the Bemis Art Center. Robinson is a member of UNO's Medical Humanities Faculty and served as a founding member of the Seven Doctors Project at UNMC. He is a regular book reviewer for KVNO, a current nominee for Nebraska State Poet, and has won many teaching awards.



**PHILIP NORDNESS**  
College of Education, Health,  
and Human Sciences  
Special Education and  
Communication Disorders

Philip Nordness, Ph.D., is a Peter Kiewit Distinguished Professor of Special Education. Nordness earned his Ph.D. in special education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 2012, he and his colleague Beth Leader-Janssen, Ph.D. developed one of the first completely online programs in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. The master's degree in special education with a concentration behavioral disorders has resulted in a significant increase in graduate enrollment that continues to this day. Recently, he has been working

on interdisciplinary collaboration to meet the emotional and behavioral needs of children with disabilities and those who might be at risk of school failure. His work on interdisciplinary collaboration resulted in a \$1.2 million federal personnel preparation grant in which he served as a co-principal investigator. Nordness teaches courses on behavior modification, research methods, and introductory special education. Prior to getting his Ph.D., he spent three years teaching children with emotional and behavioral disorders in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



**AMY HANSON**  
College of Public Affairs  
and Community Service  
Gerontology

Amy Hanson, Ph.D., teaches several aging courses for both undergraduate and graduate students, including introduction to gerontology, programs and services for older adults, psychology of adult development and baby boomers and the 21st century. Many of her courses include service learning and field experiences and she has been awarded several teaching grants, including a grant focused on student engagement with older adults in the Omaha community. She has partnered with other departments on campus to

bring gerontological education to a broader range of students including honors students, exploratory studies, and medical humanities. Her primary teaching and research interests include baby boomers, retirement and volunteerism, and older adults within faith communities. Dr. Hanson is the author of the book, *Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults over 50*, and she is frequently asked to speak, write, and consult with local, national, and international organizations on a variety of aging issues.



**CLARENCE WATERS**  
College of Engineering (UNL)  
Architectural Engineering

Clarence Waters, Ph.D., is the Aaron Douglas Professor of the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction, part of the College of Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). He served as director of UNL Architectural Engineering for six years. He was the head of the Department of Architectural Engineering and Construction Science at Kansas State University for four years. He is currently or has been licensed in 21 states and received two International

Lighting Design Awards of Merit. Waters is a fellow of the Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI) where he served as president and a member of the Board of Governors. He has also been involved with the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, (IESNA) where he has chaired and served on many technical committees. His scholarly activities are in lighting, lighting control, and power distribution systems for buildings.



**PEI-CHI HUANG**  
College of Information Science  
& Technology  
Computer Science

Pei-Chi Huang, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science. She earned her Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin. Huang's research focuses on cyber-physical systems with machine learning, particularly in real-time computing, scheduling algorithms, and wireless communication/networking systems. She develops advanced algorithms for reliable system responses in critical applications like industrial control systems and autonomous vehicles. Her work also enhances wireless

connectivity and improves network resilience and data transmission. She applies her research to smart infrastructure, autonomous systems, and internet of things (IoT), offering solutions that impact real-world technologies. In teaching, she emphasizes hands-on education, integrating theory with practice to prepare students for real-world challenges. Her commitment to both research and teaching advances computer science and shapes the next generation of technology leaders.



### EUGENIO DI STEFANO

College of Arts and Sciences  
World Languages  
and Literature

Eugenio Di Stefano is a professor of Latin American literature and culture in the Department of World Languages and Literature and a member of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He has published articles on the politics of aesthetic form in contemporary Latin American cultural production in journals such as *Modern Language Notes*, *Revista de estudios hispánicos*, and *Nonsite*.

He is the author of the book, *The Vanishing Frame: Latin American Theory and Culture in the Post dictatorial Era* (University of Texas Press). He is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Dead Time: Capturing the Forms of the Latin American Present*. He is also a founding editor of *Forma*, an online journal dedicated to rethinking contemporary Latin American culture and theory.



### YANHUI ZHAO

College of Business Administration  
Marketing and  
Entrepreneurship

Dr. Yanhui Zhao, Ph.D., is an associate professor of marketing at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His primary research interests fall within the domain of marketing strategy, including brand management, sales management, and inter-organizational relationships. His research has appeared in top-tier marketing journals such as the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Service Research*, *Journal of International Marketing*, *Industrial Marketing Management*, and *Journal of Personal Selling and*

*Sales Management*. His research has been quoted multiple times by news outlets such as CNN Money and BBC News. He is a recipient of the James M. Comer Award for the Best Contribution to Selling and Sales Management Theory. In 2021, 2022, and 2024, Dr. Zhao received UNO Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship's Distinguished Professor Awards for his achievements in research, teaching, and service. He earned his Ph.D. in marketing from Michigan State University.



### KRISTINA STAMATIS

College of Education, Health,  
and Human Sciences  
Teacher Education

Kristina Stamatis is an assistant professor of teacher education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research explores possibilities for dismantling oppressive systems through community engagement, identity development, and storytelling in formal and informal learning spaces. Prior to completing her Ph.D. at the University of Colorado Boulder in learning sciences and human development, Stamatis was a high school

English teacher and reading specialist. She has co-designed storytelling practices with other educators throughout her career, most recently collaborating with colleagues at the Denver Writing Project to reimagine the possibilities for intergenerational storytelling in schools. Her work has appeared in the *Reading Research Quarterly*, *Teaching and Teacher Education*, and *The New Educator*.



### MARK GILBERT

College of Communication,  
Fine Arts and Media  
School of the Arts -  
Art and Art History

Mark Gilbert is an associate professor of art and art history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's School of the Arts, where he is participating faculty on UNO's medical humanities program. Gilbert graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1991. He earned his Ph.D. in 2014 from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. As an artist, teacher, and researcher, he has worked on a number of high profile art-based research projects using portraiture to illuminate patient and caregiver experience of illness, recovery and care. These studies include *Saving Faces* at the Royal London

Hospital and *Portraits of Care* at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. His work has been exhibited widely in venues across Europe and the US, including the National Portrait Gallery in London. Gilbert's most recent project, *Portrait of Covid-19*, used portraiture to explore the experience of healthcare workers during the pandemic. The project recruited participants from Omaha, New York, Houston, and Washington. The resultant collection is permanently displayed in the American Medical Association head office in Chicago.



**TARA RICHARDS**

College of Public Affairs  
and Community Service  
Criminology and  
Criminal Justice

Tara N. Richards, Ph.D., is the David Scott Diamond Alumni Professor of Public Affairs and Community Service in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) and co-director of SCCJ’s Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab. Her research focuses on prevention, intervention, and responses to sexual assault, domestic/intimate partner violence, child abuse, and neglect. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has won more than \$3 million

in competitive grants and contracts to support her research. Richards also coordinates the Nebraska Victim Assistance Academy, the state’s accredited 40-hour training certification for victim service providers and allied professionals. She serves on the state’s Domestic Violence Intervention Program State Standards Committee, Douglas County’s Domestic Violence Community Response Team, and Sexual Assault Response Team.



**YULIYA LIERLER**

College of Information Science  
& Technology  
Computer Science

Yuliya Lierler is a professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She held an appointment to the Cheryl Prewett Diamond Professorship from 2020 to 2023. She is the director of the Knowledge Representation and Natural Language Understanding Lab since joining UNO in 2012. Her research contributions and interests are in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), especially in the areas of knowledge representation and logic programming/answer set programming — a prominent subfield of artificial intelligence. Her papers appear in renowned AI venues such as AAAI

Conference on Artificial Intelligence, International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, as well as *Artificial Intelligence and Theory and Practice of Logic Programming* journals. She has published more than 65 peer-reviewed conference and journal papers throughout her career. In 2020, the Association of Logic Programming nominated and then elected her as an Executive Committee Board Member. Yuliya Lierler served as a Computing Innovation Fellow postdoctoral researcher at the University of Kentucky for two years after completing her Ph.D. in computer science at the University of Texas at Austin in 2010.



**AMY SCHINDLER**

Criss Library  
Archives and  
Special Collections

Amy Schindler is an associate professor in the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library. She has worked as director of archives and special collections at UNO since 2014. Her primary focus in librarianship is increasing access to archival materials and expanding the scope of UNO’s distinctive collections. Her research interests include community outreach utilizing archival materials, exhibits, community archives, and the evolution of archival practice. Schindler was one of the founders of the Queer Omaha Archives in 2016, and continues to lead efforts to collect, preserve, and share Omaha and Nebraska LGBTQIA2S+ history.

She was previously University Archivist at the College of William and Mary and Curator of Manuscripts at the University at Albany, State University of New York. She has held leadership positions in the Society of American Archivists, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and other archives organizations. She earned master’s degrees in history and library and information science with an archives concentration from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee (2001) and a bachelor’s degree in history with a certificate in Asian American Studies from the University of Wisconsin—Madison (1998).







**MICHELE DESMARAIS**  
Religious Studies

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Michele Desmarais, Ph.D., is a Métis, Dakota, and European poet and scholar from Canada. She is an associate professor in religious studies and a teaching faculty member in Native American studies and medical humanities. Desmarais was the founding director of the Medical Humanities program at UNO. From 2014-2017, she developed and facilitated the first

Religious Studies internships. In 2017, the project of her FUSE grant mentee, Britny Cordera, was chosen for the Council of Undergraduate Research’s event in Washington D.C.—one of only two humanities- or arts-based projects selected in the nation that year. She was a recipient of the College of Arts and Science’s Outstanding Teaching Award in 2008 and in 2023.



**ASHLEY HARLOW**  
Management

## EXCELLENCE IN PART-TIME TEACHING AWARD

In addition to his work as a part-time instructor, Ashley Harlow is a child and adolescent psychologist at Children’s Nebraska. Applying his background in behavioral health, Harlow has developed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the College of Business Administration with a strong psychological component, such as skills for leadership

and managing change and innovation. Collaboration, inclusion, and innovation have always been professional priorities, which has led to committee work to improve the experience of adjunct faculty, revising accreditation processes, and integrating competency-based education into his courses.



**JODI BENENSON**  
Public Administration

## FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Jodi Benenson, Ph.D., is an associate professor and the master of public administration program chair in the School of Public Administration. Her primary research and teaching interests include civic engagement, nonprofit organizations, social policy, and social equity. Previously, she served as the 2023-24 Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Governance and Public Administration at the Centre on Governance at the University

of Ottawa and as the Academic Director for the U.S. Department of State’s Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Institute on Civic Engagement. Her research has been published in a variety of academic and practice-based outlets, and she is engaged with several local, national, and international organizations that center civic engagement and representation.



**ALEXEY KAMENSKIY**  
Biomechanics

## DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH OR CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

Alexey V. Kamenskiy, Ph.D., is a professor and chair of the Department of Biomechanics at UNO and the director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research in Biomechanics (CRiB). He earned his Ph.D. in engineering mechanics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research focuses on developing efficient and practical solutions for vascular problems through the study of vascular mechanophysiology, mechanobiology, and aging. Dr. Kamenskiy leads a dynamic multidisciplinary team of biomechanists and clinicians, collaborating with federal funding agencies and the biomedical device industry to innovate new devices and

materials for treating vascular pathologies. His team at UNO has amassed one of the world's largest databases of artery biomechanical characteristics, with data from over 2,000 human subjects, and has secured more than \$20 million in funding from sources including the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the private biomedical device industry. His most recent achievement is an \$11 million Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) award from the NIH, aimed at developing biomedical research infrastructure and enhancing UNO's capacity for innovative cardiovascular solutions.



**ABBY BJORNSEN-RAMIG**  
Counseling

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE MENTOR AWARD

Abby Bjornsen-Ramig, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist in the state of Nebraska and Professor in the Department of Counseling in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. Dr. Bjornsen is senior faculty in the Clinical Mental Health concentration, advising more than 50 graduate students at any given time. She serves as the clinical training director,

which includes establishing and maintaining relationships with community training partners for graduate counseling interns. In addition to instructing and supervising Beginning Practicum, Dr. Bjornsen oversees the UNO Community Counseling Clinic, located in Roskens Hall. Her research and service interests include workplace burnout and infertility in the workplace.



**DEANNA HOUSE**  
Information Systems and  
Quantitative Analysis

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY SERVICE LEARNING AWARD

Deanna House, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the information systems and quantitative analysis department in the College of Information Science & Technology, co-director of the Nebraska Deterrence Lab and lead researcher in the Cyber Threat Analysis Lab (CTAL) for the National Counter-Terrorism Innovation, Technology and Education Center (NCITE), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence.

She teaches advanced systems analysis and design, security risk management, computer security management and governance, privacy and policies.

She has mentored students on over 40 service learning projects with Department of Defense partners including U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), Army National Guard, Ellsworth and Whiteman Air Force Base, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing, and 557<sup>th</sup> Weather Wing.



**WILLIAM COONEY**  
Communication

## OUTSTANDING HONORS FACULTY AWARD

William Cooney, Ph.D., is an instructor in the School of Communication in the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. He just began his fourth year teaching at UNO and is starting his three-year appointment as the director of the UNO Speech Center on Dodge Campus. Cooney's interest in how

language shapes action by guiding intention governs his teaching by highlighting the beliefs implicit in those artifacts we create and encounter. His classes strive to clarify our understanding of the world around us by charting the unspoken foundation from which a community's artifacts arise.

## CAMPUS-WIDE NAMED CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS



**ALEXEY KRASNOSLOBODTSEV**  
Physics

## ISAACSON PROFESSORSHIP

Alexey Krasnoslobodtsev joined the Department of Physics at UNO in August 2014. He has developed and implemented the biomedical physics concentration. With 45 peer-reviewed publications, one patent, and four book chapters, he is a prolific researcher. He has secured more than \$1.3 million in external funding to support his work from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health,

Department of Energy, American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund, and National Research Initiative, among others. His research passion lies in nanobiophysics, where his lab visualizes nanoscale materials, studies and manipulates their properties. Krasnoslobodtsev received the College of Arts and Sciences Research and Creative Activity Award in 2023 and the Isaacson Professorship in 2024.



**SAJDA QURESHI**  
Information Systems and  
Quantitative Analysis

## D. B. AND PAULA VARNER PROFESSORSHIP

Sajda Qureshi is D.B Paula Varner Professor at the information systems department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She served as editor-in-chief of the *Information Technology for Development* journal from 2003 to 2023 and was instrumental establishing it as the leading journal in terms of its ranking and impact factor. She is director of the Information Technology for Development mHealth Lab which offers research innovations and technology solutions to pressing problems. She has held multiple leadership positions such as President of the AIS International Special Interest Group for Global Development (GlobDev), President of the UNO AAUP, co-chair of the Annual

SIGGlobal Development workshop at ICIS, and mini-tracks and Global Development Track co-chair at AMCIS. She holds a Ph.D. in information systems from the London School of Economics and Political Science in the United Kingdom, and an honorary doctorate from Örebro University in Sweden. She has received the Nebraska University Innovation, Development and Engagement Award (IDEA), UNO Graduate Mentor, Faculty Service Learning and Association for Computing Machinery awards. She has secured competitive funded research awards of more than \$1 million and has more than 300 publications.



DURHAM SCIENCE CENTER



**PHANI TEJ ADIDAM**Marketing and  
Entrepreneurship

## WARD Y. LINDLEY AND GEORGE T. LINDLEY PROFESSORSHIP

Phani Tej Adidam, Ph.D., is a professor and chair of marketing and entrepreneurship and the director of the Center for International Business Initiatives in the College of Business Administration. He is a Fulbright scholar and current Fulbright specialist. Adidam holds a bachelor of commerce (honors) from Banaras Hindu University, India, an MBA from Institute of Management Technology, India, and a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. He teaches sales, branding, marketing, and global business strategies in the MBA, executive MBA, and BSBA programs. He has introduced dual-degree programs that have expanded UNO's global

footprint. He has conducted executive education sessions, workshops, and summits, benefiting countless executives, faculty, and students. His mentorship extends to entrepreneurs, and he actively supports industry associations and nonprofits. Adidam has taught at 12 prestigious international business schools and created global teaching opportunities for his colleagues. His leadership in international student immersion trips and the innovative Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) approach has provided enriching, cross-cultural experiences for students.

**JANELLE BEADLE**

Gerontology

## LEO MISSINNE PROFESSORSHIP OF GERONTOLOGY

Janelle Beadle, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Gerontology and the director of the Aging Brain and Emotion Lab. Her research investigates aging-related differences in the psychological, brain, and hormonal bases of empathy and loneliness in healthy aging, Alzheimer's disease, and caregiving. She has published in major journals

in her field, including the *Journal of Gerontology Psychological Sciences and Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience*. Beadle has been awarded more than \$1.5 million in grant funding to support her research program since coming to UNO. She teaches courses focused on the biology and neuroscience of aging.

**JASON COLEMAN**College of Education, Health,  
and Human Sciences

## DR. GEORGE AND SALLY HADDIX COMMUNITY CHAIR IN STEM EDUCATION

Jason D. Coleman, Ph.D., is an associate dean for the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences and a professor of public health. He remains highly engaged in community-based research and service focused on the prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

He collaborates with federal, state, local, and community organizations to understand and address health disparities and promote health equity. He serves as a councilor for the Council on Education for Public Health, which accredits schools and programs in public health.

**MATT GERMONPREZ**

Information Systems  
and Quantitative Analysis

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

Matt Germonprez is the Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Chair of Information Science & Technology and professor of information systems and quantitative analysis in the College of Information Science & Technology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He uses engaged scholarship to research organizational engagement with open-source communities. His research has been funded by several organizations including the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Ford Foundation,

the National Science Foundation, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and Mozilla. Germonprez is the co-founder of the Linux Foundation Community Health Analytics OSS Project. He has had work accepted at numerous cross-disciplinary academic journals and conferences. Germonprez is also an active open-source community member, having presented design and development work at professional conferences across the world.

**ALEXEY KAMENSKIY**

Biomechanics

## DEAN'S EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

Alexey V. Kamenskiy, Ph.D., is a professor and chair of the Department of Biomechanics at UNO and the director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research in Biomechanics (CRiB). He earned his Ph.D. in engineering mechanics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research focuses on developing efficient and practical solutions for vascular problems through the study of vascular mechanophysiology, mechanobiology, and aging. Dr. Kamenskiy leads a dynamic multidisciplinary team of biomechanists and clinicians, collaborating with federal funding agencies and the biomedical device industry to innovate new devices and

materials for treating vascular pathologies. His team at UNO has amassed one of the world's largest databases of artery biomechanical characteristics, with data from more than 2,000 human subjects, and has secured more than \$20 million in funding from sources including the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the private biomedical device industry. His most recent achievement is an \$11 million Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) award from the NIH, aimed at developing biomedical research infrastructure and enhancing UNO's capacity for innovative cardiovascular solutions.

**BRETT KYLE**

Political Science

## ORVILLE D. MENARD DISTINGUISHED FACULTY FELLOW

Brett J. Kyle is an associate professor of political science and a faculty member in the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS) and the Goldstein Center for Human Rights. His teaching and research focuses on Latin American politics, democracy, legacies of authoritarianism, and military politics. He

is the author of *Recycling Dictators in Latin American Elections: Legacies of Military Rule* (2016) and co-author, with Andrew G. Reiter, of *Military Courts, Civil-Military Relations, and the Legal Battle for Democracy: The Politics of Military Justice* (2021). His current book project is *State Violence in Democratic Latin America*.



**BETH LEADER-JANSSEN**  
Special Education and  
Communication Disorders

## ISAACSON PROFESSORSHIP

Elizabeth Leader-Janssen, Ph.D., is a professor and chair of the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. She teaches graduate literacy methods courses in special education. Her research interests include perceptions of inclusive practices, development of inclusive teaching

programs, and evaluation of online teacher education programs. Her department has developed two new online graduate programs, Accelerated Special Education Program and the Dyslexia Specialist Certificate to meet the needs of schools and communities.



**AMY MILLIGENT MORRIS**  
School of the Arts

## MICHAEL BRUCE JONES, M.D. CHAIR IN THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

A Northern Renaissance art historian, Amy Morris has published on Magdalene iconography, artistic self-awareness, and indulgence art. Morris’s 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 open educational

resource, and many online courses. Amy has been active in the medical humanities program as research coordinator and as a participant in the Interdisciplinary Humanities and Arts in Physician Assistant Education project. As director of the School of the Arts she has transitioned into administration and recently was named a Leadership Faculty Fellow. Recently, Morris assumed a leadership role in her profession and was selected as president of the Midwest Art History Society.



**LANA OBRADOVIC**  
Political Science

## GOLDSTEIN FAMILY COMMUNITY CHAIR IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Lana Obradovic, Ph.D., is director of the international studies program, an associate professor of political science and academic director of U.S. Strategic Command’s Strategic Leadership Fellows Program. Obradovic also serves as the academic director of the BOLD Civic Engagement Fellowship program funded by the U.S. Embassies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia. She has taught international relations and comparative politics courses for the past 22 years, including 10 at UNO. Her book, *Gender Integration in NATO Military Forces*, won the ERGOMAS 2015 Best

Book in Civil-Military Relations Award. She is also the 2021 UNO Faculty Excellence in Engagement award recipient. Her recent projects include the National Counterterrorism, Innovation, Technology, and Education Center’s research on intelligence training in counterterrorism and NATO’s Integration of Gender Perspectives in Cognitive Warfare to highlight and prevent the use of social media platforms and personalized algorithms to disseminate gendered messages to erode the inclusiveness of democratic societies, and fuel animosity towards gender equality.

**TARA RICHARDS**

Criminology and  
Criminal Justice

## DAVID SCOTT DIAMOND PROFESSORSHIP

Tara N. Richards, Ph.D., is the David Scott Diamond Alumni Professor of Public Affairs and Community Service in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) and co-director of SCCJ's Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab. Her research focuses on prevention, intervention, and responses to sexual assault, domestic/intimate partner violence, child abuse, and neglect. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has won more

than \$3 million in competitive grants and contracts to support her research. Richards also coordinates the Nebraska Victim Assistance Academy, the state's accredited 40-hour training certification for victim service providers and allied professionals. She serves on the state's Domestic Violence Intervention Program State Standards Committee, Douglas County's Domestic Violence Community Response Team, and Sexual Assault Response Team.

**ADAM ROSEN**

Health and Kinesiology

## DEAN'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PROFESSORSHIP

Adam Rosen, Ph.D., is an associate professor and the interim director of the School of Health and Kinesiology. He recently completed his tenth year at UNO. Rosen is also the program director for the master's athletic training program. He co-directs the Sports Medicine

and Biomechanics Laboratory, and the nationally known UNO Pitching Lab. Rosen is an internationally recognized expert in his primary research area of sports medicine, particularly related to ankle injuries, patellar tendinopathy, and baseball biomechanics.

**KRISTINE SWAIN**

College of Education, Health,  
and Human Sciences

## DR. JACK AND MARJORIE FRAENKEL CHAIR OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Associate dean and professor Kristine Swain's teaching and research have focused on educator preparation and special education academic assessment. This relates to her current role supporting programs in academic assessment and accreditation. She was a member of the UNO faculty collaborating with the American Association of Colleges for

Teacher Education Networked Improvement Community focused on the national special education teacher shortage and has served on the Nebraska Educator Shortage Steering Committee. The Jack and Marjorie Fraenkel Chair of Educational Research highlights the collaborative research and partnerships that she has focused on during her 23 years at UNO.





**MILES WAGGENER**  
School of the Arts –  
Writer’s Workshop

## EDWIN CLARK DIAMOND PROFESSORSHIP

Miles Waggener is the author of four volumes of poetry: *Phoenix Suites*, *Sky Harbor*, *Desert Center*, and most recently *Superstition Freeway*, published by The Word Works of Washington D.C. He has been the recipient of The Washington Prize as well as individual grants from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the Nebraska Arts Council.

His poems have appeared widely in such journals as *The Antioch Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *North American Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Cutbank*, *Gulfcoast*, and *Hayden’s Ferry Review*. A recipient of an Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award, he has been a Writer’s Workshop faculty member since 2006.



**LINDSAY WILKINSON**  
Gerontology

## LEO MISSINNE PROFESSORSHIP OF GERONTOLOGY

Lindsay Wilkinson, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Gerontology. She also serves as chair of the master’s and graduate certificate programs in gerontology. Her research combines the study of health and aging and focuses on the dynamic relationship between social stratification and health over the

life course and among older adults, as well as the impact of early adversity on long-term health. Wilkinson specializes in quantitative methods and regularly teaches courses in research methods and statistics. In 2024, she was named a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.



**TAMI WILLIAMS**  
Educational Leadership

## PAUL KENNEDY DIAMOND PROFESSORSHIP

Tami Williams, Ed.D. is associate professor and department chair of educational leadership in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. Williams has been an educator for more than 20 years with background as a teacher, behavior interventionist, assistant principal, and district administrator in Nebraska where she supervised buildings and led assessment and data innovations. She has

established the Nebraska Education Policy Research Lab, a collective of researchers, educational leaders, policy leaders, and educators working together to answer important questions about education. The most recent project she is jointly leading is the Nebraska Collaborative Learning Network, a library of microcredentials for Nebraska PK-12 educators and educational leaders.



**ANDY ZHONG**  
Chemistry

## RALPH WARDLE DIAMOND PROFESSORSHIP

Andy Zhong, Ph.D., joined the UNO Department of Chemistry in 2007. He has taught organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and molecular modeling. The quality of his teaching is reflected in higher-than-national-average in standardized exams along with positive student evaluation and comments. In addition to classroom teaching, Dr. Zhong is active in research and enjoys mentoring students. He has mentored more than

40 undergraduate students and has served on 14 graduate committees. His research students have received regional and national awards. He and his colleagues have brought in more than \$800,000 in grant awards. He has published more than 50 articles and 4 book chapters since joining UNO. Dr. Zhong is the recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award in 2020.



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

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