FACULTY HONORS CONVOCATION

APRIL 18th, 2016
THOMPSON ALUMNI CENTER
INTRODUCTION
Laura Grams
Vice President, UNO Faculty Senate

WELCOME
John E. Christensen
Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYSTEM
AWARD
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

University of Nebraska Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award
Recognized by John E. Christensen Chancellor

University of Nebraska Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award
Recognized by John E. Christensen Chancellor

University of Nebraska Innovation, Development, and Engagement Award
Recognized by John E. Christensen Chancellor

University of Nebraska Departmental Teaching Award
Recognized by John E. Christensen Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
AWARDS

Excellence in Teaching Award
Presented by B.J. Reed
Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs

Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award
Presented by Lee Denker and college deans
President and CEO, UNO Alumni Association

Distinguished Research or Creative Activity Award
Presented by Scott Snyder
Associate Vice Chancellor, Research and Creative Activity

Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award
Presented by Deborah Smith-Howell
Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies

Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award
Presented by Arturo Miranda
Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

2015-2016 Named Professorships and Chairs
Presented by Candice Batton
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

CLOSING REMARKS
John E. Christensen
Chancellor

Angela Eikenberry, Distinguished Research or Creative Activity Award

Abbie Syrek, Excellence in Teaching Award
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

BRUCE JOHANSEN
Communication

Bruce Johansen is a Professor of Communication and Native American Studies at UNO. Johansen has mentored numerous students over the course of his 34 year teaching career at UNO.

He frequently writes about environmental subjects and has authored 44 published books, which include *Empty Cellars, Melting Ice, and Burning Tundra: Climate Change and Native American Peoples in the United States and Canada* (2016), and *Eco-Hustle! Global Warming, Greenwashing, and Sustainability* (2015).


Johansen has an international reputation as a scholar and interpreter of Native American history, and is an expert in environmental issues such as global warming and chemical pollution. His expertise has resulted in requests for assistance and consulting from all over the world.

Johansen has received the Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity for his work, and has also held a Kayser Chair, and Isaacson & Reilly professorships.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD

NEAL GRANDGENETT
Teacher Education

Neal Grandgenett is the Dr. George and Sally Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education in the College of Education at UNO (Office of STEM Education). Grandgenett teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in STEM education, interdisciplinary learning, and research methods. His efforts have established dual pathways for P-12 STEM teacher certification and engaged thousands of teachers in learning with educational robotics and wearable technologies.

Grandgenett’s research interests focus on the investigation of technology-based learning in STEM education. He has authored more than 130 articles and research papers, five book chapters, and one full novel. He has been a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on nearly $18 million in federal grants, 10 from the National Science Foundation.

Grandgenett’s efforts at UNO have earned the following recognitions: the UNO Chancellor’s Medal; the Alumni Teaching Award; a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics; the Award for Distinguished Research or Creative Activity; the Peter Kiewit Professorship; the Paul Kennedy Diamond Professorship; the Nebraska Technology Professor of the Year Award; and the NASA Mission Home Award.
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD

ELLIOTT OSTLER
Educational Leadership

Elliott Ostler’s unique approach in using innovative technology to teach math and science to non-traditional learners has led to consulting projects for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Texas Instruments, and The College Board, all of which have invited him to consult on projects ranging from curriculum review to product design.

The application of his own research led to the development of an innovative mathematics teaching tool, which earned a United States patent and ultimately evolved into a successful business venture called the Initiative for Instructional Inventions and Solutions. Since formalizing this business commitment, he has distributed nearly 11,000 of his unique teaching instruments nationwide and trained more than 1,000 mathematics teachers to use it. Today he continues to pursue his vision of reinventing STEM instruction through the development of innovative teaching tools.

Ostler is a Paul Kennedy Professor of Educational Leadership and a recipient of the Milton W. Beckman Lifetime Achievement Award.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING AWARD

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

UNO’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literature is an inherently interdisciplinary department that aims to internationalize the UNO curriculum, to deliver engaging, rigorous, and student-focused instruction, and to serve the Omaha community. The department stands out due to its collaborative culture and focus on student success. Its innovative curriculum incorporates new technologies into classes, updated teaching methodology and course delivery methods, travels with students abroad, and performs community outreach with students. All of these activities not only promote student learning, but also foster student-faculty relationships that continue even after graduation. In the last five years, faculty have received 13 awards recognizing excellence in teaching, student mentorship, and service.
**EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

**ABBIE SYREK**  
Communication

Abbie Syrek has several roles at UNO. She is the Director of Forensics, teaches communication studies courses, and is the course supervisor for argumentation and debate. Under Syrek’s direction, the MavFORENSICS team has grown into a national powerhouse. They have placed in the elite top-10 programs in the nation for the past seven years, ranking top-5 three of those years. Three of her students were named to the All-American team, and MavForensics has won six national championships in seven years.

This success led Syrek to be named the American Forensics Association’s Outstanding New Forensics Coach in 2011. Syrek is a proud Maverick and truly believes that UNO is the place to be. She has empowered her team to find their voices, become lifelong advocates, and be true representatives of UNO’s core values.

**ALUMNI OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARDS**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**ANA CARBALLAL**  
Foreign Languages and Literature (Spanish)

Ana Carballal’s expertise is Galician studies and Postcolonialism. She also has published work on topics including immigration and exile and Afro-Hispanic literature and created courses on topics such as *Don Quixote*, the Spanish Civil War and Spanish Women Writers. Her students serve Girls Inc., the Juan Diego and Chicano Awareness Centers, and others, using their Spanish skills to teach, translate applications, help newcomers with paperwork, and more.

**DORA MATACHE**  
Mathematics

Dora Matache’s academic expertise is mathematical modeling and analysis of the dynamics of logical networks that are common in artificial life and in real-life areas such as genetics, biochemistry, social sciences, prediction markets, and physics. She also is a promoter of the inquiry-based learning paradigm in teaching that shifts focus from lecture to independent learning by students so that students become their own teachers.

**JULIE PELTON**  
Sociology and Anthropology

Julie Pelton’s primary focus is the sociology of teaching and learning. She has worked extensively with her undergraduate theory courses to understand how sociology majors learn and whether student-learning outcomes can improve through use of effective learning strategies. She also is the Online Sociology Program coordinator and undergraduate advisor at UNO.
BIRUD SINDHAV
Marketing and Management

Birud Sindhav teaches courses at four levels of study: Marketing Research to undergraduates; Doing Business in China in the MBA program; Leadership and Managerial Toolkit in the Executive MBA program; and Marketing Management in Executive Education. Other teaching interests include Social Media Marketing and Marketing on the Internet. He also is a senior research fellow for the Institute for Collaboration Science at UNO.

DOUG PATERSON
Theatre

Doug Paterson has focused on community-based theatre for most of his teaching and professional career, including the development of a service-learning course, Theatre for Social Justice. His work in Augusto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed has led him to begin the internationally known Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conferences, now in its 22nd year, and to travel the world teaching its practices and using the conferences for community dialogue.

KERRY BELDIN
Social Work

Kerry Beldin focuses her academic activities around training professionals about mental health issues, and improving intervention efforts targeting violence against women. She has taught a variety of courses at the graduate level and developed two courses for the Grace Abbott School of Social Work that reflect those interests. She also is an assessment/audit coordinator for Lancaster County’s Community Assessment/Safety and Accountability Audit.

FRANKLIN THOMPSON
Teacher Education

Franklin Thompson’s areas of expertise are in human relations, race relations, multicultural education, urban education, conflict management, counseling, and working with at-risk youth. Thompson also volunteers with the African-American Empowerment Network and several other community-based intervention groups. He also is a four-term member of the Omaha City Council, earning election first in 2001 and three times since as the District 6 representative.

STUART BERNSTEIN
Construction Systems

Stuart Bernstein has taught construction management and leadership classes for 14 years, following a 25-year career in the construction industry. He works closely with area secondary schools, building relationships that encourage students to enter the construction management field. He frequently incorporates service-learning projects into his classes.
DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH OR CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

ANGELA EIKENBERRY
Public Administration

UNO Aluma Angela Eikenberry is a professor in the School of Public Administration who enjoys working with her supportive, kind, and hard-working colleagues. She is an accomplished researcher whose work is being honored with the UNO ADROCA Award. Eikenberry’s research has been featured on NPR’s “All Things Considered” and in the Stanford Social Innovation Review. Her book, Giving Circles: Association, and Democracy, won CASE’s 2010 John Grenzebach Research Award for Outstanding Research in Philanthropy.

One of her biggest career moments was being selected for a 2014-2015 UK Fulbright Scholar Award to study giving circles in the UK.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE MENTOR AWARD

ANN FRUHLING
Interdisciplinary Informatics

Ann Fruhling is a Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Professor of the College of Information Science and Technology, and the founding Director of the School of Interdisciplinary Informatics at UNO. She also is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Consortium of Public Health Informatics, and was promoted to Professor, effective August 2016.

Ann is performing life-changing work at UNO and was the Principle Investigator for an Emergency Response System for Public Laboratories that protects citizens against bioterrorism threats.

She believes that UNO is an inspiring place to learn, create, innovate, and conduct exciting and meaningful research, and she enjoys the opportunity to make positive contributions to the community and the exciting vision for the future.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE LEARNING FACULTY AWARD

SANDRA RODRÍGUEZ-ARROYO
Teacher Education

Sandra Rodríguez-Arroyo is an Assistant Professor of Education, the faculty contact for the English as a Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual Education teacher education programs, and a faculty member with the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies. Throughout her career, she has become a community-engaged scholar. Rodríguez-Arroyo has been able to connect her teaching, research, and service through service learning and act as the faculty liaison for Metro Area Teachers of English Language Learners (MATELLS).

She now has three courses that include service-learning experience, has presented and published research on it, and was the recipient of Nebraska’s Campus Compact 2015 Excellence in Community-based Teaching and Scholarship Award. MATELLS is an ESL network that is an Advisory Board with ESL coordinators from the Omaha Metro Area school districts and Teaching Circles for teachers of English Language Learners.
2015–2016 NEW AND RENEWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS

These faculty are being honored for their new or renewed appointments to the following professorships/chairs:

- **Phani Adidam**  
  Marketing and Management  
  Executive Management Education Professorship

- **Maria Arbelaez**  
  History  
  Charles W. and Mary C. Martin Professor of History

- **Catherine Co**  
  Economics  
  Ward Y. Lindley and George T. Lindley Professorship

- **Chris Decker**  
  Economics  
  John Lucas Diamond Professorship

- **Sarah Edwards**  
  Teacher Education  
  Dr. Hollie Bethel Professor of Education

- **Susan Eldridge**  
  Accounting  
  Union Pacific Professor of Accounting

- **Richard File**  
  Accounting  
  Thomas A. and Beverly Ward Spencer Professorship in Government Accounting

- **Robin Gandhi**  
  Interdisciplinary Informatics  
  Charles W. and Margre H. Durham Distinguished Professor of Information Science and Technology

- **Matt Germonprez**  
  Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis  
  Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Chair of Information Science and Technology

- **Shuanglin Lin**  
  Economics  
  Harlan and Nancy Noddle Professorship of Business Administration

- **Rebecca Pasco**  
  Teacher Education  
  Margaret Killian Diamond Professorship

- **Mark Scherer**  
  History  
  Charles W. and Mary C. Martin Professor of Western American History

- **Steven Shultz**  
  Finance, Banking, and Real Estate  
  Hollis and Helen Baright Distinguished Professor of Real Estate Studies

- **Roopa Venkatesh**  
  Accounting  
  William C. Hockett Diamond Professorship

- **David Volkman**  
  Finance, Banking, and Real Estate  
  Col. Guy M. Cloud, Jr. and Patricia Cloud Professor of Investment Sciences Engagement
2015–2016 CONTINUING PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS

Carl Ameringer
Public Administration
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska,
Chair of Health Care Administration and Policy

Randall Adkins
Political Science
Ralph Wardle Diamond Professorship

Jack Armitage
Accounting
Distinguished Alumni
Professorship of Accounting

Kenton Bales
Music
Robert M. Spire Chair of Music

Christine Beard
Music
Regents/Foundation Professorship

David Carter
Counseling
Peter Kiewit Distinguished Professorship

Christine Cutucache
Biology
Haddix Community Chair in Science

Kathleen Danielson
Teacher Education
Isaacson Professorship

Raj Dasgupta
Computer Science
Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Chair of
Information Science and Technology

Arthur Diamond
Economics
Frederick W. Kayser Chair

Carol Ebdon
Public Administration
Regents/Foundation Professorship

Dale Eesley
Marketing and Management
John Morgan Community Chair in Innovation,
Entrepreneurship, and Franchising

Angela Eikenberry
Public Administration
David Scott Diamond Professorship

Griffith Elder
Mathematics
Maury and Nancy Lipton Professor of Mathematics

Jeffrey French
Psychology
D.B. and Paula Varner Professorship

Ann Fruhling
Interdisciplinary Informatics
Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Chair of
Information Science and Technology

Neal Grandgenett
Teacher Education
Dr. George and Sally Haddix Community
Chair in STEM Education

David Helm
Art and Art History
Edwin Clark Diamond Professorship

Angela Hodge
Mathematics
Dr. George Haddix Community
Chair in Mathematics

Bruce Johansen
Communication
Isaacson Professorship

Lisa Kelly-Vance
Psychology
Peter Kiewit Distinguished Professorship

Christopher Kelly
Gerontology
Leo Missinne Professor of Gerontology

Alan Kolok
Biology
Isaacson Professorship

Jeremy Lipschultz
Communication
Isaacson Professorship

William Mahoney
Interdisciplinary Informatics
Cheryl Prewett Clark Diamond Professorship

Valentin Matache
Mathematics
James M. Earl Diamond Professorship

Mike Messerole
Health, Physical Education, and Recreation
Professor Robert Ackerman Faculty
Fellow of Community Engagement

Owen Mordaunt
English
Albert W. and Helen J. Jefferis
Chair of English Literature

Elliott Ostler
Educational Leadership
Paul Kennedy Diamond Professorship

Cindy Phaneuf
Theatre
Isaacson Professorship

Patrice Proulx
Foreign Languages and Literature
Peter Kiewit Distinguished Professorship

Hugh Reilly
Communication
Robert T. Reilly Professorship

Roni Reiter-Palmon
Psychology
D.B. and Paula Varner Professorship

Jennifer Riley
Accounting
William C. Hockett Diamond Professorship

Amy Rodie
Marketing and Management
James R. Schumacher Chair of Ethics

Thomas Roland
Music
Marguerite Scribante Professor in Music

Wei Rowe
Finance, Banking and Real Estate
Nebraska Bankers Association Professorship

Renate Sabirianov
Physics
Milo Bail Chair in Physics

Lisa Sample
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Elizabeth H. Reynolds and Beverly
B. Reynolds Professor of Public
Affairs and Community Service

Yong Shi
Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis
Union Pacific Chair of Information
Science and Technology

Dustin Slivka
Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Dean’s Award of Excellence Professorship

Robert Smith
Chemistry
Kayser Chair

Nicholas Stergiou
Health, Physical Education and Recreation
UNO Distinguished Community
Research Chair in Biomechanics

William Tapprich
Biology
Sophie and Feodora Kahn
Professorship in Biology

Scott Tarry
Aviation
Distinguished Professor in Aviation

Ethel Williams
Public Administration
Elizabeth H. Reynolds and Beverly
B. Reynolds Professor of Public
Affairs and Community Service

Debora Wisneski
Teacher Education
John T. Langan Professor of Early
Childhood Education

Mark Wohar
Economics
College of Business Administration
Distinguished Professorship

Peter Wolcott
Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis
Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Chair of
Information Science and Technology

Quiming Zhu
Computer Science
Union Pacific Chair of Information
Science and Technology

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Kayser Chair

Nicholas Stergiou
Health, Physical Education and Recreation
UNO Distinguished Community
Research Chair in Biomechanics

William Tapprich
Biology
Sophie and Feodora Kahn
Professorship in Biology

Scott Tarry
Aviation
Distinguished Professor in Aviation

Ethel Williams
Public Administration
Elizabeth H. Reynolds and Beverly
B. Reynolds Professor of Public
Affairs and Community Service

Debora Wisneski
Teacher Education
John T. Langan Professor of Early
Childhood Education

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Economics
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Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis
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Information Science and Technology

Quiming Zhu
Computer Science
Union Pacific Chair of Information
Science and Technology
The University of Nebraska at Omaha will be taking pictures at this event for use in advertising and other promotional materials, whether in print, electronic, or other media.

UNO is an AA/EEO/ADA institution. For questions, accommodations or assistance please call/contact Charlotte Russell, ADA/504 Coordinator (phone: 402.554.3490 or TTY 402.554.2978) or Anne Heimann, Director, Accessibility Services Center (phone: 402.554.2872).

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