

Happenings

SUMMER 2013

Early Childhood

page 3



Dean Nancy Edick



Happenings is published twice yearly by the UNO College of Education, Roskens Hall 211, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0161.

CO-EDITORS

Nancy Edick
David Conway

WRITERS

Ronald G. Burmood
and other contributors

PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeff Beiermann
and other contributors

Let us hear from you
402-554-2719

Message from the Dean

Hello to College of Education Alumni and Friends:

We are excited to share with you the Summer 2013 Issue of the University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Education newsletter, *Happenings*. Although we may have forgotten our earliest experiences before school, they continue to affect many aspects of our life. This is why Early Childhood Education is at the forefront of our work in the College of Education, and the focus of this issue. We're especially excited about our partnership with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. Dr. Sam Meisels, a renowned authority in early childhood education, has been selected to serve as the founding Executive Director of the Institute. College of Education faculty member Debora Wisneski has been named as the first John T. Langan Early Childhood Professor. Wisneski recently interviewed Meisels about the Institute and we look forward to having you meet them as they help lead "A Vision of the Future" for our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

Also in this issue, we are proud to share the names of persons who have demonstrated their confidence in our mission and action by contributing to the college and its programs. The generosity of our donors has helped make the John T. Langan Early Childhood Professorship possible. A sincere thank you to all of our donors who have contributed to many important initiatives. You are helping us fulfill our vision as a metropolitan university committed to making a difference in our community.

This past spring marked the 25th anniversary of our Distinguished Alumni Luncheon. You will meet five individuals whose careers represent a commitment to innovation and continued development of our professional practice. It is with great pride that we recognized their achievements.

In the "Did You Know" section we have included several news items relative to accomplishments of our students, our faculty, and our alumni. We wish to congratulate our newest alumni, the May 2013 graduates, and we invite you to share in the celebration and "Six Word Story" reflections of their experience.

We anticipate the approaching school year with a spirit of pride and a determination to improve upon our program and services to students and the community.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the College of Education.

Nancy Edick, Ed.D., Dean
College of Education

Dr. Debora Wisneski
interviews Buffett
Early Childhood
Executive Director
Sam Meisels.

A Vision of the Future

Beginning on June 1, 2013 Dr. Samuel Meisels officially became the first Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI) with the University of Nebraska system. Dr. Meisels brings a vast wealth of knowledge and experience on early childhood development and education to the position, as well as a strong commitment to serve young children and their families. As Executive Director of BECI, Dr. Meisels will work across all four NU campuses. His main office is located in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service on the UNO campus. One of the first BECI collaborations will be with the UNO Early Childhood Education Program in the College of Education. Under the leadership of Langan Professor of Early Childhood Education Dr. Debora Wisneski and the support of BECI, UNO will sponsor its first Early Childhood Conference for early childhood educators in the Omaha Metropolitan area on November 9th, 2013 at the Thompson Alumni Center. The keynote speaker will be McArthur Genius Award winner, world renowned author, and former kindergarten teacher, Vivian Paley. Dr. Wisneski recently spent time with Dr. Meisels and asked him a few questions regarding his vision and the importance of the new Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

DW: What first attracted you to the field of early childhood education and development?

SM: I was at first attracted by the intellectual challenge of trying to understand how children learn, as described by Piaget. Soon after I had an opportunity to spend time in a preschool classroom and from then on I was hooked. I found young children endlessly fascinating and the task of understanding them to be endlessly intellectually demanding. This remains true to this day.

DW: We are so honored to have you join us to work for the children in the state of Nebraska. Can you please tell us what called you to be the first Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute?

SM: I wouldn't describe this as a "calling", but as a challenge. I am attracted to challenges that seem worth my time and energy and the proposal to "transform early childhood for at-risk children birth to age 8" is both challenging and worthy. There is a significant commitment in the state to work to accomplish this goal, excellent resources, and a spirit of adventure. Couldn't be better!

see [CHILDHOOD](#) pg 4

continued CHILDHOOD pg 3

DW: In a broad sense, what is your dream or vision for BECI and for the young children of Nebraska?

SM: My vision has many parts. Chief among them is that we can raise the consciousness and understanding of people in Nebraska and beyond about the importance of the first eight years of life. Along with this, I hope that we will be able to help shape public policies both here and nationwide that will respond to the best research and practice and will enable children and families to thrive. I am also hopeful that we will be able to encourage the establishment of new programs in Nebraska for very young children at risk that will help alleviate conditions of risk and will reduce greatly the disadvantage they have in school. Finally, I expect that the work done in the BECI will have a major impact on the university on all of its campuses, stimulating the growth of research, development, and training about childhood development and the application of research to practical problems facing children and families.

DW: In what ways do you see UNO and the UNO College of Education will be able to connect and contribute to BECI?

SM: All four campuses of the NU system are central to the work of BECI. Each brings special talents, resources, and history to the task of improving the life chances of at-risk young children. Because Omaha represents the largest city in the state and must confront many of the problems and issues that big cities throughout the nation face, and because of UNO's metropolitan mission, UNO's role in the work the BECI will do is very important.

DW: Why is it so important for a university system and the larger Nebraska community to dedicate itself to the education and well-being of our youngest children?

SM: It is easy to say that young children are our nation's future. It is much more difficult to act on that statement and do everything in our power to safeguard the lives of every child we encounter. By creating the BECI the University of Nebraska is engaged on a unique course. No other public university in the nation has committed itself to young children at risk and their families as has NU. It is something for all of us to be proud of and hopefully, to help bring to fulfillment.

The UNO College of Education community offers a warm welcome to Dr. Meisels and looks forward to joining the challenge of investing in the lives of Nebraska's young children. ■



Jeff Kaipust, right, and fellow researchers at sea.

Gait at Sea

Almost a year ago Dr. Nick Stergiou and Dr. Tom Stoffregen from the University of Minnesota started a very innovative project. They wanted to investigate how the walking adaptations that occur when we board a ship can be used to understand walking and falls in the elderly. For this purpose on April 7, 2013, Jeff Kaipust, the Chief Technician from the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility, joined Dr. Tom Stoffregen and his doctoral student aboard the National Science Foundation Thomas G. Thompson research vessel.

The group boarded the ship in Honolulu, Hawaii and set sail for a very motion filled journey to Seattle, Washington. They conducted the first-ever quantitative assessment of human walking on ships at sea to document the process by which novice mariners adjust their gait to ship motion, and to evaluate effects of age (young vs. elderly adults) on adaptation of walking at sea.

No one has ever conducted controlled scientific research on the quantitative kinematics of walking at sea. The group collected data one day while the boat was docked in Honolulu and subsequent days while traveling across the Pacific Ocean. Data was collected using force sensitive resistors to monitor foot pressure timing under the big toe and heel. Walking was tested both inside and outside of the ship in the fore-aft (bow to stern) and thwart (width) direction. Data is currently being analyzed for grant submission to the federal government as a partnership between UNO Biomechanics and the University of Minnesota. ■

From Nebraska to Outer Space for STEM innovation



Clayton Anderson

Nebraska born astronaut, Clayton Anderson, engaged in a busy agenda with the University STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Leadership Team, STEM faculty, and students for a week in early April. Anderson's background and experiences are deeply embedded in STEM. He was originally from Ashland, Nebraska; earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics from Hastings College; and earned his Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Iowa State University. He is a veteran of two space flights; has logged 167 days in space; and 38 hours and 28 minutes in six spacewalks. He completed 5 months aboard the space station in 2007. He retired from NASA in January of 2013.

Meetings with individual faculty members and the STEM Leadership Team provided an opportunity for an intensive discussion

about Anderson's knowledge and experiences, his perspectives on STEM learning, and how he can contribute in the future to enrich the University's STEM program. Anderson also met with community groups which included superintendents of local school districts and a special teachers' night at the Strategic Air and Space Museum. Children at the UNO Child Care Center were also treated to a special visit by Anderson.

Clayton Anderson's visit helped to synergize faculty conversations around UNO's evolving STEM Strategic Plan and helped to "kick off" a faculty review and refinement process for that important document. Faculty talked about the "big picture" for STEM in the United States with Anderson, and how new and existing initiatives at UNO might contribute at a local level to finding solutions to

the country's many STEM challenges. Anderson was a wonderful sounding board for these important conversations and showed his passion and commitment to helping UNO along its journey to become a true national model for STEM learning and innovation. ■



College of Education 2013 graduates

May 2013 Commencement

As Regent Robert Whitehouse said during his comments to the 2013 College of Education graduates, "What a difference a year makes." Cold temperatures and the threat of rain on May 4 forced the College of Education Commencement Ceremonies, originally scheduled for the Pep Bowl, to move to the Fieldhouse where the College of Education graduates shared their space and moment with graduates from the College of Public Affairs and

Community Service (CPACS). The weather contrasted to May 2012 temperatures that neared 100 degrees and sent guests to the shade of the arching locust trees in front of Epley Administration Building.

The cold and damp weather did not dampen the spirits of the graduates nor their guests. Sapp Fieldhouse quickly filled and doors were shut to additional guests fifteen minutes before the ceremonies began. An

estimated 450 persons found alternative seating in the CPACS Auditorium and Commons Area where they were able to view the ceremony on an Internet feed.

Student speakers included Troy Rand, who received his Master's degree in Exercise Science, and Emily Christensen, who received her Master's degree in Educational Leadership. ■



Campus-Wide Commencement Ceremony Student Speakers

Both speakers at the Campus-Wide 9:00 a.m. May 4 Commencement Ceremony were College of Education graduates. Representing the undergraduates was Tessie Stednitz. Tessie graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Interdisciplinary Education. She was a member of the UNO Forensics team, and is ranked fifth in the nation. She has also won more than 30 championships from various tournaments throughout her college career.

Nancy Bond was chosen as the graduate speaker. Nancy received a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership. She is the Supervisor of Counseling for the Omaha Public Schools and previously was a counselor and a high school assistant principal. ■



RESPONSIBLE citizens



Beyond a Change of Name

The Department of Educational Administration and Supervision has recently been renamed the Department of Educational Leadership. The change goes beyond the title. Dr. Peter Smith, Assistant Professor in the Department, explained, "Leadership is not just a title, it is the ability to make positive change." There are many educational leaders in education. And, positive changes in student achievement come from many types of leadership, led by people in many different roles.

Beyond the change of name, faculty members seek the input of educational leaders in the community to develop programs and revise classroom instruction. An example of a new approach includes the LEAD Academy. The Academy focuses on developing leaders and compresses classroom instruction time over a three day period, rather than a traditional semester. Students engage with each other and resource personnel from the community during the academy, and complete projects and other learning activities beyond the classroom following the academy.

A Superintendents' Academy is being launched this fall. The Academy will focus on attracting practicing superintendents who are interested in refining and improving their leadership skills. Input is regularly sought from the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) Executive Committee and Task Forces.

Dr. Kay Keiser has been appointed to serve as Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership replacing Interim Chair David Conway. Conway has been serving as both the Associate Dean of the College and as the chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Supervision. Keiser has earned her three degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree in 1980; the Master of Science degree in 1983; and her Doctor of Education degree in 2005.

Dr. Keiser spearheaded the development of the LEAD Academy for aspiring educational leaders. This successful academy has completed its second year with students enrolled. ■

FACULTY staff

ALUMNI students

From May 30, 2012 to April 30, 2013

College of Education Con

DEAN'S CLUB (\$5,000+)

Mr. J. Armistead T. and Dr. Geil Browning • Emergenetics Internatinal • First National Bank, Omaha • Dr. Jerry L. Fischer • Dr. George F. Haddix • Mr. Richard D. Holland • Mrs. Carole J. Langan • Mr. and Mrs. Allan G. Lozier • Northern Natural Gas Company • The Holland Foundation • The Lozier Foundation • The Weitz Company • Mr. Michael and Dr. Gail Walling-Yanney • Yanney Family Foundation

WALL OF HONOR (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Addy • Mr. Bill B. Beavers • Bellevue Public Schools Foundation Fund • Dr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Blanke • William and Silvia Conley • Dr. and Mrs. David F. Conway • Mr. Robert J. and Dean Nancy A. Edick • Dr. and Mrs. Dave Felber • Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth G. Fisher • Drs. Dennis F. and LaDonna V. Flood • Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Hawks • Bill and Patricia Johnson • Dr. and Mrs. Edward J. Klima • Mr. John J. and Dr. Stephanie F. Koraleski • Ms. Linda P. Krause • Mr. George J. Kubat • Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. McWilliams • Ms. Rebecca J. Pasco • Mr. and Mrs. William E. Roskens • Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha—Scottish Rite Cathedral • The Enrichment Foundation • The Hawks Foundation • Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Torson • Dr. and Mrs. Del Weber • Westside Community Schools Foundation • Mrs. Lynn R. Williams

GOLD CENTURY CLUB (\$500-\$999)

Mr. John R. Atherton and Ms. Marti R. Rosen-Atherton • Ms. Kathleen R. Beckman •

Community Education Foundation, Inc. • Lana M. Danielson, Ph.D. • Drs. Stephen D. and Kathleen E. Danielson • Fidelity Charitable Gift fund • Mr. Larry F. Frum • Gretna Public Schools • Millard School Education Foundation, Inc. • Ralston Schools Foundation • Mr. and Mrs. Dick C. Rock • Ms. Marsha R. Vance • Drs. Andrew O. and Samantha F. Wahl

SILVER CENTURY CLUB (\$250-499)

Dr. Ronald and Ms. Karen Burmood • Ms. Karen N. Clark • Dr. and Mrs. Richard T. Cotton • Dr. Kristine Dohrman-Swain • Dr. and Mrs. Neal F. Grandgenett • Dr. John W. Hill and Ms. Tommie C. Parker • Mr. and Mrs. Larry R. Jacobsen • Mrs. and Mrs. William A. Johnson • Mr. James B. Kubinak • Mr. Walter L. Lee • Mr. and Mrs. Hugh H. Menton • Mr. Joseph H. and Dr. Suzanne G. Nuss • Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Pegram • Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Reiser • Mr. William J. and Dr. Connie L. Schaffer • The Lee Family Trust • Dr. and Mrs. Blaine E. Ward

BRONZE CENTURY CLUB (\$100-\$249)

Mr. Keith O. Bailey • Ms. Mary Ann Bragg • Mr. Richard D. Brown • Mr. and Mrs. Wayne H. Burk • Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Chevalier • Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Christie • Mr. Jason M. and Dr. Sarah K. Edwards • Mrs. Jacqueline A. Estee • Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Fowler, Jr. • Dr. and Mrs. Henry R. Frost • Dr. Charles M. Godwin • Mr. and Mrs. Denis I. Goeser • Ms. Jo Ann Haafke • Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Hansen • Mr. and Mrs. Brian L. Harr • Mr. and Mrs. Bruce K. Hayden, Jr. • Dr. and Mrs. Frank A. Hoy • Ms. Judy K.

Keyser • Mr. and Mrs. David J. Kroeger • Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Krueger • Mr. and Mrs. Dean L. Larsen • Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Leichner, III • Ms. Danya A. Linneman • Mr. and Mrs. Bob L. Lykke • Dr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Maliszewski • Ms. Mary T. McGovern • McNamara Family Trust • Miss Patricia McNamara • Mr. David C. Melliger and Dr. Suzanne R. Melliger • Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Messerole • Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Nordness • Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Rankin • Ms. Marilyn Raupe • Dr. Mitzi J. Ritzman • Dr. Becky B. Schnabel • Parker L. Shipley, J. D. and Dr. Velma C. Shipley • Dr. Peter J. Smith • Dr. Jeanne L. Surface • Mr. and Ms. James V. Sutfin • The Lykke Revocable Trust • Mrs. Joanne G. Thietje • Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Whitehouse

CONTRIBUTOR (UP TO \$99)

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Adcock • Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Allphin • Mrs. Nancy E. Athey • Ms. Sharon Ballenger • Miss Susan C. Bednarz • Dr. Ruth E. Benson • Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Bosworth • Mrs. Marianne E. Boyer • Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Breed • Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brown • Mr. Robert and Dr. Virginia Troia Brown • Ms. Veljean G. Brown • Chancellor and Mrs. John E. Christensen • Mr. Jason D. Coleman • Mr. Kent Crossley • Mrs. Elma I. Dodder • Mrs. Barbara L. Edgar • Mr. and Mrs. Steve R. Epstein • Mrs. Harla M. Farnham • Ms. Amanda L. Fletcher • Mr. and Mrs. David Flynn • Mr. and Mrs. Duane H. Fox • Ms. Gail Furman • Ms. Roberta Ginavan • Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Givens • Ms. Mary A. Grimes • Mr. and Mrs. Howard F.

tributors

Hahn • Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Hahn • Mr. Dennis Hanley • Mrs. Alyce D. Hobson • Ms. Twila E. Juel • Mr. Jeffrey P. Kaipust • Mr. and Mrs. Joseph V. Kaminski • Ms. Linda J. Kaup • Mrs. Margaret A. Kennedy • Mr. and Mrs. Patrick C. Knowles • Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Kolowski • Ms. Carolyn J. Kundel • Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson D. Lauritzen • Mr. and Mrs. Hans M. Link • Mrs. Helene L. Lohman • Mr. and Mrs. Steven A. Lorenzen • Mr. and Mrs. Gary V. Mann • Mr. John F. May • Mr. Wendell R. McConnaha • Dr. Roger L. McGargill, Jr. • Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. McMahon • Ms. Renee Mead • Ms. Gloria A. Wallen-Mendez • Ms. Lou Meyer • Ms. Susan C. Miller • Mr. Mukul Mukherjee • Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Murphy • Dr. Sara Myers • Mr. and Mrs. Chris H. Myhre • Mr. and Mrs. Nelson L. Newman • Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Nuschy • Mr. and Mrs. James D. Oschner • Mrs. Arlyce M. Olsen • Dr. and Mrs. Ike F. Pane • Professional Audiology and Hearing Center, Inc. • Mr. Scot E. Rainbolt • Mrs. Laraine K. Roberts • Mrs. Ann M. Rosenblatt • Mr. and Mrs. Dale W. Salzman • Mr. and Mrs. Edwin T. Schafer • Mrs. Marikay Schwaller • Ms. Donna M. Shearer • Mrs. Roberta L. Slais • Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Smith • Mr. and Mrs. Gene L. Spence • The A. and H. Pane Revocable Trust • Dr. and Mrs. Neal W. Topp • Mr. and Mrs. Jesse G. Ugalde • Mrs. Sharon M. Watts • Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Welna • Ms. Jennifer M. Yentes • Mr. and Mrs. Edward N. York • Mrs. Patricia Ziemkowski

Dr. Debora Wisneski Named John T. Langan Early Childhood Education Professor



Chancellor John Christensen with Dr. John Langan

John Langan was an extraordinary man. One that loved life and especially, teaching. It is because of his long standing reputation as an incredible educator and the Dean of UNO's College of Education that the John T. Langan Early Childhood Education Professorship was established.

John was involved in some capacity with the College of Education for 44 years. He began as an undergraduate student and continued his education with the graduate program. He then held roles such as a graduate assistant, professor and a department chair before going on to act as the dean for five years. Throughout his roles in the College he always had an acute interest in Early Childhood Education and the importance it played for all students.

John was also a member of the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education and served as the president for seven years. Under his leadership, both at the University and the community level, John made an impact in helping to improve education and better prepare teachers for the field. John also had a strong love for UNO athletics and he could be found in the stands at many a Maverick hockey game.

Upon John's passing, friends and family wanted to do something special to honor and remember the beloved man, so they joined together and established the Professorship in his name. With this prestigious position, John's legacy will continue to live on at UNO and in the community for years to come. Generous supporters that were touched by John gave and continue to give to the fund so that an outstanding faculty member can be chosen as the recipient of this Professorship.

Dr. Debora Wisneski has been named as the first John T. Langan Early Childhood Education Professor. The professorship will continue recognition for Langan and will make an impact on the future.

For more information on donating to the College of Education or supporting Early Childhood Education on behalf of Dr. Langan, please contact Nicole Massara, Director of Development with the University of Nebraska Foundation at 402-502-4105 or nmasara@unfoundation.org. ■



College of Education SIX word Stories

Thrilled, excited, blessed; loved by God! *Aimee Valentine*

Experience, education and memories last forever. *Curtis Smith*

Academic Suspension. Got married. Now Graduating. *Benjamin Yates*

Hard Work, Determination, Embrace Opportunities, Success *Alissa Ellis*

I am proud; I am UNO. *Maria Olvera*

Poised, caring, and masterful graduate faculty *Ashlie Nelson*

Two years, many memories, one success. *Kristin Folk*

Dr. Pasco: Encouraging Solvers-Onward! Upward! *Heather Kavan*

Inspired to go beyond the norm. *Katie Keck*

Unforgettable, inspiring journey... future wide open! *Kerri Presser*

Trepidation. Resolve. Perseverance. Valuable. Exhilarating! Triumphant!! *Nancy Bond*

Preparation for life that's just starting. *Megan Allison*

One Heart Transplant, Two degrees, Success! *Sarah Prenosil*

Great start to a new career. *Steven Croy*

Life long journey I'm forever learning. *Sasha Foo*

Nontraditional Student... Yet fully accepted, welcomed. *Bev Persing*

A life-long learner never graduates. *Holly Murphy*

Diplomas can't list all I've learned. *Holly Murphy*

Life Lessons, Growth, Ambition, Goals Achieved! *Christina Thomas*

Lifetime Learning Experience. Many Memories Made. *Traci Bouvier*

A new day, lives to change. *Sasha Foo*

Prepared and ready for the future. *Melissa Ulrich*

Hard work really does pay off! *Carly Martin*

Friendship. Preparation. Experience. Leadership. Courage. Excitement. *Lacy Duckworth*

Transferred, Excelled, Honors Graduate... Graduate School! *Brianna Kallman*

Learn, teach, learn, teach, learn, teach. *Gail Schriber*

Crazy memories, but I'm moving on. *Chelsea Hartman*

"Enigmatic to illuminated, evanescent to attained." *Karl Fick*

Creating the New Path for Yourself *Amber Young*

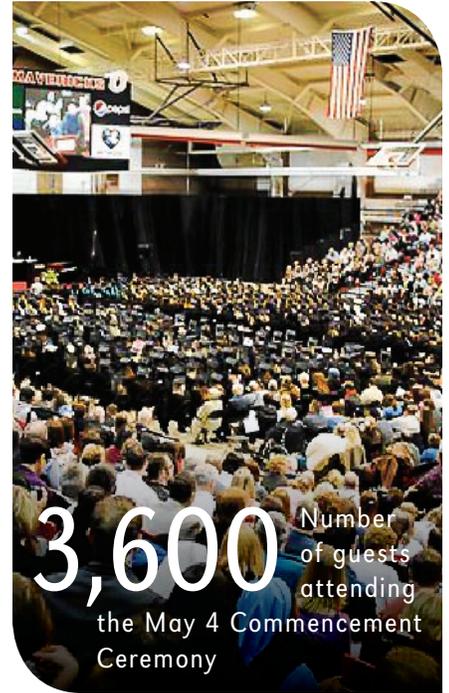
Fantastic preparations to impact future generations. *Amanda Fitch*

Goals, friends, laughter, sleepless, experiences, determination. *Jordan Laughlin* ■

COUNT ON US...

\$21,733,702
in grants submitted over
the past 9 months

1,587 Number of
students
enrolled in
all programs in the College
of Education in Fall of 2012



3,600 Number
of guests
attending
the May 4 Commencement
Ceremony

1,155

Number of hours with
clients by students in
the Speech-Language
and Hearing Clinic
during 2012-2013

25 Number of years
the Distinguished
Alumni Luncheon
has been held

139

& Number of high
school students
attending the
27th Annual
Showcase of
Teaching

27

44,000

Number of hours of service by
the 63 Counseling graduates
in the Counseling Clinic
& area mental health or
education related facilities

09.05.13

Dedication of the Nebraska
Biomechanics Research Facility.

25,198

Number of students and
faculty served in the
IDEAS room during the
2012-2013 academic year

73 U.S. News rank
of the College of
Education Speech
Pathology Program

589 Number of CADRE
teachers who
have completed
the program since
its beginning

255/26 Number
of Student
Teachers who taught in
26 different schools



Twenty-five Years of Honoring Alumni

The first Distinguished Alumni Luncheon was held on September 30, 1988. In the following twenty-five years the luncheon has most often been held in Mid-April. On April 17, 2013, one-hundred twenty-five people gathered to honor the five 2012-2013 recipients. Since the luncheon began the college has selected over 159 of over 17,000 living alumni for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The overall honorees have included fifteen people who were, or became, superintendents of school districts throughout Nebraska, and from Arizona and Minnesota. The honorees have also included noted mathematicians, authors, psychologists, teachers, principals, counselors, and several people who have served our community in promoting better health.

Photo above pictured left to right: Dr. Martha Bruckner, Dr. Elizabeth Mulkerrin, Dean Nancy Edick, Dr. Tanya Martin, and Dr. Chad McGhee.

The 2013-2014 honorees were:

Dr. Martha Bruckner. Dr. Bruckner is the Superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community Schools. Prior to her service in Council Bluffs, she was the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services in the Millard Public Schools. Bruckner began her career as a teacher at Ralston High School and later became principal. She left Ralston to teach in the Educational Leadership Department in the UNO College of Education before going to Millard.

Bruckner served as President of ASCD, one of the largest professional education associations in the country. She has been recognized previously by several other groups including the University of Nebraska Teachers College Walter K. Beggs Award for Outstanding Service to Education. She earned both her Bachelor of Science degree and her Master of Science degree from UNO.

Martha was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Tanya Martin. Dr. Martin is the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Special Education for Boys Town. Her primary professional focus has been developing educational programs for special needs students with co-occurring mental health disorders.

Martin was recognized as the Nebraska Special Educator of the Year in 2010 by the Council of Exceptional Children. She serves as a board member of the Nebraska Educators for At-Risk Youth (NESTAR).

Tanya's four degrees are from UNO. The degrees include a Bachelors of Science, two Masters of Science, and her Doctor of Education degree. She was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Chad McGhee. Dr. McGhee is a post-doctoral psychology resident at the Oregon State Hospital in Portland, Oregon. He has also served as a pre-doctoral intern at the Allies in Change Counseling Center and the Linfield Nursing College Campus Counseling Center in Portland. He worked as a full-time therapist at the Nova Therapeutic Community in Omaha before working on his doctorate.

Chad's Master of Science degree is from UNO. He was awarded the Promising Professional Award.

Dr. Elizabeth Mulkerrin. Dr. Mulkerrin is the Director of Education for the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo. She is responsible for the educational programs at the zoo including the Zoo School for high school students. Mulkerrin began her career as a biology teacher at Omaha Burke High School and became involved with the Zoo Academy program at the school.

Mulkerrin serves on the board of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) as the Director of the Informal Science Division. She was named as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Omahans in 2006. She serves on the program committee for Omaha Girls Inc., and also serves on the Regional Metro Science and Engineering Fair Board.

Elizabeth earned her Master of Science degree and Doctor of Education degree from UNO.

Our twenty-sixth Distinguished Alumni Luncheon will be held on April 16, 2014. If you know a UNO College of Education Alum who has distinguished themselves in their career or in community service, please let us know the name of the alum and why they merit the honor. You can send your comments to: rburmood@unomaha.edu. ■

W. Michael Walsh Chosen for the Friend of Education Award

The Friend of Education Award was initiated at the 2008-2009 Distinguished Alumni Luncheon during the UNO Centennial Year. This is the second time it has been awarded. The honoree, Dr. W. Michael Walsh recently retired from the position of senior partner and orthopaedic surgeon at OrthoWest, P.C. During his 32 years in Omaha he devoted considerable time supporting UNO programs, including serving as the physician for Maverick Athletics.

The College of Education Friend of Education Award, however, was given to Dr. Walsh for his support of the Athletic Training Program, and his support over several years of other programs within the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He served as a consultant in the development of the Athletic Training Program. ■

Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award

Dr. C. Elliott Ostler considers himself a right brained math teacher. Ostler thrives on connecting mathematics to other academic areas, and especially literacy and the social sciences. He believes in the practical application of mathematics and in defining creative ways for students to learn mathematical concepts. He is also an author. His published books include several academic resources, but also two novels. The novels are based on the story of a mathematician who fights corruption in the insurance industry.

Would you like to read one of the novels? The two currently available include: *The Chimera Prophecies*; and *The Basilisk Conspiracy*. *The Gorgon's Father* is being written at the present time.

Ostler has an influence beyond his classrooms in Roskens Hall. He consults with the Avenue Scholars Foundation program and is actively involved in teaching young people in the program as he works with a number of the Avenue Scholars Talent Advisors. He also serves as a consultant on the National Consultant Advisory Panel for the College Board and to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) as a consultant in developing educational products involving Heliophysics.

Dr. Ostler was chosen for the College of Education's Outstanding Teaching Award for 2013. Peers determine the recipients of this honor. As a part of this honor, he also served as the Faculty Marshal for the May Commencement Ceremonies. ■

Did You Know?



Students attend Clinton Global Initiative University.

- **Sister Rosemary Arrah (M.A., 2012)**, a recent Master of Arts graduate in Special Education and Communication Disorders, attended the Clinton Global Initiative University held at Washington University in St. Louis during the last weekend in April. Arrah and two fellow UNO students who attended the conference received a grant that provided resources to carry out a plan to create a public library at St. Joseph Elementary School in Mamfe, Cameroon. Arrah, a native of Cameroon, was quoted in the Omaha World Herald as saying, “I couldn’t remember reading a book in primary school because they weren’t available.”
- **Dr. Andy Rikli (Ed.D., 2007)** has been appointed as the Superintendent of the Papillion LaVista Public Schools. Rikli is also currently serving as President of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Alumni Association.
- **Speech-Language Pathology** hosted a “Better Hearing and Speech Month” event on May 7 in the Roskens Hall Atrium. The Southwest Sertoma Club was recognized for its support of the Speech-Language Program. A

recognition award was also given to one of the clients, Jeff Lepkowski, and his family. The event celebrated “Better Hearing and Speech Month” as well as introduced the new clinic coordinator, Jill Kumke. Students demonstrated equipment and displayed their research efforts.

- **Moving Company** partner, Charles Ahovissi, the Director of the African Culture Connection (ACC), was presented the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award by First Lady Michelle Obama. Ahovissi and the ACC rehearse with the Moving Company and

offer weekly classes in African Dance and Drumming in the UNO Dance Lab.

- **Bob Lykke (M.S., 1976)** was selected for the Distinguished Humanitarian Award at Minnesota State University. Lykke and his wife, Mary, were honored as Distinguished Alumni by the College of Education last year for their contributions to education and the community.
- Eight of the fifteen Omaha Public Schools teachers announced as winners of the 2013 Alice Buffett Outstanding Teaching Award had a degree from the College of Education. The winners included: **Tanya Archie, Heather Bryan, Patrick Derr, Mary Lincoln, Teri Lisko, Donna McGonigal, Dara Rosenberg, and Linda Vernon**. Another winner, **Linda Wood**, participated in the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium’s National Board Cohort program and became a National Board Teacher. Each of the winners is presented with a check for \$10,000. Nominations for the award are annually sought from parents, former students, and students.
- **Students in Dr. Kathy Danielson’s classes (TED)** assisted in judging essays submitted as part of a contest sponsored by the Omaha Storm Chasers



Speech-Language Reception



Roskens Hall

and the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust (NEST). The essays submitted by seventh and eighth graders were written on the topic: “Why I want to go to college.” The first place winner received \$3,500 toward their NEST College Savings Plan.

- The **Academic Advising Steering Committee** was awarded the UNO Strategic Planning Award. **Becky Schnabel (M.S., 1977; Ed.D., 2009)**, Coordinator of Student Services, is a co-chair of the committee and **Cara Ortega** is the representative for COE Advisors. The major project for AASC for 2012-13 was the Starfish Pilot Project. The College of Education and College of Arts and Science implemented this use of the software product which allows students to make their appointments for academic advising via any mobile device. In addition, academic advisors record advising notes electronically. These are only two of the many features. As a result of this pilot project, this software product will be available to all undergraduate advising units and students by the fall 2013.
- **Dr. Nick Stergiou (HPER)** led the first ever European Nonlinear Analysis workshop at the University College Dublin May 8 -10, 2013. Participants

were from Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Portugal. Stergiou worked with Irish collaborators Dr. Denise McGrath and Dr. Brian Caulfield.

- **Roskens Hall** was featured in the May edition of a national lighting design magazine (*Lighting Design + Application*, a publication of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America). The article defines the lighting concept used throughout the building to draw people into classroom and collaboration spaces.
- **Jennifer Dotson** was the recipient of the 2013 National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Member Honors. Member Honors were awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, service to the academic unit, professional conduct, and service to NSSLHA.
- **Dr. Sandra Shillingstad (TED)** was recognized by the International Office of Kappa Delta Pi for serving eleven years as the Counselor for the UNO Eta Omega Chapter. The chapter has been very active in Literacy Alive!—Kappa Delta Pi’s signature service initiative.

Student Technology Competition

Cooperating teachers and university supervisors again nominated UNO Student Teachers for the Spring 2013 Student Teaching with Technology Award. Twenty-five nominees utilized various technology such as: interactive white boards, research databases, web 2.0 tools, iMovie, blogs, social media sites, iPads and apps.

Four nominees were selected by a panel of reviewers for having the most creative and engaging application of technology. The four winners received a gift certificate from Learning HQ.

The winners were:

- **Elizabeth Von Nagy, Library Media, Douglas County West**
- **Faren Huben, Mathematics, Westside Community Schools**
- **Andrew Tomei, Mathematics, Millard Public Schools**
- **Jenna Miller, Second Grade, Westside Community Schools**

Happenings

SUMMER 2013

in this issue

pg 3 | A Vision for the Future Dr. Samuel Meisels officially became the first Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI) with the University of Nebraska system.

pg 5 | From Nebraska to Outer Space Nebraska born astronaut, Clayton Anderson, engaged in a busy agenda with the University STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Leadership Team, STEM faculty, and students for a week in early April. Anderson's background and experiences are deeply embedded in STEM.

pg 9 | Wisneski Named John T. Langan Early Childhood Education Professor John Langan was an extraordinary man. One that loved life and especially, teaching. It is because of his long standing reputation as an incredible educator and the Dean of UNO's College of Education that the John T. Langan Early Childhood Education Professorship was established.

pg 12 | Twenty-five Years of Honoring Alumni The first Distinguished Alumni Luncheon was held on September 30, 1988. In the following twenty-five years the luncheon has most often been held in Mid-April.

Follow the College of Education on Facebook!

We have great news to share with you! Become our fan on Facebook to stay connected to the College! www.facebook.com/unocoe

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO 301

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Roskens Hall 211
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182-0161

