



HOLLIE BETHEL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LUNCHEON | APRIL 11, 2018



CREATING A POSITIVE FORCE

On April 19, 1950 the Regents of the University of Omaha approved the formation of the College of Education. Formal training of teachers had begun years earlier when 26 students started classes at the newly formed University on September 14, 1908. Of 11 students in the first graduating class in 1913, six went on to be teachers .

A Department of Education was formed within the University in 1928, and Irwin A. Hammer was appointed the first Department Chair. Two years later on May 6, 1930, the voters approved the creation of the Municipal University of Omaha.

The first Dean of the College of Education, appointed in April of 1950, was Frank H. Gorman. Following Gorman were Paul C. Kennedy, Edward L. Dejnozka, David E. Kapel, Donald A. Myers, Richard B. Flynn, John E. Christensen, John T. Langan, and David F. Conway (Interim Dean). Nancy A. Edick became the first female dean on July 1, 2009.

The first Distinguished Alumni Luncheon was held on September 30, 1988. Since its inception, almost 200 alumni have been honored.

Today, the College has over 22,000 living alumni with a significant number living and working in metropolitan Omaha. The College of Education offers degrees in the areas of Biomechanics, Counseling, Educational Leadership, Health and Kinesiology, Special Education and Communication Disorders, and Teacher Education.

Our students and alumni serve the community through their work as dedicated practitioners, reflective scholars and responsible citizens. Your support is essential to our mission and growth. Contact Nicole Massara at nicole.massara@nufoundation.org to learn more about a gift to the College of Education.



W E L C O M E & C O M M E N T S

Nancy A. Edick, Lois G. Roskens Dean

P R E S E N T A T I O N O F A W A R D S

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Megan Riebe Reay

presented by Dr. Daniel Kissinger, Counseling

Tanya Lager

presented by Dr. Ronald Bulbulian, Health and Kinesiology

Tiffany Elliott

presented by Dr. Kristine Swain, Special Education and Communication Disorders

Carri Collins

presented by Dr. Sarah Edwards, Teacher Education

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Karen Hayes Harris

presented by Dr. Kay Keiser, Educational Leadership

C L O S I N G C O M M E N T S

Nancy A. Edick, Lois G. Roskens Dean



MEGAN RIEBE REAY

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

Department of Counseling

Megan Riebe Reay received her Master of Science in Community Counseling from UNO's College of Education in 2007. Prior, she earned undergraduate degrees from Creighton University in Spanish and Psychology. Megan is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner and a Nationally Certified Counselor with the National Board of Professional Counselors.

As Vice President of OMNI Behavioral Health, Megan works on program and policy development with various state entities. In her previous roles at OMNI, she has provided direct therapeutic services and supervised various therapy programs.

Along with working in the non-profit world for 12 years, Megan has served as a community volunteer for over 20 years at organizations such as Children's Hospital and the Sacred Heart Ministry Center. Megan currently serves as the President of the Junior League of Omaha, a women's organization devoted to developing trained volunteers and serving the Omaha community. Throughout her 10 years in the Junior League of Omaha, Megan has served as Chair of the League's largest fundraiser, Chair of the New Member Class, and now serves as President of the Board of Directors.

Megan was honored with a Women to Watch Award in 2013 from the Junior League of Omaha and a 40 Under 40 Award in 2016 from the Midlands Business Journal.

Megan lives in Omaha with her husband, Bill, their 12-year-old son, Jimmy, and their lovable Maltipoo, Sprout.

TANYA LAGER

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

School of Health and Kinesiology

Tanya Lager is a Lifestyles/Wellness Manager for Lakeside Village, an Immanuel Retirement Community. Tanya has worked at Lakeside Village since 1999, previously as Wellness Coordinator. She has also worked in the field of physical therapy for Methodist Hospital and at many Omaha-area nursing centers.

Her expertise and dedication to senior wellness is reflected in the many corporate awards and accolades she has helped Immanuel Communities and Lakeside Village obtain for their outstanding efforts in advancing and supporting older adult wellness. These awards include eight WELCOA Gold Well Workplace Awards, two Governor's Excellence in Wellness Awards, two NuStep Pinnacle Awards, and an Age Achievement Award from the Keiser Institute on Aging. Additionally, Tanya and her Wellness Team have served an integral role in helping Lakeside Village obtain Best of Omaha status every year since 2007 for Best Retirement Community.

Tanya graduated with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees with Exercise Science concentrations from UNO's College of Education. During her time at UNO, she worked as a Graduate Assistant in the Exercise Physiology Lab under the direction of Drs. Rick Latin and Kris Berg.

Tanya Lager lives in Missouri Valley, Iowa with her husband, Patrick, and their two children, Maddy and Brody. As a former rhythmic gymnast who once qualified for the Olympic Training Camp in Marquette, Michigan, she loves cheering for and supporting her kids as they participate in their own athletic pursuits of basketball, football, softball, golf, soccer, dance, dance team, and cheerleading. Tanya is also a volunteer with St. Patrick's Church in Missouri Valley.





TIFFANY ELLIOTT

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders

Tiffany Elliott is a Speech-Language Pathologist, specializing in pediatric feeding and swallowing disorders. She has focused her career on serving preterm and medically complex infants and works in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at the University of Washington Medical Center, where she co-founded the unit's Speech-Language Pathology program.



A nationally-recognized Certified Neonatal Therapist, she is dedicated to serving the whole infant and family. Tiffany partners with professionals at the county and state level to improve transitions home for these fragile infants and their families. She also enjoys teaching and has lectured locally, regionally, and soon nationally, on pediatric feeding and swallowing disorders. She was chosen for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Leadership Development Program and serves on the local Pediatric Feeding Association steering committee.

Tiffany completed her undergraduate degree at UNO's College of Education in Speech-Language Pathology in 2008 and her Master's degree at the University of Washington in 2010. She has maintained ties to UNO by giving an annual video lecture on therapy services in the NICU to UNO students in an early intervention graduate course.

Tiffany loves spending time with her two young daughters, Elsa and Clara, and her husband, Andrew, and making trips back to Nebraska to see all of her extended family.



CARRI COLLINS

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

Department of Teacher Education

An enthusiastic, creative, and passionate educator, Carri Collins is the Principal of Kellom Elementary School. She has worked for Omaha Public Schools since 2000, beginning her career as a classroom teacher at Lothrop Elementary School. She has also worked as a Professional Literacy Coach and Assistant Principal.

Carri earned her Bachelor of Science in Education in 2000 and her Master of Science in Educational Administration in 2004 from UNO's College of Education.

As a stand-out student athlete and track star, Carri was inducted into the UNO Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. Between 1995 and 1998, she was a 16-time North Central Conference champion and set school records 10 times. Carri's record still ranks among the all-time best for the 60-, 100-, and 200-meter races, including No. 6 in the 200 outdoor.

She was inducted last year into the Nebraska Black Sports Hall of Fame, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring black youth through recognizing the accomplishments of local legendary black athletes. In addition to honors for her athletic career, Carri has been recognized and highlighted for her leadership role in education—receiving an Educational Award from the National Council of Negro Women in 2015 and appearing in the recent Nebraska Loves Public Schools documentary film, *Seeds of Hope*, in 2017.

Carri's community involvement has included the Rose Theater Community Board, YWCA Board, Omaha Schools Administrators Association, National Education Association, and Nebraska State Association. Carri and her husband, Curtis, stay active by raising their lively, blended family of five teenagers and a toddler son.





D R . K A R E N H A Y E S H A R R I S

Distinguished Service Award

Department of Educational Leadership



Dr. Karen Hayes Harris is Professor Emeritus in the Educational Leadership Department at UNO's College of Education (COE). She currently serves on the Doctor of Ministry Advisory Commission for Western Baptist Bible College in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Hayes Harris grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois. UNO quickly became a significant part of her life after she relocated to Omaha as a young adult. She earned three degrees from UNO's College of Education: a B.S. Education in 1972, an M.S. Educational Administration and Supervision in 1982, and an Ed.S. Educational Specialist, Superintendents Endorsement in 1989. She completed her Doctorate Degree in Administration, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1996. During her undergraduate time at UNO, she was a participant in many campus civil rights activities. She was also a member and president of the modern dance troupe, Orchesis, predecessor of The Moving Company.

From 2000 to 2015, Dr. Hayes Harris served as a COE faculty member. As a Professor, she advised doctoral candidates, chaired dissertations, and taught Doctorate-level and Master-level courses focused on leadership, human resources, and organizational development. Active in the UNO community, she served as a Faculty Senator and chaired the Chancellors Commission for Multicultural Affairs.



In her previous work, Dr. Hayes Harris served as an evaluator for the AdvancEd Improvement Network and the North Central Accreditation agency. She was an external evaluator for the Omaha Public School System. She served as a coach for the National Staff Development Council and as Midwestern administrator for EPIC (educational power through inter-district collaboration). Dr. Hayes Harris is a published author and has served as a reviewer for Corwin Press, Sage Publications and Eye on Education. Dr. Hayes Harris spent many years with the Omaha Public School district where she worked as Director

of Professional Development, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Grants Coordinator, Elementary Principal, Assistant Principal and teacher. She has also served as Administrator of Nebraska Educator's Service Unit 19, Dance Teacher for Omaha's College of St. Mary's as well as GED instructor for the Metropolitan Community College.

Dr. Hayes Harris currently serves as editor and writer for The Mission, the Study Guide of the Woman's Auxiliary Literature Department, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Phi Delta Kappa, and Omicron Delta Kappa and she is a life member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators. She has served on numerous boards, including Omaha Young Life Organization, Girls Inc., YWCA, Social Settlement, Head Start Policy Council, the National Staff Development Council, and as the founder and president of the Nebraska Staff Development Council.

Dr. Hayes Harris has received numerous honors and recognition for her years of distinguished service. She is a Leadership Omaha graduate and a National Holmes Scholar. She was named Fellow and Distinguished Educator by the Institute for Development and Educational Activities and named Woman of the Year by the Nebraska chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. Her Doctorate research received the Distinguished Research Award, Best Dissertation, from the National Staff Development Council.

Dr. Hayes Harris is married to Rev. Seth C. Harris Sr., pastor of the St. Andrew Missionary Baptist church of Kansas City, Kansas, where she facilitates the women's ministry; co-facilitates the marriage ministry, serves on the Deaconess, mother, and pastors' wives ministry, mission ministry and evangelistic ministry.

She also serves with the Kansas City, Kansas Baptist Ministers Wives and Widows, and is associated with the KAW valley mission. Dr. Hayes Harris has served on the Deaconess board, the prayer ministry, children's ministry, music ministry, women's ministry, Superintendent of Vacation Bible School and President of the young matrons.

Dr. Hayes Harris and Rev. Seth C. Harris, Sr. receive absolute joy as the proud parents of five adult children—all college-educated—and their four grandchildren. In her downtime, she enjoys reading, writing, traveling and spending time with family.



AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

1991-1992

Leta Holley

1993-1994

Paul Kennedy

1995-1996

Kenneth Hansen

1996-1997

Del Weber

1998-1999

Hollie Bethel
Jack and Marilyn MacAllister

2005-2006

Tim Fitzgerald

2010-2011

John T. Langan

2013-2014

Ronald Burmood

2015-2016

Ruth and Bill Scott

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1988-1989

Hollie Bethel
Kenneth Bird
Ellen Coffey
Luvern Cunningham
Larry Dlugosh
Nancy Matsukis
Ron Withern
Ronald Witt

1989-1990

Jean Beyer
David Cain
Joseph Caniglia
Ronald Cisar
Connie Claussen
Margaret Fitch
Mary Harvey

1990-1991

Bobbie Davis
Christina Plambeck
Thomas Romberg
Barbara Schweiger
Janet Seaman
James Tangdall

1991-1992

Mark Caughey
Joyce Christensen
Judith Dobson

John Morrisey
Bernice Nared
Nancy O'Brien
JoAnn Tews

1992-1993

John Bonaiuto
Jeri Engen
James Freeman
Patricia Hudson
Daniel Murphy
Kelly Wanzenreid

1993-1994

Cheri Barg
Don Benning
JoAnn Braymen
Sharon Franzen
Bruce Hayden, Jr.
Carolyn Law
Betty Start

1994-1995

Donald Anderson
Linda Hayek
Roy Hunter
Norma Johnson
John Mackiel
Lane Plugge
Ann Potter

1995-1996

Dennis Dunning
James Howard
Kay Kronholm
Kathy Menke
Dorothy Nolan
Shirlee Walsh

1996-1997

John Atherton
Katherine Fletcher
Dennis Flood
Patricia Katskee
Deborah Loper
Timothy Rasinski
Barbara VanWassen-
hoven

1997-1998

Kathleen Adams
MaryAnn Bragg
Robert Bruckner
Theodore DeLaet
Joan Denton
Sonia Green
James Ramirez
Steven Shanahan

1998-1999

Michael Denney
Janet Fidler

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Jolene Pace
Eleanor Renee
Rodriguez
Robert Whitehouse
Raymond Wood

1999-2000

David Carter
Thresa Clark
Denise Fandel
Karen Johns
Roger Kassebaum
Stephen Kleinsmith
Jon Lopez
Arleen Michael

2000-2001

Rick Black
Janice Gilmore
Robert Graham
Gary Hammack
Robert Ingram
Joseph Leutzinger
Linda Pappas

2001-2002

Ramona Bartee
Ruth Randall Benson
Patricia Hageman
Joyce Huebner

Richard Kolowski
Roger McGargill

2002-2003

Kirby Eltiste
Stephen Hardiman
LeAnn Heflin
Germaine Huber
John Moore
Kay Ryan

2003-2004

Stephen Abraham
Robert Danenhauer
Sandra Hodges
Ann Luther
Joye McLeod
Tony Vincent
Charlotte Wetzel

2004-2005

Ted Esser
Howard Halperin
Barbara Jessing
Michelle Miske McCart
Linda Placzek

2005-2006

Richard Christie
Don Klosterman
Vincent Lenz

Sarah Sanford
Suzanne Wintle

2006-2007

Bruce Dickinson
Deborah Frison
Janice Garnett
Kebbelin Himmelberg
Helene Lohman

2007-2008

Gerry B. Kuhlman
Loral Langemeier
Michael Nuschy
Margie Reed-Schmid
Lisa St. Clair

2008-2009

Karen Clark
Dick C. E. Davis
Max Kurz
Timothy Rasinski

2009-2010

Elizabeth Cernech
Kelly Karkosky
Robert Jorgensen
Shirley Key
Alice Kosowsky
Carolyn Paseneaux
Jason Plourde

James Porter
Sharon Struve
Janet Urban

2010-2011

Rebecca Vinton Dorn
Thomas Harvey
Bob Lykke
Mary Lykke
Antje S. Mefferd
Kathy Solomon

2011-2012

Stephanie Koraleski
Paul Malcom
Stanley Maliszewski
Ferial Pearson
Beverly Petersen

2012-2013

Martha Bruckner
Tonya Martin
Chad McGhee
Elizabeth Mulkerrin
W. Michael Walsh

2013-2014

Robert Buresh
Dwayne Chism
Jacqueline
Huscroft-D'Angelo

Norma Morehouse
Andrew Rikli

2014-2015

Karen G. Anderson
Nancy Oberst
D. Scott Parsons
Marti Rosen-Atherton
Jorge Zuniga

2015-2016

Ryan Kaiser
Tamra Llewellyn
Susie Melliger
Cathy Nelson
Maureen O'Donnell
Melissa M. Scott-Pandorf

2016-2017

Mark Adler
Maddie Fennell
Jessie M. Huisinga
Cyndi Muhlbauer
Brent Schade



HOLLIE BETHEL

Named for the university's first female department chair, Dr. Hollie Bethel, the Distinguished Alumni luncheon began as a way to recognize significant achievements of alumni who passionately embody the College of Education's mission in their careers and community involvement. Dr. Hollie Bethel was a pioneer for the Department of Elementary Education (now Teacher Education); modeling high-standards, she led by example and was highly revered by her students and colleagues. Her legacy continues through the annual luncheon, celebrating the College of Education's most accomplished alumni.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | coe.unomaha.edu
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