Aloha Kākou

_Aloha Kākou_ is a Hawaiian expression. _Aloha_ has numerous meanings, but when it is said as a greeting or farewell, it can be translated as “May there be friendship and love between us.” The word _kākou_ means “us” or “we”; it includes the person(s) being spoken to and is used in a very inclusive and communal sense. When you use the words _Aloha_ and _Kākou_ together as a greeting or farewell, you are expressing feelings of love and camaraderie to a group of people. **So, my COE community, to you I say Aloha Kākou.** As I near the end of my MSW program (20 days until graduation!) I want you to know that it has been a joy to serve as a Graduate Assistant for the UNO College of Education for these past three years. Working to support and broaden the horizons of educators through _Our Lens_, the Culture Walk program and MET Link has indeed been meaningful. I am excited to see how these programs will grow and change to meet the needs of our students, staff and community. So, thank you for your friendship, leadership and tireless work to create social change. I wish each of you all the best on your professional journey.

_Aloha COE, Hanna Wanzenried-Solberg_

April is **Month of the Military Child** as well as **Deaf History Month**. Therefore, this issue includes special sections dedicated to increasing your knowledge and providing community resources on these topics.

_Our Lens_ is a COE Diversity Committee sponsored project.
Professional Development: Curriculum, Resources & Events

Diversity Week: UNO will celebrate Diversity Week during April 15-18, 2013. For a full listing of events please visit: http://studentorgs.unomaha.edu/cultural/

Hope in the Urban Schools: Love Stories: Cara Riggs, Principal of Omaha South High School, will be speaking about her book, Hope in the Urban Schools: Love Stories. This event is hosted by the Metropolitan Reading Council and it will be held at the Papillion Eagle Hills Clubhouse on Thursday, April 25th, from 5:30-7pm. Appetizers and desserts will be served. Please RSVP by April 20th and submit your $10 registration fee to Audrey McNamara at 11904 S. 49th Street, Papillion, NE 68133.

ADL Educator Breakfast: The Weight of the Nation: This FREE Breakfast will offer an intriguing look at the issue of weight bias or “weightism,” and how it affects our communities. Featuring HBOs powerful documentary, The Weight of the Nation, the breakfast will focus on two short films from the series, “Stigma: The Human Cost of Obesity” and “Poverty and Obesity: When Healthy Food Isn’t an Option.” Following the films, the ADL will lead a panel discussion featuring local experts discussing not only the psychological and health aspects of bullying due to weight bias, but also the civil rights issues at the core of this national epidemic. The breakfast will take place on Wednesday, May 1st, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in the Jewish Community Center Theater (333 S. 132nd Street). Please go to http://adledbreakfast012013.eventbrite.com/ to register for this event.

Empowerment Network Conference: Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 16, 2013. The 2013 Keynote Speaker will be Sondra Samuels, CEO of Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ). Samuels has emerged as one of the nation’s most influential leaders on collaborative impact and holistic education reform. The conference will also feature other local, regional and national speakers. The conference will be held at the Hilton Omaha Downtown (1001 Cass Street) from 7:30 am to 2:00 pm. For more information or to register, please visit: www.empoweromaha.com.

4th Annual Making Diversity Count® Conference: The Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation and the Herbert Goldsten Trust, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is proud to present the 4th Annual Making Diversity Count® online, anti-bias program and 2 ½-day conference for up to 60 private or public, middle, high or college educators, administrators, student resource officers, school psychologists, school nurses, media specialists and/or educational and after-school providers. Making Diversity Count® is a virtual course, designed by leading educators and civil rights experts to equip teachers with the tools to create 21st century classrooms of inclusion, respect and excellence. Created with your needs in the forefront, the online program offers strategies, curricula and interdisciplinary lesson plans which you can put to use in the classroom right away. The Making Diversity Count® online course, online chats, Anti-Bias Study Guide and conference are offered for only $75; scholarships for travel and lodging are available for those outside the Omaha-metro area as funding lasts. Coupled with an in-person, A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute Conference from July 15th-17th, 2013, it really gives you the best of both worlds – introspection and reflection as well as the benefits of working with a group of diverse educators. Applications must be received no later than May 14th, 2013. Please visit http://archive.adl.org/education/mdc/ for more information.

Urban Education (March Issue): http://uex.sagepub.com/content/current

“Diversity: The art of thinking independently together.” – Malcolm Forbes
Community Events

The following list is by no means complete. It is our hope that you use these as suggestions for places to visit and events to participate in and then branch out on your own to find other local programs. Bring a buddy!

Nebraska Deaf Heritage Museum and Cultural Center: The Museum and Cultural Center opens every Saturday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Center is located at 3223 N. 45th Street, Omaha, NE. Admission costs $3/$2 student.

Asia by Night Masquerade: UNO, Asian Student Association, Maverick Diversity Coalition, MavPro, AWA and Friends of Japan present an evening of celebration for all things Asian. This event is free and will include a showcase of cultural performances. Food and drinks will be provided. This event will be held in the UNO MBSC Ballroom & Nebraska Room on Sunday, April 14, 2013 from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. For more information please visit: www.facebook.com/maverickdiversitycoalition.

Seeing the People Behind the Labels: This event is a student led discussion about our differences and similarities. Join in a respectful conversation on how we see others, and how we wish to be seen on April 17, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the UNO Student Center Nebraska Room. This event is sponsored by the Maverick Diversity Coalition and American Multicultural Students. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by April 14th to ckdewitt@unomaha.edu. For more information please visit: www.facebook.com/maverickdiversitycoalition.

El Museo Latino: Letras y Voces/Letters and Voices is a program of El Museo Latino. The reading series is presented with participation by the Writer’s Workshop at UNO, featuring award-winning writers of fiction, poetry and nonfiction. The public is invited to hear from diverse cultures read their own work on the third Saturday of each month from 1-2 pm. Join us on Saturday, April 20th from 1-2 pm. For more information visit: http://www.elmuseolatino.org/letras_y_voces.html.

African American Inventions Exhibit: This innovative exhibit led by the LJAC Curating Team reflects selected inventions and innovations by African Americans who have made significant contributions to science, technology, health and every life and even inventions that have helped shape our modern-day society. It will be shown at the Jazz and Arts Center from February 19-April 20, 2013.

The Aryan Jesus and Nazi Germany: The Bible and the Holocaust: A Community Conversation with Susannah Heschel. This Project Interfaith program will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 7:00 pm at Creighton University Harper Center Room 3023 (2500 California Street). For more information visit: www.projectinterfaith.org.

Omaha Peace & Justice Expo: The Omaha Peace & Justice Expo will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the UNO Student Center Ballroom. The 2013 Keynote Speaker will be Medea Benjamin. Medea is the Co-founder of Code Pink and the author of Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control. This event will also feature local peace and justice organization exhibition booths and a networking hour. For more information visit: www.peaceexpo.org.

Zest Casual Conversation: Atheism, Religiosity and Morality: This Project Interfaith program will take place on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Legend Comics and Coffee (5207 Leavenworth Street). For more information visit: www.projectinterfaith.org.

Empowerment Network Community Meeting
The monthly community meeting will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2013 – starting at 8:45 am. It will take place at the North High School Viking Center (4410 N. 36th Street). For more information visit, http://empoweromaha.com/2010/node/2
Community Events
Continued...

Omaha Heritage Festival: Come celebrate Omaha’s Heritage on Saturday, May 18, 2013. Parade starts at 10 a.m. Family Fun runs from noon to 10:00 p.m. This event will feature international food, live music, children’s activities, cultural pavilion and many more activities. Special participation comes from Son Venezuela, Tiyumba African Drum and Dance Company, Lion Dancers from China, Balsa Dragon Band and many more! For more information visit: http://www.omahaheritagefestival.com/

Culture Walk Exhibit: The College of Education is celebrating the 5 year anniversary of the Culture Walk program - a semesterly student-community centered training program that helps to prepare teacher candidates so they may better serve and educate students from diverse backgrounds across the city of Omaha. The exhibit will be held in the H. Don and Connie J. Osborne Family Gallery inside the UNO Criss Library from Monday, August 26 - Friday, October 4, 2013.

Global Change Agents

Building on the successful model of the Clinton Global Initiative, which brings together world leaders to take action on global challenges, President Clinton launched the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) in 2007 to engage the next generation of leaders on college campuses around the world.

Students who participate in the CGI U take initiative and make a Commitment to Action to solve a global problem that is dear to them. UNO and COE are lucky to have three very dedicated change makers in our midst. This year three Cameroonian students at UNO, Sr. Rosemary Arrah, Larisa Akah, and Benadette Ngamelue, made Commitment to Action to promote literacy in St. Joseph Primary School in Mamfe, Cameroon. Their vision is to turn an empty classroom into a working library, make reading fundamental in the elementary school, create a network of volunteers to read to the students, train instructors on how to teach reading across the curriculum, form a reading club and promote literacy in the larger community.

We applaud these students for their dedication and passion! If you are interested in supporting their work or if you would like to view their Commitment to Action please email Sr. Rosemary Arrah, Graduate Assistant in the COE IDEAS Room at rarrah@unomaha.edu.

This May eight COE students and one professor will travel to England and France for 11 days as part of COE’s International Culturally Responsive Teaching Program. We wish them safe travels and look forward to hearing their stories!
Celebrating Deaf History Month

National Deaf History Month, March 13th to April 15th, celebrates important events in Deaf history and promotes awareness of American Deaf culture. This observance overlaps two months to emphasize three key historic events in American Deaf history:

1) The first permanent school for the deaf in the United States was founded in Hartford, Connecticut on April 15, 1817.
2) President Abraham Lincoln signed a charter to establish a college for the deaf in Washington, D.C. on April 8, 1864.
3) Dr. I. King Jordan became the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University on March 13, 1988 after the Deaf President Now movement.

Each of these historic events made significantly positive impacts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the U.S.

1) More than thirty deaf schools were established by 1920. The majority of these schools were launched by graduates of the American School for the Deaf and Gallaudet University.
2) Gallaudet University still remains the only liberal arts university in the world for deaf and hard of hearing students. Gallaudet University currently offers over thirty undergraduate majors and over fifteen graduate programs. Hearing students are able to attend Gallaudet as long as they are fluent in American Sign Language.
3) This year commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement. As a result of the Gallaudet students’ eight-day protest, the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University was inaugurated. DPN helped inspire additional changes for people with disabilities in education, employment and overall accessibility. The U.S. Congress passed more laws between 1988-1993 than in the previous 216 years of its history combined, including the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Written by Jonathan Scherling, COE Instructor for Special Education & Communication Disorders. For more resources on American Sign Language, Deaf culture, and bilingual education please email Professor Scherling at jscherling@unomaha.edu.

Highlighted UNO Criss Library Books: Deaf Education


Need more resources? Please contact, Melissa Cast-Brede, Research Services Unit/Education & Psychology Liaison at mcast@unomaha.edu.
Addressing the Needs of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child. Children of military personnel add to the rich diversity of K-12 schools, bringing both opportunities and challenges to the classroom. Below are some facts and figures about military connected students along with links to websites for additional classroom support.

Military-connected students are dependents of military service members (active duty, Guard & Reserves). They may be enrolled in any level of education. These students add to a classroom’s diversity and in their own way, serve our country through their personal sacrifices.

There are approximately two million military-connected students in the U.S.
- Over ½ of these students are children between the ages of 4-18
- Over 80% of these children attend PK-12 public schools
- Approximately 30% of Bellevue Public School students are military-connected students
- Approximately 10-12% of these students are served in special education

Each military-connected student is unique, but there is a tendency for them to share various attributes. Common strengths they bring to the classroom include:
- Perseverance - Appreciation of new & varied experiences
- Adaptability - Experiences from various geographic locations
- Independence - Strong family involvement & support
- Maturity - Ability to relate to diverse groups of people

They also face challenges that may impact school performance such as:
- Mobility rates approximately three times greater than civilian peers
- Disconnected course offerings & requirements between school system
- Roadblocks in transferring school records (IEPs, testing information, etc.)
- Limited participation opportunities in already formed extracurricular activities & social groups
- Diminished communication opportunities with one or both parents
- Increased levels of stress during deployments & relocations
- Unsettling emotions such as anger, fear, guilt & resentment
- Increased risk of depression & anxiety

Resources to Support Military-Connected Students:
- Operation Educate the Educator: http://aacte.org/Programs/Operation-Educate-the-Educators/
- Military Impacted Schools Association: http://militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org/
- Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families: www.tutor.com/military

For additional resources, visit the webpage of the UNO College of Education IDEAS Room at http://www.unomaha.edu/ideasroom/.

The UNO College of Education is proud to participate in Operation Educate the Educator: A program supported by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education & the Military Child Education Coalition. Written by Dr. Connie Schaffer, Assistant Professor- UNO College of Education.