

# *Happenings*

SUMMER 2012



*Establishing  
New Traditions* page 3



Dean Nancy Edick



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# Message from the Dean

There is something magical about a college graduation ceremony held on the college “green.” On May 5th the nervous anticipation of rain gave way to bright sunshine and, hopefully, bright futures for our graduates who participated in the first ever individual College of Education graduation ceremony.

The Pep Bowl in the center of the campus was the perfect spot for the ceremony. Our graduates marched from the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Building and Roskens Hall, and passed through a column of applauding faculty symbolizing our coming together to achieve our goals. The parents and guests in the warm sun exuded a special sense of pride and enthusiasm. It is our hope that the graduation ceremony created a special memory for all who participated in this historic event. We hope UNO and the College of Education will continue to be a partner as our graduates embark on their professional careers.

Partnering to meet the needs of our community is our priority as a metropolitan university. This issue of *Happenings* introduces you to the specific priorities of our campus and the college as we embrace the future. Chancellor John Christensen identified the priorities in February of 2012 in a document entitled, *Charting a Clear Vision for 20/20*:

- *Doctoral/Graduate Research*
- *Early Childhood/Child Welfare*
- *Global Engagement*
- *Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics*
- *Sustainability*

Our feature article identifies how the College of Education is forging a path of leadership as we work toward the priorities. I think you will see how our vision and actions are as bright as the sun on May 5th.

We are especially excited to share with you the news that the first stand-alone research building on the UNO Campus will be built near the southeast corner of the HPER Building and will house the Nebraska Biomechanics Research Facility. You can read about the research that will be conducted in the facility in an article in this newsletter, but there will be more information when the building is completed in 2013.

Global engagement is highlighted in several articles in this issue, and you will again read about the enthusiastic efforts in working with the community to enhance early childhood development.

In March we recognized five graduates, this year’s Distinguished Alumni, who have made a significant impact locally and throughout the country. Their stories are told in this issue as well.

We began the year emphasizing our dedication to education, leading innovation, the community and the future. We are now introducing you to five priorities that will be a focus of that dedication.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Edick  
Dean, College of Education

Associate Dean David Conway and Assistant Professor Peter Smith hood doctoral candidate Dwayne Chism



# *Establishing New Traditions... Focusing on Campus Priorities*

Chancellor Christensen, in February of 2012, announced a new goal for the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The goal was for UNO to become a metropolitan university of distinction with 20,000 students by the year 2020. At the same time as this announcement, five areas were designated as key campus priorities to spearhead efforts to reach the “20/20 milestone.” The College of Education is poised to become a leader in addressing the key priorities and establishing new traditions.

**Doctoral/Research.** Fourteen of the twenty doctoral candidates who received degrees granted at the University of Nebraska at Omaha May 2012 Graduate College Graduation were advised by College of Education faculty. Research completed by these candidates ranged from a study of the effect of a zoo-based

experiential science program on math and science achievement to the effect of computer assisted instruction on literacy achievement. Research was conducted in the areas of special education, early childhood education, at-risk youth, math and science, and the effect of socio-economic status.

A new doctoral program in Exercise Science will provide further opportunities for student learning and focused research. The construction of the Biomechanics Research Facility will enhance an already cutting edge research program. You can learn more about both the new doctoral program and the new research facility in other articles within this newsletter.

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**Early Childhood/Child Welfare.** The addition of two new faculty members in the area of Early Childhood Education will bolster the already ambitious program conducted by current faculty. The Family Literacy Project, led by Early Childhood professor Susan McWilliams, has involved hundreds of students, teachers, parents and community members working together as pre-school children develop reading skills. In addition to the Family Literacy Project, The Buffett Early Childhood Institute provides a four campus focus on enhancing early childhood research, policy and learning.

The College of Education effort has been enhanced by the John T. Langan Professorship in Early Childhood Education. In addition, the College of Education is the only institution in Nebraska offering the Bilingual Education endorsement for teachers. Teachers obtaining this endorsement will be uniquely qualified to work with preschool children with limited English speaking and writing skills.

**Global Engagement.** College of Education faculty and students are involved in study and research around the globe. You will read articles in this issue that further define involvement in China by both special education and economic education faculty. In addition, four faculty members of the Special Education and Communication Disorders Department will travel to Nicaragua this summer to extend the work previously done by one of the professors in improving the teaching skills for Nicaraguan teachers. Faculty members involved in this experience include Dr. Kristine Swain, Dr. Elizabeth Leader-Janssen, Dr. Mitzi Ritzman, and Dr. Julie Delkamiller. Dr. Delkamiller has previously spent several summers in Nicaragua working with teachers of deaf students as they develop their knowledge of sign language.

Another Special Education and Communication Disorders faculty member, Dr. Phillip Nordness, will travel to Norway with students this summer. He traveled to Finland and Lithuania in early August through his participation in the Faculty Research Seminar. The primary purpose of these visits will be to discuss collaborative research that will benefit both institutions. A secondary purpose will be to discuss potential student exchanges. Representatives from Siauliai University will visit UNO in October.

Dr. Sarah Edwards, Teacher Education, spent two weeks in June visiting with department chairs at peer institutions in England, France, and Switzerland as part of a comparative education

project. Dr. Edwards researched teacher education in each of these countries and will be meeting to ask questions and gain further information about how teachers are prepared at their institutions for a global perspective. She will use this comparative information as our teacher education programs are examined for possible adjustments.

Dr. Nick Stergiou, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, was recently awarded a “Faculty Research International (FRI)” grant by UNO. The FRI grant will act as a springboard for future acquisition of research funding. Thanks to this award, Dr. Stergiou will visit the TRIL Center (Technology Research for Independent Living) based in Dublin, Ireland. The TRIL Center is a multi-disciplinary collaboration between researchers based in academic, clinical and industry settings. It was established to define and profile the aging process in order to develop technologies that enhance the lives of older adults, resulting in more successful aging outcomes. The Nebraska Biomechanic Core Facility (NBCF) has been dedicated to the investigation of neuromuscular control of human movement patterns across the lifespan for the past 15 years. The research objectives of both the TRIL Center and the NBCF are therefore well-aligned. Dr. Stergiou’s visit to the TRIL Center in Dublin will involve an exchange of ideas between both centers on how to address the pressing issues relating to our aging population.

### **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).**

The work of the STEM faculty has been greatly enhanced by the STEM classroom that was developed as part of the Roskens Hall renovation. The UNO Office of STEM Education (OSTEM), which is based in the College of Education, has been planning and leading various campus-wide efforts related to STEM Learning. It’s recent efforts to assist in the planning of efforts for this important campus priority and to engage faculty in all colleges, resulted in the UNO Strategic Planning Award given to that office. STEM-related grant proposals have been submitted by OSTEM partnerships in areas such as mobile computing applications, K16 collaborative STEM coursework, community partnerships to build STEM capacity, innovative teaching strategies, and new technologies such as educational robotics. The creation of the George Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education Professorship, which was awarded to Dr. Neal Grandgenett, assured the availability of quality leadership in this area. An additional Haddix STEM Professorship focusing on mathematics, and held by a Mathematics education faculty member in the UNO Mathematics Department, Dr. Angie Hodge, created an opportunity in the campus-wide collaborative efforts to strengthen mathematics instruction as a foundation to the four STEM areas. Our teacher candidates preparing to teach in mathematics and science are benefitting from this collaboration.



Collaborative STEM activity at  
Black Elk Elementary School

**Sustainability.** The University's Campus Priority plan defines Sustainability in terms of meeting "... the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Preparing teachers who understand sustainability concepts is a major contribution to meet this goal. The new STEM classroom space was designed to enhance student understanding of the wise use of energy in heating and cooling the building. In fact, many energy saving concepts were incorporated in the design of all of our recently renovated facilities.

The College of Education faculty and staff have embraced the UNO goal of achieving an enrollment of 20,000 by 2020, and are determined to lead the way in addressing the five campus priorities. ■

## SEVEN METRO AREA TEACHERS BECOME NBPTS CERTIFIED

Seven metro area teachers who have completed the rigorous application for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) have reached their goal of certification. These teachers all participated in a Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) program that supports teachers during the application process.

The certified teachers and their respective school districts include:

**John Becker**, Reading Specialist  
Millard Public Schools  
Beadle Middle School

**Christina Cryer**, Fourth Grade  
Millard Public Schools  
Grace Abbott Elementary School

**Kirsten Erhke**, Spanish  
Millard Public Schools  
Millard West High School

**Betsy Gomez**, Reading Specialist  
Millard Public Schools  
Beadle Middle School

**Sarah Kroenke**  
Westside Community Schools  
Westside Middle School

**Deb Kruse**  
Westside Community Schools  
Westbrook Elementary School

**Wendy Oldenburg**  
Omaha Public Schools  
Ashland Park-Robbins Elementary School

Dr. Connie Schaffer led the cohort of teachers who work together through this rigorous process. ■

**ABOVE**

Kostecki Shaw making colored paper for collage with first grade children at Fontenelle Elementary School

**BELOW**

Joselyn Whitney working with Yates Early Childhood Center children and families



## FAMILY LITERACY PROJECT FOCUSES ON JOYFUL READING

A child's love for books warms the heart of any educator and probably brings back memories of books they treasured when they were younger. In 2011-2012 the Omaha Family Literacy Partnership provided several opportunities to witness and observe this phenomenon.

The Omaha Family Literacy Partnership held four author projects and three Family Book Celebrations during the year. The partnership has as its mission the promotion of joyful reading among young children and their families. The work is grounded in the belief that reading to very young children in an enjoyable way is one important strategy for developing good readers and school readiness. Approximately 1,700 preschool and K-7 students had access to authors and illustrators through the partnership's activities. Community members were also in attendance at the public events. Two thousand books were donated to children and families at schools and in the community to build personal libraries at home. The programs were made possible by donations from The Pearson Foundation, Mrs. Carol Gendler, First Book Foundation, UNO College of Education, and the Nebraska Arts Council.

Four preschool classrooms at the Omaha Public Schools Yates Early Childhood Center participated in Family Book Celebrations. The classrooms included children in the Native American Indian Education preschool program, an English Language Learners' classroom, a self-contained early childhood special education classroom, and a neighborhood preschool program. A Pearson Foundation donation allowed each child to take home a book that was read during the Family Book Celebration. UNO early childhood teacher candidates used dialogic reading strategies while modeling reading as they engaged families in activities during the celebrations. The UNO Service Learning Academy sponsored Family Book Celebrations by donating materials for activities related to the children's books and snacks for children and families.

Children's book authors Anna Dewdney, Chris Raschka, Sherri Duskey Rinker, and Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw participated in the author projects held in the UNO Ideas Room, Joslyn Art Museum, the Omaha Children's Museum, Abrahams Public Library, and six Omaha Public Schools. The author projects sponsored by the College of Education, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Omaha Public Libraries provided rich experiences for College of Education early childhood education students.

As you visit with Dr. Susan McWilliams, a faculty member in Early Childhood Education, you are struck by her enthusiasm for books and reading. You are doubly excited when she begins to share the story of how many children and families are benefitting from the Family Literacy Partnership. ■

# Did You Know?

- Holland Basham Architects were recently notified their design of the renovation of **Roskens Hall** has been selected to appear as an Outstanding Design in the August 2012 *American School and University Education Interior Showcase*.
- **Matthew Curtis (B.S., 2000; M.S., 2008)** was selected as one of the Omaha Jaycee's Ten Outstanding Young Omahans. The event honoring the recipients was held Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at the Century Link Center. Curtis is a teacher, coach, and service learning coordinator at Omaha South Magnet High School in the Omaha Public Schools.
- Two College of Education programs were announced as award winners at the 2012 Chancellor Strategic Planning Forum. The programs and awards included: Student Focus Category: **College of Education Culture Walk Program**; and Academic Focus Category: **Office of STEM Education**.
- **Denise Fandel (M.S., 1985)** was inducted into the Nebraska State Athletic Trainers' Association (NSATA) Hall of Fame in March at the Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association District Symposium held in Topeka, Kansas. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC). A former Head Athletic Trainer at UNO, Ms. Fandel was also selected as a College of Education Distinguished Alumna in 2000.
- The Nebraska Red Dawgs, coached by **Mike Kult (HPER)** became back-to-back champions in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament Juniors Division. The team was led in scoring by Dylan Fischbach.
- Alumni **Heather Nano (B.S., 2000)** and **Diane Storey (M.A., 2001)** were two of five Council Bluffs area teachers honored as recipients of the Excellence in Teaching Awards. The honorees receive a \$5,000 check and \$250 in gift cards. The awards are sponsored by the H. H. and Ruth H. Nelson Family Foundation and the Omaha Community Foundation. Nano teaches at the Krefl Primary Center in the Lewis Central Schools; and Storey is a math teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School in the Council Bluffs Community Schools.
- **Anne Harley**, a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Administration and Supervision, was named the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals New Principal of the Year for 2011-2012. Harley is principal at Anderson Grove Elementary School in the Papillion LaVista School District. Ms. Harley recently presented her research proposal entitled, "The Sustainability of Reading Recovery Intervention on Reading Achievement of Students Identified as At-risk for Early Reading Failure."
- **Dr. Connie Schaffer** and **Associate Dean David Conway** were recently presented Service Keys by the UNO Phi Delta Kappa Chapter. The service key represents exemplary service to Phi Delta Kappa and its defined mission. Dr. Schaffer was instrumental in the development of the State Conference for FEA (Future Educators Association). In addition, she facilitates group activity for teachers preparing their portfolios for submission to NBPTS for national certification. Dr. Conway is currently serving

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as the Research Chair for the chapter. He has developed a website that will facilitate the access to research completed by students and faculty at the University.

- Six Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award 2012 Recipients received degrees from the College of Education. These alumni included: **Michelle Avilla (M.S., 1997)**; **Judy Brown (B.S., 2003)**; **Cindy Farrell (B. S., 1990; M.S., 2001)**; **Joe Gregory (M.S., 1998)**; **Lee Kallstrom (B. A., 1964)**; and **Kerri Kratina (B. S., 1995)**. The awards are granted by the Susan Buffet Foundation. Honorees are teachers in the Omaha Public Schools and receive checks for \$15,000.
- **Cheryl Howser (M.S., 1994)** was recently presented with the Phillip and Teri Schragger Foundation Distinguished Teacher Award. This award, presented annually to selected Westside Community Schools teachers, is accompanied by a check for \$10,000.
- Thanks to Jake McKee, a friend of the John T. Langan family, college faculty had the chance to win two Maverick Men's Basketball Season tickets during a drawing held at the April 25th Faculty Meeting. Carole Langan (pictured below) drew **Sara Meyers' (HPER)** name from the basket. Sara and her family will be able to enjoy the 2012-2013 season games. ■



Dr. Paul Sather, Director of the Service Learning Academy at UNO, visits with participants

## LEARNING TO LEAD

Collaboration... Energy... Vision... Motivation... Scholarship... They all came together in the LEAD Academy held May 30th through June 1st. Educational Administration and Supervision faculty from the UNO College of Education and the UNL College of Education and Human Sciences collaborated in the development and delivery of an intense four day experience for eighty-three students working toward an advanced degree in educational leadership.

Students from wide areas of Nebraska and beyond worked in teams and came together for presentations on topics such as: Influencers; Internal/External Publics; Community Resources; Bullying; Public Relations and Media; Crisis Planning; Community Engagement; and Community Asset Building. A special session held at the Henry Doorly Zoo acquainted participants with the unique school partnerships and the school conducted by the Zoo's Education Department. They engaged in group sessions on topics such as parent involvement, cultural proficiency, Six Hat Thinking, and Fierce Conversations.

**Dr. Kay Keiser (UNO), Dr. Peter Smith (UNO),** Dr. Jody Isernhagen (UNL), and Dr. Kent Mann (UNL) provided the planning, leadership, and instruction for this first academy experience. Guest presenters included Dr. Elizabeth Mulkerrin, Ms. Janice Saunders, Dr. Peggy Rupprecht, Dr. Robert Blair, and Dr. Susan Swearer.

Jay Lahners, an Academy participant from Underwood, Iowa, commented, "It (the academy) is drawing out ideas quickly and keeping your mind open." Dr. Mary Petersen stated, "How fantastic this has been--what a wonderful experience for me (and I have had many educational experiences) and this was the best!"

Dr. Kay Keiser reported the collaborative team of professors are excited about the enthusiasm and insights shown by participants, and are already planning for an expanded program next summer.

They will apply their learning to a community project to be completed by July 26th. ■



DEDICATED practitioners

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REFLECTIVE scholars

RESPONSIBLE citizens

# *New Doctoral Degree in Exercise Science*

You can now earn a doctoral degree in exercise science from the College of Education. The first student has been admitted and is already busy in the exercise science lab.

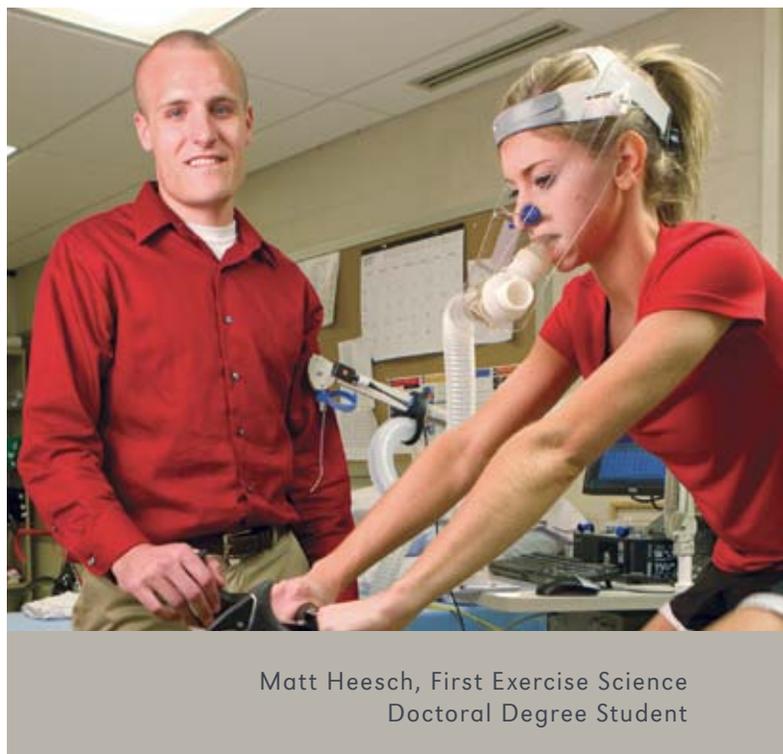
The process to obtain approval for a new doctoral degree is very rigorous. Dr. Kris Berg recently outlined the steps taken during the three and one-half year effort. Berg and others that assisted in the effort had to demonstrate: a need for the program; show how the goals of the program matched the goals of the University; demonstrate that the faculty was available and capable of conducting a doctoral program, and demonstrate that faculty had contributed scholarly publications in the field of study.

Dr. Dustin Slivka, a faculty member who also worked in the effort to gain approval for the doctoral program, stated: "The doctoral program is a big step toward increasing the already high quality of research, faculty, and students here at UNO. We are committed to the quality of education this opportunity brings for our students and are excited to see what the future holds for our department and graduates."

Demand for the limited number of spaces that will be available in the program appears to be high. Berg has been fielding numerous inquiries from existing Masters level students and others. Students will be heavily engaged in their research. They will also prepare grants that will support the research. The research intensive program will take most students approximately four years to complete. It is likely the students will have graduate assistantships funded by grants they help develop and propose.

There is growing evidence that physical activity has a profound effect on health. Students will study the effect of muscle movement such as gait and what happens to the muscles involved. The science requires an understanding of physiology. Graduates of the program are likely to work in hospitals or universities that provide treatment or do research in the area of exercise science.

The first student accepted in the program is Matthew Heesch. Matthew became interested in Exercise Science when he was a runner in cross country and track at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He graduated from Augustana in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and will receive his Master of Science



Matt Heesch, First Exercise Science  
Doctoral Degree Student

degree in Exercise Physiology from UNO this summer. He is currently working on multiple projects in the lab.

Heesch's thesis project concerns how different timings of carbohydrate intake during prolonged cycling affect time trial performance. He has also worked on research examining how environmental temperature during exercise can influence mitochondrial gene expression, as well as how exercising at high altitude versus low altitude can influence mitochondrial gene expression.

Matthew's goal is to become a professor at a university where he can both teach and conduct research. And, he is still running.. usually five to ten miles a day, fifty miles a week. He runs a "couple of marathons as well, including the Boston Marathon this past April." However, he usually sticks to the shorter races of 5K to 10K. ■

# MOEC Sponsors Yong Zhao Visitation



Yong Zhao

Is the current emphasis on standardized testing in mathematics, reading, and a limited number of other subjects to measure instructional and student progress going to produce improved student performance? Or, perhaps in a global society is such a testing model even harmful to long-term achievement?

Dr. Yong Zhao, the Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education in the College of Education at the University of Oregon addressed these issues in an early December presentation to Metro area

leaders. Zhao praised the historic culture of American public education citing the values of ingenuity, entrepreneurship and individuality that have resulted in creative personal expression. This culture, he contended, has resulted in America leading the way with inventions and innovative entrepreneurship.

Zhao warned that standardized testing practices that measure only performance in a limited number of areas will, over the long-term, eliminate America's creative and inventive spirit. Zhao warned that if we continue to focus most of our efforts to train teachers to teach so student scores improve on standardized tests, we will develop an entire generation of teachers who have not learned teaching practices that promote creativity. And, as a result, America will lose its primary advantage in today's global economy.

Zhao relies upon his experiences of being born in China's Sichuan Province, growing up in China, and receiving his bachelor's degree in English Language Education from the Sichuan Institute of Foreign Languages as a background for comparing the two educational systems. He came to America in 1993 and began graduate studies at the University of Illinois at

Champaign-Urbana where he earned both his masters and doctorate degrees. Before becoming a professor at the University of Oregon, Zhao was a faculty member at Michigan State University where he was the founding director of the Center for Teaching and Technology. He has written several books. His most recent publication is titled: *Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization*.

The Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium Executive Steering Committee invited Dr. Zhao to come to Omaha to headline a day of activities focusing on the topic of American Education in the Age of Globalization. Dr. Zhao was the featured speaker at a breakfast meeting at the Thompson Alumni Center attended by area business, governmental, and educational leaders. He then spent much of the rest of the morning working with members of the various Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) Task Forces. The activity with MOEC Task Forces was followed by a luncheon meeting with members of the MOEC Executive Steering Committee. ■

Lynn Ziegenbein and  
Mayor James Suttle

## 2012 UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

The following students were recognized during the Annual Honors Week ceremony on Thursday, April 12.

**Patricia Finks**

*Elementary Education/Special Education*

**Kelsey A. Paul**

*Speech-Language Pathology*

**Levi Fickenscher**

*Health Education*

**Kelly J. Mand**

*Therapeutic Recreation*

**Hollan R. Pile**

*Community Health Education*

**Megan A. Stuhr**

*Athletic Training*

**Jade M. Zimmerman**

*Exercise Science*

**Melissa D. Lilly**

*Early Childhood Education*

**Jade Hughes**

*Elementary Education/Intermediate*

**Lauren Trejo**

*Elementary Education/Spanish*

**Sara Mau**

*Elementary Education/Interdisciplinary*

**Travis Case**

*Middle Level*

**Aaron J. Willems**

*Secondary Education/Science*

The Dean's Award winner, chosen from the above list of students, was **Hollan R. Pile**. Hollan is working toward a degree in Community Health Education along with a nursing baccalaureate. She hopes to serve both the physical and mental needs of future clients and patients. Pile has volunteered for a variety of health and community related projects and events. One nominator described Hollan in the following manner, "Even her handwriting is perfect."

Two of the Undergraduate Major Award winners served as guest speakers at the May Graduation. **Kelsey Paul** provided a welcome to her fellow graduates, and **Patricia Finks** provided the charge. ■



Kelsey Paul



Patricia Finks

## HONOR GRADUATES

The following students were honor graduates at the May 5th Graduation.

**SUMMA CUM LAUDE**

Kayla Marie Baumberger  
Brooke Elizabeth Boland  
Lauren Elizabeth Dinkel  
Valerie Dawn Holt  
Hilary Ann Jackson  
Caleb James Lorenson  
Allie Marie Navickas  
Heather Ashley Pohl  
Kyle Joseph Sempek  
Danielle Marie Suponchick  
Lydia Anne Vittetoe  
Aaron J. Willems

Jessica Lynn Blanford  
Ian Johannes Bonder

**MAGNA CUM LAUDE**

Whitney Marie Bracht  
Sean Michael Carlson  
Travis Daniel Case  
Beatriz Esparza  
Mikhala Fehringer  
Andrew James Fisher  
Hollie Marie Gano  
Brittany Marie Hanssen  
Travis Jurgens

Brent William Kelderman  
Ashley Ann Kunkle  
Amanda Nicole LeRette  
Melissa Dawn Lilly  
Jonathan Andrew McQuistan  
Katelyn Sue Meyer  
Andrew John Montgomery  
Amanda Marie Morrison  
Christopher Charles Peters  
Cortney Ann Pietryga  
David Michael Pontier  
Irene Genevieve Pullum  
Melody Rae Ratigan

Mitchell Todd Schefcik  
Marie J. Schellenberger  
Jason S. Schlautman  
Megan Rhea Smith  
Kelly Ann Straatmann  
Lisa Diane Tesarek  
Nathaniel Allan Wissink  
Jade Mariah Yung Sun  
Zimmerman

**CUM LAUDE**

Lindsey Therese Brown  
James Adam Cattau

Cliff Cisar  
Julie Elizabeth Desrosiers  
Nicole Ann Gaughan  
Lynne B. Illingworth  
David Juan Kerr  
Kirk Anthony Kreifels  
Eryn Leigh Mertins  
Allison Marie Noack  
Kelly Rose O'Loughlin  
Kathryn Ann Peterson  
Jenna RoeJane Reissener  
Molly Lee Skradis  
Tricia Kay Steinkraus



Mark your calendars!

# Homecoming 2012

Friday, November 9 & Saturday, November 10

**November 9 | 7 pm** UNO will celebrate their inaugural basketball game in the new Ralston Sport and Events Center taking on Northern Illinois University

**November 10** The Mav Hockey Team will play the 2011 National Champion Minnesota-Duluth at the CenturyLink Center



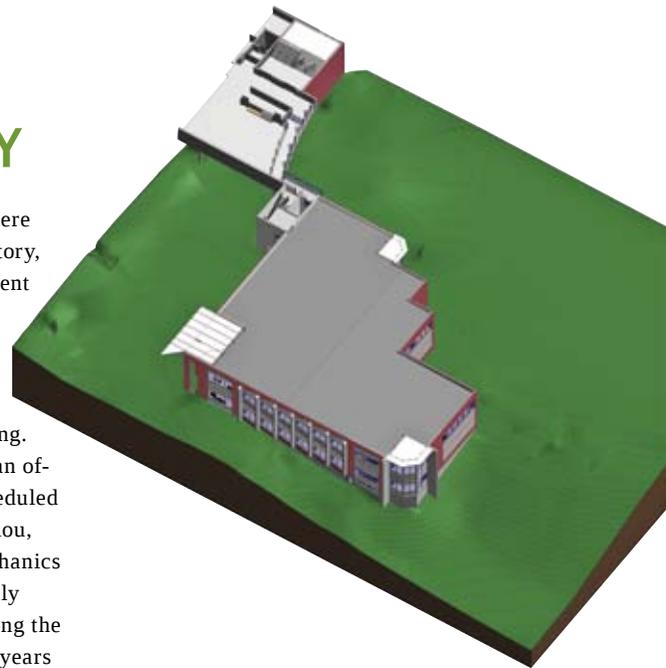
## GROUND BROKEN FOR BIOMECHANICS RESEARCH FACILITY

The Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility is a growing program. The research being done by the Biomechanics Laboratory personnel involves the study of infants' sitting posture, gait and cognition, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, virtual reality, and robotic surgery. The research has helped develop protocols that improve the lives of babies with cerebral palsy and stroke victims. And, because of the successful outcomes, prospective students from around the globe have become a part of the program.

Bill and Ruth Scott recognized the promise of the research and have made a contribution to support the construction of the first stand alone research facility on the UNO Campus. The Biomechanics Research Facility will have approximately 22,500 square feet with laboratory spaces specifically designed for projects now housed in the Health, Physical Education,

and Recreation (HPER) Building. There will be spaces for the balance laboratory, virtual reality suite, motor development laboratory, robotics rooms, acoustics laboratory, and motion capture.

The building will be located at the southeast corner of the HPER Building. Ground will be broken in June with an official groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for October 24, 2012. Dr. Nick Stergiou, the Director of the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility (NBCF) said, "I honestly think that with the building and having the right people in place in the next five years NBCF will make its charge into being the world-wide leader in biomechanics." ■





Kristen with students in Mali

## ALUM VISITS MALI

**Kristen LaMontia (M.S., 2004)** recently returned from the trip of a lifetime where she observed how the efforts of several OPS schools are helping residents of Mali, Africa. Global Partners in Hope (GPIH) invited Crestridge Global Studies Magnet School facilitator LaMontia and Ponca Elementary School principal, Mindi Grim, to represent the Omaha Public Schools after months of fundraising at several OPS schools to help build wells in Mali.

The Malian people have been walking many miles to get water. LaMontia said, "We attended the dedication ceremony for a well built in Tatrима, and laid the first brick for a second well, which will be in Adamabougou." Grim reported, "When I came back from Mali I had several students ask me 'What can we do next to help?'"

The UNO Center for Economic Education has worked with Crestridge School for several years in various projects, including staff development programs, arranging for international students and visitors to meet with teachers and students, supporting artists in the classroom programs, service learning projects, and providing special curriculum materials and children's literature focused on international economics. ■

## WORKING WITH PROFESSORS FROM CHINA

During the 2011 Fall semester, three education professors from Hangzhou Normal University participated in a professional development program sponsored by International Studies and Programs and the Center for Faculty Development at UNO. The purpose of the program was to improve the participants' English communication and classroom presentation skills. The activity enhanced their teaching methodologies and understanding of elementary and secondary education in the United States. In addition, they worked to build stronger ties between UNO and HNU.

**Professor JinLi Liu, Professor Kai Wang** and **Professor De-run Yuan** spent much of the second half of the semester meeting and working with professors in the College of Education including **Lana Danielson, Carol Mitchell, Donald Greer, Sheryl McGlamery, Harrison Means, Jeanne Surface, Paul Barnes, Sandra Shillingstad, Ann Luther, Wilma Kuhlman** and **Yvonne Tixier y Vigil**. In addition, they met with COE staff members in the Office of Student Services and the Office of Information Services and with OPS staff development specialists and the directors of the UNO Center for Economic Education; they also visited classrooms at Crestridge Magnet School and Omaha South High School. A walking tour along 24th Street was a part of this school visit. ■

Kai Wang, Matthew Friedel, De-run Yuan and Crestridge Principal Patricia Schweer



From June 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012

# College of Education

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

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Shea Pace, a scholarship winner, serves as an ENVOY for the college and was a student usher for graduation

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Nicole Massara, COE  
NU Foundation Representative

# Making It Possible

I would like you to take some time and think about your decision to attend college. What were some of the factors that entered into your decision? Were you concerned about being able to afford a college education? For many people, especially students in a metropolitan university, paying for their college education becomes a major deciding factor in whether or not college is an option. This is why scholarship programs can be so very important to students and the institutions they decide to attend.

My name is Nicole Massara and I am the new Director of Development for UNO's College of Education. I feel very privileged to work with donors to see their passions matched with the needs of our University. I am especially excited to help establish scholarships for students. My entire education and subsequent degree from UNO was funded by generous scholarships, so I know the personal impact scholarships can have. Looking back at my four years at UNO, I know that I would not have had the same wonderful experience had it not been for those that supported me financially through their giving.

College of Education student, Mike Kracl, can echo that sentiment. Kracl, originally from Schuyler, Nebraska, is pursuing a bachelors degree in Elementary Education. He is currently student teaching at Bennington Jr./Sr. High during his last semester before a May graduation. Knowing since high school that he wanted to teach, Mike chose UNO because "I wanted to go to a school where I would have an opportunity to get my networking started...I was drawn to the possibilities that UNO provides as far as job placement and the opportunity to work in the variety of schools in the Metro." Kracl is the recipient of a scholarship from the Lena Hosman Neafus Fund, which provides

scholarships for College of Education undergraduate and graduate students. When asked about the impact of the scholarship, Mike replied, "I believe it's truly admirable for anyone to give a donation to an institution that will support scholarships for students. The scholarships allowed me to realize a college education was possible."

The College of Education and its students are deeply grateful for the generosity of donors. Should you ever want to discuss how you or your estate could provide the same amazing impact, please feel free to contact me to talk further about the many opportunities to give back. Indeed, it is an exciting time at UNO's College of Education and a perfect time to begin to make an impact with your gift.

Nicole Massara, Director of Development for College of Education, 402.502.4105 or [nmassara@nufoundation.org](mailto:nmassara@nufoundation.org). ■



Mike Kracl

## CHANGES AT THE TOP

The educational world is abuzz with ways to measure or quantify institutional success. The news media clamors for a figure that will unequivocally identify the best at any level of education.

One measure of how effective a college may be in developing educational leaders is to identify how many graduates have been selected and served in major leadership roles in the community the college serves. The College of Education (COE) is very proud of those graduates who serve the various school districts in the Metropolitan area. Three Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) superintendents who are COE alumni decided to transition from recent leadership positions and announced their retirements at the end of the 2012-2013 school term. Those superintendents include: **Dr. Charles Chevalier (M.S., 1986)**, Sarpy County District 43; **Ms. Jacque Estee (M.A., 1978)**, Westside Community Schools; and **Dr. John Mackiel (B.S., 1972, M.S., 1974)**, Omaha Public Schools.

Chevalier and Mackiel shared some thoughts about their UNO experience and their plans for the future. Their responses follow:

**Dr. Charles Chevalier.** *My Master's degree at UNO was filled with activities that prepared me to implement change into an organization. Change was not meant to be for the sake of improvement only, but focused on the improvement of student learning. I had many UNO professors that drilled that premise into me, and I thank them dearly for it!*

*I will be teaching School Finance at UNO this fall, and there are some other opportunities that are also possibilities.*

**Dr. John Mackiel.** *The learning opportunities at the University of Nebraska at Omaha were an essential part of the foundation in the building blocks of my educational career. The expertise shared by faculty from the College of Education and various university departments, in addition to the opportunity to learn from colleagues in education in our community, were valuable and appreciated.*

*In addition to enjoying time with family and pursuing some personal and professional interests, I will be serving as Professor of Educational Administration and Supervision at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. ■*

## METAL-CORBIN RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

Professor Josie Metal-Corbin is not a new face in the “winner’s circle.” She has been recognized for her work on many occasions. But, a recent honor holds special significance. Professor Metal-Corbin was chosen as the National Dance Association’s 2012 Scholar/Artist. Scholar/Artist Metal-Corbin was scheduled to deliver a lecture at the national convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance that was held in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 16, 2012.

Then it happened. The convention was cancelled because of a Back Bay Blackout. The blackout created significant issues. Professor Metal-Corbin reported in an E-mail that manhole covers were popping off and hotels were being evacuated because of diesel fumes from backup generators. There were no lights, no hot water, no electricity and the convention center never opened. Josie changed hotels and the status of her lecture was constantly changing to being on, then no, then yes at the Sheraton, then no, then possibly at the Hilton, then absolutely no because of safety concerns. But, the honor of being selected remains and ever the trooper, Metal-Corbin expressed thanks for the support of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the College.

As Josie’s messages typically end, it is “On with the dance...” She recently announced the approval of the 2012 Dancing with the Durham program that will involve tour sites at several Metro area schools. UNO teaching candidates will be enmeshed in the elementary school experience for fifteen weeks following a successful tour that reached 2,000 students in six school districts in 2010. ■



UNO Moving Company



# Learning in Hong Kong

Dr. Shari DeVeny, a faculty member in the Special Education and Communication Disorders Department, seized an opportunity to travel and learn in Hong Kong this past winter. Her journey took place from November 29 through December 6 of 2011.

The journey and her experiences were made possible by a travel grant provided by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) College of Education and Human Sciences where Shari recently completed her work toward her doctoral degree.

While in Hong Kong she presented a research paper at the University of Hong Kong's Postgraduate Research Conference. The research paper was entitled, "Communication-Based Assessment of Developmental Age for Young Children with Developmental Disabilities." DeVeny also attended The Third International Conference on Problem Based Learning in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology held at the University of Hong Kong. She learned from conference organizers that she was the first American to attend the conference. Typically university faculty from Hong Kong, Australia, Sweden, Ireland, and England have been in attendance.

The travel experience gave DeVeny a greater understanding of issues international students and faculty experience when they attend or visit American colleges and universities. Shari indicated she learned there is universality in the research done through out the world. The experience allowed her to share her knowledge and experiences as well as learn from other students and faculty thus making the world seem much smaller. ■

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNI OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD



What was your first career aspiration? Were you interested in becoming a lawyer or owning your own business? Then one summer, as you managed a swimming pool, did your contact with a young swimmer who was autistic change your thoughts about what you might want to become? If so, your name is probably **Dr. Elizabeth Leader-Janssen**, better known to her colleagues as Beth. Beth is a faculty member in the College's Special Education and Communication Disorders Department.

Today, Beth has a passion for teaching. She loves what she does. And, the Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award indicates she does it well. Leader-Janssen believes there has been much progress in how we educate students with disabilities. She suggests the well publicized increase in the number of children who are autistic may be the result of educators making more accurate diagnoses. Historically, autistic children were often not identified as autistic. They were taught in regular classrooms without teachers being trained in specific

instructional strategies. As autism became more recognized, special programs were developed. Today, the trend is for autistic children to remain in standard classrooms, but the student and teacher receive specific help in learning and teaching.

This summer Beth traveled to Nicaragua with three of her fellow faculty members to work with teachers who perhaps have the same perception and knowledge of disabilities as teachers in American classrooms did forty years ago. The challenge for Beth and her fellow faculty members was to train teachers to understand how children with disabilities can learn and how best to teach the children.

Beth has previously been honored for her teaching success. In the summer of 2010, Leader-Janssen received the highest honor the student membership of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) grants to a professional member, the Susan Phillips Gorin Award. The award was presented in Nashville, Tennessee, at the national convention of the organization.

Dr. Leader-Janssen earned her Bachelor's degree, her Master's degree, and her doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She began her teaching career at Westside High School where she mentored students who had not reached mastery in various subject areas. She and her husband Brad have two pre-school age boys. While Beth is passionate about her teaching and expects to be teaching for several years, she also envisions assuming increased leadership responsibilities as the opportunity arises. ■

## BRIGNONI SCHOLARSHIP LAUNCHED

The Coral Mitchell Study Bar in the entrance of Roskens Hall was alive with activity in early May as faculty and staff joined in a Taco Luncheon to raise money for a scholarship honoring Dr. Gigi Brignoni. The scholarship will go to a student enrolled in a course of studies to work with English As a Second Language (ESL) students.

Brignoni who passed away during the 2011-2012 school year from cancer was a professor in ESL and mentored students in the program. She also was involved in the College's Oxbow Writing Project. The outcome of the effort reflected the deep respect and admiration for Gigi. Dr. Rebecca Pasco, who spearheaded the luncheon effort, reported over \$700.00 was raised for the scholarship. ■

Dr. Brignoni with Oxbow Project participant, Janet Larson





# *Community Relationships Motivate New Department Chair*

The concept of being inclusive and working with the community is inherent in Dr. Sarah Edwards' being. As you visit with Sarah you feel that she understands you as a person and accepts you as a worthwhile human being. Perhaps growing up in Iowa and learning to ride a horse without a saddle or bridle is a part of the reason she seems to start from the basic fundamentals and build from there.

Dr. Edwards came to the College of Education in the fall of 2001. She was interviewing at other Midwestern

universities, and she will tell you it was Dr. John T. Langan that convinced her the University of Nebraska at Omaha was the place she wanted to be... probably because Langan also focused on the value of every individual.

Dr. Edwards will now assume a role that Langan held for several years, the Chair of the Teacher Education Department in the College of Education. Her goal as chair is to continue to collaborate and seek opportunities for the University to serve the community. Her record at UNO

is rich in such efforts. She established Met Link, a collaborative involving College of Education faculty and teachers of English in local school districts. She also was instrumental in the development of the Culture Walks that acquaint College of Education students with all parts of our city.

Sarah's doctoral dissertation focused on culturally relevant teaching and the examination of one pre-service teacher's experience in attempting to infuse her philosophy of cultural responsiveness in

## CARING AND COMPASSIONATE DESCRIBES RETIREES

her student teaching experience. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Arizona in Tucson and taught language arts and drama courses at Utterback Middle School for Performing Arts, a magnet school in South Tucson.

Prior to her experiences in Tucson she taught English as a Second Language to Korean fighter pilots, worked as a lead counselor with deaf/blind campers where she taught children and adults how to ride horses, and taught in the Wichita, Kansas, Public Schools. Dr. Edwards has taught in many different settings. In fact, she readily shared that she has taught on three continents, and in six states.

Dr. Edwards earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Her Master of Arts degree was earned from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. She has published many articles focused on the themes of culturally competent teaching and collaboration.

When asked what she was most proud of in terms of her career experiences, she said the symbiotic relationships she has been able to develop with colleagues and students on campus, in public and private schools, and with a variety of community based programs such as Avenue Scholars.

Dr. Lana Danielson, the retiring Department Chair, stated: "It has been a pleasure to work with such a talented group of people. the TED faculty and staff are committed to providing quality experiences for our students. Their ability to generate visions for the future and to collaborate with others to change possibilities into realities is inspiring. It is an exciting time for Dr. Edwards to assume leadership and I wish her the very best." ■

When people gathered in Roskens Hall 214 on May 27th to honor retirees from the College of Education faculty and staff the words wine and roses, along with caring and compassionate, were used frequently in testimony given by the persons who spoke in tribute to the honorees. And, across campus in the HPER Building another retiring faculty member was recognized by his fellow faculty members and staff who were a part of his life during his twenty-five year tenure at UNO.

**Dr. Frank Basile (HPER)** joined the faculty in the Fall of 1987. He became well known locally and nationally for his involvement in wheel chair basketball. He was inducted into the National Wheel Chair Hall of Fame in 2005. Later in 2005 he was also chosen to be a member of the Boys' Club of New York All-Sports Hall of Fame for his devotion and service to Wheel Chair Basketball.

Dr. Basile earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater, and his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Illinois.

**Dr. Lana Danielson (TED)** joined the faculty in the Fall of 2002. Lana first served as a faculty member, but soon assumed the responsibility of being Chair of the Department of Teacher Education. Colleagues described her passion for gardening, especially in growing roses. But, they mostly praised her for her professional competency and devotion to the students and the faculty in Teacher Education.

Dr. Danielson received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Wayne State College, and a Master of Arts degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Iowa. The overflowing room was testimony to the admiration Lana and the other retirees earned during their tenure in the College.

**Dr. Larry Heck (TED)** has served as the only coordinator of the Teacher Academy Project (TAP) since its beginning in the 2000-2001 school year. Thirteen cohort groups including 215 individuals have participated in this "fast-track" secondary teacher education program. Dean Nancy Edick had asked persons who knew Larry well to provide words they felt best described him. As we gazed at the Wordle Dean Edick displayed on the projection screen the words dependable, loyal, thoughtful, competent, and gracious were among the group of similar words that had been selected.

Larry received his Bachelor of Science degree from Creighton University, a Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Dr. Yvonne Tixier y Vigil (TED)** had a thirty-three year career in the College. Tixier y Vigil was instrumental in the establishment of the English as a Second Language program in the college. She was praised by her colleagues for her devotion to students and others and her friendly even disposition. Fellow faculty member Wilma Kuhlman indicated Yvonne shared an appreciation for fine wine.

Yvonne received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Albuquerque. She earned her Master of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico and her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oklahoma. ■



# *Bright Skies, Bright Faces*

It was difficult to determine which was brighter. The cloudless sky, or the faces of the honorees and guests at the Hollie Bethel Distinguished Alumni Luncheon.

The honorees had distinguished careers both professionally, and in service to their communities. Collectively they developed exemplary school counseling programs, pioneered programs in girls' athletics, programs that serve cancer patients and their families, programs that use assessment to improve learning; and programs that demonstrate how to truly respect all individuals.

**Dr. Stanley Maliszewski (B.S., 1968; M.S., 1977)** and **Ms. Beverly Petersen (B.S., 1955)** each received the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to alumni who have achieved a high degree of success and recognition for their work, and are recognized regionally or nationally for their achievement.

**Dr. Maliszewski** recently retired as an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Director of the School Counseling and Guidance Program at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He also recently completed service on the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) including a term as president. Prior to his work at the University of Arizona, Stan was the Supervisor of Counseling and Guidance for the Omaha Public Schools. During his tenure in this role an elementary school counseling program was implemented; and a competency based guidance program was developed K-12.

Today you can find Dr. Maliszewski leading tours of the San Xavier del Bac Mission south of Tucson; or perhaps working with a graduate student in the Prescott College program for equine therapy. Throughout his life, his interests beyond his professional life have piqued the imaginations of people who are less adventurous. His bucket list included taking an African safari and becoming a race car driver. And, he has been able to check both off his list.

**Ms. Beverly Petersen** was one of the first three graduates from the University of Omaha with a major in Women's Physical Education. Beverly spent her much of her professional career developing and implementing girls' athletic programs in the Denver Public Schools. Her involvement in state and national organizations extended her influence. We must keep in perspective that athletic programs for girls were not common when Beverly began her career and she was a pioneer in her work.

Today Beverly is very active in an organization in Denver that provides health care and shelter for animals.

**Dr. Stephanie Koraleski (M.S., 1989)** received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Koraleski was the co-founder of A Time to Heal Foundation and is the current CEO of the organization. A Time to Heal is a twelve-week holistic cancer rehabilitation program established in Nebraska in 2005 that uses evidence-based strategies to achieve significant positive outcomes for cancer survivors and

their caregivers. The non-profit is supported by grants and community contributors. You can find out more about A Time to Heal at: [www.mytimetoheal.org](http://www.mytimetoheal.org).

Dr. Koraleski provided the following advice for students: *Be not afraid... Every time something new in your life comes along the first reaction is to be afraid. You say to yourself I don't think I can do that, there are too many obstacles in my way. It is normal to have the feeling of being afraid, but you don't want to become the fear, or live the fear. Fear is just an emotion that comes and goes like everything else and if you let the fear overcome you, you are too overwhelmed to take the next step.*

**Dr. Paul Malcom (Ed.S., 1971)** received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Malcom was a pioneer in interpreting and analyzing test data to help teachers and principals develop informed instruction plans. He also developed school climate surveys that were utilized in school improvement planning and district strategic planning.

After retiring from a thirty-five year career with the Omaha Public Schools, Malcom worked with CTB/McGraw-Hill consulting with school districts across the nation. A person of varied interests, such as piano and organ playing, he was also the co-author of several articles that appeared in the *Successful School Report*.

**Ms. Ferial Pearson (M.S., 2009)** received the Promising Professional Award. Pearson currently is a Talent Advisor for the Avenue Scholars Program. She was previously an English teacher at Omaha South High School. Ferial was winner of the 2010 GLSEN National Educator of the Year RESPECT Award, and the National Education Association (NEA) Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights. Ms. Pearson recently published a book, *Walking in My Shoes*, that was written with her students at South High School.

Pearson is fluent in six languages: English, French, Swahili, Gujarati, Hindi, and Kucchi. Her work with the Avenue Scholars Program includes teaching part of the day at Ralston High School. ■



# *The Beginning of Something New*

Graduation at UNO became more personal on May 5th. Each college hosted its own graduation ceremony on campus. Recent graduation ceremonies had been held at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

The innovation produced the results that were promised. Graduates and faculty alike valued the more personal approach that resulted when the group was smaller and limited to just College of Education graduates. In order to accommodate the graduates and their guests, a striking venue was created with a covered stage and thousands of chairs placed on the green grass of the Pep Bowl located in the middle of campus.

Fortunately, the pattern of rainy days that persisted prior in the week, broke for the day and the sun shone brightly by 2:00 when the ceremonies began. In fact, one thing graduates will remember is how brightly the sun did shine. An uncharacteristically hot May 5th led to many guests seeking the shade of the tall locust trees that line the broad walk in front of the adjoining Eppley Administration Building.

The ceremonies for each college's graduates and the outdoor venue became the beginning of something new. Even more significant is the fact each graduate will now experience the beginning of something new.

For student speaker Patricia Finks it meant the culmination of five years of working toward her degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special Education.

"Trish" shared in her speech to fellow graduates that she was nearly twice as old as some of her classmates and that she had started work toward a degree twice before. Then in 2007 she began anew and was determined this time to finish what she had started.

As a parent and wife, with her oldest child being twenty years old, completing her degree work and student teaching required sacrifices on her part and on the part of her family. Trish, however, reached her goal and she is looking forward to her new beginning as a Special Education teacher in the Elkhorn Public Schools.

Trish's story as a non-traditional student is not new at a metropolitan university such as UNO. We have welcomed others who have made similar decisions.

Kelsey Paul was also a student speaker at Graduation. Kelsey is also looking forward to a new beginning. However, as she plans to begin work on a Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology she may find her new beginning starts when she completes her advanced degree.

Kelsey came to UNO from Dubuque, Iowa, and has become very active in NSSLHA, the National Student Speech Language Hearing Learning Association. She is especially proud of the support NSSLHA gave to the Cameroon Book Drive that provided thousands of books for a university in Cameroon. This service effort of UNO students helped build new beginnings for students half way around the globe. ■



Magna Cum Laude graduate Brittany Hanssen with Chancellor John Chrstensen and Dean Nancy A. Edick.



## THE CHANDELIER

Did you see it? It hung majestically in the stairwell area between the fourth and fifth floors in Roskens Hall. At first glance, an observer might assume it was another contemporary twist the architects had planned for Roskens Hall. But, upon further investigation you would discover the paper chain chandelier was a creation of students and faculty members.

The notation on a small posted placard read: In commemoration of our move to Roskens Hall, faculty, staff and students answered a prompt on paper chains about how Roskens Hall has changed how they work, interact with others, teach or learn. These paper chains were combined to create the paper chain chandelier December 15, 2011.

The chandelier has been taken down, but Graduate Assistant Hanna Wanzenreid provided the following paper chain comments from some she has saved:

- Roskens Hall is accessible for all students and it feels like a second home.
- ROSKENS: Revolutionary space for 21st Century teachers; Omaha community members are gladly welcomed; Students engaged in conversation; Knowledge keeps growing; Extreme makeover in space and collaboration; New ideas, technology, and sense of optimism by all; Sign language lab.
- Seeing good teaching through the windows in the halls.
- As a new faculty member I feel I won the lottery when I accepted this job. I get to work every day in a new building, have an office with windows, teach in classrooms where students enjoy coming to class, and have collaborative spaces everywhere to work with my colleagues and students. ■



Use your smartphone or QR scanner to watch a student demonstrate American Sign Language

## GRADUATE STUDENT A FINALIST FOR A TEACHING AMBASSADOR FELLOWSHIP

The United States Department of Education annually sponsors the Teaching Ambassador Program. The program provides an opportunity for the selected teachers to contribute to policy discussions. The selected fellows spend a year gaining greater knowledge of key federal programs and policies, in addition to an understanding of how the policies are developed.

**Aaron Bredenkamp**, a recent Master of Science graduate in Educational Administration and Supervision, recently learned that he was selected for the Classroom Fellowship program. As a Classroom Fellow he will travel throughout the Midwest promoting and sharing Federal Education policy. He is the first person from the State of Nebraska to be selected for a fellowship in this program. Over 1,000 persons nationwide applied for the fellowship this year. ■

## STUDENT TEACHERS RECEIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

Five student teachers competed for and were selected to receive the Outstanding Use of Technology Award. The winning students received a \$50.00 Learning HQ gift card. In addition, they participated in professional development workshops and other presentations.

The Fall Technology Award winners were Joseph Radicia, Christopher Zyla, and Casey Knight. Joe and Chris presented at the Distinguish Alumni Luncheon. The Spring winners were Clie Kallsen and Ashley Kunkle. Callie and Ashley will present at the 2012 Nebraska Future Educators Association State Conference. ■

## 2011-2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The following students were scholarship winners in 2011-2012.

Ashley Amante  
 Kristine Beilenberg  
 Alyssa Blocker  
 Richelle Blum  
 Julie Bonar  
 Brandy Carter  
 Cole Colony  
 Julie Derosier  
 Brent Duroncelet  
 Kesley Eastman  
 Caitlin Eaton  
 Mariana Estrada  
 Amanda Fitch  
 Michael Garrett  
 Amber Goering  
 Alicia Gotschall  
 Ashley Gregory  
 Corey Hagenau  
 Corey Hagenau

Chelsey Hansen  
 Alexandra Hart  
 Michael Hart  
 Danielle Hoechner  
 Hillary Horvatic  
 Chelsea Hoschar  
 Shaleana Johnson  
 Brent Kelderman  
 David Kerr  
 Michael Kracl  
 Danielle Lausten  
 Erica Lausten  
 Andrew Lewandowski  
 Melissa Lilly  
 Erin Maguire  
 Michaela Mapes  
 Allan Martinez-Henrique  
 Jamie McCaw  
 Eryn Mertins

Leon Micek  
 Debra M. Middendorf  
 Jenna Miller  
 Collin Mink  
 Lindsey Moore  
 Amanda Morrison  
 Amanda Morrison  
 Amanda Nelson  
 Allison Noack  
 Felicia Nofuente  
 Nicole Novacek  
 Amanda Nye  
 Kelly O'Loughlin  
 Dianne Osborne  
 Shea Pace  
 Dunina Padilla  
 Christopher Peters  
 Chelsea Peterson  
 Heather Pohl

David Pointier  
 Rachel Prieksat  
 Candice Rabiola  
 Sarahi Real y Vasquez  
 Amy Roberts  
 Cassandra Roberts  
 Stephanie Sackett  
 Rebecca Salkin  
 MaryLou Snyder  
 Ashley Struebing  
 Danielle Suponchick  
 Emily Svagera  
 Lisa Tesarek  
 Alexander Urban  
 Amanada Vint  
 Tanisha Wallis  
 Aaron Willems  
 Amy Wing



Aaron Bredenkamp



Technology Award winner Joe Radicia with IDEAS Room Coordinator Wendy Grojean



# Happenings

SUMMER 2012

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**16 | Making It Possible** For many people, especially students in a metropolitan university, paying for their college education becomes a major factor in whether or not they decide college is an option. Scholarship programs can be so very important to students and the institutions they decide to attend.

**22 | Bright Skies, Bright Faces** It was difficult to determine which was brighter. The cloudless sky, or the faces of the honorees and guests at the Hollie Bethel Distinguished Alumni Luncheon.

**24 | The Beginning of Something New** Graduation on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus and individual college ceremonies establishes a new tradition.

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