

Happenings

WINTER 2013-2014

*Pursuing Knowledge
Through Research*

Message from the Dean

The smiles were infectious. First, there was a broad smile on Ruth Scott's face that brightened the entire tent. Then, when she announced she and her husband, Bill Scott, were establishing a Community Research Chair in Biomechanics that would be granted to Dr. Nick Stergiou, smiles broke on the faces of all people attending the dedication ceremonies. The staff of the Biomechanics Research Building (BRB) stood and applauded the Scotts, their decision, and their director.

The Scott's contribution recognized the value of the research completed by Dr. Stergiou and the other members of the BRB staff. Research is an important part of why a university exists, and it is an important part of our college. We are proud of the efforts made by faculty and students and are emphasizing some of those efforts in this issue of *Happenings*.

In this issue the BRB research is defined more completely, and another article emphasizes research completed by doctoral candidates in Educational Leadership. The research culminates the candidates' work as students and often supports work being done in the candidate's school or school system. Learning the research process is a part of the candidates' experience they can utilize to support decision making in their profession.

Our new faculty and staff members are introduced in this issue. Several of the new staff members are part of an effort to improve the training for teachers to assure UNO is preparing the highest quality teachers in the region. These Instructional Coaches will serve as coaches for student teachers who are learning in classrooms across the metro area. The effort implements the best practices defined in the latest research on effective teaching.

Past issues of *Happenings* have identified other research efforts in areas such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), exercise science, early childhood, and special education. We are proud of all our efforts to improve physical mobility, to engage in the most effective teaching practices, to improve counseling practices, and to improve speech patterns. We also are thankful we have exceptional facilities to utilize in our teaching and research activities. The new Biomechanics Research Building featured on the cover of this issue was built because of the generous donation from community members who believe in what is happening in our college. We are thankful for their dedications to our efforts, and for the effort of our faculty, our staff, and our students.

Nancy Edick, Ed.D.
Lois G. Roskens Dean
UNO College of Education



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UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

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

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The new Biomechanics Research Building

Let us hear from you
402-554-2719



BRB research includes the utilization of virtual reality for more effective studies of motion.

From a Vision to Reality

Jenna Yentes

A vision. It was that simple. After years of hard work and perseverance, the vision is now a reality. On September 5, 2013, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, along with the NU Foundation, dedicated the vision. A 23,000 square foot building designed exclusively for research in biomechanics.

Biomechanics is the ultimate STEM-related field. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Biomechanics uses physics (mechanics to be specific) and applies the laws of physics to human movement. To do this, biomechanics uses advanced technology, and when the technology is not readily

available to measure what we'd like it to, we engineer the technology. Further, none of this would be possible without math! Biomechanics is a field of study that is greatly interested in understanding why we move the way we do and further, can we help people move easier, better? Biomechanics is the crux of rehabilitation and physical therapy, exercise training, physical activity and even, early diagnosis of movement-related diseases.

Dr. Nick Stergiou (Director, Biomechanics Research Building) has been leading the charge at UNO and in Nebraska of improving people's lives by trying to make them move healthier for almost 20

years. Dr. Stergiou started at UNO in 1996, and each year his vision of a building for biomechanics became more and more clear. As fate would have it, Dr. Stergiou gave a presentation at a NU Foundation event and struck the hearts of two wonderful individuals, Ruth and Bill Scott. The Scotts generously donated to the Campaign for Nebraska program, earmarking their donation to build the Biomechanics Research Building. The vision was no longer a vision, it was a blueprint!

see **BIOMECHANICS** pg 4

continued BIOMECHANICS pg 3

UNO, the NU Foundation, Schemmer Architects, MCL Construction and the staff of the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility over the past two years have worked to make this vision a reality. Jeff Kaipust, Coordinator of the Biomechanics Research Building, worked side-by-side with contractors, architects, interior designers and administration to make sure that each detail was perfect. This building boasts seven laboratories, numerous offices, large conference spaces, patient changing and evaluation rooms, workstations, collaboration spaces and even a machine shop to build and refine devices. The goal in using this resource is to function as an interdisciplinary enterprise that features collaboration between scientists, engineers, mathematicians, surgeons and clinicians to advance the understanding of healthy and abnormal movement patterns. There are four research programs within the building that work to understand the neurophysiology of gait, neuromuscular control of balance and posture, neuromuscular and sensory systems assessment and rehabilitation, and robotics and virtual reality rehabilitation and training.

The **Main Motion Analysis Laboratory** will be the primary data collection space. It is equipped with 3D motion capture systems and force measuring devices. This lab supports projects on mobility in patients with peripheral arterial disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, multiple sclerosis, falls in elderly and lower limb amputation.

The **Virtual Reality Laboratory** supports pioneering work in helping patients with a stroke, amputation, Parkinson's disease, and astronauts recovering from space missions.

The **Acoustics Laboratory** is used for several projects investigating dual-task situations, such as walking and talking, to record and analyze interplay between motor skills and cognitive function.

The **Balance and Strength Laboratory** is used to continue high acclaimed work with traumatic brain injury, concussion, and falls in the elderly.

The **Motor Development Laboratory** supports research on the development of postural control in typically developing children and children with developmental disabilities, as well as children with autism.

There are two **Robotics Laboratories**. The first houses robots and brain imaging devices used to evaluate and train individuals with problems controlling movements of their upper limbs due to stroke or other diseases. The second laboratory is used to develop and



BRB research includes the study of brain activity as it relates to motion

refine surgical robot simulators for evaluating and training medical students and surgeons on robotic surgery techniques.

This building stands to grow the workforce of Nebraska, not only by training young, new scientists, but also by attracting the very best faculty from all over the world. UNO was given the opportunity to showcase their newly dedicated building to the attendees of the 37th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Biomechanics. Over 600 biomechanists traveled to Omaha for this four-day conference in September. One of their stops included touring the Biomechanics Research Building. During the tour, over ten students asked Dr. Stergiou if he had any upcoming positions available. The desire to come and study at UNO has been planted; the outstanding programs, as well as facilities will bring in the crop of young scientists.

Ruth and Bill Scott didn't just stop with contributing for the building. At the dedication ceremony, they announced an endowed chair position to assure the continuation of the Biomechanics research mission. The Provost's office for the University of Nebraska has also provided \$1 million of competitive funding for new equipment needed in the new laboratories of the building. The new equipment in the building allows for independent setup for each laboratory and allows simultaneous data collections in multiple areas.

The faculty and staff of the Biomechanics Research Building are extremely thankful to Ruth and Bill Scott and their family, the Provost's office, the NU Foundation, UNO administration, Schemmer Architects, MCL and everyone else that made this vision a reality. You are invited to come to the building to visit. Nothing gives the staff more pleasure than to share their work with the world. They would love to show you the same things that touched the hearts of Ruth and Bill Scott. ■

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP STUDENT RESEARCH

On Wednesday, November 13, the UNO Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) Chapter hosted a Doctoral Dissertation poster session at UNO's Thompson Center. Thirteen doctoral candidates from both UNO and UNL displayed their research topics for faculty and education professionals. Several students' research projects corresponded with UNO's Academic Priorities of Early Childhood Education/Child Welfare and the STEM subjects.

Suzi Yokley-Busby, Ed.D., Coordinator of Alternative Education, Omaha Public Schools presented her work on the impact of attendance longevity in an after school program, designed to build intentional relationships and support academic success on urban elementary students' achievement, attendance and school awards.



Julee Sauer, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Bellevue Public Schools, explored the effects of district mathematics curriculum on NeSA-M student cohort scores. Her study followed four student cohort groups, with exact enrollment matches from grades 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, and 6-7.



Greg Betts, Ed.D., Principal, Westside District 66 Public Schools, observed the impact of teacher administered positive behavioral support interventions on the behavior and achievement of intermediate level students identified with measured moderate, mild and low disruptive externalizing behaviors.



Continuing Education

The College of Education offers a variety of summer programs for those seeking career growth. Whether you're looking to complete an advanced degree or hone professional skills through a workshop, the College of Education has a program to meet your needs.

Online Master's in Behavior Disorders

The Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders now offers a Master's Degree in Special Education with a concentration in Behavior Disorders completely online. This degree is intended for teachers, and related personnel, who wish to pursue an advanced degree in special education with an emphasis in behavior disorders. Courses include topics related to academic accommodations, behavior modification, and classroom management. All courses are offered using an online delivery model with a variety of software applications that support a collaborative teaching approach and student interaction.

For additional information contact Dr. Philip Nordness at pnordness@unomaha.edu or check out our website: online.nebraska.edu/BehaviorDisorders.

LEAD Academy

The Department of Educational Leadership invites participation in a unique opportunity, bringing together aspiring and current school leaders with community partners to explore the challenges of school community relationship or education policy. Successful completion of the Academy experience will result in 3 graduate credit hours. The course will meet four days—followed by distance projects in June. Participants can select from: School Community Connections June 2, 3, 4, 6; or Educational Policy June 2, 3, 5, 6. The Academy will meet from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for each of the four days.

Register online at www.unomaha.edu through MAVLink, or email Cindy Copich at ccopich@unomaha.edu for a registration form. There is a \$785 nonrefundable fee for materials, food, and other expenses that must accompany the registration form. Registration is due **May 20, 2014**.

MSA (Midwest Superintendents Academy)

December 2013: You passed every exam, earned your doctorate and managed difficult academic quandaries. Now it's your first week of being a newly appointed superintendent, and you wake up to four feet of snow and a plunging temperatures when the local weatherman had predicted a sunny day in the mid-thirties. What do you do when the real world collides with a lifetime of academic preparation? Providing a guide for real life experiences not covered in graduate school is the goal of the Midwest Superintendent's Academy. MSA covers topics ranging from comprehensive and strategic planning, systems thinking, education reform, and technological advancement in education to ethics, board and legislative relations and crisis management.

The class is condensed into an eight hour day and meets once a month for nine months. The current format includes several speakers who relate their on-the-job experiences and is very interactive including group discussions. The 2014-15 MSA will follow a similar format to the current year, bringing in local, regional and national practitioners, national professional developers and professors from the various colleges at UNO. For more information about MSA, contact Keith Lutz, Ed.D., at 402.510.5908 and kelutz@icloud.com, or Susan Bless at University of Nebraska at Omaha, 402-554-3530, sbless@unomaha.edu.

Library Science Blended Distance Format Program

The UNO College of Education offers a diverse array of Library Science Education programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels for those who want to be part of today's 21st Century school, public, academic and special libraries. The courses are offered in a blended, distance friendly format that combines the convenience of online instruction with the personal touch of on-campus sessions to provide programs that are recognized by both the American Association of School Librarians and the American Library Association.

For additional information, contact Dr. Rebecca Pasco at rpasco@unomaha.edu or check out our website at avalon.unomaha.edu/libraryed.

Oxbow Writing Project

The Oxbow Writing Project (OWP) is UNO's site for The National Writing Project. OWP's Invitational Summer Institute is an intensive four-week session designed for teachers and administrators [K – Post Secondary] who are concerned with the teaching of writing in any subject area and interested in professional and personal growth opportunities. The project seeks applicants who are committed to the teaching of writing in their subject areas and who wish to deepen their understanding of theories and practices of writing.

We encourage teachers from all disciplines and grade levels to apply (K – Post Secondary). Application deadline is **March 10, 2014**. Early applications are encouraged. Application process is competitive: up to eighteen teachers will be selected. A stipend toward graduate credit hours is awarded to each participant. Find the application at www.unomaha.edu/oxbowwp.

Met Link

The METLink is a collaborative project of the UNO Teacher Education Department and MOEC schools. Through conferences, teaching circles and advisory boards, METLink connects teachers through research based practices to impact P-12 students. The three strands of METLink include the Metropolitan English Teachers Link for English and reading 7-12 teachers, Metropolitan Elementary Teachers Link focused on literacy instruction in grades 4-6, and Metropolitan Early Teachers Link which serves preschool through primary teachers. Collectively, METLink supports Omaha area literacy teachers and providers.

Wanting to learn more about the conferences, teaching circles or advisory boards?

Kelly Welsh, 7-12
kwelsh@unomaha.edu

Kathy Danielson, 4-6
kdanielson@unomaha.edu

Debora Wisneski, P-
dwisneski@unomaha.edu

Counseling Department Celebrates 20th Anniversary of National Accreditation

Hanna Wanzenreid Solberg

The UNO's Department of Counseling has much to cheer about – we they are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Department being fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). CACREP accreditation is among the highest commendations that an academic program can receive in the counseling field.

“Accreditation is valuable because it provides a national endorsement that the program has been rigorously evaluated and certifies that the program prepares students with the necessary knowledge and skills to serve as professional counselors as set by the field of counselor education,” said Dean Nancy Edick.

CACREP is an independent agency and the accrediting arm of the American Counseling Association.

The UNO's UNO Department of Counseling's Master's program is the only program in Nebraska that offers CACREP accredited programs in both Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling. Since 1993, the Department has undergone three CACREP re-accreditation cycles and is currently preparing for its 2016 re-accreditation.

“Meeting CACREP's high accreditation standards gives further evidence of the caliber of the Department's program, students, and faculty. We are proud to have faculty from UNO's counseling program recognized for their work in guiding our students as they acquire knowledge and skills to practice effectively and ethically, develop as critical and innovative thinkers, and become leaders in the counseling profession,” said Dr. Paul Barnes, Department Chair. The Department plans to celebrate this achievement with a series of events this coming February, including a College of Education Maverick Men's Basketball tailgate and game.

The CACREP accreditation adds to the Department's a long history of excellence. In 1960, the University was the only site in Nebraska to train school teachers to become counselors as part of the National



Defense Counseling and Guidance Training Institute. Because of this work, UNO established a formal Counseling Department in the fall of 1965. The Department will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in the fall of 2015.

The degree program offers courses in formats to meet the needs of traditional and nontraditional students. Weekend courses, distance education and on-line courses are offered. On average, 48 students graduate per year and begin serving the needs of the community. To learn more about the Department, our programs, and how CACREP accreditation benefits students and alumni please visit: www.unomaha.edu/college-of-education/counseling/, call our the office at 402-554-2727 or stop by our the Counseling suite in Roskens Hall, room 101. ■

The College Continues to Receive Tremendous Support

“To be blessed so much, to work with those here and afar, to run on a path seldom taken, to reach an unreachable star.”

-Dr. Nicholas Stergiou, Ph.D.



Left to Right: Bill Scott, Ruth Scott, Dr. Nick Stergiou, and Annie Stergiou

It was in these words Bill and Ruth Scott found inspiration to take action at a University of Nebraska Foundation regional event in Palm Springs, Calif. The Scott family saw Dr. Stergiou’s intricate vision for the future of the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s (UNO) Biomechanics Research program. He and his team of researchers are going beyond innovation—they are global leaders on the forefront of technology.

Through a generous donation from the Scott family, the 23,000 square foot Biomechanics Research Building constructed on the southeast corner of UNO’s Dodge Campus, became the first of its kind in the world. Although the building has been completed, there is still a need for program funding to expand on Dr. Stergiou’s vision. His team of researchers requires support to ensure their outstanding discoveries continue.

For more information on donating, please contact Nicole Massara, Director of Development with the University of Nebraska Foundation at 402-502-4105 or nmassara@nufoundation.org. ■

Dr. Nicholas Stergiou, Ph.D., is the Isaacson Chair and Professor of Biomechanics and the Director of the Biomechanics Research Building, the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility and the Center for Research in Biomechanics at UNO.



NBCF team

enormous Support from the Community

LOIS G. ROSKENS UNO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DEANSHIP

A recent gift by former University of Nebraska President Ronald Roskens and his wife, Lois, has established the Lois G. Roskens UNO College of Education Deanship at UNO this fall.

The inaugural recipient is Nancy Edick, the current UNO College of Education Dean.

“The impact and legacy of Dr. Ron and Lois Roskens’ work in education has been extraordinary,” said Edick. “The Deanship

serves as a catalyst for me and future leaders to continue to honor their work through the ongoing transformation of UNO’s College of Education.”

Dr. Roskens served as chancellor of UNO from 1972 to 1977. He was named president of the University of Nebraska in 1977, a post he held for 13 years. Both Dr. Roskens and Lois have remained active in supporting UNO and the College of Education.

Mrs. Roskens is quoted in the UNO Magazine relative to the establishment of the Deanship:

“As a former teacher I count it a special privilege to have my name associated with such an outstanding College of Education and its extraordinary leadership,” she said. “The students that are a part of the UNO College of Education are learning from the best in the profession and within a college that continually strives for excellence.. ■

Dr. Debora Wisneski was announced as the first John T. Langan Early Childhood Education Professor at a September reception attended by many people who focus on Early Childhood issues. Pictured right are Dean Nancy Edick, Susie Buffett, Dr. Debora Wisneski, and Carole Langan.



Did You Know?

- In conjunction with the Durham Museum's new exhibit: "Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear," the Moving Company gave dance lessons and performed Michael Jackson's iconic "Thriller" song and dance in vintage, train passenger costumes. The dance group, led by **Josie Metal-Corbin**, performed two Saturdays in October.

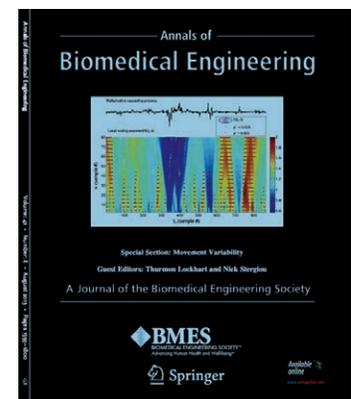


- Graduate speech-language pathology students, **Kristin VanWyngaarden** and **Patrick Hilderbrand** served as Special Education and Communication Disorders Ambassadors and judges for the Miss Amazing pageant on October 25 and 26. The Miss Amazing pageant celebrates the abilities of girls and women with disabilities giving them the opportunity to build confidence and community. For more information, you can find them at www.missamazingpageant.com.
- **Kristin VanWyngaarden** is the 2013 recipient of the Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Endowment Fund scholarship. She was selected from a pool of extraordinary graduate student candidates across the state.

- **Kristin VanWyngaarden** was also granted the 2013 Students Preparing for Academic-Research Careers (SPARC) Award. The SPARC Award is given to students in pursuit of a Ph.D. education in communication sciences and disorders. The award will support activities proposed in her research mentoring and teaching plan.
- **Jill Kumke**, Speech-Language Pathology Clinic Coordinator, has been named president-elect of the Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Association (NSLHA). The College of Education is proud to have a representative on the NSLHA executive board.
- **Dr. Mary Friehe** was awarded "Honors of the Association" during the NSLHA state convention luncheon, held on Thursday, September 26th in Kearney. The convention hosted speech-language faculty and several students to share in this celebration.
- The NxtWave: Leaders for 21st Century School Libraries program received the 2013 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant. The NxtWave program, led by **Dr. Becky Pasco**, is a School Library Science collaboration with Old Dominion University and Long Island University's Palmer School of Library and Information Science.
- **Jill Bertsch**, **Sarah Wilson** and their campus collaborators (Ellin Siegel and Marie Barber of UNL and **Phil Nordness** and **Beth Leader-Janssen** of UNO) have been recognized by UPCEA Marketing Awards with a Silver designation for their work on a Special Education /Autism recruitment

marketing plan. Their submission was selected from 255 entries and honored at the UPCEA Annual Marketing Seminar in Austin, Texas in early November.

- Educational Leadership Doctoral Candidate and Bellevue school board member, **Cindy Copich**, was presented with a Level 1 Award of Achievement by Dave Anderson, Board of Directors President of the Nebraska Association of School Boards at the regional meeting held September 11. Copich was honored for her dedicated volunteer efforts and commitment to education.



- **Nick Stergiou** was the co-editor of a current special issue of the Annals of Biomedical Engineering. The issue included three articles authored by Stergiou and other members of the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility including Sara Myers, Jeff Kaipust, and Mukul Mukherjee.

COUNT ON US...

IN BIOMECHANICS RESEARCH

28/168

The number of individuals with lower limb amputations who participated in BRB research, and the number of data collections of three dimensional motion analysis while walking.

29/19

The number of children with typical development and the number of children with autism spectrum disorders who underwent posture evaluation.

1000

The number of tours given by the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility/Biomechanics Research Building (NBCF/BRB) this calendar year.

100

The number of patients with peripheral arterial disease who visited the biomechanics laboratory for analysis of walking patterns and strength.



15/7/6

Fifteen patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease participated in the program and 7 successfully completed a 6 week exercise program.

4

The number of graduate students who successfully defended their dissertations and were awarded doctoral degrees.

17

The number of scientific manuscripts NBCF has had published in peer-reviewed journals since January.

24

The number of abstracts NBCF has submitted to national scientific conferences since January 2013.

3-6-5

Students in BRB come from 3 countries, 6 different states within the United States, and 5 counties within Nebraska.

COACHING FOLLOWS RESEARCH

New to the College of Education's Teacher Education program this year are Instructional Coaches—not professors, just inspirational sounding boards for teacher candidates currently working in Omaha-metropolitan school districts.

These four new coaches include: Kelly Gomez-Johnson, a former secondary math teacher; Christi Krehbiel, a former 7th Grade English teacher; Ferial Pearson, a former secondary education teacher who came to UNO by way of Minnesota from Kenya, Africa; and Amanda Steiner, a former elementary education in the Omaha-metro area.

These ladies more than understand UNO, its culture and the Teacher Education preparation program—three of them attended UNO for their Master's degrees. Together this quad travels to area schools, shadowing and mentoring about 160 teacher candidates per semester. The coaches give input on where teacher candidates can improve in instruction skills, from classroom management to building meaningful relationships with students.

They may have varying backgrounds in their educational experiences (from working in public and private institutions to Montessori schools) but all can agree on one thing: the key to being a great teacher is to build trust with students and guide them on an academic path they feel they can independently succeed at. And to be a great teacher requires practice and assessments until skills have been honed. Their role is to mentor current teacher candidates through the challenges of adapting to student needs, but ultimately boosting teacher candidates' confidence to expertly control the classroom environment from elementary to secondary education settings.

Try to keep up with these ladies—they're on a mission, but you can catch them on their Twitter @iCoachesUNO. ■



Langan Early Childhood Professor, Dr. Debora Wisneski, speaks to a group of Korean early childhood educators.

Learning Globally, Implementing Locally

This October, Dean Nancy Edick and faculty member Dr. Debora Wisneski traveled to South Korea after Wisneski was invited to be a keynote speaker at the Korea Open Association for Early Childhood Education 2013 Conference at Pai Chai University in Daejeon. At the core of the journey was their goal to learn more about the Early Childhood Education (ECE) system in South Korea while establishing relationships with fellow ECE colleagues for future research and creative activity.

Hosted by Dr. Soonohk Hong, professor of ECE in Busan, the team met with professors from the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) and multiple ECE professionals and professors from various Korean universities, including Dr. JaeHui Yoon, an ECE professor from Yeungnam University (a UNO sister university in Daegu).

Korea has been ranked in the top ten best places for preschool, 2012, "Starting Well: Benchmarking Early Education Across the World," the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Besides the opportunity of discovering new ECE practices in South Korea, the women returned with many ideas on how to implement their knowledge in the facilities at UNO for ECE teacher preparation programs. This new relationship will also serve as an asset for connecting students to the global education community in ECE. ■

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Twelve new faculty members joined the College of Education faculty this fall. These twelve faculty attended sixteen colleges and universities located in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, India and Korea.

Their dedication to educational studies and expertise in their respective fields aligns with the College of Education's academic and strategic goals of excellence.



Clyde (Rick) Richards

Department of Counseling

M.A. in Counseling, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Richards has a broad experience in K-12 education. He taught music at all levels K-12, as well as several years as an instrumental teacher at the high school level. He was also both an elementary counselor and a secondary counselor.



Jessica Baldwin

Full-time instructor | School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

M.A. in Physical Education and Recreation, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Jessica wants to bring the energy and essence of UNO into her classes everyday. She gives high praise, “[UNO] is a community unmatched by

any other company or university.” We happen to agree with Ms. Baldwin!



Mukul Mukherjee

Biomechanics Research Facility

Ph.D. from University of Nebraska at Omaha

Although Mukherjee spends his days innovating and contributing to the development of Biomechanics and Rehabilitation research at UNO, he is getting back into his hobby of painting—in his former school days he won several awards in competitions both nationally and internationally.



Danae Dinkel

Full-time instructor | School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

Ph.D. in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, University of Nebraska Medical Center

From a traveler who doesn't like to visit the same place twice, Dinkel looks forward to enhancing the relevance of research to specific community populations to increase the use of evidence-based research into sustainable community change.



Jennifer Yentes

Full-time instructor | Biomechanics Research Facility

Ph.D. from University of Nebraska Medical Center

Yentes worked in the Biomechanics Research Facility for five years before becoming a full-time instructor. She was attracted to this position because of UNO's encouragement to pursue her research agenda focusing on Walking and Breathing Entrainment in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Yentes's goal is to inspire students to seek a career, rather than just a job.



Jung-Min Lee

Biomechanics Research Facility

M.A. in Exercise Physiology, University of Tennessee

Mr. Lee is finishing his Ph.D. in Kinesiology, specializing in Physical Activity Assessment and Health Promotion. His teaching will focus on measurement and evaluation in physical education, physical activity assessment and health related research, and topics in weight management.

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Jennifer Lemke

Department of Teacher Education

M.A. in Curriculum of Instruction, Peru State College

Jennifer Lemke is looking forward to building collaborative partnerships with the surrounding school districts and aligning coursework in teacher preparation programs with current practices in schools.



Victoria (Vicki) Lentfer

Department of Teacher Education

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from College of Saint Mary.

Working the Department of STEM Education in COE allows her the opportunity to collaborate with other UNO colleges and community partners to increase STEM interest among undergraduate students. For Vicki,

“Teaching is not only about covering content, but it’s also about immersing students in a way that develops their own passion for learning and teaching STEM.”



Josh Jessen

Grants Specialist, Dean’s Office

M.A. Secondary Education, Western Oregon University

“Being surrounded by faculty who are passionate about education makes for exciting work. Knowing that I am part of the myriad of things we accomplish is a truly motivating reward.”



Caitlin Ash

Communications Specialist, Dean’s Office

B.A. in Journalism, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“I’m so thrilled to work with so many dedicated professionals who make their mission everyday to provide the best educational resources and educators for Omaha.

Read more about the work Krehbiel, Pearson, Gomez-Johnson and Steiner are up to with COE teacher candidates on page 12



Christi Krehbiel

Instructional Coach | Department of Teacher Education

M.A. in Secondary Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha

The favorite part of Christi’s job as an Instructional Coach is being a part of a vision to enact change with a direct response—making for better and more dedicated future educators.



Ferial Pearson

Instructional Coach | Department of Teacher Education

M.A. in Urban Instruction, University of Nebraska at Omaha

A former UNO Graduate student, Pearson has had training at the Freedom Writers Institute with Erin Gruwell in Long Beach, Calif. With her two children and husband, she works to perform random acts of kindness EVERY day!



Kelly Gomez Johnson

Instructional Coach | Department of Teacher Education

M.A. through University of Nebraska at Omaha’s CADRE program

“When you know better, you do better.”—Maya Angelou. Kelly’s goal is to support students in the field to maximize their impact on student learning and achievement.



Amanda Steiner

Instructional Coach | Department of Teacher Education

M.A. in Educational Leadership, Doane

Steiner shares COE’s commitment to developing dedicated practitioners who are passionate about teaching and effective in the classroom. Her goal is to serve as a positive mentor for students as they put theory into practice.

STUDENT TEACHES CONSERVATION THROUGH RHYME

What do you do when you have a passion for conservation, teaching middle grades and a hobby of writing poetry? Write a hundred page book of poetry covering the topics of ocean life and water preservation. That's exactly what TED student Amanda Gehrke did with the help of her best friend of over 20 years, Allison Sojka, who contributed the illustrations that brought their vision to life.

"How else are children who have never been to an ocean going to understand it without being able to visualize its infrastructure? I wanted to help them make connections [to the ocean environment]—preserving the Earth now has a significant impact on their futures," reflects Gehrke on educating children about green practices.

The mom of two is working on her degree in middle grades education with endorsements in Spanish and Social Science. Gehrke was inspired to write a book of poetry from her quest to help visual learners better conceptualize scientific concepts. The project has been three years in the making—taking help along the way from a 28-day stint on Kickstarter. She received funding from resources as far away as Australia, Russia and the UK; she is currently working with various blogs and organizations to spread the word about her poems.

Gehrke credits her mentors at UNO, including faculty member, Connie Schaffer, her best friend Allison, her husband (who is no stranger to science, he's a Physics teacher) and two daughters for inspiration to her creative process, reviewing her work and keeping the book silly.

She reflects on the process, "With the help of the faculty at UNO, I was able to craft the book in a way that spoke to different school environments, students and educators. It served as a great tool for my own teaching career—both in providing a resource for students but also as a way for me to broaden my knowledge of these concepts."

You can purchase Amanda's book at the Learning Headquarters in Omaha, amazon.com, through her website: <http://noworrieswhale.wordpress.com>, or by visiting her kickstarter page. Be on the lookout for Gehrke's next adventure, *No Frets Froggy*, poetry focused on rainforest conservation. ■



Lucy lives in the darkest part of the sea
She goes fishing below three thousand feet
Carrying a pole on her dorsal spine
She lights her world with a luminous shine
Her lure gets brighter with every frown
For you can't let the darkness keep you down
So, if things in your life don't seem so bright
Do like the anglerfish, bring your own light
No amount of darkness can hide your spark
When you light the world with the love in your heart

Happenings

WINTER 2013-2014

in this issue

pg 3 | From a Vision to a Reality A vision. It was that simple. After years of hard work and perseverance, the vision is now a reality. A 23,000 square foot building designed exclusively for research in biomechanics.

pg 5 | Educational Leadership Student Research On Wednesday, November 13, the UNO Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) Chapter hosted a Doctoral Dissertation poster session at UNO's Thompson Center.

pg 7 | Counseling Department Celebrates 20th Anniversary of National Accreditation The UNO Department of Counseling has much to cheer about – we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Department being fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

pg 12 | Learning Globally, Implementing Locally This October, Dean Nancy Edick and faculty member Dr. Debora Wiskneski traveled to South Korea after Wisneski was invited to be a keynote speaker at the Korea Open Association for Early Childhood Education 2013 Conference at Pai Chai University in Daejeon.

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