



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
HAPPENINGS
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

QUALITY & CONNECTED:
CELEBRATING EXEMPLARY FACULTY



SUMMER | FALL 2016

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It is with great pride that the focus of this issue is our exemplary faculty. As a premier metropolitan university, we are committed to and engaged with our city. We also have a global reach and vision, providing our students with extraordinary learning opportunities. The foundation for this excellence is our world class faculty and this issue is dedicated to celebrating them and their many contributions.

Dr. Rebecca Pasco leads UNO's nationally recognized library science programs and in this issue shares our vision for supporting 21st Century libraries, which play a significant role in building strong communities. Meet Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede and her students who partnered with Papillion and the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center to support literacy development for incarcerated youth.

We take great pride in the accomplishments of our Public Health program and under the leadership of Dr. Jason Coleman, it became one of the first stand-alone undergraduate programs in the nation to receive Council for

Public Health (CEPH) accreditation. This quality program went on to demonstrate their commitment to community and global outreach by traveling this summer to the Cayo District of Belize. Read about their journey, made possible by the generosity of Dr. Ron and Lois Roskens.

Dr. Elliott Ostler and Dr. Neal Grandgenett are well-known and respected faculty on our campus and throughout our community. They were recently recognized for their excellence and contributions by receiving two of the University of Nebraska's most prestigious awards. Since they are not only close colleagues, but great friends, this was a particularly joyful celebration and we are pleased to share their stories.

This issue makes it very clear that people make the place, and no one taught me this leadership lesson with more enthusiasm than my predecessor, Dr. John T. Langan. Find out how you can honor his legacy with the Langan Community Chair.

Finally, this year we welcome our new faculty – a team of world class teachers and researchers who are committed to UNO's metropolitan mission. We welcome them and celebrate the fact that they have joined UNO and the COE family.

The College is continuing to excel and we are proud of the quality and connected programs and partnerships that make us Mavericks on the Move!



Nancy A. Edick,
Lois G. Roskens Dean



QUALITY: SUPPORTING 21ST CENTURY LIBRARIES

by Rebecca Pasco, Teacher Education

The Library Science program was awarded the 2016 Bridge grant from University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds.

21 CENTURY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION AGENCIES

21st Century libraries play significant roles in their communities, on their campuses and in their P-12 schools. They create opportunities for learning for 8 year olds and 80 year olds. They support a variety of literacies for citizens, immigrants and refugees who need their resources, facilities and programming to accomplish personal goals and achieve their dreams. They partner with individuals, businesses, and a diverse array of organizations to provide access to print and digital resources that bring shape to ideas and perspectives important to a creative and innovative society.

21st Century Libraries are committed to advancing their traditional legacies of reading, information and preservation within the new and necessary 21st Century focus of developing a digitally inclusive society. To do so requires a workforce of professionals who have the skills and dispositions necessary to meet these goals through new and imaginative initiatives that celebrate the voices of a multitude of stakeholders.

ADDRESSING THE SHORTAGE OF CREDENTIALLED INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook predicts a growth rate for librarian jobs of 7% from 2012-2022 and approximately 13,580 new librarian/information specialist jobs over the next seven years. The changing nature of the skills required for 21st Century public, academic, special (law, medical, corporate) libraries have created a high demand for well-educated, credentialed, community-wise, digitally skilled, information professionals capable of enhancing quality of life in their communities, on their campuses, and in a diverse array of niche markets of business, health, and social support/advocacy agencies.

The lack of undergraduate academic programs across the country that prepare/credential library and information professionals complicates the projected shortage of highly qualified candidates to fill current and projected positions. The University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) hosts the only bachelor's level library science program in Nebraska and is one of only 12 undergraduate programs in the entire country.

Unless access to high quality library science programs is addressed in the near future, the nation's data and information resources and public access to technology and basic information services for both rural and urban communities will be severely impacted.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's nationally recognized library science programs are uniquely poised to address this shortage. The UNO program currently celebrates strong enrollments from Nebraska and seven surrounding Midwest states who live close enough to take advantage of its blended (combination of online and on-campus) program format. To "widen its reach" and provide better access to coursework and credentials for librarians in rural and urban communities on a regional, national and global basis, the UNO/COE undergraduate library science program will transition in Fall 2016 to a completely online format. To acquire the additional resources needed by the program to reach this goal, the Library Science program was awarded a 2016 Bridge grant from University President Hank Bounds in Spring 2016 in support of projects that "enhance access to a University of Nebraska education and enhance national and international awareness of the university as a quality resource for online degrees".

The UNO Library Science program is excited to begin this new journey that will support the development of highly qualified candidates for libraries from coast to coast and border to border. As we say at UNO... "There is no better time to be a Maverick!"

For more information about how you can enroll in our library science program, visit us online at: coe.unomaha.edu/library.



CONNECTED: REACHING INCARCERATED YOUTH

by Melissa Cast-Brede, Teacher Education

Teen literacy programming can be found all over the Omaha metro area community encouraging young adults to engage with literature and to just dive into a good book. However, incarcerated teens are isolated and often miss out on such reading programs. A joint project between the UNO College of Education Library Science program and Papillion's Sump Memorial Public Library, seeks to change that by bringing book bundles to adolescents in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center.

With grant funding from the Nebraska Library Commission and UNO's Service Learning program, books were acquired to build book bundles for the teens in the detention area, alternative school and reporting center. Book totes donated by Oriental Trading Company were filled with four books, a therapy-type coloring book, and colored pencils.

UNO College of Education students enrolled in the undergraduate young adult literature course created video book trailers to promote the books and developed bookmarks showcasing read-a-like books (for example, if you liked *Maze Runner* check out *Lockdown!*). Future plans include visits to Sump Memorial Library with youth services librarian Cathy McMahon for literacy programs and to raise awareness of the library as a lifelong resource for the teens.

For many of the teens, access to media is very limited and often they have little to call their own but the clothes they were wearing when they arrived. Importantly, the book bundles are theirs to keep and take with them where ever they are sent next. Not only does the book bundle program encourage reading skills but it nurtures a love of reading and promotes the public library as a refuge they can visit wherever life takes them.



MAVERICKS GO GLOBAL: EXTENDING OUR REACH

by Jason Coleman, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

In May, Drs. Jason Coleman and Sofia Jawed-Wessel led a group of 12 students from the College of Education to the Cayo District in Belize to participate in a global health experience. Students gained hands-on experience working in a rural part of a less developed country. Students learned, first-hand, the challenges of public health in a global, low-resource environment. Students spent 14 days working on various projects.

Students provided basic health education to students by leading health fairs in rural schools, worked to enhance food security through building sustainable, backyard gardens for local people who are living with HIV, and helped to build a food storage cellar at a transitional home for young women who age out of foster care but do not have stable housing. Students also toured a local hospital and health clinics, worked with local social workers and educators, and learned sustainable agricultural techniques from trainers at the Belizean Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

For most students, this trip was their first outside of the United States. Beyond their projects, students experienced the challenges of working in low-income areas with few resources. Further, students gained a new appreciation of the role of culture in health and development. Students returned from Belize with new perspectives on global health, the interaction of donor communities and local communities, the role of politics in health, and the

importance of strong communities in which community members must care for each other.

Students also experienced the history, culture, and natural beauty of Cayo District through visits to several Mayan archaeological sites, hiking on Mountain Pine Ridge, and exploring forest and cave areas in the district.

“Students completed this experience not only with new skills, but also with new perspectives about the importance of health to individuals, communities, and societies,” said Dr. Coleman. He continued, “Perhaps the most valuable take-away from the trip was students’ new understanding of the complexity of public health in a global context.”

This global exchange opportunity was supported by the Lois G. and Ronald Roskens travel fund.



GOE AROUND THE GLOBE

AFRICA

Dr. Neal Grandgenett, Teacher Education

Traveled to Senegal, Africa to learn about Peace Corp work building water wells in rural villages.

BELIZE

Drs. Jason Coleman and Sophia Jawed-Wessel, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

Led a student trip to the Cayo District in Belize to participate in a global health experience. Read more on page 9.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Dr. Nicholas Stergiou, Biomechanics

Collaborated with Middle European Center for Evidence-Based Health Care of the Department of Social Medicine and Health Policy at Placký University Olomouc (PUO).

COSTA RICA

Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg, Teacher Education

Presented her work on anti-racism in Canadian early childhood education at the Global Summit on Early Childhood.

Dr. Debora Wisneski, Teacher Education

Presented on the following topics: "Mindful Reflection as a Process for Developing Socially Just Classrooms" and "Building a Community of PLAY."

CHINA

Jenny Kent, Biomechanics doctoral candidate

Traveled with a group UNMC students and administrators to participate in the International Student Research Forum hosted by the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

ENGLAND

Department of Biomechanics

Helped coordinate the second annual European Nonlinear Analysis workshop at Brunel University London (UK) on June 15, 2016.

GREECE

Dr. Natasa Kyvelidou, Biomechanics

Dr. Kyvelidou has established collaborations with researchers in three cities in Greece: Athens, Patra, and Thessaloníki.

INDIA

Dr. Mukul Mukherjee, Biomechanics

Attended World Stroke Conference

IRELAND

Dr. Mukul Mukherjee, Biomechanics

Collaborated with Dr. Denise McGrath, University College Dublin, to extend new lines of research in physical activity in stroke survivors.

JAMAICA

Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg, Teacher Education

Presented her research on Trinidadian parents' racial socialization practices at the Caribbean Child Research Conference.

JAPAN

Dr. Kota Takahashi, Biomechanics

Attended International Research Forum on Biomechanics of Running-Specific Prostheses in Tokyo.



NICARAGUA

Olajide Cooper and Dr. Julie Delkamiller, Special Education and Communication Disorders

Olajide is a 2016 Fulbright Scholarship recipient for her work in deaf education. Read more on page 18.

PORTUGAL

Dr. Nicholas Stergiou, Biomechanics

Dr. Stergiou is a 2016 Fulbright Scholarship recipient for his research in Human Movement Variability. Read more on page 18.

SPAIN

Jessica Fujan-Hansen, Biomechanics doctoral candidate

Attended the School and Symposium on Advanced Neurorehabilitation in Baiona.

If you are interested in supporting student travel, please contact Nicole Massara with the University of Nebraska Foundation, at 402-502-4105 or nicole.massara@unfoundation.org.



A VOICE FOR INNOVATION

Elliott Ostler, Ed.D., Paul Kennedy Professor of Educational Leadership, received the 2016 Innovation, Development and Engagement Award (IDEA) from the University of Nebraska system. Ostler has spent more than two decades researching and applying the most effective non-traditional teaching techniques for students who struggle to learn mathematics and science content.

Elliott Ostler describes himself as a right-brained math teacher. That is to say, he believes he sees the teaching and learning of mathematics very differently than much of the rest of the world. What is the recipe? "Mix equal parts tenacity and imagination, throw in a bit of curiosity about how the world works, add a dab of traditional mathematics and science content and you've got a winning combination for learning STEM topics!" He says.

In the spring of 2016, Ostler received the University of Nebraska's Innovation Development and Engagement Award (IDEA), becoming the first UNO professor ever to receive the NU system-wide honor. The award recognizes, among other qualities, the ability to transform service environments, such as schools, by implementing truly innovative practices and products. Ostler's version of innovation came in the form of a unique teaching tool

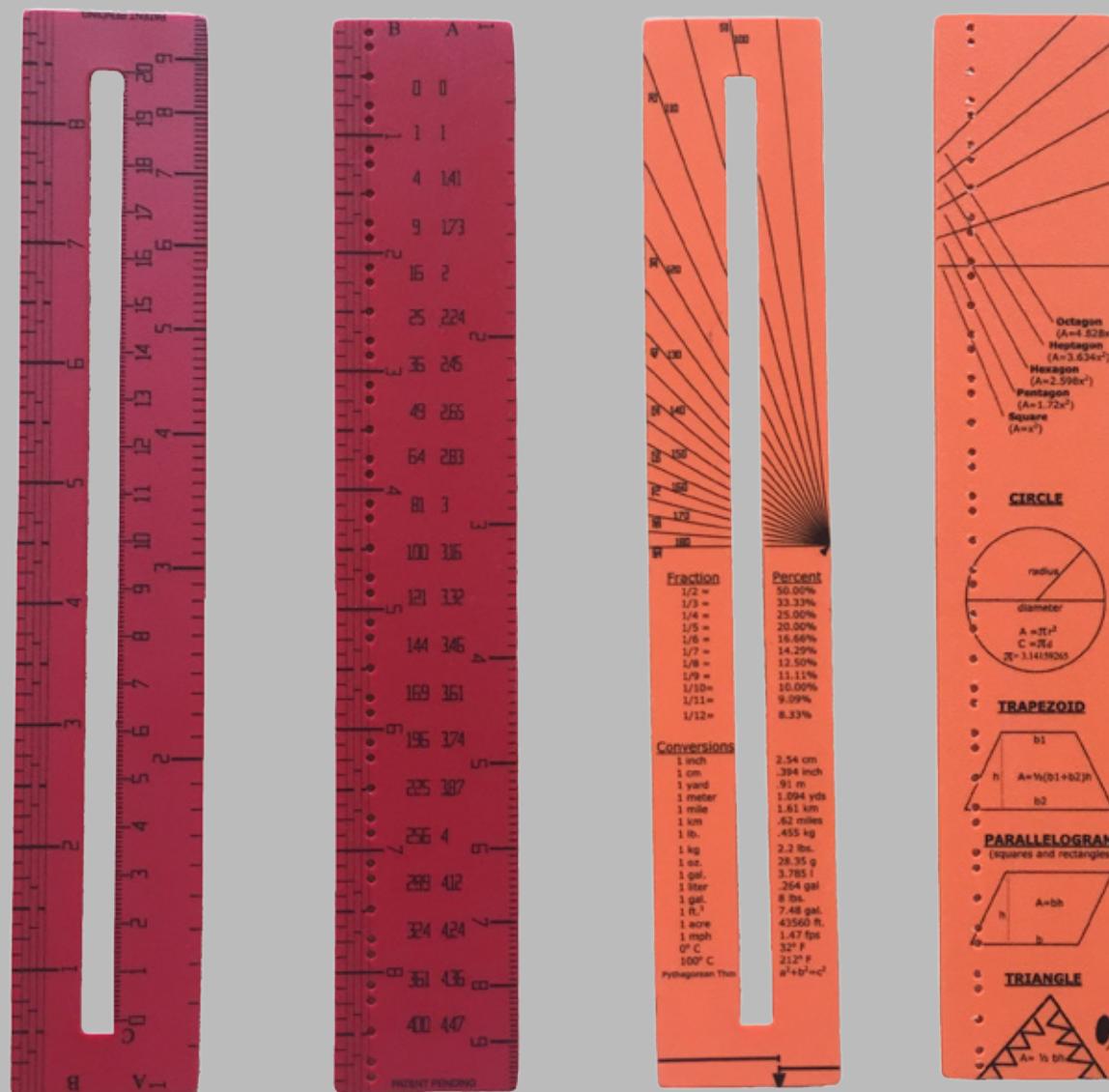
that is transforming mathematics teaching and learning on a broad scale.

His story began in the Chicago Public Schools, where he faced some unique challenges in a Professional Development workshop that he was conducting for mathematics teachers in the district. In short, the metal compasses he needed for his workshop were not allowed into the school building for safety reasons. His dialogue with the workshop participants confirmed that the problem was widespread in the district, making an already challenging environment even more difficult. Over an ensuing holiday break, he dedicated himself to an answer that quickly evolved into an innovative teaching tool, and ultimately a small business called the Initiative for Instructional Inventions and Solutions. The invention was the modification of one of the oldest math technologies known to humankind... a ruler. His two-ruler invention is useful for about 90% of the existing mathematics curriculum and is called the Solution Shark. The device is particularly useful in integrated STEM

environments, which is now a national imperative. “Students need and deserve physical and practical context for the mathematical and scientific topics they are learning. That is what the rulers do best,” he says.

Locally, Dr. Ostler worked with students at the Avenue Scholars Foundation, where he used the rulers extensively to help students overcome their misconceptions about mathematics and what effective learning looks like. Long story short... the rulers worked better than anything the students had ever experienced. Dr. Jef Johnston, Chief Operating Officer for Avenue Scholars Foundation wrote, “... Nearly 100% of our students working with Elliott’s innovative approach not only passed their developmental classes; they thrived in the next level of math. Meanwhile, students in the traditional content courses in the community college passed at or below a 50% rate... He has given impoverished young people throughout our community a chance at a better life.”

According to Dr. Ostler, the pedagogical innovations we create now will help leverage STEM content into what our students already do well. Many students are already very creative and dynamic thinkers. What they lack are solution models using well established mathematical and scientific facts. By adding content driven examples into an environment of innovation and creativity, we will develop students who are more able to synthesize information into creative solutions to many different kinds of problems.



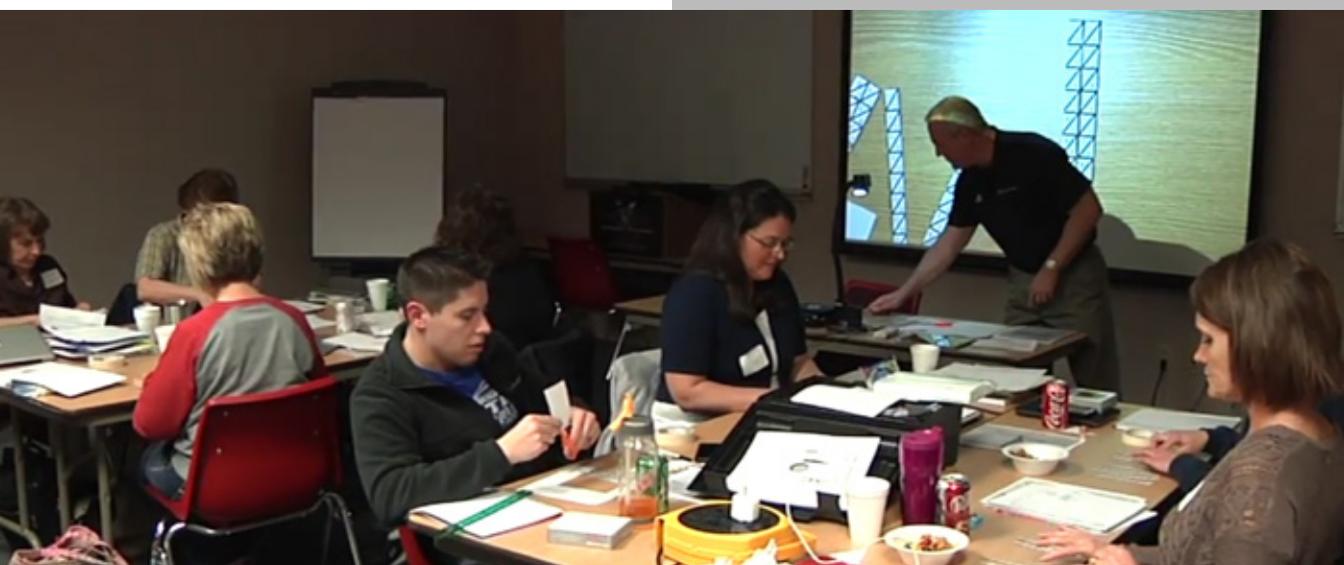
GRANDGENETT WINS 2016 OTICA AWARD



Neal Grandgenett, Ph.D., is the Dr. George and Sally Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education in the College of Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He won the **2016 Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA)** from the University of Nebraska system.

Grandgenett teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in data-driven decision making, interdisciplinary STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning and research methods. His efforts at UNO have helped establish dual pathways for P-12 STEM teacher certification that are collaborative across colleges, and his community efforts have engaged thousands of teachers and other campuses in efforts like learning with educational robotics and wearable technologies.

A 27-year veteran of UNO, Grandgenett is a favorite among students, achieving a lifetime instructor average on student evaluations of 4.88 on a five-point scale. His research interests align closely with his teaching and focus on the investigation of technology-based learning in STEM education, a topic on which he has authored more than 130 articles and research papers. Grandgenett has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on nearly \$18 million in federal grants, and has been the investigator or co-investigator on 10 National Science Foundation grants, several of which have been shared with other NU campuses.



HOW IT WORKS:

The ruler set combines elements of basic measurement with more advanced spatial geometry to create interactive models and tools, which can be used for computation, graphing, geometric construction, trigonometric relations, variations in differential calculus, exponential and logarithmic functions and, when positioned correctly, can even tell time using the sun.

“I think the purpose of life is to be happy, to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate. It is, above all, to matter; to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all.”

- LEO ROSTEN

(JOHN'S FAVORITE QUOTE)



THE JOHN T. LANGAN COMMUNITY CHAIR



Eight years ago, through the generosity of over 400 donors, the John T. Langan Professorship in Early Childhood Education was established. This was a tribute to John Langan, former beloved Dean of the College who spent 44 years as a student, teacher and academic leader. John's work through the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Omaha Public Schools helped to create a solid learning environment for urban

students while inspiring a new generation of teachers and educators. To say that the Omaha educational community is a better place for having John Langan's dedication is, at best, an understatement.

Now is the time to continue to honor the dedication and impact that John Langan had to Early Childhood Education by reaching higher and turning the Professorship into a Community Chair. This distinction will help to make UNO a leading institution for Early Childhood Education, attracting and keeping internationally renowned faculty, recruiting the best and brightest to UNO to become tomorrow's teachers, and growing UNO's community outreach and programming.

If you would like to help support this Community Chair and honor one of our most beloved educators please find included in this Happenings issue, an insert and return envelope where a gift to the John T. Langan Community Chair in Early Childhood Education can be designated. In addition, your generous gift will be matched in full, made possible by a top philanthropic community funder.

Your generosity is instrumental in honoring John Langan while looking forward to the future of education in our community—thank you for considering a gift.

For questions, please contact Nicole Massara with the University Nebraska Foundation, at 402-502-4105 or nicole.massara@nufoundation.org.

FACULTY AWARDS

Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo (1), Ed.D., was the 2016 recipient of the Service Learning Academy (SLA) Faculty Service Learning Award.

Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Teacher Education, and **Mitzi Ritzman**, Special Education and Communication Disorders, were named Faculty Fellows by UNO's Service Learning Academy (SLA). The SLA Faculty Fellows program has been designed to empower experienced and committed service learning faculty to cultivate and support interest in service learning in their fellow faculty members – a means by which to “increase the number of undergraduate and graduate courses with service learning components.”

Dr. Franklin Thompson III received the UNO Outstanding Teaching Award for his dedication and excellence in teaching.

Dr. Nicholas Stergiou, Biomechanics Department Chair, and recent graduate **Olajide Cooper** received Fulbright Awards to continue their research endeavors. The Fulbright program has been a key resource in sending Mavericks across the globe and bringing new students to our campus, allowing students and professors to explore different cultures, exchange ideas and establish valuable academic partnerships.

Dr. Stergiou traveled to Portugal, visiting several universities to discuss his research in human movement variability.

Olajide traveled to Nicaragua (2) this August. She taught parents of deaf children Nicaraguan sign language and helped create a home curriculum for them based on principles learned during her undergraduate studies.



1



2



Pictured: (top) Ferial Pearson with Secretary Hillary Clinton; and Dr. Connie Schaffer with Dr. Jill Biden.

Ferial Pearson is a 2016 recipient of the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Center Inspirational Teacher Award. The award recognizes some of the country's most influential and inspirational teachers. She was nominated by a former student who supremely benefited from her dedication.

In conjunction with her award, Pearson was also invited to author a blog post for the **U.S. Department of Education**, which details her experiences and call to action for kindness in the classroom with her students.

Her blog post and more information about her work can be found ferialpearson.blogspot.com.

Dr. Connie Schaffer, Teacher Education, was invited to attend a White House luncheon hosted by Dr. Jill Biden to address education for military families as part of Operation Educate the Educators, a coalition dedicated to ensuring military connected families are continually supported.

OUTREACH & PUBLICATIONS

“It is natural to think that we should strive for perfection in all things. However, when it comes to human movement that is not always the case. Variation is not only essential and beneficial, but it is truly the spice of life.”



- said by Dr. Nicholas Stergiou at his TEDxUNO talk in February covering the topic of Human Movement Variability. Visit coe.unomaha.edu/brb to view his full presentation.

Three faculty members published books in their specialties.



- “Digital Media in Teaching and its Added Value,” co-authored by **Dr. David Conway**
- “Questioning Assumptions and Challenging Perceptions,” co-authored by **Dr. Connie Schaffer**
- “Nonlinear Analysis for Human Movement Variability,” by **Dr. Nicholas Stergiou**

Educational Leadership hosted the fourth annual **LEAD Academy** with over 80 participants. The academy partnered with the Nebraska Department of Education, Henry Doorly Zoo, the Learning Community, UNO's Chancellor, Nebraska Council for School Administrators, and UNO Community Engagement Center to provide unique and power experiences.

The Center for Research in Human Variability held its inaugural Human Movement Variability

Conference on June 8, 2016. The conference featured **keynote speaker, Dr. Andreas Daffertshofer**, VU University Amsterdam. Graduate and undergraduate students had the opportunity to present their research and interact with some of the industry's giants.

The second annual **Curriculum Teaching, Learning and Leadership in Education Conference** took place on campus this spring. The group also debuted a digital journal of the same name.

<http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/ctlle/>

The **UNO STEM Leadership team** and Citywide STEM Ecosystem Effort received an exemplary designation by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in their application for the Community Engagement Scholarship Award. The group will be presented with a plaque during the Engagement Scholarship Consortium Annual Conference this fall at UNO.



CEPH ACCREDITATION

The **Bachelor of Science in Public Health** program received accreditation from Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) this summer. The program is now a member of the Association of Schools and Programs in Public Health Undergraduate Network for Public Health and Global Health Education.

COMMENCEMENT AT BAXTER ARENA

Chancellor John Christensen led the conferral of degrees to candidates on Friday, May 6, 2016 at Baxter Arena. Over 215 students received bachelor's degrees and 115 students received master's and doctoral degrees from the College of Education.



ALUMNI NEWS

Recent graduate, **Katie Thelan, B.S. '16**, received a **Nebraska Social Studies student teacher award** this spring for her outstanding work during clinical practice. She writes in a letter to Dr. Connie Schaffer, "I am very thankful and owe many of my successes to you and my supervisor for really preparing me for student teaching and the obstacles I would face." Thelan was nominated by Dr. Schaffer, who mentored her during her time at UNO.



Counseling graduate, **Margo Botkin, M.S. '16**, was the recipient of the Spring 2016 College of Education Graduate Award. Nominees are selected on the basis of outstanding academic achievement and contributions to the university.

Seven graduates of the UNO College of Education were recipients of the 2016 Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award. The award is given annually to 15 OPS teachers who demonstrate exceptional dedication to their students and classrooms. Rachel Baxa, BS '89; Thomas Gamble, BS '95, MS '03; Amanda Gutierrez, BS '09, MS '10; John Huber, BS '08, MS '15; Michael Mingo, MS '95; Daniel Nowak, MS '08; and Carolynn Virgillito, BS '93, MS '06.

RETIREMENTS

After 31 years with the College of Education, **Dr. David Conway** has retired. He has been an integral part of the college—first joining as an assistant professor in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders, he moved on to serve as department chair, interim dean, and since 2010 he has been in the role of the associate dean.

While at UNO, Dr. Conway was an active faculty participant in Maverick Athletics. He served as the faculty advisor for athletics but more importantly, had season tickets to every sport. Dr. Conway and his family could often be spotted at a hockey or women's volleyball game.

His extraordinary leadership, encouragement, wisdom, and generous dedication to the college will be greatly missed!

Dr. Kris Berg spent 45 years with the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Dr. Berg was a professor, researcher, and co-director of the exercise physiology lab and fitness center. His commitment to mentoring students had a profound impact on campus and in the community.

Influenced by his childhood diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes, Dr. Berg made it his lifelong mission to study the science of exercise. When he first came to UNO, there was no lab and equipment was out-dated. During his tenure, he advised the program's expansion to offer a doctoral degree in exercise science with concentrations in: physiology of exercise, biomechanics, motor development and control, and physical activity.

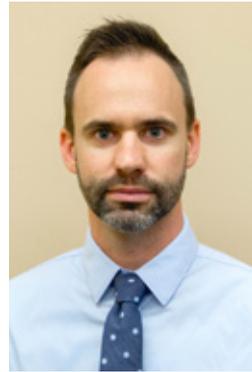
His legacy as a visionary and dedicated leader, inspiring others to dream big, will no doubt continue on in the College of Education.

Photos from top to bottom: Dr. Kris Berg (L) and Dr. David Conway (R); Dr. Berg with Chancellor John Christensen; Dr. Berg's graduate students; and Dr.



FACULTY + STAFF UPDATE

BIOMECHANICS



BRIAN KNARR
Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Biomechanics and Movement Design from University of Delaware

Research Interests: Develop new rehabilitation methods and techniques through innovative hardware, software, and clinical designs.



AMELIA LANIER
Research Associate

Ph.D. in Biomechanics and Movement Science from the University of Delaware

Research Interests: ACL injury recovery, rehabilitation engineering, orthopaedic biomechanics, and motor control. Background in outreach working with the Perry Initiative.



JORGE ZUNIGA
Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Research Interests: Prosthetics, muscle function, neuromuscular fatigue, 3D modeling, exercise physiology.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION



COURTNEY LUXON
Advisor

M.A. in Educational Administration

Background: Graduate Assistant at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Events and Communications Manager, Development Assistant.



DANIEL NEWMIRE
Instructor, Exercise Science

Ph.D. in Kinesiology with a Specialization in Exercise Physiology

Research Interests: Effects of resistance exercise or training, nutritional factors, and environmental conditions on carbohydrate and protein metabolism in skeletal muscle in differing populations of aging, disease, and normal healthy persons.



GLEN WRAGGE
Instructor

M.S. in Education with Specialization in Adaptive Physical Education

Research Interests: Adaptive physical education

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



KATHY COUFAL
Professor, Speech Language Pathology

Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology; Minor in Educational Psychology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Research Interests: Early language development and disorders, interprofessional collaboration, infant eye-gaze patterns, and early childhood service delivery

SARA CANIGLIA-SCHULTE

Instructor, Behavior Disorders

M.S. in Educational Leadership from UNO

Research Interests: Special education law, reading and math intervention programs, and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).



FERIAL PEARSON
Faculty Development Instructor

M.S. in Secondary Education from UNO

Background: Culturally responsive teaching, multicultural education, recruitment and retention of teachers of color, kindness and bullying, urban education, professional development and mentorship of new teachers.



ERICA ROSE
Instructor, Library Science Education

M.A. in Library Information Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia

Research Interests: Youth Services Programming, Community Engagement in Libraries, Public Library/School Partnerships and online instruction for Library Science Courses.

TEACHER EDUCATION



MICHELLE FRIEND
Assistant Professor, Discipline Based Educational Research in Science (DBER)

Ph.D. in Learning Sciences and Technology Design/Developmental and Psychological Sciences from Stanford University



LELA NIX
Instructor, Literacy

M.S. in Literacy from UNO, M.A. in Education from the University of LaVerne, CA

Research Interests: Lesson planning, coaching/mentorship, differentiated instruction, teacher candidate efficacy.



ANNE KARABON
Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education, STEM

Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Research Interests: Teacher Education, culturally responsive curriculum, equitable instruction and learning environments, school and community partnerships.



28TH ANNUAL HOLLIE BETHEL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LUNCHEON

From left to right: Ronald Bulbulian, Director, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Tamra Llewellyn; Cathy Nelson; Kris Swain, Special Education and Communication Disorders; Maureen O'Donnell; Dan Kissinger, Counseling; Susie Melliger; Kay Keiser, Educational Leadership; Nancy A. Edick, Lois G. Roskens Dean; Sarah Edwards, Teacher Education; Ryan Kaiser; Melissa M. Scott-Pandorf; and Nicholas Stergiou, Biomechanics.

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

RUTH AND BILL SCOTT

Award of Distinction

Ruth and Bill Scott are deeply rooted and invested in the Omaha community where they have lived for more than 60 years. The Scotts have contributed greatly to the city's progress, health and vitality in a quiet but exceptional way.

The Scotts' support of the College of Education is just one example of their extraordinary commitment to the University of Nebraska. They have supported key projects at UNO and the University of Nebraska Medical Center that have led to the transformation of the two campuses.



John Scott, son of Ruth and Bill, accepting the Award of Distinction on their behalf.

RYAN KAISER

Distinguished Promising Professional Award Teacher Education Department

As a sixth and eighth grade teacher, Ryan has more than sixteen years experience in the classroom and was recently named the Baltimore City Teacher of the Year and continued on to win the 2015-2016 Maryland Teacher of the Year. He is also his school's coach for the Baltimore Urban Debate League, a mentor teacher, and a teacher member of the school's Parent Teacher Organization. Ryan writes middle school honors curriculum for City Schools, serves as the communications coordinator for the Maryland Council for Social Studies and is on the Education Committee for the Maryland Historic Society.

TAMRA LLEWELLYN

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

Tamra Llewellyn is an Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. She currently teaches Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics and Kinesiology, Motor Learning and Control, Exercise Testing and Programming, and Research and Statistical Methods. Tamra's research interests are focused in the field of cardiovascular exercise physiology, including the effects of exercise on endothelial function, and the effects of exercise on the central mechanisms in heart failure.

SUSIE MELLIGER

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award Educational Leadership Department

Since 2004, Susie Melliger has been the Principal of Aldrich Elementary School in Millard Public Schools. She strives to make advanced learning opportunities available for students. Her dissertation on the impact of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB-PYP) on elementary students is one example of how she puts the needs of students first and becomes the transformational agent to lead improvement. Through her direction implementing IB-PYP at Aldrich Elementary, Susie went on to serve on the Millard Public Schools IB Leadership Team as well as a role consulting for schools in Iowa and Nebraska who were investigating IB-PYP.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CONTINUED

CATHY NELSON

**Distinguished Service Award
Special Education and Communication Disorders Department**

Cathy Nelson has a wealth of experiences working with young people in numerous settings, including elementary classrooms; group homes; runaway and homeless youth shelters; and alternative school settings. Her passion to help children “get to their next good place” from wherever they are in their educational journey is her true calling. After receiving her Master of Science in Behavior Disorders at UNO, she obtained a Reading Specialist endorsement in order to better serve her students at Blackburn Alternative Program. Helping kids with language is critical, in Cathy’s opinion, to helping them succeed in school, reach graduation and have a chance to change things for themselves in the future.

MAUREEN O’DONNELL

**Distinguished Professional Achievement Award
Counseling Department**

For the last 23 years, Maureen O’Donnell has been the co-owner of Arbor Family Counseling Associates with Judy Lundquist, which serves Omaha metro-area corporations, school systems, and families. Since its inception, Arbor Family Counseling has grown to contract with twenty-five different organizations including Omaha-area employers, six area school districts, and numerous non-profit organizations. Arbor Family Counseling maintains a focus of family therapy, which is one of Maureen’s primary interests in serving the Omaha community. Maureen is licensed as an independent mental-health practitioner and as a drug and alcohol counselor.

MELISSA M. SCOTT-PANDORF

**Distinguished Professional Achievement Award
Biomechanics Department**

Through a prestigious internship at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, which eventually led to a fellowship to complete research for a study idea she proposed as an intern, to her current role, Melissa was offered a full-time position as a Research Scientist in the Exercise Physiology and Countermeasure Project with NASA. While she and her family have since moved back to Nebraska, she continues to telecommute and conduct her research from home with occasional trips to Houston. Melissa has found a new passion through the move; engaging students in her area to explore space science. She realized rural Nebraska students deserved opportunities similar to those in Houston, where students were immersed in science and engineering, and encouraged to specialize in those career fields.

HAPPENINGS

Summer | Fall 2016

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Nancy A. Edick

Associate Dean
Paul Barnes

Publications Editor/Design
Caitlin Wedding, Communications Specialist

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