



THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**2007 Alumni Awards
for Excellence in Public Service
and
2007 Hubert Locke Award
for Distinguished Service**

**Monday, April 2, 2007
William H. Thompson Alumni Center**

UNIVERSITY OF
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Omaha

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A Message from Dean B. J. Reed:

Today, the College of Public Affairs and Community Service celebrates an historic event: the breaking of ground for a building that will house, for the first time, all of our academic programs. We believe this building will represent the highest ideals of our college: collaboration, transparency, community, diversity, and an overarching commitment to academic excellence, research, and outreach.

The thirteen people we honor today are also ground-breakers in their own right. They have distinguished themselves through their professional service and community stewardship. In their daily deeds and life-long accomplishments, each of these individuals define the very best of public service: integrity, volunteerism, leadership, and professionalism. They are a credit to their fields of study, profession, families, and communities, and our world is a better place because of these individuals. Please join me in congratulating them.

A special thanks to the UNO Alumni Association for underwriting a portion of this event

Previous Recipients of the CPACS Alumni Award

Karen Authier	Kim Kern
Reema Abou-Nasr	Pat Kern
Carlos Barrientos	Gene Klein
Connie Benjamin	Michael Kohler
Monica Blizek	David Landis
James R. Blue	Paul Landow
Carole Boye	Mike Lempke
Edna Brooks Pittman	Mary Lopez
Thomas Casady	Marcos Mora
Allen Curtis	Mark Martinez
Timothy Dunning	Steven Martin
Joe Edmonson	Tim Mathern
Ellen Freeman-Wakefield	Michael McLarney
Aldona Gasiliunas Doyle	Michael Nolan
Christine Gillette	Steve Novotny
Cindy Gonzalez	Ann O'Connor
Amy Haddad	Robert Olson
Chuck Hagel	Penny Parker
Glenda Hallberg	Jason Pratt
Terri S. Harder	Josephine Ramos
Mel Harrington	Jolene Roberts
Morgan Hecht	Douglas Russell, M.D.
Zenola Hilliard	Carolyn Stitt
Anne Hindery Camp	Tijuana Smith-Secret
Robert Houston	Michael Turner
Ginny Hronek	Donna Tubach Davis
Julie Kalkowski	Thomas H. Warren Sr.
	Mary Zeleny

Previous Recipients of the Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award

Elaine Spire
Nancy Thompson
Mary Heng-Braun
Terry Haney
Al Goodwin

Program

Opening Remarks

B. J. Reed, Dean

College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Welcome

John Christensen, Interim Chancellor

Welcome from the UNO Alumni Association

Lee Denker, President and CEO

Recognition of Special Guests

B. J. Reed

Luncheon

Presentation of 2007 Alumni Awards

Kathy Menke, Assistant Dean, CPACS

Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Director, School of Social Work

John Bartle, Director, School of Public Administration

Brent Bowen, Director, Aviation Institute

John Crank, Chair, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Karl Kosloski, Interim Chair, Department of Gerontology

Judy Harrington, Acting Chair, Goodrich Scholarship Program

Presentation of the 2007 Hubert Locke Award for Distinguished Service

B. J. Reed and Hubert Locke

Following this event, please join us in Centennial Hall for “**Reflections on CPACS**,” a panel discussion with the four deans of CPACS:

Hubert Locke (1972 - 1975)

John Kerrigan (1976 - 1985)

David Hinton (1985 - 2000)

B. J. Reed (2000 - present)

Moderated by UNO Chancellor Emeritus Del Weber

College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) Alumni Awards for Excellence in Public Service 2007 Recipients



Ron Bartee graduated from UNO with a **bachelor of science in criminal justice degree** in 1976 and received an additional **bachelor of general studies degree** in 1978. Bartee's criminal justice career began with the military police in 1967 and included a two-year tour in Vietnam. In 1974, he began a career with the Nebraska Department of Corrections as an adult parole officer. Former Governor J. Robert Kerrey appointed Bartee to the Nebraska State Parole Board as a part-time member in April 1983.

Bartee was soon appointed to the position of chairperson of the Parole Board. At age thirty-two, he was the youngest person ever to hold the position and served in that capacity until 1992 when he accepted a position with the US Parole Commission in Kansas City, Missouri. In September of 1994, Bartee returned as chairperson of the Nebraska Parole Board and has since worked in the fields of drug testing and electronic monitoring. Bartee currently teaches criminal justice at Salt Lake Community College and works as a customer relations manager for Larry H. Miller Toyota in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Toba Cohen-Dunning earned a **master of social work degree** from UNO in 1999 and a **master of public administration degree** in 2000. Cohen-Dunning was appointed as associate executive director of the Omaha Schools Foundation in September of 2006. Formerly, Cohen-Dunning served as director of development for the Boys Town National Research Hospital and spent twelve years working on the staff of U.S. Senators J. James Exon and J. Robert Kerrey.



Cohen-Dunning is a board member of the Jewish Federation of Omaha (JFO) and serves as chair of its strategic planning committee. She also serves on the boards of the Center for Jewish Education, Beth Israel Synagogue, and Beth Israel Synagogue Sisterhood, and is a founding and active member of the Omaha Venture-Philanthropy Group (OVG).

Cohen-Dunning is married to Eric Dunning, an attorney with the Nebraska Department of Insurance. They have a five year-old daughter named Eleanor.



Robert C. Dahlquist earned an associate degree in fire protection technology from UNO and a **bachelor of general studies** degree with a concentration in health education in 2002. Dahlquist began his career with the Omaha Fire Department and was soon promoted to Fire Apparatus Engineer and later, Fire Captain. Dahlquist became a certified law enforcement officer through the Omaha Police Department in 1993 and was promoted to battalion fire chief in 1998.

Dahlquist's twenty-six years of service with the Omaha Fire Department includes work as emergency medical technician, arson investigator, hazardous materials response, and battalion chief in charge of the department's training bureau, responsible for recruitment and training of Omaha's firefighters. Dahlquist is president of the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association and is on the boards of the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha chapter; International Fire Chiefs Association; Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association; Nebraska State Fire Chiefs Association (Heartland Chapter); and the American Red Cross.

Dahlquist and his wife Pamela, also a UNO graduate, have been married for 25 years. They have three children: Robert, 22; Kristin, 20; and Lauren, 15.

Senator Gwen Howard earned a degree in sociology and psychology from Midland Lutheran College in 1967 and a **master of social work** degree from UNO in 1974. Born and raised in Douglas County, Howard graduated from Omaha Benson High School in 1963. She is accredited by both the National Association of Social Workers and by the Academy of Certified Social Workers. Gwen has over 34 years of experience with the State Health and Human Services System.



In 2004, Howard was elected to represent the 9th Nebraska legislative district. She currently sits on the education and health and human services committees.

Senator Howard and her late husband David have two children, Carrie and Sarah, and a foster child, Jessica.



Connie Kudlacek earned a **bachelor of general studies degree with concentrations in gerontology and psychology** from UNO. She recently retired as executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Midlands Chapter after serving in that capacity for over twenty years. In addition to her role at the chapter, she has shared her personal and professional expertise as a board member and volunteer for many organizations always advocating for the needs of the disabled and elderly in the Omaha community. Kudlacek currently serves on the New Cassel board of directors and the Alzheimer's Association public policy committee, and is a founding member of the Omaha Chapter of the Nebraska Head Injury Association. She has served on the executive board of the Combined Health Agency

Drive (CHAD) and on the board of directors of the National Voluntary Health Agencies of Nebraska.

Kudlacek's focus has been enhancing the dignity of the person and most recently, Kudlacek co-authored two books on care-giving. The American Journal of Nursing recently honored one of those books, [Alzheimer's Disease – The Dignity Within: A Handbook for Caregivers, Family, and Friends](#) with a "Book of the Year" award.

Connie has been married for 45 years and has four sons currently residing in Omaha.

Rod Kush graduated from UNO with a **bachelor of science in criminal justice** degree. Kush was born and raised in Omaha and attended Burke High School where he made All-State in football, and subsequently received a scholarship to play at UNO where he made All-Conference. Kush was drafted into the NFL in 1979 and played with the Buffalo Bills for six years and another two years with the Houston Oilers. At age 30, Kush retired from football and started a furniture business. Nineteen years later, Kush retired from the furniture business. He currently owns Rod Kush Cash Advance and RK's Rent-to-Own.



Rod Kush married his high school sweetheart Kathy in 1982 They have two sons, Troy and Randy, who both currently play football at UNO, ages 20 and 22.



Patricia A. Lamberty graduated from UNO with a **bachelor of science in public administration** degree in 1976 and earned a J.D. from Creighton University School of Law in 1979. Lamberty was appointed District Court Judge of the Fourth Judicial District in 1998. Prior to this appointment, she was a principal in the law firm of Zweiback, Hotz, & Lamberty, P.C.

In 1997, Judge Lamberty received the Omaha Bar Association Public Service Award and the B'nai B'rith Safety Award for her efforts in developing Omaha's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. She has been

the recipient of the Woman of Distinction Award by the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women, the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award, and the Legal Pioneer Award by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation. In 2000, she received the Citation for Alumnus Achievement Award from UNO and an honorary membership in Pi Alpha Alpha, National Honor Society for public affairs and administration. Judge Lamberty is currently president of the Nebraska District Court Judges Association and serves as secretary-treasurer of the UNO Alumni Association.

Keri Lyn Spencer earned a bachelor of science in aviation business administration degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2001 with a concentration and minor in airport management and aviation safety. In 2005, she earned a **master of public administration** degree from UNO in with a **specialization in aviation administration**. An airport compliance specialist in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Compliance Branch based at FAA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., her responsibilities include developing policy, maintaining oversight of the national airport compliance program, and adjudicating formal complaints filed under 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 16.



Spencer was a management and program analyst with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General prior to joining the FAA. There she conducted audits on a variety of subjects including air traffic controller training, workers compensation oversight, and aviation security funding for which she was recognized with numerous individual and team awards including the Team Award for Excellence presented by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency. Spencer also serves as a subject matter expert and adjunct instructor in airport compliance at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Erin Sullivan earned **master in social work and a master of public administration** degrees from UNO in 2001. Sullivan began her professional advocacy work while serving with the Peace Corps in Zaire in 2001. In addition to working full time as a litigation support specialist at an Omaha law firm, she is the Omaha Chapter President, the Nebraska State President, and the Regional Director on the National Board for the National Organization for Women. She is a founding member of the Nebraska Judicial Nominations Coalition. Erin is an active member of the League of Women Voters, the Pro-Choice Coalition and the Legislative Action Team for Planned Parenthood. The YWCA honored her with the "Extra Mile" Award for her work as a crisis hotline advocate, legal advocate, and race director for the "Put

Your Foot Down Against Domestic Violence" run.

Sullivan is a strong advocate of holistic health, primarily through exercise. She swims, bikes, and runs regularly. She has been the president, board member, and a race director for the Omaha Running Club and is the president, swim meet director, and a coach of the Omaha Masters Swim Club. Sullivan has served as the race director for runs benefitting the Santa Monica House, the Arthritis Foundation, the Heart Association, and the American Lung Association.

Bill Wakefield received a **bachelor of arts degree in sociology, psychology and music** in 1965, and a **master of science degree in sociology** in 1967 (at that time, criminal justice was housed within the Sociology Department). He earned a Ph.D. from South Dakota State University in Sociology/Criminal Justice in 1976. Now a professor in the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ), he has also held positions in the sociology departments of Dana College and South Dakota State University. He currently serves as director of graduate studies in the SCCJ. Wakefield has been selected for the Outstanding Teacher Award at UNO and is the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for UNO.



Author of numerous research articles in professional journals, Wakefield co-authored and published [Criminal Justice in England and the United States, Editions 1 & 2](#). Since 1976, he has been involved in teaching and research in England and has directed an annual study tour to London to examine the English criminal justice system. Over the years, he has accompanied more than two thousand students on these study tours .

Married and the father of three sons, Wakefield and his wife Ellen, the Executive Director of the YWCA Domestic Violence Program, reside in Omaha.



Harriette Washington graduated from the **Goodrich Scholarship Program** with a bachelor of science degree in political science in 1982 and earned a **master of science in urban studies** degree from UNO in 2001. She is an officer with the U.S. Courts/District of Nebraska. Washington's involvement in the community includes work with Augustana Cornerstone Foundation in its efforts of restoration and home ownership for less fortunate families; All Our Kids, a mentoring program; National Brotherhood Skiers, a program to promote youth involvement in skiing; Goodrich Alumni Association, in

working to develop an active alumni association; and New Era State Laymens Summer Outdoor Education Program, mentoring "at risk youth" along with involvement in outdoor sports.

Washington is also an auxiliary member of American Legion Post No. 30 and on the special programs and fundraising committee for the Butler Gast YMCA.

Peter C. Young earned a **master in public administration** degree with a specialization in state and local government from UNO in 1983 and a Ph.D. in risk management from the University of Minnesota. He is considered a leading expert on risk management, particularly in public sector organizations, has written four books and has been published extensively in academic and practitioner journals as well. In addition to his academic work, Young is a consultant to and advises numerous organizations in the insurance and risk management fields.



Young occupies the E. W. Blanch, Sr. Chair in Risk Management at the University of St. Thomas College of Business and has been a visiting professor to City University in London, Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, and most recently at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland. He is currently an external scholar and senior advisor at the European Institute for Risk Management in Copenhagen, Denmark, and in that capacity is managing editor of *Public Risk Forum*, a magazine devoted to international public risk issues.

2007 Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award

This award was established in 2002 to honor an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the ideals of public service through their professional activities, community service, and philanthropy. Dr. Hubert Locke served as the first permanent dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service from 1972 to 1976. After leaving UNO, Dr. Locke joined the faculty of the University of Washington where he served as dean of the UW Graduate School of Public Affairs from 1982 to 1987. Dr. Locke's distinguished record of public and community service represent the highest ideals of CPACS. We are proud to recognize individuals who follow in his footsteps.



John Scott is Vice President and Foundation Advisor for the William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation. He is vice chair of the board of directors of the Omaha Community Foundation and has chaired its grant committee for six years. He was a founding member of the Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha Advisory Board and is a founding member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH).

"John embodies the highest ideals of community service and civic leadership in his efforts to address critical issues facing our community," said CPACS Dean B. J. Reed. "His active involvement in the Neighborhood Center's design, launch, and ongoing operations have helped ensure its success and long-term viability. He has been an active supporter of CPACS and our mission, and we are honored to recognize John with the Hubert Locke Award."

Scott earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and worked as a financial consultant for twenty-two years. He and his wife, Dianne, have three grown children.