



**THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**2010 Alumni Awards  
for Excellence in Public Service  
and  
2010 Hubert Locke Award  
for Distinguished Service**

**Friday, April 9, 2010  
William H. Thompson Alumni Center**

The University of Nebraska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

## **A Message from Dean B. J. Reed:**

The individuals we honor today 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**

Scot L. Adams	Glenda Hallberg	Jamesena Moore
Karen Authier	Jason Hansen	Michael Nolan
Reema Abou-Nasr	Terri S. Harder	Steve Novotny
Carlos Barrientos	Mel Harrington	Ann O'Connor
Ron Bartee	Morgan Hecht	Robert Olson
Connie Benjamin	Zenola Hilliard	Penny Parker
Monica Blizek	Anne Hindery Camp	Frank Peak
James R. Blue	Robert Houston	Jason Pratt
Carole Boye	Gwen Howard	Janice Price
Edna Brooks Pittman	Ginny Hronek	Josephine Ramos
Scott Carlson	Julie Kalkowski	Jolene Roberts
Thomas Casady	Kim Kern	Gabe Romero
Toba Cohen-Dunning	Pat Kern	Douglas Russell, M.D.
Allen Curtis	Gene Klein	Paul Sather
Robert Dahlquist	Michael Kohler	Michelle Schindler
Aldona Doyle	Connie Kudlacek	Carolyn Stitt
Timothy Dunning	Rod Kush	Tijuana Smith-Secret
Joe Edmonson	Patricia Lamberty	Paul Strawhecker
Blake Edwards	David Landis	Erin Sullivan
Janine Emmons	Paul Landow	Susan Tast
Viv Ewing	Mike Lempke	Michael Turner
John Fiene	Mary Lopez	Donna Tubach Davis
Ellen Freeman-Wakefield	Rebecca Lutte	William Wakefield
Mark Foxall	Jun Ma	Harriette Washington
Christine Gillette	Marcos Mora	Thomas H. Warren Sr.
Cindy Gonzalez	Mark Martinez	Barbara Weitz
Amy Haddad	Steven Martin	General Johnnie Wilson
Senator Chuck Hagel	Tim Mathern	Sara Woods
Susan Hale	Michael McLarney	Peter Young
	Stephen McCoy	Mary Zeleny

## **Previous Recipients of the Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award**

Elaine Spire	Al Goodwin
Nancy Thompson	John Scott
Mary Heng-Braun	Rhonda A. Hawks
Terry Haney	Mayor Mike Fahey

## Program

### Opening Remarks

B. J. Reed, Dean  
College of Public Affairs and Community Service

### Welcome from the UNO Alumni Association

Lee Denker, President and CEO

### Recognition of Special Guests

B. J. Reed

### Luncheon

### Presentation of 2010 Alumni Awards

Kathy Menke, Assistant Dean, CPACS  
Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Director, School of Social Work  
John Bartle, Director, School of Public Administration  
Scott Tarry, Director, Aviation Institute  
Candice Batton, Director, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
Imafedia Okhamafe, Chair, Goodrich Scholarship Program  
Julie Masters, Chair, Department of Gerontology

### Presentation of the 2010 Hubert Locke Award for Distinguished Service

B. J. Reed

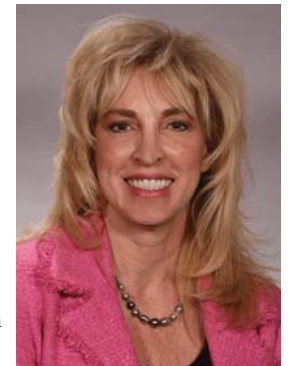
## College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) Alumni Awards for Excellence in Public Service 2010 Recipients



**Ricardo Ariza** is a native of South Omaha and graduated from South High School in 1977. A graduate of the **Goodrich Scholarship Program**, he received his **bachelor of social work** degree in 1982 and a **master of social work** degree from UNO in 1993. Ariza is very proud that he is a Goodrich Scholar and attributes his 16 years of success as the first director of Multicultural Affairs at Creighton University to the foundation of knowledge learned from faculty and staff in the Goodrich Scholarship Program. Previously, he held positions as a family teacher at Father Flanagan's Boy's Town, mental health counselor at the Nebraska Department of Corrections, mental health counselor at the Lancaster County Community Mental Health Center, counselor at the Saint Joseph Center for Mental Health and post-baccalaureate counselor at Creighton University. Ariza enjoys

serving in leadership roles and is currently a member of the Creighton President's Community Advisory Board, Creighton University Social Work Community Council, the Initiatives in Diversity Education and Action Committee, National Catholic Migrant Farm Worker Network Board, and the Latino Scholarship Fund Board. He is co-chairman of the Latino Achievement Council at Omaha Public Schools and past-chairman of the National Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Conference on Multicultural Affairs.

**Dr. Deborah Circo** received her **bachelor of science in criminal justice** degree from UNO in 1980, a **master of social work** degree from UNO in 1990, a master of arts degree in psychology from UNL in 2000, and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from UNL in 2004. For the past twenty years she has devoted her career to developing programs and services for individuals with intellectual impairments and developmental disabilities; services and programs for foster youth; clinical services for families of children with behavioral problems; and training and mentoring graduate learners. She has written, and been awarded, federal, state, and local grants focused on enhancing the lives and social-emotional opportunities for youth and young adults with special needs. She is also an assistant professor and director of social work at Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.





**Teresa Coleman Hunter** is a graduate of the **Goodrich Scholarship Program**. Inc. After earning a bachelor of science in business administration degree from UNO in 1988, she received a juris doctor degree from Creighton University Law School in 1994. Hunter serves as executive director and CEO for Family Housing Advisory Services, Inc. and Omaha 100. Under her leadership, Family Housing Advisory Services, Inc. has developed a reputation in the community for empowering people and changing lives through the professional delivery of its comprehensive housing and financial services by over thirty staff in three offices in Nebraska and Iowa. Her community service currently includes serving on the boards of multiple community organizations, including the Nonprofit Association of the

Midlands, Empowerment Network, Catholic Charities, Alliance Building Communities, the Mayor's Fair Housing Advisory Group, Bright Futures Foundation Community Advisory Board, and Douglas County Emergency Food and Shelter Board. Teresa and her husband, Stacy Hunter, have four children, two boys and two girls: Brenton, Coleman, Chandler and Stacia. Stacy works for Union Pacific Railroad, and is a pastor at Faith Mission Church, a growing church in the heart of north Omaha.

**Colonel Roger Donlon** received a **bachelor of general studies** degree from UNO and a master of science degree in government from Campbell University. military career began in 1953 with the enlisted service in both the Air Force and the Army. He was commissioned through Officer Candidate School as an infantry officer in 1959. He spent the next 29 years serving in assignments based on a triad of his specialties as an infantry, special forces, and foreign air officer. For conspicuous gallantry and at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty on July 6, 1964, Donlon became the first American soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. Military and civilian education included: the Special Warfare Course, Infantry Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance, School of International Studies, and the Army War College. He is the author of **BEYOND NAM DONG**, a self biography. He is also the co-author of **OUTPOST OF FREEDOM**, published by McGraw-Hill and condensed for publication in the October 1965 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, which featured his picture on the cover. Since retiring from the Army in 1988, Colonel Donlon has served on many boards and organizations, including the board of directors/trustees of People-to-People International. In 1995 he was inducted into the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame, the only non-general officer to hold this distinction in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1997 Colonel Donlon became the

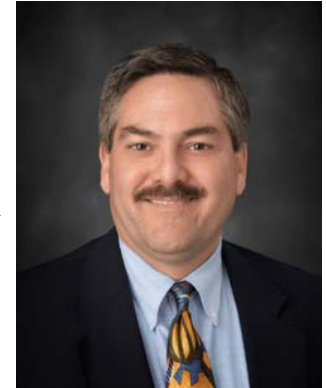


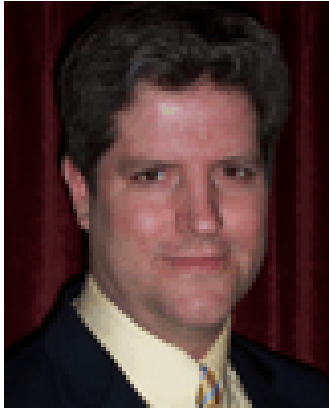
first recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award at the U.S. Army War College. Colonel Donlon is currently serving as the "Honorary Colonel" of the First Special Forces Regiment. Colonel Donlon and his wife, Norma, have five children and six grandchildren.



**John W. Ewing, Jr.** is a family man with a community service conscience. He and his wife Vivienne have been married over 25 years and have two daughters. Christina, a senior at North West Missouri State University and Alexandria, who is a senior at Roncalli Catholic High School. Mr. Ewing holds both a bachelor of science in business administration degree and a **bachelor of science in criminal justice** degree from UNO, as well as a **master of science in urban studies** degree from UNO. He is now an adjunct professor in the UNO School of Public Administration. He was elected as the first African American Douglas County Treasurer and has served in that capacity since January 2007. Prior to that he was a deputy chief of police and served with the Omaha Police Department for over 24 years. He is now an associate minister at Salem Baptist Church. He serves on many community service boards including, but not limited to: United Way of the Midlands - Allocation Chair, Girls Inc. - President, Imagine Omaha, Habitat for Humanity - Co-Chair, Empowerment Network - Board Chair, Big Brother Big Sisters mentor, and the North and South Omaha Prayer Walk developer. He has also earned many awards and honors, the most recent being the Northwest High School Hall of Fame Award and the NAACP 2010 Living Legend award.

**Phil Green** has been the assistant city administrator of Blair, Nebraska since April 2005. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from UNL in 1985 and received a **master of public administration** degree from UNO in 2006. Phil has served on the executive board of the Nebraska City/County Management Association since November 2006, and is currently president of the association. He is a member of the Leadership International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Class of 2010. Phil is a faculty member of the Nebraska Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program and a member of the CPM Working Group. His wife, Karen, works for the Blair Community Schools. They have three children: Jon (22), a senior at UNO majoring in civil engineering; Dan (20), a sophomore at UNO majoring in civil engineering; and Bethany (11), a fifth grader. Phil is also actively involved at Country Bible Church in Blair.





**Scott Sasse**, an Omaha native, graduated from UNL in 1987 with a **bachelor of science in criminal justice degree** and a **master of science in criminal justice degree** from UNO in 1991. From there he completed his **Ph.D. in sociology** from UNL in 1996. After teaching at universities such as Charleston Southern University, Bemidji State and the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Scott settled at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska where he is currently an associate professor and chair of the department. Dr. Sasse has published in the areas of international policing and on the predation patterns of sex offenders and has recently published a book on criminal justice in America and England with UNO's Dr. Bill Wakefield. He has also conducted numerous evaluations of

juvenile, probation, community based corrections and sex offender programs as well as evaluated several drug courts. He has been involved in UNO's London Study Abroad program since 1986 as a student to today as a professor. taking students through the program. He is very grateful to UNO for this honor and is thankful for the support the university, the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice has shown him over the years. In accepting this award, Scott thanks his family- his wife Sandy and his two sons, Alex and Ryan, as well as his dad, Carl Sasse, for their love and support over the years.

**Arlis Smidt** began working in the field of gerontology in 1973 as the director of Pipestone County Senior Centers in Pipestone, Minnesota. After graduating from UNO in 1979 with a master of science degree in counseling with a **graduate certificate in gerontology**, she began working at the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA). Smidt has worked in various departments at ENOA including the Informational/Referral, Senior Employment Program, and the senior centers. Smidt is currently the director of the Meals on Wheels Program of ENOA, a position she has held for more than twenty years.



**Scott E. Vlasek** is a faculty member in the Aviation Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He holds a **master of public administration degree with an aviation administration minor** (1998) as well as a **bachelor of general studies degree in aviation studies degrees** with **minor concentrations in space studies and criminal justice** (1995) from UNO. Vlasek's teaching includes Introduction to Aviation, History of Aviation, Business and Corporate Aviation Management, General Aviation Services, and Aviation Marketing. Additionally, Vlasek oversees the Aviation Institute's internship program and is faculty advisor and coach to the Institute's flight team, the Flying Mavs, which recently won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the regional competition in Norman, Oklahoma. Vlasek is active in a number of aviation organizations including the Nebraska Business Aviation Association, National Business

Aviation Association, the University Aviation Association, and the National Intercollegiate Flying Association. He also serves as post advisor for the local Boy Scouts of America Aviation Explorers Post. Vlasek also established and manages the annual UNOAI Golf Classic, which has raised over \$58,000 for student scholarships in the last 14 years. He holds a Private Pilot Certificate and enjoys golf, swimming, UNO hockey, and spending time with his wife, Karisa, and their 3-year-old daughter.



**Maria Vazquez** holds an associate degree from Metropolitan Community College (MCC) and both **bachelor and master in social work degrees** from UNO. Vazquez is currently in a doctoral program in educational administration at UNL. Currently, she is dean of students at MCC. Prior to this appointment, she was the dean of the South Omaha Campus at MCC, a position she held since September 2005. Vazquez is a former member of the MCC Board of Governors, having served from 2001 to 2003. She has held several positions at MCC, including student services director at the South Omaha Campus, and coordinator of the Nebraska Corrections Education Connection, where she directed educational programming at the state's adult correctional sites. Vazquez was the first Latina to serve on former Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey's cabinet as director of

Greater Omaha Workforce Development. She was a staff assistant to U.S. Senator Ben Nelson, serving as a statewide community liaison with the Latino and general populations. She also worked as an education counselor at the Chicano Awareness Center in Omaha. Vazquez has served on the boards of several organizations in the community, including the Chicano Awareness Center, Girls Inc., Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Omaha Community Foundation, Heartland Latino Leadership Conference and United Way of the Midlands. She is the proud parent of two children, Paulina and Brandon.

## 2010 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. 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.



**Don Waggoner** is President of Don Waggoner Life Insurance Group, LLC. Don began his career in the insurance business in 1964, a career that has lasted for 46 years. Much of Don's public service career has involved managing political campaigns. Those activities began in 1968, when he managed a successful campaign for a state representative in Colorado. Later that same year, Don worked as an advance man for the Reagan presidential campaign. In 1970, he went to Kansas to manage a campaign for the state attorney general. Following his move to Omaha in 1971, Don managed Ed Zorinsky's campaign for mayor in 1973, his campaign for the Senate in 1976, and his re-election campaign in 1982. Don later served as chief-of-staff for Mayor Walt Calinger in 1988-89. Outside of politics, Don has served as president of the

West Omaha Cosmopolitan Club, a local service organization, and later as president of the Footprinters Club (a post to which he was re-elected twice). He also was project director, appointed by Mayor Ed Zorinsky in 1975, of the American Freedom Train for Omaha/Douglas County. Over 300 volunteers participated in the program, and 100,000 people passed through the train in 7 days.

Using his large interpersonal network of friends and acquaintances, Don recently began organizing a series of businessman luncheons designed to provide participants with specific knowledge critical to their business success (e.g., legal issues in hiring and separation, retirement planning, etc). To underwrite the costs of these luncheons, Don has recruited community sponsors; however, Don also uses these events as charitable fundraisers, so participants can make a tax-deductible contribution to some worthwhile organization. A friend of Don's, Dr. David Bender (whose wife, Mary, is an adjunct faculty member in the UNO Department of Gerontology), introduced Don to some of the gerontology faculty, and the department has since become a beneficiary of Don and his friends' charitable work.

Don has been married to his wife, Diana, for 43 years. Don tells a story of their wedding reception in which an older friend of Diana's made the observation that "Diana must see something in you that the rest of us don't." We think we know what Diana saw.

## Congratulations to our 2010 CPACS Faculty Award Winners!

**Dr. Miriam DeLone**

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Winner of the 2010 UNO Outstanding Graduate Mentor  
Award

**Dr. Lyn Holley**

Department of Gerontology

Winner of the 2010 UNO Service Learning Teaching  
Award

**Dr. Pete Simi**

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Winner of the 2010 CPACS Outstanding Teaching Award

**Dr. Russell Smith**

School of Public Administration

2010 Strategic Planning Award

(with the Center for Public Affairs Research and the  
Neighborhood Center)