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

Previous Recipients of the
Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award

Elaine Spire
Nancy Thompson
Mary Heng-Braun
Terry Haney
Al Goodwin
John Scott
Rhonda A. Hawks
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. His 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 20th 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.

Colonel Roger Donlon

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.

John W. Ewing, Jr.

Phil Green
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 1st 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)