

THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

2012 Alumni Awards
for Excellence in Public Service
and
2012 Hubert Locke Award
for Distinguished Service

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 William H. Thompson Alumni Center The University of Nebraska at Omaha



A Message from Acting Dean John Bartle:

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, and leadership. They are a credit to their fields of study, profession, and communities. Our world is a better place because of these individuals. Please join me in congratulating them.



Program

Opening Remarks

John Bartle, Acting Dean College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Welcome from the UNO Alumni Association Lee Denker, President and CEO

Recognition of Special GuestsJohn Bartle

Luncheon

Presentation of 2012 Alumni Awards

Gina Toman, Assistant Dean, Division of Continuing Studies Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Director, Grace Abbott School of Social Work

Ethel Williams, Acting Director, School of Public Administration Scott Vlasek, Interim 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 2012 Hubert Locke Award for Distinguished Service
John Bartle

College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) Alumni Awards for Excellence in Public Service 2012 Recipients



Joy LaChelle Bailie, Ph.D., was born and raised in Omaha, the daughter of Judy and Thomas Kearney, Jr. A 1991 graduate of Burke High School, she earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from UNL in 1995. Joy earned a master of public administration degree from UNO in 1999. Her capstone project was entitled "Strategic Planning Model for the Implementation of a Nonprofit Resettlement Agency for Sudanese Immigrants and Refugees in Omaha, Nebraska." In May, 2010, the New School University in New York City granted LaChelle a Ph.D. in public and urban policy. Her dissertation was titled "the Role of Ethnic Cultural Brokers in Access to Refugee Resettlement Services."

LaChelle's work combined her interests in various cultures and the policies that affect recent immigrants and refugees. While attending UNO, she worked for the Omaha Housing Authority and Employment First of Nebraska, focusing on case management. She later served as a research specialist at the Public Policy Center at UNL. While in Lincoln, she was appointed to the Mayor's Committee on Lincoln's Cultures which addressed issues of immigrant incorporation and refugee arrival. In the New York area, LaChelle served as a policy research assistant and a Ph.D. researcher at The New School University and a policy analyst at Safe Horizon, the country's largest victims' assistance organization. At the Policy Research Institute of the Legal Services of New Jersey, she worked as a social Science analyst/research Interviewer providing expert advice on issues related to welfare administration, low income housing and programming related to new immigrants. LaChelle began her career in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an immigration services officer while completing her Ph.D. work. She moved to Washington, D.C. in November, 2010 to serve as a policy analyst in the Office of Policy and Strategy, Research and Evaluation Division of the Department of Homeland Security.

LaChelle's daughter, Alora-Anne Aishatu Dogonyaro, was born June 1, 2011, and lives with her father in the Houston area. LaChelle passed away from an undiagnosed heart problem on June 11, 2011.



Mike Butera received his bachelor of science in criminal justice degree from UNL in 1982 and a master of science degree in criminal justice from UNO in 1989.

Mike has more than thirty years of service to the community, dating back to 1982 as a correctional officer at the Douglas County Correctional Center. In 1983, he began his law enforcement career with the Omaha Police Department and eventually rose to the rank of captain. He was assigned as the commander of the Criminal Investigations Bureau at the time of his retirement in 2007. During his tenure with the Omaha Police Department, his wide range of experiences included assignments and management responsibilities in the Uniform Patrol Bureau, Administrative Services

Bureau, Burglary Unit, Homicide Unit, Sex Assault Unit, Special Investigations Unit, Intelligence Unit, Crime Analysis Unit, and in the Narcotics and Gang units. He has been an adjunct faculty member in CPACS since 1989, teaching a variety of criminal justice courses on both the Omaha and Lincoln campuses.

Mike currently serves on the board of directors for the Police Federal Credit Union and is an active member of numerous other community groups and boards. For the past fifteen years, Mike has volunteered his time as a competitive girl's fastpitch coach. He and his wife Sandy have four daughters, Alison, Anna, Abby and Amanda.

Judy Dierkhising, Ph.D, LCSW, earned a master of social work degree from UNO and her Ph.D. from UNL. Judy brings over thirty years of experience advocating for adults, children and families in the healthcare, child welfare, behavioral health, and gerontology areas. In Nebraska, Judy designed and implemented the Family Support Center and the Center for Family Grief Education at Children's Hospital in Omaha and also served as the director of social work at UNMC; administrative director/oncology service executive of the Methodist Cancer Center; director of the community partnership at UNMC that focused on serving the low income uninsured; and director for the Nebraska Families Collaborative.



Judy began her career as the coordinator for one of the first hospice programs in the state of Nebraska. As an adjunct faculty member for CPACS, Judy instructed both graduate and undergraduate students in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the Department of Gerontology for twenty years. After launching a blended family of seven grown children, Judy, continued her work in communities outside of Omaha for nearly eight years including Chattanooga, St. Louis, Spokane and Anchorage, Alaska. Dr. Dierkhising and her husband Dr. Richard (Dirk)

Dierkhising permanently relocated back to Omaha in 2009. In addition to their seven grown children, they have twelve grandchildren.



Kailey Dwyer is an Omaha native and attended Marian High School before receiving her bachelor of science degree in aviation from UNO in 2007. While attending UNO, she earned her private pilot's license and was an active member of the UNO Flight Team. She also held leadership positions in the UNO chapter of Women in Aviation, which provides networking and scholarship opportunities for women striving for a career in aviation. In 2009, Kailey joined ConAgra Foods as the flight scheduler and currently manages their Omaha based fleet. She is also a member of the Nebraska Business Aviation Association and the UNO Aviation Institute Advisory Board.

Pete Festersen graduated from Connecticut College before earning his **master of public administration degree** from UNO in 1999.

Born and raised in Omaha, and a graduate of Central High School, Pete was elected to the Omaha City Council in 2009. He is president of his own small business, Strategic Business Development, LLC. Prior to serving on the city council and starting his company, Pete helped shape Omaha's future in senior management positions with the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Omaha Mayor's Office, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and Alegent Health, one of Omaha's largest private employers.



Pete served as chairman of the Omaha Planning Board for three years and on various community boards including the Omaha Children's Museum and the Benson-Ames Alliance. He is a graduate of Leadership Omaha and has been recognized for his work as a business leader by the *Midlands Business Journal*.

Pete and his wife, Paige, have two children, Anna and Caroline. They attend Dundee Presbyterian Church and enjoy racing sailboats together. Pete also plays drums and percussion and is a former Nebraska state champion in both soccer and curling.



Joe Jeanette earned a bachelor of general studies degree with a specialization in criminal justice from UNO in 1980. He is the law enforcement coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska. Prior to his appointment to this position in 1989, he was a law enforcement officer with the Bellevue, Nebraska Police Department for seventeen years. In his last assignment with the Bellevue police, Joe served as the supervisor of the Special Investigations Unit, investigating narcotics, vice and other special project investigations.

Joe provides oversight, coordination or assistance to several projects such as Project Safe Neighborhoods, Project Safe Childhood, Federal Victim Assistance Unit, and other programs in Nebraska dealing with

violent crime, drug courts, domestic violence, substance abuse and drug treatment, and juvenile issues. In addition to these duties he monitors and assists other jurisdictions in the grant process for a variety of prevention, intervention and enforcement activities.

In his current capacity at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Joe also serves as the public information officer and training coordinator. He has hosted and coordinated training for local, federal and state officials on such topics as drugs and violent crime, child sexual abuse and enticement, financial investigations and money laundering, crime victim issues, and legal liability for law enforcement managers. He is past president of the Metro Omaha Chief's Association. Joe is married to Liz Stanosheck Jeanette. He has three children and six grandchildren.

Shane Zeffren Kotok was born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois. She attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City until her roving reporter husband, C. David, took a job in Little Rock, Arkansas. Shane graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1971. Three children later (Seth, Annie and Stephen) and following stops along the way in Kearney and Lincoln, the family settled in Omaha in 1981. Shane's dream of continuing her education in gerontology was realized when they bought a home within walking distance of UNO. She completed a graduate certificate in gerontology at UNO in 1985. She received a master of science degree in counseling with a specialization in gerontology from UNO in 1990.

Shane's professional career has been at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home /Jewish Social Services for

twenty eight years. She presently serves as the director of admissions at Blumkin and director of Jewish Senior Outreach. Shane and David have two granddaughters, Frances and Zara.





Betsy Wright Kreisel, Ph.D., is professor and department chair of criminal justice at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri. She obtained her doctorate in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1998. Her practical experience includes interning with the Missouri Department of Probation and Parole as well as working as a juvenile probation officer in the Missouri Bodyguard Program. She has conducted research and published in the area of guardian ad litems for abused children, sexual assault, juvenile probation and parole officer training, police evaluation, police accountability, police use of force, police stress, and juvenile justice education. Betsy has served as a victim advocate and trainer of sexual assault victim advocates. She serves as a member of the Johnson County, Missouri Sexual Assault Response Team and serves

as a board member for the Citizen Advisory Board of the Missouri Department of Corrections Probation and Parole, 5th District. Another focus of Betsy's is to maintain an active status among professional organizations such as the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the Midwest Criminal Justice Association.

Eva Payne began Project Kindle, a nonprofit organization, in 1998 as a 21 year-old college student. Eva saw a need and decided to fill it. She grew up going to summer camp and wanted to make a difference in the lives of children impacted by HIV/AIDS as well as other life threatening illnesses and disabilities. Project Kindle began as a one week camp and has since grown to touch the lives of thousands of children each year through its various programs.

Eva earned her bachelor of general studies degree with specializations in theater, English and nonprofit administration from UNO and is currently earning a master of science degree in leadership and management from the University of



LaVerne. Eva spent five years in radio as an on-air personality and in promotions. She married her high school sweetheart in 1998 and their family now enjoys six children ages 9 months to 12 years. The Payne family resides in southern California.

Eva has received recognition for her work with children as a finalist in the Volvo For Life Awards, L'Oreal Paris Women of Worth, Los Angeles Business Journal, and DirecTV Hometown Heroes. She has also been featured in several publications including *Family Circle Magazine*.



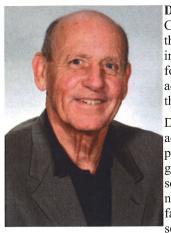
Bart Vargas is from Bellevue, Nebraska. A graduate of the Goodrich Scholarship Program, he received a bachelor of fine arts degree from UNO in 2007 and a master of fine arts degree from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in 2011.

For over a decade, Bart has been exploring the artistic potential of trash and recyclable materials to build paintings, sculptures, and installations

that blur the identity of these everyday materials, transforming them into playful, thought-provoking objects. Bart has exhibited internationally, and his work can be found in many private, public, collegiate and corporate collections throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. Vargas's paintings were featured in *New American Paintings No. 89, Midwest Edition 2010*. His sculptures received a 2010 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award from the International Sculpture Center, and were exhibited as part of the 2010 Beijing International Art Biennale.

2012 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 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.



David Hinton is professor and dean emeritus of CPACS. He earned his doctorate in economics from the University of Arkansas in 1971 and joined UNO in 1972. Hinton served on the faculty with the Center for Public Affairs Research, urban studies, and public administration (chairing the latter two) and as dean of the college from 1985 to 2000.

During Hinton's tenure as CPACS dean, the college added doctoral programming in criminal justice and public administration; developed a masters degree in gerontology; added the Aviation Institute; hosted several regional conferences; and earned numerous national accreditations and university awards for faculty instruction, research, and service. Hinton's service at the national level included two stints on the

National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) Executive Council, and terms on its Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation, Committee on Outcomes Assessment, and Standards Committee. He also served on and chaired numerous NASPAA site visit teams. Locally, Hinton's service included work with the Omaha Food Bank, Edmonson Youth Development, United Way of the Midlands, YMCA, Salvation Army, Omaha Community Foundation, and the Peter Kiewit Foundation.

After leaving the CPACS deanship, Hinton served as dean of the UNO College of Information Science and Technology for six years (2001 - 2006). In this capacity he helped the college develop a Ph.D. in information technology; earn National Security Agency recognition as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance, and add an undergraduate degree in bioinformatics. Hinton later served a brief stint as the interim director of the Peter Kiewit Institute (2008).

David and his wife, Linda, have two grown children and seven grandchildren.

Previous Recipients of the CPACS Alumni Award

Reema Abou-Nasr Scot L. Adams Karen Authier Ricardo Ariza Abdul Ghafar Azimi Carlos Barrientos Ron Bartee Connie Benjamin Monica Blizek James R. Blue Carole Bove Andy Bradley Edna Brooks Pittman Scott Carlson Thomas Casady Deborah Circo Toba Cohen-Dunning John Colburn Teresa Coleman Hunter Allen Curtis Robert Dahlquist Aldona Doyle Roger Donlon Timothy Dunning Joe Edmonson Blake Edwards Janine Emmons Viv Ewing John W. Ewing, Jr. John Fiene Ellen Freeman-Wakefield Mark Foxall Christine Gillette Phil Green

Cindy Gonzalez

Amy Haddad

Senator Chuck Hagel Susan Hale Glenda Hallberg Jason Hansen Terri S. Harder Mel Harrington Morgan Hecht Zenola Hilliard Anne Hindery Robert Houston Gwen Howard Ginny Hronek Julie Kalkowski Maggie Kalkowski Kim Kern Pat Kern Gene Klein Michael Kohler Connie Kudlacek Rod Kush Patricia Lamberty David Landis Paul Landow Mike Lempke Mary Lopez Rebecca Lutte Jun Ma Marcos Mora Mark Martinez Steven Martin Tim Mathern Jennifer McIntyre Michael McLarney Stephen McCoy Iamesena Moore Michael Nolan

Steve Novotny Ann O'Connor Robert Olson Penny Parker Frank Peak Jason Pratt Janice Price Josephine Ramos Shavna Rav Crystal Rhoades Jolene Roberts Chris Rodgers Gabe Romero Douglas Russell Scott Sasse Paul Sather Michelle Schindler Colleen Schinker Arlis Smidt Tijuana Smith-Secret Paul Strawhecker Carolyn Stitt Erin Sullivan Susan Tast Michael Turner Donna Tubach Davis Maria Vazquez Scott E. Vlasek William Wakefield Donna Washburn Harriette Washington Thomas H. Warren Sr. Barbara Weitz General Johnnie Wilson Sara Woods

Previous Recipients of the Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award

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

Peter Young Mary Zeleny

Nebraska Omaha



Cover Art:
"There Are Places on the Map That Do Not Exist 3.0"
Bart Vargas, 2010

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