The College of Public Affairs and Community Service
Alumni Awards Celebration
March 31, 2015
Vision

The College of Public Affairs and Community Service will continue to be a nationally recognized college of inspirational teaching, innovative research and transformative service striving to create an equitable and just society.

Reception Begins 5:30 PM

Opening Remarks 6:15 PM
John Bartle, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service
Lee Denker, President and CEO, UNO Alumni Association

Presentation of Alumni Awards 6:20 PM
Amanda Randall, Director, Grace Abbott School of Social Work
Regina Toman, Assistant Dean and Director of Division of Continuing Studies
Candice Batton, Director, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Julie Masters, Chair, Department of Gerontology
Ethel Williams, Director, School of Public Administration
Imafedia Okhamafe, Chair, Goodrich Scholarship Program
Scott Vlasek, Director, Aviation Institute

Presentation of Hubert Locke Award 6:50 PM
John Bartle, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Closing Remarks 7:00 PM

Reception Ends 7:30 PM
2015 CPACS
Alumni Award Recipients

ABOUT THE CPACS ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

The university and community leaders established the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) to ensure the university was responsive to the critical societal needs and concerns of our community and state. Critical to the mission of the new college was the provision of educational and training programs of the highest caliber that would prepare students for careers and leadership in the public service.

The individuals honored with the alumni award for excellence in public service demonstrate through both daily deeds and greater achievements, the finest attributes of public and community service: integrity, stewardship, volunteerism, leadership, and a commitment to social justice and human dignity. They are a credit to their professions, their families, and our college. We congratulate them for this and all their achievements.

ABOUT THE 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.
Lawrence Runana

Lawrence is currently the Head of Safety and Security, and a pilot at DAC Aviation. He is responsible for safety and security of aircraft operations covering several countries within the African Region. This is in support and partnership with international humanitarian relief agencies such as, The United Nations, World Food Programme, International Committee of the Red Cross, and European Commission for Humanitarian Aid, and several other organizations. Lawrence is passionate in delivery of reliable and quality air service towards humanitarian and peacekeeping missions that provide hope to communities in need of emergency medical and food aid.

Lawrence holds a Master of Public Administration (Aviation) from University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management from St. Cloud State University, Minnesota. He holds a Commercial Pilot License with Multi-IR rating, and is rated on the Bombardier Dash 8 and Cessna Caravan. Lawrence resides in Nairobi, Kenya with his wife and two children.
Goodrich Scholarship Program

Elizabeth Skinner

Elizabeth received her B.S. in Criminal Justice, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1998. A proud Goodrich Scholar, she has attributed her academic and professional success to the Goodrich professors that taught her to be a critical thinker and challenged her to excel. In 2001, Elizabeth received her Juris Doctor, With Distinction, from the University of Nebraska-College of Law, where she served as a member of the Nebraska Law Review and the Nebraska Moot Court Board. She was admitted to practice before the State of Nebraska and the U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska, in 2001 and remains in good standing. A civil trial lawyer for the first ten years of her legal career, Elizabeth regularly accepted pro bono work and took cases with Nebraska’s Volunteer Lawyers Project. She is the Co-Author of, "To Be or Not to Be, Malice is the Question: An Analysis of Nebraska’s Fair Report Privilege From a Press Perspective," 36 Creighton L. Rev. 21 (2002). In 2011, Elizabeth accepted an in-house counsel position for Fidelity National Title Group, a Fortune 500 Company, where she currently serves as Managing Counsel/Vice President.

Elizabeth and her husband, Tom, spend much of their free time restoring and renovating their 1920’s house in Midtown Omaha. She is the proud mother of Emma, 10, and David, 26, and has two grandchildren. Elizabeth is active in her daughter’s sports and scouting activities and volunteers service hours at St. Cecilia’s Cathedral.
Debra is Director of Connections, a newly-created mental health program for children and families located at Project Harmony Child Protection Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Prior to this position, Dr. Anderson was Project Harmony’s Director of Training and Coordination. She wrote training and education curricula about child abuse and neglect topics. She and her staff have trained over 30,000 students and professionals since 2007. She has presented at regional, national, and international conferences, including the San Diego International Child Abuse and Neglect Conference, Protect our Children, National Children’s Alliance, and the National Children’s Advocacy Conference. Dr. Anderson also managed 10 multi-disciplinary teams and supervised the case coordinators. She has over 25 years of experience training and consulting to public and private child welfare agencies. Prior to Project Harmony, Dr. Anderson was a professor of social work at Creighton University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha.
Joseph A. Mangiamelli attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha on a part time basis from 1967 to 1986 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration; returning to the University in 1988, earned a Master’s in Public Administration degree in 1991. The part time student was a full time father and employee of the city of Omaha from 1972 to 2001. Rising through the ranks of city service, he was able to complement his work duties with knowledge gained from coursework and brought first-hand experience to the classroom. His 22 years of diverse service in the Public Works Department prepared him for service in the Daub administration, 1995 – 2001, where he served as a department director and Executive Assistant to the Mayor. He was privileged to be assigned the difficult tasks envisioned by the Mayor’s goals for Omaha. He retired in 2001 and engaged for the next four years in volunteer service which was very rewarding but not challenging and in 2005 was appointed City Administrator for Columbus. He continues to serve in numerous capacities with the League of Nebraska Municipalities, League Association of Risk Management and Nebraska City/County Management Association in addition to duties in Columbus. He is extremely excited to have been considered for the CPACS recognition.
Dr. Lesa Lorenzen Huber is a Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and the School of Education. She is Director of MyPublicHealthDirect, online education in the School of Public Health. She has twice received the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award (TERA), twice received the Trustees Teaching Award, and is a Fellow in the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She is the 2013 recipient of the Hiram S. Friedman Award for mentorship. She developed and is the director of two minors and a graduate certificate in gerontology. At IU she has developed seven online courses designed to educate the aging services workforce as well as current students. Her service work includes chair and elected positions at local, state, and national levels. Her primary interest is in the biological, psychological, and social determinants of aging well. Working with students, she is exploring the potential of new technologies to support independent living in later life. She has been a PI or Co-PI on grants totaling over 1.9 million in research funding and given over 125 presentations nationally and internationally. She is married to Dr. Jeff Huber, Professor of Practice and former University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Indiana University Head Diving Coach.
Roxann Ryan is the Commissioner of the Iowa Department of Public Safety. She has previously served as an attorney and criminal intelligence analyst in the Department of Public Safety; a full-time professor of criminal justice at Simpson College; and an Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General in the Iowa Department of Justice. She teaches as an adjunct professor at Drake Law School and Simpson College. She is a graduate of Iowa State University (1977), the University of Iowa-College of Law (1980), and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (1998), where she earned her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice.

Dr. Ryan has an extensive curriculum vitae listing several hundred presentations, papers and service activities. Some of her current professional activities include; Iowa Supreme Court Member, Judicial Advisory Board, Iowa Accountability Program, Trainer for Iowa Judicial Branch Juvenile Court Officers, Children’s Justice Project, and the Children’s Justice Training Committee.
Dave Goering is a native Nebraskan and a 1981 graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln Criminal Justice program. He is currently a Supervising United States Probation Officer in the District of Nebraska in Lincoln and has served in this role since 2002. Dave has a total of 33 years’ experience in the Probation/Parole field including 24 years in the federal system. Dave coordinated the first intensive supervision/electronic monitoring program in Nebraska while with the State Probation system and has supervised high risk caseloads throughout his state and federal career. In addition, he has trained officers in field work protocols, home confinement, and general officer safety.

Dave is a graduate and former trainer of the Nebraska Safety Academy and has trained officers in scenario-based situations including search and seizure. Further, he has trained in the area of Domestic Disturbance Groups and various street gangs. He is also a member of the American Probation and Parole Association and Federal Probation and Parole Officers Association. Since 2007, Dave has served on the search tactical team including managerial oversight for the District of Nebraska. He is responsible for writing policy, reviewing search applications and training staff.
Karen Holen Ressegieu came to Omaha from her south-central farm home near Bertrand, Nebraska in 1964. She applied for and secured a secretarial position in the Dean’s office of the College of Liberal Arts (now the College of Arts and Sciences). She had previously earned two years of college credits taking secretarial science courses from Kearney State College before coming to Omaha, so she began business and secretarial science classes at night at Omaha University. It took her ten years (with a few months off to be with her husband while he was in the Army stationed in New Jersey) taking three or six credit hours per semester but she persevered and in December of 1972 received her Bachelor of General Studies Degree. In her 50 plus years at UNO she has served as administrative assistant to several deans in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Public Affairs and Community Service as well as in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Additionally, Karen was the first administrative assistant to the founding director of the Aviation Institute.

Karen has been an active member and officer in the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP), Ak-sar-ben Chapter for 43 years. She received her Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) certificate from IAAP in 1980.

Karen thanks the University for helping her grow professionally and especially the Division of Continuing Studies for the honor of being the recipient of this 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award.
Jim Ressegieiu graduated from Omaha Central High in 1961 and began attending Omaha University in the fall of that year that was to be a ten year path from high school graduation to college graduation. During those years school was delayed at times due to work and a three-year enlistment in the United States Army. He majored in broadcasting with journalism and English minors and in December of 1971 he received his Bachelor of General Studies Degree. Shortly after completing his baccalaureate degree he decided to use his veteran’s educational assistance funds and began taking graduate courses in communication. He received his Master of Arts Degree in 1978. The next twenty-three years were spent primarily as director of training for a multi-state natural gas utility until 2001 when he felt called to study for full-time Christian ministry. He went to Chicago to attend seminary and graduated from North Park Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in Ministry (with honors). Upon graduation he was called to serve a church in Essex, Iowa on an interim basis, however after a year he was called to be their permanent pastor and has served Faith Evangelical Covenant Church for the past ten years.

Jim believes the academic foundation given to him while an undergraduate in the College of Continuing Studies gave him the tools necessary to pursue academic and professional goals throughout his life.
Liz Simon, MSW, MPA received her Bachelors in Social Work from UNO in 2010. She completed her dual degree MSW/MPA in 2013. She began her career at Boys Town in the Treatment Group Homes (TGH) working with the adolescent population in a residential setting both in the home and school setting. Liz also worked with primary care physicians at the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians (NAFP) where she helped NAFP organize medical education conferences, worked with the NAFP legislative committee on upcoming bill education and positioning, writing grants to support education for physicians on new initiatives. Her passion for working with families led her to Heartland Family Services where she works part-time at the Family Works program. This is a comprehensive residential substance abuse treatment program for women who complete treatment living with their children onsite. Liz has led groups for the children of parents experiencing substance abuse.

Liz began her work at Catholic Charities in program evaluation. She has recently been promoted to Director of Program Evaluation and Development. Nationally, Liz has served on the Council on Accreditation’s Behavioral Health Standards Advisory Panel working on review and improvement on practice standards along with her participation in Catholic Charities USA Leadership Institute. Locally, she is part of the Women’s Fund Circles group of professional women in the Omaha community. Liz also participates as a practicum instructor for Grace Abbot School of Social Work.
Thomas H. Warren, Sr. is currently employed as President/CEO of the Urban League of Nebraska (ULN), since 2008. The ULN administers programs in Education/Youth Development, Employment/Career Services and Violence Prevention. It is also a traditional Civil Rights organization and advocates for social justice.

Prior to his appointment at the ULN, Warren served 24 years with the Omaha Police Department (OPD), the last 4 as Chief of Police. Warren was the first African-American to serve as Chief of Police and in 2007, OPD was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice as the “Local Law Enforcement Agency of the Year” for its’ Project Safe Neighborhoods program.

Warren graduated from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa in 1983. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, with a second Major in Sociology and a Minor in Psychology. He obtained a Master’s of Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1989, with a Major in Criminal Justice and an Option in Public Administration.

Warren is a member of several professional organizations and has an extensive record of community service. In 2008, he was selected as a Fellow and inducted into the National Academy of Public Administration. In 2012, he received a National Public Service Award from the American Society of Public Administration.
Past Recipients of CPACS Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Aviation Institute

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The Goodrich Scholarship Program

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The School of Public Administration

Landis          Senator David        1989
Haddad          Dr. Amy             1989
Nolan           Michael             1989
Dunning         Tim                 2002
Pittman         Edna Brooks         2002
Stitt           Carolyn             2002
Landow          Paul                2003
Lopez           Mary                2003
Freeman-Wakefield Ellen            2004
Hindery Camp    Anne                2005
O’Connor        Ann                 2006
Lamberty        Judge Patricia      2007
Young           Peter C.            2007
Strawhecker     Paul J.             2008
Ma              Jun                 2009
Woods           Sara                2009
Ewing Jr.       John                2010
Green           Phil                2010
Bradley         Andy                2011
Rodgers         Christopher         2011
Festersen       Pete                2012
Bailie          Joy LaChelle        2012
Anderson        Chris               2013
Harris          Julie               2013
Williams        Kristin             2014
Wheeler         Patrick             2014

Gerontology

Roberts         Jolene              2002
Martin          Steven S.           2003
Gillette        Christine           2004
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Kudlacek        Connie              2007
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Foster          Betty G.            2013
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### The Grace Abbott School of Social Work

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<td>Bahney</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
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The Hubert Locke Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spire</td>
<td>Elaine</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heng-Braun</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haney</td>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwin</td>
<td>Al</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawks</td>
<td>Rhonda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fahey</td>
<td>Mike</td>
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<td>Waggonner</td>
<td>Don</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Bob</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinton</td>
<td>Dave</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>Steve</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milliken</td>
<td>James B.</td>
<td>2014</td>
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</table>
In 2014, the College continued to grow both in size and quality. Enrollment is the highest in the history of the College, marking a 36% increase since 2008. CPACS is now the second largest College at UNO, only behind the College of Arts and Sciences. Our growth is in part due to our quality; several programs are nationally ranked:

- Emergency Management in the School of Public Administration is ranked #1 in quality and #7 in affordability
- Public Finance and Budgeting in the School of Public Administration is ranked #6
- Information and Technology Management in the School of Public Administration is ranked #6
- Nonprofit Management in the School of Public Administration is ranked #11
- City Management and Urban Policy in the School of Public Administration is ranked #14
- Public Management in the School of Public Administration is ranked #14
- The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice is ranked #17
- The Bachelors of General Studies is ranked in the top 50 among online bachelor’s programs
- The Aviation Institute was awarded the Loening Trophy in 2012 which is given to the “Most Outstanding Collegiate Aviation Program” in the U.S.
- The Grace Abbott School of Social Work is ranked #104 amongst 700 accredited programs
- In the broad category of Public Affairs, CPACS is ranked #33
CPACS 2014 Accomplishments

The Department of Gerontology

The Bachelors of Science in Gerontology was approved in October and currently has 25 majors. The cooperative doctoral degree with UNL will be transformed to a free-standing Ph.D. in Gerontology at UNO. To support this growth, an assistant professor focused on the biology of aging will be hired, supported by the University of Nebraska’s Programs of Excellence. Dr. Chris Kelly was named the Leo Missinne Professor of Gerontology.

The School of Public Administration

In two short years, the Bachelor’s in Emergency Management has grown to over 100 majors and minors. An agreement with the national Tribal Emergency Management Association was signed and a certificate in Tribal Emergency Management will be offered to all North American Tribes starting next year. Carl Ameringer was named the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska Chair of Health Care Administration and Policy and two senior scholars were hired in the areas of public finance & budgeting and information management. The School created the Global Digital Governance Lab with partners in South Korea, China and Taiwan.

The Center for Public Affairs Research

The Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) has received funding from both the Nebraska Legislature and the University of Nebraska for the State Policy Initiative, which provides data and briefings on public policy issues affecting Nebraska. CPAR also partnered with the Nebraska Rural Poll to do the Metro Poll on perceptions and concerns of residents of the Omaha and Lincoln metropolitan areas.
The Goodrich Scholarship Program

The Goodrich Scholarship Program retained 90% of its students from freshman to sophomore year and graduated 63% in six years. Goodrich continues its service learning classes in rural Nebraska. This summer, Goodrich students visited Bancroft, learning about the life and work of John Neihardt, Nebraska’s Poet Laureate in Perpetuity and also visited the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The follows a 2013 trip to Red Cloud.

The Grace Abbott School of Social Work

In October, the Grace Abbott School of Social Work was awarded a $1.3 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration to provide social services in rural Nebraska for at-risk youth with behavioral health problems. The School recently gained approval to offer the Bachelors in Social Work on-site at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, and the Masters of Social Work continues to be offered in Kearney. Three new faculty, an advisor, and a new practicum associate were hired to meet this demand.

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) and the School of Social Work have created a new graduate certificate, "Managing Juvenile and Adult Populations," in response to a request from the Legislature and the Governor. This complements the joint master's degree between the two schools. Also, SCCJ faculty were awarded over $2 million in research grants on topics such as violent extremist groups, adolescent substance abuse, and issues facing youth who are simultaneously in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Nebraska Center for Justice Research was established and was allocated $200,000 for each of the next two years by the Nebraska Legislature for applied policy research. Together with the Juvenile Justice Institute, it works with policymakers to find
the most effective strategies for law enforcement and corrections.

**The Bachelor of General Studies**

The Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) contributes to UNO's #1 ranking as a military-friendly university. A new concentration in Sustainability was added and plans are underway to add a concentration in Public Policy. Twelve areas of concentration are available fully online. The Division of Continuing Studies established new partnerships with community colleges and businesses in western Nebraska. Also, individual partnerships with Methodist Health System and ConAgra are being explored for the purpose of offering the BGS to their employees.

**The William Brennan Institute of Labor Studies**


**NASA/Nebraska Space Grant Program**

The NASA/Nebraska Space Grant program is one of fifteen programs to receive a NASA EPSCoR research grant ($750,000 for three years) and one of the five programs to be awarded a launch opportunity for the deployment on the International Space Station. Other activities included a trip for student members of the Society of Women Engineers to visit Boeing and Blue Origin (Jeff Bezos's private space flight company) in Seattle, support for a team of students to develop and deliver a rocket payload, and STEM training for 2,419 students and 227 teachers through our Summer of Innovation project.
The Aviation Institute

The Aviation Institute's Flight team, the Flying Mavs, earned their sixth consecutive trip to the National Intercollegiate Flying Association tournament after placing third at the regional competition. The Institute has also established "Pipeline Program" agreements with Envoy Air and ExpressJet Airlines. These programs allow students to being the screening process early in their academic careers and provides a clear path to becoming a professional pilot.

Office of the Dean

The Dean’s Office sponsored a new research effort entitled “Urban Research Grants.” Eight projects in CPACS were awarded up to $10,000 each for their research proposals aimed at supporting the mission of the College. Additionally, several community partners were invited to participate in these projects as well, truly an enactment of ‘community engaged.’

We had three nationally known presenters visit CPACS and UNO in 2014. Dr. Sheryl Chapman with the National Center for Children and Families, Maria Hinojosa with Futuro Latino and Ron Levine, photographer-Prisioners of Age. Each presenter brought something very special to UNO which included aspects of community and scholarship of engagement practices. All three met with hundreds of faculty, staff, student and community partners at their presentations.
CPACS STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!