

# College of Public Affairs and Community Service

## Alumni Awards Celebration

**March 28, 2017**

Empowering Future Leaders,  
Fostering Inclusive Collaboration and  
Creating Innovative Solutions



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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# Vision

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

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*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

Gaylene Armstrong, Director, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Julie Masters, Chair, Department of Gerontology

Regina Toman, Assistant Dean and Director of Division of Continuing Studies

Ethel Williams, Director, School of Public Administration

Imafedia Okhamafe, Chair, Goodrich Scholarship Program

Scott Tarry, Director, Aviation Institute

*Presentation of Hubert Locke Award.....6:50 PM*

*Closing Remarks .....7:00 PM*

*Reception Ends .....7:30 PM*

## **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**

Dr. Hubert Locke served as the first permanent dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service from 1972 to 1976. In 2002, the college established an award to honor an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the ideals of public service through their professional activities, community service, and philanthropy.

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. His distinguished record of public and community service represent the highest ideals of CPACS. We are proud to recognize individuals who emulate his accomplishments.



## **Aviation Institute**

### **Troy Hansen**



Troy Hansen received his Bachelor of Science in Aviation in 2011 from the University of Nebraska Omaha and graduated magna cum laude with a Master of Public Administration from UNO in 2013.

While enrolled in the master's program Troy served as a graduate assistant in the Aviation Institute, teaching in the classroom as well as the flight simulator. Promoted to Assistant Chief Flight Instructor where he oversaw training standards at a local flight school and upon graduation, became a First Officer at a regional airline based in Atlanta, Georgia where he serves as a new hire pilot mentor to young aspiring pilots across the country.

He also joined several committees on the Airline Pilots Association advocating for his fellow pilots. Still feeling the desire to instruct Troy returned to the University as simulator instructor in the Aviation Institute's Advanced Simulation Facility. Shortly thereafter Troy returned to the classroom as an Adjunct Instructor teaching a course focused on Human Factors in the Flight Deck, including Crew Resource Management concepts. In 2016, Delta Air Lines hired Troy for a highly respected and competitive position in the airline industry. He will join the 15,000-pilot seniority list as one of the youngest pilots on property.

## **Goodrich Scholarship Program**

Gregory Gonzalez



Greg has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Master's in Public Administration. He is an adjunct instructor for the police academy and taught over 300 officers command Spanish for Omaha police recruits. Greg also teaches in the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He is an Omaha native whose 24-year professional law enforcement career led him to the position of Deputy Chief of an 800 sworn officer Omaha Police Department.

Greg launched his law enforcement career in 1993 with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department. He worked uniformed patrol and on a federal narcotics task force; he transferred to the Omaha Police Department in 1995 and has worked in two high profile areas- the gang and undercover narcotics units. His duties as Deputy Chief include oversight to the Executive Services Bureau, Training and Crime Prevention Unit, hiring of new police recruits and the School Resource Program. He oversees the department's Research and Planning Unit, and is responsible for maintaining its CALEA certification.

Greg serves on the Midwest Mentoring Project (MMP) and the Police Athletics for Community Engagement (P.A.C.E.) that sponsors free youth soccer and baseball programs that serves over 2,000 youth in the summer months- a time when at-risk youth are most vulnerable. He supports community outreach efforts and understands the importance of mentoring youth and building tomorrow's future. He is past president of the Nebraska Chapter of the National Latino Police Officers Association (NLPOA). Greg credits his participation in the Goodrich Scholarship Program toward how diversity and community involvement play key roles in a democracy. Greg received Omaha's Latino of the Year Award in 2012.

## **School of Public Administration**

Toba Cohen-Dunning



Toba Cohen-Dunning has been with the Omaha Schools Foundation (OPSF) for ten years and six years as Executive Director. She was the Director of Development for Boys Town National Research Hospital from 2000-2006 and was a legislative aid in Nebraska for U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey from 2004-2006 and U.S. Senator Jim Exon in Washington, DC from 1989-2004.

The OPSF is the non-profit arm of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS), the largest urban school district in the State of Nebraska, with a student membership of 52,000. In the 2016 Stepping-Up Survey, Dewey and Associates ranked the OPSF *second* in K-12 education foundations in the U.S.

Toba is married to Eric Dunning. They have 2 children, ages 8 1/2 and 15. She serves as president of Beth Israel Synagogue and co-president of the Jewish Social Services Board. She is a member of the Jewish Federation of Omaha and the Anti-Defamation League. She recently completed her term on the board of Fontenelle Forest. She is a graduate of Creighton University and obtained her Masters' degrees in Social Work and Public Administration from UNO. In March 2017, Toba will obtain a national certification for K-12 education foundation directors from the Sanford School of Philanthropy at National University.



## **School of Public Administration**

Kyle P. Meyer, PhD, MS, PT, FASAHP



In August 2015, the University of Nebraska- Board of Regents approved the appointment of Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., as founding dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Allied Health Professions. He is a 1979 graduate of UNMC and joined the UNMC faculty in 1991 as director of clinical education for the division of physical therapy education. In 1983, Dr. Meyer became the first pediatric physical therapist at Children's Hospital in Omaha and led the development of the hospital's first physical therapy department.

Dr. Meyer received his Master's and doctorate degrees in Public Administration from UNO. His dissertation was "Considering Early Intervention Service Coordinators as Street Level Bureaucrats: Perceptions about Their Work Conditions and Responses". Dr. Meyer's research interests include family-centered care, as well as educational scholarship.

## Division of Continuing Studies

### Karen Kempkes



Karen graduated Summa Cum Laude with her Bachelor of General Studies Degree from UNO in 2006. She started working in the UNO Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) just before her final semester. Her first job was working in a cemetery-she tried to imagine what life was like for every buried person as she ran a special trimming tool around each headstone. Karen stated that she felt an obligation to each deceased person to do a good job- she began that job at age 13. This job fostered her lifelong interest in people's individual stories. Karen's interest in student stories helped her create and judge the First Annual- "*What's Your Story?*" (essay contest as part of Nontraditional Student Week).

Karen served as president and secretary of Alpha Sigma Lambda. She continues working with this honorary organization. She organized numerous events for DCS students over the years, including Nontraditional Student Week events, *Ready, Set, Success!* and Hockey Nights to name just a few. Karen served on the UNO Staff Advisory Council for 3 years, and served as chairperson for two years for the campus wide Parking Committee. She started the Annual DCS Coffee Drive to benefit the Stephen Center that has donated hundreds of pounds of coffee to their crisis center.

Karen loves photography. She received international accolades for her cover concept and photography for the book *Changing Minds: Mind, Consciousness and Identity in Patanjali's Yoga-sutra and Cognitive Neuroscience*. Karen is the proud mother of Holly and Paul, and grandmother of Lucy and Gavin.

## **Division of Continuing Studies**

Gayle Roberts



Gayle obtained her Associates Degree in the Paralegal studies program at Metro Community College, transferred to UNO, and received her Bachelor's Degree in General Studies. Gayle began working on her Masters in History specializing in women's studies, WWII, and the Midwest, only to listen to the counsel of her favorite history professor and switched her concentration to Library Science. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia program with her MLS. She began her career at the UNO Criss Library where she worked as a reference assistant and ended as the Promotions and Marketing Associate. While at UNO she was President of the Staff Advisory Council, chaired the One Book, One State Committee and the 2006 Dedication Committee for the Criss Library. Her work at the UNO library connected her with invaluable mentors, such as Dr. Karen Hein and Dr. Becky Pasco.

She is a graduate of the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute and the MPLA Leadership Institute. She has held numerous leadership positions in the Nebraska Library Association, and coordinated the 2016 NLA Annual Conference. She currently serves as Past-President and Treasurer of the Blair Kiwanis Club. She is the Director at the Blair Public Library.

She loves time with her family and grandchildren; Winnie the Pooh; and reading! A fan of miniature schnauzers, Teddy Roosevelt and Ranger Joe provide lots of stress relief at the end of the day! Her passion is early literacy, feeding children who are hungry, and providing safe and welcoming libraries.

## Department of Gerontology

### Julie Sebastian



Julie Sebastian, MSW, was born and raised in Omaha. Her strong relationship with her maternal grandmother, Marcella, as well as annual mission trips with her church's youth group, inspired Julie to go into the service field. She attended Northwest Missouri State for her undergraduate work and received her Master's in Social Work and a Certificate in Gerontology from UNO.

Julie remains passionate about service to older adults, focusing her work on enhancing older adults' quality of life and ability to live lives of purpose and meaning in connection to their Omaha community. She hopes to live to see the day when ageism is a distant memory in American culture! Julie currently serves as President and CEO of New Cassel (a senior living community in midtown Omaha) and the Franciscan Adult Day Centre, nonprofit ministries of the School Sisters of St. Francis. She is also Chair of the Board of Directors of LeadingAge Nebraska, a state association of non-profit organizations whose fundamental purpose is to improve the care and services provided to older Nebraskans.

Julie received the Ten Outstanding Young Omahans (TOYO) Award in 2015; is a graduate of Class 5 of the Nonprofit Executive Institute of the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM) and completed the Nonprofit Capacity-Building Program hosted by the Omaha Community Foundation in 2016. Julie is married to Andrew Sebastian—a fellow UNO and Peter Kiewit Institute alum. They live in Dundee with their three rescue dogs.

## Department of Gerontology

Silvester Juarez



Silvester Juanes is the Chief Executive Officer for Golden Living Lakeview; a 95 bed certified Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, and Alzheimer's care facility located in Grand Island, Nebraska. Silvester received his Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience/Gerontology from UNO.

Silvester launched his career as CEO for Blue Valley Lutheran Homes, a nonprofit organization located in rural Hebron, Nebraska. At Blue Valley Lutheran Homes, he faced unique staffing challenges that exist in rural America. As a solution to the staffing problems, Silvester designed a model that focused on partnerships with federal, state, city and non-profit organizations. The model was a success! Soon after designing the model, Silvester accepted his current leadership position where he continues to improve upon the model.

With the help of dedicated professors in the Department of Gerontology at the UNO, he is currently working on a funded project with Gerontology professors, to help disseminate the information found in his model so that others may find success in these types of innovative partnerships.

## **The Grace Abbott School of Social Work**

### Stephanie Hoelsing



Stephanie Hoelsing, MSW, was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska and is a graduate of Omaha Central High School. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, with over 20 years of experience working with children and families in a variety of settings including private non-profit and public environments.

Stephanie attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Her first position was a Child Protective Services worker in Cincinnati, Ohio. This opened her eyes to the field of social work and confirmed her passion for working with children and families. A supervisor and mentor inspired her to continue her education and professional development. Upon returning to Omaha, she received her Master's in Social Work from UNO in 2002.

After working as an Early Childhood Therapist, and then a Medical Social Worker at Children's Hospital, Stephanie accepted a position as one of the first high school social workers with the Omaha Public Schools at Northwest Magnet High School, where she was later named, "Staff Member of the Year" in 2016. Ms. Hoelsing presently serves as the Social Work Supervisor with the Omaha Public Schools and oversees an exciting program expansion that will take the OPS School Social Work program from 10 to 46 School Social Workers over a four-year period.

Stephanie has remained committed to developing future social work talent by working closely with the Grace Abbott School of Social Work to offer multiple practicum opportunities and is often a guest speaker to promote the role of social workers in our schools.

## School of Criminology & Criminal Justice

### Michael Nelson



Michael Nelson is an attorney with Nelson Law, LLC. He graduated from UNO with his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, *cum laude*, in 1988. He began his private practice upon graduation from Creighton Law School in 1991. He practices law in Nebraska and Iowa and before the federal courts in the District of Nebraska, Southern District of Iowa, and Northern District of Iowa, as well as the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has primarily defended individuals accused of committing crimes in state and federal courts and has been counsel in many trials and appellate decisions.

Mike is an Adjunct Professor at UNO and teaches the Survey of Criminal Justice and Criminal Procedure courses in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. In 2009, he received the School's "Rising Star" award. He is the current Criminal Justice Act Panel Representative for the District of Nebraska. The Governor appointed Mike as a Commissioner on the Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy. Mike begins his service as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Nebraska on July 1, 2017.

Mike has been married to Debra Nelson since 1986 and they have three adult children, David, age 29, Emily, age 27, and Adam, age 23. David and Emily are both living and working in New York City. Adam lives and works in Omaha. Simba, their much loved Shih Tzu, is nearly thirteen years old and lives with them in the Old Market district.

## **Hubert Locke Award**

**John Christensen**

Chancellor

University of Nebraska at Omaha



John Christensen was named Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Omaha on May 18, 2007, but his first interaction with the university dates back to the 1970s when he received a Master's in Special Education/Speech Pathology from UNO.

Like many UNO graduates, he was the first in his family to go to college. He is also the first UNO Chancellor to have earned a UNO degree. Christensen also holds a bachelor's degree in Speech Communications and Drama from Dana College and a Ph.D. in Speech Pathology/Audiology from the University of Kansas.

Christensen began his tenure at UNO in 1978 as a faculty member in the College of Education's Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders.



He subsequently served as chair of the department, dean of the College of Education, and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

Christensen has presented at dozens of conferences and published a number of articles and professional reports focused on education, community engagement, and related topics. His work has taken him around the world, to Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, and Switzerland just to name a few.

Christensen's involvement at the community level has been broad and deep. He currently is a member of the board of directors for Nebraska Shakespeare, Omaha Community Partnership, Millard Public Schools Advisory and Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. He also is a member of the advisory board for Salvation Army and the board of trustees for the Mid-America Council Boy Scouts of America.

Professional memberships include the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, American Council on Education, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Anchor Institutions (National Task Force), and Urban League of Nebraska (Life Member).

During his tenure, UNO:

- Celebrated back-to-back records for the largest and most diverse incoming classes in UNO history.
- Completed more than \$480 million of capital projects, including first-of-their-kind facilities like the Biomechanics Research Building, Community Engagement Center, and Baxter Arena.
- Hosted national conferences such as the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) Conference, Human Movement Variability Conference, Deterrence and Assurance Academic Alliance Conference, and will soon host the Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference.
- Completed a four-year transition to Division I Athletics.

On September 26, 2016, Christensen announced that he would step down from his role as Chancellor as soon as University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds names his successor.

## **Past Recipients of CPACS Distinguished Alumni Awards**

### THE GOODRICH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Kohler	Michael	1989
Smith-Secret	Tijuana	1989
Gonzalez	Cindy	1989
Martinez	Mark	2002
Nabulsi	Reema Abou-Nasr	2002
Hilliard	Zenola	2003
Ramos	Josephine	2003
Doyle	Aldona	2004
Mora	Marcos	2004
Bradley	Larry P.	2005
Zeleny	Mary	2005
Barrientos	Carlos	2006
Russell	Doug	2006
Washington	Harriette	2007
Hansen	Jason L.	2008
Romero	Gabe	2008
Ewing	Vivienne	2009
Emmons	Janine	2009
Ariza	Ricardo	2010
Hunter	Teresa	2010
Azimi	Ghafar Abdul	2011
Rhoades	Crystal	2011
Vargas	Bart	2012
Robinson	Dr. Cynthia L.	2013
Costanzo	Brad	2014
Skinner	Elizabeth	2015
Dorsey	Shonna	2016

THE DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY

Roberts	Jolene	2002
Martin	Steven S.	2003
Gillette	Christine	2004
Hallberg	Glenda	2005
Benjamin	Connie	2006
Kudlacek	Connie	2007
Price	Janice	2008
Adams	Dr. Scot L.	2009
Smidt	Arlis	2010
Washburn	Donna	2011
Kotok	Shane	2012
Foster	Betty G.	2013
Micheletto	Sr. Marie	2014
Huber	Dr. Lesa	2015
Miller	Janet L	2016
Aguilar	Dee	2016

THE AVIATION INSTITUTE

Turner	Michael	2004
Lempke	Mike	2005
Spencer	Ken	2007
McCoy	Stephen	2008
Lutte	Rebecca	2009
Vlasek	Scott	2010
McIntyre	Jennifer	2011
Dwyer	Kailey	2012
O'Neil	Patrick	2013
Terreri	Jason	2014
Runana	Lawrence	2015
Grossrhode	John	2016

THE SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Edmondson	Joe	1989
Casady	Thomas	2002
Houston	Bob	2002
Hronek	Ginney	2003
Olson	Robert	2003
Curtis	Allen	2004
Warren	Thomas	2004
Novotny	Steven S.	2005
Pratt	Jason "Tye"	2005
Harder	Terri S.	2006
Bartee	Ron	2007
Kush	Rod	2007
Wakefield	Bill	2007
Carlson	Scott A.	2008
Schindler	Michelle	2008
Foxall	Mark	2009
Tast	Susan R.	2009
Circo	Deb	2010
Sasse	Scott	2010
Ray	Shayna Louise	2011
Colborn	John A.	2011
Butera	Mike	2012
Wright-Kreisel	Betsy	2012
Rowoldt	Stephen W.	2013
Schmaderer	Todd R.	2013
Gibson	Dr. Chris	2014
Stingley	Tara	2014
Ryan	Dr. Roxanne	2015
Goering	David	2015
Andraschko	Steven L	2016

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
Anderson	Dr. Debra	2015
Mangiamelli	Joseph	2015
McMorris	Kenny	2016
Morrisette	Beth	2016

THE DIVISION OF CONTINUING STUDIES

McLarney	Michael	2005
Hagel	Chuck	2006
Dahlquist	Robert	2007
Fiene	John	2008
Peak	Frank	2008
Edwards	Blake	2009
Wilson	Johnnie	2009
Donlon	Roger	2010
Visty-Schinker	Colleen	2011
Jeanette	Joe	2012
Payne	Eva	2012
Carroll	Jen	2013
McGuigan	Billy	2014
Borgeson	Mary Ann	2014
Schrodt	Jennifer	2014
Ressegieu	Karen	2015
Ressegieu	Jim	2015
Bard, Jr.	James F	2016
Sokpoh	Karine	2016

THE GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Authier	Karen	1989
Boye	Carol	1989
Tubach-Davis	Donna	1989
Kalkowski	Julie	2002
Mathern	Tim	2002
Parker	Penny	2002
Stitt	Carolyn K.	2002
Blue	James R.	2003
Harrington	Mel	2003
Keen Hecht	Morgan	2004
Klein	Gene	2004
Blizek	Monica	2005
Kerns	Pat and Kim	2006
Cohen-Dunning	Toba	2007
Howard	Senator Gwen	2007
Sullivan	Erin	2007
Grimes Moore	Jamesena	2008
Sather	Paul	2008
Weitz	Barb	2008
Hale	Susan	2009
Vazquez	Maria	2010
Kalkowski	Maggie	2011
Dierkhising	Judy	2012
Bird	Heather	2013
Bahney	Mary	2014
Simon	Elizabeth	2015
Hendricks	Diane	2016

THE HUBERT LOCKE AWARD

Spire	Elaine	2002
Thompson	Nancy	2003
Heng-Braun	Mary	2004
Haney	Terry	2005
Goodwin	Al	2006
Scott	John	2007
Hawks	Rhonda	2008
Fahey	Mike	2009
Waggoner	Don	2010
Houston	Bob	2011
Hinton	Dave	2012
Martin	Steve	2013
Milliken	James B.	2014
Warren	Thomas H. Sr.	2015
Weitz	Barbara	2016



## **Making a Profound Difference**

Enrollment continued to grow in CPACS throughout the 2016 academic year and projections for 2017 are very strong. U.S. News and World Report (January 2017) ranks several CPACS programs in the top tiers amongst national programs:



- The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice ranks #2 nationally among online master's programs (U.S. News and World Report 2017)
- The Bachelors of General Studies ranks #24 nationally among online bachelor's programs (U.S. News and World Report 2017)
- Awarded for the first time- federal funds to support Title IV-e, Grace Abbott School of Social Work. Students will receive support toward tuition costs for study in child welfare.
- Research and Creative Activity Awards received in spring 2016- \$1,740,832 in CPACS. The overall total award amount at UNO was \$9,713,870. SPR Bulletin, Spring- 2016. (CPACS represented 18% of the total amount funded). CPACS represents 12% of the total university budget.
- In the 2015-2016 academic year, faculty have been actively engaged in traditional scholarly research as well as more applied collaborative research and service efforts with non-profit organizations, local and federal agencies. Faculty have authored and/or co-authored 122 journal articles, book chapters and technical reports. Faculty have presented at more than 100 national, regional and local presentations.

## **School of Public Administration**

The School of Public Administration prides itself on offering award-winning, nationally ranked programs both on campus and online. Backed by our prestigious alumni, and world-renowned faculty, we are proud to be the School of Public Administration. Our MPA graduates are making an impact locally and beyond. Sher Jan Ahmadzai now serves as the Director of the UNO Center for Afghan Studies and Jeremy Nordquist is Chief of Staff to Rep. Tom O'Halleran in DC.

- Faculty garnered or were a part of more than \$2.7 million in grants and contracts awarded this year.
- Faculty published more than 30 journal articles and book chapters in 2016 and made approximately 33 academic conference presentations including two keynote addresses.
- The Emergency Services Program is again co-hosting the nationally recognized William (Bill) Averett Anderson Fund (BAF) Workshop in Omaha in April.
- Just over 20 students are now pursuing the Nonprofit Management Undergraduate Minor.
- The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance continues to grow by hosting monthly workshops featuring local nonprofit leaders.
- The Supervisory Leadership Certification Program is a new offering within the School's Professional Programs.
- The Emergency Services Program has grown to over 120 majors, and over 65 minors currently pursuing the bachelor's degree.
- Last fall, the Tribal Management and Emergency Services Program minor began and the certificate is offered spring 2017.
- A Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management is currently going through the approval process.
- Ellen Freeman-Wakefield, Director of the SPA Professional Programs, will represent Region 8 on the Education Advisory Group for the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.
- The PhD Program will welcome their largest class yet this fall.
- UNO is hosting the first-ever three-way partnership of Midwest Public Affairs Conference, Teaching Public Administration Conference, and Social Equity and Leadership Conference this summer in Omaha.

## **Aviation Institute and NASA Nebraska Space Grant and EPSCoR Office**

The Aviation Institute added two new faculty members this year. Lowell “Skip” Bailey, Jr. came on board in January 2016 as the Institute’s Flight Training Coordinator. Skip brings a wealth of aviation and leadership experience from his years of service in the US Air Force, where he flew a variety of aircraft including the KC-10, KC-135, and more recently the E-4, the military’s version of the Boeing 747. Ryan Guthridge joined the faculty in January 2017 as Chief Ground Instructor and coach of the Flying Mavs, UNO’s competitive flight team. Ryan comes to UNO after working in industry in a variety of capacities. Our professional flight program is in excellent hands with Skip and Ryan on board. Institute students continue to take advantage of numerous personal and professional development opportunities. Envoy Air, which operates regional airline service for American Airlines, generously flew 45 students and 5 faculty members from Omaha to Dallas to visit the American Airline’s operations at Dallas Fort-Worth International Airport and at AA’s Integrated Operations Center. Students got the opportunity to hear from Matt Eggers, Managing Director of AA’s DFW Hub Control Center and Aviation Institute alum, which highlighted a behind the scenes experience.

The NASA Nebraska Space Grant and EPSCoR Office continues to connect students and faculty from around Nebraska with NASA Research Centers and Mission Directorates. The NASA Office received over \$1.5 million in funding. Space Grant funds support student internships, research projects, and student teams who compete in NASA technology challenges. The NASA office is working with university and community partners to host a special event for the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017 in Grand Island, Nebraska. Teams of Space Grant students and researchers will launch high altitude balloons in coordinated fashion across the nation to capture video images and other eclipse data from 90,000 feet above the earth’s surface. The NASA office is also awaiting the return of a scientific experiment from the International Space Station. The project launched to the ISS last October aboard an Orbital ATK Antares rocket. Results of the experiment will help NASA and US Air Force researchers learn more about the neutron voltaic properties of a novel boron carbide material developed by University of Nebraska scientists.

## Department of Gerontology

- The Department received approval from the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for the new PhD in Gerontology at UNO.
- Dr. Marcia Adler is the last doctoral graduate from UNL's College of Education and Human Sciences with a specialization in Gerontology. She presented the results of her research at the spring "Begin with the End in Mind" program at UNO in February.
- Dr. Janelle Beadle, an Assistant Professor in the Gerontology Department, received the 2016 Vada Kinman Oldfield Scholar in Alzheimer's disease Research Award to support her research on Alzheimer's disease and caregiving.
- Dr. Beadle is part of a multi-disciplinary research team with Tony Wilson, Ph.D. and David Warren, Ph.D., based at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. They received a National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR Major Research Implementation Proposal to purchase a transcranial magnetic stimulation device and an NSF ESPSCoR multi-site research grant (\$5,858,210) focused on quantifying brain dynamics and related genetic factors in childhood.
- Department of Gerontology faculty members, Julie Masters, Julie Boron, and Janelle Beadle received a 2016 UCAT Speaker Fund Grant through UNO in collaboration with Elizabeth Chentland at the Alzheimer's Association to bring Dr. James Hendrix, the Director of Global Science Initiatives, Medical and Science Relations at the Alzheimer's Association to speak at an event at UNO.
- Dr. Julie Boron received renewal funding for a COBRE award to explore older adults' gait control and the impact of cognition on dual tasking.
- Dr. Boron was the featured speaker at the Big Ten Retirees Association Conference.
- Dr. Boron presented "Encouraging Creativity through Novel Pursuits" at the Brain Matters Event sponsored by Aging Partners and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.
- Drs. Lyn Holley and Chris Kelly received funding from the Urban Research Grant to explore issues related to the Long-Term Care workforce in Nebraska.
- Dr. Holley represented the department in leading the first UNO Honors 3-way Synergy course in the fall 2016. The gerontology service-learning component focused on refugees.
- Dr. Holley is the Dr. Chuck Powell Professor of Gerontology.

- Dr. Chris Kelly is the Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award recipient for CPACS for 2017.
- The Department of Gerontology along with CPAR, Grace Abbott School of Social Work and members of the community hosted the sixth biennial “Aging with Passion and Purpose” conference on the UNO campus in March.
- The Department of Gerontology held its annual Dr. Chuck Powell Memorial Lecture in the fall. Susan Henricks, President and CEO of ICAN was the keynote speaker.
- The Department of Gerontology nominated Dean John Bartle “Outstanding Administrator Award with the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education” and he received the award at the annual meeting in early March.
- The second CEO Roundtable held in July at UNO invited executives from area corporations and non-profit organizations to learn about the value of hiring a gerontologist for their respective businesses and agencies.

## **William Brennan Institute of Labor Studies**

In 2016, the Brennan Labor Institute what invited to present to union and non-union audiences across the state and nation. From July 2016 to present, the Institute:

- Taught 10 contracted classes for labor organizations reaching 492 participants.
- Held two open enrollment classes for 37 union members from around the state.
- Presented to both union and non-union audiences: 30 invited presentations to 1,410 participants.
- Will host the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Promoting the General Welfare Conference in March. The International Secretary-Treasurer of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Esther Lopez, will keynote the conference.
- Will present to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers District 11 Organizer’s Conference.
- Will present educational programming later this year in Alaska, Kansas, Nevada, and Washington State.

## **Grace Abbott School of Social Work**

The Grace Abbott School of Social Work is currently searching for the John C. Christiansen Community Chair position in collaboration with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

The School expanded the MSW program in fall 2016 to include a weekend cohort of students currently employed in the child welfare system through DHHS, Project Harmony and Nebraska Families Collaborative to continue employment and work towards the MSW degree on the Omaha campus. The students receive funding through a private donor and the newly established federal Title IV-E funding, and are committed to the field of child welfare following graduation. The weekend format is available to the off campus MSW program in Kearney to allow students employed on a full time basis to participate in the MSW program.

In summer 2017, Grace Abbott School of Social Work will offer both the BSW and MSW programs on a twelve- month basis, recognizing the need for workforce development in Nebraska.

## **Division of Continuing Studies Bachelor of General Studies Degree**

In January 2017, U. S. News and World Report ranked UNO's online Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) Degree 24th in the nation among best online bachelor's programs. In determining its rankings, U. S. News and World Report assessed the degree program on four general categories: student engagement; faculty credentials and training; student services and technology; and peer reputation. The BGS Degree contributes to UNO's national ranking as a military-friendly university.

In August 2016, DCS Academic Advisor and Assistant Dean Emeritus, Dr. Larry D. Winkler, passed away. DCS and the NU Foundation are in the process of establishing the "Larry D. Winkler Memorial Scholarship" in his honor.

The DCS Ambassadors student group is in its third successful year of existence. Advised by several DCS staff members, the Ambassadors assist with recruitment and outreach events; participate in community service events; assist with DCS and UNO programs; participate in leadership development activities; and provide feedback about the UNO and DCS experience.

During National Nontraditional Student Week 2016, DCS honored the hard work and accomplishments of adult students at UNO with academic support programs, daily refreshments, prizes, and student recognition. BGS student winners of a drawing had the opportunity to enjoy lunch with Chancellor Christensen and Senior Vice Chancellor Reed.

The UNO/DCS Offutt Air Force Base (AFB) Office, part of the Base Education entity, successfully relocated to a new office space in a pre-existing building on base.

## **Goodrich Scholarship Program**

The nationally recognized and award-winning Goodrich Scholarship Program continues its standard of excellence with extraordinary retention rates (96%), innovative community engagement (Futures Fair, Goodrich Rural Initiatives, Goodrich Study Abroad Initiative), and national/international award-winning Goodrich student-scholars (Antonio Campbell and Amber Johnson), a TOYO award-winning Goodrich student-scholar, and several award-winning Goodrich alums. In addition, the hiring of former UC-Santa Barbara faculty member Dr. Daniel Wuebben (whose current research involves electric transmission networks and the rhetoric of electricity in American culture) has enhanced the dynamic Goodrich faculty.

- Latest Retention Rate: **96% (65/68 Students)**.
- Latest Graduation Rate: **75% (2011 Cohort 49/65 within 5.5 YRS)**.
- Community Engagement:
  - On March 8, 2017 Futures Fair with P4K: 250 middle school students from Marrs, Norris, Monroe, McMillan and Lewis and Clark middle schools came to campus.
  - 2016 Rural Initiative: Elmwood, NE (fourth year of Goodrich Rural Initiatives <http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/goodrich-scholarship-program/community-engagement/rural-initiatives.php>).
- Study Abroad Award: An Nguyen (U.S. Department of State, Gilman Scholarship Recipient).
- Civic Award: Nebraska State Bar Association Diversity Award.
- Leadership: UNO Student Body Vice President Elect Emily Bradley, Jimmy Nguyen Dodge Campus Housing Student Senator and Faith Walker College of Arts & Sciences Senator.

- TOYO (Ten Outstanding Young Omahans—Teen Awards): Tierra Conyers
- Some Alum Awards: Dr. Viv Ewing [Salvation Army Advisory Board], Roger Garcia [MCC Board of Governors, District 4], Shonna Dorsey [AIM Careerlink Brilliant People of Omaha], Greg Gonzalez [Deputy Chief, Omaha Police Department, Sophomore Awards Luncheon Keynoter], Crystal Rhoades [Commissioner, Nebraska Public Service Commission, District 2].
- 2013 alum Roxana Cortes Reyes and 2011 alum Arianna Crum recently graduated from the University of Nebraska-College of Law.
- Faculty: Dr. Dan Wuebben (new hire); Dr. Todd Richardson, tenured as Associate Professor (fall 2016); Dr. Pamela Smith featured on CPACS website: <http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/news/2016/08/pam-smith-presents-book.php>.

## **Center for Public Affairs Research**

In 2016, the Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) continued to receive funding from the Nebraska Legislature for the State Policy Initiative, which provides data and briefings on public policy issues affecting Nebraska. CPAR also formed a partnership with the University of Nebraska at Kearney and received funding for a 5-year grant from the Nebraska Department of Roads focusing on rural transit in Nebraska. Total funding for this project is \$5.8 million, and CPAR's share is \$2.4 million. CPAR leads the Nebraska State Data Center program and had record attendance at its annual data user's conference in August, with more than 250 attendees.

## **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice**

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) prides itself on delivering high quality education that emphasizes the critical role of science in informing criminal justice policy and practice. SCCJ faculty members are actively engaged research with our criminal justice partners in the Greater Nebraska area and across the U.S. This year, the SCCJ experienced a change in leadership, significant growth in faculty and students, and was fortunate to receive a number of accolades achieved by students, alumni and faculty. With our growth, the support of UNO, and the support of our community partners, the SCCJ looks



forward to expanding the opportunities that exist to facilitate positive contributions to both our field of study and our community.

We thank Dr. Candice Batton for a job well done as the former SCCJ Director. She successfully led the SCCJ for several years upholding its national prominence as a doctoral granting PhD program (recently ranked 14th in the nation) until her promotion as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. We are proud to see her continued success as a leader at UNO! Dr. Gaylene Armstrong assumed the leadership of the SCCJ this year. Her vision is for the SCCJ to be an innovative leader in providing a high quality, 21<sup>st</sup> century criminology and criminal justice education through research excellence and community engagement. This vision focuses on enhancing the learning opportunities available through the SCCJ while maintaining our position as a valuable and accessible resource for our community partners.

Retaining our prominent role as a well-respected leader among U.S. criminology and criminal justice programs is critically important for our students and professionals in CJ. Our ongoing emphasis on delivering high quality education at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral level has resulted in significant recognition for not only being one of the most affordable programs, but among the best programs in the country. We are particularly proud of the U. S. News and World Report rankings that listed our Master's program 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the country. Our Bachelor's program, also delivered in an online format, received high accolades as well. Currently, we educate approximately 850 undergraduate majors on the Omaha and Lincoln campuses, and over 100 graduate students in Omaha.

Faculty members, the Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR), and the Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) are all engaged in cutting-edge research endeavors. Specifically, the NCJR and JJI serve as fundamental resources for the state in providing research, evaluation, technical assistance, and training on criminal justice issues to the Legislature, agencies, and practitioners across the state. Their important efforts receive additional support through federal and local grants and contracts, as well as contributions from private funders.

We value the continued engagement of our alumni with the SCCJ, many of whom are leading tremendously successful criminal justice careers. These alumni remain engaged with our current students and faculty as representatives of their agency, as guest lecturers, by attending at our professional development events, as a participant in our fall golf tournament and fundraising events, or by attending our spring SCCJ Awards Luncheon. We are truly grateful for the strong support of our alumni base!

## CPACS Dean's Office

The "Urban Research Grants" awarded several faculty members, research associates and doctoral students' grants in 2016-2017. Previous recipients began presenting their findings in fall 2016 and will continue throughout the spring 2017 semester. Following are the 2016-2017 recipients:

- ❖ *Evaluation of Long-Term Care Workforce/Community Partnerships Model* (Holley, Kelly-Department of Gerontology; community partner-Silvester Juanes-Golden Living Lakeview)
- ❖ *Social Support and the Impact of Head Injuries on Delinquency in an Urban Sample of Adjudicated Youth: Applications for the Douglas County Department of Corrections* (Schwartz-School of Criminology and Criminal Justice)
- ❖ *Healthcare Issues in the Hispanic Community* (Reed-School of Public Administration; community partner-Alberto Cervantes)
- ❖ *An Urban Educational Challenge: Students of Color, Mindset, and Achievement* (Hewins-Maroney-Goodrich Scholarship Program and Austin-College of Education)
- ❖ *Comparison of Experiences of Grandparents in an Education/Support Program: A Mixed Methods Approach* (Kelley-Grace Abbott School of Social Work; graduate student-Perez)
- ❖ *Assessment of Methamphetamine Use among Refugee Youth in Omaha: Examining Multiple Stakeholder Perspectives* (Sample-School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Rolf-Grace Abbott School of Social Work; graduate student-Cooley)

The CPACS Diversity Committee composed of faculty and staff identify and support efforts that lead toward a more inclusive and diverse college. The goals include the following:

- Create a learning environment in CPACS organized around the values of equity, inclusion, and diversity
- Diversify the CPACS faculty
- Diversify CPACS students and staff

In 2016-17, the committee decided to survey CPACS students for input regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. Listening and focus group sessions met in fall 2016. Committee members will report findings at the spring college meeting in April.

In 2016-2017, the college welcomed:

- Hans Louis-Charles joined the faculty of the School of Public Administration
- Seunghoon Han joined the faculty of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Janelle Beadle joined the faculty of the Department of Gerontology
- Jodi Benenson joined the faculty of the School of Public Administration
- Tamara Buffalohead-McGill joined the staff of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The Dean's office has co-sponsored events that are important to the mission and vision of the college such as:

- Black Men United Symposium: Mass Incarceration (SCCJ and NCJR faculty presented). CPACS co-sponsor-September 2016
- Best Practices in Child and Family Well Being-Child Welfare Symposium co-sponsored by the CPACS Dean's office, Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the Nebraska Families Collaborative (Kevin Campbell, Supreme Court Judge Baer and Sandra Moore-DHHS Director-PA)-November 2016









**Empowering Future Leaders,  
Fostering Inclusive Collaboration and  
Creating Innovative Solutions**



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AND COMMUNITY SERVICE