

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



New Faculty Directory



2025-2026

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Melanie Bloom, Dean

BIOLOGY



Erin Rowland-Schaefer is currently engaged in research that centers on both conservation and restoration ecology, as well as biology education. As an ecologist, Erin investigates the impacts of land management practices on tallgrass prairie small mammals, with particular interest in prescribed fire. In education research, she studies how to equip undergraduate students with key skills such as science communication and scientific civic engagement. Erin is an avid birder and spends her free time hiking with her husband, singing in choirs, crocheting, attending theater productions, cooking, and baking.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Biology, Northern Illinois University

B.S. in Biology, Concordia University, Nebraska

CHEMISTRY



Ganesh Naik has research interests encompassing nutritional biochemistry, green chemistry, chemical education, and environmental sustainability. Supported by grants from the NASA Minority University Research and Education Project-Women's Colleges and Universities, the Institutional Development Award Program (IDeA), and Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), his work focuses on collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts to identify, understand, and propose solutions to problems at the intersection of chemistry, human health, and environmental sustainability. Grounded in a belief in holistic education, Ganesh cultivates a passion for scientific inquiry through coursework, research experiences, and experiential learning.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Chemistry, University of Mumbai

M.S. in Chemistry, University of Mumbai



Moustafa Ali specializes in nanotechnology and nanomedicine. His research centers on advanced nanofabrication and surface-functionalization techniques for nanomaterials such as noble metals and polymers. He investigates their optical and biological properties and biomedical applications. Using computational modeling, he designs nanomaterials with tailored properties for diagnostics, targeted drug delivery, and photothermal cancer therapy. He has taught undergraduate courses in general chemistry, bioanalytical chemistry, and nanotechnology, fostering inquiry-based learning and critical thinking. Beyond academia, Moustafa enjoys photography, visiting science museums, and exploring national parks with family and friends.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Chemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology

M.S. in Chemistry, Cairo University

B.S. in Chemistry, Cairo University

ENGLISH



John Turnbull has worked for more than 15 years teaching English language learners in community-based, military, and university settings. Within TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), his interests are in Freirean pedagogy and telecollaboration. He has taught English in Lithuania, Cape Verde, Thailand, and Colombia, where in 2018 he also served for a month as a volunteer peace accompanier in the Urabá region. His passion for world football (soccer) positioned him to be the lead editor for a literary anthology *The Global Game: Writers on Soccer*.

Instructor

M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Northern Illinois University

M.I.A. in International Affairs, Columbia University

B.A. in Political Science, Duke University



Kevin Samejon is engaged in scholarship exploring English varieties, post-colonial societies, and Philippine languages through fieldwork and laboratory methods. He specializes in sociolinguistics and experimental linguistics. He is currently investigating sociolinguistic variation in English spoken in the Philippines and crosslinguistic patterns in sound-imitative words; he has presented widely on both topics. Kevin has taught in the Philippines and the United States since 2014 and volunteers as a linguistic research mentor for low-income high school students. Outside his academic work, he enjoys good food and attending live performances, especially theater and concerts.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Linguistics, Boston University

M.A. in Linguistics, Boston University

M.A. in Applied Linguistics, Biola University

B.A. in English, Mindanao State University

GEOGRAPHY/GEOLOGY



David Oakley is a geoscientist with interests spanning structural geology, geophysics, and geomorphology, who employs both field and computational methods in his work. His research projects have focused on topics including active tectonics in New Zealand, rock weathering in Pennsylvania, data inversion and artificial intelligence in structural geology, and landscape evolution of the Alps. David has experience teaching geology and geophysics in both the classroom and the field, including at a summer field camp. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking, traveling, and reading.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Geosciences, Pennsylvania State University

B.A. in Geosciences and Astrophysics, Williams College

HISTORY



Susan Long is engaged in research and teaching focusing on civil-military relations and the lived experience of warfare in early America. Her monograph project uses the American administration of British-allied prisoners during the Revolutionary War as a window into inchoate federalism during the founding era. A prolific public historian, her op-eds connecting early America with modern domestic and foreign policy issues have appeared in the *Washington Post* and *Real Clear Defense*. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and cuddling her beagle, Benedict Arnold.

Instructor

Ph.D. in American History, University of Delaware

B.A. in American Studies, Georgetown University {2}

MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL SCIENCES



Elizabeth Wrightsman researches equity in mathematics education, particularly within inquiry-based and proof-based learning environments. She investigates how identity, discourse, and classroom norms influence student participation, with a commitment to supporting historically marginalized groups. Passionate about student-centered pedagogy, Elizabeth prepares preservice teachers to create inclusive and empowering classrooms. She has contributed to several NSF-funded projects and published standards-based instruction, gender-proof language, and teachers' algebraic reasoning. In her free time, she enjoys shooting pool, playing board games, and practicing yoga.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Mathematics Education, Texas State University

B.S. in Mathematics, Texas State University



Jaclyn (Jackie) Anderson has teaching interests focused on introductory calculus, and she enjoys working with students and tutors in the Math-Science Learning Center. Jackie has a daughter in college and a son in high school. For several years, she has helped run the Battle of the Books competition for Westside Community Schools. She enjoys cross-stitching, traveling with her family, and cheering on her son at his basketball games.

Instructor

Ph.D. in Mathematics, University of Wisconsin - Madison

B.S. in Mathematics, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

PHILOSOPHY



Kevin Ryan engages in research specializing in philosophy of mind, philosophy of cognitive science, and aesthetics, with a particular focus on music. His current research projects include developing an account of musical improvisation grounded in embodied music cognition and addressing issues at the intersection of ethics and technology. He has recently taught courses in applied ethics, including contemporary moral problems and professional responsibility. Born and raised on Long Island, Kevin is a musician outside of academia and is looking forward to exploring Omaha's local food, film, and music scenes.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Memphis

M.S. in Mind, Language, and Embodied Cognition, University of Edinburgh

B.A. in Philosophy, Global Interdisciplinary Studies, and Humanities, Villanova University



POLITICAL SCIENCE



Lauren Baker researches the politics of garbage in the Middle East and North Africa. Focusing on countries that have hosted mega sites of global environmental governance, such as the annual UN climate summits, her work interrogates how authoritarian states depoliticize contentious issues like waste. She has conducted research in Morocco, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates. In her free time, Lauren enjoys practicing yoga, reading novels, watching good movies and bad TV, and spending time with her husband and two chaotic dogs, Ajax and Cooper.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Political Science, Northwestern University

M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin

B.A. in International Studies, Allegheny College

WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE



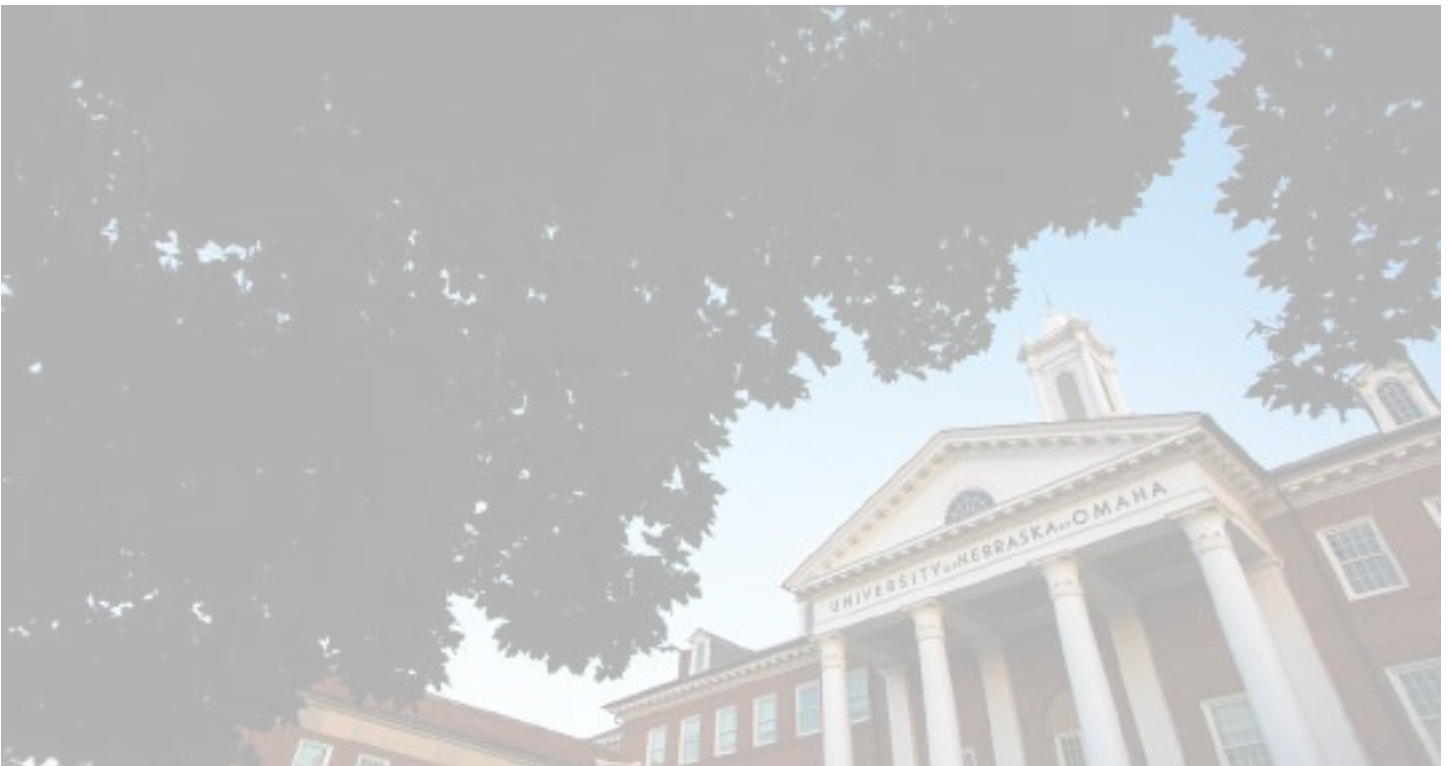
Maria (Eva) Báez researches the relationships between digital technologies and contemporary fiction in Latin America and the Spanish Peninsula, particularly examining emotions and narratives of the self on the internet. Before joining UNO, Eva taught Spanish language and literature at Tulane University and Loyola University of New Orleans. She was awarded the Graduate Fellowship of the Murphy Institute's Center for Ethics at Tulane University. Originally from Mendoza, Argentina, Eva enjoys creative writing, painting, and photography in her free time.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese, Tulane University

M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese, Tulane University

B.A. in Linguistics and Literature, National University of Cuyo



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Steve Schulz, Interim Dean

ECONOMICS



Zijun Luo teaches all levels of microeconomics and data analytics (MBA and EMBA). He has published widely, particularly in the areas of Chinese economy and contest/conflict theory. While he continues working in these areas, he plans to expand into behavioral and experimental economics. Outside of work and family, Zijun spends his free time playing music, especially low clarinets and ocarinas. He performs with his family, the Iowa Western Community Band, and Pentatonic Woodwinds, a woodwind quintet which he helped found.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Economics, Kansas State University

B.A. in Economics, South China Normal University

MANAGEMENT



Heather Nelson has been teaching management, marketing and entrepreneurship courses in the academic arena since 2004; and specifically for UNO since 2020. Her passion areas include business ideation, customer discovery, feasibility and marketing viability, business and strategic planning, and human resource management. When not in the classroom, Heather is a social entrepreneur leading a civic tech startup and working with existing small business owners, non-profits, and community leaders in Nebraska to achieve their missions.

Instructor

M.B.A. in Executive Business, University of Nebraska at Omaha

M.S. in Organizational Management, Peru State College



Rebecca Barta is a seasoned business executive leader and educator with more than 25 years of professional leadership experience in global supply chain and operations, primarily in industrial manufacturing. She focuses on connecting strategic concepts to practical, real-world applications. Rebecca is known for her collaborative approach, passion for student development, and commitment to advancing the field of operations and supply chain management through teaching, mentorship, and industry engagement.

Instructor

M.B.A. in International Business, University of Nebraska at Omaha

B.S. in Biology, Hastings College



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Dr. Neal Grandgenett, Dean

BIOMECHANICS



Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin

M.S. in Biomedical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin

B.S. in Bioengineering, Rice University

David Li is focused on bridging engineering, computational modeling, and translational medicine to address critical challenges in cardiovascular health. David's research has been supported by the NIH and centers on developing machine learning-augmented models of cardiovascular disease that integrate subject-specific data with biomechanical and mechanobiological frameworks to improve the prediction of disease progression, optimize surgical planning, and guide personalized treatment strategies for conditions such as aortic aneurysm and heart failure. Outside of the lab, David enjoys traveling, live music, and the local restaurant and coffee culture.



Instructor

Ph.D. in Biomechanics, University of Nebraska at Omaha

M.S. in Biomedical Engineering, Tarbiat Modares University

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, University of Tehran

Ramin Shahbad focuses his teaching on anatomy, physiology, and the biomechanics of the cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems, with an emphasis on interactive, student-centered learning. His research explores vascular and cardiac pathologies, with a strong interest in developing innovative treatment strategies and medical devices. Ramin has published several peer-reviewed papers and received multiple awards for his research presentations. Outside the classroom, he enjoys hiking and exploring national parks, traveling with his family, reading masterpieces of world literature, and immersing himself in the world of board games.

COUNSELING



Instructor

M.S. in Counseling, University of Nebraska at Omaha

B.A. in Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Erin Malm served as an elementary school counselor in Omaha for 15 years before joining UNO and was recognized as the 2018 Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Nebraska School Counselor Association. Since joining UNO, she has advised and overseen cohorts of counseling students serving in Educational Service Unit 2 in Fremont, Nebraska. She is especially passionate about LGBTQIA+ youth and young adult health and advocacy. Erin enjoys reading about mental health, time outdoors, visiting family in Colorado, and singing in the River City Mixed Chorus.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP



Ron Hanson has a distinguished career that encompasses various roles across multiple educational levels, including teacher/coach, building administrator, and central office leader. His leadership philosophy focuses on fostering collective efficacy through trust, mutual respect, and positive relationships. Throughout his career, Ron has emphasized the importance of creating collaborative environments within school districts, advocating that effective communication, shared leadership, and teamwork are vital for building a high-impact organization. Outside of his professional commitments, Ron enjoys outdoor activities, family gatherings, and being a grandfather.

Instructor

Ed.D. in Education–Administration, Curriculum, and Instruction, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
M.A. in Secondary Education, University of South Dakota - Vermillion



Teresa Perkins is a leadership scholar, writer, researcher, and long-time educator passionate about creating equity-centered communities of belonging and hope. Her focus on reflection, continuous improvement, and courageous systems fuels her servant leadership. Her first book, *Creating Equity-Centered Communities: Belonging, Bold Hope and You*, is set for fall 2025 release. She shares her research at regional and national conferences such as the National Summit for Courageous Conversations about Race and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Teresa works with schools and community organizations to strengthen cultures of continuous improvement and collective efficacy.

Assistant Professor

Ed.D. in Educational Administration, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
M.S. in Educational Leadership, Doane University
B.S. in Secondary Education: English Language Arts, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

TEACHER EDUCATION



Cheryl Couch is engaged in research that centers on expanding a newly developed theory by utilizing the gradual release of responsibility model and Bloom's Taxonomy and integrating it with practicum experiences across teacher preparation levels, including elementary, early childhood special education, and graduate studies. Cheryl combines her passions for early childhood education, early literacy, dyslexia training, and instructional support to inspire teachers, helping them enhance their teaching practices and positively impact student learning.

Instructor

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Southwestern College
M.S.E. in Early Childhood Special Education, Wichita State University



Christina Argo-King is dedicated to developing teachers and ensuring all Nebraska students build strong literacy skills. She believes in making adult learning accessible, engaging, and immediately applicable in the classroom. With a background in K-12 education and teacher development, Christina works closely with educators to implement best practices that foster student success. She is committed to equity and inclusion, striving to create learning environments where all students can thrive. Outside of work, she enjoys gardening, exploring new destinations with her family, and discovering creative ways to make learning meaningful.

Instructor

M.S. in Literacy, University of Nebraska at Omaha
B.S. in Elementary Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha

TEACHER EDUCATION (continued)



Courtney Pentland taught as an adjunct instructor for the UNO school library program for 14 years, before joining UNO's full-time faculty. She has served in a variety of roles in the Nebraska School Librarians Association, including president, and was the 2023-24 president of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Courtney has published over 30 articles in school library professional journals, blogged for AASL's Knowledge Quest, and served as curriculum connection editor for *School Library Connection*. She has presented at conferences across Nebraska, other states, and at the national level.

Instructor

M.S. in Secondary Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha

B.S. in Secondary Education, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Jill Choate focuses her research on inclusive classroom practices, addressing teacher shortages and promoting teacher sustainability. With over 30 years of expertise, she is committed to fostering inclusive approaches in teacher preparation, ensuring that all students receive the education they deserve. Jill is dedicated to meeting students where they are and instilling a passion for lifelong learning. In her free time, you can find Jill outside in a hammock, soaking up the sun, or digging in the dirt!

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Special Education Administration, University of Texas at Austin

M.A. in Special Education: Behavioral Disorders, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

B.S. in Elementary Education and Special Education, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Jillian Sparks is engaged in research that includes the history of the book, book arts, student engagement with libraries and archives, and library spaces. She has worked as a special collections instruction and outreach librarian for 10 years; creating innovative experiential learning opportunities in a special collections classroom, which is the hallmark of her career. After living in Canada and various Midwest states, Jillian looks forward to building her home on the Nebraska prairie with her husband and pointing dogs.

Instructor

M.A. in Library and Information Science, University of Iowa

M.A. in English, University of Victoria

B.A. in English and French and Francophone Studies, Creighton University



Katherine Bean has research interests which include literacy, dyslexia, teacher efficacy, and professional development, with a particular interest in self-directed and transformative learning for adults. She believes literacy education is a human right and essential for opportunity, equity, and lifelong learning. Katherine has taught Principles and Practices of Teaching Reading and actively supports efforts to improve literacy education across Nebraska. A proud military spouse and mother of five young adults, she has lived in 11 states and on three continents, giving her a broad perspective on education.

Instructor

M.A. in Elementary Education, University of Phoenix

M.S. in Literacy, University of Nebraska at Omaha

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



Tim Andress is engaged in research centered on identifying evidence-based practices to improve language and literacy outcomes among multilingual students with academic difficulties. He has conducted intervention research on several federally funded projects in Nebraska, Texas, and Massachusetts across pre-kindergarten to high school settings. Most recently, he provided professional development and coaching on implementing effective reading strategies, data-based decision-making, and multi-tiered systems of support to dozens of rural school districts across Nebraska on Project WORDS. In his spare time, Tim enjoys practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Special Education, University of Texas at Austin

M.Ed. in Quantitative Methods, University of Texas at Austin

M.A. in Special Education, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

B.S. in Elementary Education and Special Education, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA

Dr. Michael L. Hilt, Dean

ARTS



Amelia Rosenberg engages with collective memory, material culture, and empowered making through art, research, and teaching. She has taught a range of courses and workshops including ceramic hand-building, wheel throwing, printmaking, and modern art history. Amelia's work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally. She has received fellowships, residencies, and research grants supporting both her creative and scholarly work. Outside the studio and classroom, she co-directs the Wallach Project, a German nonprofit dedicated to preserving Jewish craft and creative lineages. In her personal time, Amelia enjoys hiking, canoeing, and cooking - especially when shared amongst friends.

Assistant Professor

M.F.A. in Ceramics, University of Iowa | M.A. in Ceramics, University of Iowa

B.F.A. in Studio Art, University of North Carolina at Asheville



Charlene Donaghy is an award-winning educator, producer, and playwright whose plays have been produced, published, and recognized across the United States and worldwide. Her research and art include intersections and divergences of writing, theatre, cinema, and arts entrepreneurship as changemaking and as entertainment. Dramatists Guild, Pen Writers Fund, the Haven Foundation, and others have supported her scholarship. Charlene works globally, garnering recognition for her invaluable international contributions to the development of culture and theatrical art. Charlene enjoys both the ocean and the mountains whenever she can. www.charleneadonaghy.com

Instructor

M.F.A. in Creative Writing for Stage, Screen, and Fiction, Lesley University

B.F.A. in Creative Writing and Literature, Vermont College



Jacob (JM) Christiansen is a theatre director, playwright, and acting teacher. He is also a working theatre scholar with a specialty in contemporary American drama. He is especially interested in creating pieces of theatre which activate the audience as co-collaborators, as well as building new theatre experiences from the ground up. JM is a Designated Meisner Teacher and the host of No Script: A Theatre Podcast (noscriptpodcast.podbean.com). In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, camping, and adventuring with his beloved partner Brianne, their son Arthur, and their two dogs.

Instructor

M.F.A. in Theatre: Directing, University of Montana

B.A. in Theatre and Writing and Rhetoric, Northwestern College

COMMUNICATION



Corey Reutlinger focuses his research on problematic and conflict-ridden communication in everyday social interactions. He employs applied mathematics and game theory to examine conflict. He also identifies people's varying communication strategies and how choices are reflected in talk when people have only partial information available to them, as well as when they are experiencing heightened emotions, and how this might influence choices to engage in conversational negotiation. Corey is working to expand microaggression research. His interests extend to critical disability and neurodiversity studies as well as arts-based research methodologies.

Instructor

Ph.D. in Communication, Arizona State University

M.A. in Communication, Kansas State University

B.A. in Mathematics, Hastings College

MUSIC



Jen Townsley focused her doctoral research on LGBTQIA+ inclusion in collegiate voice studies, opera curriculum development, contemporary singing styles in music education, and French composer Charles Koechlin. She teaches vocal lessons in partnership with the University of Kansas Medical Center Otolaryngology Clinic, where she helps with the rehabilitation of amateur and professional singers following vocal injuries. As a soprano, Jen was recently featured on Kansas Public Radio performing the award-winning composer Laurent Courbier's *From The Chrysalis*. Recent dramatic roles include the Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte*, L'Ensolliead in *Chérubin*, and Mariann Paroo in *The Music Man*.

Instructor

D.M.A. in Vocal Performance, University of Missouri - Kansas City

M.M. in Vocal Performance, Texas Tech University

B.M.E. in Music Education, State University of New York at Fredonia

A.S. in Music, Onondaga Community College



Zack Bresler has research interests that focus on popular musicology. He has studied the relationships between music technology, production, and reception. Zack is also an active performer and composer with specializations in immersive and interactive sound installations, hybrid percussion and electronics performances, and drum-set and Latin hand-drums. Since moving to Norway in 2016, he has had numerous installations and performances throughout the country. He is an avid runner and hiker and enjoys spending free time playing disc golf.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Popular Music Studies, University of Agder

M.A. in Music Performance, University of Nebraska at Omaha

B.A. in Music Performance, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dr. Gaylene Armstrong, Dean

AVIATION



Haoruo Fu is engaged in research focusing on aviation and transportation safety. He integrates geospatial information systems (GIS) and systems thinking to address complex safety challenges. His work includes risk analysis of wildlife hazards near airports, forecasting the impact of severe weather on air operations, and evaluating the system safety of urban air mobility within the broader National Airspace System. Through data-driven and interdisciplinary approaches, he aims to enhance the safety, resilience, and efficiency of aviation and emerging transportation systems. Besides academics, Haoruo is passionate about soccer and Formula One (F1).

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Technology, Purdue University

M.S. in Applied Aviation Safety, Florida Institute of Technology

B.S. in Aeronautical Science, Florida Institute of Technology



Patrick Ryan is a retired Air Force maintenance officer (reserve) with 24 years of experience in aircraft systems, who has taught aviation and social studies classes for 22 years within Omaha Public Schools. He hopes to instill a love of aviation in his students, inspiring them to write the next chapter in the field. In his personal time, he enjoys flight instructing in the Omaha area, reading, and wearing out his springer spaniel, Finnegan.

Instructor

M.S. in Secondary Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha

B.S. in Secondary Education, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Robert (Bob) Krist is a twenty-year retired United States Air Force Lt. Colonel, a previous Nebraska State Senator, and a former small business owner with federal contracting experience. He has more than 16,000 flying hours in over 30 different rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. He has had extensive flying and classroom instructional experiences in the United States Air Force and the private sector. Bob is a proud member of the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame.

Instructor

M.A. in Business Administration and Human Relations, Webster University

B.A. in Sociology, University of St. Thomas

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Kendra Clark strives to bring real-world insights and hands-on teaching to her classroom based upon her own professional and educational experiences. Her teaching interests span from community corrections and the court system to ethical dilemmas in law enforcement. Before transitioning to higher education, Kendra worked as a specialized substance abuse supervision officer with the State of Nebraska. When she's not teaching, Kendra spends much of her free time in Canada with her husband and son.

Instructor

M.S. in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, Grand Canyon University

B.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha



Kristan Russell is involved in research and applied work centered on juvenile justice and child welfare, with an emphasis on evidence-based practices, data-informed decision-making, and systems improvement. She brings experience conducting national and state-level research, training, and technical assistance to support courts and youth serving agencies. Outside of work, you can find her at the gym with her partner, spending time with her pets (Piper and Jeter), reading a good book, or catching up on *Love Island*.

Director

Ph.D. in Social Psychology, University of Nevada - Reno

M.A. in Social Psychology, University of Nevada - Reno

M.A. in Forensic Psychology, Roger Williams University

B.S. in Psychology, Pennsylvania State University



Laramie Sproles focuses her teaching on scientific literacy and the process of social science research. Specifically, she enjoys teaching her students how to read, evaluate, and use data-driven literature. Her most popular class is applied statistics, where she is proud to have helped many students overcome their fear of quantitative data. She has taught a variety of other courses, including Research Methods, Survey of Criminal Justice, and Criminology. Outside of teaching, Laramie loves knitting, reading, riding her horse, and spending time with her dog.

Instructor

M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha

B.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha



Travis Carter researches policing, particularly police discretion and crime prevention. His work aims to build strong research partnerships with law enforcement agencies and to develop evidence-based solutions that enhance the quality of policing practices and procedures. His research has been published in *Criminology*, *Criminology and Public Policy*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Crime and Delinquency*, *Policing: An International Journal*, and *The Journal of Criminal Justice*. When he is not working, you will often find Travis on a golf course or exploring the woods.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

B.S. in Criminology, Law, and Justice, University of Iowa

GERONTOLOGY



Mollie George is engaged in research including COVID-19 and its impact on life satisfaction for older adults and self-sustainable/inclusive-design housing for older adults. Her teaching and professional interests focus on caregiving and dementia-related education. She is the co-founder of Messiah Respite Project, a non-profit that provides dementia respite for caregivers and those living with dementia in Lincoln, Nebraska. She is a Certified Dementia Practitioner and a Certified Montessori Dementia Care Professional. Mollie enjoys Nebraska history, traveling, gardening, and spending time with family.

Instructor

M.A. in Gerontology, Concordia University, Nebraska

B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science, University of Nebraska Medical Center

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Reyna Reyes Nunez is currently engaged in scholarship examining how women's representation and participation influence climate change policy, approached through a comparative perspective. Her teaching interests include undergraduate courses in strategic planning and introduction to emergency management, as well as graduate courses in organization theory and behavior, social policy, and qualitative methods. Her research interests span climate change policy, gender and feminism in public administration and public policy, Latino communities, qualitative methods, and international and comparative perspectives. Reyna enjoys quality family time, traveling to new places, reading, and writing.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

M.S. in Political Science, University of Nebraska at Omaha

SOCIAL WORK



Amy Browning is a licensed clinical social worker in Nebraska. She has over 15 years of professional experience in education, juvenile justice, medical, clinical, and program management. She is excited to empower the next generation of social workers to thrive in the changing systems. Amy enjoys hiking, horses, cooking, eating delicious food, and going on new adventures with her family and two rescue dogs.

Instructor

M.A. in Social Work, Catholic University of America

M.B.A. in Executive Business Administration, University of Wyoming

B.A. in Politics and Latin American Studies, Brandeis University



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Martha Garcia-Murillo, Dean

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Daoce Wang researches high-performance computing (HPC), scientific data management and analytics, scientific data compression and visualization, and high-performance machine learning. He has published over 10 papers in top-tier venues in computer systems and AI, such as SC, PPOPP, TPDS, HPDC, ICS, EuroSys, and NeurIPS. He was a summer research intern at Los Alamos National Laboratory from 2021 to 2024.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Computer Engineering, Indiana University Bloomington

M.S. in Computer Science, University of Florida

B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China

INTERDISCIPLINARY INFORMATICS



Owana Marzia Moushi focuses her research and teaching on machine learning, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, with an emphasis on advancing security and privacy in modern digital systems. She is passionate about exploring innovative solutions in zero trust architecture, cloud security, and privacy-preserving technologies, while also working on the development of intelligent, resilient, and trustworthy frameworks. Owana enjoys hiking, exploring new places, nature walks, reading, and staying curious about emerging technologies that shape the future of secure computing.

Instructor

Ph.D. in Computer Engineering, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

M.S. in Electrical Engineering, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

B.S. in Electronics and Communication Engineering, Khulna University



Nichole Niebur explores the evolving impacts of artificial intelligence in her research. She teaches a variety of courses with a focus on cybersecurity, especially password security and social engineering. With over 15 years of experience as an educator, Nichole is passionate about making complex technology topics accessible and engaging for all learners. In 2018, she was recognized as the AIM Institute's Tech Educator of the Year and received the National Center for Women and Information Technology's Aspirations in Computing Educator Award. Outside the classroom, Nichole enjoys reading and spending time with her three dogs, two cats, and grandkitten.

Instructor

M.S. in Computer Science Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha

M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction, Peru State College

INTERDISCIPLINARY INFORMATICS (continued)



Kshitiz Aryal is engaged in research exploring the intersection of machine learning and cybersecurity, with a focus on adversarial attacks and defenses, malware analysis, reverse engineering, explainable AI and the security implications of large language models. He investigates both how AI can enhance security and where it may be vulnerable. Outside research, he enjoys connecting with nature through hiking, biking, and spending time in the wilderness.

Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Computer Science, Tennessee Tech University

M.S. in Computer Science, Tennessee Tech University



DR. CC AND MABEL L. CRISS LIBRARY

LIBRARY



April Griess worked with Sesame Workshop (which produces *Sesame Street*) for nearly three years, and their favorite character is Oscar the Grouch. As an artist and archivist, they come to UNO with almost two decades of experience collaborating, coordinating, and researching community-based performance art practices. Their 2021 M.A. thesis outlines the process of archiving and preserving a home movie collection of audiovisual material that documents the art and life of their late uncle, Kent Bellows.

Assistant Professor

M.A. in Moving Image Archiving and Preservation, New York University

B.F.A. in Sculpture and Printmaking, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



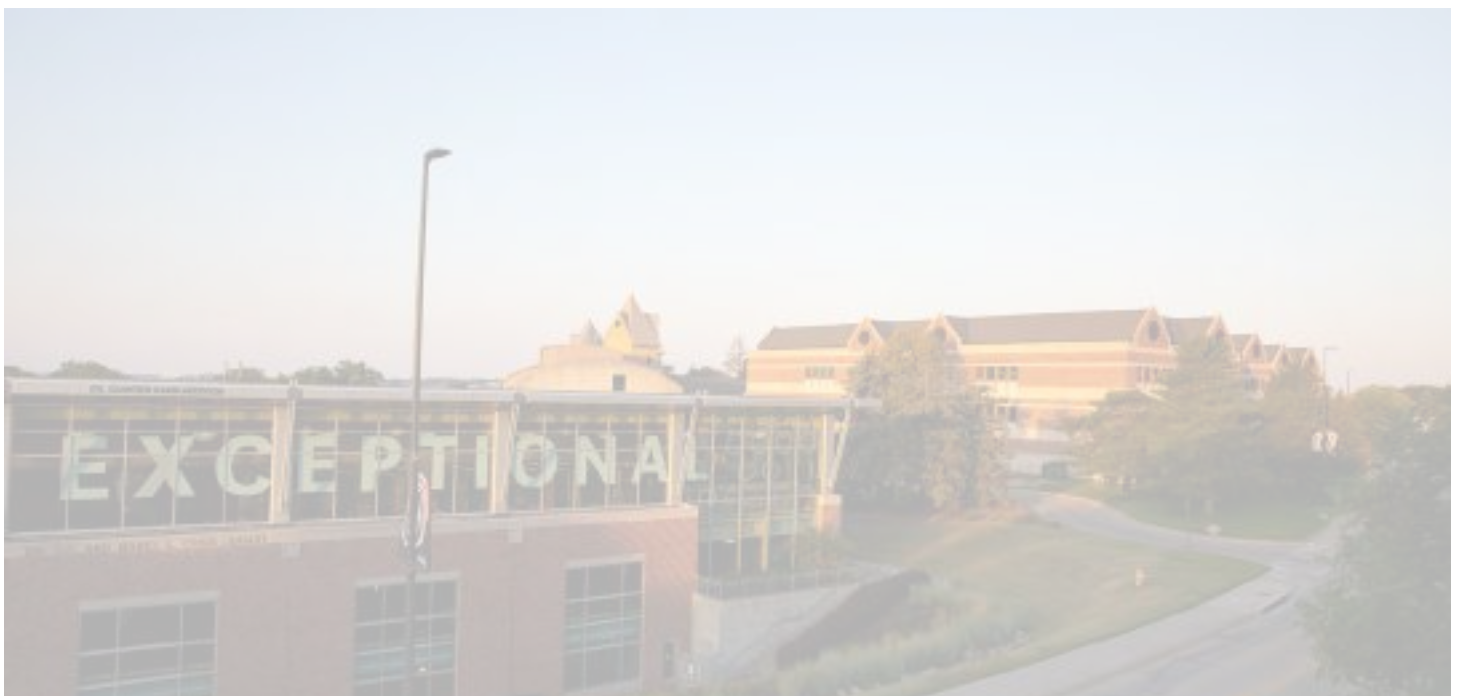
Christine Fullerton is a native of Omaha who enjoys helping students, faculty, and staff conduct research and connecting people to relevant information sources. She has taught stand-alone sessions on information literacy and library research, as well as undergraduate library science courses in reference services and collection development. In her spare time, Christine enjoys cooking, swimming, traveling, exploring nature, and spending time with friends and family.

Assistant Professor/Director

M.A. in Liberal Studies: Global Affairs, University of Denver

M.S. in Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh

B.A. in Sociology, University of Nebraska at Omaha



RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

ROTC



Beth Janssen was the Commander, 28th Operational Weather Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina where she led 94 personnel in executing 24/7 weather operations, prior to her assignment for AFROTC Detachment 470. Her background includes various operational and staff assignments for both the Air Force and Army. A Nebraska native, Beth is looking forward to being back near family and friends. Her husband and four-year-old son are equally excited, but most thrilled is their Pyrenean Mastiff, Buzz, who would sleep on an ice block if given the option.

Commander

M.A. in Military Art and Science: Leadership, Air University

B.S. in Earth Sciences, University of Northern Colorado



Kendall Williams teaches military studies with a focus on leadership development and foundational military training. With his passion for mentoring future officers, he brings real-world experience, energy, and a mission-first mindset into the classroom. One of his top professional accomplishments is serving as a volunteer victim advocate, supporting survivors through crisis response, and also being able to guide up and coming enlisted and officer members. Outside of teaching, Kendall enjoys anything sports-related, managing fantasy football leagues, and spending quality time with his family.

Officer Accession Instructor

A.A.S. in Mechanical and Electrical Technology, Community College of the Air Force

B.S. in Sports Management, American Public University

M.A. in Business Administration, American Public University

