



University of Nebraska at Omaha

New Faculty Directory 2021-2022

July 2021



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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Biology



Jodi McKay

Jodi began her academic career when she received a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Idaho State University and a Ph.D. in Genetics from Iowa State University. She then completed postdoctoral fellowships where she continued to investigate intracellular trafficking and signal transduction. In 2009, Jodi began teaching at Morningside College. Since then, she has taught at numerous institutions both in the United States and abroad. More recently, Jodi returned to Iowa to earn her Juris Doctorate. She now joins the UNO Biology Department, where she teaches Biology and Human Physiology and Anatomy. During her free time, she enjoys making pottery.



Aaryn Mustoe

Aaryn is currently a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Biology and a research associate at the Callitrichid Research Center at UNO. Aaryn received his B.S. degree in Biology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, a Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Behavior from UNO, and was a postdoctoral researcher at UNO/University of Nebraska Medical Center. Aaryn is trained as a behavioral endocrinologist and pharmacologist and studies neural, hormonal, and behavioral mechanisms underlying individual differences in social behavior and vulnerabilities and resilience to social stressors with over 10 years of experience working with marmoset monkeys. Aaryn enjoys hiking, traveling, playing sports, and churrascos with friends and family!



Jennifer Price

Jennifer Price is a freshwater biologist who has worked on conservation projects in the Southeast and Mid Atlantic regions before switching her focus to teaching full-time. She has taught a variety of courses at several universities across the country that address environmental issues in both graduate and undergraduate programs. She is dedicated to helping first generation college students succeed and in 2019 co-authored a book, *Will This Be on the Test? What Your Professors Really Want You to Know About Succeeding in College*. It helps students adjust to the college environment and develop positive relationships with faculty.



John Sproul

I am thrilled to be joining the Department of Biology as an assistant professor. I am an evolutionary biologist broadly interested in understanding the rules of life that give rise to the astounding diversity of species on the planet. In particular, my research investigates how repetitive DNA shapes the evolution of genomes and species. I study this topic using diverse groups of insects as model species. Outside of work, I enjoy fishing, backpacking, and camping with my kids. I also enjoy poetry, classic novels, sewing, building/fixing things, and playing the guitar.

Black Studies



Joseph Akpan

Dr. Joseph Akpan has a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in Political Science, with expertise in international political economy. He taught courses in International Business, African Politics, African History and Culture, etc. at institutions including the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and Omaha, Offutt Air Force Base and online at Bellevue University. Dr. Akpan currently teaches for UNO's Political Science and Black Studies Departments. He was a consultant for the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, a Nigerian think tank. He collaborates with UNL to improve Nigeria's food processing. He loves soccer and plays tennis.

Black Studies (cont.)



Jasmine Watkins

Jasmine Watkins holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Howard University, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University, and a B.A. in Psychology from Bowling Green State University. Her research focuses on racial identity, self-efficacy, academic persistence and retention, and African-centered education. She loves teaching and mentoring students, particularly first-generation incoming college students. When she is not teaching, you can find her cooking, finishing a word puzzle, or bicycling. She is excited to join the UNO team as an instructor for Black Studies and Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Chemistry



Sachin Nedungadi

I am originally from Bangalore, India. I received bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Bangalore University. I moved to the United States in 2011 and I received a master's degree in organic chemistry from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Ph.D. in Chemical Education from the University of Northern Colorado. My research is aimed at the development of assessment tools in organic chemistry, and helping students successfully transition from general chemistry to organic chemistry. I primarily teach sophomore organic chemistry classes. Outside of teaching and research, I enjoy hiking, backpacking, racquet sports, cooking, and music.



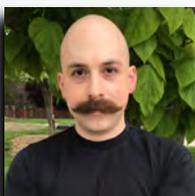
Nikae Perkinson

Nikae Perkinson received her Master's in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill under Dr. Cynthia Schauer. Ms. Perkinson's research included the synthesis of a series of novel compounds with unusual electronic properties. She taught in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Arizona, Iowa, and Nebraska. She has taught K-12 as well as college students and looks forward to implementing chemistry service projects for her introductory chemistry students. Ms. Perkinson has a 13-year-old daughter, two large dogs, three ornery cats, and she loves to bird watch. Back in the day, she played lacrosse for Bryn Mawr College.



David Wade

Ph.D. (Biochemistry), University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now Rutgers University). Eight years of international (Canada, Sweden, Finland, Kuwait), postdoctoral research and teaching experience. Postdoctoral work for two Nobel Laureates in Chemistry and a former chairman of the Nobel Committee for the Prize in Medicine. Attended three Nobel Prize award ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden. Nearly 100 scientific publications, and over 3,000 citations of those publications. Research interests include synthetic peptides and deuterium isotope effects on noncovalent interactions between molecules. Taught at all levels of higher education, from community college through medical school, in the U.S. and overseas.



Theodore Woolman

Teddy joined UNO in Fall 2020 as a chemistry instructor and as someone excited to start a career in teaching. After graduating from UNO as a chemistry major, he received a master's degree from Northwestern University for his work on the total synthesis of natural products. He then joined a research lab at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy where he worked six years as the head synthetic chemist working on pharmaceutical solutions to underserved ocular diseases. Teddy is excited to share his real-world experiences to students in the undergraduate lab courses and relate the concepts being studied to realistic problems encountered by practicing chemists. As an Omaha native and UNO alumnus, he is happy to be a part of the university. Teddy is an avid weightlifter and enjoys gardening and cooking.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CONT.)

English



Ann Johnson

Annie Johnson earned her M.A. in English as well as an Advanced Writing Certificate from UNO and has been working as a part-time instructor in the English Department since 2012. During that time, she has studied the effectiveness of hybrid instruction in first-year writing courses and, for the past two years, has mentored second-year graduate teaching assistants. Annie began her teaching career in the Omaha Public Schools and has a passion for building bridges with current and future public school teachers. In her spare time, Annie enjoys photography, reading, and adventuring with her husband and two kids.



Gene Kwak

Gene Kwak is the author of *Go Home, Ricky!* from The Overlook Press and the author of two chapbooks: *Orphans Burning Orphans* available from Greying Ghost Press and a self-titled collection available from Awst Press. He has published fiction and nonfiction both in print and online with *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Rumpus*, *Juked*, *Redivider*, *Hobart*, *Electric Literature*, and others. He has attended residencies at the Yale Writers' Workshop and the Tin House Summer Workshop. He is from Omaha, Nebraska.



Eric O'Brien

Eric O'Brien holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Davis, with a designated emphasis in Critical Theory. His dissertation examines the rhetoric and figurative language of the English Board of Agriculture during the Romantic period. He has also written about food production conceits in Milton and Wordsworth. Eric's Bachelor of Arts comes from UNO, where he was the student speaker at commencement in 2003. He has taught rhetoric and composition, literature, and critical theory courses at UNO, Creighton University, Metropolitan Community College, and UC Davis. Eric's wife is an English Language teacher with Omaha Public Schools, one of their children is a junior in the Honors College at UNL, and another is a senior in high school.



Jill Quandt

Jill Quandt is a teacher and a writer. After earning an undergraduate degree in English, a teacher certification, and an M.A. in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jill spent five years teaching seventh grade English. More recently, she completed an M.A. in English and a TESOL certificate at UNO and is thrilled to be joining UNO as an instructor in the English Department. She specializes in composition and rhetoric, but she also dabbles in writing creative nonfiction. An Omaha native, Jill is glad to be back in the "Big O" with her husband and two young children.



Kay Siebler

Dr. Kay Siebler is a scholar and teacher of rhetoric, gender studies, and all things composition. Her published articles and books relate to the rhetoric of race, class, gender, sexuality and other marginalized perspectives. Her most recent book, *Shattering Stereotypes* (Lexington Press, 2021) analyzes contemporary representations of Black womanhood in popular film and streaming series. Dr. Siebler has served in the Peace Corps, worked as a roving reporter for a daily newspaper, and developed software in the field of information technology. She holds a bachelors and master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Ph.D. in English from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. A good day is a day spent in the classroom teaching and learning.

Exploratory Studies



Parker Krieg

Parker Krieg is an instructor in Exploratory Studies and English at UNO. He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Oregon, and M.A. in Cultural Studies from Carnegie Mellon. He previously taught in the Global Studies Program at UN-Lincoln, and held a postdoctoral fellowship in environmental humanities at the University of Helsinki, affiliated with the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science. His research explores the impact of the post-Fordist economy on the environmental imagination in American literature, especially as it relates to cultural memory and environmental justice. Hobbies include trying to cook, trying to garden, and trying to play music with friends.

Foreign Languages and Literature



Ashlee Dauphinais

Ashlee Dauphinais joins UNO as an assistant professor of Spanish Linguistics after earning her Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics from the Ohio State University. Broadly speaking, her research investigates how language functions as a tool to leverage agency within larger societal structures, drawing on ethnographic and mixed research methods in fieldwork projects in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Brazil. Her current book project, *Guerreiras: Linguistic and Social Practices among Women with Turner Syndrome in Brazil*, examines intersections between language, gender, and healthcare in Rio de Janeiro. She looks forward to teaching courses in Spanish language and linguistics. In her free time, Ashlee dances flamenco, is a yoga instructor, and enjoys travel.



David Foshee

David recently graduated from Texas Tech University with a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature and Culture with a graduate minor in Film Studies. He is interested in twentieth century Spanish cultural studies with a focus on films and literature produced during the Franco dictatorship. His dissertation explored childhood, modernity and the construction of the cinematic city in 1950s Spanish popular film. His current research is dedicated to the study of the child in Spanish film during Spanish Civil War and the 1940s. When not teaching or studying, he enjoys both road and mountain biking. David is thrilled to be joining the Foreign Languages and Literature department at UNO as a Spanish instructor.



Jose Sequeros-Valle

My name is Jose Sequeros-Valle, and I am a new instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. During the last 11 years, I have completed an M.A. in Spanish at DePaul University, a Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and I have taught Spanish at all levels: from small courses for very beginners, all the way to large courses in Hispanic linguistics. Beyond my academic persona, I am an amateur musician and a professional learner: I am always learning about painting, climbing, or a new musical instrument.

Geology and Geography



Melina Luethje

Melina Luethje is a Geology instructor in the Geography/Geology department at UNO. This is her second semester teaching geoscience courses at UNO, and she plans to teach three more courses in the fall semester. She earned her doctorate in geology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May 2020. She earned her master's degree in Geology from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and her bachelor's degree in Geology from Marietta College in Ohio. Dr. Luethje is a paleolimnologist, or someone that studies past lakes.



Sarah Nelson

I am a health and medical geographer. I completed my education in Canada, with a focus on Indigenous peoples' health. I am now an assistant professor in the department of Geography and Geology at UNO, and a faculty member in the Medical Humanities and the Native American Studies programs. My work currently has two main foci: access to and experiences of health care services, particularly for under-represented groups, and Indigenous community health through the continuity of oral ways of knowing. I started at UNO in January of 2021 and so far have taught classes in human geography and health geography. My favorite hobby is to take kung fu classes! I also love canoeing, hiking, and camping.



Jonathan Schueth

I am a geologist and paleontologist who spent the last seven years working in the petroleum industry in Houston, Texas. I am originally from Columbus, Nebraska, and did my undergraduate work at UNL. I got my master's and Ph.D. at Penn State. I study past environments and ecosystems to better constrain the long-term impacts of anthropogenic climate change. I am passionate about diversity and inclusion, and I write a blog on the historical representation of women and minorities in geosciences (fossilbiasblog.com). I have a somewhat unique interest in obscure history and English etymology.

History



Susana Grajales Geliga

Susana Grajales Geliga is a new assistant professor for the History Department and the Native American Studies Program. She received her Ph.D. in History with a specialization in Ethnic Studies, and her M.A. in History with a focus on Great Plains Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She received her B.S. degrees in Education, and in Native American Studies from Oglala Lakota College in Rapid City, South Dakota. Prior to returning to graduate school, she taught high school for eight years and at a tribal college for two years. She is also one of the co-directors of the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project on the UNL campus. In her spare time she loves reading and DIY projects.

Mathematics



Jeff Depue

I am from Grand Island, Nebraska and graduated from UNL with my B.S. and M.A. in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education. Prior to UNO, I taught high school mathematics and coached baseball at Gretna High School for 13 years. Outside of teaching, I enjoy golfing, running, and collecting pre-war baseball cards.



Keith Gallagher

I earned my Ph.D. in Mathematics from West Virginia University with a concentration in researching undergraduate mathematics education, and I'm just coming out of a postdoc in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Prior to graduate school, I spent 3.5 years teaching in the chemistry program at a small university in northern West Virginia. My ongoing research includes studying student reasoning with commutative diagrams, students' uses of diagrams and gestures in undergraduate topology, and the improvement of the online mathematics tutoring experience. As I join the UNO family, I will also study students' affective experiences in our quantitative reasoning courses. On a more personal note, I enjoy running and playing tennis, or just reading a good book in a quiet coffee shop.



Nicole Infante

I earned my B.A. in Mathematics and German from UNO, my M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Connecticut, and my Ph.D. in Mathematics from Arizona State University. My research interests are centered around student success and communication in the undergraduate mathematics classroom, particularly related to alternative means of assessment and gesture use. I'm excited to start in my new role as the Director of Quantitative Reasoning. Outside of the classroom, you can find me baking, running, traveling, hiking, canoeing, and camping. One of my future adventures will be to hike the Queen Charlotte Track in New Zealand.



Leslie McFee

My name is Leslie McFee. I was born and raised in Omaha. I am also a two-time graduate of UNO. I am married to a wonderful husband and we are blessed with two beautiful daughters. I have many interests, including scrapbooking, but I think my real hobby is running my daughters around to their activities. I have taught high school mathematics for the past 22 years and am ready to start a new adventure at UNO as a mathematics instructor. I feel blessed and grateful to have this opportunity.



Kenzi Medeiros

I'm just a small-town girl from central Nebraska who came to the big city to go to UNO. I met my husband, Joe, here and never left. Family is extremely important to me. My husband and I have been blessed with four children. We enjoy spending time with grandparents, siblings and cousins watching sporting events, boating at Beaver Lake or swimming whenever possible. When I am not busy with the family, I enjoy spending time reading various Matthew Kelly books, participating in or teaching group exercise classes or trying new and exciting things. I'm always pursuing growth.

Mathematics (cont.)



Linda Rau



Melissa Riley

Melissa Riley is an instructor within the UNO Mathematics Department. She earned her Master's Degree in Mathematics and bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Secondary Education at UNO.



Neerja Sahu

My name is Neerja Sahu. I have received my Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I have done my Master of Technology in Information Systems, Electrical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, India. In January 2021, I joined as an instructor at the Department of Mathematics, UNO. I have been an educator for more than 15 years, serving as assistant professor in Engineering Institution, India, and Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant at UNL. My research interests are oriented towards data science, exploratory data analysis, data visualization. I am originally from India and in Omaha from 2011. In my spare time, I like listening to music and spending time with family and friends. I also enjoy gardening.



Gregory Sand

Dr. Gregory P. Sand is joining the UNO Mathematics Department after spending 25 years in public schools working with students ranging from elementary to graduate level. By employing a variety of teaching techniques, he promotes an active learning environment that creates opportunities for students to reason and make sense of ideas. Additionally, Greg is a qualitative researcher who finds joy in telling the story behind the data. He and his wife are parents of four and grandparents of six; they spend their time enjoying the outdoors whether paddle boarding on a lake or off-roading on mountain trails.



Larissa Schroeder

Larissa B. Schroeder, Ph.D. is joining the mathematics department after 10 years at the University of Hartford where she taught Mathematics education and introductory-level courses. She has been PI on three NSF grants, including the most recent, Supporting and Sustaining Scholarly Mathematics Teaching. Her research focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) and using SoTL research to improve mathematics instruction; however, her true love is teaching with the goal of getting students interested in and excited about mathematics. In her spare time, Larissa likes to swim (a lot), hike, and woodworking. She is looking forward to exploring a new area of the country.

Neuroscience



Ernest Chivero

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CONT.)

Philosophy



Haixin Dang

Dr. Haixin Dang is joining UNO as an assistant professor of philosophy. Her work mainly concerns the intersection of philosophy of science and social epistemology. She has further research interests in ethics and social ontology. Before arriving at UNO, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Leeds in the UK. She received her Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Pittsburgh. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and hiking.



Yanssel Garcia

I have spent the last six years completing my doctoral requirements at the University of Rochester, and my academic work has been largely focused on consciousness. Before then, I was an undergraduate at Florida International University, where I received my Bachelor's in Philosophy. I was born and raised under the Miami sun, and I have missed the beach dearly since I moved away. My hobbies include cooking when I have the time, reading, watching shows, and I love solving puzzles of any kind.

Political Science



Austin Doctor

Austin C. Doctor is an assistant professor of political science at UNO and a member of the executive committee of the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence. Austin earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Georgia. He writes on militant organizations, terrorism, armed conflict, and political instability with a regional focus on Africa. When not at his desk, he enjoys fly fishing, crossword puzzles, Nationals baseball, and cooking. You can follow him on Twitter @austincdoctor.



Janet Reilly

Janet Reilly joined UNO in 2020 as an instructor in political science, having previously taught at Sarah Lawrence College and at Queens College in New York. Dr. Reilly's research interests are refugee and migration issues and human rights. She has worked for the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Turkey and Guinea, Save the Children (on HIV/AIDS awareness) in Ethiopia, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (in refugee resettlement) in North Carolina. Since 2017, she has also partnered with Scholars At Risk (SAR) to teach student advocacy seminars, in which students advocate for imprisoned scholars. She is teaching remotely from New Jersey where she lives with her husband and two children.

Psychology



Abby Folberg

Abby Folberg is joining the I/O Psychology Program as an assistant professor. She received her Ph.D. in Psychology with a specialization in I/O Psychology from UNO. She was then awarded a University Research Postdoctoral Fellowship from the University of Kentucky. Abby's research broadly examines diversity in organizations, including how bias affects employees' work lives, how to confront and reduce bias, and the consequences of tolerating bias. Before she completed her degree in I/O psychology, she sang opera. When she's not working, she enjoys hiking, yoga, knitting, listening to music, and cuddling with her cats.



Erik Garcia

Dr. Erik J. Garcia earned his doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in Experimental Psychology-Behavioral Neuroscience from Kansas State University (2017) studying individual differences that contribute to substance use disorders (SUDs) and completed his postdoctoral fellowship in Neuropsychopharmacology in the Center for Addiction Research at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Dr. Garcia uses a multitude of preclinical models coupled with in vitro and in vivo preclinical pharmacology experiments to model human SUDs. Dr. Garcia's aims to identify vulnerable phenotypes, model compulsive drug-taking and repurpose FDA-approved medications as novel therapeutic strategies to reduce SUDs. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and bringing science indoors by baking cupcakes and pizzas and homebrewing beer.

Psychology (cont.)



Heather Giles

I'm Heather Giles. I have been instructing at the college level for over 20 years. I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology from UNO, a Master's Degree in Counseling from the University of Oklahoma. I worked as a mental health practitioner for a few years. I have a Master's Degree in Developmental Psychology and am finishing my Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology here at UNO. My research interests are in electronic aggression, victimization, and how it can negatively affect children and young adults' emotional wellbeing. For fun, I love to garden, cook, bake, and spend time with family and friends.



Melissa Hunter

Melissa Hunter is joining the UNO Psychology Department after teaching for over eight years at Penn State. She received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi. In addition to teaching, she has worked in a variety of applied settings as a licensed psychologist, with a focus on child and adolescent behavioral and developmental disorders. Originally from Arkansas, she is unable to let go of her 4-H days and continues to love vegetable gardening and raising chickens, while trying to convince her daughter that she should eat more of the vegetables and her dog that he should not eat the chickens. She also enjoys traveling with her husband and daughter, binge-watching science fiction television, and wearing glamorous shoes that are completely inappropriate for most situations.



Samuel Hunter

My name is Sam Hunter. I am an industrial and organizational psychologist, and I study leadership and innovation in both benevolent and malevolent forms. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and I worked at Penn State for 14 years where I directed the IO Psychology Program. I have an amazing daughter named Celia who is 10 years old, and a hilarious dog named Chase. I am a big baseball fan and love the Detroit Tigers (I'm from Michigan originally). My wife, Melissa, is also joining the UNO psychology faculty. We're thrilled about our transition to Omaha!



Mithra Pirooz

Mithra Pirooz is an instructor in the Psychology Department at UNO. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Creighton University and her Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology from UNO. She is currently working on completing her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology. As a graduate student at UNO, she has worked as a teaching assistant and adjunct instructor. Her research interests include gender development and peer relations with a focus on early adolescence.



Andrew Riquier

Originally from Chaplin, Connecticut, Andrew Riquier received his bachelor's from Nebraska Wesleyan University. Andrew earned his doctorate in 2021 from UNO where he studied the contribution of glia cells on neural development and injury recovery. While in graduate school, Andrew developed a passion for research, public speaking, and teaching. Having taught several courses as a part-time instructor in the past, Andrew is excited to now be teaching full-time at UNO. In his spare time Andrew enjoys movies and video games.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CONT.)

Psychology (cont.)



Mahima Saxena

Dr. Mahima Saxena earned her Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences from Purdue University and her M.S. from the University of London. She is an Industrial-Organizational psychologist and her research expertise lies broadly in work and well-being. Specifically, she is interested in understanding the experiences of workers in poverty and those in the informal economy through indigenous cultural skills and generational occupations, and the bi-directional nature of work and health. She uses the results of her science for informing work and health related policy initiatives. Her research has been funded by internal and external grants and has been recognized by various honors and awards such as 2020 Humanitarian Award. Mahima enjoys swimming, travel, and loves trying cuisines from all over the world.



Ze (Mia) Zhu

Ze (Mia) Zhu is an incoming assistant professor in the Industrial and Organizational Psychology Program at UNO. She received her Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from George Mason University in May 2021. Her research interests include occupational health psychology (e.g., employee well-being, recovery from work stress, supervisor support for recovery, work-life balance) and research methods. Her ultimate goal is to help employees have a healthy, happy, and sustainable working life. When she is not pursuing this goal, she likes hiking, trying new pastry recipes, and traveling in her spare time. She is thrilled to move into the next phase of her scientific career at UNO.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

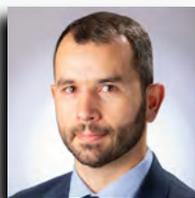
Accounting



Xiao Song

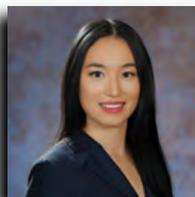
Xiao Song received his Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Xiao's research interests include taxation, corporate disclosures, and financial accounting. His research work has been accepted for publication at the *Journal of the American Taxation Association*. Xiao is passionate about impacting his students by teaching accounting courses. During his Ph.D. program, Xiao has taught Federal Income Tax, Introductory Financial Accounting, and Intermediate Accounting I. During his spare time, Xiao Song enjoys spending time with his wife, two daughters, and their puppy, Cookie. He also likes reading books and listening to *The Economist*.

Economics



Eduardo Cenci

Eduardo recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics and will join the economics faculty at CBA in the fall. His main research interests are migration and rural development broadly defined. In particular, he is interested in the role of migration in spreading knowledge and accelerating economic transformations. As an educator, he strives to make economic education relevant and accessible to all students. Eduardo grew up on a farm in central Brazil and worked for years in his family's farming business before transitioning to academia. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, hiking, reading sci-fi, and practicing kickboxing and roping.



Jinan (Jane) Liu

Jane Liu earned her Ph.D. from the University of Calgary. Her work on macroeconometrics and financial economics has been published by journals such as *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, *Journal of Financial Stability*, *Journal of Macroeconomics*, and *International Journal of Finance and Economics*. Her work on monetary aggregation has been cited by the Center for Financial Stability in New York City. She has been invited to workshops at Stanford University, research seminars at the University of Zurich and Kansas State University, and international conferences that were held at the Bank of England, MIT, Goethe University, among others. She enjoys traveling, staying active, and spending time with her family.

Economics (cont.)



Zijun Luo

I was born and raised in Guangzhou, China. I came to the United States to pursue graduate studies in 2008 and received my Ph.D. in Economics from Kansas State University in 2012. Prior to joining UNO in Spring 2021, I taught at Sam Houston State University (2015-2020) and Colgate University (2012-2015). My specialty is applied microeconomics with an interdisciplinary scope. I have published in areas such as the economic theory of conflict/contests, the Chinese economy (mainly in trade or labor related issues), and industrial economics (fast food industry). Recently, I have become interested in behavioral economics. In my free time, I enjoy reading and playing ocarinas. In 2020, my friends and I started a YouTube channel named the “Shooting Star Ocarina”.



Ian MacInnes

Before joining UNO, I was a faculty member and an associate dean at Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies. I have a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Public Policy from the University of Southern California and a master’s degree from the London School of Economics. I have taught economics of digital transformation, applied economics for information managers, information policy, and information industry strategy. My research interests involve public policy, economics, and law for information and communication technologies, including the evolution of work and its effects on wealth distribution. My personal interests and hobbies include Euro-style boardgames, hockey, opera, and international travel, history, and culture (particularly Spain and Italy). I enjoy conversations related to public policy and how it can be improved.



Jessica Perrigan

A graduate of American University and UNO, Jessica Perrigan has used data to provide actionable results to businesses in several different fields and in ambiguous settings. She has worked to help companies be more resilient and agile in complex environments through strong business problem framing and clear translation into analytics solutions.

Finance, Banking, and Real Estate



Larry Hughes

Since 2002, Dr. Hughes has worked in higher education as a professor, dean, and interim VP. Prior to that he served as a human resources officer in the tech industry. At 17, he left his native Nebraska and served in the U.S. Marine Corps providing security at numerous embassies around the globe. He and his spouse live in Omaha with frequent escapes to a home in Mexico. He holds an MBA and a Ph.D. in Business Administration as well as a graduate credential in finance. Hobbies include plinking on the guitar, plunking on the piano, and reading a lot.



Noel Pavel Jeutang

Dr. Pavel Jeutang is an assistant professor of finance who will begin teaching at UNO in the fall of 2021. He has over ten years of experience teaching various finance-related courses with teaching interests, including corporate finance, financial markets and institutions, investments, and portfolio management. His research interest lies in corporate finance and international finance (country risk). He earned his Ph.D. in Business Administration with a concentration in finance from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Pavel enjoys playing and watching soccer and traveling with his two daughters and wife.

Management



Nicholas Arreola

Hello! My Name is Nicholas “Nick” Arreola. I have lived in Omaha, Nebraska since 2004, which is where I completed college (B.A. in psychology, M.A./Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology). I became a full-time instructor in the Management Department in the spring semester of 2021. My hobbies include learning French, historical documentaries/podcasts, and design. Outside of teaching, I am involved in a couple of start-ups, and I do freelance analytics/big data consulting.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (CONT.)

Management (cont.)



Gerardo Miranda

Gerardo A. Miranda will be joining the Management Department at UNO as a visiting assistant professor in fall 2021. Gerardo earned his Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in 2021. His research and teaching interests are centered on organizational behavior topics. His current research focuses on the functional roles of emotions and incivility in the workplace. Current work in progress explores how the values of individual workers elicit emotional and behavioral responses. Outside of work, Gerardo enjoys reading *The New York Review of Books* and exercising.



Elvis Ndembe

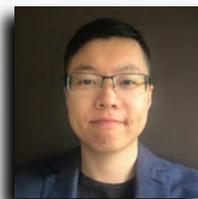
Dr. Elvis Ndembe (Ph.D.) is an instructor in the Department of Management at the College of Business Administration at UNO where he teaches courses in supply chain management and analytics, production and operations management, and healthcare analytics. Dr. Ndembe obtained his doctorate in Supply Chain Logistics, Master's in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, and Graduate certificate in Applied Statistics from North Dakota State University, Fargo ND (NDSU). Dr. Ndembe has held different positions in academia (research and teaching) prior to joining UNO. He was applied economics research scientist and instructor at NDSU. He has published many peer-review journal articles and technical research reports. The North Dakota Legislature used some of his research to inform public policy.

Marketing and Entrepreneurship



Shana Redd

Shana Redd joins UNO from Michigan State University, where she received her B.A. (2007), M.B.A. (2011), and Ph.D. (2021) in Marketing Strategy. Between her academic stints at MSU, Shana has held industry positions in CPG consulting, new product development, and brand management and has worked with NCH Marketing Services, Domino Foods, Kraft Foods, and Whirlpool Corporation, among others. Inspired by her substantive experiences, Shana's research interests are focused on the empirical analysis of firm performance related to marketing strategy, including brand management and new product and service innovation. Shana is a Michigan native who enjoys culinary arts, traveling, playing the clarinet, learning the cello, and spending time with her husband and their quarantine puppy, Sir Theodore Humperdink Sleep.



Zhihao (Max) Yu

Dr. Zhihao (Max) Yu is a behavioral researcher studying digital marketing and personal selling. He received his Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of South Florida. Prior to academia, Zhihao worked in the luxury industry as a digital brand manager for several international luxury brands (Bang & Olufsen, Royal Asscher, etc.). As a former marketing practitioner with strong industry contacts, he is keen to collaborate with companies for his class and scientific studies to help solve their problems and capitalize on their opportunities. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, traveling, and outdoor activities.

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA

Arts - Art and Art History



Caitlin Cass

Caitlin Cass makes comics and installations about failing systems and irrational hope. She is a 2020 recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Artworks grant for her installation *Women's Work: Suffrage Movements 1848-1965* at the Burchfield Penney Art Center and a 2018 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow in Fiction. Comics and cartoons have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Lily* and *The Nib*. She is currently working on a graphic novel that confronts racist ideas within women's suffrage histories. Caitlin grew up outside Chicago and has spent the last eleven years in Buffalo, New York where she earned her M.F.A. and taught at the University at Buffalo, SUNY and Buffalo Seminary. In her spare time, she enjoys walking, camping and finding new places to draw. She joins UNO as assistant professor of Studio Art, Illustration and Time-Based Media.

Arts - Art and Art History (cont.)



Yun Shin

Yun Shin has earned several art degrees, including an M.F.A. in Studio Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, a B.F.A. in Craft and Material Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a B.F.A. in Industrial Design from Cho Sun University in South Korea. She began teaching in 2012 at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. In 2021, she joined UNO's Art and Art History Program to teach foundations courses, including Drawing, Art Appreciation, and 2D Design. As an artist, she has had solo exhibitions at the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts in Wisconsin, Whittier College in California, and the Des Moines Art Center in Iowa. Shin is a recipient of a 2017 Artist Fellowship from the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

Arts - Theater



Jennifer Sheshko Wood

Originally from Montreal, Quebec, Jenn came to the States to pursue her M.F.A. in Costume Design from Indiana University. As a costume designer, she has worked with the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre (UFOMT), the Omaha Community Playhouse, Juniata College, and Indiana University. As a crafts artisan, Jenn has held positions with UFOMT, the American Players Theatre, and Opera Theatre St. Louis. Jenn is the Director of Costumes at UFOMT, overseeing their costumes, wardrobe and wig departments for their summer repertory seasons. Until 2021, she was a professor of Costume Design & Technology at the University of Northern Iowa. Her specialties include digital rendering, crafts, and fabric manipulation.

Communication



Lisa German

Lisa German is an instructor in the School of Communication, within the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. Prior to joining UNO, Lisa was an instructor at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While living in New Mexico, she completed coursework for her doctorate in Communication, with a specialization in Culture and Health Communication. She is now a Ph.D. candidate, and is on track to complete and defend her dissertation in the spring of 2022. Lisa's research interests include stigmatized health conditions, instructional communication, and health disparities. Currently, Lisa is a member of the Health Communication Working Group with the American Public Health Association (APHA). In her free time, Lisa loves to read and spend time with her husband, two daughters, and two dogs.



Heather Hundley

Heather Hundley is a professor and Director of the School of Communication. After earning her B.A. and M.A. from California State University, Sacramento, she obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Utah. She taught at California State University, San Bernardino for 17 years and served as an assistant dean, graduate coordinator, and teaching association coordinator before working as the Department Chair at Middle Tennessee State University. Hundley held various offices in the National Communication Association's Mass Communication Division for 10 years and the Western States Communication Association for 20+ years including as the President (2010-2011) and then Executive Director (2014-2020). She teaches and studies media and culture, rhetoric, sport, gender, critical/cultural studies, and visual communication. In her spare time, you might see her walking her dogs, playing golf, or watching sports.



Herb Thompson III

Herb Thompson III is a faculty member at UNO and a doctoral candidate at University of Nebraska-Lincoln studying leadership and communication. In research and teaching, Herb is committed to understanding and employing leadership skills to foster inclusive environments. In addition to 10+ years of teaching experience, Herb brings to his research and teaching 14+ years of experience as a leader and communicator in the nonprofit sector. Committed to understanding and employing leadership skills to foster inclusivity, Herb is active in DEIA work and recently partnered with UNO colleagues to establish a faculty minority mentorship program. In his free time, Herb enjoys spending time with his daughter and building his collection of vinyl.

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA (CONT.)

Music



Katrina Cox

Dr. Katrina Cox began her career as the Director of Choral Activities and Drama at Centralia High School in Southern Illinois. Over the past decade, she has directed and served as a clinician for a variety of community, church, and children's choirs. Her research interests center on conductor and teacher expertise, effective use of teacher verbalizations, and how specific teaching strategies impact student performance outcomes. She has presented at numerous regional, state, and national conferences focused on teaching and education research. As a faculty member at UNO, Cox teaches undergraduate and graduate music education courses, directs a section of the University Choir, and serves as faculty advisor for the UNO student chapter of NAFME.



Benjamin Nichols

Saxophonist and composer, Dr. Ben Nichols, has travelled across the globe, performing at large venues, intimate city concerts, and countless jazz festivals throughout North America, South America and Europe. He is known internationally for his expressive sound and energetic artistic style. He is frequently asked to play in many genres and has performed and recorded with contemporaries such as: Ben Wendel (GRAMMY-nominated saxophonist), Wycliffe Gordon (Juilliard Instructor), Jon Faddis (GRAMMY-nominated trumpeter), Jeff Coffin (three-time GRAMMY-winning saxophonist), Eric Marienthal (GRAMMY-winning saxophonist), Terreon Gully (Christian McBride Band), Chris Buono (*Flaming Headless Torsos*), Brian Bromberg (GRAMMY-nominated bassist), Steve Smith (legendary drummer of *Journey*), Wayne Bergeron (GRAMMY-nominated trumpeter), Kirk Whalum (seven-time GRAMMY-nominated saxophonist), Noah Preminger, Tito Carrillo, Justin Copeland, Larry Grey, David Alvarez III, and Vaughn Stoffey.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Biomechanics



Majid Jadidi

I joined the Department of Biomechanics as an assistant professor in spring 2021, after graduating with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and a Business Administration minor from UNL. As a faculty member at UNO, I do translational research in cardiovascular mechanobiology and contribute to the university research and teaching missions by solving complex problems in cardiovascular biomechanics, improving diagnostic and treatment methods, and recruiting and educating graduate and undergraduate students. I enjoy outdoor adventures such as rock climbing and canyoning.



Yury Salkovskiy

Dr. Yury Salkovskiy joined the Department of Biomechanics as an assistant professor in January of 2021. He received his Ph.D. in Engineering Mechanics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research focuses on target-specific design of nanostructured materials for respiratory protection and protective clothing, as well as for biomedical applications, including wound care, cardiovascular devices, tissue engineering, and prosthetics.

Counseling



Christine Chasek

Hello! My name is Dr. Tina Chasek and I will be joining UNO as an associate professor and Chair of the Counseling Department. I also have an appointment with UNMC as the Associate Workforce Director of the Behavioral Healthcare Center of Nebraska. I am a practicing mental health and addictions counselor and have worked with people in a clinical capacity for over 20 years and in higher education for the past 10 years at UNK. I am coming to the Omaha area from a very small town south of Kearney and am very excited to get to know the city and the campus!

Counseling (cont.)



Isak Kim

Dr. Isak Kim will join UNO from fall 2021 as an assistant professor of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program in the Department of Counseling. Kim received his Master's in Counseling from Seoul National University in South Korea and Ph.D. in Counselor Education from the Pennsylvania State University. His research and publications focus on youth mental health, such as school violence, childhood trauma, internalizing behaviors, and social justice issues. Dr. Kim has worked closely with schools, communities, and universities on reducing youth violence and related mental health problems as well as advocating for underserved youth.

Teacher Education



Frances Anderson

Frances began her professional career as a business owner in Nebraska. She transitioned to teaching high school mathematics at Omaha Central High School where she was actively involved in the school as a coach for three sports, a club sponsor, and participated in service projects. Frances played an active role in the Omaha community to improve mathematics instruction by participating in Omaha Public School curriculum writing and being a member of the Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium math cohort. In 2021, she joins UNO, as a STEM instructor for the Teacher Education Department while pursuing her doctorate in Educational Leadership. My faith and my family of six are the two most important things to me. I am a former Husker track athlete and a current yoga teacher at LifePower Yoga in Omaha. Being outdoors reminds me of home, which is in Northern Ontario, Canada.



Tina Anderson

I have recently retired from Omaha Public Schools after 30 years. I spent 14 years teaching elementary students in second and third grades. The final 16 years, I worked as a CADRE Associate for two years and an instructional facilitator for 14 years. I have one son, Zach, who is 25 years old. I'm engaged to a wonderful man named John. We have a 15-year-old dog named Dobey who is half beagle/half whippet. Prior to this year, I was an avid runner; however, due to injury I am now a happy walker. I'm a huge Husker fan and watch all sports in person or on TV, as well as listen on the radio.



Sandra Butera

After over 30 years as a classroom teacher and instructional facilitator in the Omaha Public Schools, I joined UNO as an adjunct instructor, and I am currently a full time faculty member. I will continue to support our future educators and prepare them for the important work as classroom teachers. I am an avid gardener, reader, and enjoy time with my family.



Kathleen Hinman

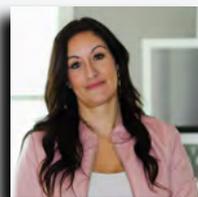
For the past year, I have been on a one-year contract with UNO. I have greatly enjoyed the work, but because of the Covid-19 restrictions, have not gotten to teach in person or experience the comradery with other professors. I have been an adjunct here for many years in the graduate Literacy Program. My particular interests are all things literacy and education, especially children's literature. My teaching this year has centered around undergraduates who are considering a career in education. Recently, I began a new hobby of quilting and love it when I can find time to sit at the sewing machine!

Teacher Education (cont.)



Andrea Karpf

I was born in Arizona and grew up in California yet consider Nebraska home. I started my career as a high school ESL teacher and then worked various positions in higher education. It is through these jobs that I have discovered my love of supporting English learners as well as working with teacher candidates. I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue both of these passions here at UNO! I just graduated with my Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at UNO, and my research interests include preparing teacher candidates to support English learners in the grade level classroom, literacy, biliteracy, and instructional coaching.



Jennifer Langfeldt

I have 17 years of experience in education including teaching in the classroom, facilitating mentor and induction programs for novice teachers, and serving as an assistant principal and principal. I have been an adjunct instructor for five years, and I am very excited to be stepping into the role of Director of TAP and ACT in the Teacher Education department of the CEHHS. My husband, Brett, and I met when we were 15 and worked at Burger King. We are now the proud parents of five children (ages 10-23) and two bulldogs. I love pasta and the color purple.



Kristina Stamatis

Kristina Stamatis is joining the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at UNO as an assistant professor of literacy. She recently graduated with her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado Boulder with a degree in Learning Sciences and Human Development. Her research focuses on anti-racist teaching, storytelling, and literacy education across formal and informal educational spaces. Most recently, her research has focused on collaborative projects supporting historically marginalized youth to curate their own museum exhibits through a process of community curation. In her spare time, Kristina plays percussion and dances with a Brazilian samba band. She is also an avid backpacker, skier, and hiker, and enjoys traveling and working on the throughlines project, a storytelling project she has run since 2013.



Christina Wilcoxon

My 23 years in education include time as a classroom teacher, literacy specialist, coach, and mentor. I also facilitated school improvement plans and led district strategic planning prior to transitioning to UNO to serve as Field Experience Director. Next year will be my tenth year with the university. I am currently the Teacher Education Graduate Chair and Director of the CADRE Project. My areas of specialization and research interests include teacher development, induction, mentoring, coaching, instructional leadership, field-based preparation, and assessment. In my spare time, I love to scrapbook with video and digital photos.

Health and Kinesiology



Sam Wilkins

I have been working at UNO for the last six years, specifically teaching in the Athletic Training Program as an instructor and serving as the Clinical Education Coordinator. I look forward to continuing those responsibilities as an assistant professor. My teaching interests include athletic training techniques, orthopedic injury evaluation, and healthcare administration. My research interests include studying injury risk in youth sports related to early sport specialization. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Kelli, and son Max, traveling to visit family and friends, and spending time outdoors.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES (CONT.)

Special Education and Communication Disorders



Jill Kumke

Jill Kumke will be an assistant professor at UNO and Director for the Speech-Language Pathology Program in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders this fall. Jill joined UNO in 2013 as the Clinical Coordinator for the Speech-Language Pathology Program and continued her educational journey towards an Ed.D. Her dissertation is around the relationship between graduate school admission criteria and student's (academic and clinical) outcomes. Jill is married and has three children.



Apryl Poch

Dr. Apryl L. Poch is an assistant professor of Special Education in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. She completed her doctoral and post-doctoral training at the University of Missouri. Dr. Poch's research is focused on theoretically modeling the components of adolescent writing and exploring adolescents' and special educators' knowledge and beliefs about writing. Originally from Western New York, Dr. Poch formerly worked as a high school special education teacher for the Springville Griffith Institute Central School District. She enjoys going for walks, riding her bike, and spending time with her nieces.



Paula Jakopovic

Originally from Omaha, I began my career in elementary education with the Omaha Public Schools. In my 15 years there, I worked as a classroom teacher, technology instructor, and coach, and then as a mathematics coach before completing my Ph.D. I received my doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2017, studying the impact of mathematics coaching on teachers use of research-based teaching practices. My research interests include: mathematics and STEM education, teacher preparation and retention, instructional coaching and mentoring, and teaching with inquiry. My personal interests include: running, supporting our local trail organizations, and spending time with my husband Phil and our dog Tommy.

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Computer Science



Agatha Owora

Agatha Owora is an instructor in the Computer Science Department at UNO. Prior to joining UNO, she served as an instructor in the Computer Science Department at Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi. She obtained her graduate degree from the University of Central Oklahoma where she studied applied mathematics and computer science and obtained her bachelor's degree from Makerere University where she majored in physics and minored in mathematics. She was born and raised in Uganda, and one of her favorite hobbies is bird watching.



Jose Santos

Dr. Santos is a lecturer of computer science courses at the College of Information Science and Technology at UNO. He teaches systems-based graduate-level courses which include C Programming, Digital Design and Computer Organization, Communication Networks, Operating Systems, and Computer Architectures. He holds a B.S. in Electronics Engineering Technology (EET) from DeVry Institute of Technology [now DeVry University] (1998), a B.S. (double-major) in Computer Engineering and Mathematics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2012), and obtained his Ph.D. also from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with specialization in Computer Engineering (2020). In his free time he likes to draw while listening to his favorite film scores.

Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis



Foluso Ayeni

Dr. Foluso Ayeni is a full-time faculty with the Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis Department at UNO. He holds a B.S. and M.S. degree in Management Information Systems from Covenant University and a Ph.D. in Science and Mathematics from Southern University and A & M College. He has about eight years teaching and research experience in higher ed. His teaching interests spans through Data Analytics, E-Commerce, Information Systems Analysis and Design, Management Research Seminar, Management Information Systems and Principles of Management. His research interests include but not limited to educational technologies, ICT adoption and diffusion, health informatics, ICT, and development. Hobbies include hiking, travelling, volunteering, mentoring and coaching, and team sports.



Katelynn Kapalo

Katelynn Kapalo recently completed a postdoctoral appointment with Brown University supporting the National Institute of Standards and Technology Public Safety Communications Research Division (NIST PSCR). She is also a contract instructor for the U.S. National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program. Prior to her time in academia, Kate worked as a research statistician for Orange County Fire Rescue Department and as a research psychologist for the U.S. Navy. Katelynn earned her Ph.D. in Modeling and Simulation from the University of Central Florida. Her research interests focus on leveraging emerging technologies like augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) to better support fireground incident command and public safety officials in the context of pre-incident planning and community risk reduction efforts. Kate used to be a competitive Irish step dancer and loves to travel.



Chun-Hua Tsai

Chun-Hua Tsai is an assistant professor of the Department of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis (ISQA), College of Information Science and Technology. He is originally from Taiwan and received his doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh. His research interest is in exploring fair, trustworthy, and transparent AI using the data-driven, data visualization, HCI, and HCC approaches, particularly for empowering marginalized groups and improving AI-literacy inequalities. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking (fusion cuisine), reading (new policy, tech, and social media trends), and traveling (family time). He is a sports lover who regularly watches or plays baseball/softball, basketball, and workout. He is also a motorcyclist who owned a Kawasaki Ninja 250.

Interdisciplinary Informatics



Joel Elson

Joel Elson, PhD, is an incoming Assistant Professor of Information Technology Innovation and is part of the newly designated Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Terrorism Prevention and Counterterrorism Research (NCITE). His research centers around human-computer trust, collaboration technology, as well as decision-making in computer-mediated and mixed-initiative teams. Previous extramurally funded research has included collaborations with numerous government and industry partners. In addition to research and teaching, Dr. Elson spends his time supporting various non-profits and local community organizations. His personal interests include cycling, photography and playing the violin.



Sayonha Mandal

Sayonha Mandal is a lecturer at the School of Interdisciplinary Informatics at UNO. Prior to her joining UNO, she served as an assistant professor at the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at St. Ambrose University. She earned her doctorate in Information Technology, with a specialization in Cybersecurity from UNO. Her research interests include regulatory requirements modelling and analysis, quantum cryptography and cybersecurity curriculum advancement. Prior to her doctorate, Sayonha earned two master's degrees - one in telecommunications engineering from the university of oklahoma and one in cybersecurity from UNO. Sayonha has worked as a Programmer Analyst in Cognizant Technology Solutions and as an Assistant Professor in a four-year undergraduate university in India. Sayonha loves to travel, enjoys reading and painting, and loves to spend time with her family and her two pets (a dog and a cat).

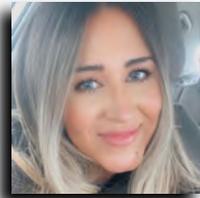
Interdisciplinary Informatics (cont.)



Ada-Rhodes Short

Dr. Ada-Rhodes Short has a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State University where she researched design, automation, and decision-making. She has nearly a decade of experience in robotics and artificial intelligence work in both private industry and academia. She most recently worked with Dr. Dani Selva as a post-doctoral researcher on problems related to computational cognition for a NASA funded project. Her career highlights include winning CES design innovation awards in the robotics category, developing autonomous behavior for space robots, designing the home-robot Misty, helping to make Star Wars' BB-8 a reality, and cultivating the next generation of designers.

Criminology and Criminal Justice



Sadaf Hashimi

Born in Kabul, Afghanistan, I moved to British Columbia, Canada, when I was four years old. I spent 21 years in Canada before moving to Newark, New Jersey, to pursue my Ph.D. in Criminal Justice. To date, much of my work is centered on social networks. This is no coincidence. I believe in the value of relationships. Whether it be in one's criminal network, professional network, or personal network, success depends largely on our ability to connect with others and our capacity to generate, understand, and collaborate to seize opportunities. This is also reflected in my hobbies, which are inherently "people-focused," comprising traveling, photography, and SoulCylce.



Jessica Huff

Jessie Huff is an incoming assistant professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Her research revolves around partnering with police agencies to evaluate law enforcement policies and practices in order to make policing more effective and equitable. She graduated with her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Arizona State University and has spent the past year as a research associate in the International Association of Chiefs of Police/University of Cincinnati Center for Police Research and Policy. Jessie is an avid reader who loves travelling and any excuse to be outside – hiking, camping, biking, skiing, scuba, you name it!



Erin Kearns

Erin M. Kearns is an assistant professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE) Center. Her primary research seeks to understand the relationship among terrorism, media, law enforcement, and the public. Her publications include articles on why groups lie about terrorism, media coverage of terrorism and counterterrorism, public perceptions of terrorism and counterterrorism practices, and relationships between communities and law enforcement. Her work has been funded through a number of sources and featured on media outlets including CNN, *The Economist*, NPR, *The Washington Post*, and Vox. In normal times, Erin is an avid traveler (picture taken in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco). She also enjoys cooking, spending time with her dog, and practicing yoga.



Trisha Rhodes

Dr. Trisha Rhodes is an instructor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from UNO. Her research and teaching interests center on policing, research methods, and issues of justice for women and people of color. Her research primarily examines school resource officer roles, identities, policing strategies, and relationships with citizens. Trisha has also investigated police organizational trends related to recruitment, hiring, training of police recruits, and officer wellbeing. Trisha deeply values partnerships with students, colleagues, and community organizations. Trisha love animals, including her two dogs, Chompers and Andy. She is looking forward to exploring the parks around Lincoln with them and is interested in recommendations.

Criminology and Criminal Justice (cont.)



Scott Sasse

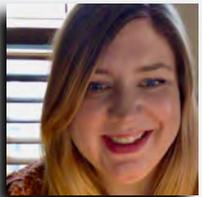
Scott Sasse was the recipient of the 2010 College of Public Affairs and Community Service Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service. He graduated from UNL in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree from UNO in 1991. From there he completed his Ph.D. in Sociology from UNL in 1996. After teaching at universities such as Charleston Southern University, Bemidji State, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and Dana College, Scott settled at Midland University as a full professor and director of the department. In his spare time, Scott enjoys golfing, woodworking, astronomy, and spending time with his family and dog.

Social Work



Kersten Borer

I had an early start in the field of social work as my family provided foster care in Omaha. I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Creighton University in 1996 and a Master's Degree in Social Work from UNO in 1999. I have worked as a mental health and addictions therapist in Omaha since that time. I have worked for numerous therapeutic programs assisting those involved in sex trafficking, persons with addictive disorders, and those involved in the criminal justice system. In my free time, I enjoy walking my dog, writing, and watching my three children play sports.

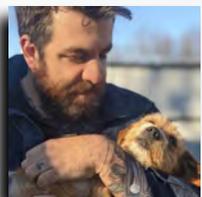


Emily Soener

Emily earned her Master's of Social Work from UNO in 2014 and has been a practicing clinical social worker in the Omaha area since completing her degree. Her areas of focus relate to mental health in underserved populations, social determinants of health, especially among immigrant populations, and community building. She served as an adjunct instructor in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work for several years before becoming a full-time instructor in January 2021. Emily enjoys indoor and outdoor gardening and cooking as her primary hobbies. She was born and raised in Omaha and enjoys exploring all parts of the city in her spare time.

CRISS LIBRARY

Criss Library



Craig Finlay

I'm coming to UNO as the new Open Educational Resources Coordinator and STEM Librarian for the Criss Library. For the past year and half, I've been the Library Director at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, and prior to that, I was a scholarly communication and reference and instruction librarian at Indiana University South Bend for six years. Originally from Illinois, I've spent most of my life in the Midwest. My main hobbies include poetry, hiking, and travel. I'm moving to Omaha with my girlfriend, Carmin, our four cats Blitzen, Dottie, Jackie, and Oscar, and our dog Lucy.



Isabel Soto-Luna

I (she/her/hers) am a bilingual, information professional, educator, liaison, and communications specialist with experience in academic libraries, archives, fundraising, translating/interpreting, and project management. As a person with a diverse background, I am very aware of the varying needs of students on campus. I work with students at whatever level they need to provide appropriate help and guidance. I have served as a first-generation student mentor and am always willing to share my experiences in the hopes that they will encourage others to achieve their goals. I work with my community volunteering my services as a translator for various organizations that assist children and immigrants. My family and I train together in taekwondo and received our black belts last November. I also make wine as a hobby.