

Happenings

Serving & Learning

It's a win-win situation.

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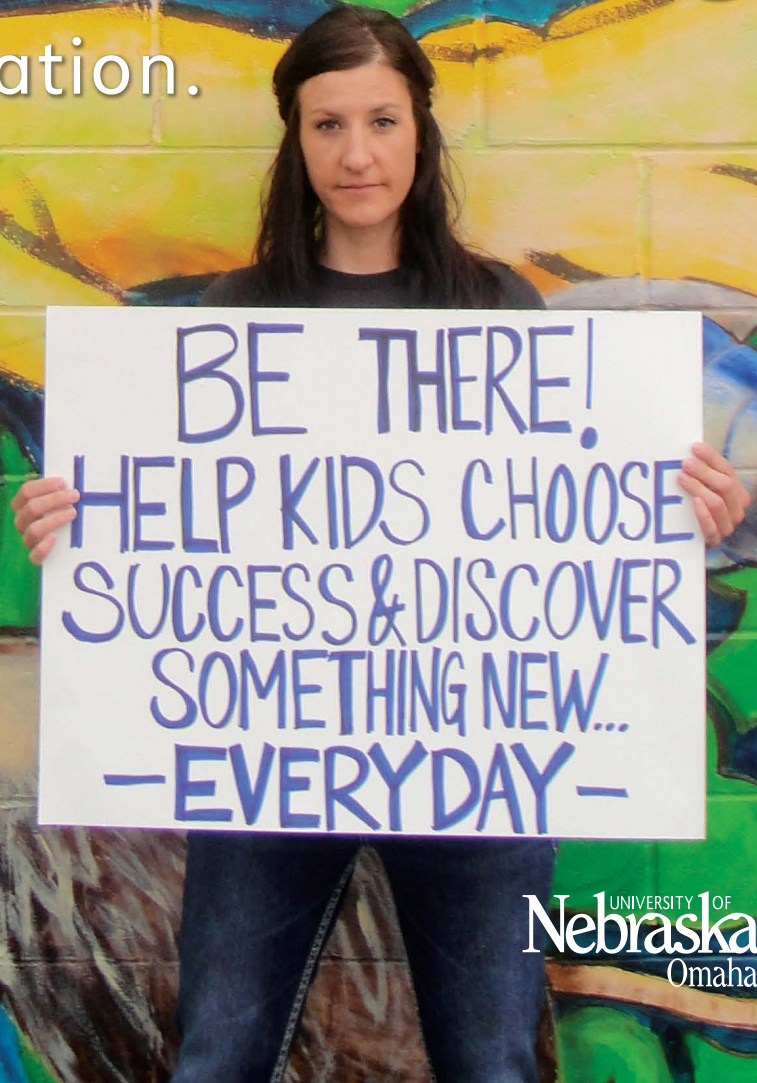


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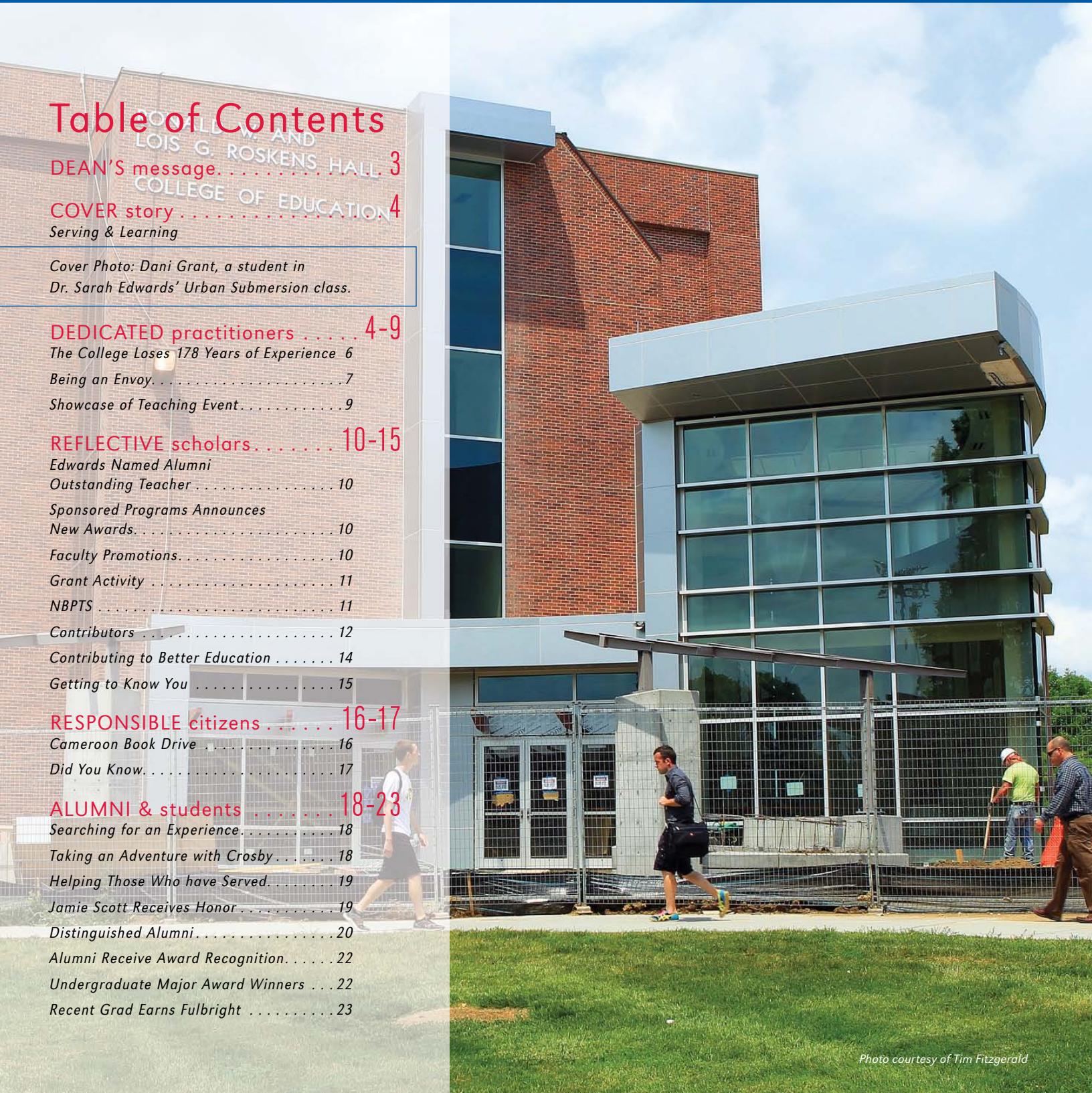


Photo courtesy of Tim Fitzgerald

DEAN'S message

College of Education Special Undergraduate Dani Grant's placard on the cover of this issue of *Happenings* brings a bright and colorful message. She challenges teachers to "BE THERE!" to "HELP KIDS CHOOSE SUCCESS & DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW—EVERY DAY."

In the college, we work to meet these goals and more—for our students and the students and clients they may work with in the future. For example, the feature article highlights the importance of the college community clinics that provide our students with real life experiences at the same time they are serving others. "Every day" our student clinicians are helping clients of all ages discover how to be successful.

Seven faculty members who were master professionals in helping students find success retired this Spring. In one of our articles, you will learn more unique things about these educators who served the college for a combined one hundred seventy-eight years. The talents and experiences of these seven people remain a part of our legacy.

The Showcase of Teaching is a project that honors area teachers and encourages young high school students to enter the education profession. The Showcase of Teaching has been held annually for over twenty years.

A bright spot on the college horizon is the increased activity in seeking and receiving grants that help further the college mission. Dr. Nick Stergiou has received a \$547,164 grant to upgrade the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility (NBCF). The NBCF works to develop new strategies to improve the quality of life for persons of all ages.

We also recognize in this issue the 530 people who made financial contributions, both large and small, during the past year to support the college and our mission. We are very grateful for this generosity and recognize the responsibility that comes with the faith that we will be good stewards of the resources.

A Fulbright Scholar's upcoming Parkinson's rehabilitation research project in Greece, the annual recognition of outstanding alumni, and many other acknowledgements and awards are recent happenings in the college that tell the story of individuals who have "been there" for others.

The future of the college is as bright as the cover of this issue of *Happenings*. We are preparing for the move to the reconstructed Roskens Hall. **We would like for you to join us at our dedication on Friday, September 23, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.**

The move to Roskens Hall will provide us the opportunity to share with you the future success stories of our students, faculty, and the community.

Sincerely,
Nancy Edick
Dean, College of Education



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Omaha

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DEDICATED practitioners

Serving & Learning

It's a win-win situation.

A student clinician works with a young client

If you want to see serving and learning in action, you don't have to look far in the College of Education. Over the past year over 270 individuals (or clients) were served in one of the College of Education clinics that provide quality services at a low cost. And, College of Education students receive valuable training. **Everyone benefits; it is a Win-Win situation.**

One parent of a young client in the Speech Language Clinic wrote, "We hear absolute improvement with our son's speech!" Another commented, "Very professional, informative, and helpful.

This program has been very helpful for my daughter."

Students begin their training experiences in a clinic situation when they have completed a specific coursework that prepares them to work with clients. During the time the students work with clients, they are supervised by a faculty member or a trained professional. The clinics include **Literacy Support Services; the Community Counseling Clinic; the Learning Disabilities Clinic; and the Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic.**

The clinics have evolved over a period of time. For example, originally named the Reading Clinic with services provided in a clinic setting on the first floor of Kayser Hall, Literacy Support Services now travels to nineteen public and parochial schools in the Metropolitan Omaha area. These services provided by graduate students who are completing their master's degrees or endorsements in reading include assessment, evaluation, and instruction in reading and writing. Forty-one elementary and secondary students received services during the 2009-2010 school year.

At the elementary level, graduate students work with students twice a week after school. Services include strategies for decoding, comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and writing skills.

At the secondary level, tutoring sessions are operated after school once a week. Services include strategies for vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, note-taking, and studying with focus on ways to use these strategies in the student's classes.

The **Community Counseling Clinic** is located on the first level of the newly renovated Roskens Hall with immediate access through the north entrance. Electronic observation equipment allows clinic supervisors to observe counseling sessions.

Services provided by the Counseling Clinic include counseling related to test anxiety, career counseling, anger management, loss, family therapy, and couples counseling. One hundred fifty-four clients were served during the 2009-2010 school year. These clients received a collective eight hundred forty-seven hours of counseling services.

Dr. David Carter, the faculty member who oversees the clinic operation, anticipates the new facility in Roskens Hall will provide greater privacy for clients in the clinic service area. He also foresees the development of a focused specialty for the clinic. Although the clinic would have a specialty, clients would continue to be served for other issues.

Dr. Carter emphasizes that the UNO Counseling program is Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)

accredited. There are only two such programs in Nebraska, with the other program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. And, the UNO program is the only one accredited in School Counseling.

A current client in the clinic wrote: "I was very impressed by the professional behavior and attitude demonstrated by my counselor in the clinic. I am in the process of learning new ways to cope with stressful situations in my current life and my counselor has the knowledge to help me see how dysfunctional my behavior in the past has been. I have only good things to say about the help that I have received at UNO."

Carter visualizes the new facility will provide an opportunity to enhance the marketing of clinic services to more University students. Members of the public will also have more convenient access through the North entrance.

The Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic is located on the fifth Floor of Roskens Hall overlooking Memorial Park. The mission of the clinic in the newly renovated space will not change, but the facility provides considerably more privacy for clients and more space to carry out the clinic functions.

The Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic offers diagnostic and therapeutic services for language, articulation/phonology, accent modification, fluency, voice, aural rehabilitation, and some augmentative/alternative communication. In other words, the faculty supervised student provides assessment, prescription, and implementation services to the client. They engage with the client in face to face assessment and intervention.

Ms. Kathy Miklas, the Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic coordinator, reported, "The professional and technical growth of students is evident as they progress in the clinic environment." She further stated, "Community partners report that our students are very well prepared for their externship experiences." Miklas also indicated that our students learn so much from our community partners.

The clinic is an approved Nebraska Department Service Provider and maintains a professional clinical atmosphere. Client/parent responses to surveys addressing service satisfaction result in an unbelievable 100% of the respondents reporting that they would agree or strongly agree that clinic personnel were sensitive and responsive to the parent, client or spouse.

The Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic usually has twenty-five to thirty more applications on file than they can serve at a given time. Current clients continue receiving services and vacancies open when the service is complete or the client moves to another provider. Clients who may have a unique disorder that would provide a special learning situation for students are given priority in receiving services.

The clinic works cooperatively with the Munroe Meyer Institute, the Omaha Public Schools, and Brookstone Village that all provide learning opportunities for students. In addition, the Creighton Medical School Occupational Therapy Program is involved in a cooperative relationship that involves research and training for students from both programs.

DEDICATED practitioners



Left to Right: Kenneth Smith, Melodee Landis, Joseph Bertinetti, Jarene Fluckiger, Jeannette Seaberry, David Corbin, James Dick, with Dean Nancy Edick

The College Loses 178 years of Experience

Seven College of Education faculty members with degrees from universities in ten different states ranging from the southwest to the northeast and who had a collective 178 years of experience at UNO retired at the end of the year. They grew up in places as remote as Gallup, New Mexico, and as densely populated as Chicago, Illinois. They were familiar with Native American trading posts and the Merchandise Mart.

Their academic talents will be missed in the classroom, in faculty committee meetings, and by the students who have sought them out for counsel and conversation. They will also be missed personally.

Their collective interests and talents are varied. Imagine the following:

- Being able to speak Navaho, Zuni, Italian, German and English;
- Having experience as a singer and guitar player in several states, several countries, and on cruise ships;
- Taking multiple trips to Eastern Europe, especially the Ukraine;
- Using your singing and guitar playing talents in the classroom, and also being a good cook and gardener;
- Sewing your own daughter's wedding dress;
- Being an expert genealogist; and
- Performing in the Baby Needs Shoes trio, the Alligator String Choir, and starring

in community playhouse productions as an actress.

The retirees included:

Joseph Bertinetti earned his doctorate from the University of New Mexico and a law degree from Creighton University. He earned his master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. He has served as an associate professor in the Counseling Department and began at UNO in the summer of 1973.

David Corbin earned his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. His bachelor's degree is from the University of New Mexico, and his master's degree is from the University of Toledo. Dr. Corbin served as a professor in the

School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation specializing in Health Education and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. He began at UNO in the Fall of 1980.

James Dick earned his doctorate from Indiana University. His bachelor's and master's degrees are both from Ball State University. A professor in the Teacher Education Department, Dr. Dick was especially instrumental in economic education. He began at UNO in the Fall of 1977.

Jarene Fluckiger earned her doctorate from the University of Wyoming. Her bachelor's degree was from Brigham Young University, and her master's degree was earned from Utah State University. Dr. Fluckiger served as a professor in the Teacher Education Department and was a key faculty member in the development of literacy assessments and teaching strategies. She began at UNO in the Fall of 1996.

Jeannette Seaberry earned her doctorate from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Her bachelor's

degree was from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, and her master's degree was earned from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Dr. Seaberry was a professor in the Counseling Department beginning in the Fall of 1996.

Kenneth Smith earned his doctorate from Loyola University of Chicago. His master's degree was from the University of Chicago, and his bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire. Ken served as an Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department with a focus on Early Childhood Education. Dr. Smith began at UNO in the Fall of 1982.

Melodee Landis earned her doctor's, her master's and her bachelor's degrees from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Dr. Landis served as an Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department with a focus on technology and distance education. She began her career in the College of Education in the Spring of 1995.

Being an Envoy

Every student is one. But, the search is on for students who will serve a formal role as an **Envoy** for the College of Education. The students will assist in the promotion of the field of education and the college to prospective students and their parents. They will also provide a variety of other services.

The lengthy list of possible Envoy involvement includes:

- Assist with College of Education tours for prospective students and follow up via telephone calls and E-mails as requested;
- Provide assistance at College of Education and campus-wide events;
- Represent the College at college fairs, open house events, and new student orientations;
- Serve on the Dean's Student Advisory Committee.

The Envoys will participate in specific training sessions for being an Envoy and will also attend the UNO Student Ambassador training session during the summer. Envoys will receive a \$500.00 scholarship for each semester of involvement in the program. They will commit to a minimum of 40 hours per semester.

The first two students to serve as Envoys were Sarahi Real y Vasquez and Amanda Fitch. Sarahi was a sophomore majoring in Elementary Education. Amanda was a junior also majoring in Elementary Education with a Spanish endorsement. Both Envoys aspire to continue as Envoys during the 2011-2012 school year.

Melodee Landis and Jarene Fluckiger



DEDICATED practitioners



Students in Mindy Podraza's session are simulating how Michelangelo worked as he painted ceilings

Showcase of Teaching Event

One hundred eighty nine students from fourteen schools in the Metropolitan Omaha area gathered March 15th in the Milo Bail Student Center for the annual Showcase of Teaching event sponsored by the College of Education and the UNO Phi Delta Kappa Chapter. Principals from the area nominated prospective Showcase Teachers.

The teachers chosen for the honor this year included:

- Rose Bernstein, Kiewit Middle School, Millard, Family and Consumer Science Teacher
- Cathy Black, West Dodge Station Elementary School, Elkhorn, First Grade Reading and Writing Teacher
- Josie Ebert, Westside Middle School, Westside, Mathematics Teacher
- Shelly Madsen, Ezra Millard Elementary School, Millard, Special Education Teacher
- Mindy Podraza, Ralston Middle School, Ralston, Social Studies Teacher
- Simon Rohde, Millard North High School, Millard, Social Studies Teacher
- Keri Witherall, Lewis and Clark Middle School, Omaha, Mathematics Teacher.

Showcase teachers modeled teaching and shared with students why they chose to enter the teaching profession. For example, Mindy Podraza, Ralston Middle School, focused on methods to keep pre-teens interested in ancient world history. She identified four key ingredients in a great classroom as being: fun, freedom, worth, and belonging.

Each student attending Showcase could chose the four sessions of presentations to attend. Two students who attended the event were chosen to receive \$250 Scholarships from the UNO PDK Chapter. The students were: Shanice Cushinberry from Omaha Bryan High School; and Cecilia Abbey from Omaha Central High School.



Middle school client and a student clinician

from CLINIC, page 5

Kellie Brink, a speech pathology student, wrote: “My clinical experience at the UNO Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic has provided me opportunities to work with a variety of individuals with communication needs from our community. These experiences have given me the chance to apply course content to real-life situations and have developed my ability to make clinical decisions as a speech-language pathology candidate.”

The **Learning Disabilities Clinic** is also located on the Fifth Floor of Roskens Hall. This clinic provides one-on-one services for school-age children who are experiencing academic difficulties. Graduate students who are working on an endorsement in the area of learning disabilities complete assessments, design academic interventions, and monitor the progress of their client. Collaboration is an integral part of the Learning Disabilities Clinic with graduate students from special education, school psychology and speech-language pathology working together to provide the best services possible.

Comments from the parent survey include: “You work on difficulties, but continue to realize that the child has strengths. You bring new learning ideas to the table.” “(The clinic uses) goals and rewards as well as little breaks to keep kids interested in what they are doing. They don’t know they are learning, they just think they’re having fun. My daughter loved her ‘college class.’”

The new spaces at Roskens Hall will provide many exciting new serving and learning opportunities for our students and clients. We look forward to many winning experiences.

REFLECTIVE scholars



Sarah K. Edwards, Teacher Education

Edwards Named Alumni Outstanding Teacher

Sarah K. Edwards (TED) received the College of Education Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award for 2011 at the Faculty Honors Convocation Breakfast on April 7. Edwards' primary expertise is secondary literacy and culturally responsive teaching.

Dr. Edwards organizes the College of Education Culture Walks that provide students and faculty opportunities to learn about the many cultures within the Metropolitan Omaha area. She is also co-founder of the Metropolitan English Teacher Link (MET Link).

A peer committee selects the annual winner of this award. In addition to being recognized as the outstanding teacher of the year in the College of Education, Edwards also received a commemorative tablet and a \$1,000 award from the UNO Alumni Association.

Sarah was a member of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce Leadership Omaha class. Her peers selected her as the classmate most likely to make a difference.

Sponsored Programs Announces New Awards

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research recently announced awards to Dr. Jennifer Huberty, and to Ms. Jennifer Yentes. Huberty's award was received from Alegent Health. Yentes' award was from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD).

Dr. Huberty will study the degree to which pregnant females seek internet information related to health behaviors (eating and physical activity). As part of her study she will work to identify the informational content the women seek, the internet delivery mode the women prefer, and will then develop an internet based intervention to help improve participation and eating behaviors during and after pregnancy.

Ms. Yentes was awarded the Graduate Student Investigator's Award. The goal of her project will be to investigate whether or not walking abnormalities exist in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Yentes reports that COPD patients may complain of breathlessness and lung dysfunction; however 40% complain of muscle fatigue. She is interested in seeing if walking differences exist between these two groups and whether or not we can restore normal walking patterns.

Faculty Promotions

Senior Vice Chancellor Terry Hynes announced several faculty promotions and tenure appointments in early May. The College of Education faculty members included:

- > **Evangalina Brignoni** Teacher Education, awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
- > **Kay Keiser** Educational Administration and Supervision, awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
- > **David Carter** Counseling, promoted to Professor
- > **Sarah Edwards** Teacher Education, promoted to Professor

We congratulate these faculty members and appreciate their contributions in the classroom and the community.

Grant Activity

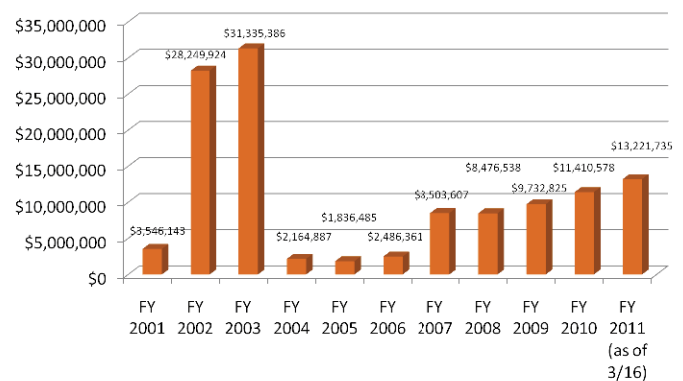
The pace has picked up. Fifty-eight grants had been submitted for funding by May 24, 2011. The previous record number of grant submissions in a fiscal year was forty-six in 2009. This effort reflects an added emphasis on grant seeking to help support and extend the college efforts in research, programs, student opportunities, and collaboration with our school partners.

Dr. Nick Stergiou, serving in an additional role of Coordinator of Research and Creative Activity, has provided regular meetings and sessions for faculty members to help support their grant writing. Collectively, the grant applications propose activity in the areas of health; robotics; the teaching of English; writing; multi-cultural experiences; recreation; and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

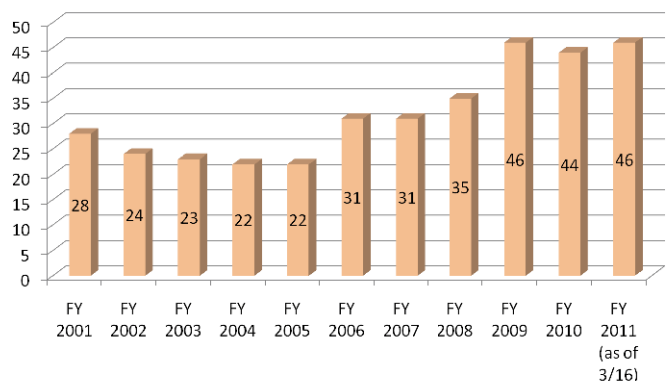
If funded, the grants will support training for practicing educators, the development of and dissemination of curriculum, improving libraries, additional research in several areas, health promotion, and increasing student and faculty multi-cultural experiences. For example, a grant submitted on May 13 proposes to use \$547,164 to upgrade the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility. This grant, submitted by Dr. Stergiou, addresses the need to continually update existing research facilities to assure quality results.

The applications are submitted to foundations; organizations; and Federal, State, and Local governments. Also, several grants are developed in cooperation with other institutions, such as the University of Nebraska Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GRANT SUBMISSIONS (in dollars)
FY 2001 - 2011 (as of March 16, 2011)



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GRANT SUBMISSIONS (number)
FY 2001 - 2011 (as of March 16, 2011)



NBPTS

Seven area teachers who participated in the MOEC Cohort group in preparation for applying for National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification were successful in their efforts. Those receiving the distinction included Lori Umstead, Kathi Smith, and Samantha Morrissey of the Millard Public Schools; Linda Wood and Lise Wagner of the Omaha Public Schools, and Judy Stucky and Beth Leach of the Westside Community Schools. These teachers and others enrolled in the program were honored at a reception on April 14, 2011.

COLLEGE *of* EDUC

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from April 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011

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Contributing to Better Education

Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation. — John F. Kennedy

During the 2010-2012 school year there were many individuals who chose to make a financial contribution to support the education of someone they may never get to know. The support included direct assistance for students in terms of scholarships, support for faculty, educational materials, and facilities. The value of the contributions covered a wide range, but all were significant in helping students develop their greatest abilities.

In early June, College of Education Department of Counseling Alumnus Julie Hefflinger was surprised by an announcement that was made during a dinner recognizing her retirement as president of the Partnership For Our Kids. The announcement informed those present that a professorship had been established in her honor. The professorship is funded by commitments totaling \$250,000 from her friends and colleagues who wanted to honor her for her service to disadvantaged young people in our community.

The Julie Hefflinger Professorship will be held by a College of Education Department of Counseling faculty member who shows outstanding teaching and research ability, academic promise, and interest and expertise in mentoring, working with at-risk youth and school counseling. Michael Yanney, a member of the board of Partnership For Our Kids was quoted, “She (Julie Hefflinger) has an unbelievable passion to help disadvantaged kids. And she knows how to execute that passion with great excellence.”

The Hefflinger Professorship promotes the effort to train additional counselors who will have the same passion that Julie has demonstrated in her professional and volunteer work throughout her career. This collective effort resulted in a very large contribution that will make an impact. But, all of the contributions, large and small, are helping the College of Education meet its mission to prepare professionals that will serve the community, and we wish to thank and recognize everyone who contributed during the past year.



Gail Yanney, Julie Hefflinger, Dick Holland and Mike Yanney



NU Foundation Representative Susan Schnase, Julie Hefflinger and Counseling Chair Paul Barnes

RESPONSIBLE citizens



You are not seeing in triplicate! It is Eric Surprenant's photo of himself with a message for students

Getting to Know You

Students in Dr. Sarah Edwards Urban Submersion class get to know the many cultures and neighborhoods in our city. This summer they became acquainted with each other by showing what they believed about teaching and learning by sharing a picture of themselves in front of a place in Omaha that had meaning for them.

Our cover photo for this issue of *Happenings* was the photo presented by Dani Scott. Dani said, "I chose to take my picture in front of one of the murals that are painted on the sides of the building in Benson. There are so many murals in my neighborhood and in Omaha. This location helps me to bring my point across of discovering something new everyday, whether in the classroom or out."

RESPONSIBLE citizens



Students working on boxing books contributed for the Cameroon Book Drive

Cameroon Book Drive

Faculty member and Student Education Association Nebraska (SEAN) sponsor, Dr. Willie Austin, was often seen pushing a large custodial cart full of books in Kayser Hall and even across campus in late Spring. SEAN members were observed on the first floor of Kayser Hall packing boxes with books. A large sign, Cameroon Book Drive, appeared on the carts that were placed around the building and the carts soon filled with donated books.

The action was part of an effort to collect books for the library of a new

university in Cameroon, Africa. Austin and the SEAN students are assisting College of Business Administration Adjunct Professor Mary Hallin securing books for the university. Hallin lived in Cameroon for more than five years, and on a recent stay in the country became familiar with the need for books, academic journals, videos and CDs to help the new institution get started.

Austin reported in early May that while the effort is continuing the drive has already collected and boxed 6,250 books in 125 boxes.

Did You Know

> **Andy Rikli** (Ed.D., 2007) was presented an Emerging Leader Award at the PDK International Conference held February 17-18, 2011, in Atlanta, Georgia. Rikli is an Assistant Superintendent with the Westside Community Schools.

> **The Nebraska Economic Education Project** was recognized by Phi Delta Kappa Chapter 0116 at its March meeting held at Mahoney State Park. The award recognized work in schools throughout the Metro Omaha area that furthers economic education. The award was for making an Outstanding Contribution to Education. Accepting the award were Co-Directors, **Dr. James Dick** (TED) and **Ms. Mary Lynn Reiser** (CBA).

> **Professor Josie Metal-Corbin** (HPER) has been selected as the 2012 National Dance Association Scholar/Artist. Professor Metal-Corbin will deliver a presentation at the 2012 Annual Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance which will be held in Boston, March 13-17, 2012.

> **Kappan** Editor-in-chief, Joan Richardson, served as the Educational Administration and Supervision Department's Visiting Scholar on April 19-20, 2011. Richardson joined the Educational Administration and Supervision faculty for a luncheon, spoke to department graduate students and met with the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium's Staff Development Task Force. Editor Richardson encouraged writing for professional

growth and shared what the **Kappan** looks for in submitted articles.

> Former UNO Head Athletic Trainer and alumnus, **Denise Fandel** (M.S., '85) was inducted into the Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association (MAATA) District 5 Hall of Fame on Friday, March 18, 2011 at the association's annual meeting and symposium. Fandel was credited with shaping the athletic training profession with the establishment of a credentialing body that certifies athletic trainers, thus assuring protection of the public.

> **Laura Callahan**, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Winners of this award receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation and an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Callahan teaches the Zoo Kindergarten Class at Bancroft Elementary School in the Omaha Public Schools. She uses a regular kindergarten curriculum with an emphasis on the life sciences. The zoo location provides an opportunity to explore many topics and Callahan calls upon zoo staff to teach some of the lessons.

> **Dean Nancy Edick** was recognized as the Honorary Chair of the Habitat for Humanity of Omaha Power Women Luncheon on April 28. Edick and her family have been involved with Habitat for Humanity Programs. Edick has provided significant leadership for Habitat programs.



Andy Rikli with PDK International President, Sandee Crowther



Associate Dean, David Conway, presenting the award for achievement in economic education to James Dick and Mary Lynn Reiser. Also shown, PDK President, Steve Joekel.



Dean Nancy Edick with Habitat for Humanity Director of Development, Carla Patton

ALUMNI & students



Sara also working with students in a government run school in Vietnam

Sara Simmons has always been interested in Special Education. She has been a volunteer with the Special Olympics, she has worked at the Ollie Webb Center for adults with disabilities, she has volunteered with Easter Seals, and as a UNO undergraduate she has been involved in SCEC (Student Council for Exceptional Children). This Fall she will begin her teaching career as a special education teacher in the Omaha Public Schools and will work with 18 to 21 year old students who are enrolled in a transitional program.

Sara was also interested in participating in a teaching experience in a foreign country. Her research in seeking such an experience for this summer led her to a Love Volunteers program in Vietnam where she served as a volunteer teacher. Love Volunteers is a non-profit that provides volunteering experiences in developing countries throughout the world.

Searching for an Experience

Sara left Omaha for Vietnam after graduating in May. She arrived in Hanoi and was taken to the dormitory where she lived with other volunteers from all over the world. Her assigned experience was in a private school that served Down's Syndrome children ages three to twelve.

She worked with three teachers in a classroom of fourteen students. Only one of the teachers spoke any English, and this teacher was not proficient in the language. Sara did have the benefit of three one-half days with a translator who accompanied her to her school.

The culture in Vietnam was very different from Sara's life in the United States. She learned the educational programs for children with special needs are just beginning to be developed. She was surprised at the cultural differences that support the use of force by teachers.

Sara was also able to visit a government run school on three occasions that served children in a multi-categorical program. She found the resources and environment in the government school to be much different from the private school.

The lack of traffic lights and traffic laws, and the large number of people and vehicles on the streets, made getting to other locations very challenging. Sara did not drive while in Vietnam, but she learned that you could not cross a street if you waited for the traffic to clear.

Sara remained healthy during her three week experience, but was not fond of

the food. All meals included rice, and she noted she made sure to only drink bottled water.

She is now anxious to begin her teaching career, but will seek similar experiences in other countries, probably Mexico, in the future. She recommends other students and graduates do the same.

Taking an Adventure with Crosby

Brian Crosby (HPER, B. S. 2007) has been taking people on adventures. Alaska, the Yukon, Yellowstone and the Tetons, the Boundary Waters, the Grand Canyon, Southern Utah, and the Cascade Mountains in the Northwest have been destinations that Crosby has served as a wilderness guide. He is now moving on to a different kind of adventure.

He will be working in the Therapeutic Recreation Department at the Bend Parks and Recreation District in Oregon. Crosby will be joining a department that received the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation management.

Helping Those Who have Served

It has always been there. Soldiers who served in wars, and other individuals who were in dramatic periods of potential harm, experienced persistent thoughts and memories about the often extended dangerous situations they endured. But, we didn't hear much about PTSD until after soldiers returned from Vietnam. The name given to this condition has now become well known—Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Scott Anderson, a student in the graduate counseling program and the chief executive officer of an advertising agency, has taken the initiative to develop a program that provides services for active veterans with PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). It began when Anderson learned that a very low number of veterans involved in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq sought treatment for their symptoms. He found there was a stigma against admitting to the conditions. Anderson then became motivated to work toward developing a program for these persons in the armed services and their families.

Anderson felt he did not want to create another non-profit agency requiring more brick and mortar. So, he sought out an existing agency that would be interested in adding a program for veterans. Bids were solicited and Lutheran Family Services provided a bid that was accepted. The program was named At Ease, and is administered from offices located in the Bellevue office of Lutheran Family Services at 730 Fort Crook Road North.

Confidential, individualized counseling programs for active military personnel and their loved ones are provided regardless of ability to pay. Participation in the program is anonymous. Specially trained therapists provide the services.

Telehealth sessions are also used to serve veterans and their loved ones living in greater Nebraska. These sessions are delivered confidentially through Adobe Connect. Some clients using Telehealth may also include veterans living in the Metropolitan

Omaha area whose disability is such that they refuse to leave their homes.

Over one hundred forty veterans and family members have been served by the program. Extensive data is maintained to determine how effective the program is for the clients that are served.

Funding for the program has come from client payments and from foundations and individual contributions. Major contributions have been made by the Mammel Foundation and the Robert Daugherty Foundation. There has also been a good response from individuals who contribute both small and larger amounts.

Scott Anderson is pleased with the program results and is optimistic about the growth and development of the program. Persons interested in At Ease can contact At Ease personnel by calling 402.292.9105 or sending an E-mail to AtEase@LFSneb.org.

At Ease USA



Jami Scott Receives Honor

Jami Scott, a Speech Language Pathology student, recently received national honors in her major area. She was selected as a recipient of 2011 NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association) Member Honors. NSSLHA Member Honors are awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, service to the academic unit, professional conduct, and service to NSSLHA.

As a recipient of Member Honors, Jami will receive complimentary registration to attend the 2011 ASHA Convention in San Diego, CA. She will be formally acknowledged by her peers at the NSSLHA Luncheon and Awards ceremony at the Convention.

ALUMNI & students



Distinguished Alumni with Dean, (left to right), Dean Nancy Edick, Bob Lykke, Mary Lykke, Carole Langan, Antje Mefferd, Rebecca Vinton Dorn, Kathy Solomon, and Thomas Harvey.

23rd Annual

Hollie Bethel

Distinguished Alumni Luncheon
Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Unlimited Possibilities

Persons chosen as Distinguished Alumni of the college, although very different in many ways, have a common reaction when they are asked what they remember about their college experience. The common answer? They say they remember the people more than anything specific about their coursework.

Dr. Antje Mefferd, now a faculty member at Wichita State University, especially recalled how Dr. Kathy Coufal, then a college faculty member, had not only helped her in terms of her academic learning, but also had given her an understanding of how to develop her career and grow in her profession. Mefferd further advised current students to “Focus on learning, not on getting an “A.” Mefferd earned a Master of Arts Degree in Speech Language Pathology in 2004.

Mr. Thomas Harvey advised students to, “Get your education early. Believe in the university and what it can do for you.” Harvey and Mefferd were two of the seven persons honored at

the Annual Hollie Bethel Distinguished Alumni Luncheon that was held April 13, 2011, at the Thompson Alumni Center.

Harvey received the Distinguished Service Award at the luncheon, and Mefferd was recognized with the Promising Professional Award. They were joined by four other individuals in being honored as Distinguished Alumni. Another, Dr. John T. Langan, was recognized with the Award of Distinction. The Award of Distinction had only been given to seven other individuals in the twenty-three year history of the event. Langan, the former Dean of the College, passed away in the summer of 2010.

Harvey is the Assistant Superintendent of Student and Community Services with the Omaha Public Schools. He has received many honors in the community including the Ike Friedman Community Leader Award from the Knights of AkSarBen, and the Western Heritage Outstanding African American Award. He earned a Master of Science Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1973.

Ms. Rebecca Vinton Dorn was also given the Distinguished Service Award. Vinton Dorn earned her Master of Arts Degree in Health Education in 1995. She is the Associate Director of the Wellness Council of the Midlands. Vinton Dorn is involved in many community health initiatives.

Dr. Kathy Solomon, Mr. Bob Lykke, and Ms. Mary Lykke each received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Solomon earned the Master of Science Degree in Counseling in 1982, and the Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1986. She is a School Counseling Specialist



John Langan with Hollie Bethel

with the Omaha Public Schools and is active in the Nebraska School Counselors Association.

Bob and Mary Lykke were outstanding educators in the Millard Public Schools; and now in retirement they continue to have an impact in the community by their extensive volunteer work in the schools, by helping the elderly, and by contributing both time and money to help students in many ways.

Bob earned his Master of Science Degree in Teacher Education from the college in 1976. Lykke finished his career at Millard as principal at Andersen Middle School. He carved a reputation as an authority in middle school education and was the President of the Nebraska Middle School Association. Mary Lykke earned her Master of Science Degree in Secondary Education in 1983.

Granting Dr. John T. Langan the Award of Distinction recognized his over forty year involvement with the college beginning as a student, serving as a faculty member, being the first Director of the Office of Student Services, leading as the Department Chair of Teacher Education, and then serving as Dean of the College. Langan also served on the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education for fourteen years, seven of those years as President of the Board.

The annual luncheon is a celebration of the contribution of our alumni and community leaders. One hundred forty-eight alumni have now been recognized as Distinguished Alumni over a period of twenty-three years. There have been eight individuals given the Award of Distinction.



Antje Mefferd, John Hill, and Kathy Coufal

ALUMNI & students

Alumni Receive Award Recognition

Eight College of Education alumni were recognized as outstanding teachers by the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teaching Awards, given to Omaha Public Schools teachers; the Millard Public Schools Foundation Awards of Excellence, given to Millard Public Schools teachers; and the Phillip and Terri Schragger Foundation Distinguished Teaching Awards, given to Westside Community Schools teachers.

The alumni recognized included:

- > **Bob Brousek**, BSED & MS *Westside Community Schools*
- > **Jan Haun**, BS *Omaha Public Schools*
- > **Darren Holley**, BS & MS *Omaha Public Schools*
- > **Elaine Lamberty**, MS *Millard Public Schools*
- > **Angela Meyer**, MS *Omaha Public Schools*
- > **Cynthia S. Perry**, MS *Westside Community Schools*
- > **Gregory Sand**, MS *Omaha Public Schools*
- > **Anton Schmidt**, BA *Omaha Public Schools*

We wish to congratulate these winners and recognize them for excellence in teaching children in our Metropolitan Omaha area.

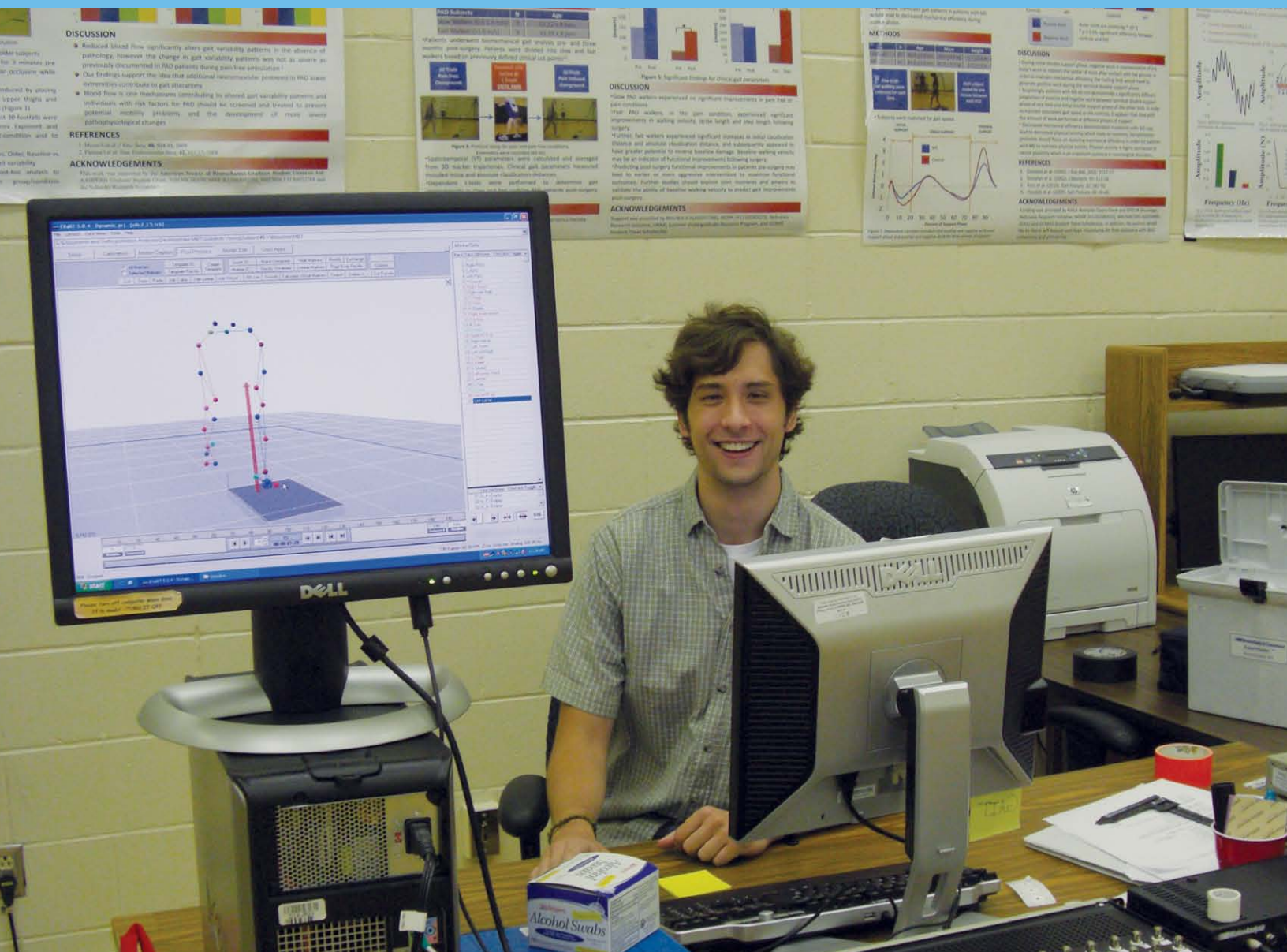
Undergraduate Major Award Winners

Twelve students were recognized as Undergraduate Major Award Winners during the annual Honors Week in April. The students included:

- > **Patricia Finks** *Elementary Education/Intermediate*
- > **Rayna Fleming** *Secondary Education*
- > **Allison Frantz** *Recreation Therapy*
- > **Nicole Gaughan** *Health Education*
- > **Brooke Groteluschen** *Physical Education/Athletic Training*
- > **Hilary Horvatic** *Physical Education Teacher Preparation*
- > **Meaghan Maher** *Elementary Education/Special Education*
- > **Zuhra Sahaq** *Secondary Education/ESL*
- > **Colleen Snoza** *Physical Education/Exercise Science*
- > **Tricia Steinkraus** *Speech-Language Pathology*
- > **Carrie Thelen** *Elementary Education/Early Childhood*
- > **Nolan Urban** *Elementary Education/Interdisciplinary Studies*
- > **Amy Wiczorek** *Community Health Education*

These students were nominated by faculty members and approved by the department and the Dean as students who excelled in their academic and extracurricular activity performance during the year.

- > **Colleen Snoza** was selected as the College of Education Dean's Award Winner.



Recent Grad Earns Fulbright

Neil Huben, a Spring 2011 College of Education graduate, has received a Fulbright Scholar grant. Neil will use the grant to conduct research at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, during the next academic year. His research will examine the effects of visual and auditory stimulation on postural sway and balance. The project aims to develop a rehabilitative method to aid in motor relearning in individuals suffering from functional impairments as the result of Parkinson's disease.

Huben expressed his excitement for "such a wonderful opportunity" and thanked his UNO professors Nick Stergiou and Sara Myers. Before leaving for Greece, he will continue his research in the UNO Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility. He plans to spend additional time studying the scientific literature relative to his Fulbright research proposal and will continue studying the Greek language.

Happenings

in this issue

Page 4 | Service and Learning Over the past year over 270 individuals (or clients) were served in one of the College of Education clinics that provide quality services at a low cost.

Page 6 | The College Loses 178 Years of Experience Seven College of Education faculty members with degrees from universities in ten different states ranging from the southwest to the northeast and who had a collective 178 years of experience at UNO retired at the end of the year.

Page 20 | Distinguished Alumni Persons chosen as Distinguished Alumni of the college, although very different in many ways, have a common reaction when they are asked what they remember about their college experience.

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