

Happenings



STEM

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Photo courtesy of Tim Fitzgerald

DEAN'S message

With the beginning of a new year comes renewed energy, enthusiasm and anticipation as we look to the future of our College. It's a future that holds tremendous promise for our students, staff, and faculty. We continue to make great strides as we see the daily progress of the Roskens Hall renovation and enjoy the completed renovation and addition to the Health, Physical Education and Recreation facility. At the same time, the College is confronted with challenges brought about by the financial crisis which continues to force us to find new and creative approaches to serving our students. What is happening in the college would not be possible without the generous benefactors to the college and the support of the community. We honor their contributions in this issue.

The benefactors include persons such as Bill and Ruth Scott whose monetary contributions have made the renovation of Roskens Hall a reality. In addition, Dr. George Haddix contributed not only to Roskens Hall, but funded a Community Chair of STEM Education. In our lead story you will learn about the college's innovative and exciting initiatives that involve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This is a collaborative effort of the College of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, Peter Kiewit Institute faculty and staff, and persons from many other institutions in the community and nation.

We are extraordinarily proud of the cutting edge work of the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility (NBCF), so the recognition in the form of three prestigious National Institutes of Health grants is well-deserved. NBCF is a story of persons from varying backgrounds coming together to work as research and teaching teams to find ways to improve the lives of persons from all generations. This issue includes a special insert to share the extensive work of NBCF.

The giving stories don't end with these two overarching programs. Our College has become the site of the Oxbow Writing Project, a National Writing Project, where teachers come together to become better writers and better teachers of writing. We also hosted a summer conference with over 200 teachers and students who were in Nebraska for the Special Olympics. Sessions focused on educating and working with students with special needs. In addition, a partnership with the Institute for Holocaust Education and the Anti Defamation League hosted the Holocaust Education Conference for pre-service students and local educators.

Our doctoral program in Educational Administration and Supervision reached a milestone this year with over one hundred students having earned their EdD degree on the UNO campus. This program is the result of the efforts of many benefactors who devoted their energy, cooperative efforts, and scholarly abilities to develop a program that had beginnings over twenty-five years ago. You can also read about the scholarship program made possible by many benefactors and learn about the experiences of two students who have shared what receiving a scholarship means to them.

There are many other stories and points of information that are important in the college. But, perhaps one of the most significant examples of how our college has been the beneficiary of a person's dedication and talents is told in a story about a man who spent over forty years as a teacher, leader, motivator, and mentor to an uncalculated number of students, peers, friends, and casual acquaintances in the college, university, and the community. John Langan, we miss you.

Sincerely,
Nancy Edick
Dean, College of Education



Dean Nancy Edick with Lewis and Clark Middle-school student, Armani Boone, at the Roskens groundbreaking ceremony.

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DEDICATED practitioners



Dr. Paul Clark, right, and teachers participate in a STEM workshop.

When you see **STEM** do you think of a flower or a wine glass? In the Office of STEM Education in the College of Education there is another definition. But, just as in a flower or a wine glass, the Office of STEM Education provides support, and even goes further. **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics** education are all interfaced in STEM and STEM activities.

Dr. Neal Topp, a STEM faculty member, defined the purpose of STEM as follows: *The UNO Office of STEM Education is committed to improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. It is our belief that the two key elements for change should be viewing these four areas of STEM as one instructional entity, and that all students should experience relevant and vibrant STEM education.*

Topp further explains that historically, teaching in these four concept areas often followed “silo” teaching with the

disciplines not connected in any way. The new approach integrates the teaching to create the STEM literacy our society needs. Students will develop an understanding of the interrelationship and dependency of the four areas.

Another important facet of the focus of STEM education will be to nurture the potential in all demographics of students. As Topp wrote, “...too often the focus of STEM education has been on only the ‘top’ students.” Topp points out that the Nebraska State-Wide P-16 Initiative has as goal #8, “Increase by five percent the number of teacher education graduates in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) within Nebraska postsecondary institutions.”

The Office of STEM Education has three major focus areas in its efforts, including curriculum development, program evaluation, and educational research. Faculty members and staff are also

involved in securing grants to support these efforts; and to stimulate student learning, they have previously brought in over six million dollars of external funding.

Faculty and staff from UNO who are a part of the STEM office include: Dr. Neal Topp, Dr. Neal Grandgenett, Dr. Elliott Ostler, Dr. Carol Mitchell, Dr. Sheryl McGlamery, Dr. Bob Goeman, Dr. Paul Clark, and Mr. Jim Wolfe. Two practicing K-12 teachers, Mr. Bill Schnase and Mr. Steve Hamersky, serve as consultants for the office activities.

Dr. Neal Grandgenett, as the newly appointed Dr. George and Sally Haddix Chair of STEM Education, will have the overall responsibility to help UNO to lead and encourage collaborative STEM projects toward a shared community vision for STEM education. This collaborative effort will particularly involve other staff and faculty members from UNO colleges, and especially the College of Arts and Sciences. Personnel will also be involved from local school districts, the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Central Community College, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and agencies such as NASA. Technology, including the use of robots, will be an integral part of these projects.

A recent NASA Nebraska Space Grant initiative will supply funds to provide iPads into the hands of 18 college level educators. The educators include ten from the College of Education, six from UNO Arts and Sciences, and two from the UNL 4H Extension. The project will look for innovative classroom applications of iPads to use in the instruction of STEM at the university and in the K-12 schools.

A National Science Foundation Grant provided 3.1 million dollars over five years to develop the SPIRIT Robotics Curriculum that will be used in middle school classrooms. SPIRIT stands for the Silicon Prairie Initiative for Robotics in Information Technology. This cooperative effort involves the UNL Computer and

Electronics Engineering Department, the Peter Kiewit Institute, the National Science Foundation, and the Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium (MOEC) and is led by the UNO Office of STEM Education.

This cooperative project involves close cooperation with Dr. Bing Chen from the Peter Kiewit Institute. Chen and his PKI engineers are developing the new educational robotics platform, and the Office of STEM Education is developing a free online national STEM curriculum for use with the robots. The SPIRIT project also trains teachers to use the educational robotics and curriculum to teach difficult to learn concepts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, focusing on “touch points” where robotics can be particularly illustrative of a STEM concept such as acceleration, friction, or slope. The SPIRIT curriculum now includes more than 160 lessons, standards-mapped assessments, construction tutorials, robot games, and a wide variety of instructional support materials such as video clips and worksheets. Standardized test questions are also being mapped to each STEM topic. Eventually, STEM staff will have the “potential tasks of answering questions on the curriculum, updating the curriculum, doing various workshops for teachers, and facilitating an online course in educational robotics that might be taken by teachers from around the country.” The curriculum will be available nationally in 2012.

Teacher workshops on how to use robotics in classroom instruction are ongoing for K-12 teachers throughout the area and the state. A teacher attending one of the recent workshops on a Saturday morning at the Kiewit Institute exclaimed, “This is so much fun!”

Other projects by the STEM office include an aviation workshop [see STEM on page 6](#)



Grandgenett and Chancellor Christensen



STEM faculty and staff in Roskens Hall

DEDICATED practitioners

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developed and conducted by Dr. Carol Mitchell. Staff members are also involved with NASA imagery and accessing NASA data online to be used in instructional activities. Dr. Dana Richter-Egger, from the UNO College of Arts and Sciences, has worked extensively with the STEM Office on a project involving the testing of soil samples. The soil sample testing data was analyzed by Arts and Sciences Chemistry students and used in lessons involving the College of Education Elementary Education and Science majors.

The renovated Roskens Hall will provide a uniquely planned space for the STEM office to conduct further research and instruction activities. The space will provide the college with a model environment to teach and learn STEM knowledge, skills, and concepts. The design of the facility, as well as the technology and showcase exhibits within the facility, will feature hands-on equipment, real-time data feeds, and demonstration materials, and will be a model of energy efficiency investigation.

The facility will include:

- A state-of-the-art science laboratory;
- An innovative hands-on mathematics learning facility;
- Several display monitors to be used for science labs, mathematical simulations, data displays, and NASA connections;
- Multiple interactive white boards;
- Display devices in the classroom that provide real-time energy consumption feedback for the building;
- A shelf of ready-to-use energy activities such as solar balloons, electronic snap kits, battery testers, and a range of ready-to-use classroom hands-on learning kits; and
- A robotics area where small robot competitions or demonstrations can take place.

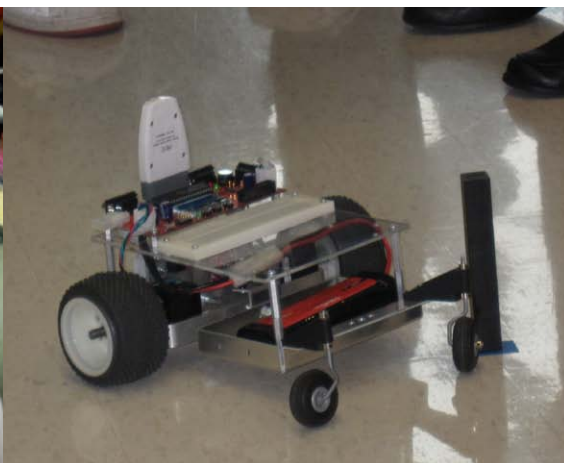
OPPD has provided supplemental funding for many of the energy-related resources.

Research results emanating from the STEM Room activities will enhance presentations at national conferences relative to the collaborative efforts of the office. One such example of this nationwide effort is the development of surveys, observation instruments and rubrics related to assessing Technological, Pedagogical, and Content Knowledge (TPACK) in pre-service and in-service teachers. The STEM office works collaboratively with the College of William and Mary on this project.

The STEM faculty and staff have a long list of awards from the University and around the nation. Especially noteworthy was the selection of Dr. Neal Grandgenett as the recipient of the 2010 Chancellor's Medal given at the May 2010 Commencement. This award is the highest award given by the Chancellor. And, the last issue of *Happenings* included an article about Dr. Carol Mitchell receiving the 2010 Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award.

Other faculty awards include the UNO Research and Creative Activities Award, the NASA Mission Home Award, and the UNO outstanding staff member award.

The previous Office of Internet Studies (OIS) had a substantial impact on the improvement of math and science education during its eleven year history at UNO. The newly created STEM office will provide the platform to move forward with more initiatives and significant results for improving instruction in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



Tinnes Retires



Persons seeking information about college happenings in the past typically began their search in front of Margaret Tinnes' desk. They knew Margaret was the person most likely to be able to provide them with the information they sought.

Margaret began her tenure as a College of Education staff member in 1981 when she was hired as a temporary worker during an NCATE review. Her full-time employment began later when she served for six months as a secretary in the Educational Administration Office, followed by a position in the Dean's Office where she remained for 28 years until retiring in September 2010.

Margaret recalls when she began her temporary work the Dean's Office was located in Kayser Hall 326, but had moved to newly renovated space in Kayser Hall 334 when she began her full-time work in the office. The changes closely paralleled the establish-

ment of the Student Advising Office which occupies the space of the former Dean's Office.

Margaret remembers many changes that have happened in the college, organizational changes as well as physical changes. She first used an electronic typewriter when there were only a few computers in the college. She also transcribed letters from a tape using a Dictaphone. Today, Margaret said, there are only a few typewriters to be found in the college, and they typically are not in use except in unique circumstances.

She worked with five deans—Myers, Flynn, Christensen, Langan, and Edick; as well as Interim Dean Conway. There have been four associate deans during her tenure—Hazlett, Ashbaugh, Mortenson, and Conway. Margaret said that she was sometimes considered someone who was resistant to change, but she acknowledges that change is inevitable and often a good thing.

One of the biggest changes in the college, however, will be getting used to not being able to have Margaret's help or assistance. She leaves with the admiration and respect from everyone who worked with her, or even had limited contact with her.

Learning More About the Holocaust

UNO pre-service students joined approximately 100 educators from thirteen public and private school districts at the Holocaust Education Conference held September 27, 2010, at the Thompson Alumni Center. Resources from the United States Holocaust Museum website and the Museum's guidelines for teachers were provided to the participants.

Presenters provided information about the Jewish faith and a timeline history of the events that were a part of the Holocaust over an extended period of time. While those of the Jewish faith were the largest victim group, participants learned about others who were targeted because of reasons of ethnicity, religious beliefs, behavior and disability.

Presenters included Beth Seldin Dotan, the Director of the Institute for Holocaust Education from the Plains States Office of



the Anti Defamation League; Christina Chavarria, the Program Coordinator of National Outreach for Teacher Initiatives from the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D. C.; and 14 other persons from the Nebraska and the Midwest.

Dr. James Dick, TED, was involved in program planning and the recruitment of students. In a follow-up activity, Dotan along with Bea Karp, a Holocaust survivor, spoke to one of Dr. Dick's classes.

DEDICATED practitioners



Dr. Gigi Brignoni with Oxbow participant.



Oxbow Writing Project

June was a busy, busy month for the twelve participants in the first Oxbow Writing Project and their three sponsors. Project Directors Wilma Kuhlman and Gigi Brignoni from the College of Education Literacy Faculty and Co-Director Sue Anderson of Educational Service Unit Three first learned the Oxbow Writing proposal had been designated as a new site for the National Writing Project (www.nwp.org) last year. The first four-week Summer Institute was held in the Criss Library from 8:30 to 3:00 during the month of June and the first two days of July.

The project was developed around the model of teachers teaching teachers. Institute participants enhanced their skills as teachers of writers through intense writing of their own. They participated in and led demonstrations of successful teaching experiences, served as coaches for the demonstrations, and read and discussed books and articles that enhance knowledge of the writing process and the power of writing. An important focus of the Oxbow Writing Project (OWP) is to empower students from diverse economic, ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds.



Dr. Wilma Kuhlman with Oxbow participants.



Institute participants earned five graduate credit hours that can be applied to Teacher Education programs. The grant also provided \$1,000 stipends for each participant.

The first participants came from the larger metro area and included one teacher from Glenwood Community Schools, three teachers from the Millard Public Schools, four teachers from the Omaha Public Schools, two teachers from South Sarpy District 46, and one teacher from the Westside Community Schools.

Persons who successfully complete the institute become Teacher Leaders and assume the responsibility to be leaders of writing instruction in their schools and beyond. This responsibility includes various forms of participation in conferences and activities focused on writing.

A popular institute activity was marathon writing that utilized “pedagogy of place.” One writing marathon was held in the Old Market and began at the Kaneko Library, then moved to other locations throughout the Market such as Second Chance Antiques, Scooters, the Old Market Passageway, and the 13th

Street Coffee Shop. All members of the institute participated in the marathon and were involved with a group of three other persons who engaged in writing at each of the stops. They discovered or verified that different locations inspire different writing.

The writers chose whether they wished to write in composition books or use their laptop. However, technology became an important part of each person’s experience through a daily Oxbow log and was even one of the writing topics.

Some of the comments of participants at the end of the summer included the following:

The most important thing I gained from the institute is the belief that I am a writer. I learned that you have to practice writing in order to improve. You have to build up writing stamina.

I am more confident in myself as a writer. For the first time in my life I have tried writing fiction.

The most important thing I have gained from the summer institute is confidence as a writer

and a teacher of writing. I have gained a lot of new teaching ideas and resources and my use of technology has increased dramatically over the time in the summer institute. I expect my teaching to improve as well.

Four Teacher Leaders from the June Institute will travel to Orlando, Florida, for the annual conference of the National Writing Project. Drs. Kuhlman and Brignoni will accompany the teachers.

Oxbow is a landmark accomplishment for the faculty members and the college. Similar projects at other institutions in previous years have bolstered the institution’s reputation for teacher training and, more importantly, have made a significant contribution in improving teacher abilities in teaching writing.

Teachers wishing to become involved may apply for the Institute that will be held in July next summer. The application process is competitive. Information regarding application will be made available on the project’s website: www.unomaha.edu/oxbowwp.

DEDICATED practitioners



More Alike Than Different

Milo Bail Student Center was full of action on June 18th. Ninety teachers, administrators, counselors, and paraprofessionals were assembled for the opening session of the first ever National Education Conference sponsored by the Special Olympics Project Unify.

At the same time the conference was being held on the Main Campus, 180 youth were assembled at the Scott Conference Center on the South Campus for the Youth Activation Summit. These events were held in connection with the Special Olympic Games that were being held at the same time in Lincoln.

The purpose of the Youth Activation Summit was to bring youth together to build leadership skills and strategies to deal with injustices in schools and the community. In addition, the youth learned strategies for working with adults.

Michael Messerole, the Assistant Director of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER), had a concept for a professional conference when he met in Washington, D. C., with twenty-two members of the Youth Activation Committee of the Special Olympics. As Messerole listened to the youth, he constantly altered concepts for the conference with youth becoming more involved in the planning and facilitation. Several youth even became presenters. The purpose of the conference became one of enabling adults to see youth in leadership roles and to assist in the development of strategies for dealing with social injustice.

An exciting part of the conference was the development of a play entitled, "It is Our School Too!" A playwright was commissioned to write and direct the production. Ninety youth interviews were conducted by the playwright as she developed the plot. Both mentally disabled youth and non-disabled youth became cast members. After one week of practice the production was presented to a full house at the Strauss Performing Arts Center.

College of Education Faculty members Kristine Swain and Beth Leader-Janssen were presenters at the conference. An especially dynamic presentation was made by Sarah, a young person with Downs Syndrome who speaks nationally on the issue of mental disabilities. Hannah Lefler, a graduate assistant in HPER, assisted with the conference.

Both adults and youth attended the Special Olympic Games Tuesday afternoon in Lincoln. The buses taking event participants were full of both youth and adults. Conference Director Messerole commented that a highlight of the conference for him was watching the interaction between the adults attending the conference and the youth attending the Activation Summit.



TAP Enriches Teaching Force

Samia Eltouny enjoyed her work as a research scientist. She worked mostly in the medical field at several locations after earning her master's degree in entomology from the University of Georgia. The stops along the way to her current role as a UNO student in the Teacher Academy Project (TAP) included Duke University, the University of Colorado, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

But, Samia has made the decision to leave the rewarding area of research for an area she believes will provide even more rewarding days. She has decided to become a teacher. In fact, she feels a passion for becoming a teacher. She taught briefly in her native Egypt after earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Cairo. So, she knows something about what her life will be like.

Samia will be student teaching next semester at Douglas County West High School. Her teaching areas will include chemistry, physics, biology and the physical sciences.

Eltouny recognizes there will be many cultural differences between teaching in

a large city like Cairo and teaching in a small community like Valley. But, she is embracing the differences because as a parent of a high school student she feels even more passionate about the importance of every child having good teachers.

There are several other persons with life experiences in other career fields that are now preparing to become teachers in the TAP Program. Students such as Marcus Wagstaff, a young man who came to the program from a career in business. Marcus will be student teaching in business at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

A Ralston High School graduate, Marcus entered the business world at First Data after receiving a finance degree from Creighton University. He later worked at ConAgra Foods; and while he enjoyed his career in business, an interest in working full time with young people grew as he coached a youth basketball team.

Then, Marcus heard about TAP, which provided an opportunity for him to become qualified to teach in a shorter period of time but still have quality training.



Marcus Wagstaff and Valerie and Felicia, two students in the marketing class where he serves as a student teacher.

Marcus is married, and he and his wife have a two year old son and a six year old daughter. He is anticipating the opportunity he will have as a teacher to work with young people and to make a difference in their lives.

Since the program began in the college in the summer of 2000 there have been 190 students who have completed the program. Dr. Larry Heck, the program director, said, "The program is fulfilling its original purpose of helping fill the high need teaching areas." Heck further explained that seventy-five percent of the "program completers" were prepared to teach in the areas of science, mathematics, foreign language and business.

Stergiou Assumes An Expanded Role

Dr. Nick Stergiou, an Isaacson Professor in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, has experienced considerable success in obtaining research grants to support the work done in the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility where he serves as the Director. Stergiou now has assumed an expanded role in the College as the Coordinator of Research and Creative Activity. In this new role, Stergiou focuses on assisting members of the faculty and staff in developing research grants and other creative projects.

Regularly scheduled seminars are open to all faculty members in the college, but especially focus on serving the youngest members of the faculty who are beginning their research careers. The seminars focus on faculty developing their own grant applications.

REFLECTIVE scholars



Dr. David Conway, Dr. Daniel Blanke, Dr. John Langan, and Chancellor Christensen at Langan's retirement event.

Photo by Tim Fitzgerald

Educator, Motivator, Leader, Friend...

How can you capture the glint in an Irishman's eye? How can you define a strong dedication to improving education for all children and adults? How can you describe a special magnetism that draws other persons in with a feeling of companionship and cooperative competition?

One way is to simply write—John Langan.

Several hundred people filled the Field House to celebrate John's life on Friday, July 30, 2010. He had passed away on the 27th. Chancellor John Christensen led the service that paid tribute to John's career and his role as a husband, father, and friend. Christensen was quoted as saying, "John was a great friend to the state's education community, to our metropolitan area teachers, to every student he ever met, and to me."

Langan graduated in the final class of the Municipal University of Omaha on June 1, 1968. He immediately began work on his master's degree at the newly established University of Nebraska at Omaha and upon receiving the degree began his career as faculty member in the college. He later served as the first Coordinator of

the Office of Student Services, as Chair of Teacher Education, and as Dean of the College. During his tenure he was also President of the University's Faculty Senate.

Langan earned his Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln while he was serving as a faculty member at UNO.

John was proud of his accomplishments in the college and often referred to the successful CADRE and Mentor programs that he served an important role in forming.

He was well known nationally and state-wide for his role in the accreditation process. Marilyn Hadley from the University of Nebraska at Kearney wrote: "I have fond memories of John at the NCTE meetings. He was a gifted orator, good at persuasion, and once he took a position on an issue he was never in doubt of it."

Nancy Edick, who has since followed Langan in the Deanship stated, "John thrived on helping people and ideas. When he believed in you, he provided mentoring and support that made you exceed what you thought was possible."

Kris Berg, a long-time faculty member wrote; “John was a ‘giver’ to so many people in his career at UNO. I always realized that but in reflection of the 39 years I knew him, I marvel today at his accomplishments and the way he lived his life.”

Dr. Langan also served as the faculty representative for university athletics and had a devout interest in the performance of all athletic teams. Connie Claussen, the person who started women’s athletics on campus, tells the story of how John served as the volunteer assistant coach for the first women’s athletic team when he helped her coach softball.

John contributed to the community in many ways. He served his sons and others’ sons as a coach in little league baseball. He served on many community committees and provided leadership in educational organizations. But, he perhaps had a role in improving education for the most young people in the community when for fourteen years he was a member of the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education. Seven of those years he was the President of the Board.

Dr. John Mackiel, Superintendent of the Omaha Public Schools during most of John’s tenure on the Board wrote, “Dr. John Langan was an educator’s educator whose intense focus was always on the best interests of each student. He fought to ensure financial equity for the school district as well as to make the most current programs and resources available to all teachers and students. The staff, the students and their families have been fortunate to have witnessed such an enthusiastic advocate.”

Steve Pitlor, a fellow Board Member and former President of the Board, who joined the Board of Education at the same time as John in January of 1990, wrote the following, “John knew education well, however, his people skills and the ability to manage conflicts were special traits that he possessed that I

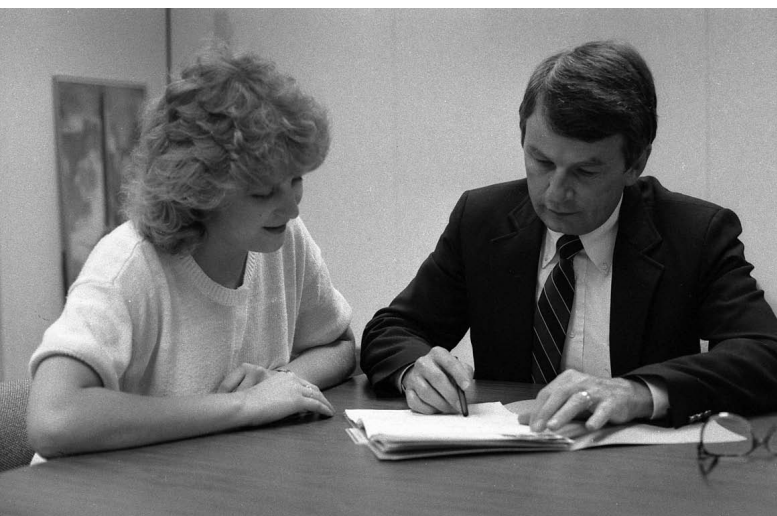
learned much from. While we always didn’t agree on everything he always showed me respect and courtesy, particularly in the public eye, saving stronger opinions for me in private. John lived and breathed education. His passion increased my appreciation for not only the responsibilities we had as Board Members, but to kids in general...”

Dr. Richard Flynn, President of Springfield College and former Dean of the College of Education, wrote, “Jack is closely aligned to many of my own wonderful memories associated with the College of Education at UNO. My selection of Jack as the Chair of the Teacher Education Department in 1992 was both easy and significant. Easy because his background, experience, dedication, and leadership ability clearly made him the right person for the job, and significant because he was such a champion for students, the schools, and teacher education, advocating for the best prepared teachers for today’s students destined to become tomorrow’s leaders.”

Flynn continued, “He is one of those very rare individuals whose presence added value to all with whom he came into contact.”

Family was an important part of Langan’s life. His wife, Carole, continues her own legacy in education as she currently supervises student teachers and is helping revise the annual mentoring workshop held in June. Carole was a former elementary assistant principal and kindergarten teacher in the Omaha Public Schools. She also served as a Cadre Associate in the CADRE Program. Their son Michael is employed by Ecolabs and lives in Houston, TX. Their youngest son, Timothy, is an attorney in Omaha. Timothy and his wife, Liz, have a one year old son, Conor.

Langan is known and respected as an educator, but he will be most remembered as a friend by the literally thousands of people who “knew him well.” Upon his retirement from the college in the summer of 2009, close associates announced the formation of a fund to establish a John T. Langan Professorship. It was the greatest professional recognition he could be given. The fund has grown substantially, but more is needed and contributions to the fund are encouraged. The contributions can be made to the University of Nebraska Foundation for the purpose of the John T. Langan Professorship. If you wish to contribute, go to www.nufoundation.org/JohnLangan.



Langan was the first Coordinator of the Office of Student Services when it began in 1984.

Photo from Criss Library Archives, courtesy of Les Valentine

REFLECTIVE scholars



Above:
Dr. Sara Myers and a graduate student in the Biomechanics Laboratory.

Right:
Dr. Leslie Decker and graduate students conduct research involving movement and cognition.

National Institutes of Health Grants Recognize Significant Research in the Biomechanics Lab

The Biomechanics Core Facility is somewhat hidden on the second level of the gleaming, newly renovated, HPER Building. But, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has found and recognized the significance of the research conducted by dedicated practitioners who work there. The recognition comes in the form of three prestigious NIH grants being earned by faculty and staff from the facility.

The pride in the work they do was recently evident when visiting with Dr. Leslie Decker and Dr. Sara Myers. With backgrounds as divergent as Paris, France, and Hampton, Nebraska, they have come together to frequently work as a team with others in the facility to conduct research that will improve interventions for persons who suffer from various movement disorders. And, they give considerable credit to their mentor, Dr. Nick Stergiou, who hails from Greece.



Sara is from Hampton. She came to UNO to be a student and a basketball player. She remained at UNO and earned her master's degree in exercise science and was recently awarded an \$86,000 research training award from the National Institutes of Health. The award will allow her to continue her research and work on her advanced degree at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Sara's research focuses on patients suffering from Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD). Equipment in the Core Facility is utilized in examining the blood flow of PAD patients before and after walking. The goal is to develop interventions that will improve the patients' conditions.

Leslie is from Paris. Post-doctoral student Decker engages in research with Dr. James Potter, Chief of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Patients at the Medical Center are identified for participation in research activities designed to determine how to improve their mechanical mobility.

Decker and Myers emphasize that researchers in the Biomechanical Core Facility use a team approach. They believe the reputation of the other researchers, such as Dr. Nick Stergiou, is a major factor in their ability to learn and to do research that results in obtaining NIH grants and awards.

Indeed the facility has gained a solid reputation for its scholarly work and results, so much so that students have been attracted from around the world. Today there are persons working in the lab from France, Greece, India, China, Singapore, Korea and Serbia, as well as the United States.

When visiting with research scholars from Hampton and Paris and you absorb their enthusiasm and hear of their dedication, you know why they have been successful in obtaining NIH grants.

Professorships Recognize and Reward Outstanding Teachers

Attracting and retaining outstanding faculty is a characteristic of exemplary programs in colleges of education throughout the nation. One way colleges can focus on this task is to have the opportunity to give recognition and awards in the form of special professorships to such faculty in their college.

Dr. Lana Danielson, Chair of Teacher Education, fittingly holds the Hollie Bethel Professorship. The professorship was funded by bequests from Dr. Bethel, a long-time Chair of Teacher Education.

Dr. Tom Lorschach, Special Education and Communication Disorders, holds the Paul Kennedy Diamond Professorship named after the remarkable former Dean of the College, Paul Kennedy.

Dr. Nick Stergiou, Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, is the Isaacson Professor in the College. **Dr. Sandra Wetig** is the Robert Ackerman Professor of Community Engagement, and Dr. Jennifer Huberty, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, holds a Varner Professorship.

REFLECTIVE scholars



Dr. Brignoni with her son, David Garcia, at the Latino Heritage Awards Banquet.

Brignoni Receives Awards

Dr. Evangelina “Gigi” Brignoni, Teacher Education, has recently received two honors. The first announced award was the Latina of the Year award presented at the Sixth Annual Latino Heritage Awards Banquet at Creighton University. The award recognizes Brignoni as the outstanding woman in leadership in 2010. Brignoni was especially pleased that her son, David Garcia, from Hollywood, California, came to Omaha for the event.

The second honor was the MCSLHE teaching award. The Midwest Consortium for Service Learning in Higher Education (MCSLHE) presented the award on October 2, 2010, at a conference held at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. Her service learning partner received the community partner award. The awards recognize outstanding achievement in service learning.

You Read It Here

If over 200 librarians are in the same room is it still quiet? According to COE faculty member Becky Pasco, the best way to describe the atmosphere in the Alumni Center’s Bootstrapper Hall during the Heartland School Library Conference was to compare it to a beehive. Conference participants actively engaged in formal and informal discussions about issues of common interest to school librarians.

Over 200 school librarians from Nebraska and many surrounding states participated this summer in the two-day conference that was sponsored by the College of Education Library Science faculty.

The purposes of the conference, which was filled to capacity, were to provide an opportunity for school librarians to listen to nationally recognized leaders in the field of library science, to establish lasting networks among other librarians, and to discuss issues of common interest. Conference evaluations indicate the purposes were achieved at a high level.

Cassandra Barnett, President of the American Association of School Librarians, and Pam Berger, Editor of Information Searcher Magazine, were nationally known keynote speakers during the event. Becky Pasco and Karen Hein, the UNO Library Science faculty, collaborated closely with the Nebraska State Department of Education and the Nebraska Educational Media Association in preparing for the conference.

The UNO Library Science Program is one of only 40 training programs recognized by the American Library Association.



School Librarians (l. to r.): Betty Meyer, Jill Annis (front) Betty Meyer is the school librarian for Thayer Central Community Schools in Hebron, Nebraska, and the President of the Nebraska Educational Media Association. Jill Annis is the school librarian at Elkhorn Ridge Elementary School in Elkhorn, Nebraska.

New Faculty

The strength of a college is determined by the quality of its faculty. As we learn about the three new faculty members joining the College of Education this Fall, we become very optimistic that the tradition of exceptional faculty members is being continued.

The new faculty members include Jason Coleman (Health Education), Shari Deveney (Speech Pathology), and Dustin Slivka (Exercise Physiology).



Jason Coleman earned his Master of Science in Public Health and his Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior from the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. Prior to coming to

UNO he served as a Research Associate and Director of the Center for Disease Control/Association of Schools of Public Health Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership. Coleman also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia where he focused on health education and HIV prevention.

Coleman will be serving as an Assistant Professor in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. He also conducts research in LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) health.



Shari Deveney earned her doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a participant in the college's Faculty Development Program. She specializes in early intervention for children who are late talkers. She has worked as a

practicing speech pathologist in school districts in Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas. Her experience includes five years with the Boys Town Schools in Omaha. She has experience working with children from birth through 12th grade.

Deveney's previous degrees were earned from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kansas State University. This fall she is teaching a fluency disorders course for graduate students and an undergraduate course in articulation and phonological disorders. She also supervises graduate student clinicians in the Speech and Hearing Center. Shari focuses her research interests on early intervention for children with communication disorders.



Dustin Slivka earned his bachelor's degree from Rocky Mountain College, his master's degree from the University of Montana, and his doctor of philosophy degree in human bioenergetics from Ball State University. Slivka also participated in postdoctoral training at the Montana

Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism at the University of Montana.

Slivka's teaching area is exercise physiology. His specific area of research includes the impact of hostile external environments on mitochondrial biogenesis and the impact environment may have on athletic performance, work performance and disease.



Also joining the faculty on a one year appointment is **Joseph Johnson**, a Ph.D. candidate in Special Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Johnson is teaching Applied Special Education, Special Education Methods, and supervising student teachers.

Johnson's research interests include strategy instruction, ADHD, and reading comprehension. His undergraduate degree is from Appalachian State University, and his master's degree is from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He had lived in North Carolina all his life before moving to Omaha in 2005. A confessed devout Tarheel fan, we will need to check his Maverick gear on game days before passing full judgment.

RESPONSIBLE citizens



Above: Two Western Hill students join Contributor, George Haddix, Dean Nancy Edick, Chancellor John Christensen, and Foundation President Clarence Castner in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Photos by Tim Fitzgerald



Roskens Hall Dedication and Renovation

It was a great day! The weather was welcoming, the dancers lining the approach to the bright white tent were skillful and colorful, the students from Western Hills and Lewis and Clark schools were extending exuberant welcomes, and the ceremony presenters were inspirational and informative.

The tent was strategically placed on the freshly mown grass in the Pep Bowl so the large number gathered for the dedication of the renovation of Roskens Hall could see the current Roskens Hall loom beyond the arched isinglass windows of the tent. Presenters included James B.

Milliken, President of the University of Nebraska System; John E. Christensen, UNO Chancellor; Clarence L. Castner, President of the University of Nebraska Foundation; Nancy A. Edick, Dean of the College; and Rena Ramiah, the College of Education student representative. Guests were especially spellbound by Ramiah's presentation on how she decided to become a teacher. The promise of the future defined by the other presenters was inspirational to the many College of Education staff and faculty present and to the many community members and supporters of the college and the university.

Bill and Ruth Scott and George Had-dix, major contributors to the project, were on hand to join in using ceremonial shovels to turn the symbolic first dirt to begin the project. Several presenters expressed appreciation for the significant contributions both families made for the reconstruction.

The reconstruction is moving rapidly and plans are for the college to move to the new location in the Fall of 2011. Regular tours of the facility have been made available for faculty and staff. The tours

see **DEDICATION** on page 20



Student Representative Rena Ramiah and University of Nebraska President James Milliken, join Lewis and Clark students and contributors Bill and Ruth Scott in the ceremonial turning of the dirt in the groundbreaking ceremony.

RESPONSIBLE citizens



Frequent tours of the reconstruction activity have allowed faculty and staff to keep updated on the progress of the renovation.

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allow them to observe the development of improved spaces for instruction and research.

Collaboration rooms near classrooms will allow students to effectively assemble in cooperative groups during classes. Today in Kayser Hall students can be regularly observed gathering together in classroom groups in the hallways, and even at the top of stairwells.

Specially designed spaces will allow for students and faculty to engage in the use of the latest technology that supports learning, and a space now being called IDEAS (Innovation, Design, Engagement, Activities, and Synergy Room) will provide resources to promote the

innovation, design, and practice of improved instructional methods.

The first floor will be especially student-oriented with an atrium area for students to congregate, study and relax. The atrium space will be adjacent to an enlarged Student Services area where students can meet with advisers and persons responsible for the coordination of field experiences.

The atrium area will also provide a welcoming entry for everyone who comes to Roskens Hall. The north entrance to the building will provide for easier community access to the improved speech and counseling clinics. For example, the Speech and Language Clinic will have

two small group rooms for student clinicians to work with small groups of clients.

As exciting as the facility made possible by the contributions of the Scotts and Dr. Haddix is, the lasting legacy will be the improvement of instruction for students preparing for careers in educational fields thus resulting in improved instruction for the students they will serve as educational professionals.

Building to Become Better

If you live in or near Omaha, we have a challenge for you. Take time to visit the newly renovated and expanded Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) Building and compare it with any other facility of this kind you may have seen on other campuses in the area or nation. We are confident you will develop an appreciation for the creativity and thought that went into planning this impressive facility.

The two-year, thirty million dollar project funded with student fees provides exceptional opportunities for students, faculty and staff, and community participants to engage in a wide variety of physical activities and learning experiences. The dramatic entry beckons everyone to venture further. The spacious study and conversation area complete with a small café provides an opportunity for students to network with students and faculty members.

Campus Recreation Director, Joe Kaminski, wrote the following:

The additional 90,000 new square feet and the 150,000 renovated square feet will provide the appropriate space for a campus population the size of UNO. New space will allow the staff of Campus Recreation to offer yoga, Pilates, kick boxing and indoor cycling in the new fitness rooms and team sport activities such as indoor soccer, floor hockey, indoor lacrosse, and arena football in the newly renovated gym space. Along with contributing to the overall health of students, faculty, and staff, the facility will assist in recruiting new students and retaining current students.

The expansion also allowed for Student Health to move from the Student Center to expanded and improved spaces in HPER. A wet classroom adjacent to the swimming pool and large windows in the two expansive exercise rooms seem to especially stand out as unique and special spaces.



The renovated spaces include a "Spinning" Room and a greatly enlarged weight lifting and exercise area.



RESPONSIBLE citizens

Did You Know

< **Aja Kneip Pelster**, a health education graduate assistant and president of Eta Sigma Gamma, was selected as the Outstanding Public Health Student by the Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN). In addition, she received a \$500 scholarship from PHAN.

< **Dr. Sara Edwards**, TED, is a member of the 2010-2011 Chamber of Commerce Leadership Omaha class.

< **Dr. Becky Pasco**, TED, received the 2010 Nebraska Library Association's Meritorious Service Award at the annual conference. The award is given to a person who has contributed to the improvement of library services.

< Speech Language Pathology graduate students **Julianne Fazio** and **Tess Whipple** were selected to receive a 2010 Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Endowment Fund scholarship. They were recognized at the Fall Convention in Kearney, Nebraska.

< **Jessica Hargis**, Speech Language Pathology graduate student, was awarded 2010 Member Honors from the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) at the annual Convention in Philadelphia in November. Member Honors are awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, service, professional conduct, and service to NSSLHA.

< National Teacher of the Year, **Sarah Brown Wessling** was the keynote



College of Education students engage with students from Lewis and Clark Middle School in an annual summer workshop held on the UNO campus.

speaker at the fall FEA Conference sponsored by the College of Education Student Services. The conference was held on Thursday, October 28, 2010.

< **Dr. Carol Mitchell** was the keynote speaker at the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., 6th Annual Heritage Ball held at the Milo Bail Student Center on November 5, 2010. Individuals who have demonstrated strong leadership and contributed to the community are recognized at the Ball.

< Students from Lewis & Clark Middle School again participated in a week long summer workshop on campus. College of Education students and faculty develop activities and participate in the workshop.

< This year, there were seven Nebraska teachers who earned National Board Certification. All seven of the newly certified teachers participated in the MOEC Cohort (five from the 09-10 cohort and two advanced candidates from previous cohorts). Nebraska currently has 85 teachers who have achieved National Board Certification. Of those, 24 have participated in the MOEC Cohort which began in 2006. The cohort brings teachers together to work toward the goal of achieving national certification. In the cohort they receive instruction, guidance, and the support of each other as they prepare to complete the requirements for the certification.

STUDENTS

What Were You Doing on October 20th?

What were you doing on October 20th? Do you recognize it as a special day? Perhaps not. But, a writing project initiated by the six members of the College of Education literacy faculty has made an impact that will result in many people remembering October 20 is National Day on Writing.

Sponsored nationally by the National Council of Teachers of English, the day was special to students in the college because they took part in a fun experiment on writing. Six large posters were placed throughout Kayser Hall encouraging those who walked by to add their own sentence to the story that was developing throughout the day.

Each member of the literacy faculty wrote the first sentence on one of the large sheets of poster board provided for the additional comments. The poster sheets were located on different floors in very visible locations. It wasn't long before the stories took a life of their own. An example from one of the posters follows:



Coffee. Toast. And out the door I go.

The day is going to be busy...the music in my car sets the mood for the day.

It's a melancholy tune, but so is my mood.

Tests, projects, studying. Does the work ever stop?

Today's different though. I am coming back rested from break and ready to tackle ...everything.

Lesson plans written different ways for different profs, busy work, tests, participation points... bring it on. I'm ready.

I'm learning to be flexible—adaptable—just like I will be in my future classroom.



Durham Dancers

2010 Durham Museum Scholar in Residence Professor Josie Metal-Corbin and Moving Company members who comprise the Durham Dancers. Left to Right: Metal-Corbin, Nadia Cruz, Javier Ovalie, Jorge Ambriz, Luisa Trujillo, and Michael Klee.

STUDENTS

Scholarship Winners 2010

College is an expensive venture. As college costs continue to escalate and the job market becomes more difficult, it is challenging for students to meet the expenses that come with obtaining a college degree. Fortunately, current and past contributions from organizations and individuals have provided support in the form of scholarships for College of Education students. The amount of the support varies, but even the smaller amounts can be a big help. Recent scholarship winners include the following:

Ackerman Scholarship

Aleecia Cotton
Kelsey Serci
Cole Willis

Alice Pratt Scholarship

Amber Goering
Derek Gottula

Assets in Education Scholarship

Carolyn Crom
Mariana Estrada
Danielle Lausten
Erica Lausten
Anastasia Martinez
Dianne Osborne
Veronica Ramos
Alyssa Todd
Beverly White

Bethel Scholarship

Emily Bradrick
Mary Ann Garrison
Marcy Lodes (Frey)
Kirshell McClannen
Carrie Murphy
Heather Topil
Sarah Wheeland
Billie Witzel

Beverly and Wallace Houts

Eryn Mertins

Honors-Junior

Alexandra Hart
Christopher Peters

Honors-Sophomore

Collin Mink
MaryLou Snyder

Honors-Senior

Chelsea Peterson
William Urban

Lykke Student Teaching Scholarship

Jennifer Kaminski

Neafus Scholarship

Derek Austin
Richelle Blum
Julie Bonar
Erika Breiter (Schroeder)
Brandy Carter
Kayla Childress
Carolyn Crom
Hillary Horvatic
David Kerr
Adam McKeagney
Lindsey Moore
Joseph Moorhouse
Amanda Morrison
Amy Marie Nelson
Amanda Nye
Heather Pohl
Veronica Ramos
Cassandra Roberts
Stephanie Sackett
Rebeca Salkin
Tanisha Wallis
Heather Wilkerson-Peterson

Northern Natural Gas Scholarship

Takijah Collins
Shaleana Johnson
Andrew Lewandowski
Felicia Nofuente (Cabardo)
Dunina Padilla
Edward Panton
Sarahi Real y Vasquez
Alexander Urban
Nolan Urban

Patricia Lynn Christie Scholarship

Lindsey Schubert

Richard Latin Scholarship

Brent Hassenstab

Talent-Claudia Galloway Scholarship

Amy Wing

Talent-James Winslow Scholarship

Kesley Eastman
Corey Hagenau
Nicole Novacek

Talent-Jane O'Dell Penisten Scholarship

Jade Donovan
Alicia Gotschall
Chelsea Hoschar

Talent-Lucille Bowers Scholarship

Abigail Sorensen

Scholarship Winners Speak Out

Jennifer Kaminski



Have you found your passion, what drives you to get up in the morning and to do your best? Some people go all their life without discovering where their passion lies. I am ecstatic to say that I have found my passion and it lies in teaching.

In 2006 I had a life changing decision to make. Do I stay in the Air Force and retire after 20 years? Or, do I pursue my dream of teaching students who are deaf and/or hard-of-hearing? After much thought, I decided it was time to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher.

My husband and I are both full-time college students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. My husband works full-time, and I currently teach dance class in the evening. Before student teaching, I was working as a waitress, teaching dance, and attending UNO full-time. As a nontraditional student I was doing what had to be done to achieve my dream.

The scholarships I have received have been such a blessing. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Bob and Mary Lykke and the women who are a part of the P.E.O. organization for the grant and scholarship I receive.

Veronica Ramos



After five years of pursuing my dream of becoming a teacher, I am finally at the home stretch. Teaching has always been what I wanted to do. Children bring joy to my life and I hold a special place for them in my heart.

The Elementary Education program has provided me with the skills I need to teach, information I need to know, and strategies to become the best teacher I can be for my students.

I have been fortunate to receive scholarship throughout my time with the College of Education. Therefore, I am able to enjoy a part-time job at Lemay Elementary as a special education and after school daycare paraprofessional. I experience classrooms and teachers in a different more personal way by applying what I learn in class and getting instant feedback from my co-workers and students.

I would like to personally thank all the donors who have helped me through my journey. My gratitude goes out to the MacAllister family and the family of Lena Hosman Neafus for their generous donations that have enabled me to get the best out of my education and have given me the freedom to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher.

STUDENTS / ALUMNI



Alum Awarded the Milken

Garret Higginbotham, a May 2010 master's degree graduate in Educational Administration and Supervision, was presented the 2010 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award at an all-school assembly at the Underwood Hills Focus School on Wednesday, October 13. Higginbotham, a teacher with the Westside Community Schools, teaches at

the Underwood Hills focus school that is a collaborative effort with the Elkhorn, Omaha, and Westside school districts.

When asked to comment on receiving the award, Higginbotham wrote, *"Having recently completed my degree in Educational Administration, I look forward to the opportunities this award brings both to my professional career*

and in my ability to positively impact the lives of children. This spring I will attend the Milken Foundation's national conference in California where I hope to gain new insights and collaborate with other educational professionals on critical issues we face in education."

Higginbotham continued, *"I feel very fortunate to be a teacher in a city where high quality teaching is found throughout and have gained much from my collaboration with other highly qualified professionals."*

The Milken Awards are presented nationally and include a \$25,000 stipend award for the winners. There will be 55 winners throughout the nation this year. Higginbotham is the 10th college alumnus to receive the award in Nebraska, out of a total of 36 since the awards began in 1987.



Alumni Board Representative

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Alumni Association Board members have been paired with colleges to enhance collaboration between the association and the colleges. Dr. Susie Melliger is the College of Education Representative. Susie will meet regularly with Dean Edick and others from the college to discuss issues relative to alumni relations. Alumni should feel welcome to contact either Dr. Edick or Dr. Melliger in regard to opinions or ideas relative to alumni connections with the college.

Dr. Melliger earned her master's degree, her educational specialist degree, and her doctorate from the college. Susie is currently the principal at Aldrich Elementary School in the Millard Public Schools, and was previously a teacher and principal in the Omaha Public Schools.

While principal at Omaha's Pinewood Elementary School, she led the implementation of a multiage program, published articles about multiage and presented at conferences. At Aldrich Elementary in Millard, she has been involved in the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

If you are an alumnus with thoughts you wish to share with the Alumni Association, contact Susie.

Doctoral Program Milestones

The doctoral program in Educational Administration and Supervision has a history since 1986 of supporting students. Drs. Robert O'Reilly and Darrell Kellams were the first UNO Faculty members to serve as the sole advisers for doctoral candidates.

As the participation of UNO faculty members continued, a formal joint program with UNL also began to develop. Committees of faculty members from both branches of the University system developed the program that remains today with a few revisions. The first doctoral degrees granted at a UNO Commencement were presented in May of 1996.

Since the beginning in 1986, there have been 100 students who have earned a doctorate under the advisement of UNO faculty.



Dr. Tami Williams was hooded by Dr. David Conway and Dr. John Hill during the 2009-2010 school year.

Photo by Tim Fitzgerald

A Tribute to Dr. Victoria Kaspar

Educators at all levels are aware of incidents throughout recent years of shootings by students or random gunman that take the lives of students, educators, and bystanders. Many safety plans and precautions have been put in place and safety drills have even become a part of the standard protocol within a school or university. And, even though we practice, most of us do not think about being a victim of such violence. We go about performing our responsibilities without fear and to the best of our abilities.

This was the case with Dr. Victoria "Vicki" Kaspar, a three time graduate of the College of Education. Dr. Kaspar, an over twenty year veteran teacher and administrator at Millard South High School, was shot in her assistant principal's office by a student she had suspended for vandalism of school property. Vicki died from the wounds she suffered. The student gunman shot and killed himself after leaving the school building.

The newspapers, television stations, and radio stations have shared with readers and listeners Dr. Kaspar's caring and professional nature. Dr. Laura Schulte was Vicki's adviser during the time she worked on her doctorate degree in the college. Dr. Schulte recently wrote:

I had the great privilege to work with Vicki in three of my doctoral level classes as well as serve as her dissertation committee chair. Vicki was an exemplary student in the doctoral program and an outstanding individual who was a mentor to everyone she met and worked with each day. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her personally and professionally.

Dr. Kaspar earned her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 2003. Her dissertation was entitled: Teachers' Perceptions of Technology Professional development in a Suburban School District. Dr. Kaspar also earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education (1974) and her Master of Science degree in Educational Administration and Supervision (1995) from the college.

Dr. Kaspar was one of the alumni who responded to a questionnaire that was sent to random number of alumni when a history of the college was being written three years ago. In her response, she expressed her pride in graduating with three degrees, her pride in having sons who attended UNO, and her pride in teaching and serving as an assistant principal at Millard South High School. She had been a member of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa for 15 years, and was known for her friendly demeanor and professionalism.



Happenings

in this issue

Page 4 | STEM

When you see **STEM** do you think of a flower or a wine glass? In the Office of STEM Education in the College of Education there is another definition.

Page 12 | John Langan Article

How can you capture the glint in an Irishman's eye? How can you define a strong dedication to improving education for all children and adults?

Page 26 | 2010 Scholarship Winners

College is an expensive venture. As college costs continue to escalate, and the job market becomes more difficult, it is challenging for students to meet the expenses that come with obtaining a college degree.

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