

# *Happenings*

WINTER 2011

SALLY ANN HADDIX ENTRANCE

## *Celebration & Dedication*

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*Cover Photo: Roskens Hall at dusk*

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Photo courtesy of Tim Fitzgerald

# DEAN'S message

This year I have often said, "It is a great time to be the Dean," but, it is worth repeating. The reality of this sentiment was probably never clearer than when I stood at the podium on September 23rd in front of over 500 colleagues, alumni and friends that gathered to observe and participate in the dedication ceremonies of Roskens Hall.

It is difficult to capture in words the beauty of the day; magnificent fall weather, combined with energy, excitement and possibilities. But the real beauty lies within the many people who made the reconstruction of the building happen. Visionaries like Chancellor Christensen who previously served as Dean of the College, and former Dean John T. Langan, who declared the need for a north entrance that is now named in his behalf. There were many faculty members who worked in developing a vision of a building that not only welcomed students, but also provided innovative spaces for them to study, to learn, and to relax. There were the significant persons who stepped forward with monetary contributions, both large and small, to support the reconstruction effort. And now, there is the beauty of the students who are demonstrating how the spaces do support creativity and learning.

This issue of *Happenings* is designed to provide you with a glimpse of how the building enhances learning. You will read about an evening seminar in which students learned about educational practices in other countries. You will read about students from a nearby elementary school who used collaborative technology in the IDEAS Room to develop their schools' library media classroom. You will read short summaries from our students on their reactions to studying and learning in Roskens Hall.

Because our buildings are only part of our story, there are several other features about what is happening in the college and beyond. One story involves Health Education students who have provided a fitness facility in Elmwood Park. There are stories about our successful alumni; including Scott Parsons who was selected to teach philosophy at West Point after serving three deployments in Iraq; Luisa Polomo who teaches at Liberty Elementary in Omaha and was selected as Nebraska Teacher of the Year, and distinguished alumnus Jack Fraenkel and his wife, Marjorie, whose generous support is making possible a chair dedicated to quality teaching.

These stories and more provide ample evidence about why it is a great time to be Dean of the College. With a state of the art facility, tremendous faculty and staff, talented students and alumni and generous benefactors, it is a time of celebration and dedication.

We are dedicated to education.  
We are dedicated to leading innovation.  
We are dedicated to the community.  
We are dedicated to the future.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Edick  
Dean, College of Education



Dean Nancy Edick welcomes the guests to the dedication of the Langan Entrance

UNIVERSITY OF  
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Omaha

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RONALD W. AND  
LOIS G. ROSKENS HALL  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# *Celebration & Dedication*

SALLY ANN HADDIX ENTRANCE

It was a grand day for a celebration. September 23, 2011. The sun shone brightly in the sky and the cool air of a trademark Fall Day created the greeting that flowed from everyone's lips, "Isn't it a great day?" The spirit only grew as the ceremonies began and lasted until the last reluctant guests left the building with exclamatory comments of, "That is a great building!"

Dean Nancy Edick greeted the guests and ceremonial participants by expressing appreciation for everyone's presence and for the generosity of the lead donors to the renovation project, Bill and Ruth Scott, and George and Sally Haddix. The new Roskens Hall complements the recently completed renovation and construction of the HPER Building creating exceptional spaces to prepare teachers; speech language pathologists; counselors; librarians; school administrators; health; physical education; and recreation specialists; as well as biomedical researchers. Edick praised the students, faculty, and staff and stated, "Our students and graduates are dedicated."

College of Education student, Jade Hughes, opened the Dedication Ceremony. Others participating in the program included the Chairman of the Board of Regents, Robert L. Whitehouse; President of the University of Nebraska, James B. Milliken; Former President of the University of Nebraska and Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Ronald W. Roskens, and his wife, a community volunteer and former educator, Lois G. Roskens; President of the University of Nebraska Foundation, Clarence Castner;

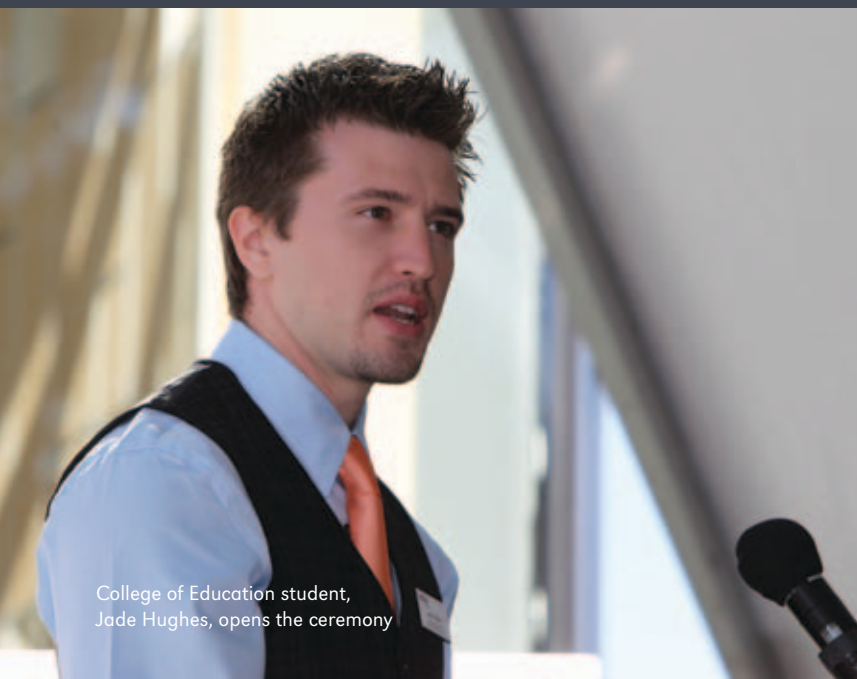
see **CELEBRATION** on page 6



Chancellor and former Dean John Christensen and his wife Jan, with former Dean Richard Flynn and his wife, Jani



Dr. Ronald Roskens and Lois Roskens



College of Education student, Jade Hughes, opens the ceremony



Dedication Sparklers



Whenever you see a QR (Quick Response) code in this issue, use your smartphone or QR scanner to read it and go directly to the content or video on the web.

To download a QR code reader to your smartphone, visit [m.clikbrix.com](http://m.clikbrix.com) in your web browser and click "Get A QR Code Reader." The QR Code above will allow you to view several areas in Roskens Hall.

## from CELEBRATION, page 5

Principal Benefactor Ruth L. Scott; and Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, John E. Christensen.

Regents Chair Whitehouse stated, "I am very proud to call myself a graduate of this college and of UNO. Both are recognized as leaders in education and in serving the community and state as a leading metropolitan university. The transformation of Roskens Hall into a remarkable learning environment embodies an ambitious vision that both the University of Nebraska and the College of Education embrace: a vision of excellence, innovation and service in modern education."

There were several special moments during the dedication ceremonies. One moment was the recognition of college alum, Sally Haddix, whose name appears over the south entrance to the building. Her husband, Dr. George Haddix, was

one of the principal benefactors. Another moment was Chancellor John Christensen's presentation of the Order of the Tower to Bill and Ruth Scott. The Order of the Tower is the highest honor the University bestows. Earlier in the afternoon, a special ceremony was held at the North Entrance to the building. Approximately 100 people assembled under the tent erected by the entrance to witness the dedication of the North Entrance to former student, faculty member, and dean, John T. Langan. Langan's sons, Michael and Timothy, pulled the ropes to remove the canvas that covered the entrance name.

In addition, Dean Nancy Edick announced the John T. Langan Professorship in Early Childhood Education. The contributions of over 400 persons, combined with the generosity of Omaha philanthropist Susie Buffett, led to the creation of the first professorship of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute.



The band played as the celebration moved to the front entrance.



Michael, Carole, and Timothy Langan

Edick reminded the audience that while Langan was very dedicated to the college, to children, and to education, he also “placed tremendous value on a good celebration.” The spirit of celebration was enhanced by a memorable reception hosted by the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Yes, it was a great day. And, it is a great building. As the audience looked up at the shooting fireworks that closed the dedication ceremonies, there was a feeling that the sky is the limit for the students who will learn in this building.



Principal Benefactors, Ruth and Bill Scott

Principal Benefactor  
Dr. George Haddix

# DEDICATED to education



Dr. Julie Delkamiller shares her experiences in Nicaragua.



College of Education student, Wendy Stechler, attends Ed Ad International Leadership Forum

## International Experiences

Torsten and Kerstin Wiechmann remember when the wall came down. They were teaching in Karl-Marx-Stadt, Saxony, Germany. Their lives had been good, but they didn't know what their lives might become.

There was much uncertainty in their city as the culture changed and jobs that were once a part of the communist government disappeared. People began moving out of the city seeking employment in other areas of the country. The name of the city was also changed back to its historic name of Chemnitz.

They too decided to explore new opportunities and applied to teach in German schools in other countries. The opportunity became a reality and in 1991 they started a ten year period of teaching in schools for German students living in Singapore. They left Chemnitz with their newborn son and headed to Singapore where they learned a new culture; became fluent in English; and took advantage of traveling in nearby countries, such as Australia.

In 2001 they started a new experience in education with the German schools in Riyadh. After two years they decided to return to Germany and applied to teach in the schools of the German state of Hesse. Three years were spent teaching in Viernheim; and in 2006 Torsten began serving as the Rector, or Principal, of the elementary school in Reichenbach, Hesse. Kerstin accepted a teaching assignment in a small school close to the nearby city of Bensheim.

The Wiechmanns recently came to America for the first time, spending four days in Omaha. While in Omaha they participated in an International Leadership Forum sponsored by the



Educational Administration and Supervision faculty. Other participants included individuals who had experiences in Thailand, Uzbekistan, Nicaragua, China, and Norway.

During the forum the Wiechmanns shared information about education for K-12 aged children and youth in Germany. The information included:

- Children in Germany attend private school Kindergartens for up to three years prior to entering the public schools at the age of six.
- Almost all children attend a public school for the first four levels, or grades. At the end of those four years the parents make a decision on where their child will attend the rest of their schooling. School personnel provide recommendations to the parents, but the parents make the decision.
- The choices include the Gymnasium, the Realschule, and the Hauptschule. The Gymnasium serves as the school for preparing students to enter a university; the Realschule prepares students to enter the world of work in a trade; and the Hauptschule provides a general education for the remaining students who end their education at the end of the 10th level.
- Students take an examination at the end of Gymnasium that determines if they can attend a university. They have been rigorously prepared for the examination.
- This structure requires a significant decision to be made in regard to a child's future at a very young age, approximately ten years old.
- Students attending a Hauptschule leave without the preparation to have a higher paying job in their future.
- Athletics and other activities take place within a club structure in the community.
- The school day in German schools begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 1:45 p.m. There are no extracurricular activities connected with the schools.
- Schools have a two week holiday in the Fall; a three week holiday during Christmas time; a two week holiday during the Spring; and a five week holiday in the summer. These breaks are considered helpful in maintaining a freshness for studying and teaching. It is also felt the five week summer break reduces the amount of knowledge a student might forget over a more lengthy summer recess.
- German schools are likely to have fewer computers, monitors, and other electronic equipment than American schools.

The Wiechmanns also had the opportunity to visit Crestridge International and Global Studies Magnet School in Omaha. While at Crestridge they visited with students in the third grade who study Germany. Students engaged in a lengthy question and answer session learning about a large variety of topics ranging from the main industry in Germany to questions about typical activities of third graders.

The Wiechmanns plan to continue their adventures; and when their daughter, who is now at the 12th level, completes university, they are seriously considering applying to teach again in a German school in another country—perhaps even the United States. They will have several years remaining in their teaching careers because they will not be eligible for retirement until they are 67.



Above: Kerstin Wiechmann presented at Ed Ad International Leadership Forum

Below: Torsten Wiechmann presented at Ed Ad International Leadership Forum



# DEDICATED to education



Above: Michael Messerole was inducted into the University of Northern Iowa Hall of Excellence

Below: Regent Whitehouse speaking at Freshman Convocation.



## Did You Know...

**Brian Hoover (B.S., 1999; M.S., 2007)** was honored by the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) as the Administrator of the Year at the organization's leadership conference held in Anaheim, California. Hoover is the principal of Nebraska City High School.

**Board of Regents Chairman, Robert Whitehouse (M.S., 1971)** was a speaker at the first ever UNO Freshmen Convocation held on August 26, 2011. He urged the freshmen to take advantage of all the resources available to them.

**Carol Mitchell (Professor, TED)** is one of the authors of a new book, *Hard-to Teach Science Concepts*, released by the National Science Teachers Association Press.

**Michael Messerole (Assistant Director, HPER)** was inducted into the University of Northern Iowa School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services' Elinor A Crawford and William R. Thrall Hall of Excellence in late August. Inductees were chosen for demonstrated mastery of their profession's knowledge base and significant contribution to their profession and wide recognition of the quality of that contribution.

**Dave Garland (B.S., 1971; M.S., 1974)**, Principal at St. Gerald's School in Ralston, was one of nine educators honored at the Archbishop's Dinner for Education held on September 15, 2011, at the La Vista Embassy Suites. The honored educators each received \$5,000.

**Timothy Rasinski (B.S., 1977; M.S., 1979)** was inducted into the International Reading Hall of Fame for his contributions to the field of literacy education. Rasinski was honored by the College as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1997 and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

**Sarahi Real y Vasquez**, a junior in Elementary Education and ESL, and a student Envoy for the college, was named as a Youth Community Award Recipient at the 2011 Heartland Latino Leadership Conference.

**Eric Hagen**, a recent student teacher in the College of Education, was honored by the Nebraska State Council for Social Studies with their Social Studies Student Teacher of the Year Award. Hagen's supervisor was adjunct professor Dan Whipkey.

**The Moving Company** and **Physical Education Pedagogy** majors from UNO were active participants in a touring exhibit of *In a Nutshell: The Worlds of Mauric Sendak*. The opening reception of the exhibit, held at the W. Dale Clark Main Library on October 30th, featured *Dance with the Wild Things* featuring The Moving Company, OPS Beveridge Magnet Middle School Dance Group, and the Jewish Community Center's Dance Training Company. In honor of the exhibit UNO's Physical Education Pedagogy majors led by Professor Josie Metal-Corbin created a dance and taught it with music and sign language to the 5th and 6th graders from Western Hills Magnet School based on "Where the Wild Thing Are."



## Rah Rah Radishes Read Aloud

Imagine you are assembled with eighty-nine other people reading aloud a children's book, *Rah Rah Radishes*. Sounds like fun doesn't it? Add in that you are probably participating in the largest simultaneous reading of a book ever and you have a memorable moment.

Early Childhood Education Professor Susan McWilliams reported the event was just one part of a successful conference sponsored by the Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha area (ECCOA) and the UNO College of Education. Child care providers from the metropolitan area attending the conference were able to listen to presentations by Isabel Baker, columnist and president of Book Vine for Children; Peg Callaghan, an early childhood professional developer from Chicago Headstart; and April Pulley Sayre, a well-known author of children's books.

# DEDICATED to education



## This is a Beginning

Three hundred twenty-five students from twenty-five schools ate about 1,300 pancakes served by the Pancake Man to kick off the first ever Nebraska State Future Educators Association (FEA) Conference. The event began on the plaza in front of Roskens Hall with the sessions in Milo Bail Student Center and Roskens Hall.

Thirty-five presenters were involved in the twenty-eight different topics and break-out sessions. Dr. Connie Schaffer, Coordinator of Field Experiences in the college, was instrumental in the planning and facilitation of this landmark occasion. She worked closely with Carol Ringenberg from the Nebraska Department of Education. The conference followed a decision earlier this year by the United States Department of Education to recognize teaching as a vocational area for Perkins Grant funding.

Advisor sessions launched FEA as a Career Services Organization in Nebraska. Speakers at these session included Jeanne Storm, Executive Director of the National FEA organization, Rich Katt and Carol Ringenberg from the Nebraska Department of Education, as well as the State Commissioner of Education, Roger Breed.

The conference was opened by Nebraska First Lady, Sally Ganem (BS, 1971; MS, 1975), a two degree alumna of the college. Ganem told a personal story of determination and challenged the audience to prepare for teaching

with the same type of determination because "Somebody in Nebraska is counting on them."

Keynote Speaker Rainbow Rowell, an Omaha World-Herald columnist, used humor and deeply personal stories to illustrate the powerful impact teachers have on students. Nebraska Commissioner of Education Roger Breed in closing the conference told students if they want a challenge and want to make a difference then, "Teaching is for you."

Two Nebraska Teachers of the Year were also present. Bob Fuerer the 2011 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, and the recently announced 2012 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Luisa Palomo (M.S., 2009), made brief comments. In addition, students could visit twenty-five exhibits set up in Milo Bail Student Center.

Competition was held in three areas: Public Service Announcements; a Banner; and the FEA Moment. Winners included: PSA – First place, Burke High School; Second place, Millard Public Schools. Banner – First place, Bellevue West High School; Second place, Burke High School; FEA Moment – First place, Katie Hall, Plattsmouth High School; Second place, Sammi Marousek, Burke High School. Katie and Sammi were chosen to become the first student officers for FEA Nebraska.

The threshold has been set. Future Nebraska State FEA Conferences have a firm foundation to build even better events in the coming years.

## Collegiality Brings Strength

Five years of data collected from electronic portfolios, surveys, and focus groups provided a basis for research into the effectiveness of the Department of Educational Administration and Supervision's mission to develop effective educational leaders. Faculty members Kay Keiser, Karen Hayes, Peter Smith, and Jeanne Surface shared the perspectives they gained from the assessment and evaluation process at the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration 2011 Conference in Portland, Oregon, in August.

## Stergiou Named Fellow

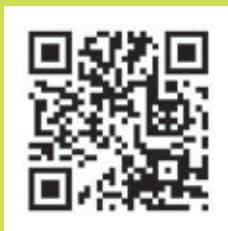
Dr. Nick Stergiou, a professor in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, and Coordinator of Research and Creative Activity for the College, was recognized by the National Academy of Kinesiology at the September 2011 annual meeting of the organization in Minneapolis. Stergiou was one of only eleven individuals in the United States to be inducted as a Fellow in the organization. The National Academy of Kinesiology is an honorary organization composed of Fellows who have made significant and sustained contributions to the field of kinesiology through scholarship and professional service.

# DEDICATED to the community



John Noble, Michaela Schenklerberg,  
and David Corbin at the Elmwood Fitness Park

## Elmwood Fitness Park Project



The QR code to  
the Right will allow  
you to view the  
Elmwood fitness  
project in action

Partners N Health, a statewide collaboration of people and organizations working together to create healthier eating and active living, recently featured the Elmwood Park Outdoor Fitness Park in its newsletter. The Fitness Park was a UNO Service Learning project under the supervision of college faculty members David Corbin and John Noble, and students Michaela Schenklerberg, Emily Casne and April Proskovec.

Schenklerberg, now a college graduate with a degree in exercise science, developed the idea for the project. Grants from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and the Kiewit Building Group provided funds to help purchase equipment for the park. Olsson Associates designed the facility. The activity was carried out in cooperation with the City of Omaha and the Omaha City Park Foundation.

Dr. Corbin observed activity in the park for brief periods over thirty days. Corbin estimated approximately 450 to 570 people use the park over the period of one month. You can view action in the park online at: <http://www.vimeo.com/28820446>.

# DEDICATED to the community

## We Want to Hear From You!

This newsletter is sent to approximately 17,000 alumni of the College of Education. We are interesting in hearing from you. Tell us what you think of the newsletter. Tell us about yourself. Nominate an alumnus who has excelled in their professional life or made significant contributions to society. And, we are interested in responses to the following questions:

- I would like to continue receiving a paper copy of Happenings.
- I would like to continue receiving Happenings, but prefer an electronic copy. My email address is \_\_\_\_\_
- Please take me off the Happenings mailing list.

Send us suggestions, story ideas, information in regard to Happenings...

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Nominate a high achieving alumnus who has excelled in their profession, or made a significant contribution to society. We would need to know their name, contact information, reasons you believe they should be recognized, and supportive documentation for the nomination. We honor alumni at an annual luncheon scheduled this year for April 18, 2012.

The categories for nomination include:

- **Distinguished Service Award.** This award is for an alumnus who has had an especially distinguished profession or personal career.
- **Distinguished Promising Professional.** This award is granted to an alumnus who graduated within the last ten years.
- **Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award.** This award is given to an alumnus who graduated more than ten years ago and who has over time demonstrated outstanding performance personally and professionally.
- **Distinguished Friend of Education.** This award is given to a member of the community who has made a significant contribution to education and/or the college.

Name of Nominee	Telephone Contact Information
E-mail Address of Nominee	Reason for Nomination
Address of Nominee	Supportive Information

This form and supportive information should be sent to  
**Roskens Hall 211K, University of Nebraska at Omaha,**  
**6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0161; or to [rburmood@unomaha.edu](mailto:rburmood@unomaha.edu)**



## Reach for It

**The Moving Company**, the University's dance company, is again reaching out to persons in the community who suffer from Parkinson's Disease by sponsoring a program of dance that will engage the participants in multiple styles of dance. The Winter Session begins in January and is held at the Jewish Community Center's Dance Studio.

Those who attend will dance and have fun while working on balance, strength, flexibility and coordination. The multiple styles of dance are designed to engage the mind and body. The styles will include dance seated in chairs, standing, and dancing across the floor with piano accompaniment.

# DEDICATED to leading innovation



Washington Elementary students work at the *Media:scape* with parent Dan Gilbert

## Learning, Planning and Collaborating

The IDEAS Room (Innovation, Design, Experiences, Activities, Synergy) in the newly renovated Roskens Hall was developed to not only provide a collaborative place for the students and faculty of the College of Education, but also to invite and encourage the Omaha community to work collaboratively. This versatile room includes two Learn-View-Study rooms for small group work, a work room to inspire creative projects, two LCD screens to project computer screens for group work, desktop computers, laptop bars for students to plug in, and a large group presentation space. This presentation space is where the majority of special events take place, and has held as many as 100 visitors at one time.

Some of the community events that have taken place since the IDEAS room opened in August include: Omaha Table Talk, International Educational Forum, National Board Certification Cohort meetings, Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium meetings, Nebraska Foundation Capital Campaign, Future Educators Association Conference, Chamber of Omaha Executive Institute Meeting and Leadership Omaha, tutoring, and in December the IDEAS room will host two author events-young adult author Nancy Werlin and children's author Anna Dewdney.

A special feature of this high-tech space is the *Media:scape* table. This is more than just a table. The *Media:scape* table seats eight people and allows for eight laptops to be plugged in simultaneously.

There are two LCD screens at the head of the table on which two of the eight computer screens can be projected at once. This set-up allows participants to compare and contrast, make group edits, and encourages critical thinking and discussions.

It was this table that inspired Dan Gilbert, an expert on designing learning spaces and a parent of students at Washington Elementary School to bring a group of students into the IDEAS Room to work on a very important project. Mr. Gilbert, is working with the staff and students to develop a plan for an improved learning center for the school. In September, the 6th grade students used the *Media:scape* table to work together in developing and refining ideas for their possible renovation. The *Media:scape* table, the two displays, and individual laptops allowed the students to compare possible furniture as they discussed what should be included in their plans. When the students complete their project they will be able to advance a proposal on what they believe a learning center should be. They may also write a grant to seek funding to develop the learning center. Research, creative thinking, and collaboration have all become more productive through the use of the IDEAS Room.

To learn more about the IDEAS Room, go to <http://www.unomaha.edu/ideasroom/> or contact the IDEAS Room coordinator Wendy Grojean at [wgrojean@unomaha.edu](mailto:wgrojean@unomaha.edu) or call 402-554-2146.

# DEDICATED to the future

## New Faculty and Staff



### Sara Myers

Sara Myers came to UNO to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science (2004) and to play basketball. She accomplished both. She later earned a Master's Degree in Exercise Science (2007) from UNO, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Biomechanics from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Her professional experience has included several roles within the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. She has coordinated research studies, been a graduate research assistant, and a graduate teaching and research assistant. Sara's research interests include the physical function in clinical populations, nonlinear analysis of human movement, peripheral arterial disease, and rehabilitation using virtual reality.

She enjoys spending time with her family that includes her husband and three children; watching football; and, as you could expect from a former Lady Mav, playing basketball.

In her new faculty role she will be teaching courses in Biomechanics and Anatomy and Physiology, as well as performing research in the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility. Sara's funded projects include:

- Mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative damage as determinants of limb dysfunction in claudicating patients, and
- The role of tactile sensation on locomotor adaptation in astronauts returning from long duration space flight.



### Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo

Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo has a rich background of experience and education to support her work as an Assistant Professor of ELL/Bilingual Education and Literacy Teacher Education. She earned her Bachelor's degree from the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Cayey,

Puerto Rico, and began her career as an educator working as an 8th and 9th grade English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at an urban junior high school. She later taught 7th; 8th; and 9th grade ESL at a Catholic school and Puerto Rican Army privates at a military base language center in Puerto Rico.

Rodriguez-Arroyo's Master's and Doctoral degrees were both earned from The Pennsylvania State University where she served two years as an Assistant Professor of Education after earning her doctorate degree. While working on her graduate degrees Sandra taught and supervised field experiences for the *World Languages Teacher Education Program*, planned and implemented courses on language teaching methods, second language acquisition, and supervised Early, Middle, and Student Teaching Field Experiences.

Dr. Rodriguez-Arroyo has earned several professional honors, has presented many papers at professional meetings, and has published in professional journals. Her areas of research interest include applying an ecological framework to the study of field experiences in language teacher education, establishing university and school collaborations to implement educative experiences in teacher education, and establishing relationship and creating opportunities for Latino parents to get involved in the their children's education.





### Irene Harper

Irene Harper earned her Master of Science degree in Counseling from UNO (2009). Her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology is from the University of North Dakota. She is completing a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of South Dakota in the area of Counselor Education and Supervision.

Ms. Harper works as a Graduate Research Assistant for the Government Research Bureau with Native Americans in the Federal Probation System.

Harper is teaching counseling classes in the College of Education and will supervise students during their practicum experiences.



### Bridget Kratt

Bridget Kratt has joined the nationally recognized College of Education Library Media program faculty. She comes to UNO after serving as the School Librarian, Technology Initiator and Web Administrator at Millard's Horizon High School. At Horizon she had the responsibility of building the li-

brary collection from the "ground-up." Bridget also trained staff in technology throughout the district.

Ms. Kratt is a familiar face in the Library Science education program, having taught Young Adult Literature in an adjunct capacity in 2010-2011 and serving as a Graduate Teaching Assistant from 2007-2009.

Bridget earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in 2000 and her Master of Science in Reading, with an endorsement

in Library Media and an endorsement in Technology in 2009. Both degrees were from the College of Education. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Educational Administration at UNO.

Ms. Kratt is teaching Young Adult Literature, Special Methods in Library Media, and Reference Resources and Services this semester. Her husband is Commander of the 170th OSS at Offutt Air Force Base. They have two children.



### Kathleen Peterson

Kathleen Peterson is "immensely enjoying" the opportunities and challenges of her new position as a faculty member in Teacher Education. She teaches classes in Instructional Systems and Current Trends and Issues in Education as well as supervising student teachers.

Peterson is proud that she has earned four degrees from the College of Education. Her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education was earned in 1975. Since then she has earned a Master of Science in Educational Administration (1979); an Educational Specialist Degree in Education (1986), and a Doctorate in Educational Administration (2001).

Her professional career included serving as an elementary teacher in several Omaha Public Schools, and serving as principal at Sherman and Fontenelle Elementary Schools. During this time she also was an adjunct professor at both UNO and Buena Vista College.

Somehow Dr. Peterson found time to serve eight years on the Board of Governors for Metropolitan Community College and raise a family. Her husband is also an educator.

# DEDICATED to the future

## New Faculty and Staff



### Wendy Grojean

When you meet Wendy Grojean you are not surprised to learn she was a UNO cheerleader during her freshman and sophomore years. Her alert, vibrant presence communicates a spirit of energy and commitment. Grojean is serving as the IDEAS Room Coordinator in Roskens

Hall. Her duties include providing professional development for the faculty in the area of technology. She coordinates the activities and events in the room, and provides resources for teacher candidates. She also teaches courses in Library Science. The IDEAS Room is a space designed to provide resources for students and faculty and inspire creativity and innovation.

Ms. Grojean is working toward her doctorate at UNO. She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (2001) and her Master of Science in Educational Administration (2007) from the College of Education. She taught English and Creative Writing at Bellevue East High School and most recently was the Library Facilitator, Literacy Facilitator at the school.



### Denny Hanley

Although a new staff member in the College of Education, Denny Hanley has had an impact on College of Education programs for many years. His major impact goes back fifteen years to the construction of the Space Shuttle that was located in Kayser Hall. His new position with the college

is as the Instructional Technology Design/Training Specialist.

Hanley's daytime job for many years has been to serve as the Millard Public Schools Instructional Technology Facilitator. He

began his career as an elementary teacher. And, although he is an Omaha native he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Education degree from Arizona State University and remained in the Phoenix area where he taught in the Paradise Valley Unified School District before coming back to Omaha and the Millard Public Schools.



### Jeffrey Kaipust

Jeffrey Kaipust received both his Bachelor of Science degree (2008) and his Master of Science degree (2010) in exercise science from the College of Education. During his undergraduate years he was a research assistant for the HPER biomechanics laboratory. He performed running shoe analysis for the

community and did research on gait related studies.

His work as a research assistant led to a graduate assistant position during his studies leading to his master's degree. The assistantship was spent in the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility.

In his new role as a technician in the Core Facility he is responsible for the day to day operations. He will recruit and schedule research subjects and schedule biomechanical data collections for all ongoing research studies within the laboratory. Kaipust will also supervise undergraduate workers, interns, and volunteers.



### Melissa Kelly

Melissa Kelly is a former Maverick softball player. She has returned to Omaha after working as the Lead Fitness Professional at Total Fitness Connection in Bowling Green, Kentucky, for the last two years.

At Total Fitness Connection she managed Pro Shop staff, worked as head personal trainer, and coached sports enhancement.

Kelly returned to Omaha to obtain an instructor position in the college. She will be working in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) teaching activity courses.

Melissa earned both her Bachelor of Science degree and her Master of Science degree from UNO. She was a graduate assistant for the Club Possible childhood obesity grant while she worked on her graduate degree in physical activity and health promotion.



### Molly Klee

Molly Klee has joined the Student Services staff as an Academic Advisor. Molly worked previously in student advisement with Metropolitan Community College.

She is highly qualified for her position with a Master of Arts in Higher Educational Administration from the

University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL). Her thesis was titled: *Exploring the quarterlife crisis phenomenon: young professionals' perceptions, reflections, and beliefs about work-life.*

Molly earned a Bachelor of Music degree from UNL. Her passion is working with under-represented groups.



### Vicki Lentfer

The smile is contagious. If you are a regular around Roskens Hall you have seen it. You probably smiled back. This demeanor is perfect for her new role as the Coordinator of Career Development and Research in the Office of Student Services. In this

role she also has responsibility for the recruitment of new students.

Lentfer's experiences complement her new position. She was recently a CADRE Associate from the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) and had previously taught at Marris Magnet School in Omaha. She worked at Boys Town before OPS. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from UNO, her Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska Kearney, and her Ed. D. from the College of Saint Mary.

Vicki's teaching interests include classroom management, integrating technology into the curriculum, and cultural diversity.



### Edward Panton

Edward Panton is a new instructor in the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and is beginning work on his Masters Degree. Panton is teaching classes in weight training, volleyball, racquetball, golf, and Games I.

Panton has earned two Bachelor's Degrees. His first was a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Regis University in Denver. His second, from UNO, was a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education Teacher Preparation.

# ALUMNI and students



## Alumnus Parsons to Teach at West Point

Parsons in  
Afghanistan in April  
2007

Apparently Scott Parsons doesn't consider the number 13 to be unlucky. Parsons, a 1998 TED graduate, recently wrote in a note to Dean Edick, "I might honestly be the luckiest man alive." And, in the *thirteen* years since his graduation his life has been full.

Parsons, after graduation, became a sixth grade teacher at Skinner Magnet Center in the Omaha Public Schools. He had worked there as a paraprofessional for two years while he was earning his bachelors degree to become a teacher. The degree wasn't his first. He had previously earned a degree in philosophy from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

In June of 1999 Parsons enlisted in the Army as an Intelligence Analyst and later went to Officer Candidate School. As an Intelligence Officer he was deployed to Iraq three times, Afghanistan once, and recently served a

year in Korea. He is now beginning yet another adventure. He has been selected to teach Philosophy at the United States Military Academy at West Point and will simultaneously be working toward a graduate degree in Philosophy. In his new position, Parsons will be "focusing the minds of the young men and women on the moral and ethical training of the Profession of Arms."

As an officer in charge of a company command of intelligence analysts and linguists he feels he has continued to be a teacher. His new role at West Point will only be formalizing the teaching relationship he has with the young men and women in our armed forces.

On behalf of Parsons, a flag flown on a combat reconnaissance mission over Afghanistan on October 13, 2011, was presented to Dean Nancy Edick and the College.

# NU FOUNDATION

## Fraenkel Chair Dedicated to Quality Teaching

He is a man of many accomplishments. He has written more than 40 books, received the James Michener Award for writings in the social sciences, and as a point of pride identifies being voted UNO's "Ugly Man" in 1953.

As an undergraduate at the University of Omaha, Jack Fraenkel was very involved. He was a member of Theta Chi and Alpha Phi Omega, played intramural sports, and was a Cadet Colonel in Air Force ROTC. Upon graduation from OU with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, he was elected to Pi Gamma Mu and Alpha Kappa Delta, social science academic honor societies, received the Outstanding Citizenship and Distinguished Military Graduate Awards from the Air Force ROTC program, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, going on to serve in the United States Air Force for two years.

Following his service, Jack moved to California and began a teaching career. He taught history and social studies at both the junior and senior high school levels. In 1966 he earned a Ph.D. from Stanford University and the next fall became a member of the San Francisco State University faculty. He held this appointment for more than 30 years before retiring as Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Director of the R & D Center in the

College of Education, during which time he directed numerous research projects, both in the United States and abroad. His book on research design, currently in its 8th edition, remains a leader in the field.

During his career, Jack wrote, edited, and contributed to more than 40 books and monographs as well as numerous articles on curriculum design and instructional strategies and procedures. Jack was nationally recognized for his work in values and moral education, receiving numerous awards.

Jack never forgot his OU roots. He and his wife of 50 years, Marge, made the decision to help support his alma mater via a bequest to the College of Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Their generous gift will support the Dr. Jack and Marjorie Fraenkel Chair in Education. Says Jack, "I have fond memories of UNO and my experiences there while a student. I wanted to give something back to repay much of what I gained during the many happy days I spent when UNO was just OU."

The decision to support a chair made sense. Jack's background as a lifelong faculty member and his dedication to improving education is impressive. With this gift, the Fraenkels will ensure a strong future in those areas for UNO and the College of Education.



When asked how he hopes the chair will shape the future for the College, Jack says, "I hope that it can contribute to research about quality teaching at a variety of levels." A fitting legacy for a man whose own contributions in these areas are truly significant.

The College of Education is dedicated to the future. And alumni and friends like Jack and Marjorie Fraenkel are helping ensure a bright and promising future for the College and its students. For more information about how you can make a gift through your estate, please contact Lori Byrne at 402.502.4920.

# ALUMNI and students



## Alumnus Chosen Nebraska Teacher of the Year

**Luisa Palomo (M.S., 2009)** was recently announced as the Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Palomo received her Masters Degree in Educational Administration. She is currently a Kindergarten Teacher at Liberty Elementary School in the Omaha Public Schools.

Palomo serves as the school's partnership liaison with the Omaha Children's Museum, and at a recent UNO Chapter PDK Meeting she described the advantages of the school being located across the street from the museum. The location allows frequent visits that result in experiences for the children that Palomo says provide rich topics for students to learn to write.

The 2010 Alice Buffett Award for Excellence in Teaching winner is described, in a Department of Education story about her selection as Teacher of the Year, by Donna Dobson, the Director of Elementary of Education for the Omaha Public Schools, in the following manner: "There is true joy in her classroom, and I think that is what must be seen to be understood. Ms. Palomo teaches in a high poverty school with a very high percentage of students who are learning English as their second language. Every single child feels the care from Ms. Palomo, and they become a very close group of students."



Amber LaBudda (left) and Elizabeth Renner (right)

## Do You Remember ???

Did you read about CADRE student Beth Renner's project with students at Bancroft Elementary School in our Summer 2010 issue of *Happenings*? The article that included the photo of a display of larger than life photographs of the students with their stories posted below the photo? In the project students were encouraged to tell unique stories with a mixture of writing, picture taking, and critical thinking. The project culminated with a showing in the gallery at the Bancroft Street Market. With the encouragement of Dr. Gigi Brignoni (TED) Renner wrote about the project and sent the draft to professors at California State University-Fullerton and the University of California-Davis who were publishing a book that featured innovative teaching strategies. Her writing and the story were accepted and published.

Renner is now teaching in far northeast Denver in a "turnaround school" that has "innovation status" that allows more freedom to learn and grow with the community of students and families in the best way possible. Renner reports she is "drawing upon what she learned and experienced throughout her years at UNO."



## Put Them all Together and They Spell Experiences

Santa Fe, Coast Guard, Northern California, Belize, Namibia, Thailand, and Omaha. Put them altogether and they spell experiences. **Frederick Marshall Ryals**, a student in the college who is preparing to become a physical education teacher, has dared to step beyond the realm of being comfortable.

Ryals grew up in Santa Fe, New Mexico, served on a search and rescue team in the Coast Guard, and has visited locations as exotic as Belize and as desolate as Namibia. But, in this article we wish to focus on his one year experience as a teacher in Thailand. Ryals' experience began in June of 2006 in Phetchburi, a city of approximately 60,000 people located in Central Thailand at the northern end of the Malay peninsula. The Gulf of Thailand is to the East and the Tanaosi mountain range to the west.

Ryals taught physical education and health. During his year in Thailand he learned enough of the Thai language to "get by." He describes Phetchburi Province as an area that is not populated with tourists. Few people speak English and he needed to develop a system of communication with his students, often doing so by drawing pictures.

There were 3,000 students in his school that was fully staffed with teachers from Thailand. In addition, there were eight persons, such as himself, who were there as teachers or volunteer teachers. The volunteers came from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and France.

There were opportunities for Marshall to travel, and he visited many areas of Thailand, as well as going to Singapore.

Ryals appreciated the cultural values of the people in Phetchburi Province. (They do not believe in killing living things unless it becomes a necessity.) The culture is very family oriented with family units including the very old as well as the very young.

Marshall will probably begin working on a Master's degree when he graduates in a year. His wife, a dentist who studied at Creighton, is now practicing in Santa Fe, where he will return when he graduates. He firmly believes that everyone should seek experiences similar to his. He believes he has a much broader understanding of people and of the world and will be a better teacher because of his travels and living for a year in another country.

# STUDENTS RESPOND to Roskens

## High School Director of Guidance Returns to School

Doug Stansberry was serving students at Bryan High School as the Director of Guidance, and had previously been a counselor at Central High School. But, after fourteen years in these roles, he is now a graduate assistant and doctoral candidate in the Department of Educational Administration and Supervision. Stansberry has previously earned two Bachelor's degrees and a Master's degree. In addition to his work as a graduate assistant he also assists the UNO Department of Academic and Student Affairs with the Dual Enrollment program and with research related to student retention. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska School Counselors Association.

When he reflected upon working and studying in Roskens Hall, Stansberry wrote: *What's really interesting to see about Roskens Hall is how the building creates a more unified College of Education. Every classroom, the offices, the common spaces have in so many ways created a community; departments within the College working together, students more connected, and good-teaching practices on display at every turn.*



# Renovation



## Future Middle School Teacher Travels to Norway

Michaela Mapes plans to someday teach in a middle school. She spent last semester studying in Norway. The experience was part of the University of Nebraska at Omaha partnership with the University of Agder. A grant provided support for her tuition and part of her expenses. Michaela especially remembers the extensive use of discovery learning. She observed students spending time outdoors exploring and discovering how the world works. Michaela found the curriculum to be centered on the students' curiosity. She feels she will be able to incorporate some of the teaching styles in her future classroom.

Michaela likes how *Roskens Hall classrooms are set up to allow different activities during class without feeling crowded. She also appreciates the extensive availability and use of technology. She feels the technology gives students an opportunity to be familiar with what is available in K-12 schools today and to be comfortable using the technology in teaching.*

## Counseling Student Assists in the Counseling Clinic

Michael Robbins, Graduate Assistant in Counseling, is from the small Nebraska town of Henderson. He came to UNO to study Psychology and received his Bachelor's Degree in that area. He is now pursuing his Master's Degree in Counseling focusing on the Community Counseling Program. Robbins also serves as a graduate assistant in the Counseling Department and assists in running the Counseling Clinic.

Michael states, *"...moving to the newly remodeled Roskens Hall has been an extreme benefit and has brought a new sense of energy to the program. Being able to utilize state of the art equipment and new clinic rooms has helped to create a calming, therapeutic presence for student and clients alike. Along with the new clinic the rest of the department helps bring a sense of openness and accessibility for all students to excel."*



# STUDENTS RESPOND to Roskens



## Cameroon Native Works in the IDEAS Room

Sister Rosemary Arrah, HHCJ, is a graduate assistant in the IDEAS Room in Roskens Hall. Arrah is unique in many ways. A native of Cameroon, she is also a member of the religious order Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus. Arrah earned her Bachelor's Degree from the College of Saint Mary in Omaha with an endorsement in Special Education. She is now a graduate student in the College of Education with a concentration on students with Mild and Moderate Disabilities. She will return to Africa upon completing her degree and "hopes to make an impact on the lives of children in Africa."

As a graduate assistant in the IDEAS Room *Arrah has a first hand look at how the IDEAS Room functions to provide an ideal opportunity for learning, collaboration, and innovation. She feels the resources and technology make learning easy, enjoyable, and fun.*

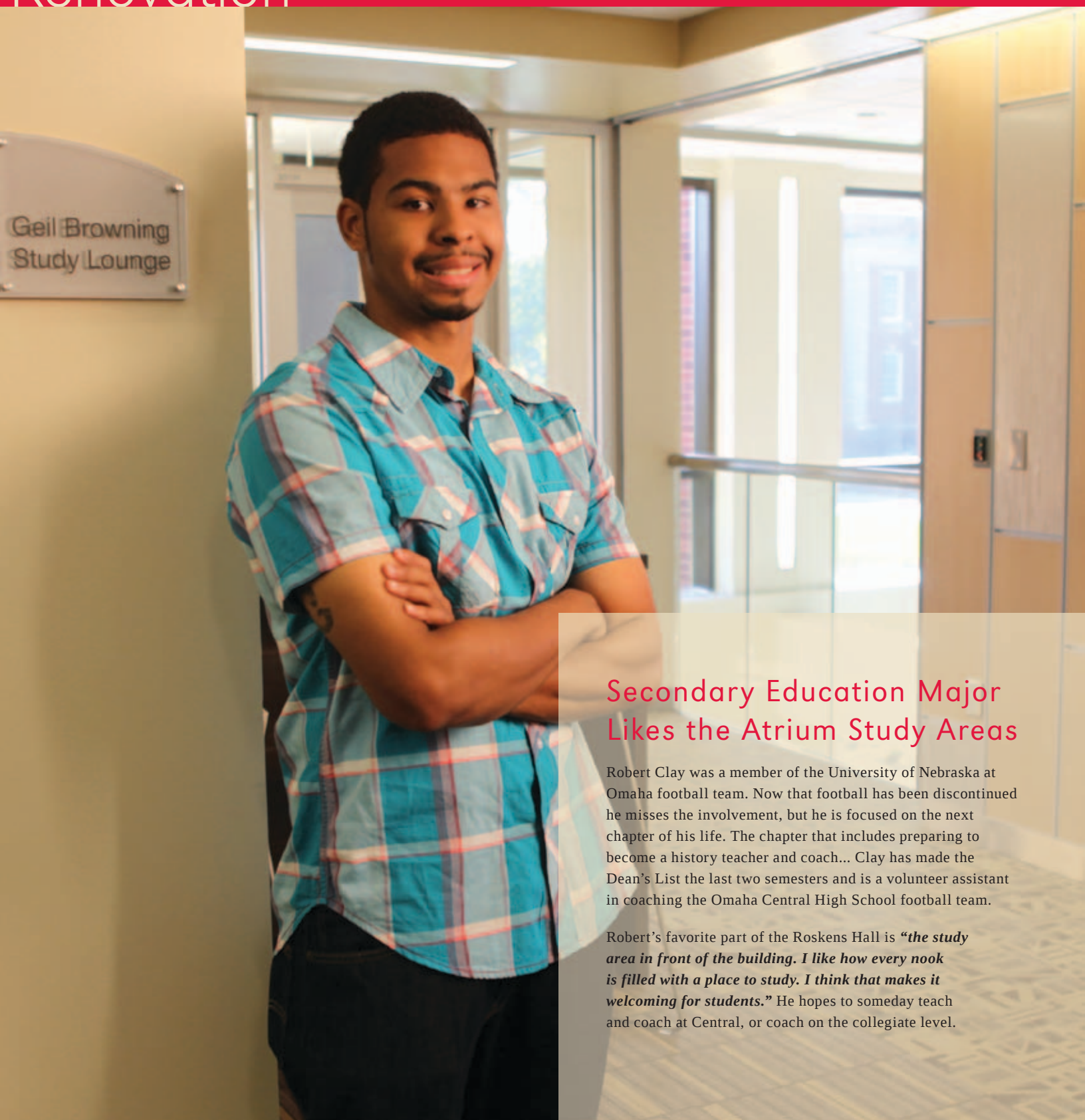
## Mathematics and Coaching Major Changes from Engineering to Teaching

Secondary education mathematics and coaching major Kenzi Meyer excels in the classroom and has become a leader in the Student Association of Mathematics and Mathematics Educators (SAMME). But, Kenzi's first goal was to become an engineer. As she progressed in her study of mathematics she decided to become an educator instead of an engineer. She especially wishes to work with students who struggle academically and help them understand and appreciate mathematics. Kenzi plans to begin her career by teaching overseas for two years, whether it will be teaching English to foreign students, or mathematics to American students in the Department of Defense Schools.

Meyers describes Roskens Hall as "*a big step up from Kayser Hall.*" *She especially appreciates the STEM classroom as "a great place to explore the world of electronics and mathematics combined. She reports SAMME will use the space as much as possible during their meetings and activities during the year.*



# Renovation



## Secondary Education Major Likes the Atrium Study Areas

Robert Clay was a member of the University of Nebraska at Omaha football team. Now that football has been discontinued he misses the involvement, but he is focused on the next chapter of his life. The chapter that includes preparing to become a history teacher and coach... Clay has made the Dean's List the last two semesters and is a volunteer assistant in coaching the Omaha Central High School football team.

Robert's favorite part of the Roskens Hall is *"the study area in front of the building. I like how every nook is filled with a place to study. I think that makes it welcoming for students."* He hopes to someday teach and coach at Central, or coach on the collegiate level.

# Happenings

WINTER 2011

## in this issue

### 4 | Celebration & Dedication

It was a grand day for a celebration. September 23, 2011. The sun shone brightly in the sky and the cool air of a trademark Fall Day created the greeting that flowed from everyone's lips, "Isn't it a great day?"

### 15 | Learning, Planning, Collaborating

The IDEAS Room (Innovation, Design, Experiences, Activities, Synergy) in the newly renovated Roskens Hall was developed to not only provide a collaborative place for the students and faculty of the College of Education, but also to invite and encourage the Omaha community to work collaboratively.

### 20 | Alumnus Parsons to Teach at West Point

Apparently Scott Parsons doesn't consider the number 13 to be unlucky. Parsons, a 1998 TED graduate, recently wrote in a note to Dean Edick, "I might honestly be the luckiest man alive." And, in the *thirteen* years since his graduation his life has been full.

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