

Happenings

WINTER 2012



Global Engagement

page 3



Dean Nancy Edick



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Message from the Dean

Can you picture yourself joining Secondary Education Science Major Mike Iwanski sitting on the edge of Pulpit Rock? He is the young man with his feet hanging over the edge in the cover picture 604 meters above the ground. He joined other College of Education students and faculty member Dr. Phil Nordness on a journey to Norway last summer. Our feature article in this issue of *Happenings* shares information about this journey and other students and faculty who traveled to other countries extending their global engagement with educators in schools located in other countries.

There are several analogies that can be drawn from looking at Mike on his lofty perch. I can write about our efforts to be on the cutting edge of innovations in helping people learn. I can write about our vision and our efforts to see clearly the directions we must travel to meet our mission. I could write about how we must take studied risks if we are to move ahead as a college, or as a country.

Stories in this issue of *Happenings* touch upon these issues. The establishment of the University of Nebraska Buffett Early Childhood Initiative (BECI) and the appointment of Dr. Samuel Meisels to become the first Executive Director is an example of how the entire University system is moving forward to develop new and improved methods of working in the area of Early Childhood Education. Ruth and Bill Scott, the lead donors for our new Biomechanics Laboratory, took a risk that Dr. Nick Stergiou and his peers in the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility will continue to discover ways to improve lives for people of all ages.

We welcome new faculty and staff who share their vision and goals for working with the community in this issue. An article about how our faculty and students connect with our community is as impressive as the vast distances visible from Pulpit Rock.

We have also written about faculty, students, and alumni who have demonstrated their clear vision as they are recognized for their successes. Success such as Alumna Angela Mosier's who was named Nebraska Teacher of the Year, students like Danielle Hoechner and Molly Moberg who recognized they could become better teachers after their experiences in Brazil, or how faculty member Dr. Peter Smith contributes his leadership skills serving as the President of the Faculty Senate.

I can personally relate to Mike's position on Pulpit Rock because I was able to visit Norway at the beginning of this partnership several years ago. And, after an exhilarating climb to the top, I must confess I experienced the clear view from a bit further back on the rock. But, it was still an inspiring experience. I have admiration for Mike and his enthusiasm, not only in climbing and sitting on the edge, but in his striving to become the best science teacher he can become. This issue will tell you about more of our students and staff who are excelling at what they do. As we say on page fifteen, we are making sure you can "Count on Us."

Sincerely,
Nancy Edick
Dean, College of Education

STRETCHING OUR MINDS

Travel has a way of stretching the mind. The stretch comes not from travel's immediate rewards, the inevitable myriad of new sights, smells and sounds, but with experiencing firsthand how others do differently what we believed to be the right and only way.

—Ralph Crawshaw



Drs. Mitzi Ritzman, Kristine Swain, Beth Leader-Janssen, and Julie Delkamiller in Nicaragua with a Nicaraguan student

There are few things that pique your interest to learn more about a land and its people than to travel in that country. A visit to England may lead to your interest in learning more about the Magna Carta and its relationship to the establishment of a system of constitutional law in America. A visit to Nicaragua may stimulate your curiosity about the country's rule for over thirty years by the dictatorship of the Somoza family and how the Sandinistas came into power. An educator's trip to Finland will undoubtedly result in a curiosity about their educational system that has gained a reputation for student achievement.

Not only does travel stimulate learning, technology has made our world "smaller" and has created an increased need to develop effective global relationships. Educators are aware we must prepare students to function in a global society.

College of Education faculty members have long been involved globally. It is unlikely, however, that there have been more faculty and staff involved in travel and foreign study than what is currently happening.

Dr. Kris Swain, Chair of the Special Education and Communications Disorders Department (SPED), and four faculty members including: **Dr. Beth Leader-Janssen, Dr. Julie**

Delkamiller, Dr. Mitzi Ritzman, and Mr. Jonathan Scherling are involved in educational partnerships in Nicaragua.

Dr. Julie Delkamiller's travels to Nicaragua were part of an ongoing effort to establish educational programs for deaf and other students with disabilities in that country. Delkamiller has personally participated in the effort for seven years. The project involves a cooperative, sister university relationship with the Universidad Nacional Autonomoma de Nicaragua in Leon, Nicaragua.

This year Dr. Delkamiller went to Nicaragua for two weeks on two different occasions. Jonathan Scherling, a College of Education lecturer in Special Education and Communication Disorders, accompanied Delkamiller during the first two week trip. Scherling is deaf and teaches American Sign Language in the college. In Leon he was able to model how a deaf person can attend school, earn a college degree, and become employed. Jonathan recently said, "It was a very rewarding experience. It was great to provide the kids with exposure to a deaf adult who was a college graduate and was employed."

On her second journey to Nicaragua this summer, Delkamiller was accompanied by three of her faculty peers, Dr. Kristine Swain, Dr.

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Dr. Julie Delkmiller and students

Beth Leader-Janssen, and Dr. Mitzi Ritzman. Each faculty member has a different specialty within the Department. While in Nicaragua they visited extensively with teachers in the K-12 schools to determine what the teachers knew and understood about educating students with disabilities. Their research is being compiled to determine what a special education teacher training program in Nicaragua would need to teach.

Another Special Education and Communication Disorders faculty member, **Dr. Shari Devaney**, who participated in a project in China a year ago, was recently involved in hosting university faculty from China who were now visiting in America. Such experiences have also grown out of the cooperative relationship UNO has established with the University of Agder in Norway. A rich part of the relationship with the University of Agder has become the opportunity for UNO students to visit and learn in Norway.

Dr. Phillip Nordness (SPED), recently travelled to Norway and investigated possibilities of building collaborative activities with educators in Finland and Lithuania. UNO students accompanied him to Norway where the University is continuing a collaborative relationship with Agder University.

Dr. Nordness, during his visit to Finland, wrote on the department's travel blog, "Today we spent the morning and afternoon discussing potential collaborative topics to pursue. These discussions centered on pursuing collaborative research related to school-wide positive behavioral supports, assessing teacher attitudes towards inclusion, and our online Master's degree in special education with the

concentration in behavior disorders. In addition, we discussed some of the longitudinal data sets that we may be able to collaborate on."

Dr. Sarah Edwards, Chair of Teacher Education, traveled to England, France, and Switzerland. Dr. Edwards met with fellow teacher educators in each of these countries. This visit helped enhance the development of a program that provides students the opportunity to understand global perspectives and traditions of these European countries.

Dr. Nick Stergiou (HPER) has been involved in several travel experiences in Greece, Spain, and other countries as a participant and presenter at conferences, as well as working on developing collaborative relationships. He will travel to Ireland next spring to work with extending collaboration.

Dr. Nick Stergiou was also a recent keynote speaker in both Spain and in Greece. His topic at the 5th Conference of the Hellenic Society of Biomechanics held in Thessaloniki, Greece, in late September 2012 was "A Perspective on Human movement Variability: Implications for Health and Pathology."

Dr. John Noble (HPER), during the Spring of 2012, received an appointment at the University of Wollongong, in Wollongong, Australia as a "Visiting Principal Fellow" with the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI).

Dr. Noble, during his Faculty Development Fellowship in Australia was provided library access, internet capability, office space, and the opportunity to interact with medical researchers throughout the University of Wollongong. He worked on a daily basis with the Director of the Interdisciplinary Educational Research Institute and his team of post-doctoral students, doctoral students, and master's students. He also was able to establish collaborative opportunities that he didn't know were possible prior to his visit.

This list of faculty members who have recent global experiences is impressive. More important, however, are the experiences and interactions with educators and people from throughout the globe.

In addition to the faculty members' travels, educators from other countries have visited our classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices. They have become involved in collaborative research with UNO faculty and students.

These and upcoming experiences meet University-wide goals of global engagement. The experiences expand student and faculty opportunities to learn and to impact learning throughout the world. ■

Breaking Ground—and new opportunities...

Even the groundbreaking ceremony was innovative. The people who filled the tent on a chilly and blustery October 24th did not see officials placing shovels in the earth to turn the ground to symbolize the beginning of construction for the new Biomechanics Research Building on the UNO Campus. Instead they watched hi-tech videos imaging the movement of human figures using shovels to turn the symbolic earth.

In reality, the earth had already been broken for several weeks and the concrete sub-structure of the new building was beginning to define the space where biomechanics researchers will conduct their experiments in laboratories studying gait, virtual reality, balance, motor development, cognition, robotic surgery and biotechnology. There will also be an area that enhances work in the area of prosthetics for amputees.

This work is already happening in the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility (NBCF) laboratory located in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building, but the new building—the first of its kind—will provide adequate and larger labs to support additional work and innovation. The privately funded facility will have 23,000 square feet.

Dr. Nick Stergiou, who serves as the current Director of NBCF, passionately described what the contribution of Bill and Ruth Scott meant to him, and the other members of his NBCF staff. The Scott's, who were present at the ceremonies, were the lead donors for the building.

Student Jennifer Yentes, in her presentation at the ceremony, summarized it all. She said, "It seemed like a pipe dream, having our own research building, but I bought into it nonetheless. In December; when I



Dr. Nicholas Stergiou visits with Mrs. Ruth Scott

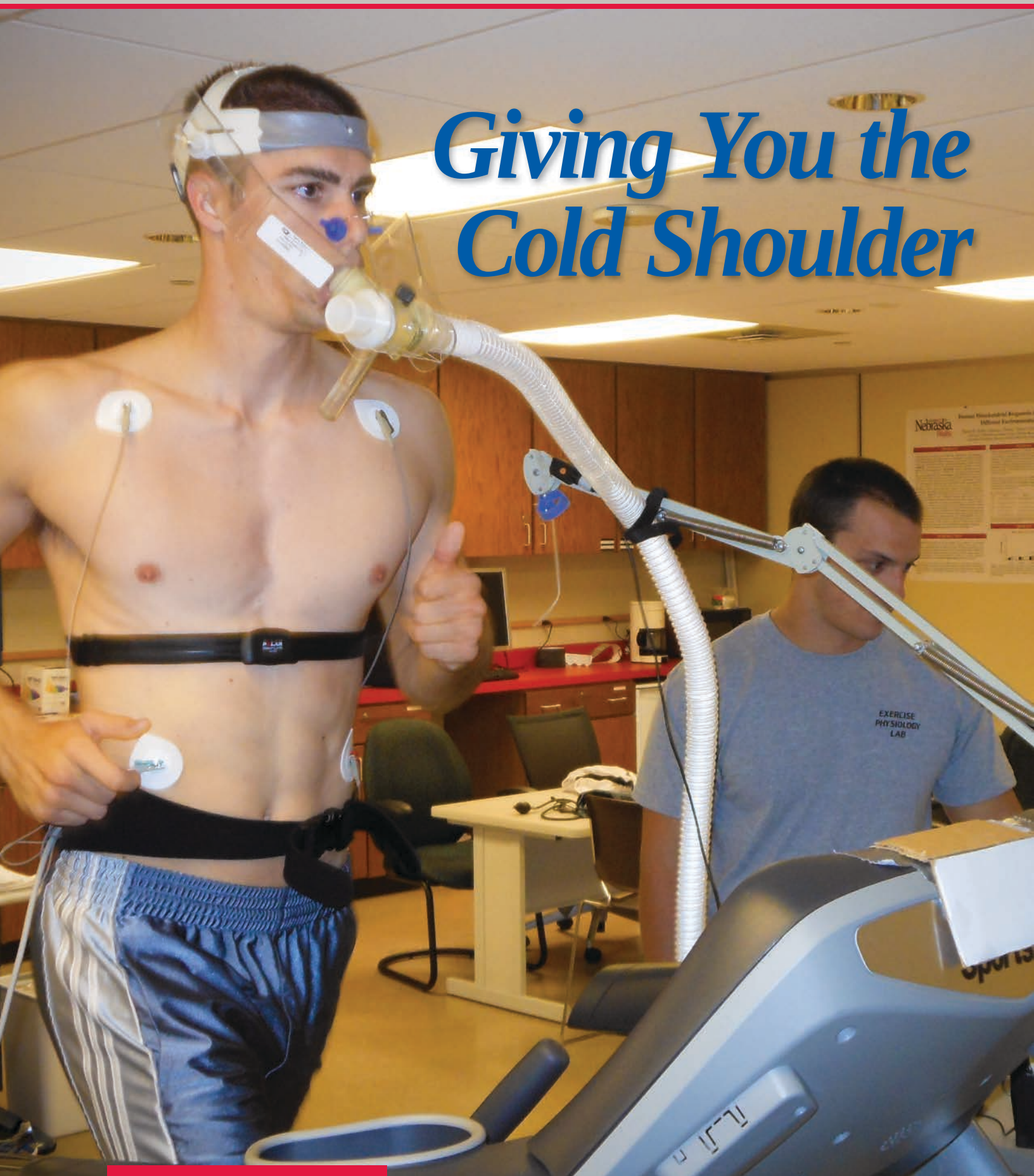
answered the phone in the lab, as I usually do, I heard it in Nick's voice, I knew that it was no longer a dream, we were going to build a building. The excitement was so overwhelming. We shed tears of happiness and celebrated together. We began to imagine all of the things we could do, all of the space we would have, all of the research questions we could begin to answer. This building will provide students the equipment, the space, the offices they need to become the next generation of scientists."

Construction is moving quickly. The building is expected to be completed in August of 2013. ■



Use this QR code to watch the Biomechanics Research Facility Groundbreaking Ceremony Video

Giving You the Cold Shoulder



The Summer Olympics were viewed by millions of people throughout the world who were drawn to the television set to catch a key race or game. Viewers marveled at how the champion athletes poured so much time, so much soul, into those brief moments of performance.

From a very different perspective elderly people look to stem the loss of muscle strength and performance by engaging in physical activities designed to meet their goals. Some might suffer from diabetes or peripheral arterial disease, but ways to maintain or improve muscle function would enhance their quality of life.

The exceptional athlete and the elderly both seek to answer the question, “How can I improve my ability to function physically?”

Dr. Dustin Slivka, Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) is researching this issue. The newly renovated exercise physiology laboratory in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) Building includes state of the art laboratory furniture and some very sophisticated laboratory equipment. Dr. Slivka was able to work with the design and construction of the facility that will enable him, other professors, and students to engage in research that addresses how we can increase muscle performance.

A Federal grant and support from the college of education helped fund the laboratory renovation and specialized equipment. Additional grants and funding opportunities are being sought to continue to build off the current support and to have a real impact on the quality of life for the aging population and physical performance of athletes.

Slivka earned his doctorate at Ball State University and spent four years as a post-doctoral student in his home state of Montana. He learned and perfected laboratory techniques that allow him and students

to study how muscles react to various stimuli. He is especially interested in how cold affects the muscle. Specifically, does performance increase if you are exercising in a cold environment, or if ice packs are applied to muscles? Preliminary results of his studies indicate that cold exposure when coupled with exercise may provide an additional stimulus to improve physical function.

Students and the professors study the effect by using muscle specimens obtained by a biopsy of a willing donor. They analyze muscle using a broad approach that ranges from general physical function to very specific changes at the genetic level.

The research is painstaking, and the outcomes will take time, but the rewards promise to help the athletically talented as

well as the physically challenged. In the meantime Dr. Slivka and his peers have been making presentations on improving running performance at Peak Performance as a part of a seminar series. **Drs. Kris Berg, Sara Myers, John Noble, and Slivka** participate in the Marathon Training Clinic presenting to members of the Omaha Running Club.

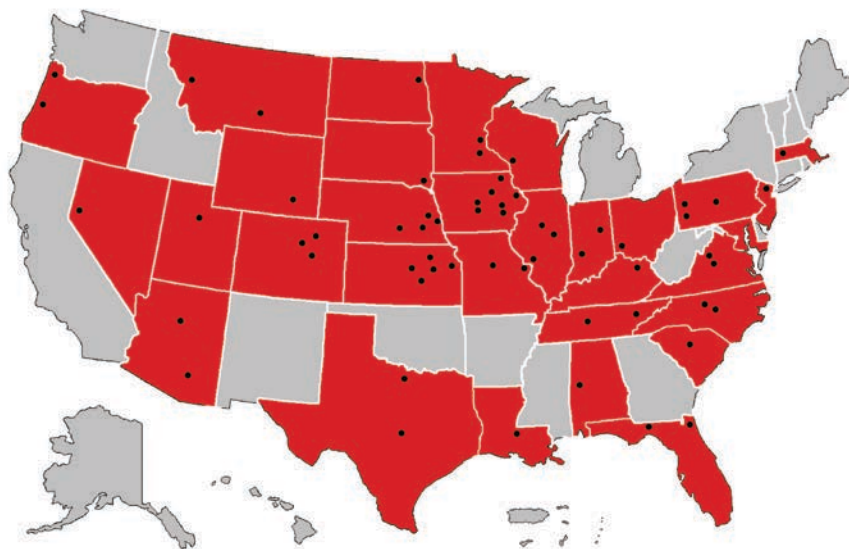
In an activity with a similar focus, students in Dr. Noble’s class and members of the student organization, the Alliance of Fitness Professionals, have hosted the Maverick Stampede for fourteen years with nearly 3,000 participants over those years. Involvement in the classroom, in the laboratory, and in the community by faculty and students helps a diverse population to physically perform at improved levels. ■

Dr. Dustin Slivka in the exercise physiology laboratory



NEW FACULTY

A look at the background of all College of Education faculty members reveals they possess degrees from 31 different states and the District of Columbia, as well as five different countries on three different continents. This tradition of diversity has continued with the hire of ten new faculty members for the 2012-2013 academic year who have degrees from fifteen different states. Do you wonder why new faculty members with degrees from many different institutions have chosen to be a part of UNO? We asked them. And, they told us.



Map depicting College of Education faculty origins

Also included are China, Greece, India, Puerto Rico



Dr. Abby Bjornsen, Counseling, feels fortunate to have found a home in the UNO College of Education. She believes she is able to synthesize her teaching, research, and clinical experience with university students. Her academic experiences have been very diverse. She earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney; her Master's degree at the University

of Nebraska-Lincoln; and her Doctor's degree from the University of Kansas. At Kansas she developed an expertise in the provision of mental health services to the college/university student population. She followed her doctoral degree with a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Counseling and Psychological Services at the University of California at Berkeley. Bjornsen has a license to practice as a psychologist.

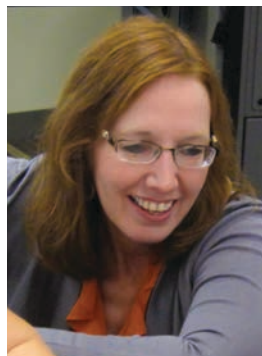
Bjornsen's primary research interest is adaptive career development. She plans to form collaborative partnerships with campus departments such as the University Career Center and the Goodrich Scholarship program with the mission of producing research and interventions that will facilitate UNO students in effectively utilizing their college experience to optimize their overall career readiness and decision-making. ■



Dr. Debora Wisneski, TED, came to UNO because she was "impressed with the quality of faculty and administration that are kind, compassionate, and committed to their local and global community." She "wanted to be part of a team that was dedicated to serving the public good." Dr. Wisneski is the current president of the Association for Childhood Education International. This role

allowed her the opportunity to give a talk on September 14 at a teacher education conference on "The Economics of Early Childhood Education" at Miami University.

Wisneski is looking forward to contributing in "helping create positive, healthy educational environments for all young children in Nebraska." Debora's focus is Early Childhood Education. ■



Dr. Connie Schaffer, TED, has been on the college staff for several years, most recently as the Coordinator of Field Experience/Student Teaching, but moved to a faculty position this fall. Connie wrote, "I have held three professional staff positions at UNO and have two degrees from UNO. I know the quality of its faculty and the caliber of its

students. I can't think of a better place to "start" my career as a faculty member."

Dr. Schaffer has for several years focused on the importance of recruiting talented high school students to the field of teaching. She was the sparkplug behind the development of the first ever statewide Nebraska Future Educators Association (FEA) Conference that was held on the UNO Campus in October of 2011. Schaffer plans to continue to be active in this effort. She wrote, "Nebraska has great schools in large part due to the quality of its teaching force. Our profession needs to be actively recruiting talented high school students to the field of teaching if we want to sustain this quality." ■



Dr. Sofia Jawed-Wessel, HPER, has the academic focus of sexual health promotion. Her three earned degrees are from Indiana University, Bloomington. Jawed-Wessel indicates coming to UNO was an easy decision for her. She stated, "It was very obvious during my interview that the College of Education and the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation would be incredibly

supportive of my teaching and research efforts." She feels she has been able to "hit the ground running" because of the support of the college and the excellent collaborations that are already in place within and outside of UNO.

Dr. Jawed-Wessel wrote: "I hope to contribute to both the UNO and Omaha communities through research that is grounded in service. I truly believe that projects embedded in the needs of the community are ones that have the greatest impact." ■



Dr. Bridget Franks, TED, may get some questioning looks in the middle of a Nebraska winter when she says, "Believe it or not, I prefer Nebraska's weather to Florida's!" Of course, Dr. Franks can speak with authority. She grew up in Omaha. Her degrees, including a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree, and a Doctorate are all from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She then served for several

years as a faculty member at Florida State University in Tallahassee

before coming to UNO this fall. Dr. Franks' advanced degrees are in educational psychology.

Dr. Franks chose to come to UNO because of its collegial environment and the "opportunity to be involved in the many new initiatives associated with UNO's growth." She hopes to impact the community by bringing a strong focus on the integration of the Developmental Sciences into teacher preparation. ■



Dr. Kelly Welsh, TED, teaches in the area of curriculum and learning. Her Bachelor's degree is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She has earned two Master's degrees. One is from Creighton University, the other is from UNL. Her doctorate is from UNL. Dr. Welsh indicates, "I love the community at UNO. Everyone is so willing to help. I found the same sense of

community in the College of Education (COE). The COE is a place of collegiality. I love that everyone knows each other."

Dr. Welsh has twenty-four years of high school teaching experience that provide a depth of knowledge in how secondary students learn best. She is committed to student learning and wants the teacher candidates to leave the college with the same commitment. ■



Dr. Jessica Hagaman, SPED, earned her degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She chose to come to UNO, "because I saw the College of Education embracing technology and finding ways to take new, innovative ideas and make them happen."

Hagaman is especially interested in "finding ways to 'bridge the gap' between research and practice in education." She indicates she has often heard K-12 classroom teachers say they feel the university is disconnected from what is actually happening in schools or in the community. Dr. Hagaman doesn't want to be "disconnected from the challenges faced by administrators, teachers, and students. (She wants) to work together to find creative solutions that benefit teacher candidates, practicing teachers in the community, and the students they work with." ■

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Dr. Amy Burke, TED, has four degrees from colleges and universities in the State of Texas. She attended Austin College, Texas Women's University, and the University of Texas-Austin. Burke focuses on the teaching of reading at the secondary level. She chose to come to UNO "because the faculty has a strong sense of service and a commitment to teaching." Dr. Burke also indicated

she noted the faculty valued the teaching and service parts of their job, as well as research.

Dr. Burke believes it is an exciting time to be a part of UNO and the college. She sees the College of Education committed to expanding and bettering an already great program of study. She hopes to impact the community by being a positive presence in her work with students and by contributing ideas to the Teacher Education Department. ■



Dr. Ashley Brailsford Vaughns, TED, has earned degrees from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and Indiana University in Bloomington. She came to UNO "because it was very evident that the college makes an effort to be involved in the community and impact the lives of children and families living in the Omaha area." She also felt she "would be supported in

my work in the community in regard to collaboration with my colleagues."

Dr. Brailsford Vaughns plans to "impact the community by using what I have learned and continue to learn about building trust with families to improve the relationships between families, child care, and schooling." She believes that trusting relationships are the foundation of improving the outcomes of families and children. Ashley's focus is Early Childhood Education. ■



Meisels Named BECI Executive Director

Dr. Samuel J. Meisels is a well-known name among early childhood education professionals. Meisels, currently president of Erikson Institute in Chicago, was recently appointed to be the founding director of the University of Nebraska Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI). He was chosen to be the executive director following a national search by a twelve member search team that included College of Education Dean Nancy Edick, representatives from the other University of Nebraska system universities, and members of the community. ■



Abby Burke, TED, became interested in earning her doctorate, decided to take a class at UNO to determine if the University would be a good fit, and after one semester knew this was the place for her. She had heard positive things about the College of Education and has not been disappointed. Burke earned her Bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. Her Master's

degree is from the University of Nevada in Reno. Her area of expertise is literacy. She most recently served as a K-5 literacy coach for the Omaha Public Schools.

Ms. Burke is looking forward to the opportunity to engage in the inquiry-based, collaborative environment that the College provides. She is excited to work with aspiring teachers, as well as practicing teachers, in supporting their professional growth so they can work most effectively with children. ■

NEW STAFF



Christina Wilcoxon is the Coordinator of Field Experiences in the College. Christina shared she was interested in working at UNO because she wanted to support the development of new teachers so they can impact generations to come in an effective and positive way. She further shared, "Research tells us the impact of a quality educator on a child's achievement outweighs all

others and I want to be part of this development.

Ms. Wilcoxon's goal in her new role is to have the scope and sequence of field experiences support district partnerships that not only span the placement of our students within districts, but also set the foundation for shared professional development, increased research opportunities and the culture of collaboration. ■



Beth Stolp is excited to be at UNO and the College of Education because of its student-focused philosophy and commitment to student development and success. Beth will work with transfer students, certificate renewal candidates, and those students who are returning to add endorsements to their current certificate. Therefore, her goals are to provide students with the information needed to complete the required coursework and certification, but also to be a helpful contact within the campus community and assist the students in their transition to UNO.

Beth is from Yankton, South Dakota, and received both her Bachelor's degree and her Master's degree from South Dakota State University. Her Master's degree is in Counseling/Student Affairs. She has worked at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri as an academic advisor, and as a career counselor at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Beth and her family moved to Omaha in 2009 when her husband began his medical residency. ■

Beth is from Yankton, South Dakota, and received both her Bachelor's degree and her Master's degree from South Dakota State University. Her Master's degree is in Counseling/Student Affairs. She has worked at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri as an academic advisor, and as a career counselor at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Beth and her family moved to Omaha in 2009 when her husband began his medical residency. ■



Lindsey Marr loved her experience as a student at UNO and always thought it would be great to return someday after receiving her Master's degree in 2010. She believes the College of Education and the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) are continually striving to meet the needs of students. Lindsey wrote, "It is great to be a Mav again!"

Ms. Marr's Bachelor's degree is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She worked for three years at the University of Texas at Austin before she returned to Nebraska. She worked at Bellevue University before coming back to UNO.

One of Lindsey's primary objectives as an adviser for HPER students will be to develop partnerships with students and assist them with setting their educational and career goals. ■



Amanda Micheli worked for thirteen years as an academic adviser in higher education before coming to the College of Education to serve in a similar position. Ms. Micheli graduated from UNO with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She later earned a Master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her experience as an academic adviser has

been at several institutions, including: Metropolitan Community College, Iowa Western Community College, Des Moines Area Community College, and Iowa University.

Ms. Micheli was interested in working at UNO because she had a great experience here as a student. She believes in the quality of education and the connection to the greater Omaha area as a metropolitan university. Her primary goals focus on impacting the lives of her advisees, facilitating their path toward graduation, and aiding them to achieve their dreams. ■

COUNT ON US...

7 College of Education faculty members have a professorship.

44 The number of years Department of Counseling Associate Professor Scott Harrington has been at UNO.



138 Scholarships were awarded by the College of Education during the 2012-2013 academic year.

10 New faculty joined the College of Education this fall.

12 Doctoral degrees awarded by the College of Education at the May 2012 Commencement.

215 Persons served by the Counseling Clinic during 2012 fiscal year.



2,000 Books provided to children and families by the Omaha Literacy Project during the 2011-2012 academic year.

167 Students enrolled in American Sign Language classes during the 2011-2012 academic year.

17 College of Education students have engaged in summer study trips to Norway in the last three years.

300 High School students participated in the 2nd Annual Nebraska State-wide FEA Conference on the UNO Campus.

83 Students from UNO and UNL attended the first LEAD Conference in June sponsored by the Dept. of Educational Administration and Supervision from both campuses.

50 Math and Science teachers recommended for licensure in 2011-2012

\$23,307,223 in grants submitted by College of Education faculty during the 2012 fiscal year.

22,500 Square feet in the new Biomechanics Research Laboratory being constructed on campus.



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT



NEBRASKA SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION ACADEMY CONVENES IN ROSKENS HALL

The LCD signboard as you entered Roskens Hall on October 15 announced the College of Education (COE) was hosting the Nebraska School Counselors Academy sponsored by the Nebraska School Counselors Association (NSCA). But, you didn't need the sign board to notice the buzz of activity and purpose that filled the entrance area. The one hundred seventy-four Nebraska school counselors who attended the two day academy were actively networking with peers from across the state and across town. They were probably also deciding which of the more than sixty break-out sessions would best meet their development needs.

Two of the awards presented at the Awards Luncheon on the 16th were earned by COE alumni. **Theresa Henson (M.S., Counseling 2011)** was awarded the NSCA Outstanding High School Counselor of the Year Award. Theresa is a counselor at Westside High School. **Suzanne Wies (M.S., Reading, 1979; M. S. Counseling, 1996)** was recognized as the NSCA Outstanding Elementary School Counselor of the Year). Suzanne is a counselor at Hartman Elementary School in the Omaha Public Schools. ■

The President recently sat down in the Milo Bail Student Center for an interview. The President of the Faculty Senate, that is, Dr. Peter Smith, an Assistant Professor in the Educational Administration and Supervision Department, is the first faculty member from the College of Education to serve in this role since Dr. David E. Corbin in 1995-1996. Or, you could say in seventeen years. There have been three other COE faculty to serve in this position since the institution became a part of the University of Nebraska system—Dr. Darrell Kellams (1986-1987), Dr. John Langan (1978-1980), and Dr. G. Wayne Glidden (1970-1971).

The faculty senate president is the faculty's spokesperson that presides in senate meetings, attends all meetings of the Board of Regents as the official representative of the faculty senate, refers items to committees for consideration, and performs other duties appropriate to the office. Dr. Smith has been busier than he expected, but he is quick to say he would do it again. Smith serves on, or attends, several campus committees as a representative of the faculty. ■

Defining Community Connections



Dr. Carol Mitchell and Girls members at the balloon launch

How would you define the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) College of Education (COE) community?

To begin with we should probably consider the places and people that students interact with as they complete internship experiences. If we do, the schools in the Omaha metropolitan area become part of our community; agencies where counseling students practice their skills become part of the community; hospital and other clinical settings where speech pathologists become skilled; and businesses and other locations that provide a variety of internship experiences for our students become

part of the larger community. The community is even larger when you recognize that UNO is a state institution with a metropolitan mission. And, with the development of online courses in areas such as behavioral disorders and library science the community becomes even larger.

One established community connection involves collaboration between the College of Education (COE) and the UNO College of Business Administration (CBA). Together the two colleges support the Center for Economic Education. The Center for Economic Education has had an impact in schools throughout the metropolitan

area as students become more knowledgeable about our economic system. For example, last summer the Center hosted the first Middle School Investment Day camp for twenty-four students from the Omaha Public Schools Economic Magnets, from the Girls and Boys Club, and from Girls, Inc.

At the end of the week long camp, it was the goal for campers to:

- Understand the basic concepts of the stock market and publicly traded companies.
- Research and report about a publicly traded company present in the Omaha area.
- Understand the risks and rewards of investing as part of a diverse financial life.
- Work with a group of other students to prepare and present information.
- Become familiar with the UNO campus and expectations of a college student.

The Center also mentors the formation of school savings banks. **Mary Lynn Reiser**, the Director of the Center, reports there are currently ten savings banks in Omaha and Fremont, one in Council Bluffs, and three more are being planned.

Department of Counseling students completing practica and internship experiences are required to provide service to the community/schools. Each student must complete 700 hours of service with forty per cent of the service provided directly to the client or student. During the last academic year UNO Counseling students completed over 40,000 hours of service!

Kristin Hassett, a Counseling graduate student and also a Graduate Assistant in the department, provides an outstanding example of how students can become engaged in community activities while they are learning professional skills. Kristin has served Spanish speaking families, has

provided support for young teen women; has delivered summer programs; and works in area schools.

Kristin serves the Avenue Scholars Program as a graduate assistant. In this role she regularly reports to seven high schools that participate in the program. She works with students referred to her by the Avenue Scholars teachers at the respective schools. She works with the students individually, in groups, and with their families.

Somehow Kristin has also found time to be involved with the UNO Service Learning Academy and has served as a liaison between participating UNO professors and K-12 teachers.

Dr. Elliott Ostler (TED) has also been involved with Avenue Scholars and was recognized with a meritorious service award from the organization for his involvement. Avenue Scholars is sponsored by community members who wish to provide opportunities for young people from lower economic areas to gain experiences and training that will result in the participants' graduation from community college or college.

One of the longest established community oriented organizations within the college is the Moving Company with mention in the February 8, 1935, issue of the Gateway.

The Moving Company has become even more connected in the community under the direction of **Professor Josie Metal-Corbin**. In September the company conducted a road trip for Hispanic Heritage Month for the Durham Museum with the Baila! Quartet teaching Latin Dance to over 3,300 middle and high school students in Council Bluffs, Millard, Omaha, and Bellevue. In early October COE Physical Education Pedagogy Majors accompanied Metal-Corbin to assist in teaching over 900 teachers at Teachers' Night at the Durham. The Durham activity focused on a USO Dance Party theme highlighting several dances from war-time eras. In another activity teachers at Benson and Beveridge learned such dances as "Stomp" and "Flash Mobs."

Another ongoing activity has been a Service Learning Project involving the Summer Scholars program and an Educational Administration and

see **COMMUNITY** pg 16



Middle school students who participated in the Investment Day Camps.

continued COMMUNITY pg 15

Supervision Human Resources class taught by **Dr. Karen Hayes**. The goal of the Summer Scholars Program is to expose high school students to the dynamics of a college campus environment through a pre-college summer session. Students in Dr. Hayes' class work with the Summer Scholars participants in areas of professional etiquette, business dining etiquette, professionalism, work ethic, resume development, interview techniques, job preparation, and goal setting as well as college preparation strategies.

Graduate students in the class establish a mentoring relationship with the high school students. There were sixty-five Summer Scholar high school students involved in the activities.

Teacher Education Department faculty are involved in many community connections varying in degrees of formality. Ten faculty members identified twenty-eight different school partnerships in the last academic year. **Dr. Kathy Danielson**, for example, works with six different schools in two districts. **Dr. Phyllis Adcock** has dual enrollment partnerships in four schools. Six faculty members teach six different Service Learning Center courses.

Dr. Wilma Kuhlman (TED) reported that the Oxbow Youth Writing camps sponsored by the Oxbow National Writing Project celebrated writing at a special event on held in the Roskens Hall Ideas Room on October 4, 2012. Young writers who are involved in activities at the Hope Center and the Kroc Center attended, received books, and shared a piece of writing. Activities with both Centers are ongoing and emphasize developing writing skills.

Dr. Carol Mitchell (TED) spearheads an ambitious national Eureka project in connection with Girls, Inc. One activity during June focused on the launch of a balloon into space at the Strategic Space Museum. Cameras mounted on balloons recorded the path of the large balloon. Each girl had

made a paper airplane with her name and contact information. The paper airplanes were placed in the balloon prior to the launch. The project was part of the project's focus of providing girls with experiences in the sciences and open up career fields in STEM for young women.

The METLink project established by **TED Chair Sarah Edwards** recently sponsored a conference for secondary literacy teachers and is sponsoring an elementary literacy teacher conference this spring. In addition to conferences, METLink sponsors Teaching Circles on Saturdays as a way to connect UNO Education and English professors with area literacy teachers from both public and private school districts. METLink is looking forward to adding an additional fall conference to meet the literacy needs of early childhood teachers.

Edwards was also a key person in establishing Culture Walks that engage our prospective teachers with the community in ways that expand their cultural experiences and knowledge. The Culture Walks depend

upon the participation of community members who inform the participants of various activities within the variety of metropolitan area communities the Walks visit.

Imagine how excited a reading teacher can become when seeing a room full of parents with their children all focused on reading, and reading together. **Dr. M. Susan McWilliams (TED)** has worked closely with the Family Literacy Project to provide special reading experiences for children from low income neighborhoods. An important part of these activities is the emphasis on reading as a family. Each child participant receives a book, or books, they take home. The books are provided by the generosity of the Pearson Foundation.

Have you been to the Sunflower Forest at the Lauritzen Gardens? **Dr. Kathy Danielson (TED)** has worked with Jim Locklear at the Gardens to develop a language arts curriculum guide for the Sunflower Forest for grades K-3; and is now working on writing language arts curriculum for grades 4-5. The garden partnered with Bancroft Elementary School,



METLink Spring Workshop

Lothrop Magnet Center, and Westbrook Elementary School to visit the garden and experience the Sunflower Forest.

The Office of STEM Education was also involved in a new robotics competition that became part of the River City Rodeo held in September. **Dr. Neal Grandgenett**, the Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education in the college, indicated the event brought students from both metropolitan and rural areas together for the robotics competition conducted at the middle school and high school levels. The robots were either computer and electronics engineering robots (CEENBots), or LEGO NXT Mindstorm robots.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) relies heavily upon community connections. The connections fall within the college, the university, the university system, and beyond. One of the stronger bonds that has developed is a working relationship with the Strategic Air and Space Museum. A recent STEM activity involving the museum was the Nebraska High Altitude Balloon Flight Crew Memorial Stadium Launch held at the September 15, 2012, Husker football game. In addition to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, UNO STEM and the Air and Space Museum the project involved the Omaha Public Schools, the Lincoln Public Schools, 4-H, and the NASA Nebraska Space Grant.

The faculty and staff in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation have an equally impressive record of service to the community. For example, **Dr. Sara Myers (HPER)** collaborates with Dr. Jason Johanning of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the Veterans Administration Hospital (VA), and Dr. Iraklis Pipinos, also with UNMC and the VA, in a VA grant project entitled, "Gait after intervention trial in peripheral arterial disease." They study the effectiveness of two different types of lower

extremity surgery (open bypass and endovascular) on functional outcome measure (gait biomechanics).

A unique program in HPER has been operating for about fifteen years. The program is called Special Exercise for Life (SELF). SELF was named an "Exemplary Exercise Program" in 2009 by the Council on Aging and Adult Development. It serves the needs of people in the community with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and fibromyalgia. **Dr. Kris Berg** was involved with a research group affiliated with UNMC that developed the exercises and regimen followed by those who participate in the activities.

The objectives of the SELF program include fall prevention and strength building. Participants develop their agility and dynamic balance. The class meets for 75 minutes at a time, twice weekly. The cost for the class is only \$9.00 for six months. There is no starting or stopping point and a class may have participants who have been a part of the activity for as long as eight years.

Dr. Jason Coleman (HPER), is active in a research community that encompasses three of the campuses of the University of Nebraska system in an effort to provide a vibrant and robust research effort focused on sexual health and wellbeing. The Midlands Sexual Health Research Collaborative (MSHRC) attempts to facilitate collaboration among faculty and students from across the University of Nebraska system for students and faculty to broaden their horizons in sexual health scholarship and take of advantage of research opportunities in the Midlands.

The examples of community involvement by College of Education faculty and students provided in this article do not identify all activities, but instead they demonstrate the extensive nature and breadth of the involvement. It is appropriate to conclude the article with mention of



SELF Program participant

an extensive collaborative that engages personnel from school districts in the Metropolitan Omaha area that began in August of 1988 when the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) officially began with five school district superintendents and the Dean of the college signing an agreement to join together in efforts of common interest to improve education in the Omaha area. Two additional districts joined soon after, and in the Fall of 2007 the consortium expanded to include five additional districts and the two Educational Service units within the metropolitan area.

The consortium functions under the direction of an Executive Steering Committee that identifies the goals and direction that will be taken each year. **Dr. Richard Christie**, also an Educational Administration and Supervision faculty member, serves as the Executive Director. Current MOEC priority areas include early childhood, assessment and accountability, educator quality, and extended learning opportunities. ■

Well Deserved, Dr. Harrington



On October 5, 2012, the Nebraska Counseling Association announced the recipients of their annual awards to outstanding professionals. **Scott Harrington (Ph.D.) (Counseling)**, a forty-four year UNO counselor educator, walked to the podium to accept the Seasoned Counselor/ Professional Dedication Award. The award was well deserved, Dr. Harrington.

Dr. Harrington began his career as a middle school counselor in 1963 after graduating from the University of Kansas. Soon after, he began graduate work at the University of Colorado where he also served as a graduate assistant and earned both a Master's degree in 1966, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1971. He was first hired to work at UNO in the Fall of 1969.

During his over four decade career in the college he has trained many counselors in the Metropolitan Omaha area and beyond. Harrington was a model for his students and other professional counselors in his attention to lifelong learning. During his tenure he had a one year sabbatical at the Immanuel Rehabilitation Center, and later a sabbatical provided him the chance to intern at the Betty Ford Clinic in California.

The Nebraska Counselor Association (NCA) benefitted from his professional service as well. He was a NCA Board member for twenty-five years, and served a term as President of the association. Dr. Paul Barnes, Chair of the Department of Counseling in the UNO College of Education wrote, "Scott has been a cornerstone of our program and has shaped mental health practice in the Metropolitan Omaha area." ■

Blanke Designated a Fellow

The National Academy of Kinesiology inducted twelve new Fellows at its 81st annual meeting held September 20-22, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. One of the new inductees was Dr. Daniel Blanke, the Director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in the College of Education. The Academy is an honorary organization composed of Fellows who have made significant and sustained contributions to the field of kinesiology through scholarship and professional service.

Dr. Blanke earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse and his Master of Science degree from the University of Oregon. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oregon in 1975, prior to beginning his appointment at UNO in the Fall of 1976. ■

Dr. Blanke (center) with Dr. Nick Stergiou, HPER, at the honors ceremony in Portland.





Speech Language clinic activity

- The Speech Language Clinic provided services to 74 clients ages two to sixty-nine during the 2011-2012 academic year.
- On September 14, **Dr. Debora Wisneski (TED)** was an invited presenter at the TEDx Talk at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The TEDx conference series is a global initiative for sharing creative ideas in technology, arts and other areas of innovation on a community-by-community basis. At the TEDx Talk, Dr. Wisneski spoke about the economics of early childhood and her topic title was “*We’re not fighting! We’re SAVING!: Understanding Early Childhood Education from Different Perspectives.*”
In addition to her work at UNO, she is currently the president of the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI).
- **Erin Betanzos Nielsen**, a senior **Library Science Major**, was recently announced as one of the Isaacson Completion Scholarship recipients for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- Student organization presidents served cake in Roskens Hall on September 2nd in celebration of the one year birthday of the Roskens Hall Dedication.

Did You Know?

- Congratulations to **Jonathan Scherling (SPED)** who was presented with the 2012 Iowa Deaf Community Leader award. He was presented with the award on September 24, 2012, at the Iowa School for the Deaf during lunch so the students could be there to help him celebrate. When accepting the award, Jonathan quoted a billboard that said, “win an award, work harder.”
- **Dr. Jon Lopez (M.S. 1974; Ed.D., 2008; Ed Ad)** who was serving as Superintendent of the Beatrice Public Schools passed away from pancreatic cancer on September 28, 2012. Lopez taught at Millard North High School, was an Assistant Principal at Omaha Bryan Middle School, Principal at Plattsmouth High School, Principal of Millard South High School, the Executive Director for assessment for the Millard Public Schools, and most recently Superintendent in Beatrice.
- **Arnold Smith (B.S., 1956; M.S., 1961)** passed away at the age of 82 in October, 2012. Smith was a career educator with the Bellevue Public Schools and was well known as the athletic director at Bellevue High School. He later served as the assistant superintendent for business services. Smith was also a member of the 1955 University of Omaha Tangerine Bowl Championship team.
- **Christopher Villarreal (B.S., 2009; M.S., 2010)** is one of the sponsors of the Millard South High School chapter of the National Forensic League. The chapter has been placed in the top ten percent of forensic leagues nationwide. He and the other sponsor were commended by the League for their dedication to the speech and debate program at their high school.
- The Office of Field Experiences again sponsored a summer camp for students from Lewis and Clark Middle School. The camp focuses on providing students with a college based experience aimed at developing their interest in attending college.
- **Mary Lynn Reiser**, Director of UNO Center for Economic Education, has been elected to a three year term on the national Council on Economic Education Board of Directors, headquartered in New York City. Reiser will attend the three yearly board of directors meetings and participate in other activities of the council. There are 204 Centers for Economic Education across the country.
- One stop for high school students who participated in Oxbow Youth Writing Camps Writing Marathon was to share their writing with participants in the Oxbow Summer Institute.

Oxbow Writing Marathon





NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Nebraska Department of Education has announced that **Angela Mosier (B.S., 1999; M.S., 2000)** was selected as the Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Nebraska Education Commissioner Roger Breed revealed the winner in a surprise announcement at Westside High School on October 15, 2012. Angela teaches mathematics and shared that she decided to study both physics and mathematics so she could be a role model for girls by teaching in a male dominated area.

Ms. Mosier was a participant in the CADRE Program in 1999-2000 and has also become NBPTS (National Board for Professional Teaching Standards) certified through the MOEC NBPTS Cohort Program. She began teaching in the Westside Community Schools in 1999. She was honored by the State Board of Education at a luncheon on November 8 in Lincoln. As the Nebraska winner, Mosier will participate in the national Teacher of the Year competition.

Angela's honor marks the second straight year one of our alums has been chosen for this award. The 2012 Teacher of the Year was **Luisa Paloma (M.S., 2009)**. ■

WHAT DO YOU DO ON NOVEMBER 11?

For many years Americans have honored Veterans on this day. November 11 became a significant day of the year when in 1918 Germany signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car in the forest of Compiegne, France. The World War I fighting was officially ended at 11:00 a.m. It was the eleventh hour in the eleventh month on the eleventh day. The war officially ended later when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919.

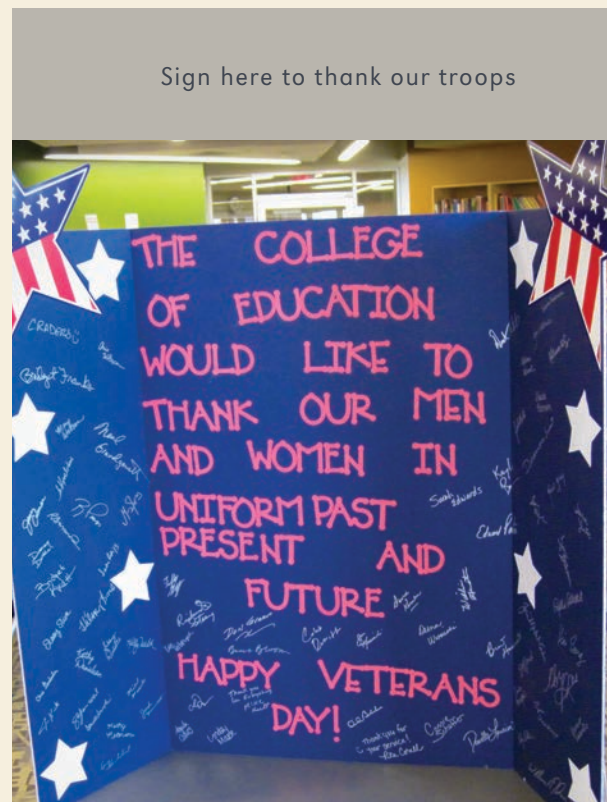
Faculty and students in the College of Education actively honored our own Veterans in the college this year. A large thank you card signed by faculty, students and staff was part of a November 11 display in the Roskens Hall atrium. The Teacher Education Department also provided teaching ideas and strategies for teaching children in military families.

A “mini-culture walk” was planned in the Bellevue area so students could become more aware of families of persons in our military.

Julia Wagoner, a student member of Kappa Delta Pi and a veteran herself, spearheaded an effort to provide handwritten thank you notes to all veterans in the college. Julia worked with Applebee's restaurants to get free meal coupons to put in the cards.

These activities mesh with the Operation Educate the Educators project developed by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). The project focuses on enhancing education and support for military connected students.

This effort focuses on the approximately 2,000,000 military-connected students in the United States. Eighty percent of these students attend PK-12 public schools. Their mobility rate is approximately three times greater than civilian peers, and they face many issues related to increased levels of stress during deployments and relocations. But, these students also bring many experiences from various geographic locations to the classroom. The experiences have often resulted in the student developing an ability to relate to a diverse group of people. ■



Scholarships

One hundred thirty students were honored with a scholarship reception held in the Roskens Hall Atrium. Dean Nancy Edick greeted the honorees and several contributors to the scholarship funds.

Scholarship winners for 2012-2013:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Crista Abold | Melissa Feldman | Sara Johannsen | Kathleen Moriarty |
| Stephanie Allen | Levi Fickenschner | Breanne John | Megan Moriarty |
| Brandi Anderson | Robert Fischer | Shaleana Johnson | Stacey Muller |
| Wendy Ausdemore | Amanda Fitch | Ethan Jones | Kiersten Nelson |
| Elizabeth Bang | Sasha Foo | Brianna Kallman | Amanda Nelson |
| Jeffry Bell | Whitney Franklin | Julie Katt | Nicole Novacek |
| Allison Birkemeier | Rayanna Garanbush | Ariko Kaziboni | Dianne Osborne |
| Alyssa Blocker | Michael Garrett | Teresa Kern | Shea Pace |
| Richelle Blum | Julie Gehringer | Jordan Koch | Dunina Padilla |
| Kayla Bonacci | Alicia Gotschall | Taylor Kort | Sarah Parker |
| Barbara Bowey | Shea Granger | Danielle Kuchar | Sara Petersen |
| Danielle Buffington | Tyler Gross | Andrew Lewandowski | Kelsey Peterson |
| Brandy Carter | Cory Hagenau | Shawn Loftus | Dana Phelan |
| Cassandra Cech | Alexandria Halliburton | Erin Maguire | Rachel Prieksat |
| Kelly Chase | Chelsey Hansen | Jennifer Malec | Vanessa Queeney |
| Cole Colony | Shawna Hanson | Michaela Mapes | Candice Rabiola |
| Megan Craig | Kristie Harris | Carley Martinez | Cynthia Raders |
| Jodi Crow | Michael Hart | Jamie McCaw | Abigail Regier |
| Tori Davis | Alexandra Hauenstein | Leon Micek | John Ritzdorf |
| Ashley DeBolt | Lindsay Heinssen | Jenna Miller | Casandra Roberts |
| Gabrielle DeGagne | Danielle Hoechner | Colin Mink | Sarah Saucier |
| Alycia Denos | Hilary Horvatic | Kylee Moore | Lori Schilling |
| Emma Dobson | Chelsea Hoschar | Lindsey Moore | Brody Schmaderer |
| Mariana Estrada | Elizabeth Jensen | Ricio Morales | Natalie Schneider |



Dr. Vicki Lentfer visits with scholarship winners

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gail Schriber | Jordan Stough | Nolan Vandenberg |
| Katie Schulte | Sarah Strand | Tracey Waldrop |
| Kellie Seiber | Megan Suing | Amy Wing |
| Colin Shenefield | Mary Thompson | Brenna Wragge |
| Carley Smith | Melissa Topil | Amber Yancey |
| MaryLou Snyder | Desire Townsell | Rylee Young |
| Amy Sokoll | Katelyn Tschida | |
| Benjamin Steward | Beth Urwin | |
| Daniel Stokes | Sarahi Valesquez | |

EMERGING LEADER



Tamara Williams (Ed.D., 2009), Director of Assessment, Research, and Evaluation for the Millard Public Schools has been recognized as an Emerging Leader by PDK International, a global association of education professionals.

The PDK Emerging Leader program recognizes top educators under age 40 from around the world for their leadership. A committee made up of PDK's past Emerging

Leaders selected the 22 honorees from a competitive field of applicants, based on their outstanding professional accomplishments.

In addition to being honored at an event in Washington, D.C., honorees also have the opportunity to be published by PDK, apply for grants, and participate in PDK initiatives. ■

Alum Receives Honor from AdvancED

Dr. Barbara Schweiger (B.S., 1970; M.S. 1973) was announced in October as the AdvancED Nebraska recipient of the AdvancED Excellence in Education Award. She currently is the Administrator of Human Resources and School Improvement at the Archdiocese of Omaha. Schweiger stated, "I felt very honored to be selected for the award. However, the many colleagues I have worked with in Nebraska and other states are the ones who need to be recognized for their commitment and dedication to the implementation of quality continued school improvement efforts that impact the educational programs for all of our students." ■





FEA students on the move

IT WAS THE 2ND ANNUAL _____

Three hundred high school students gathered on the UNO Campus on Thursday, October 18, to participate in the Second Annual Nebraska Statewide Future Educators Association (FEA) Conference. The students shared the common interest of considering teaching as a career.

Conference participants could choose from fifteen breakout sessions at four different times during the day. The sessions were designed to help participating students learn more about what has often been called the most important career in the world.

There was also competition. Competition in banners, public service announcements, and the FEA Moment speech contest. Students also compete in these areas at the

International FEA Conference which will be held in April in Orlando, Florida.

Ms. Carol Ringenberg, Nebraska Department of Education, serves as the state adviser for FEA. Dr. Vicki Lentfer, Coordinator of Field Placements in the UNO College of Education, worked with Dr. Connie Schaffer (TED) and the state committee led by Ms. Ringenberg in developing and implementing the conference.

Keynote speaker Craig Zablocki enlisted the audience to participate as he encouraged the students to not fear embarrassment, to function outside their fear levels, and to unleash their creative spirit. Beginning with asking the students if they could paint a picture, with a very few students raising their hands, Zablocki then asked how a room of kindergartners

would answer the same question. Answering his own question by saying that every kindergartener would raise their hand, Zablocki challenged the students by asking what happened to them on the way from being a kindergartner to being a high school student. Why did they no longer think they could do everything?

One of Zablocki’s favorite activities was to have two people talk and complete a story line as they went along. To use his idea, “The FEA Conference was _____, _____, _____.” ■

BRAZIL

College of Education students **Danielle Hoechner and Molly Moberg** spent three weeks studying about Brazil. They were participants in the 2012 Brazil Study Abroad program that was a pilot developed to support the University of Nebraska's global engagement priority.

Danielle reports their experience in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, provided her with a perception of how her future students in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes may feel as they learn English. She experienced learning a language through immersion and learned a great deal about living in poverty.

The experience was valuable preparation for a future secondary Spanish or ESL teacher.

Danielle speaks Spanish fluently and she found it very helpful as she worked to communicate in Portuguese. They stayed in a hotel in Ipanema, an area best known for the famous beach that was a three to five minute walk from the hotel. They could also access Copacabana Beach by walking about twenty minutes.

The critical issues students in the course explored included: education, politics, food, health and environment, inequality and



Danielle Hoechner

social justice, race, urbanization, and Brazil's rise to a global power.

Danielle believes during her three weeks in Brazil she gained considerable knowledge about learning a language and about living in poverty. ■

ROSKENS INTERNATIONAL FUND = OPPORTUNITY

Ticket and passport in hand, luggage tagged and seat waiting. All those things are just the beginning for those embarking upon international travel. For some individuals the opportunity to travel to a far off land is a rare chance indeed and one that is especially difficult to afford for students during the college years. But this opportunity is becoming more readily available to students at not only UNO, but the College of Education in particular, thanks to generous and visionary donors.

Former UNO Chancellor and University of Nebraska President, Ronald Roskens and his wife, Lois, established the Ronald W. and Lois G. Roskens Family International Experience Fund to provide funding for the benefit and support of student international educational experiences at the College of Education. The goal is to provide these students a global perspective through meaningful international educational experiences. The fund supports various aspects of travel expenses that students and faculty may incur.

The chance to travel outside of UNO and Nebraska to a foreign country is one that is essential to better understanding other cultures while simultaneously sharing mutually beneficial ideas and practices with peers in another country. UNO hopes to encourage and provide the chances to travel to foreign nations by making it affordable for students while allowing them to meet class requirements. Dr. Sarah Edwards, Teacher Education Department Chair and member of the UNO Priority team for Global Engagement, says

“Teaching is a global profession. Educators must be able to consider multiple cultural perspectives in order to communicate effectively with all students. Study and travel abroad provide necessary exposure to a variety of perspectives which enables teachers to achieve an understanding of not only other cultures, but also of their own.”

It is not just students that benefit from travel, but instructors know the incredible need to see the world and learn from other institutions. Two other faculty members at the College of Education, Dr. Bridget

Franks and Dr. Ashley Brailsford Vaughns, are in the midst of planning and seeking approval for trips to China and Europe, respectively. Their trips concentrate on not only learning other methods of instruction, but on cultural exchange and learning opportunities with the goal of encouraging travel for students. These trips will surely help to open minds of faculty and students while encouraging the exchange of ideas to ultimately lead to advances in teaching and education.

For more information on donating to the College of Education or specifically on funding international travel, please contact Nicole Massara, Director of Development with the University of Nebraska Foundation at (402) 502-4105 or nmassara@nufoundation.org. ■



Happenings

WINTER 2012

in this issue

3 | Stretching Our Minds There are few things that pique your interest to learn more about a land and its people than to travel in that country.

6 | Giving You the Cold Shoulder The Summer Olympics were viewed by millions of people throughout the world who were drawn to the television set to catch a key race or game. Viewers marveled at how the champion athletes poured so much time, so much soul, into those brief moments of performance.

8 | New Faculty A look at the background of all College of Education faculty members reveals they possess degrees from 31 different states and the District of Columbia, as well as five different countries on three different continents.

14 | Defining Community Connection How would you define the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) College of Education (COE) community? To begin with we should probably consider the places and people that students interact with as they complete internship experiences.

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