



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
HAPPENINGS
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

UNO STEM COLLABORATION:
DEDICATED, REFLECTIVE, RESPONSIBLE



WINTER 2016

UNO STEM COLLABORATION: DEDICATED, REFLECTIVE, RESPONSIBLE

This issue of *Happenings* highlights our best assets, innovations, and initiatives for STEM education. From teacher preparation to community partnerships and from emerging technologies to cutting-edge research, we are committed to advancing the UNO campus priority of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education. Our efforts provide rich learning experiences for students, faculty, and community partners.

Follow Dr. Neal Grandgenett, Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education, as he reflects on how the UNO STEM priority specifically supports interdisciplinary learning and models real life problem solving, inquiry, and design. Meet Derrick Nero, STEM Education Instructor, who is dedicated to networking educators with industry professionals and is committed to introducing engineering education throughout our community. See the directions below for the Layar mobile app and scan the page with the icon to explore more of Derrick's outreach.



As our programs continue to grow, we are able to expand our community service initiatives including the Department of Counseling's Community Clinic. Coordinated by Dani Bojanski, PLMHP, the clinic is a unique option for accessible and affordable mental health services for UNO students, faculty, staff and greater Omaha area residents.

Our college is family. And we are growing! Congratulations to our newest unit, the Department of Biomechanics, and Dr. Nicholas Stergiou, the founding chair. We also celebrate our newest eighteen faculty members and the support of our donors—our greatest advocates who value our leadership and know their support fuels our successes. Our students are a clear reflection of those relationships, continually innovating, persevering, and excelling through the challenges and opportunities they encounter. Yes - there are so many *Happenings* in the college and I hope you enjoy reading our latest achievements here and online at coe.unomaha.edu.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy A. Edick".

Nancy A. Edick,
Lois G. Roskens Dean

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Providing accessible, affordable, quality mental health services



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NEAL GRANDGENETT

Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education
Professor, Teacher Education Department
Ph.D., Iowa State University

SITDOWN WITH HADDIX STEM COMMUNITY CHAIR, DR. NEAL GRANDGENETT

In 2012, UNO formally established STEM learning as one of five key campus priorities, and a STEM Leadership Team was established to conduct a campus-wide strategic planning process for STEM. In 2013, the UNO STEM Strategic Plan was initiated to direct the further and ongoing development and implementation of UNO’s STEM Priority and to help ensure that institutional resources are allocated appropriately to accommodate growth and maintain the educational quality of UNO’s STEM programs.

It has been nearly two years since the STEM Strategic Plan was developed, a STEM Leadership Team was established, and the concept of a STEM Community Chair Team (STEM, Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science) was put fully into place. It is certainly a bright time for UNO STEM, with steadily increasing successes in STEM related to the goals of STEM teaching, research, service, and infrastructure. The College of Education is honored to have Dr. Neal Grandgenett, Haddix Community Chair of STEM Education provide campus leadership for this highly successful initiative.

Why and how did you decide to make STEM a priority?

STEM is a big national priority and there is an increasingly desperate need to build educational pathways that will lead to more STEM professionals and teachers in the nation’s workplace. UNO and other metropolitan universities have a great chance to become a national model for STEM because of all our close partnerships in the community. STEM takes a truly collaborative effort that excites, engages and prepares students for life-long learning from “cradle to career.”

The UNO STEM Priority specifically supports an interdisciplinary model for learning. Why is this so important?

STEM really is all about interdisciplinary learning and the modeling of the real life problem solving, inquiry and design that professionals do in addressing societal needs. It is also much more fun and relevant when it is approached that way for students! Problems today are rarely situated within a single discipline, and being able to comfortably work across interdisciplinary lines is so critical to our society. Numerous national reports suggest that interdisciplinary teamwork is at the very core of national needs in STEM.

Why do you feel it is important the College of Education provide key leadership in this initiative?

National reports often suggest that Colleges of Education play an extremely critical role in being a catalyst to interdisciplinary STEM efforts on campus and in collaborating with P12 schools to build educational pathway structures. Recent calls by President Obama, the National Research Council, and other federal agencies are also advocating for 100,000 new P12

STEM teachers. Colleges of Education within the next decade need to be “front and center” in engaging all community partners, and particularly school districts in helping to make this rather daunting national goal happen locally here in Omaha and across Nebraska.

What are some of the barriers/challenges to continued momentum in STEM?

STEM is a challenging environment for reform for many different reasons. Perhaps the most challenging is the traditional “silos” of STEM, where learning is a bit artificially separated into separate departments or content areas. We are trying to address that on our campus by new courses and initiatives that truly reach across the STEM disciplines. In addition, the campus STEM leadership team is very sensitive to not just building a bigger “STEM silo”, but to instead welcome all disciplines to collaborate with us. All disciplines touch and contribute to the STEM Priority in one way or another and we welcome everyone to collaborate with us.

Which STEM accomplishments are particular points of pride for the team?

We are collectively very proud of many different UNO initiatives since the beginning of the STEM campus efforts. For example, many colleges point to an increasingly strong collaboration in the training of high school teachers in the STEM disciplines, where pre-service teachers can easily “double major” in their discipline while working with the College of Education for teacher certification coursework. This is quite rare across the United States. In addition, the

interdisciplinary STEM teams have been very successful in shared STEM learning grants, receiving nearly \$8 million in collaborative grants from organizations such as NSF, the Department of Labor and private foundations. Finally, interdisciplinary faculty teams have been very successful publishing peer-reviewed articles related to discipline based educational research (DBER) and more than 30 different faculty members have co-authored refereed papers and articles, often crossing colleges. DBER is considered by many national reports to be a real “driver” for educational reform in STEM teaching and learning.

What does the future hold for STEM and the College of Education?

It is indeed a very exciting time for the College of Education related to making a contribution to the national STEM landscape. Locally, we are increasingly being asked to partner on STEM learning initiatives with faculty members and departments across the campus that rely on our areas of learning expertise, educational experience, and P12 insights for all sorts of STEM initiatives. Some federal grant programs, such as the NSF Noyce and ITEST programs also increasingly require participation by a College of Education researcher or STEM DBER specialist to field a competitive proposal. It is a great time for our campus faculty and staff community to be real leaders and contributors to solving local, regional and national problems in STEM education. It is a great time to be a Mav!



STEM Campus Leadership Team | Not pictured: Michael O'Hara, Mark Pauley, Julia Podariu, Bob Shuster, Rose Strasser, Jim Taylor, Scott Vlasnik, and Sandi Vlasnik

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the UNO STEM Priority is to advance student understanding and success in STEM education by aggressively leading collaborative partnerships focused on increasing STEM capacity, competency, innovation, and literacy for the betterment of our metropolitan, regional, national, and international communities.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Angela Collins

Administrative Coordinator, Center for Research in Human Movement Variability

Christine Cutucache

Community Chair of Science

Brian Dorn

Community Chair of Computer Science

Carol Engelmann

Glacier Creek STEM Instructor

Alisa Gilmore

Senior Lecturer, Engineering Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI)

Neal Grandgenett

Community Chair of STEM Education

Jim Harrington

K-12 STEM Representative

Angie Hodge

Community Chair of Mathematics

Vicki Lentfer

Instructor, STEM Education

Sheryl McGlamery

Professor, Co-Director of the Office of STEM Education

Angela McGraw

iSTEM Program Coordinator

Derrick Nero

Instructor, K-12 Engineering Education

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Professor, Finance and Banking

Mark Pauley

Senior Research Fellow, Bioinformatics

Iulia Podariu

Associate Professor, Physics

Dana Richter-Egger

Director MSLC, Assistant Professor Chemistry

Chris Schaben

Representative, Nebraska Academy of Science

Bob Shuster

Department Chair of Geology/Geography

Amelia Squires

UNO STEM Outreach Coordinator

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Associate Professor, Psychology

Scott Tarry

Professor, Aviation Institute

Jim Taylor

Research Director, PKI

Scott Vlasnik

Instructor, Aviation Institute

Sandy Vlasnik

Lecturer, Information Systems/Quantitative Analysis

STEM CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

2015-16 EXTERNAL FUNDING

\$1.1 M - NSF Noyce Math Education Scholarships

\$1.1 M - NSF ITEST: Strategic PBL to Rouse CS

\$1.2 M* - NSF ITEST: Wearable Technology in STEM

\$4.2 M** - Sherwood: OPS/UNO Science Innovations

\$628,208** - Sherwood: Teacher Research

\$70,000 - Girls, Inc.: Training Middle School Girls in STEM

\$35,000 - Online World Wide: CS Education Coursework

*Shared with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
**Shared with Omaha Public Schools

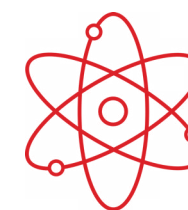
52

faculty involved in leading initiatives



30

articles and publications



37

STEM outreach events

Visit ostem.unomaha.edu for a complete list of publications available for download.



DERRICK NERO

Instructor, STEM Education
Teacher Education Department
M.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha

ENGINEERING EDUCATION: REACHING NEW HORIZONS

For instructor Derrick Nero, engineering isn't just another STEM content area, it's his expertise, and so is teaching. With a bachelor's degree in Engineering and a master's in Special Education, he's making it his mission to improve engineering instruction for educators and students, from project conception through production. His work in sharing the engineering design process has already impacted hundreds of teachers and most importantly, brought problem-solving skills to students throughout the Omaha area.

Growing up in inner-city New Orleans, Derrick Nero didn't realize engineering was something he could turn into a career. As the neighborhood fixer, tinkering was an innate skill for him as he enjoyed taking broken items and bringing new life to the scraps. It was in high school when he was introduced to engineering as a science through industrial technology and electronics courses. Initially his plan was to enter the Air Force, but his guidance counselor urged him to explore engineering in college and that degree led to his first job as an engineering contractor in Las Vegas.

Although Nero enjoyed a successful career as a project manager, his volunteer work of serving as a tutor for at-risk youth was his most compelling project. One young man, in particular, was the catalyst that changed the course of his professional life. Derrick's support and commitment helped the young student to improve his math grades to the point of moving his mother to tears. Nero knew he had been called to connect kids to success in STEM.

Through UNO, Nero enrolled in the Teacher Academy Project (TAP), an accelerated graduate degree program for those who already hold a bachelor's degree in a high-need area. He was placed at Lewis and Clark Middle School for teaching and was hooked on his new role. While one engineer may have left the profession, he was busy developing many future engineers. Navigating them through the engineering design process, from conception to completion, he made sure they were still meeting rigorous academic standards but through alternative and relevant problems.

That's the wonder of having an engineering expert like Nero on hand; he understands the details of engineering but determines the best methods of instruction for successful lessons. Since moving to the College of Education, he is advancing our STEM initiatives by integrating and designing engineering science classes for teacher candidates.



Engineering Education Summer Internship course at construction site with Kiewit project managers and engineers.

Learning from an engineering-specific course is key for teaching STEM teacher candidates because they learn self-sufficient project design strategies as well as assessment approaches more consistent with real world STEM applications. They are able to adapt a set of principles to a multitude of problems and create different paths for a common solution.

When a teacher has experienced this alternative methodology and has real life experiences with industry professionals their students not only succeed but everyone in the classroom is more confident. Why? The teacher has credentials rooted in industry standards and the network to prove it. In his Engineering Education Internship course, teachers are connected with engineering professionals to address best practices, frequent problems and the methods to solve them, from safety to temporary construction structures required on job sites.

His teacher to engineer networking doesn't end there. Nero has brought a new concept to the professions—a seminar that brings both parties together to learn best education practices to prepare the next generation of engineers. Not only do science teachers feel more prepared to cover content they aren't familiar with, but major engineering firms are involved in what topics need to be addressed. From matching instructors with professionals and venturing up an eight story unfinished building to learn an advanced concept or introducing engineering education to urban areas through a high altitude balloon launch, Nero is innovating engineering education for teachers, students, and professionals in the Omaha metro community.

DO SPACE COLLABORATION

Collaborative high altitude balloon launch for the Do Space grand opening with Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI), Metropolitan Community College (MCC), and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Students from PKI and MCC designed and conducted experiments to fly aboard the high altitude balloon. The grand opening attendees at Do Space watched the launch and tracked its ascent and descent via a live feed from the high altitude balloon.

ENGINEERING MATH PREP ACADEMY (MPA)

Strengthening in-coming engineering majors' foundation skills for Calculus, MPA culminates with a community service project for underserved disabled and/or veteran seniors in North Omaha. Fulfilling a university priority of community service, students apply foundational math skills and engineering design to various in-class challenges and labs.

EUREKA! STEM

Provide robotics (operation and programming) and engineering (design, build, and test) activities and challenges to middle school Girls' Inc. participants over four weeks. The girls learn the importance of criteria, comprehension, critical thinking, collaboration, and construction.

UNPACKING THE IMPACT: ENGINEERING ED COLLABORATIONS

NEBRASKA ROBOTICS EXPO

Develop themed-events requiring programming of the educational robot CEENBoT for the annual state robotics competition. Robots are tasked to navigate courses, obstacles, and perform tasks autonomously. Participants learn coding using a graphical user interface or C programming language. The event also provides teacher training for elementary and secondary competition faculty sponsors.

PROJECT HALON

Project HALON (High Altitude Learning Over Nebraska) offers high school students in the Omaha area an opportunity to learn about the space systems engineering process. They develop and test their research experiments in a near-space environment while applying the Scientific Method with Engineering Design simultaneously. Teams are mentored by undergraduate students from the UNO and UNL colleges at PKI. Teams operate a Mission Control Center to monitor the ascent and descent while providing live updates via social media.

PROJECT HALON AT NORTHSTAR FOUNDATION

Grade-appropriate Project HALON for NorthStar participants are exposed to, and guided on applying the Scientific Method and the Engineering Design to conduct self-generated scientific experiments. Students report on the results of their experiments and how content from science applied to their experiments.

UNO STEM EXPERIENCE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

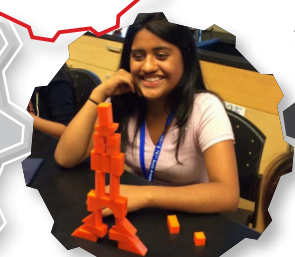
Middle school students discover remote sensing using educational robots, CEENBoTs. Students learn about and experience the practice of using robots to perform tasks via a remote operator. They learn how math, engineering, physiology, and psychology contribute to effective remote operation of robots.

WEARTEC

A collaborative training with the UNL 4H Extension Office to area elementary and secondary teachers, and after school program providers in the use of wearable technologies (textiles-based). While learning the engineering design process, basic circuitry, sewing, and programming of microprocessors, participants also design, construct, and present their activities and develop activity lesson plans for their respective students.



Derrick Nero, Instructor





DANI BOJANSKI

Coordinator, Community Counseling Clinic
Counseling Department
M.S., University of Nebraska at Omaha

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CLINIC: ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

The Department of Counseling's Community Clinic provides UNO students and residents of the Omaha metro community with a unique option for accessing affordable quality mental health services. Services are provided by advanced level graduate students in the nationally accredited clinical mental health counseling program under the supervision of licensed counseling faculty and clinical staff.

Accessible and affordable mental health services are always at a premium. The Community Counseling Clinic's central location on campus and low-cost services offer the UNO and Omaha community an additional option for quality mental health care while providing critical training for the next generation of professional counselors in Nebraska.

The clinic provides services for a range of problems associated with daily living, including but not limited to problems and issues related to interpersonal and family relationships, work/career concerns, adjustment issues, grief and loss, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Students provide clients with caring, culturally sensitive, and evidence-based counseling services with a specific focus on wellness and prevention.

ACCREDITED PROGRAMMING

UNO's Counseling Department is the only graduate level counseling department in Nebraska that offers both nationally accredited School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs. This

accreditation is from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs, the accrediting body of the American Counseling Association, and highlights the departmental and university-wide dedication to rigorous academic and professional training for school and clinical mental health counselors.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Under the supervision of counseling faculty, students manage a balanced client caseload consistent with many community-based mental health organizations. This provides students with the opportunity to experience the professional and personal insights of experienced counseling faculty and staff as they begin to develop their own counseling style. At the clinic, students are exposed to a diverse clientele and are responsible for a caseload of up to eight clients. Students provide the full range of counseling services from intake through client discharge. These activities may include, but are not limited to: clinical interviews, scheduling, individual

counseling, crisis counseling, diagnosis and treatment planning, documentation, and counseling couples and families.

In a typical semester, six advanced level counseling students provide a minimum of 40 hours of direct client services. Consequently, the Community Counseling Clinic provides at least 240 hours of direct counseling services to UNO students and members of the Omaha community each semester.

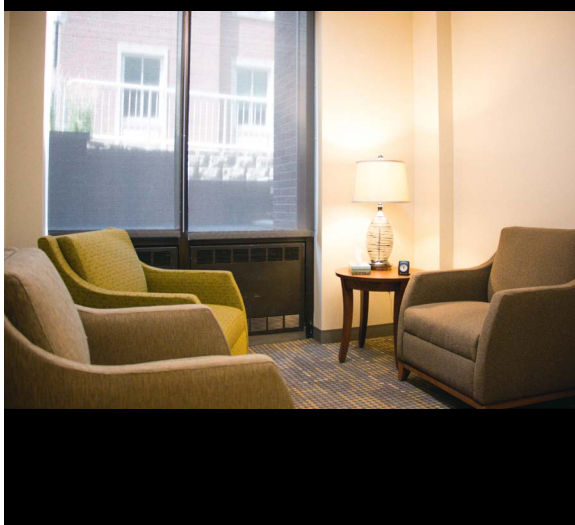
Without insurance, out-of-pocket expenses for the services of a licensed professional counselor or allied mental health provider are often out of reach for those in need of mental health services. The Community Counseling Clinic meets this considerable need in the Omaha community, providing services at a fraction of the cost, offering UNO students and Omaha residents quality and affordable services that in many cases would not be financially feasible.

CLINIC FACILITIES

Housed in Roskens Hall, the Community Counseling Clinic features state-of-the-art facilities for providing quality professional counselor training and mental health services for individuals, couples, and families in the metro area. Seven confidential individual counseling rooms flank a comfortable waiting area. In addition, the clinic houses space for group and family counseling sessions, a seminar room, and office space for completing and securing confidential client documents.

The Community Counseling Clinic provides students with the opportunity to apply theory to practice using the clinic's modern training facilities throughout their program. Examples include practice counseling sessions that address basic counseling skills and clinical interviewing to crisis counseling scenarios. Future goals of the clinic include the addition of a designated child and adolescent counseling room, complete with play therapy equipment. In doing so, counseling students are able to utilize play to help children process and resolve difficult emotional and psychological situations.

The Community Counseling Clinic meets this considerable need in the Omaha community, providing services at a fraction of the cost, offering UNO students and Omaha residents quality and affordable services that in many cases would not be financially feasible.



CLINIC INFORMATION

The UNO Community Counseling Clinic offers confidential and affordable counseling services for children, adolescents, and adults.

Clinic Director: Dan Kissinger, Ph.D., LIMHP, Counseling Department Chair

Clinic Coordinator: Dani Bojanski, M.S., PLMHP

SERVICES

Staffed by advanced graduate students in the Counseling Department and supervised by department faculty.

The clinic offers individual and group counseling for children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families.

Commonly addressed concerns include:

- Grief and loss
- Anxiety
- Relationship issues
- Depression
- Crisis and trauma
- Professional and career issues
- Substance use/abuse
- Stress management
- Transition and adjustment
- Parenting

COST

\$10 – Students/Individuals

\$20 – Families/Couples

ABOUT

107 Roskens Hall
6005 University Drive North
Omaha, NE 68182

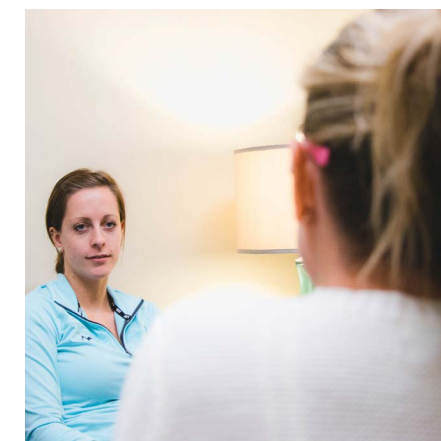
Ph: 402.554.4882

Fax: 402.554.3684

Hours:

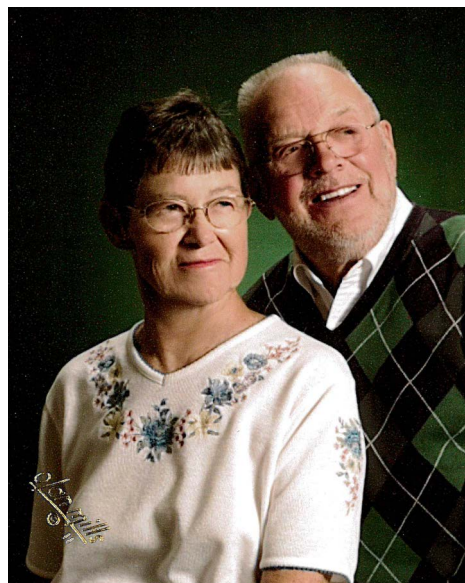
Monday through Thursday, 2 to 7 P.M.

**Last appointment begins at 6 P.M.*



WHY WE GIVE...

Stories from Our Donors | University of Nebraska Foundation



A number of years ago we contacted the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) indicating we were interested in initiating a scholarship to be awarded during a candidate's clinical practice (formerly student teaching). Many students work as many as forty hours a week, and because they cannot work full-time during clinical practice we thought some financial assistance during this very important semester might allow them to place their focus on teaching.

We made this call to UNO for a number of reasons. First and foremost, we received our advanced degrees there, we have three daughters who are teachers, we need dedicated and caring teachers, we believe UNO is a premier institution for preparing future educators, and we wished to show our appreciation for the successful careers we had in the education profession. Our lives have been blessed, and we are honored and proud to provide some financial support to teacher candidates at UNO.

– Bob and Mary Lykke

PLANNED GIVING

You have the power to make a lasting impact at UNO's College of Education. With thoughtful planning, you can support our students and programs far into the future while also meeting your family and financial goals. Careful and attentive gift planning maximizes the impact of your philanthropy – regardless of your means – by developing an individualized plan that fits with your financial, tax and estate planning situation.

If you are interested in finding out more about the many ways you can make UNO's College of Education's future part of your personal legacy, please contact Director of Development, Nicole Massara.

Nicole Massara, Director of Development

University of Nebraska Foundation
Phone: 402.502.4105
Email: nicole.massara@unfoundation.org

If you have already included UNO's College of Education in your estate plan, please contact Nicole. Thank you for giving!

THANK YOU

to our greatest supporters, friends, and champions.

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The gifts listed were received from May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015. We apologize for any recognition errors. If there is a correction, or if you have any questions, please call 402.502.4105.

OUR STUDENTS, OUR FUTURE.

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Michelle Rife



I am very grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Northern Natural Gas Scholarship for the 2015-16 school year. This scholarship has helped cover many of my costs of attendance this year at the University of Nebraska at Omaha as I continue my work in the Educator Preparation Program. This scholarship not only provided me with much-needed funds for tuition and other expenses, but it also has provided me with the opportunity to volunteer at the Hope Center for Kids, an after-school center in North Omaha serving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Every week at the Hope Center, I spend an hour tutoring middle and high school students and then an hour working with the elementary students. Building relationships with the Hope students and tutoring them has been as invaluable part of my preparation to be a teacher. I deeply appreciate this scholarship as recognition of my potential as a student and future educator and for the volunteer experience it has provided me.

– Marie Severin

STUDENT ATHLETES

Baseball:
Connor Clark
Cole Johnston
Joshua Scribner

Hockey:
Ian Brady
Austin Ortega
David Pope

Men's Soccer:
Eduardo Gamboa
Jacob Weiler

Women's Basketball:
Bobbi Beckwith
Elizabeth Brecht
Marissa Preston

Women's Golf:
Makenna Kroeker

Softball:
Campbell Ditto
Sydney Hames
Lia Mancuso
Megan May
Elizabeth Noble
Laura Roecker
Tara Trede

Women's Soccer:
Isabella Anders
Ava Doetsch
Natalie Johnson
Abby Meader
Katlyn Schochenmaier

Women's Swimming/ Diving:
Breanna Brown
Catherina Freichs
Kaitlin Harthoorn
Baylee Kneip
Miranda Knipfer
Kendra Lair
Jordane Linhart
MacKenzie Ritter
Isabelle Robuck
Paige Skidmore
Cassandra Watts

Women's Tennis:
Mackenzie Hill
Allison Johnson
Rebecca Stafford

Women's Track/Cross Country:
Alexis Allgood
Madalyn Buller
Annie Catania
Karo Carcia
Noni Henderson
Lauren Houston
Madeline Nelson
Zarria Nichols
Madison Partridge
Kayla Sabotin
Mackenzie Zach

Women's Volleyball:
Diane Banderas
Elizabeth Brown
Megan Schmale
Amy Taylor
Kayla Torson



DID YOU KNOW? LATEST HAPPENINGS

The **Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium** hosted a presentation featuring **Dr. Diane Ravitch**, New York Times best-selling author and nationally renowned educational speaker November 12, 2015 at the CenturyLink Center.



Read the full **tweetemorial** at <https://storify.com/apbspeakers/tweetimonials-from-diane-ravitch-speech-at-univers>.

COE celebrated its first commencement ceremony December 18, 2015 in the newly constructed Baxter Arena. **Fairouz Bishara-Rantisi, Ed.D.**, was named the Fall 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Award recipient for her outstanding academic achievement and contributions to the college and university.

Phi Delta Kappa hosted a poster session in November at UNO's Thompson Alumni Center featuring five research projects from doctoral candidates in **Educational Leadership (EDL)**. **Dr. Tamara Williams**, EDL, Assistant Professor, currently serves as the chapter's Executive Director.

School of HPER Student Wins CBA Big Idea Pitch Contest – Exercise science major **Campbell Ditto** hit a home-run at the 2015 Big Idea Pitch Contest, winning first place for her performance-enhancing batting glove, dubbed the Ditto Grip. The senior softball player won a \$500 grand prize and trip to the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization national conference in Kansas City.

Drs. Shari DeVeney and Jessica Hagaman from Special Education and Communication Disorders, along with **Dr. Abby Bjornsen**, Counseling, were awarded funds for their FIRE grant project, "Receptively Delayed Late Talkers' Characteristics, Processing Skills, and Outcomes: Pilot Study."

The **National Institutes of Health** awarded a nearly half-million-dollar grant for funding to faculty and undergraduate and graduate students for research use in the next two years. A team of scientists in the Biomechanics Research Building will use the **\$425,000 grant** to examine sensory connections between lower-limb amputation sites and prostheses worn to improve mobility.

Teacher Education faculty members **Ferial Pearson** and **Derrick Nero** were selected as recipients for the **Leading Excellence Award** given in support of recruiting and retaining faculty from underrepresented groups. Pearson and Nero traveled to the National Association for Multicultural Education in October 2015 to tell UNO's story and network with other faculty who are early in their careers.

Sofia Jawed-Wessel and **Dr. Jason Coleman**, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, have helped foster a relationship between Midlands Sexual Health Resource Council (MSHRC) and the Omaha Women's Foundation (OWF) to spearhead advocacy efforts of the Nebraska Sexual Health Alliance (NESHA). This past May, MSHRC hosted its second NE Sexual Health Summit to report on findings from a state wide study on adult sexual health literacy. The results of the summit led to the creation of NESHA, a state funded and mandated, age-appropriate, evidence based sexual education resource for public schools. Visit hper.unomaha.edu/mshrc for more information.



Dr. Sandra Rodriguez Arroyo, Assistant Professor of Education, ESL/Bilingual Education and Literacy, received the **2015 Excellence in Community-Based Teaching and Scholarship Award** presented by the Nebraska Campus Compact.

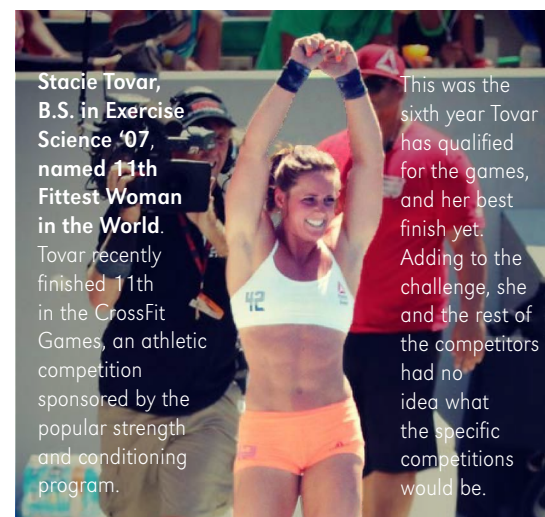
Dr. Bridget Franks, Teacher Education, and **Dr. Elliott Ostler**, Educational Leadership, are preparing for the second annual **Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Leadership in Education Symposium** in May 2016. Soon to have the first digital-edition of their peer-reviewed journal of the same name.

Dr. Nicholas Stergiou, Biomechanics Department Chair, will give a **TEDxUNO talk** on February 14, 2016. More information can be found at unomaha.edu.

Human Movement Variability Conference – June 8th Investigators from the **Center for Research on Human Movement Variability** will present findings from their projects focusing on Autism, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Stroke, Peripheral Arterial Disease, and others. The second annual event is open to the public and features a keynote lecture, research poster sessions, and networking opportunities for those interested in biomechanics. More information can be found at cobre.unomaha.edu.

Dr. Martha Bruckner, COE Distinguished Alumna and Council Bluffs Community Schools Superintendent, has been named the **2015-16 Superintendent of the Year** by the School Administrators of Iowa organization. Criteria for the award is based on evidence of outstanding leadership, which Dr. Bruckner has demonstrated from increasing enrollment numbers and community engagement, to support for district staff to provide safe and engaging learning environments for students.

Courtney Matulka, B.S. '08 and M.S. '10, named Nebraska's 2015-16 Milken Educator Award for her outstanding dedication to student learning outcomes, effective instructional practices, and educational leadership in the district. Matulka teaches eighth-grade science and serves as the head of the science department at Beadle Middle School in the Millard Public Schools district. Her students helped present the award, accompanied by a \$25,000 check, with Governor Pete Ricketts on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. Matulka is the only Nebraska teacher to receive the national award this year.



Stacie Tovar, B.S. in Exercise Science '07, named 11th Fittest Woman in the World. Tovar recently finished 11th in the CrossFit Games, an athletic competition sponsored by the popular strength and conditioning program.

This was the sixth year Tovar has qualified for the games, and her best finish yet. Adding to the challenge, she and the rest of the competitors had no idea what the specific competitions would be.



COE now offers a **Bachelor of Science** degree in Education with an **Early Childhood Inclusive** focus. The program brings together faculty from the Teacher Education department and Special Education and Communication Disorders department to prepare future educators to support a wide range of needs young learners may face during their formative years.

The program is required by the state to be certified to teach anyone from birth through age three and age three to third grade. Students receive mentoring from College of Education faculty on the topics of early childhood education policy, social-cultural understanding, and the well being of infants and toddlers.

Have something to share?
Send us an email at
unocoe@unomaha.edu

PIONEERING THE STUDY OF MOTION

As of January 2016, the Department of Biomechanics is the sixth unit to join the College of Education. The department also brings the only degree of its kind in Nebraska and one of less than five in the entire country, the new Bachelor of Science degree in Biomechanics, a continuation of commitment of academic excellence and cutting-edge research.

For more than 20 years, biomechanics has been an area of focus within UNO's College of Education, but over the past five years, the program has grown exponentially, including the addition of a Ph.D. of Exercise Science with a focus in biomechanics in 2012, the opening of the world's first stand-alone Biomechanics Research Building in 2013 and the awarding of the largest research grant in UNO's history – \$10.1 million – to create the Center for Research in Human Movement Variability.

“These events have cemented UNO as a primary destination for academic excellence in biomechanics and movement sciences around the globe,” explained Nicholas Stergiou, Ph.D., founding chair of the Department of Biomechanics.

“This unique academic unit will allow UNO to grow its regional and national reputation as a first choice metropolitan university while also addressing the void of professionally prepared graduates in the rapidly-growing field of biomechanics.”

The new Department has at present seven faculty members that come from Greece, India, Japan, France and the USA, demonstrating tremendous cultural diversity. The generous support by local donors, the excellent state-of-art-facilities, and the strong partnerships that the Department of Biomechanics has with the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the University of Nebraska Lincoln, and many industry leaders and other academic entities around the world, form the necessary foundation for academic excellence.

Visit coe.unomaha.edu/brb for more information about the new Biomechanics Department and Bachelor's of Science in Biomechanics degree.



PAUL BARNES
Assistant Dean

Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Now serving as Assistant Dean, Paul Barnes has an extensive history with the College of Education. A former Counseling Department Chair and faculty member, he has also served as Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the university. His research has focused on the assessment of student learning; solution focused and brief therapies; dialectical behavior therapy; ASCA model implementation; and career counseling and development.



RON BULBULIAN
Director, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER)

Ph.D. University of Southern California

Ron Bulbulian comes to COE from nearly six years abroad as the founding Dean and Professor for the School of Science and Technology at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan; a collaborative position with Carnegie Mellon University. His research focuses on the prophylactic effects of exercise on health and wellness; disease prevention and treatment through the use of exercise as medicine. It has also concentrated on the neuromuscular system responses to stress and suppression of stress in physiological systems through aerobic exercise.



LAUREN BHOGAL
Advisor, Student Services

M.S., California State University, Bakersfield

Background: Seven years of experience in academic counseling in higher education and public service. She comes to COE from Brooklyn, NY.



ASHLEY BLOUNT
Assistant Professor | Counseling

Ph.D., University of Central Florida

Research Interests: Wellness counseling; counselor education & supervision; and former athletes.



MELISSA CAST-BREDE
Assistant Professor | Library Science, Teacher Education

Ph.D., Emporia State University

Research Interests: Information literacy including copyright and plagiarism; gate-keeping; and collection development.



KERRY-ANN ESCAYG
Assistant Professor | Early Childhood Education, Teacher Education

Ph.D. in Humanities, Social Science and Social Justice, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Research Interests: Children and race; racial socialization; anti-racism in early childhood education; and Caribbean Studies.



KIM GANGWISH
Ideas Room Coordinator, Live Text Coordinator, and Senior Community Service Associate

M.A., University of Nebraska at Omaha

Background: Currently working on doctorate in Educational Leadership at UNO and is part of the NxtWave Program. She serves as Executive Secretary for the Nebraska School Librarians Association.



JANICE GARNETT
Instructor | Educational Leadership

Ed.D., University of Nebraska at Omaha

Research Interests: Teacher effectiveness/teacher appraisal; cultural proficiency/closing the achievement gap; recruitment of teachers of color; early childhood education; and school culture.



VIVIEN MARMELAT
Assistant Professor | Biomechanics

Ph.D., Montpellier-1 University and VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands

Research Interests: Currently working with the Center for Research in Human Movement Variability studying the variability of daily-life ambulatory activity as a non-invasive biomarker for Parkinson's Disease.



FACULTY + STAFF UPDATE



SARA NORGELAS
Internship Coordinator |
School of HPER

M.S., University of Nebraska
at Omaha

Background: For the past seven years she has managed various health promotion programs and developed community partnerships in the Omaha metro area. She is also a member of the American College of Sports Medicine and Society of Health and Physical Educators.



AJA PELSTER
Instructor | Public Health,
School of HPER

M.P.H., University of
Nebraska Medical Center
(UNMC); currently
completing Ph.D., UNMC

Research Interests: Cancer survivorship and the role of gender and sexuality in health outcomes and quality of life—using a community-based participatory approach with qualitative research techniques.



JANE PILLE
Instructional Coach/P-12
Education

M.A. Drake University

Research Interests: Assessment; classroom management; differentiated instruction; difficult conversations; Gallup strengths; goal setting; guided math; guided reading; instructional strategies; lesson design; mentoring; parent teacher conferences; professional learning communities; and writer's workshop.



LUCIA SCHEFFEL
Assistant Professor |
Speech-Language Pathology,
Special Education and
Communication Disorders

Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology, Kent State University; and Postdoctoral fellowship in Medical Speech Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Research Interests: Neurogenic Communications Disorders



KOTA TAKAHASHI
Assistant Professor |
Biomechanics
Ph.D., University of Delaware
in Newark

Research Interests: Rehabilitation engineering; clinical gait analysis; muscle-tendon dynamics; and biomechanics of wearable devices such as prosthetics, orthotics and shoe wear.



GRIFF WATSON
Academic Advisor |
School of HPER

M.S., Purdue University

Background: Most recently served as an Assistant Director of Student-Athlete Services followed by a position as the Interim Director of Academic Enhancement at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.



TAMI WILLIAMS
Assistant Professor |
Educational Leadership

Ed.D., University of Nebraska
at Omaha

Research Interests: Educational assessment; program evaluation; school improvement; and program effectiveness.



SAM WILKINS
Instructor | Athletic
Training, School of HPER

M.S., University of Nebraska
at Omaha

Research Interests: Evaluation techniques for upper extremity; prevention, recognition and care of general medical pathology; and conditioning activities in athletic training.



KATE WORSTER
Research Associate |
Biomechanics

Ph.D., Colorado

Research Interests: Using motion capture and various nonlinear techniques to enhance understanding of the underlying coordination dynamics in pathological movement in order to improve existing therapeutic treatments and develop novel interventions.



27TH ANNUAL HOLLIE BETHEL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Back row: D. Scott Parsons; Nancy A. Edick, Lois G. Roskens Dean; Kay Keiser, Educational Leadership; Kris Swain, Special Education and Communication Disorders; Dan Blanke, former Director, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Front row: Sarah Edwards, Teacher Education; Nancy Oberst; Karen Anderson; Marti Rosen-Atherton; and Jorge Zuniga.



Dr. Hollie Bethel, first female department chair at UNO for the Department of Elementary Education, and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award of Distinction, 1988.

Named for the university's first female department chair, Dr. Hollie Bethel, the Distinguished Alumni luncheon began as a way to recognize significant achievements of alumni who passionately embody the College of Education mission in their careers and community involvement. Dr. Hollie Bethel was a pioneer for the Department of Elementary Education (now Teacher Education); modeling high-standards, she led by example and was highly revered by her students and colleagues. Her legacy continues through the annual luncheon, celebrating the College of Education's most accomplished alumni.

KAREN G. ANDERSON

Distinguished Service Award | Special Education and Communication Disorders Department

Karen is an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association certified Speech Language Pathologist with Nebraska and Iowa Licenses. She specializes in acute care and acute/post-acute rehabilitation in skilled nursing facility and home health care settings. Her mission is to provide the best level of clinical speech-language pathology services and to be a role model demonstrating the belief in the dignity of communication at every stage in life.

MARTI ROSEN-ATHERTON

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award | Counseling Department

As a UNO-educated and licensed mental health practitioner, Marti provided counseling to students, staff and faculty, and also in her part-time private therapy practice. She began her career on campus in the UNO Counseling Center as part of the University Division in addition to advising two generations of students and teaching in the Counseling Department. Marti sees her 36 years at UNO, first as a graduate student, then as a professional counselor, instructor, advisor and director of the Counseling Center, as decades of opportunity and fulfillment.

NANCY OBERST

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award | Educational Leadership Department

Nancy is a Senior Consultant at Gallup, focusing on teacher and principal development and effectiveness. Her consulting insights help education leaders integrate selection, development and engagement models to produce positive outcomes in K-12 schools and school districts. She began her education career as a special education teacher for Omaha Public Schools (OPS) and then served the district as a principal for several elementary schools. Prior to joining Gallup, Nancy was Director of Elementary Education for OPS.

D. SCOTT PARSONS

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award | Teacher Education Department

Scott began his career in education at Skinner Magnet Center in North Omaha—initially as a paraprofessional in the English as a Second Language classroom and then as a sixth Grade teacher after completing his student teaching. In 1999, he enlisted in the Army and attended Officer Candidate School in 2005. Scott has had three deployments to Iraq, one to Afghanistan, and spent a year in Korea prior to accepting his teaching assignment at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was promoted to the rank of Major this past summer.

JORGE ZUNIGA

Distinguished Promising Professional Achievement Award | School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

Jorge is the Director of the 3D Research & Innovation Laboratory, and Co-Director of the Human Movement Laboratory at Creighton University. He has authored and co-authored over 55 manuscripts published in peer reviewed scientific journals. Jorge and his research team recently developed Cyborg Beast, a low-cost 3D printed prosthetic hand for children. The Cyborg Beast was named one of the best inventions of 2014 by MSN.com. His long-term goal is to help disabled children reach normal growth and development of motor skills by encouraging active participation in sports and other recreational activities through the advancement of new low-cost 3D printed prosthetic and orthotic devices.



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Happenings

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Lois G. Roskens Dean

Nancy A. Edick

Associate Dean

David Conway

Assistant Dean

Paul Barnes

Publications Editor/Design

Caitlin Wedding, Communications Specialist

Photography

Ryan Henrickson

and other collaborators



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