



SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS MONTHLY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Ricky Smith
Sign Language Language (ASL) Lab Instructor

Ricky has been a faculty member at UNO 21 years. Ricky's bright smile and uplifting personality make him an important asset to the SECD Family and mentor to the ASL students and community.

How long have you work at UNO?

I have been working at UNO since 2001 as an American Sign Language (ASL) Adjunct Instructor. Currently, I teach ASL I, II, III, IV & V labs.

What is a passion of yours?

When I was 12 years old, I went to the World's Fair in NY with my family. I saw a man performing in a way that I could understand with his movements. My mother told me he was a mime. I had a clear understanding of what the mime was doing and never forgot. By 15 years old, I learned basic mime maneuvers and facial expressions. I studied fine arts, worked, toured as a mime, and studied under the world's most recognized mimes in Europe and US.



On September 7, 1986, I did a bicycle tour from Scottsbluff, NE to my home in Omaha, NE with my dog, Butterfly. My goal was to promote awareness of hearing impaired artists. I stopped in different towns along Route 30 to perform and teach mime and non-verbal communication workshops. I also performed at various community events. I ended my

tour on October 14, 1986, after 475 miles. I came back into Omaha, NE on Dodge Street with a police escort.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I have been restoring and rebuilding a 1951 Chevy Styleline Deluxe. I have been working on this car for the last 10 years. My goal is to drive it down Route 66 one day when it is finished. I have been documenting the process with pictures.

Over the years, you have dressed up in some impressive Halloween costumes. Which one has been your favorite?

I make all of my costumes I wear for Halloween. My favorite one so far would be the tube man. I had a blower attached to it so it came to life.

