

SUMMER 2016

# UNO

MAGAZINE

A man and a woman are standing on a balcony, holding hands and looking at each other. They are framed by two large, classical columns. The background is a surreal, dreamlike landscape with soft, pinkish-purple clouds. In the distance, a brick building with a tower and a modern building are floating above the clouds. The overall mood is romantic and ethereal.

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SUMMER 2016

VOL 7, NO. 2

WWW.UNOALUMNI.ORG/UNOMAG

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*UNO Magazine* is published three times  
a year by the University of Nebraska at  
Omaha, the UNO Alumni Association and  
the University of Nebraska Foundation.

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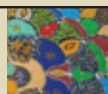
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For Love  
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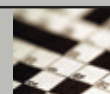
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## Dear Alumni and Friends:

I AM LUCKY I get to work for an institution I truly love.

This issue of *UNO Magazine* explores love in its many forms and how it has influenced UNO as an institution, as well as individuals within the UNO community. While many things have changed at UNO since it was founded in 1908, the continuing love for education and inclusion, as well as a passion for student success, has not wavered.

As you will see in this issue, students still come to UNO to find a major they are passionate about, countless generations of couples have found true love at UNO, and our fans' love for Omaha Athletics has never been stronger.

You will also read about how love has been central to the success of programs like Shakespeare on the Green, an amazing community event at UNO that is celebrating its 30th season, and the different ways love can be understood through science and through art.

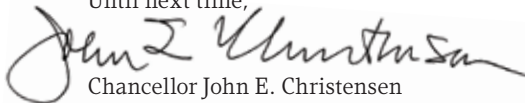
Every time I talk with current students, meet with alumni or attend athletic events, I continue to be amazed at the unmistakable Maverick spirit inside everyone who has spent even a little time on the UNO campus.

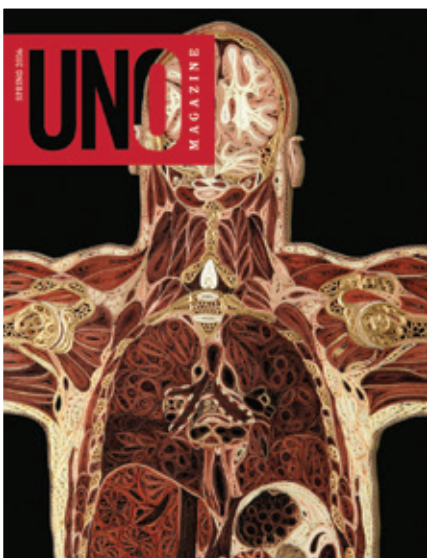
There is so much to love about the work being done here at UNO, and in the community by our alumni, that it would be impossible to try and explain it all in one letter.

As you read through this summer issue, I am sure you will see why I am so passionate about UNO and our metropolitan university mission. We love the city and state we call home and work every day to be a part of meeting the needs in the region. And, we are nationally ranked for our efforts within Omaha.

There is truly no better time to be a Maverick, so I hope your love of UNO will keep you involved and bring you back to campus often.

Until next time,

Chancellor John E. Christensen



## On Spring 2016

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*UNO Magazine* wants to know what its readers are thinking after reading the current issue. Write us about the magazine or university. Letters must include writer's first and last names, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for taste, accuracy, clarity and length. Submit a letter online at [www.unoalumni.org/unomag-led](http://www.unoalumni.org/unomag-led) or write to the address on page 3.



### QUITE TAKEN WITH QUILLING

I really liked the cover art. I've spent many minutes studying it to see how each part created the effect of bone, sinew, and muscle. I had never heard of that technique. I later got to thinking about how it was put together. I can only imagine how many hours it took to cut up the pieces of paper, dye them, roll or fold them, then insert them (and maybe glue them?) in place. I assume that she had to make a raised outline to keep the individual pieces in place. Maybe multiple ones for each section? A remarkable piece of work just for a magazine cover.

John Vogt Masengarb, 1973  
W. Saint Paul, Minn.

### GOOD VIBES

I really enjoyed the issue, and the coverage of President Obama's visit in particular. I was able to take my 7-year-old daughter to the event. It was great to spend the day with her and really take in both the new arena and growth of the surrounding campus. The good vibes that came from the crowd were very much the antithesis of what we see every night on cable news and lurking in comments sections on the Internet. In short, it was a great day for Omaha and UNO.

Jeremy Morong, 2003  
Omaha

### MARK OF THE MAVERICK

Thanks for running the story about my research. It's been interesting to see who is UNO alumni as I get approached by people in various aspects of my life.

Danae Dinkel, UNO assistant professor  
UNO Center for Human Movement Variability

### CROSS-COUNTRY CALLS

I usually read *UNO Magazine* from Chancellor Christensen's letter to Class Notes. But I never realized so many other people did, too. The article Susan Klaus wrote in the spring issue on "The Biology of Aging" made me a believer. I received calls from California, Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota and Tennessee about the article. Not to mention the many calls from Omaha, including my pastors and my doctor. Thanks for the info, and keep up the good work.

Harold Sage, 1954  
Omaha

### LET'S MEET FOR FRIES

As a retired YMCA director for 40 years (in six states) I was particularly interested in the special attention given to aging and fitness. The feature on Harold Sage sure brought back memories. Harold's younger brother Clarence was on the football team with me and Fred Adams (1955). The photo of Harold, page 42, in 1953, shows Dr. Ernie Gorr, my track and football coach, center. The next time I'm in Omaha I'll make certain to schedule a visit with Harold at one of his "fast food indulgences" for old time's sake.

Don McMahill, 1956  
Black Mountain, NC

two Omaha icons

one strong partnership

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I WOULD HAVE BEEN a kick-butt accountant.

I knew all about assets and liabilities, payables and receivables, debits and credits. I could make a mean balance sheet and most of my numbers added up correctly.

In high school, I got an award at a Future Business Leaders of America accounting contest and so set my sights on a career in the field. I enrolled at UNO as an accounting major and started planning how I'd spend the major coin I'd soon be making.

Just one problem: I HATED accounting. It was So. Freaking. Boring.

I can recall a specific day in the CBA building when I realized accounting wasn't for me. Half the students wore dress shirts and ties, ready to bolt from class to the internships they had or part-time jobs at banks or business nerderies.

*No way I'm wearing a tie to work, I remember thinking. These acid-washed jeans are too sweet. Hey, I think that chick in the back is checking me out.*

And they were all so serious. I'm sure some of those bean counters-in-training knew a dirty accounting joke or two, but for the most part, it was all business in those classrooms.

So I switched to something I love — writing — even though I had no clear idea how I'd make money with words. Soon, though, I was doing just that, getting paid to write sports stories for the Gateway.

I was reminded of my switch while reading about the "Love Your Major" initiative in the College of Arts and Sciences (*page 16*). Kurt Frederick, communications specialist for the college, started the campaign in the fall of 2014 to help students determine what stirs their passion, then figure out a way to make a living with that passion.

I knew I'd never make as much as I could in the business world (my wife reminds me of that frequently). But what price do you put on happiness? I've always had a roof over my head, clothes on my back and food in my stomach. I've also had jobs that were miserable (laying asphalt during high school summers comes to mind), and waking up dreading to go to work sucks the life force out of you.

I'm thankful I get to do what I love — and appreciate how UNO helped me do that.

Though I still do my own taxes and have only been audited a handful of times, numbers aren't for me — I'm gooder with words.

Hope you love this issue.

*Anthony Flott*

Anthony Flott  
Managing Editor



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# SENT. OFF.



THE UNO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION celebrated commencement with hundreds of graduating students during the 2016 Senior Send-Off May 4-5.

Seniors were given free UNO Alumni Cards and UNO Alumni pins and had their pictures taken in front of the UNO Alumni banner. Photos were posted on the Association's Facebook page and emailed to participants.

More than 1,500 students graduated from UNO, pushing the worldwide alumni network to more than 105,000 living graduates. That included former UNO Alumni Association intern Nicole Lewis (top) and 2016 interns Kelly Bast and Kelsey Johnson (middle).

## Association Bestows Highest Honor Upon Graduates Mary Lou Chapek, John Morgan



THE UNO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION bestowed its Citation for Alumni Achievement award upon UNO graduates Mary Lou Chapek and John L. Morgan during the university's commencement ceremonies May 6 at Baxter Arena.

Inaugurated in 1949, the citation is the association's highest honor. It encompasses career achievement, community service, involvement in business and professional associations and fidelity to UNO. With Chapek and Morgan, 171 graduates have received Citation awards.

Chapek, co-founder of MVP Laboratories, earned a master's degree in biology from UNO in 1969. She also has a BS in biology from Creighton University and a degree in medical technology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

While director of virus research for a local veterinary vaccine manufacturing company, Chapek led the development of the first licensed vaccine worldwide for the prevention of a new disease, Canine Parvo virus Infection. Shortly thereafter, she co-founded MVP Laboratories in the basement of her Omaha home. The company manufactured veterinary vaccines and immune stimulators for all animal species and eventually obtained customers in 45 countries on six continents. Throughout her career, Chapek has been a tireless advocate for humane treatment of test animals in the manufacture of veterinary vaccines.

Chapek recently sold MVP Laboratories and today is the full-time steward of Turkey Creek Preserve, a 500-acre nature tract she established near Fort Calhoun, Neb.

Morgan, chairman and CEO of Winmark Corp., earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UNO in 1969. Today he is chairman of the board and CEO of Winmark Corporation, a public company and franchisor of 940 retail stores under the brands Play It Again Sports, Platos Closet, Once Upon A Child and Music Go Round.

Morgan previously was Chairman and CEO of Archiver's, a private company in the crafts business. He also founded and was CEO of Winthrop Resources, a technology leasing company that merged with TCF Financial Corp. He has an extensive background in building early stage companies and is a member of an investment group, Rush River LLC.

See more about both recipients at [unoalumni.org/citation-spring16](http://unoalumni.org/citation-spring16)

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Insurance

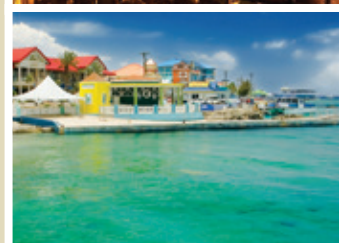
Are you in need of home, life, auto, health or life insurance? The UNO Alumni Association offers graduates insurance for these and other needs at discounted rates. See all the coverage available at [www.unoalumni.org/insurance](http://www.unoalumni.org/insurance).

### Travel

The UNO Alumni Association is pleased to offer alumni discounted travel opportunities through a partnership with travel provider Go Next! Join fellow graduates on one of these upcoming cruises!

- June 13-24, 2016 — Regal Routes
- Sept. 17-25, 2016 — Great Pacific Northwest
- Jan. 17-Feb. 2, 2017 — Panama Enchantment
- April 30-May 8, 2017 — Southern Grandeur
- May 15-24, 2017 — Salute to Spain
- Aug. 17-28, 2017 — Baltic & Scandinavian Treasures
- Oct. 7-17, 2017 — Mediterranean Radiance

For more information, including detailed brochures for each trip, visit [www.unoalumni.org/travel](http://www.unoalumni.org/travel). To receive a brochure for any of our trips by mail, call the association toll-free at 800-432-3216.





## UNO FUND

EVERYONE FOR OMAHA

UNO HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY over the past several years. Enrollment is on the rise, campus has expanded, research is being recognized nationally and athletic programs have hit new heights.

More than ever, students and alumni are proud to call themselves UNO Mavericks.

As the university grows, the UNO Annual Fund needs to grow, too. Launched in 1953 by the UNO Alumni Association, the UNO Annual Fund has supported students through the programs and communications of the association. However, as UNO and its needs grow, the annual fund must evolve if alumni want to help take UNO to the next level of excellence.

Beginning July 1, the annual fund will undergo a transformation, becoming the UNO Fund.

The UNO Fund puts the power into your hands. Through the UNO Fund, you can

choose to directly support whatever you think is most important, including:

- Student scholarships that ease the cost of education for deserving UNO students.
- Faculty recruitment and retention to recruit the state's best educators and produce the most cutting-edge research
- Your college's academic priorities, whether it be new courses or student support programs.
- The most pressing needs of the university, immediately benefitting student goals and dreams.
- The UNO Alumni Association, which continues to produce award-winning alumni programming and communications for the benefit of UNO alumni and students.

Each donor to any area of the UNO Fund now will receive a UNO Alumni card with a gift of \$25 or more. The alumni card entitles

carriers to exclusive perks, including access to Criss Library, HPER membership access, athletics discounts and more.

The UNO Century Club also will expand to recognize all donors to the UNO Fund who give \$250 or more each year in a special edition of UNO Magazine. See the 2015 listing on pages 48-49 for details.

The UNO alumni network now is more than 105,000 graduates strong and has an enormous potential impact on UNO every year through the UNO Fund. If every graduate gave \$10 each year to the UNO Fund, students would benefit from more than \$1 million annually in scholarships, support programs, improved technology and more.

The UNO Fund also will feature a monthly giving option. By making a small, automatic \$5 or \$10 gift each month, you would make a big, yearlong difference to a student in need.

With the power of the UNO network, the UNO Fund hopes to inspire "everyone for Omaha" and transform the campus and lives of thousands of aspiring future Maverick alumni.

Please consider a gift today to the UNO Fund. For more information, or to make your gift, visit [nufoundation.org/UNOFund](http://nufoundation.org/UNOFund).

## You Choose How Your Gift Is Used.

### OPTIONS:

- Student scholarships
- Faculty development
- Alumni Association
- Area of greatest need
- College of Arts & Sciences
- College of Business Administration
- College of Communication, Fine Arts & Media
- College of Education
- College of Information Science & Technology
- College of Public Affairs & Community Service
- Division of Continuing Studies

**Make your gift today at [nufoundation.org/UNOFund](http://nufoundation.org/UNOFund)**

# OUR FUTURE STARTS TODAY.

Our campus has grown tremendously but is always looking forward to tomorrow's opportunities. As UNO grows, our priorities and needs do, too.

The UNO Annual Fund is now the **UNO Fund**. You choose how your gifts will benefit UNO, whether through scholarships, faculty development, the alumni association, your college or UNO's greatest needs.

Join the thousands of alumni who are building a better future for our campus by making your \$10 or \$25 gift to the UNO Fund today.

**For more information or to make your gift, visit [nufoundation.org/UNOFund](http://nufoundation.org/UNOFund).**



UNO FUND  
EVERYONE FOR OMAHA



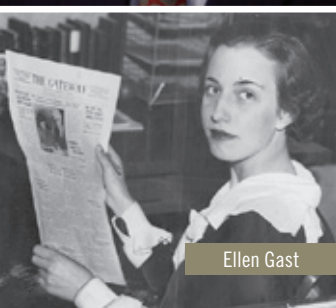




Scott Durbin



Doug Durbin



Ellen Gast

## For Family of UNO Graduates, Board Chairmanship is Family Affair

It's hard to top the Pearey-Durbin clan for alumni leadership at UNO.

Generation after generation after generation, the family serves their alma mater — first as students, then as graduates. They are the new poster family for Alumni Engagement, a term used by the university to demonstrate the importance of graduates remaining involved with and supportive of UNO.

That reached a new level May 24 at the 104th annual meeting of the UNO Alumni Association Board of Directors when Scott Durbin was elected 2016-17 chairman of the board. A vice president at Harry A. Koch, Durbin is the 93rd graduate to chair the board — but not the first in his family to do so. Not even the second.

Scott's father, Doug Durbin, was board chair in 1994. His maternal grandmother, Ellen Hartman Pearey Gast, was chair in 1971-72.

Gast — then Ellen Hartman — was editor of the Gateway before graduating in 1938. She married fellow Omaha University graduate Leo Pearey, a three-star athlete and Little All-American football player. She later taught 38 years for Omaha Public Schools and in 1996 was named Omaha World-Herald Outstanding Nebraska Teacher of the Year.

Gast also edited association publications and helped found the Century Club composed of annual fund donors of \$100 or more. She passed away in 1996. The Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Woman named her a "Legendary Woman of UNO" in 2012.

Doug Durbin was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon while at UNO before beginning his long career at Harry A. Koch. He chaired the association the year it completed a \$1.35 million expansion to the Thompson Alumni Center. His wife, Patricia — Ellen's daughter — earned a UNO degree in 1988.

Scott Durbin already was engaged with the university and association even before he graduated in 1985. As a student he played for UNO's club soccer team. He made annual fund campaign telephone calls to alumni. He married a fellow alum, 1989 graduate Jodi Baker. They have three children.

Scott joined the board in 2011 and chaired the association's scholarship swing committee. Now he heads a board that oversees engagement with a worldwide UNO alumni network of more than 105,000 graduates.

"I hope to assist with new and exciting engagement activities and maintain the strong financial condition the association has so future alumni boards will look back and appreciate the job we did."

Just like dad. And grandma.

### Elected, Confirmed

The 104th annual meeting of the UNO Alumni Association Board of Directors was held May 24 at the Thompson Center. A new executive committee was confirmed and members voted to three-year terms.

Also at the meeting, a Director Appreciation Award was issued to outgoing member Todd Rynaski of Union Pacific Railroad. David Craft, 2014-15 board chairman, and Andy Rikli, 2013-14 chair, were presented miniature Maverick Monuments in appreciation of their service.

A complete board roster is provided at [www.unoalumni.org/board](http://www.unoalumni.org/board)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016-17:

**CHAIRMAN:** Scott Durbin, Harry A. Koch

**1ST VICE CHAIRMAN:** Al Hansen, First National Bank

**2ND VICE CHAIRMAN:** Laurie Ruge, Gordmans Management Company

**TREASURER:** Shari Munro, Frankel Zacharia

**LEGAL ADVISOR:** Randy Stevenson, Baird Holm

**SECRETARY:** Chris Denney, Nebraska Medicine

**PAST CHAIRMAN:** Sarah Waldman, Blue Cross Blue Shield Nebraska

**PRESIDENT & CEO:** Lee Denker, UNO Alumni Association

### FIRST TERMS 2016-19:

**David Brisson** (2002), Wells Fargo Securities

**Gabe Romero** (2002), Phenomblue

**Steve Roberts** (1976), self-employed artist

### SECOND TERMS 2016-19:

**Traci Harrison** (2000), community volunteer

**Adam Marek** (2000), Colliers International

**Penny Parker** (1980), Completely KIDS

## SAVE THE DATE 3rd Alumni Night of Honor set for Nov. 3



THE UNO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION will host the third Alumni Night of Honor Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Thompson Alumni Center.

The event highlights achievements by members of the worldwide UNO alumni network. It will celebrate 2016 UNO

Athletics Hall of Fame inductees, Young Alumni Achievement Award recipients, Alumni Achievement Award winners, and other distinguished graduates who have earned special recognition for service or professional accomplishments.

Details will be available in the coming weeks at [unoalumni.org/nightofhonor](http://unoalumni.org/nightofhonor). Direct questions to Elizabeth Kraemer at [ekraemer@unoalumni.org](mailto:ekraemer@unoalumni.org) or 402-504-3343.

## Celebrating 20 Years of Outstanding Teachers—Nine Faculty Honored with Annual Alumni Award



THE UNO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION celebrated the 20th year of its Alumni Outstanding Teaching Awards program when it presented the honor to nine faculty members during the UNO Faculty Honors Convocation

April 18. Association President Lee Denker co-presented the awards, established in 1997 to honor distinguished teaching in the classroom.

Peer committees in UNO colleges chose recipients, each of whom received a \$1,000 award. Denker presented recipients with commemorative plaques during the convocation reception, hosted in the Thompson Alumni Center.

With the 2016 awards the association has issued \$176,000 through the program. For short bios of each person, visit [unoalumni.org/2016aota](http://unoalumni.org/2016aota)

### 2016 AOTA RECIPIENTS

**Dhundy Bastola** Bioinformatics, College of Information Science & Technology

**Kerry Beldin** Social Work, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

**Stuart Bernstein** Construction Systems, College of Engineering

**Ana Carballal** Foreign Languages/Spanish, College of Arts & Sciences

**Dora Matache** Mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences

**Doug Paterson** Theater, College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media

**Julie Pelton** Sociology and Anthropology, College of Arts & Sciences

**Birud Sindhav** Marketing & Management, College of Business Administration

**Franklin Thompson III** Teacher Education, College of Education

## More Awards for Thompson Center

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE year the Thompson Center was named Best Banquet Facility in B2B Omaha magazine's Best of B2B Winners List for 2016. That follows the facility's selection in October as Best Reception Venue in Omaha Magazine's Best of Omaha 2016 contest (also its second consecutive such honor).

In May, the Thompson Center was named best Wedding Reception Venue in the inaugural Omaha's Choice Awards sponsored by the Omaha World-Herald.



There's no resting on laurels, though. A dramatic, modern update recently was implemented throughout the facility, including new wall coverings, carpet, lighting, décor and more. An upgrade to audio-visual capabilities also was completed.

The Thompson Center is Omaha's premiere location for outdoor weddings and indoor receptions, offering a great midtown location,

delicious fare by Catering Creations, extensive amenities, ample & free parking and all-inclusive pricing. Since the facility opened in 1980, more than 1,000 couples have celebrated their wedding at the Thompson Center.

Numerous Omaha companies, organizations and individuals also have used the Thompson Center to host meetings, seminars, conferences, dinners, parties and other events. The versatile facility offers numerous room options, A/V capabilities, and free WiFi.

To see the changes, drop by for a visit at 6705 Dodge.



Young Alumni Academy with NU President Hank Bounds, center.

## Ringing in a New Class of Young Alumni Graduates

FOR A GROUP OF graduates who clearly are going places, perhaps it was fitting they were taken to a place none had ever been.

Members of the UNO Young Alumni Academy Class of 2016 ended their eight-month leadership development program April 28 by visiting the top of Henningson Memorial Campanile.

The award-winning academy, designed for alumni 35 and younger, facilitates peer networking and professional growth. The group's capstone session included a tour of UNO's 168-foot-tall Campanile followed by "commencement" at the Thompson Center.

Carillonner Dr. James Johnson serenaded the group with several songs during its 30-minute stay high above campus, including "America the Beautiful" in three different arrangements.

The campanile tour was one of eight sessions held at unique locations on and off campus. That included a behind-the-scenes tour of Baxter Arena. UNO leaders also addressed members on topics such as athletics management, student focus and community engagement. A service project also was completed.

More than 210 young alumni have taken part in the program, which begins its seventh year in September. Applications for the 2016-17 UNO Young Alumni Academy are being accepted at [unoalumni.org/unoyoungalumni](http://unoalumni.org/unoyoungalumni)

Class of 2016 members and their place of employment are listed below. Direct questions to Elizabeth Kraemer at [ekraemer@unoalumni.org](mailto:ekraemer@unoalumni.org) or 402-504-3343.

### Young Alumni Academy Class of 2016

**Kristin Ballard** CHI Health and Nebraska Wine Tours; **Lizz Barnhart** UNO; **Nichole Baugh** NB Marketing and Creative Services; **Allison Birkemeier** Omaha Public Schools; **Catherine Bogacz** ConAgra Foods; **Jesse Brickner** Hancock & Dana; **Aaron Brown** Quantam Workplace; **Charles Chatham** ConAgra Foods; **William Citro** Nebraska Medicine; **Garrett Cook** ConAgra Foods; **Christina Copley** Infusion Brewing; **Jessica Cullan** Senior Vision Services; **Laura Espejel Rangel** OneWorld Community Health Centers; **Kiley Freeman** Union Pacific; **Emily Grabow** West Corporation; **Gina Halbom** HDR Architecture; **Brianna Hitt** UNL Statistics Dept.; **David Hopp** Agape Red; **Heatherly Howard** UNO College of Business Administration; **April Jordening** Ralston Public Schools; **Ben Kirkland** ConAgra Foods; **Lauren Kirschman** ConAgra Foods; **Val Loseke** The Richdale Group; **Zachary Lutz-Priefert** Gross & Welch PC; **Adam Mroczek** Dundee Bank; **Theresa Nguyen** BKD; **Philip Niewohner** Olsson Associates; **Grant Purcell** Berkshire Hathaway Home Estate Companies; **Bina Ranjit** Proscribe; **Jennifer Runte** ServiceOne; **Adam Schmit** FirstData; **Kathryn Schulz** Home Instead Senior Care; **Lacey Stazzoni** Kiewit; **Jamie Steenson** Omaha Public Schools; **Tiffany Wade** Renaissance Financial; **Jennifer Walcutt** UNO; **Kathryn Roshone** First National Bank of Omaha; **Lindsey Williams** Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands.





Top: Davlin, far left, joined by former Student Body Presidents Brock Lewis, Jordan Koch, Devin Bertelsen and Elizabeth O'Connor. Bottom: Elizabeth Kraemer (center) of the Alumni Association with Davlin and Bradley.

## Installed

The UNO Alumni Association's longstanding support of the university's student government leadership continued in April during installation of the student body president/regent and vice president.

Association Director of Events & Programming Elizabeth Kraemer presented certificates to Patrick Davlin, president/regent, and Emily Bradley, vice president, recognizing scholarship support the association will provide to each.

Davlin and Bradley ran unopposed in the March election. Both serve one-year terms.

UNO's president/regent meets with the chancellor and associate vice chancellor for academic and student affairs as the official representative of the student body. They also represent UNO students on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. The student president serves as an ex-officio member on the UNO Alumni Association Board of Directors and reports on student affairs at its quarterly meetings.

Since 1983 the association has provided nearly \$70,000 in scholarships to UNO's president and vice president.

## 36th Scholarship Swing Set for Aug. 29



THE UNO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION will host the 36th annual UNO Alumni Scholarship Swing Monday, Aug. 29, at Indian Creek Golf Course.

The association's largest annual fundraiser, the Swing last year netted \$40,000, boosting the total raised to more than \$865,000 since UNOAA began hosting the swing in 1995.

More than 120 golfers and 55 sponsors participated in the tournament last year.

The money raised supports various association-sponsored student scholarships. Among them are UNO Alumni Association Scholarships, \$2,500/year grants to graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated leadership and involvement during high school. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years and a new class of scholars is introduced each year.

Sponsors are being sought for the 2016 tournament. To participate, contact Elizabeth Kraemer at 402-504-3343 or [ekramer@unoalumni.org](mailto:ekramer@unoalumni.org).



Dolthan, Alabama

## Get Nuts — Show the O

**READY TO GET NUTS and show your love for UNO?**

Sue Philbin did. The 1974 UNO graduate traveled to Dothan, Alabama, and took a photo with an "O" flag in front of a giant peanut at the National Peanut Festival headquarters.

Where can YOU fly the Maverick colors?

Instituted in 2013 to celebrate the UNO Alumni Association's 100th anniversary, the Show the O campaign provides alumni, students and friends with "O" flags to display in photographs where they live or travel. Photographs are displayed on an interactive world map at [showtheo.com](http://showtheo.com)

So far, photos have been taken in all 50 states and in nearly 100 countries.

Join fellow graduates in spreading Maverick Pride! Request a flag at [showtheo.com](http://showtheo.com) — we'll send you one for free and pay for its way home.



# Love Brought Him to Omaha

Love for  
the Military  
Keeps Him  
at UNO

Army bomb  
squad  
technician  
Zachary Meade  
makes a  
new home in  
Omaha as a  
Maverick

*By Colleen Kenney Fleischer,  
University of Nebraska Foundation*





A BEAUTIFUL LADY LED Zachary Meade to Omaha.

His bride, Paige Meade.

An Omaha native, Paige was accepted into pharmacy school at Creighton University a few years back. So Zachary, a Florida native, left the Army and a job he loved as a bomb squad technician and moved with her to Omaha.

He enrolled at UNO — another beautiful decision.

"I walked into the office of Military and Veteran Services and instantly, people were friendly," he says. "They knew exactly what I needed to do. They knew exactly how to help me. And that's why I chose to come here over other schools."

He says now he can see why the Military Times has named UNO the No. 1 four-year institution in the nation for veterans for the second year in a row.

Zachary joined the Army when he was 17. He loved his job as a bomb squad technician — a bomb diffuser.

"Loved every minute of it."

He saw it as a way he could give back to other people, because that's what he learned from another beautiful lady in his life:

His grandmother.

"I grew up pretty poor," he says. "My mother and father battled addictions all their life. And we didn't have much growing up. But my grandmother — she really raised me a lot. And she instilled in me a passion to be good and to help others. She introduced me to God, and I found faith in that. And I've just learned, and grown, to know I want to give back more than I take."

**I really want to just say, thank you so much ...**

Zachary, a sophomore, is studying electrical engineering and working on his prerequisites for medical school. (The University of Nebraska Medical Center, he says, would be his first choice.) He wants to use his engineering, military and research background to help find better ways to make prosthetic devices.

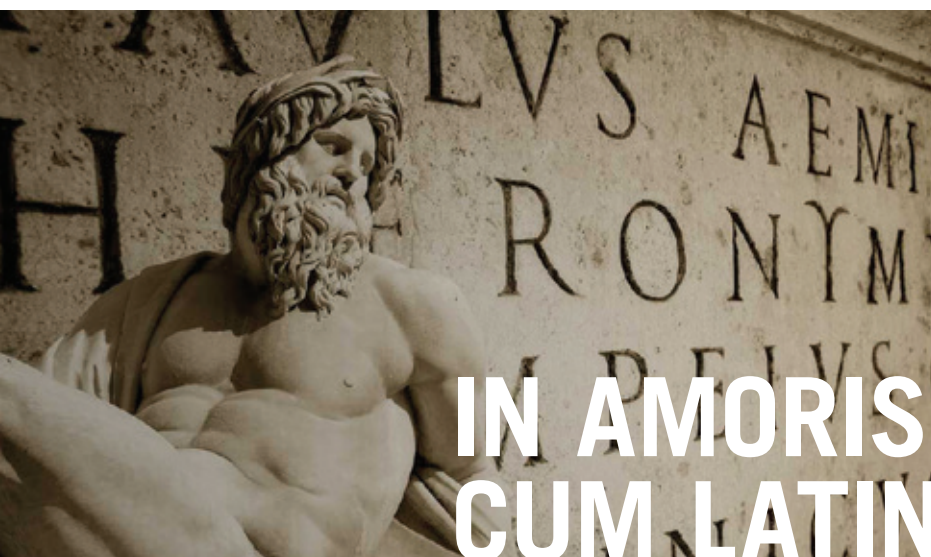
"I want to take what I learned in the military and I want to go to medical school," he says. "I want to learn to help wounded veterans, specifically those who have gotten amputations, because being in my career field, unfortunately, I've seen a lot of people lose arms and legs when they deal with explosives. So I'd love to give back to that community and do prosthesis research and help wounded veterans and others."

He wants to take what he learned in the military and help make a better world. He's grateful to the people who've made the world better for him and other military veterans at UNO.

"If it wasn't for the support of the donors and others who've helped this school, I don't think the veterans here would have the resources they have today," he says. "There is a large amount of staff here who are just dedicated to ensuring our transition from the military to career student is smooth and beneficial. Without that, I don't think I would have been as successful as I have been."

"I really want to just say thank you so much to the donors for everything they've done for this community, and for the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Without their support, I would not be where I am today."

Supporting military and veteran students is one of UNO's priorities in the two-year, *Our Students, Our Future* fundraising initiative to benefit University of Nebraska students. As of April 30, 2016, more than \$63 million has been raised through *Our Students, Our Future*, which runs until the end of 2017. If you would like to help military students like Zachary at UNO, please contact the University of Nebraska Foundation's Nicole Massara at 800-432-3216.



## UNO rekindles the Language of Romance

IT MAY BE ONE of the world's oldest languages — and the language of love — but Latin has fallen out of favor on many college campuses across the country.

At UNO, however, Latin is making a comeback.

Jeanne Reames, director of the Ancient Mediterranean Studies program at UNO, says the removal of Latin as a language option has been a popular trend for the last 30 years.

"It became fashionable in the late '80s, the '90s and even the early 2000s to bash the classics, as well as humanities more generally, as out-of-touch and useless in the modern world," Reames says.

That's reflective, she adds, of a trend to measure education in more quantifiable ways.

By bringing Latin back to UNO, Reames asks the question, "What is the purpose of higher education?"

For her, it's not just about vocational training — it's about presenting new ideas and world views that may inspire a student to pursue a new passion.

"Or is at least a part of the purpose to encourage students to think critically, to question, and to learn things that will pertain to their future role as contributing members of society," Reames says.

A holistic approach to education is just one piece of the puzzle that brought the original love language back to campus. It also was integral to a number of programs already in place at UNO.

Martina Saltamacchia, director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at UNO, led the proposal

to bring Latin back in 2014. She argued that there already was a demand for it by students who needed to study ancient documents written in Latin.

Now that elementary and intermediate Latin courses are offered, UNO finds itself in a unique position as a future feeder university for a variety of doctoral programs in ancient history.

Saltamacchia says students also can profit from understanding the source from which other languages developed and evolved into what they are today. Popular major languages like Spanish and French, as well as Italian and Portuguese, often are called "romantic languages" because they originate from the language spoken most by Romans — Latin.

For students in the Ancient Mediterranean Studies program, the return of Latin is beneficial. The minor gives students a look into the history of the ancient Near East, from the beginning of the Bronze Age through the Roman Empire in the West and the Byzantine Empire in the East.

Six departments support the new minor: Art History, History, Religious Studies, English, Political Science and Philosophy. Latin is the glue that brings them all together.

Reames says most of the Latin courses have been filled.

While there is no question that Latin was important to the past, it appears the future of Latin at UNO is bright.

— Nolan Searl,  
University Communications

## Shakespeare... in Love



### 'Taming of the Shrew,' 'Macbeth' offered for 30th Shakespeare on the Green

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE FAMOUSLY COMPARED his love to a summer's day, but it is summer nights in Elmwood Park that have preserved many a budding romance over the past 30 years, thanks to Shakespeare on the Green.

The nonprofit theater performance has become a Nebraska tradition over the past three decades, showcasing two classics from the bard, one comedy and one drama.

The 2016 "twin Bill" includes the comedy "Taming of the Shrew," which runs June 23-26, July 6, 8, 10. That will run alongside "Macbeth," set for June 30, July 1-3, 5, 7, 9.

Amy Lane, a former UNO instructor who now teaches at Creighton, is directing "Taming of the Shrew."

"I'm very excited to be directing the show this year," Lane says. "We've decided to do a traditional staging of the play, which means that it will be performed much as it was in Shakespeare's day."

Love, a common Shakespeare theme, will be present in both plays. "Taming of the Shrew" deals with love and gender roles during Shakespeare's time while "Macbeth" looks at the trials that come with love.

"I think the reason Shakespeare continues to be relevant, even 400 years after his death, is the humanity with which he approaches his characters and stories," Lane says. "The tender but often overwhelming moments of a first love, hell-bent revenge over a perceived wrong, unchecked political ambition — Shakespeare has it all."

— Misty Flowers,  
University Communications



# Sick with Love

A look back at the ILOVEYOU virus

"I LOVE YOU."

Typically, those three words stir romantic feelings. Sixteen years ago, however, they struck fear into the hearts of anyone running a Windows operating system after opening an "ILOVEYOU" email.

Within hours entire company networks were brought down thanks to one of the most well-known and harmful viruses ever. ILOVEYOU caused more than \$15 billion in damages and its legacy lives on in the ever-changing world of cybercrime.

The concept of cybercrime was new in 2000. It wasn't until 2003 that UNO began offering courses to address the topic.

Today, information assurance is one of the most popular fields in the College of Information Science & Technology with bachelor's and master's degree options. UNO graduates in the field go on to work for international companies like Union Pacific and First Data, as well as agencies like the NSA and FBI.

"I think a lot of people say I'm really into computers but I don't want to do computer science because everybody's doing computer science, and I get to be a burglar without getting in trouble for it," says Associate Professor Bill Mahoney. "There is a certain sex appeal to it, but once they get here they see the bigger picture."



Bill Mahoney

students today have grown up in an era where cybercrime is not only common, but becoming more difficult to defend.

"Taken as a whole, viruses today have 10 times the impact they had back then," he says. "The ecosystem has just exploded because of the interactions we have and the devices that we now connect to a digital network."

Morton says viruses today are still implemented similar to the way ILOVEYOU was able to spread but the intent is different. Unlike the rogue,

individual programmers of ILOVEYOU, many viruses today come from nation

states or organized crime syndicates.

"Just creating chaos was the goal of the ILOVEYOU virus," he says. "What's different today is that organized crime and nation states are using viruses and malware to extract money or hide their data."

Mahoney says two of the most common approaches today are "ransomware" and "spear phishing."

With ransomware, viruses will lock access to important information until a ransom, usually millions of dollars, is paid to the perpetrator. With "spear phishing," a specific person's information

Matt Morton, UNO's chief information security officer, says

is targeted with the goal of using it later to gain access to their personal information, including bank accounts, social security numbers and addresses.

Mahoney says there is so much of this activity that authorities almost throw up their hands in despair.

"It is starting to happen recently where the people that would normally track down the criminals and prosecute them — the FBI, for example — a lot of times now you see them saying it's such a significant amount of work to figure out who it is you are better off paying the ransom," Mahoney says. "It's kind of scary."

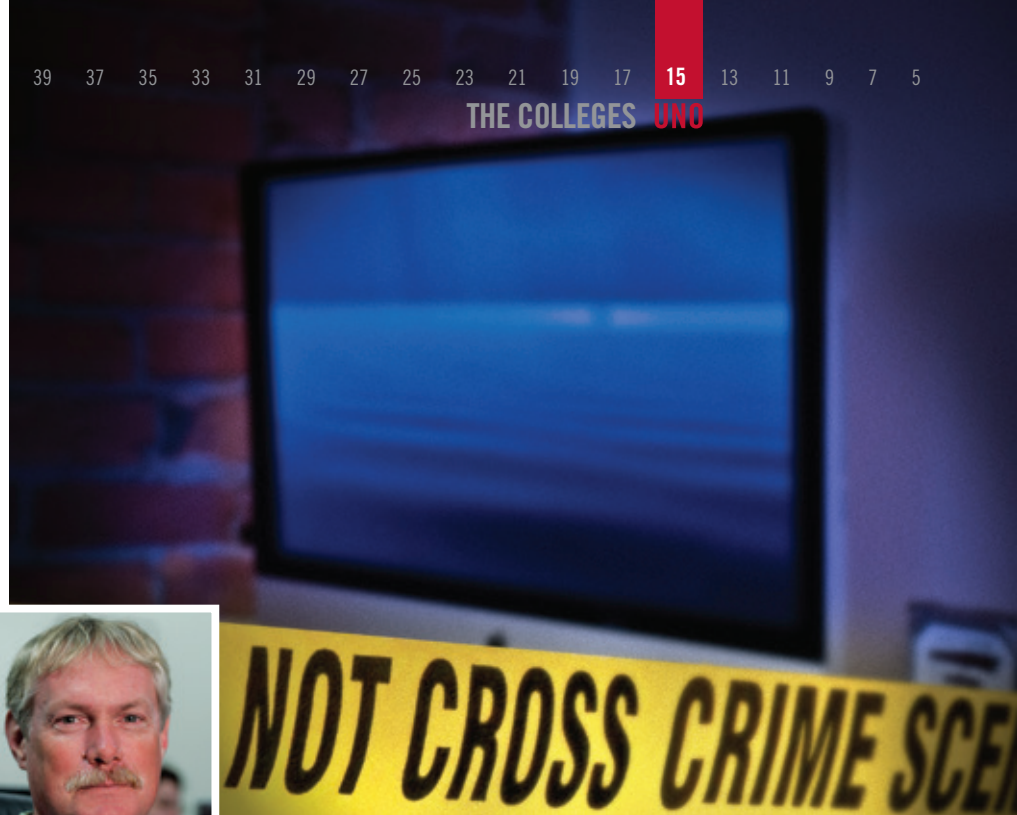
Mahoney, however, says people can still largely protect themselves by doing three simple things: keep computers updated; use anti-virus software; and, be skeptical of any file that is coming from someone you don't know.

"Unless you really know whom that email is coming from and you really know what they are doing, I would not tend to click on a link in any email," he says.

Morton also recommends utilizing government resources like [www.staysafeonline.gov](http://www.staysafeonline.gov), which provides information on virus software, or [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov), where people can report being a victim of cybercrime.

"They may not respond to you directly," Morton says. "But they are able to look for patterns in the data and that sort of thing can help everybody."

— Charley Reed, Assistant Editor



“

Unless you really know whom the email is coming from...I would not tend to click on any link.



Kurt Frederick

Kurt Frederick practices what he preaches.

"I chose to study English because it's what I really loved. It's that simple," he says. "As a freshman in college, I was unsure about a lot of things about my future, but I knew that I loved reading and discussing great works of literature. That was enough to get me hooked."

Today he's a communications specialist in UNO's College of Arts & Sciences. "My English major helps me every day because I have to consider ideas like audience, tone, diction, style, purpose and voice daily. If I'm good at what I do, it's largely thanks to the liberal arts education I received as an English major."

And there are benefits beyond work.

"Studying English has influenced and improved my life emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. I read books differently, I see movies differently, I have conversations differently and interpret the world differently because of my education."

# Major Love

THERE IS A WIDESPREAD belief that certain majors are more beneficial for job prospects.

The "Love Your Major" campaign from the College of Arts and Sciences is out to change that notion.

Kurt Frederick, communications specialist for the college, started the campaign in the fall of 2014 as an outgrowth from his time as an advisor.

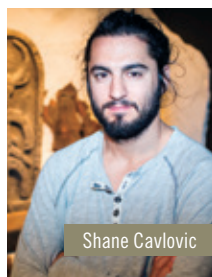
"I talked to a lot of students who were really interested in other majors, but they saw them as impractical," he says.

Frederick is helping students understand there are many things other than just a major to consider when applying for jobs.

In a study by Georgetown University, 93 percent of employers agreed that a candidate's demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly and solve complex problems is more important than their undergraduate major.

So if you can't do that — and you're not studying something you love — why not switch? It's become fairly commonplace at universities anyway. According to the National Center for Education, up to

75 percent of college students change their undergrad major at least once.



Shane Cavlovic

That includes Shane Cavlovic, a former engineering major who switched to studying medieval history and archaeology.

"It's kind of what I was told to do (becoming an engineer)," Cavlovic says. "You can get a good job, make a lot of money, and it sounds great when you're 18."

Now he's settled into a field that stirs his passion — and he's succeeding because of it. That supports a Montclair University study that indicates good grades are related to having a major close to one's personality.

Rebekah Kuhfal also chose a new path after realizing that doing her calculus homework helped with her stress.

"I had a job interview that I was nervous for, and I calmed myself down by pulling out my Calc. II homework," she says. "At that moment I realized how much I really loved it."

When Kuhfal, who also enjoyed art and digital media, later paired her new math major with an internship at Dick Clark Productions, a television production company, she became more well-rounded and marketable on the job market.

That is part of the ethos of "Love Your Major." The goal is for students to figure out what they are passionate about. Then they are urged to add complementary minors or internships that add diversity to their skill set.

A bigger goal is to help students choose the right major from the start. That can begin long before they step foot on campus — or even before they are in high school. It's a UNO-wide push that can be seen in programs such as the College of Information Science & Technology's Code Crush technology camp or the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media's Metropolitan Area Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Such programs help students find what makes them happy in order to find what will ultimately make them successful.

To find their true love, you might say.

— Nolan Searl,  
University Communications



# Words to Love By

It Doesn't Always Rhyme, but Love Poetry Never Past Its Prime

IN THE MODERN, HYPER-CONNECTED world, interpersonal interactions often are taken for granted.

You no longer give a hearty laugh to a friend's joke — a quick "LOL" will suffice instead. Or you tap the "like" button.

So when it comes to modern romance, why bother to draft an ode to your beloved when you can simply text your bae a 🥰.

The expression of love via poetry, it seems, might be as outdated and useless as VHS tapes or payphones.

Not so, say the poetry faculty of UNO Writer's Workshop. Not by a long shot.

"Poetry always adapts to technology, like all art forms," says Todd Robinson, professor of poetry.

Text and chat have bred shortened language, like emojis and LOL-speak, which require both users and senders to develop a heightened sensitivity to diction and symbols.

"There's a whole new raw matter, ways of expressing ourselves that we didn't have before," Robinson says. "[Poetry] has gained a new fluidity in terms of production and consumption."

This reinvigoration extends to the stylistic elements of poems, as well as the recognition of a new generation of poets, says Miles Waggener, professor of poetry and unit coordinator of the Writer's Workshop.

"There's never been a better time to be a poet," Waggener says. "New voices are emerging like crazy and the authority of those who are speaking on poetry is diversifying. Poetry is always looking for new voices."

Poetry is subversive and innovative, he says, because it "upends some of the obvious, clichéd ways we talk about relationships, ourselves and the world."

The art of poetry predates written language on the human timeline. Early poems were recited or sung to commemorate prayers or other religious rituals, to demarcate issues of legal or commercial importance, and, of course, to give testimony to the all-consuming emotion of love.

"Poetry's always been a specialized, ritualized, dare I say sacred language," Robinson says. "It's going to grapple with everything, it leaves nothing out. It will talk about commerce and politics, so why wouldn't it talk about the big stuff that obsesses us?"

One of the better-known ancient poets is Sappho, a Greek lyrical poet from the island of Lesbos, whose erotic love poetry is still popular today. In one poem she describes being unable to finish her weaving because the goddess Aphrodite has "almost killed" her with love for her partner. In ancient Greek culture, love often was construed as an illness threatening to overwhelm and destroy the enamored person.

"Love is a delight but it's also a sickness — it's obsessive and makes it hard to focus on anything, and that can be sort of destructive," Robinson says.

This dichotomy reveals the other side of love — the fragile, uncertain nature of being consumed by another person and potentially losing a piece of oneself if that love should end or go unrequited.

"Good love poetry addresses the beloved and the world falls away," Waggener says. "That's kind of a condition of intimacy that makes life wonderful and at the same time full of anguish."

Poet Robert Creeley addresses this tension in "The Rain." It's not clear in the poem whether the feelings are mutual between the writer and the subject of his



Miles Waggener

Todd Robinson

affection, which makes the poem read as vulnerable and candid.

Poetry "defamiliarizes" the world, Waggener says, by forcing poets and readers to pay attention to a feeling, happening or state of being that was previously ignored or unspoken.

Yannis Ritsos, a contemporary Greek poet, described the emotion attached to discovering his lover's forgotten comb on his dresser.

"Could there be a more mundane image?" Robinson says. "But because he's in love with the owner of the comb, it becomes the most precious of artifacts."

Waggener says poetry is still a way to tap into emotions that other media doesn't allow.

"Tweeting something is different from the private, quiet space in which someone can work out an emotion in a poem," he says. "I hate to say poetry is therapy; that's not a fair term. But it's something like that."

Robinson considers poetry a way for us to tap into a deeper and more elemental part of ourselves. For this reason, it will never become irrelevant or obsolete.

"Love and poetry go back to the beginning," he says. "Death and love are the 'greats' of poetry and after all these millennia we're still grappling with those. There are still new things to be said about these ancient topics. No one's tired of love."

— Noelle Lynn Blood

## Postcards to Ourselves

By Todd Robinson | Unpublished

*What were you doing down by the Vinca minor raked by photons and hurt?  
The neighbor's Pekingese were having heart attacks while we grubbed around  
in the back fortieth, heat-waves wrinkling the dirt. I told your father you were  
the fairest daughter, but still he drank. Your mother kept her lump to herself.*

*Do you remember when we danced on a burning beach in those hills of sand?  
Highway 2 felt like Mars, our crawl through to grandfather radio warble, the  
bend of metal and rock, calf hair on wire, dry ponds winking as we worked  
our way along the Pawnee trail toward reservations full of plastic bags and  
satellite dishes.*

*Your little feet walked up and down my back, my hands held your fear. Custer  
State Park, a thumb-print moon blurring our star party, my heart splashing  
like a fish. Wyoming was the smudged aquarium glass of dream logic, the heat  
of your cheek. Yes, the sky will swallow your blue skirt, my philosopher's arms.*

*In Missoula, we almost went to that little church. I wanted an offering plate  
to hold campfire popcorn. You wanted incense to perfume those diesel clouds  
and feedlots. We carved mold from hard cheese, slipped sardines down green  
throats. The old man in the book store saying take care, take care of beauty.*

## Why All Music Is Folk Music

By Miles Waggener | Originally published in Afterlives

*Talk radio frays to static as we drive snow-covered fields.*

*Entering a shelterbelt of trees, the antenna mysteriously  
catches The Hebrides Overture, and the baby wakes in his car seat.*

*Hills blushing in sunset and in the rearview mirror,  
cheeks still red from his nap and the fields, his eyes  
open to Mendelssohn's ingenious reductive mechanisms,  
an ornery cycling ellipses as the unscarred ice turns  
charcoal, then nacre against the flipping latticework of poplars.  
Tiny socked feet twitch to what he hears for the first time.*

See more works from the UNO Writer's Workshop faculty  
at [unoalumni.org/unomag-Summer16/poems](http://unoalumni.org/unomag-Summer16/poems)



## The Art of Love

FROM AGE TO AGE, visual art's innumerable depictions of love and lovers have been as nuanced as the word itself.

Consider Klimt's "The Kiss" Raphael's "La Fornarina," Cassatt's "Mother and Child" or Robert Indiana's ubiquitous pop art image later made into a stamp.

Some works are romantic or erotic, others tender or poignant. Some touch on issues about which the creator

was passionate, such as love of one's country or concern for the environment.

Each expression is a unique touch on a universal theme — love in all its splendor and fragility.

Unlike the Greeks and Romans, the Etruscans, an ancient Mediterranean society, left behind no literature. But their surviving artwork indicates a loving and family-oriented society, says Assistant Professor of Art History Bridget Sandhoff. Numerous engraved bronze mirrors, tomb paintings and sarcophagi depict affectionate married couples, though Sandhoff cautions against reading the works too literally.

Says Associate Professor of Art History Adrian Duran: "Every work of art that crosses the theme [of love] handles it differently. Every artist has their own particular agenda when making the work," which makes the meaning of any articulation of love "a question for the makers, not the interpreters."

Similarly, the medium of a work means little in relation to its viability as an expressive piece.

"We tend to romanticize sculptures, architecture and paintings because of the rich, long traditions," says Assistant Professor of Art Jave Yoshimoto, "but care and quality can show through in any medium."

"If the artist loves something, it will show."

Love even can be found in depictions of violence, such as in Francisco Goya's painting "The Third of May, 1808," which commemorates Spanish resistance to the French

army during the Peninsular War. Though he wasn't conveying a traditional Western vision of romantic love, Goya "loved his people, and he wanted to communicate the plight of the people he cared about," Yoshimoto says.

In the painting, "Spanish civilians are humanized, while the French soldiers are menacing with their rifles and we cannot see their faces," Yoshimoto says. The work vividly depicts the horrors of war, illustrating the inherent loss of humanity and love that drives nations to destroy each other in pursuit of power. The importance of what is lacking is underscored by this contrast.

Artistic imagery is always "contingent upon its sociopolitical, economic and temporal circumstances," Duran says.

Ultimately, an artist's proficiency in their chosen medium, their use of visual language, and how the audience relates the content to their own experiences dictates how the concept comes across.

"Love is the dedication and hard work put into the particular piece of art," Yoshimoto says. "With that passion and the quality of their efforts, love shows through in the final product."

— Noelle Lynn Blood,

*Pictured: Gustav Klimt, The Kiss, 1907-08, oil and gold leaf on canvas.*

# UNO Acquires First Data Building

LEADERS OF THE UNIVERSITY of Nebraska and First Data in Omaha announced in April that the university, using private funds, has acquired the First Data office building at 6902 Pine St. (right), which is adjacent to UNO's Pacific Street Campus. The acquisition will allow for strategic program growth and collaborations in areas important to the state.

The 194,000-square-foot building will accommodate program growth in areas that represent key strengths for UNO. Those could include applied information technology, national security, IT innovation, business and others important to Nebraska's economy and workforce. Additionally, the space could open new opportunities for collaborative partnerships with industry, including First Data or other entities in Omaha and beyond.

"This is a win for UNO, First Data and the state. The building is a tremendous resource for our campus that will set the stage for the next phase of growth at UNO," Chancellor John Christensen said. "We have an opportunity to build on our success in ways that will benefit our students, business partners and the

community. I'm incredibly excited about what this means for the future of the university."

"First Data has a long and successful partnership with UNO that serves as a key pillar of our overall commitment to higher education and the Omaha community," said Frank Bisignano, First Data chairman and CEO. "Beyond our relationship as neighbors and the real estate transactions at our Aksarben campus, we have worked with UNO on a number of strategic initiatives, including providing internships for talented UNO students and hiring recent graduates for a variety of positions within our company."

UNO and First Data have been closely linked for decades. The University of Nebraska's Peter Kiewit Institute and UNO's Mammel Hall and Scott Village student housing stands on land originally purchased by First Data from the Ak-Sar-Ben Trust in the mid-1990s and donated to UNO.

"One of the University of Nebraska's most important responsibilities is making investments in areas where we have an opportunity to be a global leader and where growth would better serve our students, faculty



and Nebraskans. With this building, we'll be able to do that," said University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds. "This is the latest example of the tremendous momentum and energy I experience every time I'm at UNO."

The state budget package approved by the Legislature and signed in April by Gov. Pete Ricketts includes funding for university maintenance projects, including renovation of the Pine Street building.

The University of Nebraska Foundation purchased the building and will transfer it to UNO at a later date.





Photo by Hanan Shafir

## Bethsaida Team Unearths Another Rare Discovery

# Finding Romeo and Juliet

The biblical city known as Bethsaida, a historical treasure tucked along rolling hills just off the north shore of Israel's Sea of Galilee, once again has produced a unique glimpse into the past.

Over the last three decades, countless artifacts have been uncovered at the excavation project led by UNO. But few are as rare — and none as romantic — as one recently announced discovery.

Director of Excavations Rami Arav, a UNO associate professor of political science, says the find is the first of its kind in the region, and possibly only the third of its kind in the world — two teenagers, buried together in an apparent embrace.

Shortly after the discovery, the dig team gave a name to the couple: "Romeo and Juliet."

"While intriguing, we have no clue who this couple was or why they were buried together," Arav says. "We still have so much to learn about these two."

The remains were discovered six years ago but public announcement of the discovery happened just this year, during the week of Valentine's Day. Arav and fellow researchers wanted to take their time with the announcement. There was protocol to follow and work to be done, especially with such a momentous discovery.

"This is actually quite common in archaeology," Arav says.

Of course, six years doesn't seem quite so long considering Arav's Romeo and Juliet walked the shores of the Sea of Galilee in

the 12th century BCE, according to estimates.

It may not be long, though, before we learn more about the couple. This year, a collaborating researcher, Tel Aviv University Professor Israel Hershkovitz, hopes to begin investigating the couple's cause of death while also extracting and examining their DNA.

While Romeo and Juliet are unique, the methodical process that followed their discovery is not. Take, for example, another romantic find from the historical site when in 2013 an archaeologist with the Bethsaida team unearthed a rare "Lovers' Coin" that portrayed the faces of Cleopatra and Marc Antony on opposite sides.

Until they examined the coin more closely, the team didn't know what a treasure they had unearthed. Then came the documentation, photographs and precise measurements, recording the exact plot of land where it was found. From there, the coin was authenticated and catalogued by the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Finding an item of such historical value is certainly a draw, but there's something else about Bethsaida that attracts new and veteran diggers alike. Each coin, each pottery shard, each unique stone formation helps paint a picture of what life was like thousands of years ago.

Ultimately, the experience itself is a treasure.

— Sam Petto,  
University Communications



Daniela Martinez, a junior public health major, got the final Love from Home package of the spring semester.

## Box o' Love

For many UNO students, their time on campus is their first time away from home.

Thanks to a University Housing program, however, there's a cure for any homesickness they might be experiencing.

Through the "Love From Home" program, families and others can send UNO students personalized care packages ordered by mail or online at ocm.com. Between 300 and 350 care packages are sent to UNO students each semester.

"There are several different kinds of packages, ranging from Valentine's Day- to finals-themed," says Trent Fredericksen, director of University Housing & Residential Life.

Most care packages consist of snack foods or candy with a nod to whatever is being celebrated or recognized. An orange sports drink comes with the Halloween package; an energy drink in the "Spring Finals" collection; ice cream and cake for a birthday package. Gluten-free and vegan options also are available. Recently, a new health package was introduced for sick students.

Families also can include messages to their student. Fredericksen remembers one particular care package a student received from her mom before winter break.

"The girl read the card and tears just fell. She was so overjoyed ... that's what makes this job so special to me."

— Misty Flowers,  
University Communications



# Marlin Briscoe

## AN EVENING WITH THE MAGICIAN

CELEBRATING OMAHA'S MARLIN BRISCOE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

**UNO GRADUATE (1967) MARLIN BRISCOE will be honored at Baxter Arena this September in recognition of his selection to the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame.**

"An Evening with The Magician" will celebrate the life and career of the Omaha native and civil rights trailblazer who made history in 1968 as the first African-American starting quarterback in professional football playing for the Denver Broncos.

"An Evening with The Magician" is set for Thursday, Sept. 22, and is the first in a series of three community events. Briscoe, a standout football and basketball player from Omaha South and quarterback at then-Omaha University, also will be honored Friday, Sept. 23, on the UNO campus at a special unveiling of a bronze, life-sized statue of his likeness. He will be honored again that evening during Omaha South High School's Homecoming football game at Collin Field (23rd & L).

A committee of Nebraskans dedicated to celebrating Briscoe's historic achievements is organizing the festivities. That includes Johnny Rodgers, an Omaha native who won the Heisman trophy playing for the Nebraska football team in the 1970s. He says Briscoe's career has affected an entire generation of young athletes.

"Marlin was always able to bring his best when it mattered the most," Rodgers says. "He didn't talk about what he was going to do. He just went out and defied all odds. It's important to the youth of Nebraska that national heroes are honored right here in our hometown. If Marlin can do it, then we all can do it."

In addition to honoring Briscoe's legacy, "An Evening with The Magician" is a fundraising event. All proceeds from the event will go toward establishing endowed scholarships for the next generation of student leaders in the greater Omaha area.

More information can be seen at [www.baxterarena.com](http://www.baxterarena.com). Questions on the event should be directed to [briscoeevents@nufoundation.org](mailto:briscoeevents@nufoundation.org).

### ABOUT BRISCOE

- Lives in Long Beach, California
- Attended South High School from 1959 through 1963. Made the All-Intercity football team at running back and was part of the team's conference championship in 1962.
- As quarterback at UNO, set 22 school records, including 5,114 passing yards and 53 touchdowns for his career. Was named NAIA First-Team All-American.
- Drafted by Denver Broncos and on Sept. 29, 1968, took the field against the Boston Patriots as the first-ever African-American starting quarterback. During the next drive, he led the Broncos 80 yards and scored a 12-yard rushing touchdown.
- Played majority of his nine-year career in the NFL as wide receiver for the Buffalo Bills and won two Super Bowls with Miami Dolphins. Also spent time with San Diego Chargers, Detroit Lions and New England Patriots, amassing 224 career catches for 3,537 yards and 30 receiving touchdowns.
- Named to National College and High School Football Halls of Fame in 2016





Banquet photos by Mark Kuhlmann

# Honoring Excellence

Student-athletes Feted at 7th Annual Maverick Awards Banquet

Seniors **Campbell Ditto** and **Brian Cooper** were honored for their career achievement, culminating the seventh annual Maverick Awards Banquet April 24.

A record crowd of almost 700 people attended the annual year-end gathering of Omaha student-athletes, their families and program supporters, held at Embassy Suites in La Vista.

Ditto, a catcher for the UNO softball team, earned the Connie Claussen Senior Career Achievement Award recognizing the outstanding career athletic, academic and community service achievement of a female student-athlete.

Cooper, a defenseman for the hockey team, won the Don Leahy Senior Career Achievement Award, which

recognizes a male athlete for similar achievements. He is the second hockey player to receive the award.

Junior **Mikaela Shaw**, women's basketball, and senior **Kimberly Bailey**, volleyball, both earned the Marian Ivers Female Athlete of the Year Award for athletic achievement in 2015-16. It was the first tie in the history of the award.

**Cole Gruber**, baseball, was named Male Athlete of the Year.

Other awards presented at the banquet:

Senior **Sydney Hames**, softball — Bob Kruger Commitment Award for outstanding community service.

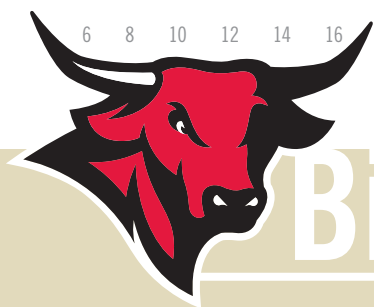
**Kyler Erickson**, men's basketball — Dr. John Langan Phoenix Award for outstanding achievement in the face of adversity.

**Gessica Gdowski**, volleyball — Female Newcomer of the Year

**Tra-Deon Hollins**, men's basketball — Male Newcomer of the Year

**Ava Doetsch**, women's soccer, and **Jake White**, men's basketball — Maverick Muscle Awards recognizing consistent achievement and motivation in the weight room.

CBA **Dean Lou Pol** — inaugural Director's Award recognizing outstanding, longtime support of Maverick Athletics.



# Bits of the Bull

## Falling for the Mavericks

### UNO Athletics Fall Sports Preview

The UNO Mavericks' fall sports season begins with the sun still sending its warm summer rays toward the pitch at Caniglia Field. By mid-August, UNO's men's and women's soccer teams will be in action while the cross country and volleyball teams follow shortly thereafter.

Now in their second full year of Division I competition, the Mavericks look to build upon seasons in which they made it to three of the Summit League fall championships.

Following is a sport-by-sport preview of the Mavericks' autumn season.

#### Men's Soccer

Seven starters return for the UNO men's soccer team, which aims to return to the postseason after playing in its first Summit League Championship semifinal last season.

UNO went 9-6-3 overall and 3-2-1 in league play in 2015. The Mavericks opened the season winning their first four matches and earned the first ever top 25 ranking in program history. Caniglia Field became a true home field advantage as the Mavericks finished with a 7-1-1 mark there.

Several key players from last year's squad have completed their eligibility, including Emir Alihodzic, drafted in the third round of the MLS Super draft. Key contributors Josh Christensen, Felipe da Silva and Logan Mendez also have departed.

"We lost a great group of players," Head Coach Jason Mims says. "The experience they brought

to the table last season helped us achieve some of our goals, but we are not going to be satisfied with just reaching some of those goals."

Fortunately, the cupboard is far from empty

for Mims in 2016. Senior Mark Moulton led UNO with 20 points last season on seven goals and six assists. That earned Moulton First Team All-Summit League and Third Team CoSIDA Academic All-American honors.

The Mavericks allowed only 1.14 goals per game last season and look to improve on that stat in the fall with Joseph Ghitis returning in goal. Ghitis finished last season with a 4-4-2 mark and a 0.90 goals-against average with 29 saves. Defenders Michael Jaime, Jake McCain and Denzel Woods also return.

Back to anchor the midfield is Lalo Gamboa, who led the team in minutes played. He will be joined by Cole Nelson, who earned Summit League All-Tournament honors last season as a freshman, and Fazlo Alihodzic, a Summit League All-Newcomer team selection last season after registering six points.

Also returning are Noor Hamadi, who had three goals and two assists last season in 17 games, plus Zac Marquess, Sage Moore, Quinn Nelson and Jacob Weiler.

"We have a wealth of experience returning this fall," Mims says. "The returning starters have a taste of what it takes to be noticed on the national level. We have to continue to develop

and push ourselves not only to maintain our current position but to improve upon it."

Newcomers include Elvir Ibisevic, Joey McCain, and Seth Rinderknecht, all of whom graduated high school early and enrolled at UNO in January. The trio, part of UNO's top 25 recruiting class, have been training with the team all spring. Mims expects to add at least five more players to help UNO make an even bigger splash in the college soccer scene.

"This year's recruiting class is an impressive one," commented Mims. "We have players entering our program with national and international experience, which in the long run will help make our side even stronger and continue to build our style of soccer."

The Mavericks will play 10 games at Caniglia Field, including the regular season opener against San Francisco Aug. 26. Other notable home matches include Drake (Sept. 2), Air Force (Sept. 23), and Valparaiso (Oct. 3). The Mavericks will play at crosstown rival Creighton Sept. 5.

The road schedule includes matches at 2015 national champion Stanford (Sept. 18) and at Bradley (Oct. 18). UNO opens Summit League play at home against IUPUI (Oct. 1) and will host Eastern Illinois (Oct. 8) and Denver (Oct. 29).

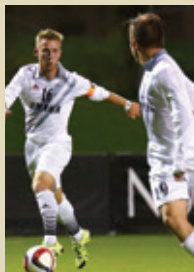
"Our 2016 schedule features five teams that reached at least the second round of the NCAA National Tournament last year," Mims says. "I feel our team will be up to this challenge and prepare us not only for the Summit League schedule but also for a run to the national tournament."

#### Women's Soccer

Investments in playing time in 2015 should pay a handsome return in 2016 for the UNO women's soccer team — as in nine returning starters.

Leading goal scorer Chelsi Rohloff and all-conference defender Hannah Wampler both graduated, but lots of familiar faces will be back for the Mavericks.

That starts with defenders Ava Doetsch and Lauren Lawler, who last year anchored a defensive unit that allowed only 1.80 goals per game. Also helping the Maverick cause





was goalie Katlyn Schochenmaier, fifth in saves and fourth in goals-against average in the Summit League last year.

UNO finished 5-11-2 overall and 2-6 in the Summit. Eight of the losses came by two goals or fewer.

Other returnees include defenders Jessica Bollinger, Abby Hansen, Emily Michaels, Cydney Skinner and Katie Vanderzwaag; midfielders Lydia Holtmann, Natalie Johnson and Emily Romero; forward Marin Dregelid; and goalkeeper Haley Shelton.

The top returning goal scorer for the Mavericks is Holtmann, who had two goals and an assist in 2015. Dregelid added a goal and an assist last season. Also returning are forwards Izzy Anders, Nyoke Dumba, Nicole Hagel and Abby Meader; midfielders Leah Lawler and Kelsey Stithem; and defender Claire Pueschner.

"We feel very confident with the team that we have returning," Head Coach Don Klosterman says. "We have grown a lot this spring, and I feel that we can be a contender in the Summit League this season."

Klosterman added six players for 2016, including transfers Carlie Cook and Erin Dimon. Both enrolled at UNO for the spring semester and trained with the team all spring.

"The experience that Carlie and Erin have will



make an immediate impact on our program next season," Klosterman says. "They showed us a lot of good things in the spring, and we can't wait until the rest of our class can join us in the fall."

UNO opens 2016 at home against UMKC Aug. 19 then begins the road schedule Sept. 9 at Missouri State. Other notable nonconference home matches are Creighton (Aug. 26), Kansas State (Sept. 4), Dayton (Sept. 11) and Eastern Washington (Sept. 14). The Mavericks open Summit League play at home against North Dakota State Sept. 29. UNO also hosts Oral Roberts (Oct. 7), IPFW (Oct. 9) and South Dakota State (Oct. 21) in league play.

"Our 2016 schedule brings in opponents from all over the country," Klosterman says. "Our tough nonconference schedule will help prepare us to make our run in the Summit League tournament this fall."

## Volleyball

The UNO volleyball team is coming off its finest season in the Division I era as the 2015 Mavericks made a memorable run to the Summit League Championship final match.

UNO finished just one set away from qualifying for the NCAA Tournament before falling to Summit champion Denver.

That put UNO at 19-13 overall in 2015 but 12-4 in the Summit League, good for third place in the regular-season conference standings.

Six experienced seniors from that team have graduated, but UNO returns three starters. That includes junior setter Sydney O'Shaughnessy, All-Summit last season after averaging 10.25 assists per set. She ranked in the top 35 nationally for total assists and worked her way into UNO's top 10 list for most career assists.

Sophomore outside hitter Gessica Gdowski

was named to the Summit League All-Freshmen Team after stepping into a starting role midway through the year to average 1.65 kills and 2.13 digs per set. Junior outside hitter Mackenzie Horkey was third on the team in kills (2.54) and digs (3.01) per set.

Also back — for a 27th season — is Head Coach Rose Shires, the winningest coach in program history and Summit League Coach of the Year for 2015.

"With us having three returning starters, that will give us some consistency to our starting lineup this year," Shires says. "Sydney brings in a lot of experience as a two-year starting setter, and Mackenzie is someone who can score at crunch time and has improved her backcourt play to bring up the passing and defensive aspect of our team. Gessica also had an outstanding freshman season. Although she was sidelined with an injury in the spring, we expect great things from her when she returns to competitive form."

Filling the loss of last year's veteran senior class is a crop of seven talented newcomers: rightside hitter Macy Anderson, setter Hannah Angeli, middle blocker Ellie Brown, outside hitter Chloe Dousette, defensive specialists Ashley Smith and Olivia Spanton and middle hitter Daria Taylor.

"We expect most, if not all, of our incoming freshmen to challenge for court time immediately," Shires says. "What this class brings us is the height that we need to compete at the net. And with two defensive players in Olivia and Ashley, that will help fill the void of losing Kimberly Bailey, who was the Summit League's Defensive Player of the Year as a senior."

UNO's 2016 schedule includes a match with NCAA Tournament qualifier Iowa State to kick off the home slate. UNO then hosts the annual Omaha Classic, now a six-team, nine-match event, Sept. 2-3 at Baxter Arena.



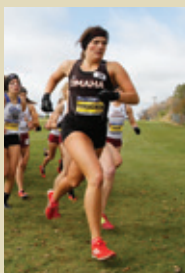
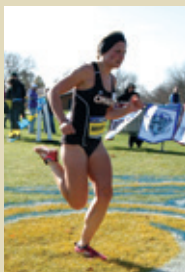
## Bits of Bull *Continued*

### Cross Country

The UNO cross country team heads into a new season looking to move up the Summit League ladder after finishing fifth in the league championship last year.

The Mavericks will be without graduated seniors Kourtney Osentoski, Perla Gutierrez, Emily Moore and Avery Schmidt but expect to be competitive with a solid core of returning runners.

"We're excited by our incoming class," says Chris Richardson, head cross country coach. "We feel they will add to the strong depth that we have returning including Alyssa Averhoff and Rosie Gensichen. We also think we'll get bigger contributions from Lauren Houston after very good indoor and outdoor track seasons."



Averhoff and Gensichen scored in every meet for the Mavericks last season with Gensichen leading all UNO runners in a meet at South Dakota State in early October. Gensichen and Averhoff finished third and fourth, respectively, at the Summit League Championship. Averhoff was fourth and Gensichen fifth at the NCAA Regionals at Lawrence, Kansas, in November.

Among the four newcomers joining the Mavericks this fall, two hail from Nebraska and two from Iowa. Lincoln native Willa Koenig was the Nebraska Class A-2 District Cross Country Champion and a four-time state qualifier while running for Lincoln Pius X. Renata Vaquier-Chavez was a three-time Nebraska State Class B qualifier while competing for Elkhorn.

Casey Middleswart ran for Urbandale and was a two-time Iowa state cross country qualifier while Sarah Steffensmeier was a three-time state qualifier in cross country at Fort Madison High School.

The Mavericks' 2016 schedule was still taking shape as of press time. The Summit League Championship will be held in Macomb, Illinois Oct. 29.

— By Dave Ahlers,  
Bonnie Ryan and Shad Beam

# UNO Athletics Signs 10-year Deal with Learfield

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA Board of Regents in March approved a guaranteed 10-year marketing agreement between Omaha Athletics and Learfield.

"The industry-leading expertise of Learfield has enabled UNO Athletics to grow considerably during our transition to Division I," said Trev Alberts, vice chancellor, athletics. "As our department has grown, our business model has matured into one that has increased our value with our corporate partners, particularly with the building of Baxter Arena.

"This guarantee agreement is the next step in the business development of Maverick Athletics, most importantly, providing us with a stable source of revenue to support the development of our student-athletes for the next 10 years. It also gives us an opportunity, with due diligence, to further enhance the UNO and Omaha brand."

The agreement begins with the 2016-17 academic year and runs through 2025-26.

Learfield has been the exclusive multimedia rights holder for the Mavericks since February 2014, when it acquired the assets of Nelligan Sports Marketing. Omaha Sports Properties is Learfield's dedicated team, managing all aspects of the rights relationship and working with local, regional and national businesses wanting to align with athletics through venue signage; event sponsorships; television; digital engagement and visibility via OMavs.com, radio game broadcasts and coaches' shows on the Omaha Sports Network.



## FACE PLANT

Omaha Press Clubs Honors  
Trev Alberts with 149th Face  
on the Barroom Floor

A FAMILIAR FACE TO Mavericks — and many others — now graces the floor of the Omaha Press Club.

Trev Alberts, UNO vice chancellor, athletics, on May 20 was installed as the 149th Face on the Barroom Floor

The longtime press club tradition honors newsmakers who have made an impact on the community. Artist Jim Horan has drawn the caricatures since 1971.

The drawings are unveiled during a roast and toast of the honoree. They then are placed on the floor to be walked on

and admired until they are framed and join the other newsmaker caricatures on the club's walls.

Among those roasting Alberts, who has directed UNO Athletics since 2009, were UNO Chancellor John Christensen and former Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne.

At least 15 other "Faces" have UNO ties, including Christensen, former Chancellors Ron Roskens and Del Weber, and graduates Ken Bird, Dick Holland and Chuck Hagel.





# Bigger and Better at Baxter

## Maverick Run Sets Participant Record

THE NEWLY RENAMED CLAUSSEN-LEAHY Maverick Run shattered records for participants and money raised in its first year at Baxter Arena.

More than 2,700 runners, up from 1,950 the previous year, participated in the 10k and 5k runs and the 5k walk that began and finished in front of the arena. The event raised more than \$100,000 supporting UNO student-athletes through scholarships and program enhancements. Hal and Mary Daub served as the Maverick Run chairs.

The event is an outgrowth of the UNO Women's Walk that began in 1986 as a fundraiser for women's athletics at UNO. It has been a run and walk for five years, the last three years at Aksarben Village across from Baxter Arena.

Since 1986 the event has raised more than \$4.7 million for UNO Athletics.

The Maverick Run began with an 800-meter Kids' Race. The morning also included kids activities run by UNO student-athletes inside Baxter Arena. Numerous vendor booths were set up in the arena parking lot.

## RESULTS

### 10K — MALES

Brian Carey, 35:38

### 10K — FEMALES

Kaci Lickteig, 37:07

### 5K — MALES

Jeff Yau, 16:48

### 5K — FEMALES

Sarah Bickerstaff,  
21:21









*Fewer people than ever are getting married —  
and those who do are taking longer to do so*

# Marriage Makeover

*By Susan  
Houston Klaus*

*A Look at Marriage Then and Now*

In 1938, University of Omaha Sociology Department Chair Dr. T. Earl Sullenger created a course on marriage. Tuition: \$2.

Sullenger, at the university from 1923 to 1958, had taught marriage classes at the YMCA starting in 1927. He also wrote articles on marriage and family for various publications.

His class at OU eventually became one of the most popular offered in the department, exploring the parental, physiological, psychological, legal and “eugenical” facets of marriage. The latter aspect refers to a philosophy that advocates improving the genetic traits of offspring by advocating higher rates of reproduction for people with traits considered desirable.

Among the advice Sullenger offered in a 1930 Gateway student newspaper article:

- Don't marry for money.
- Don't jump into marriage without due thought about the responsibilities you are entering.
- Find a spouse whose interests are similar to your own.
- Women should not neglect their homes to work outside, for it may cost them their husbands.

Advice that still resonates today — at least Sullenger's first three recommendations. Eighty-six years hence, Sullenger's final bit of advice doesn't exactly fly these days.

Things have changed.

Marriage has changed.



## The Role of Social Class in a Coupling

One of the most notable changes is a decline in the number of marriages. In Nebraska, as in other states, the marriage rate spiked during the early 1940s as couples made it official before soldiers went off to war. The high point came in 1941 with a rate of 14.3 marriages per thousand people.

The rate dipped following the war, but as baby boomers exchanged vows, the numbers in Nebraska rose again in the late 1960s to early 1970s, averaging a little more than 10 marriages per thousand.

Since then, however, the rate has steadily decreased. In 2014, the marriage rate in Nebraska was 6.4 per thousand — less than half what it was 75 years ago.

The look of marriages is changing, too. Three factors are shaping that — education, women in the workforce and same-sex unions.

More than ever, says Dan Hawkins, assistant professor in the UNO Department of Sociology and Anthropology, marriage has become closely linked to social class. Research, he says, is pointing to the institution as almost being a privilege of the middle and upper classes.

Today, college-educated people are more likely to marry other college-educated people. That fact, Hawkins says, has created an inequality based around family life.

“People who are already privileged in some ways with their higher level of education are becoming even more privileged because they’re the ones who are more able to get married, stay married, raise children within a marriage.”

Hawkins says the likelihood of ever marrying, particularly for women, is highly linked to education level. The probability of marriage by age 35 for women without a high-school degree is well below 50 percent.

He says an increasing number of women aren’t willing to marry someone who doesn’t have good long-term job prospects and good intentions for forming a family unit and staying together.

“They’d rather go it alone. They’re still going to have children but they’re going to do it by themselves. It’s actually a better outlook for

Advice for a successful marriage:

***“I can’t emphasize communication enough. A person has to know where you’re at and where you’re coming from.”***

*Dan Hawkins*

them than getting married. They’d like to get married, but they’re not going to jump into something that jeopardizes the family they have.”

People are coming to marriage with their eyes more wide open, Hawkins says.

“Divorce in the ’80s was kind of a shocking thing in our public media domain. I think a lot of people come from or know people who have been divorced. That’s why I think a lot of millennials are open to the possibility of ‘This may not work out.’ So they want to take their time finding the right partner.”

Those who do opt to get married definitely aren’t in a rush to do so. The average age of a Nebraska woman who marries for the first time is 27; a Nebraska man, 29. Compare that with ages 22 and 24, respectively, in 1940.

More than half of marriages in the state in 2013 involved either a bride or groom at least 30 years old, according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

## Equality in Marriage Today

Working women as part of dual-earner couples also have made a big impact on the institution of marriage, says Samantha Ammons, associate professor in sociology.

“Among the middle class, especially white women, we’ve see a trend toward dual-earner families since the ’70s. Lower-class women and women of color have always been more likely to have been part of dual-earner or single-earner households, with the woman in charge of the family finances.”

Has women’s increased financial independence led to the trend in delayed marriage?

“Part of it is that women are going to school and staying in school longer,” Ammons says. “Women are getting more advanced degrees than they have in the past. They’re not only completing college at a higher rate than men are, but they’re going on and getting advanced degrees like master’s, medical and law degrees.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor

## ‘A Blessing,’ 19 Years and Counting



UNO software developer Netra Pokhrel and his wife, Sami Vasistha, celebrate their 19th wedding anniversary this summer.

Unlike the vast majority of couples who tie the knot in the United States, they only really got to know each other after they got married.

Their union is the product of a traditional arranged marriage, an ancient custom that’s still practiced in places like India, Africa and the Middle East.

It’s estimated that 55 percent of marriages in the world are arranged. The global divorce rate for arranged marriages is about 6 percent — significantly lower than for U.S. marriages.



Statistics, among women ages 25 to 64 who are in the labor force, the proportion with a college degree more than tripled from 1970 to 2013.

But more money and more education don't always equal an egalitarian relationship, says Ammons. Although a woman may earn the same or more than her husband, she's often still regarded as the primary caregiver in the household.

"Years ago, the home was women's turf and anything outside the home in the economic sphere was men's turf. I still think we're still trying to deal with that division we've had for a long time."

### Gender Differences Making an Impact

Same-sex marriage also is changing the way we view marriage roles, Hawkins says.

"People in heterosexual relationships today go in with very egalitarian ideals about what marriage should look like, but when real life happens, often those gender roles or identities reassert themselves."

When kids come along, he says, women

typically are going to be the ones who put the majority of time into childcare, the ones who take time out of their career.

"With same-sex couples, it's a more fair negotiation. You do see same-sex couples who do take on those more traditional roles, but you don't have that gender dynamic laid over the top of it."

Getting more buy-in to the institution of marriage, Hawkins says, can strengthen the institution.

"I think it will push marriage in an even more egalitarian direction because you don't have the gender differences between couples."

### What's Ahead

With a greater number of people waiting until they're older to marry, the number of divorces is headed in a negative direction — and that's positive news.

According to data published in 2014 by the New York Times, about 70 percent of marriages that began in the 1990s reached their 15th anniversary. That's up from about 65 percent of those that began in the 1970s and 1980s.



Advice for a successful marriage:

***"The keys are mutual understanding, respect and trust between each other."***

*Netra Pokhrel*

The rate of divorces in Nebraska bottomed in the late 1950s to 1.5 per thousand, then gradually rose, eventually more than doubling by the early 1980s to 4.1 per thousand. Today, however, the numbers have made a noticeable retreat — in 2014, the rate of divorces in Nebraska was about 3.1 per thousand, roughly the same as in the early 1970s.

As more couples seek something beyond traditional gender roles, there's something to be optimistic about the future of marriage.

"Earl Sullenger was referring to pretty explicit gender roles, with women being the homemakers and men being the breadwinners," Hawkins says. "What people are looking for now is — it's a cliché term, I know — a soulmate and a companion for life."



Advice for a successful marriage:

***"It's a continual negotiation process. Marriage doesn't stay stagnant — it keeps evolving and changing because you keep evolving and changing."***

*Samantha Ammons*

For Netra, who's from Nepal and the youngest of nine, it was a natural way to meet his spouse.

"My mom and dad got married that way. It was that way for my brothers and sisters. We aren't worried about trying to find someone because we say, 'Oh, there's somebody who will look for us.'"

There was an option for Netra to say no to his parents' recommendation. "But back in my [oldest] brother's day it was like, 'Here you go, here's the girl.'"

Social media has changed things, he says. You can do a Facebook chat and talk over the phone. You can be friends before you get married.

Netra was a student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney when he returned for a visit to Nepal.

"My folks said, 'Well, it's about time for you to get married.' Her dad knew my mom's brother. I met Sami one week before I was returning to school. We talked and went out for a cup of coffee."

Fast forward six months and weekly phone calls between the two spouses-to-be. Netra went back to Nepal, this time for his wedding.

Did he know that Sami was the right person?

"No, not right away," he says. "It takes a little while because you don't know the person ahead of time. You get to know them one day at a time."

"The bond gets stronger as you get to know her likes and dislikes and she gets to know yours and you learn to compromise."

Netra and Sami, who earned a bachelor's degree in aviation and computer science and a master's in management information systems from UNO, have two sons, 15 and 11.

What do the kids think of having an arranged marriage?

"Well, they say they're not going to do it," Netra laughs.

"We would like our kids to adopt the same culture they've grown up in here. But if they would get so busy in their career that they would need help [finding a mate], we definitely would."

Looking back on nearly two decades of marriage, Netra says it's been a great fit.

"It worked perfectly. It's been a blessing for us."



Photo by Eric Francis

# UNDER THE INFLUENCE

**Oxytocin and  
other chemical  
messengers  
Help us fall —  
and stay —  
in love**

*By Rick Davis*



A couple sits together in the park, tenderly holding hands and staring lovingly into each other's eyes.

They've got chemistry, you might say.

And you'd be right — in more ways than one.

While there's no denying that we humans have romantic, esoteric notions of love, in the background, unbeknownst to us, equally important physiological changes are happening in our bodies — hormones being released and chemicals interacting with receptors in the brain to help us fall and stay in love.

In the Callitrichid Research Center at UNO, these chemicals and their resulting effects on social behaviors are being studied — with some novel findings.

Jon Cavanaugh, a graduate student in psychology, is studying the effects of the hormone oxytocin on marmoset monkeys. Marmosets, like humans, have highly sophisticated social family structures. Males and females form long-term relationship bonds, both parents care for their offspring and siblings participate in family life.

While marmosets are basically monogamous, like humans, they can also have a wandering eye and show interest in an opposite-sex stranger.

"I aim to answer the question of why males and females in a long-term relationship stay together," Cavanaugh says. "What behavioral things are they doing? And does oxytocin influence those particular behaviors?"

## FIDELITY, FRISKINESS

Two studies he's conducted have helped shed light on those questions.

In the first study, a monkey involved in a long-term relationship would receive a treatment of oxytocin through the nose. A stranger monkey of the opposite sex would then be introduced.

Cavanaugh found that the monkey treated with oxytocin spent less time near the opposite-sex stranger and engaged in less sexual solicitation behavior with the stranger.

"Essentially, the take-home message from that study is that oxytocin appears to facilitate fidelity with a long-term mate by reducing interactions with a stranger," Cavanaugh says.

While that study reinforced previous studies on the effects of oxytocin, Cavanaugh's second study yielded more surprising results, and its findings have been published in leading academic journals.

That study involved two long-term mates, with one given oxytocin. Cavanaugh then watched their behaviors. He found that the monkey that did not receive oxytocin appeared more attracted to the monkey that did.

"This was much more surprising," he says. While the oxytocin-treated monkey didn't appear to give any subtle "come-hither" signs (for instance, signaling a desire for more grooming), it nevertheless became more attractive to its mate. "We're going to delve into this a little more deeply now with our current research," Cavanaugh says.

## IMPLICATIONS BEYOND ROMANCE

Cavanaugh says a multitude of studies have shown that oxytocin influences social motivation. “For the one who receives oxytocin, it motivates them to interact socially,” Cavanaugh says. “And my one study suggests that it might increase social attractiveness, as well.”

It’s not just romance at play, though. The research has important implications for individuals with social deficit disorders, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder and social anxiety.

“These individuals usually have reduced rates of initiating and maintaining normative social interactions,” Cavanaugh says. “So they’re, essentially, not very social, which generally leads to a lower quality of life. So, oxytocin treatment might enhance sociality in those individuals, both by increasing their motivation to interact and increasing their attractiveness to social partners. That’s one way that it might translate to humans.”

In fact, oxytocin nasal sprays are available for purchase online.

Cavanaugh, however, offers a caution: the Food and Drug Administration does not regulate sprays sold online without a prescription. Cavanaugh adds that more research is needed on the effects of long-term, chronic exposure to oxytocin, especially as it relates to children.

## AT BIRTH, IN THE BRAIN

Cavanaugh and others are trying to find out all they can about oxytocin.

The hormone has long been known for its role in birth and lactation. Oxytocin is produced in the brain in the hypothalamus and released into our circulation through the pituitary gland, a pea-sized structure below the hypothalamus.

During birth, oxytocin is released in a cyclical connection with contractions.

“The more contractions, the more oxytocin; the more oxytocin, the more contractions,” Cavanaugh says. In fact, the name “oxytocin” comes from the Greek words meaning “swift birth.” A synthetic version, called pitocin, is used to induce or stimulate labor. Oxytocin is also released during breastfeeding, allowing the milk to be ejected.

Later, scientists credited the hormone with influencing mother-infant bonding. “Women in childbirth have this surge of oxytocin,” Cavanaugh says, “and it looks like that’s part of the reason they form that really, really strong bond with their infant. That was sort of the first indication that it might be involved in social behavior.”

In the brain, oxytocin receptors are located in areas associated with social behavior, including the mesolimbic dopaminergic system, which is recognized for its role in motivated behaviors and rewards.



Jeff French

Jeff French, Varner Professor of Psychology and Biology and director of UNO’s neuroscience program, says the last decade or so of research in neuroendocrinology (study of how brains interact with and are shaped by hormones) has increased our knowledge of a special class of hormones known as neuropeptides “that play a huge role in regulating those areas of the brain that determine social behavior.”



“And one of those social behaviors is love,” French says.

Oxytocin and vasopressin, two neuropeptides being studied at the UNO lab, appear to be “two of the key players” in altering the function of these neural circuits involved with social behavior. “They make us more or less sensitive, for example, to facial cues, to recognizing individuals by voice, to social insults,” says French, who founded UNO’s lab in 1983.

Previous studies at the lab have focused on steroid hormones, such as testosterone, cortisol and estrogen, and their effects on social behavior. Researchers found that testosterone levels in male marmosets inversely influenced their willingness to care for their offspring.

“We found that testosterone plays a really important role in shaping the male’s parental responses,” French says. “When male marmosets become fathers, when infants are born, they show a dramatic drop in testosterone levels.” And those levels hit their lowest point when the male is most involved in parental care. In marmosets, the males become the temporary primary caregiver for the infant around two weeks after birth.

“So low testosterone facilitates affiliative, or nurturing care, in males,” French says. Individual differences in testosterone levels also matter, with males with the lowest levels of testosterone providing the most parental care.

A similar connection, he says, is found in humans. “Men who are in a committed romantic relationship and have children have the lowest levels of age-controlled testosterone,” French says.

While oxytocin-treated marmosets have shown to be more desirable to their mates and less apt to engage in trysts with opposite-sex strangers, French doesn’t agree with characterizations of oxytocin as a universal “love hormone” or “cuddle hormone.”

“We are beginning to learn more and more that there may be some downsides,” French says.

He cites a study, not conducted in his lab, in which Dutch subjects were given oxytocin or a placebo and then given the following moral dilemma: sacrifice one life to a runaway train to save five other lives. In one scenario, the lone individual was from the subjects’ own ethnic group; in another, from a different ethnic group. Subjects treated with oxytocin were more willing to save the individual from their own ethnic group, but less likely





to save the individual from a different ethnic group, relative to placebo-treated subjects.

“Oxytocin, it appears, enhances in-group altruism while at the same time increasing out-group discrimination,” French says. “We think this is a very important finding that represents the two-sided coin of oxytocin. Is it important in regulating social behavior? Absolutely. Does it put a pair of rose-colored glasses on someone to make them indiscriminately happy and pro-social with the world? Absolutely not.”

French’s lab is a strong contender to receive a \$1.8 million National Institutes of Health grant. The grant would fund the lab’s continued work with marmosets and behavior, and allow for an investigation into how oxytocin changes individual cell function.

“What actually changes in the neurons in the brain when it’s treated with oxytocin?” French says. This will involve collaborating with scientists at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University. “We’ll have a great platform for looking at drugs that target cells in this particular way.”

He says one of the current difficulties in developing oxytocin-related therapies, which this study could help address, is the fact that the molecule does not cross the blood-brain barrier, which separates the brain from the circulatory system. (That’s the reason oxytocin is administered through the nose.)

“You can’t take a pill of oxytocin and have it change behavior. You can’t get an injection into a vein and have the oxytocin get into the brain,” French says. “But there is a potential for designing molecules that can sneak through the blood-brain barrier and get into the brain.”

Future research could also involve altering the structure of oxytocin molecules and studying the effects on the brain and resulting behavior. “If we change the structure of molecules slightly, can we produce greater improvements in social behavior as a consequence?” French asks.

But what of today’s lovelorn, love-seekers and love-on-the-rockers: Could oxytocin be the cupid’s arrow that helps improve their relationships and love life?

“You could think of it as a bond-increasing agent,” says Cavanaugh. “But there’s not nearly enough research to say for sure that it’s only going to influence that particular aspect of your life.”

## Love, Chemistry and a Consummate Teacher

To stoke the flames of desire and attract a beau, the flightless female gypsy moth sends out a powerful scent that can drift up to a mile. Males catch these molecules on their long feathery antennas and take flight to find the source.

“Basically, she’s saying, ‘I’ll be home at 4 o’clock this evening, and I’m ready.’ He doesn’t have any choice,” says Dan Sullivan, Ph.D., emeritus professor of chemistry at UNO.

The retired UNO professor enjoys sharing these stories of science in everyday life. He continues to be involved in UNO’s C.A.P.O.W. (Chemistry and Physics on Wheels) program, teaching science to children. He was named a Friend of Science by the Nebraska Academy of Sciences in 2014 and is a former Carnegie Foundation Nebraska Professor of the Year. He has received the Chancellor’s Medal and outstanding teaching awards from UNO and the UNO Alumni Association for the College of Arts and Sciences.

And he knows all about the chemicals of love — and war.

In the 1970s, Sullivan joined UNO physics Professor Ray Guenther to host two television shows — one on the chemicals of war and another on the chemicals of love. It included discussions like the one on the pheromones of the gypsy moth. Animals and even some plants, he says, release pheromones to attract mates and warn of impending danger.

“Scientists are pretty sure that humans have them, but they haven’t exactly identified just what they are,” Sullivan says.

“The Chemicals of War” episode explored everything from poisoned arrows to napalm to modern biological warfare.

He is quick to share stories relating to romance and love.

For instance, he says, American anthropologist Ray Birdwhistell did a study on women and perfume that found that men preferred women who wore mild perfume. And then, he says, there is the chemical in chocolate, phenethylamine, that is said to activate feelings of romance and pleasure.

“Maybe when we give people chocolate on Valentine’s Day, we’re giving them an extra feeling of love,” Sullivan says.



Visit the Callitrichid Research Center online at [unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/callitrichid](http://unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/callitrichid) for more information, including links to published articles.

# Married W

More than ever,  
UNO graduates  
are finding love  
on campus

*By Lori Rice*



# ith Degrees

Viv Collins needed a volunteer. Scanning the crowd of students gathered around the Octagon—a popular UNO hangout spot in the Milo Bail Student Center in the 1980—she looked for someone to help in her bid for homecoming queen.

Her eyes fell on student John Ewing, just the willing participant she had hoped for. Well, “willing” might be a bit of a stretch.

“Being the delegator that I am — my brother also attended UNO — I ended up getting him to stand out on Dodge Street wearing a sandwich sign that said ‘Vote for Viv for homecoming queen,’” Ewing says.

It was the beginning of a friendship that blossomed into romance and, eventually, to marriage in 1984. More than 30 years later, they’re still going strong — and among thousands of other UNO graduates who found their spouse on campus.

Online dating may be all the rage, but a college campus appears to be the best matchmaker of all.

Today, more than 9,000 living UNO graduates are married to a fellow UNO graduate. Of these, 69 percent still live in Nebraska. Over the last three decades alone, nearly 3,000 alumni couples from UNO were married.

Since the university’s start in 1908, 10,100-plus graduates have married a fellow alum.

“Part of the bigger demographic trend is people are more and more likely to marry people of similar educational background,” says Daniel Hawkins, associate professor of sociology at UNO. In years past, he points out, there was more of a traditional approach where only one spouse may have held a degree. Now, he says, it “seems to be they want to marry someone else who has a similar level of education. People are looking for a soul mate. They want someone up to their level of education.”

The fact that people are waiting longer to get married also plays into finding a future spouse in the undergraduate dating pool. Today’s students are often delaying marriage, Hawkins says, with the median age for college-educated women to get married around 28 and 30 for men. They are now more focused on establishing careers and personal goals before getting married.

A university setting, Viv Ewing says, gives you the “opportunity to meet someone who is working on advancing themselves through education like you are, so you are more likely to meet someone at a university that is working on some positive goals and making a good life for themselves.”

On following pages is a look at some of those UNO couples...



## Austin and Alexa Gaule

June 7, 2014



Austin Gaule remembers the first time he met Alexa Lee — they were teenagers jammed into the back seat of a car on their way to a music concert in Omaha.

“It wasn’t the most romantic thing ever,” Austin says.

Both had a passion for music and continued to cross paths on weekends as they followed the local music scene. Friends first, they began dating the summer before their senior year in high school in 2008.

In August 2009, the couple enrolled at UNO, both living on campus and spending much of their time hanging out in the dorms or studying in the library.

“It was a really good stepping stone from living with our parents,” says Alexa, who graduated in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in education.

Austin, who spent time as an intern with UNO’s Alumni Association while taking classes, graduated in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and public relations. He now works as director of media analysis for Universal Information Services, a media-monitoring firm, and also works with a national music promotion company.

In June 2014, Alexa and Austin were married at UNO’s Thompson Center, a capstone to their years as a couple on campus.

“UNO was a really integral part of us growing into adults and just being able to share one of the happiest moments of our lives in a place where we both had grown and loved was really amazing,” says Alexa, a substitute teacher in the Omaha area. “It is beautiful. It was the perfect place.”



## Dan and Maureen Kraemer

August 21, 1981



“By the time I came to UNO, everyone that I had gone to high school with was already gone,” says Dan, who graduated in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in business.

He joined a fraternity to try and meet people, but his years in the workforce and experience in the army had put him in a different place than his younger peers. Then he met Maureen through mutual classes and friends.

“When you see each other on a constant basis you find out you have a lot in common,” Maureen says. The friends soon became a couple.

After graduating, they both took some time to establish their careers before getting married in 1981. Maureen worked briefly in sales before opting to stay home and raise their two children. Dan continued to work for major grocery store chains before eventually working for AT&T for 20 years and retiring in March from Outlook Nebraska.

Their daughter, Elizabeth, followed in their footsteps, earning bachelor’s and

master’s degrees from UNO. Today she is director of alumni programming at UNO’s Alumni Association. Their son, Charles, will graduate in December from UNO with his bachelor’s degree in public administration.

“When it was time for our children to go to school you have so many options available to you, and I personally love UNO,” Maureen says. “I don’t think you can find a finer education. We gave that opportunity to our children and they took the ball and ran with it.”

Now retired, the couple plans to spend time gardening, traveling, bird collecting and enjoying their two grandchildren.

They look back on their days at UNO with fondness.

“It will always have a special place in my heart,” Maureen says. “It’s where I met my future spouse and we made a good life together. I ended up getting an education and a man.”

A lot has changed since Dan Kraemer and Maureen Trouba were students on UNO’s campus in the early 1970s. They attended classes in the days of needing punch cards to register for classes and the original College of Business Administration building had just opened.

“When Dan and I went to UNO it was required to take a computer class to get a business degree. Neither one of us ever touched a computer; it was all flow charts,” says Maureen, who earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1976.

Dan worked right out of high school for a couple of years at an Omaha supermarket chain before joining the army for two years.



## Art and Cynthia Meyers

June 15, 1991



Art Meyers had experience being on UNO's campus, having grown up playing pee-wee football on what now is the soccer field and attending occasional high school football games that the university would host.

So it was no surprise when he ended up attending the familiar campus for his education after spending a year playing baseball in Kansas after high school.

He also came back to be closer to his girlfriend, Cindy Beckman, whom he met at Omaha Westside High School in 1984. At the time she was attending UNL, but she also transferred to UNO, from which both ended up graduating — Cindy with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1990 and Art with a bachelor's degree in business in 1992.

UNO, Art says, "was the one common focal point that brought us both back to Omaha after leaving."

They were married in 1991 and have three sons. Their middle son, Addison, is a sophomore at UNO studying business and is a resident advisor at University Village dorms on campus.

Cindy taught preschool for a couple of years and then stayed home to raise their sons, just recently returning to work as a preschool aid in the Waukee school district in Iowa where they live. Art has spent the last 25 years in commercial finance and now is a financial consultant.

"It was really neat getting back to campus two years ago," Art says. "I knew things were changing but it is a really nice campus, a lot bigger and more impressive than it was in the '90s."



## Saying I Do at the Thompson Center



For 30 years, the William H. & Dorothy Thompson Alumni Center on UNO's campus has been one of Omaha's most popular banquet facilities and conference centers. Since its dedication in September 1981, the Thompson Center at UNO has hosted more than 1,000 weddings and/or receptions.

Its original purpose, says Steven Summers, alumni center director, was to provide event space and conference space for the UNO community. Over the years — and several expansions and renovations later — it has developed into a popular choice for weddings and for meeting space by many corporations throughout the metro.

*"It was the perfect site for what we wanted."*

It is home to 50 to 60 weddings every year. Of the 52 weddings held at the venue last year, 80 percent of them had some type of affiliation with UNO, Summers says.

"I'd say the vast majority of our weddings have some type of alumni attachment or UNO attachment," he says. "There is just something special about coming back on campus to celebrate what to them is a huge milestone in their lives."

For Lauren Albert and Jared Rutledge, it was that UNO connection that drew them to book the space for their upcoming wedding in the spring of 2017. Though the two attended UNO at the same time for a period of years, they actually didn't meet until 2014 when both worked at Midwest Laboratories.

Rutledge, who graduated in 2012 with his bachelor's in biology, saw an ad for the Thompson Center while thumbing through *UNO Magazine*. "For something that is going to mean so much to us, we'd rather have a little tie in the place where we're going to get married," he says.

"The backyard area where the ceremonies are held is absolutely gorgeous," says Albert, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2011. "It's the perfect size, it's just beautiful."

A complete remodel of the interior rooms and upgrades to the state-of-the-art audio and visual equipment was completed in March. The facility was voted Best of Omaha in both 2015 and 2016 and received the B2B (Business to Business) award for best banquet facility in Omaha in 2016.

"I really think it's our staff and our team members we have here. We are very dedicated to making sure that anyone who comes to an event, whether it be a wedding or corporate event or UNO meeting is treated with great guest service," Summers says.

It was the ideal setting for UNO graduates Austin and Alexa Gaule, who were married at the Thompson Center in June 2014.



"Having spent the majority of our young lives at UNO, it just seemed like a really good fit for the ceremony and everything," says Alexa. "We love spending time at UNO and we miss it greatly. We took pictures in front of the bell tower and all over campus right after the ceremony so we have a lot of great memories that we can hold onto."

Among the most well-known figures in UNO history is William H. Thompson — a student, graduate and then professor at then-Omaha University.

He's also known for marrying off his daughter, Susan, to someone of note — Warren Buffett.

Less known, however, is that he also was a licensed minister.

In 1946, in fact, he performed the wedding ceremony for OU graduate Virginia Brown when she married John Hodges.

"She received her degree in psychology and worked for Dr. Thompson, who was a good family friend," son Chris Hodges wrote. "He was a wonderful person and teacher."



## John and Viv Ewing

September 15, 1984



It was in Dr. Phil Secret's political science class that the friendship developed between John and Viv after their fateful meeting during Viv's successful run for UNO's homecoming queen. The two students would sit in the front row of the class and bet Snicker's bars on who would get the best grade on a test or who could answer the professor's questions first. John soon realized Viv could be the answer for him.

"When she was in my class, I thought, 'Wow. This is great,'" says John, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and criminal justice in 1984 and a master's degree in urban studies one year later. "I get to potentially date and marry the woman who is No. 1 on my list of women I think would make a great wife and mother."

The two immersed themselves in campus life. Viv was a charter member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, active in the minority student affairs department and student government. With John she helped start an NAACP chapter on campus.

While still attending classes, John joined the Omaha Police Department, where he stayed for almost 25 years until winning election as treasurer for Douglas County, a position he has held since 2007. Viv graduated in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's degree in urban studies in 1986. She later earned a doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1990 in community and human resources. She is currently president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association of Nebraska.

They were married in the fall of 1984 and have two daughters, Christina and Alexandra, who is currently pursuing a master's degree at UNO.

Both are actively involved in the community, serving on numerous boards and volunteering with countless organizations, including work with TeamMates, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Great Plains Black History Museum, and American Heart Association. They are also both associate ministers at Salem Baptist Church in Omaha.

Their extensive community work earned them the Citation for Alumni Achievement award from UNO in 2014 — the only couple to receive the award jointly in the 67-year history of the honor. They also were both recipients of the alumni award in excellence in public service from CPACS.

"I've been able to receive a number of awards for the work I've done," says John of the honor, "but there's something special when it comes from a place like UNO where you really got your foundation."

*"We look back at the university with fond memories. We had great experiences there as students and now as a married couple we have even greater experiences giving back to the university in a variety of ways."*



## Living UNO Alumni Couples



1940s	14	1980s	997
1950s	108	1990s	1,195
1960s	383	2000s	747
1970s	1,050	2010s	46

by Decade



## From the start



UNO alumni marrying other UNO alumni is nothing new. Harry Jerome, who was the only graduate in the university's second graduating "class" of 1912 married Gladys Solomon, a 1913 graduate.

Since then, 10,108 graduates have married fellow graduates.



## Jason and Amanda Buzzell

October 13, 2007



It can all be chalked up to a news writing and reporting class with communications professor Karen Weber — that and a broken down car.

Jason Buzzell and Amanda Wagner both were pursuing journalism degrees in the early 2000s when they met in the one and only class they would have together.

Jason, who had just moved back from living in Canada, where he played hockey, didn't know anyone and connected with Amanda in the small class where they spent time editing each other's papers.

Then one day Amanda's car broke down and Jason offered to give her a ride to the Rose Theater, where she was an intern.

"From that point on, we talked all the time and became friends," says Jason, who graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

They were married in the fall of 2007 and after Amanda earned her master's degree in communication from UNO in 2009, they relocated to

Canada where they built a house, had two children, and Jason earned his master's degree in communication and technology from the University of Alberta. It wasn't until Jason saw a job opening at UNO in early 2015 for an associate director of digital communications that they came back to Omaha.

"I'm not sure there would have been any other job that would have drawn him back," says Amanda of their decision to bring their family back to the city after Jason was offered the job. They bought a house close to UNO and enjoy bringing their kids on campus and attending UNO hockey games.

"At a university there's something for everyone, different clubs and groups and classes so you are meeting people who have somewhat similar interests," Amanda says. "I think it's a great, safe environment to meet and really get to know other people."



## Matt and Megan Nelson

June 21, 2013



It was raining the day Matt Nelson and Megan Schmitz met under the bell tower in 2007. They were campaigning for two freshman class senator spots.

Matt remembers being immediately drawn to Megan's bubbly personality but thinking no one could be that nice all the time.

"But actually, she is," Matt says.

Both were elected to the senate and became friends, working closely with each other as executive members of student government.

Megan lived on campus and was involved in Chi Omega sorority, honor society and student government. She graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in public relations and advertising and came back and earned her master's degree in public administration from UNO in 2014. While earning her master's degree she worked as a dual enrollment admissions counselor for couple of years and is now the career and student service associate for UNO School of Public Administration.

After graduating in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education, Matt moved to Indiana to work on his master's degree. During a return visit to Omaha in 2012, he surprised Megan by asking her to marry him — under the bell tower where they had first met.

They were married in June 2013 with strong UNO ties throughout the ceremony. Communications Professor Karen Weber sang at the wedding and Megan's maid of honor was a UNO classmate. And their getaway vehicle after the ceremony?

A UNO Maverick shuttle.

In 2014, Matt took a job as a UNO residence hall director and the couple lived as a married couple on campus in Maverick Village. Their son, Bennett, was born in 2014, the first baby and youngest to ever live on campus.

"We kind of dance around UNO this whole time," Matt says. "It's kind of a mainstay or focal point of who we are. Without UNO we wouldn't be together."

**LICENSED  
TO WED**

Need someone to tie the knot? UNO can take care of that, too.

Lee Denker, president & CEO of the UNO Alumni Association, and Jesse Combs, assistant controller at UNO, both are licensed to officiate marriages.

# New Chap



Nobel-prize winning poet  
Wisława Szymborska says of  
hatred in the 20th century:

**See how efficient it still is,  
how it keeps itself in shape—  
our century's hatred.**

**How easily it vaults the tallest obstacles.  
How rapidly it pounces, tracks us down...**



# ters in an Ancient Tale

From native soil to distant shores.  
From schoolyards to cyberspace.  
UNO professors study the problem of hate.

*By Therese Vaughn*



It's an ancient story, hate. Nearly as old as creation. Appearing in three sacred texts — the Jewish Torah, Christian Bible and Muslim Quran — the primordial saga features Cain, the first human ever born in a post-Eden world. He murders his own brother Abel in cold-blood. Abel is the first human ever to die on earth. This is the original human tragedy — brother killing brother.

In our day, hate remains the same primal force, dominating the headlines and engendering suffering at home and around the globe. And, while it's true that rates of murder and mayhem actually have plummeted since the last century, the story of Cain and Abel goes on.

By some metrics, hate may be gearing for a comeback, manifesting in old and new-fangled forms. From the schoolyard to cyberspace, political rallies to the street, homegrown racism to the terrorism of ISIS, discord, like water, seems to seek its own level.

Last year, the Southern Poverty Law Center — a legal and advocacy organization that monitors extremism in the United States — documented a 14-percent upsurge in domestic hate group membership. The number of KKK chapters more than doubled from 72 to 190. Black separatists and white nationalists, anti-government militias and “lone wolf” activists mushroomed in numbers, according to the watchdog agency.

At the same time, imported extremism, if not on the march, is definitely afoot in America. Last December, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malika, a married couple in San Bernadito, Calif., committed mass murder at a county office holiday party, killing 14 and injuring 22. Before the atrocity, the couple had committed to martyrdom and accrued an arsenal of bomb-making equipment, guns and ammunition in their own home. So, while the likelihood of being killed by a radical Muslim is negligible — more Americans die by furniture mishaps than by terrorism of any kind — it remains a chief concern for national security.

## Hate that Loves

UNO professors are bringing decades of field experience, cross-disciplinary knowledge and state-of-the-art technology to bear on hate, this most fundamental and universal of problems.



Pete Simi

Pete Simi, associate professor at UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, uses a distinctive lens of courage, equanimity and compassion in his frontline study of hate. Among the country's foremost experts on extremism, Simi spent more than 10 years conducting in-depth fieldwork and interviews with white supremacists and their groups. He lived with white power musician and Army vet Wade Michael Page, who in 2012 attacked a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, fatally shooting six congregants and wounding four others.



Gina Ligon

Simi co-authored "American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movement's Hidden Spaces of Hate," a chilling ethnographic account that transports the reader, up-close and personal, into the lives and homes of contemporary neo-Nazis. Exploring issues of identity, community and alienation, the acclaimed book offers a penetrating analysis of racism and the places it inhabits.

"While hate is what ultimately fuels extremism, there's a lot of emphasis on love within these communities — the love for race, homeland, religion," Simi says. "Whether the radical is a Klansman or an Islamic militant, their hate arises in defense of what they claim to love. In fact, hate groups would never refer to themselves as such."



Douglas Derrick

## Inside the Head of Hate

So, what is the crucible that transforms love for kin and country into contempt for the archetypal "other?" At its most primitive level, hate is the aversive reaction to a painful or threatening situation. A survival mechanism in the early brain, hate enabled our species to rapidly separate friend from foe and mobilize the body to fight.

Today, most threats are psychological rather than territorial, but the same neural networks are firing off a combustible IED of fear, disgust and aggression in response to perceived danger and presumed wrong. The resulting contempt for strangers — xenophobia — can become a self-imposed torture chamber of suspicion and unhealthy cognitive rumination.

UNO is taking the lead in examining hate from a neurobiological perspective. In an exciting pilot research project — one of the first of its

kind — Simi is joining an interdisciplinary team with Gina Ligon, assistant professor of management, and Douglas Derrick, assistant professor of IT innovation. They will be working out of UNO's Jack and Stephanie Koraleski Commerce and Applied Behavioral Laboratory (CAB Lab) as well as UNL's BRAiN Lab (Behavioral Research and Applied Cognitive Neuroscience) in the effort to better understand the neurophysical underpinnings of extremism.

The group is using real-time functional MRI and EEG neurofeedback to look at the brain patterns of former radicals and how they respond to images of violence. They hope to later conduct a much wider study with multiple groups of varying ideology and destructiveness.

"We are really interested to see if people, who once were steeped in extremism, show lasting imprints — how hate changes over time," he says.

According to Simi, the evidence is pretty well in as to how hate takes seed in the first place. Early childhood conditioning, abuse and the consequent psychological defenses of projection, reaction formation and polarized thinking may also account for hate becoming a way of life.

“While hate is what ultimately fuels extremism, there's a lot of emphasis on love within these communities — the love for race, homeland, religion,” Simi says. “Whether the radical is a Klansman or an Islamic militant, their hate arises in defense of what they claim to love. In fact, hate groups would never refer to themselves as such.”

"In the research, we find significant risk factors in the backgrounds of domestic extremists. Substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, parental incarceration and abandonment are prominent. Additionally, they may be encultured into hate ideologies as young children," the criminologist says. "Certainly, mental health issues also play a role," he added.

Whether childhood trauma operates in the case of jihadists is unclear, but the same cognitive errors and oversimplification are at work. Both homegrown and foreign terrorists demonize the enemy as evil, threatening and less than human.

"The nature of our real world is gray, but extremists see it as black and white," Simi says.

## Hating 2050

As the country becomes increasingly multicultural, the racist perspective becomes that much more monochromatic. Over the last few decades, immigration has become a galvanizing force for white power nationalists who, ironically, feel powerless against what they view as "the invasion." The U.S. Census Bureau projects that even if immigration were to slow down, non-Hispanic whites, who now make up nearly two-thirds of the population, will become a minority by 2050. This benchmark year looms menacingly in the collective mind of racial militants.

As the face of the nation changes, so too have the demographics of right-wing hate groups. According to Simi, a whole generation of leaders is either dying off or in prison. At the same time, there's been an explosion of hate on the Internet. Both of these factors have worked to decentralize the movement, if not reduce it.

"And, then you have another interesting phenomenon, fairly unprecedented in recent decades, which is the mobilization toward the candidacy of



Donald Trump,” Simi noted. “White supremacists are unifying around his anti-immigrant message. But, when he talks about how protestors were dealt with ‘back in the good old days,’ the tragic reality is that it was with fire-hoses and attack dogs, beatings and burned churches.”

## Flagging ISIS

While Simi sees a general trend toward the fragmentation of domestic hate groups — with the notable exception around the 2016 presidential election — Ligon has identified the opposite in the growth of the Islamic State.

“It was not like any other terrorist group we had seen,” says Ligon, who directs research and development at UNO’s Center of Collaboration Science.

Having tracked the organizational structures, leadership styles and marketing strategies of violent ideological organizations for more than a decade, Ligon flagged ISIS early on as posing a durable threat.

Unlike most terrorist groups, the Islamic State has implemented a pragmatic framework for its operations, including a system for successors,

computer interactions, as well as the feasibility of cyber attacks on national infrastructure.

## Can Hate Be Healed?

Besides monitoring extremism in the real world and cyberspace, what can be done to heal it? According to Simi, the folklore of ‘once a hater, always a hater’ and ‘blood in, blood out’ is just not true for terrorists.

“A good number of radicals of every stripe end up walking away. They either simply mature into adulthood or become disenchanted with the movement, its authoritarian organization and all the heavy armor that comes with it,” he says.

And, sometimes, extremists become radicalized by loving-kindness.

In his book “My Life After Hate,” former skinhead Arno Michaels wrote: “One time I was greeted by a black lady at a McDonald’s cash register with a smile as warm and unconditional as the sun. When she noticed the swastika tattoo on my finger, she says: ‘You’re a better person than that.

# ately fuels extremism, there’s a lot of emphasis on unities — the love for race, homeland, religion.

an advisory board, a rudimentary court system and tax collection center, Ligon reported.

Last year, Ligon and Simi joined Derrick, and Leif Lundmark, associate professor of management, along with graduate students Mackenzie Harms and John Crowe, to provide the U.S. military with a comprehensive study of terrorism and responses.

The uniquely collaborative research team is also considering an aspect of hate called “malevolent creativity” — the ability of an individual or group to use innovation and imagination in designing effective attacks against an enemy. Building on the work of UNO psychologists Daniel Harris and Roni Reiter-Palmon, the UNO group will again be using MRI and biofeedback. In a two-part experiment, subjects will be exposed to a simulated event and randomly assigned to either a rational-based cause for a social problem (immigration) or an emotion-based explanation. They will then be asked to compose a destructive response in order to assess whether “thinking outside the box” has ramifications for ideological violence. The box-cutters the 9/11 terrorists used on the planes which brought down the trade center towers comes to mind as a prime example of malevolent inventiveness.

The role of the Internet also is of keen focus to the UNO researchers. Worldwide, the web has ensnared many thousands of angry and isolated people in virtual communities of hate. Both the San Bernadito jihadist couple and Dylann Roof, who killed nine African Americans at a historic black church in Charleston, S.C., last year, were radicalized online. Hate forums, social media and perfidious information sites abound.

Derrick, working out of UNO’s School of Interdisciplinary Informatics, is an expert on the politically motivated use of information technology in violent extremism. A distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy and officer, Derrick has published several influential articles on human-

I know that’s not who you are.’ Powerless against such compassion, I fled from her steady smile and authentic presence, never to return to that McDonald’s again.”

Michaels went on to become a Buddhist meditation practitioner and co-founded Life After Hate, one of many exit programs in the U.S. and Europe aimed to help violent activists leave their movements. “It happened very organically once I became too exhausted to maintain the lies necessary to be a racist,” he wrote.

Professor Simi has spent years studying Life After Hate and those people who put down their arms and ideologies to begin building their lives.

“There is a mounting effort all over the globe to help extremists, particularly Jihadists, disengage from radicalism,” Simi noted.

Exit programs aside, what ultimately makes the transformation of hate into hope within a human psyche warped by loathing? Maybe it comes down to old-fashioned grace.

“Empathy, seeing the perpetrator’s human dignity, can make a real difference in addressing hate,” Simi says.

Comparing the general response to two hate-fueled tragedies that struck America last year, the San Bernadito massacre evoked calls to ban all Muslims entry into the country, while the white supremacist’s attack on a beloved church brought forth a groundswell of forgiveness from family members and the wider community of Charleston. This, in turn, has brought a measure of healing to a town and nation beleaguered by a heritage of violent bigotry.

In the last chapter of hate’s tome, maybe compassion can have the final word.



# For Love of Country

*By Kevin Warneke*

Now in its 65th year,  
UNO's AFROTC program  
Still attracting patriots

Cadet Mariah Schon says she's ready.

Ready to earn her degree in computer science at UNO. Ready to earn her commission in the U.S. Air Force in 2018 after serving as a cadet in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Ready to serve her country — and ready to die for it, should duty call.

"This is real life," says the Omaha Westside graduate and UNO sophomore. "You could get injured. Killed. It comes with being an officer, and it comes with being in the military."

Schon didn't enroll at UNO with the intention of being an AFROTC cadet. Seeing a friend in uniform sparked her interest. She already possessed a sense of duty and a strong dose of patriotism — instilled through example by her father, who served in the Army National Guard, a brother who serves in the U.S. Army, and another brother who serves in the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Col. Christopher Chocolaad, as Detachment 470 commander, is responsible for mentoring his cadets through their ROTC



**Growing up, I always had an immense respect for veterans and active duty members. Anyone who would sacrifice for their country. It's crazy to think they would fight people they don't know — for people they don't know. I have so much respect for them. I have to do my part.**

years. That's been happening at UNO since the unit was created in 1951. Two years later, 21 men became the program's first graduates.

Cadets must be physically and intellectually ready for the rigors of a military life. The cadet wing has a cumulative GPA of 3.4 and averages 95 out of 100 on the Air Force physical fitness assessment. Cadets must learn to lead and they must learn to serve. All the while, Chocolaad says, "we do our best to instill a sense of patriotism in them."

Schon already had it. So did Cadet Julio Guerrero-Hernandez. He knows what it's like to serve his country. He served seven-plus years in the Air Force, including a stint at Offutt Air Force Base, before enrolling at UNO and joining ROTC.

"I want to be a pilot. I want to continue to serve my country," says the Virginia Beach, Va., native.

That call for country, he says, is reinforced whenever a civilian thanks him for his service. Sometimes, they even pay for his meal at a restaurant. "It means a lot to us," he says.

Guerrero-Hernandez understands, though, that service means responsibility. "You're expected to carry yourself in a certain way when you're in the U.S. Armed Forces."

Guerrero-Hernandez says he knows the risk that comes with military service. The passion he has for flying and for his country override any risk, he says. "No one forced me to be here. To fly and serve my country at the same time, what a great opportunity."

Sr. Cadet Jenna DeWilde remembers watching news accounts of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center complex. "I was confused. I didn't understand. I thought, 'This is wrong. This needs to be righted.'" She remembers watching President George W. Bush tell a shaken country that the United States was declaring war on terrorism. Though just 6 years old then, DeWilde recalls feeling a sense of patriotism from that day on.

She just wasn't completely sold on a military life when she joined AFROTC as a second-semester freshman at UNO. That changed when she found herself leading a team during field exercises her sophomore year. The cadets, armed with paintball guns, were playing a military version of the children's game "Capture the Flag." A cadet under her command took a hit from enemy fire.

DeWilde attempted to rescue him, but failed. She also got hit.

Yes, these were field exercises. But the ramifications of her actions and the outcome left DeWilde with a new outlook toward military service.

*continued on next page*

## UNO No. 1, again, for Military Friendliness



Consider it similar to earning back-to-back national championships.

For the second-straight year, UNO was named the best four-year school in the nation for military friendliness by Military Times magazine.

The rankings compare schools based on a variety of criteria, including retention rates, accreditation, post-graduation salary earnings and student support.

In addition to receiving four-star rankings in such areas as staff support, academic support and extracurricular opportunities, UNO was noted for the wages military and veteran students command after graduating. UNO was the highest of the 125-ranked schools — more than double the No. 2-ranked school.

Mike Connolly views UNO's ranking as one of the country's top "Military Friendly Schools" a bit differently than most.

The university has held the distinction — as bestowed by G.I. Jobs magazine and Victory Media — for the past six years. The distinction means UNO is among the top 15 percent of colleges throughout the country. That's not all — U.S. News & World Report ranked UNO's Online Bachelor of General Studies program in the top 10 for veteran students.

Connolly, who directed the university's Office of Military and Veteran Services, said being ranked a top military school confirms that UNO takes a "whole student" approach to serving veterans and their dependents, and leverages every university resource possible to help them succeed in their academic pursuits.



UNO AFROTC Detachment 470 Commander Chocolaad, far left, led cadets to Lincoln to observe an RC-135 being refueled with the Nebraska Air National Guard 155th Air Refueling Wing.

"I realized this is family. I realized the weight of being responsible for him and everyone else. This is a team I want to be part of."

DeWilde is headed to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma wearing her two gold bars — one on each shoulder — that signify a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice May 6 and her commission into the Air Force the next day.

"The two most important days of my life," she says.

Schon and Guerrero-Hernandez hope to earn their second lieutenant bars in 2018. "It will be the happiest and scariest moment for me," says Schon, who seeks a commission in cyberintelligence. "I wouldn't say it's scary for my potential harm. I am going to be doing something that will impact people I don't know. I'll be away from family and my friends. A new lifestyle, hopefully for the next 20 years of my life."

Adds Guerrero-Hernandez: "I look forward to it every day. That one and when I can put my wings on."

Chocolaad says cadets who complete ROTC and receive their commission have shown they can persevere. During their first two years in the program, they commit five to seven hours each week to their training and additional time in the classroom; 15 to 20 hours their two final years. Some decide military service is not for them, he says, while others don't make the grade. Others are outstanding Americans, he says, but the Air Force just doesn't have funding to include them.

Chocolaad says those who do have his full confidence.

"These cadets are going to carry the Air Force just fine."

## Vets in Tech Just the Beginning

Vets in Tech is a career-based learning community for military-affiliated students seeking a degree in information science and technology. When finished with the program, students not only will have met the requirements for graduation, but also will have made professional contacts within the community and be better prepared to meet the changes in the IT field, said Mike Connolly, who was director of UNO's Office of Military and Veteran Services until May.

The new program will provide the template for creating a learning community model for military-affiliated students in other academic programs, Connolly says. He explains that this approach means helping military-affiliated students form cohorts within their areas of study.

"We have students already here who are studying the same things — the College of Education, Peter Kiewit Institute. We want to make sure these students know one another as soon as possible."

More than 1,600 students — about 10 percent of UNO's student body — are military-affiliated. Connolly expects that number to grow as UNO's enrollment grows.

"We want to help identify them and make sure they know who each other are," Connolly says. "They don't come to campus in uniform or wearing face paint."

The Vets in Tech program already has seven students enrolled for next semester, with a target of 50 for the semester. One component of the program is to develop career-readiness for its students. Participants have opportunities to work with employer partners including First Data, Northrop Grumman and Union Pacific Railroad.



Mike Connolly

## Library Opens Doors to Military Personnel



Dave Richards notices when active duty servicemen and women walk through Criss Library.

Earlier this year, UNO began providing service members and civilian workers at Offutt Air Force Base with free services at Criss Library. This means they have access to hundreds of thousands of books and research resources.

Offering free service is just another way UNO serves the men and women who serve their country, said Mike Connolly, director of the Office of Military and Veteran Services.

"It makes us feel good to do this, but it's also the right thing to do," adds Richards, dean of the Criss Library and father of a serviceman.

The program includes borrowing privileges for all of UNO's more than 700,000 print titles and 500,000 electronic titles, DVDs, CDs, and media equipment. Participants also may use in-library features, such as the research help desk, laptop use, iPad use and computer labs with full access to more than 275 searchable databases.

Richard said he isn't the only one who notices the men and women in uniform at the library. "Students do notice their presence. I think they're proud of them."





Songs about love performed by acts who have appeared at UNO or come to Omaha thanks to UNO.

- 1941 Artie Shaw  
*Comes Love*
- 1968 Bobby Vinton  
*My Melody of Love*
- 1971 Roberta Flack  
*Where is the Love*
- 1972 Dizzy Gillespie  
*Lover Man*
- 1973 Bill Withers  
*Lovely Day and Love*
- Randy Newman  
*I Love LA*
- John Denver  
*Is It Love?*
- 1974 Ike and Tina Turner  
*What's Love Got to Do With It?*
- Sly and the Family Stone  
*This is Love*
- 1975 Jackson Browne  
*Lawyers in Love*
- Bruce Springsteen  
*Tunnel of Love*
- 1977 Robert Palmer  
*Addicted to Love*
- 2006 Karrin Allyson
- 2016 1987 UNO graduate, jazz Grammy nominee  
*Love Me Like a Man*
- 2016 Flo Rida  
featuring Robin Thicke and Verdine White  
*I Don't Like It, I Love It*

# Music Lovers

## Flo Rida's appearance at Baxter recalls UNO's musical heyday of the 1970s

Now that Baxter Arena has opened its doors, UNO students might get to experience the musical nirvana their Maverick counterparts of the 1970s loved so much.

Back then, UNO's Student Programming Organization brought big name after big name to campus or — if they were big enough — to the Music Hall adjoining Civic Auditorium.

The list includes icons Jackson Browne, John Denver, Sly and the Family Stone, Ike and Tina Turner and others.



The biggest of all was the Boss — Bruce Springsteen in 1975 as the homecoming headliner. It's not as if he was an unknown, either. Just weeks after the concert he graced covers of both TIME and Newsweek.

Springsteen had released his "Born to Run" album one month prior to his Omaha concert, originally slated for Sept. 19 in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom but moved to Sept. 30 in the Music Hall due to demand. Advance tickets to the concert were \$4 for the general public, \$3 for students. Paid attendance was 1,645, topping the 1,450 Springsteen drew in Kansas City a week prior (SPO nevertheless took a \$1,000 loss on the concert).

Getting stars to visit the university was nothing new. Big band leader Artie Shaw visited then-Omaha U. for homecoming in 1941, riding an army Jeep into the game at Benson Stadium and leading the visiting Morningside band in the national anthem. Blues great Big Bill Broonzy performed "Keys to the Highway" in Arts & Sciences Hall at a 1951 convocation. In 1962, Count Basie and his orchestra performed at Peony Park for OU's Homecoming Dance.

But such luminaries were few and far between. Until, that is, SPO kicked into gear in the 1970s, bringing some of the most well-known music acts to town, especially from the start into the middle of the decade.

That stretch included Herbie Hancock, Randy Newman, Dizzy Gillespie, Roberta Flack, Seals and Crofts, and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. The Kinks were booked for a 1971 concert but had to cancel when lead singer Rick Davies' illness canceled the group's first American tour.

SPO even brought comedians George Carlin (1971), David Steinberg (1971) and Steve Martin (1976) to tickle students' funny bones.

But as appearance fees increased, star appearances decreased. By the 1980s, SPO was relegated to getting mostly acts trying make a name for themselves.

That changed this year, though, now that UNO has its own house — Baxter Arena. In April, Maverick Productions, Student Government and Student Involvement collaborated to bring Flo Rida to campus. The famous hip-hopper got low with all his big hits, including "My House," No. 1 on the Billboard Top 40 at the time of his appearance.

Best of all? Tickets were at 1970s prices — \$5 for UNO students (\$10 for students from other schools).

Now that's something UNO and Omaha music fans can grow to love.



# 2015 UNO CENTURY CLUB

In 1973, the UNO Alumni Association created its premier giving society — the UNO Century Club. The first 44 members contributed \$5,250. Today, the Century Club includes more than 250 members who each year combine to give more than \$130,000.

The UNO Century Club is vital to UNO's continued growth as one of the nation's top metropolitan universities. In this issue, the Century Club recognizes all donors of \$250 or more to the UNO Alumni Association, including the Landmark Level.

Starting in July 2016, donors who give cumulatively \$250 or more to any area of the UNO Fund — scholarships, your college, faculty development, alumni programs, or the greatest needs of the

university — will be recognized as members of the UNO Century Club. See more information on the new UNO Fund on page 11.

On behalf of the university, its students, faculty and alumni, the UNO Alumni Association and the University of Nebraska Foundation recognize the generosity of UNO Century Club members who believe strongly in the mission of the university and support its ongoing success.

Help UNO transform the lives of its students by making your 2016 Century Club donation today through the UNO Fund! Visit [unofoundation.org/UNOFund](http://unofoundation.org/UNOFund)

This list reflects all Century Club-level gifts (\$250 and above) to the UNO Alumni Association from Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015.

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 Maj. Verne A. Weber, Jr., Retd.  
 Mr. Alexander E. and  
 Dr. Tamara J. Williams  
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Willice  
 Mr. Robert M. and Dr. Mary Jo Wilmes  
 Mr. Joel M. Wilson  
 Mr. and Mrs. James E. Winship, Jr.  
 Sara and Kirby Woods  
 Mr. Brian Youngberg  
 LTC (Ret) Wilson A. Younge, Jr.  
 Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Ziebarth  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven W. Zuckweiler

# CLASS NOTES

Send your classnotes to [www.unoalumni.org/classnotes](http://www.unoalumni.org/classnotes).  
Or, post your note on the UNO Alumni Association Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/UNOAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/UNOAlumni)

51

**BEVERLY COPELAND**

(ASSOC.) lives in Hemet, Calif., and marked her 85th birthday on March 23.

She writes: "I was active in the Zeta Delta Chapter of Chi Omega and would like to hear from any of my friends from those years."

[bevcope@verizon.net](mailto:bevcope@verizon.net)

56

**GLORIA STORCH** (BS) after raising her six children, Storch returned to teaching in 1986, specializing in special education for 12 years and Adult ESL for five years. Storch, who also has an MS from UNO (1990), now teaches Czech at Metro Community College.

[glolad@mac.com](mailto:glolad@mac.com)

58

**RODNEY M. MURRAY** (BA)

makes his home in North Apollo, Pa., and recently celebrated his 80th birthday. This summer he will celebrate 60 years of marriage to Geraldine Safar, who attended OU from 1954-55



before leaving school to help finance Murray's education. Rodney Murray, now a pastor, provided a photo of himself taken prior to a train ride to the Tangerine Bowl to see Omaha U. play Kentucky State. "I played trombone in

the ROTC band and we played at the bowl game," he wrote. [rod-gerri@hotmail.com](mailto:rod-gerri@hotmail.com)

60

**ROBERT GERTZ** (BGE)

received several degrees, including a master's in education from Temple University and an MPA and Ph.D. from Nova Southeastern University. Gertz also is a retired commander from the U.S. Navy, served on a variety of medical association leadership boards and was a candidate for Maryland's 4th Congressional District in 1985. Gertz writes: "The UNO Bootstrap program provided me with a wonderful opportunity. Thank you, UNO."

[g.eagle11@verizon.net](mailto:g.eagle11@verizon.net)

63

**LYLE MCFARLIN** (BA) recently celebrated 50 years of marriage with his wife, Kathy, a 1965 UNO graduate, in Hawaii. They currently reside in St. Louis.

[lylemcfarlin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lylemcfarlin@sbcglobal.net)

68

**JIM VLCEK** (BS) is "semi-retired," but currently serving as the president of Vell Advertising, Marketing and

Photography in Omaha.

69

**JOHN PRESCOTT** (BS) will be inducted into the Omaha Press Club Journalists of Excellence Hall of Fame,

which honors those who have made notable contributions to Omaha-area journalism.



**JAMES F. BARD JR.** (BGS) received the 2016 UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service. Bard lives in Westminster, Md., and is retired. After active duty he earned certification as a professional logistician. He also worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an Information Systems Planner. He co-authored "We Served With Honor - Memoirs of the Men Who Served the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing," published by McDowell (2009) and Helion, England (2013). [Imagejimbardjr@comcast.net](mailto:Imagejimbardjr@comcast.net)

70

**SUE STONE MEHAFFEY** (BS)

Lives in Omaha and volunteers for the Omaha Sister Cities Association. "We just finished the last event for our 50th Anniversary with Shizuoka, Japan. Visit Lauritzen Gardens to see the Sunpu Chaya ("tea house"). It is incredible! Built in five days by 10 construction, roofers, tatami and woodworkers! Shizuoka and Omaha people have a wonderful relationship. Many deep friendships.

[Imagehappy48@yahoo.com](mailto:Imagehappy48@yahoo.com)

71

**LINDA PRIESMAN** (BS) writes that she is recovering from COPD in Sun City, Ariz. "I've been off all oxygen for four-and-a-half weeks and I'm doing fine," she writes.

[L.S.Smith@cox.net](mailto:L.S.Smith@cox.net)

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75

**DONALD LEU** (BS) recently retired as CEO and president of Green Path Financial Wellness. Leu has served more than 35 years in the credit counseling business and led the way for a variety of expansion and developmental projects. Leu currently serves as chairman on the board of trustees for the National Foundation of Credit Counseling and lives in Omaha.



76

**REBECCA FAHRLANDER** (MA) is an adjunct

professor in psychology and sociology at UNO. She recently published the article, "Retirement as a process, not milestone" in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

**MICHAEL SCHNEIDER** (BS) lives in Arlington, Texas, and is author of several books, including "Brendan of Kilrush," "Swift, Silent and Deadly: Recon Marines in Vietnam," "The Secret of Sangre de Cristo," "From OMAHA to DA NANG: Reflections of a 2-Yr Marine," and more. He retired from the federal government in 2008 after 31 years of service as an engineer.  
mjschneider63@tx.rr.com



77

**ROGER HUMPHRIES** (BS) lives in

Omaha and recently was elected president of Downtown Omaha, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the downtown community continue to be a viable, healthy, growing segment of Omaha.  
rogerhumphries1@cox.net

78

**DORIS ELLIS MOORE** (BS)

lives in Omaha and is CEO of the Center for Holistic Development. Founded by Moore in 2001, the nonprofit is celebrating 15 years of serving a diverse community by providing holistic behavioral healthcare and education services to individuals, families and groups.  
demoore@chdomaha.org

**PATRICIA MAZZUCCA BRAUN**

(BS) moved to New York City three weeks after graduating UNO to pursue her dream of working as a juvenile probation officer. After earning her social work degree, Braun served as a school social worker for 24 years. Upon retirement five years ago, she became a licensed New York City

tour guide. Braun thanks all the professors she had at UNO for providing her with her educational foundation, especially Dr. Janet Porter.  
pat.braun3@verizon.net

**GREG SNYDER** (BS) retired as an environmental lawyer in 2014 and started a real estate investing firm that helps developers finance small residential projects in urban neighborhoods. "Turns out that I have a bit of entrepreneur in me, and I really enjoy helping improve urban neighborhoods," he writes. Snyder currently resides in Washington, D.C.

greg.snyder.dc@outlook.com

79

**DARREL W. DRAPER** (BS) retired from a 30-year military career as a U.S.

Navy lieutenant commander and worked for the next 23 years as a historical "edutainment" speaker. Draper has appeared before audiences in 15 states and recently was inducted into the Plattsmouth High School Hall of Fame.



**BRUCE HAYDEN** (BS)

lives in Omaha and was recently inducted into the Benson High School Hall of Fame for career achievements.

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**82**

**MERRITT SMITH** (BA) lives in Omaha and writes: "Working at First National Bank. Still playing the horn, enjoying the grands and 30-plus years of marriage." [bramani55@msn.com](mailto:bramani55@msn.com)

**84**

**DAVID TEAL** (BS) is a security solutions architect with XYPRO Technology Corporation of Simi Valley, Calif. Teal works with and trains users of HP NonStop computers to establish and maintain system security and compliance.

**ROBERT DAISLEY** (BA) joined the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers as a realty specialist in February. [robert.c.daisley@usace.army.mil](mailto:robert.c.daisley@usace.army.mil)

**86**

**TIM HANSON** (BS) lives in Beatrice, Neb., and writes: "I have been promoted to the position of investigator with the Gage County Sheriff's Office, where I have worked since November 2015. I have been a law enforcement officer



since April 1992. My wife, Shelly, is a registered nurse at Beatrice Community Hospital." [PaladinSam26@yahoo.com](mailto:PaladinSam26@yahoo.com)

**87**

**JULIA FOOTE** (BA) wrote a biography of her great-grandfather Eugene C. Foote, a noted pioneer doctor. He was the first of four generations of MDs.

**89**

**MICHAEL O'MALLEY** (BS) graduated with a Master of Arts degree from Creighton University in December 2015. O'Malley was also promoted to director of gift and estate planning at Creighton.

**94**

**JUDY K. EPSTEIN** (M.S.) recently completed a three-week African safari in which she visited Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. A retired world geography teacher, Epstein makes her home in Las Vegas, where she lives with her husband, Steve, of 45 years.

**98**

**CHRISTINE VANDERPOOL KASEL** (BA) is media relations coordinator for Omaha's College of Saint Mary. [ckasel@gmail.com](mailto:ckasel@gmail.com)

**01**

**DAVID KEHR** (BA) became the marketing director for Encompass Senior Solutions in Omaha, a locally owned service that helps seniors navigate obstacles and find unique options to create the best solution for them.

**06**

**HEATHER HOLMES** (BS) lives in Omaha and writes: "2016 started with an amazing career change and opportunity in the College of Business Administration at UNO. I accepted the role of assistant director for the Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Franchising. This fall the first entrepreneurial living learning community at UNO begins. Students from ANY major are able to be in this cohort, there is scholarship money available in addition to travel and community connections. Learn about all the events the center hosts at [cief.unomaha.edu](http://cief.unomaha.edu). [hholmes@unomaha.edu](mailto:hholmes@unomaha.edu)

**07**

**JON STEINBECK** (MBA) is inviting all UNO students and alumni to the monthly Omaha Entrepreneur Network meetings at the Peter Kiewit Institute to learn more about starting a business. [jon.steinbeck@troikaco.com](mailto:jon.steinbeck@troikaco.com)

**09**

**DAVID SMITH** (BGS) lives in San Antonio, where he and his wife, Carolyn, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. [smithde9@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smithde9@sbcglobal.net)

## IN MEMORIAM

A listing of alumni whose death the UNO Alumni Association has received notice of since Jan. 1, 2016. Years indicate graduation from UNO.

1943	Helen F. Jasa	1966	Neil M. Chapin	Ira Lunt	1983	Toni A. Pappan	
1949	Jack Feierman		Lois M. Smith	Lois M. Smith	1984	Gail L. Teshack	
1951	Nancy L. Austin		Joyce G. Higgins	Francis C. Carr		Stephen T. Zerbs	
1952	Herman R. Kurth		Margo C. Hansen	Paul J. Malcom	1984	Paul A. Italia	
1954	Jerry Rosinsky		Pearl I. Garnaas	1972	Richard E. Crotty	1986	Robert D. Fladby
	Norma L. McLean		John S. Edwards		Glenn A. Steimer		Toni A. Pappan
1956	Ralph W. Andersen		James D. Ochsner	1973	Patricia J. Thorngren	1987	James E. Maiefski
	Marilyn G. Myers	1967	Linda J. Welniak		Richard T. Cefrey		Eileen M. Lantzy
1957	Gerald F. McDonald		Michael J. Flynn		Terry J. Hart	1989	Theresa M. Fitzgerald
1959	Roger F. Johnson		David P. Hufford	1974	Mary K. Fenlon	1991	Patrick J. Kimball
	Myrna L. Beasley		Robert M. Byrom		Carolyn Boucher		Laura L. Weatherly
	Russell E. Van Horn	1968	Robert G. Stillmock		Jerry R. Bedingfield	1992	James L. Rice
1960	William J. Brennan		Robert D. Mack	1975	James L. Rice	1993	Dorothy M. Shell
	Robert E. Frazer		Jerry J. Bull	1976	Michael J. Salisbury	1995	Larry D. McElhaney
	David P. Hufford		Mary J. Wilhelmj	1977	Jane M. Keller		Robert G. Stillmock
1961	Ernest Vicchio	1969	Bernadine V. Seedschlag	1978	Michael R. McDonald		James L. Rice
1962	Lucille H. Kull		James L. Killette		Mary L. Tunakan		Lois M. Smith
1963	Charles W. Goff		Margo C. Hansen	1979	Blythe J. Kubovec	2000	Sarah J. Nelson
	Charlene H. Kai	1970	Lawrence E. Garrett		Robert K. Mjeldheim	2003	Crystal L. Simpson
1964	Charles C. Barbera		Myrna L. Beasley	1980	Robert D. Fladby	2006	Jacqueline A. Dieckmann
	Byron Bockelman	1971	Gary B. Otto		Eloise W. Evans	2008	Ryan E. Groene
	Joyce G. Higgins		Aloah L. Welch		Jacquiline C. Nanfito	2009	Crystal L. Simpson
1964	Harold L. Boyd		Terry J. Hart	1981	Patricia E. Flocken	2010	Gina A. Hanlon
1965	William R. Mainord		Catherine E. Davis		Rita A. Danielson		Pahola Kinney
	William B. McDaniel		John Mackinnon	1982	Robert V. Glassburner	2012	Koua M. Moua
	Loreen Burrichter		John F. Mitchell		Velma L. Crumbley		



12

**KESHIA BRADFORD** (MPA) recently was presented the Geiger Gibson Emerging Leader award in Washington, D.C. The Emerging Leader Award is designed to honor a leader who has undertaken or guided a specific task that has helped the community health center or Primary Care Association (PCA) further the mission of providing high-quality, culturally competent health services to underserved populations.



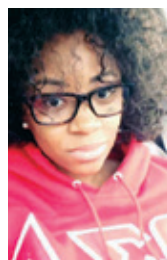
**RITA GRIGG** (BGS) has worked in housing for the past 19 years. She currently accepted a deputy director position at Fremont Housing Agency in Fremont, Neb., where she will manage 500 units of public and low-income housing.



13

**PHILLIP FOSTER** (BGS) will begin pursuing his master's degree in educational administration this fall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. pfoster@unomaha.edu

**JOSHUA GUROCK** (MPA) was appointed administrator of the Grand Healthcare System, which provides management and administrative services for the Guilderland Center Rehabilitation and Extended Care Facility in Guilderland Center, N.Y. In his new position, Gurock will be responsible for the direction, supervision, compliance and maintenance of the facility's day-to-day operations, as well as its adherence to federal, state and local laws and regulations. Prior to joining the Grand Healthcare System Gurock was chief operating officer of Omaha-based Reliable Rock Counseling & Consulting, a mental health agency he formed in January 2013. Before that, he spent eight years as director of operations for Omaha's Jewish Social Services and its agencies. Gurock is a licensed nursing home administrator and licensed assisted-living facility administrator.



14

**MARQUISHA SPENCER** (MS) is working on her Ph.D. in education at Claremont Graduate University. She writes: "The University of Nebraska at Omaha provided me with the foundation necessary to go out

and conquer my dreams, obstacles and all." msspencer@unomaha.edu

**JEFF BROOKS** (BS) currently runs a video game development company in Omaha that is working on creating a Kickstarter campaign that will allow them to hire more developers and artists for their new game "Grave Danger." jeff@jbgamedev.com

15

**NOELLE ASHLEY MURPHY** (BS) makes her home in Omaha and writes: "I've been building my own PR department at Red Branch Media, raising my little baby boy and hoping to start a candle making business soon!" nlmurphy92@gmail.com

03

**SHONNA DORSEY** (BS) recently received an award for women in technology from Information Week in Las Vegas. Dorsey, who also has an MS from UNO (2010), is the managing director and co-founder of Interface: the Web School in Omaha. Dusty Davidson, co-founder and CEO of Flywheel, wrote this about Dorsey: "There's nobody I know that is doing more to pave the way for Omaha with regards to access to technology, diversity and inclusiveness — and the community as a whole is stronger for it."



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**KEENAN MATTHEW BROOKE**, son of Michelle (Jarvi) and Skyler, ('14,'16) Brooke of Bellevue, Neb.

**ELIZABETH GRACE WALDRON ROSHONE**, daughter of Kathryn (Waldron, '14) and John ('03) Roshone of Omaha and granddaughter of George Roshone ('69) of Omaha.

**VIVIAN CHARLOTTE HEYDORN**, daughter of Clay and April (Green, '98 Heydorn of Bellevue, Neb.

**BENJAMIN DAVID KRAMER**, son of Lindsey (Sullivan, '09) and David Kramer of Sauk Rapids, Minn.

**HANNAH KATHARINE AND MIRIAM ELIZABETH BOHATY**, daughters of Jessica (Harvey, '14) and Nicholas ('12) Bohaty of Wahoo, Neb.

**THOMAS WILLIAM KELLER**, son of Matthew and Katherine (Dowd, '08) Keller of Saint Paul, Neb.

**RYLANN KAE GANDY**, daughter of Melanie and Chad ('00) Gandy of Mansfield, Texas.

**OWEN THOMAS STUART**, grandson of Barry Stuart ('78, '87) of La Vista, Neb.

**ALEXANDER D. ALBAN**, son of Bart and Anna-Maria ('10) Alban of Bellevue, Neb.

**HADLEE JEAN BAXTER**, daughter of Jeremiah and Codi (Davis, '14) Baxter of Mountain Home, Idaho.

**JONAS ABRIEL FINBERG**, grandson of Judy Epstein ('94, '96) of Las Vegas, Nev.

**LIAM JAMES PEMBERTON**, son of J. Ryan and Laci (Dropinski, '09) Pemberton of La Vista, Nebraska

**WILLA MARIE JOHNSON**, daughter of Tim Johnson and Kelly (Gomez, '07) Gomez Johnson of Springfield, Neb.

**EVERETT FRANKLYN HOST**, grandson of Larry Frum ('70) of Carlsbad, Calif.

**MAURA JANE TOOLEY**, daughter of Jacob and Kelsea (Nore, '08) Tooley of Kansas City, Mo.

**WILLIAM JAMES MAXWELL**, son of Patricia (Cannon, '08) and Zachary ('07) Maxwell of Omaha.

**MATTHEW LEE MARTINEZ**, son of Alfonso and Jill (Strader, '08) Martinez of Omaha.

**DECLAN JOHN BYRNE**, son of Sarah (Beck, '13) and Thomas ('09) Byrne of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

## SEND A CLASS NOTE

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Class Year,  
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*Material Voices* is a ticketed exhibition. \$10 for general public adults; youth ages 17 and younger and college students with ID are free. Special Thursday pricing (4-8 pm): \$5 for general public adults. Admission is FREE for Joslyn members. IMAGE: Sheila Hicks, *Full Regalia*, 2007, natural linen, triple-dyed embroidery cotton, 96 x 54 x 5 inches, Art © Sheila Hicks, courtesy Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York. Photo: Jason Wyche

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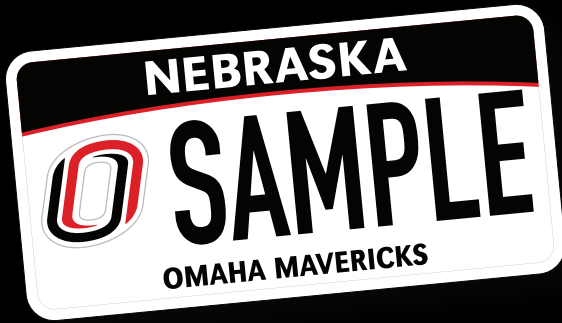


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## SIGHTS & SOUNDS

### A Walk to Remember

More than 1,500 students walked across the Baxter Arena stage to receive degrees at UNO's May commencement, but none to greater applause than Taryn Schaaf. Seven years ago, Schaaf was in an ATV accident that damaged her spinal cord, leaving her without use of her lower body. She later began her rehabilitation at Omaha's Quality Life Inc. (QLI), one of the nation's most respected centers for brain and spinal cord injury rehabilitation. And she began working on a degree in social work from UNO's Grace Abbott School of Social Work. When it came time to receive her diploma, Schaaf walked across the stage to receive it with the help of an exoskeleton — and thousands of cheering fellow graduates and others inside Baxter.



### Gettin' Low with Flo

Florida-based, whistle blowin' rapper Flo Rida performed at UNO's Baxter Arena April 7, attracting thousands of fans, including students who paid just \$5 for the concert sponsored by Maverick Productions, Student Government and Student Involvement. Among the hits he sang was "My House," which spent time at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 40 earlier this year. Nothing, though, was a bigger hit than seeing Flo Rida don a Maverick cap and wave an "O" flag.



### Return of Rangoli

World-renowned rangoli artist Vijaya Mohan made her third visit to UNO in March, creating more of her beautiful and astounding rangolis — decorative, impermanent patterns composed of colored sands, rice powders, beads and other materials.



### Seven Up

UNO hosted its 11th annual Seven Days of Service during spring break March 16-23, bringing together more than 1,500 volunteers to help local nonprofit organizations across Omaha.







## Hockey in the Hospital

UNO's hockey team visited Children's Hospital and Medical Center in January, taking part in a carnival organized by the Blue Line Club. Mav players spent time with patients playing knee hockey, bowling, making bracelets and bringing smiles.

## Comes Spring, Comes Color

UNO's Indian Student Association hosted its sixth Holi Festival of Colors in April, once again bringing color, music and fun to campus. Holi is an Indian festival that welcomes spring while celebrating unity in diversity and promoting inclusion.



## Time to Kill with John Grisham

International best-selling author John Grisham spoke at the inaugural Marion Marsh Brown Writers Lecture Series April 21. The series — free to attendees — pays tribute to Marion Marsh Brown, an English professor at UNO from 1954 through 1968. She wrote more than 15 books and is best known for her young adult literature. Grisham, author of books such as "A Time to Kill," "The Firm" and "The Client" left with some Mav swag — a jersey presented to him by Gail Baker, dean of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media.





Test your brainpower with these puzzles created by UNO graduate Terry Stickels ('76). An author, speaker and puzzle maker, Stickels' *FRAME GAMES* is published by *USA Weekend* magazine and in 600 newspapers. He has three new puzzle books being published by Dover Publications later this year: "Savage Sudoku," "The Big Brain Puzzle Book" and "Challenging Math Puzzles." For more information on Stickels, or to order any of his books, visit [www.terrystickels.com](http://www.terrystickels.com)

### Mathematics

What two fractions come next?  
 1/3   4/5   2/4   5/6   3/5   6/7   4/6   7/8   \_\_\_\_\_

### Logic

Below is a letter square with the letter Q missing so as to make a 5 x 5 square. Now, here's the puzzle: Find the letter that comes just above the letter that comes between the letter just before the letter just below G and the letter just before the letter just above T.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z

### Knowledge

Many surnames originated from people's occupations. The name Cooper came from the job of making or repairing barrels, casks and tubs. A Drover was a person who drove cattle and sheep to market. A Porter was a doorkeeper.

Match the names on the left with their respective occupations on the right

- |               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Turner     | a. Cleaner of cloth goods       |
| 2. Lardner    | b. Forest warden                |
| 3. Wainwright | c. Lathe worker                 |
| 4. Woodward   | d. Keeper of fences             |
| 5. Tucker     | e. Keeper of the cupboard       |
| 6. Hayward    | f. One who made bows and arrows |
| 7. Fletcher   | g. Wagon maker                  |

### Wordplay

The six words below share an unusual characteristic that's not found in many English words. What is it?

Hint: Look at the words from a different perspective

Animal   Deliver   Looter   Diaper   Drawer   Straw

#### Answers

MATHEMATICS: 5/7 and 8/9. Take a look at every other fraction starting with 1/3 ... 1/3 2/4 3/5 4/6 ... You can see a pattern of both the numerators and the denominators increasing by one, so the next fraction would be 5/7. Now look at every other fraction starting with 4/5 ... 4/5 5/6 6/7 7/8 ... Again, both numerator and denominator are increasing by one with each successive fraction. So the next fraction would be 8/9.

WORDPLAY: Each word forms a new word when read backward. This type of pairing is called a "recurrent palindrome."

KNOWLEDGE: 1-c; 2-e; 3-g; 4-b; 5-a; 6-d; 7-f

LOGIC: G is the letter between and above K and M. M is the letter "just below G." That makes L the letter between K and M – the puzzle asks for the letter just above that, which is G.



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WWW.UNOALUMNI.ORG/UNOMAG  
VOL. 7, NO. 2

*UNO Magazine* is the flagship publication of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is published three times a year. It is mailed to all UNO graduates and to community leaders in and out of Nebraska. Please share your copy with anyone who might benefit from the work of our great university.



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