

SPRING 2015

# UNO

MAGAZINE



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SPRING 2015

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*Views expressed within this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the UNO Alumni Association or the NU Foundation.*

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## Dear Alumni and Friends:

THIS EDITION OF THE *UNO Magazine* is one near and dear to my heart as it shows, in impressive detail, the many connections and partnerships existing between the University of Nebraska at Omaha and its metropolitan community.

A few years ago, I had the privilege of serving as president of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, an organization that supports and encourages the mission of higher educational institutions in cities across America. That experience deeply reinforced the magnitude of influence that universities like UNO can have in moving their communities forward, bringing partners together to solve urban issues, identifying opportunities that can have a profound effect on students' educational experiences, and promoting a climate of growth in a variety of community sectors.

From volunteer activities of students helping with flooding on the Missouri River to the creation of a research station on the Elkhorn River, and from providing educational opportunities at Offutt Air Force Base to the Glacier Creek Preserve site north of State Street, the pullout map details dozens of UNO-related activities throughout our community.

It's easy to see why, as I meet with people and groups throughout Omaha, almost everyone I talk to has a UNO anecdote, question or connection to our campus. As chancellor, I'm proud to say I, too, am an alum and I share their enthusiasm for UNO's future.

In December, we were notified of UNO being named the national recipient of the Presidential Award for Economic Opportunity, which certifies the campus as a higher education leader in

community engagement. The award, part of the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, is the highest honor a university or college can receive by the United States government for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The announcement of this year's Honor Roll, made by the Corporation for National and Community Service, identifies UNO as one of only four Presidential Award-level recipients and the only winner nationally for creating economic opportunity through community engagement efforts.

More than 800 colleges and universities were considered for recognition. UNO is the first college or university in Nebraska to be named a Presidential Award winner as part of the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Since 2006, UNO has been included in one of four levels of recognition every year the list has been released, the only Nebraska institution to be included every year. This edition of *UNO Magazine* certainly demonstrates why UNO continues to receive this prestigious honor.

The Presidential Award, and the activities covered in this edition of *UNO Magazine*, could not have happened without the collaborative work of many. In particular, I want to highlight our community partners, students, faculty and staff for creating a role model of an engaged, community-supportive university for others to emulate.

Great cities are created when great universities reside in them. We are proud to be a part of Omaha's exciting future.

Until next time,

Chancellor John E. Christensen

## On Fall 2014



### MAKING THE LIST

I'm an educator who spent several years as a UNO adjunct professor when I retired from my secondary education job. Hence, I'm fortunate to be on the *UNO Magazine* mailing list. Beyond a doubt, it is one of the best alumni magazines in the country, bar none, and I congratulate you and your entire staff on its quality and reader appeal.

G.E. Moller  
Omaha

### SHARING UNO

How refreshing to see an entire magazine addressing spirituality and religion. I'm especially encouraged by the establishment of SPHRS (Spirituality, Public Health, and Religion). I continue to share with my network how progressive UNO is. Thanks for a great magazine.

Christine "Coco" Spethman McAtee, 1987, 1990  
Overland Park, Kan.

**Editor's Note:** The last name of Karen and Oliver Pollak was spelled incorrectly in a caption in the Fall 2014 *UNO Magazine*. The last name of Albert Hodapp also was spelled incorrectly. We apologize for the errors.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

*UNO Magazine* wants to know what its readers are thinking. 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 [unoalumni.org/unomag-led](http://unoalumni.org/unomag-led) or write to the address on page 3.

**PAST PC**

Thanks — such a powerful fall issue on faith. Congratulations on your commitment to go well beyond the “PC” of today’s culture that tends to keep God out of our lives. Post-high school I spent four years in a Catholic seminary then left for an Air Force career to include bootstrap at UNO. That opened the door to military and civilian success.

Charles Nagle, 1963  
Nashua, NH

**GOOD BUSINESS**

Your recent edition of *UNO Magazine* that promoted the role of religion — no, make it FAITH in the life of the university, its students, and its instructors — was totally refreshing! When I first picked up the magazine, I flipped to an article that made me think that I had the wrong book for the subject matter considering the title ... but one that nevertheless resonates with me and the way I try to approach running my business. Giving some attention to people whose faith is core to their existence is not only good for them, but it is good for the publication and those reading it.

Kim B. Cafferty, CEO Johnstone Supply  
Omaha

**MAKING A POINT**

Enjoy reading the magazine especially about the programs. Articles about religion were very interesting. You certainly make a point that the U. has moved away from spirituality to study of man-made religions and movies.

Bob Hopkins, 1969  
Houston, Texas

**WELL DONE**

I wanted to congratulate you on your wonderful coverage of “Exploring Religion & Faith Around the World.” Connecting higher education and our faith is a great way to promote a better society and more peaceful world. Thank you for a job well done.

Craig Collins, Ignatian Volunteer Corps  
Bennington, Neb.

**USHERS AND HUNGER**

Our father was Charles (“Charlie”) Hoff who came to the University when it moved to the 60th and Dodge location. During his tenure he served as financial secretary, business manager and vice president until his untimely death in 1958 at age 55. I noted with interest your article about the “Schooling of Ushers.” I happened to be present when Dr. Rowsey (Dundee Presbyterian Church) and my dad first came up with the idea of this course. My father was very active

at Dundee at the time and, of course, was always promoting the U. of O. During that discussion he said he thought the University and Dr. Haynes would be interested in putting together some sort of class for ushers. I was very young then, but remember the conversation so well because I was hungry and wanted to get home to eat :-).

R. Paul Hoff, 1957  
Seward, Neb.

**RECOUNTING A TREASURE**

As a 1979 graduate and an Episcopal priest, the attention to spirituality was a breath of fresh air from a public institution of higher learning that embraced the whole person and not just the parts. I was particularly grateful for the article about Leo Missinne. He was my mentor during my graduate studies in gerontology in the 1970s. He made an important difference in my ministry and myself. As we shared a vocation in the priesthood — I the younger, he the more experienced — my learning from him was seasoned in a way rarely available. I recall his warmth, his smile, his modest sense of humor and his humble laugh. He was truly one of the treasures that found its way to UNO.

Father Evan Ash, 1970  
Olathe, Kan.

**SHARING**

I really enjoyed the latest issue of *UNO Magazine*. You handled a delicate subject quite well. My son-in-law has his Ph.D. in analytical theology and did a fellowship at Notre Dame. I'm going to share the magazine with him.

Shelly Steig, 1994  
Parker, Colo.

**A BLESSING**

“Beyond Belief: Exploring Religion & Faith Around the World” is tastefully presented and, for me, a blessing to read.

Shirley Kent Mowry, 1989  
Southgate, Ken.

**GOOD WITHOUT GOD**

As a Humanist and a proud 1979 graduate of UNO, I felt compelled to comment about your Fall 2014 *UNO Magazine* edition. One of the strengths of UNO was its secular environment. The seeds of critical thinking were planted and nourished during my time at UNO and have led me to my beliefs today. There is a growing percentage of people today who choose to lead ethical and committed lives without the involvement of religion. I applaud those students at UNO who exercise healthy skepticism

about religion and supernatural entities. As Carl Sagan so eloquently stated, “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.” I hope UNO will continue to be a place where there is an open and honest exchange of ideas. I become concerned when discussions start with the premise that opinions of those who are non-believers are not valid or worthy. UNO will benefit greatly by the involvement of a strong secular student body. The open-mindedness and objective search for truth by atheists, agnostics, humanists and others who simply don't believe are traits that I believe strengthen the academic environment. I respect those students, both religious and non-religious, who engage in open, honest debate and who allow the hard questions to be asked. “Good without god” is a favorite saying of the Humanist community. I believe the overwhelming majority of students who are non-believers are strongly committed to leading ethical lives and making valuable contributions to society. I hope that UNO will find a way to have a Humanist chaplain serve the UNO student body someday. Humanists, atheists and agnostics have much to offer the UNO campus and it would be a loss to the UNO community to not take advantage of their talents and perspectives. I also hope that an upcoming issue of the *UNO Magazine* will focus on the value and strength of public institutions where the commitment to the separation of church and state is recognized for the strength it brings to our communities and our country. In a world where non-belief can result in imprisonment or death in dozens of countries, I am proud to live in a country where I can believe in any god, or no god.

Mark Siepker, 1979  
President, Omaha Metro Area Humanists Association

**MISSING CANDELABRA**

I enjoyed the article in the recent *UNO Magazine* about the chapel in the Student Center. It made me wonder if the candelabra was still there. Shortly after the chapel was built the Alpha Xi Delta Mothers' Club donated a brass candelabra for the chapel. It was a floor model. It had an inscription on it somewhere with the sorority name. My mother Vie McCann and Marie Hofschire were instrumental in getting this gift created. Several years ago I was at an event in the center and stepped in to check on it. It was there but badly tarnished. Is it still there?

Laurie Sharpe Moriarty, 1963  
Omaha

**Editor's note:** *The candelabra is no longer in the chapel. Its whereabouts are unknown.*



THIS IS AN ISSUE of *UNO Magazine* you'll want to tear apart.

Gently, that is, and with a purpose — to get a great look at the many ways UNO serves its home, Omaha.

In the center of this issue we offer readers a map of Omaha plotted with points illustrating the University of Nebraska at Omaha's deeply ingrained connections throughout the city. On the other side are snippets about those points, 70 of them in all.

We could have filled the map with hundreds of more examples but selected those we thought best represented the wide swath of UNO's community engagement.

That's been going on for some time, of course. UNO began in 1908 and has served its city first as a private, religious, non-sectarian university, then as a municipal school owned by the city, then as the state university it is today. But never before has UNO been so involved in every facet of Omaha life — education, business, entertainment, the arts, politics, service, athletics, etc.

Omaha artist Greg Paprocki beautifully illustrates these ties on the map, mixing iconic Omaha images like a Union Pacific Train and the Boys Town statue with other graphic symbols of UNO at work: a helmet to represent how student athletic trainers help diagnose and treat concussions among area high school athletes; a research station depicting where faculty monitor harmful chemical levels in the Elkhorn River; a tank to show why UNO is the best university for veterans in the country.

UNO students, staff, faculty and alumni are everywhere, helping make Omaha the great place it is to live, work, play and study. A place which nearly 50,000 UNO graduates call home.

When I'm driving through the city, I always like to discover the new places from which I can spot UNO's 168-foot tall Henningson Campanile. My kids make fun of me for always saying, "Hey, look ... the bell tower!" But it's the most visible sign of the university's ever-rising stature in its hometown.

That said, I don't need to find the tower to see all the good UNO is doing in Omaha. That takes place everywhere here — river to river and county to county.

See it for yourself — pull the center section away from the rest of the magazine, unfold and display at home, where you work or any place UNO is in action.

Enjoy the read,

*Anthony Flott*  
Anthony Flott  
Managing Editor

two Omaha icons

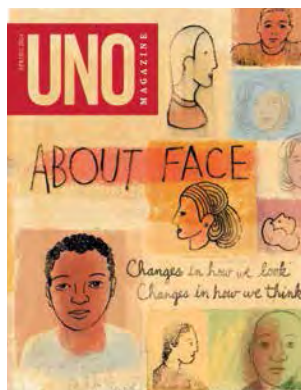
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# Another Gold Rush



IT WAS ANOTHER GOLD rush for UNO at the annual CASE VI Institutional Awards Program.

For the second consecutive year, UNO Alumni Association programs, events and communications received six gold awards and 11 overall in the program recognizing the best work of advancement professionals in CASE — the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. University Communications also received a gold award for its work producing the UNO Advantage Book.

CASE VI, one of eight districts, is comprised of nearly 200 institutions from eight Midwest states. The awards were conferred Jan. 12 at the annual CASE VI Conference in Denver. More than 442 entries were submitted to the peer-judged program. The six gold awards match the most the association has received in a single year. Since 2010, it has received 38 CASE awards.

“Our staff has established a standard of excellence that our peers are recognizing as consistently being among the best work in our industry,” said Alumni Association President Lee Denker. “Their efforts keep our worldwide alumni network connected to and engaged with our great university in innovative and distinctive ways. I’m proud to see them recognized for such exemplary work.”

Again this year, CASE VI professionals judged the UNO Young Alumni Academy a top program for a third straight year. It received three gold awards, including one in the new CASE Platinum category. Each district selects up to two platinum entries. Those selected advance to a second round of judging with platinum entries from all eight CASE districts. Winners in that round will be recognized in the CASE Circle of Excellence awards program this spring. Since 2012 the academy has received 12 CASE awards, including the association’s first silver award in the International Circle of Excellence program judging entries from more than 3,400 institutions in 74 countries.

Our staff has established a standard of excellence that our peers are recognizing.

The UNO Young Alumni Academy, created and managed by Programs Director Elizabeth Kraemer, facilitates networking and professional growth for alumni 35 and younger. Meetings are held at unique locations on and off campus, and UNO leaders address members on topics such as athletics management and community engagement. More than 130 young alumni have participated in the academy in its five years.

UNO Golden Circle is comprised of alumni, retired faculty and staff 65 and older. The group meets monthly for luncheons featuring campus speakers. UNO Mavs on the Move in Arizona was a reception for UNO alumni and friends held February 2014 at the Mesa Arts Center. At Degree Discovery Day, the association brought successful alumni in various career fields to speak with UNO students about their work. At Senior Send-Off, the association greeted graduating seniors with a free UNO Alumni Card and gave them the opportunity to pose for photos in front of a UNO banner.

The Spring 2014 issue of *UNO Magazine* focused on race and ethnicity. Titled “About Face: Changes in how we look. Changes in how we think,” it featured an illustration by Edel Rodriguez depicting individuals featured in the issue. The Summer 2014 cover illustration by Tom Nick Cocotos depicted that issue’s theme of transportation, “Planes, Trains & Automobiles: The different ways we get to where we’re going.” *UNO Magazine* also was honored for its overall excellence, receiving a silver award for general interest magazines. Director of Communications Anthony Flott is the magazine’s managing editor and Emspace Group of Omaha designs it, led by Heidi Mihelich. The magazine is published as a cooperative effort of UNO, the Alumni Association and the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Kraemer, who in 2013 received the first-ever CASE VI Rising Star Award honoring a CASE professional of less than seven years, is a member of the CASE VI Conference Committee as arrangements chair. Alumni President Lee Denker is on the CASE VI Board of Directors as district secretary.

## 2014 CASE awards UNO received:

### Alumni Relations Programs

Gold	Platinum — <i>UNO Young Alumni Academy</i>
Gold	Student Alumni Initiatives — <i>Degree Discovery Day</i>
Gold	Volunteer Engagement and Leadership — <i>UNO Young Alumni Academy</i>
Gold	Programming for Special Constituencies — <i>UNO Young Alumni Academy</i>
Silver	Marketing and Branding — <i>UNO Senior Send-Off</i>
Silver	New Program Initiatives — <i>UNO Degree Discovery Day</i>
Bronze	Programming for Special Constituencies — <i>Mavs on the Move in Arizona</i>

### Communications & Marketing, Excellence In Design

Gold	Special Issues — <i>UNO Magazine, Spring 2014</i>
Gold	Design, Illustrations — <i>UNO Magazine, Spring 2014</i>
Silver	General Interest Magazines, <i>UNO Magazine</i>
Bronze	Design, Covers — <i>UNO Magazine, Summer 2014</i>

### Institutional Publications

Gold	President’s Reports and Annual Reports — <i>UNO Advantage Book</i>
------	--



Kevin Munro (center)



Viv and John Ewing

# UNOAA's Highest Honor Presented to Three Alumni at Winter Commencement

THE UNO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION bestowed its Citation for Alumni Achievement award upon three graduates Dec. 20 as part of the university's December Commencement ceremonies on campus.

Kevin Munro, managing director for BMO Harris Bank in Omaha, received a citation at the 9 a.m. ceremony with half of UNO's colleges. Dr. Viv Ewing, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association of Nebraska, and her husband, John Ewing Jr., Douglas Country treasurer, received a citation at the 2 p.m. ceremony with the remaining colleges. The Ewings are the first graduates presented with a citation award as a couple.

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. Association President Lee Denker presented the awards, which have been issued to 167 graduates in 65 years.

"The achievements of Kevin, John and Dr. Ewing are representative of the outstanding work carried out here and throughout the world by the UNO alumni network, now more than 100,000 members strong," Denker said. "We're proud to count them as UNO graduates and to recognize them for

their extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to others."

## Kevin Munro

At BMO Harris Bank in Omaha, Munro leads a team that manages commercial banking relationships for clients with revenues of more than \$25 million in Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado and South Dakota. He previously was the Omaha market president for U.S. Bank.

He volunteers for numerous nonprofit organizations and in 2010-11 was chairman of the UNO Alumni Association Board of Directors. He served the association's board for seven years.

At UNO, Munro received a BSBA in banking and finance in 1986. He played football for four years and baseball for one year for the Mavericks. His wife, Shari (Miller) also is a 1986 UNO graduate. They have two sons, Matt (23) and Connor (20).

## Viv and John Ewing

Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association of Nebraska, Dr. Viv Ewing had worked for Habitat for Humanity, The Salvation Army Kroc Center, ConAgra Foods, the Omaha Housing Authority and OPPD. She also is founder and president of Life Development International, a company that provides

consulting for universities, faith-based organizations, individuals and nonprofits.

In 2009 she published a motivational book, "Yes, You Can Have Your Cake and Eat it Too: Strategies for a Successful Life." She earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from UNO in 1983 and a master's in urban studies in 1986.

John Ewing Jr. has been Douglas County treasurer since 2007. He is responsible for the collection of more than \$1.7 billion dollars in taxes. From 1982 to 2006 Ewing was an officer with the Omaha Police Department, concluding his time as deputy chief of police. He received a BS in business administration and criminal justice from UNO in 1984 and a master's in urban studies one year later.

Both Ewings have served dozens of community organizations and have received numerous professional, organizational and service awards, commendations and honors. Both are associate ministers at Salem Baptist Church in Omaha. They also have a weekly radio program, "The Best is Yet to Come," that broadcasts Sundays on KCRO 660 AM. The Ewings have two daughters, Christina (26) and Alexandra (22), a master's degree student at UNO.

*See more about all three award recipients at [unoalumni.org/citation](http://unoalumni.org/citation)*





# The Perks of Being Omaha Alumni

UNO STUDENTS AND ALUMNI make Omaha a better place to live and work through their talents and innovation on campus and beyond. However, did you know the UNO Alumni Association wants to pay it forward? Omaha-area alumni are particularly advantaged to stay so close to campus, where they can take advantage of the UNO Alumni Card, the exclusive card for graduates who support UNO through the UNO Annual Fund.

With a gift of \$25 or more to the UNO Annual Fund, donors receive an Alumni card good for a variety of benefits, privileges and discounts across campus. If you live in the Omaha area, you would be wise to bring your card whenever visiting campus. It's a powerful card you want to make sure never leaves your wallet—unless you're presenting it for big savings.

Alumni Card holders receive special privileges at UNO, including:

- Access to Criss Library, including checkout and use of interlibrary loan services.
- The opportunity to purchase a HPER membership (Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building; for graduate donors only).
- Buy-one-get-one-free tickets to select UNO home athletic events, including hockey games!
- A discount of 10 percent on rental fees for personal events at the Thompson Alumni Center.
- 10 percent off purchases at the UNO Bookstore on regular-priced UNO-branded clothing and memorabilia.
- Part- and full-time enrollment for children 18 months to 12 years at the UNO Child Care Center.
- Faculty/staff rate at the UNO Outdoor Venture Center (with HPER pass only).
- Discounts on instructed flight simulation through the UNO Aviation Institute.
- A negotiated University of Nebraska rate at the Omaha Marriott.
- \$4 tickets for select Music Performances in Strauss.
- \$5 tickets at the box office on most theatre performances in WFAB.

## QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ANNUAL FUND?

Joel Gehringer  
jgehringer@nufoundation.org  
402-502-4924  
Toll-free: UNO-MAV-ALUM  
(866-628-2586)

The UNO Alumni Association even issues a complimentary alumni card to each graduating UNO student, in an effort to show new UNO grads the benefits and power of being part of UNO's 100,000-strong worldwide alumni network. The card is good for one year from date of graduation.

With so much happening on campus throughout the year, the Alumni Card practically pays for itself. Plus, by making a gift to the UNO Annual Fund, you will support the Alumni Association in its efforts to build a better UNO for our students through programming, events, scholarships, this magazine and much more.

Get a UNO Alumni Card today by making a gift of \$25 or more at [unoalumni.org/give](http://unoalumni.org/give).



## Annual Board Meeting to be held May 19

THE UNO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, May 19, at 4:30 p.m. in the Thompson Alumni Center. New board members and officers will be elected. A slate of proposed directors and officers will be posted by the nominating committee on the UNO Alumni Association website at [unoalumni.org/board](http://unoalumni.org/board).

For more information contact at Meri Kennedy 402-554-4887 or [mkenedy@unoalumni.org](mailto:mkenedy@unoalumni.org).

## Young Alumni Update



THE FIFTH CLASS OF the award-winning UNO Young Alumni Academy has been on the move since the last *UNO Magazine* was published. The eight-month, award-winning leadership development and networking program, specifically designed for alumni 35 and younger, boasts its largest class to date with 47 members.

More than 130 young alumni have competed the program since its founding in 2010.

Participants in October were running to all corners of campus as teams competing against each other in a scavenger hunt. In November, the academy got a behind-the-scenes tour of the CenturyLink Center prior to the UNO-Minnesota-Duluth hockey game. Sessions also included presentations on UNO's various funding structures and its numerous and growing community engagements.

The academy meets March 26 before concluding April 30 in a graduation ceremony and reception at the Thompson Center. The academy has earned numerous awards since its 2010 launch, most recently receiving three more awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (see Page 7 for more).



Picture by Kyle Kostrovnek Photography

## Thompson Center named Best Reception Venue by Omaha Magazine readers

IN DECEMBER IT WAS announced that the Thompson Center at UNO was voted Best Reception Venue in Omaha Magazine's Best of Omaha 2015 contest.

"Thank you to all of our guests for voting the Thompson Center Omaha's best reception venue," said Director Steven Summers. "It is a credit to our wonderful staff and fantastic venue that we were recognized for this honor."

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

"I invite you to experience the Thompson Center's meeting spaces and our incredible wedding day possibilities," Summers said.

## 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 two upcoming Oceania Cruises:
- **European Hideaways**, Oct. 22-30, 2015
- **Island Paradise**, Jan. 23-Feb. 2, 2016

- For more information, including detailed brochures for each trip, visit [unoalumni.org/travel](http://unoalumni.org/travel). Additional cruises are added periodically, so check the site frequently. To receive a brochure for any of our trips by mail, call the association toll-free at UNO-MAV-ALUM (866-628-2586).







## December Senior SEND-OFF

The UNO Alumni Association celebrated commencement with more than 400 graduating students during the 2014 Senior Send-Off Dec. 18 and 19.

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

With the addition of this graduating class there now are more than 102,000 living UNO alumni worldwide.

## Showing the O

Maverick Nation has flown the O flag in nearly every state and in numerous places throughout the world — but it's not done traveling.

Instituted to celebrate the UNO Alumni Association's 100th anniversary, Show the O emphasizes the spread and stature of the worldwide UNO alumni network — now numbering more than 102,000 graduates.

The campaign launched in 2013 and 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).

Request a flag at [showtheo.com](http://showtheo.com) — we'll send one for free and pay for its way home.

## 35TH SCHOLARSHIP SWING SET FOR AUG. 31

THE VENUE WILL CHANGE but the goal remains the same — raising money for UNO student scholarships.

The UNO Alumni Association will host the 35th annual UNO Alumni Scholarship Swing Monday, Aug. 31, at Indian Creek Golf Course (3825 N. 202nd St.). It's the first time the tournament has been held at the course since 1999.

The association's largest annual fundraiser, the Swing last year netted \$35,000, boosting the total raised to more than \$825,000 since UNOAA began hosting the swing in 1995. Almost 100 golfers and 30 sponsors participate in the tournament each year.

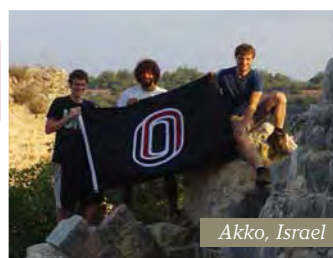
The money raised supports various association-sponsored student scholarships. Among them are UNO Alumni Association Scholarships, \$2,500/year grants to graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated leadership and involvement during high school. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years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

Sponsors are being sought for the tournament.

To participate, contact Elizabeth Kraemer at 402-554-4802 or [ekramer@unoalumni.org](mailto:ekramer@unoalumni.org).



**2015 tournament to be held at new course — Indian Creek**



Akko, Israel



Mount Rushmore



Devils Tower, Wyoming



White Horse, Canada



*Carl Ameringer, right, with BCBS President and CEO Steve Martin, a UNO graduate.*

# Finding the Right Chair

## UNO's Stellar Reputation Attracts First BCBS Chair in Health Care

IT'S STRANGE, HE JOKES — folks in Omaha are so welcoming, he doesn't even mind faculty meetings.

"Either people get along or they hide it quite well," says Carl Ameringer, Ph.D., J.D., the first Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska Chair of Health Care Administration and Policy at UNO's School of Public Administration.

"There is a real sense of community engagement on the part of both community leaders and faculty. I'm finding the entire atmosphere to be very refreshing. People really care about what they do."

Ameringer's roots are in Baltimore, where he was a lawyer for almost 20 years, making the switch to academe in the mid-1990s. He came to Omaha from Richmond, Va., where he was a professor in the department of public administration at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Two things drew him here. First, he'd found a chair that was dedicated to his specific interest and expertise — health care administration. The second was UNO's "stellar reputation" in public administration.

"Many of the faculty are well-known in their fields," he says. "There is a tremendous sense of collegiality among them, and the entire place is very well run."

Establishing an endowed chair sends an important message to the academic community, he says, that the university is serious about an area of study and will commit resources necessary to bring in the kind of person it wants. An endowed chair recognizes scholarship and allows an academic to continue on that track. That's why it's so attractive to people like Ameringer.

What does he want to do here, as the first BCBS of Nebraska chair in this field?

"I like to put everything together into a single box — teaching, scholarship and service to the university and the community," he says. "To my way of thinking, they should all intersect. That way you stay focused on what you do best."

"My mentor at Johns Hopkins impressed upon me that good teachers were also good scholars. I have tried to take that to heart."

Ameringer's research focuses on the health professions, delivery systems and health care workforce issues.

He's written many articles and books. His most recent book is "The Health Care Revolution: From Medical Monopoly to Market Competition."

From 1987 to 1992, he served as assistant attorney general and deputy counsel to the Maryland health department, where he oversaw disciplinary actions before Maryland's health licensing boards and commissions. He's testified many times in the Maryland state legislature and has served on special task forces in Maryland, Wisconsin and Virginia.

In 2013, Ameringer received the Federation of State Medical Board's Award of Merit "for his exceptional contributions in the field of medical licensure and discipline, and specifically to state medical boards."

Steve Martin, CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, says Dr. Ameringer is "a wonderful addition" to the Public Administration faculty.

"Our organization is honored that a person of his caliber has accepted this endowed chair position," Martin says. "His knowledge of the health industry will prove to be a valuable asset to expanding the Public Administration's programs in the area of health administration."

"I believe he will also help our community navigate changes in the healthcare delivery system and build solutions to serve our community better."

Ameringer is working with students and other faculty members on a project that will explore certain features of the health care safety net in Omaha. He hopes to work with members of the Omaha community to improve the current pattern or design, if feasible and appropriate.

Scholarship drives his teaching, he says, and it makes him passionate about what he does and what he wants to convey to students. It also helps him stay on top of things, which isn't so easy to do when you're not on the front lines anymore.

"What I am finding to be the case at UNO is something that I had always dreamed about, but was never sure I would find. That is the opportunity to put some of my ideas about health care delivery into action or at least try to convince others to do that."





From left, Scott with Eric Gitt and Walters.

Below, Scott speaking at UNO. Chancellor John Christensen in the background.



# Great Scott

They've received, and now they're giving back, reflecting the generosity of their Scott Scholar benefactor

Omaha — and one Omaha man, Walter Scott Jr. — have made all the difference in the life of Eric Gitt.

Gitt grew up on a farm outside the tiny town of Wilcox, in central Nebraska. He wanted to have a career not far from home. Thanks to earning the Walter Scott Jr. Scholarship, he came to the UNO campus as a Scott Scholar, lived in a brand-new dorm, met his future wife, made great friends and experienced an exceptional education, he says, at the University of Nebraska's world-class Peter Kiewit Institute on UNO's campus.

Gitt, 34, graduated in 2003 with a degree in electronics engineering through UNL's College of Engineering. He now lives in Omaha and works as an estimator for G4S Technology, which focuses on electronic security and telecommunications process.

"Not only did I benefit from Walter's amazing generosity," he says, "but I also benefited from his terrific example of hard work, leadership and kindness."

Omaha — and Scott — have made all the difference for Kevin Walters, too.

Walters, 33, came to Omaha from a town near Des Moines, Iowa, and graduated with a bachelor's in computer engineering from UNL, also in 2003. He received his master's in computer science in 2010 from

UNO, and now lives with his wife and their 3-year-old girl and baby boy in Omaha. He works in software development at TD Ameritrade.

Both young Omaha men say they and hundreds of other Scott Scholars have benefited from the philanthropic spirit of Scott. Both are board members of the Scott Scholar Alumni Organization, whose members wanted to find a way to give back to the community, too.

They found it.

At a reception this past September in honor of Scott, members of the alumni group shared their plan — to raise enough money to eventually support one more Scott Scholar each year.

"The idea is to provide someone with the same opportunity that we were given," Walters says. "We anticipate the recipients will meet all of the qualifications for the Scott Scholarship and also possess specific characteristics that make them ideal candidates for the scholarship from our organization."

"For instance, we may seek candidates who have a heightened sense of how we fit into the larger community — and who share a common goal of giving back."

The Walter Scott Jr. Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship awarded by PKI. The scholarship provides

four years of funding for undergraduate programs based within the Peter Kiewit Institute and taught by the UNO College of Information Science & Technology or the UNL College of Engineering. The scholarship covers university fees, books, room and board at Scott Residence Hall as well as personal computers.

The new Scott Scholar Alumni Scholar will receive the same benefits. The Scott Scholar Alumni Organization is not sure when it will be able to award the first scholarship. The group's immediate goal is to reach the endowment level to allow the money to compound.

"This is a very large long-term goal that will require mass participation to achieve," Walters says.

The Scott Scholar Alumni Organization was founded in 2007. Its goal is to keep its alumni connected and to find ways for them to give back.

"Walter Scott has been a great role model," Gitt says, "and has inspired me towards a lifetime of giving back."

Says Walters: "I'm proud to be a Scott Scholar and part of such an amazing group of people — made possible by a man I look up to and whose example has left a lasting impression."

To learn more about the Scott Scholar Alumni Scholarship Fund or to make a contribution, please go to [nufoundation.org](http://nufoundation.org) or call the University of Nebraska Foundation at 800-432-3216.

# CAMPAIGN *for* NEBRASKA

2 0 0 5 - 2 0 1 4

In 2005, the University of Nebraska Foundation launched the most ambitious fundraising effort in its history – the Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities. The goal: raise \$1.2 billion in support of the University of Nebraska's commitment to becoming the best public university in America in terms of the impact it has on the people it serves.

At the conclusion of the campaign, 98,369 donors had contributed \$1.89 billion, more than 50 percent beyond the goal. But most importantly, this support has transformed lives.

At UNO, campaign funding has created numerous scholarships giving more students the opportunity to pursue higher education. It has created endowed chairs and professorships that have helped UNO attract top scholars. And it has physically transformed UNO's three campuses with the addition and/or redevelopment of 10 facilities.

These opportunities would not be possible without the extraordinary support of the campaign's donors and volunteers. As UNO Chancellor John Christensen told supporters last fall, "The sharing of your treasure has worked miracles on our campus. Your confidence in UNO is, at once, both humbling and inspiring. We are now, simply and thanks to you, that place without limits."

## UNO Campaign Committee:

Ellie Archer  
Dick Bell  
Gary Gates  
Dick Holland  
Clark Lauritzen

Rodrigo Lopez  
Carl Mammel  
Mike McCarthy  
John Morgan  
John P. Nelson

John Scott  
Barbara Weitz  
Wally Weitz  
the late Jim Young, Chair  
John E. Christensen, Chancellor

# THANK YOU!

**2006:** UNO alumnus Herb Sklenar and his wife, Ellie, establish the first full-ride scholarship in the College of Business Administration.

2005

**2007:** UNO Athletics gets a big boost with a gift from Robert and Marcia Kruger to support a university and department they feel are important to Omaha.

20

2006

**2005:** Campaign begins with \$1.2 billion goal.





# \$232.8 MILLION\*

## RAISED TO BENEFIT UNO

\*Campaign total includes funds committed through a fundraising partnership with Heritage Services for the UNO/Community Arena and the redevelopment of the Peter Kiewit Institute.



**281 FUNDS**  
FOR UNO STUDENT  
SUPPORT



**659 FUNDS**  
CREATED FOR  
UNO



**12,109 DONORS**  
MADE GIFTS FOR  
UNO DURING THE  
CAMPAIGN



**44 FUNDS**  
FOR UNO  
CAPITAL OR  
EQUIPMENT



**334 FUNDS**  
SUPPORTING UNO ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS, FACULTY & RESEARCH



**2008:** The College of Public Affairs and Community Service celebrates its new home following the completion of a \$18.7 million renovation and addition project, funded in part by private gifts, that transformed the former Engineering building.

**2009:** A gift by UNO alumnus John Morgan creates the Transformation Project, a program UNO developed with the goal of reducing recidivism, promoting positive inmate behavior and promoting positive behavior in the community upon reentry.

07

2009

2008

**2009:** Campaign is announced to the public.

# CAMPAIGN FOR NEBRASKA IMPACT AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR UNO



**2010:** Neal Grandgenett is named the Dr. George and Sally Haddix Community Chair in STEM Education. Dr. Haddix established the chair to help address the nation's concern in educating students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



**2011:** The first Young Scholars at UNO join Jim and Shirley Young, who established the scholarship program to support first-generation college students.

**2012:** UNO dedicates its Elkhorn River Research Station, an environmental research/education facility on the banks of the Elkhorn River.



**2010:** UNO dedicates Mammel Hall, the premier business education facility in the region, named for the project's lead donors, Carl and Joyce Mammel.



**2011:** A second endowed community chair created by George Haddix focuses on mathematics as part of STEM education. Community chairs are the highest ranking endowed faculty positions on campus.

**2012:** A gift from the estate of UNO alumna Betty Haupt Andreskowski creates student scholarships.



**2011:** The College of Education celebrates the redevelopment of Roskens Hall into a state-of-the-art facility and honors the project's lead donors, Ruth and Bill Scott.

**2011**



**2012:** Construction begins on the privately funded renovation of the Peter Kiewit Institute. The \$7.5 million project includes adding new classrooms, creating collaboration spaces and updating an atrium.

**2010**

**20**



**2012:** original goal of \$1.2 billion is met.



# CAMPAIGN for NEBRASKA

2005 - 2014



**2013:** Construction begins on the UNO/Community Arena, the new home of UNO Athletics. The arena is scheduled to open in 2015.

**2014:** UNO Athletics dedicates three important additions to its facilities: the Ethel S. Abbott Student-Athlete Development Wing, the Hamilton Academic Excellence Room and the Maverick Soccer Pitch.



**2013:** Debora Wisneski becomes the inaugural John T. Langan Professor in Early Childhood Education, created by numerous donors to honor a UNO legend.



**2014:** The opening of the privately funded Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center expands the scope of UNO's community engagement efforts by housing 29 community and university partner organizations.

**2014:** Class offerings in innovation, entrepreneurship and franchising have increased significantly thanks to the work of Dale Eesley, the first appointee to the new community chair created by UNO alumnus John Morgan.

**2014:** Women in IT Initiative surpasses its goal of raising \$400,000 to encourage women to pursue information technology education and careers.



**2013:** Members of the UNO and Omaha communities celebrate the new research facility, a retrofitted 19th-century barn, at UNO's Glacier Creek Preserve. The barn and a gift to restore it was donated by Barbi Hayes.



**2013:** UNO honors Ruth and Bill Scott, lead donors to the \$6 million privately funded Biomechanics Research Building. It helps UNO attract a \$10.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health—the largest research grant in campus history.



**2014:** UNO and the University of Nebraska Foundation celebrate the conclusion of the Campaign for Nebraska.

2013

2014

**2014:** \$1.89 billion raised.

12



# UNO Earns Top Federal Award for Community Service

UNO's community engagement efforts aren't just words on paper. They are experienced throughout the city. You can feel it through high school students working their first summer job — filling sandbags to protecting vital city infrastructures.

You can hear it in the way middle school students explain the process of growing produce without soil as a way to provide healthy food options to their neighborhoods.

You can see it in the faces of prisoners who have a higher rate of finding employment and a lower rate of recidivism because of new computer skills taught them.

In December, UNO was recognized as a national leader for its work in providing economic opportunities to the Omaha community through these and numerous engagement initiatives. Of more than 800 universities or colleges who applied, UNO was one of just four to receive a Presidential Award as part of its inclusion on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Specifically, UNO was awarded the Presidential Award with an emphasis on economic opportunity. That designates UNO as the leading school in the country in engagement efforts that provide support systems to disadvantaged populations.

UNO's recognition follows a long list of firsts. Not only is UNO the only Nebraska school to be named a President's Award winner, but it remains the only school in the state to be a Presidential Award finalist, which occurred in 2010, and to have been named to the Honor Roll every year eligible since the award's start in 2006.

"This recognition isn't just a milestone for UNO, it's a milestone for Omaha," says Sara Woods, director of the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center and executive associate to the senior vice chancellor

for Community Engagement. "This award underscores the value of reciprocal partnerships between metropolitan universities like UNO and the communities we serve."

Students have no shortage of engagement opportunities at UNO. The Presidential Award recognized that more than one-third of the UNO student body participated in engagement or volunteer efforts in 2013, totaling more than 380,000 hours of service. UNO Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Deborah Smith-Howell says that number is important because of engagement's impact on student retention.

"Research has shown that if you engage students and get them invested in their communities, they are much more likely to stay in school and finish their degree," Smith-Howell says. "This recognition is a clear indicator of UNO's growing national reputation as an exemplar metropolitan university,"

While the award recognizes all of UNO's efforts over the past year, three programs were chosen as examples of that work: The SummerWorks Omaha program, Aquaponics and Computer Basics for Inmates.

SummerWorks launched in 2011 with the help of the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Department and the Peter Kiewit Foundation. The program regularly hires 150 high school students for nine weeks over the summer. Earning \$7.25 an hour, the students provide cleanup services to Omaha Parks and learn important job skills, including financial literacy.

"The program exemplifies UNO's role as community steward," says Dr. Kathe Oleson Lyons, SummerWorks Omaha director and assistant to the associate vice chancellor of Student Affairs. "SummerWorks Omaha is creating positive social change through the economic and educational empowerment of our community's greatest resource: our high school youth."

Aquaponics is a P-16 Initiative in the Service Learning Academy. It brings together middle school and UNO students with local food education





## A Sustainable Choice

### Rodie Named Director of Center for Urban Sustainability

ASK 100 PEOPLE TO DEFINE sustainability and you're likely to get 100 different answers.

The goal for Steve Rodie, appointed director for the UNO Center of Urban Sustainability in September, is to help promote sustainability in a way that people can understand and believe.

"At its core, sustainability should benefit present and future generations through wise resource use and actions that are environmentally friendly, socially responsible and financially feasible," Rodie says. "My ultimate goal is for UNO to provide exemplary leadership, teaching and research excellence and impactful student-community engagement in each of these areas."

Despite the name, the Center for Urban Sustainability is not a new physical space on campus, but instead describes a campus-wide effort to provide guidance for sustainability-focused curricula, research and outreach.

With Center support, a campus-wide UNO Minor in Sustainability has been approved, along with a Bachelor of General Studies degree concentration. A graduate certificate also is in the works.

Rodie previously served as an associate professor and landscape horticulture extension specialist in Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His center leadership builds upon two decades of teaching and community education and outreach combined with professional practice as a landscape architect.

Rodie will assist with curriculum implementation and further development, make classroom connections based on sustainability-focused research and internship opportunities, and serve as a professor in the Environmental Studies program, teaching sustainable landscape plants, design and appreciation courses.

"So many students today see sustainability as integral to their lives," Rodie says. "They know there will be a high demand for jobs that take sustainability principles and thinking into account. If they can live it every day on campus and in their communities, there is no better foundation for them to be successful in the future."

— Charley Reed, associate editor

nonprofit Whispering Roots to teach students how to grow plants and produce without soil.

Students grow produce by using recycled fish tank water, a method that produces up to 30 percent more crops while using 90 percent less water than traditional growing methods. Produce is donated to local food banks.

The Service Learning Academy also oversees the Computer Basics for Inmates program. For 10 years, College of IS&T students have gone to the Douglas County Department of Corrections to teach inmates basic computer skills.

"This award is the culmination of years of work characterized by thoughtful and creative approaches to addressing real issues in the community and enhancing student learning," Service Learning Academy Director Paul Sather says. "I am so grateful to the Service Learning Academy staff, our tremendous faculty members and students, and our dedicated community partners for making this award possible and allowing us to move forward with increasingly innovative projects."

The true impact of these projects cannot only be felt in time, but in dollars.

Through SummerWorks alone, participants who otherwise may not have had summer jobs earned more than \$270,000 in wages in 2013. Also, during the 12-year history of signature service days, more than \$1 million in labor hours have been volunteered to area nonprofits and city programs.

For UNO Chancellor John Christensen, it is important to note that as leaders on the cutting-edge of metropolitan-based higher education, UNO's efforts being recognized nationally is a sign of that economic impact locally.

"Success at UNO means success for Omaha, and success for Omaha means success at UNO," Christensen says. "You can't spell community without U-N-O."





# In Play

## UNO Facilities Get Heavy Community Use



WITH THE 2014 OPENING of the new Weitz Community Engagement Center, “engagement” may seem like a new trend for UNO. UNO buildings, however, have served as community engagement spaces for years.

That’s especially true with athletics facilities such as Sapp Field House and the sports dome located south of Center Street. Both have been used by nonprofits and outside athletic organizations by generations of competitors.

“We have activities of all kinds here,” says Mike Kemp, associate athletic director. “We view our role as enhancing the community through athletics.”

Approximately 25 outside organizations use UNO facilities for athletics on a regular basis.

That includes nationally recognized organizations such as Special Olympics, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Local groups also utilize UNO’s campuses.

For the past several years, for example, Collective for Youth’s “Lights On Afterschool” program has utilized the field house. The collective busses nearly 1,000 at-risk kids from Omaha Public Schools onto campus and

provides them with afterschool activities, including a talent show, basketball tournament and line dancing.

The Health, Physical Education and Recreational (HPER) building, meanwhile, has been the longtime home of the Nebraska Red Dawgs, a coed, disabled-youth travel basketball team that won national championships in 2011 and 2012.

Anyone with a certified, permanent, orthopedic disability to a lower extremity can play. Some come from as far as North Platte and South Dakota for practice and games.

“Before I couldn’t get him out of the house,” said Denise Bard, mother of Red Dawg Carson Bard.

“Then a few weeks ago I heard the door open and close . . . I found him outside shooting the ball around in the driveway.

“‘When he saw me, he said, ‘Wanna’ play, mom?’”

Mike Kult, head coach of the Red Dawgs and HPER’s associate director of facilities, says the team also presents an opportunity for collaboration with the UNO School of Education.

“It’s an active practice, like a lab in a sense,” Kult says. “Students from the School of Education can come and observe.”

UNO’s engagement efforts will take an even bigger leap forward with the opening of the UNO/Community Arena in October. It will be UNO’s first on-campus sporting facility to open since HPER in 1980.

Kemp says once the arena is open, it will be in use “18 hours a day, seven days a week” by UNO athletes and members of the community.

“With the opening of the new UNO/Community Arena, our outreach efforts with the community are sure to bring a wide variety of activities to the UNO campus,” Kemp says. “From the graduations of thousands of metro-area high school seniors annually, to the practices of young figure skaters in the pre-dawn hours of the morning, to youth and adult hockey players skating on the community ice until the wee hours of the night, this arena will be a hub of activity that will welcome both the young and old on a daily basis to our campus.”

— Matt Barros, University Communications



# Sister Cities, Sister Universities

MANY SAY THAT COLLEGE is the best time for people to explore the world.

That's especially so at UNO, thanks to study abroad opportunities that stem from decades of sister university and sister city partnerships shared by UNO and the City of Omaha.

"They are perfect examples of how universities and city institutions can work together and complement each other's efforts," says Thomas Gouttierre, dean of International Studies at UNO.

UNO has 27 sister university partnerships in places such as Afghanistan, Russia, China and Switzerland. Of those partnerships, three overlap with Omaha's sister cities — Shizouka, Japan; Braunschweig, Germany; and Siauliai, Lithuania.

The strongest partnership is with Shizouka, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary as an Omaha sister city. For 35 of those years, UNO has had a sister university partnership with Shizouka University.

Lori Arias, assistant director of International Student Services at UNO, was one of the first students to travel to Shizouka University in the early 1980s.

"[My experience], in short, was life-changing," Arias says. "As a result, years later I enjoy dedicating much of my volunteer time to the Omaha Sister Cities Association and participate in its Japanese events."

UNO also has made strong connections with Siauliai. In 2013, the UNO Jazz Combo traveled there to celebrate a 15-year partnership.

"Student exchanges are key to keeping the sister university relationships dynamic," Arias says.

Sometimes the exchanges lead to long-term commitments — professionally and personally.

"We've had some of our students who have ended up staying in Shizouka either through marriage or they like teaching or working there," Gouttierre says.

Students looking for exchange opportunities should connect with the International Studies and Programs office to begin their journey.

The hardest part will be deciding where to go.

— Charley Reed, associate editor



UNO in 2013 celebrated the university's 15th anniversary of its sister university partnership with Šiauliai University. Visitors included Shakespeare on the Green Marketing Director Nellie macCallum, who joined dancers from the Šiauliai University folk music ensemble "Saule" in the 2013 Šiauliai Days parade. "It was the 777th year of Šiauliai city celebrations," macCallum says. "I was proud to be the Šiauliai Citizen of Honor person from America."





# Partnering with Nonprofits

IT'S NOT EVERY UNIVERSITY that boasts about its students sleeping outside in cardboard boxes.

At UNO, though, it's one of the many points of pride when displaying the many ways the university helps Omaha's nonprofit community.

That includes the annual Just Can It fundraiser, a joint venture of UNO's Greek students and The Salvation Army. To raise awareness about homelessness in Omaha, members of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity sleep outside in cardboard boxes. Students also collect canned food for those in need — more than 40,000 cans each year.

"There's not anywhere else that you can find a group of young people who would be willing to sleep outside in cardboard boxes or put together a 5K or 10K walk or run to raise money for a cause," says Dustin Wolfe, assistant director for Fraternity and Sorority Life in the UNO Student Activities office.

Wolfe says that while many organizations have national chapters with ties to national charities, there are a similar number of UNO groups that have strong ties with local organizations such as the Sienna Francis House or Ollie Web Center.

Students also support nonprofits through research and consultation as part of the Volunteer Program Assessment-UNO group located in the Weitz Community Engagement Center. Launched in 2013 under the direction of Joseph Allen, assistant professor of psychology, and Lisa Scherer, associate professor of psychology, students volunteer time alongside professors to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of volunteer programs at area nonprofits. Changes are recommended to enhance volunteer effectiveness and retention.

Partner organizations get valuable critiques while students enhance their skill sets, increasing their prospects for employment after graduating.

"An explicit objective of VPA-UNO," Scherer says, "is to not only provide our community partners with methods for building their volunteer capacity, but to train our UNO students, whether they are undergraduate or graduate students, to be future leaders and engaged in the community."

"We are achieving that goal."

Another group of students focused on nonprofit support are members of UNO's student-run public relations firm known as MaverickPR.

As they learn practical public relations lessons, MaverickPR students take on nonprofit clients and provide them with services that would otherwise be too expensive if contracted with a local advertising agency. The group recently has developed marketing strategies for the Omaha Chinese Culture Association and Omaha Metro Area Wrestling Association. It also has helped The Truth Heals, a nonprofit run by UNO alumna Tunette Powell that brings together women who have lacked strong male role models in their lives.

MaverickPR Director Kimberly Bailey, a senior on UNO's volleyball team, says the positive relationships with these organizations is mutual.

"As much as we're giving them, for the work that we do, them coming to us gives us the opportunity for portfolio-worthy work that we can show potential employers," Bailey says. "They are giving us work to do and the work we do are getting us jobs in the Omaha area."

In addition to jobs, there are a number of other tangible benefits that classrooms across UNO are providing area nonprofits.

For years, College of Information Science and Technology (IS&T) students have engaged in capstone

coursework that teams them with local organizations having technology needs. Recently, Master of Information Science students helped Ronald McDonald House Charities Omaha design an infrastructure to track volunteers, donors and guests.

"There is a lot of benefit in these types of models because students really see all facets of their curriculum applied into their problems," says IS&T Associate Dean Deepak Khazanchi. "You really have

to apply all the knowledge you've gained to solve a complex problem."

Faculty also are making an

impact through the Center for Collaboration Science, which provides cross-campus collaboration research addressing issues that prevent companies, government organizations, and nonprofits across the country from working together to solve problems.

"I think that because we work with private and publicly held companies, as well as nonprofits, government and academia we are the lynchpin between all these entities that help them understand best practices across different sectors," says Gert-Jan de Vreede, center director and Durham Distinguished Professor of Interdisciplinary Informatics in the College of IS&T.

As a member of the Center for Collaboration Science, Assistant Professor of Management Gina Ligon says that efforts like the center, as well as all of the student-led and classroom-based efforts, have positioned UNO as a strong national voice on the topic of engagement.

"The fact is that people are looking to us as a national leader on collaboration," Ligon says. "That's pretty exciting."

— Charley Reed, associate editor



**The fact is that people are looking to us as a national leader on collaboration.**





# Women in IT Initiative

LOOK INSIDE MANY BUSINESS technology staffs, and it's clear that many women just don't get IT.

Information Technology, that is.

Clearly, it is a male-dominated field. Last year, women held just 25 percent of all computing-related occupations in the United States. And the national average of women in university IT programs is at just 18 percent.

And plenty of opportunity for men and women lies ahead — the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that IT will be one of the fastest-growing job sectors, adding nearly 1.4 million jobs by 2020. However, nearly two-thirds of these jobs could go unfilled because there are not enough college graduates with computing-related degrees.

"This is a huge issue for Omaha businesses," says Hesham Ali, dean of UNO's College of Information Science and Technology (IS&T). "As educators of Omaha's workforce, we are in a position to affect change."

Change began in earnest in 2013 when UNO's College of IS&T teamed with area business leaders and the National Center

for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) to launch the Women in IT Initiative.

Says Sandy Vlasnik, the College of IS&T's Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion: "The goal of the initiative is to fund a multitude of activities that will introduce and further inspire young women to find their place in the IT profession."

By October last year, the college announced that it had surpassed its mid-2015 goal to raise \$400,000. That came through donations by area companies including ConAgra Foods, BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska, Northrop Grumman and others.

Funds will support four key initiatives: scholarships, educational programs for middle and high school students, mentorship, and travel funding for national conferences.

The funds already have made an impact through programs like "Code Crush," a UNO immersion experience for eighth- and ninth-grade girls, expansion of the Women in IT Mentoring group and an investment in sending students to national conferences,

where they make important industry connections.

"We have students who are in their second or third year who are being interviewed for jobs and in some cases almost got job offers," Ali says. "It's to the point where we almost need to slow it down."

Vlasnik also points to recent data that undergraduate women students at UNO are being retained at an impressive rate of more than 90 percent. Additionally, the number of women graduate students continues to climb, currently accounting for nearly a third of IS&T's graduate enrollment.

Ali says the full impact of the initiative may take several years to show fruition, but its success is key to improving the nation's economy.

"If employers continue to lack qualified employees in the United States, they'll go somewhere else," Ali says. "That's why this project is so important."

— Charley Reed, associate editor

# Vets Helping Vets

They've already served their country. Now, veterans are helping UNO...help veterans — and others who suffer from Peripheral arterial disease.

In a collaboration with the Nebraska-Western Iowa VA Medical Center (VAMC) and with support from the Department of Veterans Affairs, members of UNO's Biomechanics Research team are discovering more efficient treatment options for those suffering from this painful condition.

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is a deficit of oxygen to the extremities caused by a lack of proper blood flow. Over time, this lack of oxygen and the resulting toxic byproducts causes myopathy, a structural breakdown in muscle and nerve tissue — called myopathy. And pain.

Dr. Sara Myers, Ph.D., is UNO's lead researcher on the disease as part of the university's nationally-recognized biomechanics research team. Her research focuses on the body's lower extremities — more specifically, the effects of PAD on a person's gait. Contributing to Dr. Myers' research are VA vascular surgeons Iraklis Pipinos and Jason Johanning from Nebraska Medicine.

The research subjects come from among the patient ranks at the VA Medical Center.

"Recruiting from the VA Medical Center allows us to see many patients with the same condition, which is much easier than recruiting from dozens of medical centers," Dr. Myers says. "The VA sends essentially all veterans in Nebraska and Western Iowa to Omaha for advanced vascular problems, so I can recruit from veterans here," said Dr. Myers.

"It seems that veterans are very willing to volunteer in order to help others with similar medical conditions," Dr. Myers says.

They're invited to the new Biomechanics Research Building on UNO's campus for analysis. Numerous little reflector bulbs are attached to subjects, acting as anatomical reference points that are digitally captured by a dozen cameras fixed around the motion capture laboratory. Assistants operate the computer's imaging and motion capture software, which displays movement real-time on a large monitor behind them.

Testing includes walking on a treadmill and over a portion of the floor — both of which are equipped with sensor plates that quantify the force with which subjects push into the ground. Researchers use the data to measure the effects of varied methods of treatment.

"The ability to digitally display and map the infinite paths of human movement variability is invaluable to this kind of research," Myers says.

It's just one of the many types of research that helped the lab in August be designated as the home for the world's first Center for Research in Human Movement Variability. That will be supported by a \$10.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the largest research grant in university history.

Dr. Myers anticipates her work lasting into the next decade — and hopes she can bring relief to PAD sufferers.

"There will always be new treatments to analyze," Dr. Myers says.

— Matt Barros, University Communication



## Labor of Love

John Kretschmar isn't likely to be running into burning buildings any time soon — if ever. But he's still "one of the guys" in the eyes of unionized firefighters.

Last June, the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters named Kretschmar an honorary firefighter during its annual convention, recognizing the help he's provided the organization and its member unions.

That came through Kretschmar's work as director of UNO's William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies (WBILS), which for 35 years has served the educational needs of Nebraska's labor movement through non-credit programming. The institute is one of 29 similarly situated university- and college-based labor education programs across the nation. The WBILS was established in 1980 as a result of collaboration between the Nebraska labor movement and the University of Nebraska.

It's mission, says Kretschmar, is "to help the men and women of organized labor protect and promote meaningful democracy in the workplace."

Though the institute's mission is statewide, it sometimes extends beyond Nebraska. The institute, for instance, has worked with the Omaha Professional Fire Fighter's union for at least a decade. That relationship got the WBILS invited to the International Association of Fire Fighters Affiliate (IAFF) Leadership Training Seminar in Arizona in 2011. That, in turned, led to work with affiliates in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and newly developed relationships in Nevada and British Columbia.

Make no mistake, though—the institute's primary work is in Omaha, where two-thirds of Nebraska's labor unions are located. The institute, an outreach vessel of UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS), serves more than 2,500 participants annually—ironworkers, plumbers, steamfitters, electricians, etc. Also labor leaders whose experience levels can vary.

"Union leaders face election every three to five years," Kretschmar says. "They are often unpaid and without training."

Education topics have included: grievance handling, collective bargaining, labor history, strategic planning, custom-designed contract courses, health and safety, leadership skills, political effectiveness, common-sense economics and internal organizing.

"If you understand the legacy of those that came before you, then you understand the importance of making it bigger and better for those coming after you" Kretschmar says.

That said, the institute is not a one-way street. Rather, it's a bridge between the university and local labor. University researchers can benefit, for instance, quantifying the efficacy of the education provided as it relates to retention and application.

"The Brennan Institute is a vital source of continuing education for labor union members and leadership," CPACS Dean John Bartle says. "The Brennan Institute brings emerging issues to the unions, facilitates their effective organization, and empowers them to act on behalf of working families. In doing so, they are a vital component of the democratic process in the community."

— Matthew Barros, University Communications



An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. In the foreground, a large, multi-story brick school building with a central tower and multiple wings is visible. The building is surrounded by a parking lot and some landscaping. In the background, a residential neighborhood with many houses and trees is visible. The overall tone is sepia or aged black and white.

**Brick**  
by **Brick**

**Gift**  
by **Gift**

*How Omahans helped build UNO*

**Name**  
by **Name**

*By John Fey*



## While UNO has been calling Omaha home since 1908, it's been Omaha donors who made the university into a home.

That began from the start when then-Omaha University moved into its first building, Redick Hall, at 24th and Pratt Streets. Once a farmhouse built in 1875, Redick Hall later was purchased by Omaha real estate developer, attorney and judge Oak C. Redick.

An early proponent of the university, Redick gave the fledgling startup his home, opened to students in September 1909.

Other Omaha donors helped build the university in the years to follow, and still are doing so today.

Across campus students, faculty, staff and visitors have seen the names of notable Omaha families such as Joslyn, Kiewit, Mammel, Scott, Holland and others.

Only one building —  
Arts & Sciences Hall —  
remains unnamed.

Following is a look at how Omahans helped build UNO brick by brick and gift by gift.

### CURRENT CAMPUSES



**SAPP FIELDHOUSE**

**1950**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST <b>\$750,000</b>	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS <b>\$7.4 million</b>
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The first fieldhouse to be built on the Omaha University campus was hailed as a new era in the school's athletic history.

"When this fieldhouse is in full swing," said Virgil Yelkin, then athletic director, "it will resemble a three-ring circus."

In March 1949, all work stopped when a termite was spotted crawling on one of the wooden beams. The tentative completion date was Dec. 5, but bricklaying problems and nasty winter weather extended that finish to the second week of January.

Omaha World-Herald sportswriter Maurice Shadle was impressed with the finished product, saying, "The new fieldhouse is the final building step necessary to assure a well-rounded athletic program at the University of Omaha."

Originally, a portable basketball court was installed above the dirt surface. By 1970, the dirt was covered with a new Tartan surface that allowed for an indoor track surrounding the basketball court as part of a \$400,000 renovation program.

By 1995, then-Athletic Director Don Leahy oversaw a \$9.5 million addition that was named after its major fundraisers — Lee and Helen Sapp. Lee Sapp is president and CEO of Sapp Enterprises.





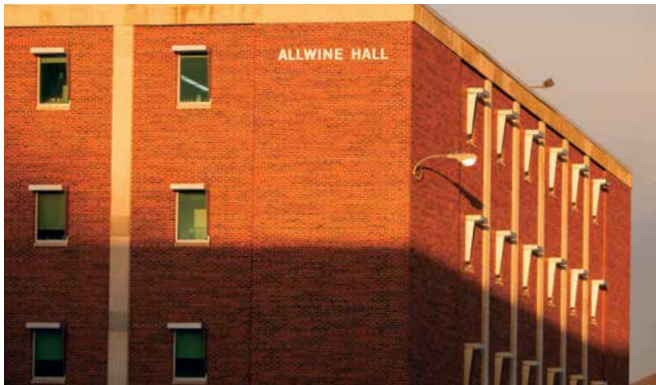
**EPPLEY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1956**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS
<b>\$850,000</b>	<b>\$7.5 million</b>

Few buildings on the UNO campus have served as many purposes as the Eppley Administration Building. Part of the “building boom” of the 1950s, it originally hosted the university’s ever-growing library.

Funding for the architectural designs and other preliminary plans came from local business magnate Eugene Eppley, who owned the Eppley Hotel Company that at one time encompassed 22 hotels in six states. The foundation he created donated more than \$1.2 million to the university. That included a single gift of \$850,000, at the time the largest single donation to Omaha University.

Soon after the new library opened, The Eppley Foundation donated \$1 million to the city to upgrade Omaha’s airport — now Eppley Airfield.



**ALLWINE HALL 1970**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS:
<b>\$3.5 million</b>	<b>\$22.6 million</b>

Though Allwine Hall opened in 1970, the genesis of its name dates to a donor’s gift a decade prior.

Antoinette K. and Arthur A. Allwine in 1959 donated to UNO a 160-acre wildlife sanctuary, Allwine Prairie. The land was to

be developed into a botany and biology laboratory. The couple’s donation came with a wish.

“We wanted to give it to someone who would take care of it,” Arthur Allwine said. “We hope that someday there will be classrooms on it.”

Today, that land is part of what has become the much larger Glacier Creek Preserve encompassing Allwine Prairie. With classrooms on it.

The Allwine name on UNO’s main campus today adorns the building mostly serving science students and sitting just south of the student center.



**KAYSER HALL 1971**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS
<b>\$1.6 million</b>	<b>\$10.4 million</b>

Frederick W. Kayser wasn’t alive to see the result of his generous gift that aided in the construction of the building that bears his name. Before the founder of Kilpatrick’s Stores died in 1955, he established three trust funds worth \$450,000.

Interest from those funds grew to about \$750,000 to be used for scholarships and to supplement faculty salaries. The \$1.6 million cost of the future home for students and faculty still needed another financial lift. That came from the state legislature and federal funding — a first for UNO.

Even with state and federal dollars, the project still fell \$80,000 short. The Kayser fund covered the shortfall. Dr. Rex Engebretson, campus planning and development director, said the building was needed to alleviate crowding for faculty members – some of whom had to share offices.

The 56,000-square-foot building included 17 classrooms, 10 seminar rooms and 68 faculty as home for the College of Education. One of those faculty members later would be Kirk Naylor, a one-time president of Omaha University.

A time capsule was buried near Kayser Hall with the instruction that it not be opened before 2058. It includes a photo of the first class to meet there in June 1971, months before the dedication.



### STRAUSS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 1972

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST:  
\$1.9 million

COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS:  
\$11.1 million (est.)

UNO's first performing arts center didn't come without a hitch or two. But most administrators on campus agreed that there was a need for such a building since the music department's home in the 1960s was an annex with just two practice rooms — one doubling as an instrumental storeroom.

Two grand pianos were placed in one room, allowing space for just six students. By then, the growing music enrollment meant a student or two had to sit on or at the instructor's desk.

In 1969, the university sought funding for a new performing arts center, but the Legislature and governor put the request on hold due to lack of a master plan. By December of that year, \$1.9 million was allocated for the project — less than half of the original \$5 million requested.

In 1984, UNO honored one of the city's top business leaders, Willis S. Strauss and wife Janet, by naming the new building the Janet A. and Willis S. Strauss Performing Arts Center. The couple was key players in the Diamond Jubilee fundraising effort.

## ORIGINAL CAMPUS



24th and Pratt Streets

“

A 1960 story in the Gateway quoted Gladys Jerome, a member of the first graduating class:

**We were the first output of Redick Hall, where we did our physics problems in the kitchen and our chemistry in the garage. We had our history in the dining room and our chapel in the parlor. Food laboratory was held in a flower-papered bedroom.**



### Redick Hall

Omaha University's first home was a mansion constructed in 1875 on 10 acres at 24th and Pratt Streets and later owned by Omaha attorney Oak C. Redick. An early proponent of Omaha U., Redick donated the home to the university. After extensive remodeling it opened in September 1909, housing 26 students and five faculty members.

The mansion's original 17 rooms were turned into classrooms, laboratories, a chapel and areas for faculty and students to eat and socialize. The garage became the chemistry department. A large circular porch and huge open-tower balcony graced the building.

The three-story Victorian building's tower included a lounge, a favorite gathering place for female students. Another perk for all was a well-stocked wine cellar, though that soon was emptied.



UNO's first library, housed in Joslyn Hall, grew quickly to more than 5,000 volumes, necessitating the move to a nearby building. That growth, though, pales in comparison with what was to come once UNO moved to its present campus.

Initially, the library was housed in the northeast wing of what today is Arts & Sciences Hall. By then the collection had swelled to 50,000 volumes and stacks were so close together it was difficult to retrieve books.

By the late 1940s, students grew disgruntled over library services, complaining of open stacks, a lack of seminar rooms, excessive noise and crowding, and the lack of "plush seats and smoking stands."

The complaints were appeased in 1955 with the opening of the Eugene C. Eppley Library (today's administration building). Eppley, owner of the Eppley Hotel Company, which included Hotel Fontenelle, had provided the university with its largest donation yet — \$850,000. But the 45,000-square foot facility would be the library's home for just 20 years.

More growth led to another new library, opened in 1976. Initially no donor name was attached to it. But when expansion and renovation was needed again, this time as the collection grew to 746,000 volumes, local donors stepped forward one more — Dr. C.C. Criss and wife Mabel. Criss had been president and then chairman of the board for Mutual of Omaha.



### DR. C.C. AND MABEL L. CRISS LIBRARY 1976

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS
<b>\$3.5 million</b>	<b>\$16.8 million</b>

A gift also came from 1954 graduate Dr. Guinter Kahn Addition, discover of what became Rogaine. His generous gift to the university greatly aided the 2006 expansion on the library's north side that now bears his name.



### *John G. Jacobs Memorial Gymnasium*

The first facility to be used specifically for physical activities wouldn't have been possible without a generous donation from Lillian Maul, mother of John G. Jacobs. She donated land near UNO's current site that was sold for \$14,000, helping fund construction of Omaha University's first gymnasium.

Construction was most unusual and definitely had Omaha roots. Marble was removed from the renovated downtown Douglas County Courthouse. Omaha had a streetcar rail system, and some of the discarded rails were transported to be used for the gymnasium. Many of the necessary bricks came from a nearby demolished church — carried by faculty members by wheelbarrow.

The university's first women's basketball team was formed in 1923 and practiced in the new gymnasium. Sidewalks joined it with Redick Hall — the area where the sidewalks met was designated as "the kissing circle," meaning any girl stepping there was eligible to be kissed.



### *Joslyn Hall*

The name Joslyn today is most associated with Joslyn Art Museum and Joslyn Castle. But the first building the name was most notably tied to was Joslyn Hall, which opened at Omaha U. in December 1916, just north of Redick Hall.

George A. Joslyn donated \$25,000 toward construction of the campus' second building with the stipulation that OU match the donation within a year. Joslyn and wife Sarah moved to Omaha in 1880 from Des Moines. He built a financial empire in newspapers, becoming the wealthiest man in Nebraska before his death in 1916.

Afterward, Sarah continued her husband's desire to give back to their adopted community, starting with the gift that led to Joslyn Hall, home of the university's first formal library. Opened in 1917, the three-story building featured 30 classrooms with room for 750 students.



**THOMPSON ALUMNI CENTER** 1981

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$450,000

COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS  
\$1.8 million

Though the UNO Alumni Association was founded in 1913, it took 68 years to get its own home.

Until then, the association was housed in various offices, including Arts & Sciences Hall, the student center and the former Storz mansion.

In 1981 that changed when the association moved into the renovated home once owned by Mary and Paul Shirley on the northwest corner of campus.

Added to in 1990 and again in 2005, the building is named after William H. and Dorothy Thompson. The former was a graduate, longtime professor and dean at Omaha University and father-in-law Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett.



**DURHAM SCIENCE CENTER** 1987

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$14.5 million

COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS  
\$32 million

As the UNO campus continued thriving in the 1980s, space became cramped for students in math, physics, geology/geography and chemistry. In fact, some classes were held in tiny, "temporary" annexes that seemed to have become all too permanent.

By the late 1970s, then-Chancellor Del Weber was pushing for campus expansion west of the new library.

Not until November 1983 did that become possible, though, when the Board of Regents approved the plan to purchase 12 properties on the west end of campus. Next, the Legislature passed a measure to fund the construction of a new science building.

The project, which began two years later, likely wouldn't have been possible without the massive fundraising effort as part of the \$29 million Diamond Jubilee Campaign celebrating UNO's first 75 years. Spearheading the fund were Charles and Margre Durham, for whom the science center was named when it was dedicated in September 1987. The campaign raised \$4 million more than its original goal.

"This is one occasion Margre and I and my family will always remember," Charles Durham said during the dedication.



Weber called the fundraising project the most ambitious in UNO history.

**We personally can think of no finer individuals for whom such a structure can be dedicated than Charles and Margre Durham.**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$1 million (est.)

COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS  
\$2 million

Some gifts stand taller than others, but none more so than the Henningson Memorial Campanile — at 168 feet, the tallest structure on campus. In fact, the iconic UNO landmark is one of the tallest university clock towers in the world.

All thanks – once again – to the generosity of a prominent Omaha family.

The campanile was made possible by Margre Henningson-Durham, who sought to honor her parents – Henning and Rose Henningson – as well as her sister, Helen Henningson-Grimes, who attended the Municipal University of Omaha. The proposal was put before the Board of Regents in 1987, but student feedback wasn't 100 percent positive. One student was concerned that Barry Manilow songs someday might boom from the 47 bronze bells.

The campanile was approved but an ironworkers union strike halted work. The issue was resolved and the tower rose, dedicated in 1989.

**HENNINGSON  
MEMORIAL  
CAMPAFILE** 1989





**PETER KIEWIT INSTITUTE****1999**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST <b>\$70 million</b>	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS <b>\$103.6 million</b>
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Peter Kiewit's connections to UNO date to the university's movement from the original campus to its current location, starting with a grading project by his company. Peter Kiewit and Sons later built the fieldhouse, and the Kiewit family continued to support the university with generous donations.

But atop those monetary gifts surely would be the Peter Kiewit Institute on the Pacific Street campus. It became a signature building on the south campus. Inside, 53 miles of electrical conduit was placed. Placed end-to-end, they would stretch from Omaha to Lincoln.

The lead university architect, Dave Irvin, said: "We're doing things that other people have only talked about or done on a limited basis."

**SCOTT RESIDENT HALL, CONFERENCE CENTER, VILLAGE AND COURT****1999**

The landscape of UNO changed forever in 1999 with the addition of its first residential housing facility, University Village. Designed to house 576 students in 144 units, University Village was built south and west of the library. Houston-based Century Development financed and built the dorms for an estimated \$9.6 million.

Just 200 applications were filed at the beginning, but more followed for the historic first housing. The concept quickly caught on, and the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation helped arrange a 40-year lease for construction of Scott Resident Hall on the Pacific Street campus. Maverick Village became the third complex, located on the north campus.

Though UNO housing construction has been funded solely by companies that manage the modern apartments, the growth (which continues today) of campus residential units was boosted by the dream of the Scott Foundation. Walter Scott is among the most prominent businessmen in Omaha's history.

The Scott Conference Center, which opened in 2000, is home to institutional meetings, weddings and other social events.





**HOLLAND COMPUTING CENTER 2007**

COST  
\$4.5 million

Opened in 2007, the Holland Computing Center is home to some of the largest and quickest computers in the world.

The HCC provides research assistance to any of the University of Nebraska system campuses. Located in the Peter Kiewit Institute, the \$4.5 million building was funded mostly by Omaha business icon Richard Holland, also a UNO graduate.

Holland and his wife, Mary, early investors with Warren Buffett in the 1960s, supported numerous other campus projects and have given back to other initiatives across Omaha, most notably with the Holland Performing Arts Center downtown.



**MAMMEL HALL 2010**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$31 million

COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS  
\$34.2 million

The largest donation for a UNO building came from Carl and Joyce Mammel, strong proponents of educational opportunities for students attending the university. The exact donation hasn't been documented, but the majority of the \$31 million construction cost came from the Mammel family.

The entire cost of the project was covered by private contributions, the largest fundraising effort in university history at that time. Carl and Joyce Mammel's generosity was just beginning for the jewel of UNO's Pacific Street campus. The couple established the \$750,000 Mammel Foundation College of Business Administration Student and Faculty Excellence Fund to enhance the future of the building that covers 120,000 square feet of space.



Carl Mammel said at the time:

**In order for Omaha to grow, we must start with a strategy to retain our best and brightest – to identify young people who have compiled good records and encourage them to attend UNO.**

**BIOMECHANICS RESEARCH BUILDING 2013**



ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$6 million

It doesn't have a donor's name on it, but that's not because there were no contributions to the world's first freestanding research lab dedicated to biomechanics. The \$6 million, 23,000-square-foot facility that makes UNO the epicenter for study of the human body in motion was made possible by private funds led by Ruth and Bill Scott. During the building's dedication, Dr. Nick Stergiou, the facility's director, had an Elvis impersonator serenade the Scotts with modified lyrics to "Welcome to My World." His way of saying "Thank you. Thank you very much."



**ROSKENS HALL****1975 RENOVATED 2011**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST \$3.7 million	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS \$19.8 million
RENOVATION CONSTRUCTION COST \$13.7 million	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS \$14.9 million

## ORIGINAL CAMPUS

### RONALD ROSKENS

Decades before former Chancellor Ronald Roskens' name was placed on the former College of Business Administration, he was instrumental in leading more growth of the UNO campus. Roskens became chancellor in 1973 when the generic building's construction began at a cost of \$3.7 million. He served as chancellor from 1972-1977.

When CBA moved to the new Mammel Hall in 2010, the building was renovated and became home to the College of Education. The project was finished in time for the fall 2011 semester and the building took the Roskens name.



**There probably is no honor that exceeds in the importance of having one's name attached to a building,**

Roskens said recently. "When you think about it, it's something that will be there as long as we can imagine, short of storms and that kind of thing."

**WEBER FINE ARTS BUILDING****1992**

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST \$11.4 million	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS \$21 million
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### DEL AND LOU ANN WEBER

Two decades after land west of the library was donated to UNO, along with the 1987 demolition of some of the homes there, the new Fine Arts Building project was born, thanks to the urging of then-Chancellor Del Weber, whose term went from 1977-1998.

At the October 1992 dedication ceremony, Weber said: "Our goal, then as now, was to create an environment in which students could learn, faculty could profess and the community could share. It is to those same goals that we commit ourselves today."

Over the next three decades, the Weber Fine Arts Building has hosted award-winning theater productions, talented students' artwork, cutting-edge digital media projects and more. And it all began with Del Weber's dream.

**MILO BAIL STUDENT CENTER****1960**

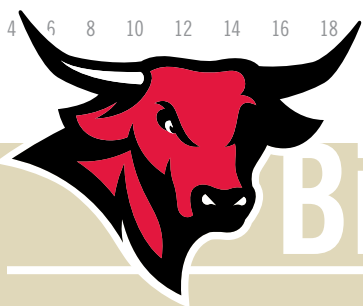
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION COST \$1.4 million	COST IN TODAY'S DOLLARS \$11.5 million
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### MILO BAIL

Built in 1958 (10 years after Milo Bail became president) and opened two years later, the Student Center replaced the old "Snack Shack" housed in the southern addition to Arts & Sciences Hall.

In the early 1960s, a student petition drive urged then-President Milo Bail to name the Student Center for Dean of Students Dr. Jay B. MacGregor. But it didn't happen, and the building remained generic until Bail's retirement in 1964, when it was renamed the Milo Bail Student Center.

During the formal announcement that December day, the president of the university's Board of Regents, Thomas Quinlan, hailed the outgoing president "for breathing life into OU."



# Bits of the Bull

## Spring— and reclassification is in the air

UNO is in the home stretch. The Mavericks' four-year reclassification from Division II to Division I enters its final season this spring. Beginning in fall 2015, all UNO teams will be eligible for NCAA and Summit League Championships.

That's not to say the transition has been without highlights. The baseball team begins 2015 as the two-time defending Summit regular season champs. Last fall, the men's soccer team earned a share of the league regular season title in just its fourth year of existence.

All who follow the Mavericks hope those are signs of even better things to come.

Following is a sport-by-sport preview of the teams that will take to the field, track and court this spring.

### Baseball

The biggest question for the UNO baseball team is, can it pull off a three-peat of its regular season title after winning in 2013 and 2014? It certainly will be a more difficult task with the addition of Oral Roberts, a baseball power that rejoined the Summit this year after three years out of the league.

Omaha's 2015 roster is loaded with experience as 18 letterwinners return, five of whom are position starters. Five Mavericks earned All-Summit honors a year ago, led by 2014 Summit League Pitcher of the Year Tyler Fox, who went 9-1 with a 2.59 ERA and 57 strikeouts. Fox was perfect on the mound in league play, going 5-0 in seven appearances.



Fox is joined by fellow first-team all-conference selection Clayton Taylor, a junior infielder who led the league in RBIs and was second in hits, doubles, home runs and



slugging percentage as a sophomore.

Three more Mavericks return as second-team All-Summit picks from 2014: senior outfielder Daniel Jewett, junior outfielder Cole Gruber and junior utility

player Alex Schultz. Gruber paced the league in runs scored and stolen bases, and he ranked fifth nationally in stolen bases.

UNO's roster also includes 14 newcomers and four redshirts. The Mavericks will be led by Head Coach Bob Herold, named Summit League Coach of the Year for a second straight season in 2014. Herold enters his 16th year and holds a career record of 478-322-2.

UNO opens its season Feb. 13-15 at the GCU Classic in Phoenix.

### Softball



After finishing third in the Summit League regular season, the UNO softball team heads into 2015 looking to challenge for the conference title. The Mavericks finished 33-16 overall and 12-6 in Summit League play and had three players on the All-Summit League Team.

UNO returns 10 players from last season and will lean heavily on senior Allie Mathewson and juniors Campbell Ditto, Sydney Hames and Tara Trede.



Mathewson was named First Team All-Summit League as a center fielder last season. She led the Mavs in batting average (.366), doubles (13), triples (3), runs (45) and stolen bases (8).

Ditto hit 11 home runs and had a .993 fielding percentage as a catcher, and Hames hit .292 and scored 47 runs as a sophomore. Trede hit .287 and had 110 infield assists from third base.



Other returners this season include seniors Kat Barrow and Tonya Peterson, junior Bailey Schulenberg, and sophomores Lia Mancuso, Lizzie Noble and Nicole Warren.



UNO looks to replace a pair of talented seniors from last season — All-Summit Leaguers Dana Elsasser and Amber Lutmer. But a talented group seven newcomers should help ease the blow. Among those newcomers are senior Carly Nielsen, sophomore Abbie Clanton, and freshmen Jaycee Bernholtz, Jaycee Hinrichs, Megan May, Kelly Pattison and Kylie Schwarting.

The Mavs start their season at the Tangi Tourism Lion Classic in Hammond, La., Feb. 6-8. It's the first of six tournaments UNO will play in before hosting its first home games against Northern Colorado on March 17.

### Track & Field

The Mavericks will be fresh off the indoor season when the outdoor campaign begins March 20 at Tulsa. While the Mavericks will be without superstar Sami Spenner, they will have several accomplished seniors leading the way.

Both Katarina Zarudnaya and Denneil Shaw did not compete during the indoor season. Zarudnaya is a specialist in the short distance events and is rounding back into form after battling injuries for the better part of two seasons. She finished fourth in the Summit League in the 800 meters last season and set the school record in the mile at Nebraska in February. Outdoors, she had UNO's best time in the 1,500 meters and its second-best time in the 800 meters. She was prevented from running in the 800 meter final at the Summit championship due to injury.

Shaw should be one of the Mavericks' top jumping threats, particularly in the triple jump where she posted UNO's second-best mark outdoors last season. She also had UNO's third-best long jump mark behind Spenner and fellow Jamaican Kathie-Lee Laidley.

UNO head coach Chris Richardson will continue to mentor promising freshman Stephanie Ahrens





during the outdoor season. In her first collegiate meet indoors, she tied the school record in the high jump. Outdoors, Ahrens is expected to be a



scoring threat in the high jump as well as other jumping events.

Seniors will figure prominently in the distance events. Ashley Kildow was UNO's top finisher in each cross country event last fall with Kristin Rogers running second each time. Kildow is expected to run shorter distances while Rogers tackles events like the 5K and 10K. MiKayla Peck is another senior who provides depth in the distance events.

The season culminates with the Summit League Outdoor Championship at Macomb, Ill., May 13-15.

### Men's Golf

The Mavericks will have plenty to build on when they begin their spring season. As UNO's one split-season sport, the golf teams play half its schedule in the fall and the other half in the spring. Last fall, the men's team finished first in two tournaments, including the UNO Invitational at ArborLinks in September.

Senior Karl Krieser, an original member of the men's golf team in the Division I era, was UNO's leading scorer in the fall with a stroke average of 74.3. His best finish was runner-up at the UNO Invitational when he became the first Maverick to finish a tournament below par.



Krieser and fellow four-year seniors Alex Holtan and Taylor Sidzyk finished 1-2-3 in scoring in the fall season. Both Holtan and Sidzyk had a stroke average of 76.2.



It wasn't just the veterans who chipped in for Mavs in the fall. Freshman Phillip Baumberger was fourth in team scoring (76.3) and contributed low rounds of 72 at Old Dominion and 73 at SIUE. Junior transfer Brandon Sletmoen, along with Krieser, fired two rounds of 71, tying for the low round of the season.

The Mavericks open the spring at the Atchafalaya Intercollegiate at Nicholls State Feb. 23 and will play in tournaments at Sacramento State, Louisiana

Monroe, Arkansas Little Rock, Oral Roberts and Western Illinois before finishing at the Summit League Championship in Lompoc, Calif., in May.

### Women's Golf

Youth led the way for the women's golf team in the fall season as freshman Megan Vetrovsky posted UNO's best scoring average, 78.5. Vetrovsky, of McCook, Neb., shot a round of 74 at Missouri State and four rounds of 76, giving her all but one of the top six rounds shot by a Maverick in the fall.

Junior Katie Kesti had UNO's top round of the fall, a 72 at the Creighton Classic in October that helped her finish third overall, the best finish of the season so far for any Maverick. Kesti ranks second in team scoring through the fall with a stroke average of 79.8.

Senior Sophie Peters (80.2) and junior Makenna Kroeker (86.1) ranked 3-4 in scoring for UNO in the fall.



The Mavericks biggest challenge in the spring will continue to be depth. They have just six players on the roster. Freshmen Alexa Ruwe and Katelyn Strudthoff are still adjusting to the college game.



Like the men's team, the women will play in mostly warm-weather climes during the spring, competing in tournaments in Arizona and Florida as well as at Southern Utah and Southern Illinois. The women's Summit League Championship will be held April 20-22 at Monterey, Calif.

### Men's Tennis

A young men's tennis squad will look to provide fresh energy for the 2015 season and help the Mavericks improve on last season's 6-18 finish.

In his first season, Tyson Thomas is looking to turn around a men's program that finished 1-4 in Summit League play last season. One of the Mavs' key returners is junior Erik Anderson, who led UNO with eight wins in singles action last year.



Sophomore James McManus won seven matches as a freshman, and Coach Thomas looks for more contributions this season.

John Ellis returns to the program after studying abroad last season. As a freshman, Ellis played ten matches at the No. 2 singles slot and one match at the No. 1 singles spot.



Other returners for the Mavs are senior Nathan Greteman and sophomores Colin Buckley and Lukas Vanzura. Joining UNO for their first collegiate season are Marko Minic and Ignace Warson.

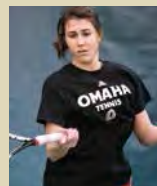


UNO kicked off its spring season against Arkansas Jan. 19 in Fayetteville, Ark.

### Women's Tennis

The UNO women's tennis team enters the 2015 spring season with a nucleus of six returning letterwinners from 2014: senior Jacqueline Baude, junior Molly Matricardi and sophomores Kenzie Hill, Maddie Holscher, Allison Johnson and Hylan Miller. Three newcomers have been added to head coach Mike Saniuk's roster with freshmen Michelle Lo and Rachel Skolaski and UT Permian Basin transfer Rebecca Stafford.

Lo made her mark in the fall season at the USTA/ITA Central Regional Championships, picking up a main-round doubles win with Johnson. Matricardi also had a standout performance at the regional tournament, winning a qualifying-round singles match during her run.



The Mavericks lost four letterwinners from 2014, including All-Summit selection Alex Tran. Last season, she and Miller became the first Mavericks in program history to earn all-league honors in the Division I era.

UNO opened its 2015 schedule Jan. 22 against Air Force.

— By Dave Ahlers with  
Bonnie Ryan and Shad Beam,  
Athletic Communications



# Part of Neighborhood



Check out progress on the UNO Community Arena at [www.truelook.com/clients/tetrad-unoarena](http://www.truelook.com/clients/tetrad-unoarena)



# the od, Part of the Community

BOTH ITS LOCATION — at 67th and Center Streets — and its amenities — including ice rinks and concert stages — bring back memories of the Ak-Sar-ben Coliseum that attracted audiences just down the street for more than 70 years.

But this brand-new addition to the neighborhood is poised to help its visitors make new memories of its own.

The UNO Community Arena, located just south of Aksarben Village, will be a permanent home for UNO Mavericks hockey — hosting its first game there this October — as well as men's and women's basketball and volleyball.

The \$75 million multi-use facility also will host a variety of events for the campus community, as well as for the community at large. Among them will be concerts, ice shows and figure skating events, and family theatrical events.

Especially significant is that the facility will hold a second, separate 85-by-200-foot ice sheet, just like the competition rink, for team practice and community use. The second rink will be able to host community curling and broom ball groups, learn-to-skate lessons, and adult and youth hockey organizations.

As a hockey fan, Bill Barstow is excited about having the Mavs play at the new arena.

As a businessperson — he owns Aksarben Cinema in Aksarben Village — Barstow is even more excited about what's happening in the neighborhood.

“From a business perspective, we've made an investment and love to entertain people. Our ability to partner next to UNO is important to us, and part and parcel to us as a company. It adds weight to have UNO expand in the village and beyond it.”

That's been the vision for the arena from the start, says UNO Director of Athletics Trev Alberts.

“Our objective is that this facility is viewed as a real partnership between the University and the Omaha community,” he says. “That neighborhood feel is something we feel really great about.

“The fact that UNO has grown the way it's grown — to the east and west and now to the south — making sure we're a great partner with the city's history and tradition is really important.”

Alberts says it's estimated that 500,000 people will go through the arena's doors annually.

The community ice rink will be open year-round and the ice for the arena will stay open September through April, Cera says. During the summer, concrete will allow the arena to host other events.

Those could include smaller-scale concerts geared to the 7,500- to 8,000-seat capacity — even events like bull riding.

The possibilities throughout the arena run the gamut, from high school graduations, figure skating clubs, family shows and concerts, to trade shows and nonprofits hosting a community luncheon.

The arena's economic impact will be substantial for the Aksarben area, but also for Omaha as a whole.

In his 20 years of running arenas, Cera says he's seen substantial impacts on the local economy, from gas stations to restaurants. That includes employing people to operate the arena. He says 20 full-time staff and 100 part-time staff will help run events within the facility.

“This facility is really significant, but not just athletically significant,” says Alberts. “It's much broader than that. It's a community engagement facility. It reinforces the importance of a public institution to Omaha. We're indebted to the community for that.”

**At an athletic event, it's an intimate setting where the design is a little more vertical. You're literally going to be on top of the action for a hockey or basketball game. It provides a better fan experience.**

The versatility of the arena's design lends itself to a variety of events, says Mike Cera, general manager of the arena.

Both ice sheets will operate as self-sustaining facilities, but with amenities that connect the two so they can operate as one large space. A glass wall will let visitors view the action on the other rink.

When Barstow looked at the neighborhood to open his business, he saw something important.

“One of the reasons we knew that area of the city had a special attraction, is it's a cultural centerpiece for Omaha,” Barstow says. “It brings back what Aksarben was in a whole new incarnation.”

# CLASS NOTES

Send your class notes 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)

42

**BYRON OBERST** (BS) retired as a pediatrician in 1988 and since has written a trilogy on his medical experiences: "Reflections on Pediatric Medicine from 1943 to 2010," "A Mother, Her Three Sons, and Their Dog" and, "Miracles and Other Unusual Medical Experiences." Oberst graduated from University College of Medicine in 1946 and was the first resident in pediatrics at the UN from 1947 through 1948. He was in Occupied Japan under General MacArthur in 1949 through 1950. Oberst finished his pediatric training at the Henry Ford Hospital in 1951 then returned to Omaha to private practice at the Omaha Children's Clinic for the next 37 years. He writes, "I had a huge pediatric practice with an associated very large consultative practice. I pioneered in adolescent medicine, attention deficit disorder with and without hyperactivity, computer applications in pediatric medicine and in private practice office management." He lives at Immanuel Lakeside Village in Omaha. [bboborst@gmail.com](mailto:bboborst@gmail.com)

over about an eight-year period. We moved from San Diego to Sarasota specifically because we wanted to photograph the diverse and abundant wildlife here."

58

**BRUCE PETERSEN** (BA) writes: "My career consisted of a couple of decades teaching at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and a couple of decades at Los Angeles High School. I retired this fall after teaching part time for seven years at Compton Community College.

61

**GOLDIE GENDLER SILVERMAN** (MA) lives in Seattle and published her first novel, "Show Me Your Face." It is available on Amazon. [goldie@goldieilverman.com](mailto:goldie@goldieilverman.com)



**BEN WALTON** (BGE) is a retired U.S. Army colonel and now is a freelance writer. He published his first book of self-help quotations, "How to Be a Daily Winner and Feel Really Great!" in 2000. The second edition of the volume was recently distributed with two special appendices: A copy of Walton's nomination to be Army aide to the President of the U.S. by the Army chief of staff, and an academic report from the president of the Naval War College announcing Walton's selection as a distinguished graduate of the Naval Command and Staff Course. Walton lives in Centennial, Colo. [bwalt27789@peoplepc.com](mailto:bwalt27789@peoplepc.com)

**DAVID BELDEN** (BGE) was named executive director emeritus by the Alpha Foundation for the improvement of mine safety and health. He also is executive director of the United Engineering Foundation. [beldend@asme.org](mailto:beldend@asme.org)

53

**LARRY ALLAN BOERSMA** (BA), a writer and photographer, recently published "Florida Animals for Everyday Naturalists." He writes: "My new book started as a newspaper column which ran in two papers. These individual columns evolved and expanded into chapters in the book. There are 172 color photographs in the 200 pages. The images were captured



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68

**JIM VLCEK** (BS) is owner and president of Vell Advertising and Marketing in Omaha.

**RAYMOND WEINBERG** (BGS) received the George F. Hixson Fellowship award from the International Kiwanis Foundation.

ray.kw@juno.com

70

**LEONARD STEINER** (BGS) published a fictional medical novel, "Climb Up the Steel Mountain." The

book is available online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Books A Million. Steiner is working on his second book. He is retired



from the U.S. Air Force and has written articles for newspapers and magazines. He also had a short story dramatized on BBC World Service Radio.

Steiner and his wife, Mary Frances, live in Madison, Ala. clmbstlmtn@yahoo.com

74

**THOMAS PERKINS** (MSW), received the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership award in Chicago at the annual Association of Community College Trustees Congress. The award is given to a community college trustee who has made a significant contribution in promoting the community college concept. Perkins is a member of the Western Nebraska Community College Board of Governors and chair of the Nebraska Community College Association. He also is chair of the City of Scottsbluff Civil Service Commission, a member of the 12th Judicial District Court Board of Mental Health and an adjunct faculty member for Chadron State College's Social Work program. He most recently qualified for the 2015 National Senior Games in the 5K Bicycle Time Trial.

ctmntn@charter.net

78

**GARY RADKE** (BS) retired in 2005 after 39 years in teaching and school administration. His last 25 years were spent as principal of Montevideo Middle School in Minnesota. In 1996, Radke

was selected as Minnesota Central District Outstanding Principal. He celebrated his 70th birthday last July and his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Jan, in September. Radke is enjoying retirement at his lake home in Baxter, Minn., and spending time with his three children and 10 grandchildren.

80

**VICKI BEYER** (BA) joined Accenture Japan as its first-ever employment lawyer with

responsibility for Japan and Korea after spending 14 years in a similar role at Morgan Stanley in Japan. Beyer also has worked as a law professor at Bond University in Australia and Temple University in Japan.

82

**MICHAEL MARKEY**

(BFA; MA, 1986) was promoted to director of administration for the Nebraska Arts Council.  
mpmarkey1@cox.net

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**KEVIN BRODERICK** (BS, MS '90) retired as the athletic/activities director and assistant principal at Bellevue West High School last August. He now is commissioner of the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Association (MCAC). He also is a contract pilot for several companies in the Omaha area. "Keeping busy, but loving it!" Broderick says. "I always loved my experiences at UNO and love the changes to make it even better!"  
kfbroderick@hotmail.com

**85 HENRY CORDES** (BA) has been a staff reporter for the Omaha World-Herald for three decades. In November, he published his second book, "Devaney: Birth of a Dynasty."  
henrycordes@msn.com

**JAMES HEIRES** (BSET) released an enhanced EZ-Metrix software source code counting utility. See [www.ezmetrix.com](http://www.ezmetrix.com) for more information. [jtheires@netins.net](mailto:jtheires@netins.net)

**86 TIM HANSON** (BS) is a deputy for the Kearney County Sheriff's Office in Minden, Neb. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 2007 after attaining the rank of major. Hanson was deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 and assigned as an Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer with the Office of Command Security to US STRATCOM at Offutt Air Force Base.  
[PaladinSam26@yahoo.com](mailto:PaladinSam26@yahoo.com)

**87 JEAN FIDONE-SCHROER** (BSBA) was named vice president of Anchor Capital Advisors in Boston. She is married to fellow UNO alum Roy Schroer (MBA, 1986), vice president of Human Resources at Union Pacific Railroad. The couple has one daughter. [jfidone@aol.com](mailto:jfidone@aol.com)

**88 ERIN BELIEU** (BFA) had her recent poetry collection, *Slant Six*, receive a starred review in *Publishers*



Weekly and a glowing review from Dwight Garner in the *New York Times*. Belieu has written four poetry collections published by Copper Canyon Press.  
[ebelieu@fsu.edu](mailto:ebelieu@fsu.edu)

**92 BRIAN BEGLEY** (BS) has served as principal of Millard North High School in Omaha since 2007. Begley, who also earned two master's degrees at UNO, also was elected to membership of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's Board of Directors for a three-year term.  
[bbegley@mpsomaha.org](mailto:bbegley@mpsomaha.org)

**REX BARKER** (MA) received the 2014-2015 NFHS Outstanding Music Educator for Nebraska award. [rbarker@mpsomaha.org](mailto:rbarker@mpsomaha.org)

**94 LISA HILDER** (BS) traveled to Sultan Hamud, Kenya, last June with her employer POET, one of the world's largest ethanol producers, for a project called Mission Greenhouse. Mission Greenhouse began in 2013 when the POET Foundation recognized a need and an opportunity to partner with an all-girls boarding school called Travellers' Oasis Centre. Last year, the Mission Greenhouse team, including Hilder, helped build a new dormitory to house 300 young girls that otherwise may not have the opportunity to receive a quality education. Hilder worked alongside a Kenyan construction crew to provide the manual labor necessary to build the dorm. She also spent time with the girls attending Traveller's Oasis Center. Mission Greenhouse plans to return to Kenya this summer.



**95 SHERI FRASER RIVERA** (MS) is a project manager with PB&A specializing in environmental compliance work for the Department of Defense Installations.

**99 DELANY CAMPBELL** (BS) lives in Arizona and has been hired by Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to create a music program for the university. [quinsons@gmail.com](mailto:quinsons@gmail.com)

**FREDERICK DAY** (MS) graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln last year with a Ph.D. in human sciences with specialization in leadership studies.  
[fday@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:fday@huskers.unl.edu)

**00 ALMA MUHLECKE** (BSE) earned her master's degree in educational leadership in December.  
[mialma74@yahoo.com](mailto:mialma74@yahoo.com)

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04

**DR. CASEY BIRKEL** (BS)

recently became a board-certified veterinary neurologist. She works as the staff neurologist at VCA Arboretum View Animal Hospital in Downers Grove, Ill.

06

**WILLIAM CRAWLEY** (PH.D.)

became dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies at the University of West Florida last September. [wcrawley@uwf.edu](mailto:wcrawley@uwf.edu)

08

**SHEENA KENNEDY** (BA) was

promoted to Outreach and Volunteer Development manager at Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska, where she has been employed since 2011.

09

**CAM DOAN VACEK** (CBA)

writes: "Life is good. Since graduating, I've gotten married (my husband is an alum as well), popped out two kids and accidentally started my business, which started as a hobby and is now a full-blown gig. I'm one of the lucky ones that actually have a career in my field of study. My husband also falls into this category and works at ACI as a system engineer. Though it's been five years since graduation, I still have nightmares about missing homework and failing tests." [camvacek@gmail.com](mailto:camvacek@gmail.com)

11

**DEREK BLUE** (BS) was

promoted to senior wildlife biologist and rangeland manager for the largest rural land sales company in Texas.

**SHANNON NORTON RICHARDS**

(MM) earned the Proficiency Certificate from the North American Carillon School in October.

[shannonrichards25@gmail.com](mailto:shannonrichards25@gmail.com)



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11

**MATT NELSON** (BA) and  
**MEGAN SCHMITZ NELSON**  
(BA, MPA '14) both work at UNO.

Their son, Bennett Matthew Nelson, was born



in August. Matt will begin Ph.D. studies in higher education administration at UNL in January. [megnelson@unomaha.edu](mailto:megnelson@unomaha.edu)

12

**JESSICA LAUGHLIN HUBER**

(BS) recently relocated to North Dallas, Texas.

**VICTOR DURAN** (BGS) writes: "I'm a business owner and loving it. I get to do what I want, when I want and 'IF' I want! Life is grand!" [vduran1@cox.net](mailto:vduran1@cox.net)

13

**RACHEL ZILL KENNY** (BS)

got married last October and is continuing her education through the UNO-Mizzou Library Science graduate program. [rayrebkenny@gmail.com](mailto:rayrebkenny@gmail.com)

**SUSAN FINDLAY** (MS) is the librarian at the Falls City Middle and High School. [sfindlay5@gmail.com](mailto:sfindlay5@gmail.com)

14

**AMALIE VOLKMANN OTTO**

(BSBA) became a claims specialist for the individual long-term care insurance products at Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, where she has worked since 2009. Otto writes: "I am thoroughly enjoying my new role because it is challenging me to strengthen my problem-solving skills, my prioritizing abilities, and my flexibility acceptance in an ever-changing business environment." [amalieto@gmail.com](mailto:amalieto@gmail.com)



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**ANDREW JORDAN BENNETT**, son of Andrew and **JoWanda (Wright, '11)** Bennett of Arlington, Texas, and grandson of **Wanda Wright ('08)** of Arlington, Texas.

**JACK ALEXANDER BIRKEL**, son of Stacy and **Josh Birkel ('09)** of Chapman, Kan.

**DANIEL DEAN BOSTER**, son of David and **Janet Boster ('05)** of Elkhorn, Neb.

**EMILY THERESA BRINKLEY**, granddaughter of **Jerry Vaca ('67)** of Duncaville, Texas.

**HARRISON PRICE BUGJO**, son of Aaron and **Kelsey Bugjo ('04)** of Omaha.

**SAMUEL GREGORY BURKE**, son of **Ashley (Stein, '10)** and **Jason Burke ('09)** of Omaha.

**LUCAS STEVEN ESTEP**, son of **Victoria (Jordan, '11)** and **Steven Estep ('07)** of Omaha.

**CORBIN TATE FEHRINGER**, son of **Mikhala (Harding, '08, '12)** and **Tyler Fehringer** of Omaha.

**CLAIRE ROSE GUDENRATH**, daughter of **Sheila (Staiert, '02)** and **Jim Gudenrath ('02)** of Omaha.

**WILLIAM EDWARD HOVER**, son of Katie and **Matthew Hover ('04)** of Omaha and grandson of **Jerrie ('73)** and **Ed Hover ('73; '79)** of Omaha.

**CAROLINE ANNETTE LASENBURG**, daughter of **Michelle (Gaulin, '11)** and **Randall Lasenburg ('10)** of Bellevue, Neb.

**NAOMIKA ANNA MARUDARAJ**, daughter of Sona and **Marudaraj ('05)** Jivaraj of Omaha.

**LOUIS LIU MCCARTY**, son of Gao and **William McCarty ('04, '08)** of Downers Grove, Ill.

**ADAM W. MEDINA**, son of Ron and **Lisa (Adams, '03)** Medina of Omaha.

**MADELYN GRACE METCAL**, daughter of **Kristy (LaMee, '01)** and **Ryan Metcalf ('01)** of Omaha.

**LOGAN GALE MISFELEDT**, son of **Jennifer (Obal, '97)** and **Matthew Misfeldt ('95, '01)** of Omaha.

**LAUREN JEAN MUNRO**, daughter of **Lindsey (Koster, '07, '09)** and **Chris Munro ('06)** of Omaha.

**BENNETT MATTHEW NELSON**, son of **Megan (Schmitz, '11, '14)** and **Matthew Nelson ('11)** of Omaha.

**STELLA JANE RICHE**, daughter of Chad and **Kristin (Bessembinders, '08)** Riche of Omaha and granddaughter of **LuRene McConnell ('96)** of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**DAPHNE ISABELLA RUBY**, daughter of Elizabeth and **Clark Ruby ('09)** of Omaha.

**ROMAN JOHN ELLERT SANDQUIST**, son of Teresa and **John Sandquist ('09)** of Omaha.

**DAVID MANUEL SEIER**, son of Danny Seier and **Nicky Clark ('10)** of Omaha.

**SCARLETT DAWN SIMPSON**, daughter of Ryan and **Kelsi (student)** Roberts Simpson of Omaha.

**LIAM L. VANNIER**, grandson of **Carolyn Vannier ('88)** of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**JOHN MICHAEL WHITMORE**, grandson of **Addie Whitmore ('85)** of Plattsmouth, Neb.

**BENJAMIN THEODORE WOLFE**, son of Elizabeth and **Ryan Wolfe ('10)** of Omaha and grandson of **Rosemary Beener Wolfe ('77)** of Papillion, Neb.

## CLASS NOTES

### WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE GRADUATING FROM UNO?

Send us an update online at <http://unoalumni.org/unoclassnote>. Or, write us at *UNO Magazine* Class Notes, 6705 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68182-0010. Include Name, Class Year, Degree, Phone, Address and Email. Fax to 402-554-3787.

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## SIGHTS & SOUNDS

A look at happenings on and off campus



### A Day for Degrees

The worldwide UNO alumni network of more than 100,000 graduates got a bit bigger in December with the presentation of degrees to more than 1,000 students at the university's winter commencement ceremonies. Two ceremonies were hosted, both on campus in Sapp Fieldhouse.



### Three Days at 10 Years

UNO hosted its 10th annual Three Days of Service during Fall Break, offering hundreds of students, faculty and staff the opportunity to help at a variety of projects hosted by nonprofit organizations across the metropolitan area. Each nonprofit delivered an educational presentation about its mission, objectives, and why volunteers are so important to the organization and community. Partners included Habitat for Humanity, the Special Olympics, Outward Bound and many more.



### Pulling Up Health & Wellness

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff filled the HPER building for the annual Health & Wellness Fair presented by the UNO Wellness Center in October. The event featured a blood drive, low-cost blood draws, free screenings and chair massages, door prizes and plenty of giveaways from more than 70 vendors.







## Snowing in October

Noted actor Brett Cullen was on campus in October to film part of "It Snows All the Time," a movie written and produced by Omahan Erich Hover. Cullen, who has starred in movies including "Moneyball," "Apollo 13" and "The Dark Knight," plays a character based on Hover's real-life father, Ed Hover. The movie depicts Ed Hover's battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Ten percent of the movie's profits will be donated to Alzheimer's/Dementia research. "My goal is that it will become a vehicle to raise awareness about the disease and provide funding from its viewership to help support a cure," Erich Hover told the Gateway. His father is a 1979 UNO graduate and was a longtime university employee. UNO students were extras in the movie during filming on campus. See more about the movie at [itsnowsallthetime.com](http://itsnowsallthetime.com)



## Chewy and the Chancellor

UNO Chancellor John Christensen had a Halloween that was out of this world, visiting with Chewbacca, Yoda and Princess Leia during the UNO Child Care Center's annual Halloween Costume Parade. Tots and tykes marched across campus, picking up treats from departments in every building — including the Chancellor's office.



## Flags in the Field

The UNO Veteran Student Organization commemorated Veterans Day by planting hundreds of flags in the pep bowl to honor those who have served in the military. UNO's Office of Military and Veteran Services serves more than 1,300 active military, veterans and their dependents. In addition, UNO also employs more than 170 veterans. In November, Military Times named UNO the nation's top four-year institution for veterans in its 2015 "Best for Vets" rankings including more than 600 colleges and universities.



Test your brainpower with these puzzles created by UNO graduate (and former football player) Terry Stickels ('76). An author, speaker and puzzle maker, Stickels' *FRAME GAMES* is published by *USA Weekend* magazine and in 600 newspapers. For more information on Stickels, or to order any of his books, visit [www.terrystickels.com](http://www.terrystickels.com)

## Logic

Imagine you have two identical floor fans that both rotate clockwise. Have them face each other and turn one of the fans on. The air should be blowing directly into the other fan, which is turned off. What will happen to the movement of the blades of the fan that is turned off?

- 1.) The blades move clockwise
- 2.) The blades move counterclockwise
- 3.) The blades remain stationary.
- 4.) The blades star clockwise, the rotate counterclockwise, then clockwise...back and forth.

## Mathematics

30 heads plus 100 feet  
Both bucks and ducks are there to meet.  
But is there a way to count these things?  
The thought of it spins my head in rings.  
So, tell me my friends, if you think you can  
the number of each animal in this band.

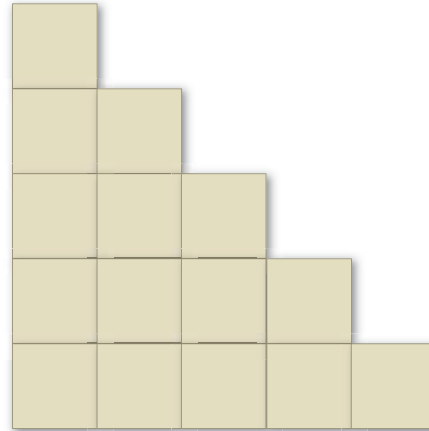
## Language

One of these words is misspelled. Which one?

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| A.) sedulous | B.) repoire |
| C.) napery   | D.) grommet |

## Visual

How many squares of any size are in the picture below?



Puzzles taken from *The Big Brain Puzzle Book*, created by Terry Stickels for the Alzheimer's Association.

Answers  
LOGIC: 2.) The blades move counterclockwise  
MATHEMATICS: There are 20 bucks and 10 ducks.  
Let A = bucks B = Ducks  
A+B = 30  
4A+2B = 100  
-2A — 2B = -60  
4A+2B = 100  
-2A — 2B = -60  
2A = 40  
A = 20  
B = 10  
LANGUAGE: B.) Repoire — it's not even a word.  
VISUAL: 22  
15 - 1x1  
6 - 2x2  
1 - 3x3

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