CREATING A POSITIVE FORCE

On April 19, 1950, the Regents of the University of Omaha approved the formation of the College of Education. Formal training of teachers had begun years earlier when 26 students started classes at the newly formed University on September 14, 1908. Of 11 students in the first graduating class in 1913, six went on to be teachers.

A Department of Education was formed within the University in 1928, and Irwin A. Hammer was appointed the first Department Chair. Two years later on May 6, 1930, the voters approved the creation of the Municipal University of Omaha.

The first Dean of the College of Education, appointed in April of 1950, was Frank H. Gorman. Following Gorman were Paul C. Kennedy, Edward L. Dejnozka, David E. Kapel, Donald A. Myers, Richard B. Flynn, John E. Christensen, John T. Langan, and David F. Conway (Interim Dean). Nancy A. Edick became the first female dean on July 1, 2009.

The first Distinguished Alumni Luncheon was held on September 30, 1988. Since its inception, over 200 alumni have been honored.

Today, the College has over 22,000 living alumni with a significant number living and working in metropolitan Omaha. The College of Education offers degrees in the areas of Biomechanics, Counseling, Educational Leadership, Health and Kinesiology, Special Education and Communication Disorders, and Teacher Education.

Our students and alumni serve the community through their work as dedicated practitioners, reflective scholars, and responsible citizens. Your support is essential to our mission and growth. Contact Nicole Massara at nicole.massara@nufoundation.org to learn more about a gift to the College of Education.
ORDER OF EVENTS

WELCOME & REMARKS, FOLLOWED BY LUNCH
   Nancy A. Edick, Lois G. Roskens Dean

PRESENTATION OF AWARD OF DISTINCTION
   Bob Whitehouse
       presented by Dean Edick, with remarks by Mr. Whitehouse

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
   Cathy McMahon
       presented by Dr. Sarah Edwards, Teacher Education

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
   Dr. Marquisha Frost
       presented by Dr. Daniel Kissinger, Counseling

   Dr. Shane Wurdeman
       presented by Dr. Mukul Mukherjee, Biomechanics

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED PROMISING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS
   Sister Rosemary Arrah
       presented by Dr. Kristine Swain, Special Education and Communication Disorders

   Emily Rivera
       presented by Dr. Jason Coleman, Health and Kinesiology

CLOSING COMMENTS
   Nancy A. Edick, Lois G. Roskens Dean
AN AWARD OF DISTINCTION
is given to a member of the community who has made a significant contribution to education and/or the college.

2019 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

BOB WHITEHOUSE

Bob Whitehouse has a distinguished career in education administration, most recently serving as a University of Nebraska Regent for District 4 from 2006 - 2018.

Bob began his career as a teacher and basketball coach for Central High School in 1967, and over his 30+ years with Omaha Public Schools (OPS) he held many roles, including serving as principal of Bryan High School in South Omaha for 13 years. He was a part-time faculty member in UNO’s Department of Educational Leadership from 2001-2003. He served as the coordinator of the Nebraska Educational Leadership Institute, a partnership between UNL and Gallup, from 2004-2006. For seven years, Bob was an educational consultant for OPS.

Bob graduated from Bellevue High School, received Bachelor of Science degrees in Education and Biology from UNK (where he held the long-jump record for 40 years), and received a Master of Science degree in Secondary Education Administration and an Educational Specialist degree from UNO’s Department of Educational Leadership.

1991-1992
Leta Halley

1993-1994
Paul Kennedy

1995-1996
Kenneth Hansen

1996-1997
Del Weber

1998-1999
Hollie Bethel
Jack & Marilyn MacAllister

2005-2006
Tim Fitzgerald

2010-2011
John T. Langan

2013-2014
Ronald Burmood

2015-2016
Ruth and Bill Scott

1992-1993
Leta Halley

1994-1995
Paul Kennedy

1997-1998
Kenneth Hansen

1999-2000
Del Weber

2001-2002
Hollie Bethel
Jack & Marilyn MacAllister

2003-2004
Jim & Nancy Westfall

2007-2008
Gena Simonsen

2009-2010
Barb Kuehn
He belonged to several professional organizations throughout his career including Phi Delta Kappa, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the UNK Alumni Association Board, and the Trinity United Methodist Church Board of Directors.

In addition to being honored with a College of Education Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999, Bob has received the South Omaha Optimist Sam Greenberg Award, the OPS Outstanding Principal of the Year Award, and the American G.I. Forum Veterans Family Organization Excellence in Education Award.

Bob has been recognized for his impact on Nebraska sports at every level—as a coach, administrator, and volunteer for over 50 years. In 2018, he was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the OPS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2015, Bob was inducted into the seventh Hall of Fame of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). He has also been selected as a Hall of Fame athlete by Bellevue East High School and UNK.

He and his wife, Kim, a retired principal at Sunny Slope Elementary, live in Omaha. They have three children and four grandchildren.
CATHY MCMAHON

Distinguished Service Award
Teacher Education Department

Cathy McMahon is a passionate advocate for literacy and public libraries. After raising a family and working in school libraries for many years, Cathy came to UNO as a non-traditional student to study Library Science.

Cathy received a Bachelor of Science in Education - Library Science in 2008 and a Master of Science in Elementary Education - Early Childhood Education in 2018. Upon graduation, she began her career at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, Nebraska and is currently the Youth Services Manager at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, Nebraska.

Cathy is an award-winning public librarian, receiving a BEST Business Partnership, Teachers Award from Papillion La Vista Community Schools in 2012 for her work to prepare students for the future, and the Mad Hatter Youth Services Award from the Nebraska Library Commission in 2018. A Mad Hatter Award recognizes public librarians who move libraries forward through innovative programming and community engagement.

In 2016, Cathy received the Celebrate Literacy Award from the Metropolitan Reading Council for her work with incarcerated youth at the Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) in La Vista, Nebraska. Cathy was recognized for her many projects to promote literacy at the JCC, including her efforts to increase access to new and relevant books in the JCC library and for working with the youth to develop their professional and interpersonal skills.

In her free time, she loves to read, cook and bake, and spend time with friends.
DR. MARQUISHA FROST

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award
Department of Counseling

Dr. Marquisha Frost is an ambitious and creative woman, wife, and mother. She is an Omaha native, first-generation college student, and UNO alumna, with an undergraduate degree in Black Studies and a master’s degree in Student Affairs Higher Education Counseling. In 2018, she completed her doctoral degree at Claremont Graduate University with a focus on Higher Education Administration and Women and Gender studies. As a doctoral student, Marquisha served as Student Body President, Honorary Trustee, and Student Lead for the University’s search for a new President.

While at UNO, Marquisha participated in Project Achieve, served as the President of the National Council for Negro Women, Student Director of Multicultural Affairs and Programming, and Vice President of the Black Student Union, and ran for homecoming queen. She received the Student Leader of the Year Award, Member of the Year Award, and the Susan Buffet Scholarship. She is a life-long member of the Thompson Scholars Program. Her son, Ma’Kye, was born during her first semester of undergraduate matriculation.

In her role as the Assistant Dean of Academic Resources and Services at Scripps College in Claremont, California, Dr. Frost is responsible for the First-Generation at Scripps program, a supportive services program for first-generation college students attending Scripps College. Additionally, she supports students with disabilities and serves as an advocate for access and equity in collegiate classrooms. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of La Verne.

When she’s not working, she serves as an educational advocate and mentor to young people through her platform, Queens Do Things, a blog dedicated to inspire and empower others. She enjoys reading, shopping and spending time with her husband Dell, a veteran of the United States Army, and their son Kye, who’s a lover of soccer, football and Fortnite.
Dr. Shane Wurdeman completed his PhD in biomechanics at UNO under Dr. Nick Stergiou. Before starting his PhD, he worked successfully as a prosthethist, a professional that makes prosthetic limbs for amputee rehabilitation.

After completion of his doctorate, he worked in a part-time clinical capacity helping patients with amputation as well as conducting research. He was subsequently brought Hanger Clinic, the nation’s leading provider of prosthetic and orthotic care with 800 care facilities across the country. At Hanger Clinic, he quickly worked his way up from research scientist to Director of Clinical Research, reporting directly to the Chief Clinical Officer. He continues to maintain a small clinical caseload caring for amputees.

Shane has achieved many notable professional accomplishments and awards. He has published 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts and three book chapters. He is a recognized Fellow with Distinction and member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (The Academy). He is a two-time elected keynote speaker at The Academy’s Annual Meeting. Shane is also a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant recipient, J.E. Hanger Award recipient (recognizing excellence for five individuals among the company’s 4000 employees), and 2018 Carlton Fillauer Prize winner for Outstanding Contribution to Prosthetics Science and Practice from the Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation (OPERF).

Shane is based in Houston, TX, and is most proud of his loving and supportive wife Asha, and their two kids, Uma and Vikram.
Sr. Rosemary Arrah is a member of a religious congregation with headquarters in Nigeria, the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus. Sr. Rosemary graduated with bachelor’s degrees in Business Information Systems and Theology Education, with an endorsement in Special Education, from College of Saint Mary in 2011 and two master’s degrees from UNO: Special Education in 2013 and Educational Leadership in 2014.

On completion of her degrees, Sr. Rosemary returned to her native Cameroon in Central Africa, serving as principal of Ancilla Catholic Comprehensive College, Wosing-Bali, for four years. She is currently principal at a boarding school for middle and high girls, Queen of the Rosary College, Okoyong-Mamfe. She is a certified positive discipline trainer and a member of the Positive Discipline Association.

In 2013, Sr. Rosemary, along with Dr. Larisa Che and Benadette Ngamelue, were the first UNO students to present at a Clinton Global Initiative University conference, proposing a project to turn a classroom to a working library in Mamfe. The project turned into non-profit Reading Drive for Africa. Since 2014, five libraries have been created and more than 15,000 books have been shipped to Cameroon.

Amidst the socio-political crisis in Cameroon, schools have become targets for violence, with many being forced to close. Although the crisis is not over, Sr. Rosemary has led her students and teachers through this time of suffering by creating an environment where safety, learning, service, respect, responsibility, and growth are encouraged.

Sr. Rosemary describes herself as a community organizer. Wherever she goes in the community, she gets involved. She works with women in church groups, youth, and children. Her favorite activities are organizing outreach to the elderly with her students, giving food to the poor, feeding the mentally ill on the streets, and organizing reading programs for children in her community.
EMILY RIVERA

Distinguished Promising Professional Award
School of Health & Kinesiology

Emily Rivera received her Bachelor of Science in Education - Community Health in 2013 and her Master of Science in Health Education in 2016.

As a graduate student at UNO, Emily received an Outstanding Graduate Service Award and Health Education Graduate Student of the Year Award from the School of Health and Kinesiology. She was the recipient of a Graduate Research and Creative Activity (GRACA) grant.

Emily is currently employed as a Senior Community Health Educator at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in the Division of Public Health. As a Senior Community Health Educator, Emily assists with the Nebraska Reproductive Health and Adolescent Health programs.

Previously, she worked as an Adolescent Health Educator for Charles Drew Health Center, Inc. The primary focus of her work at Charles Drew was to provide reproductive health education to youth aged 13 to 24.

Emily has dedicated her career to ensuring that all individuals have access to quality reproductive health services and medically-accurate information that empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their own reproductive health.

Emily’s hobbies include spending time with her pit bull, Ava, and pretending to be a cheese connoisseur.
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1988‑1989 Hollie Bethel • Kenneth Bird • Ellen Coffey • Luvern Cunningham • Larry Dlugosh • Nancy Matsukis • Ron Withem • Ronald Witt • 1989‑1990 Jean Beyer • David Cain • Joseph Caniglia • RonCisar • Connie Claussen • Margaret Fitch • Mary Harvey • 1990‑1991 Bobbie Davis • Christina Plambeck • Thomas Romberg • Barbara Schweiger • Janet Seaman • James Tangdall • 1991‑1992 Mark Caughey • Joyce Christensen • Judith Dobson • John Morrisey • Bernice Nared • Nancy O’Brien • JoAnn Tews • 1992‑1993 John Bonaiuto • Jeri Engen • James Freeman • Patricia Hudson • Daniel Murphy • Kelly Wanzenreid • 1993‑1994 Cheri Barg • Don Benning • JoAnn Braymen • Sharon Franzen • Bruce Hayden, Jr. • Carolyn Law • Betty Start • 1994‑1995 Donald Anderson • Linda Hayek • Roy Hunter • Norma Johnson • John Mackiel • Lane Plugge • Ann Potter • 1995‑1996 Dennis Dunning • James Howard • Kay Kronholm • Kathy Menke • Dorothy Nolan • Shirlee Walsh • 1996‑1997 John Atherton • Katherine Fletcher • Dennis Flood • Patricia Katskee • Deborah Loper • Timothy Rasinski • Barbara VanWassen-hoven • 1997‑1998 Kathleen Adams • MaryAnn Bragg • Robert Bruckner • Theodore DeLaet • Joan Denton • Sonia Green • James Ramirez • Steven Shanahan • 1998‑1999 Michael Denney • Janet Fidler • Jolene Pace • Eleanor Renee Rodriguez • Robert Whitehouse • Raymond Wood • 1999‑2000 David Carter • Thresa Clark • Denise Fandel • Karen Johns • Roger Kassebaum • Stephen Kleinsmith • Jon Lopez • Arleen Michael • 2000‑2001 Rick Black • Janice Gilmore • Robert Graham • Gary Hammack • Robert Ingram • Joseph Leutzinger • Linda Pappas • 2001‑2002 Ramona Bartee • Ruth Randall Benson • Patricia Hageman • Joyce Huebner • Richard Kolowski • Robert McGargill • 2002‑2003 Kirby Eltiste • Stephen Hardiman • LeAnn Heflin • Germaine Huber • John Moore • Kay Ryan • 2003‑2004 Stephen Abraham • Robert Danenhauer • Sandra Hodges • Ann Luther • Joyce McLeod • Tony Vincent • Charlotte Wetzel • 2004‑2005 Ted Esser • Howard Halperin • Barbara Jessing • Michelle Miske • McCart • Linda Placzek • 2005‑2006 Richard Christie • Don Klosterman • Vincent Lenz • Sarah Sanford • Suzanne Wintle • 2006‑2007 Bruce Dickinson • Deborah Frison • Janice Garnett • Kebbelin Himmelberg • Helene Lohman • 2007‑2008 Gerry B. Kuhlman • Loral Langemeier • Michael Nuschy • Margie Reed-Schmid • Lisa St. Clair • 2008‑2009 Karen Clark • Dick C. E. Davis • Max Kurz • Timothy Rasinski • 2009‑2010 Elizabeth Cernech • Kelly Karkosky • Robert Jorgensen • Shirley Key • Alice Kosowsky • Carolyn Paseneaux • Jason Plourde • James Porter • Sharon Struve • Janet Urban • 2010‑2011 Rebecca Vinton Dorn • Thomas Harvey • Bob Lykke • Mary Lykke • Antje S. Mefferd • Kathy Solomon • 2011‑2012 Stephanie Koraleski • Paul Malcom • Stanley Maliszewski • Ferial Pearson • Beverly Petersen • 2012‑2013 Martha Bruckner • Tonya Martin • Chad McGhee • Elizabeth Mulkerrin • W. Michael Walsh • 2013‑2014 Robert Buresh • Dwayne Chism • Jacqueline Huscroft-D’Angelo • Norma Morehouse • Andrew Rikli • 2014‑2015 Karen G. Anderson • Nancy Oberst • D. Scott Parsons • Marti Rosen-Atherton • Jorge Zuniga • 2015‑2016 Ryan Kaiser • Tamra Llewellyn • Susie Melliger • Cathy Nelson • Maureen O’Donnell • Melissa M. Scott-Pandorf • 2016‑2017 Mark Adler • Maddie Fennell • Jessie Huisenga • Cyndi Muhlbauer • Brent Schade • 2017‑2018 Carri Collins • Tiffany Elliott • Karen Hayes Harris • Tanya Lager • Megan Riebe Reay
HOLLIE BETHEL

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