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Annual Report 2021-2022

College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha

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COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA I COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

50 YEARS STRONG

CPACS is comprised of scholars and practitioners in the local and global community. Whether here in Omaha, on campuses all across the State of Nebraska, and online all over the world, the College facilitates community engagement and service. Take a moment to celebrate the histories of all CPACS departments, institutes, and programs, and find your place in this legacy of learning and leadership.

Our History:

The College of Public Affairs and Community Services (CPACS) was founded in 1972 by a mandate from the Regents' Commission following the merger of Omaha University and the University of Nebraska.

The Commission recommended a massive expansion in the role of the university in the community through the establishment of an Institute for

CPACS was originally composed in 1972 of the six units: Dept. of PA, Applied Urban Research (now CPAR). The Aviation Institute and the

Although highly collaborative, the units were housed all over campus. The current CPACS building opened in 2008, bringing our college under



CPACS DEAN'S OFFICE WELCOMES NEW APPOINTMENTS

Ph.D., who is going on partial retirement, but will continue to teach at UNO within the Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the Goodrich

Scott Tarry: As director of the college's Aviation Institute, Tarry has been actively involved with the UNO campus since 2000, including being president of the UNO Faculty Senate; director of the NASA Nebraska Space Grant and EPSCoR programs; and currently serving as the chair of the National Council of Space Grant Directors. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, and outside of work Tarry likes gardening, cycling, and being a new

Samantha Clinkinbeard has been at UNO in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice for the last 15 years. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes - winning an outstanding Teacher Award in 2020. Recently, her research is focused on policing, with a particular emphasis on women's pathways and experiences. Clinkinbeard earned her Ph.D. from the University of Nevada, Reno, and enjoys camping and fishing with her family.







Public and Community Affairs.

Dept. of Criminal Justice, School of Social Work, Goodrich Scholarship Program, Program in Gerontology, Dept. of Urban Studies, Center for Division of Continuing Studies have since joined CPACS.

one roof



Seven of CPACS academic programs are ranked in the top 30 in the

Enrollment is the highest in the history of the College with 3,134, during spring 2022. Last fall it rose 11.4%, and in the last decade.

Scott Tarry, Ph.D., director of the Aviation Institute, will start as associate dean. And on a part-time basis, Samantha Clinkinbeard, Ph.D., professor, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, will assume the role as assistant dean, while retaining her faculty appointment.

Both are replacing Associate Dean Theresa Barron-McKeagney,





Dr. John Bartle Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service



WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

CPACS was created to be "an action-oriented research agency, it should mount the university's attack upon community problems by organizing around interdisciplinary projects ... to bring the full range of current knowledge and techniques of the social, behavioral, and management sciences to bear upon the problems encountered" (Regents' Commission on the Urban University of the '70's, September 30, 1970).

We have stayed true to that goal. It is just as important now as it was fifty years ago. We provide education, but also direct action, outreach, and applied research to address community problems. We partner with organizations in mutually beneficial ways with the shared goal of making the community better, one step at a

With generations of our graduates leading organizations, we are the source and pipeline of talent for public and nonprofit organizations for Nebraska, as well as certain parts of the private sector. The vision of the Regents' Commission has been realized. The Omaha community is stronger and more humane because of CPACS.

In Memory: Brad Ashford **UNO Public Administration & Criminology Champion**

In April, 2022, Congressman Brad Ashford passed away in Omaha, After leaving Congress, Ashford engaged with Nebraska after a short battle with brain cancer. Congressman Ashford was a member of the NextGen Service family at UNO where he was a champion and key leader in the development of the program. While he had so much more to give, he will long be known by his rich legacy of pragmatic leadership, cross-sector collaboration and public service.

His pragmatism and flexibility—he changed political parties at least four times—served him well in the nonpartisan Unicameral legislature, where he was a committee chairman, dealmaker, and great advocate for Omaha. It arguably served him better in a fractious Congress, where he brokered a deal between the Obama Administration and the Republican House to create a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership financing mechanism for a long-delayed VA hospital in Omaha.

UNO to help governments build capacity to structure effective cross-sector partnerships. UNO Dean John Bartle saw the obvious opportunity to engage a lifelong public servant to help equip rising leaders with the skills and values they will need to serve.

In his memory, his family has recently announced the "Brad Ashford and Mark Ashford Innovation in Criminal Justice Scholarship," as Brad was also a UNO Criminal Justice Champion.



see page 23).

CPACS

Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, shown with his son

administration, referred to as Annex 27, had four parking stalls in front of it and a forest of trees, so you didn't even know it was there. Most of the

furniture was from the library, including the shag carpet. We also had a

I was fortunate to know all of the CPACS Deans, starting with Hubert Locke, who I met for the first time in 1983. I corresponded with Hubert

until his passing just a few years ago. John Kerrigan was the second person to hold the position. He actually interviewed me in Washington.

He always called me "young fella," but he called everyone that!

D.C., where I was living to discuss taking a position at UNO back in 1982.

The person with the biggest impact on me was David Hinton who became

Chair of Public Administration. Dave was the students' Dean, He cared so

much for their success. He was also just a wonderful individual. I became

Dean of Information Science and Technology. He brought the same love of students to that job as well. Dave thought best when he was walking

back and forth across campus. He was a mentor to so many people that

impacted CPACS and UNO, John Bartle can tell you stories about Dave.

picture of the three together was the one taken at the CPACS Building's

groundbreaking which appears outside the CPACS Dean's office (please

Sadly, we lost all three within ten years between 2008 and 2018. The last

Dean in 1985. When I came to UNO he was the Associate Dean and

Dean when he stepped down in 2000 but then he got 'drafted' to be

so over his 15 years as Dean you always discussed things by walking

nest of squirrels who lived in the attic and basically destroyed any records

Reflections from B.J. Reed, Former CPACS Dean and UNO

I came in 1982. At that time, we were all in different old houses

throughout the campus. Aviation had not joined the College, nor

we had by shredding all the paper to make nests.

had Continuing Studies. The old house that we occupied in public

at his 2019 retirement.





Alumni Reflections

"I would not be where I am today, without the education, experience and guidance from the team at UNO-CPACS, specifically Dr. Bill Wakefield, Dr. Sam Walker, Dr. Ineke Marshal, Dr. Julie Horney, Dr. Vince Webb and Dr. Cassie Spohn.

As my professional career developed, my classmates and I have found ourselves working alonaside one another in our various roles in the community, often collaborating, reaching out to one another for guidance, and celebrating each other's achievements. We are one big CPACS Alumni family, and for that I am forever grateful."

Kathleen (Kit) Lemon

Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the District of Nebraska. 1989-1991 Graduate Program Dept. of Criminal Justice inished Masters of Criminal

UNO SCHOOL OF

Criminology & Criminal Justice

School Director Chosen for NU Leadership Program



Phenomenal Tremendous Fantastic

These are all words Gaylene Armstrong, Ph.D., Director of the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ), used while describing the faculty in her school.

National Expert, Incredible, Dynamic

The praise continued as Armstrona shared accolades and experiences from her staff. In reality, these words also mirror herself.

As director of a nationally top ranked school, Armstrong has seen her school's enrollment grow, garner research grants, and start nationally significant programs. Her efforts have been noticed; she is now one of four UNO faculty recently chosen for NU's Developing Excellence in Academic Leaders (NU DEAL) inaugural cohort program. The choice of Armstrong to represent UNO is well founded. Her list of awards and achievement are long; she just recently received an Outstanding Academician award from the US Attorney's office and County Attorneys Association; and she has many other awards in recognition of her career accomplishments.

NU DEAL: Starting in the fall, the NU DEAL program brings together a handful of identified leaders representing all four NU campuses. They will learn about what each campus offers, and to learn from each other. Skill sets will be developed as the NU president will lead some of the starting fall sessions.

"I am very excited to be chosen for this. My dean was very supportive. I hope to develop myself so I can be a better leader in criminal justice," she said.

"We offer one of the top degrees in the country, and it is in Omaha's own backyard." Gaylene Armstrong, Ph.D., director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.



Our Labs: Creating Community and Engagement

The newly created Violence Intervention and Policing Research (VIPR) Lab in the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice is a collaborative effort focusing on enhancing public safety by providing research, resources, and training. Our lab engages with faculty, students, state agencies, practitioners, and the community. www.

The Crime and Justice Public Opinion Lab (CJPOL) started at the beginning of the Spring semester, under the direction of Dr. Leah Butler, with funding from Nebraska EPSCoR's FIRST Award.

The lab is a student-centered endeavor, focused on educating students on all stages of the research process, from survey design through publication of results. In summer 2022, the CJPOL is set to field its first national surveys and Dr. Butler will be pursuing a federal grant for long term lab funding. Student participants include Sarah Al Falatah, Baylee Allen, Caralin Branscom, Taylor Claxton, Christopher Connelly, Sadie Creel, Nathan Dufour, Brian Gildea, Michaela Goldsmith, Lexi Goodijohn, Emily Meinert (who also helps coordinate the lab), and Dakota Schroll.

Notable School Year Details:

20 Ph.D.s on faculty.

Locations for the undergraduate degree on both UNO and UNL campuses.

UNL has a fully staffed program, with 300 students earning a UNO degree while on UNL's campus

Just shy of 1000 undergrad majors.

More than 100 masters and doctoral students, with some online, some in the military, some in different parts of the country and local to Nebraska

USNews

CRIMINOLOGY &

SCCJ: Some Top Accomplishments 2021/22

GRANTS: The last couple of years have been very successful in the world of grants. So many of our faculty have been doing great work; there are too many to list. Right now we have:

\$8.3 million in active grants and \$6 million under review.

INTERNSHIPS: Internships are back after a short pause during COVID. Local agencies are looking for students for internships and jobs. Kim Retzlaff (now our internship coordinator in Omaha) and Chris Eskridge in Lincoln are both focused on coordinating this demand with our students.

RANKINGS: Our college rankings remained high this year; we are ranked #13 in the nation for criminology schools. Well done to all!

INTERNATIONALLY RANKED RESEARCHERS Stanford University released a study of top researchers in various fields, UNO's SCCJ had three experts who were in the top 2% of all researchers worldwide in criminology and criminal justice. These include:

Emily Wright, Ph.D., assistant vice chancellor for the Office of Research and Creative Activity and professor of Criminology, Ranked No. 182 for her research in the field of criminology.

The late Benjamin Steiner, Ph.D., former professor of criminology. Ranked No. 191 for his work in the field of criminology.

Justin Nix, Ph.D., associate professor criminology, ranked No. 200 for his work in the field of criminology.

We truly are locally engaged with a global presence.

SPOTLIGHT: Justin Nix, Ph.D.

UNO's Curious People Series:

Justin Nix, Ph.D., is well known for his expertise in criminal justice. Nix is just one of many experts in our college; he was featured in UNO's Curious People Series this year. His topic was Police Use of Deadly Force where he explored the evidence on police killings - how often it happens, where it happens, and why it happens; and pointed out the holes in our knowledge due to data constraints. Dr. Nix is regularly sought for data expertise from the Washington Post.

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REFLECTING FORWARD

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our Division Up Close **OUR STUDENTS:**

Female 51% Male 49%

Headcount AY (unduplicated) 20-21: 1625

Military Affiliated: 24.1%

First Generation 52.2%

TOP 5 CONCENTRATIONS:

General Administration, Library Science, Behavioral Health, Psychology, Criminal Justice CUM GPA for Spring 2021: CUM GPA: 2.95, 605 students with 3.0+, 78 students with 4.0 CUM GPA for Fall 2021: CUM GPA: 2.87, 582 students with 3.0+, 72 students with 4.0 GRADUATES PER SEMESTER:

Spring 2021: 134

Summer 2021: 94

Fall 2021: 126

Katy Gonzalez (May 2022 graduate)-Behavioral Health

Carolyn Rogers (May 2022 graduate)-Gerontology

Travis Vo (May 2022 graduate-Public Policy Studies) Dean's Award

Mindy Hunke: December 2021 Employee of the Month

Christine Billings —UNO Professional and Continuing Education Steering Committee, Chair

Katie Sup Rezac - Transfer Student NU System Task Force April Paschall - Digital Education NU System Task Force

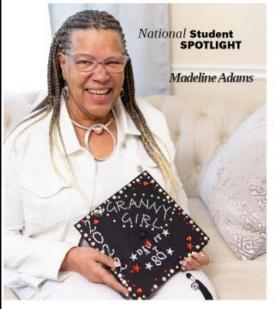
Kerry Fina -UNO Academic Advising Council Executive Team, Secretary & President-Elect

Mindy Hunke & Katie Sup Rezac -UNO Staff Advisory Council Karen Kempkes -- Maverick Student Employee Steering Committee

The Council of Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) presented UNO with the 2021 Adult Learner Impact Award at the Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. The award recognizes institutions and organizations that have provided outstanding programs and services to adult learners.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) received overwhelming support and was chosen as the 2021 recipient among many quality entries. CAEL values the efforts of UNO, and particularly the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (BMS) program, to become the catalyst for bridging the prior learning that students have attained with quality learning apportunities to achieve degree

DIVISION OF CONTINUING STUDIES



A UNO Spring 2022 graduate received lots of well-deserved national publicity.

Madeline Adams, who earned her bachelor's in multidisciplinary studies with a specialization in criminal justice has been featured on more than 150 media outlets because of her perseverance in finishing her degree. She is 80 years old.

Madeline, who now lives in Galveston, Texas, enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Omaha - then Omaha University - in the 1960's but dropped out to raise a family.

Her work and family life have taken her to Missouri, Hawaii and Texas. At all stages in her life, she inspired her family. In later years, she was encouraged to finish her degree. With UNO's online studies program, it became a reality, and Madeline will use her degree to support her work with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Student SPOTLIGHT ONLINE CLASSES & WORKING: MEET TIM CROSTON

Tim lives in Northwest Indiana, works for Union Pacific in Chicago

Major: Multidisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Emergency Management

How did you find your way to UNO?

When Union Pacific first announced on the Employee website that they were offering the opportunity to take classes at UNO (Career Currency), I started the process almost immediately.

UNO experiences so far?

I've experienced a welcoming atmosphere for a working adult returning to school for the

first time in a long time. I also enjoyed a smooth transition from a knowledgeable staff, and an amazing advisor that keeps me on track and up to date on what classes I need to complete to help me attain my goal of graduation.

Favorite classes?

My favorite class was the first class I took here at UNO, Intro to Tribal Management and Emergency Services. That class was the perfect introduction to school, online learning, transitions, expectations, all in one!



Future goals:

Graduation in August 2025, Taking one (online) class per semester, with my work schedule, allows me the flexibility to work full time, learn, and accomplish my goals all at the same time!

Alumni





"Graduating through what is now CPACS allowed me to commission and attend pilot training in the United States Air Force. It was the footing beneath the foundation of my career and has served me

Major General James "Bob Stevenson

1987 Bachelors of General Studies





UNO's Nonprofit Professor Tara Kolar Bryan Connects Current Students and Alumni Across the Globe through Fulbright Scholar Experience in the Czech Republic.

Associate Professor, School of Public Administration

Tara Kolar Bryan, Ph.D., associate professor within the UNO School of Public Administration, had never taught so many students from all over the world - literally. With a class full of students who hailed from the Czech Republic to the Ukraine, Turkey, Ghana, Pakistan, Kenya, Bangladesh, and more - Bryan was up for the experience of a lifetime.

Bryan is currently serving a one-year sabbatical in the Czech Republic teaching and researching at the Faculty of Economics and Administration at Masaryk University in Brno as a Fullbright Scholar. Bryan is accompanied by her husband and two daughters, and they are loving their immersive experience within the Czech culture.

Bryan was drawn to the Czech Republic to gain a better understanding of the nonprofit (NGO) sector in post-communist countries where the sector is relatively young. In the fall, Bryan taught Nonprofit Culture and Practice in the U.S. Context, sharing "I wanted my students to get the opportunity to speak directly with nonprofit professionals in the U.S. so they could more deeply understand some of the course topics. I assigned students to interview a U.S. nonprofit professional, provided them with interview questions, and I asked them to write a summary and reflection of their interview in the context of the course readings."

And, to Bryan's surprise, for many of her students, she was the first American they knew. Luckily, she knew just where to find accomplished and knowledgeable nonprofit professionals - through her home base of former students within UNO's Master of Public Administration (MPA) alumni.

Connections of Bryan's from the UNO MPA Program were called upon to serve as interviewers for her latest course assignment. The results were impactful for all involved.

Here's what one of Bryan's students, Larrious-Lartey Henry, had to about their student experience conducting interviews of a nonprofit professional from the U.S.:

"It was an awesome time interacting with my respondent. My interviewee from the U.S. was Ms. Franccia Moore, the National Youth Programs Coordinator with the Common Cause organization.

I was delighted to have such a personality that best fits the moment. My respondent did not only answer my questions promptly, but her answers were lively, insightful, and involving. The biggest takeaways from the interaction with my respondent showed me a clear picture which helped me appreciate some of the course topics."

Having the apportunity to connect current students and alumni was just one of the many memories Bryan is creating as she finishes her sabbatical in the Czech Republic. She is motivated to "incorporate more comparative and international perspectives into my courses."



NCJR faculty, staff, and students presented at numerous national and international conferences:

important moderators. This is a 36-month grant funded by the National Institute of Justice for \$600,000.

American Society of Criminology, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, American Jail Association, San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment

NCJR faculty, staff, and students also produced numerous research reports and technical reports from our funded projects.

Alumni Reflections



"My favorite classes - the besties - Dr. Wakefield and Dr. Suzuki. Both motivated me to be successful. My education was the best investment ever! CPACS is the best program for students seeking a criminal justice or public administration undergraduate or master programs. This is certainly a top 10 University and I'm very proud to be a Maverick and a graduate of this University."

Rosalyn Cotton, Chair of the Nebraska Board of Parole Master-Urban Studies/Criminal Justice-Dept of Public Administration at the time

UNO CPACS YEAR IN REVIEW 2021/22 | 9

DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY

Important Milestones During 2021-2022

Our faculty are amazing. Following are just some of our notable achievements.

AWARDS: Dr. Kelly received the Spirit of Aging Award from the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging, and Bede Bolin received the Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Teaching; both this spring.

UNL PROGRAM: Bolin has contributed significantly to the continued growth of our undergraduate program in Lincoln, where there are currently 74 students pursuing the minor and 27 students pursuing the certificate. This year saw10 students completing their graduate certificates at UNL.

PRESENTATIONS: Five Ph.D. students presented posters at the Cognitive Aging Conference in Atlanta. These students are: Mollie George, Kali Odd, Victoria Dube, Sarah Hubner, and Judith Kim. Another Ph.D. student, Angie Helseth, led the effort to create and distribute Valentine's Day cards to over 1,000 local nursing home residents.

DEGREES: Twenty students received a B.S. in Gerontology at UNO in 2021-2022. There were 47 majors, 27 minors and nine certificate students at UNO under the guidance of **Heather Ford**, our undergraduate advisor, and **Mark Kazor**, our practicum coordinator.

PUBLICATIONS: There were 12 professional publications, including journal articles and book chapters, authored by faculty members and numerous professional and community presentations.

GRANTS: We received support from 16 grants for a total of over \$3.5 million. These grants support research into issues that impact the older population, including loneliness, food choice, physical activity, and empathy. Drs. Masters, Wilkinson, Kelly are also conducting a statewide survey of Nebraskons age 50 and older about their needs as well as their satisfaction with federal services delivered by the state's eight area agencies.





AGING WITH COMPASSION









Dr. Janelle Beadle

Earned tenure and promotion to associate professor in April 2022. Dr. Beadle's research examines the brain and behavioral bases of emotion, mental health, and decision making in healthy older adults, caregivers, mild cognitive impairment, and Alzheimer's

Dr. Lindsay Wilkinson

Earned tenure and promotion to associate professor in April 2022. Dr Wilkinson's research focuses on aging and the life course, health inequalities, and social stratification.

Dr. Julie Masters

She's authored three oped articles for the Omaha World-Herald this year.

1) recognizing the organizations that help those maving into caregiving roles

2) remembering the last responders bringing comfort to families during the pandemic 3) bringing awareness to the need for more

Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron

She was named UNO's Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor. In January 2022, Dr. Boron began a half-time appointment as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Lyn Holley

Dr. Holley is among the first UNO faculty to receive an Equity and Inclusion Certificate.

Also, Dr. Lyn Holley, Dr. Beron, and Dr. Christopher Kelly continue to develop UNO as an Age-Friendly University, particularly in UNO's new Lifelong Learning Program.

Dr. Amy Hanson

Or. Amy Hanson was also selected to be part of the first U.S. Diversity Faculty Scholars Cohort at UNO.

In January 2022, Dr. Hanson (with Dr. Carolina Hotchandoni, Goodrich Scholarship Program) was awarded a Peer Collaboration Mini-Grant through WiStem.



NATIONALLY RANKED | LOCALLY ENGAGED

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021-22

MENTOR We offer Graduate Credit Expert Instructors | Co-horts Nebraska 2022 CERTIFIED PUBLIC FUNDRAISING Management MANAGER® PROGRAM

Professional Programs

Nebraska Certified Public Manager®Program | Certificate in Fundraising Management

Back in Full Force 2022:

Largest Conference Ever for NE Clerks

Conference Facts:

Attendance for "Jump Start" for

Total Attendance

new clerks. Largest ever. Prize winners; thanks to our sponsors

\$10,000 In scholarships, provided by the Nebraska Clerks Association & Piper Sandler

16 hours of education towards the Legislative bill LB781

Nebraska 2022 Municipal Clerk Institute

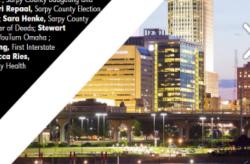


Other Professional Programs Highlights

Two-day conference for Great Plains Government Finance Officers Association with 70 people from Nebraska and Iawa

2021 CPM Graduates:

Clare Severn, Sarpy County Emergency Communication Center; Cliff McEvoy, Kids Can Community Center; Jenni Rock , Sarpy County Budgeting and Finance; Kari Repaal, Sarpy County Electio Commission; Sara Henke, Sarpy County Clerk/Register of Deeds; Stewart Giddings, YouTurn Omaha; Lesa Jarding, First Interstate Bank; Rebecca Ries, Valley County Health



SOME OF OUR SPA ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 21/22

Faculty conducted a total of 698 hours worth of Professional Services to a variety of public and nonprofit organizations.

7 Faculty members were active on campus as committee members or guest speakers through departments and organizations on campus.

5 Faculty were interviewed by a variety of media outlets.

2 Faculty received Fulbright Awards

66 publications, published across 40 publishing platforms. Top publishers are Journal of Public Affairs Education, Lexington/Lexington Books & Political Science & Politics. Each publisher has published three or more of the School of Public Administration Faculty.

Faculty and Ph.D. students collaborated to publish 4 articles.

Pro Bono work worldwide includes nonprofit research in Czech Republic to Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate Emergency Management Think Tank for a combined total of 280 hours.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Yu-Che Chen: top-10 most downloaded journal articles from Government Information Quarterly.

Dr. Danbee Lee received the SKPA Award for Excellence in Leadership and Service from the Section on Korean Public Administration (SKPA) of the American Society for Public Administration.

Dr. Craig Maher, Dr. Trang Hoang and Anne Hindery had a "most cited" article in Public Administration Review.

Dr. Mary Hamilton, NPSA Rosslyn Kleeman Keeper of the Flame Award.



OTHER SPA BIG NEWS!

Tribal Management & Emergency Services started: The Soaring Eagle: Drone technology to strengthen Tribal sovereignty

We won 1st Place in the Voinovich Innovation Challenge = \$10,000.

Dream Makers Scholarship Started

MS Urban Studies Announces:

Graduate Certification in Urban Leadership

Fast Track program. This partnership with the Department of Black Studies was developed so that highly qualified and motivated students can complete a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in an accelerated time frame. With Fast Track, students may count up to 9 graduate hours toward the completion of both their degrees. Students must be of senior status with their bachelor's degree to begin Fast

UNO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Competition. This national competition features 28 schools from around the country and close to 400 competitors. The UNO team competed in 10 different events, and placed in

UNO's FLIGHT TEAM FLIES

UNO's Flight Team, the Flying

consecutive year to compete at

2022 National Intercollegiate

Mays, qualified for the 13th

HIGH AT NATIONALS

The results included: 10th overall in the SAFECON National Championship and 9th in the Judges Trophy. In the Flight Events Championship UNO finished 8th and 13th the Ground Events Championship. Well done to all



Coach Scott Vlasek, also the new SPA Aviation Institute Director, was selected as Coach of the Year. "It is an honor and privilege to get to work with this team. They are a very cohesive group that works hard to represent the University and city at the highest level. Team members practice 10-14 hours on top of their academic coursework, flight training, and working." -- Coach Vlasek.

UNO's Next Gen Leadership Corps and the Cross-Sector Collaborative Leadership

Minor are gaining traction as this endeavor prepares students to become professionals with a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement.

Scholarships have been awarded to our incoming 2022 class. Many will be joining UNO's honors students in the new undergraduate course. Cross-Sector Collaborative Leadership, which is team taught by SPA's Dr. Maher and Dr. Lynn Harlan from the College of Business Administration.

Students will utilize their networks to connect the three sectors (nonprofit, public and private) to address a community problem. Nationally, this program is expanding to other universities. Our students will network and connect through their own social media platforms to engage and learn from hundreds of students across the U.S.

Congratulations

May, 2022 | PHD Graduates | Public Administration







Dr. Kristin Broyhill



Dr. Bit An



Dr. Josephine Hazelton-Boyle



Dr. Del Bharath

TOP NATIONAL RANKINGS FOR CPACS USNews



Our Highest Ever

Public Affairs College: #23 Public Finance & Budget #5 Local Government Mamt: #7 Nonprofit Management #11 Public Management & Leadership #19

Criminology #13

We strive for excellence.

The new 2023 Best Graduate Schools Rankings from U.S. News & World Report has increased our public affairs programs' rankings across the board. These public administration programs have been consistently ranked high in the last decade and now two of our programs break the top ten in the nation; Public Finance & Budgeting is ranked fifth and Local Government Management is ranked seventh. These programs are part of the School of Public Administration, now ranked 23rd in the nation.

John Bartle, Ph.D., dean of CPACS, said the recognition for his college's programs highlight the programs' quality, "It's no surprise to see UNO's School of Public Administration ranked alongside institutions like Duke, Columbia, Texas A&M, and Kansas.

"The school has a world-class faculty. We attract students from all over the world and give them a rigorous, relevant education. The top ten rankings in the specialty areas are also a welcome recognition of our leadership in the field. And while we are nationally ranked, we are also locally engaged: our faculty and students work closely with community partners, nonprofits, and governments to solve community problems," he said

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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 2021/22 STUDENT PROFILES



President of the UNOBAP (UNO's Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals) and Aviation Student

Why UNO? "UNO offers so many opportunities for education and career advancement. The access to teachers and leaders in the institute is a great positive."

Why Aviation: "Aviation interests me as it brings together people with different backgrounds and skill sets at different levels to make an operation work. A safe and efficient flight for example is very multifaceted. It doesn't only include the pilot, it includes the weather briefer, the flight dispatcher, engineers, flight attendants, lawyers and more."

Future plans: "I'd like to one day become an Airline Pilot." Precious has recently accepted a full-time position (prior to graduation) working within the FAA as a Program and Management Analyst within the Mission Support Services Division of the Air Traffic Organization.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Josephine Hazelton-Boyle Graduate Student Marshal, 2022 commencement

Top Experiences at UNO? My Graduate Research and Creative Activity grant from UNO to conduct research in Toronto, Ontario & the apportunity to teach several undergraduate courses. I loved working with UNO students.

Why Public Administration? I see public administration as key to solving some of society's most complex challenges. I study issues of social equity in public administration, primarily with a focus on transportation agencies,

Future Plans: I'll be starting as an Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy School at the University of Montana this summer. . I'm so grateful and excited for this opportunity, and it is only possible because of the immense support I received from UNO SPA

Background: Josephine earned BA and MPA from California State University, Stanislaus. She also completed a fellowship at the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. before pursuing her Ph.D. at UNO, which solidified her interest in studying transportation administration.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Theodore Johnson

Theodore Johnson is a Ph.D. student in Public Administration, and an Aviation Institute Instructor.

While only in Nebraska for two years, Theodore has been noticed for already creating lasting change to broaden the horizons of racial and gender minorities within the UNO and Omaha communities pertaining to aviation/aerospace and other STEM fields.

In 2022, he was recognized by The Greater Omaha Chamber Young Professionals as one of four 2022 Change Makers for his work in the aviation industry. Theodore also was recognized with the 2022 Student Paper Award by the Society of Public Administration, Section on Transportation Policy & Administration.

His manuscript was titled "Quieted Voices: A Phenomenological analysis of the experiences of Black/African-American collegiate aviation students.

Area of expertise: Theodore specializes in the social equity nexus of aviation and higher education; working towards lasting change that focalizes racial equity within higher education and the aviation industry.

"It is my charge as a Black male educator, scholar, and aviation professional to utilize this power to provide a platform to voice the experiences that have been historically ignored and to advance racial and educational equity for minorities."

Praise for UNO: "My time as a student at UNO and faculty member within the AI/CPACS has been nothing short of extraordinary. The academic and non-academic support I received thus far has been unparalleled, which has empowered me to excel personally, professionally, and academically. Consequently, I have grown as an educator, scholar, and aviation professional

"If it were not for the supportive, open-minded, and equity-driven faculty within UNO's School of Public Administration, I would not have had the unwavering confidence to engage in such bold scholarship, the knowledge to navigate the project Alumni which led to my national award, or the academic freedom to do so in the academy."

Theodore earned his B.S. in Aviation Management and Master of Public Administration from Eastern Michigan





The education and experience has een invaluable. As an example, I am presently working on a proposal for Mission Daybreak in the hope of reducing veteran suicide. As a 100 % Disabled Veteran some of the curriculum in CPACS covered EEO, ADA, and other policies pertaining to the disabled, which has been very useful to me personally and professionally. *

Sean Collins, BS, 2013 & MPA Student, 2016.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Carla Mayhew, Student Commencement Speaker

MPA Graduate Carla Mayhew was selected as the student speaker for December's commencement, Carla represents arit, dedication and academic success. She dedicated herself to her family and to her human resources profession while aiming high and balancing the demands and rigor of graduate-level learning.

Carla graduated with her MPA and with a concentration in local government. In 2018, Mayhew was a recipient of the UNO Women's Club Fellowship. She earned her undergraduate degree in legal studies from Chadron State College in 2006. She was appointed by Governor Heineman to serve as the Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State College System

Mayhew is the Human Resource Director for the City of Alliance, Nebraska, serving since 2014. Her responsibilities include hiring. employee benefits, and training. She is also the current president of the Western Nebraska Human Resource Association and is a Senior Certified Professional by the Society of Human Resource Management.

Mayhew has been a Girl Scout Leader for the past seven years and speaks at local high schools about careers in local government and assists students with career preparation. She serves as a chamber ambassador and is a past-president for Leadership Box Butte.

Mayhew has two children, Pearl (13) and Archer (4), and enjoys riding her motorcycle. Following her graduation, she plans to continue with the City of Alliance.



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CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

The Center for Public Affairs Research collaboratively produces and disseminates high-quality public scholarship about topics that impact the lives of Nebraskans.

[CPAR.UNOMAHA.EDU]

We are: the state's experts with data & policy analyses; data retrieval, acquisition, and organization; and survey research amongst other services. Our ongoing projects include policy analyses for the Planning Committee of the NE State Legislature, the NE Rural Transit Project, and designation by the U.S. Census Bureau as a statewide liaison for disseminating a range of data products.

Presentations: We gave more than 20 data-based presentations statewide on topics, including, workforce, housing, and population trends.





When the Census was delayed for the first time in the history of our country, collaborating with CPAR allowed us to work with all political subdivisions to come up with a solution to get redistrictina done in time for the May 2022 primary. Dr. Josie Gatti Schafer, Director of CPAR, and her team were a tremendous help in this process.

Wayne Bena, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections, Nebraska Elections Division

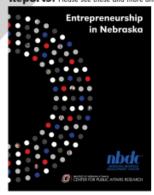


417 participants across 4 days of sessions

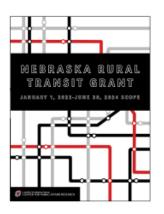
235 individuals registered

Many recordings purchased

Reports: Please see these and more online at cpar.unomaha.edu







UNO's New Labor Institute Leader Focuses on Nebraska's Future

In his first year of leading the William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies, Jim Begley, director, is facing Nebraska's workforce challenges with a new slant and head-on.

Jim Begley's plans are large. They are tailored to fit in with meeting UNO's workforce development mission, as well as offering top education opportunities to the state's labor

He is taking a big step forward on these plans, starting with the re-vamped Nebraska Works! Conference in early April.

"We want robust discussions happening at the conference. We want labor unions to speak with and hear from businesses, and vice versa. We want to have them talking with each other as equal partners."

Begley has other goals including developing e-learning methods for the state's labor unions and potentially offering UNO credit courses in labor studies. The Institute currently offers non-credit classes for labor union members. Begley hopes to expand these offerings as well. These courses cover topics such as collective bargaining, grievance handling, labor history, and leadership training and skills.

Housed within the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, the William Brennan

Institute for Labor Studies has been part of the University for more than 40 years. The Institute was originally developed by the state legislature, which found UNO to be the best home for it. Begley is the second director of the

Tell us about labor unions in our state, About 8.8% of our workforce in the State of Nebraska works in unions. The number has been declining, but the popularity and support is growing according to Gallup polls. For example, in 2021, the approval rating for unions was 68%, and amonast millennials it was 77%. There is a dichotomy of high approval ratings, but a decline in numbers; and yet labor unions do bring democracy and higher paying jobs into the workplace.

How does this labor studies institute fit in with UNO, an institution of higher education? We will continue to inform others about the institute and to facilitate solid discussions and education about important labor issues. For any wage earner - union or not - we are facing critical issues that need to be discussed and understood. The Institute provides a community service for Nebraskans.

We are also contemplating some credit courses that focus on labor studies. We will be looking at developing e-learning modules on the history of

labor unions and organized labor. We would like to have those modules as a foundation of learning; an efficient way of teaching the value of organized labor.

Any conclusions on Nebraska and our workforce? The jobs are here. In fact, our state needs to hire 50,000 workers every year to keep up with those going into retirement. We need both skilled tradespeople and educated professionals to fill those jobs to make our city and state even more inviting and prosperous. When we educate about the values that unions bring to our society, we are providing Nebraskans with information about their rights to bring meaningful democracy into our workplaces, which helps wage earners attain the American Dream

Begley started in July 2021 and comes to WBILS with experience in human resources with the City of Omaha. He holds an MPA from UNO. Welcome to the CPACS team, Jim!

WILLIAM BRENNAN INSTITUTE FOR LABOR **STUDIES** In addition to this open discussion at the conference Jim Begley, Director of the William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Student Success by the Numbers

6-yr Grad rate for 2015 cohort: 81%

Our freshman/sophomore retention rate: 95%

Spring 2021 semester: 44 on Chancellor's List, 134 on Dean's List, Avg GPA 3.42

Fall 2021 semester: 46 on Chancellor's List, 133 on Dean's List, Ava. GPA 3.32

Some Featured Student Awards & Achievements

- 2 Outstanding Major Award Winners for UNO; 2 Goldstein Center for Human Rights Awardees; 1 Lead Developer in the Center for the Management of Information Technology Attic
- 1 Funding for American Studies Leadership and the American Presidency Fellow; 1 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow
- 2 Health Careers Opportunity Program Awardees; 1 Summer Health Professions Education Program; 3 UHOP Members: 1 Selected as Member of 43rd Army Band;
- 7 FUSE Awardees; 2 Resident Assistants; 8 Presidents/Directors of campus clubs and programs

2021 High Schools Represented:

Bellevue East, Bellevue West; Benson; Bryan; Burke; Central; Fairbury; Fremont; Grand Island Central Catholic; Grand Island Senior; Gretna; Gross Catholic: Lexington; Lutheran High Northeast; Marian; Mead; Mercy: Millard North, Millard South, Millard West: Omaha North: Omaha Northwest; O'Neill; Papillion-La Vista, Papillion-La Vista South; Ralston; Roncalli; Schuyler Central; Scotus Central Catholic; Sidney: Omaha South; South Sioux City; Westside

Some of our Scholarship & Award Winners

1 ASHRAF

1 UNF Scott

1 North High School Viking of Distinction

1 Horatio Alger

1 Noyce

2 Hispanic Scholarship Fund 1 Hagan

4 Partnership 4 Kids

2 Davis Chambers

1 African American Leadership Summit 1 Baird-Holm

Some Goodrich Scholar Internships Include:

Exploratory Studies, Learning for ALL, Stephen Center, Pulsera Project, Latino Center of the Midlands, Estrellitas de Omaha, Elevate Omaha, Green Plains, UNO Biomechanics, Conagra, Immanuel Fontenelle Nursing Home, Union Pacific, Siembra Nebraska, Rockbrook Animal Clinic, Omaha Public Schools, Bellevue Public Schools, Masimore Magnuson & Associates, P.C., UNMC Neuroscience Research Lab, Heartland Family Services, OPS Migrant and ESLI Education/Parent Involvement, Morrissey Engineering, Project Harmony, Aksarben Retirement Village, Stand for Schools, Chandra Law Office, Valmont, Voice for Children, Douglas County Health Department, and Vodec

CPACS Alumni Award for Excellence: Goodrich Scholar



Congratulations to Roger Garcia, CPACS Alumni Award Recipient. Garcia was raised in Columbus, Neb. He holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology and Latino/Latin American studies, a Master's in Public Administration, a Master's in Theological Studies, and is currently finishing a Doctorate in Ministry. Roger

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1525

has been working in the nonprofit and public sector for more than

"The Goodrich Scholarship Program:

Without it I would not have been able to afford college. The Goodrich Program also taught me study skills, how to be an effective writer, and critical reasoning. Those attributes served me very well during my four years at UNO, and later in law

R.J. (Randy) Stevenson, Attorney/ Partner at Baird Holm LLP 1982; BS in Business Administration

50 YEARS STRONG

Since 1972, the Goodrich Scholarship Program has enabled more than 1,900 students to complete a first-class education at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO). You know many of our alums today as doctors, educators, engineers, artists, and elected officials. What they are and always will be is Goodrich. Once a Goodricher, always a Goodricher.

GOODRICH

PROGRAM

HHY

THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS

Dr. Cynthia Robinson, Chair Black Studies



Aileen Warren, President/CEO ICAN



World Mission Society Church of God, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands, Code for Nebraska, Nebraska Appleseed, Assumption Guadalupe, Open Door Mission, Juan Diego Center, Omaha Public Schools, Foodbank for the Heartland, Mav Food Pantry, Latino Center of the Midlands, Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy, Karen Student Association, Benson Baptist Church, OneWorld, Bellevue Soccer Club, Together Omaha, Women's Center for Advancement, P4K, Omaha Area Health Education Center, Nebraska Humane Society, Bellevue Soccer Club, Cornerstone Nonprofit Healthcare Mobile Medical Clinic, Fontanelle Forest, Friends of Japan, Students Against Hunger, VITA Program, Munroe-Meyer Institute, Autism Society of Nebraska, Dr. Kota Takashi's Research Team, East African Gracery Store, Karen Culture Organization Omaha, Intercultural

Senior Center, Girls Inc., UNO STEM Camp, Restoring Dignity, Upward Bound, STEM4U, and Nebraska Arthritis Foundation

Omaha Chamber of Commerce Young Professional 2022 Change Maker







THE GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Walcoma

Introducing Our New Director and Faculty Von Nebbitt, Ph.D.

The Grace Abbott School of Social Work (GASSW) is pleased to announce Von Nebbitt, PhD will join the school as the director on July 01, 2022, Dr. Nebbitt earned his doctorate in social work from Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, Ma., and is currently a professor there.

Laurel Sariscsany, Ph.D.

GASSW is delighted to announce that Dr. Laurel Sariscsany will join the faculty as an assistant professor. Dr. Sariscsany is an UNO alumna and earned her BSSW from UNO. Dr. Sariscsany earned her Ph.D. in social work from Columbia University and worked as a policy analyst at OpenSky Policy Institute in Lincoln,

Heidi Adams Rueda, Ph.D.

We welcome Dr. Heidi Adams Rueda as an associate professor and the John E. Christensen Community Chair of Social Work in Child Welfare. Her research focuses on child and adolescent health, adolescent parenting relationships, and fostering strong attachments for lifelong partnering and healthy families. She comes to us from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Continuing Education: Since 2018, the Grace Abbott School of Social Work's (GASSW) has provided quality continuing education and professional development opportunities to social workers and licensed mental health professionals.

In 2021 and the early months of 2022, more than 3,200 professionals enrolled in trainings offered by the program, and just under 9,000 hours of continuing education for social workers and the behavioral health workers in Nebraska were issued.

With this remarkable growth, GASSW recognized the need for additional services such as training to upgrade job skills and provide supervision, to improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities. These enhancements have resulted in upgrading the GASSW's continuing education program into a more structured, Grace Abbott Training and Supervision Academy (GATSA).



Students By the Numbers

BSSW 109 MSSW 287 Spring: BSSW 94 MSSW 256

11% of enrolled BSSW and MSW students identify as male 89% of students identify as female. 232 First generation students

46 Scholarships totaling \$57,000 were awarded to 46

The GASSW practicum office held a virtual practicum fair using the Wonder platform in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

During the Fall 2021 fair, 27 agencies participated, and 25 students attended. During the Spring 2022 fair, 35 agencies participated, and 113 students attended.

Practicum Placement: Fall 2021: 135 practicum students (38 BSSW, 97 UNO MSW) were placed in 96 agencies.

Spring 2022: 119 practicum students (24 BSSW, 95 UNO MSW) were placed in 95 different agencies.

Student Social Work Organization: During the 2021-2022, SSWO focused on connecting with various community partners and hearing their expertise related to human service organizations in the Omaha area. Members hosted a food/ clothing drive for Open Door Mission and volunteered at Food Bank for the Heartland.



CPACS Associate Dean: On Partial Retirement

Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Ph.D., has been the Assistant Deanof CPACS and will be partially retiring. Thankfully, she will continue to teach at UNO within the Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the Goodrich Scholarship Program. "Theresa represents in so many ways what is good about our college and our campus," says Scott Tarry, new CPACS associate dean. Thank You for Your Service, Theresa.

Alumni



"I have so much to say about my experience at UNO in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work. First, the faculty were truly second to none. Dr. Henry DeSouza opened my eyes Dr. Anne Coyne taught me how to think, plan, and communicate on a macro level and how to advocate for the needs of my clients. Dr. Amanda Randall has supported me through some of my biggest professional challenges and taught me so much about working with groups. Dr. Nancy Kelley was my odvisor and she helped me find my path. And my peers, they are the best part of my experience, I am so grateful for our time together at UNO!* Carla O'Donnell-Rizzo, 2008 - MSW

CEO at Completely KIDS

CPACS 2021 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

The individuals honored with the alumni award for excellence in public service demonstrate through both daily deeds and greater achievements the finest attributes of public and community service: integrity, stewardship, volunteerism, leadership, and a commitment to social justice and human dignity.

Aviation Institute

Brian Bronson

Goodrich



ontology | Dr.





School of Public Administration



Criminal Justice











School of Public

Administration





Grace Abbott







SPA Master

of Public

Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award | Mary and Rodrigo Lopez

CPACS was created in 1972 to ensure the university was responsive to the critical social needs of our community and state. It now houses eight units and several subunits. Our success has been paved by the former deans of the college, and current Dean Bartle. Under the guidance of the Dean's Advisory Board, a group of distinguished community members, we are our State's highest ranked college, with programs ranked in the top 25 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.







In 2006 four current and past CPACS deans joined together for the CPACS building groundbreaking ceremonies. From left, BJ Reed, John Kerrigan, Hubert Locke, and David Hinton. Previously, each unit within CPACS existed in separate buildings across campus.

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REFLECTING FORWARD

















PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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