

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

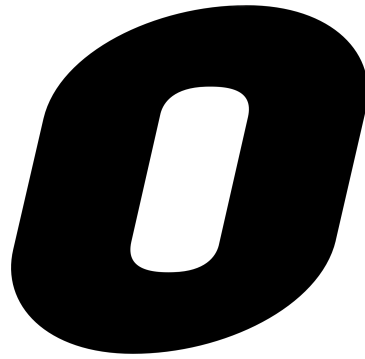
FACULTY PROMOTIONS AND CONTINUOUS APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY RECOGNITION RECEPTION
AUGUST 28, 2024



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha





Since my arrival at UNO in January of 2023, I have truly enjoyed learning about the accomplishments and great work of faculty from across the colleges. Faculty define a university and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to celebrate the dedicated faculty who were recently promoted. Promotion in faculty rank signifies recognition and acknowledgment by one's peers of sustained excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and service. Indeed, it is an important career milestone. I extend my gratitude for the impact of these faculty on our students and their success. Thank you for your contributions to the University of Nebraska at Omaha and for all that you do that makes UNO a vibrant and engaged metropolitan institution.

Congratulations and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil He".

Phil He, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



PAUL W. DENTON, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Paul W Denton's primary research goals are to develop immunotherapy strategies that improve human natural killer cell killing capacities as well as understand the molecular mechanisms that underly the effects of tested immunotherapies on these cells. He puts a major emphasis on training student researchers in his group. In addition to his immunology research efforts, Dr. Denton is involved in education-related research related to his leadership roles in UNO's NSF-funded S-STEM Scholar program and UNO's community facing NE STEM 4U after-school mentoring program.



ASHLEE DERE, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Geography and Geology

Dr. Ashlee Dere is a Professor of Geology in the Geography/Geology Department with expertise in soil geochemistry, pedology and critical zone science. Her current research is focused on understanding the chemical and physical processes driving soil formation and erosion and how humans impact soils, especially through agriculture and restored prairie land management. Dr. Dere is also recognized as an exceptional teacher for creating experiential learning opportunities for students through soil judging and service learning projects.



EUGENIO DI STEFANO, PH.D.

Professor, Department of World Languages and Literature

Eugenio Di Stefano is a Professor of Latin American Literature and Culture in the Department of World Languages and Literature and a member of OLLAS (Office of Latino/Latin American Studies). He has published articles on the politics of aesthetic form in contemporary Latin American cultural production in *MLN*, *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, and *Nonsite*. He is the author of the book, *The Vanishing Frame: Latin American Culture and Theory in the Postdictatorial Era* (University of Texas Press) and is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Dead Time: Capturing the Forms of the Latin American Present*. He is also a founding editor of *FORMA*, an online journal dedicated to rethinking contemporary Latin American culture and theory.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



KRISTIN GIRTEN, PH.D.

Professor, Department of English

Kristin Girtten has taught British literature and culture of the long eighteenth century and intersectional feminist literature and theory at UNO for eighteen years. She received the UNO CAS Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award in 2020 and currently holds the Jefferis Chair for research in English. She is the author of *Sensitive Witnesses: Feminist Materialism in the British Enlightenment* (Stanford UP, 2024) and co-editor of *British Literature and Technology, 1600-1830* (2023, Bucknell UP). She is also PI on the Mellon-funded "Tell All the Truth Project," a public humanities collaboration between UNO English, History, and Sociology/Anthropology.



AMY HEMJE, M.S.

Lecturer, Department of Chemistry

Amy's primary assignment are Biochemistry laboratory classes with focus on coordination of curriculum development for Fundamentals of Biochemistry Lab. This includes collaboration with peers to implement two new laboratory activities utilizing new instrumentation. Additional assignments include general chemistry labs and more recently a general chemistry lecture applying best practice teaching methods of iClicker student engagement, collaborative group work and *Gradescope*. She enjoys participating in community STEM education events including science fairs, robotics clubs and mole day. Amy is married to Jeff Hemje and has four busy teenage boys.



YING HU, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

Dr. Hu conducts active research in geometric topology, focusing on the properties of spaces independent of metrics. She has presented at numerous national and international conferences and published her work in leading research journals. Her current research is supported by the National Science Foundation. At UNO, Dr. Hu has collaborated with her colleagues to enhance the department's service courses, developed an online course, and mentored undergraduate students on interdisciplinary research projects. She currently serves on the university's Educational Policy Advisory Committee. Before joining UNO, Dr. Hu was a CIRGET postdoctoral fellow at University of Quebec in Montreal and McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



NICHOLAS KASS, PH.D.

Lecturer, Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

Dr. Kass focuses on teaching for first- and second-year undergraduates with emphasis on Calculus. Research goals include data analysis efforts to better understand the longitudinal progression of students through required and major coursework, support data-driven decision making, and assess the efficacy and predictive effects of grading. Special focus has been on early warning and interventional strategies in Calculus. Dr. Kass is the 2023-24 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient.



ALEXEY V. KRASNOSLOBODTSEV, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Physics

Dr. Krasnoslobodtsev joined the Department of Physics at UNO in August 2014. He has developed and implemented the "Biomedical Physics" concentration. With 45 peer-reviewed publications, one patent, and four book chapters, he is a prolific researcher. He has secured over \$1.3 million in external funding to support his work from the NSF, NIH, DoE, ACS PRF, NRI, etc. His research passion lies in nanobiophysics, where his lab visualizes nanoscale materials, studies and manipulates their properties. Dr. Krasnoslobodtsev is a recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Research and Creative Activity award (2023) and the Isaacson Professorship (2024).



SARA KUPZYK, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Dr. Kupzyk teaches courses in the joint UNMC-MMI/UNO Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Master's Program and has led the development of an undergraduate concentration in ABA. She is the project director for a personnel preparation grant funded through the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education. She is also a co-project director on a grant focused on development and implementation of a family-engagement curriculum for pre-service educators and related service personnel. She is actively involved in research with a focus on home-school collaboration, behavioral consultation, and treatment integrity.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



BETHANY LYON, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Dr. Lyon is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. Her primary research interests are in memory and healthy aging. More specifically, she is interested in how older adults remember to carry out their future intentions (Prospective Memory) and what memory strategies can be used to help improve memory performance. She is also interested in older adults' self-perceptions of their memory abilities and how willing people are in general to adopt memory improvement methods. Dr. Lyon received her Ph.D. in cognitive and developmental psychology from Louisiana State University.



JOE MCCAFFREY, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy

Joe McCaffrey researches in the philosophy of neuroscience. He has recently published papers and book chapters on the debate about functional localization in cognitive neuroscience and how neuroscience informs psychology's taxonomy of mental constructs. As a teacher, he has designed and taught numerous interdisciplinary courses such as Moral Psychology and Introduction to Philosophy: Brains, Minds, and Machines. He is proud of the many Honors Contract and Independent Study students he has worked with and the students he has mentored who are now pursuing graduate studies in philosophy and neuroscience.



JODY NEATHERY-CASTRO, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Political Science

Dr. Neathery-Castro currently serves as Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement and Senior International Officer and Professor of Political Science. She previously served as Interim Director of the School of Music, Chair of the Political Science Department, Director of the UNO ACE Internationalization Laboratory, and coordinator of the American Democracy Project and the UNO First Year Experience Program. She teaches and publishes in the areas of international relations, comparative politics, gender, and security. She is an inaugural NU National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI) Fellow and has been PI or co-PI on federal grants totaling over \$2 million. She currently directs UNO's Young South East Asian Leaders Leadership Institute (YSEALI) on Civic Engagement and has conducted pedagogical research in the areas of service learning, global learning/study abroad, and civic education.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



SARAH OSBORN, PH.D.

Lecturer, Department of English

As a faculty member in the Department of English, Dr. Sarah Osborn teaches composition and linguistics classes. She oversees the undergraduate and graduate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She also oversees the UNO Language Lab, an academic and linguistic support service that offers one-on-one tutoring to many of UNO's English learners. Dr. Osborn also collaborates with International Programs on many grant projects, creating and offering many interactive faculty training courses.



NIKAE PERKINSON, M.A.

Lecturer, Department of Chemistry

Nikae Perkinson has taught for more than three decades in K-12 and higher education. She earned her master's degree in inorganic chemistry from UNC at Chapel Hill, where she conducted research on nanoparticles. Credentialed in sociology from Appalachian State University, her passions include broadening participation in STEM through multidisciplinary approaches with a social justice lens. Joining UNO in January 2021, she has been awarded nine in-house grants for innovative approaches to learning and creating community, including a Nebraska NASA grant. She is a STEM Trail fellow, advisor of WiSTEM Undergraduate club, and facilitator of a CoP supporting women in STEM.



ADAM WEAVER, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology

Dr. Weaver is a certified school psychologist who worked in Iowa for nine years before coming to UNO in 2013. Dr. Weaver has served as a challenging behavior consultant and met requirements for advanced level training in functional analysis from the Iowa Department of Education and the Center for Disabilities and Development at the University of Iowa. He is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and teaches the behavior course sequence of the UNO School Psychology graduate program of study.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

ARTS & SCIENCES HALL



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



ERIN BASS, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Management

Erin Bass's research on corporate social responsibility and stakeholder management is internationally-recognized, with publications in the top strategy and international business journals. She has also earned multiple recognitions for classroom engagement, teaching undergraduate, graduate, and executive courses in strategy, leadership, and ethics. She has a track record of effective workforce development initiatives, co-leading the Capstone Cup, the Management Advisory Board, and receiving funding from NCITE and the Department of Homeland Security for workforce development initiatives.



ERIN PLEGGENKUHLE-MILES, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Management

Erin's areas of expertise include strategic management and entrepreneurship, with a specific interest in how institutional or environmental factors influence firm strategy. She teaches undergraduate and graduate strategic management and leadership classes, has taught in Executive Education programs at UNO, and served as a faculty advisor for EMBA International & Domestic Capstone projects. Erin is the director of the award-winning Capstone Cup. She has strategic management consulting experience for many non-profit and start-up organizations across a wide range of industries, such as transportation, retail, healthcare, and defense. Erin is currently a Leadership Faculty Fellow in the Office of Academic Affairs.

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA



MATTHEW J. BROOKS, D.M.A.

Associate Professor, School of Music

Dr. Matthew Brooks leads the orchestras and teaches graduate conducting at UNO and, as part of a collaboration with the University of Nebraska Medical Center, was critical in creating the Nebraska Medical Orchestra in 2018. He serves on the Medical Humanities faculty and is courtesy faculty at UNMC, where he was recently awarded one of eight annual awards for UNMC faculty. Dr. Brooks maintains an active schedule as a clinician and guest conductor and frequently presents at national and international conferences. His research has been published most recently in the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics* and the *Journal of Wellness*.



HOWARD PAINE, M.F.A.

Professor, School of the Arts

Howard Paine is a Professor in the School of the Arts. His primary research interests are the combination of digital and traditional forms of printmaking. Thematically, his work investigates the ideas of mortality, memory, and the physical body that is left at the end of life. Mr. Paine has exhibited both nationally and internationally, speaking about his work in Beihai, China in 2019. He teaches all levels of printmaking and is the coordinator of the BFA program in Art and Art History. Through his work, Paine looks at the current world and asks how printmaking as a medium could challenge or be used to investigate new concepts and ideas. Paine recently returned from a residency at the Tamarind Institute, which is the center of American lithography. He looks forward to integrating this knowledge in his own practice and the classroom. When asked what he enjoys most about teaching, he says, "The challenge of thinking on your feet. No matter how prepared I think I am, the students will come up with new questions, methods of investigation, or new technical issues. It is new every day."



JENNIFER SHESHKO WOOD, M.F.A.

Associate Professor, School of the Arts

Jenn is a professor and costume designer originally from Montreal, QC. After receiving her MFA from Indiana University, she worked nationally as a professor, costume designer, and crafts artisan. Jenn joined the UNO faculty in 2021, teaching courses in Design, Production, Rendering, Costumes and Makeup. Jenn's specialties include digital rendering, crafts, and fabric manipulation. From 2018-2022, Jenn was the Director of Costumes at the Utah Festival Opera, overseeing their costumes, wigs, and wardrobe departments. As a designer and crafts artisan, her other American credits include Indiana Festival Theatre, American Players Theatre, Opera Theatre St. Louis, and Omaha Community Playhouse.

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA



ALLISON WAKIN, M.A.

Lecturer, School of Communication

Allison Wakin is a University of Nebraska at Omaha Alumna, earning both her Bachelor's of Science in Education and Master's in Communication from the University. As an undergraduate, she was determined to teach at UNO in the future; serving as full-time faculty in the School of Communication in 2018 has been her dream come true. Allison strives to build relationships that enhance the University's community by dedicating her career to teaching and service. She is honored to get to guide so many young minds each semester as they work to make their own dreams come true. Serving on the Faculty Senate, heading forces in campus unity, teaching for the Thompsen Learning Community and Success Academy, aiding in body positivity programs, facilitating Intergroup Dialogue, and working with Omaha Athletics in an array of outlets have been highlights to her young career and Allison is excited to continue growing herself and the community as a Mav for life.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES



ABBY BJORNSEN-RAMIG, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Counseling

Dr. Bjornsen-Ramig is a Clinical Mental Health faculty member and Clinical Training Director overseeing the UNO Community Counseling Clinic. She manages field placement of clinical interns. Her consistent scholarly publication and presentation are in the areas of career development and wellness of college students and counseling trainees as well as maternal mental health and infertility in the workplace. Professor Bjornsen-Ramig is PI and co-PI on 3 funded grants totaling over \$1 million focused on workforce development in behavioral health. She chaired 4 national faculty search committees and numerous departmental committees and is the recipient of the Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award, the Atherton Clinical Mental Health Counseling Professorship, and the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award.



SHARI DEVENEY, PH.D., CCC-SLP

Professor, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders

Prior to obtaining her doctorate degree, Dr. DeVeney spent 10 years as a practicing speech-language pathologist, working mainly in early childhood and preK-12 educational settings. Her primary research focus involves identifying early communication risks associated with speech and language development and advancing evidence-based assessment and intervention practices for young children with communication delays. She teaches graduate and undergraduate coursework in areas such as pediatric speech and language disorders and research methods. She also serves as the Graduate Program Chair for her department and supervises graduate clinical externships.



LISA EPP, ED.D.

Lecturer, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders

Dr. Lisa Epp is a Lecturer in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. She has been a full-time instructor in the department since 2018 when she became the liaison between Omaha Public Schools and UNO after the Career Ladder in Special Education partnership was formed. Dr. Epp advised and supervised 66 students over the five-year partnership. Currently, she oversees the Accelerated Program in Special Education, supervising 16 students pursuing initial certification in special education. Her research interests include trauma-sensitive practices in schools, addressing the special education teacher shortage, and the impact of mentoring on pre-service teachers.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES



NATHANIEL H. HUNT, PH.D.

Distinguished Associate Professor, Department of Biomechanics

Dr. Nathaniel Hunt is interested in discovering principles of sensorimotor control to improve human and robotic movement. His research includes the biomechanics of locomotion in both humans and other animals. Additionally, he applied bioinspired design principles to advance the locomotion capabilities of robots. Dr. Hunt and his research team focus on several key areas: arboreal locomotion in squirrels, leaping and landing in robots, preventing slip-related falls in older adults, and sensory augmentation for enhancing balance control. He currently teaches courses on bioinspired robotics and laboratory methods in biomechanics, which emphasize providing authentic research experiences for undergraduate and graduate students.



SOFIA JAWED-WESSEL, PH.D.

Professor, School of Health and Kinesiology

Sofia Jawed-Wessel is a Professor in the School of Health and Kinesiology. Her work focuses on centering broad philosophical, cultural, and political implications of existing in a gendered and sexist world. The long-term goal of her research trajectory is to better understand sexual and maternal objectification and how these phenomenon impact our intimate and public experiences. Dr. Jawed-Wessel is also the 2022 recipient of the Faculty Excellence in Engagement Award, a campus level recognition of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and engagement.



AMANDA KERN, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders

Dr. Amanda Kern is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders with expertise in dyslexia, literacy, and data application in classroom practice. Her research focuses on literacy development and dysfunction. Dr. Kern developed and directs the UNO Dyslexia Specialist program and is passionate about bringing the science of reading to classroom practitioners to help all students learn to read.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES



MICHAEL J. MESSEROLE, PH.D.

Professor, School of Health and Kinesiology

Dr. Michael Messerole is a distinguished academic and administrator with a deep expertise in physical education teacher preparation and adapted physical education. He has dedicated his career to making physical education and sports more inclusive. As an award-winning educator, his contributions to Inclusive Physical Education have gained national and international recognition, culminating in a partnership with Special Olympics North America and the publication of the *Unified Physical Education Resource* book. Dr. Messerole has been a Special Olympics swim coach for 23 years and co-coordinates a recreational program for Outlook Nebraska, providing sports opportunities for individuals who are blind.



DERRICK NERO, ED.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education

Dr. Nero develops undergraduate and graduate courses for the Teacher Educator Preparation program which contributed to the 2020 University-wide Departmental Teaching Award. He studies experiential learning to engage and affect the self-efficacy of students. Dr. Nero was Co-Principal Investigator along with UNL and MCC for the NASA Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project. He received the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2020 Symposium on Imagining the Future of Undergraduate STEM Education Award - Honorable Mention. He serves the department, college, university and community and is the inaugural UNO/Kiewit Luminarium Partnership Coordinator. He also received the 2024 CPACS DEAI Alumni Achievement Award.



SONG-YOUNG PARK, PH.D.

Distinguished Associate Professor, School of Health and Kinesiology

Dr. Song-Young Park is a Distinguished Associate Professor. Since joining the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2017, Dr. Park has made a substantial impact on the students he has mentored in the classroom and his laboratory. Dr. Park has taught a broad spectrum of classes including Laboratory and Research Methods, Clinical Exercise and Prescription, and Exercise Physiology. Dr. Park is also a co-director of the Vascular and Metabolic Phenotyping Research Laboratory, and mentors Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral students. Through Dr. Park's mentorship and leadership, his laboratory and students have made significant contributions to modern biomedical research.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES



FERIAL PEARSON, ED.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education

Dr. Pearson is a mother, activist, author, educator, speaker, poet, comedian, cook, sourdough artist, and citizen of the world. She founded the Secret Kindness Agents Project and has been teaching humans of all ages for 24 years in the Omaha area. As a Kenyan Indian Muslim immigrant queer disabled woman of color, she is passionate about working towards Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Kindness. She has received national and local awards for her work in education and social justice, has authored two books, and has been featured as a speaker on the TEDx Omaha stage. Her Secret Kindness Agents Project has been featured at *Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation*, *Hallmark*, *Parents Magazine*, *Learning for Justice* website and magazine, *Midwest Living Magazine*, and more.



SANDRA RODRIGUEZ-ARROYO, D.ED.

Professor, Department of Teacher Education

Dr. Sandra Rodríguez-Arroyo is a Professor of ESL/Bilingual Teacher Education and a faculty member with the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS). She serves as CEHHS Professor Robert Ackerman Faculty Fellow of Community Engagement. Dr. Rodríguez-Arroyo's teaching and research activities include multilingual learners' education, translanguaging, asset-based service-learning experiences, faculty mentoring, BIPOC teachers' recruitment/retention, and Latina faculty testimonios. She is part of the leadership team for TANDEM, UNO's faculty mentoring community, and is the Metro Area Teachers of English Language Learners (MATELLS) professional network liaison. Dr. Rodríguez-Arroyo received a Leadership Faculty Fellowship (2021-2023) and CEHHS Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award (2022).



MICHAELA SCHENKELBERG, PH.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor, School of Health and Kinesiology

Dr. Schenkelberg's research aims to improve population health outcomes of children with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities through physical activity promotion. She studies the influence of dynamic interactions within child development settings on physical activity behavior, physical activity measurement methodologies, and community- and individual-level data driven decision making. Dr. Schenkelberg is currently supported by National Institutes of Health passthrough funding through the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Research Scholars program. She is a board member for Special Olympics Nebraska and serves as the faculty advisor for the UNO Exercise is Medicine - On Campus student organization.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES



AMANDA STEINER, ED.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education

Dr. Amanda Steiner is an Associate Professor of Elementary Education. She began her career as a Primary Montessori Teacher and was hired by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to help pioneer the use of Instructional Coaches in Field Based Experiences. Since earning her doctorate from UNO in 2017, she serves as the Elementary Education Graduate Program Chair and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Elementary Social Sciences, Effective Methods of Teaching, Instructional Coaching, Children's Literature, and Elementary Capstone. Dr. Steiner's research examines the role of instructional coaches and best practice in coaching to support teachers in growing in their self-efficacy. She also conducts research in early childhood examining the cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development of children through play-based learning.

CRISS LIBRARY



MONICA MAHER, M.S.

Associate Professor, Research and Instruction Services

Monica Maher is the Online Learning & Education Librarian. She creates and maintains online learning tools related to information literacy and library resources, and acts as the library liaison to the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, and the Psychology department. Her research interests include information literacy instruction, digital accessibility, assessment, and curriculum design. She holds a BSED in Education from the University of Nebraska Omaha and an MS in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

RONALD W. AND
LOIS G. ROSKENS HALL
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DAILY AND HOURS ENTRANCE





COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



PEI-CHI HUANG, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science

Dr. Huang specializes in Cyber-Physical Systems. Her research enhances system intelligence and efficiency by integrating sophisticated machine learning techniques. She also focuses on developing advanced scheduling algorithms for real-time computing, ensuring reliable system responses. Additionally, her work in wireless communication and networking systems aims to improve connectivity and protocols for more robust networks. Dr. Huang's research contributes to theoretical advancements and practical solutions in smart infrastructure, autonomous systems, and diverse IoT applications. Her teaching emphasizes hands-on experiences, equipping students with the fundamental knowledge and skills for real-life applications.



YULIYA LIERLER, PH.D.

Professor, Department of Computer Science

Yuliya Lierler has been director of the Knowledge Representation and Natural Language Understanding Lab since joining UNO in 2012. Her research contributions and interests are in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), especially in the areas of knowledge representation and logic programming/answer set programming – a prominent subfield of artificial intelligence. Her papers appear in renowned AI venues such as *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* and *International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence* as well as *Artificial Intelligence and Theory and Practice of Logic Programming* journals. Her all-career total numbers of internationally acclaimed conference and journal peer-reviewed publications come to over sixty-five. In 2020, the Association of Logic Programming nominated and then elected her as an Executive Committee Board Member. Yuliya Lierler served as a Computing Innovation Fellow Postdoc at the University of Kentucky for two years after completing her Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Texas at Austin in 2010.



ALFREDO J. PEREZ, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science

Alfredo J. Perez obtained his Ph.D. degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of South Florida (2011). His research areas include privacy, mobile/ubiquitous computing, and K-12 CS education, having coauthored more than 60 publications in these areas. Dr. Perez has served as PI/Co-PI in projects supported by the NSF, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Defense, Google and other organizations totaling more than \$2 million. Prior to joining UNO, he taught CS/IT courses at universities in Florida, New Mexico, and Georgia. He is an IEEE Senior Member and a Member of the U.S. National Academy of Inventors.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



NURI HECKLER, J.D., PH.D.

Associate Professor, School of Public Administration

Nuri's research investigates on equality in governance, with a focus on how White men can meaningfully participate in the development of a more just society. He is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the oldest theory journal in the public administration space, and excited about opportunities to make nonprofits and government better for all.



TRANG HOANG, PH.D.

Associate Professor, School of Public Administration

Dr. Hoang teaches graduate-level courses in public and nonprofit budgeting, human resources management, and research methods. Her research focuses on public pension, public/nonprofit budgeting and financial management, public health and health policies, and risk management. Dr. Hoang's publications can be found in leading journals, including *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Public Budgeting & Finance*, *Public Finance Review*, *Nonprofit Management & Leadership*, and *Social Science Journal*. Dr. Hoang's recent research work received the Rosemary O'Leary award for excellent scholarship on women in public administration and public management.



TERESA C. KULIG, PH.D.

Associate Professor, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Dr. Kulig teaches classes on victimology and coordinates the Fast Track Program. She has mentored students at the undergraduate and graduate levels on research projects, theses, and dissertations. In 2022, she was awarded the Faculty Mentor of the Year award. She has published in peer-reviewed journals on the nature and control of sex and labor trafficking, the measurement and theories of victimization, public opinion on responses to victimization, and the social construction of crime. Dr. Kulig has received grant funding to support her research from the National Institute of Justice, National Institutes of Health, and The Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



SUSAN REAY, ED.D., LICSW

Associate Professor, Grace Abbott School of Social Work

After 20 years of social work experience, Dr. Susan Reay made the leap into academia with a passion for supporting students and social work education. Since joining the UNO Maverick family, she has secured numerous grants and trained thousands of mental health practitioners in clinical ethics. Susan's research includes licensure, mental health regulation, lifespan career development, and leadership. As a first-generation college student, Susan is committed to empowering others through workforce development. Susan is the Director of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work and a founding member of the Grace Abbott Training and Supervision Academy.



TARA RICHARDS, PH.D.


Professor, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Dr. Tara N. Richards is the David Scott Diamond Alumni Professor of Public Affairs and Community Service in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) and Co-Director of SCCJ's Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab. Her research focuses on prevention, intervention, and responses to sexual assault, domestic/intimate partner violence, and child abuse and neglect. She has published more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has won more than \$3 million dollars in competitive grants and contracts to support her research. Richards also coordinates Nebraska's Victim Assistance Academy - the state's accredited 40-hour training certification for victim service providers and allied professionals. She also serves on the state's Domestic Violence Intervention Program State Standards Committee and Douglas County's Domestic Violence Community Response Team and Sexual Assault Response Team.

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