

SCARLET

For faculty and staff of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Vol. 19, No. 2



www.unl.edu/scarlet

Jan. 15, 2009

Team expands understanding of genetic code

By Vicki Miller
Office of Research

A discovery by UNL researchers expands understanding of the genetic code, and may help revise a tenet of this universal language of life.

In cells, the genetic code essentially provides instructions for creating proteins, the basic structural molecules of life. The code includes a series of unique three-letter "code words," called codons. These genetic passwords dictate insertion of amino acids, the building blocks of proteins. While codons may change to code for different amino acids in different organisms, a long-held precept of the genetic code is that one codon provides the password only for one amino acid in an organism.

Not always, UNL scientists discovered.

"We showed that one codon may code for two amino acids, even within the same gene. That's really unexpected," said Vadim Gladyshev, the biochemistry professor whose team made the discovery.

Other members of the team from UNL include Anton Turanov, a graduate student at the time of the research; Alexey Lobanov, senior research associate; and Dmitri Fomenko, assistant professor of biochemistry.

The team and other collaborators reported the findings in the Jan. 10 issue of the international journal *Science*.

Their discovery of the multi-tasking codon, called UGA, in the microscopic marine protozoan, *Euplotes crassus*, raises the question of whether codons in other organisms can do the same thing. They're now investigating UGA's function in mammals.

"If the two-amino acid function

see **TEAM** page 3

Giving a voice to higher ed barriers



TROY FEDDERSON/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

RESEARCH PROJECT — Trina Creighton, lecturer in broadcasting, was inspired by her graduate thesis developed in the Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication program, and created a documentary that examines the social stigma of higher education among black men.

Creighton's documentary explores minority opinions on education

By Troy Fedderson
University Communications

Trina Creighton is giving black men a voice that is helping others understand social stigmas attached to higher education.

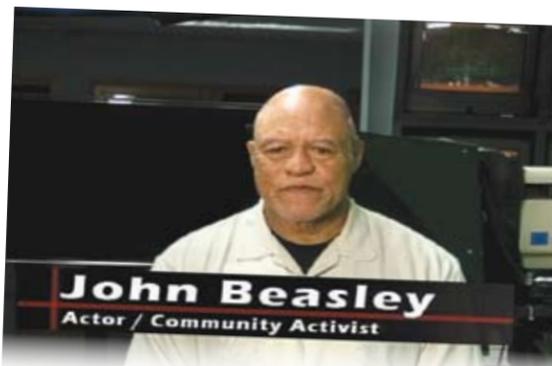
Inspired by her graduate thesis, Creighton — a broadcasting lecturer in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications — has created a documentary that features 10 black men from North Omaha talking about their education paths. Four of the individuals are enrolled at UNL, another graduated in August, and the other five remain in Omaha (two are in prison).

Creighton has presented the documentary, "The Academic Achievement Gap: We Do Better When We Know Better," to groups in Lincoln and Omaha, both on and off campus. She purposefully left the documentary raw, allowing the young men to talk in their own words about their opinions on higher education.

"I wanted people to hear about this from the mouths of the young black men who live in this community," said Creighton. "I read all the research when I was preparing my thesis. But I became frustrated because it all came from people who did not live in the environments they were talking about."

"This part of the community simply did not have a voice."

Forty-five years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech about equality between races, earning a college education remains a difficult task for the majority of blacks — with a particularly strong social stigma among black men.



COURTESY IMAGE

DOCUMENTARY HOST — Actor John Beasley, an Omaha native, is the host of Trina Creighton's documentary. Rick Alloway, assistant professor of broadcasting, is narrator. Creighton shot and edited the documentary with the assistance of UNL students.

According to the 2007 Minorities in Higher Education report by the American Council on Education (which used data from 2005), only 28 percent of black men and 37 percent of black women between ages 18 and 24 were enrolled in college. Among white counterparts, those percentages are 40 and 45, respectively.

As a young girl, Creighton loved reading and writing. She remembers those interests drawing questions about why she was "being white."

"The education stigma among the black com-

see **DOCUMENTARY** page 8

Daniel is keynote for MLK Week

Educator, poet and advocate Lloyd Daniel will be the keynote speaker Jan. 19 at UNL's observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday.

Daniel will deliver "The Second Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." during the Chancellor's Program, beginning at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nebraska Union.

The program will also include performances by the **Daniel Afrikan**



Peoples Union choir and the presentation of the 13th-annual Chancellor's Fulfilling the Dream awards.

The Fulfilling the Dream awards are presented to individuals or groups who have contributed to the UNL community or the wider Lincoln community by their exemplary action in promoting the goals and vision of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's winners are the group Students United for Nebraska for the campus award and Peter Ferguson, vice president of Leadership Lincoln, for the Lincoln community award.

The Jan. 19 program and all other official UNL activities that week are free and open to the public. Other MLK Week activities at UNL include:

Jan. 20

Inauguration Watch, 10 a.m., Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Inauguration Ball, 7 p.m., Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Jan. 21

"Big Words, Strong Words," a play by students from Clinton Elementary School, 10:30 a.m., East Union (room posted).

"424: The Aftermath," brown bag panel moderated by Patrick Jones, 11:30 a.m., Nebraska Union Crib.

Jan. 22

"From Civil Rights to Racial Justice: The 45th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act," a brown bag lecture by Patrick Jones, noon, Nebraska Union Crib.

"Post-Obama Election: Issues of Diversity and Civil Rights," a town hall meeting, 6 p.m., Nebraska Union Auditorium.



Immigration explored

Watch Luis Peon-Cassanova, an assistant professor of advertising, discuss his immigration documentary, "We the People: An American Dream and Nightmare," online at www.unl.edu/scarlet.

Read it • See it • Hear it @ www.unl.edu/scarlet

SCARLET

For the Record

News and notes about UNL faculty, staff and students

• **Anuj Sharma**, assistant professor of civil engineering, received the 2008 Milton Pikarsky Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Science and Technology.

The award is conferred by the Council of University Transportation Centers, a national organization that promotes dialogue among its member institutions, and provides a forum for them to interact collectively with government and industry.

Sharma was honored for his doctoral thesis on integrated behavioral and economic framework for improving driver satisfaction and safety at high-speed intersections.

• **Becky Faber**, assistant director in Career Services, received the Innovative Programs and Practices Award given by the American Association for Employment in Education at their national conference held in November in Denver. The award recognizes outstanding work in preparing students for education employment.

• **Charlotte Seewald**, recruiter for Extended Education and Outreach, was awarded the High 5 Award.

The award is given twice annually to EE&O employees whose service is over and above their normal job responsibilities. Seewald has been a member of the EE&O staff since Feb. 14, 2005. Associate Vice Chancellor Arnold Bateman made the presentation on Dec. 17. Seewald's name will be included in the candidate pool for the University of Nebraska Board of Regents' Kudos award program.

• **Janice Stauffer**, associate professor of costume design, has been awarded the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for her work as a designer, teacher, festival-production designer and mentor.

The award is the highest honor given by the Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival. She will receive the medallion Jan 23 at the Region V Festival Awards ceremony in Lawrence, Kan.

• Three entomology students received awards at the Entomological Society of America's annual meeting, held Nov. 16-19 in Reno, Nev.

Neil Spomer was presented the 2008 Jeffrey P. LaFage Graduate Student Research Award. Spomer's doctoral program, in urban entomology under the supervision of professor **Shripat Kamble**, emphasizes environmental toxicology and soil chemistry impacting subterranean termite management. He is specifically focusing on soil chemistry affecting the behavior of new generation, non-repellent termiticides.

Mitchell Stamm and **Laura Campbell** received runner-up awards for oral presentations.

Stamm's talk, "Dose-response relationships of neonicotinyl insecticides to *Blissus occiduus* and *B. leucopictus* hirtus," was co-authored with UNL professors **Tiffany Heng-Moss**, **Fred Baxendale** and **Blair Siegfried**.

Campbell's talk, "Reproductive isolation between *Diabrotica barberi* and *Diabrotica longicoxis*," was co-authored with professor **Lance Meinke**.

Earned an award? Submit "For the Record" listings to scarlet@unl.edu or call 472-8518. The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. the Thursday before publication.

Obituary | Robert Knoll, 86



ARCHIVE PHOTO/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION — Robert Knoll guides a classroom discussion in this photo taken in the 1970s. Knoll, emeritus professor of English, died at his Lincoln home on Jan. 8. He was 86.

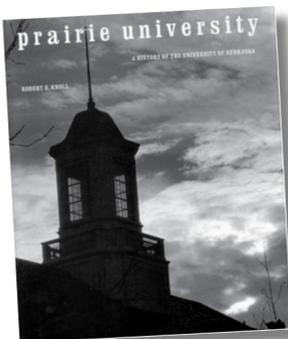
Knoll leaves mark on UNL, students

By Kim Hachiya
University Communications

Robert E. Knoll, a beloved UNL emeritus professor of English, died at his Lincoln home Jan. 8. He was 86.

Knoll's death was announced to the campus Jan. 9 via an email from UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman, who stated, "For those of you who have been around UNL for some time you know Robert was a unique individual whose passion for and understanding of this university were unmatched. He wrote a history of the university which remains definitive and he shared with many of us some of his observations about that history that were not 'printable.' He was during his time with us larger than life and he remains so."

During his 40-year career at UNL, Knoll taught generations of students to enjoy the rich beauty of English language and literature, pioneered a number of innovative teaching initiatives, was an exemplary academic citizen and first-rate scholar. At his retirement in 1990, he was Paula and Woody Varner Professor of English. He also had been a



George Holmes Distinguished Professor, an honor conferred only on the university's most esteemed faculty. Additionally, he had received a distinguished teaching award from UNL's College of Arts and Sciences.

Knoll was a specialist in Shakespeare, but he also taught courses in Plains literature, English Renaissance literature, English history, American and British literature between 1922 and 1950, and composition. He was an adviser to the NU Student Council, a precursor to the current UNL student govern-

ment, served on the faculty senate, chaired the Willa Cather centennial festival in 1973 and the Wright Morris centennial festival in 1976. In 1988, he was named Nebraska's Professor of the Year by the national Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He was a Fulbright lecturer in Graz, Austria; a Woods fellow; and served a fellowship at Yale University, appointed by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was a founding member of UNL's Centennial College, an innovative undergraduate teaching initiative in 1968. He was a founding member and fellow in UNL's Center for Great Plains Studies.

In 1997, the UNL Alumni Association gave Knoll its "Doc" Elliott Award, conferred on emeritus faculty members in honor of their outstanding record of service and caring to students.

Knoll, a 1943 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of

see **KNOLL** page 3

New research fellows program seeks applicants

Office of Research

The Office of Research is seeking applicants for the Research Development Fellows Program, a new initiative to help pre-tenure UNL faculty successfully compete for grants. Twelve fellows will be selected to participate in the inaugural one-year program that begins in March. The application deadline is Feb. 2. A complete program description, preliminary calendar of events and an online application form are available online at <http://research.unl.edu/facultyresources/fellowsprogram.shtml>.

The Research Development Fellows Program will provide practical information and experience to help early career faculty enhance their proposal development skills and prepare a proposal for submission, said Kim Espy, associate vice chancellor for research who heads the new initiative.

"Obtaining external funding is essential to faculty success. This program is designed to give our early career participants are real leg up in this key area," Espy said.

The program's three main elements are mentoring, learning sessions and consultation.

Each participant will team with a senior faculty member with success in securing grants who will act as a mentor. Formal and informal learning sessions will help fellows plan and write effective grant proposals, build budgets and understand the proposal review process.

Individualized consultations with Office of Research staff will provide advice and expertise as fellows develop grant proposals. The Office of Research will provide an external consultant to review final proposals and will sponsor travel for all fellows to visit program officers in Washington, D.C., this summer.

The Research Development Fellows Program is open to pre-tenure UNL faculty members hired in the last four years. Visiting and adjunct faculty are not eligible. For more information, contact Noah Clayton, project manager in the Office of Research, at nclayton3@unl.edu or 472-8031.

Fulbright honors awarded to five faculty members

Five faculty members have earned Fulbright Scholar grants from the U.S. Department of State for late 2008 and 2009.

They are Ann Chang-Barnes, interim executive and artistic director of the Lied Center for Performing Arts and artist-in-residence in piano in the School of Music; John Creswell, professor of educational psychology; David Forsythe, university professor and Charles J. Mach professor of political science; Larkin Powell, associate professor in the School of Natural Resources; and Wendy Weiss, professor of textiles, clothing and design and director of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery.

Chang-Barnes received a Fulbright Scholarship grant to teach at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, Belgium. In addition to teaching, she will research the advancement of keyboard curriculum mod-



Chang-Barnes



Creswell



Forsythe



Powell



Weiss

els. She will also give performances. Chang-Barnes travels to Belgium in the summer.

Creswell was a Senior Fulbright Scholar and worked in South Africa in October 2008, bringing mixed methods concepts to documentaries about AIDS patients and families.

An ecologist, Powell will live in Namibia January through November. Namibia is a relatively new country, carved out of South Africa in 1990, and its institutions are new and growing. Powell will be at Polytechnic

of Namibia, established in 1994 in the capital, Windhoek, where he will teach, provide mentorship, and assist the college with research and outreach.

Forsythe was awarded a Senior Fulbright Research Chair. The award sent him in the fall to the Danish Institute of International Studies in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he performed research on democracy, human rights and terrorism.

Weiss will research at M.S. University

America's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Fulbright recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. For additional information about the Fulbright Program, go to <http://fulbright.state.gov>.

TEAM

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of a codon evolved in one organism, it might exist in other organisms, too. It raises lots of questions and possibilities," Gladyshev said. "Nobody even considered that a particular codon could specify multiple amino acids. Our work suggests it's possible so it needs to be checked out in other organisms, including humans."

Gladyshev's team studies selenoproteins and selenium to understand their role in human health. In humans, the UGA codon is a password for selenocysteine, the amino acid that helps create selenoproteins. It's been known that the protozoan *Euplotes* uses UGA to code for cysteine.

"We were just curious" whether this microorganism produced selenocysteine and, if so, what codon was used for this amino acid, he said.

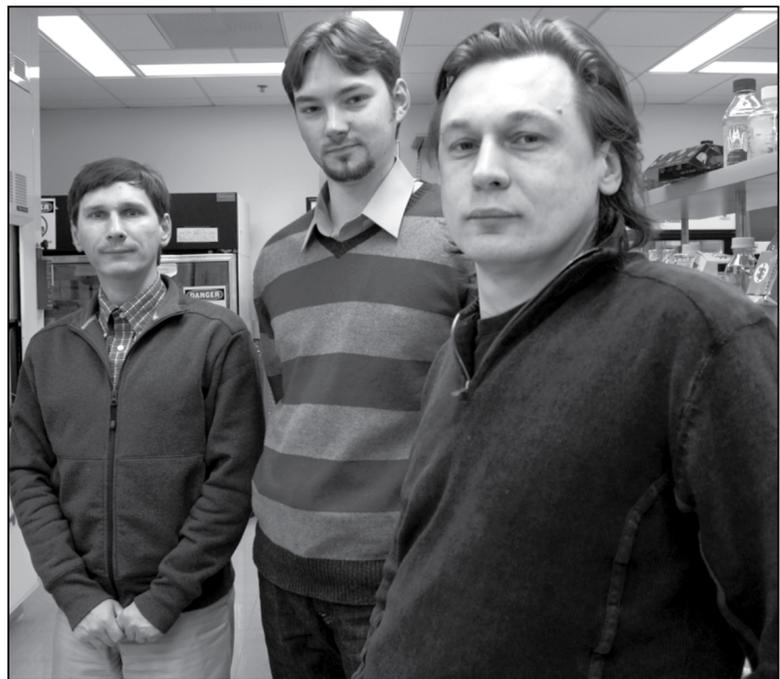
To find out, the team had to sequence the protozoan's entire genome, which required samples of the organism as well as extensive computer analysis and lab work. Lawrence Klobutcher, a professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center, provided the protozoan material and expertise in this organism. Lobanov, a bioinforma-

tics expert, handled the computing while Turanov, an expert in experimental procedures, did the lab work. They discovered that in this protozoan, UGA can code for either cysteine or selenocysteine, even within the same gene. Which amino acid gets inserted depends on the location of UGA within the gene and proximity of an RNA element that signals UGA to insert selenocysteine.

Previously, scientists thought that if the RNA element was present, UGA would insert selenocysteine. "Now we found that not every position in the gene supports selenocysteine," Gladyshev said, which could have implications for the role of selenium in mammals.

"It's well known that a specific codon does different things in different organisms. The novelty of our work is that we found this codon can do multiple things in a single organism," he added.

Other collaborators on the Science paper were Klobutcher, Dolph Hatfield of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, and Hilary Morrison and Mitchell Sogin, both of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass. Grants from the NIH fund Gladyshev's research.



JOEL BREHM/OFFICE OF RESEARCH

RESEARCH TEAM — Members of the UNL research team that made the genetic code discovery include, from left, Alexey Lobanov, senior research associate who handled the computing analysis; Anton Turanov, former graduate student who did much of the experimental work; and Vadim Gladyshev, professor of biochemistry.

New hires

A list of new UNL faculty and staff hired between mid-November to mid-December. Names provided by Human Resources. For more information, call 472-8515.

- Ana Adams, accounting technician, Physics and Astronomy
- Catherine Adams, lecturer, University Libraries
- Lorrie Adams, staff assistant, Chemistry
- Jon Ayers, assistant professor, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
- Brent Baum, DISC library assistant, University Libraries
- Frederick Binder, groundskeeper, Landscape Services
- Neil Brown, voice/data infrastructure associate, Information Services
- Edgar Cahoon, associate professor, Biochemistry
- Janice Cajka, communications specialist II, Communications and Information Technology
- Robert Clark, director, Operations Analysis
- Todd Fischer, senior technician, Building Systems Maintenance
- Michael Flynn, custodian, East Union
- Jane Garrity, licensing manager, Technology Development
- Elvis Heinrichs, research professor, INTSORMIL, Sorghum/Millet CRSP
- Marvin Huls, voice/data infrastructure associate, Information Services
- Ryan Kawata, coordinator recruitment, Food Science and Technology
- Jesse Korus, coordinator, Survey Division, School of Natural Resources
- Erick Lewis, utilities operator II, Utility Services
- Nyayan Lul, dining service associate, Harper-Schramm-Smith Dining Service
- Kathleen Morgan, project manager, 4-H Youth Development
- Bruce Neemann, construction inspector, Facilities Planning and Construction
- Cara Pesek, publicity manager, University Press

- Daniel Pfeffer, GIS Spec Web portal, School of Natural Resources
- Alicia Piotrowski, residence hall director, Abel-Sandoz Residence Life
- Ugandhar Porta, information systems specialist, Information Services
- Kevin Rogers, custodian II, Campus Recreation
- Edward Settles, food technician V — production leader, Athletics
- Danielle Smith, clerical assistant II/customer service, Scholarship and Financial Aid
- James Smith, custodian II, Campus Recreation
- Jillian Stewart, custodian II, Lied Center for Performing Arts
- Brian Strauch, assistant Extension educator, West Central Research and Extension Center
- Angela Stueckrath, staff secretary II, School of Accountancy
- Kelly Titltonson, staff secretary I, Sociology

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On the masthead

Pictured is the East Campus clock tower, located north of the East Union. If you know of a part of UNL that should be featured in the Scarlet masthead, contact Troy Fedderson at tfedderson2@unl.edu or 472-8515.

KNOLL

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Nebraska, joined the faculty in 1950 as an assistant professor of English; he was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 1957, and promoted to full professor in 1961. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1947 and 1950 respectively. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946.

Knoll wrote dozens of critical essays, books, television treatments and other scholarly works. He was a scholar of artist-writer Weldon Kees, publishing several books about Kees work and life. He also published works on writers Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlowe and Robert McAlmon. In 1995, he published what has become known as the definitive history of the university, "Prairie University: A History of the University of Nebraska." Knoll was particularly suited for the task, as both his parents and many members of his family were NU graduates and he was personally acquainted with early NU

luminaries such as Louise Pound.

Knoll was exceptionally proud of the university. On the occasion of receiving the CASE professor of the year in 1988, Knoll delivered a lecture in which he described, among many things, his belief in the importance of the university:

"Our first, continuous and inescapable responsibility is teaching our students. All else follows from this. As a university, we are fundamentally committed to scholarly teaching, to inducting our students into the mysteries and delights of learning. We are more than an outpost for business research, not simply a technological laboratory in service to industry. First, last and all the time, we are a university with 23,000 students who deserve our devotion and our mature instruction. All our research — our creation of art, the discoveries of science, the writing of articles and books — will be meaningless without a new generation able to understand and build on what we have accomplished. We are never further than a generation away

from barbarianism.

"The students deserve our disciplined love, which means that we should sometimes leave them alone to make their own discoveries even as we go off alone to make our own discoveries. They neither want nor should have a brooding protection from life. This is life. A university education is a part of life, not an artificial preparation for life."

In a 1990 interview prior to his retirement, Knoll said he planned to continue to be active in the university community.

"I became a professor because I like conversation," Knoll said. "And I don't intend to stop talking." Robert Knoll is survived by his wife, Virginia, two daughters, a son and grandchildren.

A memorial service was Jan. 13. The family requests memorials to the University of Nebraska Foundation for the Robert Knoll Lecture Series Fund, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508. Condolences may be sent online at www.roperandsons.com.

Lied Center for Performing Arts presents
The Chiara String Quartet: Banned in the USSR
with guest soprano Lucy Shelton

UNL Faculty/Staff receive 10% discount on two tickets!

Thursday, January 29th at 7:30pm

for ticket information call 472.4247 or log onto LiedCenter.org

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln does not discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

The Lied Center's performance series is supported by Friends of Lied and grants from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency and America Arts Alliance, Nebraska Arts Council, New England Foundation for the Arts and Lincoln Arts Council. All events in the Lied Center are made possible in part by the Lied Performance Fund, which has been established in memory of Bruce J. Lied and his parents, Bruce M. and Maxine K. Lied.

American Life
in Poetry

By Ted Kooser
U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

I suspect that one thing some people have against reading poems is that they are so often so serious, so devoid of joy, as if we poets spend all our time brooding about mutability and death and never having any fun. Here Cornelius Eady, who lives and teaches in Indiana, offers us a poem of pure pleasure.

A Small Moment

I walk into the bakery next door To my apartment. They are about To pull some sort of toast with cheese From the oven. When I ask: What's that smell? I am being A poet, I am asking

What everyone else in the shop Wanted to ask, but somehow couldn't; I am speaking on behalf of two other Customers who wanted to buy the Name of it. I ask the woman Behind the counter for a percentage Of her sale. Am I flirting? Am I happy because the days Are longer? Here's what

She does: She takes her time Choosing the slices. "I am picking Out the good ones," she tells me. It's April 14th. Spring, with five to ten Degrees to go. Some days, I feel my duty; Some days, I love my work.

Poem copyright © 1997 by Cornelius Eady, from his most recent book of poetry, "Hardheaded Weather: New and Selected Poems," A Marian Wood Book, Putnam, 2008. Reprinted by permission of Cornelius Eady. Introduction copyright © 2008 by The Poetry Foundation. This column is made possible by the Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org) and supported by the UNL Department of English. This column does not accept unsolicited poetry.

White to conduct free youth concert

Nearly 4,000 elementary students from local and surrounding schools will attend a free concert performed by Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra on Jan. 28 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

The annual Young People's Concert will be presented in two one-hour performances, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., under the direction of Tyler White, LSO resident conductor and UNL associate professor of music.

Featured soloist is LSO's 2008 Young Artist Winner, oboist Katherine White of Lincoln. White is currently a sophomore oboe performance student with William McMullen, UNL professor of music at UNL.

Next Scarlet prints Jan. 29

The Scarlet will not print a Jan. 22 edition because of the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 19. The next Scarlet prints Jan. 29. The submission deadline for the Jan. 29 edition is 4 p.m. Jan. 22. For more information, call 472-8515.

Classified Ads

ADVERTISE IT HERE

The Scarlet accepts classified ads. Cost is \$10 for 30 words or less.

For additional information go to www.unl.edu/scarlet or call 472-8515. The classified deadline is 4 p.m. Jan. 22 for the Jan. 29 edition.

'PhotoFest' links galleries
Sheldon to launch photo scavenger hunt Feb. 6

In conjunction with Lincoln PhotoFest, Sheldon Museum of Art has organized a Photo Scavenger Hunt Feb. 6 to 28, to encourage museum visitors to become involved with photography.

Anyone may enter as an individual or member of a team. Deadline for entry is Feb. 1.

Lincoln PhotoFest is a citywide celebration of photography. During February, Sheldon and more than a dozen other galleries across the city will feature photographic exhibitions. Sheldon will also present a photography symposium Feb. 7.

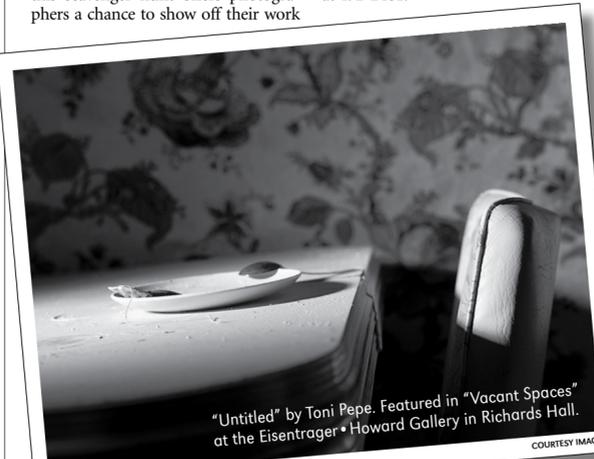
The Lincoln PhotoFest Scavenger Hunt is not a typical scavenger hunt — no running around, searching high and low for that missing clue or that last item. All that is required is a bit of creativity and a camera.

Whether young or old, a point-and-shoot enthusiast or a professional, this scavenger hunt offers photographers a chance to show off their work

and to win cash prizes in two categories. Those participating also will be entered in a drawing to win a personal shooting session with Joel Sartore or Michael Forsberg, two of Nebraska's best professionals.

The Lincoln PhotoFest Scavenger Hunt kicks off from 5-7 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Sheldon where participants, who have previously entered, will receive clues and instructions. Entrants will have until Feb. 20 to create and submit their images to the judges. A photo shoot-off and final reception will be held for participants Feb. 28 at the museum.

For details and entry forms, go to www.sheldon.unl.edu and click on "Lincoln PhotoFest." Individuals or teams may register in person at the Sheldon Museum of Art, or by downloading the entry form from the Web site and registering by mail. For more information, contact Monica Babcock at 472-2461.



"Untitled" by Toni Pepe. Featured in "Vacant Spaces" at the Eisentrager • Howard Gallery in Richards Hall.

'Vacant Spaces,' 'The Portrait in Print' open Jan. 19 at Eisentrager • Howard

The Eisentrager•Howard Gallery in Richards Hall hosts two new photography exhibits — "Vacant Spaces" and "The Portrait in Print" — in January.

Both exhibits open Jan. 19. A First Friday reception is 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 6 in the gallery.

"Vacant Spaces: Memory and Implied Presence in Contemporary Photography" is a curatorial project by Rosemary Burk, a senior fine and performing arts major. The exhibit is part of Burk's senior thesis and a UCARE research project. The exhibit is part of Lincoln PhotoFest.

Burk's exhibition features photography by Toni Pepe, Jennifer Little and Rebecca Sittler-Schrock. It is a collection of photographs that imply a human presence in domestic interiors through multiple visual methods. Embedded in this work are the issues surrounding the role of the home as the keeper of personal memory.

Little teaches photography at the



PRINT PORTRAIT — Art in "The Portrait in Print" exhibition includes this image, "Fyodor Dostoevsky" by Fritz Eichenberg.

Lincoln PhotoFest

Lincoln PhotoFest is a city-wide celebration of photography. During February, more than a dozen galleries across the city will feature photographic exhibitions. Exhibits showing on campus include:

■ **Evolving Eden: Three Photographic Perspectives**, Sheldon Museum of Art, Feb. 6 to May 31

■ **Vacant Spaces: Memory and Implied Presence in Contemporary Photography**, Eisentrager • Howard Gallery, Richards Hall, Jan. 19 to Feb. 19

■ **Lia Cook, Berkeley, California: In Touch: Faces and Mazes**, Hillstad Gallery, Home Economics Building, March 16 to April 10

■ **Chinese Photographer Hong Lei**, Lentz Center for Asian Culture, Feb. 13 to April 26

■ **Somewhere in the Middle of America: Life in a Prairie Town**, Great Plains Art Museum, through Feb. 6

■ **Fragments and Fusion: Landscape Photography by Susan Schenk**, Great Plains Art Museum, through Feb. 6

■ **Beside Ourselves**, Rotunda Gallery, Nebraska Union, Jan. 26 to Feb. 6

For more information, go to www.sheldon.unl.edu and click on "Lincoln PhotoFest"

University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif. The work shown in the exhibition is from her "Transience" series.

Pepe's work is from her "Angle of Repose" series.

Sittler-Schrock teaches at California State University-Long Beach. The work featured in "Vacant Spaces" is from her "A Spectacle and Nothing Strange" series.

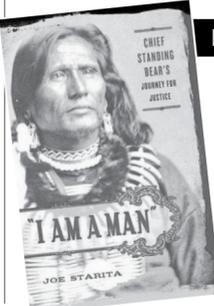
"The Portrait in Print: From the Collection of McHenry County College, Illinois" is from the Portraits in Print Collection, the largest part of McHenry County College's permanent art collection. They were received as a gift from Mary and Charles Liebman that now includes more than 200 prints.

Some of the more recognizable names of artists represented in the collection are Edouard Manet, Salvador Dali, Paul Cezanne, Fritz Eichenberg, Toulouse Latrec, and Andy Warhol.

Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday.

Book in Print | "I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice"

Joe Starita, professor of News-Editorial Published by St. Martin's Press Available January 2009



In 1877, Chief Standing Bear's Ponca tribe was forcibly removed from their Nebraska homeland and marched to "Indian Territory" (now Oklahoma). The journey became the tribe's Trail of Tears.

"I Am a Man" chronicles what happened when Standing Bear set off a 600-mile walk to return the body of his only son to their traditional burial ground. Starita examines the complex

relationship between the United States government and the peaceful tribe, including the legal consequences of land swaps and broken treaties

Before it ends, Standing Bear's journey also explores fundamental issues of citizenship, constitutional protection, cultural identity, and the nature of democracy. Standing Bear successfully used habeas corpus, the only liberty included in the original text of the Constitution, to gain access to a federal court and ultimately his freedom.

If you have a recently published book and would like to see it featured in the Scarlet, send e-mail to tfedderson2@unl.edu or call 472-8515.

Calendar
Jan. 16 to Jan. 30

Friday, Jan. 16

Red Letter Day for all majors, Nebraska Union.

Exhibition Opening, "Yikes! Stripes," 10 a.m., International Quilt Study Center and Museum. Call 472-7232.

Anthropology Colloquium Series, "All for One and One for All: Euergetism, Monuments, and Asia Minor Polis Viability and Growth in Antiquity," LuAnn Wandsnider, UNL, 11:30 a.m., College of Business Administration. Call 472-7934.

Husker Track and Field, Holiday Inn Invitational, 4 p.m., Devaney Center Indoor Track.

UNL College Night, 5 to 7 p.m., International Quilt Study Center and Museum. Call 472-6579.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Saturday Campus Visit, Van Brunt Visitor Center.

Husker Track and Field, Holiday Inn Invitational, noon, Devaney Center Indoor Track.

Husker Swimming vs. Kansas, 2 p.m., Devaney Natatorium.

Husker Men's Basketball vs. Kansas State, 5 p.m., Devaney Center.

Sunday, Jan. 18

Husker Wrestling vs. South Dakota State, 2 p.m., NU Coliseum.

Husker Men's Gymnastics vs. Oklahoma, 2 p.m., Devaney Sports Center.

Husker Wrestling vs. Maryland, 4 p.m., NU Coliseum.

Monday, Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, UNL offices are closed.

Chancellor's Program, "The Second Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Lloyd Daniel, 2 p.m., Nebraska Union Auditorium.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

University Sertoma Club meeting, 7 a.m., Selleck. Call 472-3173.

Presidential Inauguration Watch (MLK Week event), 10 a.m., Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Student Advisory Board meeting, 5 p.m., University Health Center. Call 472-7459.

Presidential Inauguration Ball (MLK Week event), 7 p.m., Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Faculty artist, Julie Yoon, violin, free, 7:30 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall. Call 472-6865.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

"Big Words, Strong Words" (MLK Week Event), student play by Clinton Elementary School, 10:30 a.m., East Union (room posted).

"424: The Aftermath" (MLK Week event), brown bag panel moderated by Patrick Jones, 11:30 a.m., Nebraska Union Crib.

Spring 2009 Water Seminar Series, "Evapotranspiration from Riparian Vegetation in Nebraska," Dave Rus, USGS Nebraska Water Science Center, 3:30 p.m., Hardin Hall. Call 472-7372.

Paul A. Olson Seminar in Great Plains Studies, "A Crash Course in Infrastructure: Expensive but Essential Components for Rural (and Urban) Nebraska's Future," Sandra Scofield, University of Nebraska Rural Initiative, 3:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Museum. Call 472-3964.

Honors Forum, a Nebraska Colloquium event, "Democracy and Human Rights in the Context of Terrorism," David Forsythe, UNL, 7 p.m., Nebraska Union.

Husker Women's Basketball vs. Kansas, 7:05 p.m., Devaney Center.

Thursday, Jan. 22

"From Civil Rights to Racial Justice: The 45th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act" (MLK Week event), brown bag lecture by Patrick Jones, noon, Nebraska Union Crib.

"Post-Obama Election: Issues of Diversity and Civil Rights" (MLK Week event), town hall meeting, 6 p.m., Nebraska Union Auditorium.

Nebraska Colloquium event, Tony Kushner, playwright, with Mary Pipher, 7:30 p.m., Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Faculty artist, Christopher Marks, organ, free, 7:30 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall. Call 472-6865.

Friday, Jan. 23

Winter Festival for Wind and Percussion for gifted high school students, Kimball Recital Hall. Call 472-2505.

Husker Rifle vs. Ole Miss, 9 a.m., NU Rifle Range.

Husker Wrestling vs. Penn (Parents Night), 7 p.m., NU Coliseum.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Saturday Campus Visit, Van Brunt Visitor Center.

Quiltmaking Demonstration, Stripes and Bars, 10 a.m., International Quilt Study Center and Museum. Call 472-7232.

Educators' Open House, 10 a.m., International Quilt Study Center and Museum. Call 472-7232.

Husker Track and Field, Conference Challenge (\$1 admission/pop), 1:30 p.m., Devaney Center Indoor Track.

Jesus Christ Superstar, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Lied Center for Performing Arts. Call 472-4747.

Husker Men's Basketball vs. Oklahoma State, 3 p.m., Devaney Center.

Winter Festival for Wind and Percussion concert, 7:30 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall. Call 472-2505.

Husker Women's Basketball vs. Iowa State, 8 p.m., Devaney Center.

Sunday, Jan. 25

Husker Rifle vs. TCU, 9 a.m., NU Rifle Range.

Husker Track and Field, Nebraska All-Ages Open, 11 a.m., Devaney Center Indoor Track.

Winter Festival for Wind and Percussion finale concert, 3 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall. Call 472-

Exhibitions

TRANSactions: Contemporary Latin American and Latino Art, through Jan. 18, Sheldon Museum of Art.

Somewhere in the Middle of America: Life in a Prairie Town — Photographs by Jeffrey Haller, through Feb. 6, Great Plains Art Museum, Hewitt Center.

Fragments and Fusion: Landscape Photography by Susan Schenk, photographs augmented by encaustic and oil, through Feb. 6, Great Plains Art Museum, Hewitt Center.

Portraits and Personalities: Prints from the F. M. Hall Collection, through March 1, Sheldon Museum of Art.

Technology's Impact on Design, through March 13, Kruger Gallery of Miniature Interiors, Architecture Hall.

New Acquisitions: African-American Masters Collection, through March 2, Sheldon Museum of Art.

Yikes! Stripes, Jan. 16 to April 5, International Quilt Study Center and Museum. Call 472-6579.

Chintz Applique: From Imitation to Icon, through May 17, International Quilt Study Center and Museum. Call 472-6579.

Subject(s) to Change: American Art from the Permanent Collection, reinstallation of artworks from the permanent collection organized into six galleries, through June 30, Sheldon Museum of Art.

Cinema

Synecdoche, New York, (rated R), through Jan. 22, Mary Rieppma Ross Media Arts Center.

Slumdog Millionaire, (rated R), through Jan. 29, Ross Media Arts Center.

Wrestling with Angels, Jan. 18, screening and discussion with Rhonda Garelick, UNL, 1 p.m., Ross Media Arts Center.

Stranded: I've Come from a Plane that Crashed on the Mountains, (not rated), Jan. 23-29, Ross Media Arts Center.

For more information, go to www.theross.org or call 472-5353

For an extended list of campus events, go online to <http://events.unl.edu>

Planetarium

The Little Star That Could, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

Black Holes, Saturdays and Sundays, 3 p.m.

For more information, go to www.space.laser.com or call 472-2641.

Award-winning playwright on NET TV, at Lied Center

As one of the country's leading playwrights, Tony Kushner has earned a Pulitzer, an Emmy and two Tony Awards. But, it's Kushner the man, not just his work that's the focus of the documentary "Wrestling With Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner." The program is an episode from the PBS television series "P.O.V." and airs at 9 p.m. Jan. 17 on NET2 and at 10 p.m. Jan. 20 on NET1 and NET-HD



Kushner

Oscar-winning director Freida Lee Mock follows Kushner for three tumultuous years to delve into the passions that keep the energetic political activist reaching for the great American play. Kushner, a

gay progressive who grew up in the South, first gained fame in the early 1990s with the two-part epic drama "Angels in America." He is known for tackling difficult subjects such as AIDS, conservatism, the rise of capitalism and racism.

Kushner will also appear at the Lied Center for Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22 for a 90-minute discussion and brief question and answer session. He will be interviewed by Mary Pipher, UNL adjunct clinical assistant professor of psychology.

For ticket information, go to www.liedcenter.org or call 472-4747.

Friends of tractor museum to celebrate 10th anniversary

Friends of the Larsen Tractor Museum are set to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the museum with pizza, pictures and a program Jan. 19 at Valentino's, 35th and Holdrege streets.

A pictorial history slideshow and buffet is 6-7 p.m. in Valentino's basement party room. A limited number of tickets are available through the Larsen Tractor Museum at \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 4-12. Tickets are available (before Jan. 15) online at <http://tractormuseum.unl.edu>, by calling 472-8389 or at the museum.

The program will also include an 8 p.m. business meeting of the Friends of the Larsen Tractor Museum.

TV's "The Machinery Show."

The second speaker will be Kevan Exstrum, a project director for the Donning Co. Publishers, the nation's largest specialty book publisher. Exstrum will present an opportunity to develop a custom-tailored, limited-edition pictorial history book to preserve and celebrate the 10-year history of the museum (1998-2008), and the approaching 90- and 100-year anniversaries of the Nebraska Tractor Test laboratory, which opened in 1920.

The program will also include an 8 p.m. business meeting of the Friends of the Larsen Tractor Museum.

Scofield to offer 'Crash Course in Infrastructure'

Infrastructure is a subject that is a vital issue for Nebraska and the rest of the union.

Sandra Scofield, director of the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative, will take on the important topic Jan. 21 when she delivers a Paul A. Olson Seminar in Great Plains Studies. Scofield will present "A Crash Course in Infrastructure: Expensive but Essential Components for Rural (and Urban) Nebraska's Future" from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Great Plains Art Museum and will be preceded by a 3 p.m. reception in the museum are free and open to the public.

Scofield will describe how each state and the nation as a whole confront expensive issues related to building and maintaining the infrastructure needed to remain globally connected — and how it's

easy to put those issues off until a crisis occurs.

Scofield will discuss the various kinds of infrastructure important to the future of Nebraska, their status, who funds infrastructure, the costs, and the decisions citizens and their representatives need to make in an era of tight budgets.

Her presentation is the first of four Olson Seminars in the spring semester.

Each is from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Great Plains Art Museum and will be preceded by a 3 p.m. reception. All are free and open to the public.

The next Olson Seminar is Feb. 18. It will feature "The Fossil Record and the Fact of Evolution," by George F. Engelmann, professor of geology and biology, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

UNL Extension's diabetes program to air on NET

UNL Extension's Control Diabetes for Life program will be featured on Nebraska Educational Television in January.

The program is scheduled to air on NET2 at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 and 1 p.m. Jan. 18.

The UNL Extension program has been offered statewide via distance education. Consisting of three, two-hour programs, it provides research based information on self-care, food choices, carbohydrate counting, food safety, medications and label reading.

Topics that will be included in the NET program are: Cost Savings on Diabetes Care; Seeing is Believing Eye Health; Weight Control Is All About Portion Control; and Seven Habits of Highly Effective People with Diabetes.

Control Diabetes for Life is a joint project of UNL Extension and Franciscan Care Services of West Point. Viewers can download free handouts at www.cuming.unl.edu/publications.

Nominees sought for Outstanding Contribution to Women awards

By Sara Gilliam
University Communications

The Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women is accepting nominations for the Outstanding Contribution to Women Awards, which will be presented to individuals or departments March 10 in the Nebraska Union.

The awards recognize outstanding faculty, staff and student efforts to create a climate that encour-

ages women to succeed at UNL. The award recipients may be faculty, staff, students, departments or organizations within the institution. Recipients must demonstrate a sustained and tangible impact on the campus community. Past winners include Geosciences (2008), Sociology (2007), and the UNL Police Department (2006). Former student winners are Tamy Burnett, Alex Clark and Tabethah Mack.

"While women have made

great progress in higher education, there are still obstacles," said Jan Deeds, assistant director of student involvement and director of the Women's Center. "The chancellor wants to acknowledge the work that departments and individuals are doing to level the playing field for women."

To make a nomination, send a letter of support to Jody Wood, 128 Canfield Administration Building, 0437. Nominations are due Feb.

16.

"We don't take time to recognize and celebrate contributions," Deeds said. "We tend to focus on what's not happening. This award gives us a reason to look for and recognize people who are doing things to make campus a more welcoming place for women and to help women succeed."

The commission is also seeking new members for 2009-10. Faculty and staff members of the commis-

sion are appointed for staggered three-year terms. Student members are appointed for two-year terms. The purpose of the CCSW is to enhance the status of all women at UNL by advising the chancellor on issues pertaining to gender equity and on specific concerns of women faculty, staff and students at the university.

For more information, contact Jan Deeds at jdeeds1@unl.edu or 472-2598.

Get Rec'd event features food, prizes, Jan. 22-23

Campus Recreation is putting on the finishing touches for Get Rec'd 2009, which is shaping up to be "the two hottest days in January."

Get Rec'd is Jan. 22-23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Campus Recreation Center. The festival-type event showcases vendors, entertainment, and competitions for the UNL students, faculty and staff, as well as the public. Although primarily targeted to UNL students, the event is open to the entire university community.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit vendor booths, try out new products, collect giveaway items, grab a bite to eat and enter to win prizes through both drawings and contests. Last year, more than \$26,000 in prizes were awarded to attendees through official Get Rec'd contests. Many more prizes valued in the thousands of dollars were given away directly from exhibiting vendors at their booths.

More than 90 local, regional and national companies have signed on to appear at the 2009 event, including Verizon Wireless, CareerLink.com, Apple, Dell, Sprint, STM Bags, Performance Toyota/Scion,

University Bookstore, Post & Nickel, Hothand Wireless, and Livescribe/Pulse Smartpen. In addition to the exhibiting vendors, Get Rec'd will host five competitive contests during which students will have the chance to win even bigger prizes — including a weekend trip to Orlando, Fla., and Walt Disney World. The contest are: The Ultimate Road Trip Challenge, presented by Verizon Wireless; Husker Gladiators, presented by Nebraska Athletics; The Rock Band Contest; I Love the '90s Interactive Trivia; and the Pepsi Olympics.

Entertainment and food are a big part of the mix. The Food Zone will be open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day with free food. UNL's first Get Rec'd was in January 2007, when 12,000 attendees visited with nearly 60 vendors; the 2008 event hosted 88 exhibitors and vendors. Get Rec'd was patterned after a University of California-Berkeley event.

A listing of Get Rec'd vendors, sponsors, entertainment and contest guidelines and registration is available at www.getrecd.com.

university would lose credit for the work.

Dean Sherman supported his requests.

However, Chancellor Samuel Avery was impatient with Wallace, writing to Sherman that, "we could worry along without men making Shakespearean discoveries in England."

Wallace published many of the documents without interpretation, others he used in work that examined numerous topics, including the history of Elizabethan child actors from about 1485 to 1603.

Among his most popular discoveries was Shakespeare's signature — the earliest known example — among the papers of a suit in the Court of Requests. The lawsuit rose from a marriage Shakespeare helped arrange.

Wallace returned to the university and taught during the 1917-1918 academic year. However, to finance further research, he became a wildcatter and searched for oil in Texas.

Wallace acted as his own geologist (having studied geology while teaching at NU) and was about to give up when he struck oil in 1919. He had measurable success in the oil industry, but never returned to London to further his research. Wallace died of cancer in 1932.

"From the Archives" is a regular feature of the Scarlet. Image provided by the University Archives. Submit items to tfedderson2@unl.edu or 472-8515.

because it has the food-science expertise to study the GI tract and the production-agriculture expertise to put that knowledge to work.

"This is a new interface between agriculture and human health," Benson said. "The newest ideas to emerge at this interface can be quickly integrated into the engines of agricultural production."

"For example, knowing how specific groups of the GI microorganisms contribute to health or disease will allow us to devise new dietary principles and nutrient strategies to encourage or inhibit" certain types of microorganisms, he added. "Understanding these key nutrients would have a profound effect on the development and breeding of new crops and ways of cultivating and processing them."

The same principles could be applied to animal production, Benson said.

One key technology that will inform UNL's research is the new gnotobiotic facility, a germ-free setting that will allow scientists to breed mice in a sterile environment and experiment with introducing certain, known bacteria into their GI tracts.

"We can bring in one bacteria, or two, at a time," said Peterson, who will lead this research angle. If scientists know exactly what organisms are present, they can begin to figure out which ones do what.

UNL's gnotobiotic facility is one of only about 10 in the country, Benson said.

Peterson, a medical doctor with a partial appointment at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, already can foresee exciting possibilities for collaboration with UNMC's well-regarded gut-transplant program.

"There's an immediate need, a great chance for application there," Peterson said.

For example, many premature babies are born with immature GI tracts and this sometimes even results in loss of large amounts of the small intestine. UNL research could lead to vaccines, probiotics or nutritional supplements that would help these babies, Peterson said.

Obesity treatment in adults is another area of promise. Many people report weight gain after antibiotic therapy. Research could lead to development of a "cocktail of bacteria" that would be given to patients immediately after such therapy, which could stave off obesity, Benson said.

The marketing of probiotics has gotten ahead of the science, the UNL researchers say. Grocery-store shelves already are filled with pills, yogurt, smoothies, snack bars, cereals and other products that promise to regulate digestive health.

"There's a snake-oil component to this," Benson said. "As scientists we want to understand this and turn it into something realistic and rational that will really benefit consumers."

"This could keep us busy for the next 30, 40 years," Walter added.

Although the Gut Function Initiative is relatively new, Benson said, it builds on years of previous work at IANR, including genetics research by animal scientist Merlyn Nielsen and cholesterol research by nutrition scientist Tim Carr.

The research will include UNL scientists with expertise in gastrointestinal microbiology, bioinformatics and statistics, immunology, allergy, metabolomics, quantitative genomics and physiology and nutrition. The Gut Function Initiative has received funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institutes of Health.

New course brings Antarctica to campus

By Steve Smith
University Communications

During his many trips to Antarctica as a researcher, UNL geoscientist David Harwood has gained firsthand perspective of the region's role in past, present and future global climate change.

Now, Harwood is heading into the classroom — and he's bringing the entire continent with him.

This semester, Harwood will lead a new geology course that lets students tour Antarctica without having to take an 11,500-mile trip or endure the Antarctic climate. The course will employ the audio-visual power of the Mary Riepmma Ross Media Arts Center to bring the continent to UNL.

"We'll hear, see and feel (Antarctica) and

... explore the lure and the lore of the place," Harwood said.



Harwood

entific inquiry and processes and also allow them to experience exploration of the last continental frontier as geoscientists.

Through a series of field projects, stu-

The course is open to all UNL students and, using Antarctica as its epicenter, will track the evolution of the Earth and life through the past several million years.

Just as important, Harwood said, the class will give students a perspective on scientific inquiry and processes and also allow them to experience exploration of the last continental frontier as geoscientists.

Through a series of field projects, stu-

Geology 125: Frontiers in Antarctic Geosciences

A new, 3-credit-hour course taught by geoscientist David Harwood. Meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

dents will apply scientific methods to gain knowledge about how Earth's various environmental systems are connected.

"It's a mental experience to engage in real science activities and thought processes," Harwood said. "We want the students to ask the questions and work to find the answers. They end up becoming the scientists and teaching one another."

Harwood is research director of the ANDRILL Science Management Office at UNL. ANDRILL is a multinational collaboration of more than 200 scientists, students

and educators from around the world aimed at understanding Antarctica's historical impact on ocean currents and the atmosphere through the study of its rock layers.

In late 2006 and 2007, the ANDRILL program recovered the two deepest rock cores ever taken in Antarctica, more than 1,100 meters in each drilling season. Harwood was the co-chief scientist of 2007's Southern McMurdo Sound Project with Fabio Florindo of Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology.

Harwood will share the recent work by the ANDRILL program with students during the semester, as well.

"I came here as a researcher," Harwood said. "Now I'm excited to do more in my role as a teacher."

Blacksmith leaves \$3.5M for student scholarships

A lifelong resident of Gresham, Neb., has provided a \$3.5 million gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation to create scholarships for students. Walter Schmitt, a blacksmith, died in January 2008. As the sole beneficiary of Schmitt's estate, the foundation received \$2 million in September 2008 and another \$1.5 million by the end of the year. It is one of the largest estate gifts the foundation has ever received for scholarships.

"Walter never went to college, but he loved to learn," said Cindi Heiden of York, a friend and personal representative for Schmitt's estate. "He read constantly and paid close attention to the political world, agriculture, history and

finances. He told me he chose the University of Nebraska Foundation as his beneficiary because of his passion for education."

Schmitt specified that his gift be permanently endowed, which means the \$3.5 million will be invested and the net income available each year for scholarships. Scholarships awarded from the Schmitt Scholarship Fund will be available to students this fall. It is estimated that about \$170,000 will be available annually to help NU students.

Schmitt, who never married and whose closest living relatives are in Germany, also requested that his body be donated to science.

Vorbātəm

Chancellor Harvey Perlman issued this Jan. 8 e-mail as a welcome back for the spring semester.

generate unnecessary concerns. If this happens, I would encourage you to e-mail me directly and I will try to respond as best I can.

My attitude is to advance our priorities, undergraduate education and research, to propose vertical reductions rather than reduce the quality of the university across the board, and, wherever possible, to find ways to save money that do not adversely impact current employees. This is why I again want to encourage you to think about saving energy as a way to reduce our expenses. This requires vigilance and changes of habit.

I know I smugly told you that I now turn off my computer when I leave my office for extended times. It wasn't until this week I realized that my screen and printer remained on. So now I'm crawling under my desk to push the switch on my power strip. So far I have survived this indignity!

Our communications office has produced a video featuring engi-



News briefs

NSF CAREER roundtable discussion is Jan. 29

A roundtable discussion featuring information on the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development program is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Nebraska Union (room posted).

The CAREER program offers one of the most prestigious awards for pre-tenure faculty. The award provides up to five years of funding that helps faculty develop careers as teacher scholars.

The CAREER roundtable discussion will feature prior award winners, and experts on proposal and budget development and project evaluation. Speakers will answer questions and offer advice on topics ranging from personal experiences in the proposal development process to integrating research and education activities.

The roundtable includes a free lunch and time to interact

with event speakers and Office of Research staff.

Registration closes Jan. 26. For more information or to register, go to <http://research.unl.edu/events/roundtable/> or contact Sara Trickle at strieckie2@unl.edu or 472-4066.

Career Services offers job survival workshop Jan. 20

A "Job Search Survival" workshop, hosted by Career Services is 3 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Nebraska Union (room posted). The free workshop for students includes sessions on resumes and cover letters, interviewing, job search strategies and Husker Hire Link. An additional session will provide international students with information on gaining career experience in the United States.

The workshop is an opportunity for students to prepare for the Spring Career Fair, Feb. 17 and 18. For more information, to go

www.unl.edu/careers or call 472-3145.

Space and Telecom Laws is accepting applications

The University of Nebraska space and telecom master of laws program, the first of its kind in the United States and the first in the world taught in English, is accepting applications for students interested in matriculating in August 2009. Applications will be accepted through April 15, although interested students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible because admissions are done on a rolling basis.

The Law College will award at least \$60,000 in NASA grant scholarship money to students matriculating in August. All applicants are automatically considered for these scholarships. To apply, or for more information, go to <http://spaceandtelecomlaw.unl.edu>.

Charles William Wallace

NU professor, 1901-1918

Charles William Wallace was a University of Nebraska professor and researcher whom many considered the preeminent Shakespeare scholar of the early 1900s. He is credited with numerous discoveries related to Jacobean drama and Shakespeare, including the bard's earliest known signature.

Wallace was born Feb. 6, 1865, in Hopkins, Missouri. At age 17, he became a country schoolteacher. Wallace earned a bachelor's degree from Western Normal College in Shenandoah, Iowa, in 1885. He also received an AB degree in 1898 from the University of Nebraska, where he also pursued graduate work.

Wallace joined the faculty at NU in 1901 as assistant instructor of English language and literature. He progressed rapidly through the academic ranks, becoming professor of English and dramatic literature in 1912.

University records show he taught classes in the medieval, Elizabethan and Jacobean drama, Shakespeare and other subjects.

During his tenure, the study of Elizabethan theatre was growing in popularity. Early in his academic career, Wallace worked to edit a play written for an Elizabethan children's company. He came to the conclusion that he could not proceed with the work (which he never completed) without finding information about the



exact company that played the piece.

During the summers from 1904 to 1909, and through the years 1909 to 1916, Wallace and his wife, Hilda Alfreda Beggren of Wahoo,

examined more than 5 million Elizabethan legal and administrative documents at the Public Records Office in London.

From November 1909, he was on leave of absence from NU, at first with a salary. Each year he requested an extension of his leave, declaring his loyalty to NU but pointing out that he had "a plain duty" to see through the end of the work. He also mentioned others were researching the same topics and that there was a danger that the



Initiative aims to unlock gastrointestinal tract mysteries

By Dan Moser
IANR News Service

The secrets to better human health may lie in the gut, and UNL expects to be on the leading edge of this emerging research.

UNL's Gut Function Initiative has taken shape in the last year, with a team of about 12 scientists from across the university and some key new technology put in place. The initiative's focus is to unlock the mysteries of the gastrointestinal tract and, ultimately, transform that understanding into practices and products including what some call "designer foods" — that might help address obesity, disease and other concerns.

"Many of the most significant discoveries in human medicine are likely to occur in the GI ecosystem in the next 10 to 20 years," said Andy Benson, food microbiologist and a member of the research team.

In fact, the National Institutes of Health, which help set the agenda of national medical research, has declared the study of gastrointestinal bacteria and probiotics a major research initiative. Probiotics are dietary supplements containing potentially beneficial bacteria.

Humans begin life with a sterile gastrointestinal tract, which comprises the small and large intestines. But microorganisms begin to take up residence during birth and rapidly thereafter — initially from mom and then from a variety of sources including environment and diet. Ultimately, the makeup of each person's gastrointestinal microorganisms is as unique as fingerprints.

"Everybody's got a different collection," Benson said.

There are lots of them, to be sure — researchers estimate the GI tract has 10 times more microorganisms than cells in

the entire human body, Benson said. It's no wonder, then, that the composition of those microorganisms and what they do has eluded scientists for so long.

"This ecosystem is hellaciously complex," said UNL gastrointestinal microbiologist Jens Walter, hired two years ago to be a part of the research team.

Daniel Peterson, a cellular immunologist, said, "Up until the last few years we couldn't even tell what bacteria were living in the gut."

Thanks to genomic advances, "we're now demystifying this previously unmeasurable, incalculable population of bacteria," added Peterson, who arrived at UNL in August to lead development of a new gnotobiotic facility that will be at the heart of UNL's effort.

Gastrointestinal microorganisms have many useful functions: they help with digestion, stimulate cell growth, train the immune system, break down toxins and defend against some diseases.

Those are the "good guys" of the GI. There also are "bad guys," which are believed to be linked to obesity, coronary disease, cancer, inflammatory bowel disease and other disease.

To put it simply, the idea is to find ways to encourage the beneficial bacteria and reduce the bad ones. UNL's research will focus on three distinct areas:

— what microbial factors promote colonization of the GI tract;

— what host factors control bacterial development; and

— how dietary factors influence colonization.

The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources is particularly well-positioned to help answer these questions, Benson said,

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International Quilt Study Center and Museum

'Yikes! Stripes' opens Jan. 16

Arresting, unsettling striped quilts light up the walls in the International Quilt Study Center and Museum. "Yikes! Stripes: Eye-Catching Visual Effects in Quilts," on display Jan. 16 through April 5, features 16 quilts from the center's collection.

Elizabeth Andrews, quilt studies graduate student in Textiles, Clothing and Design, designed the exhibition to show the striped textile surface from new vantage points. Visual, cultural, and historical accounts of the striped surface illuminate the unique nature of the stripe. Zebras, prison uniforms, flags and race cars all feature stripes. The exhibition explores the stripe as it relates to these examples and as it is used in quilting

traditions from various cultures.

The quilts in this exhibition celebrate the eye-catching visual effects that makers create using stripes. Bold and flashy stripes adorn fast cars, caution signs and the hides of many animals, including zebras, tigers, skunks, chipmunks and many snakes, fish and frogs. Pinstriped suitings, wood grain and corduroy are ubiquitous examples of subtly striped surfaces. Throughout history and in cultures from every continent striped surfaces abound. The quilts illustrate the dynamic, appealing nature of the stripe.

It has been suggested that the striped surface calls for attention in a way that other surfaces don't. Perhaps striped surfaces are more engaging because of their ambiguous nature. When examining a striped surface, the eye is confronted with an unclear relationship between foreground and background. The question of whether a zebra is a white animal with black stripes or a black animal with white stripes illustrates the unique intrigue of the stripe. This exhibition presents many stripes for viewing and calls to mind many more. The viewer is invited to ponder the stripe, its connotations, and its ambiguities.

STRIPE DISPLAY

— Pictured are two quilts featured in the "Yikes! Stripes" exhibition.

DOCUMENTARY

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munity is something that I experienced as a young girl and it continues today" said Creighton. "It's something that really baffles me — and it inspired me to move forward with this documentary."

Creighton worked with faculty in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication to define how the project would be completed and developed a list of nine questions asked to each of the 10 individuals. Topics of the questions centered on the academic achievement gap, racism, discrimination, poverty, peer pressure, the threat of "acting white," teaching pedagogy, family structure, self esteem and self-motivation.

After completing the first two interviews with two men not in college, Creighton had a difficult time moving forward.

"I was logging tapes and it really depressed me," Creighton said. "I'm a black woman with a son and daughter who thought she knew what was going on with young black people. I was embarrassed and horrified at what I didn't know."

She found the interviewees had a lack of role models, a wrong definition of what is healthy, and did not believe someone cared for them unconditionally.

Jerrid, an 18-year-old serving a prison term for robbery and use of a weapon, summed up most of what Creighton found. He lacked a father figure in the home and got involved with gangs as he felt no one cared for him. Jerrid said the gangs provided a sense of family.

"I used to think school was a good thing, a place where I could get an education and there were girls there," Jerrid said. "After a while, I figured I could get a better education on the streets, that school can't teach me how to live."

While many men and women from North Omaha strive for success, Cameron, one of the UNL students, said the road can be especially difficult because of feelings within the community.

"The African-American race is

Professional projects

Other recent documentaries (not including those by Trina Creighton and Luis Peon-Cassanova, see Page 1) produced by UNL faculty in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications include:

"Exploring the Wild Kingdom"

By Barney McCoy and Bruce Mitchell

A documentary that examined the impact of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom television show, which reached 34 million viewers each week. Produced in collaboration with NET Television, it has aired several times on Nebraska Public Television.

"They Could Really Play the Game"

By Barney McCoy

A documentary about Bevo Francis, a basketball coach that led the Rio Grande College Redmen to a 39-0 record in 1952. Premieres at 7 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center.

like a bucket of crabs," Cameron said. "That's because, when we see someone doing something positive or doing something right, we pull them back down again."

Creighton said self-motivation and family support were the primary reasons the five young men came to UNL.

"Out of the five here on campus, three grew up with fathers in the home," Creighton said. "The other two did not. However, those two had very strong sisters who pushed them to get an education."

The majority of the five mentioned they were getting an education to help their families.

The campus group also voiced a number of stories that could have drawn them into a life of violence instead of education.

Melvin, an 18-year-old enrolled at UNL, said he had his "bad years" but received clarity when a gun was held to his head.

"I got kidnapped at around 13 or 14 and had a gun held to my head and all that," said Melvin. "I thought, 'What am I doing? Why am I here? What brought me to this situation? Why am I doing this?' Luckily I had someone looking over me, the Lord or someone, and they just let me go. I went home and told everyone that I was done with the gang."

"My mom and dad were like, 'there's no other way to go but college.'"

The five from UNL continue

to venture home. While they avoid being dragged back down, they also try to plant seeds that college is attainable — and cool.

"My biggest fear was that I could never get out," said Erick in the documentary. "Now, I go home and walk around hoping people ask me where I've been. I get ecstatic when kids run up to me and I get to tell them that I've been to college."

"I make sure to tell them to stay out of the gang life. And, that if I can get out, so can they."

When she shows the video to groups, Creighton said the reaction is nearly the same every time.

"It's kind of like getting a slap in the face," she said. "People sit quiet for a few minutes, then the questions start coming."

Stemming from the documentary, Creighton has started to consult with Bright Futures Foundation, an Omaha organization working to create educational excellence and equity. She is also planning other documentaries.

"I would love to do one about the fathers of these kids," said Creighton. "And, I've already started to work on another one about single fathers caring for their children."

Creighton continues to show "The Academic Achievement Gap" documentary to groups. For more information, or to arrange a viewing, contact Creighton at tcreigh2@unl.edu or 472-4796.

NET Radio, TV showcase inauguration

NET Radio and NET Television will present complete coverage of the Jan. 20 inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States.

On NET Radio, NPR's coverage will begin at 5 a.m. on "Morning Edition." Renee Montagne will be in the NPR, Washington, D.C., studios setting the stage for listeners with Steve Inskeep and multiple NPR reporters capturing the scene with live reports.

Special coverage begins at 9 a.m. Uninterrupted coverage of the swearing-in ceremonies and the President's Inaugural Address will be followed by discussions with previous presidential speechwriters, historians and members of the crowd around the Capitol.

On NET Television, Jim Lehrer will anchor PBS special coverage beginning at 10 a.m. on NET1 and in high-definition on NET-HD. The official swearing-in ceremony and Obama's speech are scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. but PBS will also include excerpts of all of the morning events including church services and Obama's arrival at the White House.

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