

The Year. in review 2011-2012

SCARLET

The monthly newspaper for faculty and staff of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Special Edition

Sept. 10, 2012



Work continues on the expansion on the east side of Memorial Stadium. When finished, the project will include research space for a new center for brain, biology and behavior. The new research space inside Memorial Stadium will be incorporated into an updated UNL campus master plan (see story below). Since approval of the master plan in 2006, UNL has started or completed 33 construction projects.

Building for the future

Work continues to meet new goals

Chancellor Harvey Perlman opened the 2011-2012 academic year with a call for faculty and staff to start thinking bigger.

In his annual State of the University address Sept. 1, 2011 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, Perlman described UNL's move into the Big Ten Conference as, "an opportunity to reset the table." To the more than 1,000 in attendance, Perlman outlined four, six-year goals that will help define what it means for UNL to be a member of the new conference. Those proposals — each to be reached by 2017 — are:

- Increase enrollment by 20 percent, to 30,000 students. Enrollment in recent years has grown to nearly 25,000.
- Increase to 1,300 tenure track faculty positions. That translates to an added 160

Research Retention Reputation Recruitment

UNL's new goals have been divided into these four priorities. Watch for this graphic identifying Year in Review stories related to these new goals.

positions, with an average growth rate of 2.25 percent each year between now and 2017.

- A six-year graduate rate of 70 percent for undergraduates. The current rate is 64 percent.
- Total research expenditures of \$300 million.
- Double the number of faculty receiving national recognition and awards for research and creative activity.

Perlman said he looked at recent growth in those four areas and extrapolated the figures to set the 2017 benchmarks. All of UNL's academic units and programs have until spring semester to establish a target to meet each of the proposals.

"I am confident that we can achieve these targets if every academic unit on campus is involved," Perlman said. "We have the opportunity to reset the table — to now start anew to reformulate our ambitions and our aspirations, to set new goals and objectives, to rise to the elevated expectations in which we have been draped, to take advantage of the opportunities to lie ahead, to learn from but also to lead our new peers, to demonstrate that while we are in a new place, there is still no place like Nebraska."

Foundations in place to support momentum

This special Scarlet Year in Review edition has become an annual tradition, a celebration of our successes over the past year as a university. While it's not an unabridged version of all of the accomplishments made by faculty, staff and students, it helps us look at the big picture and is an impressive record of achievement and service to Nebraska.



Harvey Perlman

This past year especially has been one of positioning for further growth. Across campus we are seeing the manifestations of physical growth — the new Voelte-Keegan nanoscience building adjacent

to Jorgensen Hall; new student housing under construction; and the new East Stadium expansion that will house a nationally prominent research initiative known as the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior. Through this center, UNL is leading an important national initiative to study head injuries in sports.

In addition, we are beginning construction this fall on the core facilities at Nebraska Innovation Campus, the new "launching pad" for marketable innovations. As you may recall, a \$25 million investment by Nebraska's Legislature and the governor has fueled \$80 million from private and public investments in the Phase I development.

If you look across the Lincoln landscape, the 'crane farm' of construction surrounding campus is a strong indicator of Lincoln's momentum, and that can only enhance UNL's opportunities for growth.

The new Pinnacle Bank Arena in the Haymarket, and the nearly completed Antelope Valley project, with new land reclaimed from the flood plain plus more hiker-biker trails and recreational opportunities near campus, add up to a more vibrant city and campus.

"Go Big Red" is much more than an athletic rally cry. It summarizes our academic momentum, our growing role in the Big Ten and its academic arm, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, and our commitment to reaching our goals as a Big Ten university.

Over the past year, not only have we built some remarkable physical structures, we have also laid the foundation for UNL to be a better, stronger university.

I anticipate the achievement of many notable milestones in the year ahead as we take advantage of our year of building foundations.

Thanks for your commitment to continuing to make this university one of the best public universities in the nation.

Harvey Perlman

Harvey Perlman
Chancellor

Success leads to new master plan

UNL is updating its master plan and creating a landscape master plan due to construction successes, property shifts, and the new set of goals to grow enrollment, faculty hires and research funding.

The current UNL Master Plan was approved in 2006 and has played a role in the completion or

start of 33 construction projects.

The new master plan will include identifying building sites, mapping vehicle circulation (with new data from the nearly complete Antelope Valley Project) and an in-depth space study to see how UNL will accommodate more students, faculty and staff.

Campus construction

Since 2006, the UNL master plan has helped guide the completion or start of 33 campus construction projects. Those projects include:

- Jorgensen Hall
- Nanoscience Metrology Facility
- Whittier renovation
- Schorr Center for Computer Science Engineering
- Gaughan Multicultural Center
- Knoll Residence Hall
- Temple Building addition
- Henricks Training Complex
- Abel-Sandoz welcome center
- Lied Center addition
- Outdoor Adventures Center
- East Campus Rec Center
- Morrison Virology Center
- International Quilt Study Center and Museum



UNL awarded a record 2,787 degrees in May <http://go.unl.edu/spring2012>

Equal coverage domestic partners

Regents approve 'Plus-One' benefit

In November, University of Nebraska employees will be able to sign up domestic partners for health insurance and other benefits.

On June 8, the NU Board of Regents — on a 5-3 vote — approved the "employee plus one" proposal that extends benefits eligibility to an "adult designee" who shares an employee's household. The employee and adult designee must be financially interdependent. Family coverage would include the adult designee and their dependent children.

All NU benefits are included in the coverage.

"We believe this is appropriate for positioning the university competitively," said James B. Milliken, NU president. "I also think it is absolutely the right thing to do for our employees."

UNL was the only Big Ten university that did not offer benefits to domestic partners.

<http://go.unl.edu/2mq>

New method gauges research productivity

UNL officials have started to look at research funding totals from a new perspective — one used by fellow Big Ten universities.

In his Sept. 1, 2011 State of the University Address, Chancellor Harvey Perlman set a goal to increase UNL's annual research expenditures to \$300 million. In previous years, UNL has used total grant dollars earned annually to gauge the strength of campus research.

The expenditures approach showcases the productivity of research at UNL rather than just award totals. This new standard is also used by Big Ten partners and the National Science Foundation.

Because of the complex nature of the figures, the totals reported usually lag one year behind. UNL's most recent annual research expenditure figure is \$191.3 million in 2010.



For more on research at UNL, turn to Page 6.

Water for Food Institute, UN group sign partnership



Ann Tutwiler, director general of knowledge for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and NU President James B. Milliken sign a memorandum of understanding in July.

Partnership expands study, research with Brazil cohorts

UNL and the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil are partners in a new program that will give faculty, staff and undergraduate and graduate students from the schools' respective agriculture and natural resources campuses opportunities to study and do research together.

The agreement has been more than a year in the making. Administrators and faculty from the University of Nebraska have made visits to Sao Paulo to iron out details.

The arrangement is with USP's ESALQ campus in the city of Piracicaba, which is roughly equivalent to UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Both focus on issues in food, fuel and water.

Under the agreement, faculty from each university will spend up to a year at the partner university teaching, attending conferences and conducting research. Undergraduates will take classes, while graduate students will conduct research in programs coordinated by advisers at both universities. Technical and administrative staff also will participate in the exchange.



NU is lead host for Brazil-based initiative

Brazil's "Science Without Borders" group that is at the University of Nebraska this year is the largest single delegation anywhere in the United States.

Most of the 28 students are majoring in STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — and several are studying agriculture.

"Science Without Borders" initiative is part of Brazil's larger goal to provide 100,000 students with scholarships to study at the world's best universities.

Brazil is one of the countries NU is targeting for close cooperation.

Website focused on refugee population

The College of Journalism and Mass Communications has created "Nebraska Mosaic," a community news website that focuses on Lincoln's refugee population.

The website, <http://cojmc/unl.edu/mosaic>, launched Nov. 3.

Tim Anderson, associate professor of journalism, said the project is designed to give a voice to Lincoln's growing refugee communities.

SCARLET N

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Troy Feddersen, Editor Kelly Bartling, News Director Meg Lauermon, Director, University Communications

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.



The University of Nebraska's Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute has gained a partner to assist with research and education efforts in water and food security.

In early July, NU President James B. Milliken signed a memorandum of understanding with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The signing ceremony was in Rome, Italy, where FAO is headquartered.

"The University of Nebraska and the Food and Agriculture Organization have worked together many times in the past and I could not be more pleased that we are taking our partnership to the next level," Milliken said. "FAO's network and influence at the international level is unrivaled and the opportunity

to tap into these resources will be highly beneficial for the university and Nebraska."

Areas of focus in the partnership include:

- Sustainably increasing crop yields and water productivity using mapping, modeling and information systems such as the Global Yield Gap Atlas, NU's initiative to provide estimates of the gap between current average farm yields and the potential yield ceiling for major food crops; and AQUASTAT, FAO's global information system on water and agriculture.
- Improving drought management and climate adaptation through drought monitor-



Fourth Water for Food conference ends with call to "think big."

<http://go.unl.edu/wff4>

ing programs, development of risk-based drought preparedness strategies and policies, and stronger drought warning systems to better cope with water scarcity in a changing climate.

- Improving sustainable production under drought, stress and water-limited conditions through plant breeding, agronomic practices, crop physiology, biotechnology and molecular biology.

Initial activities will include regular information exchanges, joint research projects and joint workshops, conferences and symposia.

<http://go.unl.edu/oig>

4-H Lego robotics program is nationwide

The UNL 4-H program Geospatial and Robotics Technologies for the 21st Century has grown to reach thousands of youth across the nation, getting them interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines.

GEAR-Te ch -2 1 — which started with a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation — is based on the Nebraska Robotics and GPS/GIS in 4-H program.

The initiative teaches robotics, GPS and GIS technologies through building and programming a robot, navigation and mapmaking activities.

Since its start, the program has expanded regionally to nationally with 60 programs across the country.

These programs include learning in a variety of formats, including 4-H Clubs, after school programs, Scout groups or for teachers to use in the classroom.

While the grant ends in 2013, the project's team also continues to look for ways to keep the program sustainable.

<http://go.unl.edu/r66>

Luthans' article among top 50 most cited

Management professor Fred Luthans received a 2011 Emerald Management Citations of Excellence Award. Luthans' article, with former UNL Ph.D. student Carolyn Youssef, "Emerging positive organizational behavior" (Journal of Management, 2007) was one of the top 50 articles with the most citations and impact among all business journals since its publication date.

<http://go.unl.edu/d83>

Research Retention Reputation Recruitment



Carl Nelson, professor of mechanical engineering, sits by the Intelligently Controlled Assistive Rehabilitation Elliptical machine he helped develop in collaboration with Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. The ICARE device was a finalist for the international da Vinci Awards.

Collaboration helps patients regain, improve walking ability

Mechanical engineering professor Carl Nelson's fascination with the mechanics of human motion led him to a local collaboration that could have world-reaching potential.

With Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Nelson's work on developing a new Intelligently Controlled Assistive Rehabilitation Elliptical system is helping rehabilitation patients regain or improve their ability to walk. The elliptical assistive device was a finalist for an international da Vinci Award.

The UNL/Madonna collaboration began in 2006 when Nelson met Judith Burnfield, director of Madonna's Institute for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering, and the rehabilitation institute's Movement and Neurosciences Center. He had been drawn to visit the rehabilitative institute's movement center because of his growing interest in rehabilitative engineering.

Burnfield's problem at the center was the automated treadmill and robotic gait rehabilitation

devices — they weren't affordable, and at some \$300,000 apiece, smaller treatment centers, clinics and home users were lacking access. Her concept was to make the ICARE device at a fraction of the cost — \$10,000 or less — and with the help of Nelson and a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, they developed the ICARE system.

ICARE uses customized propulsion so clients can maintain exercise in a walking-like movement pattern on the elliptical machine. The motorized control has a sensor that adjusts the level of support depending on the individual's needs during exercise.

In July, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital partnered with SportsArt Fitness Inc., to launch international distribution of the ICARE device.

The ICARE will be sold throughout the U.S. and 80 countries internationally. It includes parts manufactured by SourceOne, a custom manufacturing company in Lincoln.

<http://go.unl.edu/icare>

University of Nebraska strengthens ties with China

NU, Xi'an celebrate opening of exchange center

The University of Nebraska and China's Xi'an Jiaotong University celebrated April 21 the opening of the American Exchange Center. The center is an NU-wide initiative that aims to expose Chinese students and faculty to United States history, law, medicine, art, culture and government. It is also designed to strengthen Nebraska's collaboration with China.

The exchange center is one component of NU's overall global engagement strategy to build relationships with key nations that will benefit Nebraska and the world. Only 10 such centers won seed funding from the U.S. government after a competitive application process.

The celebration, co-hosted by UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman and Xi'an Jiaotong University President Zheng Nanning, capped an "American Culture Week" in Xi'an. Activities during the week included a lecture from University of Nebraska Medical Center students, photography exhibits and lectures from UNL faculty, and performances by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Jazz Quintet and a Xi'an Jiaotong student music and dance troupe.

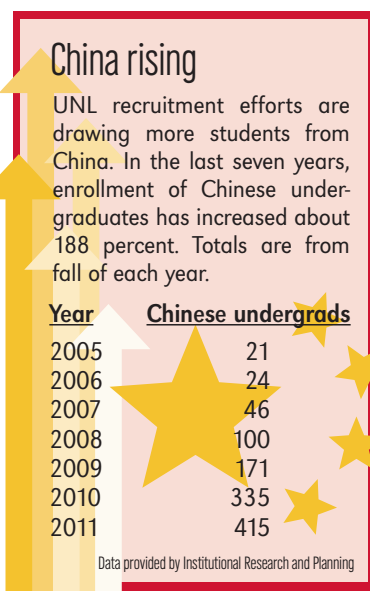
The center will operate much like the Confucius Institute, which, through a partnership with Xi'an Jiaotong University, promotes Chinese language, culture and history at UNL.

Chancellor named honorary professor at Xi'an Jiaotong

Chancellor Harvey Perlman returned from China in September with a new title, Honorary University Professor at Xi'an Jiaotong University.

In addition to being a rare honor, the professorship further strengthens the strong relationship between Xi'an Jiaotong University and UNL.

As a part of the appointment,



Perlman will travel occasionally to China to give lectures on intellectual property.

<http://go.unl.edu/s6i>

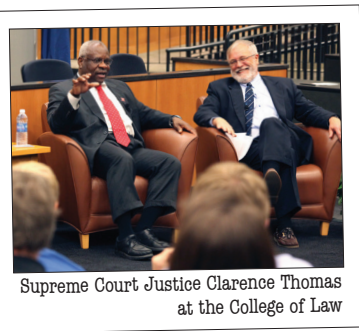
Year in pictures



Chancellor Harvey Perlman's 2011 State of the University address



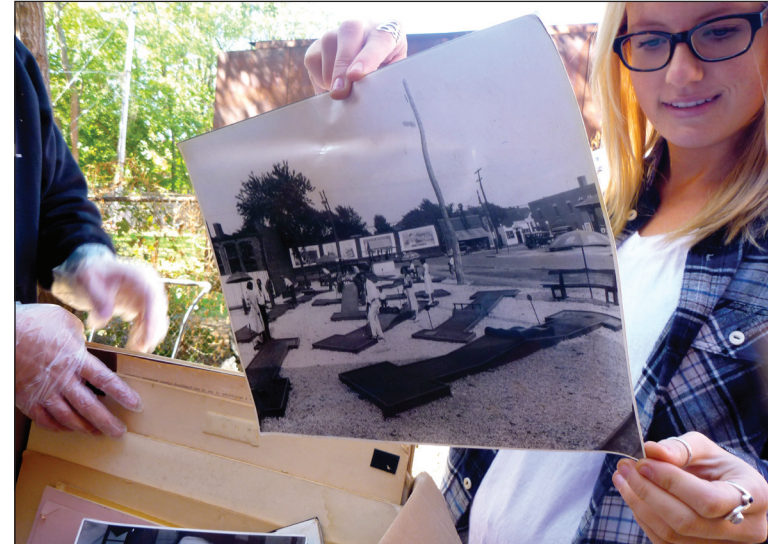
George Flippin mural project



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas at the College of Law

Research Retention Reputation Recruitment

Students work to preserve history of North Omaha



UNL student Ali Bousquet examines a photograph as part of the UNL History Department's "History Harvest." The project is designed to preserve the history of North Omaha.

Programs rank among 'Best Graduate Schools'

U.S. News and World Report released its 2013 "Best Graduate Schools" rankings March 13. The College of Education and Human Sciences was ranked among Best Education Schools at 34th, up from 50th last year. CBA's Part-Time MBA rose from 50th last year to 28th this year in the Best Business Schools.

Among Schools of Engineering, UNL was listed at number 93 of 198. The UNL College of Law was placed at 89th among law schools.

<http://go.unl.edu/3zk>



UNL Extension creates drought info website

UNL Extension has created a website that offers resources for home and garden. It features the latest weather forecasts from state climatologist Al Dutcher, as well as links to programming, UNL Extension publications, UNL news releases; and links to resources outside the university.

The site includes links to information on crops, livestock, economics, water, families, and

<http://go.unl.edu/pn4>

3 profs earn top honors

UNL professors Chris Calkins, Tiffany Heng-Moss and Carolyn Pope Edwards were selected among the 2012 winners of the University of Nebraska's most prestigious awards for research, teaching and engagement.

The universitywide awards recognize faculty whose work has made a strong impact on students, the university and the state. Award recipients are selected by committees of outstanding peers.

Calkins, a UNL meat scientist, is a 2012 winner of the Innovation, Development and Engagement Award, a University of Nebraska systemwide honor that recognizes faculty members who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the university in ways that have enriched the broader community.

Heng-Moss, a professor in the Department of Entomology, is the winner of the University of Nebraska systemwide OTICA, given to honor excellence in teaching. OTICA stands for Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award.

Edwards, a Willa Cather Professor, teaching in the departments of Child, Youth and Family Studies and Psychology, received the University of Nebraska's highest honor for research — the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award.

Read more about the awards at <http://go.unl.edu/u5a>

Civic engagement is new focus for undergraduates

A new civic engagement program at UNL is aimed at sparking that reaction in undergraduates. The program, unique in the Big Ten, wraps co-curricular experiences within UNL's general education curriculum and participants — regardless of their home college or major — emerge with a Certificate in Civic Engagement.

Civic engagement, loosely defined as connecting classroom learning with the opportunity to

Students work to preserve history of North Omaha

They arrived with Tuskegee Airmen memorabilia, homesteading papers, a cup used by a slave, and several photographs depicting the jazz scene. They brought their treasures and their stories related to African-American history to learn more about them from UNL historians and contribute to an innovative effort to preserve North Omaha's past.

It was all part of "History Harvest," held Oct. 22 at Love's Jazz and Art Center in North Omaha. The event was organized by UNL's History Department in partnership with the Great Plains Black History Museum and the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation.

Ordinary Nebraskans were invited to share their artifacts and stories with UNL historians and advanced students, who helped explain the items' meaning and how they connect to a broader national narrative of American history.

Previous "History Harvest" events were held in Nebraska City and Lincoln, with the latter focusing on

the state's railroad history.

The idea for the event grew out of a desire to give students more hands-on experience, said Patrick Jones, associate professor of history and ethnic studies. Students get the chance to handle artifacts, conduct interviews and photograph or scan items for a web-based digital archive that will be made public and could someday be the basis for educational lessons.

"This has been a hidden history. Sharing it is crucial for many reasons," Jones said. "This will create a different story about North Omaha and about the black experience there."

Jones also recognizes how the experience has affected his students. For every one of them, it has altered their perspective, profoundly affected their thinking and their understanding of the world and their relationship to it, he said.

"For me as a teacher, as a person, it has been wonderful to see them grow," he said.

http://go.unl.edu/history_harvest



Chancellor Harvey Perlman shakes hands with Jeff Sotzing as Larry Witzer waves to the crowd during the Nov. 5 Husker football game. Sotzing and Witzer are with the John W. Carson Foundation.

Carson Foundation gives \$1M for scholarships

The John W. Carson Foundation announced in November a \$1 million gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation to create the Johnny Carson Opportunity Scholarship Fund.

The permanently endowed scholarship fund will annually benefit students in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts who are graduates of high schools in Nebraska, with preference for students in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.

Chancellor Harvey Perlman said the gift demonstrates the continued support of Johnny Carson to his home state of Nebraska.

"Once again, Johnny Carson's legacy lives on at the University of Nebraska," Perlman said. "He has demonstrated time and time again his love for his home state, and we are grateful to the Carson Foundation Board for this generous gift to help our students with much-needed scholarship support."

The gift was announced Nov. 4 following the Carson Lecture presented by "Mr. Baseball" Bob Uecker.

<http://go.unl.edu/carson>

Nastasi is director of Center for Energy Sciences Research

Materials scientist Mike Nastasi is the new director of UNL's Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research.

Nastasi also is a professor of mechanical and materials engineering and holds the Elmer Koch Professorship. He comes to UNL from Los Alamos National Laboratory.

In July, Nastasi received a \$980,000 grant to develop new composites that could lead to safer, more efficient energy production in nuclear reactors. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/4xq>.



Nastasi

Larkins leads life sciences research

Brian Larkins is leading efforts to strengthen UNL's life sciences research.

The internationally recognized leader in the development of plant molecular biology and plant agricultural biotechnology became associate vice chancellor for life sciences at UNL on July 1.

He's excited about the leadership and vision at Nebraska, and about new possibilities at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Larkins said life sciences research and innovation at Nebraska is on its way up.



Larkins

6 deans selected

During the 2011-2012 academic year, UNL hired three new deans and selected three others to serve interim dean roles.

Charles "Chuck" O'Connor is the new dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/zdv>.

Charles "Chuck" Hibberd is the new dean and director of UNL Extension. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/5pu>.

Lance Pérez is the new dean of Graduate Studies. Pérez is also an associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and a professor of electrical engineering. Learn more about Pérez at <http://go.unl.edu/403>.

Kim Wilson, professor of landscape architecture, was appointed to a three-year interim dean position at the College of Architecture. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/6ks>.

James O'Hanlon was named interim dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/79j>.

And Nancy Busch was named interim dean of the University Libraries. Busch replaces Joan Giesecke who stepped down to accept a new administrative assignment. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/ea0>.

Parents group honors 180+ faculty, staff

The UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association honored more than 180 faculty and staff at an annual recognition ceremony on Feb. 3.

Certificates of recognition for contributions to students were given during the ceremony. This was the first year 20-year awards were presented. Faculty receiving the 20-year honor are Ronald Hanson, professor of agricultural economics, and Donald Lee, professor of agronomy and horticulture.

All award winners were nominated by parents of UNL students. See the complete list of award winners at <http://go.unl.edu/hq2>.

In memorium

Gerald Shapiro

Gerald Shapiro, 61, of Lincoln, died Oct. 15. He was Cather professor of English.

Known nationally as a compiler of Jewish fiction and an author of several books including "Bad Jews and Other Stories" and "Little Men," Shapiro's writing and anthologies earned numerous awards including the Ohio State University Short Fiction Prize and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award. He was also a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction

These obituaries were featured in the *Scarlet* during the 2011-2012 academic year. All obituaries are available online at www.unl.edu/scarlet.

Rodney Dillon	Harvey Loy Hinshaw Sr.
Mary Doak	James "Jim" Irling
Judy Driskell	Frederick Link
Robert Fuller	Terry Rae Nygren
Barbara Gorski	John Orr
Janet Harkness	Wally Peterson
Richard Harnberger	



Textiles lab upgrade



"Marriage of Figaro" opera



Tractor museum tour led by Luis Vasquez



Replacing windows in the Architecture Hall link



David Mandersheid on "Dining with the Dean"



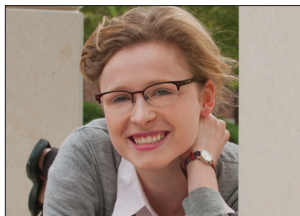
Lindsey Andersen



Kaylee Barber



Stephanie Herzog



Alanna Hoffman



Cara Morgenson



Loni O'Grady

UNL ties record with 9 student Fulbrights

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln tied a campus record in the 2011-2012 academic year with nine students earning Fulbright Scholarships to study abroad.

The Fulbright Program, established in 1946 and funded by the U.S. Department of State, is designed to foster understanding between the United States and other countries. The U.S. Student Fulbright program gives recent graduates, graduate students and young professionals the opportunity to conduct research, study or teach in one of the 155 coun-

tries that the program operates. About 8,000 grants are awarded annually, and about 1,600 of those grants are awarded to U.S. students.

UNL is boosting its efforts to help students compete successfully for these prestigious scholarships by identifying potential applicants early in their college careers and coaching candidates to enrich their academic credentials.

Laura Damuth, director of national and international fellowships for the University Honors Program, oversees all Fulbright applicants.

UNL among top producers of Fulbright scholars

UNL was ranked among the top 45 colleges and universities that produced the most U.S. Fulbright Scholars in 2011-2012. The research institutions list was announced by the Fulbright Program.

The news came on top of the September 2011 announcement that UNL was listed in U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 28 institutions in the U.S. for undergraduate research and cre-



ative activities.

The success of the top-producing institutions is highlighted in the Oct. 24 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education, at <http://chronicle.com/article/Fulbright-Presses-Forward/129499/>.



Brian Rentfro



Nicole Searcey



Mallory Slama

UNL students who earned a Fulbright scholarship and where the award will take them are (clockwise, from top left): Lindsey Andersen, to Brazil to research the role of grassroots human rights movements in the nation's transitional justice efforts; Kaylee Barber, to Germany to teach English; Stephanie Herzog, to Romania to teach English and do educational advising at a university; Alanna Hoffman, to South Korea to teach English; Cara Morgenson, to Poland to teach English; Loni O'Grady, to Brazil to teach English; Brian Rentfro, to Germany to teach English; Nicole Searcey, to Chile to research the parasitology of ancient civilizations; and Mallory Slama, to Czech Republic to teach English.

Honored students

■ **Juan A. Colon Santana**, an electrical engineering doctoral student, was recognized at the national level for research excellence. The American Vacuum Society awarded him the 2011 Falicov Prize for outstanding research performed by a graduate student in areas related to magnetic interfaces and nanostructures. <http://go.unl.edu/x4e>

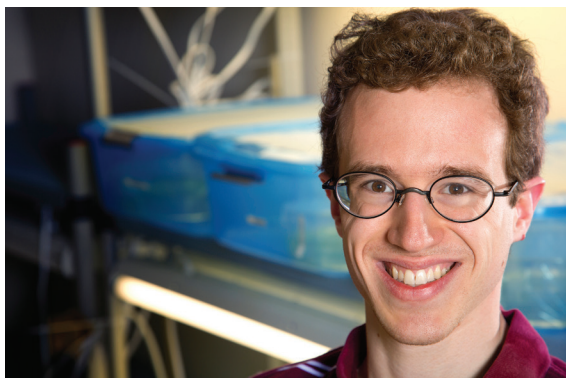
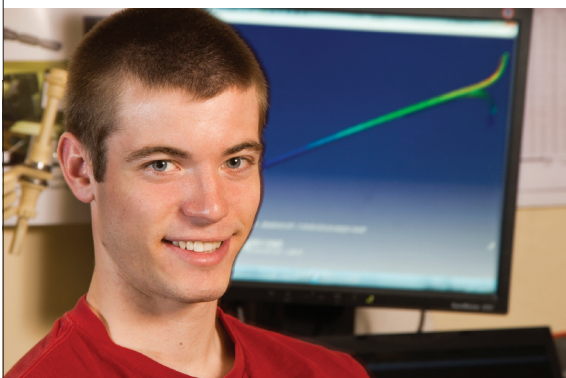
■ **Anastasia Czarnick**, a fourth-year interior design student, was selected by the Angelo Donghia Foundation for a \$30,000 scholarship as one of 13 winners of its 2012 Student Scholarship Program in Interior Design. Czarnick is the fifth UNL student in the College of Architecture to have won the Donghia scholarship. <http://go.unl.edu/rej>

■ **Sarah Jo Lambert**, a sophomore in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, was one of 22 Americans selected to be a torchbearer for the summer Olympics in London. She was selected for her work on projects that affect local and international communities. <http://go.unl.edu/z0c>

■ **Kelleen Browning**, **Raina Keel**, **Thomas McHale** and **Karina Pedrosa** were named Gilman Scholars. Each received scholarships up to \$5,000 to study abroad. Browning, a junior in the College of Education and Human Sciences, studied German in Berlin. Keel, a junior fisheries and wild-life major, participated in the International Studies Abroad Language, Culture and Economics program in Brazil. McHale studied community public health in Botswana. Pedrosa participated in the International Studies Abroad Spanish, Business and Latin America Studies program in Argentina and Peru. <http://go.unl.edu/kri>

■ **The Skyros String Quartet** is the first graduate string quartet to be recruited by UNL. The quartet is Sarah Pizzichemi, violin, from Seattle, Wash.; James Moat, violin, from Toronto, Ontario; Justin Kurys, viola, from Timmins, Ontario; and William Braun, cello, from Tucson, Ariz. For their doctoral education, Skyros will study with the Chiara String Quartet. Skyros makes their Lincoln performance debut on Sept. 11 during the Chancellor's State of the University address. <http://go.unl.edu/ru4>

Research Retention Reputation Recruitment



UNL set a record with four students being named Goldwater Scholars. Four is also the maximum attainable through the Goldwater program. Winners (clockwise from top left) are: Rachel Coburn, Elizabeth Spring Jaensch, Joseph Phillips and Jared Paul Ostdiek.

Four Goldwater Scholars named

Four UNL students have won highly competitive, national Goldwater Scholarships for their excellence in science. Because UNL is limited to four nominees in the competition, four winners is the maximum attainable — and a record number of scholarships for UNL in this annual competition.

Winners are: Rachel Coburn of Papillion, Elizabeth Spring Jaensch of Naperville, Ill., Jared Paul Ostdiek of Columbus and Joseph Phillips of Omaha. All are majoring in the biological sciences.

The scholarships are awarded annually to future scientists, mathematicians and engineers. About 300 college sophomores and juniors receive the scholarship nationwide. The awards are for up to \$7,500 per year for educational expenses. UNL

was one of only four universities in the country to have received four Goldwater scholarships.

Both Coburn and Jaensch are biochemistry majors. Ostdiek is a biological systems engineering major. Phillips graduated with a degree in biological sciences and is studying toward a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. The Goldwater Foundation seeks students in mathematics or the sciences who display intellectual curiosity and intensity and possess potential for significant future contributions in their chosen field.

<http://go.unl.edu/goldwater2012>

Lights, camera, action...



UNL students (from left) Corbin Groothuis and Neal Larson work with director of photography Craig Ladwig during filming of "Digs" outside the Nebraska State Union in May. The film is the second in the Carson School Film Series. Organized through the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, the series is a unique project that teams film industry professionals with students, faculty and staff from two colleges and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications to create a 25- to 30-minute short film. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/frh>.

Surgical robot team wins

A team of graduate students from UNL's Surgical Robotics Lab won first place in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' 2012 Student Mechanism and Robot Design Competition, Graduate Student Robotics category, with their project, "Miniature In Vivo Surgical Robot for Single-Incision Surgery."

Campus Compact promotes service learning, civic engagement

Twelve Nebraska colleges and universities are founding members of the new Nebraska Campus Compact, an affiliate of a national organization that promotes service learning and civic engagement among college students.

Nebraska is the 36th state to affiliate with the national Campus Compact.

Team members are Jack Mondry, Joseph Bartels, Thomas Frederick and Eric Markvicka.

It was the second win in two years for a UNL team at the competition, following a team led by Chi Min Seow that won the 2010 graduate-level robotics division. <http://go.unl.edu/986>

The first project undertaken by NCC is an AmeriCorps project under which 36 students from the 12 institutions will work either in after-school projects for at-risk youth or participate in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programs in local communities. <http://go.unl.edu/tg3>



Rhaniece Choisey, MLK Day outreach



Susan Sheridan's mission trip to Haiti



Eddie Dominguez's art outreach



Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.



UNL ROTC Veterans Day ceremony

Swearer helps launch Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation



Panelists featured in the Born this Way Foundation launch were (from left) Harvard's Drew Faust and Charles Ogletree; Alyssa Rodemeyer; Kathleen Sebelius; Deepak Chopra; David Burkha; and UNL's Susan Swearer. (Photo courtesy Rose Lincoln, Harvard)

On a typical Wednesday, Susan Swearer would be in her office in the basement of Teachers College Hall, preparing for classes and perhaps chatting with co-workers about her family or unseasonably warm weather.

Instead, on Feb. 29, she was in snowy Boston, on a Harvard University stage with Lady Gaga, asking the pop icon how best to empower young people during the kickoff of Gaga's much-ballyhooed Born This Way Foundation.

Maybe not a typical day at the office, but for UNL's nationally renowned anti-bullying expert, it's starting to come with the territory.

Swearer, a professor of school psychology in the College of Education

Bullying Research

Study led by Susan Swearer shows kids with behavior issues, disabilities are bullied more, bully others more

<http://go.unl.edu/9uk>

and Human Sciences, helped Gaga launch the new foundation — which addresses issues like self-confidence, well-being, anti-bullying, mentoring and career development through research, education and advocacy — by leading sessions at a morning symposium at Harvard and then by participating on a select panel with the singer and others.

Those "others" included Oprah Winfrey, author Deepak Chopra, TV personality David Burkha and

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

"It was, in many ways, a surreal day," Swearer said. "But it was a great day. (Gaga's) platform is huge — which is the attraction for me, for linking academic research and findings to her voice, which has such far reach."

Gaga's representatives contacted Swearer, who co-directs the Bullying Research Network. <http://go.unl.edu/gaga>

Bartelt-Hunt uses CAREER award to study diseases

Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, assistant professor of civil engineering, is shedding light on the complex interaction between prions and soil. A five-year, \$413,883 Faculty Early Career Development Program award from the National Science Foundation supports this research. This is NSF's most prestigious award for outstanding pre-tenure faculty and supports their development as researchers and teachers.

Prion diseases — such as those that cause chronic wasting disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy — are highly infectious and can spread to soil through blood, saliva, feces, urine and even antler velvet. Once in the soil, infectious prion proteins can persist and remain infectious for decades.

Her CAREER project involves testing how exposure to changing environmental conditions, includ-



Bartelt-Hunt

ing heat and moisture, alters the protein over time. Bartelt-Hunt said her goal is to discover which factors may slow the prions' ability to replicate.

<http://go.unl.edu/rgh>

Harnisch helps teach teachers

As nations worldwide embrace an American view of education, teachers are in need of retooling their skills and approaches. A UNL faculty member who is skilled in helping established teachers learn the skill of "assessment literacy" will spend the first six months of 2012 in the Republic of Georgia, helping language teachers there to become better teachers.

Del Harnisch, a professor of

teaching, learning and teacher education in the College of Education and Human Sciences, will spend six months as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Georgia in Tbilisi. He is the second faculty member from UNL to travel to Georgia on a Fulbright grant; Miles Bryant also spent six months in the country in 2010.

<http://go.unl.edu/efi>

Research Retention Reputation Recruitment



Kwame Dawes, professor of English and the new editor of the *Prairie Schooner*, was named a Guggenheim Fellow. Dawes also received the 2011 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers award, which recognizes writers who have given generously to other writers or to the broader literary community. Read more about the award at <http://go.unl.edu/s6f>.

Dawes named a Guggenheim Fellow

Kwame Dawes, professor of English and Glenna Luschei editor of *Prairie Schooner*, received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. He is among 181 scholars, artists and scientists in the United States and Canada who were selected for the honor from nearly 3,000 applicants.

The fellowship will support his work on the poem cycle, "August: A Quintet," which is based on the work of August Wilson, an American playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner whose work illustrated the African-American experience in the 20th century.

Dawes called the award a tremendous honor, adding that he's grateful to all the writers who wrote in support of his selection.

"I have long regarded the Guggenheim Fellowship as a

clear indication of the quality and significance of the work of American artists and artists from around the world. I waited until I thought I had a fit project before applying, and I am glad I did," he said.

Dawes joined the UNL faculty as a Chancellor's Professor in 2011 and took the helm of the *Prairie Schooner*, UNL's quarterly literary magazine that for the past 85 years has published the fiction, poetry, essays and reviews of talented writers of all levels. He is the author of 16 poetry collections, three works of fiction, and several anthologies, produced plays, and books of literary criticism and aesthetics, not counting forthcoming works. His long list of accomplishments includes a 2009 Emmy Award for a multimedia documentary project on HIV/AIDS in Jamaica.

<http://go.unl.edu/dawes>

Award supports Jacobs' new book

Margaret Jacobs, Chancellor's

Professor of History, has been

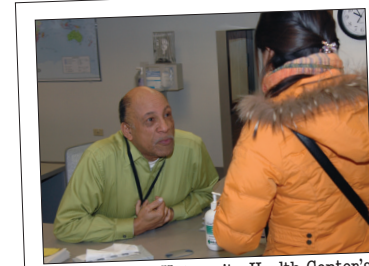
awarded a highly competitive fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. The fellowship will support her latest book project, which continues a line of research that in 2010 helped her win a top honor in her field.

Jacobs' latest project explores the history of the fostering and adoption of

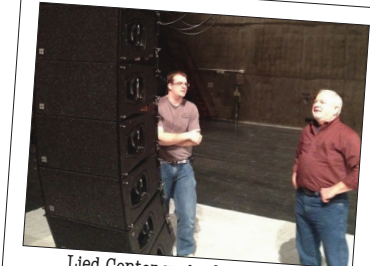
American Indian children within non-Indian families. She intends to use her yearlong fellowship, which started Aug. 15, to write the book manuscript. The project will significantly contribute to studies of American Indian history, gender history, family history, studies of colonialism, and American and world history overall. <http://go.unl.edu/0u9>



Jacobs



University Health Center's Joseph "Andy" Anderson



Lied Center upgrades sound system



Ralakes School students win app-development challenge



Teresa Virgil washes residence hall bedding



Richie Graham finds a note from 1983

UNL spearheads \$25M E. coli research project

UNL is the lead institution in a \$25 million project to reduce throughout the beef production chain the occurrence of E. coli strains that pose a major threat to public health.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced the grant Jan. 23.

The project targets Shiga-toxin producing E. coli, or STEC, which cause more than 265,000 illnesses in the United States annually. Eating contaminated food or having direct contact with fecal matter from infected cattle and other ruminants cause most of these illnesses.

UNL will lead a team of 48 scientists from 11 land-grant universities and other partner institutions to conduct integrated research, education



and extension projects on eight types of STEC. Studies will include the best-known STEC, E. coli O157:H7, along with seven strains that are not as well understood, partly because outbreaks due to these strains are rarely identified.

UNL and Kansas State University – with 32 scientists — will conduct most of the research, education and extension work for this project.

“This research has enormous ramifications here in Nebraska and across the nation,” said UNL

Chancellor Harvey Perlman. “Beef is big business in the state, and the industry prides itself on delivering a safe product to consumers. This project will help ensure the safety of beef products, through the research conducted at participating institutions, the transfer of this knowledge to collaborators in the beef industry and educational programs for consumers.”

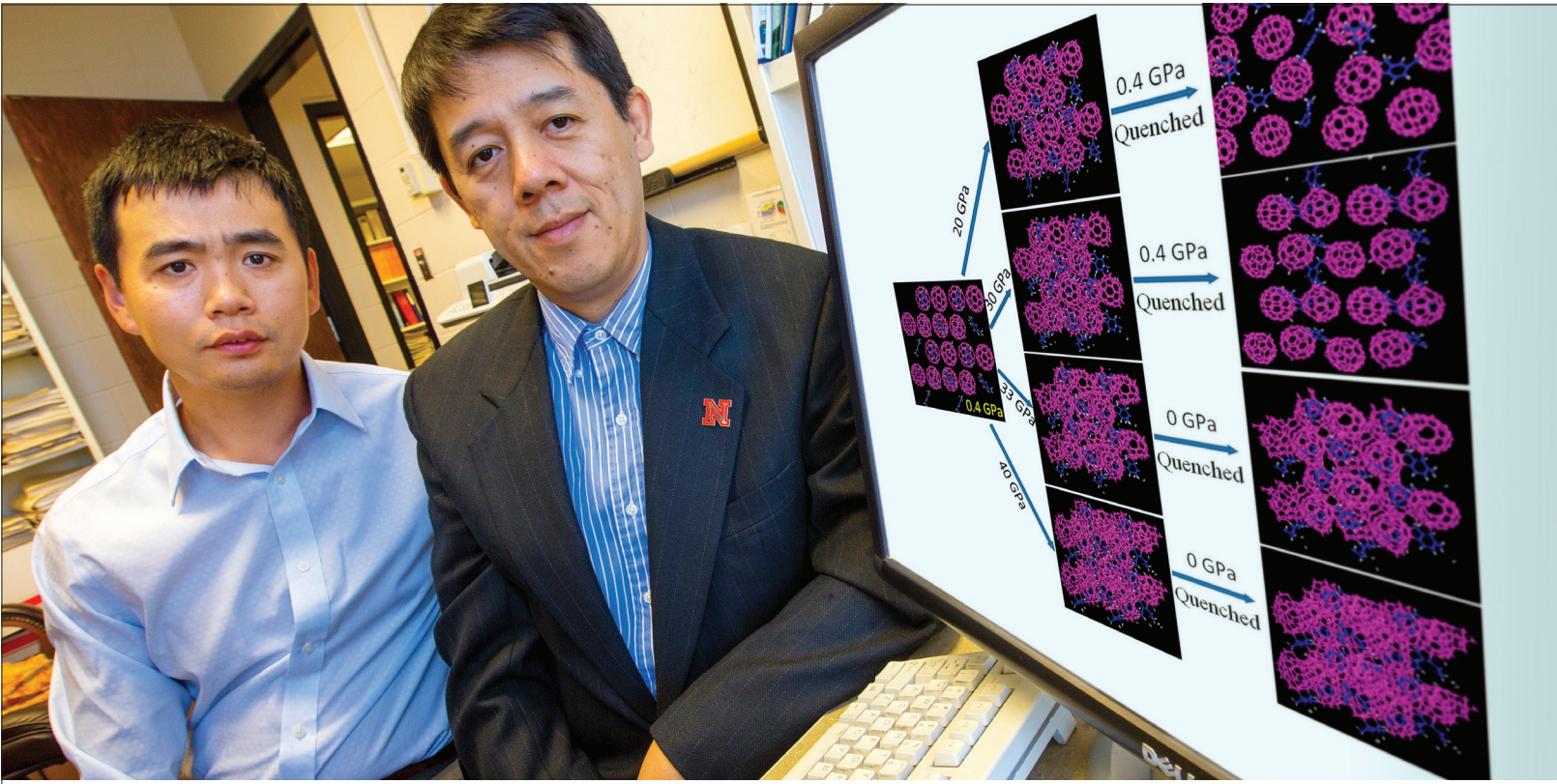
The \$25 million grant is the largest-ever USDA grant to UNL and one of the single largest grants it has ever received.

Jim Keen, a UNL veterinary scientist, is leading the project.

Keen said the first goal is to develop diagnostic techniques to determine the presence of STEC in cattle, both pre- and post-harvest.

<http://go.unl.edu/z06>

Research Retention Reputation Recruitment



Xiao Cheng Zeng (right) and postdoctoral researcher Hui Li with their computer-generated images of the creation of “ordered amorphous carbon clusters.”

Zeng dents diamonds, crafts nanotubes, earns award

Project creates new form of matter

What do you get when you take buckyballs, soak them in a particular solvent and crush them under the pressure of more than 300,000 atmospheres?

The obvious answer is a bunch of crushed buckyballs. But a team of scientists that included UNL chemist Xiao Cheng Zeng has found that by using the right solvent at the right pressure, they created a new form of matter that they termed an “ordered amorphous carbon cluster.” It’s so hard it can dent diamonds, the hardest known substance.

Like diamonds, buckyballs (technically buckminsterfullerenes) are made of carbon. They’re a well-ordered, cage-like structures of 60 carbon atoms that look remarkably like soccer balls. When the scientists

smashed them, they lost their cage-like structure, as expected. What wasn’t expected was what they turned into.

“It’s a new form of matter not seen before,” said Zeng, Ameritas University Professor of Chemistry at UNL. “The buckyballs originally are ordered, but if we crush them, it’s an ordered amorphous carbon cluster. They become a mess, but they are still in a long-range order.”

“And it turns out this new form of matter is super hard. It can indent diamonds.”

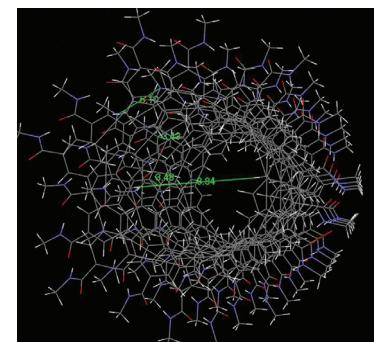
The discovery was announced in a paper published in the Aug. 16 issue of the international journal Science.

<http://go.unl.edu/hqz>

What is a buckyball?

Buckyballs are carbon molecules arranged in a sphere shape with geometric patterns that resemble a soccer ball. Also known as fullerenes, buckyballs come in all shapes and sizes meaning the number of carbon atoms in each one can vary. Some are so large that other atoms can get trapped inside of them. Buckyballs are also resistant to damage from high speed collisions.

International team builds nanotube that mimics cell function



An international team of scientists, including UNL chemist Xiao Cheng Zeng, has created what is in effect a nanoscale sieve that is very selective in what it will allow to pass through — and performs in much the same way as the potassium ion channels that are vital components of virtually all living cells. It’s also the first synthetic nanotube that possesses a uniform diameter, as well as being self-assembling and hydrophobic, characteristics that could lead to industrial and medical breakthroughs.

Zeng said the nanotube can be viewed as a stack of many rings. The rings come together through a

process called self-assembly.

Zeng’s group determined the size of the rings and the distance between them to find the structure of the devices, and found eight possible ways to stack the molecules. Crucially, computations also showed that the structures are stable at room temperature.

The success of the experiments, Zeng said, will lead to continuing research and development.

“One thing people are interested in in this field is desalination. Another is drug delivery,” he said. “In the future, our direction, also supported by NSF, is to functionalize the inner wall of the tube.”

<http://go.unl.edu/nanotubes>

Nebraska Latino study is breaking new ground

A research team based at UNL wants to understand what factors predict Latino youth adjustment by launching a large-scale study of Latino youth in Nebraska.

The goal is to understand the experiences of Latino youth in the state, their strengths and challenges, and the family and community supports that help them succeed. Latinos are the fastest growing ethnic group in Nebraska and the United States.

“We know relatively little about Latino youth in the U.S., because few studies have focused on them,” said lead investigator Lisa Crockett, professor of psychology at UNL. “What we do know about Latino youth is based on youth in

the Southwest and Northeast, where most of the research has been conducted. As a result, we know very little about the lives of Latino teenagers in other parts of the country and almost nothing about Latino youth in Nebraska.

“We think the situation for Latino youth in the Midwest is unique. Ours is the first study to focus on these youth.”

Crockett said the study, funded by the National Science Foundation, will involve structured interviews with 250 families, starting in Lincoln and then moving into other areas of the state. Schools and community agencies will be contacted to help identify and contact potential research subjects.

The project focuses on ecological and personal



Matt Waite

was established in November as part of a broad digital journalism and innovation strategy.

<http://go.unl.edu/esh>

Transportation grant extends highway, rail safety research

UNL has won a \$3.5 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant promoting highway and railway safety. The award enables UNL to continue hosting the Mid-America Transportation Center, a four-state regional center researching various elements of transportation safety.

Since 2006, UNL has hosted the Mid-America Transportation Center for transportation research in collaboration with universities and state transportation agencies in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. The Transportation Department’s \$3.5 million grant means UNL will continue hosting



Nebraska Transportation Center

the center for at least the next year.

The UNL center has overseen research on such issues as the use of high-performance concrete, truck safety improvements at railroad crossings, and a variety of construction materials for roads and rails.

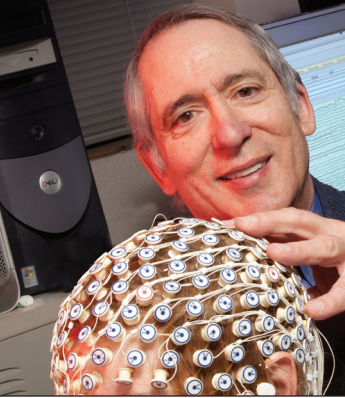
<http://go.unl.edu/mxi>

Molfese assists Big Ten, Ivy League collaboration

The Big Ten Conference and the Ivy League, in conjunction with the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, will engage in a cross-institutional research collaboration to study the effects of head injuries in sports, continuing efforts dating back more than two years. UNL’s Dennis Molfese is the Big Ten/CIC research collaboration director and will work on the initiative.

This historic collaboration brings together two prestigious academic and athletic entities, and allows for the coordination of ongoing efforts by each conference to research and address various aspects of head injuries in athletics, including concussions. The world-class academic and research capabilities of the institutions will help to promote a collaborative and collegial atmosphere to address a burgeoning issue affecting the welfare of athletes at all levels of sport.

In May 2010, the Big Ten became the first collegiate conference to establish a conference-wide concussion management plan. In 2011 the Ivy League devel-



Dennis Molfese

Brainy study

UNL’s Dennis Molfese is helping to build a world-class center focused on studying the brain. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/98k>

oped and enacted a series of concussion-curling measures in the sport of football after a year-long review. Since September 2011, the two conferences have examined the feasibility and benefits of collaboration, while outlining the framework and objectives associated with the initiative.

<http://go.unl.edu/9tw>

Research powers brain injury diagnostic device

A handheld tool is under development to diagnose traumatic brain injury on the spot using technology developed by a UNL chemist. Such a device could yield critical and in some cases life-saving information to guide triage decisions from the battlefield to the football field.

SFC Fluidics, a Fayetteville, Ark.-based biotechnology company, recently entered into a license agreement with UNL’s nonprofit affiliate, NUtech Ventures, to use technology developed by David Hage, profes-



sor of chemistry.

Hage, a bioanalytical chemist, develops methods to separate and measure specific compounds in complex fluids, and in some cases to do so quite rapidly. In applications seeking to assess the severity of a traumatic brain injury, his methods can measure

specific proteins in blood serum that are released by the brain. In other words, the severity of brain injury can be diagnosed with a simple blood test.

<http://go.unl.edu/xpe>



Lights, camera, action...

A team led by NET Television’s Michael Farrell and photographer Michael Forsberg is using cameras to capture the ebb and flow of the Platte River Basin, showcasing how natural and manmade events change it over time. The cameras, positioned from the river basin’s beginning in the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming and Colorado, to its run across Nebraska to the Missouri River, capture a single photo an hour in every daylight hour of every day. The project grew from an NET documentary on Forsberg’s book “Great Plains: America’s Lingering Wild.” Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/aq3>.

Scientists discover drought memory helps plants survive

Plants subjected to a previous period of drought learn to deal with the stress thanks to their memories of the previous experience, UNL research has found. The findings could lead to development of crops better able to withstand drought.

The research also confirms, for the first time, the scientific basis for what home gardeners and nursery professionals have

NSF grant to guide irrigation management tool to market

<http://go.unl.edu/m8i>

learned, often through hard experience: Transplants do better when water is withheld for a few days to drought harden them before the move.

<http://go.unl.edu/89f>

UNL joins forces with private sector to further polling, survey research

As society becomes more dependent on polling and survey data, the need to ensure accuracy and reduce errors becomes more critical.

A \$2.97 million grant from the National Science Foundation to a team at UNL will be used to find ways to reduce survey error and look at ways to integrate technologies like the Internet and computer-assisted telephone surveys into

the next generation of survey tools. A UNL research team led by Allan McCutcheon, professor of statistics and survey research and methodology, will partner on this research with two private firms, Gallup and Abt SRBI.

The grant aims to try to find more cost-effective and accurate ways to conduct the decennial U.S. Census, McCutcheon said.

<http://go.unl.edu/8i7>



Research and Creative Activity

Stephen DiMagno, professor of chemistry, and his entrepreneurial team were among the inaugural recipients of the National Science Foundation’s Innovation Corps Awards. DiMagno used the \$50,000 award to assess if his method for producing imaging agents for staging and managing certain cancers, including pediatric cancers, cardiac disease, as well as various neurological disorders, like Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease, can be brought to the marketplace.

<http://go.unl.edu/9sr>

Peter Harms, assistant professor of management, co-authored a first-of-its-kind study that suggested one-on-one mentorships are more potent in developing strong leaders than formal group training. However, to be effective, the mentorship was effective only if protégés fully trusted their mentor and were willing to handle blunt criticism, not just empty praise.

<http://go.unl.edu/qsq>

Julia McQuillan, professor of sociology, co-authored a study that showed the classic figure of a distant, career-focused father who has little time for his kids might be getting outdated. The study found 75 percent of U.S. men rated being a good father as very important. Just 48 percent said the same about having a successful career.

<http://go.unl.edu/4se>

Timothy Nelson, assistant professor of psychology, was lead author of a study that found that physical ailments are often an overlooked factor in why youth end up in residential treatment centers such as Boys Town. Working in collaboration with Boys Town, Nelson found that more than a third of youths admitted to Boys Town in the last 10 years had physical maladies. The study was published in the journal Pediatrics.

<http://go.unl.edu/xe9>

Brian Pytlík Zillig, associate professor and digital initiatives librarian, is principal investigator of a \$183,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to fund completion of Abbot, a software project designed to improve the ability of humanities researchers to use the growing number of digital archives and other digital projects. Project partners include UNL’s Stephen Ramsay, associate professor of English.

<http://go.unl.edu/o8t>

Petronela Radu, assistant professor of mathematics, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach and conduct research at Trinity College in Ireland. Radu will work alongside Trinity College’s Paschal Karageorgis, an expert in the field of nonlinear wave equations. Together, they will examine two areas of high interest in hyperbolic differential equations: instability and existence and uniqueness of solutions.

<http://go.unl.edu/hbw>

Karl Reinhard, professor of forensic sciences, was lead author of a study that examined fossilized feces from the American Southwest to see just what ancient Native Americans ate. The data, published in the journal Current Anthropology, found that the diet of ancient Natives may have made modern Natives more susceptible to diabetes as diets evolved to lower-fiber, higher glycemic index foods.

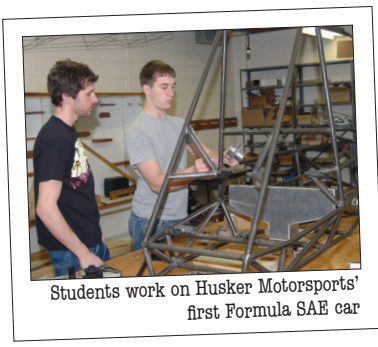
<http://go.unl.edu/odo>

Kevin Smith and John Hibbing, professors of political science, published a study that found the amount of disgust you feel when looking at gross images may lend insight into personal political beliefs.

<http://go.unl.edu/tpw>

Greg Snow and UNL’s experimental high-energy physics team continues to work with physicists at CERN’s atom smashing Large Hadron Collider. On July 4, it was announced that the a new particle whose characteristics match the long-theorized Higgs boson particle had been observed.

<http://go.unl.edu/aa9>



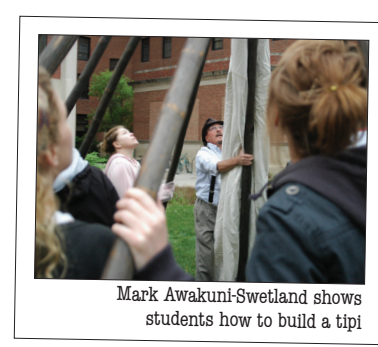
Students work on Husker Motorsports' first Formula SAE car



Ken North cleans a campus chiller



Jason Head shows vetebrs of Titanoboa (left) versus a modern snake



Mark Awakuni-Swetland shows students how to build a tipi



Michael James fits a dress for the UNL fashion show



Earth Week tree planting



Nine-Mile Prairie prescribed burn



Marlon Ellis (right) at Morrill Hall's Sunday with a Scientist



Michael Burton's Awesome Animation Summer



Speech team wins UNL's first Big Ten title

The UNL speech and debate team became the first Nebraska team to win a Big Ten title with its victory at the Conference Challenge Tournament, Oct. 8-9 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

UNL led the field with a two-day point total of 261 points, ahead of tournament host and second-place finisher Northwestern at 138 points.

NIn their first Big Ten season, the Nebraska Cornhuskers earned conference championships in women's gymnastics, women's indoor track and field and volleyball. Read more about the Huskers' exploits at www.huskers.com.

In addition to the team championship in a conference that has a long tradition of academic excellence and excellence in speech and debate, UNL students captured seven individual Big Ten titles. Senior Nick Herink of Omaha won conference championships in prose interpretation, dramatic interpretation, and duo interpretation with partner sophomore Grace Kluck of Lincoln.

Other students winning conference cham-

pionships included senior Jimmy Simpson Jr. of Lyons in persuasive speaking, senior Eli Barts of Bellevue in informative speaking, junior Lauren Schaal of Omaha in after-dinner speaking and sophomore Josh Planos of Omaha in program oral interpretation.

The team is part of UNL's Department of Communication Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

'Biology of Human' education project earns NIH grant

Recent biomedical research has transformed scientific understanding of human biology. But many of these advances haven't filtered into public awareness, hindering our ability to make the best health-related decisions.

A new educational program — Biology of Human — will help the public, particularly young people, better understand advances in biomedical research. University of Nebraska State Museum, the Nebraska Center for Virology and UNL sociologists are teaming with children, science writers and multimedia developers to create educational materials for use nationwide. The project is funded by a five-year, \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's Science Education Partnership Award program.

<http://go.unl.edu/jqp>

CIC awards Smithsonian Fellowship to Pesendorfer

Mario Pesendorfer, a doctoral candidate in the School of Biological Sciences, has been awarded a Smithsonian Institution Fellowship through the Big Ten Conference's Committee on Institutional Cooperation.

The CIC nominates scholars from each member school to compete for one of six Smithsonian predoctoral fellowships.

The CIC/Smithsonian fellowship will allow Pesendorfer to work with Scott Sillett at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, D.C.



Pesendorfer

Research Retention Reputation Recruitment



Greg Brown, chief preparator in the University of Nebraska State Museum's division of vertebrate paleontology, prepares fossils of an Ashfall Fossil Beds rhino. The museum and Henry Doorly Zoo worked together to create an interactive Ashfall dig site at the zoo. The exhibit opened in May.

NU Museum, Omaha zoo collaborate on dig project

A collaboration allowed Greg Brown to pass his love for paleontology — and the Ashfall State Fossil Beds — on to younger generations.

The University of Nebraska State Museum and Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo worked together to create an Ashfall-inspired dig site at the zoo. The exhibit opened in May.

"What we're planning on doing at the zoo is installing several of the baby (rhinoceros fossils) in an area that they want to turn into a dig site," said Brown. "It will be mostly for kids, to sort of experience the excitement of excavating a fossil."

Brown, chief preparator in the museum's division of vertebrate paleontology, created several plastic animal casts for the zoo dig site. The work included three adult rhinos, two baby rhinos and a horse. All of the casts are exact replicas of fos-

More new Ashfall digs

Research has expanded at Ashfall with the opening of the Dickinson Fossil Heritage Center

<http://go.unl.edu/c3q>

sils unearthed at Ashfall, a research arm of the museum and a national natural landmark located near Royal, Neb.

The dig site collaboration was initiated by Tim Hubbard, a prominent Ashfall and Omaha zoo donor.

"We had been looking at possibilities for showcasing Ashfall at various venues across Nebraska for a few years," said Mark Harris, associate director of the museum. "But when the prospect of collaborating with the Omaha zoo came up in early 2011, it trumped all other concepts."

http://go.unl.edu/ashfall_dig

Team's discovery has implications for finding life on Mars

Moqui marbles, unusual balls of rock that can be found rolling around the southwestern U.S. sandstone regions, were formed roughly 2 million years ago with the help of microorganisms. This discovery by a UNL research team has implications for finding life on Mars and for better understanding Earth's past.

The research by Karrie Weber, assistant professor of geomicrobiology and microbial biogeochemistry, and her colleagues is featured on the cover of the August issue of *Geology*, the journal of the Geological Society of America.

Moqui marbles, which range in size from BBs to cannonballs, weather out of sandstone and

have a hard, round shell made of iron oxide, or rust, and a soft, sandy interior. Previous theories of their formation had suggested a chemical reaction devoid of life, but Weber's team discovered clear evidence that microorganisms played a role.

"We found iron oxide is associated with these organic carbon structures that resemble microorganisms," Weber said. "So all of the information put together tells us that



Weber

microbial life was present, active and played a role in iron biomineralization."

The discovery demonstrates that life could persist in this type of rocky, iron-rich environment. It provides a guide for searching for life elsewhere on Earth, or even on Mars, where similar structures have been found.

Weber's team included David Loope and Richard Kettler in UNL's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, research assistant Trisha Spanbauer, and Matthew Kilburn and David Wacey at the University of Western Australia.

<http://go.unl.edu/w8z>

Explore Center ready to assist students undecided on major

A new center within Academic Affairs has been created to assist undergraduate and pre-professional students who have not selected a major area of study.

The center, called the Exploratory and Pre-Professional Advising Center, replaces the Division of General Studies. The Explore Center features six advisers to assist students and is led by Katie Kerr, assistant director. Further oversight is provided by Bill Watts, director of campus advising services and the College of Arts and Sciences' assistant dean for student success.

The Explore Center combines advising assistance for undecided undergraduates (formerly part of General Studies) and pre-law and pre-health students (formerly part

Setting a new course

Academic Affairs saw a number of changes as it realigned to pursue UNL's new goals. Read about Academic Affairs' realignment at <http://go.unl.edu/2zd> and <http://go.unl.edu/xmv>. Information on changes to International Affairs is available at <http://go.unl.edu/zw8>.

of the Arts and Sciences advising center). The center advisers also assist students transitioning to new majors.

"We want students to know that, if they are undecided on a major, UNL has a place for them to go to explore their academic options," said Kerr.

<http://explorecenter.unl.edu>

India indepth



Photojournalism students in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications traveled to India in May as part of a depth-reporting trip. The students traveled to large cities, slums and villages in India, recording the trip through photos, stories and video. The photo above was taken by Morgan Spiehs and shows Muskan Salim and his classmates singing in a slum school in Nangloi, New Delhi, India. The trip was led by professors Bruce Thorson and Scott Winter. For more information, go to <http://go.unl.edu/indiareportage>.

Nebraska Innovation Campus



Historic IAB to get life, facelift

Planners at Nebraska Innovation Campus unveiled a new look and usage plan for the Industrial Arts Building, a historic structure at the former Nebraska State Fair Park. A design concept approved by the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corp. maintains the historic footprint and external facade of the 99-year-old building while enabling advanced greenhouse space to be developed on the second floor.

The concept for the renovated IAB involves a first floor to be used for greenhouse mechanical space, high bay research space needs and other functions. The second floor will house state-of-the-art greenhouse space, greenhouse support space and approximately 4,000 square feet of office space.

<http://go.unl.edu/8d8>



Nebraska app launched

UNL has launched the Nebraska App, a suite of mobile applications that makes essential university resources available on mobile devices. Students can check grades, access course content and browse the course catalog. Users can access the public directory and get in touch instantly, keep tabs on Husker sports, find places on the campus map, stay informed with the latest campus news, watch videos, and even listen to podcasts of popular lectures in iTunesU.

<http://go.unl.edu/uje>

Foundation collects record \$172.1M

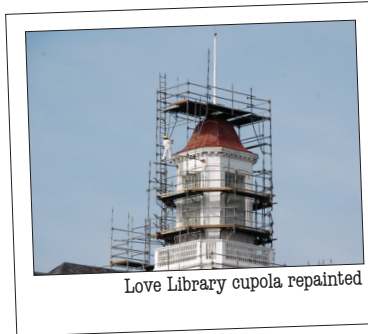
Alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska demonstrated their generosity in 2011 by giving the most private support in history.

Donors gave more than \$172.1 million to the University of Nebraska Foundation during the fiscal year ending June 30, making it the best year ever in its 75-year history. More than \$130.2 million was transferred to the university system during the same period, also representing a record.

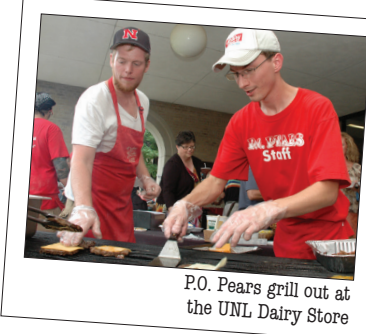
This is the sixth consecutive year annual gifts to the foundation exceeded \$100 million. The previous best year was 2008 when \$166.5 million was given.



Brian Hastings is the new president and CEO of the NU Foundation. Read more at <http://go.unl.edu/ewv>.



Love Library cupola repainted



P.O. Pears grill out at the UNL Dairy Store



Darryl White plays at Jazz in June



Zipcar comes to UNL



Pinnacle Bank Arena