

# ASPA—Nebraska Chapter Newsletter

## Founders' Forum Scholarship Helps UNO MPA Student Apply Her Knowledge and Gain New Contacts

**U**NO MPA student Shannon Oster attended the ASPA 2008 Annual Conference in Dallas thanks to a scholarship from the ASPA Nebraska chapter in March. Shannon attended the conference as a Founders' Forum Fellow, a special designation at the national conference that gave her the opportunity to meet Public Administration professionals from across the country and have access to special conference sessions and awards ceremonies that most students would never get to see.

Founders' Forum Fellows attend a pre-designed conference curriculum that exposes them to broad areas of Public Administration. Attending the conference as a Fellow is an honorable and exciting experience. "If you are a Fellow, everyone wants to talk and meet you," says Shannon. "It creates opportunities to have a conversation with anyone. The conference can be very overwhelming, but it is really nice to get to know the other Fellows and travel with them all day."

Shannon attended sessions with panel professionals whose work she had read recently in some of her classes. After the panels, she had opportunities to meet many of the presenters, ask questions, and discuss issues relevant to her interests and studies at UNO. Because of the prestige of the Founders' Forum Fellow designation, Shannon felt like she had a leg up when it came to networking at the conference. "I have a huge stack of business cards from professionals," she says. "It was intimidating at first but people were so willing to help students, it was amazing. I think it helped me learn how to network and not be intimidated about asking for advice or telling people about myself."



*Shannon Oster, far right, with other Founders' Forum Fellows at the ASPA National Conference in Dallas March 7-11, 2008.*

Shannon is a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and graduated from Marquette University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Women's Studies. She is planning to graduate with a Master of Public Administration, concentration in Local Government, in Spring 2009.

Shannon says attending the conference was a truly wonderful experience and she feels it has opened new doors for her as she begins her job search. "I am very pleased to be able to thank everyone at the ASPA Nebraska for the opportunity to travel to the national conference. I hope by sharing my experiences that other students will have the opportunity to attend a national conference. I also wanted to give a special thank you to Dr. Scott Tarry at the UNO Aviation Institute and Dr. John Bartle!" Says Shannon.

The ASPA Nebraska Chapter has a number of scholarships and grants available for students interested in attending national and regional ASPA conferences. The deadline for applications is October 1. For more information about Founders' Fellow scholarships contact Scott Bovick at [sbovick@alltel.net](mailto:sbovick@alltel.net).

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## ASPA Nebraska Honors Outstanding Contributions to Public Administration at Annual Luncheon

The ASPA Nebraska Chapter held its annual Awards Luncheon on April 24 to celebrate outstanding contributions to public administration in Nebraska at the UNO Thompson Alumni Center. More than seventy people heard John J. Cavanaugh of the Building Bright Futures initiative deliver the keynote address and watched as the UNO chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha inducted honorees James S. Allen, Kenneth L. Anderson, II, Danielle L. Briggs, Susan Elizabeth Carson Moore, Qiushi Wang, Regina Hope Winters and Kenneth A. Kriz. ASPA Nebraska honored two outstanding officials in public administration.



### **Mary Ann Borgeson— Elected Official of the Year**

Mary Ann Borgeson was elected and has served as Douglas County Commissioner since 1994. Commissioner Borgeson was the first woman to be elected Chair of the Board of Commissioners in 1997 and held that position in 2000, 2001 and 2007. She served as vice chair in 1996, 1999 and 2008. Her focus has been on health care and juvenile justice issues in Douglas County. Ms. Borgeson is involved in various community organizations including the College World Series Board and

the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission. She is involved in many volunteer efforts including Juvenile Diabetes and the American Heart Association. Mary Ann and her husband Bob have four children and two grandchildren.



### **Polly Feis— Outstanding Public Administrator of the Year**

Polly Feis has a long history of public service dedicated to improving the education of all children in Nebraska and in our nation. Since 1995, Ms. Feis has held the position of Deputy Commissioner of Education. For the past 18 years, Ms. Feis has held several high level positions with the Nebraska State Department of Education including Assistant Commissioner of Education for Internal Administrative Services and Interagency Relations and Legislative Liaison. Ms. Feis has been recognized for her efforts by the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the UNL Teachers College Alumni Association and the Nebraska Educational Service Units. Beyond her professional contributions, Ms. Feis gives

generously of her time and energy to many individuals who need love, caring, support and friendship. Polly and her husband Gil have two children and four grandchildren.

The UNO American Humanics Student Organization honored a nonprofit partner of the year at the luncheon.



### **Social Settlement— American Humanics Nonprofit Partner of the Year**

Social Settlement has been serving Omaha with their KIDS CAN! and Seniors on the Go! for 100 years. Social Settlement was part of the national Settlement House movement, which originated in England during the late 1800s. Social Settlement of Omaha was founded in 1908 and focuses on empowering children and adults alike by providing educational programs and community resources. The programs include preschool, childcare, educational programs to seniors and tutoring to all children. Renee Franklin has been the Executive Director of Social Settlement for 10 years.

## UNO CPACS Celebrates 2007-2008 Accomplishments and Looks Forward to a New Home

The UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service has many great achievements to celebrate during the 2007-2008 school year. The School received the Chancellor's Strategic Planning Award for Academic Excellence last fall.

UNO's rankings by *US News & World Report* went up in several areas. UNO is now ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in information technology and management, 9<sup>th</sup> in public finance and budgeting, 13<sup>th</sup> in city management and urban policy, 15<sup>th</sup> in public management administration, and 18<sup>th</sup> in nonprofit management. In the broad category of public affairs we ranked 27<sup>th</sup> out of 269 universities.

In the school's tradition of outstanding research and teaching, four faculty were recognized by being named to endowed chairs. Dale Krane is the Kayser Professor, Richard Box and Christine Reed are both Regents/Foundation Professors, and John Bartle is the David Scott Diamond Professor.

Students are reaping the rewards of outstanding faculty. Enrollment in undergraduate Public Administration and Urban Studies programs increased 48% from last year. The addition of a nonprofit administration concentration in the online Bachelor of General Studies



*The future home of the UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service. The School will begin moving in August 2008 and will host a grand opening celebration in October.*

degree and the Certified Public Manager program gives even more students the opportunity to learn and practice public administration from the superior faculty at UNO.

Scholarship programs are in the works, including a "100 by 100" campaign to endow a scholarship for students of public administration. The school is seeking 100 people to make a \$100 donation to the project to create a scholarship fund.

The College of Public Affairs and Community Service is anxiously awaiting the August 2008 completion of the CPACS building in the former Engineering Building on the UNO campus.

CPACS graduates can help support the outstanding accomplishments of the school by becoming involved in the Public Administration Graduates Organization, a group of alumni working to get more graduates involved in supporting the school.

### What Can ASPA Nebraska Do For You?

**Networking** - Meet other public sector professionals at the ASPA Nebraska Networking Reception and Annual Luncheon. Make connections with other ASPA members and UNO students and faculty.

**Professional Assistance** - ASPA Nebraska board members are available for resume review and practice interview sessions. Get real feedback from public sector professionals who have been in your shoes!

**Educational Development** - ASPA Nebraska has grants available for members to attend ASPA National and Regional Conferences.

*Memberships start at \$40 per year! Visit [www.aspaonline.org/nebraska](http://www.aspaonline.org/nebraska) for more info.*

## Attention ASPA Nebraska Members!

Be on the lookout for an email from the ASPA Nebraska Chapter with your opportunity to vote for this year's Chapter Officers.

Voting will take place online for the first time ever! If you prefer to receive a paper ballot, please email Trish Langer at [planger@neb.rr.com](mailto:planger@neb.rr.com).

### Save the Dates

Please mark your calendar for the following valuable ASPA Nebraska and UNO events.

October 1, 2008 - Applications for ASPA Nebraska Chapter conference grants due.

October 8, 2008 - UNO Centennial Celebration and CPACS renovated facility Open House

October 30, 2008 - ASPA Nebraska Annual Networking Reception

October 1-3, 2009 - ASPA Regional Conference in OMAHA.



### *ASPA Nebraska Chapter Newsletter*

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The ASPA Newsletter is published several times throughout the year. The newsletter is distributed to all chapter members and is posted on the chapter's website.

We're on the Web!

[www.aspaonline.org/nebraska](http://www.aspaonline.org/nebraska)

## ASPA Region IV 2008 Conference November 6-7, 2008

Grand Valley State University  
Allendale, MI

*Post Bush: A New Administration and the Future of Public Organization*

Registration: \$150  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel—\$99 per night

The West Michigan ASPA chapter will host a dinner at the Gerald Ford Museum on November 6th. Breakfast and lunch are included on November 6 and 7.

Registration materials will be available on the ASPA national website [www.aspanet.org](http://www.aspanet.org).

### Meet Your ASPA Nebraska Executive Council

#### **President**

Scott Bovick  
*City of Nebraska City*

#### **President-Elect**

Jennifer Patten Benson  
*Heritage Services*

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Maggie Oldham  
*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

#### **ASPA Nebraska Council Members**

**Pam Buethe**—City of LaVista

**Dr. Mary Hamilton**—University of Nebraska - Omaha

**Alan Kopetzky**—University of Nebraska - Omaha

**Patricia Langer**—Nebraska Supreme Court

**Sheri Larsen**—City of Omaha

**Perry Pirsch**—Nebraska State Treasurer's Office

**Dr. Joseph (Mike) Stefkovich**—Retired, formerly Chief Financial Officer for Nebraska Department of Education

For more information about ASPA Nebraska visit our website at <http://www.aspaonline.org/nebraska>.