As happened in fall 1918, the campus shuttered when a worldwide pandemic arrived. Students were sent home. Sporting events were canceled. Professors shifted to remote learning. There was no pomp under grim circumstance for graduation. These are dark days, but we will survive and then thrive because we are

NEBRASKA

QUARTERLY

ALSO:

TRACTOR TIME
The world's only tractor test lab rolls into its next century.
PAGE 44

KOSMET KLUB
What happened to the most storied club on campus?
PAGE 57

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SUMMER

Contents

2020

We Nebraskans are known for our tenacity, reliability and level-headedness. These qualities and more came to the forefront as the university community responded to the coronavirus pandemic which shuttered campus in March. The university started producing hand sanitizer in conjunciton with the ethanol industry at the Food Processing Center on Innovation Campus. **P22** Another group based at Innovation Studio got to work creating face shields for healthcare workers. **P23** Many alumni, including David Tousley in New York City, fired up sewing machines and set about making cloth face masks. **P56** We are Nebraskans. Present us with a challenge and we'll hunker down and figure out solutions to solve it.

GO BIG GRAD

Class of 2020

It was a graduation like no other, with no pomp under tough circumstances as in-person ceremonies were canceled. The online broadcast, which aired May 9, drew over 5,000 viewers. The 3,478 members of the graduating class created festivities of their own with the help of these celebration boxes mailed to them throughout the world.

WHAT'S INSIDE?
The boxes included a graduation mortar board (or tam) with tassel, alumni pin, Husker decals, postcards, a pennant and a festive red/white confetti launcher.

CRAIG CHANDLER


NEBRASKA
Go Big Grad
CLASS OF 2020
CELEBRATION BOX
NEBRASKA
Go Big Grad
CLASS OF 2020
CELEBRATION BOX
UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA
LINCOLN
Huskers
2020 GRADUATES
You've worked hard...
...and we know it!

CONTRIBUTORS

MARCO BARKER

Marco Barker is the vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion and associate professor of practice in Educational Administration. He earned his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering, MBA, and Ph.D. in educational leadership and research. Earlier this year he won the showcase showdown on the long-running TV game show *The Price is Right*.

VAN JENSEN

Van Jensen ('04) is the author of several books, most recently the critically acclaimed roman à clef graphic novel *Two Dead* from Simon & Schuster's Gallery 13 imprint. He's been writing professionally since joining *The Daily Nebraskan* as a freshman. Since March, he's mostly been taking care of two toddlers at his home in Atlanta.

KARISSA SCHMIDT

Karissa Schmidt ('20) graduated in May with a degree in journalism from the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. She spent four years on *The Daily Nebraskan* staff, her final year as the editor-in-chief. She also interned at the Nebraska-based company Hudl.

CARSON VAUGHAN

Carson Vaughan is a freelance journalist and the author of *Zoo Nebraska: The Dismantling of An American Dream*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian* and more. A native of Broken Bow, Nebraska, Carson graduated from the College of Journalism and Mass Communications in 2010, and now lives with his wife and dog in Chicago.

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NEBRASKA
QUARTERLY

Summer 2020

VOLUME 116 NO. 2

START'EM YOUNG

It's never too early to share Nebraska pride with the little ones in your life. Nebraska Alumni Association members can register their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews under age 16 for the Future Huskers program. Children will receive a special birthday message, back-to-school Husker cheer and more! A free benefit exclusive to NAA members.

huskeralum.org/future-huskers

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Chancellor Ronnie Green works from his home as did nearly all of the university community this spring.

Q: What was it like to lead the university as this pandemic took hold?

A: The second week of March was when things really began to change within the U.S. in response to COVID-19.

By that time, we had been in daily planning operational meetings since mid-February for what this might mean for our university, informed in part by the University of Nebraska Medical Center's early involvement in the country's response to the virus. It's still hard to imagine turning on a dime, if you will, all of the curriculum of the institution to be offered via remote access. We had about two weeks to prepare for that. Both the Spring Break week that was already planned in late March and an additional week that we canceled classes in mid-March to allow time for this kind of pivot. Beginning March 30, we moved all of our curriculum for our undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs to remote access form for the remainder of this semester. We later determined that summer courses would continue with remote learning. And we celebrated our graduates May 9 with an NET special broadcast which included the conferral of degrees and a special message from volleyball coach John Cook.

So much happened so quickly this semester. I could not be prouder of how our university community responded. Our faculty, students and staff have stepped up in phenomenal ways under unprecedented conditions — and they have done so selflessly and successfully. We've seen tremendous innovation and ingenuity as we have led through this challenge. The ability to tap the intellectual capacity of this great institution is what gives me the confidence to know we will find ways to provide for in-person, on-campus instruction this fall, in concert with public health concerns and protecting every member of our community as we navigate this continuing challenge.

Right now, it's an eerie feeling for the campuses to be as empty as UNL has been. This is such a special place — you all know that. I look forward to seeing it again teem with students, our faculty and staff, our alumni and the whole state of Nebraska. And what excites me is that I know we will be an even stronger institution on the other side of this. True Nebraska grit gives me great hope for the future.

—Ronnie Green, ('88)
20TH CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

CRAIG CHANDLER

PILLAR RESTAURANT GROUP

BUSINESS LUNCHEONS

DATE NIGHTS

WEDDINGS

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Play Ball

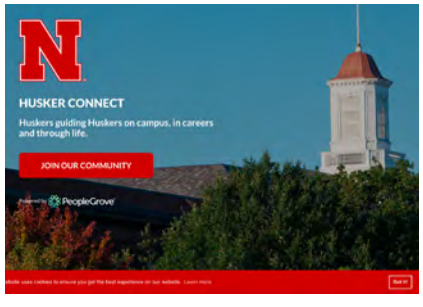
Huskers in San Diego

Remember when we took sports for granted? In what turned out to be one of the final chances to see a Husker team take the field in the spring of 2020, more than 150 alumni and fans showed up in San Diego on Feb. 22 for a pregame party (featuring a talk by head coach Will Bolt) before the baseball team played San Diego State in the Tony Gwynn Legacy tournament.

Mentorship

Husker Connect

A recent graduate is looking for career advice from an established professional. A few clicks later, they've traded emails and set up a video call. Same story with someone feeling stuck in their career and looking to make a change. One bit of advice or a connection can change everything. Husker Connect has taken the value of Nebraska's alumni network and brought it into the digital age. Since launching in January, the free, online professional networking site has profiles of over 1,200 alumni and 500 students. Alumni can start short-term or long-term mentorships with students or other professionals or just answer a few questions over email. You decide the time commitment you want to make. Husker Connect can help you take the next step in your career. Create your free profile at **huskerconnect.unl.edu**



Altered Plans

Stepping Into the Future

Mark Casper ('17) and his bride Morgan Kowalewski ('18) followed social distancing instructions and had fewer than 10 guests at their wedding March 25 held at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church adjacent the campus. Originally scheduled for April 18 (with 450 guests), the couple moved up their wedding three weeks since Morgan's parents could not attend anyway due to COVID-19. Morgan said her mother works at a nursing home in Gothenburg where a co-worker was affected. Instead, her siblings walked her down the aisle and the couple took wedding photos around Lincoln (including the State Capitol where they crossed paths with Lt. Governor Mike Foley) in the midst of this new era of social distancing.

Find Archie!

Morrill Hall's Archie is hiding somewhere in the magazine, like only a 20,000-year-old mammoth can. Find him, email us with his location at **alumni@huskeralum.org** and you'll be entered into a drawing for a Husker prize. Congratulations to **Jay Uehling** ('90) of Oakland, who found Archie helping to check cattle on page 22 of our spring edition. Jay met his wife, Sheryl Adams Uehling ('90), during his days on campus. Two of their children are also Husker alumni. The Uehlings are excited to become first-time grandparents this summer.

Nathaniel Korth
Fayetteville, AR

Stephanie Teten
Johnson, NE

Erica Pribil
Lincoln, NE

Ariel Wong
Peru, NE

Erica Marshall
Luverne, MN

Toluwalope Makinde
Omaha, NE

Stephanie Teten
Johnson, NE

Emilie O'Connor
Omaha, NE

Justin Bakke
La Vista, NE

Kaelyse Clapper
Minden, NE

Tessa Porter
Albion, NE

Soon Lau
Lincoln, NE

Ed Cornish has been helping students for more than 80 years, even though he died in 1938.

Shane Korte
Columbus, NE

Geraldine Spinner

Kristen Drvol

Bailey Harris
Lincoln, NE

Lance Sorensen
Kearney, NE

Emily Williams
Omaha, NE

Emilie O'Connor
Omaha, NE

Ashley Bernstein
Elkhorn, NE

Jennifer Pickering
Aurora, NE

Brooke Grossenbacher
Overland Park, KS

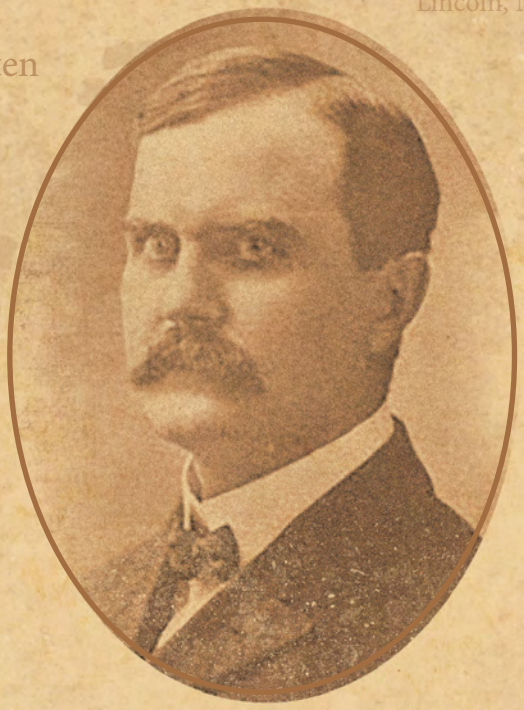
Nicole Berns
Blue Hill, NE

Pei Ang
Lincoln, NE

Crystal Pribyl
Geneva, NE

Travis Burger
Columbus, NE

Laura Hargarten
Clinton, WI



Tessa Porter
Lincoln, NE

Kristen Cochran
Omaha, NE

atherine Drehs
Lincoln, NE

Olivia Kunzman
Albion, NE

Bailey Harris
Lincoln, NE

Tessa Porter
Albion, NE

Steven Kaiser
Davey, NE

Susan Hammons
Weeping Water, NE

Grant Wallace
Craig, NE

vid Schroeder
West Point, NE

Amanda Wall
Loveland, CO

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Nebraska City, NE

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Eustis, NE

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Gothenburg, NE

Effie Epke
Lincoln, NE

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Hoskins, NE

Natalie Souder
Wilber, NE

Kathleen Sackett
Gretna, NE

Travis Lucas
Raymond, NE

Sally Steele
Morrill, NE

Amber Cleveland
Carson City, NV

Edward J. Cornish

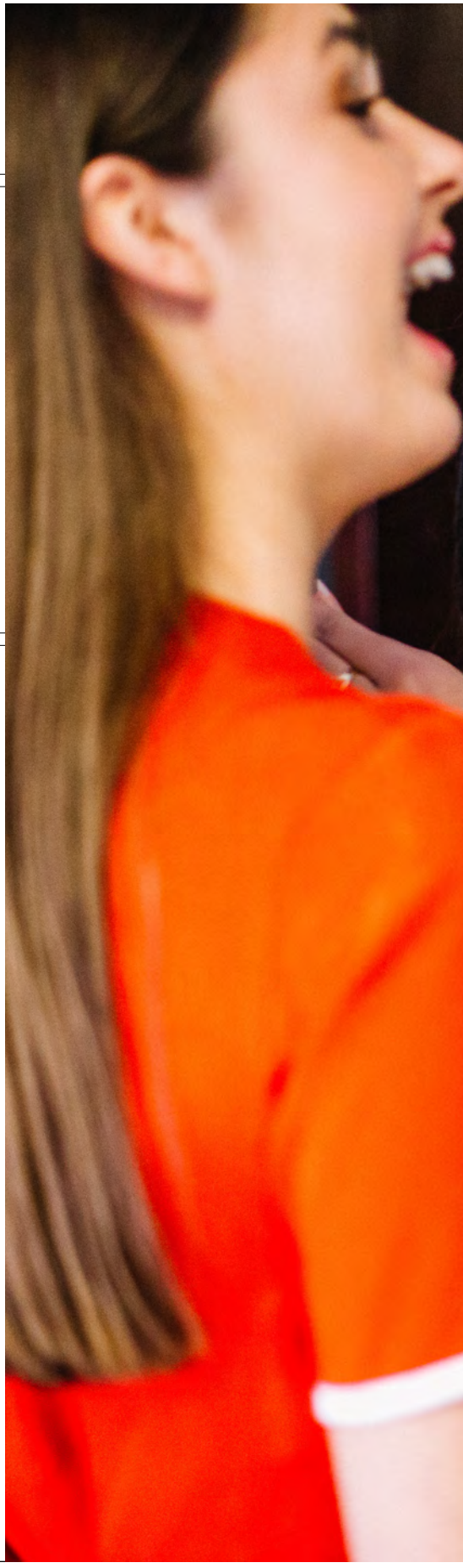
Ed Cornish was one of the first donors to establish a scholarship fund for students at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. The very next year, he passed away. But students have benefited from Mr. Cornish's generosity every year since — including the students listed here.

The legacy of Ed Cornish lives on. Yours can, too. To find out how, visit us online at nufoundation.org/giftplanning or call a gift planning officer at the University of Nebraska Foundation at 800-432-3216.

University of Nebraska Foundation

University of Nebraska Lincoln

SUMMER



HEATHER AND JAMESON PHOTOGRAPHY

EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Fashion Forward

STUDENTS DIVE INTO FEBRUARY'S RUNWAY FRAY

Each February, fashion takes center stage. Models strut the catwalks for Fashion Weeks in New York, Paris and Milan. Celebrities walk red carpets in couture, and perennial cable hit *Project Runway* puts a new group of designers into its reality TV pressure cooker.

And Huskers in the Textile and Apparel Design program watch it all while creating their own wearable works of art.

In classes like Experimental Design, Product Development, History of Dress and more, students majoring in textile and apparel design craft garments running the gamut from wide-leg pants to dresses with illuminated belts. Many pieces were included in the juried student showcase in Omaha's Fashion Week Feb. 26 at the Omaha Design Center.

Heather Striebel, a doctoral student in apparel design from Arizona, took a prompt from her Experimental Design course for an upcycled garment, and found inspiration in empowerment to design a warrior's outfit from scraps of fabric, old pants, even nuts and bolts. The piece was first modeled at a fundraiser for a local women's shelter, Fresh Start, and is one of four of her pieces shown in the Omaha student show.

Striebel came into the program after earning her master of fine arts in costume design from the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.

"As part of that process, I got to take classes over in this depart-

COLLEGE COUTURE

Ready for the runway

Adrianna Vang, center, is a senior studying textiles, merchandising and fashion design, She preps the models who wore her pieces during student night at Omaha Fashion Week.

WHY THESE PIECES?
"The red and denim dresses were some of my first big design projects, they're both made of remnant materials and capture the beginning phase of my design style."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
"Showing at fashion week was a truly exciting experience that left me inspired and happy with each decision I've made to be where I am today, and I cannot wait to do it again."

SUMMER

ment, and I just completely fell in love with it," Striebel said. "It's really given me a broader range in design, how to look at garments and fashion.

"I love costume design. I'm so used to being driven by a script — it was weird to step into this, have just a few parameters and go — but it was very freeing. I found myself thinking, 'This is awesome.' I can just create, and it expanded me as a designer."

As a doctoral student and graduate assistant for assistant professor Sandra Starkey, Striebel also mentors undergraduates, like Alex Scarpello, a junior from Omaha.

"Everyone is so drastically different in their designs," Striebel said. "But everyone's brain is so creative. It's really cool to see how students just take a prompt and run with it."

Scarpello had never sewn anything before enrolling in the program. He just loved fashion. He asked his grandmother the summer before he started classes to show him how to sew a pair of pants. He spent a lot of time in his apartment's living room-turned-miniature sewing studio, to finish a nine-piece collection of his own for Omaha Fashion Week.

"I wanted to accelerate the learning process for myself, so I applied to do my own show," Scarpello said. "I like to work outside of class and keep learning how to make garments because I barely made anything before I started in the program.

"I love it because I realized that I think of myself as an artist and I've been able to express myself that way with my sewing and fashion design."

One of his show pieces was a jacket made from a striped green camper awning. The jacket was developed from an upcycle prompt in his Flat Patterns class.

"I typically design for myself — a lot of my wardrobe I've made myself — but I probably won't wear that piece," he said. "It's a little stiff."

Scarpello wants to work for a menswear brand after graduation to learn the industry ropes, but his goal is to break out on his own.

"This is my art," he said. "If I stayed under a brand, I probably wouldn't find it as fulfilling as doing my own thing."

Striebel, a former high school theater teacher, plans to teach again while continuing to make costumes for professional productions and designing garments for all body types.

"I want to design for everybody and make something someone could wear in a size 6, and it would look just as great on someone who is a size 22," she said. "That's really important to me, because that feeling of wearing something that looks great should be available to everyone. It's where the industry needs to go, and it is starting to, but it is slow moving."

—Deann Gayman

Student designer Alex Scarpello, center, pumps up the three male models who showcased his pieces during Omaha Fashion Week.

HEATHER AND JAMESON PHOTOGRAPHY; JONNY RUZZO

OVERHEARD

"I remember looking into the classroom and all I saw was empty desks and I then thought, 'My mom has brought me to school too early.' And indeed, we were too early — years too early."

—RUBY BRIDGES, who as a 6-year-old was the first African-American to integrate an all-white school in New Orleans, speaking on campus in January as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. brunch.

Dean Richard Moberly presided over the virtual commencement ceremonies from the Law College on East Campus.

LAW

Commencement Reimagined

LESS POMP UNDER TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCE

The College of Law's Class of 2020 is truly unique as it was the college's first class to graduate virtually. An online commencement ceremony was held on May 9, conferring eight master of laws, 109 juris doctor and two master of legal studies degrees.

Appearing on Zoom while families watched via Facebook Live, each graduate wore the complimentary tam and tassel provided by the university. The ceremony began with remarks from class president, Ashley Inbau. "If I would have known that my decision to take the LSAT on a whim would lead me to each and every one of you, I would do this whole experience 100 times over. These three years have meant more to me than the other 17 years of education combined. I truly found my Nebraska family in my classmates, and I am eternally grateful for all of you," she said.

Michael J. Heavican ('75), chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court welcomed the graduates to the profession, encouraging them to stay in Nebraska. In closing the ceremony, Dean Richard Moberly challenged the graduates. "What will you do now that you have a degree that will allow you to make a difference in our nation, our community, and in individual people's lives? The legal issues that will confront people as a result of this pandemic are profound and wide-spread, including unemployment issues, small business survival, health care access, and housing evictions. You have unique talents, knowledge, and skills because of the education you received at Nebraska Law, and I encourage you ... to help lead your community through this crisis."

Chancellor Ronnie Green attended to confer degrees, after which Assistant Dean Marc Pearce ('99) awarded degrees. As each graduate's name was read, a personalized slide of their accomplishments was shared. Moberly then invited graduates to move their tassels from the right to the left side, and a photo slideshow of the graduates during their time as law students was played.

New alumna, Hilary Sayre, appreciated the opportunity to gather with her classmates to celebrate this milestone. "I am so proud of my time at Nebraska Law. The graduation ceremony for the May 2020 class illustrates what makes Nebraska great: our strength, our resilience, and our love for one another. The faculty, administration, staff and students all came together digitally to celebrate our achievements. I feel incredibly blessed to join the ranks of graduates who support one another in times of crisis, celebrate each others' victories, and hope for a brighter tomorrow."

—Katie Pfannenstiel

BIG BRAG

Mechanical and biomedical engineer Ryan Pedrigi will use a five-year, $543,000 award from the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Program to lay the groundwork for a targeted, non-invasive treatment for atherosclerosis. He envisions that someday, patients will receive a therapy where ultrasound pulses are applied to diseased arteries, stimulating a cellular response that beats back plaque buildup and prevents further accumulation.

SUMMER

Özgür Araz's research has helped provide modeling tools that public officials and health care workers use to make decisions during pandemics.

BUSINESS

Pandemic Decision Making

PROFESSOR PROVIDES MODELING TOOLS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

In March schools started closing, the elderly population became more isolated and businesses shuttered due to the coronavirus pandemic spreading across the planet.

Özgür Araz, associate professor of supply chain management and analytics, believes decisions imposed to change the way we live in the short term stem from critical research analysis now in the hands of government and health care providers.

"I am confident health agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention know what they are doing," said Araz, whose research examines decision sciences specifically related to health systems, including pandemic decision-making.

Araz teaches predictive analytics at the College of Business. He knows the impact his work can have on the profitability of business and also what it can do to save lives in a time of crisis.

"People don't always think about how analytics tools and supply chain management can be used for the public good. We use predictive analytics for mitigating pandemics and supply chain management to use public resources more effectively," Araz said.

His most recent article, published in *Decision Sciences* in November, studies capacity optimization under resource shortages. Previously, he looked at challenges of stockpiling ventilators for influenza pandemics and school closure policies for cost-effective pandemic decision-making.

Araz explained that economic impacts are taken into consideration when modeling effective decision-making. "We want to answer whether school closings and social distancing policies are cost-effective. Both questions, of when to close schools and when to reopen, are equally important. We take information about how fast the virus is spreading using a basic reproductive ratio and estimate the number of secondary cases generated in the susceptible population," he said.

"PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS THINK ABOUT HOW ANALYTICS TOOLS AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT CAN BE USED FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD."

—ÖZGÜR ARAZ

The data also shows a high fatality rate among older population groups, according to Araz. He sees health officials using predictive analytics to ensure the public safety is optimized through modeling tools developed through research like his own.

"People say it costs a lot, but if we save more lives, it makes it cost-effective. Optimizing social distancing intervention depends on this research modeling. We take a societal perspective regarding life lost, parents staying home with children impacting the workforce, and all the other factors we are dealing with today. In severe cases, we might need prolonged closures, and even 24 weeks of closings can be still a cost-effective result."

Jennifer Ryan, professor of Supply Chain Management and Analytics, explained that in addition to informing the social distancing response, Araz's research helps CDC officials prepare for situations in which hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed by an influx of patients.

"We've all heard the discussions of 'flattening the curve,'" Ryan said. "The modeling tools Özgür developed can provide critical insights into how we best allocate scarce resources during a pandemic. Unlike business problems, where the objective is typically measured in dollars, societal problems often involve complicated trade-offs between costs and benefits measured in lives lost or quantities related to quality of life.

—Sheri Irwin-Gish

BIG BRAG

Nebraska historian Amy Burnett has been named a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. The fellowship will allow her to pursue scholarship analyzing correspondence among European humanists, pastors and teachers during the Reformation.

ARCHITECTURE

Main Street Face-Lift

STUDENTS GIVE SOME LOVE TO VALENTINE

As many rural areas experience decline in population and economic opportunity, some Nebraska communities are pushing back against the trend by embracing and enhancing what makes them unique.

Valentine, which boasts proximity to both the Niobrara River and the Sandhills, is one such town, and students in the landscape architecture program collaborated with officials there on a new look for the town's Main Street.

Led by professor Kim Wilson, students developed plans focused on providing places and spaces to encourage economic development and generational renewal in rural areas. After talking with Valentine community stakeholders and identifying focus areas, the students created design concepts for several projects including a new streetscape for Valentine's Main Street, which is also a section of Highway 83. It is a key community corridor that hasn't been updated since the 1930s.

"Since Main Street is our primary retail corridor and community center, we thought modernizing it would make our community hub more walkable for commerce and aid in enhancing the brand of our community," said Valentine Mayor Kyle Arganbright ('06). "I often say we have world-class natural amenities that could never be re-created by any other community. We have a top 10 canoeing river, top 100 ranked golf courses and the vast beauty of the Sandhills out our backdoor. Our focus for this new streetscape project is on building community amenities that are at that same unique, pristine level as everything else around Valentine."

In July 2019, the streetscape concepts came one step closer to reality when the Valentine City Council approved $350,000 in landscape architectural improvements to be included in a new Highway 83 project. The plans include new concrete storefront to storefront, planting beds at intersection corners, street trees, a decorative paving strip next to roadside parking and dark sky-friendly LED lamp posts in addition to future planned decorative benches, trash cans, bike racks, pedestrian wayfinding kiosks and street art.

"With the highway originally scheduled to be torn up and redone by the Department of Transportation, city stakeholders saw this as a great opportunity to implement some improvements," said Austin Arens, a landscape architecture major from Kearney.

While not all their design projects were approved for installation, Arens said he and his fellow students are excited to see that the streetscape studio concepts will actually be implemented.

BIG BRAG

Nebraska volleyball had more fans attend matches in 2019 than any other program in the country, according to the NCAA. The Huskers had 155,531 total fans for 19 home matches, an average of 8,186. Both figures led the nation for the seventh straight time.

Main Street in Valentine has not been updated since the 1930s.

SUMMER

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Fitbit for Crops

By measuring the water use of plants on a minute-by-minute basis, Professor James Schnable hopes to better understand and eventually improve how crops respond to drought.

STALK-WORN SENSOR TO MEASURE CROPS' WATER USE

Wearable technology will soon move from wrist to stalk, swapping measures of blood flow and respiration for sap flow and transpiration.

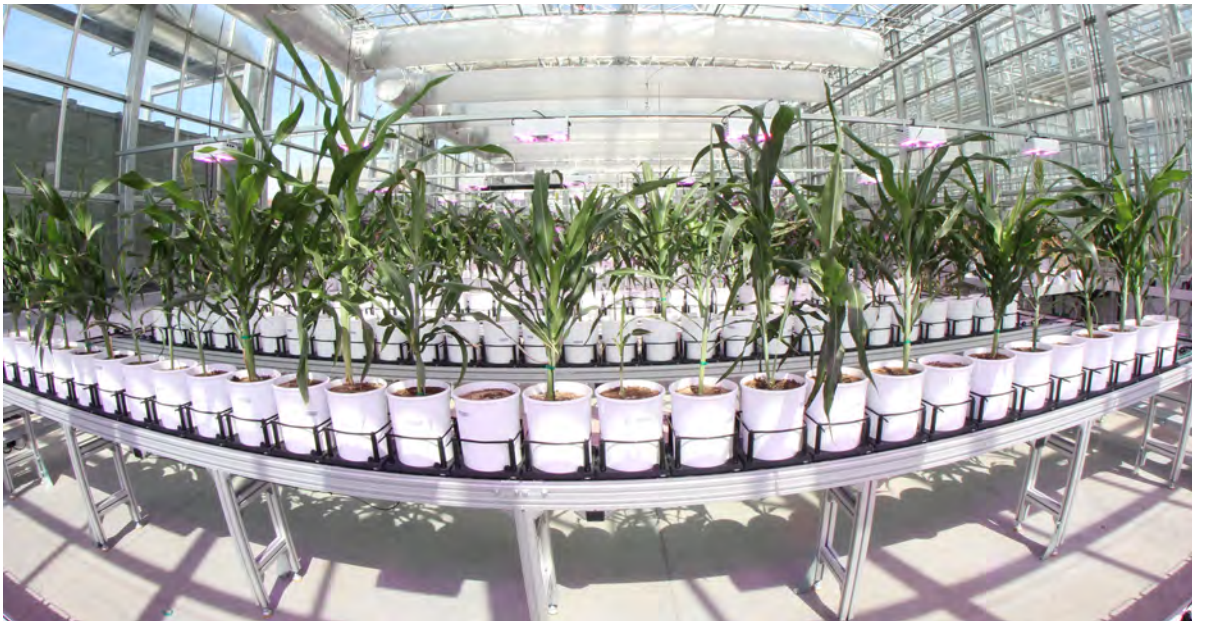
Their design won't have anyone confusing growing season with fashion season, but associate professor James Schnable and Iowa State University colleagues are developing a Fitbit-like sensor to be worn by corn and other thick-stemmed crops.

Funded by a Breakthrough Technologies award from the National Science Foundation, the researchers are pursuing an elusive goal: measuring rates of sap flow in real time, actual fields and changing weather conditions.

Because sap flow indicates how much water a plant is using vs. conserving, measuring it with hourly or minute-by-minute precision would help researchers better understand how crops are responding to drought conditions. That, in turn, would allow researchers to compare the drought resistance of different genetic lines with greater speed and accuracy, Schnable said, leading to more water-efficient hybrids that can tolerate ever-harsher climates from Nebraska to Nigeria.

"There are different strategies plants can take and different strategies plant breeders can pursue depending on their goal, the environment they're breeding for and the crop they're working on," said Schnable, associate professor of agronomy and horticulture. "All of these, though, do require (that) you actually be able to look at how much water the plant is using, not over just an entire growing season but really on a day-by-day or hour-by-hour basis."

Understanding water use is especially important,



The Greenhouse Innovation Center is 45,000 square feet of greenhouse and headhouse space. The facility features state-of-the-art computer environmental controls.

Schnable said, given that a plant's ability to resist drought competes with its ability to produce food. When a plant opens the tiny pores in its leaves to welcome the carbon dioxide essential for photosynthesis — and eventually, food — some of its water escapes through those same pores, making it more susceptible to drought. Crops bred for higher yields invite in even more carbon dioxide, giving water more opportunities to depart.

Managing that physiological tug-of-war — or even finding ways to lengthen the rope at both ends — will become more critical by 2050, when the world will likely need to feed an additional 2 billion people while accounting for more-sporadic rainfall.

As of now, crop breeders usually assess new genetic lines by planting a series of trials under drought conditions, measuring the yields and comparing those yields to what's produced in a water-rich environment, Schnable said. The smaller the difference in yield, the better.

The research team — which also includes Schnable's father, Patrick, at Iowa State — instead wants to pinpoint the conditions under which different crop varieties begin or stop conserving water, potentially helping customize varieties to different climates. Pairing those observations with genetic analyses of the varieties could also offer more detailed information about the practical influence of various genes in the field, guiding modification efforts in the lab.

"The more we can actually measure some of those (individual factors) in the field and look at the differences between varieties, the more we can make precise judgments about how two different lines with the same level of drought tolerance got there," Schnable said. "You could separate those (different factors) out and then breed for those individual factors separately."

—Scott Schrage

CRAIG CHANDLER (2); JONNY RUZZO

OVERHEARD

"One of my great passions is the advancement of women in their careers — the law particularly, because I am a lawyer, and I've experienced the profession. It's a profession that was built for men. Obviously there has been a lot of change in that, but there's still a long way to go."

—MOLLY BRUMMOND, the College of Law's assistant dean for external relations and strategic initiatives, upon receiving the Chancellor's Outstanding Contribution to Women Award.

BIG BRAG

Virtual Incision, a Nebraska Innovation Campus-based medical device company founded by faculty, has raised $20 million in Series B+ investment funding. The venture capital funding will support regulatory and clinical programs leading to commercialization of the company's surgical robot platform.

SUMMER

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

We Are Nebraska

INTERNS GROW AS DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE LEADERS

Fourteen students participated in a new internship program last fall applying improv and theater techniques to explore their own social impact stories. The cohort presented them in a theater experience to inspire, educate and entertain the university and local communities.

"I think people connect to our show because it's entertaining and engaging," said Julie Uribe, the director and facilitator for the We Are Nebraska internship program. "People are hearing authentic, personal stories without feeling lectured to."

The theatrical experiences featured challenging topics like addiction, transphobia, depression and even suicide. The intention of the program is for students and broader audiences to gain awareness and empathy through emotional connection.

"It's not enough to be diverse," Uribe said. "The piece that I feel is missing is inclusivity. How do we merge? Where do we find common ground?"

She is also the faculty adviser for Lazzi, the student improv troupe that uses the principles of improv for comedy. "I thought the same principals of improv, which build relationships, create collaboration and improve listening skills to support each other, can also be used to heal and to provide a path for empathy," she said.

Her 14 interns are diverse in every way. "I have everybody from deep, Christian faith to agnostic. They are diverse in race, sexual orientation, gender, economic status and majors. I have people from small towns and large, international cities," Uribe said. "In addition to the raw and bold stories, we include music, song, dance and video expressions, to provide different art forms for emotional connections. It's all about storytelling."

Jazmine Huertas, who graduated in December with a theater performance degree, knew immediately she wanted to apply for the internship. "It's an internship that fits into theater," Huertas said. "You don't find those very often. Forever I've had this deep knowing that I could possibly be a leader, and something that would take that a step forward was something I was absolutely ready to do."

In the performance, Huertas shares her story of both her and her mother's addiction and her desire to break the stigma of addiction. "I kind of knew from the beginning what I wanted to share," she

"I WAS ABLE TO FULLY CONNECT WITH ALL THE OTHER STUDENTS ACTUALLY FASTER AND STRONGER THAN I HAVE EVER CONNECTED WITH ANYBODY HERE ON CAMPUS"

—JEAN-DAVID BIZIMANA

"WE COULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER DEEP DOWN. WE ARE NOW LIKE A FAMILY. WE HAVE SOMEONE TO LEAN ON."

—KENNEDY NGUYEN

BIG BRAG

With the unanimous vote by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, a bachelor's degree in regional and community forestry was approved for the School of Natural Resources.

said. “I just didn’t know how to share it. We had so many writing exercises scattered around the improv to make us more comfortable telling little parts of ourselves to the group until we got to the end. It was really amazing to see the one-on-one work come to life.”

Jean-David Bizimana, a junior integrated science major in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, has been able to connect with other students through the internship. “I only knew one person in there, but I was able to fully connect with all the other students actually faster and stronger than I have ever connected with anybody here on campus,” he said.

Bizimana, who is from Rwanda, shares his story during the performances of learning that “being a man” doesn’t mean you are weak if you seek help. Bizimana fought depression as he became isolated, determined not to let anyone know how bad he felt. “I really appreciate the opportunity to be on stage and talk about myself and gain more self-awareness in terms of talking about some things that happened to me in my life and also gain the acceptance,” he said.

Kennedy Nguyen, a junior marketing major in the College of Business, was a little more reluctant about his initial participation in the internship. He skimmed through a notice about We Are Nebraska and was interested in an internship about leadership, but what he didn’t notice was the use of applied improv. “I didn’t see the applied improv part until a few meetings into it,” he said. “And at that point, I didn’t even know what applied improv was. And I was like, wait a minute. I’m not a fan of performing and acting and doing things on stage, but now I’m signed up for it. It was crazy.”

He decided to stay and take the risk. “The beautiful thing about this, is it’s a new program, so Julie let us bond by sharing through things that seemed fundamental, like writing a poem about yourself or talking about the five things you hate the most,” Nguyen said. “From that, we could understand each other deep down. We are now like a family. We have someone to lean on.”

Uribe looks forward to recruiting for next year’s interns. “The three things I’m looking for are a passion for leadership, a desire to tell their personal story that they feel may help others, and the openness to spend time and learn from others different from themselves,” she said. “I feel very optimistic and hopeful when I’m around this age group. There are so many phenomenal students out there.”

—Kathe C. Andersen

Tut Kailech answers questions from the audience during the Dec. 9 performance as Orlando Martinez looks on.

JUSTIN MOHLING (3)

SUMMER

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mighty Mouse

BIOLOGIST DISCOVERS WORLD'S HIGHEST-ELEVATION MAMMAL

THEY HAD CLIMBED FOR EIGHT hours after the avalanche risk of a snow-packed ravine on the main path had forced them onto a more circuitous route.

Up here, the summer weather of February felt uncomfortably similar to a Nebraska winter.

"Jay, hay un ratón!" ("Jay, there's a mouse!")

Jay Storz couldn't breathe. Couldn't think. Couldn't respond.

"Un ratón, Jay!"

Disoriented and fatigued after a sleepless night spent huddled in a tent, his lungs scrounging for oxygen amid the frigid air, Storz willed himself to semi-awareness.

"No lo veo (I don't see it)," the biologist managed.

"Está debajo de esa piedra." ("It's under that rock.")

World-class mountaineer Mario Pérez Mamani had guided the pair to the summit of Llullaillaco, a dormant volcano on the western edge of the Andes Mountains and the southern fringe of the Atacama Desert.

There, more than 22,000 feet above the sea-level border separating Chile and Argentina, an alert Pérez Mamani had indeed spotted a mouse.

But not just any mouse. This mouse — a yellow-rumped leaf-eared mouse — was a special mouse. A miraculous mouse. A world-record mouse.

No mammal had ever been reported living at such extreme elevation. Storz, finally coming to and armed with reflexes honed by a childhood of catching lizards, clambered over to the rock and knelt. Wrapping his right hand around its far edge, he flipped the rock backward. Startled, the mouse scurried beneath another.

For a few long seconds, the mouse darted and feinted under the cover of its sanctuary, uncertain. Then: a dash. Storz pounced. He had it.

With that, Storz and Pérez Mamani had captured unprecedented evidence of the ultimate mammalian survivor: a rodent living on just 45% of sea-level oxygen and an unknown diet while enduring temperatures that can plummet to minus 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

"This discovery makes me think that we've probably underestimated the elevational range limits and physiological tolerances of mammals and other vertebrates, simply because the world's highest summits are relatively unexplored by biologists," said Storz, professor of biological sciences. "It's hard to overstate the hostility of the environment that these mice call home."

The discovery culminated a month-long research expedition that was inspired by a stunning video clip from a 2013 mountaineering expedition on Llullaillaco. Recorded by climber Matt Farson, the clip showed a mouse scampering across an expanse of snow at roughly 20,000 feet — far higher than any previously reported mammal at the time.

"No one expected mammals to be able to survive and function at such an extreme altitude," Storz said. "The conventional wisdom was always that the elevational range limits of mammals were something close to 17,000 feet, and above that was (considered) basically barren of terrestrial vertebrate life."

With funding from the National Geographic Society, Storz eventually teamed up with Pérez Mamani and a few fellow biologists, including Guillermo D'Elía and Marcial Quiroga-Carmona of Universidad Austral de Chile, to launch an expedition of their own.

In February, the team spent two weeks ascending the flanks of Llullaillaco while trapping mice at altitudes of up to 15,000 feet, kept company all the while by pumas, foxes, two camel species and other hardy denizens of the Andes.

The group then established a base camp at 16,500 feet and another at 19,500 feet, where they set Sherman traps — hinged metal boxes designed to capture live specimens — for another week. By the time Storz and

MARCIAL QUIROGA-CARMONA

BIG BRAG

Tuition rates across the University of Nebraska system will be frozen in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. In addition, Nebraska Promise, an expansion of the system's existing need-based financial aid program, will cover full tuition costs for Nebraska students with family incomes of $60,000 or less.

Professor Jay Storz, left, and Mario Pérez Mamani on the summit of Llullaillaco.

Pérez Mamani were ready to head for Llullaillaco's summit, the team had already caught record-elevation specimens of three mouse species: the altiplano laucha, the Andean altiplano and the Lima leaf-eared.

When they sensed the weather stabilizing, Pérez Mamani and Storz made the four-hour ascent from base camp to the tent they had stashed at 19,500 feet. Though its canvas shielded the duo from the elements, it couldn't offer a good night's sleep.

"You can't really sleep at that elevation, just because the lack of oxygen makes it impossible," Storz said. "Basically, you're just staying warm and resting." They set out for the summit at 3 a.m., intent on beating the afternoon storms that frequently strike at extreme elevation. With decades of experience on the Andean slopes, Pérez Mamani led the way and reached the peak first.

"By the time I finally arrived at the summit, I was completely exhausted," Storz said. "And at that elevation, doing anything is pretty exhausting."

But fatigue wasn't the sole reason that Storz struggled to process what Pérez Mamani was telling him on the summit, which ranks as the second-highest of any active volcano. Sheer surprise played a role, too.

Discovering the yellow-rumped leaf-eared mouse at 22,000 feet has naturally left Storz and his colleagues with plenty of questions. Considering that the team found the species living more than a mile above even the hardiest green plants, one question rises above most others: What exactly does it eat up there? Though insects and the fungi-algae mishmashes known as lichens seem like reasonable candidates, the biologists expect to gain clearer insights after examining the mouse's stomach contents and gut bacteria.

The team is also keen to better understand the species' sea-to-sky versatility.

"One of the really remarkable things about this particular species ... is that not only does it occur at these really extreme altitudes, but members of the same species are also found all the way to sea level," Storz said. "So it has this extremely broad elevational distribution. (That) raises a lot of really important evolutionary questions." —Scott Schrage

JAY STORZ; JONNY RUZZO

OVERHEARD

"It's been my privilege to investigate the science and art of chess and those who master it."

—KENNETH KIEWRA, professor of educational psychology, upon being named the 2020 Chess Educator of the Year by the University of Texas at Dallas chess program.

SUMMER

Jerry Reif, shop manager at Nebraska Innovation Studio, works on a laser to cut clear plastic sheeting for face shields.

GREG NATHAN

ENGINEERING

Innovation Inspiration

NEBRASKA MAKERS PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR HEALTH WORKERS

In March Nebraska Innovation Studio closed to the public, but its leaders and members worked around the clock to produce face shields for hospitals across the state.

Personal protective equipment shortages were well documented throughout the United States as COVID-19 rapidly spread. Through 3D printing and partnerships with local businesses and individuals, a team at Nebraska Innovation Studio started manufacturing face shields for the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Bryan Health.

"We've had a volunteer army step up to help out with this," David Martin, director of Innovation Studio, said. "Either NIS members or people connected to NIS have been delivering 3D printed parts for the last week, and we've been putting them together."

Through additional partnerships with the University of Nebraska-based National Strategic Research Institute and private companies including Firespring, Midlands Packaging, Lincoln Tool and Design and Virtual Incision, a small team at Innovation Studio assembled around 1,000 shields a day.

The effort started when a representative of Bryan Health reached out to Nebraska Innovation Campus,

inquiring if the makerspace had the capability to produce personal protective equipment on 3D printers. A team of on-campus and community innovators — including Shane Farritor, Ben Terry, Max Wheeler, David Martin, Jerry Reif and others — formed to take on a monumental task of fulfilling a need of more than 13,000 face shields.

As of mid-May, 22,000 face shields had been produced and shipped to more than 45 Nebraska communities, to five states and a hospital in New York City.

"As soon as we started talking numbers, we realized that 3D printing didn't make sense, and we started exploring other paths," said Farritor, professor of engineering and founder of Virtual Incision.

It took only 10 days to go from the initial idea to mass production of parts, thanks to efforts from the campus and business community, Farritor said. "That's pretty special," Farritor said. "This may be the reason Innovation Studio exists — where people come together to make stuff happen that helps others."

The Terry Research Lab was able to do injection molding on campus, which allowed for making a face shield part every 30 seconds — much faster than 3D printing, which takes two to four hours per part.

Matt Newman, of the Terry Research Lab, worked over 100 hours in six days to design and build the mold, a process which typically takes four weeks. The compressed timeline was made possible due to help from Tony Wilson in his lab, as well as Robert Rhynalds, shop manager for the instruments shop in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; Jim McManis and Matthew Bartels, of the engineering machine shop; Mark Stroup of the AM/Neat Lab; and Lincoln Tool and Design, who provided plastic for the injection molding and consultation for the mold.

"It was a large group effort and many, many hours to get the machine up and running producing parts, but we're now able to do a part every 30 seconds," Terry, associate professor of mechanical and materials engineering, said.

Terry credited both the College of Engineering and the National Strategic Research Institute with quickly approving and funding his lab's contributions to the project.

"My lab is funded by NSRI, and I called our project sponsor and within five minutes we had funding and permission to do this," Terry said.

Max Wheeler, shop instructional technician for Innovation Studio, coordinated with private companies for the clear plastic shields to attach to the injection-molded headpieces. Midlands Packaging manufactured a die cutter used by Firespring to stamp out the clear plastic shields. —Deann Gayman

CRAIG CHANDLER

By early June more than 100,000 gallons of hand sanitizer had been produced and given away to organizations and others in the state.

HELPING HANDS

The University's Food Processing Center has partnered with the Nebraska ethanol industry to produce hand sanitizer for use by hospitals, nursing homes, doctors' offices and other health care providers in Nebraska and nearby areas.

The project began in mid-March, when Hunter Flodman, an assistant professor of practice in chemical and biomolecular engineering, and the Nebraska Ethanol Board began working with the federal Food and Drug Administration to relax its regulations so that fuel ethanol producers could provide their product to create hand sanitizer. Flodman serves as technical adviser to the Nebraska Ethanol Board.

"After hearing about shortages of hand sanitizer, we hoped we could find a way to overcome some of the obstacles our fuel-grade ethanol producers were facing — including navigating the FDA's regulations," Flodman said. "This partnership with the Food Processing Center is key. Without them, we would not have been able to make this happen."

More than 20 organizations are participating in the effort to provide important supplies to hospitals at no cost.

Nebraska Medicine, for example, uses up to 132 gallons of hand sanitizer each day, according to CEO James Linder.

BIG BRAG

Jeannette Eileen Jones, associate professor of history and ethnic studies, has earned a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. The fellowship awards a $50,000 stipend, which will help support the writing of her next book, *America in Africa: U.S. Empire, Race and the African Question, 1821-1919.*

SUMMER

JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Team Coverage

DATA JOURNALISTS GATHER FACTS FOR *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Mitch Smith

Lauryn Higgins

Libby Seline

An alumnus, faculty member and student are part of *The New York Times'* extensive coverage of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mitch Smith ('11) has worked for the *Times'* Chicago bureau since 2014. "The last story I did, I traveled to Omaha, where they were treating the cruise ship passengers and preparing for widespread (infection)," Smith said. "It focused on what it was like to treat the patients and what the road looked like going forward, and here we are."

When COVID-19 began spreading across the United States, Smith and his team saw a need to provide more accurate numbers for the public.

"I've been doing this pretty much full time for a month. We started in late January. My editor had this idea to start a spreadsheet that kept track of COVID-19-related deaths," Smith said. "When the toll began to climb, we realized we needed more help keeping track of the data."

Libby Seline, a junior journalism major, and Lauryn Higgins, a lecturer in advertising and public relations, began freelancing and collecting data for the Times after Smith contacted journalism faculty member Joe Starita searching for student journalists and freelancers he thought would be a good fit for the project.

Seline and Higgins help collect every confirmed death related to the coronavirus throughout the country. There are about 20 other Times reporters, college students and freelancers who are tasked with the same job on the project. During their eight-hour shifts, they use government websites, news stations and social media to confirm numbers. Sometimes county numbers and state numbers don't add up and that requires the data journalists to do some more digging.

During her first week on the job, Higgins learned that the best place to check on numbers is Twitter because health departments often update their numbers on social media before updating their websites. The team has also learned that just finding the statewide number is never enough.

The extra steps taken to gather data from sources at a county level are crucial in confirming cases. These steps give county health departments the opportunity to better understand their communities and see how that number compares to others.

The project has given Seline a new appreciation for the data-collection process. As an aspiring data journalist, she has taken every data journalism class offered in her college and even attended a data journalism conference earlier in the semester.

"In class, I'm just handed a stack of 1,000-column data, but now that I'm someone who puts that data together, I know how much work is being put into gathering it," Seline said. "It's also been fascinating to see what other reporters use this data for."

In gathering the data, the team has run into its fair share of challenges, but they're nimble and they do their best to stay ahead. One challenge is that they're trying to apply consistent rules across an inconsistent field because different health departments report varying amounts of information. Another issue is that as the numbers exponentially grow, states and health departments are changing how they report their data.

"I'm lucky to work at a place with people who are skilled in areas of technology and graphic news because it helps us adjust quickly," Smith said. "It's been this constant state of evolution, with a growing team, but that's what this situation has called for."

Smith is always thinking about how the team can use the data collected as a public good. He wants to identify patterns such as which communities have avoided the worst of the virus and which have been hit the hardest. Another main goal is to provide data that informs policy makers and researchers to help them understand what happened, what is happening and what they can do to help make sure this doesn't happen again.

"Journalism is documenting history and we want to do everything we can to provide a record that informs really smart journalism," Smith said.

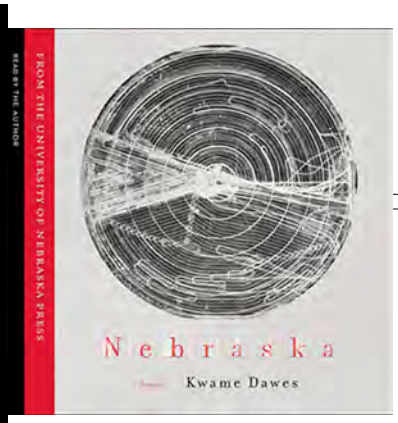
Reporting on fellow Americans who are suffering and dying is a somber task, but the team looks forward to having good news to share in the future.

"I'm excited for the day that we can start reporting on people who have recovered," Higgins said.

—Kaitlin Van Loon

DEVOUR

IN HUSKER COUNTRY



LISTEN

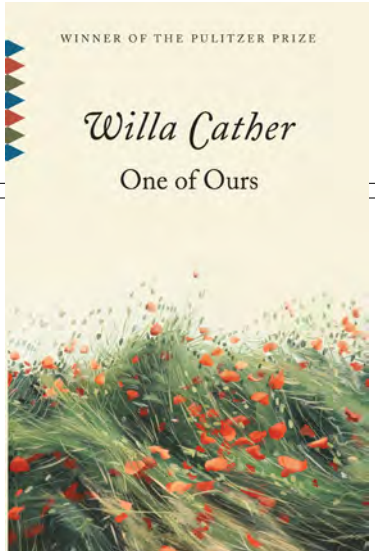
***Nebraska* Audiobook**

Professor of English and *Prairie Schooner* editor Kwame Dawes' visceral poetry comes to life through his own narration of his 2019 collection *Nebraska.* Dawes, who was born in Ghana and grew up in Jamaica, muses on distinctly Midwest seasons and open spaces as he searches for a sense of place in his life on the Great Plains.

READ

One of Ours

The 1923 Pulitzer Prize-winning book by alumna Willa Cather spins the tale of Nebraska native Claude Wheeler and his quest for purpose in life through turbulent wartime and the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. *One of Ours* is the first major American novel to extensively tackle pandemic themes, and now, almost 100 years later, is as relevant as ever.



WATCH

Heartland Docs, DVM

A husband-wife veterinary team (who also renovate buildings) has taken National Geographic Wild by storm with the first season of a new Nebraska-based reality TV show. Drs. Ben ('98) and Erin Schroeder tend to local animals in need, bringing compassion to their Hartington community, and a peek into a rural veterinary practice to the small screen.

WEAR

Greenstain Sustainable Apparel

Look good and feel even better knowing your Greenstain shirt is created from water-based ink and six recycled plastic bottles. Alumnus Gage Mruz's new sustainable apparel company even ensures one tree will be planted with every purchase. Mruz ('19) launched Greenstain through Nebraska Innovation Studio as a student entrepreneur.

LIGHT

Homesick Nebraska Candle

Nothing can hold a candle to being physically in Nebraska, but a Cornhusker State-scented wax blend can sure try. Pick up a Homesick candle that boasts aromas of football leather, fresh cut hay, thunderstorms and spicy tonka beans to recreate your home away from home.

LEARN

***A Beautiful Day* — Virtual Early Childhood Space**

Nebraska Extension has designed a virtual learning and play space for children and families experiencing social distancing. Its newest project is *A Beautiful Day,* a collection of video lessons and storybook readings that encourage children to appreciate the mundane magic of household chores, exercise, nature and more — even in times of uncertainty.

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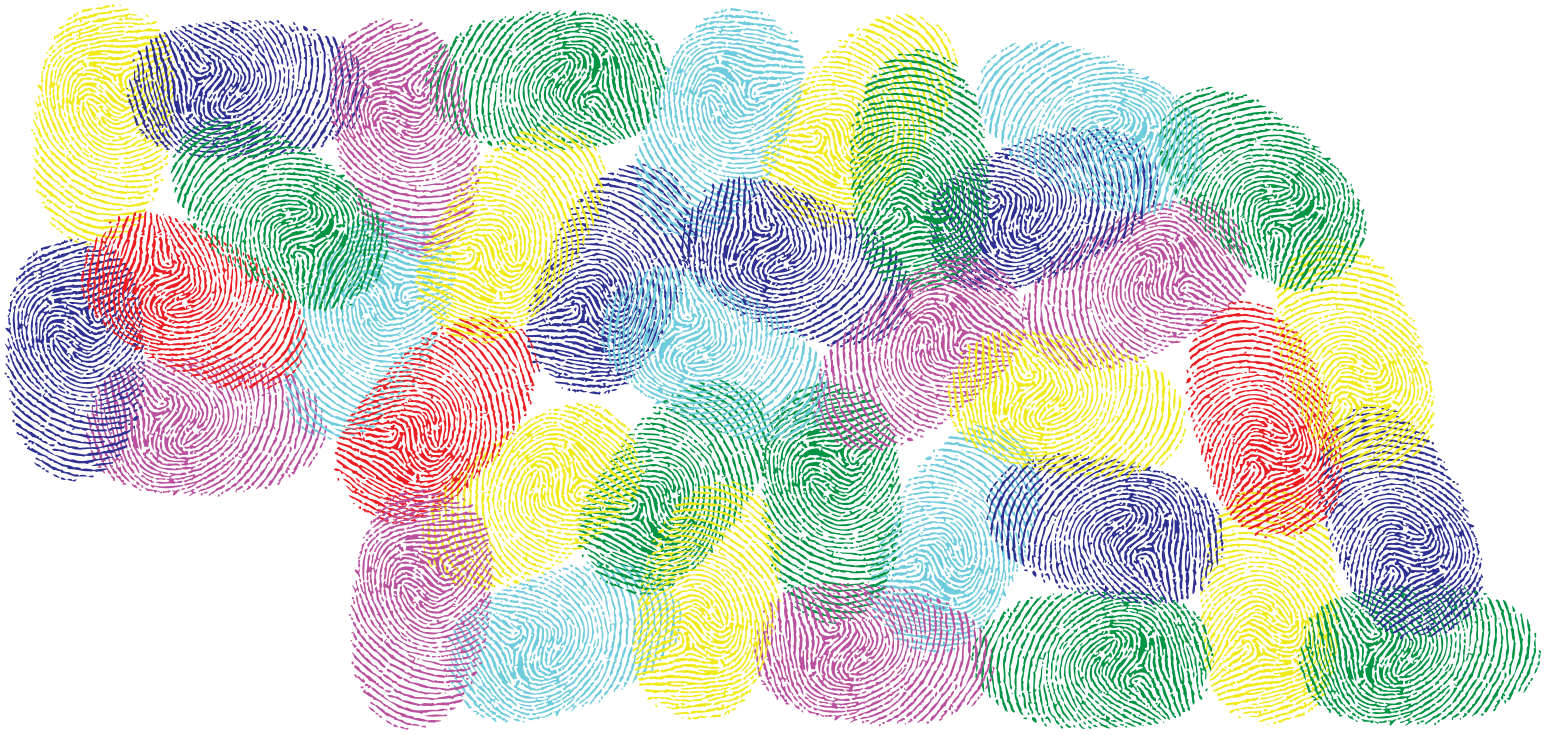
VOICES

The new vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion experiences Nebraska Nice as he settles in to life in the heartland. Recent graduate Karissa Schmidt writes about the semester that ended too soon for the Class of 2020.

KENNETH FERRIERA

▲ SWIMMING ALONG ***HEARST JOURNALISM AWARDS***
Kenneth Ferriera, who expects to graduate in August, tied for 12th place in the Hearst photojournalism news and features competition this year with his series of news, sports and features photos, including this one taken July 2019 of the Hartington Dolphins swim coach Anna Reifenrath. Ferriera has been a photography fellow with the *Omaha World-Herald* and a photo intern for the *Lincoln Journal Star*.



A Nebraska State of Mind

A transplant to the Heartland searches for the Good Life

BY DR. MARCO BARKER
Vice Chancellor, Diversity and Inclusion

Nothing says welcome to Nebraska like a healthy snowstorm!

My partner and I moved to Lincoln in early March 2019. We thought we had perfect timing for a beautiful spring relocation from Salt Lake City, Utah. While Lincoln, covered in snow across its streets and farmlands captured the town and country uniqueness of Lincoln and Lancaster County, it certainly made for a cold (in temperature) transition.

I did not know what to expect when I moved to Nebraska. I knew of Nebraska — as a Big Ten institution and football powerhouse nestled in the heartland of America, but not much about the state, the people or culture. I knew less about living in Lincoln. As a black man from the south who has lived mostly in southern states — Arkansas, Louisiana and North Carolina and who had spent some time in St. Louis and Salt Lake City, I feel I am fairly open-minded about new environments. But even with an open mind and heart, I know that moving to a new place always comes with the uncertainty of what it would mean to live and thrive in that new place. When I was offered the inaugural position as vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion and had decided to accept, I asked myself, 'Would Nebraska feel like home? Would it be the 'good life' for me and my partner? What would it be like to be a diversity and inclusion practitioner in Nebraska and start this new office?'

With Nebraska now my home, I wanted to learn about the state's value proposition — what do we tell others about who we are? In 2016, the state's new brand, "Good Life. Great Opportunity" was introduced. I understand that this state motto came from an old slogan, "The Good Life," which had been around for years and never went away. I think the state's brand is a powerful one in that it captures the

SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/QUENTIN LUENINGHOENER

essence of the human condition — having a good life. It is the state's commitment to providing a pathway for all — whether it is taking care of your farm or leading a community agency, you can make a life in Nebraska.

The decision to move to Nebraska and into an inaugural role did not come lightly. However, I saw the vice chancellor role as an opportunity to be part of fulfilling the university's and the state's mission to make Nebraska the good life for all and ensuring that everyone has boundless opportunities to learn, explore, innovate and create. It was amazing to arrive in Nebraska and at UNL and see so many different ideas and perspectives come together. That is the essence of my job, but more importantly what I consider my life's work. I absolutely agree that there is much opportunity at our university but also in our state for higher education, community development, commerce and agriculture that will and does depend on our ability to understand diversity and practice inclusion. As I learn more about the people of Nebraska, I can see why the new motto was endorsed. I see how the good life and how great opportunity promotes the state's brand. It captures the tenacity, talent, work ethic of the people and the potential of new ideas, collaborations and relationships that can only make Nebraska an ideal home and place to live, learn and work.

When asked, "so what do you do?" I never know if someone might think that diversity is liberal or irrelevant. Some people may think it is some form of affirmative action, which is different but worth a separate and important conversation. I have also heard others refer to diversity as quotas, which are illegal, and limits the meaning and scope of diversity and inclusion. When we explore and embrace the true definition of diversity, inclusion and equity, it can take us far in creating a good life and opportunity for everyone.

Generally, the next question is how do I define diversity, inclusion and equity? Simply put, I see diversity as differences. However, I see inclusion as our ability to intentionally and actively broaden our awareness and education about the complexity of differences across varying contexts; understand our relationship to others; and deeply care for those who are different from us. Lastly, I often explain equity as understanding and identifying how historical actions and treatments — even though we may not have personally played a part — can have outcomes today that create visible and invisible barriers across differences that we should address. After all, our institution has a long-standing commitment to access. Diversity is sometimes a messy business, but it is about connecting, healing, learning and reconciliation so that we are better together.

Speaking of being better together, I think I still like

CRAIG CHANDLER

"I see inclusion as our ability to intentionally and actively broaden our awareness and education about the complexity of differences across varying contexts."

Nebraska Nice as our tourism motto.

In addition to being 'nice,' I think it is equally important that this niceness is more than a slogan or initial impression. I think Nebraska Nice is an invitation to better understand each other first, reflect on how we relate to each other and have a deeper appreciation of all humanity. Remember, I just moved from a state people refer to as Utah Nice — yep, it's a thing there too.

Nebraska Nice is something I have already experienced — our state's handshake. I experienced it when I went to the DMV. Now, I am not sure if anyone ever says they like their DMV experience, but I found it welcoming; every person guided me through the process and explained everything. I saw Nebraska Nice exhibited again when I started working at UNL and individuals stopped by my office to say hello or invite me for lunch or tea.

So, after the initial niceties, what comes next? It is taking the time to learn more about our neighbor or someone with whom we share very little. It is having empathy and care for all, not just those who think and act like us? I think Nebraska Nice and what comes next is especially important during this pandemic where there is uncertainty and people's lives are at stake. I think we demonstrate what it means to be Nebraska Strong and Nebraska Nice. It's reflecting deeply on how we treat and value individuals, and particularly valuing Asian or Asian American members of our community, withholding judgment for anyone wearing a medical mask, and having compassion for those who may be ill. Let's show the world what it means for Nebraskans and guests of our state to experience the good life.

I am extremely proud to be a Nebraskan. **N**

RAIN IN ITS SEASON

BY CARSON VAUGHAN ('10)

ILLUSTRATION BY JONATHAN BARTLETT

THE JAIL WAS A BLACK HOLE beneath the courthouse, the ceiling low and the silence thick as a bull. A single kerosene lamp hung from a nail above the door, the glass coated in dust. Elijah Touhey sat in the dirt, head dripping between his knees, shirt glued to the bloody nubs of his spine.

"But I guess you saw this coming, such a gifted man as yourself," Amos said, his shadow spilling through the iron bars. "Do you control the skies, or just read them? Had half a mind to let the boys keep at it. This town needs something. Of course, you know that. You smelled the desperation — like shit in the wind. It reeks, Mr. Touhey, I'll give you that. These men, these ... gadabouts. Nothing to plant. Nothing to harvest. Just time, Mr. Touhey. Too much time."

After watching from a distance, Constable Amos J. Hunger had finally uncoupled the hose and canceled the whole idiot affair on Main Street. The mob cursed him every other way, fists clinched, but he knew they wouldn't touch him, not one of their own. (Ole Abel was proof of that, perpetually fuddled and airing his paunch on the wrong man's stoop. The ire and envy of every man in town — if only for his late wife — and yet he wakes again.) Amos ordered the fat man with the hose to unwrap Elijah, to put his feet back on the ground. As he hauled the sopping charlatan toward the courthouse, body limp as a scarecrow, the mob finally moseyed away, confused, as if wrestled from a dream.

"You prey on the weak, Mr. Touhey. It's a vile habit."

"Why am I here?"

"I'll think of something."

"I've committed no crime. I've taken no money."

The constable planted a stool beside the cage, planted himself on top, legs outstretched, heels cutting grooves in the dirt.

"They burned my wagon to the ground. They tortured me. They strung me up," Elijah whispered, his voice still raw. "They nearly drowned me, sheriff."

"The law isn't perfect, Mr. Touhey. I make improvements where I can."

"No rain, no pay — they won't hear me otherwise."

"What's the game, anyway? How does this go?"

"I ain't a rich man, sheriff."

"Well. They told me it stunk to high heaven. Your ... what do you call it? Your spectacle out there."

"I'll leave tonight. Never see me again."

"Please tell me, Mr. Touhey. How does one make it rain?"

"If I knew, I wouldn't be here."

"Some say it's war, Mr. Touhey. You've heard this? Well. I don't know. It rained on the French the next day. I remember that. Buckets — all day. And the wind, whipping them like tiny shards of glass while they marched away."

Amos fingered the keys hanging on his belt, drug back his heels one at a time. It never did fade: that feeling of foreignness. Hall County wasn't his home and never would be. The war. His twin brother. His father's mill. His mother's fresh roggenbrot. His dreams. His life. All of it back in West Prussia, as he still thought of it. Germany now. Baldenburg still green in his memory. Sometimes his native tongue still escaped. The migration left him ambivalent to

«

Nebraska, and that was before the fields cracked. He never really settled, never really cared, didn't trust anything he couldn't verify himself. This job was a paycheck, and what he didn't send home he drank straight from the bottle.

"You can't keep me here," Elijah said, bobbing his head against the bricks.

"Do you really believe?"

"Believe?"

"Do you believe you can make it rain?"

"I have before."

"Tell me, Mr. Touhey."

"He listens," he said, tilting his chin skyward. "Listened."

"I'm not sure who is more stupid: you or the crowd that strung you up."

"It ain't me who needs the vapors," Elijah said. "A broke man prayin' on his knees just ain't that convincing."

Amos looked over his shoulder. The empty basement corridors retreated into shadow. A faint rumble. A small cloud of dust sifted from the ceiling. Someone in the clerk's office above. Odd for a Saturday, though Hall County's business hours now seemed quaint, so rarely were they heeded. So little did they matter. Elijah spread his bloody fingers wide, balled them together again. He tapped one foot. Tapped the other. He stood up, steadying himself against the wall. He coughed a nervous cough, shot a quick smile to the constable.

"It's just faith, sheriff," he said, his voice renewed. "But there ain't no schedule."

"Ain't that the truth."

Another growl upstairs. Amos paused long enough to lose interest. The two of them stood there, looking past each other as the silence pooled up around them. Elijah felt himself unfolding. Inflating. Again. He smelled worms.

"Enjoy your evening, Mr. Touhey."

* * *

But the courthouse was empty. Amos had lost track of time, and when he finally left Elijah, he ascended into another darkness. He stepped lightly through the rotunda, as if he were trespassing, holding his rusty lantern against the office windows: nothing but shadows and cluttered desks. His shouts echoed through the limestone building. He heard the rumble again, much louder now, but only when the halls flashed white did the obvious occur to him. He kept moving, squinting behind the lantern. The front doors rattled up ahead. Another blinding flash. He could see tree branches beneath his eyelids, a kaleidoscope of purple and black, shadows within shadows within shadows.

The floor grew slick and sloshed beneath his boots. The water pulsed like a bleeding artery beneath the door. Still unbelieving, he cupped his hands to the window and peered outside. Rapids ran through the street. A gunny sack caught on the flagpole outside. Tiny islands of straw floated past. A tin can. A shirt. A fence post. An envelope. His breath fogged the glass, cool against his forehead.

Amos hadn't prayed since he landed in Nebraska. He wasn't about to start now, though he could feel the world closing in, his chest tightening with every labored breath, his jaw locked tight, so he took another swig and cursed God instead, lobbing obscenities off the roof.

In the distance, Amos could barely make out another light. Maybe two. He thought of his house, its shaky foundation, its patchwork roof. Then his neighbors. The families still in soddies outside of town. The men he'd sent home earlier that day, the same who paid his wages. He thought of Abel, passed out on his porch if he was lucky, facedown and bloating halfway to the Missouri if he wasn't. The gravity — the sudden guilt of responsibility — buckled his knees and the lantern in his hand began to shake, clanking against the glass, and he didn't know where to begin, but he pushed his way outside, throwing his shoulder into the door, and the wind really did smell like shit now, like he was facedown at the sale barn, and he took two steps down and the water swam between his knees, oily and black, and the debris clung to his legs as he waded toward the lights, forearm shielding his face from the rain, and for an instant he thought, again, of the French at Sedan, already surrendered, marching toward internment beneath a furious sky, and then he was halfway across the street, and the light in Quick's Saloon was swinging back and forth in someone's hand and he could feel something sharp chewing on his ankle beneath the

water, slowing him down, until finally he heard a voice and he trailed it inside.

"Nothing here for you," Quick said, something hollow in his voice, standing barefoot on the bar with a box of liquor in his hand.

Amos stepped inside, untangled the coil of barbed wire from his boot. He lifted the whiskey from Quick's box without answer and took a pull.

"How long?"

Quick stared at him.

"I was in the bullpen," Amos said. "How long has it been like this?"

"A few hours now. Come outta nowhere," he said, water trickling down the mirror behind him. And then: "I saw her."

Amos took another swig, caught a glimpse of his own pathetic reflection: hair flat against his forehead, a cut below his eye, shirt clinging to his gut.

"I never believed 'em. But she was standing right there, Amos. Smilin' like there weren't no care in the world."

"Where's Abel?"

"She waved at me. I know she's gone." He spoke softly, swallowed hard. "She waved at me."

The constable corked the bottle and headed upstairs for the roof.

"You ain't gonna like what you find up there," Quick said, almost an afterthought, and he turned back to the missing front door, the pale yellow haze skipping off the chop.

With one arm still clinging to the ladder, Amos cracked the hatch and recoiled as a gust tore it from his grip. He muscled through and rolled onto his back, water slapping the wooden steps below, then crawled on all fours to the parapet, past gaping holes that exposed the simple bedrooms inside, his shirt billowing in surrender. Over the ledge: a world of shadows. A buggy lodged in the crook of an elm. A raft of telegraph poles jammed in the butcher's window. A mauled American flag rippling like confetti outside the post office. He heard a gunshot and breaking glass, a bawling heifer, thunder and more thunder and wood slapping wood, and in the distance, he could see — or could he? — a large boxy shadow slowly spinning circles, a blinking orange glow inside, the whole unit grinding forward in spurts. The moan was growing louder, a rubbery whine, and Hall County flickered white and white again, and seconds later he met a pale child in the window, just feet away, eyes wide open, a lantern in his hand, and the house nudged the saloon — knocking Amos back — and it spun again and the orange glow blinked away and as quickly as it had come it was gone, another silhouette coursing through the night.

Amos hadn't prayed since he landed in Nebraska. He wasn't about to start now, though he could feel the world closing in, his chest tightening with every labored breath, his jaw locked tight, so he took another swig and cursed God instead, lobbing obscenities off the roof. He took another pull, and then one more. His jaw relaxed and his limbs began to limber and he hooked his thumb through the keyring on his belt. The key to his home, likely uprooted. The key to his iron safe, his family letters likely swamped. The key to the jail, where Mr. Touhey ....

The whiskey slipped from Amos' hand.

* * *

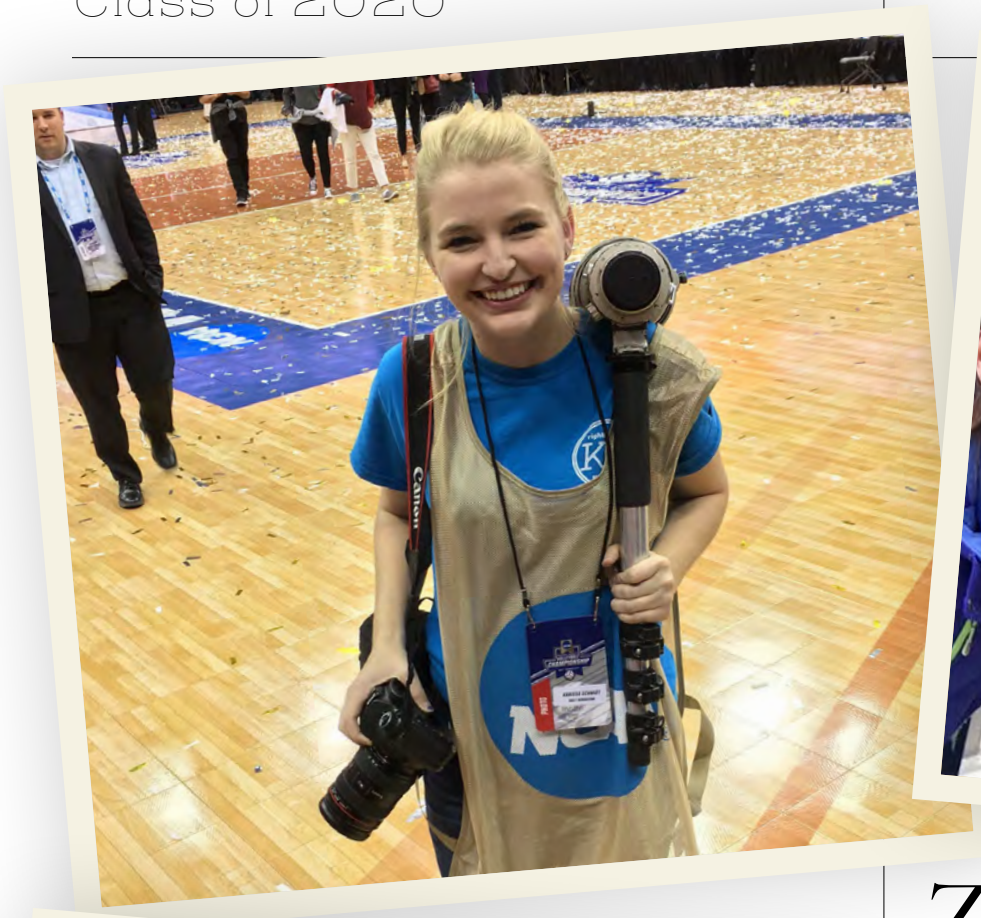
Elijah's mind played tricks in the dark, unraveling phantom threads of light that lingered in his periphery. He tried to sleep, to pass the night in dreams, but the floor was too hard, and the air had cooled — his arms were covered in gooseflesh — and his mind raced with lust for the rain he knew was pouring or about to pour down from above. He wheeled through joyous hypotheticals: townsmen rejoicing in the streets, hats off to catch the rain, steam lifting from the brick façade of Main Street; the fat man who sprayed him down, shaking him by the shoulders, drenching him with apology and praise, insisting he take a drink; the sheriff unlocking the door, red in the face, shaking his hand before sending him off with a new wagon proffered by the city council, the *Gazette* photographer insisting he stand still just a moment longer. He imagined returning to Lincoln, taking a victory lap around the university, around the chemistry lab, forgiving his professor's doubts with a tip of his broad-brimmed hat — a gentleman through and through. He imagined the smell of a thousand dollars cash.

He prayed. He thanked God.

In lieu of sight, he traced his finger along the wall beside him, searching for sensation, stopping for every tiny protrusion, every grain, every crack, as if the wall itself were a braille tablet. He crawled on his knees from one end of his cell to the other, his work briefly interrupted by the muffled clap of thunder overhead, money to his ears, until he hit the steel bars, slick now, and his knee slipped beneath him. He fell with a splash and laughed, picturing the flooded fields above, the shopkeepers sweeping waves of muddy water out the door.

He wasn't smiling two hours later, his legs fully submerged. He could feel the water running down the walls, the cracks growing wider by the minute, could hear it rushing in somewhere distant. He knew he was alone, shouted anyway, shouted until his voice gave out and only his own beating heart remained. He prayed again.

... to be continued in the fall issue of
Nebraska Quarterly



Zero Goodbyes

BY KARISSA SCHMIDT ('20)
Editor-in-chief, The Daily Nebraskan (2019-20)

Well, Class of 2020, these past few years have been unforgettable, as they should be. I never would have believed you if you told me our freshman year that we would be finishing our college degree entirely online while adhering to stay-at-home orders.

After the transition to remote learning and weeks spent locked in my house, I've had more than enough time for self-reflection. What I have thought about most is how the Class of 2020 is missing the final and most rewarding part of the college experience.

On the day of the announcement, I was sitting in my introductory meteorology class surrounded by mostly underclassmen. The room started to fill with whispers and eventually, someone let the professor in on the news: classes would transition to completely online after spring break.

I had entered the classroom that day, not knowing it would be my last ever in-person class of my entire educational career.

Fast forward a few weeks, I now roll out of bed each morning to complete my coursework from the comfort of my bedroom, dining room or living room — whichever room I find to make me most productive that day. I listen to lectures through Zoom and complete coursework online. I email my professors for help and read their replies on a screen instead of showing up to their office to talk in person. Every form of communication I have besides conversations with my roommates is through technology. Honestly, it feels like we are all now the humans in the animated movie *WALL-E* who only interact through a screen.

This change hit me harder than I anticipated. Truthfully, I feel selfish complaining about my situation when people all over the world are dying from the pandemic. However, I also believe it's important to take a few minutes for ourselves and care for our own sadness. That is what this letter is about.

I'd like to think I can speak on behalf of the entire student body when I say that dealing with this change in our lives isn't easy. Art students can no longer spend all their time at the studios in Richards Hall. Music students' final performances are canceled after months of practice. Science students now work on labs digitally and may not be able to complete their final research. Student teachers are losing their last few weeks of practice with their students. Athletes won't have their chance to break records, win championships and finish out their collegiate careers. The list goes on.

Me? I lost my last few weeks in *The Daily Nebraskan* newsroom. I am a student, but I am also the editor-in-chief of UNL's student publication. I have spent the last three and a half years in the basement of the Nebraska Union surrounded by fellow student journalists. With our newsroom closed, I now spend all of my time doing the work I love from home, away from my co-workers and the environment that makes all of the work worth it. I thought I still had time to enjoy being in that newsroom and spending time with my staff. Now, our end-of-the-year banquet is canceled and we won't publish our last magazine since no one is on campus to read it.

I thought I had time to enjoy my final months of college. As college students, we aren't just getting an education, we are getting experience that will stick with us forever. We learn how to be independent. We learn how to be a good friend. We learn how to have fun. Beyond getting an education, college is about learning who we are and enjoying our last few years of freedom before the "real world." We will never get it back, and honestly, that really sucks.

Besides this, I think what hits most of us the hardest is graduation.

We've worked for four (or more) years to take a short walk across the Pinnacle Bank Arena stage to receive our diplomas. That one day is our chance to celebrate our accomplishments and that piece of paper is our ticket to the world. Graduation is a chance for our family to watch us walk across that stage and appear on the other side as a Nebraska graduate. That day is our day. And it's a day that we look forward to the minute we step foot on campus as a freshman.

While the Class of 2020 will end our college career unceremoniously, we will forever be known as the class that persisted through troubling times. We lost our chance to say our final goodbyes to the university we love so much, and we are now saying hello to a future that is still uncertain.

We will overcome any challenge that comes next because we are the Class of 2020, the class that transitioned, persevered and succeeded. **N**

KARISSA SCHMIDT

PANDEMIC

ACADEMICS

A full century after the Spanish flu, the university decides to shutter again

BY VAN JENSEN ('04)

The illness announced itself to campus on a Tuesday.

To that point, the virus had existed as a distant threat; one would hear rumors of infections spreading across other countries and cities, of hospitals overflowing with the sick, morgues overflowing with the dead.

Then, all at once, eleven students were sick. One in the hospital, the others confined to their homes.

That day's edition of *The Daily Nebraskan* proclaimed on its front page: "Spanish Influenza Makes Appearance at University, Authorities May Have to Adopt Severe Preventive Methods."

It was Oct. 1, 1918, and the Spanish flu pandemic was only beginning to wreak damage at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Students were advised to avoid crowds and "take care in regard to expectorating in the buildings."

The virus would go on to take some 50-100 million lives worldwide, and kill an estimated 2,800-7,500 Nebraskans, according to the State Historical Society. It would also dramatically change the way the world looked at contagions and create preparation measures — at the university and beyond — for the next time an illness spread like wildfire around the globe.

Now, just more than a century later, a new pandemic — COVID-19 — rages, shuttering the university, and sickening and killing scores of people. The lessons learned from the past are visible, even as this new virus attacks in its own way, impacting not just the university, but the lives of alumni worldwide.

COVID-19 was first identified as a new infection in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. It appeared with symptoms of fever, fatigue and a dry cough, though it was notable both in the different ways it could manifest and that it seemed to spread even among those showing no symptoms.

In January, it arrived in the United States, where it gained a foothold in Seattle. Sean Fisher ('13), saw the spread firsthand at the University of Washington Medical Center, where he's in the third year of residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery. Even as the hospital was inundated — and knowing staff were at high risk — Fisher said every doctor was focused only on treating the ill. "You have a job to do," Fisher told KLKN-TV.

Around the country, healthcare workers would soon find themselves facing the same gauntlet.

London (Bridge) Nelson ('89), is a nurse in trauma and acute care surgery at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. "It began to hit home for me, and it raised concern about potential community effects when the governor announced the closing of schools and restaurants" in March, Nelson said. "That was the same week when shoppers mobbed the stores. I began feeling some panic then."

COURTESY HISTORY NEBRASKA

It was December 1918 in Shelby, Nebraska, when citizens donned masks to reduce the risks of contracting the Spanish flu.

At the end of March, the first cases began to appear at the hospital. “Like everywhere else, the response was swift and serious,” Nelson said. “The hospital suspended family and other visitors right away.”

Like hospitals around the country, Regions has juggled resources, creating COVID units, where patients often need to be intubated as the virus attacks their lungs. In mid-April, they were waiting for an expected surge in cases, which could fill the hospital’s ICU beds and exhaust its supply of ventilators and protective gear for staff.

Nelson said it’s been heartening to see the community support for healthcare and other essential workers. They’ve received donated meals, handmade masks and countless notes. At the same time, she’s been bracing for worse to come. “Knowing that if this spreads the way it has in New York, there's a real possibility I'll be dealing with patients on their last days,” she said. “I have some experience with expected patient death, but nothing like this.”

With the threat of COVID growing nationally, in March, schools began to shutter, and state and local governments restricted businesses and movement of people. On March 12, Chancellor Ronnie Green announced that classes would be canceled March 16-20, and that after spring break, all classes would be taught remotely. On April 7, the University of Nebraska system closed its campuses entirely.

* * * *

In 1918, the Board of Regents had resisted shuttering the university even as the Spanish flu infected more and more students. It took two weeks — and numerous student deaths — before the State Health Board forced UNL to close. Amid the COVID crisis, the university’s current leadership was proactive in ensuring the virus wouldn’t devastate students.

As faculty members rushed to familiarize themselves with new technologies to move their coursework and grading to a remote system, students rushed to find ways to get back home.

Jason Dunn (’12), had moved to New York City to experience its famed hustle and bustle. At first, as COVID cases began to appear, the city’s mayor told residents to continue as normal. Dunn kept commuting from his home in Harlem to his office at TLC Marketing in Manhattan.

“Then it felt like it hit all at once,” Dunn said. “The city was shut down, and we had to adjust to this new New York.”

He’d been working from home for a month as of mid-April, leaving only when he was out of clean clothes and needed to risk a trip to a laundromat. Still, he felt lucky. Some of his co-workers had been furloughed.

Outside, it felt like the set of a post-apocalyptic movie, he said. No one walking. No cars or taxis.

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1918 PRICE FIVE CENTS

GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER CONTROL OF VALLEY SPORTS

SPANISH INFLUENZA MAKES APPEARANCE AT UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITIES OVER COUNTRY IN IMPRESSIVE S. A. T. C. CEREMONIES

SPANISH INFLUENZA MAKES APPEARANCE AT UNIVERSITY

Authorities May Have to Adopt Severe Preventive Methods

Already a Dozen Cases Have Been Reported to the Commandant

The epidemic of Spanish influenza which has visited army camps and cities all over the country, and which is piling up a huge death toll wherever it makes its attacks, has reached Lincoln and now has made its appearance in the University. Every effort will be made to check the epidemic before it gets a foothold on the campus. In spite of precautions now being taken eleven cases are already known to be among students. One student was sent to the hospital Tuesday and several others are confined to their homes.

All cases among S. A. T. C. men should be reported to Captain Hamilton as soon as known. Any other cases, whether among students or not, should be reported immediately to Dr. R. G. Clapp, in order that any necessary precautions or quarantines can be made.

Play Safe

Dean Carl C. Engberg when asked what he considered was the best thing to do in the present epidemic said: "The safe thing to do is to play safe," and follow the precautions outlined by

How To Gua

Student an

“It’s nothing but sirens here anymore,” he said, describing the nonstop sound of ambulances rushing COVID patients to overwhelmed hospitals.

New York has had some 220,000 cases and 16,000 deaths from the virus by that point. Dunn is sure that his roommate had it; he had all the symptoms. And Dunn thinks he had a mild case. He lost his sense of smell — one more of the illness’ strange manifestations.

Dunn couldn’t find masks or gloves, so his parents mailed him some from Grand Island. While he said he’s stir crazy, he can’t bring himself to go outside. “Everywhere you go, you’re on edge. The whole point, to get out, is to get fresh air, to reset a bit,” he said. “It makes me more nervous.”

Dunn is the president of the NYC Huskers alumni group, and he said they’ve kept in touch through a Slack channel. To lift everyone’s spirits, he was planning a trivia night. But like everything else, it would have to be held remotely.

Eric Kamler (’15), thought he’d already had an eventful start to his first term as mayor of Geneva,

Neb. The city has built a fire station, finished a housing development and opened a dog park. And Kamler overcame a recall attempt.

Then, the specter of the Coronavirus loomed, and the city began preparing to keep its citizens safe. "It's been an adventure," Kamler said.

While there were no confirmed cases of COVID in Fillmore County in mid-April, there were eight cases in surrounding communities.

City leadership began planning a COVID response in mid-February, and they've closed city facilities and worked with businesses to encourage them to maintain best practices.

Kamler is focused on protecting the elderly population, which is particularly at risk to the virus. He closed the city's senior center, but the staff is delivering meals to low-income seniors.

Meanwhile, he's also tending to Alchemy Aqua Vitae, the bar he co-owns in Lincoln. It had been financially successful, allowing it to survive when Lincoln shut down bars and restaurants.

They're still selling pre-mixed cocktails, available by the mason jar. Kamler said those had been a hit, but they're just eking by.

Kamler is a fifth-generation farmer, and his parents still live on the farm outside Geneva, where planting season was underway. Because farming poses so many risks, financial and otherwise, Kamler said he was prepared to weather a storm. "You make it day by day," he said. "Just believe that there's light at the end of the tunnel."

* * * *

By midway through April, COVID's damage was extending from health into the economy. More than 20 million people had filed for unemployment benefits as businesses remained closed across the country.

At the same time, the stock market spasmed. Watching over this was Andrew Greer ('15), a financial adviser with Ameriprise Financial in Lincoln.

He knew the virus could damage supply chains and weaken global markets even before it reached America, and the U.S. markets were poised for a correction.

Then, markets plummeted. "We call this a 'falling knife' because it is extremely dangerous to react to it," Greer said.

Greer has welcomed the time at home with his wife and kids even as it's been a struggle to not see clients and friends in person. And while he had hope that things would begin to stabilize, he was waiting to see the virus' full impact on businesses.

"We will learn soon enough whether the current rally is sustainable, and whether this time just might be different," Greer said. "However, another leg down in the market before a sustained rally seems most likely."

ALYSSA HYNES

Simone Bilha, a dining service team leader in the Willa Cather Dining Center, reports to work. Students unable to return home stayed in campus housing and continued to pick up food at the dining halls.

* * * *

Looking through *The Daily Nebraskan* archives from 1918, there would be one story per day about the pandemic, and often it would lament forced closures or the cancellation of football games.

Students falling ill and dying were often footnotes, constrained to inside pages. It's impossible to gain any real idea of how many fell victim to the virus, though at least hundreds of students were said to be sickened.

Some of this could owe to the fact that the world remained locked in World War I. And on Oct. 18, as campus remained closed, *The Daily Nebraskan* was taken over by the government, to serve as the official publication of the Student Army Training Corps — the equivalent of the ROTC.

Censorship was common during the war, but in this case it meant that even as the DN was the most prominent newspaper in Lincoln, its coverage focused on painting the SATC in the best light. Even though SATC members were struck hard by influenza, more coverage was given to one unit's mascot — a pet dog.

The importance of information and communication in combating a crisis is something Lee Rood ('90), knows all about. Rood, an investigative reporter for the *Des Moines Register* in Iowa, covered the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks from Ground Zero in New York.

She said in many ways, COVID is a bigger story,

March 12
Chancellor Ronnie Green cancels classes March 16-20, effectively starting spring break one week early.

March 12
Winter and spring sports, including wrestling and baseball, are canceled for the remainder of the season.

March 17
The Nebraska football spring game, scheduled for April 18, is canceled.

March 31
May graduation ceremonies at Pinnacle Bank Arena are canceled.

April 7
University of Nebraska system closes its non-essential buildings on campus.

April 24
Green announces plans to hold in-person classes for fall semester.

May 9
3,478 students are conferred with degrees during a 30-minute virtual ceremony.

CRAIG CHANDLER

causing far more deaths and a far greater impact on people's lives. Covering it, meanwhile, is one of the greatest struggles of her career.

"So many people rely on news sources that aren't credible," she said. "Information spreads through social media with no regard for where it comes from. Professional journalists are just trying to get good, unbiased information out there for people to process."

So, while Rood has abided by social distancing, she said she hasn't been surprised when she sees groups out in public who are sharing drinks.

At the end of March, the *Register* announced three-week furloughs for Rood and many employees. She was stuck at home, keeping an eye on the news out of California and Seattle and New York, where she has family.

Rood, who worked at *The Daily Nebraskan* in college, said that in some ways the furlough has been welcome. She's relaxing, trying to get good sleep and staying off of social media. Because, soon enough, she would be returning to the job she loves.

"I know when I go back to work on Monday, I've got to hit the ground running," she said.

* * * *

In looking back at 1918, maybe the ultimate lesson about pandemics is that, for as much damage as they do and as much tumult as they cause, eventually, mercifully, they do end.

A century ago the university closed on Oct. 14, and the entire state went under a quarantine on Oct. 22. But by early November, the university reopened to students. The "enforced vacation has been a dull one for both soldiers and girls," an article notes.

Soon, focus would be back to social gatherings and the big Husker matchup against Notre Dame.

The impact, however, lingered. There were those who had died, and all those who grieved the dead.

For famed Nebraska author Willa Cather (1895, 1917), the Spanish flu pandemic stayed in her thoughts for years as she worked on what would become her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *One of Ours*. It tells the story of a Nebraskan gone off to fight in World War I, who sees the horrors of illness and war. A novel that ends with a searing portrait of a mother gripped by relief and sorrow:

"She feels as if God had saved him from some horrible suffering, some horrible end. For as she reads, she thinks those slayers of themselves were all so like him; they were the ones who had hoped extravagantly — who in order to do what they did had to hope extravagantly, and to believe passionately. And they found they had hoped and believed too much. But one she knew, who could ill bear disillusion ... safe, safe." **N**

The entire campus, including the green space between Mueller Tower and Love Library, remained devoid of students throughout the spring semester.

James Wooldridge studies in his Lincoln apartment at the end of March as learning moved online.

LEARNING CURVE

When the coronavirus struck, instructors simultaneously shifted to remote learning

For nine years, Brian Wilson has worked on the Instructional Design Team at the university, kicking the tires on new methods and technologies for teaching and sharing the effective ones with faculty members.

This was slow and steady work, convincing tenured professors to shift their practices or take up new, digital ways of instruction. Last year, that work folded into the new Center for Transformative Teaching.

Then, in March, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the United States, university leadership decided that after spring break, the rest of the semester would be taught remotely.

Wilson and his collaborators had been watching the news and preparing, but still, the shift was sudden. In one week, they had to get every faculty member up to speed on managing class loads through the internet.

"Our goal wasn't to make the best online instructors but to move to remote instruction quickly," Wilson said. "A lot had never touched this technology, and we didn't want to overwhelm them in a time that was already overwhelming."

They focused on what was absolutely necessary to keep classes running and created a repository of information on pedagogical strategy and assessment. The team held countless video conference chats with professors, talking through the problems they were having.

The learning curve was sharp, exacerbated by website crashes and systems being overloaded as colleges and schools around the country went online.

The Instructional Design Team isn't tech support. But because they know the technology, Wilson said they would coach faculty members through their IT needs.

"Our biggest ongoing challenge is to respond to things quickly," Wilson said. "A lot has had to happen in the snap of a finger. Administration comes to us and says, 'We're doing this, can you develop something for us — and have it in a week?' That's been stressful."

As challenging as this time has been, Wilson retained some optimism that it could be a paradigm shift in moving teachers to new, more effective methods all at once.

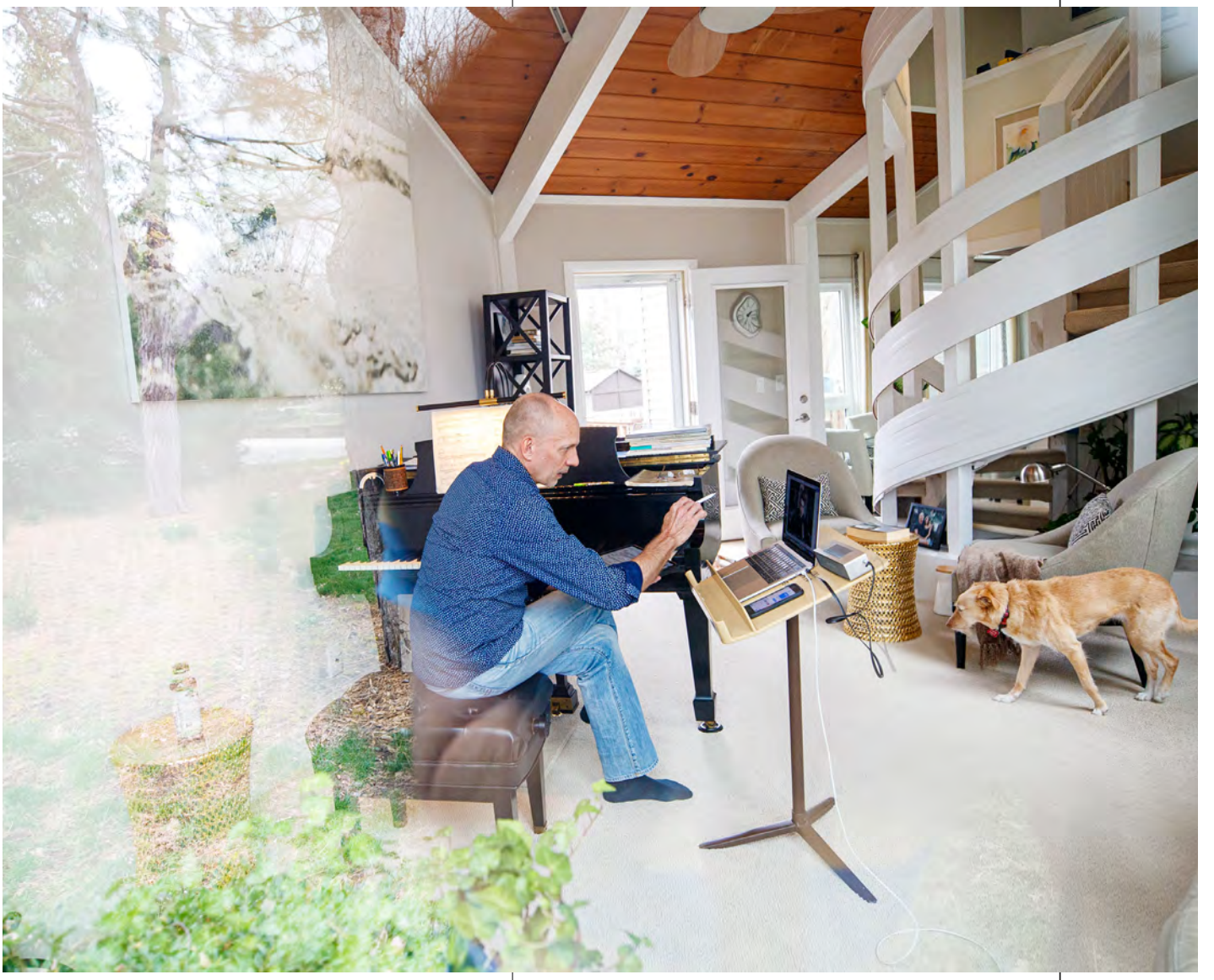
"Some will come out of this learning new things about their own teaching and the technologies and strategies they can leverage," he said. Also, "It's going to teach us what we can do when pressed. We're all being asked to respond to an unprecedented situation."

While the university faculty made that rapid shift, so too did the numerous alumni of Nebraska's College of Education and Human Sciences working as teachers at schools around the state and the country.

Caitlin Bell ('11) considers herself fortunate. She's a sixth-grade humanities teacher at Mickle Middle School in Lincoln. When the school district closed, curriculum specialists provided two weeks' worth of online content, which gave teachers time to figure out how to teach from their homes.

"Before all of this I was not a technology guru, but now I feel more capable than ever about what's available to use online," Bell said. "It makes

JAMES WOOLDRIDGE



CRAIG CHANDLER

me excited for next year and how I will develop my lessons and engagement with students. I feel there's so much more I can do to ensure that I make the learning fun, as well as teaching in a new, more technological savvy way."

Bell also is on the student side of the equation, as she is enrolled at the university to pursue a master's degree in education administration. She said there weren't any classes focused on remote learning during her undergraduate work, and she wants to see the university add more of that training.

Those skills include managing Zoom meetings, overseeing a Google classroom, recording and distributing videos and managing one-on-one meetings online. Bell also noted she's had to adjust quickly.

There are students who don't have internet access that she doesn't want to leave behind. And there are students who want to talk about anything other than academics, because they're bored or struggling at home.

"It's challenging to get students who maybe don't have the most stable, or best home environment to log on and do their assignments and lessons," she said. "Instead those kids are taking care of siblings and the house while parents work."

Above all, she said, she hears from students that the confinement and stress of the pandemic is affecting them as much as it is adults.

"I don't think they ever thought that they'd be missing school and want to be in classes as much as they do right now," she said. "I also wrote each of my students a friendly letter, and they each wrote back to me. It was interesting to read how each of them was doing, what they've been up to, and their favorite sixth grade memory. Their letters made me want to cry." —Van Jensen

Professor Paul Barnes continues one-on-one instruction with student Cameron Berta, who is at home in Dallas.

BY CARSON VAUGHAN ('10)

TRACTOR FACTOR

Testing began on East Campus a century ago and keeps on rolling

It's a crisp afternoon in February. Ashen clouds feather the sky above the university's East Campus, and fresh snow paints the half-mile track outside Splinter Labs. Barring, say, an unforeseen global pandemic, nearly every new make and model of farm tractor sold in the United States will crawl its way around come spring, towing a train of heavy machinery and instrumentation behind it, every action and reaction measured and recorded and published free online for consumers the world over. Inside, Georgia-native Roger Hoy, director of the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab, stands beside a hulking steel apparatus, something called a dynamometer, speaking a foreign language in dad sneakers and tired Levi's. A poetry of pique torque and partial throttle, of RPMs and PTO.

"We spend an hour at rated engine speed, which is normally where the PTO claim is made. We take the average one-hour ratings to determine the power. We do a lug run — basically what power the tractor can create at each rpm fully loaded — at 50 rpm increments...," he says, arms crossed and swaying on his heels. He's on autopilot, the protocol so deeply ingrained after 14 years at the helm he can recite it like the *Pledge of Allegiance*. "Somewhere in that curve we find out where pique torque exists and we figure out where the max power condition is, so we might run another hour at maximum power, and then we have about 18 partial-throttle, partial-load points we run to give the whole map of performance."

Tractors being tested are hooked to the yellow instrument vehicle and other tractors as needed to produce drag on the testing tractor.

CRAIG CHANDLER

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This pre-1936 photograph of the test track located on East Campus, shows the campus steam plant in the background. The men are riding on a Caterpillar D8 diesel crawler during a drawbar test.

Come July, the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab will celebrate its 100th anniversary. One hundred years of consumer protection. One hundred years of cooperation with the world's leading tractor manufacturers. One hundred years of keeping the industry accountable, one tractor at a time, more than 2,200 tractors total. When the lab closed down temporarily in spring due to COVID-19, it was just the second time in its sterling run and the first since WWII, when tractor manufacturers halted production of new models.

And if the recent debut of a new ice cream flavor at the UNL Dairy Store — Tractor Test Toffee — isn't enough to convince you of the significance, consider this: Nebraska's test lab was the first and only independent tractor testing facility in the western hemisphere. One hundred years later, it still is. "It's maybe not famous to the general population, but within the field," Hoy says, "it's a real star in the constellation of agriculture."

* * *

On Feb. 11, 1919, Nebraska's capitol building was electric, the House gallery overflowing. They had come — the Germans from Russia, the Danish Lutherans, the Bohemians and the Jews — to protest the Siman Act, a blatantly xenophobic bill that aimed to outlaw foreign languages in both public and private schools. But Rep. Wilmot Crozier, a Democrat and 35-year-old farmer from Osceola, had something else on his mind that rainy afternoon — something else catalyzed, ultimately, by the war. He was thinking about tractors, had been for years now, how the damn things never seemed to work as advertised, how too many were marooned in Nebraska farmyards at that very moment, how the wrinkles in his bill to regulate the industry had been ironed out in committee and would pass through to final reading that very afternoon barring any unforeseen hiccups. He didn't have a dog in the language fight — not publicly, anyhow — but he had a captive audience regardless, and now he had the floor.

"For the benefit of a crowded gallery, an extravagant program of oratory was carried out," The *Nebraska State Journal* reported. "There was little real opposition to the bill, but supporters took occasion to defend it as tho [sic] the very life were at stake."

Less than a year earlier, Crozier had read an editorial in *Nebraska Farmer* by C.W. Pugsley, soon to become assistant secretary of agriculture under President Warren Harding, claiming that "irresponsible concerns are manufacturing tractors merely to sell and not to run." A graduate of Northwestern University, Crozier understood the matter all too well. After passing his U.S. Civil Service Exam and serving for four years as a division superintendent for the Bureau of Education in the Philippines, he returned to the family farm near Osceola. Since

"The test lab existed originally because of the law, but I think the real reason it continues to exist is because it's just had an unparalleled reputation for reporting the data very objectively and very honestly."

ROGER HOY, PH.D.
Professor of Biological Systems Engineering, Director of Nebraska Test Laboratory

then, he'd watched as the horse and mule gave way to steam traction and eventually internal combustion engines, had "followed many a queer-looking contraption around the demonstration fields," he later wrote, and he'd begun to invest in the technology himself. "That is," he added, "I invested in the cheapest one that had wheels."

He first purchased a new Ford Model B, manufactured not by the famous automaker, but a Minneapolis company attempting to capitalize on the name's cache. Neither this nor its replacement, both "excuses for tractors," he wrote, worked as advertised. They frequently broke down, and when they did, both service technicians and spare parts were scarce. Only when he finally acquired a Rumely Oil Pull from the Advance-Rumely Company of La Porte, Ind., was Crozier finally satisfied, and now corresponding with Pugsley, he began to wonder if there wasn't a way — in this new era of power farming — to protect farmers from fraudulent claims. Nearly 165,000 tractors were sold in 1918, compared to just 14,000 four years earlier.

"If there ever was a need for a metaphorical yardstick," he wrote, "it is found when you get into the tractor game."

And thus Wilmot Flint Crozier, a fluid conversationalist with a steady gaze and thick black eyebrows, rose to the defense of a bill that needed none: the Nebraska Tractor Test Law, one of the first consumer-protection bills in the country, and one that would influence farmers worldwide.

"The farmer has always protested against certain practices in the tractor business, but he has protested singly," he later wrote. "Now he speaks with a voice that, at least, is being given attention."

* * *

The Nebraska Tractor Test Law sailed through the House two days after Crozier's grand opus with

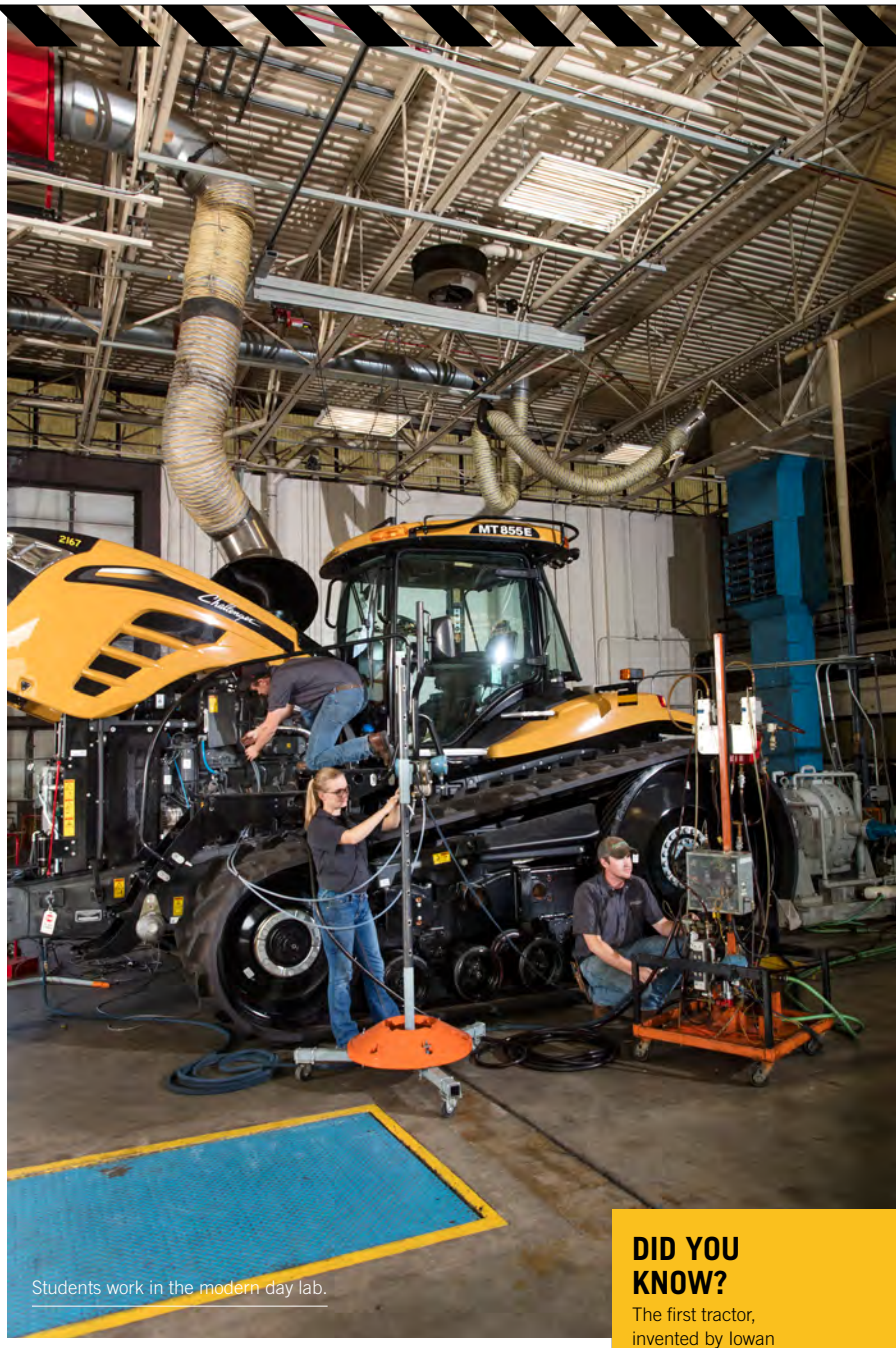
just two dissenting votes. It required all tractors sold in Nebraska to pass inspection by engineers at the University of Nebraska, and also that replacement parts be made readily available within the state, assigning enforcement duties to the state railway commission. (Enforcement duties were transferred to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in 1967.) The law was punishable by a fee of no less than $100 and no more than $500 for each offense. Whether Crozier knew it or not, both North Dakota and Missouri were considering similar legislation at the time. Both dropped the matter when Crozier's passed, content to draft behind Nebraska's leadership.

"The eyes of the agricultural engineering world are now on this state," wrote *The Nebraska State Journal* later that year.

Crozier's bill was unique as legislation, but tractor testing itself was hardly a new idea. Up and down the Great Plains, from Canada to Texas, tractor trials flourished in the early 20th century as the technology rapidly improved. The events drew thousands to a carnival atmosphere — watermelon feeds, coronation balls, dog shows, cannon fire — providing both a showcase for tractor manufacturers and a trial run for prospective buyers. Many of the "demonstration fields" upon which Crozier followed all those "queer-looking contraptions," in fact, were likely an hour east of his farm in Fremont, then home to the largest tractor show in the world. All day long throughout the weeklong event, hundreds of tractors assembled by dozens of manufacturers simultaneously plowed hundreds of acres. Roughly 60,000 people attended the event in 1916, including Henry Ford, who brought his son and his orchestra and introduced the first Fordson tractors, still then in the experimental stage.

By the time Crozier and his friend Charles Warner, a state senator, drafted the Nebraska Tractor Test Law, the shows were dying down — tractors no longer a novelty and the dealers more easily accessible — but the marketing had ballooned and the fraudulent claims ran wild. When the bill was enacted that July, the Board of Regents assigned testing duties to the Department of Agricultural Engineering, a pioneer among American universities, chaired by L.W. Chase, who had previously served as a referee for the annual plowing trials in Winnipeg.

A half-mile cinder track and temporary building were soon erected on UNL's East Campus, and with the input of both farmers and the manufacturers themselves — one of many goodwill gestures that kept the industry supportive — the new testing board approved the inspection guidelines. Among them were assessments for horsepower, endurance, fuel consumption and more. It was a "stupendous task," Chase told the *Lincoln Sunday Star*, and one that required no small amount of innovation by his three-man team. To keep the process as autonomous as possible, and therefore eschew any human error or bias, a first-of-its-kind dynamometer car was frankensteined together using an electrical generator mounted to a three-speed tractor chassis in place of the engine, the whole unit pulled by a traction dynamometer. One could then adjust the load by increasing the generator's current.



Students work in the modern day lab.

CRAIG CHANDLER

"At first it was taken for granted that the large manufacturing concerns would be opposed," according to *The Nebraska State Journal* when the testing first began. "But this is not so. Large manufacturers hail with joy a means by which the soundness and efficiency of their products can be tested."

By the end of 1919, Chase had received applications from 42 companies for a total of 86 different

DID YOU KNOW?

The first tractor, invented by Iowan John Froelich, was the first tractor design proven to be a success. In the fall of 1892, it was used to thresh 72,000 bushels of grain. Froelich's tractor design inspired the formation of the Waterloo Gasoline Traction Engine Company, which was later purchased by John Deere.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1920, more than 2,200 models have been tested at the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory. Today tractor performance is determined by measuring the horsepower available through the tractor drawbar, power take-off and hydraulic systems. In addition, tractor lift capacity and sound levels are tested.

Students help perform the tractor testing on East Campus.

CRAIG CHANDLER

models. The first complete test was conducted on a John Deere Waterloo Boy Model N 12-25 in the spring of 1920, and now, 100 years later, the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab remains the standard bearer for tractor testing worldwide.

"A really interesting thing happened. As soon as we started testing, the disreputable manufacturers were pretty much weeded out right away, and the reputable manufacturers remained," says tractor lab director Hoy, also a professor of biological systems engineering at UNL. "Their marketing departments started competing on the test results in Nebraska, and that goes on to this day."

* * *

Though its mission has never budged, the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab has evolved considerably over 100 years. Once free for the manufacturer, each test now costs roughly $24,000. Engineers have come and gone. Directors, too. The original cinder track was upgraded to cement in 1956, and widened from 15 to 22 feet in 2007 to accommodate the growing models. In 1980, the lab moved from its original building to the new Splinter Labs behind it. Keeping pace with the latest technology, the dynamometer car has been updated multiple times, and the lab has introduced new tests for everything from emissions to the noise levels inside the cab. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, levels above 85 decibels can damage hearing.

"So that immediately became a number to compete on," Hoy says. "Nowadays, you get in a cab-equipped tractor, you might well be at 67 or 68 decibels. I don't want to say we were all that caused equipment to become quieter, but I do think we were maybe a catalyst."

In 1986, the law was amended again to align Nebraska's test codes with those of the Organization for Economic Coordination and Development; essentially, to prevent unnecessary double testing for manufacturers hoping to sell outside the United States. The OECD, a 36-member intergovernmental economic group based in Paris, had begun testing tractors in the 1970s, using codes partially developed by none other than Lester Larsen, chief engineer of the Nebraska lab from 1946 to 1975 and a luminary in the field. So when Nebraska adopted the OECD procedures, it was in many ways chasing its own tail. Today, the lab on East Campus is also the OECD's only designated North American testing station.

"It's allowed the manufacturers' input to come into the OECD schemes, because most of the other designated authorities around the world are governmental institutions," says Hoy, who formerly worked for John Deere's Product Engineering Center. "So manufacturers don't really have a voice at the table except for the United States, and I think that's made the testing codes all the better from having that input."

When the development of a new tractor nears completion and the marketing campaign is all but ready to launch, the manufacturer sends a copy of both the operating manual and any printed advertising material to the test lab. Once the test is scheduled, the manufacturer can apply for a temporary sales permit, allowing them to begin distribution immediately. Depending on the number of models

already scheduled, however, this window can last up to a year and half, and moving forward in the meantime is a risk — if the tractors don't perform as advertised, they're bound by Nebraska law to modify every unit already sold until it either complies with the advertising or satisfies the customer. When the weather cooperates and both the tractor and testing facility are running properly, each test takes roughly three days, and unless the manufacturer chooses to withdraw from testing, the final report is published online.

"The test lab existed originally because of the law, but I think the real reason it continues to exist is because it's just had an unparalleled reputation for reporting the data very objectively and very honestly," Hoy says. "We don't play favorites here."

* * *

But occasionally, the lab is forced to defend itself. In the mid-1990s, the Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association began lobbying state senators to repeal Crozier's law, claiming it unfairly limited both the marketplace for Nebraska farmers and sales opportunities for Nebraska dealers. The group finally found a senator willing to sponsor the bill in 2003, but the grassroots pushback was immediate. More than 1,800 people signed a petition supporting the test lab, most of them members of agricultural groups like Grange, the Farmers Union and the American Corn Growers Association. But the real nail in the coffin, Hoy says, was "one heck of an editorial" by columnist Charlene Fink in *Farm Journal*. Without the law in place, she claimed, none of the tractor companies would voluntarily pay for testing. In fact, most had confidentially told her so.

"Many things have changed in the industry since 1920, but one thing hasn't: Farmers in Nebraska — and every state — deserve to have independent tractor testing to prove that the machines do what manufacturers claim they do," she wrote. "The more consolidated and competitive the tractor business becomes, the more important objective testing is to the buyer."

Suddenly Nebraska's state senators were flooded with letters not just from Nebraska, but all over the world. "That kind of turned it off," Hoy says, at least for a while, though every few years the dealers association would return, and Hoy would find himself defending the lab before another legislative committee. Finally, in 2012, a bipartisan group hammered out a compromise, raising the permit threshold from 40 to 100 horsepower tractors, while simultaneously stripping tax exemption from every untested tractor, regardless of horsepower.

But the question remains: can the lab survive without the law? Would it? "I don't really know," Hoy says. "We didn't want to test that."

* * *

The original building — deemed a historic landmark by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in 1980 — huddles just up the sidewalk from Splinter Labs, its stucco exterior white as the snowy evergreens in the parking lot. Inside: the history of all that horsepower, more than 40 antique models on display, polished and gleaming in the spotlight, from the original Ford tractors that fooled farmers like Crozier to the Rumely Oil-Pull that reaffirmed his faith in the technology. Named for the former chief engineer, the Lester Tractor Museum was officially certified by the Board of Regents in 1998, two years before his death, incorporating many of the tractors from his own collection.

Tractors arrive for testing in 1940.

It's a quiet museum, even more so in winter when the lab is on hiatus. Regardless, former board president Don Edwards sits inside, waiting for the next visitor. Once the dean of UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and an emeritus professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, he's perhaps the most overqualified museum docent in the state. He speaks the lingo, too, understands Hoy at pique torque and full throttle. Tractor testing is, by nature, inside baseball, but together they possess incredible fuel efficiency when approached by an unwitting observer: just one or two questions, and they'll run for hours.

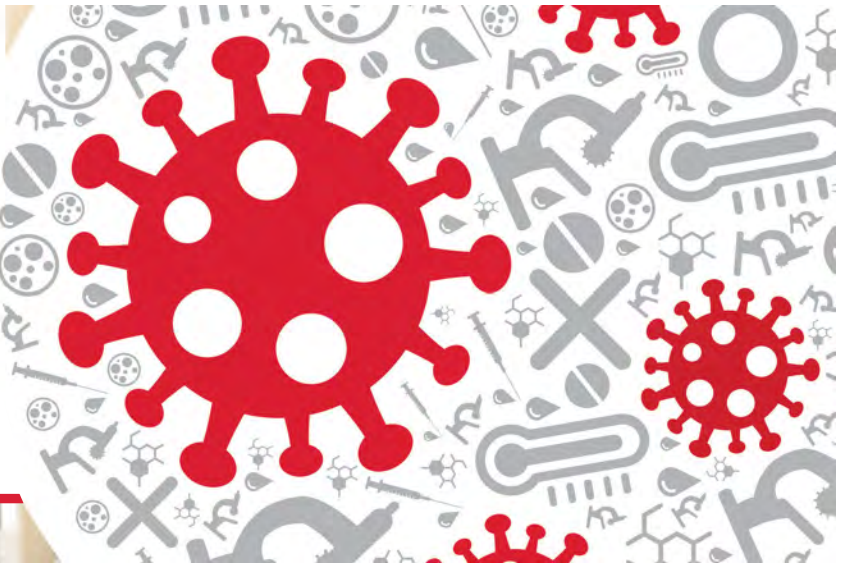
"This is the original building, so when they talk about needing a bigger space, it's like, 'Don't mess with it — just rotate 'em!' " Edwards says after Hoy heads back to the lab. "But there's so much history in here also. This represents WWI, the Depression, WWII, the gasoline-kerosene era. How did John Deere come to be? Why is John Deere green and yellow? It's all right here. That's why we always like the opportunity to show people through here, because yeah, you can walk through and see all the tractors. And yeah, you can see all the names and all that..."

Edwards pauses for just a moment, head swiveling to survey the room. There's a glimmer in his eye, like an archaeologist standing before the Acropolis. "But the stories that go with them are just incredible." **N**

DID YOU KNOW?

Power is the rate at which work is performed. It is calculated when a force is multiplied by a distance and divided by time. Horsepower was used to compare the power of an engine with the power of a horse. A horse could pull 150 pounds at a rate of 2.5 miles an hour, or 220 feet per minute.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



COVID-19

Help make challenging times a little less challenging.

For months the effects of COVID-19 have stretched across our campus, our city, our state and our world. The pandemic has affected the health of thousands of Nebraskans and has financially impacted many, many more. It is a difficult time for us all, but the crisis has created especially adverse hardships for many students and employees of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Many of you have asked how you might offer some assistance. For those of you who are able to make a gift in this time of crisis, the University of Nebraska Foundation has three funds that will help.

University of Nebraska Emergency Assistance Fund
Created to support students and employees on all four campuses who face sudden financial hardship that makes it difficult to purchase groceries, pay rent and cover other monthly expenses.

UNL Student Hardship Fund
A fund dedicated to the students of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln who are experiencing financial difficulties due to a crisis, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.

UNL Food Pantry Fund
The Husker Pantry provides basic food items and other daily necessities like toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, shampoo and toilet paper to UNL students at no cost.

To contribute to any of these funds, visit nufoundation.org/unlcovid19 or call the University of Nebraska Foundation at 800-432-3216.

University of Nebraska FOUNDATION

BULLETIN

SCOTT BRUHN/NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

Tracking Strong

Angela Mercurio ('19) was a three-time All-American in the triple jump and a two-time academic All-American during her days as a student-athlete at Nebraska. She graduated with a 3.99 GPA, and will attend Harvard Medical School. In October she was named the NCAA Woman of the Year.

>>

VIRTUAL EVENTS

JUNE

Jazz in June
You don't have to be in Lincoln this year to enjoy five Tuesday nights of jazz streaming on Facebook Live throughout June. Info: **jazzinjune.com**

JULY

Virtual Engagement
It is a crazy time, but also a great time to engage with the university wherever you are. We've added a plethora of online alumni-centric events, including plenty of career enrichment webinars available to all at **huskeralum.org/virtual-engagement**

AUGUST

Nebraska Extension
From kids programming to professional development webinars, Nebraska Extension has virtual events for all interests. **huskeralum.org/virtual-events**

Angela Mercurio was named the NCAA Woman of the Year at an October ceremony in Indianapolis. She is the second Husker to receive the honor, joining former volleyball player Billie Winsett-Fletcher, who won the award in 1996.

Alumni Profile

Wonder Woman

NCAA Woman of the Year draws strength from helping mentor young women

BY MATTHEW HANSEN ('03)

You ask Angela Mercurio to name one memory from college, and her answer reveals something fascinating about the most fascinating University of Nebraska-Lincoln athlete you maybe never heard of.

One memory. She could pick the time she won a Big 10 triple jump title, or the sparkling grade-point average that now allows Mercurio her pick of Ivy League medical schools, or the painful post-graduation decision to give up an Olympic dream, or what she did to make life better for minority Husker athletes, or when she won a prestigious NCAA award previously awarded to future gold medalists and Hall of Famers.

She could pick any of those, but instead, asked to name a single memory, she chooses the catapult and the quiet girl in the back of the classroom.

In Angela Mercurio's free time — that tiny slice of hours between triple jumping, double majoring in biochemistry and women's and gender studies,

teaching a college science lab and founding and running a student group — she used to volunteer to teach an after-school STEM course (science, technology, engineering and math) to middle-school girls.

She prepared the curriculum, planned experiments, taught the girls about hypotheses and conclusions, even though she wasn't making a cent. Even though she could have been studying, lifting weights, sleeping.

It was worth it the day they built catapults.

They discussed physics. They shot things across the room. A group of 13-year-old girls got jazzed about engineering. After they finished, Angela asked the class: How do we improve this experiment next time?

A girl in the back, a girl who hadn't breathed a word all semester, raised her hand.

"I wonder what would happen if we added more elastic bands?" she said. "I wonder if we could make the catapult stronger?"

This happened a few years ago. Angela still screams, "YES!" when she thinks about it.

"To see her and see all of them be so engaged, to watch this stuff come alive for them ... I will never forget it," Mercurio says. "That's the most memorable moment for me."

There are a few other noteworthy moments in the one-of-a-kind career of Angela Mercurio.

The first is that it almost didn't happen.

After signing with Coach Gary Pepin's track team to triple jump in college, the high school senior from Ontario, Canada, went to a doctor to diagnose her knee pain. It wasn't tendinitis. It was a tumor.

A doctor told her she would likely never triple jump again. Forget triple jumping: She might never walk normally again.

The tumor was removed in Nebraska, the post-operative prognosis improved dramatically, and after redshirting her first year in Lincoln, Mercurio was back to triple jumping, though a bit behind her peers.

"It's important to remember that she got a late start," says Tierra Williams, a fellow triple jumper who became Mercurio's roommate and one of her closest friends. "It wasn't really until her senior year that she really got to a point where she knew what she was doing."

That growth became apparent during the indoor track season of 2019, Mercurio's last. She jumped her personal indoor best, 43-feet-6-inches, in February. Then she went to the Big Ten Championships and won them. Then she went to the NCAA Championships and finished ninth.

She had transformed herself from an unknown Canadian high school athlete who might never compete again into an all-conference and second-team All-American jumper.

Impressive. And also arguably the least interesting thing about her time in Lincoln.

While she was honing her triple jump form, Mercurio was also taking one of the most rigorous course loads you can imagine, pairing one of the hardest majors at UNL — biochemistry — with her growing interest in helping women, which led to her second major in women's and gender studies.

And she didn't just survive this double major while spending hours each day training for the triple jump.

Mercurio got an A in every college course she ever took ... except for one. It was an advanced physics course she took during her junior year, and yes, she's still a little mad about it.

"It was a test where one answer builds on another, and if you get the first one wrong, you get them all wrong. I got Part A wrong. Dumb mistake. I multiplied instead of divided."

She finished with a 3.99 GPA. She did so while serving as a teaching assistant for four classes, teaching a section of a UNL science lab, completing a 300-hour biochemistry research project on a subject — how two cellular kinases affect foreign DNA transfection and BAF localization — every bit as complicated as it sounds.

While transforming herself into a second-team All-American triple jumper, she also transformed herself into a second-team Academic All-American.

And yet, that still doesn't capture the full picture of Mercurio's time at Nebraska. Because at the same time she excelled on the track and in the classroom, Angela Mercuio worked to improve the lives of the university's minority female athletes.

The campus group, Sisters United, was born in Mercurio's mind the day that Tierra Williams, also an accomplished triple jumper and student athlete, returned home from a job fair deeply shaken.

At the job fair, Williams says, she strode up to recruiter after recruiter. She handed out her resume, confident that she was qualified for many available jobs.

But every time Williams' friend — a tall blonde white woman — would stand beside her, the recruiter's attention would shift to her friend, she says. It happened so often that Williams began questioning the braids in her hair. She began wondering whether her track career had sheltered her from the reality

TIM NWACHUKWU/NCAA PHOTOS

Athletic Director Bill Moos, left, and Chancellor Ronnie Green flank Angela Mercurio who was given a shout out at the Iowa-Nebraska football game last fall.

SCOTT BRUHN/NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

of being a black woman in the real world.

"At some point, I couldn't do anything (at the job fair)," Williams says. "I just started crying."

Williams, crying again, told Mercurio about her experience the next morning. Mercurio asked a question that pulled something positive from the shards of the experience. "What are we going to do about this?"

"And I was like, 'Crap, what are we going to do about this?' " Williams says.

Together, the two friends invited every minority female athlete to join Sisters United, a group centered on the struggles and shared experience of minority women. They invited guest speakers. They connected the members to professionals who could help further their educations or jumpstart their careers. And they simply talked about their experiences with overt and covert bigotry, about problems big and small.

"You don't realize how isolating this is until you come together and really start speaking about shared experience," Williams says.

At the time, the athletic department had hardly any women of color on staff, and no diversity and inclusion director, Williams says. Today, Williams works for the athletic department, as do several other women of color. The athletic department hired a diversity and inclusion director.

The momentum started with Sisters United, Williams says.

Mercurio "was definitely a leader there," Williams says. "She has a proven record. She knows what she's doing. She's dedicated. She gets along with people. People listen to her."

The capstone of Mercurio's college career came when she walked up to a podium inside an Indianapolis ballroom last October, several months after she graduated with honors.

She had just been announced as the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year, the highest honor the NCAA gives to a female athlete. Previous winners include basketball legend Rebecca Lobo, Olympic gold medalist Kim Black and world-record-setting swimmer Kristy Kowal.

"You don't want to give too much weight to external validation," she says. "But to me, personally, it really spoke to how much I got done in the past five years. And it's validation for Nebraska ... a great athletic program, amazing academic programs and so many opportunities to do research and really excel inside and outside the classroom."

Angela Mercurio had a post-collegiate dream to train single-mindedly for the first time in her life, try to add a foot or two to her personal best and make the Canadian Olympic team.

Instead, in her last collegiate track meet, she took a warmup jump and felt a pop in her calf. It was a severe pull, the kind that takes months to fully heal. And, while she couldn't walk, Mercurio reassessed her future.

It was hard to give up the triple jump. But she had another dream.

Today, Angela Mercurio is finishing up a year conducting research at an orthopedic hospital that specializes in treating women.

She was accepted to the medical schools at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Penn, Washington University in St. Louis, and others. She ultimately chose Harvard.

Maybe she will be an orthopedic surgeon: Only 6% are women, she tells me. Maybe she will do research on women's health, women's bodies and medical biases based on gender.

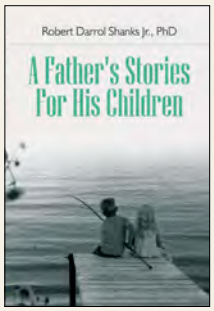
Whatever she does, it will relate, in some way, to that quiet girl in the back of the room, the young girl that Angela Mercurio helped to find her voice.

"I want to help women," she says. "Based on everything I have done, that's the one thing that makes sense." **N**

ADVERTISEMENT

NEBRASKAAUTHORS

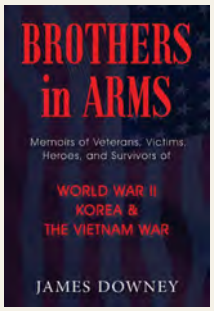
Featured books by Nebraska alumni, faculty and staff



A Father's Stories For His Children

Robert Darrol Shanks Jr.

Shanks, a former educator and retired USAF officer, draws upon that background and his upbringing to spark discussions not only in school but at home as well. Originally written for his own children and grandchildren, these Biblically-grounded stories deal with real life issues all kids face. *Available online at Amazon.com.*



Brothers in Arms

James Downey

BROTHERS IN ARMS vividly captures memoirs of veterans, victims, heroes and survivors of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, brought to life with 130 historic photos and documents. Soldiers, POWs and civilians share their remarkable stories of courage and sacrifice to preserve our freedom. *Available online at Amazon.com.*

30 - My Newspaper Life

Ramon D. Hansen

This autobiography of the 1949 NU journalism grad traces the challenges of printing his own newspaper through six decades of weeklies, semi-weeklies and a small daily. Hansen captures the drama and the agony of printing with hot lead, Linotype and flat-head presses through the "cold type" revolution. *Available online at Amazon.com.*

Treasure of the Blue Whale

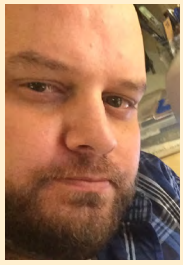
Steven Mayfield

In this whimsical tale set in the Great Depression, Connor O'Halloran offers to share a treasure he's discovered on the beach, then conspires with a handful of town leaders to save their sleepy, seaside village from financial ruin when it turns out that the treasure is not real. *https://www.regalhousepublishing.com/product/treasure-of-the-blue-whale/*

Grad Profile

Hands-on Husker

Theater alum sews masks for New York City hospitals



David Tousley

Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film alumnus and New York City resident David Tousley ('15) is using his theater and sewing skills to help sew masks for hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Toward the end of our first week of quarantine, I was feeling very depressed and defeated," Tousley said. "I reached out to the New York City artist community to see if anyone was in need of a sewer to help out, and the responses were immediate. I didn't have a sewing machine of my own, so I created a GoFundMe, and in about an hour, I had enough donations to order one."

He joined two groups that are bringing together fashion and theater artists to make masks. Tousley is able to make 25 masks a day. "The groups have delivery drivers who deliver patterns that have been cut and prepped so that I just need to assemble, sew and apply the elastic straps," he said.

Tousley has lived in New York City since he graduated from the Carson School in 2015. "It's been a non-stop whirlwind of project after project. Non-stop until a few weeks ago," he said in April. "I try to get outside and see the sun when I can. The news has been terrifying, but I'm trying to stay positive."

"New York is a very scary place right now," Tousley said. "We know people are dying at a very rapid rate, and our lives have been turned upside down. Most of us have lost our jobs, but we are trying to stay positive. It's so strange to live in a busy city like New York City, where you take the subway every day and are used to being in crowded areas, and then to live a life avoiding people at all costs. It's so strange."

Prior to work stopping as the pandemic hit, Tousley had several projects in the works. "I was in the middle of creating all of the graphics for the second season of The History Channel's show called *The Food That Built America*," he said. "I was also drafting for Momentum Worldwide, a total brand experience agency. My most recent project as an assistant on Broadway is the new musical *Don't Stop Til You Get Enough* designed by Derek McLane. This is the new Michael Jackson musical, which was set to open this summer. I have no idea when Broadway will open up again. It's quite eerie to see the theater district so empty."

He never imagined his theater and sewing skills coming to good use during a health crisis. "I did not, but I'm so happy I can help," Tousley said. "My grandma taught me how to hand sew when I was eight years old, and soon after that, I started sewing using her machine. I would spend summers quilting and making gowns for my cousin's Barbie dolls. I did a ton of sewing (at UNL) making props and costumes. We made some fun costumes, including a dinosaur and a woolly mammoth. These masks are a walk in the park compared to that mammoth."

—Kathe Andersen

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?

KOSMET KLUB

Frank Solich ('66, '72) was Prince Kosmet in 1966. He later became the head football coach from 1998-2003.

Kosmet Klub, one of UNL's oldest and most storied student organizations, held its first theatrical performance, *The Diplomat*, at the Oliver Theatre on May 3, 1911, and its last performance, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Student Union on April 15, 1973.

So, why did an organization whose alumni included former Nebraska Gov. Norbert Tiemann (a past president of Kosmet Klub), Glenn Korff (for whom the School of Music is named), and W. Joyce Ayres (who wrote the lyrics for *Hail Varsity* which was performed for the first time by the Men's Glee Club on Nov. 21, 1936 at Kosmet Klub's Fall Revue), and which featured performers like Johnny Carson (for whom the School of Theatre and Film; and the Center for Emerging Media Arts is named) go out of business?

The death of Kosmet Klub's very profitable Fall Revue (last held in fall 1969), which featured skits presented by all-male living units until it went coed during its last year, spelled the beginning of the end for the organization because the profits from the fall show were no longer available to subsidize the club's unprofitable spring shows (e.g., *Camelot* cost $20,000 in spring 1969 and *Cabaret* cost $18,000 in spring 1970).

In fall 1972 when I took over as president, Kosmet Klub was $4,000 in debt. We decided to put on one last spring show, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, to erase the debt. After ten successful performances (five at the Lincoln Community Playhouse and five at the Student Union), Kosmet Klub was at break-even, and we ended its 62-year run.

— Mike Wirth ('73)

BULLETIN

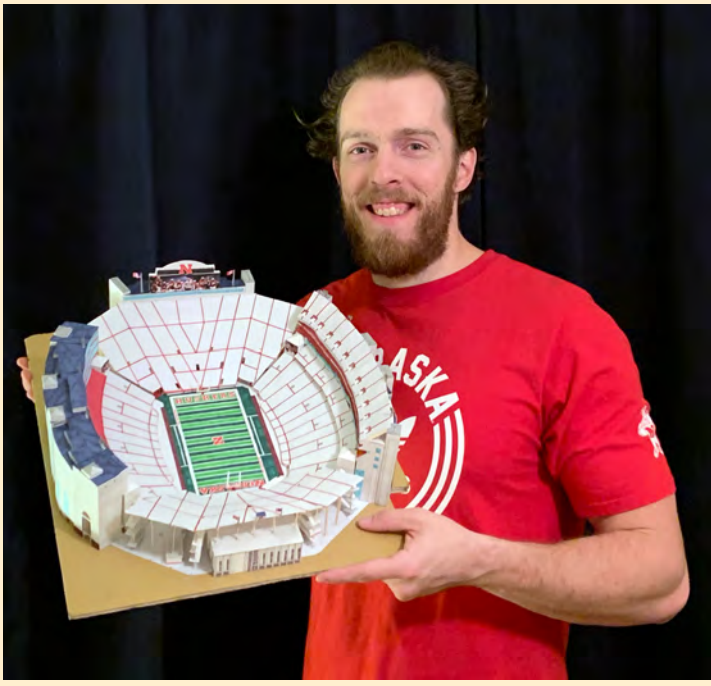
ALL IN

MASTER STADIUM CRAFTER

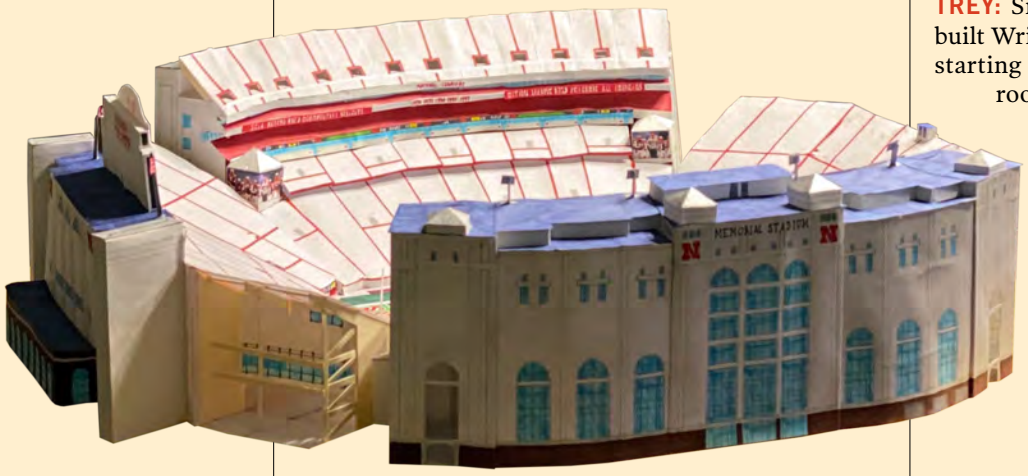
As a kid, Papillion physical education teacher Trey Ashby was obsessed with drawing stadiums. He would often forget to pay attention in class because he was busy sketching. Time passed and he abandoned his artistic pastime. That is, until two years ago, when Ashby resurrected his old hobby as a way to fight boredom after his wife, Samantha, and their two boys went to bed. Drawing stadiums turned into making scale models, first out of cardboard, then out of paper.

Last November, after three months of labor, Ashby unveiled a creation that spoke to his dedication to Husker Nation — a paper Memorial Stadium measuring in at 20-inches by 15-inches and 6 inches tall. It cost him nothing, but it won the hearts of crafters and Nebraska fans alike. Ashby is a lifelong Husker fan; he earned his bachelor's degree from University of Nebraska Omaha in 2014 and his master's degree in educational administration from UNL in 2019.

To the curious, keep up with Ashby's newest projects and peruse his past builds through Twitter (@PaperStadiums) and YouTube (Paper Stadiums).



Data from Google maps helped Trey Ashby get the details exact on his paper model of Memorial Stadium.



DESCRIBE THE PROCESS.

TREY: I used an overhead Google maps image of Memorial Stadium and mapped it out on a large piece of cardboard. I used paper clamps to stand the structural pieces of paper up at a 90-degree angle while the glue dried. Then I glued all the cosmetic pieces to them to create the stadium. One of the things I challenge myself to do is draw everything by hand.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT TO CREATE?

TREY: I've learned that the most enjoyable stadiums to build are the ones I'm most interested in. As a diehard Husker fan, I obviously love Memorial Stadium, so my passion for it is what made the project enjoyable.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

TREY: Since completing Memorial Stadium, I've built Wrigley Field and old Yankee Stadium. I'm just starting on the Astrodome. I'm going to build the roof so it comes off like a lid so you can look in the stadium. I'm also going to make it so it converts from baseball to football just like they did for the Astros and Oilers.

WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR HUSKER CREATION?

TREY: It's in a watertight tub in my basement because I'm too afraid my boys will destroy it if it is on display. It's fun to bring it out and share with visitors.

—Grace Fitzgibbon

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Help recruit the next generation of Nebraska students by telling your story in a Postcard of Pride. Volunteers write postcards each month from October through April to prospective students, sharing your campus experiences and encouraging the next generation of Huskers.

Your story may inspire and impact a student's final college decision and add another member to the Husker family.

huskeralum.org/postcards

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN Class of 2020 Quotes

Editor's note: Due to the cancellation of commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020, we decided to turn over this space to their college memories. Typically different class years would be featured here, but these days are anything but typical.

QUESTION

What was your fondest memory during college?

"Serving as a 2019 New Student Enrollment Orientation Leader and welcoming new students to campus every day! Sharing my love for Nebraska with incoming students made me so proud to be a Husker." *Claire Berman (Sioux Falls, S.D.), psychology, plans to pursue her master of science in education in higher education and student affairs at Indiana University in Bloomington.*

"Being elected president of the Student Advisory Board for the College of Education and Human Sciences and working closely with the dean to build a sense of community within the college." *Nick Bohannon (Tekamah), nutrition science, he will be moving to Omaha and pursuing medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.*

"Being grateful for all the dance opportunities that the UNL Dance Program has offered me throughout my college career. Like dancing with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, traveling to South Korea, multiple guest artists: Jennifer Nugent, Lauren Simpson, Melissa Bell, Christy Funsch and many more." *Kelli Bower (Ord), dance major/entrepreneurship minor, plans to open a dance studio in her hometown.*

"Traveling to the Purdue vs. Nebraska Husker game on Halloween, dressing up in costumes at a Casey's gas station and doing makeup in the dark, in the car, and then meeting up with some of the greatest friends and making a stellar road trip!" *Kensie Burnside (Stapleton), agricultural education, will transition from one classroom to the next, to become the new Neligh-Oakdale Public School's ag teacher in District 10.*

"Having my classmates sing me happy birthday in a glacier while studying abroad in Iceland." *Amanda Carlson (Norfolk), biological sciences, she looks forward to attending the University of Nebraska Medical Center physical therapy program.*

"Linkbash! It was a fun event which included having a paint fight in one of the College of Engineering buildings before its demolition."

Delaney Bachman (Fargo, N.D.), chemical engineering, is moving to Iowa to work for Cargill at a corn processing plant.

"As for school, my fondest memory is Professor Dooling granting our request to have our legal profession class in the courtyard on the first sunny day last spring. Aside from that, standing the entire Michigan State game in a sleeping bag. GBR!" *Julia Dohan (Fort Collins, Colo.), juris doctor, is joining the Colorado State Public Defender's Office.*

"When I went on a study abroad trip to Benin, Africa. During the trip, we had the opportunity to visit various culturally

DRUE WAGNER (3)

"The Great American Solar Eclipse: After listening to *Total Eclipse* from Handel's *Samson* in a music history seminar, I observed the event with a group of my peers outside Kimball Recital Hall. An unforgettable beginning to the new semester."

Skyler Dykes (Topeka, Kan.), music and French, she works in education and community engagement at Omaha Performing Arts.

"Tailgating at Memorial Stadium with many other students and fellow Huskers of all ages, at the ESPN *College GameDay*."

Zaidee Rada (Scottsbluff), advertising and public relations with business and communication studies, she will be employed by the Lincoln e-commerce company, Spreetail.

significant locations, learn local traditions and languages, and interact with local residents."
Tyler Jacobson, (Malcolm), finance, headed to Atlanta to work with Stephens Inc. as an investment banking analyst.

"It's hard to pick just one memory. My time at UNL has been such a great collection of celebrating Husker game days, homecoming concerts, formals and road trips!"
Anna Kobza (David City), animal science, is moving to Texas to begin a master's program in ruminant nutrition.

"Attending every single home Husker football game during my four years here and getting to cheer alongside the best fan base in the nation!"
Cole Meadows (Elkhorn), nutrition, exercise and health sciences, he will be attending physical therapy school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

"Being a CASNR Ambassador and giving tours of East Campus with some of my best friends."
Matt Morton (Nehawka), agricultural and environmental sciences communication, will be moving to Missouri to work as an associate territory manager with Corteva Agriscience.

"Cheering with the mock trial team at our regional competition when we found out we were one of the few teams advancing to the 2019 Opening Round Championships."
Lydia Nelson (Lake Elmo, Minn.), criminology/criminal justice, she is taking a gap year at home in Minnesota while applying to law schools.

"Being initiated into the National Civil Engineering Honor Society (Chi Epsilon)."
Cassandra Revoy (Omaha), civil and environmental engineering, she starts an entry level position as a civil engineer in Omaha.

"All the diverse opportunities that UNL has to offer. I was able to help plan homecoming celebrations, do outreach for engineering at local schools, study abroad, do research — there was so many opportunities for growth!
Jami Turnquist (Sioux City, Iowa), chemical engineering, will be moving to Virginia to work as a drug substance conjugate engineer at Merck.

"I enjoyed the opportunities at Nebraska to meet such fantastic leaders, be involved in engaging organizations and create an environment for exceptional character development. My favorite memory that I'll take away is leading the Big Red Investment Club."
Justin Wiebelhaus (Bellevue), finance, will be manager and recruiter of Southwestern Advantage.

BULLETIN Obituaries

1934

Elver M. Hodges, Wauchula, Fla., Sept. 25, 2019

1942

Jean Carnahan Davie, Lincoln, Feb. 27; **Frederick H. Geiger**, Ames, Iowa, Jan. 28; **Otillia Gordon Pearson**, Cutler Bay, Fla., Dec. 12, 2019

1943

Robert E. Bramson, Beverly Hills, Calif., Jan. 24

1944

Elizabeth Hochreiter Dunn, Brewster, Mass., Feb. 13

1946

Marjory Horstman Clements, Lincoln, Dec. 27, 2019

1947

Robert L. Graff, Beatrice, Jan. 19; **Wayne F. Keim**, Fort Collins, Colo., Feb. 11; **Takuro S. Nakae**, Beverly Hills, Calif., Oct. 28, 2019

1948

Mary Weber Scamehorn, Kearney, Feb. 14; **James L. Vose**, Omaha, Jan. 17

1949

Robert R. Baker, Bowie, Md., Feb. 1; **Hilbert G. Buchta**, Broken Bow, Jan. 17; **Dorothy Schneider Lower**, Springfield, Ore., Jan. 9

1950

Alvin Abramson, Omaha, Feb. 7; **Dale N. Anderson**, Topeka, Kan., Jan. 19; **Marjorie Stapleton Olney**, Lincoln, Jan. 22; **Jack D. Pickett**, Mokena, Ill., Nov. 10, 2019; **Melvin E. Schneider**, Fremont, Feb. 1; **George I. Slone**, Omaha, Jan. 16

1951

Bernard W. Costello, Omaha, Feb. 1

1952

Jim L. Heldenbrand, Frederick, Md., Jan. 7; **Vincent A. Kamrath**, Lincoln, Dec. 24, 2019; **W. R. Dick R. Stephens**, Lincoln, Dec. 25, 2019

1953

John G. Desmond, Lincoln, Dec. 15, 2019; **Syntha Judd Essex**, Omaha, Feb. 29; **Mary Ginn George**, Winside, Jan. 3; **Willis D. Heim**, Minneapolis, Jan. 19; **Marvin K. Lawton**, Concordia, Kan., March 2

1954

Phillip O. Bridenbaugh, Cincinnati, Dec. 21, 2019; **Geneva Berns Lewis**, Bladen, Jan. 20; **Alice Reade Olson**, Elkhorn, Jan. 19; **Charles W. Swingle**, Lincoln, Dec. 20, 2019

1955

Murray D. Backhaus, Omaha, Dec. 30, 2019; **Nancy Randall Barney**, Kearney, Jan. 31; **Robert L. Boesiger**, Harper Woods, Mich., Dec. 5, 2019; **William H. Campbell**, Palm Desert, Calif., Jan. 18; **Beverly Davis Roath**, Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 22, 2019; **Larry G. Shafer**, Lincoln, March 1; **Gail Wellensiek Springer**, Baltimore, Feb. 13

1956

Donald L. Pedersen, Helena, Mont., Feb. 24

1957

Richard M. Bacon, Sterling, Colo., Dec. 15, 2019; **Ilmars Bergmanis**, Des Plaines, Ill., March 8; **Charles A. Eberspacher**, Lincoln, Nov. 26, 2019; **John M. Hammons**, Greeley, Colo., Dec. 17, 2019; **Dean L. Laune**, Ashland, Dec. 29, 2019; **Aurelia Way Strupp**, Middleton, Wis., Feb. 16

1958

Robert W. Baker, Bellevue, Feb. 7; **Donna Bernet Barstad**, Duarte, Calif., Jan. 5; **Richard H. Bond**, Anaheim, Calif., Jan. 29; **Betty Joy Cole**, Burlingame, Kan., Feb. 10; **Kenneth S. Eng**, Columbia, Miss., Feb. 28; **Wayne H. Hahn**, Lincoln, Dec. 25, 2019; **Robert D. Kutz**, Grand Island, Dec. 27, 2019; **Richard D. Newcomer**, Omaha, Jan. 7; **Gale Dahlmeier Peterson**, Farmington, N.M., Dec. 9, 2019; **Butler D. Shaffer**, Burbank, Calif., Dec. 29, 2019

1959

Robert W. Feldhousen, Newport News, Va., Dec. 25, 2019; **Jonnie M. Fink**, Tecumseh, Jan. 27; **Gary G. Frenzel**, Colorado Springs, Feb. 8; **David E. Harris**, Grand Island, Dec. 22, 2019; **Harold W. Mettenbrink**, Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 8, 2019; **Gordon S. Morrow**, Kearney, Feb. 7; **Cameron D. Stewart**, Ogallala, Nov. 27, 2019; **Shirley Hartman Tompkins**, Ogallala, Dec. 2, 2019

1960

Richard T. DeLorm, Omaha, Dec. 16, 2019; **Edwin R. Heng**, Tekamah, Jan. 30

1961

Dee Ann Green Birkel, Brady, Feb. 20; **Richard J. Chamberlain**, Omaha, Jan. 22; **Bernard R. Frakes**, Olympia, Wash., Jan. 26; **Charles F. Noren**, Lincoln, Jan. 19

1962

Virgil A. Chochon, Columbus, Feb. 13; **Herbert E. Peter**, Overland Park, Kan., Feb. 13

1963

Maribelle Elliott Appleby, Estero, Fla., Jan. 13; **John S. Bentley**, The Villages, Fla., Oct. 7, 2019; **Wilbur Dasenbrock**, Lincoln, Feb. 28; **Jerry A. Dickinson**, Omaha, Oct. 13, 2019; **Byron W. Fallesen**, Lexington, Dec. 26, 2019; **Wanda King Lancaster**, Lincoln, Feb. 7

1964

Beverly Ziebarth Ashley, Lincoln, Feb. 3; **James W. Dunn**, Amarillo, Texas, Jan. 27; **Ronald H. Hermone**, Princeton Junction, N.J., Dec. 26, 2019; **Richard D. Lewis**, Omaha, Feb. 12; **Richard C. Nelson**, Hackensack, Minn., Dec. 22, 2019; **Ladona Schaulis Powers**, Winnetka, Calif., Dec. 10, 2019; **James L. Sedgwick**, Vestavia, Ala., Jan. 23

1965

Charles R. Clatterbuck, Bellevue, Jan. 9; **Kenny L. Gettman**, Lincoln, Jan. 17; **Gerald G. Gray**, Omaha, Dec. 17, 2019; **Richard A. Higby**, San Antonio, Feb. 1; **John P. Kirk**, Houston, Dec. 20, 2019; **Louis A. Kraus**, Brule, Sept. 17, 2019; **Mardene Mord Kroeger**, Fremont, March 8; **Gary E. Lacey**, Gothenburg, Jan. 2; **Leroy D. Tejral**, Beatrice, Dec. 12, 2019

1966

Suzanne Giles Adams, Lewiston, Idaho, Feb. 2; **Curtis J. Hieggelke**, Chicago, Jan. 1; **Gary S. Kearney**, Lincoln, Feb. 12; **Donald R. Nelson**, Lincoln, Feb. 17; **Diane**

Olson Nuttleman, Venice, Fla., Jan. 2; **Donald D. Rice**, Lincoln, Jan. 29; **Joan Knox Smyth**, Lincoln, Jan. 6; **Gene E. Ward**, Omaha, Jan. 26

1967

Cary M. McAllaster, Derby, Kan., Jan. 11; **Shirley Wentink Ybarra**, Washington, D.C., Nov. 10, 2019

1968

Patricia D. Campbell, Lincoln, Jan. 9; **Lawrence E. Felt**, Casper, Wyo., Jan. 16; **Conley I. Stutz**, Peoria, Ill., Dec. 17, 2019

1969

James L. Paulson, Fremont, Dec. 24, 2019

1970

Douglas V. Duey, Plattsmouth, Dec. 20, 2019; **Gerald B. Jordan**, Lincoln, Jan. 24; **Ronald A. Mortensen**, Omaha, Dec. 13, 2019; **David R. Parker**, Boulder, Colo., Jan. 16; **Helen Schomaker Weber**, Lincoln, Dec. 23, 2019

1948-2020

Jimmi Smith

James (Jimmi) H. Smith Jr., director of the UNL Multicultural Affairs Office for 30 years, died Jan. 1 at the age of 71. The Alabama-born, Pennsylvania-raised Smith entered the university as a football scholarship recruit in 1967, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in education in the early 1970s. While employed by UNL he worked in the Black Studies and Ethnic Studies departments and provided leadership for the Teacher of Teachers program. Upon leaving Nebraska the lifetime NAACP member joined Emporia State University in Kansas.

1971

William B. Bowman, Springfield, Mo., Nov. 9, 2019; **Linda Porter Christensen**, McMinnville, Ore., Jan. 10; **Thomas L. Dayton**, Lincoln, Dec. 29, 2019; **Michael P. Elgert**, Lincoln, Feb. 9; **Byron E. Gerlt**, Peyton, Colo., Jan. 8; **Woodard M. Hughbanks**, McPherson, Kan., Nov. 24, 2019; **James H. Schmersal**, Lincoln, Feb. 9; **James H. Smith**, Leavenworth, Kan., Jan. 1; **Stanley L. Urwiller**, Grand Island, Jan. 6

1972

Gerald L. Bachmann, Missoula, Mont., Oct. 19, 2019; **Marvin D. Drevo**, Crete, Dec. 13, 2019; **Derald L. Ferguson**, Lincoln, Jan. 25; **Rita Botkin Jaworski**, Hastings, March 7; **Alan S. Marion**, Gretna, Jan. 23; **Ronald E. Severson**, Panama, Jan. 31

1973

Michael R. Acker, Waukesha, Wis., Jan. 29; **Gary L. Fouraker**, Fremont, Jan. 17; **Sally Blessing Hutt**, Tecumseh, Dec. 14, 2019

1974

Elizabeth Kaufman Donelson, Palmyra, Dec. 15, 2019; **Cynthia Williams Koziol**, Christiansburg, Va., Jan. 28; **James L. Kudrna**, Portland, Ore., March 1; **MaryVanOsdall Lahners**, Lincoln, Jan. 27; **Harold A. Melser**, Columbia, Ill., Feb. 15; **Douglas M. Thunberg**, Colorado Springs, Feb. 6

1975

R. Joan Swenson Carlbom, Lincoln, Jan. 13; **Fay Spangsberg Larson**, Lincoln, Dec. 30, 2019

1976

Allen A. Helton, Waco, Texas, Feb. 1; **John J. Krings**, Columbus, Dec. 27, 2019; **John A. Soflin**, Lexington, March 3

1977

Mark E. Hartin, Valley, Feb. 2; **Scott W. Sorchik**, Harveys Lake, Penn., Jan. 27

1978

Kathleen A. Scholz, Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 9

1979

Richard D. Einspahr, Elwood, Jan. 29; **Deanna Bruning Jurgens**, Lincoln, Dec. 23, 2019, **Frances Richart Wren**, Lenexa, Kan., Jan. 9

1980

Rex Buettgenbach, Sioux Falls, S.D., Feb. 16; **Susan J. Lozier**, Omaha, Feb. 27

1981

Kirk L. Ehrlich, Lincoln, Jan. 12; **Rodney W. Kriz**, Lincoln, Jan. 3; **Leslie Patrick Novacek**, Lincoln, Dec. 20, 2019;

Yvonne Lee Powers, Lincoln, Jan. 24; **Daniel J. Runyan**, Rodanthe, N.C., Feb. 23; **John D. Smith**, Omaha, Feb. 29

1982

Roy E. Kimbrell, Bellevue, Jan. 2

1983

Diane Radtke Stark, Lincoln, Jan. 29

1984

Mark D. Hendricks, Conifer, Colo., March 2; **Patricia O'Leary Kiscoan**, Omaha, Jan. 29; **Richard J. Moser**, Forney, Texas, Jan. 15; **Tracy N. Pettit**, Hastings, Jan. 15

1985

James R. Dunlap, Omaha, Dec. 16, 2019

1986

James A. Grewe, Omaha, Dec. 20, 2019

1987

Richard D. Olderbak, Edmond, Okla., Dec. 16, 2019

1988

Winifred L. Ellis, Beatrice, Feb. 21

1990

Shawn E. Leavitt, Philadelphia, March 11

1991

Terry W. Tomich, Las Vegas, Feb. 21

1993

Darin J. Gable, Lincoln, Jan. 6

1994

James M. Reinert, York, Jan. 21; **Patricia A. Tanner**, Omaha, Jan. 5

1996

Randall W. Diller, Beatrice, Jan. 28

2000

Kathy L. Cossairt, Lincoln, Feb. 27; **Roderick H. Mills**, Lincoln, Feb. 18,

2004

Jamie R. Bauman, Martell, Feb. 5

2005

Bruce Anderson, Lincoln, Feb. 16

2007

Murray R. Schmoker, Omaha, Dec. 21, 2019

2012

Sue M. Roush, York, Jan. 27

Punch-Drunk Love

After a rough start, friendship turns to love, a Paris wedding and hunkering down during a global pandemic

BY MEKITA RIVAS ('12)
Freelance writer/newlywed

When I met Kent Campbell ('08) at a house party in 2007, I couldn't have imagined that 13 years later we'd be newlyweds quarantined together in the middle of a global pandemic living in Washington, D.C.

Back then, we were just two Lincoln kids looking for a good time. The night we met, I was asleep on our friend's couch. Kent, ever the jokester, saw me and decided to be playfully antagonizing. "Oh, you're tired?" he teased, thinking I was in such a deep sleep that I couldn't hear him. Exasperated, I told him to shut up, and proceeded to punch him in the face.

Yes ... really.

That interaction probably should've signaled the end of our story. But Kent happened to be a resident assistant at Abel, where I also lived. That night, our mutual friends asked if he could give me a ride back to the dorm. Although things between us got off to a — shall we say — bumpy start, he obliged and made sure I got home safely. I didn't know it at the time, but that chance encounter was the beginning of, well, everything.

As a track athlete, campus ambassador, New Student Enrollment leader, and Bathtub Dog member, Kent was practically Mr. UNL. It was hard not to run into him on every corner of campus. We had the same friend group — essentially the entire multicultural student population — and we quickly bonded. He'd frequently stop by the downtown Starbucks, where I worked throughout college. He loved chai lattes, but I suspect he liked them so much because it was my go-to drink. Likewise, I'd visit him down the street at the Embassy Suites restaurant, where he was a bartender.

I told him about my guy problems. He told me about his girl problems. One year, when I came back from spring break in Chicago and my train arrived late, he picked me up from the train station and brought me back to campus. On another occasion, he physically carried me from O Street to my friend's apartment after I'd had one cocktail too many. He was often there when no one else was.

After five years as just friends, we began dating. "What took so long?" was the general response from those closest to us. Hey, better late than never, right?

Like me, Kent cannot sit still for long. From Tokyo to London to Venice to Vancouver, we've spent most of our relationship working to get out there. This appetite for adventure came with sacrifices, of course. We pressed pause on buying a house or having kids. But our shared desire to see as much as we can in the time that we have deeply bonds us.

Last September, we got married in Paris, one of our favorite places on earth. We were high off newlywed bliss, blindly optimistic about the future. Today, more than six months later, the coronavirus pandemic has completely upended our lives. Like so many others, we lost our jobs. We worry about our elderly parents. Suddenly, our biggest adventure was our weekly trip to the grocery store.

It's been an adjustment. And since I'm writing in real time, I can't tell you how the story ends. What I can say is that we're facing unprecedented challenges early on in our marriage. But I've never been more certain about the person I chose to spend the rest of my life with ... someone who can literally roll with the punches. **N**

MARIO ZUCCA

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