



University of Nebraska

2021 PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

May 5, 2021

Welcome and Introductions

Ted Carter
President
University of Nebraska

Award Presentation

Ted Carter

Susan Fritz, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost
University of Nebraska

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD



MARGARET JACOBS, PH.D.

*Department of History
University of Nebraska–Lincoln*

Margaret D. Jacobs is the Charles Mach Professor of History, director of the Center for Great Plains Studies, and a program faculty member with the Women's and Gender Studies Program, which she directed from 2006-2011 and 2016-2018. Before joining the faculty at UNL in 2004, she taught at New Mexico State University.

Jacobs focuses on the history of women and gender as well as children and families in the American West in comparison with Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. For over twenty years she has researched Indigenous child removal and family separation. Jacobs' book *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940* (2009), won the American historical profession's most prestigious award, the Bancroft Prize from Columbia University, in 2010.

Since 2016, Jacobs has embarked on several community-based projects that focus on history, healing, and reconciliation efforts. In 2017, she co-founded the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project with Libraries professor Liz Lorang and a council of Indigenous community advisors. The Project aims to repatriate government records of Nebraska's Indian boarding school back to their families and tribal nations, to "bring history home." In 2018, Jacobs cofounded Reconciliation Rising with local Rosebud Lakota journalist Kevin Abourezk to showcase Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who are honestly confronting painful and traumatic histories and creating pathways to reconciliation. Jacobs will publish *After One Hundred Winters: In Search of Reconciliation on America's Stolen Lands* with Princeton University Press in 2021.

Over the course of her career, Jacobs has won awards from the National Endowment from the Humanities, the Fulbright Program, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Council on Library and Information Services. From 2015-16 she served as the Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at Cambridge University in England. She was awarded an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship from 2018-2020 and inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD



NIKOLAOS (NICK) STERGIU, PH.D.

*Division of Biomechanics and Research Development
University of Nebraska at Omaha*

Dr. Nikolaos (Nick) Stergiou is the Distinguished Community Research Chair and professor in biomechanics as well as the director of the Center for Research in Human Movement Variability at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) where his primary appointment is. Recently, he was also appointed as the assistant dean and director of the Division of Biomechanics and Research Development. He is the founding chair of the first ever academic Department of Biomechanics that graduates students with a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in biomechanics. His secondary appointment is as a professor of the Department of Environmental, Agricultural, and Occupational Health of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

His research focuses on understanding variability inherent in human movement and he is an international authority in the study of Nonlinear Dynamics. He has published 4 scientific textbooks, 240 peer-reviewed papers with 15,000 citations and an H-index of 61. He has been inducted as a Fellow to the National Academy of Kinesiology, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the American Society of Biomechanics. Dr. Stergiou's research spans from infant development to older adult fallers, and has impacted training techniques of surgeons and treatment and rehabilitation of pathologies, such as peripheral arterial disease.

He has received more than \$40 million in funding from NIH, NASA, NSF, and many other agencies. He has received the largest grant in the history of UNO, a NIH P20 grant that was worth more than \$10 million. This grant allowed him to develop the Center for Research in Human Movement Variability. Recently, he was able to renew this grant by receiving another \$10.3 million. He also has several inventions and has procured a private donation of \$6 million to build the 23,000 square foot Biomechanics Research Building that opened in August of 2013. This is the first building dedicated to biomechanics research in the world. It is also the first building on this campus exclusively dedicated to research. Recently, he was able to procure \$11.6 million in private donations to build a 30,000 square foot expansion to this building which opened in October of 2019.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD



KENNETH KIEWRA, PH.D.

*Department of Educational Psychology
University of Nebraska–Lincoln*

Kenneth A. Kiewra is professor of educational psychology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Oneonta—majoring in elementary and secondary English education—and a former third-grade teacher and high school tennis coach. He earned his Ph.D. from Florida State University and joined the faculty at Kansas State University and Utah State University before arriving at the University of Nebraska in 1988.

Dr. Kiewra investigates the science of teaching and learning, particularly note-taking, graphic organizers, talent development, and the SOAR teaching and learning method he developed. Kiewra’s science-based findings and educational implications are disseminated to scholars and practitioners through his articles and books (including: *Teaching How to Learn*, *SOAR to Academic Success and Beyond*, and *Nurturing Children’s Talents*), nearly 500 invited talks to educational groups—more than 300 of them at UNL or throughout Nebraska—interviews to the national media, a video documentary on Nebraska’s Prodigies of the Prairie, and the university-wide courses he developed, including: *Teaching Learners to Learn*, *Strategies for Academic Success*, and *Nurturing Talent: Yours and Others*.

Professor Kiewra delivers the SOAR-based instruction he investigates and promotes. For example, he aids information selection by providing note-taking frameworks, aids organization by providing graphic organizers, aids association by anchoring instruction to students’ background knowledge, and aids regulation using practice testing.

Dr. Kiewra is the former director of UNL’s Academic Success Center, the former editor of *Educational Psychology Review*, and has received three previous teaching-related awards: Distinguished Teaching Award, Teachers College; Charman Outstanding Professor Award, College of Education and Human Sciences; and UT Dallas National Chess Educator of the Year for his chess talent research and for his contributions to Nebraska chess education.

Outside the classroom, Ken enjoys all types of sports and outdoor activities; spending time with wife, Christine, and children, Keaton, Anna, and Samuel; and rooting for his hometown New York Yankees.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD



RAMAZAN KILINÇ, PH.D.

*Department of Political Science
University of Nebraska at Omaha*

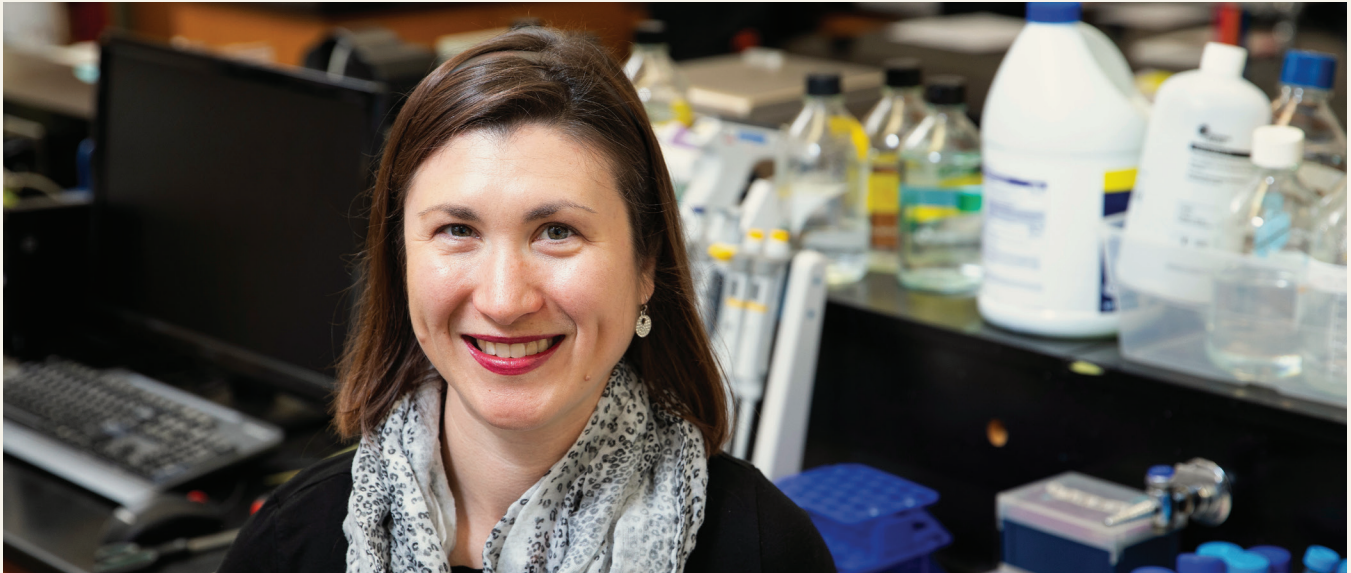
Dr. Ramazan Kılınç is an associate professor of political science and director of the Islamic Studies Program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He earned his bachelors (1999) and masters (2001) in international relations at Bilkent University in Turkey and his Ph.D. (2008) in political science at the Arizona State University. Before joining the faculty in 2011, he taught in James Madison College at Michigan State University.

His teaching philosophy is based on the premise to foster student engagement in politics as responsible and thoughtful citizens. At UNO, he has taught a diverse array of courses that included introductory-level political science courses, upper-level courses on Middle East politics, service-learning courses, study abroad courses, and an honors colloquium. He is the recipient of the 2020 UNO Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2018 UNO Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award.

His research focuses on religion and politics with a focus on the Middle East. He is the author of *Alien Citizens: State and Religious Minorities in Turkey and France* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) and a co-author of *Generating Generosity in Catholicism and Islam: Beliefs, Institutions and Public Goods Provision* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). His most recent articles appeared in *Comparative Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Politics and Religion*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *Turkish Studies*, and *Religion, State & Society*. He is the recipient of the 2021 UNO College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award, 2012 Weber Paper Award and a co-recipient of the 2013 Sage Paper Award of the American Political Science Association. He is the editor of *Siyasa*, a blog focusing on politics of the Middle East and the Muslim world.

Dr. Ramazan Kılınç is the proud husband to Halide and dad to three amazing kids—Ahmed Etkä, Münevver, and Mehmet Selim.

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD



CHRISTINE CUTUCACHE, PH.D.

*Department of Biology
University of Nebraska at Omaha*

Christine E. Cutucache, Ph.D., Haddix Community Chair of Science, associate professor of biology, and director of the UNO STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) TRAIL (Teaching, Research, and Inquiry-based Learning) Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), is a tumor immunologist and science educator. She has secured more than \$11 million in extramural funding, and has published more than three dozen peer-reviewed research articles, frequently with students as coauthors. She was selected as a Fulbright Scholar in 2020. She has published multiple textbooks to support student-centered learning, including *Exploratory Microbiology: A problem-based learning approach* and *Cancer Biology: An Inquiry-Based Approach*.

Her research includes both tumor immunology and Discipline-Based Education Research (so called 'DBER' or science education). Her work is international in reach, including nearly 100 invited talks and seminars. Dr. Cutucache has submitted 10 new invention notifications for her research, and has an active patent pending on a diagnostic instrument.

She routinely sponsors student-centered, experiential learning opportunities, including via the NE STEM 4U program, which engages K-8 youth in high quality out-of-school time activities. NE STEM 4U has engaged more than 6,000 youth through consistent programming year-round, thanks to this collaboration between the university and community partners.

Dr. Cutucache is passionate about supporting the science teacher pipeline through mentorship, professional development, and funding models to support pre-service teachers. Consequently, she has worked to generate the dual-pathway pipelines for pre-service teachers to further support workforce needs regionally and nationally. Her work in support of teachers has also been reflected with in-service teachers via the STEM Fellows, the Teacher-Researcher Partnership Program, and ongoing professional development and graduate-level opportunities.

Finally, Dr. Cutucache has two books published in 2021, including a textbook with Elsevier on *MicroRNA in Human Malignancies* and another book called *Leading from the Middle*.

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD



LAURENCE RILETT, PH.D., P.E.

*Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Nebraska Transportation Center
University of Nebraska–Lincoln*

Dr. Laurence R. Rilett, Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering and the inaugural holder of the Keith W. Klaasmeyer Chair in Engineering and Technology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), is director of both the UNL Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) and the Nebraska Transportation Center (NTC).

Under Rilett's directorship, MATC was designated as the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Region VII University Transportation Center in 2006, 2011, and 2016. To date, MATC has received over \$28 million in funding with an equal amount of matching funds. Rilett has led the development of important outreach activities including an after-school program for middle school students, a week-long STEM summer academy for Native American high school students, and a scholar's program that provides mentorship to help undergraduate students from underrepresented groups navigate graduate school recruitment, admissions, and completion processes with success.

Rilett's research is in the field of transportation system analysis area. His specific research focus may be divided into two main areas: Intelligent Transportation Systems applications and large-scale transportation system modeling. Rilett has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than 40 research projects, with total funding in excess of \$48 million.

Rilett has more than 250 publications, including 90 peer-reviewed articles, 90 conference proceedings papers, and many other published reports, editorials, and reviews. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) awarded Rilett the 2019 Arthur M. Wellington Prize for Best Transportation-Related Paper in an ASCE Journal and the 2021 Frank M. Masters Transportation Engineering Award for "contributions to innovative research on transportation systems and collaborative leadership to develop a diverse workforce in transportation engineering." He is currently the managing editor of the ASCE *Journal of Transportation-Part A* and was elected vice president of the Council of University Transportation Centers for 2020-2021.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

About the Award

Two Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Awards are presented each year in honor of outstanding research or creative activity of national/international significance conducted by individual full-time faculty members at the University of Nebraska. The awards are given for a sustained record of excellent accomplishment in research or creative activity, rather than “meritorious service.”

Only one award may be presented in each of the two following academic areas: Group 1: Arts and Humanities (including Creative and Performing Arts), Business and Social Sciences, and Professional Education; and Group 2: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Medical Sciences. However, an award need not be made to either group in any given year.

Nominations are reviewed by a university-wide group of faculty members. Each honored faculty member is awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and a plaque.

Past Recipients

2020 Edgar Cahoon, UNL	2013 Thomas Porter, UNMC Kenneth Price, UNL	2006 Wheeler Winston Dixon, UNL Ruma Banerjee, UNL
2019 Kwame Dawes, UNL Evgeny Tsymbal, UNL	2012 Howard E. Gendelman, UNMC Carolyn Pope Edwards, UNL	2005 Anthony F. Starace, UNL Parks M. Coble, UNL
2018 David S. Hage, UNL Dennis L. Molfese, UNL	2011 Gert-Jan de Vreede, UNO P. Stephen Baenziger, UNL	2004 Susan J. Rosowski, UNL Alan Kamil, UNL
2017 Roni Reiter-Palmon, UNO Yongfeng Lu, UNL	2010 Jonis Agee, UNL Xiao Cheng Zeng, UNL	2003 John D. Turner, UNL Stephen W. Ragsdale, UNL
2016 Bruce E. Johansen, UNO Surinder K. Batra, UNMC	2009 Michael James, UNL Stephen Rennard, UNMC	2002 Hilda Raz, UNL Jeffrey A. French, UNO
2015 Wayne Fisher, UNMC Charles Wood, UNL	2008 Vadim Gladyshev, UNL Fred Luthans, UNL	2001 Brett Ratcliffe, UNL Gary Moulton, UNL
2014 Susan Sheridan, UNL Donald Weeks, UNL	2007 Alexander V. Kabanov, UNMC	2000 Ross A. Thompson, UNL Pill-Soon Song, UNL

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

Past Recipients Continued

1999
Cassia Spohn, UNO
William G. Mayhan, UNMC

1998
Karen Kunc, UNL
John Janovy, Jr., UNL

1997
Anne Kessinger, UNMC
James M. Cook, UNK

1996
David R. Beukelman, UNL
David J. Sellmyer, UNL

1995
Reuben D. Rieke, UNL
Moirra C. Ferguson, UNL

1994
Oyekan Owomoyela, UNL
Ercole Luigi Cavalieri, UNMC

1993
Irving H. Zucker, UNMC
John R. Hibbing, UNL

1992
James L. Van Etten, UNL
Stephen C. Behrendt, UNL

1991
Robert Audi, UNL
James O. Armitage, UNMC

1990
N. Keith Jacobshagen, UNL
Samuel M. Cohen, UNMC

1989
David Nicholas, UNL
John R. Hardy, UNL

1988
Susan Welch, UNL
Dermot P. Coyne, UNL

1987
James A. R. Samson, UNL
Robert Beadell, UNL

1986
Sidney S. Mirvish, UNMC
Louis Crompton, UNL

1985
Frederick C. Luebke, UNL
Mihir R. Banerjee, UNL

1984
Paul A. Olson, UNL
Paul A. Johnsgard, UNL

1983
James A. Rawley, UNL
Naba K. Gupta, UNL

1982
David P. Forsythe, UNL
Myron K. Brakke, UNL

1981
Wallace C. Peterson, UNL
Charles O. Gardner, UNL
Harry A. Duncan, UNO

1980
Michael F. Sorrell, UNMC
Sang M. Lee, UNL
J. Michael Daly, UNL
Ezekiel Bahar, UNL

1979
John W. Schmidt, UNL
Paul Schach, UNL
Joseph H. Macek, UNL
Joseph P. Gilmore, UNMC

1978
Bernice Slote, UNL
Norman Cromwell, UNL

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD

About the Award

Two Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Awards are presented each year in honor and recognition of meritorious and sustained records of excellence in teaching and creativity related to teaching by full-time faculty members of the University of Nebraska. Both awards may be made to the same campus in a given year.

Nominations are reviewed by a university-wide group of faculty members. Each honored faculty member is awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and a plaque.

Past Recipients

2020 Jody Koenig Kellas, UNL Walter Stroup, UNL	2010 Paul Paulman, UNMC Laura White, UNL	2001 Robert F. Rycek, UNK Daniel J. Bernstein, UNL
2019 Lloyd Bell, UNL William Mahoney, UNO	2009 Donald Lee, UNL Calvin Garbin, UNL	2000 Helen A. Moore, UNL Barbara DiBernard, UNL
2018 Tammie M. Kennedy, UNO Colleen E. Medill, UNL	2008 Theresa Wadkins, UNK Donna Dufner, UNO	1999 Paul Kelter, UNL Stephen M. Buhler, UNL
2017 Erin Blankenship, UNL Jason Kautz, UNL	2007 Valerie Cisler, UNK Paul Larsen, UNMC	1998 Rosevelt L. Pardy, UNL Ann Mari May, UNL
2016 Neal Grandgenett, UNO	2006 Ruth Heaton, UNL Karen Dwyer, UNO	1997 Richard L. Miller, UNK John R. Gruhl, UNL
2015 Chandrakanth Are, UNMC Martha Mamo, UNL	2005 Kenya S. Taylor, UNK C. William McLaughlin, UNL	1996 James R. Newland, UNMC James D. Carr, UNL
2014 Dawn Mollenkopf, UNK Judy Walker, UNL	2004 Joy S. Ritchie, UNL Lisa Kelly-Vance, UNO	1995 Manuchair Ebadi, UNMC Patrice Berger, UNL
2013 Edward V. Vandenberg, UNMC Peter Wolcott, UNO	2003 Max A. McFarland, UNK W. James Lewis, UNL	1994 Melvin C. Thornton, UNL Kris Berg, UNO
2012 Tiffany Heng-Moss, UNL Richard G. MacDonald, UNMC	2002 Peter Maslowski, UNL William L. Blizek, UNO	1993 Robert G. Fuller, UNL Alvin M. Earle, UNMC
2011 Kurtis G. Cornish, UNMC Jonna Holland, UNO		

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD

About the Award

Up to two Innovation, Development and Engagement Awards (IDEA) shall be presented each year to honor faculty members who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the University in ways that have enriched the broader community. These faculty members have worked with citizens, businesses, government and nonprofit organizations, other educational institutions, communities, or regions to develop new ideas, projects, technologies, events or businesses that resulted in new development that strengthened the region or community economically, culturally, environmentally or governmentally. Potential areas of achievement include:

- Development of research and technology that results in economic growth.
- Creation of new regional, national or international partnerships across public and private sectors that foster economic growth.
- Initiatives that promote improved health, environment and social services.
- Partnerships with the schools and communities that improve quality and access to education.
- Cultural activities that enrich the community's understanding of the arts, letters and history of the state, nation and world.
- Service, research and consultation with government, social agencies, community organizations and other civic or private groups working to build a better society.

Nominations are reviewed by a university-wide group of faculty members and community members. Each honored faculty member is awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and a plaque.

Past Recipients

2020

Sajda Qureshi, UNO
Armando De Alba Rosales, UNMC

2019

Mario Scalora, UNL

2018

Joseph H. Evans, UNMC
Nicholas Stergiou, UNO

2017

Ann Anderson Berry, UNMC
Eileen Hebets, UNL

2016

C. Elliott Ostler, UNO
Matthew Waite, UNL

2015

Michael Epstein, UNL
Stephen Reichenback, UNL

2014

Shane Farritor, UNL
Dmitry Oleynikov, UNMC

2013

Susan Swindells, UNMC

2012

Chris R. Calkins, UNL
Jonathan L. Vennerstrom, UNMC

2011

Steve L. Taylor, UNL

2010

Phyllis Markussen, UNK
Byers W. Shaw, Jr., UNMC

2009

Donald Weeks, UNL

2007

Steven Hinrichs, UNMC

