

# Four honored as CBA Distinguished Alumni

UNO's College of Business Administration honored four alumni during the college's 2005 Distinguished Achievement Award luncheon in May. Of 17,000 CBA alumni, only 61 have been honored as CBA Distinguished Alumni. Those honored in May are:

**Becki Drahota****President, Mills Financial Marketing**

Becki Drahota is president of Mills Financial Marketing in Storm Lake, Iowa. She received her Executive MBA from UNO in 2003.

At the age of 25 Drahota in 1975 founded Mills Financial Marketing, an integrated marketing resource for financial institutions serving 35 banks in 15 states. She has taught "Incentive Compensation" at the Graduate School of Banking and is a chapter author of the Wise Women Anthology.

Drahota is a member of the president's advisory board of Buena Vista University and the EMBA advisory board at UNO. She was appointed by the governor to the Workforce Iowa Board, is a Rotarian and past president of the Storm Lake Chamber of Commerce, and is honorary chair for Iowa, the President's Small Business Advisory Council. Drahota also is a frequent regional and national speaker and is active in the Republican Party and the Presbyterian Church.

**Drahota****Peg Harriott****Executive Director, YWCA of Omaha**

Peg Harriott is executive director of YWCA Omaha. From UNO she received a master's degree in social work (1984) and an MBA (1995).

At YWCA Omaha, Harriott addresses career development for women and is devoted to addressing the problems of domestic violence and sexual assault. The mission of the agency focuses on the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism. More than 55,000 lives were touched by YWCA Omaha services last year.

Prior to joining YWCA Omaha, Harriott served in various capacities at Uta Halee Girls Village/Cooper Village, including chief operating officer. She has more than 30 years experience in the behavioral health care field; much of that has been with at-risk youth and their families.

Harriott holds many professional memberships and serves on several Omaha-area boards, including the YWCA Heartland Region Board, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Board of Directors, the Nonprofit Associations of the Midlands Board, and the state of

**Harriott**

Nebraska Workforce Investment Board. She has volunteered in numerous other areas, including assisting the Studio of Dance Arts, Keystone Citizen's Patrol and the Great Plains Girl Scout Council.

**Adrian J. Minks****Vice President, Omaha Public Power District**

Adrian Minks earned an MBA from UNO in 1978. In 1988, she joined the Information Services Division of OPPD. She was executive assistant to the president and subsequently became the division manager of customer sales and service.

Minks was promoted to vice president in January 2002. Her current responsibilities include market research and product development, management and business strategy, material procurement and disposal, and facilities management and security.

Prior to joining OPPD, Minks worked in various information technology and strategic planning positions with Northern Natural Gas Company, Northern Border Pipeline Company, and InterNorth, Inc.

She serves on the boards of directors of the YWCA Omaha and the Institute for Career Advancement Needs, and on the board of trustees for the Wayne State College Foundation. Minks is 2005 chairman of the board of the UNO Alumni Association. She is a past board member of Family Housing Advisory Services and North American Technician Excellence.

**Minks****Mark Theisen****Executive Vice President Finance/Treasurer, Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society**

Mark Theisen received his Executive MBA degree from UNO in 2003. He has been employed by Woodman of the World for the past 10 years and currently serves as the executive vice president/finance and treasurer, chief compliance officer and EEO officer. He also serves on Woodmen's board of directors.

Prior to joining Woodmen, Theisen was a partner in the Baird, Holm, McEachen, Pedersen, Hamann and Strasheim Law Firm. Theisen holds many professional affiliations and assists with several boards and community groups, including the Boy Scouts of America, Rotary, the Omaha Symphony Association, and the Salvation Army. He also is a member of the UNO CBA Finance, Banking and Law advisory board, and the Executive MBA advisory board.

**Theisen**