



Recognition of Our Graduates

Students listed have a Chemistry major or minor. Students that graduate with a Chemistry major have an asterisk (*).

Fall 2017

Aatiya Ahmad* Auburn, NE
 Tanner Dow* Ravenna, NE
 Christopher Hernandez* Kearney, NE

Spring 2018 cont.

Cody Masters* Kearney, NE
 Tatum Pfortmiller Natoma, KS
 Seth Springer* Fremont, NE

Spring 2018

Jessica Blum* Wahoo, NE
 Melissa Christensen* Omaha, NE
 Logan Hansen* Kearney, NE
 Nicole Hoffman Denton, NE
 Sitong Liu China

Summer 2018

Keegan McGill* Bennington, NE

SAVE THE DATE: Drs. Kathleen McDonald and Susan Fanta will be our Don Fox speakers this year.

Banquet: Sep 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm (by invite only, request \$20 meal tickets from dept.)

Lecture: Sep 14, 2018 at 2:30 pm, COPH 131, open to the public, no charge

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Published Summer 2018

By: Drs. Kristy Kounovsky-Shafer and Frank Kovacs

2018

Letter from the Department

In the last newsletter, we received funding to purchase a new Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS), but we were waiting to install the instrument. The LC-MS was installed this past fall and many of the organic groups have been using the instrument to determine if they made their compounds. Additionally, we have added a new faculty member, Dr. Mike Moxley, and he is our second Biochemistry faculty member. More information about Dr. Moxley is on the 3rd page. In 2017, over thirty students presented at regional and national meetings. Those meetings included the regional American Chemical Society meeting in Lawrence, KS, the Nebraska Academy of Sciences in Lincoln, NE, National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Edmond, OK, Materials Research Society meeting in Phoenix, AZ and the National American Chemical Society meeting in New Orleans, LA. Congratulations to the students that were accepted to present at these conferences! Finally, we have added a new track to get a Chemistry degree for pharmacy students that are accepted into UNMC.



Undergraduate students using the LC-MS with Dr. Thomas.

Don Fox Lecturer, Fall 2017



Mrs. Larsen obtained a comprehensive Chemistry degree from Kearney State College (now known as UNK) in 1977 and then obtained her secondary teaching endorsements in Chemistry, Physical Science and Mathematics in 1984. In 1985, she received her Masters in Science education. She taught at Kearney State College from 1977 to 1981. She has won many awards for her teaching, but her greatest personal accomplishment was the of the Chemistry program at Kearney High. In 1981, she started teaching at Kearney High School and is still engaging students in Chemistry at Kearney High. Mrs. Larsen engaged the audience and brought Chemistry to life with her passion about teaching students, while telling stories that she has seen during her time at Kearney High. Thank you for coming back to UNK!



Chemistry club actively engaged with the community



Our chemistry club students put on science shows for grade school kids in Kearney and at other schools in the area by making liquid nitrogen ice, elephant tooth paste, etc. Our students also act as science judges for science fairs in the area. Our chemistry club recently received an award from ACS for their community engagement.

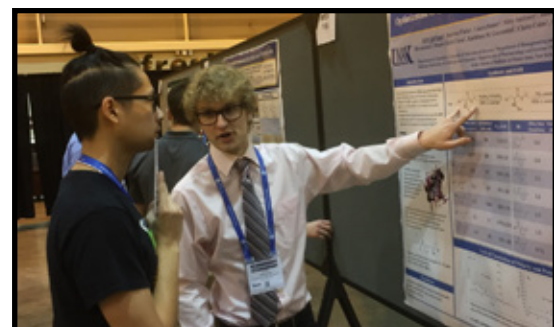
Meet a Graduating Senior

Seth Springer

Where are you from? I was raised in Fremont, NE, but I went to school in Cedar Bluffs.

What are you going to do after UNK? I was accepted into the MD/Ph.D. program at the University of Nebraska - Medical Center, where I want to study neuroscience.

What is one of your favorite moments at UNK? I can't say that I have one particular moment that stands out as the best. I can however say that without the research experience I was able to obtain at UNK, I would be a completely different person on a very different path. My eyes have been opened to the world of research and there is no going back. For that, I will always have UNK to thank; in particular, my most recent mentor Dr. Allen Thomas.



Meet one of our Faculty Members

Prof. Mike Moxley

Where are you from? I grew up in Lincoln, NE.

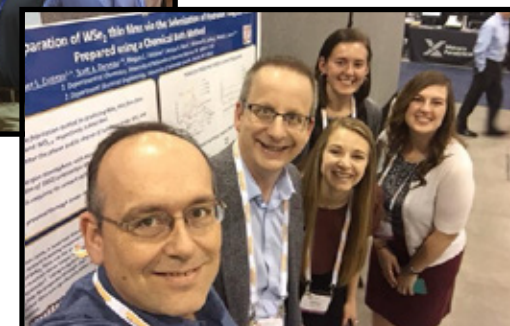
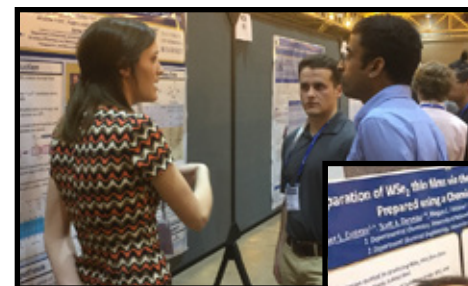
What is your favorite part about teaching at UNK? I enjoy interacting with students, and learning about what they find difficult to understand. Being new at teaching, I find it interesting as I go through the material and find myself understanding topics better than I ever have. I think that teaching a subject allows one to truly master it.

What are your favorite things to do when you are not in the lab or teaching? I have five kids, two girls and three boys, ranging in age from eleven to three, so our house is a little crazy. During the week, they are involved in various activities but on the weekends we try to do more together. We like watching movies, going to parks, playing roller hockey, and any other outdoor activity.

What is your favorite part about being a professor? One is the simple pleasure of having my own office. Another is the freedom to explore my own ideas, research wise, which includes formulating these ideas into grants and hopefully soon to be publications. I also like doing research with students and talking with them about my own experiences in my field.

My area of research is on enzymes within the field of biochemistry. Enzymes are typically proteins that speed up biochemical reactions and are absolutely fundamental to life. I am currently focused on enzymes that are involved in metabolism and we study them using mathematical modeling to better predict and understand their function.

Our research students presenting at national meetings



Brooklynn Venteicher, Seth Springer, Colton Hall presented at the National American Chemical Society meeting in New Orleans, LA. Drew Thompson, Laura Stoner, Molly Kohlbek, and Cody Masters presented at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research meeting in Edmond, OK. Jessica Blum, Whitney Colling, and Megan Falconer presented at the Materials Research Society meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

