Chair Updates:

CSP Honors Reception
Please join us on Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m. in Ockinga Seminar Center as we celebrate the 2014-15 graduates, scholarship recipients, and outstanding alumni and site supervisors. This afternoon is very special to our faculty, alumni, emeriti, and most importantly, our students. We invite you join us in this wonderful celebration!

Recruitment Initiatives
The Counseling and School Psychology Department continues its efforts in recruiting our future professional leaders. We learned much through the Building Bridges Grant funded by the Nebraska Behavioral Health Care Education Network (BHCEN). One of the most valuable lessons is that it is our network of alumni and outreach that fosters the greatest return on recruitment. The relationships fostered by faculty on Nebraska College campuses resulted in a record attendance for our annual Building Bridges Conference. We had 28 undergraduate students attend from Bellevue University, Hastings College, Midland University, Wayne State College, York College and UNK. We expect that each year this conference will grow as we continue to foster relationships with these institutions. We hope that you our alumni and students will remember that you are our greatest asset when it comes to recruitment. Please always keep our programs in mind when you encounter someone who you think might be an asset to our profession.

Accreditation
Two of our programs, School Psychology and Clinical Mental Health Counseling underwent national program accreditation. We are excited to announce that the
School Psychology program has received its accreditation through the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) through 2021. The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) Site Team Visit was conducted at the end of February indicating that the program met 98% of the standards. The Counselor Education Committee submitted a Response to Site Team Report April 9th to provide further documentation that all standards are met. The CACREP Board will determine the accreditation status for the CMHC program in July. We are confident this national accreditation status will continue. The Counselor Education Committee extends its sincere thanks to University Administration for its strong support through this process and to all the students, site supervisors, and community partners that participated in the interviews with the CACREP Site Team. Both Dr. Scantling and Dr. Taylor noted that the CACREP review was one of the most rigorous processes they have experienced.

Hello’s and Good bye’s

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Eric Davis, Ph.D., NCC, RPT. Eric will join the Counselor Education Team in the fall. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He will be joined by his wife XX whose family is from the Kearney area.

Finally, we bid a fond farewell to Max McFarland. Max started working at Kearney State College in 1980 gaining full time status on August 24, 1986. Max has served in multiple capacities in his tenure including committee memberships on Graduate Council, Institutional Review Board, Assessment, and Rank and Tenure. He has served the National Association of School Psychologists as an Accreditation Reviewer, Conference Paper Reviewer, and Committee Member. He served as a Trainer, Editorial Review Board Member and Advisory Board Member of Trainers of School Psychologists, and has served as an Accreditation Reviewer for the International School Psychology Association. In fact, Max was instrumental in University of Nebraska at Kearney becoming the first Internationally Accredited School Psychology programs in the United States. In our department, Max has served as department chair, recruitment committee member, program chair, and graduate program committee member. Max has received many awards and honors including Faculty Mentoring of Graduate Student Research, New Frontiers Scholar, Pratt-Heins (in 1999 and again in 2008!), and the Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award. Max has many publications as well as state, national, and international presentations. He has also been instrumental in securing over $80,000 in grant funding for early childhood intervention research through the Buffett Foundation and $20,000 in Kelly grant funding for additional research.

While Max’s contributions have been extensive and valuable, I think I speak for all of the faculty and students when I say that what we will miss most is Max’s innate ability to teach valuable lessons to all of us through his riveting story telling ability, witty sense of humor, and easy going nature. Sláinte agus táinte! “Health and Wealth” to you and your family Max! Thank you for all you have done to advance our department, our University but mostly, thank you for the countless professionals you have fostered in the School Psychology Profession.
Welcome to the Spring 2015 semester in the School Psychology Program!! There was no time for “easing” back into things for the School Psychology program this semester. Some of the things that kept us busy as the semester began included courses being taught, preparation for our annual “Internship Interview Day”, preparation for the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Annual Convention in Orlando, FL (at Disney World!!), and beginning to prepare for our International School Psychology Association (ISPA) reaccreditation that will be due next fall. In addition to assisting with the above, students within the program were also busy as they worked with our partner schools (Minden Public Schools and Amherst Public Schools) to administer and score benchmarking assessments.

Some of the biggest and best news we have to share with everyone is that all of our hard work and dedication has paid off….we were fully approved by NASP for reaccreditation through December 31, 2021! The feedback received from the NASP program approval board was very positive! Now that we have conquered NASP accreditation we will turn our efforts to CAEP and ISPA accreditation. It seems like a never ending process, but at least it makes our program stronger!!

One of the first big events for the School Psychology program in the spring semester included “Internship Interview Day.” This was the 15th annual interview day hosted by the school psychology program and we had 13 districts who attended! It was an exciting day for our program and for next year’s group of interns. We had school districts and educational service units/cooperatives who attended from Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, and Colorado. It was an intense day for our students as they interviewed with approximately ten different sites over the course of the day! Last year seven of our ten interns were hired by school districts or service units that attended the “Internship Interview Day.” Speaking of our interns, they all made it back to campus to present their three comprehensive case studies in March! They all did a very nice job, it is fun for us faculty to see how much they have learned and grown professionally over the course of their programs! I’m sure the interns cannot wait to walk across the stage in May and become “real” school psychologists.

Other exciting events that the school psychology faculty and students participated in this spring were the
Trainers of School Psychology (TSP) and NASP conferences which were held at Disney World in Orlando, FL February 16-21. We had two faculty and ten students who presented at the conferences. Topics of our presentations included: the ‘state’ of ethics in our state, children’s rights curriculum in a school psychology program, and a cross training model for early childhood mental health professionals. Approximately 16 students attended the conference and a wonderful time was had by all! One of the best parts of TSP was when our very own, Dr. Max McFarland, was named the recipient of the “2015 Outstanding Contributions to Training Award.” This was a wonderful way for TSP to recognize Dr. McFarland’s active presence in TSP as well as his creation and continued coordination of the annual TSP Poster Session!

At the department level, faculty and students have continued recruiting efforts and held the second annual “Building Bridges” conference on March 6, 2015. These efforts appear to be paying off for the school psychology program as we had six students go through our spring intake process and several more who have contacted us with interest in participating in our summer intakes. As always, alumni also played a part in the recruitment of students as several of the students we hear from have met or had the opportunity to shadow someone who graduated from the UNK School Psychology Program!!

Lastly, the International Collaborative Research (ICR) committee will be conducting the spring International Online Research Symposium on April 22, 2015. Dr. Callueng has been instrumental in coordinating this symposium as a part of the Globalization of School Psychology course. To date, we have confirmed paper presentations from the United Kingdom, Oman, Philippines, Lithuania, University of CA – Santa Barbara, and UNK. We are again lucky to have a presentation by an executive committee member of the International School Psychology Association. It is an honor for our program and department at UNK to offer this rich international experience to our students as well as to students across the globe.
School Psychology - GrASP

The Graduate Association of School Psychologists (GrASP) started the semester with a January meeting. At this meeting, GrASP invited a current intern in the program to speak of her internship experience thus far. It was great having this guest speaker to help clarify some wonderments of 1st and 2nd year students as well as be able to catch up with the intern herself. Great questions were asked and wonderful answers were received! Towards the end of January GrASP members had a chance to watch and cheer on the Tri-City Storm Hockey team at one of their home games. A good time was had by all.

February was an action packed month for GrASP. At the beginning of the month 2nd year practicum students participated in interview day where prospective districts and service units from 3 different states came to UNK to interview our students for internship opportunities. It was long day, but the students gained great experience and some even gained internships shortly thereafter. In the middle of the month, students headed off on a trip to Orlando, Florida for the annual National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Conference. At this week long conference, students had the opportunity to take part in professional development workshops, networking, socializing, and sightseeing. Some of the members even had the opportunity to present their research findings to other school psychologists from around the nation. The conference was held on Disney property so wonderful recreational activities were constantly within reach!

At the March meeting, the GrASP officers invited the behavior interventionist from Kearney Public Schools to speak. This was a great experience for GrASP members and great insight was provided in the area of behavior in the field. In the upcoming months, GrASP has a variety of activities planned. The members will have the opportunity to interact with one another outside of the school environment during a variety of socials that GrASP has planned at various locations. The last meeting of the year will take place in April. This is an important meeting for GrASP members as they will be holding officer elections for the upcoming school year, 2015-2016. Students will have the opportunity to nominate fellow peers, run for an office, and cast their votes for who they would like to fill the officer positions. The newly elected officers will take office in May and hold the position for the next school year.

GrASP will wrap-up the school year with a social at a local restaurant. Students and faculty will be invited to eat, socialize, and relax as the year comes to a close. Also at the end of the year, GrASP intends to make a monetary donation to help fund an aspect of the program of some sort that has yet to be determined. This year has been eventful and productive and GrASP looks forward to another great school year next year.
Counselor Education

In reviewing last year’s spring message we focused a lot on the transition of our program from Community Counseling to Clinical Mental Health. That work which spanned over 4 years came to culmination with the CACREP site team visit. This visit was likely one of the most rigorous accreditations any of us had been through in our experience with CACREP accreditations. We are proud to announce that we met 98% of the 130+ learning objectives. A few adjustments have made our program even stronger. The Clinical Mental Health Counselor program has transitioned well to the new 60 credit hour standards. We now await the final decision of the accrediting body in July. We are confident that this important accreditation will continue.

Recruitment, recruitment, recruitment …we can’t say enough about the importance of recruiting mental health professionals, school counselors and student affairs professionals into the field. As a rural community there is always a demand for such services as there is throughout the country. We learned through our efforts that our greatest assets in recruitment are our alumni and our current students. The relationships you foster help our program to thrive. We hope that you will continue to mentor potential professionals to UNK. For our part, we continue to have success partnering with undergraduate schools through the Building Bridges Conference. This year we had over 40 registrations representing 6 schools.

We are excited that the state is now supporting those who are studying school counseling through the EETP grant, which is great news. We also recently learned that the VA will now provide for paid internship opportunities. Our Student Affairs program application acceptance process has changed to where we can fully admit quickly to take advantage of the new online courses. With a new faculty member, a new Dean, a new UN President, and UNK doing well--our programs are going to have a great spring thanks to all who assist and support our programs!
Chi Sigma Iota

This past March, a total of six student representatives of the Counseling and School Psychology Department, as well as Chi Sigma Iota, collaborated with professors to present and attend the annual American Counseling Association national conference held in Orlando, Florida. The five-day conference was filled with incredible presentations by some of the most prominent names in the counseling world, such as Gerald Corey, Jeffrey Kottler, Derald Wing Sue, and Samuel Gladding. Another noted special presenter, actress and mental health advocate, Mariel Hemingway, shared experiences within her own family tied to mental illness, as well as personal struggles.

Students and faculty presented an eclectic mix of poster and oral presentations. Jennie Ramsay, and recent CSP graduate Victoria Mexcur, helped Dr. Tina Chasek present her poster A Comparison of Addiction Counseling Standards, CSAT Competencies, and Curriculum in CACREP Accredited Programs. Dr. Doug Tillman, and Dr. David Hof worked with students Sara Klingelhofer and Hannah Vontz to construct two poster presentations entitled Effective Use of Social Media In Counseling and Counselor Education and Title IX and the Clery Act: Ethical, Instructional and Policy Challenges for Counselors and Counselor Educators. Jessica Estes and Yao Zheng presented alongside Dr. Tina Chasek in an oral presentation on Competency-Based Clinical Supervision for Addiction Counseling.

As members of Chi Sigma Iota, Sara, Hannah, Jessica, Yao, and Jennie presented a poster highlighting chapter activities at the 2015 CSI Showcase. In addition, several Chi Sigma Iota members, along with the chapter’s faculty advisors Dr. Hof and Dr. Tillman, advocated for both wellness and the LGBT population by participating in the Third Annual Rainbow Run 5K and 1 Mile Walk for Wellness and Equality. Between presentations and advocacy, students and faculty squeezed in further fun with a day at “the happiest place on earth,” the Magic Kingdom in Disney World.
Alumni - Cassie Prothman, Ed.S. - School Psychology

I am a recent graduate of the School Psychology department at the University of Nebraska at Kearney of May 2014. Ever since I had started the program I had always had an interest in offering my skills overseas. This became possible during my first year as a fulltime school psychologist. In October I discovered that my church was taking a team of people to India to work at a missionary base (i.e., The Hope Center). This Hope Center contains a crisis center for women and girls (ages 3-18) who have been taken out of extremely abusive relationships or who have been victims of rape/trafficking. The missionary base also has 2 separate schools with approximately 900 students who attend. I was thrilled when I found out that my employer approved the unpaid 9 days off for me to go with this team to India to serve these women and children.

The school in India found out that a school psychologist was among some of the members who were going to visit them and they soon gave me tasks on how I could assist them. All of the sessions I conducted with teachers, students and women from the crisis center were done through a translator. I was able to provide a behavioral training to approximately 50 teachers. This was interesting in itself because India is still very much about corporal punishment (i.e., beating the kids with sticks in the classrooms). They are transitioning very well over the past year and I think I was able to give them some new ways to handle behaviors. I also gave several sessions to all ages of students on how to cope with domestic violence in the home (approximately 90% of the homes in India experience either verbal and/or physical abuse directed towards the mother from the father). The other sessions I led were how to cope with stress. The final year of high school in India is when you take exams that define much of your future amongst millions of other Indians. This is a lot of pressure for 15-year-old boys and girls to take on.

I had SO much fun leading these sessions and helping the children and teachers with tough issues. They were
all so appreciative and enjoyed having me there. I also met several times with a young lady there who is from Nebraska and has her degree in teaching (kindergarten). She is a full time missionary in India and basically is the leader of the 2 schools. We worked on a disciplinary plan for them and what they can change/improve on. As far as with the crisis center girls, my counseling training definitely came in handy, but I mostly just loved on them and played/laughed with them.

I never doubted for one second that I was supposed to be over there serving those individuals and helping them. Matthew 25:40 says, “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

If you are interested in sponsoring any of the children that attend these schools, or any of the children that live in the crisis center, please contact me and I will guide you in the right direction.

Alumni - Scotty Seeba, MSE, Student Affairs

In November, Scotty Seeba received the Staff Senate Employee Achievement Award. Scotty was nominated by Jennifer Harvey for his work with Thompson Scholars Learning Community. Scotty was noted for his commitment to excellence in his work with the PERSYST program. PERSYST provides additional academic support to selected students continuing to improve academic intervention programs for students beyond the first year. He redesigned the support materials to help students remain academically focused.

He serves as a supervisor for 10 undergraduate mentors as well as shared leadership to the 5 peer academic leaders who collaboratively teach freshmen seminar with TSLC.

Scotty volunteers his time outside of his regular office duties to many campus organizations including the Greek community and OMA (Office of Multicultural Affairs).

In addition to these endeavors, Scotty teaches an undergraduate portal course titled Cultural and Ethnic Identity which is offered through our department. Congratulations Scotty!
What are you currently doing? Currently, I am blessed to serve as Senior Pastor of Grace Community Church, a small but growing church in Worthington, MN. I am on the only pastor on staff at our church, which means I wear many hats as I lead our congregation in knowing Christ, becoming like Him, and making Him known. These duties include: Preaching and teaching, as well as mobilizing, managing, and equipping volunteers and leaders to serve in the church and the community. My counseling experience and training assists me as I provide counseling and pastoral care to individuals, couples, and families. I also provide spiritual mentoring and life coaching to my congregation and train them to do the same with others.

After Graduation in 2005, I began my mental health career as a Multi-systemic therapist with Mid-Plains Behavioral Healthcare in the Kearney, NE office. I worked with Mid-Plains for 3 years, where I received my License (LPC) and eventually served as the office manager. Counseling was always a stepping stone to vocational ministry for me. I realized that pastors were ill equipped to address the interpersonal and intrapersonal difficulties facing so many individuals and families. It was a matter of time before we would move on to seminary for formal training for pastoral ministry. Through my experience with Mid-Plains as a systems change agent, my passion for pastoral ministry became more focused; becoming a congregational systems change agent. My passion crystalized into a vision to come along side congregations that were sick, stuck, or dying and facilitate reconciliation, revitalization, and/or restoration.

In 2008, God opened the door for my family and I to go to seminary on a full-ride. My family packed up and we moved to the Twin Cities to go to Bethel Seminary. This training was a transformational experience and allowed me to integrate my counseling experience and training with my theological and pastoral training. In 2011 I graduated with a Master of Divinity degree and was able to immediately put my vision and passion as a congregational systems change agent to the test. I accepted a call to serve as senior pastor at a small church that had gone through a split four years prior and had been struggling along without a pastor for two and a half years. I have served as the senior pastor here for the last three and a half years. During this time, the church has experienced renewed spiritual health, vitality, and growth, by God’s grace and even in spite of me.

I would not be the person or pastor that I am today without the life-changing experience and quality training through the UNK’s CSP department. I was privileged to be trained and shaped by professors Kent Estes, Julie Dinsmore, David Hof, Tom Scofield, and Marlene Kuskie.

Serving as a Graduate Assistant and most specifically the President of Chi Sigma Iota gave me a unique experience to hone my leadership and writing skills. We experienced an exciting time of growth and activity as an honors society. I am indelibly impacted by the experience of organizing and administrating the “Justice For All” conference and receiving a national award with my fellow Graduate Assistants at the ACA conference in Kansas City that year.

I have many valuable experiences in the CSP program, like the multicultural counseling course with Dr. Dinsmore, which I actively employ today in the highly diverse community of Worthington. Or my practicum experience with David Hof and Tom Scofield comes to mind, where I came face to face with myself in ways that I never would have imagined. It is just not in my personality to narrow down to one favorite experience. However, what has had the most enduring impact on me was the privilege of learning how to live, face suffering, and finish well from Dr. Kent Estes.