Greetings From the Department Chair!

We warmly welcome all readers to the first issue of the Counseling & School Psychology Department’s e-Newsletter. Serving the Department as Chair for a fourth year is an exciting opportunity and a role that I am enjoying immensely. The last academic year was full of so many accomplishments for our faculty, students and alumni. This year has already been full, busy and productive. Each program area is actively involved in promoting behavioral health, wellness and academic success. We’re working closely with school districts and clinical mental health agencies on issues related to positive mental health for children and their families. Our focus on diversity and advocacy issues is building bridges of understanding on our campus, in our community, in our state, in our nation and in the world. Our research productivity continues to be recognized nationally, and our internationalization efforts are moving forward at a rapid pace.

In this CSP e-Newsletter we are pleased to introduce new faculty members: Dr. Carmelo Callueng, Dr. Christine Chasek, and Dr. Doug Tillman as well as our new Office Associate, Nan Johnson. There are program updates from Dr. Tammi Ohmstede, School Psychology Program Chair and Dr. Matthew

Important Dates
2013 Academic Year

Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 27-30

Finals Week
December 16-19

Fall Commencement
Dec. 20

CSP Workshops
Dec. 6 Motivational Interviewing
Jan. 24 Mental Health Legal System
Feb. 7 Psychological First Aid
Feb. 28 JFA Conference
Mar 14 Ethics
April 25 Special Ed. Law

Undergraduate Conference:
Building Bridges
Fri. April 11
Mims, Counselor Education Program Chair. Presidents of our
graduate student organizations, GrASP and Chi Sigma Iota,
share amazing philanthropic events they have planned as well
as scholarly activities. Recipients of our 2013 CSP Outstanding
Awards for Alumni, Site Supervisors, and Graduates as well as
CSP Scholarships have honorable mention. The e-Newsletter
also features the UNK Alumni Office, an Alumni Spotlight
section, and provides the whereabouts and employment
success of recent graduates.

It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy reading the Fall
2013 issue of the CSP e-Newsletter. Our alumni and friends are
very important to us and we welcome your comments as well
as submissions of feature articles. In addition, continue to keep
us up-to-date on your career and life transitions, including
changes in your mail and e-mail address. Please keep in touch;
we continue to be grateful for your interest and support.

With warmest regards and wishes for professional success,

Grace Ann Mims
Chair, Counseling and School Psychology Department
Counselors Create Better Communities

Reflection by CE Program Chair, Matthew Mims

The Kearney community has a history of giving of self to others. One example of this community wide spirit is Ron and Carol Cope. Counselors honor the Cope legacy every day. Over the course of the last year our program has been strong in reaching out to the local and state community. We have seen countless UNK students and individuals, couples, and families from the community in our clinic. The addition of Advanced Practicum course, has allowed us to see even more couples and families here at the UNK campus.

Beyond the campus and community, our interns have also been providing services throughout the state including Lincoln and Omaha. Our practicum students also run groups for adults and adolescents on probation. We provide counseling interns to meet the mental health demands at the Buffalo County Jail and the Crossroads Homeless Shelter in Kearney. We are providing services to a marginalized population that can really use someone to discuss positive decisions and advocate for access to supportive resources. This can have a positive impact also on economic outcomes. A recent project started in Kearney by Buffalo County Community Partners (308-865-2280) provides assistance to those without insurance. A UNK intern provided counseling for one individual which resulted in less visits to the emergency room saving Good Samaritan hospital over fifty thousand dollars. As medical and mental health care moves toward parity and integration, this project certainly demonstrates that mental health counseling does work.

I am proud of the positive impact that the counseling program is having on our community. I want to thank all the students for their dedication and know the many alumni out there who are
Congratulations Dr. Hof

EdD, University of South Dakota, 1999; Major: Educational Psychology and Counseling, Dissertation Title: Students’ perceptions of their influences on the process of making career decisions; MA, Chadron State College, 1992; Major: Mental Health Counseling; BA, Chadron State College, 1991, Major: Mathematics and Psychology.

CSP extends it’s heartfelt congratulations to Dr. David Hof who was recently featured in the Office of Graduate Studies and Research Volume VI New Frontiers publication. The article features Dr. Hof’s work as an adolescent advocate specifically highlighting his work with the Pine Ridge reservation and Dallas Chief Eagle. The publication can be found at: http://unknews.unk.edu/2013/10/29/david-hof-adolescent-advocate/

Dr. Hof provides this cultural emersion experience each summer and encourages not only CSP graduate students, but UNK students, staff, community members, leaders and any interested individuals to join him in this amazing opportunity.
Meet Dr. Chasek

What is your passion and background? My passion is addiction counseling and research. I am dually licensed and am on the LADC licensing board. I have 3 children, and a husband of 25 years! It always makes me feel pretty old to say that however I was a child bride!! My oldest daughter, Ashley, has a voice like Adelle (no kidding!) and is a sophomore at UNL singing and studying business. I miss her like crazy! I have 2 boys at home; Jacob is in high school, and Marshall is in junior high. Jacob was blessed with a sharp mind and a kind spirit, and Marshall has an inquisitive nature and a sense of humor. They are so much fun to hang out with! I love sports so we get along well running from one of their sporting activities to another! I am always up for watching a football game and having a large refreshing diet Pepsi! I coach my youngest son’s travel basketball team with Seth Denney; fun times working with young boys turning into young men!

How was your first year here at UNK? Any surprises? My first year was FAST! I have loved teaching and researching with students and colleagues. I was so surprised by how much I loved teaching research. It was a course that I was assigned to teach as an adjunct prior to being hired and I loved it! Weird for someone who went kicking and screaming into doc school terrified of the two advanced statistics courses and whose answer to most questions was, “eleventeen and SPSS what??!”

What classes are you teaching? I teach Research, Diagnosis of Mental Disorders (love this one too especially with the transition from DSM-IV-TR to DSM-5), Theories, all three addiction counseling courses, Techniques of Counseling, and any other course I am asked to teach!
What is your vision for the future? My vision is to bring some of the addiction courses into the classroom in a face-to-face format. Continue to teach with passion and find ways to make the material come alive for students.

Do you have any suggestions for students? Volunteer where you can and interact with people in our field! It helps so much to see what the actual work is and who you will be helping. Get involved with NCA and meet other professionals; take care of yourself while you are a student and enjoy every minute that you are given! Recognize that you have talents and skills beyond measure. I have something in my office that is near and dear to my heart that was given to me by a client when I graduated with my doctorate degree. It is so special for what it says and because the client who gave it to me has virtually nothing, struggles with a severe, persistent mental illness and yet has the compassion and wisdom to reach out to others. She gave me a piece of paper with this on it.....

Achieving the Dream!
Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually who are you NOT to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn’t serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us, it’s in every one of us. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

This is what I wish for my students, my clients, my family, my friends, and for those I don’t even know. As we help others, we help ourselves. Dr. Chasek
Meet Dr. Tillman!

Tell us about yourself: I have a love for the outdoors and enjoy hunting, fishing, and just about anything that will get me and my family outside and being active. I also have a passion for fixing up cars, which led me to earn an associate’s degree in auto body. I have just recently finished my Chevy Monte Carlo ’71 that I had in high school. Traveling and being green have also been hobbies that I enjoy. I met my wife Pam at UNK and now have 2 boys; Noah-13 and Nathan-8. I have two Dachshunds as family pets, LD “Long Dog” and Bristol. Being close to family is important to my wife and me. We are thankful that our families are close by.

How was your first year here at UNK? Any surprises? - One word can sum it up—Awesome. I had two articles published and another one accepted. I attended my first national conference and presented nationally for the first time at the ACA Conference in Cincinnati. My biggest challenge within the first year was not the teaching that I had originally anticipated, instead it was the advising. It was a surprise to me how many obstacles there are in getting students program of studies to work and meet their needs on their timeline. However, despite the unexpected challenges, I continue to enjoy it and love helping the students throughout the program.

What is your vision for the future? - I am very excited and interested in the conversations about a possible Doctoral Program at UNK and seeing what the future holds for that. I have a vision for counselors to survive and thrive in the health care system through experience, professional development training and clinical supervision and consultation.
Do you have any suggestions for students? “Stay out of your own way”, “Don’t let yourself get in the way of achieving”, and “Dive right in”...Once you leave the program you are not equipped with everything, only the basics. Professional counselors continue to learn, training, and supervision through experience, professional development training and clinical supervision and consultation. What is one thing you really want a new student or an alumni to know about you? I do not believe that I just landed here. I know I am meant to be here. I have an ultra-committment to the program because it has given me so much. It has been such a big part of my life - it’s where I met my wife, and it’s a part of my identity.

Our new office associate!

In July of 2012 CSP welcomed our new office associate Nancy Johnson. Nan came to UNK after spending 15 years in northern Colorado working as an office manager in Poudre School District (PSD). Her career in PSD spanned all grade levels from opening Bacon Elementary to spending 3 years at Fossil Ridge High, a comprehensive high school serving over 2,000 students with 150 faculty and staff members. Nan’s world “BC” (before children) included administrative work in the private and public sectors. Nan has a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in business administration from Illinois College and is extremely proud of her extended family (11 siblings), solid marriage of 26 years and two beautiful children Quint age 20 and Erin age 18.
Chi Sigma Iota Sponsors “Night Without a Home”

Chi Sigma Iota will be sponsoring a professional development opportunity on Friday November 22nd. “A Night Without A Home” will be held from 7pm-7am under the Bell Tower. The event, sponsored by Chi Sigma Iota and the Department of Counseling and School Psychology, advocates for the awareness of hunger and homelessness in America. “A Night Without A Home,” which coincides with National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness, includes a participatory simulation experience of homelessness, speakers on homelessness and hunger from national and local levels, and sharing of personal experiences about both setbacks and triumphs from individuals who have experienced homelessness. Speakers from the S.A.F.E. Center, Crossroads, and Good Will, will share information regarding the resources offered in Kearney for the homeless. Musician Brody Runge will cap off the speakers by playing a few songs for us. We will end the evening by sleeping under the Bell Tower in cardboard boxes in an effort to experience a night in the life of the homeless. In the morning we will have breakfast at the Egg and I and share our experiences.

A poster presentation will be created from this simulation entailing outcome data on the impact of the event on participant attitudes and
opinions about homelessness, as well as the impact on Chi Sigma Iota chapter members involved in collaborating with community partners to organize this experience. This poster has been accepted for presentation at the 2014 American Counseling Association National Conference in Hawaii. “A Night Without A Home” is open to campus. Everyone is welcome to attend! Even if you don’t plan on spending the night, please come enjoy the speakers and music! Please keep in mind the importance of respecting the University, along with its facilities and grounds. Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact, Hannah Vontz (865-8615), Chi Sigma Iota-Chapter President or Dr. David Hof, (865-8320) and Dr. Doug Tillman (865-8360), Chi Sigma Iota-Faculty Advisors.

Chi Sigma Iota will also have our last open meeting Tuesday November 19th, at 5:30pm, and will co-host alongside Grasp our annual Holiday Party on Friday December 13th at Mac’s Creek Winery. Please sign up in the Graduate Assistant office, and join us in a little relaxation as the semester draws to a close, before the Holiday Season.

Book Donation!

Over the course of 30 years of counseling, Joanna Godziemski, a well-respected counselor in the Kearney area, has acquired many teaching, learning, and therapeutic materials. Recently, she generously gifted many of the books and materials she collected from her years of counseling. We are truly appreciative and grateful for this generous donation. The books were sorted by Chi Sig and stored in our practicum room for student use. We wish to extend a very warm “Thank you!” to Joanna for her generosity!
It has been a busy fall semester for the school psychology program at UNK!! Classes began in late August with a total of 33 students in the school psychology program. Six of those students began their internships in school districts across Nebraska and Kansas. Our interns are currently working for Central Nebraska Support Services Program (Grand Island, NE), ESU 1 (Wakefield, NE), ESU 2 (Freemont), ESU 8 (Neligh, NE), USD 443 (Dodge City, KS), and Kansas City Public Schools (Kansas City, KS). As the interns were moving away to begin their fulltime work in the public schools, our 2nd year students were beginning their practicum experiences which involves spending two full days each week at their respective sites. The practicum students this year are placed in Kearney Public Schools, North Platte Public Schools, Lexington Public Schools, ESU 10 (Kearney), ESU 11 (Holdrege), Minden Public Schools, Aurora Public Schools, and Columbus Public Schools. The practicum students meet one time per week for class where they are able share all of the wonderful experiences they are having with each other and the faculty! Last but not least, we welcomed 12 new students into the school psychology program this fall from UNK, UNL, Hastings College, Doane College, Wayne State College, and South Dakota State University. We are looking forward to learning more about each one and the skills they bring to the program as they are coming from backgrounds in psychology, social work, sociology, child, youth and family studies, human services counseling and communication disorders. The new students have been very busy with coursework as they are learning about the field of school psychology, how to administer assessments, and all about child development! They are also beginning work on their research projects this semester and will hope to have them near completion by the end of this academic year!!
The school psychology program has had a few changes with faculty this fall. We were very excited that Dr. Carmelo Callueng was welcomed to his first fall semester at UNK as a Graduate Lecturer. We are happy to have Dr. Callueng on faculty with his vast experience and expertise in the area of research. Dr. Tammi Ohmstede was promoted to Associate Professor and is the new School Psychology program chair. She will also be serving as President-Elect of the Nebraska School Psychology Association this year. Dr. Max McFarland is back and although he has stepped down from program chair is still “as always” helping out with everything! Dr. McFarland has been active with the International School Psychology Association and will be leading the ISPA accreditation team on a site visit in Amsterdam this fall. We have also welcomed back adjunct instructor, Anne Marie Stott, Ed.S., NCSP who is the school psychologist for Minden Public Schools for the third year in a row! Each faculty member has a full load of teaching, is helping out with student research projects and two grant projects that are in their second year of funding. The faculty are also working this semester to prepare for another NASP re-accreditation review as the portfolio will have to be submitted by September, 2014. The faculty have made some curricular changes this past year which include the reorganization of some courses and the addition of a Globalization of School Psychology course that has served school psychology students around the world! Although the time of reaccreditation can be a busy time it has been a good time to reflect on our program and make it even stronger!

Some of the exciting projects the faculty and students are working on this fall include research and grants! You may be asking yourself “how can working on research and grants be exciting?” We would tell you that it is because our current research and grant work involves working directly with children and knowing that the work we are doing is positively impacting children at a systems level. Last spring the UNK school psychology program and Lexington Public Schools (LPS) signed a memorandum of agreement so we would be able to work with data from LPS in order for (a) our students to complete their scholarly study projects and (b) for us to report our findings to LPS which helps their administration use data to make systemic decisions that will positively impact their students. This agreement has been a “win-win” for both our program and LPS. One of the grants we have been spending a lot of time on this semester also involves work with LPS. It is an early childhood grant funded by the Buffet Foundation which involves screening preschoolers and Kindergarteners and looking over time at which screening instruments are the best predictor of future performance on other academic testing such as the Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) and Nebraska State Accountability Test (NESA). Please watch future newsletters for information regarding the findings of our research projects because you never know, the findings of our research could also have implications for districts in which you are working! You will also find the results of the research we are conducting at our state, national and international conferences. Last summer, two students (Jenna Rycek and Marissa McCloud), Dr. McFarland, Dr. Ohmstede, and Dr. Ed Scantling (Dean of the College of Education) traveled to Porto, Portugal to present research and information regarding our international accreditation at the International School Psychology Association Annual Conference. Currently, our students are preparing posters to share their research at the Nebraska School Psychology Association (NSPA)
fall conference in Lincoln, NE. Several of our students have been notified that they will also be presenting in Washington D.C. in February at the National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention. Presenting at and attending these conferences has been a great way for our students and faculty to stay up-to-date on current research and practices as well as to network with other school psychologists in the state, country and world.

A goal we have this year as well as in future years is to help our alumni stay connected with each other and with our program! We will be including an “Alumni” section in our newsletter with updates as well as providing you specific information related to the accomplishments of our alumni. We are very excited to share the names, roles and employing district of our most recent alumni!

2013 Alumni | Role | District
--- | --- | ---
Brittney Cates | SPED Representative | Green Hills Education Agency
Kyle Heilbrun | School Psychologist | Kearney Public Schools
Jamie Jacobson | School Psychologist | Ogallala Public Schools
Kaylee Messersmith | School Psychologist | Papillion LaVista School District
Danielle Nguyen | School Psychologist | Gothenburg Public Schools
Tanya Partridge | School Psychologist | ESU #1 - Wakefield, NE
Tracy Pella | School Psychologist | ESU #4 - Auburn, NE
Tiffanie Bailey | School Psychologist | Lexington Public Schools
Stacey Romick-Imig | School Psychologist | Kearney Public Schools
Brandy Rose | School Psychologist | ESU #7 - Columbus, NE
Catherine Ruhlman | School Psychologist | ESU #16 - Ogallala, NE
Erin Sexton | School Psychologist | Broken Bow Public Schools
Jessica Shepard | School Psychologist | ESU #9 - Hastings, NE
Cindy Veal | School Psychologist | NW KS Ed. Service Center - Oakley, KS
Melissa Wiles | Staying at home with her young children this year | Hastings, NE
Meet Dr. Callueng!

What is your background?
I am a native from the Philippines and came to the U.S. in 2006 to pursue doctoral studies in school psychology at the University of Florida. Throughout my graduate study, I served as a graduate research assistant at the UF Office of Educational Research for 5 years and a graduate teaching assistant for a year. I received my Master in Education and Ph.D. in School Psychology degrees in fall 2012 and became a nationally certified school psychologist (NCSP) on April 15, 2013. Before graduation, I was hired as a graduate lecturer at the Counseling & School Psychology Department at UNK in the Spring of 2013.

Before my admission to the School Psychology Program at the University of Florida, I served as a faculty member and held administrative offices in the Department of Psychology at De La Salle University-Manila. I also served as principal investigator or co-investigator in externally funded grants that included a project sponsored by the World Bank on Philippine elementary education as well as other supported research on corporate values of Asian employees in a multi-national company and cognitive styles of Filipino students. I also held an elected position on the Philippine Psychological Association’s executive committee.

What courses are you teaching?
Interview with Dr. Callueng continued...

Tell us about your research.

My research program focuses on test use and development, international school psychology, children’s mental health, and multicultural psychology. I have completed and published research projects on children’s temperament styles, test-taking behaviors, bullying prevention, cognitive-behavioral intervention, adaptive behaviors of adults with intellectual disabilities, & classroom assessment practices. My important research projects on adaptive behavior, cognitive-behavioral intervention, and international school psychology won awards from the American Psychological Association (Divisions 33, 42, & 52).

What are your personal interests?

I like to do outside work, watch movies, go to concerts, and watch plays. I also do volunteer activities (mostly associated with my church) and I enjoy cooking.

Give me your overall impressions of your first year at UNK? Is it what you expected?

My first year at UNK has been facilitated by the support of the CSP faculty and students. I like the family spirit and the professional relationship within the department.

What have been your favorite things about Nebraska?

I love living in a small community. It’s easy to navigate and you are able to connect with people pretty well.
The Graduate Association of School Psychologists (GrASP) kicked the school year off with an August meeting, where members were able to meet the new students as well as reconnect with the returning students. This was the first time that many of the students had a chance to meet their respective mentors and mentees that had been arranged by the officers earlier this summer. The mentors and mentees have a chance at the end of every meeting to connect and discuss questions and current happenings in the program.

In September GrASP hosted a “Welcome Back BBQ” that allowed students to eat and socialize. For the September monthly meeting, GrASP invited Central Elementary Principal, Mrs. Teresa Schnoor, to speak. She shared her opinion of what characteristics make a competent school psychologist as well as the philosophy of team work in the school system. At the October monthly meeting, a school social worker from Kearney Public Schools informed the members of her roles and functions and how they are different than that of a school psychologist or school counselor. The October social involved students gathering at a local restaurant to take a break from their program studies and worries. The members of GrASP had an opportunity to lend a hand at the Haunted Armory in Kearney at the end of October. This function provides a safe environment for military families to go Trick-or-Treating, play games, and enjoy other festive activities on Halloween. Members were encouraged to dress-up and help with the actual event or assist with the set-up.
In the upcoming months, GrASP has a variety of activities planned. In November, GrASP and Chi Sigma Iota intend to host a joint social, where members of both organizations will come together at a local restaurant to cheer on the Huskers on game day. Also in November, members will promote School Psychology Awareness Week by speaking at the UNK psychology club meeting and working with a community charity. The GrASP members partnered with Culver’s in Kearney on Tuesday November 19th 2013 from 5:00-8:00pm to raise funds. We thank everyone who came out and supported GrASP.

In December, GrASP and Chi Sigma Iota will host their annual Holiday party at Mac’s Creek Winery. At this event, CSP faculty and students will have a chance to enjoy some fun and relaxation as the semester wraps up.
Honors Ceremony and Recent Graduates

The Annual Honors Ceremony celebrates the strength of our students through awarding of scholarship, recognition of achievements, celebration of emeriti and appreciation of alumni and site supervisor support. We invite all of you, students, faculty, staff, alumni, community supporters and retired faculty and staff to join us for this time of reflective celebration.

**Scholarship and Honors**

**Dean’s Scholarship** - Barbara Bonifas, Alison Brabec, Isabel Camacho, Ariel Christensen, Jessica Estes, Mariah Ramold, Summer Schmidt

**Counseling & Educational Psychology Scholarship** - Kitty Alder, Katherine Bertrand, Jordan Loschen, Chaunyao Zheng

**Counseling & School Psychology Fellowship Fund** - Latisha Dominguez, Hannah Vontz

**Dr. Kent Estes Memorial for Chi Sigma Iota** - Marissa Fye

**Dr. Fred & Betty Kempf Fellowship Fund** - Justin Bosak, Marissa McCloud, Cesia Roche, Doris Younes

**Mary Splitter Memorial Scholarship** - Greg Sandman

**Liela S. (Miss T) Herzog Memorial Scholarship** - Christa Anderson, Kyle Brandyberry, Itandewi Mendoza, Ramesh Neupane

**Tammi J. (Rowe) Warner Scholarship** - Benjamin Clancy

**Outstanding Graduates** - Kristen Eckhardt, Hana Mach, Catherine Ruhlman, Christopher Miller

**Outstanding Site Supervisors** - Doyle Diass, Mary Fruehing, Carmon Haun, Shawn Koehn-Fairbanks

**Outstanding Alumnus** - Shari Schnuelle, Jeff Horner, Dr. Mark Hald, Aaron Estes

2014 Honors Reception
May 8, 8pm
Miriam Drake Theatre
Fine Arts Building

Please join us for this night of celebration and honors!
Congratulations To Andria Hollinshead, CMHC

In Spring of 2013 Andria was awarded the NBCC Foundation Military Scholarship by the National Board For Certified Counselors (NBCC). Andria was chosen from a field of national candidates and was awarded the scholarship via video conference by Sherry Allen, NBCC Foundation Executive Director.

Congratulations to Andria Hollinshead, CMHC

Fall 2012
Bergstrom, Kevin CC, MSE
Dally, Brittany CC, MSE
Duda, Christine CC, MSE
Dutton, John CC, MSE
Frerichs, Brandon CC, MSE
Frerichs, Olivia CC, MSE
Shepherd, Melissa SCSEC, MSE
Stevens, Michelle SCELE, MSE
Ulmer, Mindy SCSEC, MSE
Wright, Lindsey CC, MSE

Spring 2013
Bailey, Tiffanie SP, EDS
Blackmer, Brandon SA, MSE
Brewer, Carmen SA, MSE
Cates, Brittney SP, EDS
Conner, Kiffany CC, MSE
Dannatt, Melissa CC, MSE
Eckhardt, Kristen CC, MSE
Ferris, Kaitlin SA, MSE
Fries, Brett CC, MSE
Gellermann, Becky CC, MSE
Heilbrun, Kyle SP, EDS
Jacobson, Jamie SP, EDS
Kantaras, Amy CC, MSE
Knapp, Kelly CC, MSE
Mach, Hana SCSEC, MSE
Merriweather, Quintenilla SA, MSE
Messersmith, Kaylee SP, EDS
Miller, Christopher SA, MSE
Nguyen, Danielle SP, EDS
Novacek, Heather CC, MSE
Obermier, Jessica SP, EDS
Partridge, Tanya SP, EDS
Pella, Tracy SP, EDS
Placke, Anastacia CC, MSE
Prososki, Jennifer SCELE, MSE
Romick-Imig, Stacey SP, EDS
Rose, Brandy SP, EDS
Ruhlman, Catherine SP, EDS
Sexton, Erin SP, EDS
Shaw, Lindsay CC, MSE
Veal, Lucinda SP, EDS
Weinandt, Brittany SA, MSE
Wiles, Melissa SP, EDS

Summer 2013
Aaberg, Melissa SCELE, MSE
Roe, William SCSEC, MSE
Ruppert, Olga CMHC - MSE
Alumni Coordinator Greeting!

I am writing to share with you some exciting news from the department of CSP. This year, a position has been created to help link the many alumni of our great department together with our faculty, and current students. The vision for the position is still developing, however, the mission is clear...to stay connected.

As first steps with this endeavor, work has been happening to update contact information for you. I would greatly appreciate you sharing with me your current information (name changes, employer, mailing address, and emails), as well as, updates as your career evolves further. I also want to encourage you to “like” us on Facebook as we frequently share information happening within the department, the current activity of our wonderful graduate students, training opportunities, and job postings. Should you have any suggestions on how to better connect all of us together, I would welcome them.

The CSP department has made such a positive impact on our graduates, communities, states, and nation that I wonder, why stop now?

Stay in touch!
Warmly,

Douglas R. Tillman, Alumni Coordinator
tillmandr@unk.edu
In 1906, the first graduating class of then Nebraska State Normal School of Kearney recognized the mission the Alumni Association would pursue when it created the first constitution. It reads, “The association is designed to promote in every way the interests of the Normal School, and to foster among its members a sentiment of regard for one another, and attachment to their Alma Mater.”

Today, the Alumni Association continues to work to fulfill these goals and others developed during the rich history of the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The Association with approximately 45,000 members and growing, produces UNK Today, the alumni magazine distributed twice per year; works with alumni in developing gatherings and unique events around the country; coordinates reunions and sponsors activities at Homecoming such as the Alumni Homecoming Banquet. In addition, the UNK Alumni Association recognizes alumni accomplishments with an awards program; cooperates with the admissions office to recruit students; provides scholarships and other programs for students; and assists the Foundation in raising private funds in support of the University.
Support of alumni activities and the Alumni House is made possible through gifts to the Alumni Association and to the University of Nebraska Foundation.

In July 2012, the UNK Alumni Association merged resources with the NUFoundation to better serve the UNK Alumni population and to assist campus with alumni outreach.

Since 1980, the Alumni House located at 2222 9th Avenue has been the home of the Association. It is a popular site for receptions, socials, gatherings and other activities. It is also a repository for much of the history of the University. Stop by for a visit or for any of your alumni needs. Visit our website to update your information and view other alumni contact information.

The UNK Alumni Association is an independent 45,000-plus member organization that serves as your official link to UNK. By staying connected to the UNK Alumni Association, you can receive some great benefits that will keep you informed about your alma mater!

Online connections are valuable in today’s fast-paced environment. The UNK Alumni Association offers many social media and online networking opportunities. Join today to connect with Lopers around the globe.

Wherever you live, you’re never far from your UNK connection. The Association has many active alumni in Nebraska and across the nation. Some of our most active areas include: Kearney, Omaha, Lincoln, Southern California, Arizona, Kansas City, Colorado Front Range, Pacific Northwest and many more locations. At meetings, after-work socials, reunions and pregame events you will have a chance to meet other alumni in your area, hear what’s happening at UNK and see special guests from campus.

University of Nebraska Kearney Alumni Association
Phone: 308.865.8474
Alumni Spotlight!

Crayton Jirovsky graduated from UNK in 2011 from the Counseling program. He lives in Lincoln, NE with his wife, Liz, and their 17-month-old daughter Ella. Crayton is currently working at Epworth Village, Inc. as a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner and a Provisionally Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Liz processes loans for Wells Fargo Private Mortgage Banking and has been with Wells Fargo four years. Crayton reports that he is currently working toward building his private practice in Lincoln, and although it’s a learning process, he is excited and thankful for the opportunities and people in his life! His suggestions for the new and upcoming mental health professionals, “choose your internship and supervisor and not simply work to complete your hours. I’m thankful for my internship experience and supervisor as this experience gave me the professional foundation to move forward successfully with my career and the passion I hold for being a therapist.” Crayton would like to complete doctoral work to become a counselor educator and one day teach up and coming young professionals. I wish all of you at UNK the very best in moving forward both personally and as young professionals. Continue to grow and evolve, and always seek to be inspired. Wishing you the best, Crayton!

Molly (Lungrin) Kuhl graduated from UNK in May of 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Communication, which has actually served her well in her School Psychology role! After working for one year as an Educational Leadership Consultant for Alpha Phi International Fraternity, Molly returned to UNK for graduate school and received her Ed.S. in 2008. She completed her School Psychology internship with Lexington Public Schools and stayed with the district for 2 additional years (where she had the chance to work for Theresa McFarland as her SPED Director!) Molly loved working with the amazing families, staff and students in this highly diverse community and was able to be an active part of the RtI process in her schools. Molly moved to Lincoln in 2010, and spent 3 years with Beatrice Public Schools. She currently works as a School Psychologist for Lincoln Public Schools serving Arnold Elementary School and Norwood Park Elementary School, both Title 1 Buildings. She volunteers on the district-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Supports team, as well as the Advocacy Committee for School Psychologists and the Risk and Threat Assessment Committee for the District. She has also been given the opportunity to present at District Staff Development Workshops on FBA/BIP planning and Anxiety in the Classroom. She is a member of the Nebraska State School Psychologists Association (pending that she doesn’t forget to pay her dues) and the National Association of School Psychologists. She is enjoying her expanded role by co-chairing the SAT committee at one of her buildings. She also meets weekly with 5 individual counseling clients where she gets to use Cognitive Behavioral Therapy strategies, and runs a social skills group for 3rd grade boys. She’d like to give a shout out to fellow UNK School Psych grads who have served as Mentors to her along the way: Tracy Zink, Anne Wilbers, Natalie Hilton, Ashley Carrier, Theresa McFarland, Julie Dinsmore & Jill Timmons. Molly still resides in Lincoln with her husband Mike and their dog Cassie.
Kiffany Conner, Spring 13 is currently employed full time at Mid-Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare Services, Inc. in Grand Island, NE. as a MST PLMHP. Mid-Plains serves youth ages 4-18. MST is intensive and community based and focuses on the chronic and violent juvenile offenders, their homes and families, schools, and teachers, and neighborhood and friends.

Heather Novacek, Spring 13 is currently working part-time at Orr Psychotherapy Resources in Lincoln. She primarily conducts observations and behavior modifications for the Headstart programs in York and Geneva. She will most likely teach domestic violence classes in Lincoln. She is learning all about the private practice world and enjoying it so far! The Orr staff have been very helpful in guiding her through the agency process. Once she gets approved through Medicaid she will see clients in the Seward office. She also work part time as a sub paraeducator at Valparaiso Elementary and working part time at the Pinnacle Bank Arena.

A Big Thank You to Our Alumni & Friends!

The faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Counseling and School Psychology wish to thank alumni and friends for their generous support of our program. Please know that all CSP Scholarships simply would not be possible without the financial assistance of contributors like you. We are not a resource-rich department or university. Thus, words cannot adequately express how much we appreciate your kind contribution, especially in this challenging economic environment. We ask you to please continue to remember us in the future. Thank you again. If you are not a member of the UNK Alumni Association please consider joining.