Communication Disorders
Honors & Scholarships 2022
Undergraduate Student Honors

Department of Communication Disorders
Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar

- **Hometown:** York, NE
- **Major:** Communication Disorders
- **Minor:** Special Education
  - Alpha Omicron Pi
  - Honors Program
  - Mortar Board
  - Order of Omega
  - NRHH
  - KSSLHA
  - Phi Eta Sigma
  - Catholic Newman Center

**Career Plans:** Become an SLP & work with children in either a school or outpatient setting.

**Fondest Memories:** TOPSoccer with KSSLHA
Holly has proven herself worthy of this award throughout her undergraduate career as an outstanding scholar in the Communication Disorders Department. Holly’s involvement and leadership across campus is commendable (she is a member and officer in too many campus organizations to mention, including serving as president of our student organization), specifically while maintaining a 4.0 GPA across her busy undergraduate career. She has truly made the most of her time at UNK seeking out opportunities that provided relevant experiences for a future speech-language pathologist such as her participation in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program for two years, and employment at UNK’s Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center. We are thrilled that Holly will be continuing her graduate program at UNK studying speech-language pathology.

Dr. Ladan Ghazi Saidi
Outstanding Undergraduate Senior

Rebekah Roh

- **Hometown:** Abie, NE
- **Major:** Communication Disorders
- **UNK Organizations:** KSSLHA member, UNK women’s track and field team
- **Career Plans:** Attend UNL’s Speech pathology graduate program next fall.
- **Fondest Memories:** being a member of KSSLHA’s exec team and being able to plan events and take part in them with my peers.
Rebekah was selected as our Outstanding Undergraduate Senior in the Communication Disorders Department. She maintained an excellent academic record during her undergraduate studies while excelling as a student-athlete and undergraduate researcher at UNK. Completing two minors, in Special Education and in Early Childhood Education, Rebekah will graduate with a 4.0 GPA. Rebekah is a member of the track and field team, held a leadership position in the Kearney Student Speech Language Hearing Association, and completed research in both the UNK’s Summer Student Research Program and Undergraduate Research Fellowship programs. She presented her research at the UNK Fall Research Symposium titled: “The Relationship Between Leadership and Communication During Teamwork Activities”. Rebekah will be continuing her graduate studies at UNL studying speech-language pathology, where she will, no doubt, excel.

Dr. Philip Lai
Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher

Klaire Kirsch

Hometown: Rapid City, South Dakota
Major: Communication Disorders
Career Plans:
- My career plans are to continue my education into graduate school here at UNK to one day become a speech Language Pathologist

UNK Organizations:
- UNK Women’s Basketball Team Member
- Student Athlete Advisory Committee
- KSSLHA
- Conversation Partners
- Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- Summer Student Research Program

Fondest Memory:
- Of the many great experiences, I have had at this university, there are a few that stick out the most. Finding out about my acceptance into graduate school here at UNK was an incredible moment for me, as well as any of the memories that go along with winning a conference championship and playing in the NCAA D2 basketball tournament!
Klaire was selected as our Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher as she completed both an Undergraduate Research Fellowship and UNK’s Summer Student Research Program. Klaire presented her research, *Exploring the use of bug-in-eye, immediate feedback for graduate speech-language student clinicians*, at the local, state, and national levels. She also presented her project titled *Evaluating graduate students’ accuracy in rating the quality of IEP goals for students with traumatic brain injury* at the UNK Fall Research Symposium. She was dedicated to her research projects and embraced opportunities to learn more about her field of study. We are so glad that Klaire will be continuing at UNK to pursue a master's degree in speech-language pathology.

Dr. Whitney Schneider-Cline
Outstanding Graduate Scholar

- **Hometown:** Norfolk, NE
- **Major:** Speech-Language Pathology
- **UNK Organizations:** I worked as a Graduate Assistant for the Communication Disorders Department
- **Career Plans:** I will be working as an SLP at Kearney Family Physical Therapy – Tree Top
- **Fondest Memory:** I have several fond memories, but the one that is the most memorable is my first client in the clinic. I remember the day when the client said their name and we understood it. This is memorable because the client had difficulty saying the first letter in their name. He had the biggest smile on his face, and I could tell that he was relieved that he was finally able to tell someone his name, and they would understand him.

Madison Clausen
Madison has proven to be outstanding in so many ways during her time at UNK. She maintained an excellent academic record during her graduate studies while also serving the department in teaching, research, and administratively through her graduate assistant position. Madison shared that many of her favorite memories from her graduate program relate to the clients she worked with at the UNK clinic, specifically, helping her first client accurately say his own name and his smile that followed as he realized he could finally tell someone his name, and they would understand him. Following graduation, Madison will be working as a speech-language pathologist at Kearney Family Physical Therapy - Tree Top in the Pediatric Clinic.

Dr. Whitney Schneider-Cline
Outstanding Graduate Researcher

• Hometown: Sterling Colorado
• Major: Speech Language Pathology
• Organizations: Graduate Research Assistant for the Communication Disorders Department
• Career Plans: Work as a Speech-Language Pathologist with Central Nebraska Rehabilitation
• Fondest Memory: Celebrating with my patients when they saw their progress.

Mariah Gentz
Mariah Gentz has done her medical internship at Great Plains Health in North Platte, NE and school internship at SEM schools for ESU 10 in Sumner, NE. Her career goals are to gain wide experience across the lifespan and strengthen her clinical skills and knowledge to serve as many people as effectively as she can. She says her goals may shift in the future, and quote: “I know I will always keep an interest in research related to communication disorders!”.

I first met Mariah at the interview session for a GRA position. She seemed professional, motivated and determined but a bit shy. I hesitated at first, because our research projects require someone sociable, outgoing and confident to interact with older adults and gain their trust. Mariah proved to be all that AND she was meticulous, rigorous, organized, well-planned, reliable, and passionate. Qualities that made her a successful researcher. I hope she considers becoming a researcher in the future!
Outstanding Graduate Clinician

Emily Mahr

Hometown: Sidney, NE

Major: Speech-Language Pathology

UNK Activities: AHEC Scholar

Career Plans: Speech-Language Pathologist at Sidney Regional Medical Center

Fondest Memories: I absolutely loved the time spent working with clients of all ages and developing relationships as well as new skill sets.
Outstanding Graduate Clinician

Emily Mahr

As a graduate clinician Emily demonstrates a desire to gain knowledge in every aspect of clinic. She is open to feedback and provides excellent treatment to her clients. Emily has completed her school internship at Sidney Public Schools and her medical internship at Great Plains Health in North Platte. She has accepted a position with Sidney Regional Medical Center. Emily shared her fondest memory of the program was developing relationships and new skills while working with all ages of clients with a variety of speech and language disorders in our UNK clinics.

Jill Wilson
Sydney Harrington-Jarzynka

Outstanding Graduate Clinician

**Hometown**: Ashton, NE  
**Major**: Speech language pathology  
**Career Plans**: SLP for Grand Island Public Schools

**Fondest memory**: My fondest memory of the program was providing services at the Plambeck Center. I believe providing services to the individual students and groups of students there elevated my clinical skills to a higher level and gave me the confidence to know this truly was the right career path for me! It also gave me a better understanding of what to expect when working in a school which has been my ultimate goal since entering the program.
Outstanding Graduate Clinician

Sydney is motivated to learn and develops excellent strategies and interventions to support her clients’ goals. Sydney has completed her school internship at Overton Public Schools and medical internship at Good Samaritan Hospital. She has accepted a position with Grand Island Public Schools. Sydney shared that her fondest memory of the program was providing services at the Plambeck Center. She felt that this elevated her clinical skills to a higher level and gave her the confidence to know this truly was the right career path!

Jill Wilson
Department of Communication Disorders

Scholarship Awards

UNK
College of Education
Dean’s scholarship
Communication Disorders

Awarded to an incoming student who has been admitted to UNK for Fall 2022 as a Communication Disorders major or Graduate Student
DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIP COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

- Hometown: North Bend, NE
- Major: Speech-Language Pathology
- Undergraduate degree: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Career Plans: I am eager to serve individuals as a Speech-Language Pathologist within the medical or educational setting. I especially love working with kiddos, so I would love to hone in on that particular population. My greatest desire as an SLP is to enhance the ability of people to express themselves! I will help them do this by fostering kindness, trust, and joy in my practice.

Kiley Allgood
Kasha Broce

- **Hometown:** Conway Springs, KS
- **Major:** Currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Speech-Language Pathology
- **Career plans for next year:** Completing my graduate practicums to gain more experience in speech therapy and continuing in my job as a Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant in the school setting until I become a certified SLP.
- **UNK Experience:** As a student in UNK’s online SLP graduate program, I have gotten to engage and expand my knowledge in the area of communication disorders and intervention. The professors have provided challenging, yet stimulating, coursework that requires putting our knowledge into practice. They have offered valuable feedback and collaboration. In my cohort, we have been able to connect by sharing our diverse experiences of working as SLP-As within different environments. I am confident that this program will continue to allow me to grow to become a successful future SLP.
Hometown: Alliance, NE

Major: Speech-Language Pathology, Online program

UNK Experience: I am currently not in any UNK organizations. I was during my undergraduate program in Communication Disorders from 2011 to 2013, at UNK. I plan to join KSSLHA again in the fall.

Career Plans: While in college, I plan to continue working as an SLP-A at Chadron Public Schools. After graduation, I plan to work in a school system for a while and then look at opening my own private practice.

Elizabeth Toedtli
This scholarship shall be awarded to full-time students majoring in Communication Disorders or Speech Pathology. Recipients shall have junior, senior, or graduate status, a minimum 3.0 GPA, shall have excellent clinical potential, be active in the student organization KSSLHA, and shall have expressed a desire to work in the area of Speech Pathology following graduation.
DR. JOHN COCHRAN SCHOLARSHIP

Kinzey Cooper

- **Hometown:** North Platte, NE
- **Major:** Communication Disorders
- **Career Plans:** pursue a job in an outpatient clinic
- **Campus Activities:**
  - KSSLHA
  - UNK Transfer Community
- **Fondest Memory:** Getting to conduct hearing screenings with Dr. Moore!
**Nayeli Cruz Lopez**

**Hometown:** Schuyler, NE  
**Major:** Communication Disorders  
**UNK Experiences:**  
- Office of Diversity & Inclusions  
- Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority  
- KSSLHA  
- Panhellenic Council  
- Order of Omega  
- Phi Eta Sigma  

**Career Plans:** I want to be a Bilingual SLP & work in a school district!  
**Fondest Memory:** making communication boards for parks in the community!
EDNA LARSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established to help support students in the field of Speech Pathology who have completed a full year of college work. Selection shall be based on past academic achievement and demonstration of potential for future academic and professional accomplishments.
EDNA LARSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- **Hometown**: Sargent, NE
- **Major**: Communication Disorders
- **UNK Organizations**:
  - S.O. College
  - KSSLHA
- **Career Plans**: Become an SLP and return to rural Nebraska!
- **Fondest Memory**: Playing Jeopardy to review for tests in Mrs. Wilson’s Class this semester!

Bridget Slagle
JEAN A. MARSHALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

To be awarded to students pursuing a graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Candidates shall have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.
Jean’s son had language development problems which encouraged her to enter the field of speech-language pathology. She later focused her work on children with autism and early childhood education.

“The earlier we intervene, the better chance each child will have.”
Brenna Simmons

- Hometown: Brush, CO
- Major: Speech Language Pathology M.S.Ed
- Career Plans: I would love to work with middle school & high school students or work with adults.
- Fondest Memories: I came to UNK after receiving my Bachelor’s degree at a different college. I was welcomed with open arms. I have loved creating relationships with my peer, professors, and clinical educators.

JEAN A. MARSHALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Mary Jo Morrow and Kathryn Falconer were beloved faculty in the Department of Communication Disorders.

KATHRYN O. FALCONER & MARY JO MORROW SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship shall be awarded to students majoring in Communication Disorders or Speech Pathology. Candidates shall have junior, senior or graduate level standing and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater. They will also be active members of KSSHLA.
Hometown: North Platte, NE
Major: Communication Disorders
UNK campus activities
  KSSLHA
  Thompson Scholars Learning Community
  Phi Eta Sigma
Career Plans: I plan to attend graduate school at UNK and then hopefully work in a hospital or outpatient setting
Fondest Memory: My Fondest memory while at UNK has been working with Professor Hinrich’s on the Stroke Outreach Project. I have really enjoyed collaborating with other students from UNMC and Creighton while also learning more about the challenges individuals face after having a stroke.
Awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student majoring in Communication Disorders or Special Education. The preference is for a student enrolled in Communication Disorders. Selection is based upon academic achievement.
Hometown: Alliance, NE
Major: Speech Language Pathology M.S.Ed-Online
UNK organizations: I am currently not in any UNK organizations. I was during my undergraduate program in Communication Disorders from 2011 to 2013, at UNK. I plan to join KSSLHA again in the fall.
Career Plans: While in college, I plan to continue working as an SLP-A at Chadron Public schools. After graduation, I plan to work in a school system for a while and then look at opening my own private practice.
Fondest Memories: I have so many memories, but one of the fondest memories as an adult is becoming a mom to a beautiful little girl and watching my mom become a grandma. Her grandchildren mean the world to her, and we all love and miss her. One of the fondest memories of my childhood would be of my brother and I having fainting goats (Bam Bam and Taz) around the age of 7 and my cousin scaring Bam Bam by hitting two aluminum trash can lids together causing him to faint and hit his head on a piece of wood. I thought he was gone, but he shook and hopped right back up and went about his day.

Elizabeth Toedtli
KENT EMAL COMMUNICATION DISORDERS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship shall be awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student majoring in Communication Disorders. Candidate must be in good academic standing.
Kent taught for the CDIS Department for 41 years, beginning in 1967 and retiring in 2008. He was pivotal in the grant and design of the Speech-Language-Hearing bus, and impacted thousands of students.

He was a strong advocate for stutterers and was a member of the National Stuttering Association as well as the American and Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Associations.
Hometown: Omaha, NE
Major: Communication Disorders

UNK Activities:
- UNK's Circle K organization
- Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society
- Alpha Phi Sorority
- KSSLHA
- Order of Omega Honors Society
- Mortar Board
- I am currently serving my 2nd term as Student Liaison for UNK NSSLHA

Previously UNK Activities:
- Panhellenic Executive Council
- Loper Leaders
- Student Ambassador or Communication Disorders Department

Career Plan:
- I will graduate in December 2022 and look forward to Pursuing a Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology

Fondest Memories:
- A fond memory I have had while being a part of the Communications Disorders undergraduate Program was our recent end of the year party for KSSLHA at Dr. Schneider-Cline’s house! It was a fun potluck and a good way to send off our seniors who will be graduating within the next few weeks.
WAYNE & VIRGINIA MCKINNEY FAMILY SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

• Candidates shall be pursuing any major in the Department of Communication Disorders with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. First preference shall be given to students who are residents of Buffalo County, Nebraska. Second preference shall be given to students who are residents of any of the following central Nebraska counties: Adams, Custer, Dawson, Hall, Howard, Kearney, Phelps or Sherman. Third preference shall be given to any otherwise qualified student.
Jarod Owen

**Hometown:** Kearney, NE  
**Major:** Communication Disorders

**UNK Campus Activities:**
- S.O. College
- KSSLHA
- LPAC
- PHI ETA Sigma

**Career Plans:** Work towards obtaining my master’s degree for a career as an SLP in a private practice.

**Fondest Memories:** Being able to hear my grandpa communicate a few invaluable words to me and my family - thanks to the work of an amazing SLP.
CONGRATULATIONS to all Students from all of us in the Department of Communication Disorders!