Greetings from the UNK Family Studies and Counseling & School Psychology Department Chair

Reflection by Dr. David Hof

As a program, we have the great honor at this time of year to highlight our graduates, scholarship recipients and program award winners. All of you have worked very hard. Congratulations!

What an unexpected end to the spring semester and an unusual summer semester too. When you signed up for graduation last February, I doubt many of you envisioned it looking like this. Due to COVID-19, many of you have not had the chance to celebrate your accomplishments with friends and family. Your advisors, faculty and staff are saddened that we too will not be able to celebrate with you in the traditional manner. However, I think it is important, now more than ever, to take some time to reflect on your journey and share it with others. I would encourage all of you to find a way to share these meaningful milestones with the important people in your life. Post this on your social media platforms or pick up the phone and share the fruits of your efforts with someone. It is indeed a significant achievement!

Dr. David Hof, Professor
Department Chair—Family Studies and Counseling & School Psychology
University of Nebraska—Kearney
Kearney, NE 68849-2340
Congratulations—Megan Mcalevy!

Hometown: Kearney, NE

Career Information or future plans: I will be continuing my education next fall as I begin my master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling here at UNK. I currently serve as a Service Manager at the Kearney Hy-Vee. This role has helped me learn a lot about myself and find the skills that led me to a career in helping others. I will soon begin to look for jobs around Kearney that will help me get more experience to apply to my future career as a mental health professional.

Fondest Program Memory: My fondest memories while being a part of this program was meeting so many other Family Studies students who shared the same passions and empathy for family as I did. So many members of CFR have impacted our campus and opened my eyes to the possibilities of what a Family Studies degree can be used for in our country to change the lives of children and families.

The staff in the Family Studies department never fall short of showing how much passion and love they have for the subjects they teach. Students who choose this degree path will not be disappointed in what they take from it.

Outstanding Early Childhood Family Advocacy Graduate

Congratulations—Teri Buck!

Hometown: Kearney, Nebraska

Career Information: I work for the state of Kansas in the department of children and families as a Child Protective Specialist.
Congratulations—Carrie Snyder!

**Hometown:** Scottsbluff, Nebraska

**Career Information:** Currently, I am employed at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. I am a clinical therapist on their inpatient behavioral health unit, serving adults and adolescents. In addition, I have recently accepted a position through CAPWN, where I will be leading therapy groups at the youth shelter.

**Fondest Program Memory:** Oh man... How could I pick just one fond memory? Truly, my entire experience in the program is one I would repeat in a heartbeat! In fact, I am missing class already! While I love that I am finally practicing as a “real” professional, I so enjoyed my time as a student. I do not believe there is a more incredible, authentically invested staff leading a more superior program. An addition to receiving a spectacular education, I built connections with individuals who are not only fellow professionals and colleagues, but true friends. I felt supported and genuinely valued every step of the way, through laughter and tears, and saying “goodbye” is bittersweet.

I hope to make the program proud in my professional work! THANK YOU (A million times over) to ALL who shared the journey with me! What a beautiful ride! I am beyond grateful!

Outstanding Higher Education Student Affairs Graduate

Congratulations—Alicia Gabrielski!

**Hometown:** Martinsville, New Jersey

**Career Information:** Academic Advisor, Raritan Valley Community College, (Since 2010)

**Favorite UNK classes:** Theories of Counseling, Marriage and Family Counseling, Student Affairs Organization and Practice. Each included projects that I particularly liked working on and also were topics that I found interesting. I also appreciated how my Research Methods professor broke down and made the complex statistical analysis very understandable and doable. Probably the most impactful class was Multicultural Counseling. I learned so much about myself in that class and I can say that without a doubt it helped me change my perceptions about many societal issues.

This entire program and the faculty helped improve my knowledge of student development, advising/counseling techniques and student affairs theories and practice.
Outstanding School Counseling Graduate

Congratulations—Whitney Ehrman!

Hometown: Kearney

Career Information: I am about to start my second year as an Elementary School Counselor for Grand Island Public Schools! It was quite a first year, but I loved every minute. I cannot wait to see my students again this fall. I am blessed to get to spend time at Starr Elementary and Stolley Park Elementary. I truly believe I get to visit with, help, and teach the best and sweetest kids around. I spend a majority of my time in the classroom teaching social skills lessons; however, I do get time to provide one on one and group counseling. My favorite part of my job is getting to know the stories each student brings to the world, helping them find ways to be successful, and discover how truly unique and special they are. The jokes they are excited to bring to me each week is an added bonus!

Fondest Program Memory: I really have a hard time picking my favorite memory because there were so many! I would have to say Group Counseling was my fondest memory of the program. I was very apprehensive going into it because I knew that we would be sharing parts of our journey and ourselves that is not readily available to others. I very quickly realized that the class was full of such supportive and insightful classmates. It was amazing to learn that we truly are connected and gain not only extremely important skills for our career, but friends and allies as well. I still appreciate how interactive the process was because it instilled so many skills I have to use every day with groups of students and in the classroom.

There is no way I would have made it through the program without the support and encouragement of the professors. I value each one of them and felt like I was provided so much knowledge beyond what I expected! Thank you for setting me up for my dream career.

Outstanding School Psychology Graduate

Congratulations—Kloreace Linke!

Hometown: Scotia, Nebraska—Currently live in Waverly, Nebraska

Career Information: I am currently the District School Psychologist at Palmyra Bennet Public Schools

Fondest Program Memory: Some of the best memories I have from the program include traveling to the National School Psychologists Association conference, establishing lifelong relationships with peers and faculty, and of course our class potlucks.

I owe a huge thank you to the UNK CSP department for everything they do and all of the support they have given to myself (and all of my peers) over the last three years. UNK is the reason that I can do what I truly love!
### SUMMER 2019

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<tr>
<td>Desirai Grassmeyer</td>
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<td>Makayla Hiller</td>
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<td>Melinda Meyer</td>
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<td>McKenna Smith</td>
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<td>Kayloni Spangler</td>
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### FALL 2019

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<tr>
<td>Audrey Arsenian</td>
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<td>Shelby Christensen</td>
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<td>Lana Molt</td>
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<td>Morgan Weaver</td>
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<td>Kylie White</td>
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### SPRING 2020

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<td>Emily Adelman</td>
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<td>Annie Beckman</td>
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<td>Kristyn Bose</td>
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<td>Bailee Brodin</td>
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<td>Teri Buck</td>
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<td>Marisol Contreras</td>
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<td>Christina Dean</td>
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<td>Chloe Pearson</td>
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<td>Eduardo Tecla</td>
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SUMMER 2019

Amanda Boesch — SC
Sarah Connell — CMHC
Catherine Davis — SC
Donna Ecklund — CMHC
Leticia Garcia — HESA
Christiana Howell — CMHC

Gail Knott — HESA
Carlye Kuxhausen — SC
Carlene Reichmuth — CMHC
Francellia Wiles — HESA
Shalea Wood-Akers — HESA
Kandi Young — SC

FALL 2019

Amy Aufenkamp — CMHC
Heather Breight—SC
Whitney Ehrman — SC
Regina Harpham — SC
Jason Lavene — CMHC
Ashley McCarter — SC

Meaghan Milburn — HESA
Kelsey Neal — CMHC
Taylor Nichols — SC
Alex Niederklein — SC
Tara Schroeder — CMHC
Alyson Wolfe — CMHC

SPRING 2020

Alexa Allgood — SCHPSY
Michaela Arnold — CMHC
Klint Conroy — SCHPSY
McKenzie Cuba — HESA
Matthew Dean — HESA
Kathy Everitt — SC
Ricci Fast — HESA
Alicia Gabrielski — HESA
Minsoo Goo — HESA
Jordan Haarberg — SC
Amber Hawk — HESA
Alexandra Knapp — SCHPSY
Heather Kollman — SCHPSY
Khyla Krepcik — SCHPSY
Mackenzie Lewis — HESA
Kloreace Linke — SCHPSY
Elizabeth Lopez — SCHPSY

Robyn Myers — SCHPSY
Ashley Olivas — HESA
Nolline Omollo — CMHC
Mindy Peck — HESA
Andrew Polinko — SCHPSY
Jacob Sandman — CMHC
Courtney Schendt — SCHPSY
Sarah Schroeder — CMHC
Thomas Shelly — HESA
Kelsey Sims — HESA
Carrie Snyder — CMHC
Nicole Stewart — SCHPSY
Taylor Strong — SCHPSY
Madeline Svoboda — SCHPSY
Margaret Treffer — HESA
Matthew Ulrich — SCHPSY
Jessie Walter — SCHPSY
Family Studies
Scholarship Award Winners 2020—2021

**College of Education Dean’s Scholarship**
Shaylee Nelson - Family Studies
Jerilyn Johnson - Early Childhood Family Advocacy

**Bernice Mantor Scholarship**
Hailey Schademan

**Debra Dirks Scholarship**
Hailey Schademan

**Garrett Scholarship**
Sarah Godejohn

**FAMS Outstanding Student Scholarship**
Shaylee Nelson

**FAMS Student Scholarship Fund**
Sidnie Fife

**Gamma Phi Beta Scholarship**
Ashton Weinman

**Georgia Warren Spelts Scholarship**
Nicole White
Gracie Steinick
Family Studies
Scholarship Award Winners 2020—2021

Jester Family Scholarship
Ashely Titus

Mary Badger Scholarship
Courtney Gould

Mary Harashfield Scholarship
Hailey Schademan

Schrack Scholarship
Mandy Berry

Sharyn Crossman Scholarship
Korbyn Moldenhauer

Carpenter Scholarship
Kasey Clifford
Josephine Brink
Jason Baker

Willamette Martin Scholarship
Bailee Reigle
College of Education Dean’s Scholarship
Shanelle Johnson - Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Kilah Deaver - School Counseling
Javier Torres - Higher Education Student Affairs
Shelby Lee - School Psychology

Dr. Kent Estes Memorial for Chi Sigma Iota
Asianna Harris - Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Dr. Fred & Betty Kempf Fellowship Fund
Alison Engler - Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Bernardo Revelo Martinez - School Counseling
Kendra Hoffert - School Psychology

Mary Splitter Memorial Scholarship
Karla Crane - Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Liela S. Herzog Memorial Scholarship
Kevin Snyder - School Counseling
Kenzie Drudik - School Psychology

CSP Department Scholarship
Brett Mann - Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Anfernee Covarrubias - Higher Education Student Affairs
Shelby Glaser - School Psychology
Dr. Sylvia Asay served as a Fulbright Specialist at the University Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia with the Psychology Department, Centre for Public Mental Health in January 2020. During her time there, she had several opportunities to contribute her expertise to the department, the government, and the public. She was invited to meet with the Governor of Yogyakarta, Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X, and some government officials of the Yogyakarta province to discuss family strengthening, a current government policy initiative. She met with the Deputy of Family from the National Family Planning Body and his staff for a consultation on the framework for a new government program on family happiness/well-being. She gave a lecture to the students in the Psychology Department on Family Violence. She provided a two-day workshop for government officers from the region to introduce the Family Strength Framework and its potential for use in Family Life Education, Family Therapy, and Family Services. She also provided a two-day workshop for researchers and psychologists for training in using the Family Strengths Framework in their work.

Student: Heather Schmidt

Program: Early Childhood Family Advocacy (ECFA)

Expertise: at least 15 years as a child care provider in her hometown of Broken Bow which like other parts of the state has a deficit in quality childcare. As a result of her training in Family Science and ECFA works as a consultant on childcare with the Custer County Economic Commission. Conducted research relevant to this area and has presented her findings to the commission, area groups and the FAMS 362 Families and Social Policy class. Heather was recently featured in two Youtube videos on childcare in Broken Bow and in Nebraska.

Broken Bow video feature: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jc9ddMDLSt8&feature=youtu.be

State wide video feature: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exTfabXBQ4Y&feature=youtu.be
Greetings from the School Psychology Program at UNK! It is our pleasure to provide you with an update for the 2019-2020 academic year. The year began with the return of all three faculty members, Dr. Tammi Ohmstede (Professor, Program Chair), Danielle Nguyen (Graduate Lecturer), and Dr. Jennifer Joy (Assistant Professor). At the end of the fall semester Dr. Joy left the program and returned to her roots in Colorado. Since, we have hired a new faculty member, Em Meyer, who will be joining us in the Fall, 2020 semester. We are excited for the new ideas Em will bring to the program.

This year we have 14 interns who began their work this year in school districts across Nebraska and Kansas. Specific sites include Lexington Public Schools, McCook Public Schools, Lincoln Public Schools, Norfolk Public Schools, Palmyra-Bennet Public Schools, Freemont Public Schools, Columbus Public Schools, ESU 1, ESU 5, ESU 8, ESU 9, Gardner Edgerton USD 231 (KS), and Leavenworth USD 453 (KS). The School Psychology Program at UNK also placed 7 practicum students at the following sites: Kearney Public Schools, Minden Public Schools, Lexington Public Schools, Norfolk Public Schools, Gretna Public Schools and ESU 11. Public Schools and Service Units...We would like to give a big “THANK YOU” to all of the school psychologists who have volunteered to take on a practicum or internship student this year!! You are the ones who provide the students with the greatest “real life” learning experiences! Last but not least, we welcomed a large group of 12 new students into the school psychology program in the fall who diligently working and learning about the field of school psychology.

Some of the exciting projects the faculty and students worked on this year included research, grants and partner school projects! Our students continued to work on research projects which stemmed from their scholarly study course and lead to presentations at the University, State, National and sometimes International conferences. All of the students present at least one time at Student Research Day (UNK), the NSPA Fall Conference and/or the NASP Annual Convention. We had seven students present at NSPA (Omaha) and five present at NASP in Baltimore, MD. Students also have had the opportunity to administer universal screening to elementary students in one of our partner school districts.

A few other events this year include our Annual Internship Interview Day where we had over 35 school districts from six states register to attend, presentations from several professionals (school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, etc.) at GrASP meetings, and the International Collaborative Research Symposium. We hope your year was as fun and productive as ours, and as always, we love hearing from our alum if you would like to send any updates.
For the newsletter this year, we have decided to highlight some outstanding students and alumni who exemplify and embody the essence of professional school counseling! These individuals were selected based on their advocacy efforts and desires to help meet the needs of underserved students.

**Alumni: Kelsey Anderson**

Graduate of the UNK Secondary School Counseling Program. Her passion for student-clients was infectious and truly inspiring. Since graduating, Ms. Anderson has begun working as a school counselor in Kansas where she implemented a comprehensive school counseling program with effective and ethical interventions. Here’s what she has been up to!

- I taught 8th grade Science for one more year after getting my master’s in Secondary School Counseling.
- Moved to Kansas City, Kansas to work at a middle school grades 6-8. After being in a middle school for five years, I was not going to apply for any other position besides a middle school counselor. My absolute favorite age group. J
- D. D. Eisenhower Middle School is the largest middle school in Kansas City Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) with approximately 730 students.
- Student demographic data: approximately 85% qualifying for free and reduced lunch.
- With over 23,000 students in KCKPS, Eisenhower is a very diverse school; three most common identified races included 45% Black, 25% Hispanic, and 14% White.
- Eisenhower implements the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework to proactively address student academics and behaviors. Additionally, our Behavioral Health Team (BHT) consists of counselors, social workers, and administrators who meet weekly to plan tiered behavioral and social-emotional interventions.
- At the beginning of the year a school wide universal behavior screener (e.g., Student Risk Screening Scale) was conducted to help early identify students who may be at-risk for internalizing or externalizing behaviors.
- As a member of the BHT, I provide weekly support for students who may need to learn a specific skill, strategy, or other behavioral / SEL activity. Using data from the behavior screener and teacher/administrative recommendations, I started the following intervention groups:
  - Lunch Bunches (I see 60+ students throughout various lunch periods each week)
  - Girls Book Club (Bluford Series based)
  - Possible Selves (Girls)
  - Possible Selves (Boys)

In January I will be adding two more groups pertaining to Healthy Relationships and these will also be boys and girls separately. Next semester I will also begin a whole new set of lunch groups, so again 60+ students throughout various lunch periods each week.
Student: Jose Monroy

As a Latino, being born and raised in a predominantly white community created many barriers. From needing to prove my worth on a seemingly every day basis or even struggling to find a role model that looked like me. Choosing to live my life for others, through being a Professional School Counselor, means that I will be able to be the influence and change needed to better serve minority students. Addressing issues such as redefining masculinity, ending rape culture, gender issues, and guiding students to their true potential by fostering professionalism are all things I'm very passionate about. As an Assistant Cross Country coach, I've had the privilege working with young males in challenging the ways in which they view themselves as men in our society. In addition to this, having started a multicultural organization in my hometown has served as a safe haven and crutch for students who are from LatinX descent.

Student: Alex Hinrichsen

After graduating with my Bachelor’s degree from UNK, I worked a year-long substitute position in Tucson, Arizona. Working at an elementary school where 84% identified as Hispanic, I realized the need to strengthen my educational background to better serve my students. Many children would struggle in the classroom due to linguistic barriers, social-emotional crises, and a lack of Americanized instruction. Thankfully, my school had many opportunities to help students and families flourish both inside and outside of the classroom. I was aware that transitioning back to UNK to earn a Master’s degree in School Counseling would provide the skills necessary to serve the Hispanic community, those whom I wish to provide services for in the future. As a professional school counselor, I look forward to breaking down the wall that currently creates a gap for many students in our American educational system.
The Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) was established to provide increased access to behavioral healthcare in Nebraska, particularly rural areas, through educating and supporting the behavioral health workforce. In a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Kearney’s Counseling and School Psychology department, BHECN has granted funds to help form and assist with an AmeriCorps program for master’s level counseling students and undergraduate substance abuse counseling students completing their internships. Students are then designated as AmeriCorps members once they join the program. These members serve their internship hours in communities or areas of Nebraska that are deemed to be rural and underserved. Members deliver behavioral health and substance abuse counseling services in behavioral healthcare settings – such as hospitals, private practices, and nonprofit organizations – to a variety of populations including children, adults, couples, and families. We are currently in our third year of the program.

The BHECN/UNK-CSP AmeriCorps program has two options for hours: 300 and 675. These hours pair well with students completing either one or two semesters of their internship. Both options offer members a living stipend and education award; however, the amount distributed to members varies each grant year. For the 2019-2020 grant year, the 675-hour option has a living stipend of $6,650 and the 300-hour option has a stipend of $2,833. The money is distributed in monthly payments over the course of your internship. There is also an education award of $2,321 and $1,289.95, respectively, for the current grant year. This money is granted upon the completion of members’ service hours. It goes toward the repayment of qualified student loans or further education.

Members have served their hours in locations all over the state of Nebraska in a range of different settings. The most recent list of communities includes Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Scottsbluff, Seward, Wayne, Ord, Norfolk, Lincoln, and Omaha. As of February 2020, the AmeriCorps program has had a total of 34 past members and 13 current members. Total funding for the past three years has reached nearly $400,000, provided by the Corporation for National & Community Service, BHECN, and UNK. We have submitted our application for a fourth grant year and cannot wait to see what the future holds for our program!

Dr. Tina Christine L. Chasek, LIMHP, LADC, LPC  
Program Director

Sydney Hansen  
Program Coordinator
Special Thank You To Our

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