Happy Spring!

This spring there are two important department activities that I want to be sure you all know about:

CSP Honors Reception

Please join us on May 8, at 8pm in the Miriam Drake Performance Hall in the Fine Arts Building as we celebrate 2013-14 graduates, scholarship recipients and outstanding students, alumni and site supervisors. This night is very special to our faculty, emeriti and most importantly our students and their families. We invite you join us in this wonderful night of celebration!

Recruitment Initiatives

The Counseling and School Psychology Department has identified student recruitment as a priority. We have secured an external UNK grant from the Nebraska Behavioral Health Care Education Network (BHCEN) for $10,000 to launch the first annual UNK CSP Building Bridges Conference [create link to registration] to be held on Friday, April 11, 2014. This grant funds CSP faculty and students to travel to 15+ colleges and universities throughout the state to provide informational sessions for undergraduate human service/education programs so that their majors can learn about UNK CSP behavioral health careers (i.e., school psychology, clinical mental health, student affairs, school counseling, and drug and alcohol counseling). Students will gain more specific career information, hear from clinicians in the field, learn about rural mental...
health needs, and experience hands on activities to introduce them to graduate education.

In addition, we have undertaken an ambitious, professional recruitment campaign for increasing student majors, the first of its kind in the history of our department. We contracted for a commercial shoot and on-air spots in September and October as well as a NTV website/social media ad. The six CSP commercials were developed as a ‘donut’ with the same beginning and ending but different person/program featured in the middle. These commercials are posted on the CSP website unk.edu/csp. UNK Marketing and Creative Services, professionally designed posters, postcards, and brochures for all four program areas. We are collaborating with Teacher Education and Education Administration Departments to mail a joint poster of our graduate programs to all school principals in Nebraska and to advertise in The Voice Magazine for the Nebraska State Educators Association (NSEA).

We are excited and proud to be coordinating this multifaceted marketing campaign. The enrollment results will provide valuable input for any future decisions regarding NTV services. We fully anticipate the Building Bridges initiative to become a CSP annual tradition. We appreciate the continued support of alumni who refer and mentor prospective students to our programs.

I look forward to seeing you at the Honor’s reception on May 8!

[Signature]

Shane A. Mimo
School Psychology

Where has the time gone? It does not seem like it should be the spring semester already!! 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 Washington, D.C., and our ongoing work on preparing for NASP reaccreditation. 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.

One of the first big events for the School Psychology program in the spring semester included “Internship Interview Day.” This was the 14th annual interview day hosted by the school psychology program and we had a record number of 21 districts who attended! This was exciting news 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, Iowa, and South Dakota. It was an intense day for our students as they interviewed with approximately 12-13 different sites over the course of the day! Once we concluded the interview day, the focus and energy shifted to the annual Trainers of School Psychology (TSP) and NASP conferences which were held in Washington, D.C. February 17-22. We had three faculty and 12 students who presented at the conferences. Approximately 15 students attended the conference and a wonderful time was had by all!

Faculty and students within the program continue our recruiting efforts and will be involved in the CSP department’s first annual “Building Bridges” conference on April 11, 2014. We are hoping that undergraduate students from around the area attend to learn all about the different programs offered within the CSP department. Recruiting efforts by faculty who have made visits to other colleges around the state seem to be paying off for the school psychology program as we have talked to approximately 15 students who are interested in our program! Alumni have also played a part in this effort as several of the students we hear from with interest in our program...
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 16, 2014. Dr. Callueng has been instrumental in coordinating this symposium as a part of the Globalization of School Psychology course. To date, we have confirmed eight paper presentations from six countries including, India, Malta, Portugal, Philippines, Cyprus, and the United States. Due to this symposium being a culminating activity for the Globalization course, we anticipate participation and attendance from students and guests from eight countries, including the International of School Psychology Association (ISPA) president, Dr. Paul Bartolo. 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.

GrASP News

The Graduate Association of School Psychologists (GrASP) started the semester with a January meeting. At this meeting, GrASP invited two school psychologists currently working at Educational Service Unit #11 to speak to the members. These school psychologists were able to share about their day to day work load, ethical dilemmas they had dealt with, difficult students they had encountered and how they were able to help them, and much more.
February was an action packed month for GrASP. At the beginning of February the members had a chance to watch and cheer on the Tri-City Storm Hockey team at one of their home games. Later, students headed off on a trip to Washington D.C. 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.

In the upcoming months, GrASP has a variety of activities planned. The members will have the opportunity to interact with one other outside of the school environment during a variety of socials that GrASP has planned at various locations. In March, the GrASP officers will invite a UNK school psychology student who is currently doing her internship to share about her experience. 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, 2014-2015. 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 the school psychology program in collaborating with UNL and UNO to offer students the PREPaRE training, the NASP approved School Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training Curriculum, at a minimal cost. This training is a graduation requirement for students in the school psychology program at UNK.

This year has been eventful and productive and GrASP looks forward to another great school year next year!
Stronger Program, Stronger Direction

Over the course of the past three years we have been working towards a number of transitions for the counselor education programs. A large portion of the transition has been the community counseling degree going through a metamorphosis into the Clinical Mental Health Program and moving from 48 credits to a 60-credit program per CACREP standards. Specific courses were added for diagnosis and treatment mental illness, addiction counseling, child and adolescent development and advanced practicum. The School Counseling program has implemented a new assessment plan to meet national CAEP standards and to prepare graduates for the Praxis II exam, a new Nebraska Department of Education requirement effective Fall 2014. The Student Affairs Program continues the curriculum updated several years ago and avenues to attract more students into the program are being explored.

A central focus of the faculty has been our preparation for the re-accreditation by CACREP. We have worked hard to align the curriculum, student learning outcomes, and program standards to meet CACREP standards. We believe that accreditation is important as it signals that UNK is committed to training counselors to the highest of standards. Alumni working out in the field are our biggest joy and if you are interested in sharing your experience with the CACREP visitation team, please let us know.

There are also many other tidbits that we can brag about for the program. We continue to operate our practicum and clinical experiences in a state of the art clinic that has recently been upgraded again with new equipment. A number of our classes are iPad enabled which provides mobile access and resources to our students. The UNK interns continue to secure placements at strong sites throughout Nebraska and a few nationwide. Graduates scores on the National Counselor Exam (NCE) are above the national CACREP average. Our faculty continues to be active in the profession with leadership on the state, regional, and national levels. Dr. Tina Chasek is currently the President of the Nebraska Counseling Association with Dr. Doug Tillman serving as Treasurer. Dr. Matthew Mims serves as the ACA Midwest Chair and represents our state and region in national policy. Dr. Hof has been trained as a trainer for the Nebraska Psychological First Aid program training over 40 students and professional to serve their local communities in times of disaster. Dr. Grace Mims serves on the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) Executive Committee and Region 3 Advisory Council.

Check out our website for at unk.edu/CSP for up to date information. Posted online we have informative documents as well as recruitment videos. Please keep in mind that alumni are always welcome back for a visit or we hope to see you at a professional development workshop. We strive to work hard so that you can continue to have pride in your training program. Identify yourself as a Loper and continue to do good work!
Chi Sigma Iota Night Without a Home

The event entitled “A Night Without A Home,” took place on Friday November 22nd. “A Night Without A Home” was created and organized with the intention of raising awareness of homelessness in our area, and advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves. The premise of “A Night Without A Home,” was to simulate a night of homelessness. Students and faculty were invited to spend the evening under the Bell Tower in an effort to experience what the homeless population experience on a daily basis. This event coincided with the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, and was sponsored by Chi Sigma Iota, and The Department of Counseling and School Psychology.

To advertise the event flyers were posted across campus, local news, and radio stations were notified along with the local newspaper. Speakers from agencies such as the S.A.F.E. Center, the Salvation Army, Goodwill, and Crossroads were invited to take part in our evening, sharing the resources each have to offer Kearney, and the surrounding areas. Kearney musician, Brody Runge was contacted in addition to provide live entertainment for a portion of the evening. Sears donated extra boxes to be used as our “homes” for the event.

Participants varied in ages from eight to 55, and consisted of students, faculty advisors, professors, and families. At the end of the night, before participants crawled into their cardboard homes, each were asked to share any feelings or thoughts prior to the event, and current thoughts and feelings as each was about to lie down. A survey was later sent to participants containing six reflective questions about their experience. Before the event participants spoke of experiencing anxiety regarding the temperature, being prepared, and also excited to increase awareness and advocate. The focal point of fears centered on a lack of security, safety, the darkness, and cold temperatures, with the coldest temperature reaching single digits, of seven degrees. Post event, the participants shared that the initial worries faded away, and the focus shifted to other unforeseen worries, such as those who have children and are homeless. Participants reported gaining insight into the feelings the homeless experience such as shame, guilt, fear, and invisibility. Reports indicated this event helped to humanize the homeless experience, and put a face to those who are enduring. Respondents learned about themselves in addition, “you’re stronger than you think, “you can push yourself to endure,” “you can do your part to increase awareness and advocate on behalf of others,” and “be thankful.”
UNK Alumni

CSP continues to develop our outreach to our alumni. We encourage you to follow UNK and CSP through various social media we have listed.

We also want to be sure that you have seen the latest copy of “UNK Today” the Alumni Association magazine. We specifically direct you to the efforts of Dean Ed Scantling and his foundation work themed “One Room, One Teacher”. This effort honored 35 rural school teachers and will continue to celebrate teachers through the years. Please join us as we not only celebrate Dr. Scantling for this significant undertaking, and wish him well as he plans his return to teaching after serving 8 years as the Dean of the College of Education.

Celebrating What’s Outstanding!

On May 8, we will come together to celebrate not only our graduating students and scholarship recipients, but the people who continue to work in seamless conjunction with our department. We asked our graduate assistants to spend some time with last year’s recipients. We hope you enjoy their comments:

Aaron Estes: Student Affairs

Being named as the Outstanding Alum for Student Affairs was unexpected, and a great surprise. The department means a lot to me. It was a great honor. 

Aaron currently works in the Academic/Career Services office. On the academic side they advise students with undeclared majors, mostly freshmen, to ensure they are still taking classes that count towards graduation, and exploring career interests. On the other side, we assist with writing resumes, performing mock interviews, and organizing career fairs. We see more Juniors and Seniors in

Stay Connected!

We want to hear from you! Don’t forget to stay connected. Update us on your recent moves, professional accomplishments, or just to say, “Hi!” We’d love to hear from you!

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this area. We get to see students across the spectrum from freshmen to seniors, which is cool.

My career journey took me from being a GA in the athletic department when I was a Student Affairs student to Ohio St. working with student athletic support services. For three and half years I worked with the academically at risk students, maintaining eligibility, and giving hands on support to help them develop the tools they needed to be successful on their own. I received an offer to return to UNK, my wife and I are from here and we didn’t want our family to be strangers to our children, so we decided to come back and have been here for four years.

A turning point for me was when my father passed between my first and second semester. I was just beginning Techniques, where you have to share with others. Stepping into that environment was very helpful in my development, and then having group over the summer really helped to speed up the healing process. It was what I needed personally, and helped me to get more from my courses. If I was going to have to go through that, I couldn’t have been in a better place.

My favorite memory was when my dad was teaching upstairs and I had class across the hall, and we would meet in between classes and talk. He popped into my first class to say hi. It was great to have the support taking classes with his friends such as Dr. Hof, Dr. Dinsmore, Dr. Scofield, people who I grew up seeing. From Tom Scofield I learned to focus more on what we’re learning, instead of what grade I was earning. A few of the professors were also able to get into my dad’s office and take photos, making a collage before things were cleaned out. I see it every day and it brings back great memories.

Jeffery Horner: School Counseling

It was humbling to be honored by the program from which I earned my master’s degree. It means a lot to be recognized as a contributor to the program. I am currently the high school guidance counselor at Minden High School, in charge of personal issues and career counseling for grades 9-12.

After graduation, I continued to teach English and speech for a number of years. Eventually, I became part-time classroom teacher and part-time elementary guidance counselor. For the past six years, I have been the full-time high school counselor.

I had and still have immense respect for the instructors in the UNK Counseling and School Psychology program. Highlights include my summer taking group counseling with Dr. Estes. He was an amazing instructor and an amazing man. In addition, I always enjoyed my classes with Dr. Dinsmore. While we always knew we were going to work HARD for her, we also knew that we would be respected and that we were going to learn a LOT...every day...

My favorite “funny” memory of the program happened in Multicultural Counseling. Dr. Dinsmore was explaining a concept to a student in the class who had asked a question. Upon completion of her very direct and thorough answer, the student responded with, “I hear you clucking, big chicken.” The room got pretty quiet. Still makes me chuckle. My favorite “serious” memory would simply be the close-knit feeling among the students in the program. We spent a large amount of time working very closely with each other. It was almost a feeling of a new family upon graduation. I’ve been able to stay in contact with some of those I went through the program with. It was an outstanding experience in my life.
Shari Schnuelle: Clinical Mental Health Counseling

I was surprised and grateful for the award. I questioned Dr. Grace Mims if it was a mistake, telling her I haven’t published a book or done research. I just have my private practice and strive to do good, solid therapy. I am very appreciative and thankful for it. It has motivated me to look for ways to do more.

I have a private practice in Grand Island and am responsible for everything on both the business and clinical ends. I am providing supervision to a newly licensed PLMHP practitioner. I’m on the advisory council for UNK’s program for counselor education, and I am a member on the Nebraska Board of Mental Health Practitioners. I have been asked to speak on BOMHP issues, and on trauma and disorders of extreme stress.

I graduated in 2000 and worked at a community mental health agency in Grand Island until I received my LMHP licensure. I was in a group private practice for two years. In 2004 I established my own private practice. I specialize in treating trauma and disorders of extreme stress. I have provided supervision for graduate students at UNK in the program. I am now in the position of considering expanding further.

I am very interested in passing on information and education about trauma and disorders of extreme stress as I perceive there to be a lack of understanding community-wide about how common trauma is, how it globally affects human development—people in our community we live and work with, and what can be done to both remediate the trauma but also to work with the people under its influence as they strive toward healing.

I’m so proud to have come from UNK. Dr. Paul Welter set the tone for my education. Dr. Welter established how to help others, especially important baseline values such as respect for the client, including the client’s own process/journey toward wellness, caring for oneself, and what an honor it is to do this work walking beside people as they make profound changes in their lives. Dr. Kent Estes was my advisor. Kent’s constant admonition to “trust the process”, became a value for all areas of my life. Kent shaped my educational experience in his focus on the process itself, rather than just barreling toward the graduation goal as fast as possible. He was an amazing man and he is deeply missed. Drs. Julie Dinsmore and Marlene Kuskie were role models, each teaching important content material but also modeling how to be a professional without losing my own feminist ideals. Dr. Thomas Scofield impressed upon me the importance of applying academic rigor to my studies and always striving for excellence. And professors that I did not experience classes with, but have come to know through continuing education opportunities at UNK, such as Drs. Grace and Matthew Mims, Dr. Tina Chasek, and Dr. David Hof, they have continued to share very valuable information and inspire the desire for ongoing excellence.

My favorite memory is not so tremendously specific, but I do remember in Dr. Welter’s class being humbled by his respect and even reverence for the work we were about to embark on. I remember Dr. Archwamety’s compassion toward a person who really believed she could not learn statistics, and his help that provided an understanding of alien educational material.

UNK provided a quality, solid educational foundation and opportunities to learn from people in the field, practitioner/educators, and develop long-term relationships with classmates and instructors. My continuing hope is to live up to the great opportunities I was afforded through UNK and the wonderful people I met there. (I know that sounds cheesy, but it’s true!)