Welcome

New Online Masters Students for Fall 2020:
Tessa Amburgey, VA; Heather Baker, IL; Renae Ballin, NV; David Benardo, CA; Hersh Bhoombla, NJ; Amber Bimbrauer, PA; Hayley Block, NE; Jessica Bourbeau, NE; Zandri Bredenhand, MO; Courtney Bybee, NE; Sarah Canavero, NV; Alecia Cooper, AZ; Ryan Cooper, MO; Zachary Davidson, AZ; Erik Decker, NY; Amanda Espinosa, FL; Anessa Facey, CO; Amanda Foxx, WV; Leeadah Fredrickson, CO; Lindsay Fugleberg, ND; Ronald Fullove, AL; Brianna Geeskie, FL; Jennifer Greenwood, OH; Abigail Grothe, IA; Juan Gutierrez, NE; Kasim Hamo, NE; Ty Hatch, AZ; Sara Hays, NE; Kyle Hemming, UT; Erin Hickson, AZ; Stacie Hoile, IA; Theresa Honeycutt, NE; Julie Kampmann, SC; Aviana King, FL; Nayamah Kollegbo, NJ; Chelsea Kraniak, CO; Gail Kunch, IA; Melissa Mahoney, KS; Briseida Maldonado, TX; Jazmin McCarden, GA; Thomas McChristian, NE; Kylee McCord, NE; Heather McGarrah, LA; Konemany Mienphilom, KS; Morris Morgan, NM; Mackenzie Odenwald, FL; Amol Pandya, CA; Edith Perrault, PA; Shanna Reed, CA; Jordyn Ritnour, NE; Lauren Roberts, VA; Aubrey Rodriguez, OH; Erin Rogers, NE; Nousha Sabet, NE; Amy Schepers, OK; Kathryn Sciamanna, PA; JoAnn Sisodia, MO; Keith Slyter, NY; Victoria Smutko, CA; Meghan Stith, OH; Austin Titus, NE; Jami Tuttle, VT; Archana Venugopal, CA; Ajee Webster, Anguilla; Dametria White, TX; Margaret Whitsett, TN; Anita Williams, IL

Congratulations

July 2020 Graduates:
Mark Abrahamson, Justin Ashe, Sarah Ashley, Kenneth Bonnell, Arthur Campbell, Robin Chung, Kellyn Fitzgerald, Weronika Granat, Amanda Griffith, Krystal Kendall, Gregory McKinley, Holly Mosel, Tanya Murtha, Faustino Salcido, Caitlyn Smith, Kelly Wunder

Due to COVID-19, there was a combined Spring and Summer Commencement Ceremony held on July 31st. The event was held outside on Foster Field in Cope Stadium for the first time in 30 years. One summer graduate was able to attend, Kenneth Bonnell, and one spring graduate, Sarah Franks.
(pictured below: Kenneth Bonnell)

(pictured left: Dr. Paul Twigg, Professor and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences)

Photo by Todd Gottula, UNK Communications
## Publications, Meetings, Grants

### Grants


### Meetings


### Publications


Continue to send us updates on any meetings, publications, grants, or awards that you have been involved with. Please email details to msbiology@unk.edu.

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**Director’s Desk from Dr. Austin Nuxoll**

Greetings! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer! It is hard to believe we are starting another fall semester already! While we are taking several COVID-19 precautions and making adjustments for our on-campus classes, we are not expecting much to change in our online courses. One change you may notice is the absence of a Labor Day break to accommodate flexibility after Thanksgiving break.

There have been several changes going on around the building over the summer. The Physics department has moved to the new Discovery Hall building and we have acquired much of their old space. Several faculty have spent the last few weeks moving offices or research labs in addition to getting their classes ready. Another change starting this fall is Dr. Brandon Luedtke will be taking over the Graduate Chair position from Dr. Paul Twigg who is now the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Twigg served as Graduate Chair for over 3 years and we thank him for his service to the program.

The online program is in a strong position and has many things to celebrate as we begin the fall semester. Last fall we had our highest course enrollment numbers since the program’s inception and this fall we have surpassed that. We have had over 700 graduates since the program began in 2003! Much of the program’s success has been by word of mouth from our current students and alumni so thank you for your support! I hope everyone has a great fall semester and if you ever have questions or concerns don’t hesitate to contact me! You can reach me by email at nuxollas@unk.edu or call me at 308-865-8602.
Christian Abshire (May 2019 graduate) accepted a teaching position just after graduating from the program at Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, NY where she teaches Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2. She also teaches General Biology online for her undergraduate alma mater Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA.

Micah Bowman (December 2013 graduate) has been teaching at Pensacola Christian College (PCC) in Pensacola, FL since August 2010. He also was married in 2008 to Amber and they have 3 children, Hali (10), Corban (8), Keilah (5). He teaches various courses at PCC including Biology, Zoology, and Anatomy & Physiology just to name a few.

Casey Cossis (December 2018 graduate) is working as Senior Biologist in Research and Development at a biotechnology company.

Teresa Donze-Reiner (May 2006 graduate) received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in Biology at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. She served as the Director for the Pre-Medical program there as well.

Deanna-Marie Gonzales (current distance student) recently accepted a job as a seventh-grade science teacher.

Andrew Marshall (December 2016 graduate) was featured in the North New Jersey news which contained his input regarding the SARS-COV-2 pandemic. 

Sarah Morrison (July 2019 graduate) gave birth to her son, Henry Jameson, on April 5th. He was 7lbs 3oz and 20 inches long. (pictured left)

Mary Ann Sexton (December 2016 graduate) is a full-time faculty member at Roane State Community College in Tennessee teaching Anatomy and Physiology. She recently received the college’s highest faculty award, the Sarah Ellen Benroth Award. Each year, finalists are selected by the department, and the yearly winner is chosen by a selection committee. She received a trip to Hawaii for a conference and $1,000 as the award.

Laura Yany (current distance student) recently accepted a job as a high school science teacher. She will be teaching 9th grade biology and physical science.

Please let us know what is going on in your lives; email us your news at msbiology@unk.edu.
Office Space

Fall 2020 Deadlines:
August 24th—Fall classes begin
August 28th—Last day to add/drop class on MyBlue with no penalty
September 3rd—E-bill notifications sent to Lopermail account

**September 7th—classes in session**
September 15th—Last day to apply for December graduation
September 24th—Tuition & Fees due in full
October 19th-20th—Fall break, all classes dismissed
October 23rd—Last day to drop a course on MyBlue (no refund at this time)
October 26th—Early Registration for Spring 2021 classes begins for all currently enrolled students
November 13th—Comprehensive Exams (for graduating students) are due to the Biology Dept
November 16th—General Registration for Spring 2021 classes begins for all admitted students
November 25th-27th—Thanksgiving break, all classes dismissed
December 1st—Spring 2021 graduation application opens on MyBlue
December 14th-17th—Finals Week
December 18th—Commencement ceremony at 10:00 am in the Health and Sports Center
December 22nd—Deadline for faculty to submit final grades for fall classes
December 24th-January 1st—University Offices closed for the holidays
January 4th—UNK offices open

**Students planning to graduate this December 2020 must apply for graduation on MyBlue.** Even if you do not plan to attend ceremony you must apply in order to receive your degree. The deadline to apply for December graduation is **Sept 15th**. There is a $25 application fee which can be paid on-line during the application process. Commencement ceremony will take place at 10:00 am on December 18th in the Health and Sports Center.