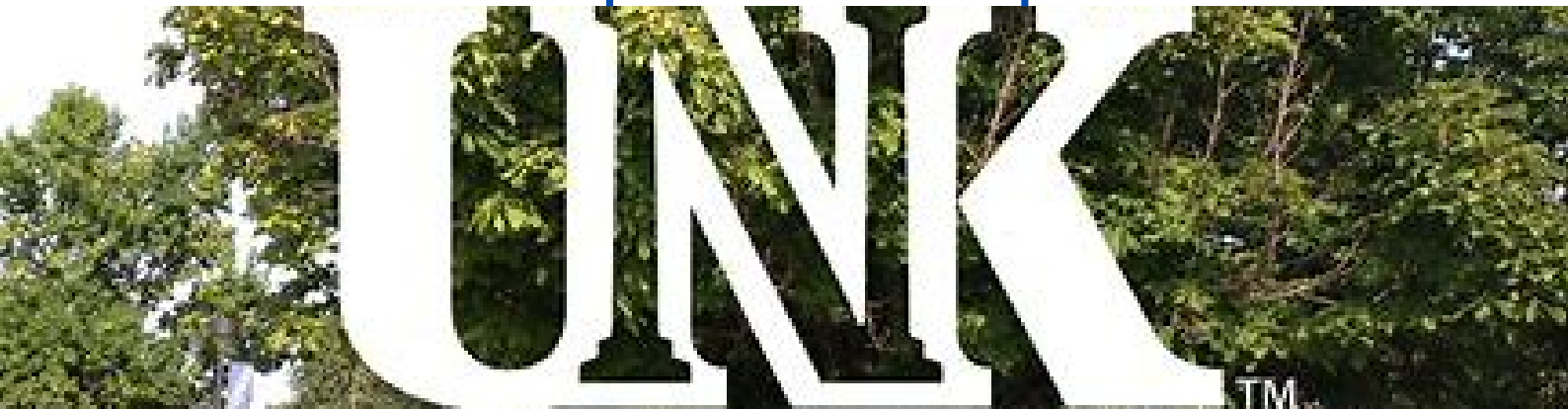


# THE CHRONICLES OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**UNK**  
GRADUATE STUDIES

APRIL 2021

VOLUME SIX



## FINANCIAL AID

The UNK Financial Aid Office is a resource that each UNK graduate student has the ability to utilize while navigating their financial aid eligibility in college. Below is some information on how the Financial Aid Office can serve as a resource to our graduate students during and after school.

### **Graduate Students & Federal Aid**

- Exactly how much a graduate student is eligible for depends on a student's enrollment and FAFSA information.
- Every graduate student is considered an "independent student" on the FAFSA. This means they no longer have to include their parents' income information on their FAFSA application.
- Unfortunately, graduate students do not have access to grants (apart from the TEACH Grant) from completing the FAFSA.

### **Borrowing & Repayment of Student Loans**

- Our Financial Aid Counselors can help a graduate student determine how much they would need to borrow in student loans to cover expenses in an upcoming semester.
- Our office can also help student prepare for repayment of federal student loans.
- Additionally, if a student runs out of loan eligibility and needs additional assistance to cover expenses in an upcoming semester, we can assist that student in finding alternative funding options like private student loans, the Loper Payment Plan, or other aid options.

### **Scholarships**

- The best resource UNK has to give graduate students access to university scholarships is the "Continuing Student Scholarship Application," which every UNK student can complete on MyBLUE during the entire month of February.

### **COVID-19 Relief Aid**

- Most graduate students are eligible for relief aid that higher institutions have received as a result of COVID-19. We encourage graduate students to keep an eye on the preferred email they have listed on MyBLUE for any important information regarding COVID-19 relief aid.



**Mary Sommers**

*Director, Financial Aid*



- Starting in February 2021, Loper eSports joined the National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC). Loper eSports at UNK provides students with the opportunity to compete on a national level. The NECC is home to over 65 collegiate level eSports organizations from colleges and universities all over the United States. Members of the NECC compete in various titles at multiple skill levels. If you are interested in competing for the Loper eSports program as a free agent or an established team, please be sure to reach out to the UNK eSports Team! They are currently supporting multiple titles and will be recruiting for future teams soon. Be sure to follow them on social media for the latest updates and opportunities to compete.

[UNK eSports Website](#)

[eSports Facebook Page](#)

[eSports Twitter](#)

## **Professional Development Workshop**

**Thursday, April 8, 2021**

**Recorded Workshop Link**

### **How to Ace an Interview and Land the Job**

Learn the fundamentals of a successful interview. What are employers looking for when they are asking particular questions? Internship and job interviews are an opportunity to tell your story while clearly conveying your skills and interest for a specific position and organization. Most interviews this year will either be conducted online or via phone, this workshop will help you learn useful strategies to prepare strong responses to some of the most common behavioral-style interview questions.

# Graduate Faculty Spotlight

## What is your role at UNK and how long have you been with UNK?

I am an associate professor and director of Athletic Training Program in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences. I am also serving as the Graduate Program Committee Chair in the department to oversee its graduate programs. I am a certified and state licensed athletic trainer to work with UNK Sports Medicine and Nebraska State Athletic Trainers' Association to provide the medical care for high school and college student athletes in region.

## What is your favorite thing about your program/department?

UNK and Kearney are the great medical community, which does not only provide great care to people in any age groups and populations but also provide great clinical experience for our Athletic Training students and other allied health care students to learn and apply what they have learned in our classroom. Each clinical professional in UNK Sports Medicine and Kearney and surrounding community take care of our students and future clinical professionals very nicely.

**What is your favorite thing about UNK?** UNK is a great place to establish and grow as an educator and clinician. There are good resources and support systems to be a "success".

## What are your hobbies/interests (other than making UNK great)?

I love being outside and doing a lot of random things including yard work and playing sports. But my recent hobbies are rock climbing and camping in addition to biomechanically analyze motor behavior and body movements of my 8-month old daughter.

## What advice would you give current graduate students?

My advice to graduate students is that hopefully you will be able to find what you like to study for life. Studying in graduate college is to fulfill your academic interests in certain fields of study or profession. I am hoping you can find one and keep your knowledge and skill in the graduate level of studies with your faculty mentor.

## Greatest Educational Achievement?

I can speak in English! I am originally from Japan and came to UNK to study the Athletic Training in undergraduate after high school in Japan. Completing the undergraduate in Athletic Training was way harder than completing my doctoral degree (because of my English level).



## Kazuma Akehi

Associate Professor  
Kinesiology & Sports  
Sciences

### Favorite Quote:

"一期一会"  
(Japanese proverbs)

# Graduate Student Spotlight

## What inspired you to pursue a graduate degree?

In order to sit for the CPA exam, which is my goal, I needed 150 credit hours. I felt that getting my masters in my program would be more beneficial to my credentials and my future career path.

## What is your favorite thing about your graduate program?

I love getting to spend time with and getting to know my professors. They are all knowledgeable and are willing to provide students with the resources we need in order to achieve our goals.

## What is your favorite thing about UNK?

The reason I chose UNK was because I loved the smaller class sizes. This ended up being one of my favorite parts about the college. The small class sizes allowed me to get to know my peers, and my professors, on a more personal level. This environment helped me choose a career, focus on that career path, and grow into adulthood.

## What are my hobbies and interests (outside of cramming for exams and papers)?

I enjoy going to mass and I go as many times per week as I can. I love doing anything I can outside, whether that be golfing, going on walks, riding my bike, playing disc golf, or trying to be sporty (emphasis on trying). I have a servant heart, so helping others brings me immense joy and fulfillment.



## Sam Dennison

2nd year Accounting  
Graduate Student

Favorite Quote: "The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." St. Gianna Beretta Molla.

## **SEMESTER DATES AND DEADLINES:**

### **Summer 2021 Graduation Application Deadline:**

- **June 15**
- **Apply via your MyBlue Account under the Academics Tab**

### **Finals Week**

- **Monday- Thursday: May 3-6**

### **May 2021 Graduation**

- **Rehearsal will be an online video**
- **Graduate Graduation Ceremony- May 8th at 10am**

Questions about graduation contact  
Carmen Brewer [brewerc@unk.edu](mailto:brewerc@unk.edu)

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#### **HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER?**

Contact: Breanna Redl  
[redlbm@lopers.unk.edu](mailto:redlbm@lopers.unk.edu)

or

Jada Ruff  
[ruffjm@lopers.unk.edu](mailto:ruffjm@lopers.unk.edu)

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