



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha

*Your new home  
for the next 2-6 years!*



**WELCOME**

To the new 2022-2023  
UNO Industrial/Organizational  
Psychology Students

In the Fall of 2022, the I/O Psychology program added 8 new graduate students into its family. Please take the time to get to know our incoming class of 2022 and be sure to make them feel welcome at UNO.

# WELCOME

## Kenya Faith, MS



I'm a Colorado baby, but grew up here in Omaha, where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Psychology at UNO. While earning my degree, I worked as a research assistant in Roni Reiter-Palmon's Creativity, Innovation, & Leadership laboratory. Creativity is one of my research interests, and I am also wanting to become involved in research on workplace diversity and inclusivity, specifically with regards to the LGBTQ+ community and different ethnic groups. Currently, I work as an Administrative Assistant at Project Harmony, a child advocacy center. My overall goal is to become a trainer, consultant, or director of culture in an organization. I am always craving new experiences, so I love finding niche coffee shops, boutiques, and other unique places around Omaha!



# WELCOME

## Samantha Hall, MA/PhD



I was born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas. While there, I graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Communication Studies. At Kansas State University I did research in toxic masculinity and how this can manifest into prejudice and sexual violence against women. My previous research pushed me towards Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and researching preventative intervention strategies to work towards well-being. At UNO I am fortunate and excited to be working with Dr. Abigail Folberg on different Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the workplace projects. In my free time I really enjoy drawing, reading, drinking coffee, and exploring Omaha!



# WELCOME

## Hanna Johnston, MA/PhD



I am from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, the hub of Northwestern Ontario, located on the beautiful Lake Superior! I completed my B.S. in Health Policy & Management, with a double major in Psychology at Providence College in Rhode Island. After taking an I/O Psychology course during my undergrad, and my involvement in many team environments throughout my life, such as hockey and running, I knew I had found my dream career in I/O! Currently, my research interest is on high-performance teams with a focus on healthcare that was inspired by my public health background. I am also interested in employee well-being, leadership, and conflict management. This past year, I had the pleasure of working at a local Thunder Bay non-profit organization where I was tasked with designing a workplace toolkit to help organizations navigate grief and bereavement. In my spare time, I run for the UNO cross country team, ice skate, catch up with my long-distance friends, cook, and care for my plants.



# WELCOME Cynthia Kennedy, MS



I was raised in Brainard and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) with a Bachelor's in Psychology. During my undergraduate, I worked as a research assistant in the Clinical Psychology and Legal Decision-Making labs. I managed grant projects for 14 years in my roles with the City of Omaha and Nebraska Crime Commission (NCC). While at NCC, I administered a \$7 million grant program that focused on services and programs to divert youth from the juvenile justice system. In the I/O program, I desire to focus my research interests on improving morale, employee resilience, and organizational development within the federal government. My husband, David, and I enjoy travel and adventure, exploring new activities in Omaha, and spending time with family and friends. Go Big Red and Go Mavs!



# WELCOME

## Cody Knight, MA/PhD



I was born in the oldest town in Texas, Nacogdoches! Fun fact: I'm 6th generation Texan! I graduated with my undergraduate degree from the University of Houston where I studied Psychology with a minor in Human Resources Development. During my undergraduate degree, I worked remotely for two research labs. I worked in Dr. Larry Martinez's DASH (Diversity, Allies, Stereotypes, and Health) Lab at Portland State University managing references via Zotero for a book chapter regarding LGBT Allyship and analyzing qualitative data for a range of topics from worker retention to OCD at work. I also worked in Dr. Christine Nittrouer's DEI Lab at Texas Tech University: Rawls College of Business constructing Qualtrics surveys, data-collection, and conducting literature reviews for topics such as incivility; I also co-authored an IOP Special Call Commentary on cybervetting efficacy and ethicability. I'm currently working under Dr. Roni Reiter-Palmon studying teams, leadership, creativity & innovation with the intention of taking an applied route post-grad!



# WELCOME

## Madison Scott, MS



I grew up in Omaha Nebraska and graduated from Northwestern College (And no, it is not the college in Illinois) in May 2022 with a B.A. in Psychology. While at Northwestern I was involved in an undergraduate research lab focused on study strategies. I also conducted an experiment and wrote my senior thesis on the topic of taking study breaks specifically using the pomodoro method. My current research interests are malevolent creativity, recruitment, and leadership. In my free time I enjoy reading, baking, swing dancing, and watching movies. I am excited to learn more about I/O psychology at University of Nebraska-Omaha.



# WELCOME

## Megan Ximenes, MA/PhD



Hi there! I'm Megan and I'm a first year in the M.A./Ph.D. program. I grew up in South Texas (the Rio Grande Valley) which is right on the Texas-Mexico border. I completed my undergraduate at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas where I studied health risk behaviors in Latin and Hispanic populations. At UNO, I work with Dr. Abby Folberg on many exciting projects. My favorites include work on confronting racism and prejudice and an applied DEI project for the Chamber of Commerce. Outside of school I love going on walks with my two dogs and boyfriend, trying new restaurants, and doing yoga and Pilates.





# WELCOME

## Yaxuan Zhou, MA/PhD



I am from China and grew up in Jingmen, Hubei. I graduated from Beijing Forestry University with a bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology. During my undergraduate years, I had a period of experience working as an HR in an internet company, I like to deal with people, so it was an interesting experience for me. My research interests are social networks, employee selection and occupational health and wellbeing. My hobbies include calligraphy, violin, singing and dancing. In my free time, I watch TV series, read novels, etc.

